THE ERA

ESTABLISHED 1837.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

VOL. 69. No. 3,511. SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1906. PRICE SIXPENCE.

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Week commencing Jan.
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Week commencing Jan. 8, T. R., North Shields.
"COUNTRY GIRL,"
Week commencing Jan. 8, Monmouth, Banbury, &c.
"CHINESE HONEYMOON,"
Week commencing Jan. 8, Vacation.
"GAY PARISIENNE,"
Week commencing Jan. 8, Worcester.
"ARE YOU A MASON?"
Week commencing Jan. 8, Blackpool.
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MRS. HENRY LEIGH, at Liberty. 2, The Wodlands, Langton-rd., Vassall-rd., S.W.

MISS GERTRUDE LE SAGE, Disengaged Jan. 15. Add., next week, T. R., West Bromwich. Then A.A.

MISS MINNIE LESLIE, Fi-Fi, George Dance's "Chinese Honeymoon" Co., Third Tour. Address, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

MISS ADELINE LESTER George Edwardes's "Little Michus" Co., Royalty, Glasgow.

MISS GRACE LESTER, Starring Engagement. "The Midnight Mail" Co. Jan. 8, Theatre, Nuneaton.

MISS EMILY LEVETTEZ, Heavy, Aristocratic Comedy. Disengaged. 72, Oakley-square, London, N.W.

MISS HETTIE LIND, Dolly Flirt, J. Waters' "Cinderella" Panto. To-day, O. H., Cheltenham; next, Queen's, Farnworth.

MISS MAUD LOCKER, Concluded "Fatal Wedding." Engaged by Mark Blow, Esq., Two Weeks, Special, Jan. 8, T. R., Dover.

MISS KITTY LOFTING, Constance, "Path of Thorns." Address, Actors' Association.

MISS KEITH LYTTON, Mrs. Jim Grieves, "Billy's Little Love Affair" (Specially engaged). West Pier, Eastbourne, Jan. 8.

MISS GLADYS MAKEHAM, Aged 14. At Liberty. 330, New Cross-road, S.E.

MISS MARY MALLALIEU, Margaret Daventry, in "The Little Breadwinner." On Tour.

MISS MABEL MANNERING, Fairy Queen in "Dick Whittington." Kennington Theatre, London.

MISS PHYLLIS MANNERS, Disengaged. Letters, 131, St. George's-rd., Southwark, London, S.E.

MISS ALICE MANSFIELD, Disengaged. 1, Westgate-terrace, Redcliffe-square, S.W.

MISS BEATRICE MARSDENE, Alice Faulkner in "Sherlock Holmes." Jan. 8, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

MISS EDIE MARTIN, Pantomime Season, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

MISS RUBIE MAUDE, Leading Business, Sophie, "Grip of Iron" Co., Jan. 8, Glossop.

MISS JENNIE MAYNARD, In Australia. Returning to England Shortly. Address, G.P.O., Melbourne.

MISS ALICE MAZZONI, Lead, at Liberty. Good Offers Invited. Address, 19, Coatsworth-road, Gateshead.

MISS CONNIE MEADOWS, Comedy, Ingénues. Mrs. C. WOOD, com., old women. Dis. 94, Aughton-st., Gt. Homer-st., Liverpool.

MISS MADGE MERRY, Title-rôle, Edward Marris's "Dick Whittington" Co., Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

MISS SASH MILLWARD, Amateurs and Special Engagements. 6, Havelock-road, Norwich.

MISS LILLIE MONCKTON, the Ideal Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Pantomime. Next, Lyceum, Long Eaton. Offers invited for 1906.

MISS LOUISE MOODIE, Address, c/o Chas. Dillingham, Esq., 1402, Broadway, New York, U.S.A.

MISS MADGE MORAN, Lead, Dis. Thanks to Mr. Brownson for Engagement. 4, Ardville House, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton.

MISS EFFIE MORTON, Refined Male Mimic. Another Vesta Tilley.—Vide Press notices. Wanted dates. City Varieties, Leeds.

MISS DAISY MURCH, Vacant. Emotional, Light Com., Lead, and Adventuress parts. 3, Coram-street, W.C.

MISS TESSA MYERS, Address, 40, Burlington-road, South Shore, Blackpool.

MISS NASH, Costumier, Prince's, Manchester, for all Productions for past 16 years. For this year only, T. R., Manchester.

MISS FLORENCE NELSON, Mr. Andrew Melville's Stock Season. Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

MISS NOEL NEVILLE, Matinées only, Court Theatre, otherwise Disengaged. 28, Stanley-gardens, Kensington.

MISS CLARA NICHOLLS, "Billy's Little Love Affair," Palace Pier, Eastbourne, Jan. 8. At Liberty Jan. 14. A.A

MISS RUTH NIGHTINGALE, Helena ("All's Well"), Celia, Jessica, &c., Esmonde Bramley's Co. Jan. 8, Carlisle.

MISS OCTAVIA NOEL, Lead, with Mr. Montefiore (Special), at Lib., Home or Abroad. 5th, Lyceum Theatre, Govan.

MISS PHILLIS NOELL, Disengaged. Merrywoods, Stansted, near Wrotham, Kent.

MISS BLANCHE NORMAN, Address, 4, Burleigh-mansions, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

MISS MARGARET NYBLOC, Disengaged Address, 118, Long Acre, W.C.

MISS ADA PALMER, At Liberty. 78, Merton-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

MISS LOUISA PEACH, Juvenile Lead, Victoria Theatre, Broughton.

MISS JOAN PEREIRA, Disengaged. Good Offers Invited. 64, Charlwood-street, S.W.

MISS IDA PHILLIPS, Disengaged. 1, Tavistock-square, W.C. Telephone, 9402 Central.

MISS JOSEPHINE PREECE, Big Success as Dandini, "Cinderella." Next, Long Eaton. Offers invited for Spring.

MISS ADELINE RABY, Resigning with 'Barmaids" Co. Thanks Management for instantly releasing. 2, Heathfield House, Brixton.

MISS MARY RABY, The Queen, in "Cymbeline." Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MISS LYDIA RACHEL, "Dr. Wake's Patient" Co., Jan. 8, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

MISS NELLIE RANDALL, Principal Boy, Silverbutton, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

MISS ROSEMARY REES, Address, 7, Colville-road, Bayswater, W.

MISS GRACE RICHARDSON, Engaged by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche. Glentworth, Palmer's Green, N.

MISS KATHLEEN RIND, Resting by Doctor's Order. Letters will be forwarded from 10, Wynnstay-gardens, Kensington.

MISS CONSTANCE ROBERTSON, Engaged by Otho Stuart, Esq. Address, Adelphi Theatre; or 9, Rosetti-mansions, Cheyne-walk, S.W.

MISS STANLEY RONALDS, Disengaged. 5, Bedford-place, Russell-square, W.C., or A. A.

MISS LILIAN ROSEBERY, Playing the Heroine in the Successful Skit, "The Would-be Actors."

MISS INA ROZANT, Disengaged. Character, Comedy. 85, Jerningham-road, New Cross, S.E.

MISS CLARA RUSSELL, Minna, "Little Lord Fauntleroy"; "After the Ball." Dis. 27, Aigburth-man., Chapel-st., Brixton.

MISS MAUD RUSSELL (Mrs. Frank M. Thorne). Jan. 8, Queen's, Gateshead.

MISS FRANCES RUTTLEDGE, Stock Season. Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

MISS ANNIE SAKER, Princess Astrea, "The Midnight Wedding." Jan. 8, T. R., West Stanley.

MISS AMY SANGSTER, Nora Helmer, "A Doll's House." Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

MISS VERA SCHLESINGER, Prima Donna. F. Godmother, "Cinderella," Lyceum T., Glasgow.

MISS GERTRUDE SCOTT, Address, 16, Upper Bedford-place, Russell-square, W.C.

MISS MAUDE SCOTT, Mercy, in "Honour thy Father." Jan. 8, Athenæum, Lancaster.

MISS SCOTT-WATSON, Lead. At Liberty for Special Engagements. 7, Falkland-road, Hornsey, N.

MISS RUTH SHEPHERD, Lead, "The Sin of Her Childhood." Jan. 8, Grand, Byker. Disengaged Jan. 29.

MISS LUCY SIBLEY, Disengaged, Lead or Light Comedy. 7, Gainsborough-house, Lithos-road, N.W.

MISS VIOLET SIMS, Juvenile Lead. Offers invited for Spring. Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden.

MISS ETHELDRED SMART, Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens' Company, Gaiety, Leith. Dis. beginning February.

MISS FLORENCE SMITHERS, Resigned Engagement with Mr. Edward Marris. Disengaged. Add., Royal Theatre, Glasgow.

MISS BLANCHE ST. ALBANS, Lead, "Her One Great Sin," Own Co. Maesteg (3), Treherbert (3).

MISS WINNIE STANHOPE, At Lib. Soubrette, Juvenile Comedy. Address c/o "The Era."

MISS BLANCHE STANLEY Disengaged, Town or Suburbs. 101, Sugden-road, Clapham, S.W.

MRS. E. STATHAM STAPLES (May St. Aubyn). 1, Prima-road, Brixton, S.W.

MISS BLANCHE STEELE, W. H. Hallatt's Co., "The Temptress." Grand Theatre, Walsall, Jan. 8, 6 nights.

MISS SYLVIA STELLA, Lead (The Heroine), "Sailors of the King." Jan. 8, Empire Theatre, Southend.

MISS GERTRUDE STERROLL, At Liberty. Letters, &c., 36, Foxley-road, Brixton, S.W.

MISS BLANKA STEWART, Dec. 8, "Billy's Little Love Affair" Co. Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

MISS MILDRED SURREY, Lady Sneerwell, Diana ("All's Well"), Phœbe, &c. B. Bramley's Co., Jan. 8 (Carlisle).

MISS JULIE TEMPLE, Disengaged, Mus. Com., Char., Com., Aris., Heavies. Offers invited. 74, Graham-road, Dalston.

MISS ELLALINE THORNE (Ivy) sang herself into favour with "Irish Molly." —Referee. Brixton.

MISS N. THORNE-HALLAM Lead, Miss Marguerite [illegible] Disengaged. [illegible]bourn; 8th, West Hartlepool.

MISS MAUDE TREMAYNE, Lead, "Sailors of the King." Jan. 8, Empire Theatre, Southend.

MISS AUGUSTA TULLOCK, Lead or Heavies. Dis. Also DOROTHY VIVIAN, for Children's parts. 94, Boston-st., Hulme.

MISS MARION TURNER, H. Chattell's "Revenge" Co. Address, 16, Mill-lane, Hampstead, N.W.

MISS ELLA VANE, Leading Business, Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's Co. Jan. 7, Saltley Theatre, Birmingham.

MISS NINA VAUGHTON, Disengaged, Star Lead, Lead, &c. Address, North-grove, Wetherby, Yorks.

MISS EMMA VICTOR, Comedy, Character, at Liberty. Address, 49, Calabria-road, Highbury, N.

MISS MARION WAKEFORD, Joan, in "Home, Sweet Home," her Original Part. Address, T. R., Blyth.

MISS ANENA WALTON, Principal Soubrette. Dis. Offers invited. 11, West Clowes-st., Eccles New-rd., Salford.

MISS ADA WATSON, Princess Soo Soo, Mr. G. Dance's "A Chinese Honeymoon." New T. R., Birkenhead.

MISS DAVIES WEBSTER, See Page 2. Add., 38, Flanders-mansions, Bedford-place, W.

MISS FRANCES WETHERALL, Disengaged. 6, Rectory-chambers, Church-street, Chelsea, S.W.

MISS FRANCES WHITE, At liberty. 45, Bessborough-gardens, S.W.

MISS KATHLEEN WILLOUGHBY, Disengaged Juvenile Lead, Light Comedy. Add., 52, Cambridge-mans., Battersea Park, S.W.

MISS DRUSILLA WILLS, Low Comedy and Character. Disengaged. Address, 28, Biddulph-mansions, Elgin-avenue, W.

MISS GRACE WILSON, Permanent address, 25, Flanchford-road, Stamford Brook-road, W.

MISS ELINOR WINTER (Miss Nelly Johnstone). Perm. address, 86, Queen Elizabeth's-walk, London, N.

MR. FRED ACTON, Frank Denman Wood's "Dick Whittington" Co., Terrific Success, T. R., Darwen.

MR. ADAM ALEXANDER, Principal Old Men. Disengaged. Address, 71, St. George's-road, S.E.

MR. ALEC ALEXANDER, Heavy Lead, "Gipsy Jack"; Juvenile Lead, "Mafeking." Jan. 8, Royal, Windsor.

MR. ANGUS ALEXANDER, Disengaged, Char. or Com. Add., 47, Jeffreys-road, Clapham, or c/o Three Prestons, Brit. T.

MR. FRED F. ALLEN, "Bluebell in Fairyland" Tour. Jan. 8, N. T., Oxford; 11th, T. R., Hereford.

MR. A. HYLTON ALLEN, 6 Worsley-road, Hampstead, N.W.

MR. A. D. ANDERSON, Stage-Manager, "Cinderella" Panto, Borough T., Stratford, E. At Lib. early in Feb.

MR. WELDON ATHERSTONE Invites Offers. Leading Business. Add., Lyceum Theatre, Eccles, Manchester.

MR. WILLIE ATOM, Small Comedian (4ft. 4in.). No Deformities. On Tour. Dis. Spring. Address, 26, St. George's-road, Brighton.

MR. CYRIL AUSTEN-LEE, Horace Parker, "A Message from Mars." Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

MR. H. K. AYLIFF, Disengaged. 9, Grafton-mansions, Duke's-road, W.C.

MR. WILFORD BAILEY, Principal Character Comedian. "Proof" Company, Star Theatre, Swansea. Six Nights. Jan. 8.

MR. MAURICE E. BANDMANN, Annual Tour of the World. Address, care of "The Era."

MR. ARTHUR J. BARCLAY, Manager of the Palace, Walthamstow. Address, Parkside, The Drive, Walthamstow

MR. J. J. BARTLETT, At Lib. Jan. 6. Address, 12, Angel-road, Hammersmith, W.

MR. E. R. BEAUMONT, Producer, Stage and General Management. Producing "Robinson Crusoe," T. R., Cardiff.

MR. CHARLES B. BEDELLS, Supporting Miss Florence St. John in "My Milliner's Bill," Empire, Nottingham.

MR. HENRY BELDING, Disengaged. Address, 2, Stoke Newington Common, London, N.

MR. IVAN BERLYN Package lost on Thursday. Will sender please communicate Grand, Edinburgh.

MR. PASCOE BIOLETTI, Disengaged. Bus.-Man., Principal Heavy or Special Parts. A.A., 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. CHARLES BOULT, Disengaged, Lead or Heavy Lead, Special Sketch, Drama, Comedy. 30, Upper Baker-st., N.W.

MR. [illegible] Letters, 32, Ch[illegible]

MR. and [illegible] 19, Parcliffe-p[illegible]

MR. [illegible] Comedy, I[illegible] (by permissio[illegible]

MR. CO[illegible] Friar[illegible] Addres[illegible]

MR. W[illegible] 2, Ardville

MR. and [illegible] wich, n[illegible] Adelaide-road,

MR. T. [illegible] Character, [illegible] Care of Mrs. Ingli[illegible]

MR. JOH[illegible] 19, Coatswo[illegible]

MR. [illegible] Pa[illegible] Jan[illegible]

MR. [illegible] field[illegible]

MR. [illegible] The [illegible]

MR. DE[illegible] a[illegible] 14,[illegible]

MR. [illegible] and [illegible] H. C., Re-engage[illegible] Mrs. C. Disengaged. 22, [illegible]

MR. and MRS. CARR[illegible] Rosslyn), Disc[illegible] 51, Brook-street, Kennington[illegible]

MR. LESLIE [illegible] at Liberty for Lead 1, Claverton-street, St. Ge[illegible]

MR. ALBERT [illegible] General-Manager and Mr. and Mrs. William Macla[illegible]

MR. HAROLD [illegible] Address, Theatre Royal, D[illegible]

MR. and MRS. G[illegible] (Frances Bruce). G. [illegible] Weeks. Milton-road, Hanwell[illegible]

MR. JAMES CHIPPI[illegible] Queen, in "The Sleep[illegible] invited for Spring Tour. Gra[illegible]

MR. E. BELLENI[illegible] Disengage[illegible] Town or First Class Tour. R[illegible]

MR. HARRY [illegible] as Father Lamplugh, "[illegible] Jan. 8, New Theatre[illegible]

MR. HARRY COL[illegible] Character, &c. Badger, Co. Dis. Jan. 13. Address, [illegible]

MR. SYDNEY [illegible] as Brassett, in "Char[illegible] Terry's Theatre, every alter[illegible]

MR. WILFRID [illegible] Light and Character C[illegible] Jan. 15, also for Summer. T.[illegible]

MR. FRED [illegible] Pantomime[illegible] Prince's Theatre,[illegible]

MR. BERNARD [illegible] Lead, MISS ISA BELL[illegible] Miss Maud Hildyard's Co., A.[illegible]

MR. J. W. [illegible] "Dare-Devil Dorothy," Jan. 8, Theatre Roya[illegible]

MR. ARTHUR [illegible] Disengaged[illegible] Address, 28, Perham-rd., We[illegible]

MR. THOS. COUR[illegible] Manager for Charles [illegible] of the Season" Co., Letters[illegible]

MR. ERNEST H[illegible] Adrien, "Lost[illegible] All com., 8, Darlan-m[illegible]

MR. HARRY [illegible] Invites Offe[illegible] 198, Barry-road, East Dulw[illegible]

MR. JULIAN [illegible] Disengage[illegible] Address, 13, Eglantine-road,[illegible]

MR. ARTHUR [illegible] Catulle, in "The Jury Shaftesbury Th[illegible]

MR. ROBERT [illegible] Address, 12, Blomfield-road, Mai[illegible]

MR. HAMILTON [illegible] Heavy Lead, "Rogues o[illegible] Queen's Theatre, Longton[illegible]

MR. GEORGE DE[illegible] Dame. This, Croydon; n[illegible]t, Crouch End. Disengaged Ja[illegible] 22.

MR. CECIL DE LEE, Disengaged. Characte[illegible]or Comedy. Address, The Actors' [illegible]ssociation.

MR. HORACE [illegible] DENTON, Dr. Leslie Fairfax, in [illegible] The Power of the Cross." Jan. 8, Queen's Th[illegible]e, Liverpool.

MR. HENRY [illegible] SOLLA, 21, South End-road, Ham[illegible] Heath. Just Produced Panto., West [illegible]ondon Theatre.

MR. HERBERT DICKESON, Disengaged Jan. 15. C[illegible]ers invited. Address, Theatre Royal, West [illegible]romwich, or A.A.

MR. WALTER H. DOMONEY, Juv. Lead, "Secret[illegible] of Life." Skinner, "Gipsy Jack." T. R., W[illegible]ester.

MR. OSWALD DOUGLAS and MARY AINSLIE. 2, St. George's-square, Regent's Park, N.W.

MR. WELLESLEY DRAPER, E. Hill Mitchelson's "Revenge" Co. Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

MR. CECIL DU GUE, Starring in "The Still Alarm." Lyceum, Theatre, Crewe.

MR. ALBERT C. DUNCAN, Business-Manager, "Sleeping Beauty" Panto. Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. HENRY DUNDAS, Lib., General Management, Resident, or First-class Tour. Tours Booked 34, Maiden-lane, W.C.

MR. T. W. DUNSCOMBE, Paul Gouffet, "The Face at the Window." Jan. 8, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST "Babes in the W[illegible]." T. R., Sheffield. Dis. Spring.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS (Miss Bella Power). "The Cotton Spinner" T. R., Macclesfield.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT ENTWISTLE (Miss Lester-Stephens), Char. and Juv. Perm. add., 3, College-court, Hammersmith.

MR. EDWARD FENTON Disengaged, Character Comedy. 13, Claverton-street, [illegible]

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Sweet Coons with Novel Songs.
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The Popular Vocal Comedian.
Enormous Success on Tour.
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"A Hot Time for One."

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Principal Comedy Parts,

GRAND THEATRE, LEEDS.

South African News, Sept. 7, 1905.

In point of cleverness the comedy act of Roze and Calvert afforded the audience almost equal cause for hilarity and enjoyment. Beginning in somewhat commonplace fashion these artists soon had the house interested and amused over one of the smartest burlesques of melodrama we have ever encountered at the music hall. The variety, colour, and extravagant mock earnestness which the gentleman infused into his work was not only surprisingly subtle and full of artistic force, but it possessed the additional merit of being intensely mirth-compelling. It may be that people who are not regular playgoers will miss the point of the joke at times, but it is, nevertheless, burlesque of the highest order.

No Vacancies 1906.

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Speciality Dancers,
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The Prettiest and Cleverest of Dancing Acts.
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and WILL SERGEANT, Business-Manager.
Charles Chard's Pantomime,
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Selected to appear before the King and Queen.

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BERNARD STUART,

High-class Character Actor and Vocalist,
EMPIRE, EALING.

Grand, Clapham, Era Report.—Bernard Stuart gives distinction [to] gramme with his impersonation [of] Bishop in the Trial Scene from [...]," and it is a proof of h[is] that silence re[ceived] [...]ilities fine lines wh[ich] [...] of the [...]itten.

All Fre[e] [...]bert Voyce, Esq.

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Wonderful Terrier
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Cake Walk Pony, "Dot."
The Smartest Animal Act on the Stage.
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Comedy Cyclists.
Original, Clever, and Different from all other Cycle Acts.
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In His Unique Musical Bell Act.

Bookings include Moss and Stoll Empires until 1908, London Coliseum, March 12, for Four Weeks, also 1907.

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"A BIT OF STRING."

Jan. 8, QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Jan. 15, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

In Preparation,
a Romantic Comedy Idyll,
entitled
"BY ORDER OF THE COURT."
an Original Idea in an Original Setting.
Everything Carried.

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Electric Wonders,

The Most Wonderful Electric Act in Existence.
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Grand Success of New Songs.
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Good Songs wanted.
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Usual Suc[illegible] Stockport.
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[illegible]ence in Roars of Laughter
[illegible]as to take two and three
[illegible]s another Big Song, by
[illegible] "Jump, Jimmy Knac-
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Enormous Success in Mr. Peter Eland's Pantomime at Grand Theatre, Hull.

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Great Success as
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Is the Talk of Vienna,
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MISS DAISY JAMES,
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Is the Gibson Girl.
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Huge Success. Huge Success.
Booked by SHERRY AND BRAFF.
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LONDON. New Songs by Harrington and the late Geo. Le Brunn, all dainty, smart, refined.
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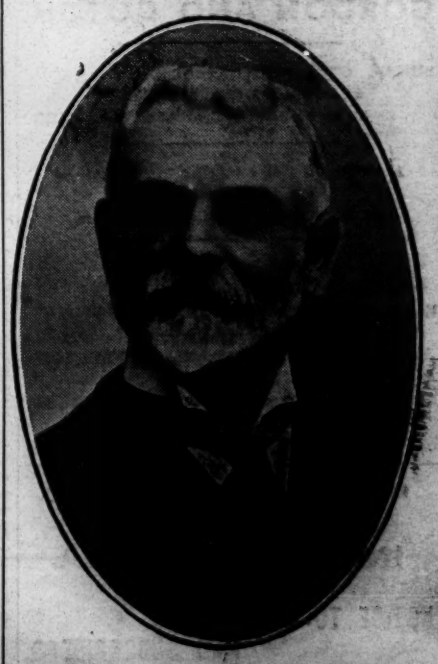

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LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Eade Montefiore's *Streets of London* company is here for the week, and a very good opening was made to a considerable audience. The company is well chosen, and with adequate scenery and mounting, a capital representation of Boucicault's well-known drama is secured. Mr. Harry Collier gives a fine performance as Badger, particularly in the closing act. As the Banker, Mr. Edward Busher is admirably suited, and rarely misses a telling point; and as Mark Livingstone, Mr. J. Nelson Ramsay exhibits excellent qualities as an actor. Mr. Joe Bracewell, as Puffy, is cynical and humorous by turns, and pleases immensely; Mr. Gerald Stewart is calm and dignified as befits the part of the unfortunate Paul; and the policeman of Mr. Harry Newlands is realistic. Miss Maude Brookman is capital throughout as Lucy, the Alida of Miss Octavia Noel is forceful to a degree, and Miss Helena Rigby invests the Mrs. Puffy of the cast with just the right balance. An outstanding rôle is Dan Puffy, by Miss Marion Armittage, who is vivacious, whether as actress, singer, or dancer. The local street urchins do very well, and several Govan firemen assist in the fire scene.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—*Jail Birds*, as played by Fred Karno's company, occupies a large part of the bill, and causes roars of laughter. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Lucas get hearty applause for their various scenes from Dickens. Daisy Ring is a neat coon singer and dancer; J. P. Ling's varied impersonations are decidedly clever; Elsie Clare contributes several pleasing ballads; Wood and Bates are a most amusing couple of comedy musicians; the Five Julians are smart in song and dance; and Bertha Vere, comedienne, and Mdlle. Chalon, equilibrist, complete an excellent programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The star attraction this week is Miss Josephine Sabel,' an American eccentric singer, whose songs are given with great vigour. Mr. G. W. Hunter secures roars of laughter; Nelson's Newsboys' voices blend well, and they dance gracefully; Professor Chard puts his troupe of dogs through some clever feats; Helen Martin is a pleasing soprano, who sings with charming effect the Strads give clever impersonations of famous musicians; Matt Wilkinson and his company provide an amusing sketch, called *The Registry Office;* and Corty Brothers, comical acrobats; Dave M'Neil, versatile comedian; and the bioscope complete the programme.

PALACE.—Proprietors and Managers, Rich. Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—The principal item of the programme here is Belle Davis and her "pick chick" actors, who are capital in their coon songs and dances. Other interesting turns include Jas. Preston's company, in a dramatic sketch, *The Rebel's Sweetheart;* Fred Dunstone, comedian; Vera Bateman, a clever vocalist; Silvo, musical expert; Mr. and Mrs. Blake Adams, sketch artists; Andrews and Thomson, vocal specialists; Mack Olive, whistling comedian; Gracie Taylor, burlesque artist; and the Animatograph, with a series of interesting pictures.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd. — A condensed version of *La Fille de Madame Angot* is received with hearty applause. Mr. Hermann Vezin, Miss Gaston Murray, and Miss Robertson Grimston, ably filling the leading parts. Doody and Wright come in for an enthusiastic and well-deserved reception, their comedy and dancing turn being particularly good. Morris and Morris are a clever pair of knockabouts, and their "Fun on a broom-handle" acrobatic business is smart. Millie Denham is a tuneful singer, well equipped with new and catchy songs. The Imperial Boys' Orchestra effectively render a varied musical programme. The Bros. Hartbert Orellys give a novel and wonderful acrobatic turn. Oakdene as a ventriloquist is specially good, and his nautical scena is well arranged. Hector, wire-walker and hoop-spinner; and Rita Bell, dancer, complete a good programme.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—*Aladdin*, which is in its last week, continues to draw large houses. The principals are all well-known to Glasgow audiences; while the scenery and dresses are quite up to date. Special mention may be made of Jack and Evelyn O'Connor, who fairly captivated the audience with their clever dancing and singing; while the efforts of Misses Frances Haskoll and Florence Wood, in their respective parts, are pleasing. The Three Floradora Girls are exceedingly smart dancers; and the boxing bout of Sandy and Carl is well received.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—A special comic company here includes such favourites as A. J. Gamble, Bendon, Bonnetti and Corrie, Musical Silvo, the Lorraines, Five Delvins, G. U. Scott Combination. J. H Johnston, and Hubner's Animatograph, who combine to provide a varied and attractive programme.

MISS ELLALINE TERRISS tells in the *Pictorial Magazine* an anecdote which confirms the adage that truth is stranger than fiction. "I was going to the Vaudeville Theatre one afternoon," writes Miss Terriss, "when I passed a tiny mite of a girl sobbing so bitterly that I could do nothing else but stop to ask her what was the matter, and whether I could help her at all. She told me, between her sobs, she had lost her father quite recently, and that ever since her mother had been so ill that she hadn't been able to do any work, with the result that they were now practically starving. She herself, unknown to her mother, had been trying to get some engagement in a pantomime in order to do what she could towards keeping the wolf from the door. But as she had had no previous experience, and as there was no one to recommend her, her efforts had been entirely unsuccessful; in fact, that very afternoon she had met with another disappointment. Hence her tears. I was so touched—not so much by her story, which, I am afraid, was an only too ordinary one, but by her evident desire to become the family breadwinner—that I promised her at once she should come in to *Bluebell*. She became within a short time one of the very best fairies we had, and on several occasions I went with her to see her mother, who, alas! never got over the death of her husband, but died a few months later, leaving her child with only one relation in the world, an uncle, who, years before, had emigrated to Canada, and of whom nothing had been heard of for a considerable time.

"A HOME was eventually found for the child, who from that time onwards got regular employment, always taking part in our Christmas play. Last Christmas—when she was thirteen years old, and had grown into a very pretty little girl—an elderly gentleman who had a seat in the front row of the stalls one evening, took such a violent fancy to her that he sent round his card to my husband, saying that he was a lonely old widower, and would very much like to adopt this little girl, provided it could be arranged, and if, on closer investigation, the arrangement seemed a suitable one. This old gentleman proved to be the very uncle who had emigrated to Canada years before, and who, having lost his wife and having made a moderate fortune, had returned to England to spend the remaining years of his life in his native land."

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's Company is delighting large audiences here this week with *The Christian*, Mr. A. Goddard scores with his rendering of the part of John Storm, as does also Miss Laura Walker in the part of Glory Quayle. Mr. Harry Colbeck is excellent as Father Lamplugh, Mr. Colin Johnson is everything that could be desired as Archdeacon Wealthy, Lord Robert Ure as presented by Mr. E. Stanton is good. Mr. Duncan Yarrow is a host in himself as Horatio Drake. Mr. R. Stidwell deserves mention as Mr. Lorrimer.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—*The Earl and the Girl*, as played by Mr. William Greet's company, continues to draw large audiences. The members of the company act as cleverly and vivaciously as on the first night, and admirable work is contributed by the chorus and augmented orchestra. Altogether the piece is one of the brightest and best of its class that has been seen here for some time.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—There is an exceptionally strong company here this week, and the house is crowded nightly. The Saxon Trio perform their remarkable feats of strength with the utmost facility, and the singing and dancing of the Virginian Troupe of coloured boys and girls are highly appreciated, while a very warm welcome is given to Mr. Jake Friedman, the "one man opera." Among the other enjoyable turns are those of Miss Bessie Travis, an accomplished ventriloquist and pianiste; Mr. Phil Lee and Miss Lily Arden, smart Scottish comedians; Miss Agnes Molteno, the well-known operatic and ballad vocalist; Miss Mabelle May, who sings and dances gracefully; Mr. Jack Charman, a singer of ability, and the Gladenbecks, wonderfully expert balancing artists. Vernon's Bioscope pictures are, as usual, interesting and up to date.

ABERTILLERY. — THEATRE METROPOLE. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager. Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week the boards were occupied here by Messrs. Garside and Knowles' No. 1 company in *The London Fireman*. In the title-rôle Mr. J. Forbes Knowles played with capital vigour; as Viscount Fleming Mr. Oliver Birrel was well placed; as Hal Curtis (Ratty) Mr. Edward Garside was capable; as Abel Fortnum Mr. William Burgess was really good; Mr. Walter Wilby did well as Joe Bluener. The comedy parts were in the capable hands of Mr. Chas. Preese as Nixey Stinger, and Miss Nelly Garside as Polly Bramble. Mr. Joe Rockley as Capt. Langton was convincing. As Countess Fleming Miss Nellie Waddington acted the part creditably; Miss Florence M. Daly may be complimented on her impersonation of Grace Curtis; and as Ida Curtis Miss Nellie Shirley became a favourite.

ACCRINGTON. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmott, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—The smart bill presented here this week includes Emma Don, who is well received in a grand vocal scena. Bert Williams is in the front rank in his line of business; Frank Caso is particularly funny with capital songs; Cora Gray has a good voice, and is duly appreciated; *The Demon Chef* is smartly presented by Preitt and Linetto; the Perkins are well received; Alf. Berq performs some wonderful feats of strength; and the Hippodrome pictures complete a good bill.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*A Woman's Pluck* was produced here in June last year, and Mr. Hamilton Warden is again presenting it. There are, however, many changes in the cast, only three or four being the same. A talented portrayal of Bessie Heath is given by Miss Marie Hanbury; Miss May Dallas is capital as Dorothy; and Miss Mabel Durant's Clara Darrel is acceptable. Mr. Robert Castleton gives a good impersonation of David Heath; Mr. Charles V. Sandford's portrayal of Frank is highly successful; and Mr. Warden as Clement Harper is well placed; while Mr. Oswald Cray in the part of Uriah Craven is quite capable.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Pantomime succeeds pantomime here. The departure of *Goody Two Shoes* has left a vacancy which is this week filled by *Jack and Jill*, by Mr. Jas. Hewson, written for the Six Brothers Luck. These "speciality" artists sustain the humour of the production with considerable success. They impart plenty of farcical vigour, as well as some "speciality" acting of character. The Dwarf and the Demon, in the opening, are capably sustained by Messrs. Oscar and Henry Luck. Messrs. Ernest, Fred, Phil, and A. Luck respectively fill important parts, and each artist individually brings to bear some gift which is prominently displayed to the advantage of the individual performer, and to the fun and frolic of the varied situations in the ten interesting scenes of the pantomime. Miss Flora Macdonald as Fairy Great Heart also takes the attention of the audience, not only by her luminous presence and beauty of face and figure, but by her vocal and other accomplishments. Miss Mabel Thorne is a vivacious and sprightly Jack and Miss Marjorie Cecil a pretty and engaging Jill. Mr. Harry Levaine does not make the stage old woman too vulgar: Dame Wiggs, in this instance, consistently carries out his own advice in the "tag," "Have a bit of sense." Mr. P. Bathurst as King Usurpah fulfils requirements satisfactorily; and Misses Claire Brenton, Edie Brenton, Maggie Travers, Brenda Travers pose and dance, sing and chatter, after the approved fashion of the minor heroes and heroines of pantomime.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—One capable company of variety stars succeeds another at this palace of pleasure week by week. This week's "bill" includes some interesting items. Bert and Dora are clever performers as "speciality" artists; we have an expert player of the drum in Dan Merritt; a change is introduced in Flora Lumière's new electrical fairy grotto, described as the most charming and beautiful act to be seen. The inventor and manager is Mr. J. D. Birteno, electrician. Little Clara Walters is a mistress of harmony; Harry Gray, calling himself the "Australian Nugget," is a really smart colonial comedian; the Hartley Wonders, including Arthur Hartley, champion all-round jumper of the world, introduce something new and novel; Grogie is extremely funny as the Sussex yokel; Maggie Walsh sings tunefully as the Lancashire singing mill girl; and a new song-scena is introduced by Carr and Rose, entitled "Catching the Catch of the Season." The bioscope depicts the doings of some Nihilists, a story of present-day life in Russia.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Messrs. Jazon and Warner's pantomime *Aladdin* is the attraction here this week, and, judging by the large audiences, who have received it with hearty applause, its success is assured. Mr. E. C. Jazon, the author, is to be complimented on his work, for it is smartly written. The title-rôle is well played by Miss Marie Braham, who makes a dashing principal boy; Miss Daisy Lane is a taking Princess Badroulbadour; and the parts of Petroe, Caramel, Bercour, and Nicee are safe in the hands of Misses Effie Morde, Florrie White, Flo Russell, and Ada Salida. Mr. Edwin C. Jazon is excellent as Abanazar; Mr. Harry Carmen is most humorous as Widow Twankey; Messrs. Mantell and Oval cause roars of laughter as Ping and Pong. Mr. Pete Vone as Snowball, Mr. Alfred Brooks as the Grand Vizier, Mr. Dan Romans as Demonico, Miss Pattie Holder as Gem of the Ring, and Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Slave of the Lamp, all contribute to the general success. Specialities are introduced by the Three Delaries, gymnasts; Salidi and Vone, dancers; Sisters Varley, vocalists; and Mantell and Oval, comedy cyclists. The chorus and orchestra are under the direction of Mr. A. Benhardt.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—This week the "bill" is headed by Arthur Kenny, cyclist, who gives a daring and sensational performance; the Wallys contribute an excellent juggling act; George Brown, Yorkshire comedian, is well received in his dialect songs; Carlin is a gifted and marvellous foot equilibrist; Mr. E. C. Clayton's selections on the Palace Attergraph include a most interesting film, "The Squire's Daughter"; and a highly appreciated turn is provided by the Musical Saxonias. Tom Leo, comedian, and Kendrick and Laura, duettists and speciality dancers, also find much favour.

BACUP. — NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—The New Sapho Syndicate, Ltd., opened a week's engagement here on Monday with *Sapho*. The principal interest of the play centres round Fanny le Granda (Sapho), and Miss Annie Bell presents a powerful study of the title-rôle. Mr. Francis Serle is decidedly amusing as Cesaire; Mr. Pringle Roberts, as Jean Gausin, puts a wonderful amount of dramatic force into his interpretation; and a sound performance of Dechelette comes from Mr. Lawrence Kingsley. Flamant is satisfactorily portrayed by Mr. Duncan Bell. Father Legrand is ably depicted by Mr. Chas. M. Daly; and little Miss Doris E. Graham, as Josaph, is highly commendable.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—The stirring American drama, *At Cripple Creek*, is drawing good houses here this week. As Joe Mayfield Mr. Hilliard Vox is a great success; he plays with much feeling and power. Mr. Walter Thornton as Martin Mason commands much admiration; Mr. R. Harley West gives a faithful portrayal of Wahketah, the Indian; and Mr. Albert Rodger is very humorous as the nigger Ben White. Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason is full of life; Miss May Straker gives a pleasing portrayal of Belle Gordon; Little Talto is a capital child character in the hands of Miss May Douglas, and Dynamite Ann is played in a powerful yet pleasing manner by Miss Vera Fordice.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—*La Poupée* is here this week, and is proving as popular as ever. The piece is staged and dressed in an admirable manner, and the company is one of all-round excellence, quite a number of the songs and choruses having to be repeated.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—The Salambos are at the top of the bill here this week and are giving a wonderful exhibition of electrical novelties; Larmo, the comedy juggler, creates quite a furore; the Two Eltons are a clever pair of bar performers; Fred Curran is a comedian with a quaint style quite his own; Miss Alice Maple renders her songs in a pleasing manner; Olivette and the Marblesque Trio are excellently received, and evidently afford much pleasure to the audience.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. G. Testo Santé, the actor-athlete, in his novelty drama, *The Life of a Showman*, is here this week. He himself is seen to great advantage as Brien Leader, the strong man and circus acrobat; Sir Noel Hartland is successfully played by Mr. Charles Osborne; Mr. Logan Darra is an interesting villain as Hendrick Marais; and the Rev. Cyril Arliss is well presented by Mr. Edward Warden. Miss Amy McNeill exhibits skill and cleverness as the lady housekeeper, Agatha Winter; Lena Hartland is pathetically acted by Miss Enid French; and the comedy is well sustained by Miss May Neilson as Angelina Mutton. Mr. Frank Santé as Tommy Allthere and Mr. Ernest Turner as Ben Tic-Tac, A.B., are also effective.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the second week in succession Mr. Bannister Howard is supplying the attraction, this week's play being Hall Caine's drama *The Eternal City*. First honours are easily secured by Mr. D. Lewin Mannering as Baron Bonelli, his acting being excellent. Mr. Henry Deas and Miss Rona Merrick impersonate David Rossi and Donna Roma respectively, each presenting a well-studied portrayal. Pius XI. is enacted with due solemnity and reserve by Mr. J. Fortescue. Mr. Geo. Cartwright is convincing as Bruno Rocco. Mr. L. St. G. Lowther and Mr. F. C. Leighton do well as the Chief of Police and his spy. Miss Constance Stephens is quite satisfactory as the Princess Beltini. The piece is liberally staged, and Mascagni's special musical numbers are well rendered by the orchestra.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—Bevan's Gordon Highlanders are paying a popular return visit here, their lightning drill act creating the usual enthusiasm. The Albano quartette of musical artists secure several encores for pleasing performance of popular melodies. The well-written and pathetic sketch *The Little Colonel* is admirably acted by Mr. Ernest Montefiore and his youthful companion Miss Lilian Rose, who receive capital support from Miss Belle Vickers. Ned Graydon, musical entertainer, is well received. Belle Braham with pictorial is always sure of a warm welcome; Miniature Marie's mimicry of well-known "stars" and her smart dancing are cordially recognised; the Delmars, vocal duettists, and Harry Lawson, comedian, have plenty of admirers; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux remain a permanent attraction.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Lovers of the drama are being entertained this week by Miss Frances Dalaval's company in Nita Rae's play, *Her Lost Self*. Mr. George Lyttleton powerfully depicts Wilfred Daventry; and Mr. Charles Kean successfully portrays the artist, Norman Esmond; Mr. Jack Henri gives a satisfactory interpretation of Paul Kimberley; Miss Frances Delaval presents in a powerful manner the part of the evil designing Philipine Marcell; and Miss M. Johnson pathetically represents Dorothy Daventry. The humour is well sustained by Miss Nellie Warden, as Bridget Mahone; Mrs. Edmund Lyons, as Rachel Cohen; Mr. L. W. Halfpenny, as Abraham Cohen; and Mr. Leslie York, as Tom Flyaway.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. J. W. Whitbread's Irish company opened here on Monday with the romantic drama, *Lord Edward; or '98*. Mr. Robert Faulkner was a manly representative of Lord Edward; Mr. Ion Ireland acquitted himself well in the rôle of Francis Higgins; and roars of laughter greeted Mr. James O'Brien's impersonation of Thady McGrath. The iniquities of Francis Magan were realistically portrayed by that clever actor, Mr. Dane Clarke; and Miss Cecilia Dare was a charming Pamela. Miss Monica Kelly was a delightful Katey Malone; and Mr. James Daly was a thoroughly capable Neilson. The rôles of Napper Tandy and General Hoche were capitally portrayed by Messrs. R. Payne and Charles Boyle; and Mrs. E. F. Brady was quite equal to the responsibilities of Madame De Sillery. Other rôles were ably presented by Miss M. Hurst, Miss May Axon, Miss Ada Turner, Miss P. Marnard, and Messrs. H. Ryeland Leigh, G. Nolan, Alfred Danes, H. Richardson, &c. The Lord Edward Brass Band rendered several selections during the course of the piece. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the evergreen Irish drama, *The Shaughraun*, was presented. The company is under the direction of Mr. Dane Clarke.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. P. Beardmore.—The success of the pantomime, *Cinderella*, continues unabated, delighted audiences showing their appreciation of Mr. Warden's annual in an unmistakable manner. Miss Empsie Bowman, in the title-rôle, has gained hosts of admirers by her delightful acting and sweet vocalism. Miss Olive Marston—happily recovered from her indisposition—gains a deserved ovation nightly for her rendering of "My Irish Molly O" and "Hear the Pipers Calling, Jenny Mine." Of the comedians, Mr. Fred Cary is one of the biggest favourites, securing a great reception. Mr. Russell Wallett's humour in the rôle of Mabelle is quite irresistible; and no one in the pantomime works harder than Miss Kitty Clinton, who as Dandini has made an undeniable hit, her singing of "Sally Ann" gaining her a deserved encore. The pantomime is certainly enjoying a prosperous run.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Vasco heads the bill, and has been most successful with his clever manipulation of many musical instruments; Marzella's birds exhibit much excellence, their feats being simply marvellous; and much amusement has been created by the Holles Golden trio in their attractive act, *The Little Charwoman*. Miss Ella Retford is a clever comedienne, with good songs, and her dancing is most attractive. Alexandra and Berthe appear to great advantage in their aerial act; and much applause has been extended to Les Ados for their remarkable feats of [illegible]ad and hand balancing. Tom[illegible]nd Flo Verno[illegible]n their smart comedy act, and [illegible]icknelle, clay[illegible]odeller, complete the programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA [illegible]TRE OF VARI[illegible].—General-Manager, Mr. Henry Downs.—Th[illegible]tic[illegible] top the bill, and have cre[illegible] quite a se[illegible] Tou[illegible] their ladder act. The [illegible]rous songs [illegible]tton, Lloyd gain a good recepti[illegible] and Mr. B[illegible] the swell comique, has a [illegible]al style. [illegible]usical speciality of Volp and [illegible]veland is [illegible]nly an acquisition to the bill, as a welco[illegible] return visit is being paid by Mr. Mark Boyle, the droll comedian. The sweet ballad voc[illegible]m of Miss Sadie Early commands success; and Mr. O. W. Watson exhibits much ability in his comic solos. Also here are Will Dalton, character comedian, and Miss Ada Whitton, male impersonator.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—A good representation of *The Power and the Glory* is being given here by Ernest Cheney, Arthur C. Sanderson, and Miss Bessie Elba's company. The last-named artist portrays Kate Goodluck with excellent results; Mr. A. Fitzmaurice gives a sterling rendering of the [illegible]g sailor, Harry Goodluck; Mr. Reginald Fox shows tact in depicting Harold Hartrer; a good King of Sweden Mobsmen (Ferdinand Crape) is found in Mr. Victor R. C. Moors; and Miss May Loyett plays carefully as Lizzie Medwin. A word of praise is due to Miss Flo Florence, as the blind girl, Linda; to Miss Fanny Olive, as Lady Gwendoline Dyce Morris; to Miss M. Le Ray, as Bessie Goodluck; to Miss Lizzie Lennon, as May Goodluck; and to Messrs. Jack Bigwood and Henry Gilpin as the two apprentices.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. George Dance's company, in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, is attracting large and fashionable audiences. The representation is in every respect a most capable one, and the many strong points of the play are received with the keenest relish. Miss Minnie Leslie is an ideal Fi-Fi, and invests the rôle with charming dash and piquancy. The Emperor is finely played by Mr. St. John Hammond, who makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. Percy Russell is an excellent Lord Chancellor; Mr. Jack Lisle is inimitable as the Lord High Admiral; and Miss Harriette Greene, a local artist, as Mi-Mi acquits herself with much ability. Mr. L. Bullock Webster is well suited as Tom Hatherton; Mr. Pineapple is humorously rendered by Mr. Foster Courtenay; Miss Poppy Wilkinson is an admirable Mrs. Pineapple; and Mrs. Brown is well impersonated by Miss Edie Ross. Miss Ada Watson exhibits much vocal skill in the rôle of Soo-Soo.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Merritt, the wonder-worker, in his clever illusionary entertainment, again heads the company here. Leading turns are also supplied by the Frantz Family, a marvellously clever troupe of acrobats; Rastus and Brown, in *The Major and the Maid;* Mr. Harry Anderson, a comedian of undoubted ability; Miss Helen Charles, an exceptionally clever vocalist and mimic; Hallam and Stanton, in their amusing sketch, *A Broken Journey;* the Brothers Ashley, in a comic boxing sketch; Mr. Walter Everson, an energetic and able comedian; and Miss Winnie Derson, a pleasing comedienne.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* has settled down to regular good business, as it deserved to do, and is undoubtedly destined to continue in the bill for many weeks to come.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* receives an excellent greeting from a crowded house at every performance, and a lucrative run seems assured for this entertaining and ornate production.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*The Sleeping Beauty* remains in favour here with large audiences nightly.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Elue Beard* fully holds its own, both in popularity and merit, the public carrying its approval to great lengths of enthusiasm.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*Driven from Home*, with new local scenery and effects, has been produced here this week, with marked success, by the Metropole company stationed here. Mr. Frederick Sandy besides acting with fine force as David Wilson, shows his good work in the stage-management. Mr. Felix Pitt is conspicuous by his sound acting as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. Frederick Harker scores as Geoffrey Waring; Mr. Herbert Humphreys shows good ability as Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. Howard Tracey shines as George Clissold; Mr. Andrew Emm (Melville) makes a prominent character of the outcast Willie; Mr. Harry Liddle displays a humorous bent as the stable boy; Miss Frances Ruttledge acts with much sympathy as Laura; and the Misses Florence Nelson, Evelyn Marrable, Muriel Alleyne, Messrs. Clifford Bown, and Harry Cornwall lend valuable aid.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Her Luck in London* is noticed elsewhere in our columns.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles. — *Little Bo-Peep*, which is presented on a delightful scale of elegance by Mr. J. Gar. Kiddie, has met with crowded houses nightly. Miss Lizzie Payne enacts the heroine with much charm and success; Miss Susie Beaven sings, dances, and acts with pleasant abandon as Boy Blue; Miss Bessie Frank scores in the song "My Irish Molly," and fills the rôle of Margery Daw with distinguished success; and the Solon Trio, the Pem Quartette, and the Hammersley ballet troupe lend charm and spirit to the show. Mr. Dawson Dewick works well in the comic interest as the Baron; Mr. J. W. Groves is indefatigable as Granny Brown; and Miss Melinda May, as the dashing Lord de Rhino, and Messrs. Harry Wren, Stern, and Stern, and Gilroy and Ross are favourites. An extensive company supports the above.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The capital programme presented this week is headed by Bella and Bijou, whose refined entertainment is loudly applauded, as also are Sydney James's Strolling Players. Mendel, the blind pianist, is a talented musician; Cecil Lidden and Elsie Hayward have a smart musical absurdity entitled *The Midnight Express;* the juggling of Walter Bellonini is exceedingly smart; some graceful dances are executed by the Sisters Kauffman; and the Five Olracs, Sam Redfern, and Park's Eton Boys add to the brightness of the programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—With Florrie Forde at the head of affairs, needless to say that crowded houses have been the result. Her rendering of "Susannah's got money" is repeatedly encored, and she has also given four of her other popular songs. The Ten Genis are seen in an exceptionally smart Risley act; Tate and Tate are applauded for their acrobatic display; the gymnastic act of Stelling and Revell is of a humorous nature; H. F. Wilson renders his descriptive songs with good effect; Childie Stuart is a dainty comedienne; and Charles Mildare is a popular whistling comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company are appearing in an original version of "Nell Gwyn" entitled *The Orange Girl*. The piece is well written, and the acting all round far above the average. The title-rôle is in the hands of Miss Elsworthy, who is enthusiastically received. Lydia Yeamans, who is in excellent voice, displays astonishing versatility in her imitations of singers, from the poorest to the highest. The George Power Comedy Combination has an amusing sketch, *Matrimonial Bliss;* the Sisters Lytton are captivating vocalists; and the Waldrons in their comedy act, *The Silly Burglar*, Bert Weston, Frances Drew, and Davis and Davis add to the attractiveness of the programme.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Fred Storey and company are this week presenting *Rip Van Winkle*, which is attracting packed houses. Mr. Storey gives a clever study of Rip. Kokin is a Japanese juggler of a high order, his tricks being most skilful; the Amaranths, three clever acrobatic dancers from La Belle France, win loud applause; the Bohemians have a refined musical entertainment; Jessie Burnett sings herself into favour; and the Venola Bros. have a humorous gymnastic display.

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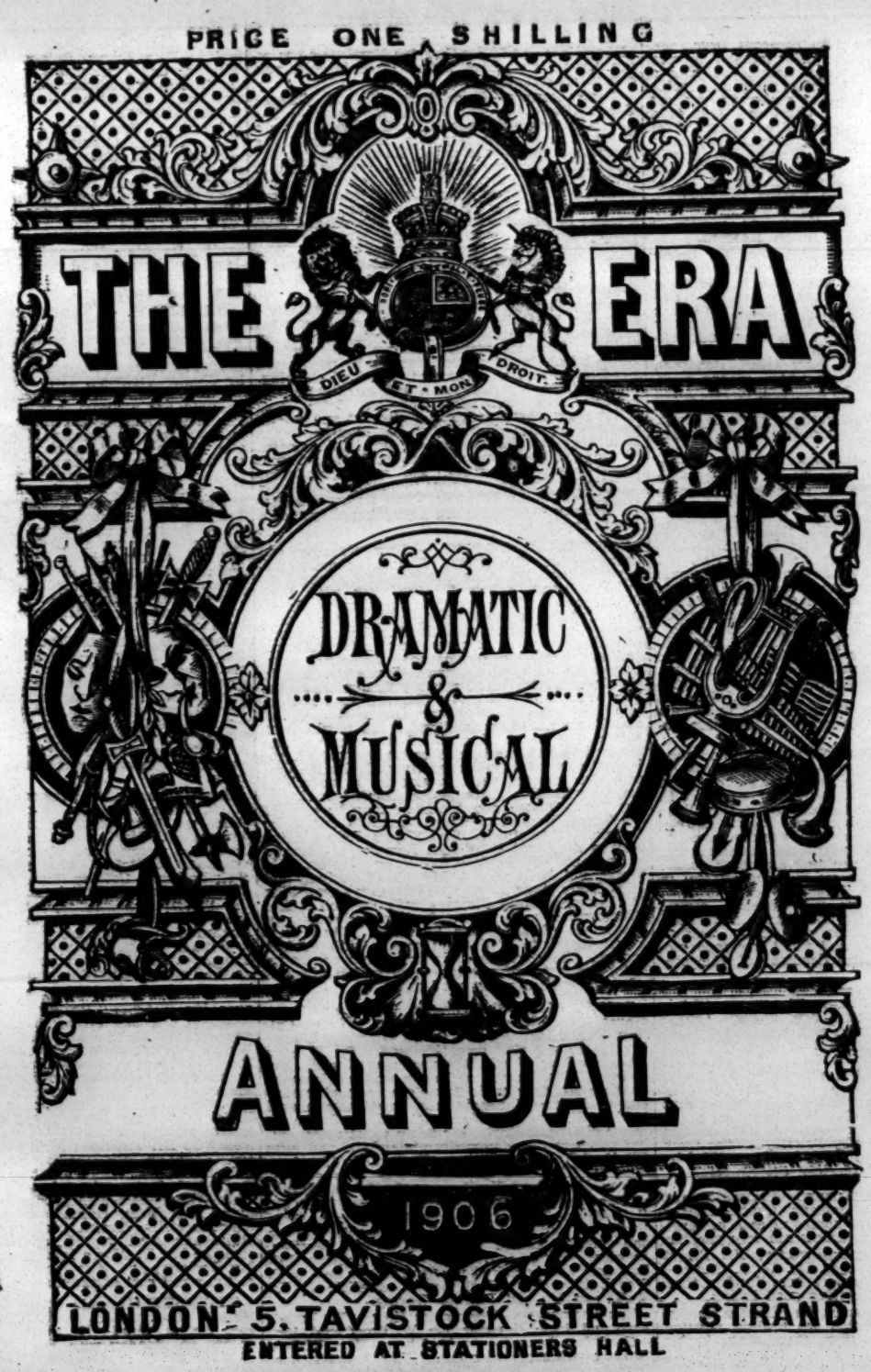

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THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1905.
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DRAMATIC and MUSICAL CALENDAR.
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READY MONDAY NEXT, JANUARY 15.

Address, THE PUBLISHER,

TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: No. FOUR—SEVEN—FOUR—SEVEN CENTRAL.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Huntley. — Messrs. Little and Darcy's company is on a welcome visit here with *The Forty Thieves*, the first pantomime of the season. Miss Minnie Silcott is seen to great advantage as Abdallah, the Captain of the Forty; Ali Baba is in the capable hands of Mr. George Rapley. Miss Violet Silcott gains much favour as Ganem; Miss Marie Silcott makes a graceful Morgiana; as Cogia Baba Mr. James Ferguson is very amusing; Cassim Baba is well portrayed by Mr. Ted Wootton; Mr. Conley is clever as Hasadric; and Mr. Malone is an amusing Hassarac. The famous Daunton Shaw troupe is responsible for a marvellous and brilliant performance; the Three Henriques are also important factors in the success.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—*Dick Whittington and His Cat* occupies the boards this week. Miss Madge Merry makes a dashing Dick Whittington, and is ably seconded by Miss Winifred Preece as Alice. Mr. Walter Wade as Idle Jack is very humorous, and introduces agreeable variety in the shape of a sentimental ballad, which is ably rendered. Mr. William Kashma is an active representative of the cat, his antics being highly appreciated by the juvenile portion of the audience. Specialities are contributed by Miss Effie White, Fire-dancer; the Thalian Glee-singers; the Kashma's; the Sisters Vincent; and Les Sprays, Continental dancers. The scenery and dresses are all that can be desired.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Howard and Harris appear in a clever sketch, *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp;* Caselli and James are expert banjo-players; another excellent musical turn is furnished by Handel and Lee; a very good exhibition of rapid portrait-painting is given by Speedwell; the Seddons as the lady juggler and comic waiter cause much amusement; Spencer and Marks are a pair of smart comedians; Ford Williams has a powerful base voice, which he uses to advantage; the Smythsons appear in a laughable sketch; and Raymond's Bio Tableaux show some fresh pictures.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Mr. Louis Calvert's company is paying a most welcome visit here this week with *Dr. Wake's Patient*. Mr. Herbert Ross scores a success as Duff Wynterden, and Mr. Douglas Vigors cleverly represents Dr. Forrester Wake. The Earl of St. Olbyn finds a capable exponent in Mr. Arthur Willoughy, the Bishop of Selby is carefully presented by Mr. Alfred Phillips, and Andrew Wake has a very able exponent in Mr. Alfred Wellesley. The part of Lady Gerania is played with great charm by Miss Olive Terry; Miss Ina Pelly is well suited as Countess St. Olbyn; Miss Amy Fanchette as Mrs. Wake and Miss Beatrice Webb as Harriet Bronson are also good. The play is most effectively staged.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Lergenson. — *Are You a Mason?* played by Mr. Charles Macdona's company, is paying another visit here, and meeting with a most cordial reception nightly. Mr. E. H. Paterson as Amos Bloodgood, Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as Frank Perry, Mr. Allan Pollock as George Fisher, and Mr. Richard Purdon as John Halton all make the most of their opportunities. Miss Adelaide Grace merits praise for a clever portrayal of Mrs. Bloodgood, and Miss Mabel Younge makes a sweet and charming Eva. Other parts are also in good hands.

PALACE. — General - Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The combination engaged here this week includes Jennie Johns, a new and rising burlesque artist; W. J. Ashcroft, aryama, Harry Leybourne, Amandus, Percy Honri, W. L. Murray, Ethel Dunford, George Collins, and the Sisters Melba.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—Mr. Frank Lindo, supported by an excellent company, has paid a successful visit here with the popular drama, entitled *Home, Sweet Home*. In the hands of the clever actor-manager the part of the young fisherman, Stephen Armitage, stands out prominently. Miss Wakeford, in the character of Joan, at once becomes a favourite with the audience.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—Mr. Elliston's twenty-fifth annual pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, is continuing a successful career since its production on the 1st inst. The various artists have now settled down to their respective parts. Miss Florence Burns is very sprightly as the Prince Greatheart; Miss Nellie Randall is striking as Silver Button, and Miss Edie Rivers is charming as Beauty. The Eldorado Girls do some dainty dancing; Burley and Burley are clever as contortionists, and Baroni and Kemp are smart quick-change artists.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The company here comprises Mr. Charles Parker's Æolians (six in number); Miss Minnie Cunningham, comedienne; J. P. Carroll, tambourinist; the Harlem Bros., sand dancers, &c.; Carney and Armstrong, speciality artists; Maud Edwards, lady ventriloquist; Linton, in a cable act; F. S. Hulme, actor vocalist; Cyrus Dare, Society humorist; Charles Fanning, comedian; Henry Carlton's sketch, *One Night Only*, and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert E. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Miss Winifred Maude and company in *The Stowaway*. Mr. Royce Carlton gives an excellent rendering of Tom Inglis; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle is exceptionally good as Charles Etherington; Miss Winifred Maude soon wins the sympathy of the audience by her refined rendering of Althea Dale, and Miss Amy Corallie as Chucky, a London newsboy, is a favourite, her songs being well received; Mr. Victor-du-Cane keeps the house in a state of merriment as Dicky Dials, and his songs are much appreciated.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Little Michus* is this week playing to large and enthusiastic audiences. Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Grace Sinclair have good voices, and act the part of the Little Michus exceedingly well; Miss Maisie Gay as Madame Michu gives a capital performance, and with Mr. T. E. Conover as Pierre Michu contributes largely towards the success of the piece; Mr. Leslie Holland as General des Ifs appears in a part which gives him many opportunities of displaying his undoubted powers as a comedian; he is strongly supported by Mr. Cecil Clayton as Bagnolet and Mr. D. FitzGibbon as Aristide. Mr. Gerald Clifford is a capital Gaston. The company includes Mdlle. Marjorie, who as Mdlle. St. Cyr delights the house by her graceful dancing.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Mother Goose*, with its wealth of fun, beautiful scenery, and stage effects, charming music, and striking and costly dresses, bids fair to take its place amongst the many of Mr. Hart's very successful productions in the way of pantomime. The members of the company have settled down to their work, and the audiences which crowd the theatre are very appreciative.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Dick Whittington's* run here is a very merry one; brightness is the prominent feature of Mr. Laidler's most successful effort in the direction of pantomime. The fun never flags, and the crowded audiences are loud in their marks of appreciation of the company's unsparing efforts and the pretty scenery.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—Manager, Mr. C. Carter.—*Little Bo-Peep* ends her merry reign here with the present week. The audiences have been very appreciative of Mr. Carter's efforts in providing a bright and pretty entertainment, and they have not failed to recognise the praiseworthy energy displayed by the company.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Marie Duma, an accomplished soprano vocalist, heads the programme here this week with songs most effectively rendered. Little Katie Butler, in winsome style, contributes an amusing song. A novel acrobatic and contortionist act by Genaro and Theol contains many new and clever features. Maydue Cruikshanks and company present an Irish sketch, *Bridget's Idea*, which has the merit of being well acted. In a funny absurdity, *Convicts at Large*, Burns and Burns do some smart work. Horace White, the clever ventriloquist and pianist, with his mechanical figures, is on a welcome return visit. Gallando gives a clever turn as a lightning sculptor in clay. In her vigorous and effective style Fanny Robina makes a hit as a comedienne. Driscoll, Beattie, and company, who are retained again this week, present another of their comedy sketches successfully; and the American Bioscope exhibits some entertaining films.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—With some capital American-Dutch humour, Reilly and Taylor, comedians, open the programme here this week, followed by the Four Avocas, who re-appear in their excellent vocal and dramatic sketch, *The Reckless Miner*. Clara Victor is an accomplished vocalist who wins hearty appreciation. Rae and Lea come next with a clever performance on the rings and capital comedy. Lottie Lennox follows with charming costumes and good songs. L. B. Athol succeeds with a characteristic song sung in effective style. An interesting and pretty turn is given by Les Bollingers, who present pictures in rags, and they are followed by Harry Tate in his funny sketch, *Motoring*; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux present some pretty films.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Miss Lena Stanton's company is appearing here this week in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, which is played by an excellent company of artists, foremost amongst whom stands Miss Lena Stanton, whose portrayal of Crusoe is one of the best we have ever seen. She works hard to secure the success of the pantomime. Miss Minnie Melbah is charming in the part of Polly; her singing is good and her dancing a great treat. In the character of Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. Bruce Green gives a good rendering of the part of the Dame, and his clever business keeps the house in roars of laughter. Little Keeno adds greatly to the laurels he gained here last year, his funny pranks and amusing songs taking immensely, whilst his dancing, especially in the cake-walk song, ably assisted by Miss Carrie Herbert, is one of the hits of the evening. Miss Nellie Maxwell is a dashing Captain Taylor; Miss Dolly Richardson a pleasing Princess, and Miss Marie Lowe an engaging Lord Chamberlain. Mr. George Melbah supplies plenty of fun in his character of Friday, and with Minnie Melbah gives a noval musical turn. Mr. Bob Beirne as Davy Jones, jun., is amusing; and Mr. Will Terry in the part of the Blighted Blinker is responsible for some hearty laughter. The King Kopp-em of Mr. Dennis Syndon is excellent. The clever dancing of the Orient Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers deserves mention; and the speciality turns include J. and Ginger in an amusing ventriloquial turn; La Belle Roma on the silver wire; the Drofias in a good juggling act; and Miss Nina in her graceful trapeze and ring performance. Mr. Charles Ambler is an able musical director.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl. Mr. Frank Curzon's company is here this week with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Percy Clifton sustains the title-character in very amusing style; Mr. George Barrett submits a clever and humorous character study as Crookie Scrubbs; Mr. Charles Hanbury makes an excellent Michael Brue; and Miss Constance Lait is a bright and attractive Aurora Brue; Miss Violet Dene is well suited as Lady Birkenhead, while Mr. A. E. E. Edwards' Mr. Crank, Mr. Harold Montague's Inspector of Police, and Miss Eva Erskine's Daisy are admirably played. Miss Mabel Weir and Mr. Ivor Harvey contribute a capital *pas de deux*. The full chorus and augmented orchestra acquit themselves admirably under the direction of Mr. Ernest Harman.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* continues its merry career here, and is attracting good houses. Miss May Mars, a handsome and charming Robinson Crusoe, is a great favourite; Miss Rosalie Jacobi's Polly Perkins is a warmly appreciated impersonation, while the comic element, sustained by Mr. Walter Kooney (Will Atkins), and Mr. Harry Karr (Dick Deadeye), adds materially to the enjoyment of the audience. Praise must also be accorded to Mr. Allan Wye, who is a droll Mrs. Crusoe; to Mr. Ernest Laws and Miss Winifred Norman for their songs, and to Miss Maud Percy and Mr. Edgar Budden for their dancing.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An entertaining programme is sustained here this week. Albert Wyndham and company are very effective in the Shakespearean episode *Shylock*, Mr. Wyndham (Shylock), Mr. Henry Gilby (Antonio), Mr. Herbert Fox (Bassanio), Mr. Charles Whitley (Duke), Miss Maud Nichols (Portia), and Mr. Pateman (Nerissa) give admirable impersonations. The Four Figaros are well received in their speciality act *Ten Minutes on the Continent;* the Lorrisons are smart eccentrics; Brull and Hemsley as "the dainty damsel and the dancing dude" are warmly applauded; Harry Walker, the talking entertainer, is very droll; the Allisons are capital duettists and dancers; Walker and Lake, comedians, submit a pleasing turn; the Folkestones, in their novelty *The Channel Swimmers*, and Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl, find much favour, and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is an excellent company here this week. Mirzah, "the man in green," is a very clever banjoist; Miss May Yohe contributes a very pleasing turn; Bessie Goodwin and her little piccaninnies are warmly received; Mons. Coram, ventriloquist, is entertaining; Otto and Olga are clever in song and mock opera; Grahame and Harrington are highly successful in a dramatic episode, *A Daughter of Pleasure;* Arthur Reece contributes some capital songs; Cherry Lass is a pleasing comedienne and smart step dancer; Rumbo Austin and Harry Bedford are effective comedians; and the Barrascope pictures add to the attractiveness of the programme.

WEST PIER. — Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—*The Cherry Girl* is doing good business here. Miss Ellaline Cragie makes a delightful Queen, and Mr. G. Langford Kirby is distinctly successful as Moonshine and Happy Jack.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. J. Sallmayer; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. John Henderson.—The fairy play pantomime *Robin Hood* runs capitally here. Miss Millie Henderson as Robin Hood, and Miss Susie Rusholme as Maid Marian are popular; Mr. Coningsby Brierley's Friar Tuck is admirably played, and much fun is provided by Newham and Latimer (Society entertainers).

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Mother Goose* is drawing crowded houses at each performance, and all the leading artists are very popular.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—There is but little to report here further than *Goody Two Shoes* is attracting good houses.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Charles Coborn holds the leading position on the programme; he sings three songs in his old and inimitable style, and is very warmly appreciated by all parts of the house. The Ergotti and King Luis Troupe of Risley Acrobats present a fine act in their line; Nancy St. John, comedienne and dancer, sings pleasingly and dances with considerable ability; Brown and Nixon, eccentric comedians and dancers, obtain applause; E. J. Wilkes and his clever dog Woof do an interesting and pretty turn; Charles Stewart's company score heavily in a sketch, *The Water Cure;* Alix Lukos, actor-vocalist, has a fine speciality, *Pictures in the Fire*, to which he does full justice; the Jansons are successful in a novel gymnastic act; the Falcons have a good acrobatic comedy act; Fred Keeton, comedian, amuses with eccentric comedy; and Tom Yorke is highly successful as a coster comedian. The performance concludes with a good display of animated pictures projected by the Barrascope.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman. — The Kellinos in their speciality, *A Fête in Venice*, in which music, dancing, and clever Risley acrobatic feats are introduced, head the programme, and obtain much applause. J. H. Milburn, comedian, does a good turn, and is always popular here; Ethel Loftus, comedienne, is pleasing; Gus Barra, musical comedian, is appreciated; the Steinway Quartette have a good song scena, *Songs of the Sea;* Charles Collette does an excellent turn, his speciality, "Hard Luck," obtaining much applause; Kitty Clover's comedy company scores with the farce, *Mistaken Identity;* and Silent Tait does some clever comedy conjuring. The performance concludes with a new series of Vernon's excellent animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Mr. Joseph Poole's popular Myriorama continues to attract a large attendance. The variety company is a strong one, including a fine aerial show by the Flying Rixfords.

BROMLEY.—LYRIC THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, H. Strong.—A very successful visit has been made this week by Miss Rose Moncrieff's company, in the pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*. The book, which has been written by Mr. Newman Maurice, follows the story very closely, and is performed by a capable company. Miss Rose Moncrieff is charming as Sinbad, and is very successful, both in singing and dancing; Miss Emily Harlowe is an excellent Sadie. The comic element is very much to the fore, the chief honours falling to Mr. Sam Poluski, jun., a chip of the old block, as Sinbad, the sailor; the two O'Gormans, as Diggles and Daggles; and Mr. Bert Collins, as Mrs. Sinbad. Mr. Joe Lyons is sufficiently dramatic as Vanderdecken; the old man of the sea is powerfully played by Mr. J. E. Manning; Mr. James Graydon caused much merriment as the Caliph; Miss Emmie Waite is well placed as Captain Selim, and Yosan is safe in the hands of Miss Grace Rosaire. The pantomime is adequately mounted, and smartly dressed. The performance is brought to a close with a rollicking old fashioned harlequinade, by Mr. Tom O'Gorman, as Clown, Mr. J. O'Gorman, pantaloon, Mr. A. Wills, as harlequin, Mr. Stanley Vincent, as policeman, and Miss Ethel Ardell, as Columbine.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred. Watson.—The sensational domestic drama, *When Woman Hates*, is presented this week by Miss Nettie Ware and Millar Anderson's company. Miss Leah Marlborough as Cora Daintry makes a deep impression, and Mr. Frank Eaglesfield as Godfrey Lawton is well suited. The hero and heroine, Lieutenant Fred Rokeby and Marie Rokeby, are successfully represented by Mr. J. Leighton Leigh and Miss Louisa Peach. Miss Gladys Lloyd's Edith Rokeby is a clever study; much comic business is introduced by Mr. J. P. Marsden as Patrick O'Brien; and Mr. Percy Braithwaite as Alphonse. Miss Emily Constance as Mrs. Potts and Miss Helen Richmond as Miss Sally Potts, Mr. Alfred Grenville as Colonel Hiram Vancutson, and Mr. W. R. Winning as General Rokeby are well placed.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—In spite of political interest, *Mr. Smith* is again drawing excellent audiences at the above house. Mr. H. Hamilton Stuart, in the title-rôle, is responsible for an easy and natural performance; Mr. Sidney Price is a typical Earl of Oxted; Mr. Walter Dunlop gives a clever portrayal of the Duke of Angleland; Mr. Rupert Stutfield is very good as Dudley Dysart; and Mr. Austin Spencer as Jack Berkeley does well. Mr. Herbert Bentone is a most amusing and characteristic Herr Anheuser; Miss Phyllis Relph is distinctly American as Ruth Anheuser; Miss May Relph is an aristocratic Duchess of Angleland; and Miss Gwladys Morris is a charming Lady Mary. Mrs. Alfred Davis is quite successful as Mrs. Smith.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—The attraction here this week is Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *Her Wedding Day*. Mr. Percy Brown presents a smart sketch of Harold Saxby; Mr. S. Herbert Humber effectively plays the part of Weedon Kenyon; Mr. H. Maxwell Payne does good work as Seth Mason; Mr. Morris Maude is very amusing as Jordon P. Jessop; Mr. and Mrs. Cackles as presented by Mr. F. Yamold and Miss Ettie Spalding are very acceptable; and Miss Beatrice Sinclair is excellent as Dolly Klink. Miss Ward gives a delicate and pleasing performance as Madge Conway; and the Dora of Miss Eva Bertram is a capital performance.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A programme of general excellence is offered here this week, headed by Robbins, the trick cyclist, who can easily perform tricks which would almost seem to be impossible. Needless to say, he is greeted with loud cheering. The Brothers Wynford are a pair of athletes who perform some wonderful jumping feats; Rose Elliot sings several songs in a pleasant and catchy manner, as also does Mabel La Blanche. The Four Juggling Geraldos are experts in the matter of club and hoop manipulation; Pueblo and Cropp, Creole speciality artists, are very acceptable; Charles R. Whittle convulses the audience with his singing of "Billy Muggins," and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are very amusing with "The City Man's Busy Day."

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—The Moore-Kennedy company is here for the week with *Dick Whittington*. The ever-popular pantomime is represented by a good cast, and is favourably received. A dashing and pleasing Dick is found in Mdlle. Lucretia, the possessor of a tuneful voice and an expert top-boot dancer. Mr. Hiam Long makes the most of Alderman Fitzwarren, and in his clever musical show meets with applause. Mr. Dan Agar (Idle Jack), Mr. Clarence Turner (Captain Bunting), Mr. A. Behan (Betsy Mary Ann), and Doyle and Massey (Shuffle and Shirk) keep the ball of fun rolling, the latter couple being responsible for a most amusing boxing bout. Mons. Paulette shows distinct sagacity as Tibby the Cat, and also appears with success in a marvellous bicycle exhibition. Miss Mollie Revell is a charming Fairy Queen; and the same may be said of the Sisters Dudley, as Fairy Goodchild and Fairy Hyacinth respectively. The Sisters Behan shine also as Alky and Polly; the Emperor of Morocco is well placed in Mr. Cecil Terry; Miss Lily Townshend is dainty as Princess Charming; and Miss Molly Ager (Viscount Piccadilly) and Miss M. Leonard (Maid Marian) both do well. Alice Fitzwarren is a pleasing and winsome character in the hands of Miss Vera Snowden. The Palais Royal Quartette of dancers appear with evident success. The scenic and special effects are up-to-date, and a transformation scene with harlequinade concludes a really good show.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. J. W. Turner's Opera Company is paying its annual visit here this week. On Monday *The Daughter of the Regiment* was played. Mr. Sydney Clifford acted and sang well as Sergeant Sulpice; Mr. Charles Le Sueur gave a good rendering of Tonio; Hortensio was excellently played by Mr. Richard Cummings; Miss Kitty Brownless was a charming Marie (she has a sweet voice, and her numbers were deservedly applauded); and Miss Winifred Knightley was excellent as the Countess. *Martha, The Bohemian Girl, The Lily of Killarney, Faust*, and *Maritana* are in the week's bill.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—There is a capital programme here this week, and the turns include Belloni's amusing and highly trained cockatoos; Frank Hartley, juggler; Valvero, a lightning sketch artist; Lillian and Vera, crack shots; Freda Sprv and B. S. Monti, humorists; Fred Lester, vocalist; J. W. Hall, vocalist; and Frances Warren.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors Messrs. W. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. Broadhead, jun.—Good fare is again provided here. Tom White's Arabs give an amusing turn. The Donatos, one-legged clowns; Winora, a clever shooter; Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian; Vere and Royal, comedy artists; the Two Neros, acrobats; Marie Blythe, comedienne; and the Two Whites, coons, are all good.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.C.—Milton Bode's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is here for the week, and a very excellent one it is. The company is strong all round and the scenery is all that can be wished. Miss Ernestine Desborough as Prince Rupert is good, singing several fresh songs; Miss Florence Arnold makes a lively Rose; Miss Kitty Tims with very fine appearance shows to advantage as Tommy; Mr. Happy Attwood makes a capital Bumble and is very funny; the Brothers Brooks do capitally as the robbers Gentle George and Cheerful Charlie; Mr. Percy Dawsone creates fun as Maria Slapp; the two children Reggy and Cissy are well impersonated by Miss Renee Reel and Miss Daisy Connell. Mr. Will Harman also works hard and with success as William Buttons. The chorus is good, and among the special features introduced are Cyclo, a clever trick cyclist; the Cameron Glee Quartette; and the Bellong Brothers, who as acrobats are exceptionally smart.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Robinson Crusoe* has entered upon the third week of a successful run, and next week will be the close. There is such a delightful smoothness about the pantomime now, and such fresh and novel business has been introduced, that the theatre is packed. Miss Cassie Walmer easily captivates and charms everyone by her graceful and "goey" rendering of the dusky Empress. Miss Veronica Brady and Miss Masie Ellinger are very popular as principal girl and boy; Miss Lily Beverley as Lieut. Bobs and Miss Blanche Courtney as Jennie Hopkins are also favourites. As Man Friday Larola is earning a very lasting reputation as one of the cleverest of jugglers. The comedians are thoroughly at home in their respective parts, and Messrs. Tom Owen, Frank Couch, and Downs and Langford keep the house in a merry mood. Mr. Clifford Morgan is making friends every night by his exceptionally fine baritone singing. The chorus and orchestra do excellent work.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—*A Modern Adventuress* is being presented here by the author, Mr. Lingford Carson, and is proving an attractive and stirring drama. The company is an all-round strong one, the principal characters being very cleverly portrayed. Mr. Leonard Ardele as Pietro Donelli, an Italian sculptor, gives a capital delineation, while Miss Kate Fronde as Violet Meredith enacts the trying part of the modern adventuress with undoubted ability and skill. Miss Alice Defoe as Vivette Delby makes a charming heroine, and Mr. Leonard Montgomery as John Compton is responsible for some clever acting.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The popular sketch *The Fighting Parson* is presented here by the clever artist Mr. George Gray, who is supported by 100 auxiliaries. A very attractive turn is provided by our old pantomime favourites Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey, in their coster romance *Me and 'Er;* Fred Poplar is still sustaining his high reputation; the Sisters Moulier appear in a particularly graceful gymnastic act; Harry Drew gains applause for his excellent bass singing; and Kahn and Kahn are an entertaining couple in modern necromancy; and Prof. Dunning, in ventriloquial incidents; Kitty Wager, a singer with style and force; and Sadie Simpson, a captivating comedienne, are also in the bill.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. S. M'Kino; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers.—Mr. Esmonde Bramley's company, under the direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton, is appearing here this week in a répertoire of Shakespearean and Old English plays. On Monday *Romeo and Juliet* was presented to a capital house. On Tuesday—the night of our visit—*The Merchant of Venice* was performed. Mr. David Beattie's impersonation of Shylock was vigorous and intellectual; Mr. Cyril Este apeared as Bassanio; Antonio had a capable representative in Mr. Baliol Holloway; the Gratiano of Mr. Frederick Sargent was an interesting and clever piece of work; Mr. Llewellyn L. Evans made a manly Lorenzo; Mr. Philip Gordon—an old favourite here—was as good as ever as Launcelot Gobbo, his comedy being distinguished by quaintness. As Portia Miss Millie Ford played gracefully and well. Miss Emma Rainbow was successful as Nerissa; and Jessica was naturally impersonated by Miss Ruth Nightingale. *Richard III., Hamlet*, and *David Garrick* are also billed for performance during the week.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—Craig, Rose, and Craig, novelty gymnasts, are paying a return visit, and meet with a big reception; Charles Matthews, the human kangaroo, soon jumps into favour; the mimicry of Yorkshire Tom is amusing; the Four Blackbirds create a most favourable impression; Miss Elsie Cooke is a sweet singer of sensible songs; Bert Bowden excites laughter; Ray and Miles are clever comic jugglers; Forrest and King submit some smart dancing; and the Hippodrome Pictures are as popular as ever.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. George G. Ridley.—The Royal's patrons are hugely enjoying the first visit of *The Catch of the Season*, presented by Charles Frohman. First mention must be made of Miss Marie Ash as Angela. This little lady delights her auditors, and scores a big success. The sisters Sophia and Honoria Bedford, are excellently represented by Miss Alice Lethbridge and Hettie Muret respectively. Everyone thoroughly enjoys the former lady's graceful and finished dancing and the latter's pleasing vocalisation. The Misses Hilda Stewart and Belle Napier are well placed as the Duchess of St. Jermyn and Lady Crystal respectively. Master Grata is a prime favourite as Bucket. Mr. Frank Lincoln is deservedly popular in the arduous rôle of the Duke of St. Jermyns; Mr. Laurence Caird does full justice to the part of Lord Dundreary; Mr. E. W. Royce's natural and kindly style appeals to all. The general staging of the piece is highly praiseworthy, and Mr. J. M. Capel ably conducts the local orchestra.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The following is Host Barnard's bill of fare for the week.—Leonard Mortimer and company in *The Earl of Enniware;* Beatie Foster, serio; the Gregson comedy Trio; T. W. Barrett, the well-known comedian and quaint patterer; the Felixs, conjurers; Wallace Whitney, eccentric comedian; and the Herald Comedy Four, vocalists and dancers. Mr. Lacey's Erascope also contributes its weekly selection of animated pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Here we have Ruby Aston, comedienne and dancer; J. C. Manley, descriptive comedian; Millie Howell, a vocalist with pleasing appearance; Sinclair and Whiteford, who gain appreciation for their duologue, *Getting Even;* Joe Archer, a comedian who is on excellent terms with audiences; and the Ashers, in a pleasing act, *The Dude and the Soubrette*. The Edisonograph, among other films, illustrates in an amusing way "How Not to Solve a Puzzle." Last, but not least, come the Athos Troupe, whose ball manipulation certainly ranks as the finest witnessed here for some time past.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. George Dance's principal company presented *The Orchid* on Monday evening for the first time here. Mr. Bertie Wright works indefatigably as Meakin, keeping the house convulsed with laughter; he is well supported by Miss Florence Vie as Caroline Vokins, whose piquantly saucy songs are much appreciated. Miss Chrissie Ralland is a bright and dainty Lady Violet Anstruther, her song "Little Mary" being keenly relished; Mr. C. Stone acts and sings pleasantly as Dr. Faussett; Miss Mamie Stuart plays charmingly as Josephine Zaccary; Mr. Alf Bennett ably takes the part of the Hon. Guy; Mr. Harry T. Butler's Zaccary is a smart performance; Miss Elsie Werner acts with good effect as Zelie Humbert; Miss Ruby Garman as Thisbe sings and dances prettily; Messrs. Cecil Frere and Buchanan Wake cause much laughter as the Comte's eccentric seconds; Mr. F. Attree is amusing as the blundering Register; and Miss Ida Chichester is effective in the small part of the Countess Anstruther.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Mr. James Hare's company opened on Monday with *The Guilty Man*. Mr. Chas. O'Connor gave a capital rendering of George Seymour; Mr. James Hare's artistic performance of James Redman was excellently received; and Mr. Edmund O'Grady was good as Esau Herbon. Mr. John A. Shinton was happy in the humorous character of Bob Sparrow; P.C. Maggles was capitally presented by Mr. Drew Spencer; and Mr. C. Clarke was good as Father Mildmay. Miss Irene Clifford as Nell Radford scored a success, and Miss Violet Hammersley was well placed as Audrey Priestly. Miss Alice Buckland effectively sustained the part of Sukie Barton. *The Golden Chance* was billed for the last three days of the week.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Bayne.—Mr. George Dance's Cingalese company opened here on Monday to a packed house. Mr. Courtney Comber acts and sings well as Hon. Harry Vereker; Mr. Walter Champney, a comedian of resource, undertakes the part of Chambuddy Ram in a manner that calls forth much applause; Boobhamba has a capable exponent in Mr. Hugh Webb; Mr. W. Bosco makes a humorous Sir Peter Loftus; and Mr. Arthur Foote a rollicking Bobby Warren. Miss Nona Grey looks charming as Lady Patricia Vereker, and sings with good taste; Miss Katie Yates is highly successful as Peggy Sabine, and the same may be said of Miss Cecile Beresford as Nanoya. The dressing and staging are excellent.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress and Manageress, Mrs. Mary Watson.—Mr. Alfred Selwyn's variety company occupies the boards here this week; Vernando, novelty ventriloquist, delights the audience with his funniosities; Miss Clara Nesbit's songs are much applauded; the Wonderful Hernes excel in their juggling act; Miss Lallie Forsyth proves an entertaining vocalist; Miss Florence Lambeth and Mr. Robert Robertson cause much laughter in "Scots Folks' Wooin'"; Miss Jessie W. Fraser, soprano, makes a successful appearance; and Stanley and Vandyke in their comedy act. Mr. Tom Vine, comedian, Mr. Will Souls, laughing comedian, and Lillian, the charming cyclist, also contribute good turns.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company opened here on Monday, before a good audience, in Mr. Walter Melville's sensational drama, *The Worst Woman in London*. In the title-rôle, Miss Florence Dalton acted in a powerful manner, being most ably supported in her machinations by Mr. Paul Barry-Lewers, as the wily Vincent Lyle. The doings of Hugh Drayton, presented by Mr. H. W Monte; and Philip Armstrong, played by Mr. Leonard Booker, were much applauded by the upper portion of the house. Mr. H. H. Barrington was capital as the wealthy Mr. Milford; and as his daughter, Miss Effie Bartlett was conspicuously successful. Mr. Wallace Campbell made an admirable Jack Felton; and the humour was well sustained by Mr. Alvin Sawyer, as Bob Goldfinch, and Miss Florence Lovell, as the maid.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's company is here this week with *The Coal King*. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland gives a powerful delineation of the part of Tom Roberts, and as Sir Reginald Harford Mr. Robin Shiells is very good. Mr. Joseph Millane is sufficiently villainous as Walter Harford, and Mr. Wilfred Graham is good as Dick Shirley. Mr. Charles R. Stone as Jim Williams and Miss Hetty Cornwallis as Araminta Green are very funny. Miss Joan Williams is effective as Mad Ann, and Miss Gertrude Valentine a charming Grace Shirley. During the week Messrs. Polini and Maitland have given four half-tons of coal to four of the most deserving cases in the town, this being decided by the audience by ballot.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Thomas Th

transformation is exquisite, and the harlequinade provokes hilarity.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. James Bell.—*Leah Kleschna* is having a successful run this week, Mr. Charles Frohman's company being most heartily received. In the title-rôle Miss Pilar Morin (an American actress), as Leah Kleschna, gives an admirable portrayal; Mr. Laughorne Burton is powerful as Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Pat Newall, as Raoul Berton, takes his part well; and Mr. Cyril Rawdon, as Schram, is effective; Miss Pearila Gardner, as Sophie, gives a good performance; and Miss Lilian Locke is a charming Claire Berton.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. McLeod Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—*Dick Whittington* is the title of Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's production, which is delighting large audiences. The dresses and scenery are gorgeous, some sets being brilliantly illuminated by electricity. In the title-role Miss Grace Henderson leaves little to be desired. Alderman Frizwarren is in the capable hands of Mr. Ben Ford; as Martha Muggins, his cook, Mr. Harry Albery is a distinct success amongst the mirth-provokers; in Mr. Will Dennis, who undertakes the part of Idle Jack, the audience recognises an old favourite, and he still further enhances his previous successes. Miss Emmie Hands is a sweet and fascinating principal girl and sings with good taste; Mdlle. Dora is good as the Prince of Abyssinia; Miss Gladys Wells is a pretty and effective Fairy Sunshine; and Miss Mona Wells is satisfactory as the Demon King, her rendering of the song "Will o' the Wisp" being loudly encored. Mr. Jack Simpson, the Cat, is a contortionist of ability. Some pleasing specialities include the Yorkshire Singing Mill Lassies, who are old favourites here the Verona Quartette of acrobats and speciality dancers; Mdlle. Dora, oboe soloist; the Moros, triple-bar comedians; Lambert and Hands, in a vocal scena, *Well*; and Miss Marie Winsome, male impersonator, who is repeatedly encored. The augmented orchestra is under the leadership of Mr. William Crandon Beran. The pantomime is produced under the entire supervision of Mr. Fred Acton, who deserves a word of praise.

DEAL.—ODD-FELLOWS HALL.—On Tuesday last, for one night only, Mr. Arthur Hart's company played the well-known musical comedy *My Lady Molly* with the greatest success. Miss Reydon Dalas sustained the part of Lady Molly Martingale with great charm, and delighted everyone with her acting; Miss Mary Glanbran acted nicely the rôle of Hester; Mr. George Begg scored in the character of Sir Miles Coverdale; Mr. Fred Doran was very amusing as Reaben Oats; Mr. Vernon C. Bootle was a capital Captain Harry Romney. The scenery was pretty, and the chorus, under the direction of Mr. William Martin, first rate.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley.—The pantomime, *Aladdin*, has entered on the last week of a successful run, and everything goes with a swing and smoothness. There are several new songs and dances introduced, and the Five Robertys give an exceptionally good equilibristic performance, which is heartily appreciated. Altogether the pantomime has been a great success.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—The Deer Family appear as the star turn here this week in a series of tableaux, entitled, *Indians of the Past*. The item is both novel and sensational, and is accorded a hearty reception. Tom Davis and company are responsible for an amusing sketch, entitled, *Theatrical Aspirants*; Marie Yorke is a pleasing burlesque artist; Dan Noble is popular as a comedian; Major Moss and his son are singers of ability; the Voldam Bros., original Dutch acrobats, are well above the average; Henri Bekker is a smart juggler; and the Palace Bioscope displays some amusing films.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Messrs. Haddon and Loader are delighting local playgoers by the production of their attractive pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Nellie Burdette is almost an ideal Jack, and scores throughout; Miss Rosie Sylvester is a favourite as Dora; while the Sisters Poole as Nancy and Charley and in their speciality act, go strong. Mr. Jay Laurier as Billy is an irresistible comedian, and with Mr. Leon Simkin as Dame Trotter supply most of the fun. Much credit is due to Mr. H. A. Lonsdell for his excellent assumption of the Giant, while Messrs. Grant and Allen as Dip and Dap are bright throughout. Others in the cast who deserve mention are Miss Rene Rennie as Discordia and Miss Jennie Langlois as Harmonie. The chorus is a strong one, and is ably controlled by Mr. George Jenkinson.

HIPPODROME AND VARIETIES.—Much interest is being created here by the appearance of Billy, the human horse, who, introduced by James De Voye, does some wonderful tricks. R. C. Note is a popular vocalist, and Blanco White, patterer and dancer, is smart. Alec Aubrey, Welsh gymnast, has a sterling act, and the Haverleys, singers of illustrated songs, are encored repeatedly. Daisy Devonport is a comedienne of merit, and Mdlle. Vena, juggler, is very clever. J. H. Carney does well, and Yetta, in her wire act, has an act above the average. The Harriscope always proves an attractive wind-up.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. Walter Reynolds's play, entitled *Mr. Smith*, was well received here on Monday evening. Mr. Earle Gadwyn Smith, the title-rôle, is comfortably played by Mr. Stephen T. Ewart. The Earl of Oxted has a good exponent in Mr. Russell Norrie; Mr. E. Edwin Holloway is an interesting Lord Angleland; the Hon. Dudley Dysart of Mr. Charles Pilling Baird is a huge success; Mr. H. Carter Bligh deserves praise for his presentation of Jack Berkeley; and a clever embodiment of Herr Diedrich Anheuser is given by Mr. Fred Darrell. Miss Mary Bates is winsome in the rôle of the Duchess of Angleland; a dainty Lady Mary is supplied by Miss Rosmond Berkeley; Miss Fyfe Alexander is well placed as Ruth Anheuser; and golden opinions are won by Mrs. Louise Lestrange in the rôle of Mrs. Smith. Mr. James Olvergood is a meritorious Benson.

DOUGLAS.—THE NEW EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Responsible Manager, Mr. Elwyn Walters.—The re-opening of this little playhouse, which quite suffices for the theatre requirements of Douglas, should prove a success. The present manager, Mr. Elwyn Walters, is adroit, and realises the desires of his clientele. The programme presented on Monday evening was a mingling of drama, variety, and farce. The drama element was punctuated by two playlets, *The Dear Emerald Isle* and *The Cares of Garryowen*. Into these little dramas was infused the spirit of the author of *The Shaugraun*, and they were well rendered. In the most striking item, *The Cares of Garryowen*, the author, Mr. J. P. McBride, was pathetic and interesting as Dennis, the blind hero; Mr. Horace Buckley was amusing as Barney O'Shea; the Myles O'Byrne of Mr. E. Carruthers was picturesque, and had that touch of the romantic which appeals; Mr. E. Farland made the most of the stereotyped spy, Humpy O'Halloran; Mr. T. Dixon was good as Sergeant Moore; Miss Nell Ingram was well placed as Katty; the Eilleen Byrne of Miss Nellie de Lacy was excellent. The same artists were equally successful in the *Dear Emerald Isle*. As to variety, the two Military Bantams, duettists, patterers, and dancers, secured applause; Master H. Smith dances cleverly; Mr. Jim Williams invests dramatic scenas set to music with due importance. The farce called *The Doctor* was capitally played by Mr. Horace Buckley and Miss Nell Ingram.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—*A Sailor's Sweetheart* is occupying the boards this week, and is capitally presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. A charming impersonation of the title-rôle is given by Miss Molly Pearson, and her performance is marked throughout by sympathy and dramatic power. Mr. Mark Blow gives a clever and consistent portrayal of Lieutenant Charles Clive, his good elocution and fine stage presence adding considerably to his success; Mr. Charles H. Lester acts with all the intensity and earnestness necessary to the part of Philip Pemberton; and Mr. C. Douglas Carlile is responsible for an excellent rendering of the part of Stephen Lucas. A noticeably fine piece of character acting is that of Mr. A. Johnson as the Rev. Robert Clive: Mr. William Shaw looks and acts well in the small part of Tom Duff; Mr. Theodore Hill as Admiral Sefton is a typical naval officer: and a most amusing sketch of a bailiff is contributed by Mr. Ern Carlton. Mr. Walter Westwood, a comedian of more than average ability, plays Tim Kelly; and Mr. Willie Osborne does well as John James, the latter gentleman's two songs meeting with appreciation. A dramatic portrayal of Nicoya, an African chief, is given by Mr. Thomas Miller; a welcome touch of humour is given to the rôle of Mrs. Pembury by Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite; and Miss Ella Dixon is bright and vivacious as Phœbe Pembury. On Thursday and Friday the same company played *Moths*, with the addition to the cast of Miss Ida Molesworth as Fuchsia Leach.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Parrington.—The Moody Manners Opera Company entered on their third week here on Monday night, when *Lohengrin* was presented for the first time this season. Mr. Joseph O'Mara as Lohengrin acquitted himself admirably; Madame Fanny Moody gave an artistic interpretation of the rôle of Elsa; the King, as played by Mr. Charles Manners, was a creditable performance; and Miss Toni Seiter was seen to advantage as Ortrud. Mr. William Dever achieved success as Frederick of Telramund; and Mr. Lewys James was exceedingly good as Herod. On Tuesday, *Lucia di Lammermoor* was successfully produced to a full house. The following are also billed:—*Tannhäuser*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Carmen*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Maritana*.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The popular pantomime, *Cinderella*, which entered on its third week here on Monday, is drawing packed houses nightly.

QUEEN'S.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—The boards are occupied here this week by Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesay's company in the Anglo-Indian drama, *A Traitor Prince*, which is drawing excellent houses. Mr. G. Montanini, in the rôle of Prince Rao Dalmirez, is most successful; Miss Rose Routledge makes an efficient Lola Vane; the part of Lieutenant Frank Derrick is capably played by Mr. Albert Wray; and as Vashti and Pansy Blossom the Misses Nita Langford and Kitty Thomas are all that could be desired. The rôle of the High Priest is well sustained by Mr. Richard Roberts; and the dual parts of Richard Vane and Colonel Vane are played in an able manner by Mr. Ernest A. Duval. The part of Azourim is well filled by Mr. Charles Herbert; and Miss Clara O'Grady is good as Mrs. Martha Blossom.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Musical-Director, Mr. H. J. Baynton.—Herbert Lloyd, "the Nondescript Star," tops the bill here this week, and is nightly applauded. The Mullini Sisters, in a musical turn, are much appreciated; and Amba Austa is a capital dancer. The Brontes, comedy sketch artists, are a diverting pair; Will Haines is a capital vocal comedian; Barton Howard is a clever mimic; and France and Stewart, in their sketch, *The 100 to 1 Chance*, keeps the audience highly amused. Frank Harwood wins favour as an actor-vocalist; and Tom Edwards, ventriloquist, who remains from last week, is as popular as ever. The Empire pictures are exceedingly interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The principal item here this week is Moule Nicolls and company in a humorous sketch entitled *The Battle of the Belles*, which meets with a cordial reception. Another excellent turn is provided by the College Boys, in excerpts from opera; and the Ladderites, in a daring performance, merit applause. Souplessi is a clever contortionist; and Flo Morton a chic comedienne. Zenary Brothers, acrobatic act, are well received; and Flossie Jee is a pleasing comedienne and dancer. The Three Zaracs, in a triple bar act, meet with approbation; and Ted Waite is a good vocal comedian. The Bioscope is up to date.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company is here this week with *Florodora*, presented by an excellent company. Mr. Albert Bruno is funny as Anthony Tweedlepunch, and keeps the house in a roar. Mr. Edward Chester is thoroughly successful as Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. R. Courtier Ditton as Frank Abercoed is an actor of sterling ability; and Mr. Harold Perry is thoroughly at home as Captain Arthur Donegal. Miss Gladys Elvey plays Dolores in bewitching style, and Miss Kate Leicester's Lady Holyrood is a well-played part. Miss Florence Hersee as Angela Gilfain makes a most favourable impression, acting and singing with irresistible charm.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Edwards.—The top of the bill here is occupied by the Lady in Black, who gives a clever entertainment of sleight-of-hand and illusionism. Billy Ross and company introduce some smart boxing in their sketch, *The Hot Member*; Ariel and Astarte give a neatly-executed trapeze and bar act; a screamingly funny farce entitled *Sally's Dilemma* is played by a clever company of artists; Kempton and Murdoch's comedy team are good; Alf Chester, versatile comedian, is a good singer; Slade Murray, comedian, and Isabelle Payne, coloured comedienne, are well received. The Empire pictures are very enjoyable.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—On the first three nights of their week, Miss Lillie Mowbray's pantomime company appeared in *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Kathleen Emmett played and acted the part of Dick exceedingly well, her singing being quite above the average. Miss Maudie Vincent, as Alice Fitzwarren, was sweet and sympathetic; Miss Alma Evelyn, as Sir Peter Hill; and Miss Rosie Whillin, as Fairy Bluebell, were well placed; Miss Katie Ward, as the Princess, deserved praise. Mr. Claude Morton scored as Bill Barnacle; Mr. Fred Pearce, as Idle Jack, kept the house in roars of laughter. On Thursday and Friday, Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company appeared in the military drama, *The Two Hussars*.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sandon Perkins.—The pantomime *Cinderella* has now entered on its second week, and has been voted a popular success. Miss Marie Reeve is first favourite, and her clever song and dance, "Shame on you," is undoubtedly the biggest hit of the show. Miss Gladys Warren sings "Bombay" and "Hear the Pipers Calling" in capital style; and Miss Janet V. Reynolds is heard to advantage in "My Irish Molly"; Miss Grace Vungley is an attractive Phyllis; and Miss Addie Rove, as the Fairy Queen, proves herself to be a cultured and pleasing vocalist; Mr. Tatten Hall is a droll King Grabbus, and along with Mr. Harry Bickley as the Dame, unite in creating the utmost merriment with their amusing "gags"; Mr. Leo Sterling introduces his musical instruments with fine effect, and with Mr. Tommy Nelldon the fun is kept moving merrily along; Mr. Barry Gilmour, as the cat, does some clever acrobatic work; the Welsh glee singers prove to be a popular item; and the Carlos troupe of lady dancers are graceful and clever.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—*The Children's Picnic*, taken part in by over forty local children, still proves to be a great attraction, and Mr. and Mrs. Will Parker are to be congratulated on the successful result of their training. The McConnel Trio are ever-welcome visitors, and quite captivate the house with their comedy sketch, *A Musical Mistake*; Cliff and Kean introduce some clever dancing in their turn; McAskell is again to the fore as a comedy conjurer; Miss Elsie Robey gives a brilliant entertainment at the piano and is a clever mimic; Zocroff mimics a great many different sounds; and Leslie Lynn is a capable ventriloquist. The pictures by Vernon's cinematograph are an established success here.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. Williams.—The pantomime *Cinderella* has now entered on its last week. The Sisters Brownie have earned a big reputation here, especially Madge, who in her part of the ugly sister, imbues the character with a most refreshing vivacity of manner; Mr. Will Wilson, as Peter the page, contrives to extract every grain of comedy from his part, in which he succeeds admirably; Miss Ethel Burns has a fine presence and an excellent voice; Miss Fay Garnet Vayne makes a graceful Cinderella; Mr. Tom Read does a clever step dance, and adds to the general hilarity; Ivy Valesco's Australian stage circus is a most attractive novelty.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—*A Trip to Chinatown*, under the direction of Mr. Leslie Norman, is being played here. Mr. Edward de Vere, as Ben Gay, makes a successful appearance; Mr. Harry Stewart is extremely clever in the part of Welland Strong. The songs and choruses are capitally sung, and amongst the ladies who contribute with success may be mentioned Miss Hetty Gale, Miss Maisey Stanley, Miss Lake Grange, and Miss Lillie Vaughan.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions continue to attract large attendances, and the clever company includes the Sisters Judge, Honce and Ardie, Gustave Fasola, with Mr. Claude Howell as guide.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. W. W. Reuben Payne's No. 1 company is here this week in the musical costume play, *Red Coat*. The company includes Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh as Violet Darnley, who submits an excellent protrayal of the part, and is worthy of special notice. Mr. Harry Eversleigh is a capable Guise Darnley; Mr. Leslie Crail gives an effective rendering of Lord Ledbury; Mr. Arthur E. Dudley, as Clifford Marl, makes a capital villain, and is ably assisted by Miss Beatrice Western, as Harriet Marl; the Finch Fernleigh of Mr. Cecil Morond is of exceptional merit; Miss Ruby Sutherland is a winsome little Edith Darnley; Miss Lilian Rignold deserves credit as Pepsey Drew.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is appearing here in *The Freedom of Suzanne*. Miss Beatrice Lindley is again quite a success as Suzanne, and she excites and holds the interest of the audience throughout. Miss Emily Patterson is a sufficiently pompous and dignified Lady Charlotte, Miss Charlotte Mead is a particularly successful and amusing Miss Minching, Miss Violet Ley is a strikingly handsome and attractive Lady Isabel, and Mrs. Mallalieu is realistic in her original part of Mrs. Putnam; while Miss Annie Stalman is quite satisfactory in all she has to do. On Monday evening Mr. Percy Standing added another success to his list. He is an earnest and manly Charles Trevor. Mr. F. G. Thurstans gives quite a little masterpiece in character acting, and is a capital Fitzroy Harding; Mr. William Mallalieu is an easy and polished Sir Horace Hatton; and Mr. Townsend Whitling, Mr. Edward Bonfield, and Mr. Archie Selwyn are able representatives of Lord Dachet, Captain Cecil, and Tommy Keston; and Mr. Frank Lee, Mr. Edward Sidney, and Mr. Bruce Smith are successful in the smaller parts. *Two in a Trap* precedes, and is well played by Miss Ley and Mr. E. Bonfield.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Miss Katie Johnson and her company are appearing here in *Billy's Little Love Affair*. Miss Johnson is an animated, fascinating Billy Marr, and she takes a large share in the general success attained. Miss Gladys Bartle-Frere is to be highly commended on a fine performance as Lady Duncan; Miss Keith Lytton is happily placed as Mrs. Jim Greaves; Miss Clara Nicholls and Miss Blanka Stewart do good work as Mrs. Herring and Lady Roop; and Miss Vera Codd is a pleasing Fielding. The excellent work contributed by Mr. Frank G. Bayly is notably praiseworthy, and he is a bright and natural Jack Frere. Mr. Rawson Buckley is an easy and polished Sir Harry; Mr. Orlando Barnett makes much of his opportunities as Jim Greaves; and excellent help is given by Mr. R. Morris as Munkithrick, Mr. Brember Wills as Hagson, and Mr. Gerald Urquhart as Captain Bechef.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—The principal feature of this week's bill is a bright and pleasing miniature pantomime presented by Mr. Dan Thomas. The scenes are very pretty, and the artists excellent, and all the attractive features of a large pantomime are compressed into an attractive show, which is drawing large audiences. Mr. Dan Thomas as Widow Twankey is highly diverting and amusing, and whether singing or dancing he is excellent. Miss Nelly Lewis is quickly a favourite with the audience, and her songs are soon taken up. Miss Daisy Yates is quite a charming, pretty, and sprightly Pekoe, and Miss Sadie Seymour is a very good Princess Babroubadour. Mr. Ernest Cass is an efficient Emperor, and he sings well; Mr. Bert Wallace is funny as the Vizier, Mr. Fred Lake is a praiseworthy Abanazar, and the Brothers Daniels help the fun along as Slip and Slop. Miss Nina Elmo contributes a pleasing turn as a comedienne, and the Hippodrome pictures complete a very attractive bill.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Responsible-Managers, Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Wood.—On the first three nights of the week Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth presented their pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* to large audiences. The pantomime was produced by Mr. Arthur Knight, who also acts as general-manager, and is under the personal supervision of Mr. Sam Duckworth. Miss Edith Knight is an admirable Fairy Sunbeam, and Miss Kate Eplett is also a success. Mr. Bert Harrow scores as Simple Simon, and is a general favourite throughout; Mr. David Phillips as Dame Varders is very comical with his quaint Welsh sayings; the Sisters Deare give a pleasing military drill; and Mr. Percy Shaw scores by his clever whistling. The Daisy Verona quartette of dancers are decidedly good; the Bros. Ellis, knockabout comedians and dancers, come in for a fair share of the applause.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The pantomime *The Forty Thieves* is still attracting crowded houses here; the many entertaining scenes and beautiful spectacular effects eliciting hearty laughter and warm applause.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Tinshull.—*Lady Madcap* is proving a powerful draw at this house, the audiences continuing to be large and enthusiastic. On Monday evening the absence of Mr. Arthur Longley from the cast gave Mr. B. H. Eustace the opportunity of showing his ability by taking the part of Oroya Brown. Mr. Eustace displayed genuine comedy powers; a quiet effective method, with many light touches of humour, which evoked the constant laughter of the audience. Miss Marie Studholme revels in the character of the Madcap. There is something refreshingly bright and original in all the work of this clever actress. Mr. J. Robert Hale's neat style and graceful dancing, as Bill Stratford, enliven his scenes; and Mr. Oliver J. Round, as Posh Jenkins, gives admirable support. Mr. E. Statham Staples is amusing as the diminutive Corporal Ham; and Mr. Ernest E. Maher is a lively Count de St. Hubert; Miss Nina Sevening is charming as Gwennie Holden; and the remaining members of the company are all good in their respective parts.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Mr. Montefiore's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is securing a large share of public favour, the audiences showing no falling off in point of number or enthusiasm. The piece is very bright from first to last, and there is much to arouse the risibility of the spectators in the diverting business of the exceedingly clever comedians, who keep the fun going with unabated vigour in every scene in which they appear.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—Mrs. Clement Scott's company heads this week's bill with Mr. Cecil Raleigh's interesting bio-drama, *The Diamond Express*, a piece which possesses some novel features as a music-hall turn of the melodramtic kind; and a good comedy entertainment is provided by Messrs. Frank Bertram and company with their amusing sketch, *The Chaperon*; while the Densmores are very funny in their lively dumb-show pantomime act, entitled *Fun in the Kitchen*. The Three Sisters Chester appear in a pleasing musical turn; a clever display of xylophone playing is given by Messrs. Baker and Balfe; the singing of Miss Ethel Ra Leslie and of Mr. Dan Conroy is marked by effective and artistic expression, and both these artists are warmly received; the American comedians, Messrs. Mueller and Coyne, secure cordial recognition; Mr. C. Vincent Adams is duly appreciated; and Messrs. Frobel and Ruge do some daring feats on a revolving pole. The American Bioscope concludes a good all-round programme.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The Arctic spectacle, *Lapland*, containing so much that is sensational, pleasant, and lively, has been sufficient to fill Mr. Cooke's popular establishment, while the usual scenes in the arena are of the customary gay, dashing, and amusing order.

MOSS'S WAVERLEY MARKET CARNIVAL.—The closing week of the carnival has seen an entire change of programme, the chief feature of which has been an interesting wrestling entertainment, the principal performers being Ahmed Madrali, "The Terrible Turk," and Torro Myaki, a Japanese exponent of the national Jiu-Jitsu method of athletics.

EDMONTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Joseph L. S. Moss; Manageress, Mrs. Amelia H. B. Moss.—On Monday Miss Emily Haby's company commenced a six nights' engagement with *The Price of Pleasure*. Mr. Louis Lingard as Gilbert D'Amand, the hero, played the part with discretion and power; Miss Agnes Imlay made a decided success as Alice Rivers; Sir James Featherstone was well played by Mr. Howell Webb; and Mr. C. E. Howell as Charles Mordant was an excellent family solicitor. A sound piece of character acting was supplied by Mr. Richard Harris, who as Sidney Roberts, a man with a past, was quite successful. Mr. Larry Clements capably delineated the part of Tatters, a bird-catcher; Claire, the daugnter of Alice Rivers, was embodied with much sweetness by Miss Ivy Blanche; and Miss Lilly Barley-Clarke as Lilian Mordant was an excellent heroine.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The second edition of the pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, was submitted this week, and included many new songs and jokes. In addition to the specialities by the Sisters Leigh, Messrs. Esmond and Verona, and the Melton trio, Lauri Wylee introduces his "Mimicking Mannikin," delighting the large and appreciative audiences by his clever impersonations of well-known comedians. The engagement of the Three Romas, in their modern gladiatorial speciality is also proving a great attraction; and Miss Nellie James is a very attractive dancer in the different ballets.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—This week we are having our first taste of pantomime with a visit from Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company, who present a new version of *Cinderella*. The company is an excellent one all round, the title-rôle being in the hands of Miss Bessie Butt, who gives an excellent performance. She has a sweet voice, and is loudly applauded for her rendering of "Rainbow." She is also an admirable dancer, and during the evening delights us with several solos. The Prince Charming of Miss Kitty Phelps is a capital embodiment, the lady having a sweet and powerful voice, which she uses to advantage in "Molly, the jolly little lady." Miss Frances Ferne capably plays the part of Dandini, and Miss Gerty McQueen is a sweet singer as the Fairy Godmother. The comedians are a merry lot, and work well together. The Brothers Obo as the Sisters Clotilda and Angelina are a host in themselves, their comical quips and cranks causing roars of laughter. Mr. Will Sherlock as Baron Wheresmycash is a capital comedian, and is well assisted by Mr. Joe English as Buttons.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—This week, Mr. John Gerant and company are here in a military drama, in four acts, entitled, *At Duty's Call*. Mr. John Gerant gives a powerful rendering of the part of Harold Allison; Mr. Gwyn Richardson is a manly Captain George Allison; Mr. E. St. John is well placed as General Gordon; and, as Terry O'Hallaron, Mr. Harry Ugar is very funny. He is ably supported by Mr. Eric V. Rees, as Jack Spencer, a pugilist; Miss Alice Capel is a charming Dora Drummond; Miss Georgina Hamilton is highly successful as Salema; Misses Hetty Poplin and Amy Bonnell are creditable in the parts of Nurse Slater and Merrun respectively; Miss Harlington is a vivacious Mary.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Peter Davey's company is here this week with the pantomime *Puss in Boots*, and large houses are the rule. Mr. Wyn Weaver is amusing as King Komilfo; Princess Carita is well represented by Miss Nellie Groves, who scores a success with "My Irish Molly"; Miss Maud Brockwell sings sweetly as Lola; Mr. Arthur Royce causes much amusement as Donna Dolores; a pair of amusing comedians are Mr. Leslie Digby and Mr. Reginald Ring as Sancho and Pancho; Miss Marie Kildare is a pleasing Juan; Mr. Ernest Noble causes hilarity as Billbalio; Miss May Hollom as Perdita is effective; Miss Dolly Shaw is an excellent dancer; Messrs. Eugene and Willie are enthusiastically applauded for their acrobatic feats; the Sisters Bronson as Luis and Carmen contribute some capital singing and dancing; and Mr. Arthur White as the bat performs some marvellous acrobatic acts.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Robert Kirk.—Miss Grace Warner's company under the management of Mr. H. Valkim, appeared here for three nights last week, in *The Scarlet Clue* and *East Lynne*. In the former piece Miss Warner gave a powerful rendering of the adventuress, Madame Roliene, or "Scarlet Sal," and she was well supported by Mr. George Gordon, as her partner in crime, and the rest of the company. This week ws have Espinosa's pantomime company, presenting *Cinderella*. Miss Josephine Colonna looked handsome, and played charmingly as the Prince; and she was excellently supported by Miss Ray Neilson, as Dandini; Miss Eva Kellard made a pretty and vivacious Cinderella; and Miss Edna Alexander introduced some pleasing songs as the Fairy Godmother; the two sisters were amusingly played by Messrs. Archie Scott and Bert Pearce; Mr. Arthur Medwin, as the Page, proved himself an excellent comedian; Mr. Espinosa gave a good sketch of Hannah; and Billy Farnell, as Baron Hooley, was very amusing, introducing some of his well-known quaint songs and clever dances; Espinosa and Neilson are remarkable dancers, and in their particular line are hard to beat. Dresses, pretty scenery, effective, and an efficient chorus completed a good all-round entertainment. The company is under the management of Mr. Auguste Creamer.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's pantomime *Aladdin* continues to gain in popularity, large and appreciative audiences being the order nightly.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company in *The Toreador* is drawing large audiences here. Mr. Richard Telford is indefatigable as Sammy Gigg, the actor evoking uproarious laughter. Mr. Tom May is very successful as Pettifer. Sir Archibald Slackitt is in the capable hands of Mr. F. Hulme Sharp; Mr. Chas. M. Heslop makes a handsome Augustus Trail; Carajola is well portrayed by Mr. J. Colclough Fagan; Mr. Chas. W. Anson as Rinaldo and Mr. Henry Arthur as The Governor get the most out of their parts; Miss Sadie Nevile, a local lady, is eminently successful as Dora Selby; Miss Ethel Netherton as Nancy Stanton and Miss Florence Spurgeon as Teresa both play and sing excellently; Miss Leah Howard is a bright and vivacious Susan; and Miss Gracie Desmond does well as Mr. Molton Hoppings.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. S. Smith.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company in *Napoleon the Great* is the attraction here. Mr. Hugh Montgomery plays the part of Napoleon to perfection; Mr. Henry Earlesmere is sufficiently forbidding as Count Lavarennes; Colonel Meuron is excellently portrayed by Mr. Phil Harper; Mr. E. Bulmer Pitt is well placed as Paul Laczinski; Mr. Frank M. Thorne (the author) is very humorous in the part of Pierre Pomponnet; Mr. C. W. Spencer does well as Sergeant Choupin; Miss Leslie Warner submits an impressive rendering of Marie Walewska; Miss Maud Russell represents Mdlle. Marboeuf with skill; and Miss Marie Harcourt as Marcelle Choupin is the cause of a great deal of laughter.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Messrs. E. H. Knight and Geo. Denham's company in *The Grip of Iron* met with a good reception on Monday night. Jagon, alias Simmonet, is capitally impersonated by Mr. Fred Powell; and Mr. George Langdon as Lorentz de Ribas is also to the fore as an adventurer; Mr. Harry Scott as Paul Blanchard does justice to the part of the hero; and Mr. Stanley Carlton as Robert de Belfort is prominent; Mr. Harry Agar Lyons as Alphonse de Concou and Mr. John Brittain as Dodot are a couple of good detectives; Mr. George Denham as Loustalot invests the character with skill, and keeps the audience in a happy mood; Miss Nellie Fletcher as Cora Simmonet acts in a praiseworthy manner; and Miss Hilda Baynton is charming as Marie Guerin; Miss Ruby Maude as Sophia Blanchard is commendable.

GLOUCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Following the pantomime Mr. Charles March's company is here in a drama written by that gentleman entitled *The Gamester of Metz*. The story deals with the wrongs and eventual righting of one Paul Baldot, a part that is powerfully played by the author. He impersonates several characters, and in the third act assumes fourteen disguises in fifty seconds. Mr. Edward Avinal is forcible as Captain Badaire; and General de Montparasse is adequately rendered by Mr. Fred Aldworth; Lieut. Hervé is capably presented by Mr. George Paget; and Lucia Baldot is charmingly acted by Miss Una Lane. Mr. Wilfrid Protheroe makes an excellent Ferdinand du Basson; and Mr. Victor Knight as Goliath Grou proves a clever performer, as does Miss Cissy Haighton as Gwendolin Pearson. Mr. P. Wentworth as the Curé d'Artois acts in finished style, and the Countess Baldot is effectively played by Miss Eva Lyndhurst.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—On Monday Mr. Andrew Robertson's company presented the historical drama *A Queen's Vengeance*. It is a stirring play, and replete with interest and excitement throughout. Mrs. Walter Bentley as Queen Eleanor presented a strong and artistic portrait; Miss Lilgarde Atherling played the part of Fair Rosamond with characteristic sweetness, always enlisting the sympathies of the audience; Mr. J. Kingsley Roydon had a heavy but popular part as King Henry II.; Mr. Richard Creswick was powerful as Sir Rupert Warriner; and an admirable touch of comedy was furnished by Mr. Ulick Burke as Bibeau (King's jester); Mr. George Byrne was highly amusing as Rafe; Mr. H. Macartney was well placed as Sir Martin Clifford; Mr. R. Nelme Grasswell played capitally as Father John; and Miss Reggie Baddle contributed a taking performance as Janet Jessop. On Thursday *The Silent Witness* will be presented.

GRAVESEND.—NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Craver. Mr. Arthur Harts' *My Lady Molly* company was here on Wednesday night. The title-rôle was entrusted to Miss Reydon Dallas, whose singing was thoroughly enjoyed; Miss Susie Oak as Alice was very clever, and Miss Mary Glanbran as Hester the Maid was perfectly natural; Captain Romney, in the hands of Mr. C. Vernon Booth, was an admirable impersonation; whilst the Lionel of Mr. Sidney C. Lindon left nothing to be desired; as Sir Miles Coverdale and Reuben Oats Messrs. Gordon Begg and Fred Doran respectively did well; and the Micky of Mr. George McCloskie created roars of laughter.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The Palace Theatre (Greenock) Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Slingsby.—The bill here is headed by the Dayton troupe of acrobats. Other good turns are given by Joe Hennessey, club swinger; the Royal Victorian troupe of dancers, Fred Land, comedian; Hetty Lee, soubrette and dancer; and Agustin and Hartley, with a clever barrel act. A new and interesting bioscope display is given.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The second visit of *The Girl from Kay's* has proved highly popular. Miss Beatrice Poole is now seen in the leading rôle of Winnie Harborough, and instils plenty of dash into the character. As the "semi-detached" couple, Harry Gordon and Norah, Mr. J. S. Durant and Miss Emily Taylor are thoroughly satisfactory. The amusing characters of Hoggenheimer and Fitzthistle are made the most of by Mr. George Blunt and Mr. Reginald Grey, whilst Mr. Tom Seymour extracts a good deal of humour out of the part of Joseph. Others who may be mentioned are Miss Mabel Dent as Ellen, Miss Lily Beaumont as Mrs. Chalmers, Mr. Thomas Pauncefort as Mr. Chalmers, and Mr. Robert Rivers as Uncle Theodore.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Nellie Wallace's eccentric impersonations have proved highly diverting; Marco, a juvenile conjuror, displays much skill in sleight-of-hand business; Wild and West introduced a novel acrobatic turn, apearing in the guise of a gang of navvies; the Sisters D'Alvo give an attractive dancing turn, and good dancing also comes from Wright and Elton; Joe Humphries, a comedian with good songs; C. J. Johnson, negro artist, and Harry and May Kent, musical comedians, also appear.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—T. E. Dunville has greatly delighted the Palace audiences, his "fairy tales" causing roars of laughter; the Four Hearnes also give an attractive turn, combining smart acrobatics with good comedy; the gymnastic display of the Wellfords is greatly admired, the various feats being neatly accomplished; bright comedy is presented by Phillips and Merritt; whilst Arthur and Ashby give an entertaining display of chapeaugraphy; a musical turn, including smart comedy, is given by Francis and Melli, and Minnie D'Aubyn, vocalist, and T. W. Royal, comedian, also contribute to the programme.

GUILDFORD.—BOROUGH HALL.—A pretty and refined pantomime was produced here, on Monday, under the direction of Mr. John A. Thomson, for three nights. Miss Beatrice Wadham was a dashing Robin Hood; and Miss Edith Madelle an engaging Little John; as Maid Marian, Miss Stella Rose was most dainty; and Miss Daisy Stone made an excellent Mavis; Mr. Ted Mack and Mr. Henry Young, both clever comedians, scored as Burglar Bill and Gentle Georgie; and Mr. Tom G. Warren's efforts as Araminta were provocative of roars of laughter. The pantomime was beautifully mounted, The specialities included Carl Moneta, Young and Mack, the Crystals, and the Butterfly troupe of dancers. *Charley's Aunt* was given on Thursday.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. George Dance's company is here in *Veronique*, which was seen here on Monday for the first time. In the title-rôle Miss Biba Leonhardt is vivacious and sings admirably; Mr. Roland Bottomley is a stylish Florestan; one of the best of comedians is Mr. Ellis Holland, whose Monsieur Coquenard keeps the audiences in high spirits; Mr. Jack Crichton is excellent as the Bailiff, and Mr. Tom Shelford as the Groom deserves mention.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Mr. Horace Goldin's variety company is doing good business here this week. The conjuring feats of Mr. Goldin are astounding, and meet with acclamation. A clever society comedian is Jack Lennal; Stylo, with his troupe of trained hoops; Vi and Ethel, refined Continental vocalists and dancers; Philips and Terry, in funny comedy; the Ringting Trio, American eccentric comedy entertainers; Mark Lane, a whimsical comedian; and Boswell's stage circus, all contribute excellent turns.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Some clever artists submit interesting items at this house of amusement. Lady Mansell and her juveniles, in a comedy speciality, leave nothing to be desired; Guy Ryder captivates with his talented whistling and solos; Nelson and Thomas, Violi, Howard and St. Clair, Vermette and Dionne, and Frank Bernard and company in their new absurdity entitled *Hello* also figure in the bill.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Charles Howard.—The pantomime *Aladdin* continues to draw and amuse crowds nightly. Mr. Nat Clifford continues quite a host in himself, his funny jokes and antics causing roars of laughter; Mr. W. H. Kirby is quite a favourite as Abanazar, his business being excellent, and his acting exceedingly amusing; Miss Florence Wilton continues to be most successful in the title-rôle; her songs are well-chosen and rendered; Miss Elsie Steadman as the Princess still charms her audiences with her winning manner, and Miss Hearne is equally successful; Miss Ida Wirth as So-Shi is well placed; Mr. Maxwell-Stewart as Ski-Hi does capital work; and Mr. L. Rowland (So Long) is exceptionally good. The chorus is capital.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The premier position is held this week by Miss Harriet Vernon, whose vocal items are enthusiastically applauded; her pretty Japanese song is followed by an admirable number, "Only to be a child once more," which evokes a great outburst of applause. As an encore Miss Vernon contributes her scena *The Lilac Girl*, which is a dainty song daintily mounted. Dartigan loops the loop on a motor-cycle, one of the most daring feats ever seen here; Leslie Race is a comedian of much merit; The Vyponds, society entertainers, are seen to advantage in a diverting vocal sketch—viz., *The Honeymoon;* Carl Howard, the crazy conjurer, is most amusing; Zanfretta and Napio, musical eccentrics, with their knife-grinding machines, contribute a smart turn; and Grey and Welford are a smart pair of comedians and patterers. Mr. Edwin Barwick as an actor-vocalist is both original and clever, his scena, *The Moan of Mephisto*, being an admirable piece of work; his imitations of the late Sir Henry Irving are also highly appreciated. The pictures are first-class.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—On Monday evening Mr. John Tilla presented *Red Riding Hood* for a week's run here. As Prince Charming, Miss Bessie Cohen is an ideal principal boy, and, moreover, an agile dancer; her vocal numbers are well rendered. Miss May Merry as Red Riding Hood is a dainty and charming principal girl. Mr. Harry Elliston is quaintly humorous as Johnny Stout, and does much to ensure the success of the pantomime; he is also the producer and stage manager. As Johnny Green he finds an able lieutenant in Mr. Teddy Gibbs, who also sings a clever song entitled "Nobody." As Dame Crump Mr. Howard Ward is excellent, and Mr. Harry Morgan as Baron Fitz Fitz completes a quartette of capable and energetic comedians. As Tommy Tucker and Margery Daw, Misses Edna Morgan and Maude St. John ably fill their respective parts. Miss Florence Leonard, who possesses a sweet voice, is a competent Fairy Queen. Mr. Cecil Calvert is dramatic as the Wolf. The Burg, Hand, and Wise Comedy Trio introduce a novel and pleasing speciality acrobatic and musical turn, in which they are assisted by "Ye Olde Browne Cow." The Poppy Quartette of Dancers find favour readily, and the Excelsior Troupe of Children are a welcome addition to an all-round excellent show.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—With the one exception of the Three Seymours, who give a capital exhibition of the equilibristic and juggling art, the programme this week is composed of the names of artists who have already faced the verdict of a local audience. Ormonde Penston, that prince of artists in smoke pictures, adds to his entertainment some smartly worked feats of conjuring in which he has valuable assistance from Tsaou Ngo, an accomplished Chinese lady conjurer. Tom and Marie Motramo do exceedingly well in their society skit *Do You Reverse?* into which they introduce some clever musical work. Jack Pleasants, at all times funny, excels in new business. Some illustrated songs, with appropriate accompaniment, are contributed by the Rushforths. King Leo and his mannikin in a ventriloquial entertainment are amusing. The agility of the Dashaways in a daring gymnastic act is a strong feature, and a pretty turn by Beatty and Blanche has a gratifying reception.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company is here this week in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Cyril Austen Lee acts very finely as Horace Parker; Mr. William H. Brougham well sustains his rôle as the Marsian messenger; as a Tramp a good study is submitted by Mr. Bruce Lindley; Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson is successful as Arthur Dicey; Mrs. Edward Saker as Miss Parker and Miss May Saker as Minnie Templar play their respective rôles with excellent effect; and able assistance is afforded by Miss Joan Meredith as Mrs. Clarence, Mr. Percy Tyler as Dr. Chapman, Mr. Eustace French as Sir E. Vivian, Mr. Leslie Tyler as Mr. Fergusson, and Mr. Lionel Gadsden as a policeman.

PIER PAVILION. — Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D Hunter—The *Little Glass Slipper* and its fortunate owner are still attracting good audiences. Mr. J. D. Hunter's natural humour asserts itself in the drollest manner as one of the ugly sisters, and he is amusingly seconded by Miss Cherry Wardroper. Should Mr. Hunter absent himself, Mr. Charles Hawker, his understudy, throws in some excellent fun. Miss Blanche Bayley improves upon acquaintance if possible; and the rôle of the Prince is as charming as ever; Miss Eva Bayley is an excellent fairy godmother; and the acrobatic revels by the Cleveland Troupe and Little Rosie's miniature circus also aid the success of Mr. J. D. Hunter's twenty-seventh annual.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—Mr. Sam Dangard opens the programme with some well-selected songs; an attractive comedienne and dancer, Miss Ida Brophy is much applauded; an excellent turn is given by the Vaudeville artists, the Sainsburys; Messrs. Ford and Hanson are clever musicians, as is shown by their musical mélange; Miss Blanche Albini, comedienne, is another much appreciated turn; Mr. Arthur Slater is a remarkable mimic and sifleur; and an exceedingly funny sketch is introduced by the American Comedy Troupe, who sing some harmonious selections. Ruffe's bioscope is also popular.

HEYWOOD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Jones.—Mr. Bulmer's company, which is presenting *Sentenced for Life* here this week, is receiving a very fair share of patronage. Amongst a good cast the following deserve special mention: Mr. Ernest Vaughan as Captain Derrick, Mr. T. C. Glenville as the Rev. Martin Orris, Mr. James F. Firth as Percy M'Gentle, and Messrs. Ambrose Horton and Reg. Oldroyd as Bill and Toby respectively. Miss Madge Douglas as Adele Gray, Miss Mary Dalby as Kate Rennel, and Miss Gladys Hawthorne as Lady Stillwell are also commendable.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Arthur Carlin and Co.; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—This week we have Mr. Allan Wilkie's No. 1 company in a répertoire of the legitimate. On Monday night *The Merchant of Venice* was produced, Mr. Allan Wilkie giving a powerful rendering of Shylock; Mr. Clifford Rean was an excellent Bassanio; and Mr. H. F. Maltby a dignified Antonio; the Portia of Miss Ine Cameron was a charming portrayal; Miss Lizzie Maddocks did well as Nerissa; and Mr. Louis Palgrave (Lorenzo) and Miss Barbara Pigot (Jessica) were all that could be desired. On Tuesday *The Corsican Brothers* was presented; on Wednesday *Othello;* on Thursday *Belphegor;* and Friday *The Sleigh-bells.*

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The patronage of the Carl Rosa Opera Company is suffering a little from the distraction caused by a stiff Parliamentary Election fight. This is distinctly unfortunate, as the performances given are of the highest order. The production of *Carmen* on Monday night won the full approbation of a keenly critical audience. The singing of the principals was noticeable for fine vocal quality and purity of method. Added to good singing was acting of equal merit, and a consequently well-balanced rendering of the opera was secured. Miss Doris Woodall was full of mischievous witchery as Carmen; Herr Julius Walther was seen to advantage as José; and Mr. Charles Victor had the necessary virility for the part of Escamillo. The chorus is up to the best Carl Rosa standard, which is very high indeed. Every member seems keen and alert, and the singing is bright and smart and expressive. The much enlarged orchestra plays with discretion under the skilful guidance of Messrs. Walter Van Noorden and Eugene Goossens. The other operas down for performance are *Don Gioranni, Rigoletto, Tannhäuser, Faust, Fidelio,* and *The Bohemian Girl.*

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—One of the sweetest and most humorously pathetic little sketches ever seen here is being played with great ability by Mr. J. L. Shine and company. The piece is entitled *Hogmany: A Tale of New Year's Eve.* Other turns are the Percys, duettists; Miss Emily Alvina, vocalist; Miss Marie Wilton, comedienne; the Tupps, gymnasts; Barton and Franklin, in their pleasant musical interlude; Frank Leslie, a taking light comedian; Francois Rothig, a conjurer of the highest manipulative skill; and the Hippodrome pictures.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* continues to find favour with the public, and packed houses are the rule. Mr. Elliston deserves to be complimented on his production, which is generally admitted to be the best pantomime presented in Hull for some years. The various artists work well together, and merit praise for their untiring efforts to please.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—After a brief period of pantomime ordinary business has now been resumed. Mr. William Greet's company is paying a return visit here this week with *The Earl and the Girl*, which is proving a big attraction. Mr. William Stephens is admirably qualified for the rôle of Jim Cheese, which he submits in an irresistibly mirth-provoking manner; Miss Aimee Grey achieves a great success as Elphin Haye, her songs "Zanzibar" and "Sammy" meeting with special favour; Mr. Percy Carr gives an artistic rendering of Dick Wargrave; and Mr. Vernon Davidson is well placed as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; Mr. Ernest Torrence supplies an amusing study as the irate Yankee uncle; Mr. Will Hindson is responsible for a creditable portrayal of the energetic American solicitor; and Mr. J. C. Graves as Mr. Talk appears to advantage. Miss Dot Carey contributes a capital study of the coster girl, whilst Miss Gladys Fontaine as the strong lady is all that could be desired. Miss Helen Langton as Miss Virginia Bliss is also well suited.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Morton, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—The sensational American drama *Wep-Ton-No-Meah* is the attraction here this week, and is drawing big audiences. The well-known American-Indian actress Go-Won-Go-Mohawk is a picturesque figure as a mail carrier, and plays her part in an able manner. Mr. C. W. Charles gives a capable representation of Colonel Stockton; and Mr. Edward Leroy is realistic in the villainous rôle of Spanish Joe. Very popular are Mr. Dan Ryan as Garry Cullen and Mr. Guy D. Hackney as Sam White. Miss Minnie Gospel and Miss Dora Pass are both good in their respective parts.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The pantomime, *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is drawing good houses. It is played by Messrs. W. H. and R. A. Maddox's company. Miss Mabel Kessler works zealously as Dick Whittington; Mr. Victor Le'glere gives a gratifying performance as Thomas, the fairy cat; Miss Peggy Fame makes a favourable impression as Alice; Mr. Harry Howe as Betsy the cook is a humorous exponent; Mr. Dan Lyndon (Alderman Fitzwarren) and Mr. Gus Granville (Jack) cause much hilarity, and are well supported by Messrs. R. Kempton and Harry Pastor as McFlip and O'Flop. Specialities are given by Mabel Kessler, cornet soloist; Peggy Fame, with her black pug; Harry Wright, extempore vocalist; and the Dandies, a quartette of dancers.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—The Schallers provide an amusing comedy act, in which singing, dancing, and gymnastics are introduced; Rex and Louie Graham, comedy duettists, give a clever marionette show; Lily Howen pleases in song and dance; Black and Blanche do well as knockabouts; Louie Farrell is a good male impersonator; and Alf E. Rick also entertains.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess. — *The Orchid*, played by Mr. George Dance's company, is here this week. Miss Margery Moore makes a charming Lady Violet; in the rôle of Caroline Vokins, Miss Phil Gumpel gives a clever and amusing impersonation; Miss Maude Davis, as Countess Anstruther, and Miss Sissie Brond, as Zelie Rumbert, are good in their respective parts; Mr. Harry Walsh supplies a large share of the fun as Meakin; the part of Hon. Guy Scrymgeour has an able exponent in Mr. Sinclair Holden; Mr. Albert Sealy is successful in the part of Zaccary; Dr. Ronald Fausett has an excellent representative in Mr. V. Wakeman; Mr. Charles Seymour is a capital Mr. Chesterton.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—Mr. W. G. Wills's fine play, *A Royal Divorce*, has been played here during the week by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company, and received with every sign of appreciation. In the rôle of Napoleon I. Mr. Frederic Moyes gives a striking and impressive impersonation of the great Emperor; the unfortunate Josephine finds a graceful and pathetic exponent in Miss Lilian Dundas; Mr. Henry Ludlow did justice to the unthankful part of the Marquis of Beaumont, and the characters of Talleyrand and Marshall Murat are carefully played by Mr. H. Gray Dolby and Mr. T. W. Ford respectively. Miss Muriel Thompson does justice to the difficult character of Marie Louise, and the little King of Rome is prettily enacted by Miss Gracie Kendrick.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The programme for the current week at this popular place of entertainment includes some attractive novelties. The juggling display of Hanvarr and Anna shows much neatness and dexterity; Fred Herbert excites much enthusiasm by his topical and national songs; American songs are pictorially illustrated by Martini and Son; Roma and Romani contribute a clever instrumental musical interlude; Hughes and Elliott create merriment as ragtime vocalists and dancers; and a couple of skating experts are seen in Verne and Verne. A serious dramatic sketch, entitled *An Emperor's Divorce*, is well played by Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope. Les Rubens, society entertainers, are also in the bill.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. G. Jefferson.—This week's attraction is Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in the domestic drama, entitled *The Little Breadwinner*. Mr. J. A. Campbell gives a capital rendering of the part of Lord William Dorrington; Mr. David Gordon is a manly Richard Lawrence; Mr. Roland Yorke submits a powerful representation of Joseph Prior; little Emmie Thomas does full justice to Meg, the little breadwinner; and Miss Jenny Bostock is quite at home in the part of Bridget O'Flanagan; Miss Mary Mallahieu gives a charming embodiment of Margaret Daventry; and Miss M. Buchanan is equal to the part of Kate Cherry; Miss Emmie Litchfield scores as Ruth Cherry; Mr. Allen Charles is very good as Charles Prior.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Messrs. E. A'Dell and Fred Chabot's company is here in *The Romany's Revenge*. Mr. A'Dell plays the part of John Hope in good style; Mr. Lincoln Calthorpe is well suited in the character of David Reynard; and the comic element is admirably sustained by Mr. David Hamilton as Bobbie Bloom, he being well supported by Miss Fanny Wallace as Polly Pluck. Hearty praise is due to Miss Ethel Ashleigh for her clever impersonation of Zamet, the gipsy boy.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. James P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—This week we have a visit from the American actress, Miss Amy F. Shermann, in the new drama entitled *None but the Brave*, supported by a good company under the direction of Mr. Chas. Shermann.—Miss Shermann gives a really clever representation of the part of April Showers, a journalist; and Mr. Stanley Bedwell ably portrays the part of Lal Ray, artist and war correspondent.

KILKENNY.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. J. Brown.—The Alexandra grand opera company is paying a visit here this week, and on Monday presented *Maritana*, before a fairly well filled house. Miss Constance St. Bride was heard to good effect in her rendering of the many vocal numbers; Mr. Frank Laud was in fine voice as Don José, and sang with taste and effect. The other characters received excellent treatment. There is a good chorus, and a number of accomplished instrumentalists. The week's bill includes *The Daughter of the Regiment, Faust, The Bohemian Girl, Il Trovatore,* and *Satanella.*

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hales.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company is here this week with the musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Paddy Dupres does good work in the title-rôle, and Mr. E. Percy Rogers and Miss Lilian Middleton are equally successful as Michael and Aurora Brue; Mr. Henry Chichester is excellent in his portrayal of the magistrate, Mr. Crank; and Miss Midge Clark sings well, and makes a pleasing Lady Bickenhall; the part of Crookie Scrubbs finds an able exponent in Mr. Charles M'Lagan.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard's Co., Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. Arthur Howard.—Herr Pareezer's Prussian Choir has been here this week, presenting a varied programme of part songs, sketches, variety items, including a really good trick cyclist act, sand dance, &c. Mr. Stewart Braide proved a favourite with his humorous songs; the illustrated songs were also popular, and the projection on the lantern sheet of excellent portraits of the Parliamentary candidates for Lynn delighted the audience.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex. Sugden.—Mr. Wm. Greet's company is attracting large audiences this week with the charming musical comedy *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Alfred Donohoe scores a huge success as Jim Cheese; and is well supported by Miss Lina Hicks as Liza Shoddam; Mr. Leslie Gaze and Miss Hilda Dugdale as Dick Wargrave and Elphin Hay, the runaway lovers, are exceptionally good, their singing winning them much favour; Mr. A. E. Wilson is very amusing as Bunker Bliss; Mr. Tom J. Edwards and Mr. Sam Lysons are most effective as Downham and Mr. Talk; Mr. Thos. Kennard is a capable Crewe Boodle; and Mr. Grenville Hayes is successful as Mr. Hazel. Miss Beatrice Anderson is a vivacious Mrs. Shimmering Black; and as Daisy Fallowfield, Miss Ida Statham is delightful; Miss Winnie Plumpton is effective as Miss Virginia Bliss. The chorus and augmented orchestra render good assistance under Mr. W. Stephenson. The scenery and dresses are very tasteful.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Henry Wilkinson.—The attraction this week is Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn is quite at home in the rôle of Gabriel Garth; Mr. Douglas B. Watson is good as Jack Halyard; Mr. Clavering Craig is sufficiently villainous as Duncan Bly; and Miss Mabel Coleman as Lillian Garth and Miss Maudie Scott as Mercy Merry give clever portrayals. The comic element is well supplied by Mr. Walter M. Cameron as Mike Copplestone; Mr. W. H. Melrose as Ned Pennycomquick, and Miss Lizzie Moorley as Poppy Cornleigh.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Bros. Webb, musical clowns, head the bill this week, and have had a flattering reception; Miss Addie Dornia, in a duologue "How it was Done," win rounds of applause; and the Three Schaffers are well received. Others who contribute to the excellent programme include Charles Woodward, comedian; Madge Elliott, vocalist; Barrington, musician; and Walter Payne's animated pictures.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—*The Cingalee* pays its first visit here this week, and is being played with great success by Mr. George Dance's principal company, which contains some notably capable artists. Mr. Lauri de Frece provides endless mirth as Chambuddy Ram; Mr. Coop Edmunds's Sir Peter is also very funny; Miss Winifred O'Connor, as Manoya, sings and acts with great distinction; and Miss Essie Perrin is a charming Angy, her dancing being the essence of grace. High honours also fall to Miss Marjorie Clarke, Miss Gladys Guy, Mr. Frank Crimp, Mr. Bertrand Yates, and Mr. Ethelbert Edwards. The augmented orchestra and large chorus are under the baton of Mr. Otto Manns.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—The pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is now running with delightful smoothness, and attracts full houses. The magnificent scenic effects continue to evoke the warmest admiration, and the members of the cast have developed their parts in excellent style. Mr. J. W. Rowley continues to find increasing opportunities for the display of spontaneous humour, of which he is such a master, and is ably seconded in his efforts by Mr. Arthur Stigant, in an exceedingly clever conception of the dame, and Mr. Frank Calvert. Mr. Arthur Carlton, too, is always prominent in the fun. Miss Hilda Jacobsen acts her rôle of principal boy with distinction; and Miss Katie May is a graceful and vivacious principal girl. The Bowery Boys are specially prominent amongst a number of excellent specialities.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Bumper houses are nightly in evidence here to witness the performance of this most successful of recent Royal pantomimes, *Jack and Jill*. Though well equipped in the matter of gorgeous scenic effects, fun is the keynote of the production, and audiences are kept thoroughly amused by a fine company of comedians, of which Mr. Bob Selvidge and Mr. Harry Conlin are very able leaders. The principal ladies have established themselves as firm favourites, Miss Margaret Broadfoote and Miss Lily Black being the chief pair. Miss Jessie Templeton and Miss Ernie Franks enact with grace and distinction the parts of second boy and girl.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—The successful pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* is finishing a three weeks' season here, and the popularity of the piece is undiminished.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Syd May is first favourite here with his excellent impersonations of star comedians. Sam Elton is very entertaining with comic jugglery and a knockabout speciality. At the bottom of the bill figure the Riogoku Family, a party of very smart Japanese acrobats. Conway and Leland convulse the house in their acrobatic turn; F. H. Dundas is an accomplished actor-vocalist; Collins and Rice are presenting a successful comedy sketch; the three Sisters Hayden are attractive in song and dance; and other popular contributions are Mabel Hind, comedienne, and Rhoda Bros., gymnasts and balancers.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Managers, Mr. Charles Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—The Six Brothers Luck have a prominent place in the week's bill here, their pantomime specialty being provocative of huge merriment; Gus Harris, the popular actor-vocalist, submits his vocal scena with success; J. C. Morris, a clever comedian, is also high in public favour; the Sisters Marion, a juvenile pair of duettists, are accorded a great reception for their excellent turn; Violet Stockelle is a pleasing and attractive comedienne; Wake and Dean do well in clever comedy business; a novel musical act by the Taffonas meets with general approval; the Lyrics dance and sing in good style; and the animated pictures complete the list of attractions.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—After the fat boy comes the fatter girl, and this novelty, Princess Lucy, is truly a wonder, arousing the liveliest interest at this popular hall. Other successful artists are the Redferns, lady banjoists and vocalists; Preston and Baimain, illustrated song novelty; Sill and Silcott, a pair of quaint comedians; Bros. Dean, whistlers and specialty dancers; Lal Cliff, comedienne; and E. Ford, the Australian sundowner.

ALBERT HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots are having a very successful second week here, their clever entertainment attracting good patronage; the humorists are ably led by Mr. Will Catlin and Mr. Sid Frere; whilst Mr. George Houghton and Mr. Frank Blythe receive numerous encores for their renderings of sentimental songs.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater.—The pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* continues its successful run here, the various artists working together in a most commendable spirit. Miss Nancy Langtyre (Robinson Crusoe), Mr. Lionel Braham (Will Atkins), Miss Florrie Saunders (Pollie), Mr. Ainslie Burton (Dame Crusoe), Mr. Alfred Sandoe (Bumper), Mdlle. Ebba Darcier (Princess Moonshine), Mr. John R. Val (Friday), Mr. Chas. A. Stephenson (Billy Crusoe), Messrs. Baroux and Bion (Captain Crosseye and Bo'sun Bobstay), and Miss Gwen Clifford (Britannia) are all gaining, if possible, more popularity, and the tuneful and catchy songs introduced remain a feature of the performance. The large operatic chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. H. Sullivan Brooke, continues to elicit unstinted praise.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—The attraction is provided here this week by Mr. Robert Perris's company, *A Fight for Millions*. The play contains a most interesting story, and is well staged. Mr. Henry Hargreaves is excellent as Tom Manley; Mr. J. Newton Cowling is capital as Hudson Rivers; Mr. Archie Helsby, as the evil genius Richard Dudley, is well placed; Mr. Karl H. Edwards, as the Jew, Solomon Moses, gives a good character sketch; Miss Audrey Southerland is a success as Little Madge; Mr. Robert Perris, as Willie Neverwork, and Mr. Nicholas Conway, as Harold Hobbs, are prominent in humorous portrayals; Miss Eva Purcell as Pearl Rivers, Miss Audrey Canning as Mrs. Hudson Rivers, and Miss Emma C. Turner as Helen Dudley are also to be complimented.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The usual excellent programme is submitted here, in which are included the Chas. Fisher Pocket Opera Co., whose delightful turn, which includes excerpts from famous operas and the humorous sketch *The Music Master*, earn for them well-deserved and unstinted applause; Theo. Hardeen, the well-known handcuff and trunk manipulator, returns, and thoroughly mystifies the audience; the Australian Twin Sisters Anderson, dancers and vocalists, are getting an excellent reception; the Garganis score with a smart acrobatic turn, which also has the merit of being humorous; Fraser and Mac, in an entertaining act, raise hearty laughter; the Royal Six are deservedly applauded for their singing and playing; Martin and Quigg present a mirth-compelling turn; George Green, a Leicester boy of 12, gets a rousing reception for his singing; Harry Clifford, character vocalist, also entertains with success; the American Bioscope is depicting the humorous fantasia, "Motoring from Paris to Monte Carlo."

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The leading attraction is again supplied here this week by Miss Carlotta De Yonson and company, who are presenting with success the original Eastern sketch *Kingdom of Hate*, the principal parts being played in true dramatic style by Miss Carlotta De Yonson, Mr. Charles A. Carlisle, and Mr. W. E. Griffiths. The Brothers Zampah are remarkably clever one-legged equilibrists; Will Bacchus is an excellent coster comedian; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is projecting a series of amusing and popular films; Casey and Mitchell are amusing comedy duettists and dancers; and Tom Le May, musical grotesque, Carl Rosine, in a smart Continental speciality act, and Molly Seymour, comedienne and dancer, also entertain with success.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Mr. Walter Jeffs' New Century Pictures are located here this week on a return visit, and comprise a most delightful selection of entertaining films, which are interspersed with well-rendered songs by Miss Dora Kingsley and a capital ventriloquial entertainment by Mr. Walter Roselle.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Much hearty laughter is being caused here this week, by the farce *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, which is being played by Miss Florence Baines and Co. Miss Baines, as the Lancashire Lass, quickly scored a conspicuous success; as Eva Lancashire, Miss Jennie Hallworth's singing and acting are much appreciated; Mr. R. Donaldson as the guardian, Higgins, is exceedingly good; Miss M. Clinton as Bertha, gains much applause, for the songs allotted her; Mr. Payne Fletcher as the farmer is the source of considerable laughter and Miss Pattie Groves scores as his Irish wife; Mr. Horace Pollock does exceedingly well as the butler, Grant; Mr. A. M. Servington as the Jew and Mr. R. C. Hicks as the solicitor are also good.

OHMY'S CIRCUS. — Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince. — The principal item in this week's bill is the Alexandras, whose clever feats are deservedly applauded; Mons. Slippere, the marvellous blind pianist, is exceedingly good; the Lloyds, in their double cable act, prove a smart turn; Miss Ohmy and Mr. Swallow, in their bareback riding acts, are very clever and neat; much laughter is caused by the buck-jumping mule, Barney; Mr. Claude Ohmy gives a clever wire performance; the clowns present some amusing sketches; and the living pictures are excellent.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, continues to run merrily along, and the appreciation of the public is still evidenced by good houses. The Blunderbore of Mr. W. S. Stevenson is a laudable piece of work, well supported by the Spareribs and Brisket of Messrs. Denby and Dent. Miss Mimi Fisher is smart and attractive in the rôle of Jack, who finds a winsome Margery Daw in Miss Bijou Drens; and Miss Louie Niemann plays very daintily as Daisy. Master Hopkins deserves commendation for his personation of Suckthumb, the giant's baby; and Mr. Hilton Frances causes much amusement by the droll antics of his valiant cow. King Fad and Queen Caressa are well represented by Mr. Charles Grantley and Miss Pattie Fairley; while the comedy element is maintained in mirthful fashion by Mr. Fred C. Imbert, Mr. Gilbert Payne, and Mr. John Henri, in the respective parts of Dame Gabble, Simple Simon, and Dowal. Miss Evelyn Robson and Miss Iris Banfield work successfully as Mephisto and Spirit of Love

LEVEN.—TOWN HALL.—*Her Fatal Past* was presented on Saturday, by Mr. Rushbury's company, under the capable direction of Mr. W. A. Warren. Miss Mabel Durham, as Honor Symes, the woman with a past, was natural and convincing; Miss Alice Ramsdale, first as Leonard's wife, and later as the adventuress, Belle de Lara; Miss Lillian Murray, as Martha Springwell, and Sal Jenkins

much strength; a capital Gerald Fairfax was submitted by Mr. Fred Goddard; Blanche Kingsley was satisfactorily undertaken by Miss V. Ingram; Mr. Edgar L. Hocking as Hawke proved an admirable shady solicitor; and some good comedy came from Mr. Percy Hayes as Timothy Dowd and Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray. Worthy support came from Mr. Horace Denton, Mr. Charles Johnson, and Mr. Harry Scatchard. The play was splendidly staged, and some of the effects were uncommonly startling.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Joe Peterman's company is at the head of the list here this week with *The Belle of the Orient*, which has been much enjoyed. To Leo Dryden a hearty welcome has been accorded for his capital songs, particularly his latest, "Bachelor boys, farewell"; an attractive feature is the electrical scena, *The Maiden's Prayer*, in which Mdlle. Ghita Corri sings two numbers; the Kentucky Trio are expert jugglers; Sam Morrison, "the Male Patti," who was discovered singing on the sands at Blackpool, possesses an excellent voice; Keen and Waller are a laughable pair of acrobatic comedians; some smart conjuring is executed by Sydney Lee; Bliss and Bliss are excellent as comedians and dancers; as sand dancers and speciality vocalists Starr and Jerome are good; Mountford and Walsh have a taking drawing-room entertainment; and Ida Ross gives satisfaction as a comedienne.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—At the head of the programme here this week is J. A. Cassels, a Scotch comedian, who provokes much laughter. The Three Royal Temples render several vocal operatic selections; Joe Gold and Dorothy Sterling have a refined musical speciality. *The Welsh Girl and the Artist*; Kitty Marion is a dainty comedienne; Harry Jennings is a clog dancer of no mean order; and George Edney possesses a voice of good range and sweetness. The bioscope at this place always has an excellent set of pictures. Cordial support is given to the Tuesday matinées.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, Junr.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—After a most successful fortnight of Christmas fare Mr. Percy Boucher and his stock company have returned to dramatic work. This week the sketch *When Rogues Fall Out* has been staged. Mr. Boucher takes his original parts of Billy Faggles and Mother Scuttle; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood plays powerfuly as Sir Henry Lorrimore; a capital Jack Lorrimore is given by Mr. Harry Tresham; and Mr. E. D. Allen makes an excellent Bill Jenkins. Others who give much support are Mr. Herbert Cecil, Miss Beryl Ravenswood. Miss Marjory Armstrong, and Miss Lena Nazeby.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Top of the bill here this week is the Irish sketch, *Donnybrook*, presented by Lizette Sutherland and her thirty assistants. Farr and Farland are smart comedy bojoists; as an eccentric comedian Johnny Walker causes much laughter; and Haynes and Hughes were a couple of able speciality artists.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The top line here this week is Dandy George with his performing dog "Rosie." Shawlene, the tramp whistler, is amusing; the Esdale Bros. are smart comedians and speciality artists; Ismay's Piccaninnies, with their singing and dancing, are a good turn; some comical boxing is performed by the Arundels; a smart comedy duologue is given by Silvestre and Sansome; and Edna Barrett sings and dances agreeably.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Percy Boucher's company put in another week here with the sketch *The Lottery of Life*. A funny knockabout bar act is provided by Elton and Elma, and Rosie Morn is a dainty comedienne. The bioscope shows some excellent pictures.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Two expert hand jumpers, Jules and Feroud, are at the top of the bill here this week. Mike Cray has some funny juggling tricks; Gerald Mount, society entertainer, assisted by Rosie the maid, gives a good turn; as a comedienne Lil Hartley acquits herself with credit; George Dixon, eccentric comedian, has a novel musical act; Hilda Corelli has a smart newsboy's scena, assisted by six lads; and Fred Casburn, comedian, also appears.

OLYMPIA. — Proprietors. Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Continued success follows the spectacle, *The Redskins*, which is in its third week. The Empire Comedy Four are earning golden opinions and causing great laughter; Alice May and company have a humorous sketch, *Tranquillity*, Miss May impersonating seven characters; Rosie Archer and Harry Carsdale are excellent mimics; Sybil St. Elmo sings with taste and judgment; a funny speciality, *The Dancing Goose*, is given by Gallagher and Hild; Charles Cardow sings with satisfaction his own songs; and Douglas and Ford prove themselves clever comedy artists and dancers.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. F. Marriot Watson's company is here this week, in *A False Wife*, with Miss Florence E. Florence as Lady Mansfield, a part which she plays well. Mr. George Langham is good in his respective parts; Lieut. George Mansfield is capitally portrayed by Mr. Howard Barlow; whilst Mr. C. Elton Morgan, as Ben Rattler, is also commendable; the villain's part, Jean Berand, is well taken by Mr. Frank Strickland; Mr. Owen Edwin, and Miss Nita Imeson cause much fun as P.C. Archibald Brown, and Bessie Blazer, respectively; Miss Ellen Armour is excellent as Agnes Weyland.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—The *Cinderella* pantomime company, from Halifax, opened here on Monday under very favourable conditions. There is a large company, with a well arranged panto., containing variety and merriment in plenty. Miss Evelyn Dena is a pleasing Cinderella; and the Prince is an old favourite, Miss Lillie Monckton, whose "For better or for worse" song is applauded nightly. The Sisters give scope for Messrs. Billy Jackson and Herbert Grapho; while Mr. Alf. Widdowson, as Buttons, is very clever. Cinderella is conveyed to the ball in an electric coach, making a big display. Plenty of specialities are introduced, including Madame Cordelia, in her picture dance, the quick scene changes of Grapho and Jackson, the Duncan and Morton incidents, and the Japanese exhibition of trickery, in which doves and rabbits are mysteriously introduced.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—This week Mr. J. Bannister Howard has sent a powerful company with *Oliver Twist*. Mr. Stanley Drewitt's impersonation of Fagin leaves nothing to be desired, for he gives a powerful rendering; Bill Sikes is in the safe hands of Mr. William H. Kemble; and Mr. Charlie Clark is a capable Artful Dodger; Miss Dorothy Marsden gives a sympathetic rendering of Oliver Twist; and Miss Marie Polini is perfect in the rôle of Nancy; Mr. Cyril Cattley is good as Harry Maylie; and Mr. W. H. Rotherham successfully doubles Mr. Grimwig and Monks.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA. — Managing-Director Mr. E. A. Smith. — Produced at Liverpool three weeks ago, we have this week a new drama, *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife (?)*, which is exceedingly well dressed and staged. Miss Marie Dagmar, as Elinor D'Arville, gives a careful study, and is warmly applauded; Mr. Fred C. Somerfield is also highly successful in the rôle of Will Maynard; Mr. Fred Emery does well in the dual part of Cyril and Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Bradford Crosby makes a humorous Peter Miles; and Miss Maudie Grayson is a lively Phœbe; Miss Edith Matt is suitably cast as Janet Miles; and Messrs. Chas. E. Warne, and T. G. Vane are both amusing.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. E. Graham Falcon's company, in the *Babes in the Wood*, which was produced at Bedford, opened here on Monday. Mr. Henry Maynard, as the Demon, is capital, his fine baritone voice helping greatly to make the part a success; Mr. Fred Alberto makes a capital Baron; the part of Robin Hood is taken by Miss Marion Hall, a clever artist, whose excellent singing and pleasing manner at once makes her a favourite; Mr. Chas. Pestin, as Dame Trot, sustains the part well; the two ruffians are represented by Messrs. Kelly and Poletti. The chorus is well trained, and quite up to the standard. The transformation scene, representing the submarine world, is admirable. Wednesday night was set apart for Mr. Falcon's first benefit.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gattey.—Miss Mary Austin's talented and powerful company is occupying the boards this week with the emotional drama *The Cotton Spinner*, the piece being admirably staged. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is a manly Arthur Norbury, his acting being consistently good throughout; as John Prescott, Mr. John S. Haydon is powerful; Mr. G. R. Peach plays the part of Lord Northbury with ability; Mr. Ernest E. Edwards, as Major Stratton, is interesting, and in conjunction with Miss Bella Power, as Lady Charlotte, is responsible for very humorous scenes and Mr. Henry Howard as Foster Cunningham plays the villain's part effectively. Miss Mary Austin as Mary Prescott is pathetic and forcible; and Miss Enid Ross as Constance creditably sustains the part.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, The Town Clerk.—Mr. Arthur Hart's *My Lady Molly* company had a crowded and appreciative audience on the 4th. Miss Reydon Dallas was a capital Lady Molly, Miss Mary Glanbran a captivating Hester, and Miss Susie Oak and Miss Belle Gray were excellent as Alice Coverdale and the French Governess. Messrs. Vernon C. Booth and Sydney C. Lindon respectively were good as Captain Harry Romney and Lionel Bland; Mr. Gordon Begg and Mr. Fred Doran work well as Sir Miles and Reuben Oats; and Mr. George McCloskie was very entertaining as Micky O'Dowd.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Cliff Ryland is the chief attraction here this week, and is giving a very popular turn. Miss Ella Dean, the double-voiced vocalist, is a great favourite; Harry Maynard, actor-vocalist, has some good songs, the choruses of which are heartily taken up; Delmar is a clever society entertainer; and Oliver Conroy, comedian and dancer, and the Camerons, speciality artists, are also in the bill.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A capital company is to be seen here this week in Mr. Walter Melville's well-known moral play, *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. Charles Franmore presents an excellent picture of John Meadows; Mr. Frank R. Robertson cleverly depicts Jack Livingstone, and Mr. John Brooks is very good as Luke Ramsden. Miss Nannie Meade as Nellie Meadows and Miss Ada Oakley as Barbara Wade both act admirably; and other prominent parts are commendably rendered by Mr. Fred Ingram, Miss Elsie Saville, and Mr. Roy Fortesque. The play is thoroughly interesting and well staged.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Haley's Prize Juveniles, in their magnificent carnival scene, head the bill here this week. Prominent also are the Original Celtics trio, who give a capital musical turn. Other good business is supplied by Gill and Gilbey, the rival bill-posters; Sisters Petram, with their clever Fantoches performance; Primavesi, unique juggler; Four Singing Mill-lads from Oldham; Charles Dixon, comedian; Kate Lind, comedienne, and Sultan Brothers, comedy acrobats and equilibrists.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood* was presented to a large audience here on Monday night. It is a really excellent show, elaborately staged and dressed, and equipped with ample talent. Mr. Jordison has once more secured Miss Madge Daly to play principal boy, a part for which her fine presence and excellent voice are admirably suited; Mr. Rowland Hill is also again in evidence, his comicalities having free play in the rôle of Dame Peggy; Miss Nancy Thornton gives a pleasing and clever rendering of Maid Marian, and Mr. A. Stratton depicts the wicked Baron in vigorously funny style. Messrs. Bennett and Martell are busy and efficient as the robbers; Little Dolly Cullen and Little Elsie Jordison act, sing, and dance very cleverly indeed as the Babes. Miss Madge Daly makes a big success with her two songs "Bombay" and "Molly, I love you," and among other vocal successes is Miss Nancy Thornton's "I ain't goin' to leave home in the rain." Specialities are introduced by David Poole, ventriloquist; Jordison's Ariston Quartette of Dancers, and Gus Belsiger, who also plays the part of the Baron's page.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. S. Nicholas.—Mr. Jarman's company in *Under the Czar* is the attraction here this week. The play, as its title indicates, is pitched in Russia, and contains plenty of dramatic interest. It is also very well staged and cleverly presented, the most notable among the company being Mr. Bertram H. Ross, Miss Lacy Murray, and Miss Cathleen Cavanagh.

THE KING'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Baynham.—Carter Livesey and company, including Lilian Rosebury, head the bill here this week in their most successful skit *The Would-Be Actors*, a very amusing bit of nonsense, well acted; Billy Richardson gives a laughable stump oration in the good old style; the Sisters Williams, Welsh duettists, sing delightfully; Ara, Zebra, and Vora appear in their clever acrobatic act, *Indian Pastimes*; the Cape Girls are pleasing singers and capital long-boot dancers; Revill Hall sings "It's all right for Mr. White," a capital song; Will Walton makes a hit with his song, "That's the way they do in Merrie England"; Gertrude Mason sings nicely; the Phantos present a weird and comic novelty, entitled *The Phantom Ship*, and "Annie's Love Story" is depicted on the Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—Kitty Loftus, the well-known comedienne, is the particular star here this week, and makes a big hit with her song "Splendid Force is the Police"; Fred S. Peake and company appear in a well acted and intensely dramatic episode, *The Hypocrite*; Lora is a pretty girl who has a wonderful memory, particularly for figures; Frank Maura, the Mexican foot equilibrist, is second to none in his particular line, and the Cotton Blossoms, a quartette of coloured singers and dancers, give a pleasing turn; Fred Elton, as a ship's officer, mimics a concert in a decidedly entertaining manner, and is well received; Hilda and Sybil Coe play harp selections nicely; Jimson's Pets are well trained, and the Five Osranis have some funny business in a pantomimic incident. The Bioscope pictures are amusing.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The *Butterflies in Fairyland* ballet still holds the chief place in the bill at this popular house, and is really a most wonderful and brilliant show. An important turn also is that of Paul Spadoni, the Herculean juggler, who plays with cannonballs; and equally successful are the Lorch family of risleyists; the Jees, in their funny musical pantomime *The Musical Smithy*; and Albert Whelan, the smart Australian entertainer; while entertaining business is provided by Eno, imitator of popular stars; the Two Lannons, duettists and pedestal dancers; and Nina Gordon, the Scottish mimic at the piano. Beside these, the Hippodrome choir renders Hamish M'Cunn's version of "The Wreck of the Hesperus" with success, and a series entitled "Grandpa and the Butterfly" is presented on the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Austin Rudd tops the bill here this week, and, as usual, scores a big success; Albert Christian, a favourite baritone, sings several songs in an excellent manner, and the Golden Michalini appear in a clever and amusing equilibrist and juggling act. Harry Allan and Rose Hart are smart duettists, dancers, and protean artists, and are well received; Madame Collard introduces some clever dogs; Tyrola, the Swiss girl, sings in a pleasing manner; Flo Cecil sings some smart songs, and dances neatly; Marie Stolle, comedienne, sings a capital song, and Percy Johnson is a most amusing comedian. Raymond's Vivagraph films are very good.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A very amusing farcical absurdity is here this week, entitled *Spiff! Spaff! Spoof!* presented by Walter Howard and company, which keeps the audience in continual merriment. The funny and original methods of A. J. Rebla, the comic juggler, combined with cleverness and novel effects, are productive of well-merited applause, and the eccentric musical act of the Four Vindobonas is excellent; smart and original is the performance of Anthony, the mysterious gentleman in white; and good turns are also those of Adah and Herbert, who sing well; Charles Ashdowne, eccentric comedian and dancer; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payne, Society entertainers; the Danvils, song illustrators; George Russell, comedian, and "Pictures of Modern Life" depicted on the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A farcical sketch entitled *Barmaids* tops the bill here this week, presented by Harry Lowther and company, including Miss Hulo Hodgson. Prominent turns are also those of the Five Grovinis, exceptionally clever acrobats, in a wonderful performance; the Leotards in their clever hat throwing and hand balancing act; and Harris L. Bell and Lily Pearl and company in an amusing sketch *A Bit of String*. Other good turns are given by Nellie Dunbar, comedienne; Chris Masters, character vocalist; Henderson, the blind musician; the Brothers Sheppard, cross-talk comedians, and Fred Horsfall, mimic. The Bioscope pictures are interesting.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Joe Gorman, the genial Irishman, is the chief attraction here this week, and is vastly entertaining in song, story, and dance; the Boccaccio Minstrels are excellent singers and instrumentalists, and the mandoline playing of Signor Francia is something exceptional; Arabella Allen portrays characters from Dickens in a very clever manner; La Dore is a good speciality dancer; Maxford and O'Neill are amusing cross-talkers; Jessica Grace and coons dance well, and Grant and Grant, coloured entertainers, and the Palace pictures complete the programme. *A Trip to the Isle o' Man* is still in the bill, and the remarkably clever dancing of the Sisters MacGovern is greatly appreciated.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—A most entertaining programme is presented this week, headed by Ahrensmeyer, descrived as the "Wizard of the Plains." He gives a very smart show. Gracie Lawn, comedienne and dancer, is good; and Tom Moore, comedian, is also most successful in his songs; Mozarto displays considerable expertness as an instrumentalist; whilst Inez Clough, the Mexican nightingale, is a pleasing vocalist. The pictures this week include "The Sailor's Wedding" and other animated scenes, depicted by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope

FORESTERS' HALL.—Fant Abbott, hypnotist, supported by a company of variety artists and animated pictures, is here this week.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—*No Wedding Bells for Her*, presented by Mr. Frank Bateman's company, opened on Monday to a full house. As Lola Delaspierre, Miss Lizzie Mouloque proved herself an actress of ability and scored a success; Miss Ida Mackay successfully represented Doris Fane; and the same may be said of Miss Ellen Owen as Marie Hall. Mr. George C. Doughty, in the part of Dick Delver, merits commendation; Frank Hatherleigh had an able exponent in Mr. Stuart Lomath; Mr. Walter T. Clifford was successful as the villainous Abney Stone; the part of Harold Tevelyn was capitally played by Mr. Edward E. Louis; Mr. A. Balfour Mackay gave an excellent reading of Horatio Fane, an old actor; and the comedy element was well placed in the hands of Mr. Will Skelton as Simpkins, and Miss Helen Stewart as Peggy.

METHIL.—TOWN HALL.—Mr. J. W. Morton's No. 1 company opened here on Monday with *The Sporting Girl*. In the title-rôle Miss Maggie Sinclair was bright and sprightly, and quickly danced and sang herself into favour; Miss Gladys St. Ledger, Miss Minnie Blackmore, and Miss Nell Ascott sustained admirably the parts of Martha, Mrs. Owen, and Amy Beddoe respectively. In Mr. Harry Sinclair the part of Penton Hook, a Chicago millionaire, had a capable exponent. Messrs. Chas. Phillips and P. Percy Watson, as Jack Garling and Gerald Haynes, were well suited. A good deal of the fun circles round a bogus money-lender and a watchful policeman, and in these characters Messrs. J. H. Stirling and Mr. Jock McKay were very successful. Mr. M. Drury was a good Italian; and Mr. Fred Hart an amusing cleric. *The Rajah of Ranjapore* was given on Thursday by the same company.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Julian Malvern's company is playing here this week in *I Defy the World*. Mr. Lewis Gilbert gives a fine study of Leon Darville; Mr. Horace Booth plays capitally as Count de Beaulieu; Mr. Chas. Conway is a capable Laroche; as Samuel Wozzle Mr. Chas. M. Julian is thoroughly amusing; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt as André performs creditably; and Mr. D. J. Bosher (Najal), and Mr. D. Stewart (Bochan) work well together; Miss Maud Malvern plays cleverly the rôle of Blanche Darville; Miss Trixie St. Albans is a pleasing Pauline; and Miss G. Coats, a charming child actress, does well as Fanchette.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. D. K. Chatto.—Mr. Carlton's company in the pantomime *Aladdin* enters upon its third week, and continues to enjoy a good amount of public patronage. Mr. Wilfred Shine in the rôle of Widow Twankey has established himself a great favourite; Miss Julia Kent is a popular Princess; and Miss Lallah Davies a dashing and winsome Prince. Mr. Will Sandes is exceedingly funny; Little Tony continues to cause laughter by his antics; and Messrs. Carl and Carr are also successful.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Peter Eland's production *The Babes in the Wood* is here this week. The pantomime meets with considerable success. It is pretty, and the songs are taking. Miss Minnie Locke and Miss Doris Middleton win golden opinions as the "Babes." The Three Sisters Sprightly appear in principal rôles, and they sing and dance in a captivating manner; Miss Lily Daintree is the charming fairy, and she introduces successfully some interesting impersonations of well-known artists. The comic element is in capital hands. Mr. Harry Gribben and Mr. J. C. Bland, who appear as Sammy and Bill, are irresistibly funny. Some pleasing specialities are introduced, and the scenery is worthy of praise.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—Excellent turns are provided at this place of amusement this week. Miss Ray Wallace is a great favourite in her impersonations of well-known music-hall artists; Hall and Earle do some clever business as eccentric comedians; the Moran-Marvelle Trio, in novelty comedy act, arouse admiration, the dresses and scenery being exceedingly pretty; Joe Mac awakes roars of laughter by his drollery; the Paxton Trio, head and hand balancers, prove a smart turn; and the ventriloquial turn of Clemart is appreciated. Harley and Arden, comedians, also entertain. The "Bio" completes the bill of fare.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Graham.—Excellent turns are witnessed at this establishment this week. Sydney Bacon's company in *The Maniac* heads the bill, and provides a thrilling sensation. Mr. Melville Bickford appears with great success as Nathan Black, the mad inventor. Miss Marion Countie, an old Middlesbrough favourite, maintains her popularity; as does Tony Iveson, who sings several funny songs. Bert Woodward, comedy cyclist, and Les Railes and other turns figure in the programme.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Messrs. Little and Dancy's pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, continues to do good business here. Mesdames Marion May, Amy Calcott, Ada Maud, and Cora Annitta have nightly to respond to enthusiastic encores. The quaint drolleries of Mr. Walter Adams are as mirth-provoking as ever, ample support being given him by Mr. John E. West and Messrs. Newcombe and Sullivan. The singing of Dobitio and Buxton is a popular feature of the production as is the 'cello solo of Miss Mari Wyatt. Other specialities are the Westwood Comedy Cyclists, the Stuart quartette of dancers, and Little Tim, big-boot dancer. There is an exceptionally large ballet under the baton of Mr. Frank Wyatt.

NELSON.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is this week presenting the sensational play, *Her Second Time on Earth*. Miss Hilda Reverley, in her original creation of Dora Grey, gives a fine interpretation; Mr. George Gaisford submits a masterly impersonation as Captain Jasper Norman; Mr. Harry Hillier is well received as Jack Carlton; Mr. W. H. Porter is eminently suited in the character of Guy Brande; Mr. Wm. C. Reid has a quaint sense of humour, and ably takes the part of Teddy Butterfly; Mr. Chas. Langton makes a capital Tom Norman; Mr. A. Fellowes Bassett portrays in admirable style the character of the Italian Beppo; the part of Laura Norman is prettily taken by Miss Dorothy Hilderbrande; Miss Polly Marsh is exceptionally clever as Elizabeth Burke, a drunken woman; Miss Marjory Millbank makes a smart Kitty Rosebud; Mr. Jno. Nolan is good as Dr. Ridley; and Mr. Alec Williams as Father Gumbril.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Sutcliffe.—*Mother Goose* is now in the height of its success, and as the faithful bird lays golden eggs for her owner, it may also be said that she does a similar kindness for the theatre's exchequer, as packed houses are the rule nightly. The various artists have all settled down to their work, and the entire show runs with commendable smoothness. Miss Lily Harold imparts much acceptable vivacity into her rendition of Colin, and her various songs are encored nightly. Miss Daisy Dormer looks more charming than ever as Fill; and Miss Lena Verdi in the character of a Dutch girl hits off the peculiarities of the dialect to a nicety. Miss Cecilia Wilman has a pleasing number in Rainbow, and is entirely successful as the Fairy Queen. Mr. Ernie Mayne has already established himself a big favourite as Jack; his conception of the country yokel fairy bubbles over with humour, and keeps the audience in a continual state of merriment. Mr. George Formby plays the Mayor of Tapham on quite original lines, and proves immensely popular in the singing of several songs. Mr. Ambrose Manning (who was out of the cast on Monday, his place being admirably filled by Mr. Harry A. Meymott) proves thoroughly enjoyable as Mother Goose, and Messrs. Drew and Alders keep the fun going fast and furious.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Teale Lingham.—Perhaps it is no exaggeration when we say that this year, with the pantomime *Cinderella*, Mr. Robert Arthur has scored his greatest triumph since coming to Newcastle. This pleasing state of affairs is undoubtedly due to the brilliant all-round company got together by that experienced pantomime producer, Mr. Robert Courteidge. We could not imagine a more graceful or dainty "Cinders" than Miss Phyllis Dare, who is, without doubt, "everybody's favourite." Miss Hettie Chattel has by sheer merit jumped into high favour by her dashing portrayal of the Prince. The comedians are of exceptional all-round excellence. Mr. Dan Rolyat has an undeniable chance as Archibald; his mirth is quite infectious, and some of his tumbling feats would even make the proverbial "cat laugh." The Baroness of Mr. John Humphries has proved an instantaneous success, and not a little of the evening's enjoyment is due to his quaint impersonation.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—*Aladdin and His Lamp* continues his successful career at the Palace, thanks to the excellent efforts of the Misses Vera Marshall, Lizzie Daniels, Edith Maynard, Maggie Bowman, and Messrs. George Brooks, Cullen and Carthy, Tom J. Morton, F. W. Wilkinson, and Charlene and Charlene, all of whom work harmoniously and well together.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. L. Conroy.—Heading a capital all-round programme here is Richard Sawade and his troupe of performing lions, dogs, bears, and tigers, a turn that arouses the utmost excitement among the audience. Florrie Gallimore returns with a budget of new songs, and this clever lady has still the happy knack of getting "the boys" to join in her choruses. The success of Barney Vox, ventriloquist, has been most emphatic, some of his impromptu gags being appropriate and witty. Kelly and Ashby are responsible for the utmost merriment in their speciality on the billiard table. The aquatic entertainment of the Finneys (James and Marie) is as clever as ever; the Hans Hansen Trio are exceptionally smart as balancing acrobats; the Arthur Lloyd Trio create much mirth in their droll playet, *Little Charlie*; the Sisters Neilson prove dainty duettists and dancers; Princess Pauline, comedienne, imparts plenty of dash into her act; and a neat gymnastic turn is contributed to by Lydia and Albino.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—An excellent miniature drama, entitled *The Little Stowaway*, has been presented for the first time this week to a Novocastrian audience by a company under the direction of Ethel Arden and George Abel, Limited, and has been favourably received. The Four Kweeries provide a mysterious item, some of the illusions creating the utmost amazement. Gus Hindell is entirely successful with his scena, *Boys will be Boys*; and other prominent turns include Nellie Chandos, comedienne and dancer; the Delones, in a novel act, *The Phantom Clogs*; Mons. Valoni, novelty juggler; Sherlock and Van Dalle, in a musical speciality, *The Mummy and the Undergrad*; Joe Cheevers, comedian; and an amusing picture, entitled "Mixed Babies," by the barrascope.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Lessee, Mr. Charles Urban.—The conclusion of the "Urbanora" show is announced, after having enjoyed a long and successful season. Prior to closing the show, however, the popular manager, Mr. C. Rider Noble, will take a well-deserved benefit, when extra attractions will appear.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Cinderella*, in its third and last week here, is doing capital business. Prince Charming (Miss M. Sadie) has become quite a favourite, and in the rendering of her numbers she scores quite a success; Messrs. King and Delane (the Ugly Sisters) continue to amuse the large houses by their ready wit and humour, and the remaining characters, who have all worked hard for the success of the pantomime, are to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which they have acquitted themselves. The production is a bright, refined, and charming spectacle all through, and teeming with genuine, wholesome fun.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—A capital programme is provided here this week, and is attracting good houses. Morris Cronin and his troupe in a club-swinging show are deservedly applauded; Bell and Henry are amusing; Grace Merton, the original street singer, is well received; and the Three Finney Sisters, in a graceful aquatic exhibition, evoke warm recognition; the Bandurrias provide a rich musical treat; Baker and Lynn, in *The Brainless Boy*, elicit laughter; Francis Nylie and his dog circus are entertaining; and Mokkouse and Ward, comedy cyclists, keep the house amused.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. G. M. Polini's and Austin Melford's company is here, in *The Silver King*. Herbert Ford is an impressive exponent of Wilfred Denver; Miss Daisy Scudamore is a sweetly sympathetic Nellie Denver; Daniel Jaikes is still admirably played by Mr. Edward J. George; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is a good "Spider." Mr. J. L. Power an amusing Henry Corkett, and Mr. Arthur an effective Elijah Coombe. Mr. W. Thompson as Cripps, Mr. E. A. Palmer as Geoffrey Ware, and Mr. Byron Pedley as Baxter are all well placed. Olive Skinner finds an excellent representative in Miss Georgina Wynter; and Miss Bessie Wright is a capable Susie. On Wednesday, Mr. Austin played the part of Coombe, and the remainder of the week appeared as Wilfred Denver.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—"Two Fine Girls," les Seurs Marianos, give a performance on the trapeze and balanced ladder which has an exciting finish; the Dixon Ladies are charming duettists, banjoists, and sand dancers; Harry Taft is a good whistler and comedian; Winnie Travers is a pleasing comedienne; Dan Silmer, comedian, amuses in song and dance; Jimmy James excels as a banjo and bone soloist; the Three Alberts give a neat display of equilibrism; Sidney Arnold, vocalist, also appears; and the Palace Pictures maintain their excellence and popularity.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company, with *Three Little Maids*, has had an enthusiastic reception here this week. Mr. F. Henderson is clever as Lord Cheyne; Mr. T. Wilson works hard and successfully as Brian Molyneux; and Mr. W. Morgan is in every way satisfactory as Rev. Mr. Branscombe. Mr. Ewart Drake gives an admirable representation of Cupid; M. de l'Orme has a capital exponent in Mr. Wilfred Heath; Ada, Hilda, and Edna are in the capable hands of Misses Doris Lind, Cora Lingard, and Marie West, who play their parts in charming style. Miss Kate Graham Beck is an effective Lady St. Mallory; Miss Laura Wright is smart as Gretchen; and Miss P. Castleton is well received as Miss Price.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Comet Comedy Trio, vocalists and comedians, meet with a cordial reception here; and Mr. A. C. Revel, juggler, performs some very clever feats. The Lecardo Brothers, burlesque acrobats, are funny; Miss Lydia Dudley, versatile artist; Messrs. Fields and Lewis, burlesque artists; Mr. Jack McCann, comedian and skate dancer; and the Bio-photoscope, are all well received.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—Mr. Arnold Bell, supported by an excellent company, is this week occupying the local theatre with *Ben-my-Chree*, *The Shaughraun*, and *The Ticket of Leave Man*. He is ably seconded by Miss Frances Campbell, who, as Mona Mylrea in *Ben-my-Chree*, creates a favourable impression.

NORWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company is here this week with *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. Junius Booth in a powerful manner acts the part of Lieutenant Reresby; Mr. Oswald Lingard is also very good as Viscount Dorsington; and Mr. C. Herbert Hewetson [illegible] Hungerford. Mr. G. Trail deserves praise as Sir Henry Curwen, Mr. Chas. T. Doe as Colonel Bagshaw, Mr. W. M. Wetherell as Captain Stanhope, Mr. Cecil Underwood as Captain Rashleigh, Mr. Geo. Jackson as Lieutenant Willoughby, and Mr. Cecil Klein as Cornet the Hon. Francis Tresham, perform their respective parts in a praiseworthy manner. Miss Celestine Bertram as Batty acts most charmingly; Miss Ada Perry as Mrs. Bagshaw, and Miss Belle Donaldson as Helena Pierrepoint, deserve every praise for their exertions. Miss Agnes Verity appears as the Hon. Margaret Hungerford.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Pitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Pitt.—An excellent variety entertainment is presented this week. The Brothers De Wynne exhibit marvellous ability as equilibrists; Professor Duncan introduces his troupe of performing collies, and has a capital reception; Amy Russell proves a pleasing vocalist; Musto as a humorous contortionist meets with much approval; Hicks's Clerks are an amusing and excellent turn; the Three Macgregors obtain much applause for their musical melange; whilst Clotilde and her cockatoos and parrots prove very attractive. Will Godwin and company submit a realistic sketch, entitled *Repentance*; and the Hippo. Bioscope give a representative pantomime

Mr. F. S. Gilbert's resonant voice and fine presence add dignity to the character of King Richard; and Mr. William Rokeby makes an amusing villain. The Lorenzi Brothers perform their knockabout business smartly; and the Babes (Misses Renée Lancaster and Maisie Rawlings) deservedly earn a big measure of applause.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—A triple bill is provided this week by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company, consisting of *A Wife's Triumph*, *Sapho*, and *Trilby*. The first-named, presented on Monday night, was given a hearty reception. Mr. Abbott portrayed Frank Wilton with commendable ease and care; Mr. Douglas C Phelps realised exactly a typical Yorkshire squire; Mr. W. H. Garbois capitally interpreted the knavish tricks of Ellis Jordan, being ably assisted by Mr. Weedon Ross as Julius Hartmann. An attractive embodiment of Alice Wilton was given by Miss Sybil Leslie; and Miss Marjorie Tennant proved a vivacious Margery Crib. Praise is also due to Miss Ada Abbott, Miss Elsie Jones, Mr. D. Pentland, and Mr. P. Douglas.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker. — A return visit of Miss Florence St. John and company in *My Milliner's Bill* has drawn large and delighted audiences, who have given the famous actress an enthusiastic welcome. Spessardy's bears and ponies form a striking example of patience and careful training, and the "turn" is heartily applauded; Orla's acrobatic dogs supply yet another instance of good training, and an ovation nightly awaits them; the humorous sketches of Robert Ganthony prove an interesting feature; and the comedy element is further helped by Hart and Leo. A plastic figure performance by Terley evokes applause; and Brown and Robinson are quite successful. Capital views on the American Bioscope, Rackett and Hazard in a "musical trip round the world," and Dot Hardy as a funny little slavey, complete an excellent programme.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is here, in the sensational drama *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. George Havard plays in excellent style the part of Harry Steyne; Mr. C. P. Wentworth appears as Hassan Padisha, and Mr. Harry Emmerson as Jasper Thornleigh. Mr. Fred G. Evison's portrayal of Billy Brewer is productive of much fun; Miss Grace Lester gives a good representation of Mary Steyne; and Miss Mildred Carr scores as Nancy Brewer.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—This week we are having a most delightful return visit of *Blue-Bell in Fairyland*, which, admirably interpreted by Murray King and Clark's company, met with a most enthusiastic reception from a packed house on Monday. Miss Gladys Cooper's Blue-Bell is a delightful and fascinating performance; Mr. Lawrence Emery gives excellent support as Dicky; Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart provide ample fun in their clever and highly amusing performance of Blib and Blob; Mr. Stanley Crisp works hard and successfully as the cat the King and Queen find clever exponents in Mr. C. Morris and Miss Muriel Juin; Mr. Percy Farrimond as a policeman shows himself the possessor of a powerful tenor voice; Mr. Edgar Pleon is good as the yellow dwarf; Miss Minnie Blanchard makes a capital fairy and dances prettily as the autumn leaf; and little Ruby Carter as Will o' the Wisp dances herself into high favour.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. Charles Carte's company is here with *A Noble Brother*. Mr. Carte holds his audience spell-bound with his powerful and careful acting of Jerry, a part which he seems to have gripped thoroughly. Mr. Arthur Gilroy is also effective as Henry Travers, while Mr. J. Wilson is manly as Jack Elsworth. Mr. Maurice Jones is a success as Colonel Richard Leigh, and Mr. Alexander Haviland makes the most of the small part of the strange preacher. Miss Doris Brookes shows power and ability as Nan Leigh, and Miss Alice Ballard is good as Mrs. Leigh; Miss Katie Cameron infuses life into the part of Rosie Rapid.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Crowded houses have been the rule this week, matinées included, to witness Mr. Savile's ninth pantomime production in town. *The Sleeping Beauty* is running with delightful smoothness, the artists engaged combining to make it a thorough success. Miss Marie Adair, who plays the title-rôle so charmingly, puts all her heart and soul into her work. She is one of the best principal girls seen in Paisley. Miss Ethel Wilson makes an elegant Prince and has more than justified her selection. New business is constantly being introduced by the comedians. The Belinda Butterscotch of Mr. Willie Garvey is already popular, so humorous is it, and the talent and versatility of Mr. George Hestor in the part of Count Crankiwitz are fully appreciated. A prolific fun-maker is Mr. Peter D. Bermingham in his assumption of Jake M'Craw, and one regrets that the exigencies of the plot do not allow him to appear until the pantomime is half over. Miss Ettie Cinders as Ladida and Miss Annie Wright as Pipette work hard and are always to the front. Mr. Dan O'Connor as the King and Mr. Arthur Ferris as Prince Tommy score in their respective parts. Miss Alma Evelyne distinguishes herself as the Queen, and Miss Kitty Jones (Benevolentia) and Miss Florence Lister (Furiana) perform splendidly. Mr. Frank Sutherland as Truthful Tim maintains his reputation; he is also responsible for the stage management, and works with ability. It may be mentioend that the incantation, "Spring from the Earth," from Dr. Cowen's cantata, "Sleeping Beauty," is introduced by permission, and is given a fine rendering by Fairy Furiana and a local male chorus. The last scene, the Prince's Summer Palace, is a most gorgeous one, and is well worthy of special praise. It is enhanced by the chorus, who strikingly represent, in a triumph of the costumiers' art, different countries, designs which reflect the greatest credit on Mr. R. Crafter.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—The management has an excellent company engaged here this week. It includes Chevalier Cliquot, sword swallower; Alf Ripon, ventriloquist; Rex and Ford, comedians; Lottie Bray, comedienne, banjo, song, and dance artist; Shavo and Frank, comedy jugglers; James Horton, comedian; the Two Sages (Will and Jenny); and Ted Curtis and his Piccaninnies.

PENTRE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Roberts Jones.—This week Mr. Chas. H. Phelps' company is presenting *One Woman's Wickedness*, and the opening night attracted a large audience. The piece is full of interest and the songs and humour have an enlivening effect. Mr. Alf. Geo. Fry impersonates Philip Beaufort with vigour, his efforts being ably seconded by Miss Amy Dalby as Lillian Craggs; Jem Craggs is a well-studied part as presented by Mr. Chas. H. Phelps; Mr. Tommy D. Byron creates much laughter by his impersonation of Lord Algernon Fitznoodle; Mr. Frank Rogers as Sam is exceedingly good; and Miss Mamie Prescott earns praise for her vivacious acting as Jemmy Jiggles.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Miss Maggie Morton's company in the romantic drama, *The Temptress*, appeared here on Monday and Tuesday, under the personal direction of Mr. Fred K. Herman. Miss Roma Tremayne as Lady Fordyce, "the temptress," presented a powerful impersonation of the unscrupulous adventuress. Miss Madge Carrington played Marion Fordyce in a natural and unforced manner, whilst Madge Denbeigh, as portrayed by Miss Vera Meacham, was a weird conception of the distraught and much wronged wife of Lucas Denbeigh, the villain of the play, in which character Mr. J. Cook Hinton made the most of his opportunities, which won for him the hearty condemnation of pit and gallery, in itself a high compliment to the actor's ability. Mr. Otto Minster was manly as Phillip Welford, and Mr. F. K. Herman picturesque and clever in the character of the revengeful Pedro Gonzales. The comedy element was in the capable hands of Mr. F. Morton-Wright as Bob Tanner, Mr. C. V. Bern as Francis Fitz-Fluke, and Miss Olive Loftus Leyton as Rhoda, who, with Mr. Arthur Searle as John Gregory, were responsible for much hearty laughter. The incidental music by Mr. J. Rubinstein added to the completeness of the production.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is having a successful week here in *The Dandy Doctor*. Mr. Edmond Russell is successful in the rôle of Melchisadech Brown, the millionaire; and Miss Norah Melton follows close as Jane; Mr. James Danvers' Colonel Pendred is delightfully amusing; Mr. Stanley S. Gordon gives a good impersonation of Dr. Arthur Vandyke; and Mr. Leslie Martin is an admirable Bertie Bolingbroke; Miss May Yates is a favourite as Ivy Pendred, and Miss Dolly Payne is well suited in the rôle of Henson, the doctor's Buttons. The specialities introduced by Mr. James Danvers and Miss Marie Gerrard; the Dandy Belles; Mr. Ben Rowe and Miss Holden; and the Troupe of Dancers add much to the success of a very enjoyable performance.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* is going stronger than ever, new features introduced this week meeting with hearty approval. Messrs. Witty Wattie, Walton, Reginald Bolton, B. Couch-Johns, the Misses May Moore Duprez, Pattie Bella, Ethel Bryant, Elma Morris, Alice Lawrence, Lottie Mellor, Bessie Graves, Beatrice Jackson, and Myrtle Woodward are enacting, with considerable success, the principal parts.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—*Man to Man* is the attraction here this week, with Mr. Henry Renouf and Miss Beatrice Whitney in the leading rôles, assisted by an able company. Some good acting is provided by Mr. Renouf, who impersonates the hero in manly fashion; Miss Whitney's interpretation of the character, Gipsy Madge, is a clever and careful study marked by many good qualities; Mr. Gordon McLeod and Mr. Richard Bosco, as the villain and parson respectively, are realistic and convincing; and words of praise are also due to Mr. Green Taylor, Miss Lily Prescott, and Miss Irma Farington. The piece is well mounted.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—*Cinderella* continues, and deservedly so, to draw full houses, the production being generally regarded as the funniest and brightest of Mr. Carlton's series. Messrs. Jack Cromo, Alec Godfrey, Harley, Melton, R. J. Tate, H. Talbot, and F. D. Fraser, the Misses F. Watson, Edna Cragge, Amy Randolph, Edie Cameron, Eny Durell, Violet Duggan, and Lola de Marr enact the principal parts, and are scoring well.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—Rarely has a better programme been submitted here than that provided this week. The Alexandroff Troupe of Russians are clever dancers and singers; another important turn is that given by the Five Sisters Warwick, in graceful feats on bicycles; Austin and Cowan sing and act so well that they are nightly the recipients of encores; a very unique novelty, styled A-Ba-Be, and consisting of a living picture postcard album, is refined and pleasing to a degree, the young artist who poses being graceful and pretty; refinement and humour are associated with the répertoire of Rita and Roma, who sing and act in capital style; the Five Bon-Bons appear in a pantomime trap scene; and Fred Hallam and Harry Barker are popular comedians.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Mr. Arthur Carlton's company in *The Span of Life*. Richard Blunt is played with distinction by Mr. Sanderson Moffatt; Mr. S. Trelawney scores as Dunstan Leech; Nutty Brown is ably portrayed by Mr. Syd Sylvester; Joshua Gurnet is in the able hands of Mr. Edwin T. Kisby; the Brothers Stebbing are enthusiastically received; Mr. J. Petersfell as Aznek is a success; Miss Phyllis Hamilton displays power as Kate Heathcote; and Miss Harriet Russell and Miss Kitty Russell are admirable as Mrs. Jelf and Shrove Tuesday respectively.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—Miss Elaine Verner's company opened on Monday in *Saints and Sinners*. Mr. Harding Thomas appears as Jacob Fletcher and his acting is much appreciated. Miss Elaine Verner is all that could be desired as Letty Fletcher; Mr. John H. Hooker capably portrays George Kingsmill; Mr. Archibald McLean is good as Captain Eustace Fanshaw; Mr. George Lorena deserves credit as Uncle Bambury; Miss Atholie Robertson gives an excellent portrayal of Fanny Parridge; Miss Ada Clarke successfully takes the part of Lydia.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The bright musical play, *The Spring Chicken*, opened here on Monday, being presented by Mr. George Edwardes's company. Miss Gertrude Glyn played with archness and vivacity the mercenary Rosalie; Mrs. Girdle was in the capable hands of Miss Irene Verona, who made an excellent impression with the number, "I don't know, but I can guess"; Miss Rita Everard personated Madam Dulcie Babori in a bright and winning manner, her rendering of the melodious number, "Gently," being greatly admired; Baroness Papouche was cleverly taken by Miss Gertrude Gillian; Mr. George Gregory was exceedingly droll in the character of Mr. Girdle; Mr. S. W. Harris as Gustave Babori did admirable work; and Boniface was energetically acted by Mr. Donald Hall.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. B. Agate.—The pantomime *Cinderella* has undoubtedly caught on here. The ballet and transformation scene are most charming, and the shadow pantomime of the harlequinade is a joy to the juveniles. Pimples the Page, the Baron, and the two ugly sisters are personated by Messrs. Frank Dunlop, Dick Thomas, Sydney Benson, and W. G. Wesldy, who are unflagging in their energy, and work together with great success. The leading ladies, including Miss Adele Roze as Cinderella, Mdlle. de Rose as Prince Perfect, Miss Zena Sana as Dandini, Miss Rose Careezer as Fairy Sunbeam have become great favourites with the audiences. The Wednesday and Saturday matinées have been well attended.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary Mr. W. Pratt.—Heading the bill here are the Althoffs, in their riding act; Miss Louise and Herman give a clever and graceful exhibition of double jockey riding, which gives unbounded satisfaction; Dick Graham, who dubs himself a singer of sensible songs, has a capital greeting; the Four Jamels, with their musical entertainment, are successful; the Raymond Trio, instrumentalists and dancers, give a pleasing turn; Minnie Wren, versatile comedienne, meets with approval; Meiz and Mora, American speciality artists, have had a good reception. Other well received turns are Dora Lyric, comedienne; Sisters Arundelle, duettists and dancers; Bert Dansie, vocal comedian; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

PRESTON. — ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—Amy Anderson and company head the bill here this week in a realistic sketch, entitled *Scenes from London Life*, which is received with great favour; the Four Maisanos, who are here on a return visit, contribute a very enjoyable musical act; the Bounding Avolos gain loud applause for their clever acrobatic display; Drum and Major evoke hearty laughter with their smart patter; Olive Poole is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Bernard Noble, comedian, scores a success with his songs; Conway and Garland present an amusing sketch; and Frank Reade, entertainer, provides a good turn. Interesting bioscope pictures complete the programme.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Fred Granville's company is completing a fortnight's engagement here this week in *The Forty Thieves*, which is under the direction of Mr. Forsyth Bruce. Miss Cissie Kingsley as Abdallah is a distinct success, and Miss Lily Brammer as Morgiana makes a great hit. Mr. Walter Purvis is a mirth-provoking Ali Baba; Miss Gertie Douglas a charming Ganem; Mr. Forsyth Bruce as Cassim Baba shows a dramatic ability in his miser's scene; Mr. Leo Trainer as Cogem Baba keeps the house convulsed with laughter throughout the performance. Miss Madge Western as Fizzali well deserved the applause accorded to her; Miss Pattie Transfield brings down the house with her song, "My Irish Molly"; Mr. Gus Danby as Lieut. Fitz Hassarac materially helps the success; and great credit is due to Miss Ley Loftus as Zorilda. The celebrated Revell troupe submit a screaming farce, entitled *Mischief*. The Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin Arabs provide a marvellous display of tumbling. The costumes and scenery are charming, and the pantomime, under the direction of Mr. Bruce Forsyth, promises to be a huge success.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—This week Mr. Louis Calvert's principal London company is presenting *Sunday* here to appreciative audiences. Colonel Brinthorpe has an admirable representative in Mr. Leonard Pagden; Arthur Brinthorpe is effectively played by Mr. Cecil Duncan; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas gives a life-like impersonation of Tom Oxley; as the gruff but true-hearted Towzer, Mr. William Lockhart is thoroughly successful; the mildly self-important air of Davy is cleverly conveyed by Mr. Sydney Rennef; and Lively's touching devotion to Sunday, and Jacky's intense self-sacrificing love for her are strikingly shown by Mr. T. Norman Walter and Mr. Arthur Vezin respectively; Miss Juliet Hardinge is a lovable nun; Miss Rosalind Ross is seen to advantage as Mrs. Naresby; and unstinted praise may be accorded to Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay for her fascinating portrayal of Sunday. The play is well staged.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Miss Ethel Clayton and Mr. Gus Levaine are here with the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Maria Vesta, who undertakes Robin Hood, soon wins the hearty approval of the audience; Miss Jessie Lindsay as Maid Marion is a great success; Mr. Will Thorne and Mr. Alf. Dellas as Hip and Hop cause much amusement, and Mr. C. Bernardo fairly convulses the house with his eccentricities as Weary Willie; Mr. F. Foscoe being very good as Tired Tim. One of the mainstays of the fun is Mr. Bert Swan as Belinda; Mr. Harry Sully is a good Baron Blackheart, and the remainder of the cast is of appreciable assistance. Among the specialists are Bernardo and Travelli, Percy Victor's wonderful dog orchestra, the Ruby Quartette of lady dancers, Mons. Verlo, the chapeaugraphist; and Swan and Vesta in *The Captain and the Ship*, a clever and well-presented act.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Good business has been done here this week with Mr. Arthur Gibbons's well-staged and capably acted pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Janet Lawton is a dashing Prince Bountiful; Miss Nina Terri, a clever danseuse, makes a capital Maid Marion; the part of Red Riding Hood is played with pleasing grace by Miss Ruby Lester, a charming child actress; Miss Agnes Clarges sustains the part of Diamond (Fairy Queen) excellently; and the comedians, led by Mr. F. G. Banks as a very droll Johnny Stout, cause a lot of fun. They include Mr. C. Honey (Baron Badenough), Mr. D. Kelway (Dame Marjory), Mr. C. Ellis (Tommy Thin), and Messrs. W. Edgecombe and W. Edge (with the highly illuminating titles of Rates and Taxes). The Three French Idols dance smartly, and the Swift Trio do some clever things in the trick-cycling line. The pantomime closes with A Glimpse of Fairyland as the transformation scene.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Mr. Arthur Pilkington's fine pantomime company opened here with *Mother Goose* on Monday night to a delighted and crowded house. Miss Gracie Grahame makes a capital principal boy, Lubin, and acts and sings with great vivacity and charm. Her songs are well rendered and deservedly encored. Miss Mabel Austin is a charming Daisy, and Miss Georgie Hall a thoroughly acceptable Annabel. The Two Freans as Robert and Timothy are really fine knockabouts and keep the house in continual laughter, their boxing act being exceptionally comical. Mr. Ted Young as Mother Goose is also a great success, and scores well with his amusing song "Good-bye," which promises to be the favourite of the piece. Mr. Harry F. Wright as Billy also shows conspicuous ability, whilst Miss Dorothy Delamere and Miss Cissie Duvan are two charming village lads. Miss Marion de Verne as Benevolentia, the Queen of the Fairies, is a fascinating mistress of her four subjects, who are impersonated by Misses Kitty Ward, Nelly Dillon, Polly Keir, and Florrie Richardson. The Fairy Goose is ably acted by Mr. Harold Moxon, and Mr. Baxter Dillon, Mr. Paul Courtney, and Mr. T. H. Moxon are clever as Parchment, Squire Close, and Sergeant Long, respectively. The specialities include the Moxons in their clever performance as equilibrists and acrobats; Miss Bertha Hall in her special step and sand dance; the Shamrocks, who give a wonderfully neat acrobatic dance; and Mr. David Fuller, who as Avarice, the King of the Demons, is very good, and who introduces some exceptionally well-sung songs.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager. Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. George Dance's premier company in *The Duchess of Dantzic* is paying a welcome return visit. Miss May Glenn is highly successful as the Duchess, and Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths is deserving of praise as the Duke of Dantzic. Mr. Gilbert Yorke effectively portrays Napoleon I.; Mr. J H. Goldsworthy acts and sings well as the Vicomte de Bethune; Papillon is skilfully interpreted by Mr. Charles Adeson; Miss Maggie White scores heavily as Renee de Saint Mezard; and as the Empress Josephine Miss E. Derwent is seen to advantage. Special mention should be made of the full chorus and augmented orchestra under the musical director, Mr. Sydney Shaw.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. Charles W. Poole continues to draw crowded houses with his famous Myriorama. The Avondale Quartette of Vocalists, Leonard and Mac, Harry Stewart, Little Doretta, Miss Daisy Graham and Kitty Woodford's Canine Circus add to the pleasing entertainment.

REDHILL.—MARKET HALL.—Market Hall Co., Proprietors; Mr. A. Smith, Secretary and Manager. Mr. G. W. Bowes presents this week Mr. Arthur Hart's company in *My Lady Molly*, under the management of Messrs. Frank Nelson and Thomas McKenzie. The piece is appropriately staged, and the costumes are very handsome. Miss Reydon Dallas is most charming in the title-rôle, and Mr. George McCloskie is funny as Micky O'Dowd, a typical Irish bhoy.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hague.—Mr. James Kiddie presents his pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, here this week. It is sumptuously mounted and replete with rollicking fun. The titular rôle has a pleasing representative in Miss Bessie Willows; Miss Maggie Summerson is piquant as Alice, and vocalises with charming effect; Mr. Cyril Dundas does well as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. W. V. Vido impersonates the traditional cat with conspicuous ability; and Mr. Will Summerson is highly amusing as Idle Jack; and Mr. Victor Vernon makes up well as Aurelia Florence. A favourite here is Miss Florence Hilton, who makes a dashing and lively Sir Algernon de Mash; Messrs. Clifton and Gibson also deserve a good word as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry; Mr. Archie J. Milne, in the dual rôle of Rodento and Haln Ali Ben Booza, is prominent with some excellently rendered songs. Specialities are submitted by the Three Sisters Kilner, dancers; Curtis and Vanitz, in their cake walk; and La Belle Troupe of Parisian dancers.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—Pringle's North American Animated Picture Company continue a second week's engagement here with a change of programme. The New York Nippers, entertainers; Miss Eva Freece, comedienne; and the Lovelaces, song illustrators, contribute at intervals.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Dandies, drawing-room entertainers, submit a pleasing and refined turn; De Henan performs with his toes in astonishing manner; other turns are given by B. H. Almon, hand acrobat; Miss Ruby Bijou, vocalist and dancer; Mdlle. Aladina, with her performing cockatoos; Harry Hale, comedian; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Fred Melville and company are here this week with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Mr. Philip Darien is a manly Jack Merriman, and Mr. Leyton Cancellor is smart in the dual parts of Hubert and Francis Gold. Mr. Charles Barrett scores as Antonio Luchessi, and Mr. Allan Devonport is seen to advantage as Tom Redvers. Messrs. Stuart Roberts and Henry Williams are funny as Paolo and Fritz respectively, and Mr. T. Edlin is deserving of mention as Tubby Herrick. Mr. Frank Dennis gives a careful rendering of Dr. Carr, and Mr. William Wallace as Raggles is a typical hooligan. Miss Margaret Watson is effective as Morita; Miss Nellie Jackson deserves mention as Aggie Brown; Rose Courtnay is a capital part in the hands of Miss Agnes Denver; and Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle gives an effective embodiment of a difficult part.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross. — For the first three nights of this week Mr. E. Lockwood's company was presenting the comedy of *Sergeant Brue* to crowded houses. Mr. J. Harold Carson gave a clever and humorous rendition of the Sergeant; Mr. Frank Wilson was an excellent Michael Brue; and as Crookie Scrubbs Mr. Albert James scored an unqualified success. Mr. Fred Laceby was exceedingly clever as Mr. Crank; Mr. Harold Godwin did well as Inspector Gorringe; and Mr. Cecil Strickland as Matthew Habisham, Mr. Fred Spencer as Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Alex Johnston as Mr. Bay all did exceedingly well. Miss Elsie Molloy as Lady Bickenhall was charming in every way as actress, vocalist, and dancer; Miss Gertie Fawcett as Aurora Brue was fascinating; and as Daisy Miss Amy Vivash was quite a success. The songs and choruses were well and effectively rendered, and the company throughout was excellent. For the last three nights of the week a high-class variety company was to appear.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—An excellent variety entertainment is here this week. At the head of the bill is Mr. Dock Watson, a quaint negro comedian, with patter and songs. The Three Sisters Linde are taking coon vocalits and acrobatic dancers; Miss Nellie Shannon, vocalist, is well received; Miss Sylvia Bond chooses good songs; Miss Nellie Stuart is a comedienne of merit; and the Harveys are interesting acrobats. Clark's cinematograph, with new and up-to-date pictures, is also an attraction.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager. Mr. Harold Goulden.—Messrs. Charles Carey and Alexander Loftus's pantomime *Cinderella* opened here on Monday evening. Miss Florence Godfrey, who dances and sings well, became immediately a favourite as Cinderella; Mr. James Grant as Baron Bounder, works hard; Mr. Joseph B. Montague, is a comical Peter the page; Messrs. Nash and Noel as the Broker's Men, cause roars of laughter; Sister Jane and Sister Charlotte are well presented by Mr. Norman Bowyer; and Mr. W. E. Crewd; Prince Charming and Dandini are respectively played by Miss Ernestine Walters and Miss Maud Terry with charming vivacity; Mr. Leslie Austin as the Demon is much applauded for his songs; Miss Hilda Blanche as the Fairy Godmother, and Miss Emily Preston as Electra are well placed; some pleasing dancing is done by Miss Madge Lacey and Mr. Frank Melford; Miss Maud Nicholls, as Lord Gadfly; Miss Winnie Preston as Percy Loose Cash; Miss Louie Carl as Beaugelais; Miss Jane Verner as Caramel, and Miss Amy Preston as Lady Mildred, also contribute to the success of the production. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers are very good.

REGENT OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary. Mr. J. C. Patterson. *The Power of Gold* attracted a good house on Monday, when Mr. Frank Ayrton's No. 1 company appeared in that exciting drama. Lady Brandon is efficiently presented by Miss Lilla Wilde. Mr. Frank Ayrton as Sammy Sunridge, and Miss Madge Seymour as Norah Donnelly, keep the house in excellent humour with their songs, dances, and comedy business; Mr. Chas. Whitlock as Hedgi Zambra; Mr. T. Ronald as Paul Judson, Miss Isabel Singleton as Meg Judson, and Mr. Albert Selfton as Mark Harley give adequate support.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Crowded audiences are enjoying the liberal fare contributed by the following:—Cora Duncan and Albert Brasque in the sketch *A Dressing Room Romance*; Marie Santoi and her Japs in a clever comic opera scena; Hudson-Powell, pantomimists in the acrobatic absurdity. *The Young Recruit;* Levarni, on the slack and tight wire; Edie Anderson, comedienne and dancer; Fielding and Hull, refined vocal entertainers; Harry Atkinson, musical instrument mimic; Max Trevally Harley Troupe, clever trampolin acrobats; Mayon and Marle in an amusing sketch; and the Bioscope pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Twice nightly, Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime *Cinderella* is presented before good houses. The title rôle is charmingly played by Miss Mamie Iris, Prince Perfect is well embodied by Miss Daisy Morrell, and Miss Madge Allen is a pleasing Dandini; Mr. Will Letters is an excellent Buttons, and with Messrs. Harris and Worth as the broker's men the house is kept in roars; the sisters are in the capable hands of Mr. Johnny Worman, and Mr. Billy Keene and Baron Bunker is well placed with Mr. Charles Russell; H. A. Jordison's eight juvenile vocalists and dancers, are very good.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—The annual visit of Mr. J. A. Thomson's pantomime company in *Dick Whittington* is very pleasing to local playgoers. Miss Ida Kessanby makes a sprightly Dick; and Miss Ella Willmer is a bright and vivacious Alice Fitzwarren, her picturesque dancing being a striking feature of the performances. The Sisters English appear in acrobatic dances; and the fun of the piece is maintained at a high level throughout the entertainment by Mr. Ross Warren (Ald. Fitzwarren), Mr. Edwin Doods (Idle Jack), Mr. Fred Anderson (Pimple), and Mr. Harry Harcourt (Fitzwarren's cook). The Vanetta troupe, including Misses Edna Evelyn, Sylvia Spires, Lillie Bevington, Ivy Clowser, and Emmy King, perform clever dances; Miss Ella Rose sings charmingly; and a musical turn is given by the Morrellis. Mdlle. Florence continues to attract much attention by her well-known performance on a rolling globe.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company proves a strong attraction here this week with the popular musical comedy, *San Toy*. Captain Bobby Preston is well embodied by Mr. Howard V. Crafton; and Sir Bingo Preston is capably represented by Mr. Harry Turner. Mr. Edward G. Hall is well suited as Yen How; and Mr. George Partie causes much fun by his presentment of the Emperor. Mr. Harold Cotter submits a clever rendering of Sing Hi; and Mr. Clifford Seyler gives every satisfaction as Li. Miss Madge Hamilton deserves credit for a spirited delineation of Poppy; and Miss Maud Lucy is capital as Dudley. Miss Ethel Switchen proves herself a clever dancer as Rose Tucker; and Miss Nina Osborne is vivacious and artistic as San Toy.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—The pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, presented by Messrs. Monti and Firth, had a hearty reception on Monday. Mr. Harry Firth is responsible for the libretto, and the music is arranged by Mr. J. E. Machin. Robin Hood is prettily played by Miss Florrie Bray, a capital vocalist; Miss Ada Clare is a charming Maid Marion; Miss Lilian Player, the fairy, sings her allotted numbers with much taste; the Babes are delightfully played by the Misses Lily and Maudie Cleave; the Belinda of Mr. Dan Idle is one of the most amusing studies in the pantomime; Mr. Fred Monti as Simple Simon is also responsible for a large amount of mirth; the Brothers Luxmore as Weary Willie and Tired Tim are first-rate comedians; and Mr. Arthur Allen gives capital help in the comical part of the Baron. Very pleasing and effective are the specialities introduced. The Four Sisters Godfrey are smart acrobatic dancers; the Two Ascotts win hearty approval in their exhibition of baton swinging; and in a scena, *The Captain and the Mate*, the Izons are very successful.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—A programme of unusual interest is submitted here this week. Dante Bentley and Elion are much appreciated for their excellent contributions; the Sisters Selwyn, duettists and dancers, are also cordially received; Ted Saunders is an excellent character comedian; Jenny Belmore, comedienne, sings with pleasing effect; Fred Wright, eccentric comedian, and Maud Garland, also successfully contribute; the Bioscope pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* include some excellent pictures.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—A capital variety programme here comprises the Arundel Combination in the comedy act, *Mistaken Identity*; also Mr. Eugene Brant, comedian; Miss Lettie Young, burlesque actress; Mr. Fred Arnold, descriptive vocalist; Miss Lillie Thomas, comedienne and dancer; and Mr. Charlie Howard, comedian.

SHEFFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—The pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood* continues to be played nightly.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—On Monday a large audience again received with intense interest the thrilling play *Sherlock Holmes*, effectively mounted, and acted with distinction by Mr. Harry Yorke's company. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton admirably realised the fascinating character of Holmes, and the genial Dr. Watson had a very pleasing representative in Mr. Edward Heanley. Mr. W. F. Sterling was good as the "Napoleon of Crime," Dr. Moriarty; Mr. Charles Chaplin was amusing as Billy; Miss Gertrude Harrison made a good-looking and clever Madge Larribee; and the Alice Faulkner of Miss Beatrice Marsden was a tender and sympathetic performance.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The Sheffield "Home of Pantomime" has scored its thirty-eighth consecutive triumph, thanks to brilliant spectacle and the efforts of a good all-round company. Mr. Harry Pleon, the diverting Pimples; Mr. Fred Biron, the unctuous Baron; Messrs. Walter Dale and Jack McKenzie, the comical ugly sisters; the Brothers Lavelle, the agile and diverting comedy acrobats; Miss Celia Kent, the charming, graceful, and vivacious Cinderella; Miss Alice Townend, the tuneful Fairy Queen; Mr. Edward Ind, the Demon Malicio; and Miss Alma Obrey, the prepossessing and smart Prince Perfect, are all great favourites.

comedienne. The Chas. Urban Pictures maintain their popularity, and other items are contributed by Edie Veno, comedienne, Four Ramblers, whirling comedians, Harry Thurston, mimic, and Edie King, comedienne and dancer.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—The attraction here this week is Ben Hur, athlete, who receives an oration. Madame Louie succeeds in mystifying the audience, and a like remark may also apply to Satsuma, the Oriental Jap entertainer. The two Romas are sucessful in their vocal scena "Comrades in Arms," and Willis Walton, musical entertainer is popular; Will Bell, Irish comedian and dancer; Elsie May, child descriptive vocalist; and Payne's Bioscope in an interesting film "Esmeralda" are other attractions.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the St. Helen's Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—The musical comedy *The Girl from Japan*, under the direction of Mr. Martin Morris is here this week, the principals being Miss Madge Kerridge (Polly), Miss Dorothy Glenson (Violet), Miss Josephine Ellis (Maud), and Messrs. G. Hudson (Allenbury), C. Ludlow (Bingle), Ernest Spadling (Rev. John Smith), Percy Baverstock (General Baugh), C. Lupton (Flippington), &c. The augmented orchestra and chorus, under the bâton of Mr. W. Eveleigh, give an excellent account of themselves, and the piece is well staged.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Heading the bill here are Mr. C. Wordley Hulse and company in a thrilling sketch entitled *The Fight in the Forge*. Billy Williams scores well with his funny songs; the Belmount Troupe are exceptionally clever trick and motor cyclists; the Elektrones excel as comedy cyclists; Harry Hayton is successful as an eccentric comedian; Ray and Calden are comedians of no mean order; Decima is a talented instrumentalist; and Sheila McNeil gives a good turn as a Scotch comedienne.

ST. LEONARDS. — PIER PAVILION. — Pier Master and Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—At the Kursaal this week Mr. Val Marriott is introducing Miss Marjorie Gummerson, the popular society entertainer. This talented lady appears at every orchestral concert.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—There has been no mistaking the remarkable success of Mr. Charles Chard's pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* here this week, large audiences having been attracted and heartily amused by an exceptionally clever combination of artists. Mr. Charles Chard as Sammy Sopps stands out prominently as a comedian of the first order, his amusing antics keeping the audience in continuous laughter; Mr. Sidney Dean makes an excellent Dame Freckles, his saying, "Is my face red," causing abundant mirth; Messrs. Keith and Merson as the Dame's sons, and Messrs. Selby and Myers as the Baron's servants, contribute their fair share of the fun, along with Mr. Edwin Ramsdale as Baron Grab, and Wee Langton as Simple Simon; Miss Chummie La Mara is a pleasing principal boy Roland; and as the heroine, Miss Annie Casey sings and dances with marked success; the Sisters St. Julian as Dolly Dimple and Peter Piper are an entertaining pair; Miss Hawthorne Thwaites is a charming fairy Benevolentia; and Miss Julia Fuller wins approval as Mephisto.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Ada Fawn, comedienne, heads the bill here this week, and at once established herself a favourite; Mdlle. Marville's cockatoos gave a pleasing entertainment; and Renson and Waite, duettists, were highly successful. The delightful vocalism of Maud Clifton was a special feature, commanding well-deserved appreciation; whilst Abdy's dog circus; Geo, Bendon, the white coon; Gertrella, in a dancing and gymnastic act; and Minnie Dorina, vocalist and dancing drummer, added their share to the evening's entertainment.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. Eade Montefiore's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is doing well here. Mr. Fred Lincoln's Baron Hardup is quaint; Mr. Arthur Byron and Mr. Geo. Antley, as the ugly sisters, are very laughable; as Peter, Mr. Geo. Rydon is clever; and Messrs. Conan and Doyle, as Nabem and Nailem, are responsible for the bulk of the fun. Miss Margaret Lumsden's Dandini is played briskly, and her dancing is a success. Miss Georgina Leonard sings and acts well as the Prince; and Miss Nellie Merton, in the title-rôle, also scores. Special dances are given by the Four Fiori de Montes; and Miss Vera Schlesinger, as the Fairy Godmother, sings in an artistic manner.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty. — The clever Max-Wesslys troupe of jugglers is the leading turn here. George and Edwards, comics; James Singleton, singing collier; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comic; Smith and Johnson, coloured duo; Griffin and Judge, eccentrics; Theo. Bowmeester, protean character actor, in *Who is Guilty?*; and Payne's pictures complete the bill.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. G. and R. A. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—A big show here is headed by Dr. Carl Herman, in his scientific and laughable electrical séance; there are also the Fordyces, vocalists, &c.; Will Onda and company, in a sketch entitled *Servants Wanted;* Andy Fagan, comic; Lena Manon, serio; the Three Bostonians, in song and dance; Edwin Brett and Emmeline Orford, in the sketch, *The Two Lovebirds;* the Brothers Rain, acrobatic comics; and the Pictoscope.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—The success of Mr. Machin and Mr. Elliston's *Cinderella* is now more than assured, crowded houses at every performance being the rule. The principals have settled down to their business, every one working with a will that operates towards the general success of the whole. Miss Lola Patey, in the title-rôle, is a popular favourite; whilst Miss Madoline Rees, the handsome Prince Florizel, also enjoys the full favour of the house. Mdlle. De Velin (the Fairy Progress) is a source of great attraction; and Miss Winnie Miriam makes a saucy and piquant Dandido. Mr. Charles King and Miss Gillie Benson's clever specialities continue to be quite a feature. Mr. Shaun Glenville's Baron is as racy as ever; and Mr. W. T. Thompson's impersonation of Buttons is most amusing. Mr. George Goodfellow and Miss Jennie Gregson's Ugly Sisters create plenty of laughs. The Wedburns, as the broker's men, and Silly Billy Elliott add their quota to the success; whilst Mr. Geo. Belrose continues to score together with Mdlle. De Velin, as vocalists.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—A somewhat new departure is made here by the appearance of Mr. Henry Swinerd's musical comedy drama, *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, with a result that has proved highly satisfactory. Miss Dorothy Desmonde fills the title-rôle with plenty of dash and vigour, mingled with the necessary pathos; Miss Nellie Harcourt submits a smart rendering of Judith, and dances very cleverly; Miss Nellie Anderson and Miss Mabel Blake have a mirror dance that proves acceptable; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is equal to the demands of George Fielding; and Mr. Henry C. Wood is successful in the rôle of Edward Dudley. Much of the success of the piece is due to the drolleries of Mr. Arthur Verne, who, as Silas Crump, fairly convulses his audiences. Miss Nora Caronne makes a handsome Ruth Montrose; Mr. Frank Howard is well placed as Featherstone Haugh; and Messrs. W. G. Hearson and Alf Stretton are good as Smith and Hawkins respectively. Mr. Walter Boyce enacts the part of General Gunston in the first act.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—An exceedingly strong programme is submitted here this week, and is headed by Staley's "Transformation Company," whose quick change of costumes and scenes is really smart. The Two Kays, excellent vocalists and graceful dancers, obtain a flattering reception; Helene and Emilon are bar and acrobatic performers of unusual ability; Cissie Sullivan, clog and expert dancer, gets quite an ovation for her smart contribution; Arthur Croxon is amusing with his imitation of a village concert; the Sisters Oswald are a couple of bright duettists and dancers; John Briston and Partner, tramp cyclists; and Hamilton Hill, baritone vocalist, are also good in their respective turns. Vernon's animated pictures are kept up to date.

(*Continued on page 27.*)

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS AMY GRACE (MRS. LEONARD RAYNE).

Miss Amy Grace, although starting her theatrical career in England, retired shortly afterwards to South Africa, where she made a success, and won renown as one of South Africa's favourite comediennes. Miss Grace has had a thorough training in that best of all schools—the plays of Shakespeare. She began as a pupil with Mr. Tearle, her first part being that of the Duke of York in *Richard the Third*. After a few months she was entrusted with Virginia, *Virginius;* Lucius, *Julius Cæsar;* the Player Queen, *Hamlet;* and one of the witches in *Macbeth*. Then came the first of Miss Grace's visits to South Africa, being engaged by Mr. W. J. Holloway for his Shakespearean tour there. She played similar parts to those she played with Mr. Tearle.

Returning to England, Miss Grace accepted an engagement with Miss Maude Thompson for a stock season on St. Leonards Pier, playing Lavender, *Sweet Lavender;* Violet, *A Bunch of Violets;* Primrose, *A Prude's Progress;* Dorinda, *The Money Spinner;* &c.

A second visit to Africa followed, under the management of the late Mr. Frank De Jong, Miss Grace playing Wally, *The Two Little Vagabonds;* Sam Willoughby, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man;* Polly Eccles, *Caste;* Nancy, *The Middleman;* the title-rôle in *Betsy;* Louise, *Two Orphans;* &c. Returning to England for a few months, Miss Grace again visited Africa under the management of Messrs. Rayne and Paumier. Her repertory consisted of Constance, *The Three Musketeers;* Virginia, *Virginius* (the late Osmonde Tearle playing the title-rôle); Shrove Tuesday, *The Span of Life;* Shakespeare Jarvis, *The Lights o' London;* Maria, *The School for Scandal,* &c.

Photo by Middlebrook.

MISS AMY GRACE.

Since then Miss Grace has had four tours in Africa, being there throughout the Boer War. Just after the siege in Kimberley Miss Grace was the guest of a supper party given in her honour by some Australian officers. After supper a speech was made by one of the officers, thanking her for the pleasure she had given them by her acting during their stay in Kimberley, and he presented her with a gold-mounted purse and watch, the purse bearing the inscription in gold, "Australians." At the termination of the Boer War Miss Grace was asked to sit for a picture representing "Peace," which was circulated throughout South Africa.

Although applying herself more particularly to comedy characters, Miss Grace is by no means a "one-part" actress. She plays ingenues and "Boys," one of her chief successes being Wally. In vivid contrast to the foregoing, she has played with success Aurora in Mark Ambient's farcical comedy, *Oh, Susannah!* and Belinda in *Our Boys*. Her métier, however, does not rest there only, for she has played Dulcie Larondie, *The Masqueraders* (Mrs. Patrick Campbell's part); Nell Gwynne (Marie Tempest's part); Jane (Lottie Venne's part), Dorcas Gentle, *Prodigal Daughter* (Fanny Brough's part), which Miss Grace had the pleasure of playing with Mr. Harry Nicholls, the original Lord Banbury; Jack, *Jack in the Box* (Fanny Leslie's part); title-rôle in *Little Jim;* Cigarette, *Under Two Flags;* and Minnie, *A Message from Mars.*

Miss Grace was presented in Durban with a cake for being the most versatile actress that had ever visited South Africa. Although having made many friends there, and intending to return to the scenes of her labours, Miss Grace loves her Motherland, and hopes to become as big a favourite here (where she intends staying for a while) as she is there.

Miss Grace's favourite pastime is needlework and riding, and her hobby is acting.

A MANAGER'S WEDDING GIFT.

A second public presentation has been made to Mr. Percy M. Dunsford, the popular acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Exeter, who has received a handsome wedding gift from the directors, theatre staff, and several friends. The presentation was made at the conclusion of the afternoon performance on the 4th inst.; the offering consisting of a handsome dining-room suite, together with a silver tea-pot, sugar basin, and cream jug, and an illuminated scroll containing the names of over 120 persons. The silver tea-pot bore the following inscription:—"Presented with a suite of furniture to Mr. Percy M. Dunsford, acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Exeter, on his marriage, 19th December, 1905."

Dr. E. J. Domville, J.P., the chairman of the Theatre Royal Company, who made the presentation at the theatre in the presence of other directors and friends, said they were all glad to have that opportunity of bearing testimony to the good qualities of Mr. Dunsford. Those who had been associated with him for the past eight years knew his worth. He had worked hard and zealously. He (the speaker) wished Mr. Dunsford and his wife health and happiness in their married life.—Mr. Dunsford, in acknowledging the presentation, said he had, during his eight years of work in the theatre, had the cordial co-operation of all the directors and staff, and from the public of Exeter he had received nothing but kindness. He was proud to say that they had at the theatre one of the best staffs that any manager could wish to have under him.

MR. ROBERT BAYNE, late of the Tivoli, Glasgow, has been appointed by Mr. R. C. Buchanan, managing-director of Scotland's Provincial Theatres, as acting-manager of the New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE COUP D'AILE."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. F. de Curel,
Produced at the Théâtre Antoine on Jan. 10.

Michel	M. ANTOINE
Bernard	M. SIGNORET
Colonel Héronard	M. MOSNIER
Le Porte-drapeau	M. DAMORES
Hélène	MDLLE. VAN DOREN
Clotilde	MDLLE. GRUMBACH
Amélie	MDLLE. DE VILLERS
Madame Mathilde	MADAME GABRIELLE FLEURY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 11.—M. de Curel, the talented author of *Les Fossiles*, has given us wherein he does not express his ideas very clearly. Possibly he wants to illustrate the dangers of the thirst for glory, a thirst that may even lead to crime. Michel is a brilliant soldier. Sent with his regiment to Africa, he has captured a large piece of territory, and has become the hero of the hour. When, however, another officer is sent to take possession of that territory, Michel rebels. He commands the blacks to fire on the flag of his country, and shoots the Colonel who wants to arrest him. His own subjects then rise in arms against him; he is made a prisoner, and is believed to have been killed. But he is not dead. For twenty years he has lived in England under an assumed name, and only his brother Bernard, an influential member of the French Parliament, knows about this. One day Michel appears before the astounded Bernard. Michel is sick of the idle life he is leading, and wants to embark in another military exploit, for which his brother's help is necessary. Bernard flatly refuses his assistance, for he fears complications that may mar his own prospects. In his young days Michel seduced a girl, who gave birth to a girl, after which he deserted her. Bernard took charge of the child, Hélène, and had her brought up in a convent, without ever telling her the name of her father. Hélène, now twenty years of age, has retained only one recollection of her childhood, that of her mother cursing on her deathbed the man who deserted her; and Hélène has inherited her mother's hatred for her unknown father. But she has also inherited her father's violent temperament, and when these two people meet we assist at a fearful scene, wherein Hélène overwhelms Michel with reproaches mingled with curses. Then Michel's temper is roused. He seizes the girl roughly, throws her down, and forces her to ask his forgiveness for the insults she hurled at him. And these two untamed creatures then go away together towards an unknown future. The task of impersonating these extraordinary characters rested with M. Antoine and Mdlle. Van Doren, both admirable in these difficult rôles. In M. Antoine's hands Michel became terribly realistic, and Mdlle. Van Doren scored the same success as in *Les Oiseaux de Passage*, when she revealed herself an artist of a high standard. M. Signoret made the most of the ungrateful part of Bernard, and the other rôles were also well sustained.

THE Théâtre Trianon gave us *La bonne Affaire*, three-act comedy-bouffe by M. Henri Gréjois. It is a poor production. Raphael, a youth about town, has squandered his fortune, and all there remains of the millions he once possessed is an annuity of forty thousand francs. He then goes to a rich money-lender called Baudruc, who has a pretty daughter, and obtains the father's consent to marry the girl. But Raphael is in immediate want of money, and as old Baudruc refuses to advance him any, Raphael proposes to him to let him have his life annuity for a lump sum of one hundred thousand francs. Baudruc, of course, accepts. But once the document is signed, he informs Raphael that his engagement to his daughter is at an end. Poor Raphael, who has already given these one hundred thousand francs to his mistress, Cydalise, is now totally ruined, and threatens to throw himself in the Seine. This frightens the wily Baudruc; for, if Raphael commits suicide, the life policy he purchased becomes valueless. He therefore tries to prevent Raphael from carrying out his threat; and then follows an imbroglio so bewildering that we lose sight of the plot, and the end of the story remains a mystery. It was fairly well acted by M. Villot, M. Nemo, and Madame Jeanne Leriche.

THREE new plays have been brought out at the Théâtre Royal, the smart little playhouse opened only a few weeks ago. The first was a two-act comedy by M. Edmond Guiraud. It bears the title of *Le Gardien du Square*, and shows us a trio of Parisians spending their holidays in small watering-places. This trio is composed of Michel; his mistress, Lucienne; and Paul, their friend. Paul and Lucienne are in love with one another; but it is a platonic affair, for neither of them cares to deceive that excellent and trusting Michel. Paul even keeps a sort of guard on the lady, frightening away those who want to poach on his friend's domain, for which Lucienne has christened him the "Gardien du Square." But Michel hits upon the idea of marrying Lucienne; and from that moment everything changes. Michel will "only" be the husband, and Lucienne's position being no longer insecure, she can, as she thinks, dispose of her heart and time as she pleases. He (Paul) will no longer have to keep guard over the lady; and, in his turn, he will become a poacher. This somewhat pretentious, but witty, piece was admirably played by Madame Mégard—the wife of that excellent actor, M. Gémier—who has improved wonderfully of late, by Mdlle. Leduc, and MM. Paulet, Rambert, and Dufleuve.

THE second piece, *Le Péril Jaune*, by M. Carolus Brio, shows us the groundless fear of a husband who surprises his wife, Arlette, in an elegant négligé with an unknown gentleman. But everything is satisfactorily explained. When Arlette married Jacques she had dyed her hair a golden hue; and, as she never had the courage to tell her husband of this little deceit, she was compelled to continue the treatment to her hair, and the gentleman whom her husband saw was only the hairdresser.

AT the Gaîté *Serge Panine* has been successfully revived, with Madame Jeanne Hading in the rôle of Madame Desvarennes, created in 1883 by Madame Pasca. Madame Hading in the rôle of a mother was something novel; and it seemed strange to hear Mdlle. Blanche Toutain address her as "Maman." Madame Hading, in fact, looks too young for the rôle, especially as she did not try very hard to age herself. A slight extra touch of powder on the temples, and the trick was done. The great actress played the part splendidly, and she was well supported by an able cast.

I AM sorry to have to chronicle the death of M. Edouard Blau, the well-known dramatic author. He wrote a large number of librettos, and became specially known by his *Rédemption*, the symphonic poem set to music by César Franck.

M. CATULLE MENDES is anxious to contradict the statement that he is a candidate for the post of manager of the Odéon.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your last edition of the *Era* your Nuneaton correspondent made an error in his criticism of the performance at the Prince of Wales's, Nuneaton, of *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, when he wrote "Mr. H. C. Ward plays Captain Fielding, and sings several good songs; and Mr. C. W. Parke ably portrays the villain." I have played the part of Captain Fielding (the baritone part) for close on 500 consecutive nights, and Mr. H. C. Ward represents Captain Dudley the villain, a part he has played over 1000 times. I enclose a programme, by which you will see the error is your correspondent's.—Yours faithfully, CECIL W. PARKE. —Theatre Royal, Sunderland, Jan. 9.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS DORA GRAY.

One of our rising young actresses is Mrs. Lewis Waller's cousin, Miss Dora Gray, and as ambitious as she is clever, which is saying a good deal, and, gifted as she is with an expressive face, flexible voice, and a reserve of power which her slight physique hardly leads one to expect, her ambition should be justified. Miss Gray started her professional career in stock work, and was then engaged by Mr. Arthur Collins for Louisa Jupp in *The Great Ruby*, at the same time understudying Mrs. Raleigh at Mr. Cecil Raleigh's special request; thence to comedy with Mr. Arthur Roberts, and back again to drama at the Princess's, where she won golden opinions for her Josephs in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, with Mr. Charles Warner. After this Miss Gray returned to comedy, and toured for some time with *The Private Secretary*, in which she was the Edith Marsland, and the young actress also made a great hit as Nan in *Good for Nothing*. A short tour as Esther in *Caste* came next, followed by *His Fatal Beauty*, in which she scored in a very forcible melodramatic sketch, specially written for her by Mr. H. Chance Newton. Her next rôle was Jane, in the comedy of that name, which she played a great number of times. Giving up touring for awhile, Miss Gray was the Frieda and understudy at the New Theatre, but the part gave her no outlet to her undoubted talent—to quote her own words, she "felt caged up."

In *The Wife and the Woman*, Mr. Tom Craven's drama, produced at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, on Nov. 20, Miss Gray appeared in the difficult part of Helen Fulcraft, and played it so well as to enlist the full sympathies of the audience.

When she gets her chance in town we venture to predict that Dora Gray will be as great a favourite with Londoners as she is in the provinces, for a young actress who can move an audience to laughter or tears or thrill them with passion, and one who also has an earnest

[Photo by Yates.

MISS DORA GRAY.

love of her art and an insatiable desire to work, should be heard of very prominently in the near future.

MR. IAN MACLAREN'S Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire company is rehearsing at Kendal, Westmorland, and starts a provincial tour at Lancaster on Feb. 15. The author of *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* has chosen, in Miss Florence Glossop Harris, a very promising young actress for the parts of Portia, Rosalind, and Desdemona. She is also cast for the Queen in *Hamlet* and Milady in *The Three Musketeers*, but it is not the first time Miss Harris has had an opportunity to display her versatility, having made her début in Mrs. Gunn's répertoire company three years ago. Daughter of the late Sir Augustus Harris, her keen interest in the stage and knowledge of the necessity of hard work have been rewarded by one engagement following another in quick succession. Last autumn she joined, with her stepfather, Mr. Edward Terry, making a hit in a succession of girls' parts.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your report of *Sinbad the Sailor* at the New Century Theatre, Motherwell, you mention Harvey Diamond as Dame. It should have been, Yours faithfully, JOHN E. WEST.—King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, N.B., Jan. 10.

THE MUSICAL YEAR.

Although great activity has characterised the musical year, it can hardly be said that it has been remarkable for novelties. The old cry of a National Opera has been raised, but without substantial result. When Mr. Manners attempted to awaken enthusiasm by his heroic endeavours to establish English opera, and sank a small fortune at Drury Lane, producing fine works in a style worthy of any opera house, what support did he meet with? Nor do we believe that the English musical amateur cares a fig about the opera of his own country. Meanwhile, the opera-lover has not gone without substantial fare. The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, has provided works and performances not to be surpassed in Europe, beginning with a representation of Wagner's *Nibelungen Ring*, under Dr. Richter, which it may safely be said no Continental establishment ever equalled. Then followed a series of works of the French and Italian school, the season winding up with the welcome visit of the San Carlo company. The season has been deservedly successful, the end portion being chiefly devoted to Verdi and Puccini, the latter composer having appeared in London, where he was much fêted, being also received by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. Several of his operas met with an enthusiastic greeting, *La Bohème* being supported by Madame Melba. But the surprise of the season was the warmth with which *Madama Butterfly* was greeted. Some of the principal artists won fresh laurels—for example, the new tenor, Signor Zenatello, who has a charming voice and a good style, and who will, we feel convinced, do himself greater justice next year. The return of Signor Battistini, a once-famous baritone, after an absence of thirty years, and the reappearance of Signor Sammarco, Madame Giachetti, and Madame Cisneros, of the San Carlo company, were events of interest, and other newcomers were favourably received.

The Waldorf Theatre also made a plucky attempt to produce Italian opera of the lighter school. With great wisdom, grand opera was, as a rule, avoided, and such works as *Don Pasquale*, *Il Barbière*, &c., were given with much effect.

Many amateurs will regret that St. James's Hall has vanished. After being the home of the Monday Popular Concerts for forty years, these famous concerts had to be discontinued. Much other fine music, and a host of eminent performers, was heard at St. James's Hall. But we hear that a celebrated publisher intends to erect a new hall next year near the Oxford Circus; meanwhile, the smaller halls are doing well.

Our great teaching institutions have sustained their reputations. The Royal Academy of Music has never shone more successfully than during the past year, and its occasional operatic performances have revealed a wealth of native talent, which, under the admirable guidance of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, must prove of the utmost value in the event of English operas ever gaining a firmer footing in London. By the way, an old pupil of the Royal Academy, Mdlle. Bauermeister, after forty years' service at the Royal Opera, took her farewell. The Royal College of Music worthily held its place beside the Royal Academy, and the Guildhall School continues to prosper under the able guidance of Dr. Cummings.

It seems whimsical to mix music with a General Election, but our pianoforte manufacturers are hoping if Tariff Reform gains the day, to benefit by the tax on foreign pianos, many of them being extremely bad in quality of tone, and defective in construction. The really good instruments will continue to win appreciation, while our own makers, among the best in Europe, will stand a better chance of making a profit.

A musical experiment of a daring kind has been made by the Carl Rosa Opera Company in producing an English version of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, and we learn that it has had a favourable reception in the provinces, where music is cultivated generally with good results. The provincial festivals last year were extremely good. The appointment of Mr. W. Hedgcock at the Crystal Palace as successor to Sir A. Manns is a satisfactory engagement.

The Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall merit more than ordinary commendation. Important works which in past days would have been drowned with hisses and clamour, were listened to with the utmost admiration, and the great advance made by Mr. Henry Wood is universally recognised. That gentleman must certainly be considered one of the great conductors of Europe.

Dr. Joachim paid two visits to London, and Bechstein Hall was well filled with his admirers. The exceptional length of life reached by Signor Manuel Garcia was celebrated with special honours from Royalty and the profession. The music halls must be congratulated on the improvement on the quality of their performances, and they have been supported by eminent vocalists. As we have said, the prospects of music are bright for the future.

THROUGH an error in the programme the name of Mr. Walter Edge was substituted for that of Mr. Chas. D. Wright, who was responsible for a clever and amusing impersonation of Rats in *Red Riding Hood* pantomime at Dover.

Think This Over—

That's All.

YOU would be perfectly astonished if you were made aware of the many thousands of pounds absolutely thrown away from year to year upon so-called curatives that are foisted upon a public only too willing to believe the specious arguments laid before them.

The replenishing of the system from the wasting of tissues which is going on every day can only be accomplished by the proper assimilation of food.

It **cannot** be done with medicine. It can, however, be accomplished with a perfect, flesh-forming, palatable, and agreeable Food Beverage. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is such a Food Beverage, possessing as it does wonderful nourishing, strengthening, and stimulative powers, unsurpassed by any Food Beverage. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is **not** a medicine. It does simply what it is claimed to do, and its strengthening powers are being recognised to an extent hitherto unknown in the history of any preparation.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"CINDERELLA" at BRIXTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Photographs of overflowing houses which adorn the vestibules of the handsome theatre at Brixton remain as a lasting memorial of the attractiveness of the annual which the united efforts of Mr. Ernest Stevens and Mr. R. C. Buchanan have produced. The pantomime is designed in the first place to delight the children, but many are the adults who have found enjoyment in the splendid stage pictures, the tuneful music, and the fresh and pungent comedy contained in the piece, and Mr. J. Murray Herriot, the able manager of the theatre, has rejoiced in turning "money" away at both matinée and evening performances. The scenic effects of the pantomime are ingenious and well-managed, the gradual change from a forest in winter to a rustic glade in summer, with rabbits hopping in and out of their burrows, being particularly fine. The Realms of Glittering Crystal is another impressive scene, in which the fairy coach, smothered by electric light, presents a picture of dazzling brilliance. Another elaborate set is the Royal Ball Room; and a culminating display of magnificence is furnished in the Hall of Kings, wherein a Grand Procession of Nations takes place, the costumes of the characters and the scenic embellishments being exquisite. A company, admirably selected, gives full effect to the various impersonations. Miss Molly McIntyre makes of Cinderella a maiden daintily demure and charmingly roguish by turns. She is the picture of sweet simplicity in the tattered frock of the earlier scenes, and in the beautiful dress which is afterwards bestowed upon her she is equally bewitching. Her songs are sung in cultured style, the lay about "Sweet spring" being rendered in finished manner. The popular coon lyric, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you" also falls to Miss McIntyre, who wins an enthusiastic encore for its rendition. A comely youth is made of Prince Casimir by Miss Lily Iris, who carries herself with stately elegance throughout. Many songs are allotted to Miss Iris, "The wise old owl," which is embellished with electrical effects, being received with great favour. The widely-popular song, "Give my regards to Leicester-square" is another of her successes, among which "Bombay" also figures. A pretty duet, sung with Cinderella, in which the fateful question, "Are you engaged?" is put, is likewise prettily rendered. In common with the plan adopted at the National Theatre, the part of Dandini is taken by a gentleman, and exceedingly well does Mr. Herbert St. John acquit himself in the part. He plays it on light comedy lines, and is throughout buoyant and brisk. He has a song of "Oh! the girls," which he delivers with appropriate spirit. A new departure is also made in respect to what are usually known as the "Ugly Sisters." In this case they are played by two personable ladies, and what they lose in repulsiveness is gained in drollery, Miss Adelaide Gracey as Araminta and Miss Madge Yates as Elvira taking equal honours in this respect. The latter young lady has a song with the refrain, "Yes, you do!" of which many repetitions have to be made, and a scene of mock [illegible]ma, enacted with Dandini, is also well appreciated. A happy combination of fun-producing force is made in the characters of the Baron and Baroness De Debtington, played respectively by Mr. George French and Mr. Tom W. Conway. The pair are inseparable, and each actor in his way makes the utmost of every chance afforded, with the result that screams of laughter resound whenever they are present on the stage. Mr. French's lugubrious countenance is a masterpiece of make-up, and inexpressibly droll. In the course of his performance Mr. French gives an impersonation of Mr. Harry Lauder in "She's ma daisy," and very well does he do it, and a comic wrestling match, in which the diminutive Baron, by his conquest of an abnormally developed opponent, secures emancipation from domestic thraldom, makes the house uproarious with laughter. Mr. Conway is a Baroness whose ample proportions lend weight to her comical antics. The Baroness bristles with malapropisms, most of which are original, none of them failing to make their mark. The song in which a series of embarrassing questions are put also aids the fun, of which Mr. Conway provides a liberal allowance. The spirit of drollery is also in the acting of Mr. William Pringle, who makes of Capers a particularly alert and amusing personage. His duties include the imitation of Sousa conducting one of his own marches, to which he adds many new eccentricities, and a duet of "The amorous parrot," sung and danced with Cinderella, has constantly to be repeated. A regal Fairy Godmother is supplied by Miss Kitty Dale, who is the possessor of a voice of strength and purity. It is heard with the utmost pleasure in popular ballads, which are encored, that of "Rainbow," with its touching sentiment and tuneful refrain, creating great enthusiasm. Miss Ellaline Thorne makes a courtly Duke of Whistbridge, to whom "My Irish Molly" is allotted. The effect of the song is assisted by a gay crowd of revellers, who join in the refrain, and a repetition is inevitable, a similar result being obtained in the case of a step-dance neatly performed by Miss Thorne. Mr. Charles Emerald makes a gorgeous Flunkey at the Palace, and takes a meritorious part in the wrestling match with the Baron. Miss Berenice Maxwell has the rôle of the Snow Queen; and Misses Ruth Hazlewood, Gabrielle Romero, and Dorothy Westerleigh act charmingly as Gentlemen of the Prince's Court. Picturesque dances are supplied by the Jewel Quartet of Lady Dancers, and the members of the chorus adapt themselves admirably to the various kinds of vocal work which fall to them. The music, which is invariably melodious and graceful, has been composed and selected by Mr. Harry Richardson, and the pantomime gives proof of the ability of Mr. Stanley Rogers, by whom it was written and produced.

The special children's feature is an old-fashioned comic harlequinade, arranged by Mr. Fred Leoville, in which that gentleman is clown, supported by Mr. George Dix as pantaloon, Miss Lucy Cohen as columbine, and Miss Lily Galloway as harlequina.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" at the GRAND, WOOLWICH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The first performance of this pantomime went with such smoothness and absence of hitch that little room was left for improvement in this direction, but at the same time, it is observable that the entertainment is now given with a briskness and assurance, on the part of all concerned, only to be attained by practice. The principals now feel themselves thoroughly at home in their parts, and the singing and drilling of the chorus are as nearly perfect as possible. As principal boy, Miss Mary Thorne has promptly worked her way into popular favour, scoring heavily, both as an actress and as a songstress. Her sprightly rendering of the part is full of animation and go, and her songs are all so equally well received that it is difficult to make a selection; her most popular number is perhaps "My Irish Molly," while another favourite is the "Teasing" duet with Morgiana. The latter character proves as charming as ever in the capable hands of Miss Lucie Caine, whose dainty, attractive style and sweet singing have caused subsequent audiences heartily to endorse the reception accorded to her on the opening night. Her well-trained voice is heard to advantage in several songs, her feeling rendering of "In Dreamland" being especially worthy of mention. As Abdallah, Miss Kitty Upton is provided with a part admirably suited to her cababilities, her good stage presence enabling her to wear several pretty dresses with distinction, and her vivacious acting and clever singing making her impersonation one of the successes of the performance. In the rôle of Princess Zoe, Miss Amy Height appears possessed of illimitable good humour and vivacity, while the few serious lines she has to say are given with genuine feeling. In our former notice the song, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," was erroneously attributed to Miss Fitzgerald; it is sung by Miss Rosie Bartlett, whose singing and dancing are received with much applause. Miss Bartlett, who is understudying the principal boy, had her chance the other day, through Miss Thorne's temporary absence, and acquitted herself right well. Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald is responsible for a pretty rendering of a song entitled "Sweep," the effect of which is heightened by a chorus of six little ladies dressed three in black and three in white. Mr. Leonard Barry has now thoroughly settled down to his work as Ali Baba, and manages to keep his audience in a continual ripple of laughter. His song, "The Cowslip and the Cow," continues to take the house by storm, and the scene between Mr. Barry and Mr. Frank Gee, containing the latter's mock confession, is laughable in the extreme. Mr. Gee also is now seen at his best, and makes Cogia a most amusing character. His business with the wash-tub, peeling potatoes, &c., causes much laughter, especially among the ladies in the audience. Mr. Augustin Symonds plays Cassim with considerable humour, and repeats his strong scene in the robbers' cave, where he is discovered gloating over their store of gold. Clever Mr. George Autill, an extremely long and thin Hassarac, and quaint Little Dando, a very diminutive Cassarac, have several amusing scenes together, Mr. Antill's fine dancing and Mr. Dando's song, "They all love Jock," are most successful items. As an animal impersonator Mr. Harry Gardner would take a lot of beating, his representation of Abbas, the donkey, being especially clever. Mlle. Bartenelli's wonderful contortionist display secures much applause; Miss Maud May Murray's transformation dance proves a very acceptable feature; Mr. Frank Craig's sand dance, and the singing of his American Comedy Four go down well; and the Boultons' banjo duet is much liked. A special feature has been made this year of the Harlequinade which, now that more time can be allotted to it, is seen to be on an unusually elaborate scale, and indeed forms, both for the youngsters and their elders, one of the most enjoyable items on the evening's programme. Mr. Harry Gardner plays the clown on well-established lines, and his energetic efforts to amuse his audience meet with well deserved success, for both his patter and his business are excellent. Mr. Gardner is ably seconded by Mr. Fred W. Leonard, who makes the most of Pantaloon's rather few opportunities, and by Mr. Sam Leo who, as the hardly-used policeman, takes many hard knocks with quaint equanimity. Miss Carrie Ediss dances and poses gracefully as Columbine, and Mr. S. Mitchell is a nimble-toed and ubiquitous Harlequin.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 8,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE CINGALEE."

A most acceptable epidemic of the musical comedy order of entertainment, which set in at the Dalston Theatre a short time since, is being continued this week with performances of that pleasant addition to the list of modern productions of the kind, *The Cingalee*. Everyone admires the scenery, painted by Mr. Joseph Harker; and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Edward Whitehall, is most efficient. The general representation of the piece is all that can be desired. Mr. Kenneth Wynne as the Hon. Harry Vereker is assigned a part well suited to his style, and he sings well; the part of Nanoya is effectively sustained by Miss Zoe Gilfillan, whose vocal efforts are also most acceptable. Mr. H. J. Williams is dignified as Sir Peter Loftus, whose daughter Angy has a charming representative in Miss Vi Holmes. Mr. Helier Le Maistre scores as Boobhamba; and Mr. Roy Sydney helps towards the general success of the piece by a lively exposition of the character of Bobby Warren, whose dancing is quite a feature of the performance. Johnny Osborne is very funny as Chambbuddy Ram; in fact, he, together with Miss Cissie Sephton, who appears as Peggy Sabine, are, in the matter of active fun, the life and soul of the piece. Miss Sephton's dancing is admirable. Miss Emilie Mayhew is an imperious Lady Patricia Vane. The *pas seul* in act 2 is by Miss Vi Holmes. Mr. W. H. Morgan is stage-manager.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 8,
the Play, in Five Acts, by C. M. S. McLellan,
entitled
"LEAH KLESCHNA."

That no man or woman is entirely bad has been postulated by many reformers from time to time, and Mr. C. M. S. McLellan has made a convincing case for the statement in his powerful play, *Leah Kleschna*, which was presented for the first time at the Pavilion on Monday evening, by Mr. Charles Frohman's capable company, and was received by a large audience with acclamation. Mr. H. Cooper-Cliffe was really excellent as Kleschna, and showed a careful study of the part, his vigorous and artistic impersonation calling forth well-deserved applause. The strong scene of the fourth act was played with a wonderful degree of realism and dramatic power. Mr. Cyril Harcourt indicated the villainy of Raoul Berton with singularly marked success, and without undue force; a manly and unaffected performance of Paul Sylvaine was given by Mr. J. Graeme Campbell, who acted with much dignity and ability, and frequently drew marks of approval from the audience; while Mr. E. H. Brooke produced a striking impression for his extremely clever portraiture of Schram, which he enacted with skill and judgment. Mr. Kenneth Rivington rendered effective assistance as General Berton; and Mr. Roland Daniel made good use of his opportunities as Valentin Favre. Leah Kleschna was essayed for the first time by Miss Haidee Wright, who proved herself an accomplished actress, and gave a natural and interesting representation of this difficult rôle. Miss Wright was powerfully incisive, and in the scenes where strong passion was required, her elocution had a penetrating ring, which roused the enthusiasm of the house. Miss Dorothy Sidney was bright as Sophie; and Miss Ethel Marryat was seen to advantage as Madame Berton; performances of genuine merit being given by Mr. William Wilson as Anton Pfaff, Mr. George Fairburn as Johann, Mr. M. M. Loomis as Reichmann, Mr. John Harding as Baptiste, Miss Haidee Hemsley as Claire Berton, Miss Ethel Lorrimer as Frieda, and Miss Alice Davis as Charlotte. The play has been staged and mounted with exceptional completeness. Mr. Walter D. Nicoll is the business-manager, and Mr. E. H. Brooke the stage-manager for Mr. Charles Frohman.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, Jan. 8,
"JACK THE GIANT-KILLER."

Pantomime still holds the stage at this theatre, and Mr. Samuel James's company in *Jack the Giant-Killer* has succeeded *Red Riding Hood*. The show is bright, tuneful, and merry. Mr. John Reillie is responsible for the music, which contains many melodious numbers. Miss Ruby Norton makes a capital Jack, and is full of dash and go. Her songs, "Bombay," with a fine chorus, "My Irish Molly," and "Good-bye, Sweet Marie," are all well rendered and well received. Miss Flora Morris as Princess Lovebird is dainty and charming. She sings "I'll be your dewdrop, Rosie," and "Teasing" with much sweetness and expression, and her duets with Jack meet with much applause. As Mrs. Jack Mr. George Delaforce is admirable, and never fails to amuse. His topical ditty entitled "What could you wish for more" is very popular. As the Demon Discord Mr. Fred Carrington could scarcely be bettered, and Mr. A. G. Lytton as the Giant plays a difficult part well. As the Baron Ooffess Mr. James May is delightful, and his efforts are ably seconded by the Baroness, enacted by Miss Nell Gillmore in excellent fashion. Messrs. Hans and Lux as Fanfare and Blowhard sing and dance capitally, and knock each other about in a highly diverting manner. Miss Dorothy Frances as Fairy Rosebud does well, and she sings the ever-popular "Rainbow" with good effect. Miss Ida Katerina as Cupid sings a doll song entitled "Jack-in-the-Box" exceedingly well, for which she is recalled. Miss Carmen Morena, the principal dancer, gains a hearty reception for her Spanish dances.

"CINDERELLA" at the ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

In our notice of the production of this pantomime at the new Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, we mentioned that a certain amount of revision and pulling together was required, and it is observable on a second visit that much has been done in this direction. The pantomime plays much closer; many judicious cuts have been made; the performers are now sure of their lines and of themselves, and there is a decided improvement all round. Miss Verna Reed is a very popular principal boy, her spirited acting and the animation she infuses into the several songs entrusted to her having made her a firm favourite. Her most successful number is perhaps "The girl who leads the band," which, now that the chorus is fully at home with its work, goes with a tremendous swing, and is loudly encored. Miss Freda Murray repeats her charming impersonation of Cinderella, her refined and artistic style of acting being admirably in keeping with the character, and her clever singing of several pretty ballads being most acceptable. Her rendering of "In Dreamland" receives a determined and well-merited encore. Miss Florence Wakeman is as vivacious as ever as Dandini, and is especially commendable for the clear enunciation of her lines. Miss Wakeman's singing voice is of good power and quality, and she has an excellent idea of how to make the most of it, as she proves in her success with "My Irish Molly," which is emphatically redemanded. Miss Beatrice Rowe is a refined, dignified Queen Turquoise, and sings in an easy, unforced manner which makes her songs very acceptable. As the bold, but by no means always bad, Baron, Mr. Fred Albery displays a fund of dry humour, his clever delivery adding point to many witty lines and giving a certain zest to the most ordinary remarks. Mr. Will Burton is responsible for a really funny representation of one of the ugly sisters, his unwearying efforts to provide his audience with plenty to laugh at meeting with a most gratifying response. Somewhat of a departure has been made in the engagement of Miss Molly Russell to play the second ugly sister, but the experiment is an undoubted success, and Miss Russell proves an able second to Mr. Burton, their duet, "What will the papers say," fairly bringing down the house, their grotesque burlesque of a game of ping-pong being also provocative of considerable mirth. Mr. F. W. Mason has worked up his part a good deal, and gives a genuinely humorous rendering of Buttons, the Baron's page. The Brothers Ford provide plenty of amusement as Hob and Nob, and work energetically to make their part of the performance a success. Their combined efforts to tell a tale to the audience, one continually anticipating the other with disastrous results, are received with much laughter. A particularly popular turn is the juggling entertainment given by the Balzeas, who perform some remarkable feats in the way of spinning plates, balancing burning cones of paper, and the like. Another clever artist is Mr. Weimar, whose tight-rope performance is much appreciated, and whose absurd musical turn, during which he produces an apparently illimitable number of musical instruments from various parts of his clothing, causes much amusement. His announcement that he was Lord Roberts's trumpeter, and his bugle calls continue to arouse enthusiasm. The Erdingdale Troupe of Dancers have succeeded in dancing themselves firmly into the good graces of the audience, their clever tumbling and gymnastic display also finding favour. The Harlequinade, with which the performance terminates, has proved a popular feature, the efforts of Mr. F. Mason, as the clown, Mr. W. Albery as pantaloon, Mr. Ford as policeman, and Misses Trevelyan and De Castille as Columbine and Harlequina respectively, meeting with deserved success.

ALEXANDRA PALACE PANTOMIME.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Since its first appearance on Christmas eve, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon's pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* has been well patronised, with overflowing houses on Saturdays. This speaks well for the business acumen of Mr. Richard Pakenham, who looks after the front of the house, and is largely responsible for such excellent results. An unfortunate acident happened on Wednesday afternoon, the 3rd inst., when Mr. Bobbie Hall, who had made a hit as the robber lieutenant, Hassarac, sustained a serious injury whilst wrestling with the too-playful donkey, John Willy (Mr. Ernest Leopold). An excellent substitute (pro. tem) has been found in Mr. B. Albert, who was the representative of Mustapha. Miss Tessie Vandean, as Ganem, sings "Give me a girl like that" and "The pipers are calling, Jenny." The rendering of both these songs deserves complimentary mention. Nor must the comic interlude "My brother," sung by Cassim (Mr. Wilfred Vaughan) be forgotten, for it is a number that is an established success. The sparkling duet, "Rainbow," by Ganem and Morgiana (Miss Nina Moore) is accompanied by a *corps de ballet* action, in which the colours of the rainbow are represented with startling electrical effects. The applause at the conclusion is prolonged. The well-sung number, "Sleeping," gives Ali Baba (Mr. John Leopold) another opportunity of displaying his vocal ability, and Cogia Babia (Mr. Willie Leopold) his acrobatic agility. The Revenge chorus of *The Forty Thieves* do their work exceedingly well.

APARTMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I should like, through the medium of your valuable paper, to make an appeal to all travelling actors to impress upon the landladies wherever they are staying, the advantages of having *an address book* as well as the ordinary reference book, in which good apartments for various towns may be entered by actors who can recommend them. An actor, when entering an address, should sign his name as reference. The practice, if carried out, would be a great boon to actors and landladies alike.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM LOCKHART.

T. R., Preston, Jan. 9.

PRESENTATION.—At the Crouch End Opera House on Saturday last, just before the fall of the curtain on the Palace scene of the pantomime, Mr. Eldred, the popular acting-manager, was invited on to the stage, and presented with a silver cigarette-case, matchbox, and cigarette-holder, subscribed for by the principal members of the company. Mr. Eldred was enthusiastically received by the audience, and in the course of the presentation allusion was made to the courteous and amiable manner in which he had treated the whole of the members of the company.

"HER LUCK IN LONDON."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Charles Darrell,
Presented by Mr. George Kirk on Monday, Jan. 8,
at the Carlton Theatre, Saltley.

Hon. Gerald F. O'Connor MR. C. A. LEICESTER
Richard Lenowen ..... MR. CHAS. DRACOTT.
Stephen Harborne ..... MR. EDWIN F. FYSHER
Rev. Lionel Strong .... MR. DOUGLAS TREYMAYNE
Algie Kirkcumbrie ..... MR. CHAS. DIGBY
Jerry Gotobed ..... MR. J. TILLY DILLSON
Charlie Manders ..... MR. E. S. NUTTALL
Harry Forsdayne ..... MR. G. STONES
Harvey Tremayne ..... MR. W. WROL
Archer ..... MR. BRUCE CLAPHAM
Ruth Harborne ..... MISS ELLA VANE
Lillian Harborne ..... MISS FRANCES WARING
Angela Plantagenet .... MISS RENE GLENDOWER
Maud G. Shovepenny .... MISS FLORRIE GROVES
Clara Sparkington ..... MISS DAISY MOSS
Tessie Glentowers ..... MISS QUENNIE LAMONT
Mimi Tersdale ..... MISS KITTY GERALD
Barmaid ..... MISS DORA WOODBERRY
Saucy / Hon. Mrs. Gerald O'Connor } MISS MARY NEIL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Her Luck in London is intended by the author to represent "life as it is to-day," and he has succeeded well in his aspiration, Mr. Darrell's facile pen and constructive genius being shown to so much advantage that there is not a single incongruous or inconsequent passage in the play. The story opens at the country homestead of Stephen Harborne, whose wife had years previously left him for the garish life of London, leaving also two children, both daughters. One, Lillian, is austere and akin to her father, the other, Nellie, being frivolous, but innocent in intent, though the father opines she is like unto her mother. Nellie is already the object of a villain's attentions, one Richard Lenowen, who keeps a gaming house in London, and who makes his presence felt in the village at a time when the home of the Harbornes is about to be sold up; thus comes the opportunity to press his evil suit. Nellie, returning from one of her frivolous excursions, is chided by her father and sister, and the father in his wrath discloses the fact that the mother whom they both thought dead is yet alive, having left him for a stranger and a life of sin. "My poor father," quoth the elder and favourite daughter. "My poor mother," exclaims the younger, "she left you for lack of sympathy, sunshine, being bound to a religion all terror and punishment." This so incenses the old man that he would have struck his daughter to the ground, but that a curate, Lionel Strong, happening to pass that way, was in time to stay his hand. However, all things conspire to the girl's ruin. The father is stern, and slow to understand his daughter's better nature, and Lenowen makes his insidious advances without hindrance. The villain deposits the necessary sum for the redemption of the homestead, and also writes a specious letter imputing shame to Nellie. Thus the girl's undoing is achieved, and she is thrust forth, despite her frenzied appeals to her father, who flings the gold on her cowering form. "I am a good girl," she cries, but it is useless, and her sister denies her, while the villain, who could exculpate her if he would, is silent. Next we find her in London at the Hilarity Lounge, the creature of the villain, Lenowen, and abandoned to shame, until the advent of the Hon. Gerald O'Connor, when she essays to throw off the shackles of vice, to be confronted with Lenowen, who has drawn O'Connor hither to be "plucked," counting on Nellie's aid as the decoy. However, O'Connor escapes his clutches, and, being enamoured of Nellie, asks her to become his wife, which, thinking he has through a third party been acquainted with her past, she at last does, only to be thrown off when, through the instigation of the scoundrel, Lenowen, and one Madame Gabrielle, a demimondaine, her past is revealed. This led up to a very powerful situation, and Nellie, who is thus for the second time thrust from home and love, despite her passionate appeals, was the object of the audience's deepest sympathy. All this was very fine acting, the passage between husband and wife creating an intense feeling, then breaking into a wild torrent of reproaches the unhappy wife exclaims: "Take back your puny love; I renounce it." Then, seeing the authoress of her undoing (Madame Gabrielle), she flings herself on that lady, and gripping her by the throat essays to strangle her, when her father appears on the scene, and exclaims, "That woman is your mother!" The last act shows Nellie tending her unhappy mother with a true daughter's care, and we see the reconciliation of husband, wife, daughter, and mother, a scene that enthralled the house. The villain's nefarious plots which he again sets in motion for the further severance of Gerald and Nellie really bring about their reconciliation, for Nellie, pretending to co-operate in the villain's scheme, is able to be at hand to save her husband. This last scene, a house in St. John's Wood, is a cleverly devised and effective one, keeping the audience in a ferment of excitement. Here Nellie, for the purpose of deceiving the villain, cleverly feigns the manner of the wanton, and as such greets her husband when he arrives, after having been inveigled thither for the purposes of plunder. Disgusted and hurt, he tries to leave, but is prevented, and the production of a bottle of drugged wine—which, however, he does not touch, thanks to Nellie—brings matters to a crisis. Feigning sleep, he is robbed, and his life threatened, but he is saved by his really devoted wife, and the villain, robbed of his prey and desperate in his aim, shoots, killing Nellie's mother, who, with her father and a rescue party, had just appeared on the scene. Husband and wife, and the devoted Nellie and Gerald, are made happy, and a most fictive curtain concludes the play.

A marked feature of the production was the brilliant acting of Miss Mary Neil as Nellie Harborne. Whether as the light-hearted, frivolous, but pure-minded Nellie of the village homestead, or the flippant, reckless-minded girl, Saucy, of the Hilarity Lounge, or as the devoted and happy wife, her acting was the perfection of art. Each phase and temperament was limned with unerring accuracy and charm, and enthusiasm for Miss Neil was denoted by great applause. Mr. Charles Draycott as the sleek and smiling villain, Richard Lenowen, got every atom of value out of the character, which in his hands proved a very formidable villain indeed. Mr. Edwin F. Fysher portrayed the stern, unbending nature and will of the father and husband, Stephen Harborne, with much attention to detail and absolute success. Mr. Douglas Tremayne as the amorous and withal earnest young curate, Lionel Strong, who finally secures for his wife the high and virtuous-minded Lillian, seized his opportunities, and won much popularity. Mr. Chas. A. Leicester played the part of the Hon. Gerald Fitzgerald O'Connor in a perfectly frank and easy manner, while in the heroic passages his vigorous acting was most effective. Mr. Charles Digby as the humorous and impecunious Algie Kirkcumbrie, satellite to the villain, presented many amusing points. Mr. J. Tilly Dillson embodied the peculiarities of Jerry Gotobed, the faithful and comic servant of the heroine, with much success. Miss Ella Vane as the strident-voiced and shameless Madame Gabrielle, and afterwards as the mother brought to repentance, was ever alive to the possibilities of her rôle. Miss Frances Waring was successful without being repellent as the unsympathetic sister, Lillian, while in the softer phases of the character her natural charm and prepossessing presence stood out in pleasant relief. Miss Florrie Groves made an uncommonly go[illegible] and comely serving-maid, one Maud Gladys, her bright, fresh, and vivacious manner being highly exhilarating to the audience, and Miss Rene Glendower as a young lady with an abnormal thirst, and the others of the cast, acted in excellent form. The dresses of the ladies at the Hilarity Lounge, &c., are exquisite creations, and the scenery is new and most effective.

STAGE CHILDREN AT PLAY.

Mr. and Mrs. Otho Stuart delighted the hearts of the many children taking part in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Adelphi Theatre by inviting them all on Wednesday to share in the spoils of a Christmas tree standing 16ft. high and heavy with presents, including cameras, pocket electric lights, and many other valuable and useful articles. It was a study to watch the children's faces as Mrs. Otho Stuart went round the dress circle where they were seated with a hat full to overflowing with tickets, each child drawing a number; then when they were just wondering "What will mine be like," Mrs. Stuart returned to the charge again, and yet again the children drawing three tickets each, and receiving not less than three articles off the Christmas tree. The curtain went up in darkness, then a mass of blue electric lights appeared on the tree, followed by red and then white lights, the limes flooded the stage, the children screamed with delight, and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart looked happy; in that one loud shout of joy they were repaid for all their trouble and work. Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Miss South, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. Alfred Brydone, and Mr. Alfred Wigley all worked hard, finding the rightful owners for the many good things—no small undertaking when there are over 200 articles on the tree and 18ft. ladders have to be mounted in order to get them.

The children afterwards had tea at the Adelphi Restaurant, the ladies and gentlemen of the company waiting upon their younger brother and sister artists. When the crackers had all been exploded they all romped back to the theatre, where Shakespeare's *Most Lamentable Comedy* was presented by "The Romps," a company of children specially selected by Messrs. Bellew and Stock. The curtain rose on the last scene of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the various actors and actresses who play the parts in the evening were loud in their praise at the excellent performance given by their imitators. Miss Olive Cooke, as Quince, was Mr. Lyall Swete to the life, every movement being a perfect copy. Miss Phyllis Stean and Miss St. Claire as Thisbe and Wall had made a study of Mr. Kay Souper and Mr. Henry Kitts with marked fidelity. Pyramus played by Miss Carmen Woods, was perhaps the best thought-out rôle. She timed the business introduced by Mr. Oscar Asche to perfection. Jimmy Parke, Esq., height 36 inches, as well as being producer and stage-manager, was responsible for the lighting effects, scenery, costumes, wigs, quick-changes, all effects and defects. Mendelssohn's beautiful music to "The Lamentable Comedy" was conducted by Mr. Christopher Wilson, the eminent composer.

A great novelty was provided in part two by the production of a musical fantasy, by Alfred Wigley, entitled

"THE ENCHANTED HOUR"
(A Musical Fantasy).

1st Soldier ..... DORA FRASER
2nd Soldier ..... CYRIL COOKE
3rd Soldier ..... CLEMENT KENT
1st Sailor ..... BECKY ABRAMS
2nd Sailor ..... CECIL STEELE
Ann ..... EDITH STREETER
Anna Ann ..... OLIVE COOKE
Hannah Ann ..... FLORRIE HARRINGTON
Jack-in-box ..... GEORGE WINGROVE
Ping-Pong ..... CECIL DOYLE
Golliwog ..... MICHAEL FINN
Pretty Jane ..... CECILY WILSON
Blue-eyed Susan ..... OLIVE PICKANCE
Herr Pianotist ..... ERNEST CECIL
The Major ..... A DUMMY
An Accident ..... WOOD

This charming little "Dolly Dialogue" was specially written by Mr. Wigley for this occasion, and marvellously interpreted by Messrs. Bellew and Stock's remarkably clever juvenile comedians. These little people literally astonished their elder brother and sister actors by their artistic rendering of the various sparkling numbers which abounded in the play. And in nearly every case the singing would have put to shame many an older and more experienced cantatrice. When all were so good it were invidious to particularise, yet one needs must give more than a passing word to Miss Edith Streeter, who in her performance of Ann, the Dutch Doll, proved herself the possessor of a voice and dramatic talent very far above the average. Misses Cecily Wilson and Olive Pickance as Pretty Jane and Blue-eyed Susan did excellent work, both in singing and acting.

It is to be regretted that so admirable and novel an entertainment should have been limited to one performance, and it will be a thousand pities if it is not secured as a refined and novel turn at one of the West-end variety theatres, or as a first piece before some more serious entertainment. Three programmes were presented to Mrs. Stuart, Mr. Stuart, and Miss South respectively, the covers of which had been specially designed by Mr. Caleb Porter.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for "The Era" by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters.

Patent Illustrated, 16,357. Theatres, &c. Patentee, M. Mausshardt, Billigheim, Palatinate, Germany. Theatres, public halls, &c., are so constructed and modified that in the event of a fire the audience can be quickly conveyed outside the building. Outside the building are beams supporting suspended galleries, which are reached through doors on the various floors. These beams are supported on pivots, and can be swung towards the ground, carrying the galleries. The pit is supported on a floor running on rollers, and provided with a rack, which engages with a pinion, this latter being operated by the shaft through the medium of the bevel wheels. Cables are connected to the beams, and pass over pulleys, so that as the galleries descend, owing to gravity, the shaft is operated, and this, operating on the other shaft, causes the pit to move bodily outwards on the rollers, through an aperture provided in the side of the building. The shafts may be provided with winches, so that the system may be immediately set in motion by hand or other means.

Patent Application, 23,712. — Henry Hunt and Henry John Reece, Daly's Theatre, Leicester-square, London. "Improvements in music or reading stands."

MISS LILY HAROLD, the principal boy in *Mother Goose* pantomime at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, being unfortunately laid up with a severe cold, her part of Colin has, during her absence, been successfully played by Miss Amy Lorrison, whose performance has given the utmost satisfaction.

MISS NELLIE WALTERS has won great credit for the artistic costumes in the pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, at the Paisley Theatre, the whole of the dresses worn by principal ladies, chorus, and dancers, with the exception of some of those in the last scene, being designed by her.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

(COPYRIGHT.)

In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

DAUGHTER'S HONOUR, Surrey, Dec. 17, 1895.
DAUGHTERS OF BABYLON, Lyric, Feb. 6, 1897.
DAUGHTER'S SACRIFICE, Globe, May 17, 1888.
DAUGHTER'S SECRET, Britannia, Feb. 26, 1874.
DAUGHTERS, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, June 30, 1890.
DAVENANT, Gaiety, July 12, 1879.
DAVENPORT BROS. AND CO., Theatre Royal, Birmingham, April 24, 1879.
DAVENPORT DONE, Theatre Royal, Dublin, Feb. 4, 1867.
DAVID COPPERFIELD, Grecian, Oct. 3, 1870.
DAVID GARRICK, burlesque, Criterion, May 11, 1888.
DAVID GARRICK, Haymarket, May 2, 1864.
DAVID, Garrick, Nov. 7, 1892.
DAVID MORGAN, THE JACOBITE, Star, Aberdare, Feb. 15, 1872.
DAVY CROCKETT, Southminster, Edinburgh, Sept. 29, 1873.
DAWN OF FREEDOM, Theatre Royal, Goole, April 20, 1900.
DAWN OF HOPE, Novelty, Jan. 20, 1896.
DAWN OF LOVE, Theatre Royal, Exeter, Jan. 26, 1885.
DAWN, Vaudeville, June 30, 1887.
DAYBREAK, Standard, Sept. 1, 1884.
DAY DREAMS, Loton Park, Salop, Nov. 5, 1875.
DAYE AND KNIGHT, St. George's Hall, Nov. 4, 1895.
DAYES OF OLDE, Theatre Royal, Leamington, Nov. 8, 1892.
DAY IN KINGSBURY CASTLE, St. Alban's, April 6th, 1899.
DAY OF RECKONING, Battersea, Feb. 17, 1894.
DAY OF RECKONING, Lyceum, Dec. 4, 1850.
DAY'S FISHING, Adelphi, March 8, 1869.
DAYS OF CROMWELL, Sunderland, July 9, 1896.
DAYS OF DANGER, Dalston, Sept. 24, 1900.
DAYS OF TERROR, Theatre Royal, Bishop Auckland, March 24, 1891.
DAY'S SPORT, St. George's Hall, Jan. 28, 1889.
DAYS TO COME, Elephant and Castle, May 29, 1893.
DAY TO DAY, Warrington, July 1, 1889.
DAY WILL COME, Opera House, Chatham, March 7, 1892.
DEACON BRODIE, Pullan's, Bradford, Dec. 28, 1882.
DEACON, THE, Shaftesbury, Aug. 27, 1890.
DEAD BEAT, Surrey, Oct. 22, 1885.
DEAD BOXER, Albion, Sept. 20, 1875.
DEAD CALM, Standard, Aug. 4, 1868.
DEAD DUCHESS, Britannia, March 24, 1856.
DEAD HEART, Adelphi, Nov. 10, 1859.
DEAD HEAT, Shepherd's Bush, Nov. 11, 1891.
DEAD LETTER, Marylebone, Dec. 11, 1873.
DEADLOCK, THE, Bayswater, Feb. 7, 1898.
DEADLY FOES, Theatre Royal, Belfast, Nov. 20, 1868.
DEADLY REPORTS, Olympic, Oct. 26, 1857.
DEADLY SAMPSON, Pavilion, Sept. 16, 1876.
DEADLY WEAPONS, Theatre Royal, Great Grimsby, Sept. 14, 1885.
DEADLY WEAPONS, Theatre Royal, Great Yarmouth, July 9, 1884.
DEAD MAN'S CLIFF, Evesham, Sept. 23, 1896.
DEAD MAN'S GOLD, Surrey, Nov. 7, 1887.
DEAD MAN'S HOLLOW, Theatre, Longton, Oct. 4, 1869.
DEADMAN'S POINT, Adelphi, Feb. 4, 1871.
DEAD OF NIGHT, Novelty, April 26, 1897.
DEAD O' NIGHT BOYS, Greenwich, Sept. 19, 1874.
DEAD OR ALIVE, Queen's, July 22, 1872.
DEAD; OR, THE LIVING WILL, Brierley Hill, Nov. 25, 1891.
DEAD PAST, Parkhurst, June 24, 1895.
DEAD RECKONING, Britannia, Aug. 10, 1868.
DEAD SECRET, Lyceum, Aug. 29, 1877.
DEAD TAKE IN, Olympic, Jan. 31, 1850.
DEAD TO THE WORLD, Grecian, July 12, 1875.
DEAD WITHOUT A NAME, Olympic, Feb. 14, 1853.
DEADWOOD DICK, Pavilion, March 12, 1894.
DEAL BOATMAN, Drury Lane, Sept. 21, 1863.
DEAN OF HAZELDEAN, Nelson, April 20, 1889.
DEAN'S DAUGHTER, St. James's, Oct. 13, 1888.
DEAR DEPARTED, Comedy, May 29, 1889.
DEARER THAN LIFE, Alexndra, Liverpool, Nov. 15, 1867.
DEAREST FRIENDS, Steinway Hall, June 20, 1902.
DEAREST MAMMA, Olympic, May 14, 1860.
DEAR FRIENDS, Vaudeville, July 24, 1890.
DEAR GIRLS, Salford, Sept. 11, 1899.
DEAR HEARTS OF IRELAND, Peckham, Dec. 3, 1901.
DEAR JACK, Theatre Royal, Colchester, May 30, 1892.
DEATH BY THE LAW, Pavilion, Aug. 5, 1876.
DEATH OF TINTAGILES, St. George's Hall, July 22, 1902.
DEATH OR GLORY, Britannia, Oct. 7, 1896.
DEATH OR VICTORY, Attercliffe, Sept. 22, 1898.
DEATH'S BRIDAL, Opera House, Bolton, June 10, 1878.
DEATH'S HEAD DICK, Merthyr Tydfil, March 31, 1870.
DEATH TRAP, Grecian, June 6, 1870.
DEATH WARRANT, Grecian, Oct. 25, 1879.
DEBORAH, Avenue, Feb. 22, 1892.
DEBORAH; OR, JEWISH OUTCAST, Grecian, Feb. 15, 1864.
DEBT, Gaiety, Nov. 23, 1872.
DEBT OF HONOUR, Opera Comique, Dec. 17, 1891.
DEBT OF HONOUR, Theatre Royal, West Hartlepool, Jan. 23, 1879.
DECEIVED; OR, THROUGH LIFE, Prince's, Accrington, Sept. —, 1882.
DECEIVERS EVER, Strand, Nov. 26, 1883.
DECEPTION, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, May 27, 1889.
DECEPTION, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, Dec. 18, 1871.
DECOY BIRD, Luton, Sept. 5, 1892.
DECOY, THE, Gaiety, April 18, 1883.
DEEDS NOT WORDS, Surrey, Jan. 8, 1855.
DEEDS, South Kensington, Feb. 25, 1879.
DEEMING; OR, DOOMED AT LAST, Liverpool, June 6, 1892.
DEENE FARM, Stoke Newington, Jan. 23, 1894.
DEEP WATERS, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Sept. 19, 1889.
DEER SLAYERS, Britannia, Dec. 19, 1870.
DEFAULTER, Calcutta, 1858.
DEFEATED, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, April 11, 1881.
DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, Birmingham, Sept. 20, 1897.
DEFENDING HIS HONOUR, Keighley, Nov. 10, 1902.
DEGENERATES, Haymarket, Aug. 31, 1899.
DELIA, Bristol, March 11, 1889.
DELIA HARDING, Comedy, April 17, 1895.
DELICATE GROUND, Terry's, Jan. 11, 1897.
DELILAH, Park, Oct. 7, 1880.
DELILAH, Sadler's Wells, Sept. 26, 1892.
DELIGHTS O' LONDON, Philharmonic, April 8, 1882.
DELIVERED FROM EVIL, Theatre Royal, Bristol, March 27, 1899.
DEL OMBRA, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, April 12, 1879.
DEL TREM, Gaiety, West Hartlepool, Sept. 22, 1879.
DEMOCRAT, THE, Grand, Nottingham, March 22, 1893.
DEMON BRACELETS, Britannia, Aug. 16, 1869.
DEMON DARRELL, Britannia, June 20, 1898.
DEMON-DOCTOR, Effingham, Jan. 21, 1867.
DEMON JOCKEY, Theatre Royal, Rotherham, Oct. 16, 1882.
DEMON LOVER, New Royalty, Oct. 10, 1864.
DEMON OF DARKNESS, Victoria, April 17, 1865.
DEMON OOF BIRD, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1895.
DEMON'S BRIDE, Alhambra, Sept. 7, 1874.
DEMON SPIDER, Newcastle, Oct. 29, 1895.
DEMON, THE, Comedy, Manchester, July 2, 1888.
DENE'S REST, Southend, Dec. 6, 1897.
DENHAM'S FOLLY, Theatre Royal, Paisley, Feb. 2, 1894.
DENISE, Her Majesty's, June 11, 1886.
DENOUNCED, Elephant and Castle, Aug. 11, 1883.
DEOCH AN' DUR'ASS, Britannia, Oct. 3, 1877.
DEPUTY REGISTRAR, Criterion, Dec. 7, 1888.
DEPUTY SHERIFF, Bootle, Aug. 8, 1892.
DEPUTY, Theatre Royal, South Shields, Sept. 2, 1897.
DEPUTY, THE, Criterion, May 15, 1888.
DER BIBERPETZ, St. George's Hall, Feb. 13, 1900.
DER BIBLIOTHEKAR, Opera Comique, Oct. 20, 1894.
DERBY DAY, Pavilion, Feb. 9, 1867.
DER EINGEBILDETE KRANKE, Drury Lane, July 19, 1881.
DER EVANGELIMANN, Covent Garden, July 2, 1897.
DER FREISCHUTZ, Her Majesty's, Oct. 28, 1865.
DER FREYSCHUTZ, Strand, Oct. 8, 1866.
DER MEINEDBAUER, Opera Comique, Sept. 26, 1894.
DERMOT O'DONOGHUE, Victoria, Strathaven, July 24, 1872.
DER PFARRER VON KIRCHFELD, Opera Comique, Sept. 20, 1894.
DER PROBEPFEIL, Comedy, Oct. 26, 1900.
DER RAUB DER SABINERINNEN, Opera Comique, Oct. 31, 1894.
DERRY DRISCOLL, Alexandra, Liverpool, April 16, 1877.
DERBY WINNER, Drury Lane, Sept. 15, 1894.
DER SPORTSMAN, Royalty, Nov. 21, 1894.
DER VOGELHANALER, Drury Lane, June 17, 1895.
DER WILDSCHUTZ, Drury Lane, July 3, 1895.
DESMORO, Pavilion, Sept. 24, 1866.
DESPERATE ADVENTURES OF A BABY, Desperate Game, Adelphi, April 9, 1853.
Strand, Dec. 14, 1878.
DESTINY, East London, Feb. 24, 1869.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Kind expressions from Authors and Managers.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT.

"I congratulate you on your 'Fifty Years of the Drama': the list must prove both interesting and useful to lovers of and workers for the stage."

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES.

"I think the new feature of *The Era* is most interesting and useful. A list of plays produced from 1850 to 1900 will certainly be of great service to a very large number of your readers."

MR. EDWARD TERRY.

"An admirable idea, and will prove a most valuable record."

MR. FRANK CURZON.

"Your list, I think, will be most useful for reference."

MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD.

"I think the list will be immensely useful."

MR. SYDNEY GRUNDY.

"Your list will be exceedingly useful. But, of course, there is no reason why old titles should not be used again. Indeed, some day we shall have to go back to them. Some of our modern titles, when they are not mere proper names with an adjective attached, display the desperation of the dramatist in too ludicrous a light. Such a title as 'The Importance of Being Earnest' amounts to a misdemeanour."

MR. ARTHUR W. PINERO.

"The list of plays produced during the last half-century is a most valuable record. The thanks of those interested in the theatre are due to *The Era* for this and many other enterprises."

MR. ALFRED SUTRO.

"The list you are compiling will be of very great benefit, and I am looking forward to the time when it shall be complete, and obtainable in pamphlet form."

MR. JUSTIN HUNTLY McCARTHY.

"I have watched with the greatest interest the progress of your alphabetical list of the plays published during the last half of the nineteenth century. It is a most useful undertaking, and when it appears in volume form, it must prove of great value to all who are concerned with the drama."

MR. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

"The list of plays will be very interesting and useful when published in complete form. The etiquette of the profession apparently still allows of novelists' titles being used by playwrights. Thus, *The Master*, which will appear in your list as a play by somebody else, is the name of a book of mine; while the new play, *Noah's Ark*, has the same title as a shorter story of mine."

MR. ARTHUR LAW.

"The publication in *The Era* of a list of plays produced during the fifty years, 1850-1900, is an excellent idea, and will be most useful to authors who may be in doubt as to their right to a certain title. When it is issued in book form I shall be very glad to possess a copy."

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER.

"Mr. Arthur Bourchier thinks the list very useful indeed."

MR. TOM GALLON.

"Your idea seems to me to be a most excellent one. Quite apart from the fact that there is always a difficulty in knowing what titles have been used, there very often arises the question of when and where a play was actually produced—a question difficult to be answered. Actors and authors should alike be grateful to *The Era*."

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE.

"I think the idea of printing a list of plays produced during the last fifty years an excellent one. It should be of great value to authors."

MR. ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

"The list of produced plays was not merely a happy thought, for the same idea has probably occurred to many, though until *The Era* carried it out no one took the pains to collect and publish such a truly valuable record.

"Managers, dramatists, as well as would-be authors, will henceforward have a long list of titles to refer to, and there will be neither reason nor excuse for encroaching on pre-existing copyright in play titles. What a lot of trouble it should save us all!"

MR. WALTER MELVILLE.

"I think it shows great enterprise on the part of your journal, and likely to prove most useful and at the same time interesting to the general profession."

MR. ARTHUR MORRISON.

"The list you are publishing will be a most valuable work of reference to everybody taking an interest in the stage, and I have no doubt that when it is published as a book you will find its success warrant you in issuing fresh editions from time to time, with the information brought to date in each case."

MR. J. J. DILLEY.

"The idea is an excellent one, and there can be no question at all of the usefulness of such a summary. *Cousin Grace* has not been included. This is a little piece from the French, played at a matinée performance at the Gaiety Theatre, Dec. 4, 1884."

MR. COSMO HAMILTON.

"I think that your new feature is an excellent and most useful one. A list of plays produced during fifty years is interesting not only to the playgoer, but essentially so to the manager and the playwright. They will only have to consult it to be sure that a title has not been used before."

MR. CHARLES H. E. BROOKFIELD.

"My attention has been called to your list of plays produced between 1850-1900. I have no doubt it will prove interesting and useful to many."

MR. F. FRANKFORT MOORE.

"The list of plays produced during the past fifty years, now appearing in *The Era*, will, I am certain, prove, when completed, extremely valuable to everyone associated with the drama in England. I am convinced—and I have had a considerable amount of experience in this direction—that it will be especially valued by all writers upon stage matters. The advantage of being able to refer at a moment's notice to the criticisms upon the production of various plays in various newspapers must be apparent to everyone. If such a list had been in existence some years ago, I would have been saved a vast amount of worry and vexation of spirit. *The Era* has once again proved itself appreciative of the conditions under which the best interests of the drama in England are maintained."

MR. LOUIS N. PARKER.

"I think your list of plays, produced between 1850 and 1900, will, like the other contents of your paper, be invaluable."

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

DEC. 1. *Die Rauber*, tragedy, in five acts, by Schiller (German Theatre)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
„ 4. *The Great Awakening*, play, in four acts, by Maud Hildyard and Russell Vaun—Pavilion.
„ 8. *Der Pfarrer von Kirchfeld*, play, in four acts, by Ludwig Anzengruber (German Theatre)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
„ 6. *The Indecision of Mr. Kingsbury*, comedy, in four acts, adapted from *L'Irrésolu* of George Berr, by Cosmo Gordon-Lennox—Haymarket.
„ 6. *The Impressions of Stella*, farce, by J. F. Nolan and Frank Rolison (produced by amateurs)—Cripplegate Institute, E.C.
„ 7. *The Assignation*, satire, in three acts, by Hamilton Aidé—New.
„ 16. *The Pierrot of the Minute*, by Ernest Dowson—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
„ 16. *A Caprice*, translated from Alfred de Musset by Ierne Fitzgerald—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
„ 17. *The Firefly*, play, in a prologue and three acts, by William Toynbee (The Pioneers)—La Scala.
„ 17. *Hero and Heroine*, melodramatic absurdity, in one act—La Scala.
„ 18. *The Chaperon*, comedy, in three acts, by Arthur M. Heathcote—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
„ 18. *Facile; or, Love the Conqueror*, comedy-drama, in three acts, by George Rose Norton and Francis Chamier (produced by amateurs)—Wellington Hall, St. John's Wood.
„ 23. *Bluebell*, new edition of the musical dream-play, in two parts (*Blue Bell in Fairyland*), by Seymour Hicks, lyrics by Aubrey Hopwood and Charles H. Taylor, produced at the Vaudeville Theatre, Dec. 18, 1901—Opening of the Aldwych Theatre.
„ 23. *The Sleeping Beauty*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Opening of the New Prince's Theatre, Poplar.
„ 23. *Aschenbroedel (Cinderella) oder der Glaserne Pantoffel*, children's comedy, in six tableaux, by C. A. Goerner (German Theatre)—Great Queen-street.
„ 23. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by William Wade—King's, Hammersmith.
„ 23. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Alec Murray—Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.
„ 23. *Forty Thieves*, pantomime, by Martin Byam—Alexandra Palace.
„ 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Sir F. C. Burnand, J. Hickory Wood, and Arthur Collins, music by James M. Glover—Drury-lane.
„ 26. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Marlborough.
„ 26. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer—Grand, Woolwich.
„ 26. *Puss in Boots*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Broadway Theatre, New Cross.
„ 26. *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
„ 26. *Little Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Victor Stevens—West London.
„ 25. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Stanley Rogers—Brixton Theatre.
„ 26. *Goody Two Shoes*, pantomime, by Hugh B. Pinnock—Richmond Theatre.
„ 26. *Sinbad the Sailor*, pantomime, by Brian Daly—Royal County Theatre, Kingston.
„ 26. *Sinbad the Sailor*, pantomime, by Newman Maurice—Grand, Islington.
„ 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Coronet.
„ 26. *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, pantomime—Alexandra, Stoke Newington.
„ 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Kennington Theatre.
„ 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer—Crown Theatre, Peckham.
„ 26. *King Wow-Wow*, pantomime, by Charles Willmott—Britannia.
„ 25. *Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Camden.
„ 26. *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, by Newman Maurice—Crouch End Opera House.
„ 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by "Iam Query"—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
„ 26. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime—Shakespeare, Clapham.
„ 27. *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, dramatised version, in four acts, by Augustus Thomas and James McArthur, of Ian Maclaren's work (Mr. William Mollison's season)—St. James's.
„ 29. *Blau*, comedy, in one act, by Max Bernstein (German Theatre).—Great Queen-street Theatre.
„ 29. *Er muss taub sein*, farce, by Moinaux (German Theatre).—Great Queen-street Theatre.

REVIVALS.

DEC. 19. *Peter Pan*, the fairy play, in five acts, by J. M. Barrie—Duke of York's.
„ 26. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*—New.
„ 26. *The Tempest*—His Majesty's.
„ 26. *Charley's Aunt*, farce, in three acts, by Brandon Thomas—Terry's.
„ 26. *Fourchette and Co.*, play, in one act—Terry's.

PROVINCES.

DEC. 2. *The Star of Paris*, drama, in a prologue and three acts, by R. H. Curtis and George Antley (copyright performance)—Theatre Royal, Dover.
„ 2. *By Whose Hand?* drama, in four acts (copyright performance)—Opera House, Harrogate.
„ 4. *The Lady from London*, farce, in two acts, by Cyril Depon—Royal Court Theatre, Warrington.
„ 11. *Like No Other Love*, play, in four acts, by Mark Melford—Grand Theatre, Croydon.
„ 11. *Naughty Lady Cecil*, play, in one act—New Theatre, Cambridge.
„ 11. *The Little Breadwinner*, drama, in four acts, by J. A. Campbell—Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.
„ 11. *The Higher Court*, play, in three acts, by A. C. Fraser Wood (produced by amateurs)—Masonic Hall, Sutton Coldfield.
„ 18. *The Particular Pet*, farce, adapted from Max Maurey's *Asile de Nuit*, by Edward Knoblauch—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
„ 18. *Her Lost Self*, drama, in four acts, by Nita Rae—Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.
„ 18. *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* (?), drama, in four acts, by Nita Rae—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
„ 18. *Thy Neighbour's Wife*, drama, by Charles H. Longden and Eric Hudson—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
„ 23. *A Nameless Play*, in three acts, by Sydney Spenser—Theatre Royal, Glossop.
„ 26. *The Irish Dragoon*, Irish drama, in four acts, by J. W. Whitbread—Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin.
„ 25. *No Wedding Bells for Her*, drama, in four acts, by Frank Bateman and John Douglass.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.

BERLIN.

DEC. 1. *Schlaraffenland*, fairy play, in five acts, by A. Prasch—Des Westens.
„ 4. *Wanjuschin's Kinder*, four-act play, by S. Naidjonoff—Schiller O.
DEC. 6. *Die herbe Frucht*, three-act comedy, by R. Bracco—Trianon.
„ 6. *Die Wunderglocke*, Christmas play, in four acts, by F. Bertram—Berliner.
„ 10. *La Rafale*, three-act play, by H. Bernstein (Madame Réjane's season)—Berliner.
„ 16. *Venus Amathusia*, drama, in three acts, by M. Dreyer—Royal Schauspielhaus.
„ 21. *So sind sie alle*, musical farce, in three acts, by MM. Mannstaldt and Weller—Luisen.
„ 22. *Rat Schrimpf*, five-act play, by M. Barckhard—Lessing.
„ 22. *Schützenliesel*, operetta, in three acts, by E. Eysler—Des Westens.
„ 23. *Er und ich*, four-act farce, by A. Philipp—Deutsch-Amerikanisch.
„ 24. *Der Weg zur Hölle*, three-act farce, by G. Kadelburg—Lustspielhaus.
„ 27. *Nach Afrika*, five-act burlesque, by B. Zoppert—Walhalla.

PARIS.

DEC. 1. *Une Revue au Palais-Royal*, revue, in ten tableaux, by Pierre Véber and Adrien Vély—Palais-Royal.
„ 5. *La Cousine Bette*, play, in four acts and seven tableaux, after Balzac, by Pierre Decourcelle and Granet—Vaudeville.
„ 5. *Triplepatte*, comedy, in five acts, by T. Bernard and A. Godfernaux—Athénée.
„ 12. *Jeunesse*, comedy, in three acts, by André Picard—Odéon.
„ 12. *Le Mari qui faillit tout gâter*, comedy, one act, by S. Guitry—Odéon.
„ 18. *Le Réveil*, play, in three acts, by Paul Hervieu—Comédie-Française.
„ 22. *Une Veine de ——*, vaudeville, in three acts, by Kéroul and Barré—Folies-Dramatiques.
„ 23. *Les 400 Coups du Diable*, spectacular piece, in four acts and thirty-six tableaux, by Victor de Cottens and Darlay—Châtelet.
„ 26. *Les Pêcheurs de Saint-Jean*, opera, in four acts, by Henri Cain, music by Ch. M. Wider—Opéra-Comique.
„ 26. *La Coupe enchantée*, musical comedy, in one act, by Matrat, music by Gabriel Pierné—Opéra-Comique.

THE AFTERMATH OF MUSICAL PIRACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Mr. Leslie Stuart has launched an appeal to stageland on behalf of the widow of the late George Le Brunn, the well-known song-writer, who has left nothing behind him and whose fees, in spite of his wide-spread popularity latterly amounted to but £1 per year.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Leslie Stuart's sympathetic words on the sad fate of Mr. George Le Brunn will awaken wide-spread sympathy, and it is to be hoped swell the receipts of the fund now started, by the music-hall profession, to which, I for one, and with me thousands of friends of our music-halls will be only too glad [illegible] tribute their mite. The song of the music-hall may not be the most exalted form of art, but it is very frequently representative of the humour and the pathos of the people, and Mr. Le Brunn's most renowned work was particularly happy in this respect. In the musical world his songs may not be highly considered, but as a critic who has endured many of our inane musical comedies, I gladly testify that his melodies, both in form and thought, are often very superior to the output of those happier composers whose fees are thousands, who cut a sorry figure when brought face to face with the one honest sovereign earned by poor George Le Brunn. And this brings me to the main theme of this short epistle. When a man of the rank of Mr. Leslie Stuart, whose melodies are constantly sung in England, our dominions beyond the sea, and in America, to say nothing of the Continent of Europe, is beggarly rewarded for the effort of his brain and imagination, there must surely be something rotten in the state of our methods. I was the other day conversing with a Parisian music-hall composer, who avowed to me that one of his songs, which was just then running the boulevards, had brought him in one year's time one hundred thousand francs for fees, and he explained the system to me, which I knew in theory, but was glad to know more intimately in practice. There is in France a society of musical composers, which, under the protection of a motherly law, watches the interests of everyone of its members with parental anxiety. This society has agents in every city and borough—aye, in every village where there is a concert room or music-hall. Its agents are instructed to watch every performance, and to collect the fees for every song given. The royalties are apportioned acording to the number of inhabitants of the various communes. Some pay so many francs per evening and per song. Some pay a fraction of a sou, but all have to pay, and woe betide the transgressor, for the law of France understands no nonsense where intellectual property is concerned. In England there may be protective societies, and there may be nothing to be said against their activity, but one thing is certain, we have no definite and no complete system, whereas we are blessed with legislation which seems to leave the status of the composer in a London fog. I think the time is ripe for an influential body of music publishers and musicians to take the matter seriously in hand, in co-operation with members of Parliament, and to make an end to a state of things which is both intolerable and detrimental to the musical profession. If Mr. Stuart's appeal tends to achieve this aim he has a claim on the gratitude of all his fellow artists, and it may well be said that Mr. George Le Brunn will not have died in vain.—Yours faithfully,

J. T. GREIN.

MISS HELENA MILLAIS, whose engagement to play Käthie in *Old Heidelberg* made quite a little stir in theatrical circles—she was so young and inexperienced—has recently been turning her talents to good account by giving dramatic recitals in costume. Daughter of an artist and journalist, Mr. Richard Marriott, she always heard a great deal of theatrical talk, and longed, even as a child, to go on the stage. Her father's influence obtained an interview with Mr. George Alexander, just before Mr. Mouillot sent *Old Heidelberg* on tour. She recited the Arthur and Hubert scene from *King John* to the manager of the St. James's, because he wanted to see her do something young, and the Closet scene from *Hamlet*, because he wanted to see her do something strong, and the opportunity to play Käthie was the result. Miss Millais, who is still in her teens, is studying singing with Madame Emilie Steed; she is a good horsewoman, an expert swimmer, and possesses a gift for selling programmes at charity concerts.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM and Miss Mary Moore have appointed Mr. Reginald Walter to be their stage manager. Sir Charles and Miss Moore are now preparing an artistic little souvenir containing photographs of the principal characters and scenes from *Captain Drew on Leave* for presentation to the audience at the 100th performance on Monday, January 29.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER will produce the new version of Mr. Leo Trevor's military comedy, *Brother Officers*, at the Garrick Theatre, on Monday evening, the 22nd inst., and will devote the proceeds of the first night's performance to the Queen's Unemployed Fund. The present run of *The Merchant of Venice* therefore can only be continued for two more weeks. Mr. Charles Frohman, who holds the English rights of Mr. Alfred Sutro's new comedy, *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, shortly to be produced in America, has, in common with the author, a strong desire that Mr. Arthur Bourchier should interpret the title-rôle when the play is produced in London. He, therefore, invited the eminent actor to join forces with him for this occasion, with the result that Mr. Bourchier and Mr. Frohman will together present the play at the Garrick Theatre whenever a successor is required to *Brother Officers*.

MRS. JOHN BILLINGTON attained her eighty-first birthday on the 4th inst., when gratifying telegrams came from far and near, one of the most cherished being from her old friend, Mr. J. L. Toole, who has been unceasing in his kindness to Mrs. Billington since the death of her husband. Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and other leading managers have also taken a kindly interest in Mrs. Billington's welfare. We wish her all happiness in the New Year.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS will add to the museum now in the course of formation at the Aldwych Theatre the interesting collection of Irving relics which he obtained at the recent sale. Curios in the shape of old playbills, theatrical portraits and engravings, and the dresses and footgear of famous actors and actresses, including articles worn on the stage by David Garrick, Mrs. Kemble, Edmund Kean, and Lady Bancroft, will also be among the exhibits. A charge of 1s. per head will be made for admission to the museum, and the money thus obtained will be handed over to charitable organisations connected with the theatrical profession.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE will respond for "The Drama," proposed by the president, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, at the sixth annual dinner of the O.P. Club, which will be held at the Criterion on Sunday, Feb. 18. The toast of "The Ladies" will be given by Mr. Sidney Dark, and accepted by Miss Eva Moore.

THE late Sir Henry Irving had a strong sympathy with the Salvation Army, and greatly admired General Booth. Mr. H. Chance Newton, in a most interesting article in the *Free Lance*, has quoted Irving's remarks on the General and his supporters. "That's the Religion!" Irving exclaimed not long before his death. "*Theirs!* Doing good! Rescuing the waif, the drunkard, and the poor wretched prostitute! Marvellous what Barnardo has done for the poor youngsters, eh? And look at the 'General,' as he calls himself—and well he might, for what an organiser! What an earnest preacher, this old Booth! Lately, while resting between my tours, I caught him up, several times, on *his*. I have been to hear him often lately. What a remarkable man! What a power over his hearers! Wonderful!"

IRVING, says Mr. Newton, in the latter years of his life, gave a good deal of money to the officials of "The Army." So much so that its "soldiers" and "lasses," whose rough, simple piety and self-sacrifice Irving always revered, often sent to him, or called upon him at the theatre, as soon as he reached this or that town, for he always had some helpful donation ready for them.

THERE exists in America an institution formed with the object of securing for blind people free admission to musical and other entertainments. Tickets which otherwise would not be used are solicited for distribution among a classified list of self-supporting blind persons living in their own homes, and, thanks to the help of philanthropic managers and subscribers, the scheme has proved so successful that there are to-day four bureaux in active work. The scheme has now been established in London. A committee has been formed, several leading managers having generously promised practical help. In order to be registered to obtain tickets, the blind must be personally known to a representative of the committee to ensure their respectability and worthiness. It is already customary for seats to be given to blind institutions, but, for lack of proper organisation, these seats are often unused. Mr. Lewis Waller is among the committee who are starting the London Bureau, and the temporary secretary is Baroness Arild Rosenkrantz, who will gladly give further information to any well-wishing inquirers.

"LIGHTS OUT," which has had such a successful run at the Waldorf Theatre, will, on Monday, be transferred to the Savoy, where for a necessarily short season it will be presented by the company at present appearing in it, including Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Charles Fulton, and Mr. H. V. Esmond. *Lights Out* will be preceded each evening by *La Main*. The brief stay of the clever piece at the Savoy is due to arrangements previously made for the presentation at that house of another attraction.

MR. SILVANUS DAUNCEY and Mr. M. V. Leveaux are to be warmly congratulated on the great success which has attended the production of *The Walls of Jericho* by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in the Royal and State Theatres of Holland. The first performance was given at the Royal Theatre at The Hague on Monday evening. It was the first time any play had been performed in the English language at the Royal Theatre, and it was witnessed by a large and brilliant audience, including Her Majesty the Queen-Mother of the Netherlands. The play was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and Mr. Edward A. Warburton and Miss Dorothy Thomas, who played the leading parts, were called before the curtain four times at the end of the third act, and warmly cheered.

AT the conclusion of the performance the Queen-Mother summoned Mr. Leveaux to the Royal box, and complimented him most highly on the play and the performance. Another large and enthusiastic audience witnessed *The Walls of Jericho* at Arnhem on Tuesday, and on Wednesday the company opened to a fine at the Stadsschouwburg, the beautiful State Theatre of the Netherlands at Amsterdam. The Dutch Press is unanimous in its praise of the play and the artists. The leading paper at The Hague concluded a flattering notice with the kindly wish, "May our English friends soon return to us."

THE Actors' Benevolent Fund will hold its annual general meeting at His Majesty's Theatre on Monday, Jan. 29. Mr. Beerbohm Tree will occupy the chair.

CLERGYMEN of many denominations descended upon the Shaftesbury Theatre on Wednesday afternoon, in response to the invitation of the management to witness the performance of *The Jury of Fate*. The enjoyment of the reverend assembly, which numbered between 1,000 and 1,500 divines, was manifest throughout, applause being frequent and hearty. Amongst those to whom boxes were allotted were the Bishop of Stepney and the Bishop of Southwark, and the audience also included Mr. Stewart Headlam and Archdeacon Harris, Chaplain to the Channel Fleet.

MR. GASTON MAYER, the director of the French season at the Royalty, has just received a telegram from M. Maurice Rouvier, the French Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, wishing him every success, and offering hearty congratulations for his endeavours in the cause of French Art. Madame Lara, Sociétaire de la Comedie Française, will resume the part of Germaine Lechat in *Les Affaires sont les Affaires*, which she created, so that three prominent Sociétaires will take part in the ten performances which M. de Feraudy is to give at the New Royalty, namely, M. de Ferandy, Mlle. Leconte, and Madame Lara. Some thirty artists have been specially engaged for the extensive répertoire to be performed during next week. The winter season of French plays will close towards the end of February, and the summer season will commence on May 28, with M. Coquelin and the entire company from the Gaiété Theatre, Paris. During the interim, Mr. Harry Fragson and Miss May de Sousa will appear at the Royalty in a novel and refined class of entertainment.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS, in a letter congratulating Dr. Distin Maddick on the wonderful beauty of his newly-built Scala Theatre, wished "the spirit of Napoleon might return to entertain once more his famous Balcony of Kings." The production of Mr. W. G. Wills' *A Royal Divorce* at the theatre which stands on the ground of the old Prince of Wales's, where, in the days of Marie Wilton (now Lady Bancroft), the real Napoleon and most of our Royal Family were visitors, is therefore very appropriate. On Jan. 13 the spirit of Napoleon will be materialised on the Scala stage by Mr. Frank Lister, with Miss Edith Cole as Josephine. Whether the Balcony of Kings will be realised remains to be seen. Those who know Mr. W. W. Kelly as a manager have every confidence in him.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER celebrated the hundredth performance of *The Merchant of Venice* at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday by the presentation of a handsome souvenir, consisting of an album containing a number of coloured sketches representing the principal artists and scenes in the play. In response to continuous applause at the conclusion of the piece, Mr. Bourchier made the following brief speech:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—On behalf of my wife, my friend and co-adjutor, Mr. Alan Mackinnon, my company and myself, will you allow me to take this opportunity of expressing our heart-felt thanks to the public and the Press who have so generously encouraged us in our first Shakespearean production in London. I need hardly say that *The Merchant of Venice* will remain in our répertoire, and will be presented to you at least once a year. May we hope for the same welcome when we produce next year our next Shakespearean play, viz., *Much Ado About Nothing*."

MR. F. R. BENSON has arranged an elaborate series for this year's Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon. The celebration, which will start on April 23 and spread over three weeks, will begin with *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Julius Cæsar*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, and *The Rivals* following on each day in order, with matinées of *Hamlet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* on Wednesday and Saturday respectively. The second week will be devoted to *Richard the Second*, *Henry the Fourth* (Part 2), *Henry the Sixth* (Parts 1, 2, and 3), and *Richard the Third*, *Henry the Fifth* being given for the Wenesday matinée, and *The Merchant of Venice* for that of Saturday. *She Stoops to Conquer* will begin the third week, followed by *King Lear*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, and *Richelieu*. A matinée of *Julius Cæsar* will be given on Wednesday, and a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, which will be played on Friday, will be repeated at both morning and evening performances on the closing day of the festival.

THE Royal Theatre at The Hague, where Mr. Slivanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux presented Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in *The Walls of Jericho* on Monday evening, is also known and advertised as the Fransche Schouwburg, the French Theatre of The Hague, a name it has acquired from the large numbers of French companies which play there. The receipts for *The Walls of Jericho*, the first English performance given there, on Monday evening exceeded those of any French company that has played there, excepting only Mdme. Bernhardt and M. Coquelin.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM, in common with other eminent actor-managers, has to withstand a regular bombardment by unacted playwrights, some of whom fall into the unaccountable error of omitting all trace of their identity. Sir Charles has in his possession a large number of manuscripts bearing neither the name nor the address of the senders, and desires to say that if the authors will communicate with him, their offspring will be duly returned.

THE amount realised by the concert held at Albert Hall on Dec. 19, on behalf of the Queen's Unemployed Fund, was £250. Many actresses were to be seen selling programmes on the occasion, and the charity was also considerably helped by popular actors, who officiated as stewards.

THE annual children's dance given by the O.P. Club took place on Saturday at the Criterion, when over 600 juveniles thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Mr. Carl Hentschel seemed quite in his element as master of the ceremonies, arranging the dances and the entertainment admirably. Miss Beryl Hentschel and Miss Norah Samuel gave a charming exhibition in a "Scarf Dance," and Mr. Owen Clarke entertained with ventriloquism, conjuring, and other feats.

M. G. DEYRENS, a young actor of Mme. Réjane's company, was made the victim of the new Aliens Act on his way to London. Arriving at Dover, he was much astonished when called upon by the officials to give an account of himself, in accordance with the provisions of the Act. He was detained for some time, a doctor examined him, and he was compelled, he says, to write out a long statement about himself and his occupation. Three hours later M. Deyrens was sent on to London.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and MR. PERCY HUTCHISON started their second tour of the successful comedy, *The Freedom of Suzanne*, at Eastbourne, on New Year's Day, under the most promising auspices. The principal parts are being played by Mr. Percy D. Standing and Miss Beatrice Lindley, and the itinerary will embrace all the large towns.

MR. FREDERICK SARGENT brings to a termination to-day a starring engagement of upwards of six months with Mr. Esmonde Bramley's Shakespearean company, during which period he has amongst other rôles, made successful appearances as Hamlet, Othello, Romeo, David Garrick, Charles Surface, and Claude Melnotte.

CAPTAIN BASIL HOOD has been wielding his facile pen busily, and in association with Mr. Charles Brookfield has practically finished the new Vaudeville piece, for which Mr. Leslie Stuart provides the music, the production being fixed for Easter or thereabouts. This modern version of *Romeo and Juliet* will have Miss Edna May as the heroine. The scene of the first act represents a charity bazaar, the stalls of which are managed by "opposing houses" of Montague and Capulet. Captain Hood, who is engaged upon the adaptation of the Sardou opera, to be produced at Daly's in succession to *The Little Michus*, has also undertaken to provide Mr. George Edwardes with the books of two original musical plays.

MISS ELLALINE TERRISS received a pretty tribute to the realism of her acting at the Aldwych recently, when a little girl who was one of the occupants of a stage-box crowded with children, sympathising with the poor flower-girl who was repulsed by the rich lady, leaned out of the box and offered the actress a sixpence. Miss Terriss promptly accepted the gift, and said she would keep it for luck. The little donor was enthusiastically cheered by the audience.

MISS LEONORA GRIEVE, who is playing Aladdin at the King's Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne, met with an unfortunate accident last week, owing to a heavy piece of scenery falling on her head and rendering her unconscious. The part was successfully taken up for the next performance by Miss Daisy Lake.

"THE SONG OF LIBERTY," a three-act drama, by H. A. Saintsbury and Mary C. Rowsell, has been translated for the Scandinavian stage, and will be produced, probably first in Stockholm. The scene is Strassburg in the height of the first French Revolution

HIS HONOUR JUDGE PARRY and MR. FREDERICK MOUILLOT, whose farce, *What the Butler Saw*, attained the longest run of any non-musical play in London during the past year, have completed a new three-act comedy, which Mr. Mouillot, following his usual policy, will try in one of his provincial theatres prior to placing it before the London public. The title of the new play is *What's the Matter with London?*

MR. VINCENT COLLIER'S smart little curtain-raiser, *My First Patient*, which was so cordially received when produced at Ealing a few weeks ago, will be seen at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on the 22nd, with an exceptionally strong cast, including Mr. George Mudie as the Doctor. It precedes *On the Love Path*, in which Mr. Mudie will also appear.

MISS LENA ASHWELL will be seen in the parts of Hermione and Perdita in a dramatic reading of *The Winter's Tale*, to be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25, in St. Peter's Institute, Buckingham Palace-road, S.W. The new president of the Association is Mr. Sidney Lee, and Mr. H. B. Irving is the vice-president.

IMPROVEMENTS will be notable in Terry's Theatre when it reopens on Jan. 24 with Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's new play *The Heroic Stubbs*. The alterations include a new system of warming, new curtains, new carpets, and new upholstery for the seats, forty-eight hours being the time allotted in which to complete the work.

MR. JAMES J. CORBETT, formerly heavy-weight champion of the world, who appeared at Drury Lane in April, 1894, in *Gentleman Jack*, took up the title-rôle in Stanislaus Stange's version of Bernard Shaw's story *Cashel Byron's Profession*, at Daly's Theatre, New York, on Monday. It is considered that Mr. Shaw's story does not lend itself to the stage, and the retired champion, not the play, is the chief attraction. The leading rôle is that of a prize-fighter, and Mr. Corbett is said to give a very creditable performance of it.

"THE LITTLE CHERUB," the new musical play by Owen Hall and Ivan Caryll, with lyrics by Adrian Ross, will descend to this terrestrial sphere at the Prince of Wales's theatre this evening at eight precisely. Mr. George Edwardes announces that the little difficulty which occasioned the postponement last week has been satisfactorily overcome, the necessary licences for a bevy of small children to play the parts of "cupids" having been obtained. It was explained at the Marlborough-street police-court on Monday when the application was made, that the "cupids" required only the space of three minutes to do their work on the stage, and the police having no objection to the little gods disporting themselves in the limelight Mr. Denman granted the licences.

A BRONZE tablet, measuring about 18in. in height and 9in. in width, has been affixed to the outside wall of one of Messrs. Lyons's refreshment depôts in Newgate-street. It bears the following lines in raised letters:—"Sir Henry Irving served his time as a publisher's clerk on these premises, leaving in 1856." Above is a laurel wreath, and below two laurel sprays.

"THE BLUE MOON," which is achieving great success at the Lyric Theatre, has been brightened by many fresh numbers, notably the duet "O, mystic love," for Miss Florence Smithson and Mr. Herbert Clayton, and some very up-to-date verses for Miss Violet Lloyd and Mr. Bert Gilbert. The political allusions of Mr. Willie Edouin are a great feature of his delightfully humorous performance as Moolraj, the Edgware-road "Indian." In bad weather, visitors to the Lyric Theatre pit and gallery are admitted a quarter of an hour before the usual time.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. A. WINSTANLEY, the proprietor of the Royal Opera House, and sole lessee of the Theatre Royal, Leicester, who, we are sorry to learn, has not been enjoying the best of health lately, has disposed of his theatres to Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, who will enter into possession on Monday, Feb. 19. The incoming management will take over all contracts with travelling companies entered into by Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley.

COLONEL WINSTANLEY, who has had a long and honourable career in the profession, became proprietor of the Royal Opera House after the retirement of the late Mr. Elliot Galer, and secured the sole lesseeship of the Theatre Royal after the death of Mr. Wallace Revill. With the retirement of the gallant colonel and Mrs. Winstanley the staffs of both theatres have lost the most generous of employers, who have shown them the greatest consideration, and have won their esteem and regard by countless acts of kindness.

MR. EUGENE C. STAFFORD has secured the sole provincial and suburban rights, by special arrangement with Miss Ethel Irving, of that smart comedy *Lucky Miss Dean*, by Sidney Bowkett. A strong company has been engaged, including Mr. William E. Ashcroft and Miss Dora Gray, who will play the two leading parts. The tour will start in the suburbs about March, the whole of the Criterion production being carried.

THAT ever-green farcical comedy *The Private Secretary* will start on its forty-first tour and twenty-second year at the Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough, on August Bank Holiday. Mr. William Hargreaves has been re-engaged by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford to play his part of Old Cattermole, which he has enacted now for nineteen years. The tour will run on till Christmas.

MR. JAMES WELCH'S startling experiment of beginning the performance of *The Heroic Stubbs*, which he produces at Terry's Theatre on Jan. 24, at seven o'clock applies only to the first night. On subsequent evenings the curtain will not rise until 8.15. Mr. Welch will be supported in the rendering of Mr. H. A. Jones's new comedy by Messrs. Dennis Eadie, Sydney Brough, Eille Norwood, George F. Tully, E. Dagnall, Leonard Calvert, and Leopold Profeit, and Misses Gertrude Kingston, Helen Palgrave, Marie Hudspeth, Gertrude Burnett, Irene Rooke, Estelle Winwood, Ethel Hollingshead, Rose Temple, Eva Turnour, and Pauline Potter.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE'S revival of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at His Majesty's on Thursday evening will give all parties an opportunity of indulging in calm reflection after the political fray, and of witnessing at the same time one of Mr. Tree's most interesting impersonations. *The Man Who Was*, the dramatisation of Kipling's story, will also be in the programme.

MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNER, Mr. Bert Coote's manager, has been looking after Mr. Robert Arthur's interests at the Camden Theatre for the last two weeks owing to the illness of Mr. Stanford.

"AS YOU LIKE IT," which was revived with unmistakable success at the St. James's on Tuesday, will go into the evening bill to-day, with matinées on Wednesdays and Saturdays. As it is impossible for Messrs. Lely and Mollison to secure an extension of the St. James's lease this course is necessary, but to avoid disappointment they will give special matinées of *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* every Thursday until the close of their tenancy. The suit of motley which Mr. Charles Groves wears, it is interesting to learn, is the same as that in which Compton won his "Touchstone" thirty years ago.

THE English company going to New York to play Carton's *Mr. Hopkinson* and *Public Opinion* will be the same as at Wyndham's Theatre, with the exception of Mr. James Welch, who will be replaced by Dr. Dallas Welford, and Miss Compton.

WILL it ever come to pass that London managers will put "penalty clauses" into their engagements actors? In Paris this is the usual thing. The "Variétés" has just claimed and been allowed £2,400 for Max Dearly deserting to another house.

A NEW romantic play by Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, entitled *A Queen Without a Crown*, has been accepted by a well-known management, and will first be represented after the pantomime season at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, with a cast of unusual strength.

MISS STELLA GASTELLE, who has made the rôle of Ganem in the pantomime of the *Forty Thieves* at the Marlborough Theatre a veritable principal boy's part, made her reappearance last Monday, having through a severe cold been out of the cast the previous week. She met with a most cordial and flattering reception, again proving what a favourite she is with the public.

WE regret to announce the death on Sunday last of Mr. Henry Orford, the father of Miss Emmeline Orford. The deceased gentleman was 74 years of age, and was well known and respected by many members of the theatrical profession who did business with Orford's repository, Shaftesbury-avenue.

AT least two generations of local playgoers have learnt with much regret that Mr. James Sheering died at his residence, 11, Marlborough-hill, Bristol, on the 8th inst., in his 86th year. He passed peacefully away after six years of considerable suffering, through which he was tenderly nursed by his only child—a daughter. The deceased, who was well known and highly respected, was for 52 years box-keeper at the Theatre Royal and Prince's Theatre, Bristol, under the respective managements of Mrs. Macready, Mr. J. H. Chute, and Mr. James Macready Chute. He was also clerk of the St. James's Market, Bristol, for over 36 years, and was able to boast that the late hours at the theatre never interfered with the opening of the Union-street meat market at four o'clock in the morning all the year round. He was a great personal friend of the late Sir Henry Irving's father, and was much respected by Sir Henry himself, and by many other prominent members of the profession. Mr. Sheering retired from his appointments a few years ago, but always kept in touch with the profession he loved so well, and so faithfully served in many ways.

AT Tower Bridge Police Court on Wednesday, Thomas Modlock, aged 25, of Coral-street, Waterloo-road, was charged, on remand, with assaulting Charles Maffey, of Stamford-hill, an agent of the Music Publishers' Association, at New-cut. The prisoner was also summoned to show cause why 126 copies of pirated music, seized upon his stall under the Musical Copyright Act, should not be destroyed. Evidence was given that the prosecutor approached the stall in company with Police-constable Clark, 308 L, to whom he had given a written authority. The prisoner, after using abusive language, violently assaulted the prosecutor by striking him on the stomach and on the jaw. The seizure was then made, and the prisoner was taken to the station.

TECHNICAL objections were offered by the prisoner's counsel to the documents which were produced in proof that the requirements of the Act had been complied with. The signature of a firm owning musical copyrights was not properly represented by the impress of a rubber stamp, and therefore the prosecutor's own authority was invalid. As to the constable's authority, that was vitiated by subsequent additions to the document. The magistrate overruled both objections.

PROCEEDING with the defence, counsel characterised these seizures as high-handed proceedings, and suggested that a recent death in the East-end was attributable to the violent conduct of an agent of the association. Witnesses were called who denied the alleged assault on Maffey, and said it was the accused who was knocked down. The prisoner also gave evidence on his own behalf, and swore that the story of the prosecution was entirely false.

THE magistrate said he had no doubt whatever that there was an assault committed by the prisoner upon the prosecutor. Probably the witnesses on the prisoner's behalf did not have their attention called to the circumstances until a scuffle had taken place. The constable would have had no reason for arresting Modlock had there been no assault, and he gave his evidence in a remarkably impartial way. It was evident that the prisoner attacked the prosecutor because he knew him to be an agent of the association, and that made it worse than an ordinary assault, but it seemed that he had some idea of protecting his property, and therefore the case would not be treated as one of unprovoked assault, punishable by imprisonment without the option of a fine. The prisoner was ordered to pay £5, or undergo a month's hard labour for the assault, and he was also required to pay £2 2s. costs on the summons. An order was made for the destruction of the copies which had been seized.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, so long connected with Drury-lane drama, has been engaged by Mr. Arthur Collins for the part of Stephen Magnusson in the forthcoming tour of *The Prodigal Son*.

MISS MURIEL GODFREY-TURNER was the recipient of many good wishes from her friends and admirers on Thursday last, the occasion of her birthday. Among other treasured messages was a telegram from Mr. M. Russell Rosse's Company from Cork, in which Mr. Thomas Thorne and the other members of the company with which Miss Turner has been in the past so pleasantly associated wished her many happy returns and all prosperity. Miss Godfrey-Turner, who shortly contemplates joining the small group of actress-managers and is on the look out for a suitable theatre, has in hand several plays in which she has every confidence. Miss Turner's business interests will be watched by Mr. M. Russell Rosse.

MISS ANNIE SAKER'S handsome dresses as Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg in Messrs. Paumier and Howard's successful play, *The Midnight Wedding*, include a beautiful white satin Empire, covered entirely with white net worked with a design of pearls; and a grey velvet costume figures effectively in the third act. From that Miss Saker changes in about four minutes to a complete uniform of a second lieutenant, and then back again in another five minutes to a lace and chiffon dress, over which is worn a long white velvet coat with lining of salmon pink silk. In Manchester a few weeks ago Miss Saker had a pretty compliment paid her, several mill girls awaiting her arrival at the theatre on the Saturday evening with large bunches of white chrysanthemums, with which they presented her.

THE Royal West London pantomime enters on its last six nights next Monday. *Little Red Riding Hood* was only booked for four weeks, being secured by Mr. George Conquest for his theatre at Southend some time ago, otherwise it could have run longer. The Playgoers' Club have taken the entire theatre for this Saturday's matinée. *The Silver King* opens Mr. Bailey's dramatic season.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR" at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, continues to command good houses each night, and now that the show has been improved in various directions it goes with a fine swing. Miss Ethel Beech as principal boy and Miss Eva Bevington as principal girl have both became great favourites, and Mr. Harry Paulton as FitzGubbins and Mr. Frank Stanmore as the dame continue to sustain with unflagging zeal the greater part of the comic element. Mr. Peter Davey, the energetic managing-director of the Royal County, intends to run the pantomime until the 27th inst.

A MAN named Gaillard, a former prompter of the Comédie Française, Paris, committed suicide on Wednesday morning by throwing himself from the Nationale Bridge to the railway line below. A train was passing at the moment, and he was cut to pieces. Gaillard went out of his mind a year ago, and on his recovery M. Claretie did not think it safe to allow him to occupy his former post and gave him plays to copy and other work. The unfortunate man went down to the theatre on Tuesday evening while the play was in progress, and climbed into the flies, but was persuaded to come down. He then wandered about Paris all night, and in the morning met his sad end.

THE many friends of Mr. Fred Allandale will regret to hear that he has had to undergo an operation on his throat. He is, however, rapidly recovering his usual health and energy, and expects to return to the Lyric Theatre to-night (Saturday) or on Monday at latest. Mr. Allandale makes a capital man in the (Blue) Moon, his rattling songs and bright acting being notable features of the merry piece.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S fine pantomime of *Aladdin* has beaten all records at Gateshead, hundreds being turned away nightly. Mr. Howard has achieved a great success, and the fact that the theatre is every night occupied by people who drive in from Newcastle is eloquent of the popular approval his production has created. Evidently Mr. Howard's idea of the old pantomime, including traps and harlequinade, have been much appreciated.

AT the Central Criminal Court, on Monday, in the case of James Frederick Willetts, William Tennant, John Wesley Puddefoot, William Wallace Ross, George Wootton, and Philip Fleming Bokenham, who were committed from the Bow-street Police Court upon charges of conspiracy to infringe various music copyrights, application was made to postpone the trial until next sessions, as the accused were not prepared with their defence. The Recorder said the case was committed for trial on the 22nd ult. The case would probably be a long one, and as this was likely to be a light sessions it was a matter of public convenience that the case should be tried this sessions. Next sessions they might have a heavy list of business, and inasmuch as it would be a great public inconvenience to have the case postponed he should decline the application. The learned counsel had better apply to the Common Serjeant for a convenient day to be fixed to commence the trial. The Common Serjeant subsequently said he would commence the trial of the case on the following day. It was Thursday, however, before it came on.

MR. MUIR, in opening the case for the prosecution, said the rise of this unlawful trade in pirated music had been extraordinary. In 1903 it had attained such proportions that the genuine publishers of music had to engage a small army of "agents" to trace the places at which this pirated music was stored, in order that they might take steps to seize it under the Musical Copyright Act of 1902.

WITHIN a period of two years 300,000 copies of pirated music of one firm alone were seized in London itself, this firm being Messrs. Chappell and Co., who were the nominal prosecutors in this case. In London itself, during the same period of time, upwards of two million copies of pirated publications were seized. These seizures, however, seemed to have no effect in checking this business, which was evidently of a most lucrative character. The defendants, it was alleged, had several places of business, and various devices were adopted to keep them secreted. Counsel said he hoped that the result of this case would be to show that the law was strong enough to protect a man in the enjoyment of the products of his own brain. Some evidence was given, and the case was adjourned.

ON Saturday Mr. H. S. Mendel, the popular manager of the German Theatre, was married to Miss Pape, of Hamburg. After the ceremony there was a *déjeuner intime* at the Holborn Restaurant, at which Director Andresen and his wife presided, and then the young couple left for the briefest of honeymoons—from Saturday to Monday.

MISS LOUISA PEACH, who concludes to-night a special fortnight with Miss Nettie Ware and Mr. Millar Anderson, has been specially engaged by Mr. Morton Powell to create the title-rôle in his new production, *The Woman Who Gambles*, which will see the footlights on Jan. 22.

MISS STELLA PARRY, who was for many years connected with the stage as a burlesque artist, died on Tuesday morning after a long and painful illness from cancer. She had been for some time an inmate of the Cancer Hospital, Fulham-road.

FRENCH PLAYS AT THE ROYALTY.

On Monday, Dec. 8,
the Comedy, in Three Acts,
by Henry Meilhac, entitled,
"DECORE."

Henriette .....MME. REJANE
La Comtesse .....MDLLE. SUZANNE AVRIL
Clara .....MME. ALCIME LEBLANC
Julie .....MDLLE. CHESNEL
Clemence .....MDLLE. TALMONT
Edouard .....M. HUGUENET
Colineau .....M. BURGUET
Leopold .....M. BOSMAN
Le Sous-Préfet .....M. MAX ROBERT
Godin .....M. BENEDICT
L'Interprète .....M. G. DEYRENS
Le Prince .....M. DELORME

Why are contemptible people so amusing—as one may say, so enjoyable? Is it on account of the subtle caress which our vanity feels in consciousness of our own elevation? Is not laughter, especially that likened to the crackling of thorns under the pot, an exultation? A French play like *Décoré* tickles our national vanity. If you want a "character" for his countrymen, you must not go to M. Meilhac. The folk in *Décoré* are indeed a scurvy crew. The "plot" is nothing—merely the old story of the wife, the comic lover, and their troubles in the endeavour to "come together." What distinguishes *Décoré* from the ordinary Palais-Royal farce is that it is written by a man with brains and culture. Meilhac is not only satirising French life; he is poking fun at the dozens and hundreds of sentimental adultery dramas that have wetted so many Parisian pocket-handkerchiefs in the past. Meilhac has not the acid cynicism of Labiche. He is amused with his countrymen and countrywomen; as well-satisfied, in short, as a fat rat in a pig-sty. He does not generalise; he sketches—and how he sketches! One can always see the student of anatomy at the other end of the pencil. His little bourgeoise in *Décoré* is an epitome. While utterly worthless and inconsiderable, she is so imbued with the spirit of sentimental adultery that she *must* pose. Nothing can be funnier than her soliloquy after her first entry. Edouard, the lover, preferring a provincial hotel to one of those hired apartments of assignation which fetch such high rents in Paris, asks her to spend the night with him at an hotel at Harfleur. She is really quite willing, for she "wants a change" from her husband; but she feels that, according to the Cocker of French fiction, she ought to be very angry. "I am furious with myself," she says; "furious at not feeling myself sufficiently furious with him." She wants to "fall"; but she also wants her *chute* to take place, as Hedda Gabler wanted suicide to be committed—"beautifully."

The husband, on his side, is planning an excursion into the country with a certain Countess, a distant relative of Mr. Pinero's Duchess in *The Gay Lord Quex*. The Countess manages her little affair with aristocratic ease, and her scene with the husband, Colineau, is a masterpiece. She enters, seats herself, raises his ardour to fever-heat, makes an assignation, and goes out, all in ten minutes, and without turning a hair. Her luscious smile is exquisite. Henriette and her paramour get to the hotel at Harfleur; but, unfortunately, Edouard is one of those men who can never resist the temptation of a heroic exploit, and he dives into the river with the view of saving someone from drowning. When he comes to the hotel, he has to change his clothes and put on a suit of the landlord's, which do not fit him. Henriette is disgusted. How dare he try to save anyone's life without considering *her*? The truth is that, her feeling for Edouard being a mere physical fancy, she takes a dislike to him when she sees him ill-dressed, and any excuse will serve to break off the connection. She will go back to her husband, she says, and tell him that she was tempted, but conquered temptation, because she was "*un nature d'élite*." But Edouard soon comes in properly attired, and Henriette's appetite returns. It is still possible, she thinks, to keep things in the key of sentiment. Edouard has a burlesque adventure with a tame lion; it is quite enough for Henriette to hang a scene upon—the scene that, in her view, should always precede a *chute*. "Mon Edouard! mon lion!" she cries, with unconscious plagiarism of Dona Sol in *Hernani*. Even when Edouard explains that the lion only got on its hind legs and tried to lick his face, Henriette's resolve is not affected. She talks wildly of going and telling her husband all, of being heroically honest. Of course, she has not the least intention of doing anything of the kind; but it gives the *amant* the chance of replying—with infinite bathos—"I take note of your intention. I believe that, if it were possible, I should love you even more on account of it. But that is unnecessary." Of course, matters are not brought to a climax. There are more adventures; and, after a last act is passed in putting Colineau off the scent and into a false position, the play ends with Henriette, heartily tired of her experiences with Edouard, going off with her husband to Holland. What if her experiment with Edouard has failed? Are there not others? She may have better luck next time.

We have never been able to decide whether Madame Réjane understands the parts she plays, or whether she acts them, so to speak, by ear. It really does not matter. When *Décoré* was produced at the Variétés in 1888, she was the Henriette, with Dupuis as Edouard and Baron as Colineau; and she has consequently absorbed the rôle completely. Her fine art is shown in the beautiful balance with which she delivers the tirades of the part, giving them just sufficient elocutionary emphasis to point their humour, and yet never, in the attempt to accentuate the travesty, impairing the unconsciousness of the character. What makes her performance a masterpiece is its air of absolute sincerity. Henriette is a worthless, affected little fool, with just enough petty cunning to take her through life passably; but in her own estimation she is a heroine of adulterous romance. It is in the contrast between the most polished and poetical sentiments and the pettiest of acts and instincts, that brews the vitriol of Meilhac's satire—satire so easily uttered, so absolutely tolerative and indifferent, that one hardly realises its sharpness.

There is an excellent company supporting Madame Réjane at the Royalty. M. Huguenet is quite satisfying as Edouard. He makes his points with ease and discretion, and his acting is all the more effective from its artistic reserve. M. Burguet well suggests the shallowness of the deluded spouse, Colineau; and M. Bosman indicates expertly the fatuous imbecility of Leopold. A specially intelligent and individual interpretation of the rôle of La Comtesse is supplied by Mdlle. Suzanne Avril; and the rest of the rôles have quite competent interpreters. Mr. Julian Hicks's scenery is just what is requisite. The Royalty, with the brilliant audience of Monday night, looked even prettier than at the private view.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE WETTERFAHRNE,"
Comedy, in Four Acts, by G. Beer, German by A. Hahn, produced at the Trianon Theatre, Jan. 6, 1906.

Annibal .....HERR LAURENCE
Baronin .....FRAULEIN CARLSEN
Frau Fontvannes .....FRÄULEIN DARNOT
Pierre .....HERR JUNKERMANN
Desklavelles .....HERR SENIUS
Jeanne .....FRAULEIN KOLLENDT
Yvonne .....FRAULEIN VON RUTTERSHEIM
Chabreloche .....HERR STROBL
Paul .....HERR SACHS
Cailette .....FRAULEIN ZADEMACK
Brousselet .....HERR WERNER
Antoine .....HERR H. SENIUS
Julien .....HERR ROBERTS
Minstrel .....HERR DADZY
Zweiter Minstrel .....HERR BATHES
Diener .....HERR EHRLICH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, JAN. 11.—This is somewhat of a new departure for the Trianon, whose audiences are accustomed to more highly-spiced fare as a rule. The piece, nevertheless, met with a very cordial reception, and did it not suffer from over-long scenes it would have proved even more successful. A little resolute cutting would certainly be to its advantage, and it is a pity that the translator, who has done his work excellently, did not undertake this at the time. The piece is probably known to your readers, so a detailed description will hardly be necessary. The "weathercock" of the title is a young man named Pierre, and what is termed by the Germans "ein Muttersöhnchen," tied to his mother's apron strings, and born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. Pierre might be held up as a warning to all youths who do not know their own minds; he is a model of irresolution and inconstancy—a child in spite of his thirty years. After doing a good many foolish things he allows himself to become engaged to a girl he does not care for, afterwards falling in love with a pretty young widow who twists him round her finger and insists on his marrying her. He complies with her wishes eagerly, and for a while lives in a state of bliss, but this is short-lived. At times Pierre is his wife's abject slave, adoring her even in her most capricious and extravagant moods, at others doubting her truth, hating her flirtations and making himself generally miserable. After being a prey to his own irresolute nature for some time he suddenly wakes up, and becomes as energetic as his best friend could wish. With as much suddenness, too, he converts his frivolous, coquettish little wife, and both are turned into steady-going, respect-compelling members of the community without any particular reason for the change. We are sceptical as to the future, but the curtain falls upon a happy pair, and we hope the best. The piece was well acted in the principal rôles, Fräulein von Ruttersheim and Herr Junkermann being above the average, as usual.

AN event of importance has taken place in our theatrical annals, and one as unexpected as it is welcome. Herr Ludwig Barnay, the famous actor whose retirement from the stage was so regretted by the public, has been offered, and has accepted the post of director of the Royal Schauspielhaus, which has become vacant by the retirement of Herr Grube. Herr Barnay could scarcely do less than accept the flattering offer, coming, as it does, direct from his Imperial Majesty, with whom Ludwig Barnay was ever a special favourite. Unquestionably, too, he is the right man for his place. Herr Barnay, besides being one of Germany's greatest actors, is a manager of vast experience with exceptional judgment and good taste. One time member of the Imperial Burg Company at Vienna, he joined later the famous *Meiningers*, with whom he acted in London in 1881. In 1888 Herr Barnay built the Berliner Theatre here, where he remained as manager until his retirement into private life some ten or twelve years ago. Since that time the popular artist has received several offers to become manager of Court theatres, but it remained for the Kaiser's to be accepted.

"RIENZI" has been revived at the Royal Opera, a "guest" from Vienna—Herr Erik Schmedes—giving the title-rôle. He was less satisfactory than in his recent impersonation of Lohengrin, though that also left a good deal to be desired. Neither the voice nor the appearance is suited to the part, and the success of the evening was due to Frau Goetze, for her admirable rendering of the rôle of Adriano, and to the orchestra, who did magnificent work under Kapellmeister Muck's bâton. "Wanted, a tenor and light soprano," are, and have been for many years, the cry of the Berlin Royal Opera—to say nothing of a superannuated chorus.

RECITATIONS have become the fashion again lately, and any well-known actor giving an evening's entertainment of the kind may be sure of a good audience. It is also the mode for authors to give readings of their works—whole or partially—in public, only naturally they must be possessed of the requisite name and fame. Frau Schneider-Nissen gave a highly successful récitation evening in the Philharmonic last week, sketches by Rosegger, Strindberg, and others being read in a very fascinating manner by the clever artist—to whom gay and grave subjects come equally opportune. The large hall was filled with a very appreciative audience, and the popular actress was recalled a number of times.

MADAME YVETTE GUILBERT—or to give her her proper name, Frau Schumann—gave the first of her "farewell concerts" in the Beethoven Hall on Saturday. It was not—to be perfectly candid—a successful evening. In the first place, the Beethoven Hall is not, according to popular opinion, the right kind of building for a programme of this sort; Madame Guilbert is an artist of originality, but she is not a singer, and the proper "Stimmung" would not make itself felt among the audience all the evening. The programme, too, was less interesting than usual; "Chansons de Pierrot" and "Chansons paysannes" fell very flat, "Les Cloches de Nantes" being the only number that made any impression, and the enthusiasm that formerly marked a "Guilbert evening" was entirely lacking.

SOPHOCLES' tragedy *Antigone*, adapted for the modern stage and translated into German by Herr Vollmüller, is announced for early production at the Kleines Theatre.

THE Schauspielhaus was in a dilemma a few nights ago just before the performance of *Julius Cæsar*. Herr Matkowsky, who was cast for the part of Mark Anthony, was suddenly taken ill, and Herr Staegemann, who frequently gives the rôle, was also indisposed. Herr Christians, the third Mark Anthony of the company, is in America, and for a while it seemed as though the performance could not take place at all. Fortunately, Herr Grube, who had not played the part for over a dozen years, was able to fill the breach to the satisfaction of all concerned, and this at a few hours' notice.

MAXIM GORKI'S new play *Die Kinder der Sonne* is announced for speedy production at the Kleines, the première. Herr Alexander von Huhn is the translator and adaptor.

I AM glad to be able to state the fact of Herr Vollmer's recovery from a serious illness of many months' duration. Herr Vollmer is the cleverest and most popular comedian of the Schauspielhaus company, and it is a matter of public rejoicing that he is now able to act again.

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE."

We hardly realise sufficiently the care and consideration involved in a modern Shakespearean revival; and it is only when one reads an article like that which Mr. Alan Mackinnon has added to the Souvenir which Mr. Arthur Bourchier presented to the audience on the 100th night of *The Merchant of Venice* at the Garrick on Wednesday, that one understands all that goes to make up a production as marvellously clever and complete as this revival of Shakespeare's comedy. Mr. Mackinnon explains with what deliberate intention each arrangement of the mounting was made.

"The opening scene," he says, "we placed in a balcony overlooking a lagoon. The intention was to suggest the heat and brilliance of an Italian sun without, viewed from the shade within. The voice of a singing girl from the water at the rise of the curtain was meant to emphasise the effect of the former in contrast with the shadow on the mind of Antonio, the premonition of impending trouble expressed in the opening lines of the play. In reading the text, no one can fail to be impressed by the wonderful atmosphere which Shakespeare has created, from the rise of the curtain in the full noonday to its fall in the quiet moonlight and promise of early dawn.

"The balcony in the First Scene was supposed to be that of a palazzo near the mouth of the Grand Canal, with a view to the spectator's right of the spot where the Church of Sta. Maria della Salute was afterwards erected, and so on to the Isola S. Giorgio with its church just newly completed (though without the present well-known Campanile), and the open lagoon on the left.

"The Second Scene, in unison with the First, contained the same contrasts of light and shade and of thought, as suggested in Portia's first words. They formed a quiet opening, and the full blaze of light was reserved for the Third Scene to illustrate the heated passions of the dialogue between the three men. This setting attempted to portray, so far as a limited space would permit, a corner of the Piazzetta under the St. Mark's Column, with another view of the Isola S. Giorgio. Here we took advantage of the 'public place,' referred to above, to introduce the busy life of the quay, and in the movement of the crowd to point the racial enmity between Jew and Christian, and the wealth and importance of the Merchant.

The acting is worthy of the production. Mr. Arthur Bourchier's Shylock has gathered, since the first night, force, balance, and finish. The rough idea has been developed into a complete, harmonious, and masterly embodiment. It is so impressive as to be what is called, in well-worn phrase, "convincing." Mr. Bourchier has been going back to first principles. Kean did not make Shylock an old or even an elderly man, any more than he made him pathetic. Mr. Bourchier does not attempt to "whitewash" the Jew. He plays the part as Shakespeare wrote it; and he plays it as the dramatist may reasonably be supposed to have conceived it. His Shylock is never out of the picture; he never takes the stage to himself. On the other hand, it is never effaced or insipid. In the Trial Scene, for instance, when the "learned doctor" is announced, Shylock is standing silent. On the announcement, his eyes twinkle under the circumflex brows, he is uneasy, he fears a hitch in the performance he has promised to himself. Thoroughly vital and significant, Mr. Bourchier never forces a point, but never passes over an opportunity. He is not, like the curate's egg, "good in parts," but all through. He rises to a fine height in such climaxes as the revenge speech, and in the colloquy in the first act with Antonio; but the chief merit of his performance is its sustained strength, and its loyal reverence for the work of the poet. All lovers of Shakespeare must thank Mr. Bourchier, not only for his admirable production of *The Merchant of Venice*, but for his fine and faithful interpretation of the principal part in the play. Miss Violet Vanbrugh's Portia is irresistible in its warm affection, its spontaneous vivacity, and its noble sincerity. She shows us all the results of independence in a character like that of the heiress of Belmont, making her free and fearless, and unrestrained, except by her own fine instincts. She is especially good in the love passages, which she renders with a dreamy delicacy, a purity of passion, which are most poetical. Nothing could be better than Miss Vanbrugh's delivery of the ecstatic lines which follow Bassanio's choice of the right casket, nothing more "tender and true" than her demeanour to him afterwards. And this Portia is every inch a lady of importance—a mistress who must be obeyed, and therefore can afford to be kind, a superior whose playfulness never descends to the familiarity that breeds contempt. We never realised the discoverable depths of Portia's nature till we saw Miss Vanbrugh in the part. Mr. Julian L'Estrange is a Bassanio worthy of such a bride. Handsome without affectation, and splendid without self-consciousness, Mr. L'Estrange wears the sumptuous and beautiful Renaissance costumes with absolute ease, and acts throughout with the manly grace and the kind of regal repose which must have been an attribute of a Venetian gentleman. Mr. L'Estrange's delivery of Bassanio's speeches is as clear, distinct, forcible, and expressive as could be desired. Mr. Charles V. France's Antonio is beautifully balanced, and the inflection of his delivery of the lines of the part is exquisitely tasteful and judicious. The deep affectionateness of the character is well implied, and Antonio's melancholy never becomes mawkish. Certainly Mr. France's success has much to do with that of the revival. Mr. J. Harcourt Williams introduces into his Gratiano just a slight touch of rusticality, provincialism—what you will!—which gives individuality to the embodiment, and a sharp taste of character. He is effectively energetic, but never merely loud and boisterous; and he, too, may be warmly congratulated on his adroit management of the longer speeches, especially those in the first act. Mr. Walter Pearce makes an excellent Lorenzo—natural and simple, with a fine touch of poesy. His rendering of the romantic lines in the last act is artistic; and, altogether, he sustains the part very agreeably. Mr. George Trollope and Mr. Wilfred Foster represent Salarino and Salanio with conscientious care. The dialogue of such parts, always important to the explanation of the play, is often carelessly delivered and half inaudible. No reproach of this kind can be made to Mr. Trollope and Mr. Forster; and Mr. Arthur Burne's Salerio is another performance which, for the same reasons, deserves warm encouragement. Mr. Norman Forbes's Launcelot Gobbo is a very clever execution of a really difficult task. Half of Launcelot's wit is antiquated; and the actor has to suggest the character by his personality. Mr. Forbes's serving man, with his craziness, his loquacity, and his conceit is a study of great merit. Mr. O. B. Clarence's Old Gobbo is absolutely satisfactory, the senile oddities of the individual being made the most of by this very expert artist. Miss Muriel Beaumont is an ideal Nerissa, bright, "bonnie," and merry, within the limits of becoming mirth. Miss Elfrida Clement is a quite charming Jessica, both in style and appearance. Every speech of the Jewish maiden's is done full justice to, and the quiet gentleness of her nature is admirably expressed. Mr. Frank Lacey makes what can be made of the part of Tubal, which certainly offers few opportunities. Of these, however, Mr. Lacey takes the full advantage. Mr. Lawson Butt is a superb Prince of Morocco, grand in bearing and speech, and the essence of Oriental dignity. Pages of description might be written without doing justice to all the details of the production of *The Merchant of Venice* at the Garrick.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"AS YOU LIKE IT."

Shakespeare's Comedy,
Revived at the St. James's Theatre,
on Tuesday, January 9.

Duke .....MR. WILLIAM CALVERT
Frederick .....MR. A. KINGSTON
Amiens .....MR. B. KEITH
Jaques .....MR. WILLIAM MOLLISON
First Lord .....MR. HENRY BEVERS
Second Lord .....MR. J. ALTON
Third Lord .....MR. FRED THOMS
Le Beau .....MR. H. TRIPP EDGAR
Charles .....MR. K. CHALMERS
Oliver .....MR. M. MANCINI
Jaques de Bois .....MR. D. LYALL
Orlando .....MR. HENRY AINLEY
Adam .....MR. D. J. WILLIAMS
Dennis .....MR. ROY CUSHING
Touchstone .....MR. CHARLES GROVES
Corin .....MR. ALLEN THOMAS
Silvius .....MR. H. WORRALL
William .....MR. W. KENRICK
First Page .....MASTER THOMSON SAMPSON
Second Page .....MASTER ALBERT BERESFORD
Rosalind .....MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE
Celia .....MISS LETTICE FAIRFAX
Phœbe .....MISS EVELYN MACNAY
Audrey .....MISS CLARA COWPER

"It's all right in the summer-time!" sings a contemporary poet. What a difference it would have made if the excursion of Rosalind, Celia, and Touchstone had been undertaken in wet weather. Fancy the Forest of Arden in a "steady downpour," and the Banished Duke and his followers crouching in log-huts, amidst the odoriferous steam of drying clothes! It has been surmised that Jaques's melancholy arose from the chronic rheumatism engendered by his sufferings from the "inclemency of the weather." But Youth, with its entire ignorance of lumbago, is the season of sunshine, and *As You Like It* is a bright, youthful, sunshiny play, and should be treated accordingly. One of the pleasantest performances of the piece we have ever witnessed was given at the St. James's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. The freshness and vitality of youth were especially well supplied by Mr. Henry Ainley and Miss Lilian Braithwaite. Mr. Ainley is an ideal Orlando—handsome, alert, energetic, and full of the vigour and earnestness appropriate to the personage. He surprised us by the animation and earnestness which he put into his work; and his efforts were warmly appreciated by the audience. As for Miss Braithwaite, she won all hearts by her buoyancy and beauty, and in Rosalind's doublet and hose she was absolutely bewitching. She gave a delightful rendering of the rôle—arch, simple, and always active and animated. Miss Lettice Fairfax's Celia had all the necessary sweetness, and she struck out, where possible, some sparks of dramatic fire. Here again good looks increased the effect of good acting; and when Mr. Ainley, Miss Braithwaite, and Miss Fairfax were on the stage together, the pictorial effect was very pleasing. Mr. Mollison gave an aristocratic yet humorous reading of Jaques; and the house was hushed into utter stillness during his delivery of the "Seven Ages" speech, one of the most artistic and unstilted which we have ever heard. The ideas seemed to well up naturally in the speaker's mind, and the whole treatment was happily devoid of formality. Altogether, the reading was a memorable one. Mr. Charles Groves gave to Touchstone just the required amount of dry humour and plenty of quiet, unctuous drollery. A great merit of the revival was its all-round thoroughness, not a single part being ill-allotted. Mr. A. Kingston was strongly imperative as Frederick; and Mr. William Calvert, of course, enacted the Duke with absolute ease. Mr. Tripp Edgar contributed a very dainty and clearly-cut rendering of the part of Le Beau; and Mr. D. J. Williams was venerably expressive as Old Adam. Mr. B. Keith was a satisfactory Amiens; and Mr. Reginald Davidson sang "Blow, blow, thou winter wind" and "Under the greenwood tree" most tunefully. Mr. Allen Thomas was ruggedly characteristic as Corin, Mr. H. Worrall being duly sorrowful and sentimental as Silvius, and Mr. W. Kenrick playing William soundly and well. Miss Evelyn Macnay was acceptable as Phœbe; and the rustic traits of Audrey were amusingly indicated by Miss Clara Cowper, Mr. Mancini as Oliver being in every respect effective, and Mr. D. Lyall doing excellent work as Jaques de Bois. Mr. K. Chalmers was thoroughly satisfactory as Charles. Messrs. Hawes Craven and Joseph Harker's scenery was highly artistic, the forest "set" being especially picturesque. The performance was evidently enjoyed by the matinée audience, who listened with attention and applauded with keen enthusiasm.

"THE INTERLUDE OF YOUTH."

A refreshing religious odour pervaded one's nostrils at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Monday afternoon, when the English Drama Society revived the old Morality play, *The Interlude of Youth*. The aromatic scent of the incense brought to one's mind thoughts of the period when the actors were priests and the theatres were monasteries.

There is much that is graceful, inspiring, and beautiful in this old-world allegory, and its blank verse received fitting treatment from the little band of players who essayed its production on the first day of this week. Of the players, there were seven. We were not permitted to know them, except by the names, respectively, of Charity, Youth, Pride, Luxury, Riot, Humility, and Angel. The young lady who represented Charity played with sincerity and maidenly modesty. It was in the gentlest and most unassuming, and yet earnest tones, that she addressed herself to wayward Youth. In no light manner did Mistress Charity realise the sacredness of her character, and she realised it as surely as she realised the meaning of one of her lines—"*Qui manet in charitate in Deo manet.*" Vigorous, vivacious, headstrong, intractable at first to the admonitions of his angelic counsellor was Youth, though later, as he forsook Riot and Pride, one saw the gentler aspect of his nature. It was a fine piece of acting, as was also that of Riot, who, in his gaudy trappings and with his senseless jollity and solicitations to force Youth into the devil's way, was as weak and evilly-disposed a tavern-frequenting, thievish swashbuckler as one could wish to avoid. Then, the grace and tenderness of Humility, the sweetness of Angel, the vanity and pompous assumption of the gaily-apparelled popinjay Pride, and the self-indulgent proclivities of Luxury, were all delineated with appropriate expression and enunciation.

The robing of the different characters and the mounting of the little play were well in keeping with the subject, and the English Drama Society may be congratulated upon its efforts in unearthing this dainty little drama for the benefit of the more thoughtful playgoer.

THE King witnessed the performance of Mme. Réjane in *Décoré* at the New Royalty Theatre on Tuesday evening.

"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS."

A Musical Fairy Play, in Two Acts,
by George Grossmith, jun., Composed by Constance Tippett, Lyrics by Percy Greenbank, with additional numbers by C. H. Bovill and Philip Braham,
Produced at the Gaiety Theatre on Monday Afternoon, Jan. 8.

MORTALS.

Max .....MR. EDMUND PAYNE
Moritz .....MR. WILLIAM SPRAY
The Schoolmaster .....MR. ARTHUR HATHERTON
Hans, the Miller and Baker .....MR. G. FRANKLIN
Farmer's Boy .....MR. LEWIS GRANDE
Lulu, the Donkey .....MESSRS. ALMONTE
Fritz, the Widow's Dog .....MASTER E. HALLOM
Granny Bauer .....MISS KATE BISHOP
Widow Bolt .....MISS KITTY HANSON
Agnes, the Village Belle .....MISS IDA VALLI
Grizel .....MISS ALICE HATTON
Gretchen .....MISS CORALIE BLYTHE

IMMORTALS.

The Brownie King .....MASTER ROY LORRAINE
Old Brownie .....MASTER WALTER CROSS
Bogey .....MR. D. A. STEELE
Cobweb .....MISS IRENE WAKEFIELD
Daffydowndilly .....MISS DORIS STOCKER

Founded on the picture books of Wilhelm Busch and Palmer Cox, the story of *Two Naughty Boys*, as told by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., is crowded with funny incidents that cause all the youngsters present to laugh heartily, and thus the main object of the production is attained. We have met with the naughty boy under many names, and of varied nationality; but his principal characteristics are always the same, whether he is an English lad, or he hails from America or the Continent. He is an imp of mischief, and the terror of the unfortunate people who are the victims of his endless pranks. Mr. George Grossmith's naughty boys are German, and their names are Max and Moritz. Their behaviour is in direct contrast with that of Grizel and Gretchen, two good little girls, who live with their granny in an old-fashioned cottage. It is they who make the acquaintance of the Fairy Daffydowndilly, who induces the girls to invite Max and Moritz to granny's birthday party, and they each bring a bag full of big spiders as a present for the old lady. The fairy's object is to convert the bad boys from their evil ways; but they are under the malign influence of a Bogey Bird, in the shape of a huge raven, and until this wicked feathered biped is shot by the Schoolmaster, Daffydowndilly fails utterly in her efforts. In fact, if she succeeded at first, there would be of course no fun in the piece, because goody-goody little boys are not in the least amusing.

Max and Moritz were played by Mr. Edmund Payne and Mr. William Spray, who in physical appearance offered a complete contrast, the one being chubby and stout and the other lean and lanky. No more comical representation of Max than the popular Gaiety comedian could have been found, and he seemed to fairly revel in the part. Max was generally the ringleader in the mischievous tricks, and to watch him putting gunpowder into the bowl of the schoolmaster's pipe, with a grinning anticipation of the results, is a delightful experience, more particularly for the youthful portion of the audience. Mr. William Spray as Moritz, with a single "lock of hair sticking up into the air," entered just as heartily into the fun and frolic, the comic partnership proving a fertile source of merry laughter from young and old alike. Their duets, "Naughty Boys" and "The Bogey Bird," with some clever business introduced, were notable numbers in the first act. Mr. Arthur Hatherton was very good as the village schoolmaster, showing much activity in his incessant pursuit of the naughty boys. His song, "Smoking," and a duet with the farmer's boy deserve mention. Mr. George Franklin was well placed as Hans, the miller and baker, and scored with his ditty, "The Jolly Miller." Mr. Lewis Grande was a capital and quite typical Farmer's Boy, and was the prominent figure in a song with a catchy chorus in the first act. Very dainty and charming were the Grizel and Gretchen of Miss Alice Hatton and Miss Coralie Blythe, whose voices blended harmoniously in the duet, "We're such dear little girls." Miss Blythe gave a pleasing rendering of "My little dolly"; and Miss Hatton was equally successful with the song, "The Ourang-Outang." Miss Kitty Hanson was a vivacious and humorous exponent of Widow Bolt, the giddy mother of the naughty boys, and her ditty, "I'm a widow, all alone," was favourably received. Miss Kate Bishop admirably embodied Granny Bauer; and her dog Fritz had a clever representative in Master E. Hallom; Lulu, the donkey, being smartly worked by Master Almonte. A special word of praise is due to Miss Ida Valli for her amusing impersonation of Agnes, the village belle. Amongst the Immortals, Master Roy Lorraine distinguished himself as the Brownie King; and Master Walter Cross was good as Old Brownie. Miss Doris Stocker was an attractive Daffydowndilly, and sang charmingly. She also spoke in effective style the rhymed lines by which the harlequinade was introduced. Miss Irene Wakefield as the fairy Cobweb and Mr. D. A. Steele as the Bogey Bird completed the cast.

In the harlequinade, invented and arranged by Mr. Edmund Payne, with which the entertainment concluded, Mr. Payne himself made a capital clown, Mr. Chapman played the pantaloon on familiar lines, and Mr. L. Mackinder as harlequin was evidently well versed in the business. Miss Olive May was a graceful columbine; and able assistance was rendered by Mr. D. A. Steele as a policeman, and Mr. C. Brown as a swell who will persist in singing, thus disturbing the slumbers of clown and pantaloon. At the conclusion all the principals were called for, as well as Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Miss Constance Tippett, the composer of the music, and Mr. Sydney Ellison, the producer of the piece and stage director. Mr. George Edwardes deserves to be heartily congratulated on the success of his holiday production for the youngsters.

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" having proved so successful at the Deutsches, Berlin—it has reached its fiftieth performance, and is still drawing largely—Director Reinhardt is turning his attention to another Shakespearean comedy, *Twelfth Night*, which is in rehearsal, and is to be produced very shortly. It is to be hoped that it will be less of a burlesque than Herr Reinhardt makes most of Shakespeare's comedies appear, which fact is all the more deplorable as the performances at the Deutsches are in many ways excellent.

ON Saturday night, at the Royal County Theatre, Bedford, Mrs. E. Graham-Falcon was the recipient of a handsome emerald and diamond pendant, from the members of *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime company, as a mark of esteem. The presentation was made at the end of the Palace scene by the principal comedian, Mr. Fred Alberto.

THIS week, at the Richmond Theatre, the pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* has given way to variety, and, as usual, an excellent bill is provided. Miss Ella Shields revisits the scenes of her former triumphs, and repeats her success; Edna Payne is a clever impersonator; John Callon is a humorist of much skill; Mabel Sinclair astonishes and amuses with her ventriloquial ability; and the Walonels' bar act is good. The George Davis sketch company extracts much merriment from the eccentricities of *Jack's Uncle*; the Woods, billed as the Australian Twins, are interesting in their Maori love story, *Kivo*; and Vernon's bioscope is as popular as ever.

SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

In the absence of Mr. Hawes Craven, the president, Mr. Walter Hann, the vice-president, occupied the chair at the second annual meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association, held in Mr. Hann's Painting Room, in Murphy-street, Lambeth, on Monday. Among those present were Messrs. E. G. Banks, H. Crepin, G. J. Dodson, R. Douglass, R. H. Halley, G. R. Hemsley, H. M. Hemsley, E. J. Hirst, E. J. Humphries, R. C. McCleery, J. Davies-Massey, H. W. Owen, S. H. Paterman, Herbert Pike, Stanes Prim, W. Raphael, P. Small, W. B. Smith, R. S. Smythe, G. Tweddell, G. H. Wallis, H. Warner, H. Woolls, and H. Lawrence Harris (Secretary). The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, and also letters from Mr. J. Martin Harvey (hon. member), Messrs. R. Caney, Geo. Tweddell, Philip Small, and Chas. Watson.

The Committee's report for 1905, which was read by the Secretary, was as follows:—

At the annual meeting, held on Jan. 9, 1905, Messrs. E. G. Banks, Harry Brooke, Richard Douglass, William Harford, W. T. Hemsley, R. C. McCleery, H. W. Owen, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, W. P. Spong, George Tweddell, and Harry Woolls were elected to serve on the Committee. On Jan. 23 Mr. William Harford was elected Vice-President, and Mr. H. Warner was elected a member of the Committee in his place. On Feb. 6 Mr. Harry Brooke resigned from the Committee, and Mr. George R. Hemsley was elected in his place. On Feb. 27 Mr. W. B. Spong resigned from the Committee in consequence of his going abroad, and Mr. R. H. Halley was elected in his place. On April 28 Mr. W. Telbin was elected a member of the Committee, in the place of Mr. H. Warner, who resigned on leaving this country for Africa. The Committee have held thirty-nine Committee meetings, over which the Chairman presided thirty-three times. Messrs. Richard Douglass (36), Harry Potts (35), H. W. Owen (32), W. T. Hemsley (30) attended thirty or more of the meetings.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

Your Committee arranged for a dinner at the Imperial Restaurant on Sunday, Feb. 19, at which Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema kindly presided. About eighty guests sat down to dinner, and the Benevolent Fund, after paying all expenses, benefited to the extent of upwards of £120. During the year grants have been made to members to the amount of £12, and no application from any member has been declined, and the amount at the present time at the credit of the Benevolent Fund is £140.

EXHIBITION.

The Committee organised an exhibition at the Grafton Galleries the week of April 10. The exhibition, artistically, was an unqualified success, and members sold pictures to upwards of £100, and the Association was brought prominently before the public by the advance paragraphs and notices of the exhibition. The debit balance as per balance-sheet of May 31 (£16 1s. 3d.) has since Aug. 31 been reduced to £10.

FINANCE.

When the subscription was fixed at one guinea, it was estimated that the Association would number upwards of 100 members. There are at the present time only seventy-five members, many of whom are in arrear with their subscriptions, and the Committee are given to understand that several members are holding back their subscriptions and fines until arrangements are completed in regard to the secretaryship and offices. At the present time general expenditure exceeds the income by about £25 per annum, and your Committee have for the past four months given special attention to the consideration of this question of finance. It is necessary that the membership be increased to 100 or the subscription increased by 50 per cent, or the expenses reduced to £50 per annum. At the last meeting of your Committee it was thought the best course was to leave the question of change of offices and secretaryship to be dealt with by the members at this meeting. The present members of this Committee, with the exception of Mr. George Tweddell, offer themselves for re-election.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, and congratulated the Association on the fact that over £150 had been collected for the Benevolent Fund. The Committee, he admitted, had made the mistake of running the exhibition for one week, but had made amends by undertaking three-fourths of the loss. The balance of the deficit had been reduced to about £10. The question of finance was to be faced by the meeting, who were to decide whether to increase the subscription to 30s. per annum, to raise the membership to 100, or give up present offices, and appoint hon. sec.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—Gentlemen, you have heard read the report of your Committee for the year 1905. My duties as Chairman have been rendered pleasant and easy, thanks to the courtesy always extended to the chair and, I must add, to the care with which Mr. Harris has always prepared the agendas, and ready help he has always given me.

I think it is a matter for congratulation that only in our second year we have collected for the Benevolent Fund no less sum than £150. The Exhibition was an experiment of your Committee, and I trust we have learned much by same. We frankly admit that it was a fatal mistake to run the Exhibition for only one week. We have acknowledged our responsibility for the loss incurred by meeting three-quarters of the deficit ourselves, and at the present time there is only £10 balance outstanding. The Exhibition indeed was a large undertaking. Since it was decided at the last general meeting by my casting vote not to hold an Exhibition this year, our Secretary has suggested that possibly an Exhibition could be arranged free of rental at the Crystal Palace, and I think the reconsideration of the question of an Exhibition this year is worth your attention. And now, gentlemen, we have seriously to face the question of finance, and it must be decided this evening which of the three courses suggested in the Committee's Report you wish to carry out. Will you increase the subscription to 30s. per annum until the membership shall exceed 100 members? Or will you abandon the keeping of registers and give up the present offices and appoint an honorary Secretary? You have to elect twelve gentlemen to serve as a Committee for this year, and while the ballot is proceeding we can discuss the matters raised by the report just read. Mr. E. J. Humphries and Mr. H. Warner have kindly volunteered to act as scrutineers.

On the motion of Mr. H. Woolls, seconded by Mr. R. Douglass, it was unanimously resolved to retain the present offices until Christmas, 1906.

Mr. McCleery thought the working expenses should be reduced to £60 per annum, and asked what was the rent. The Secretary replied, £30 per annum, and the housekeeper £6 10s. Mr. McCleery said that it would be impossible to pay a Secretary, and thought it would be best to have an honorary one.

Mr. Harris said he was quite willing to renew the offer he made at a previous general meeting, namely, to act as Secretary, and find clerk, hire, postages, printing, firing, and lighting for £35 per annum, or to act as Secretary without remuneration.

Mr. Banks said he thought time would be saved if he proposed that Mr. Owen be appointed honorary Secretary. Mr. McCleery supported.

Mr. George R. Hemsley moved as an amendment that Mr. Harris be appointed honorary Secretary.

The Chairman called for a show of hands, and the result was fourteen for Mr. Harris and ten for Mr. Owen.

Mr. McCleery said that this vote would end the Association, as he and other members would resign, as he knew of members absent that night who objected to Mr. Harris as Secretary.

Mr. Douglass said: I cannot keep silent any longer. I protest against the remark that we should consider the views of absent members. Why are they not here? Remarks are made outside, but when a meeting is specially called to settle the question of offices and Secretaryship, these members do not come, and now we are told that they will resign if we do not give effect to their views. If they have any complaint against our Secretary, why do they not come down and face a general meeting, and say what is their trouble? I have kept quiet for months, and as long as it was a question of economy I was quite willing to support any suggestion tending to reduce the expenses; but, gentlemen, we have done everything these members asked us to do. We have given up the offices and we have dismissed our Secretary; and when we hold a Special Committee to learn what these gentlemen propose to do, they leave us in the lurch by simply stopping away. I have attended more meetings of the Committee than any other member, and have therefore had better opportunities than anyone else of judging of the efficient way in which Mr. Harris has invariably discharged his duties as Secretary, and when the question is now to-night narrowed as to which of two men we are to elect as honorary Secretary, I have given my vote in favour of Mr. Harris solely for these reasons, and not from any personal feeling. If the Association is wrecked, the responsibility must rest upon those members who have for the last few months agitated for the dismissal of Mr. Harris.

The scrutineers handed in their account of the ballot and the following gentlemen were declared duly elected:—Messrs. E. G. Banks, Richard Douglass, Geo. J. Dodson, Rd. H. Halley, George R. Hemsley, W. T. Hemsley, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, W. Telbin, G. Herbert Wallis, and H. Warner, and S. H. Woolls.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held on the 2nd inst., there were present Mr. Edward Terry (in the chair), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Miss Kate Phillips, Sir Squire Bancroft (president), Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Ernest Legh, Fewlass Llewellyn, M. R. Morand, A. Morrice Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, Fredk. Volpé, Hubert Willis, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors reported that they had settled the claim of a member for upwards of £50, which the member had agreed to accept in payment. They also reported that a case set down for trial would be tried by a special jury at the request of the defendant, if his application was granted.

The hon. solicitors received instructions in connection with the publication of an alleged libel. J. Herbert Willes, Simon D. Ord, Robert M. Taylor, Mabel Archdall, Chas. Leveson Lane, Whitford Kane, Maude Townsend, and Rathmell Wilson were nominated for election. Beatrice Lamotte, Edmond T. Sayers, John Poole Kirkwood, Cyril Keightley, Linnie Godfrey, Constance Godfrey, and Gwladys Godfrey were elected as members. The elections of the following ladies and gentlemen were confirmed:—Christmas Grose, Jessie Browning, E. L. Garside, Fred Allandale, Florence A. Smithson, Ruth Savile, Willie Edouin, Billie Burke, Eleanor Sowray, Steven Hanworth, Ray Rockman, Walter H. Pearce, Margery Fane, Beryl Faber, Stanley B. Farbridge, Charles Boult, Annie Windsor, Beatrice May, Florence Sinclair, Roy Horniman, Cecil de Lee, Cecil Barth, and James Blakeley.

The secretary received instruction in connection with a proposed arbitration. "Roneo, Limited," were appointed official stenographers to the Actors' Association, the advantage to the members being that they, and they *only*, would be allowed a discount of 15 per cent. off the price list. A case of alleged insanitary practices in theatres was considered, and the secretary was directed to communicate with the hon. medical officer of health to the A.A. on the subject. The scheme for an insurance covering all members of the A.A. whose subscriptions are paid was again under consideration, and the secretary received instructions to, if possible, carry out certain suggestions. The promoters of the scheme for the "Qualification and Registration of Actors" reported progress. The report was unanimously approved of as the basis of the scheme, and in order that those members of the Council who were not present might have the opportunity of considering the matter, the secretary was instructed to forward a copy to each, and to request them to attend an adjourned meeting of the Council, to be held on Friday, the 5th inst., at two o'clock, for the purpose of further consideration of the scheme. The report of the Actors' Day Committee was received, accepted, and adopted, and the committee were empowered to circularise the profession after a given date. The secretary received instructions in connection with matters concerning the hon. medical officers. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. Two former members were reinstated.

The Council held a special meeting on Friday, the 5th inst., to consider the scheme proposed for the "Qualification and Registration of Actors," when, after considerable discussion, it was agreed that the further consideration of the matter should be adjourned until the following Friday. There were present—Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, Douglas Gordon, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Fewlass Llewellyn, Norman McKinnel, M. R. Morand, A. M. Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, and Hubert Willis; Miss Kate Phillips and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

On Tuesday last the Council held their usual weekly meeting, when there were present—Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, C. Hayden Coffin, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, A. Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, M. R. Morand, A. Morrice Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors reported they had advised a member as to contract for Australia. The secretary received instructions in connection with an arbitration which had been suggested and not agreed to, and also to the signing and publication of an apology in a case of an alleged libel. The following ladies and gentlemen were nominated for election:—Daisy Atherton, Frederick Lloyd, Harry Talbot, Mabel Durrant, Alec Alexander, Nita Ashby, and Sylvia Morris. Two former members were reinstated.

The Insurance Scheme, suggested by the Secretary, was again under discussion, and the Chief Inspector of the Company undertaking the risk, having explained certain matters in connection with the proposal, the hon. solicitors were requested to settle the terms and conditions of the policy so that the matter might be carried through. Dr. Farquharson, of 2, Coates'-place, Edinburgh, was elected as an hon. medical officer to the Association, the gentleman being a specialist in affections of the throat. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, there were present—Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, William Devereux, Lawrence Grant, A. Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Mr. R. Morand, and C. Aubrey Smith, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Questions in connection with the staff were considered, and the Secretary received instructions.

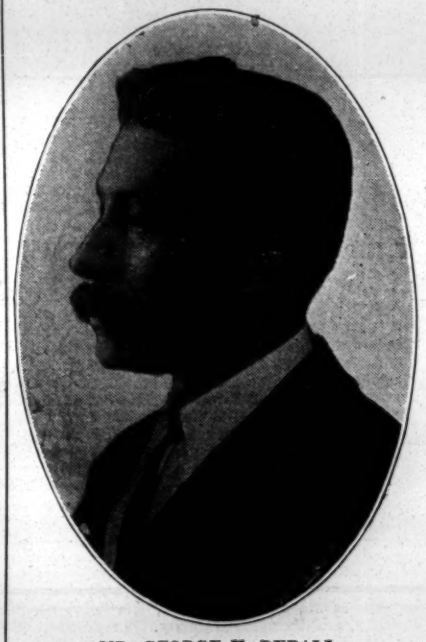
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

No. 3.

MR. GEORGE H. DYBALL.

Mr. Dyball is one of the founders of the Heads of Departments Association, of which he has been treasurer since its inception. He has also been treasurer for the past three years of the Theatrical Sports and the annual concerts organised by the musicians and stage employees in aid of their Benevolent Funds. In many other ways Mr. Dyball has assisted in the benevolent and social work for the benefit of the working staff as a whole, and, as the stage-manager of the Tivoli, he is deservedly popular, and highly respected by those who come into contact with him. In spite of his constitutional modesty and retiring nature we induced Mr. Dyball to tell us something about himself.

"I was born in London in 1865, but spent most of my school-days in Margate, returning to finish them in London in 1877. I had then a strong desire to be a carpenter and joiner, and was apprenticed to a firm of builders, with whom I remained until the death of the principal, when my indentures were cancelled. By that time I had made good progress, and felt no inclination to remain an apprentice, so started work with my father at the unfortunate Avenue Theatre, and helped in the first production at that house. I then secured employment at the Alhambra, only to find when I went to the theatre the following morning that it had been burnt down during the night. Fortunately most of the carpenters' tools were saved, thanks to the energy and courage of Mr. Gus Mitchel, now at the Empire Theatre. He, I believe, had a very narrow squeak in saving our tools. With the other carpenters on the staff I started work at the White Rose, in Castle-street, where the billiard-room was converted into a carpenters' shop, and where the whole of the scenery was made for the *Trip to the Moon*, produced at Her Majesty's Theatre. I stayed at Her Majesty's Theatre through the *Trip to the Moon*, *Red Riding Hood* pantomime, and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* I have worked at what are now, many old, and some extinct, houses, including the Olympic, Globe, Adelphi, Vaudeville, Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Garrick, Royal English Opera



MR. GEORGE H. DYBALL.

House, &c., so that my experience has been somewhat varied.

"I have always kept my eyes wide open all the time to learn all I could, and to make the best of my experience, for I believe no man is too old to learn. My dad used to tell me, 'There is always something to be learnt, even from the biggest fool, if it is only how not to do a thing.' I might tell you that during the time I was working at the bench I used to snatch every opportunity to attend drawing classes, and under the tuition of Mr. Busbridge I made very good progress in building construction and geometry. I have found this knowledge very useful, so I have never regretted the time I devoted to gain it, apart from the pleasure derived from such studies. I had the pleasure of making the working drawings and preparing the specifications for the new and handsome offices for the Tivoli, Pavilion, and Oxford Amalgamated Variety Theatres, offices for Mr. G. Adney Payne, Mr. Henri Gros, the accountants' offices, and the board rooms. I superintended the erection and completion of these offices, and am very pleased to say that the work gave every satisfaction to the Board of Directors, who, to mark their appreciation, made me a present of a handsome cheque.

"I have been in the service of the Tivoli Company for over fourteen years, and have been very comfortable too. I started for the company as master carpenter in 1891, and was soon appointed to act as stage-manager. I am glad to say the whole of my staff are members of the Association of Stage Employees, and I have come to the conclusion that if a manager wants good, steady, and reliable men, he should apply to the Association. I shall be glad when all the managers and stage-managers in London and the provinces realise the advantages of this course. Fortunately there are many who already do so, and I think it is only a matter of time when all will follow suit. We are a conservative nation, and slow to grasp new ideas, at least, so the Yankees say.

"I have done many things in my time to turn an honest penny, but have never yet made scenery by contract. I am, however, seriously thinking of doing so, now that I know, according to a report in a recent law case, that the profits are 30 per cent.; but as it is my rule to employ the most skilful labour available, I might not find it so profitable as is alleged in the case referred to."

In conclusion, Mr. Dyball assured us that the "merry" Tivoli was flourishing, and that in the general-manager, Mr. Joseph Wilson, the staff had one of the kindest and most courteous of managers.

MR. EDWARD COMPTON, who is this week playing to very satisfactory business in a round of popular comedies at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, made a felicitous reference on his opening night to the electioneering campaign, which is agitating the town. In the course of his amusing speech, Mr. Compton said:—"I am afraid I have struck Wolverhampton at a rather unfortunate time this visit, for there is so much excitement, and interest, and amusement to be got out of a contested election, that we "poor players" are somewhat pushed from our legitimate stools on such occasions. I hope, however, that most of my friends here will spare an evening or two to visit the theatre, and plump for this old and tried candidate for popular favour in his endeavour to retain his seat in your hearts.

THE King witnessed the performance of *The Little Michus* at Daly's Theatre on Wednesday evening.

MUSIC PIRACY AND POLITICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Unless we organise a bold, unanimous, and uncompromising campaign, disregarding all other individual Party politics, in the forthcoming General Election, musical piracy will continue.

No Radical candidate, not even Mr. Caldwell himself, will hesitate to decare his opposition to music piracy. Mr. Caldwell has often done that, and has as often blocked our measures. So surely as he is returned—and of his return there can be no doubt—so surely will he continue to oppose our demand for protection. A Government Bill is our only hope. What Party is more likely to realise our hopes than the Party whose head has displayed active sympathy with us, pleading lack of Parliamentary time at the end of the last Session as his reason for not introducing a Government Bill himself? I therefore maintain that we should unanimously support a Party already committed to reform. To the desire for effective protection of threatened industries throughout the Empire will Mr. Chamberlain owe the votes of thousands who never before polled Conservative. Protection of individual interests in the present Election is the battle-cry of every Party; many Irish Roman Catholics will regretfully vote against Home Rule, fearing to endanger Catholic schools; men of Conservative leanings, having interests in South Africa, will vote against the employment of Chinese labour. Let us follow these examples, and become a united body in politics till we obtain redress.

I am an Irishman and a Catholic. I have fought side by side with Parnell; I yield to no man in loyalty to the cause, but I draw the line at martyrdom in this struggling age, when I see my roof in danger of collapse and my bread thrown to thieves and vagabonds.—Yours faithfully,

LESLIE STUART.

NEW MUSIC.

Francis, Day, and Hunter, who have established a world-wide reputation, send us the following new works:—"The Aldwych Quadrilles," founded on a number of popular melodies by Karl Kaps, and dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks, who are to be congratulated on the opening of their splendid new theatre. Some of these melodies are very quaint, and all make capital dance tunes. The composer and compiler, Karl Kaps, is a master at this kind of work, and "The Aldwych Quadrilles" are certain to meet with general approval. "The Casino Lancers," by Warwick Williams, is another excellent specimen of quadrilles founded on popular tunes, many of them already familiar. The title-page illustrates a lively scene in bright colours, and Mr. Warwick Williams has done his work in the capable manner we might expect. We shall be surprised if these "Casino Lancers" do not enjoy a wide popularity. "My Dear Old Home," by H. Trotère, the composer of "In Old Madrid," has the sweet suggestions of a charming rustic home admirably embodied by a clever composer who knows how to combine simplicity with artistic merit in a melody easily learned and easily remembered. Mr. Edgar Bateman writes of "The Broken Slate," and tells how a poor forlorn little boy makes an appeal to Father Christmas on his broken slate. How the appeal is answered the author and composer, Mr. J. Airlie Dix, tell us most pathetically. The charming comedy *The Catch of the Season* is full of smart songs, and none are more successful than "Don't go too fast, little girlie," by Messrs. Taylor and Haines, sung by Miss Ellaline Terriss, whose sprightly manner heightens the effect of a sprightly song. From the same comedy we have another favourite ditty, "Rosalie, I want you so!" charmingly sung by Miss Maudi Darrell. "The Rainbow Waltz," founded on a song by H. E. Pether, attracts by its realistic rainbow on the title-page first, and then by a flowing and tuneful waltz that will be welcome in the ball-room. "Happy Heine" is a characteristic march (two step), composed by J. Bodewalt Lampe, who has caught the spirit of the march exactly. In "Chanson des Cloches," by Theo. Ward, musical director to the Eastbourne Corporation, the composer has evidently been inspired by the local town hall clock, and no doubt many a visitor to that picasant seaside resort will appreciate Mr. Ward's composition even with a French title. "When the boys go marching," composed by J. Airlie Dix to words by Fred W. Leigh, is not a song for "Little Englanders." Its spirit is Imperial, and appeals to those who would uphold the British Empire. "The Enchantress Waltz," by Charles Coote, is a good specimen of a composer who has written admirable dance music. "Hear the pipers calling, Jenny mine" is composed by Bennett Scott and sung with great success by Miss Madge Lessing, who looks charming in her Highland costume, and the echo of "Comin' thro' the Rye" adds to the interest of the song.

Messrs. Chappell and Co. send "The Bell," a new song of an elaborate character by Teresa del Riego. There is an organ accompaniment, which will require some care in performance, as the player must follow the singer closely or the effect will be lost. The vocal portion is made up of reiterated notes, and the singer will need a powerful voice to do it justice, but if executed successfully a noble result will reward the vocalist, as the composer thoroughly understands her business. "A Dream of Flowers," by Julian Clifford (words by Ethel Henniker), is a song-cycle dedicated to Lady de Tabley, and treats in a fanciful and original manner the interesting subject, though the composer has introduced some chromatic music to start with. But the song of the rose is graceful and melodious, linking that delightful flower with suggestions of love. The lily next has a pleasant tale to tell of purity and innocence, and we pass to the poppies, the contrast being effectively illustrated in the music. The sea pinks end the cycle in an animated style. Maude Valérie White, who has written so many good songs, has a new ditty called "Love me to-day," in which some clever effects and skilful changes in the melody are to be noticed, especially the enharmonic transition from D flat to E sharp, which also agrees with the sentiment of the song. "In the Days of Roses," by G. H. Clutsam, we have the story of a sudden passion and as rapid a break in the intercourse of two lovers. "A Chain of Roses," the music by Hermann Löhr, dwells with affectionate devotion on love's past joined to the present by "A chain of roses." Mr. Edward German's incidental music to *The Conqueror*, produced at the Scala, is here published, and includes pretty songs and dances and graceful serenades for four voices. "Qui Sait?" music by Frank Lambert, is pleasing, and "L'Amour," set to the verses of Alphonse Daudet by Teresa del Riego, will command many admirers, the composer having given an excellent version of Daudet's pretty lines. "Visitors," words by Helen May Whitney and music by Waddington Cooke, tells of the jealousy of little boys when visitors make free with their toys. The younger members of the household will appreciate the humour of the idea. "Fair Hebe" takes us back to the times of Dr. Arné, whose pastoral ballad Mr. Harold Gregory has newly arranged with complete success. "My heart will know" is composed by Guy d'Hardelot to words by Lorna Fane, who supposes that a dead maiden will know when her lover comes at night with roses in his hand to her grave. "Weymouth Chimes" is a gavotte by J. S. Howgill, musical director to the Weymouth Corporation," who has also scored his gavotte for orchestra and military bands. An effective little piece, "Ramona, Lily of the Prairie," composed by Lee Johnson, is also published as an "Indian love song." "Rosie" is a ballad with verses in the style of Goethe, by Conrad Hugo Loubart, and music by Harrison Frewin; the words have a flavour of Scotch ballads, which is rather pleasing. Mr. Charles Woolhouse, of 174, Wardour-street, is the publisher, as he is also of "Wings of Love," translated from the French of Victor Hugo by the Rev. Henry Carrington, M.A., the music being by H. V. Jervis-Read.

ON THE ROAD, JANUARY 15.

ARE YOU A MASON?—Nottingham.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—T. R., Castleford.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—T. R., Attercliffe.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.—T. R., Bolton.
BENSON, F. R. (B).—Newry.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS.—O. H., Londonderry.
BESIDE THE BONNIE BRIER BUSH.—St. James's T.
BRAMLEY EDMOND.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
BULMER, MR.—Albert T., Brighouse.
CATCH OF THE SEASON.—T. R., Bournemouth.
CHINESE HONEYMOON.—St. Helens.
CHRISTIAN (HOWARD).—New T., Aberdare.
CHRISTIAN, THE.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
CINGALEE.—Derby.
CINGALEE (2).—Ipswich.
CLAUDIAN.—Royalty T., Barrow.
COAL KING.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Royalty T., Chester.
COTTON SPINNER.—O. H., Burton.
COUNTRY GIRL (MACDONA).—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Jarrow.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Aldershot.
DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE.—O. H., Cork.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
ETERNAL CITY.—T. R., Merthyr Tydfil.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Empire, Cradley Heath.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—T. R., Barnsley.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—T. R., Birkenhead.
FREEDOM OF SUZANNE.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Stafford.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—
GIRL FROM JAPAN.—T. R., Huddersfield.
GIRL FROM KAY'S.—Hull.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Darlington.
GO-WON-GO MOHAWK.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Grand T., Luton.
GRIP OF IRON.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
HER ONE GREAT SIN.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH.—T. R., Rochdale.
HOME, SWEET HOME.—Court T., Bacup.
I DEFY THE WORLD.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
INDIAN MUTINY.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Sunninghill.
LADY MADCAP (DANCE).—Chatham.
LADY MADCAP (EDWARDES).—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
LADY OF OSTEND.—T. R., Worthing.
LA POUPEE (RALLAND).—T. R., Blackburn.
LITTLE BO-PEEP.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
LITTLE BREAD WINNER.—New T., Consett.
LITTLE MICHUS (DANCE).—Southampton.
LITTLE MICHUS (EDWARDES).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
LOST IN PARIS.—O. H., Harrogate.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—Alexandra T., Hull.
MANXMAN.—T. R., Tonypandy.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Salford.
MODERN ADVENTURESS.—T. R., Batley.
MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE.—County T., Bedford.
MOODY MANNERS (A).—Theatre Royal, Dublin.
MOODY MANNERS (B).—O. H., Northampton.
MR. SMITH.—Court T., Wigan.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—T. R., Sunderland.
OLIVER TWIST.—Victoria T., Burnley.
ON THE STROKE OF TWELVE.—Kilmarnock.
ORCHID (2).—Swansea.
PASSION'S POWER.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
PATH OF THORNS.—T. R., Tonypandy.
PEGGY MACHREE.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
PLUCKY NIPPER.—T. R., Macclesfield.
PRICE OF HER SOUL.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
PRODIGAL SON.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
PROOF.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
RED COAT.—Grand T., Newcastle.
REVENGE.—T. R., Aston.
ROMANY'S REVENGE.—Lyceum T., Heywood.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Irving T., Seacombe.
SAILORS OF THE KING.—T. R., Batley.
SEE-SAW OF LIFE.—Empire T., Southend.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—New T., Cambridge.
SILVER KING.—T. R., Leamington.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—Grand T., Stockton.
SINS OF A CITY.—T. R., Stratford.
SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART.—T. R., Hanley.
SPRING CHICKEN.—T. R. Portsmouth.
STILL ALARM.—Victoria T., Broughton.
SUNDAY.—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
SWISS EXPRESS.—Chesterfield.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (S.).—T. R., Stanley.
TOREADOR.—Greenock.
TRAITOR.—T. R., Smethwick.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—T. R., Leicester.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—T. R., West Bromwich.
VERONIQUE.—Oldham.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Prince's T., Preston.
WALLS OF JERICHO (N.).—Rotterdam.
WALLS OF JERICHO (S.).—T. R. Bath.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Empire T., Dundee.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—H. M. T., Barrow.
WILKIE, ALLEN, AND CO.—T. R., Goole.
WOMAN'S PAST.—T. R., Windsor.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Marina, Lowestoft.
WRECKER OF MEN.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Lincoln.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

John Strange Winter—Saturday, Jan. 13.
Miss Haidée Wright—Saturday, Jan. 13.
Tom Cecil—Saturday, Jan. 13.
John B. Murray—Saturday, Jan. 13.
Edward Compton—Sunday, Jan. 14.
Nellie Walters—Sunday, Jan. 14.
Miss Dolly Harmer—Sunday, Jan. 14.
Miss Mabel Kessler—Monday, Jan. 15.
Rutland Barrington—Monday, Jan. 15.
Miss Helen Palgrave—Monday, Jan. 15.
J. Forbes Robertson—Tuesday, Jan. 16.
Miss Janet Achurch—Wednesday, Jan. 17.
Philip Sefton—Wednesday, Jan. 17.
Richard Warner—Wednesday, Jan. 17.
Sam Poluski—Wednesday, Jan. 17.
Miss Lilian Levey—Saturday, Jan. 13.
Sam Redfern—Sunday, Jan. 14.
Ashley Beale—Monday, Jan. 15.
Minnie Cunningham—Monday, Jan. 15.
Fay Rivington—Monday, Jan. 15.
Amy McKay—Wednesday, Jan. 17.
Olga Nethersole—Thursday, Jan. 18.
Thomas Courtice—Thursday, Jan. 18.
Amy Grace—Thursday, Jan. 18.
Johnnie Schofield—Thursday, Jan. 18.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

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COCOA

Invaluable to all.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

SILVER WEDDING.

PEDGRIFT—BUTCHER.—Jan. 16, 1881, at St. Philip's, Battersea, Frederic Henchman Pedgrift, Manager "The Era," of The Chestnuts, Rusham-road, Balham, to Henrietta Butcher, second daughter of Henry Butcher.

DEATHS.

CHEVALIER.—On the 7th inst., at St. Teilo, High Lever-road, N. Kensington, Helen Louisa Chevalier. R. I. P.

DOUGLASS.—At 138, Richmond-road, Dalston, on Jan. 10, Thomas Mace Douglass, from bronchitis and heart failure, age 83. Funeral at Abney Park Cemetery, on Monday, Jan. 15, at 1 o'clock.

HAMILTON.—On the 7th inst., at Rochdale, after a few days' illness, Alfred H. Hamilton, eldest son of the late Joseph Hamilton, originator of Hamilton's Excursions. Deeply regretted.

HAMILTON.—On the 7th inst., at Rochdale, in his fifty-fifth year, Alfred H. Hamilton, of Hamilton's Excursions. Cremated at Manchester, Jan. 10.

LYONS.—Dec. 30, 1905, at 14, Lower Byrom-street, Manchester, Edward Lyons, actor, aged 77.

ORFORD.—On Sunday, Jan. 7, at 39, Wardour-street, Shaftesbury-avenue, W., Henry Orford, aged 74, the beloved father of Emmeline Orford. R.I.P. American papers, please copy.

PARRY.—Jan. 6, at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham-road, after a long and painful illness, Stella Parry, burlesque actress.

SHEERING.—Jan. 8, at his residence, 11, Marlborough-hill, Bristol. James Sheering, formerly boxkeeper for fifty-two years, at the Theatre Royal and Prince's Theatre, Bristol, aged 86. Much loved and regretted by his daughter, Mrs. Bainton, and grandchildren.

SPENCER.—George Spencer, musician, late proprietor "Mail Coach," Doncaster, and "Marquis of Granby," Lincoln, who departed this life on Tuesday, Jan. 2, '06, and was interred in St. Swithin's Cemetery, Lincoln, on Mon., Jan. 8. Deeply mourned by his ever-loving wife, Alice Fontainbleau. Friends, accept this, the only intimation.

VILLIERS.—Jan. 7, Harry Villiers, husband of Miss Daisy James.

UNDERWOOD.—Jan. 9, at Colchester, after a four days' illness, Cecil Underwood, actor.

IN MEMORIAM.

BASHALL.—In sweet and unfading memory of my darling mother, Lydia Bashall. Always mourned by her devoted BELLA.
There is none
In all this cold and hollow world, no fount
Like the deep, strong, deathless love of a
Mother's heart.

HARRISON.—In affectionate remembrance of Fred L. Harrison (of Fred and Lillie Harrison, duettists and dancers), who died Jan. 9, 1904, at his home in Covent Garden, London. "Do not forget me."

MACCABE.—In loving memory of Joseph Maccabe (Joe Mac), died Jan. 11, 1893. Never forgotten by his wife, ALICE MAYDUE.

STARR.—Dec. 29, 1905, Ethel Danbury, actress, wife of Harry Starr.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

"ALMA MATER"

Drama, in Four Acts, by Victor Stephany, Produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on Thursday, Jan. 11.

The first act showing the mess-room of the Student Corps. Hermann Klein, one of the number, has like the rest returned to the University town from his summer holidays. His love for the steward's daughter Susi has not lessened during his absence, and he proposes to her. She points out the disparity of their positions, and avows that she does not really love him, but Hermann insists, and Susi eventually accepts his offer of marriage. The engagement is to be kept secret till after his examination. Her fate enters in the shape of Georg von Bayer. They had been lovers two years ago, but he left the University, and Susi had not heard from him since. But the old infatuation again gets hold of her, and she throws herself into his arms. In the next act Susi comes at 10 p.m. to Georg's room. It is to be a last meeting, and she is resolved to tell him of her engagement. But before she can speak Klein knocks at the door and threatens to force his way should he not be let in. Susi hides in another room, and Klein bursts in. He has seen his betrothed cross the square, and feels sure she had made her way to Georg's room. In an excited scene in which Klein reveals the secret of his engagement to Susi Georg perjures himself by giving his word of honour that no woman was in his room. Klein, who could not believe for a moment that a corps student would violate such a sacred declaration is satisfied, and leaves the room, apologising for his rashness. In a students assembly which takes place in the third act it is decided that a man who had lost his honour can only atone by committing suicide. Georg is in dispair. Susi cannot bear the idea that it was for her he sacrificed his honour, and is ready to do anything to restore his good name. Klein enters and catches the pair in a fond embrace, and there is no longer any doubt that Georg had lied when he gave his word of honour. Klein tears down Georg's colours, and challenges him. The duel, however, cannot come off, for a man who has lost his honour is not worthy of giving satisfaction. Susi tells Klein that he has ruined, not only his own, but also her life. That it meant another cowardice to leave her alone to fight it out, and persuades him to start fresh in life with her. Margarethe Russ, who is almost continually on the stage won new laurels as Susi. She has become a strong favourite with the audience, and well deserves it. Quite charming also was Johanna Becker in the small part of her sister Lore. Hanns Stock, though not entirely free from exaggeration, made an excellent Georg, and Ingo Kraus was very good indeed as Hermann Klein. Hans Andresen played the small part of Rother to the delight of the public. His song in the first act was encored. Herr Baselt added some good comic relief. The ensemble was all that could be wished for.

"WE actors," continued Mr. Compton, "are not supposed to have any political convictions, or, if we have, we are supposed to keep them to ourselves. But at least I can say of myself that I am Conservative in my devotion to legitimate comedy, Liberal in my ideas as to its presentation, Unionist in the belief in the union of good plays and good players, and a Labour member in that I am a glutton for work, and expect everyone about me to be the same. If these are not true politics for an actor-manager, there must be something Radically wrong somewhere; but I refuse, on such a point, to accept any adverse ruling (mind, I didn't say Home Ruling), or to consider any measure of reform—even in the Tariff of our prices of admission. And so, ladies and gentlemen, I respectfully and confidently solicit 'your vote and interest' during the week, and if you should find it in your hearts to re-elect me to my old position of first favourite, I shall proudly add the magic letters 'M.P.' to my name after Saturday night; and in my case they will signify 'Mightily Popular.'"

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. ANDERSON.—*We have been unable to trace the production of the play mentioned, and cannot, therefore, give you the author's name.*

J. DEWELL.—*Charles Godfrey died March 28, 1900. George Beauchamp died Dec. 23, 1900.*

GEORGE LANGBURNE.—*We can see no objection to the course you suggest.*

ZENO.—*It is difficult to give a proper opinion without seeing the order, which is stated to constitute a first charge on share. If it was a legal charge, you would be liable.*

SAM FREDERICKS.—*(1)* The Blue Moon *was produced at the Lyric on Aug. 28, 1905. (2) We do not know. Would not the lady herself supply the information, if applied to?*

SIDNEY.—Committed for Trial, *described as a "piece of absurdity," in two acts, by W. S. Gilbert, founded on* Le Réveillon, *was first performed at the Globe Theatre, on Jan. 24, 1874. The piece was afterwards expanded into three acts, and revived at the Criterion Theatre, on Feb. 5, 1877, under the title of* On Bail.

SURREYITE.—*Sam Cowell (Samuel Houghton Cowell) died in March, 1864. He first appeared on the stage in 1829, at Boston, U.S.A., and, on coming back to England he acted at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Eventually he left the theatre for the music halls.*

H. F. P. — *The first English production of* The Belle of New York *was at the Shaftesbury Theatre on April, 12, 1898.*

T. W. G.—*On the production of T. W. Robertson's play* M.P., *at the old Prince of Wales's Theatre, on April 23, 1870, the late Charles F. Coghlan appeared as Chudleigh Dunscombe.*

ARTHUR HARDY.—*We keep no record of the dates of the opening of theatres in provincial towns. We should have thought that you could obtain the information locally.*

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MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your notice of Bootle of Jan. 6, 1905, it is stated that "the pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is presented by Mr. Gus Levaine. This is not so, as the pantomime is presented by Miss Ethel Clayton, who plays the part of Maid Marion.—Yours faithfully, C. E. BONNER, manager, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

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APOLOGY.
I, ELIZABETH COCHRANE, of Fernholme, Streatham-road, Mitcham, in the county of Surrey, hereby apologise to Miss GRACIE VICAT for sending to her several postcards and letters containing libellous statements about her, and making charges which were utterly untrue and unfounded, and I hereby express my sincere regret to her for acting in the way I did, and I express my thanks to her for consenting to accept this apology, and for not taking legal proceedings, which she would have been justified in doing.
Dated Jan. 12, 1906.
(Signed) ELIZABETH COCHRANE,
Witness, CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS,
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See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act passed by the United States Congress last March are full of interest.—Referee.

Published at "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1906.

"FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA."

In the year 1842, when the "sailor king," WILLIAM IV., was on the throne, an Act was passed to extend the provisions of another Act which became law in the reign of King GEORGE the Third, "to amend the several Acts for the encouragement of learning"; and by this Act of King WILLIAM it was ordered that the author of any tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or any other dramatic piece or entertainment should have as his own property the sole liberty of representing his work, or causing it to be represented, at any place or places of dramatic entertainment whatsoever, in any part of the United Kingdom or British dominions; and the author of *published* dramatic pieces was entitled until twenty-eight years from publication, or, if he should be then living, during the residue of his natural life, to the sole liberty of representing such pieces. It is not surprising that the passing of this Act, which was called BULWER LYTTON'S Act, created very little attention. *The Era* in 1842 was as strong a champion of the rights of the theatrical and variety professions as it is at present; but as these professions were then small in numbers and unenlightened as to grievances, *The Era* added to its functions that of a useful news-sheet. There was plenty to talk about in 1842, besides the passing of a Bill in the interests of authors and dramatists. Sir ROBERT PEEL was bringing in a Bill for the protection of the QUEEN'S person, punishing an attack on her with seven years' transportation, "accompanied by personal chastisement," which latter mode, *The Era* of the time tells us, "appeared to win the lively approbation of the House." Mr. T. DUNCOMBE drew the attention of the Commons to the distress of the country, 15,000 persons being out of work in Sheffield, where the poor rates were £520 per week; and Mr. D'ISRAELI, in reply, attributed the distress to anti-commercial diplomacy, which had driven the commerce of England out of the markets of the Continent. The Member for Armagh had called Mr. O'CONNELL a "cowardly blusterer" and a "mendicant hypocrite," and the Speaker had not objected to the language as unparliamentary. There was a prize-fight for thirty pounds aside between W. JORDAN and G. NORLEY, in which the latter fought bravely for 150 minutes against the superior weight of his antagonist, when "nature failed him," and JORDAN was proclaimed the conqueror. A pony, ridden by a monkey, was being backed for £50 to trot fourteen miles within the hour at Peckham; and a civilian had just sent a challenge to a general officer about an error in connection with a church pew. Amidst all these "alarms and excursions" it is not surprising that BULWER LYTTON'S Bill was read a second time without any serious sensation. It may be called the Magna Charta of the dramatists, whose Habeas Corpus Act was 5 and 6 Victoria, which conferred upon the author property in his play for seven years from his death, or the period of forty-two years, whichever should be the longer.

There was at one time a discussion as to whether there was any copyright on titles. We need not revive these purely academic arguments, because the matter has been settled by the honourable feeling and commonsense of the profession generally. We heard the other day of a performance which was given in a small provincial town, in which the name of a well-known actress and a famous play were used on the bills, the audience discovering after admission that the piece and the leading performer were not what they had expected to see, but something quite different. Such expedients are not common, and are generally discountenanced. In the case of a title, it is admitted by all authors that use constitutes a property. The hard case of the dramatist, however, is this. He finds, as he thinks, an entirely new title; he prepares for the production of his play, which involves extensive printing and advertisement; and then he often receives a letter from somebody or other who has really produced a piece with the same name. He has to choose between buying off the possessor of the title, or investing in fresh printing and advertisements. To say nothing of the expense, the irritation and annoyance thus caused are very great. For years it has been desired to meet this difficulty by the publication of a complete list of the titles of plays. When we say "complete," we do not mean a list going back to the times of the early Egyptians. Such a compendium would be unwieldy, and the time required to search through it would be too great. All that is necessary is a list covering the period of copyright. That which we are at present publishing lasts from 1850 to 1900. That covers a copyright period which answers all purposes. Very few dramatic authors get a piece produced before they are twenty-five. A playwright who was twenty-five in 1850 would be now about eighty. Owing to the exhausting nature of the calling, very few dramatists are "spared" to that extent. Mr. MADDISON MORTON'S long life was exceptional; and may be attributed partly to the perfect rest and peace which he enjoyed at the Charterhouse, and partly to the generous way in which he was supplied with port wine and other nourishing comforts by the gentlemen to whom he had disposed of his copyrights. So that anyone who possesses our list of titles, when it is published in cheap book-form, will be able, for all practical purposes, to feel safe in naming his play.

It is not only the dramatic author who will be benefited by our publication. As will be seen by the glowing testimonials, some of which we printed last week, the manager and the actor are also deeply interested in our achievement. The list of honoured testifyers includes leading London managers, illustrious authors, clever novelists, and actors of the first rank. In an undertaking of such magnitude it is hardly possible to avoid error, and we shall be only too pleased to have any omissions pointed out to us, so that we may have them added to the final edition. "Fifty Years of the Drama" will be a book which it will not pay anyone connected with the profession to be without. Of the time and trouble necessary in its preparation we need say nothing. We are always ready to lavish both in the interest of the profession that supports us so splendidly.

THE character of Starkie, the second Pirate in *Peter Pan*, finds as good an exponent in Mr. Ben Field as it did in the original production when poor Sydney Harcourt played the part. Mr. Field was very young when he acted with a small dramatic club at St. Alban's Hall, Holborn, his comrades being fellow choir boys, the pieces presented being limited to dramas where it was only necessary to use an indoor scene—all they possessed—and the ladies' rôles being taken by the lads who could make up the best. It was at one of these little shows that Mr. Ben Greet saw his promising namesake, the younger Ben, and offered him his first salary as a real live actor. When Miss Grace Hawthorne produced a version of *Pilgrim's Progress*, at the Olympic Theatre, Mr. Field played Mammon—perhaps he happened to be the poorest man in the company—and then he joined his old friend, Mr. Greet, and remained his leading comedian for several years.

"STARKIE" only returned from America last summer, where he had made a name for himself with the Boston Stage Society, at Castle Square Theatre, playing two performances a day and changing the bill every week. Only once during this laborious but happy engagement did he regret being well known as a comedian, for when *Held by the Enemy* was revived, the management cast him for Mr. Gillette's part, Tom Bean, and the audience could not forget that he always made them laugh. The more earnestly he acted the more they enjoyed what a dramatic critic called his "new style of serious fun." Mr. Field joined the Mermaid Society at Penley's Theatre immediately after arriving in London, afterwards playing Mr. Bumble in *Oliver Twist*, from which Mr. Tree released him to appear in *Peter Pan*.

MR. FIELD is so well established as one of the best of Shakespearean clowns—Dogberry is his favourite part—that he can well afford to tell the following little story. One evening, when he was acting in *Hamlet* at Worthing, a friend came into the dressing-room at the end of the performance and said, "I wish I had been in front to see you, Ben, for I've just heard the people as they left the theatre talking about you. You've made a tremendous hit as the First Gravedigger. Everybody is laughing at the mention of your name." Mr. Field smiled modestly, leaving it to another man in the room to explain the reason. The grave had been set too near the front of the stage, and as the First Gravedigger shovelled in the earth at the end of the scene, bending low over his spade, he suddenly felt a blow in the middle of his back, instinctively jumped out of the way, and discovered that the scene cloth of the King's Palace had fallen between himself and his work. He was sorely tempted to "gag," but resisted bravely, shouldered his spade, and marched out of sight of the howling audience, just as Claudius appeared on the other side of the stage. Starkie is the second part Mr. Field has played in a Barrie success, for he toured, a few years back, as one of the Elders in *The Little Minister*. A visit to Kirriemuir—known to the world as Thrumbs—made him appreciate the "local colour" of Mr. Barrie's charming comedy, for he stayed in the house where the author had lived, and several of the speeches and exclamations in his part went better than they ever had before.

MR. H. ATHOL FORDE is one of the actors whom everybody knows as a Bensonian. A Londoner by birth, he started his useful years on the stage—now running into the twenties—at the old Princess's, under Mr. Wilson Barrett's management, joining Mr. Benson's company in 1885. His first part with F.R.B. was the Player King in *Hamlet*. His subsequent engagements include two years with the Kendals, visits to America and South Africa, and many London appearances. Mr. Forde has only recently returned from Australia, where he went for three months, and stayed for over two years, playing leading parts under Mr. Musgrove and Mr. Williamson's managements in Shakespeare and modern comedy. Mr. Athol Forde's brother is Mr. John Le Breton, author of "Miss Tudor," "Unholy Matrimony," and other popular novels.

"A SENSE OF HUMOUR."

A Play, in Three Acts,
by Beryl and Cosmo Hamilton,
Produced at the Comedy Theatre,
On Sunday Evening, Jan. 7
(Repeated on Monday Afternoon, Jan. 8).

Captain Archibald Hay..MR. C. AUBREY SMITH
Sir William Hutton, Bart..MR. ATHOL STEWART
Mrs. Hay .....MISS EDITH OLIVE
Meakin .....MR. REGINALD DANCE
Stanner .....MISS FRANCES DILLON
Lady Hutton .....MISS BERYL FABER

Mr. and Mrs. Cosmo Hamilton's play, *A Sense of Humour*, was presented for the first time on Sunday evening at the Comedy Theatre, and repeated there on Monday afternoon, when an audience, in which there were many well-known members of the profession, frequently applauded the smartness of the dialogue, laughed at the occasional flashes of humour in the piece, enjoyed its neatness of construction, and thoroughly appreciated the clever way in which the authors sustained the interest until the final fall of the curtain.

The problem that the authors have set themselves to solve will be best learnt by a recital of the plot. Sir William Hutton (Billy) and Captain Archibald Hay (Archie) are chums; their wives, Margaret and Vera, are bosom friends. Ardent anglers all of them, they are spending what should be a delightful holiday in a fishing cottage in the Isle of Mull. There is, however, a rift in the lute. On the rising of the curtain, we learn that Sir William has been flirting somewhat desperately with his friend's wife, and over a *tête-à-tête* breakfast he implores Mrs. Hay (Vera) just to favour him with another kiss. The conduct of the pair has scandalised the female domestic, who feels it her duty to inform Lady Hutton (Margaret) of their goings on. A shrewd, clever woman, is Lady Hutton. Confident in the love of her husband, she knows him too well to take things too seriously. She becomes more concerned, however, when the mere tattle of the servant is confirmed by the statement of Captain Archibald Hay himself, who had actually seen Sir William take Vera in his arms and kiss her. "What did you do?" "Do!—why, I asked him to come on here and talk things over." Archie hints at the Divorce Court, and takes generally a very gloomy view of the situation. Margaret wisely counsels a very different plan. Anything, at any rate, is better than the destruction of the happiness of four people and a society scandal. Cheerily enough she suggests to Archie to "play their own game, and within a month Billy and Vera will be bored to death in each other's society."

Henceforth Margaret and Archie are inseparable. She plays his favourite songs; they address each other in endearing terms; and play the parts of lovers so openly that Vera makes the remark that one sitting-room will be rather inconvenient for the quartet. Vera, we should add, regards the conduct of Margaret as a huge joke—as it is really intended—but it does not appeal so readily to Billy's sense of humour; for he, on the contrary, becomes desperately jealous, and plays the detective by watching very closely his wife and his friend. He is, however, persuaded to take a less serious view, and at this juncture, rallies Archie on the absurd turn things have taken. The latter for the moment forgets himself, and is about to seize Billy by the throat, when the situation is saved by the appearance of the two women. It is evident, however, that Margaret's plan is not working so well as she would wish. Its complete success would seem to depend on Vera's jealousy being thoroughly aroused, and, as a last resource, Margaret takes Archie to her boudoir in the last act, and the two sit there with the door locked. The danger of such a compromising situation is patent, and tragedy is in the air when Margaret learns that Vera's boxes are packed in the hall, and that she is about to elope. In a state of uncontrolled indignation, Billy abuses Archie, and the two women also quarrel fiercely. The domestic storm subsides, however, almost immediately. The four young people persuade themselves how stupidly they have acted towards each other, and each couple becomes completely reconciled. Vera only wants to hear Archie confess his love for her, and Billy, animated by a similar desire, easily obtains Margaret's forgiveness. Notwithstanding this happy issue, we should accuse both couples of a blazing indiscretion did they spend another holiday together; for a sense of humour would not save a scandal for a second time.

At the fall of the curtain on Monday there was considerable applause for the players, and it was thoroughly deserved; for the piece was admirably acted. Mr. C. Aubrey Smith gave an excellent sketch of the quiet, phlegmatic Captain Archibald Hay, and his outburst of jealousy in the second act was simply volcanic in its force. For the most part, however, the lighter touch prevailed, and this clever, conscientious actor successfully accentuated the strength of the situations. Mr. Athol Stewart as the irresponsible Billy (Sir William Hutton) made that rather frivolous character sufficiently amusing, and caused considerable laughter in the first act. In the more serious aspects of the character Mr. Stewart was also effective. Mr. Reginald Dance had some very humorous things to say as Meakin, whose experience of the vagaries of aristocratic families is extensive and peculiar, and the actor scored most unmistakably by his clever treatment of the part—one of the most natural in the play. Miss Edyth Olive made the most of her opportunity in the third act, when Mrs. Hay lets her indignation have full play. In the scene with Lady Hutton she carefully avoided the melodramatic note, and acted with artistic restraint and passionate intensity. Miss Beryl Faber as Lady Hutton submitted a sympathetic portrait of that amiable and well-intentioned lady, and her charm, fascination, and distinction of style were conspicuous. Miss Faber lifted her part into the higher regions of comedy, and her acting was distinguished by convincing earnestness, happy touches of humour, and a sense of authority. Miss Frances Dillon cleverly accentuated the peculiarities of the domestic, Stanner. It was quite a humorous study. The play was well produced, under the direction of Mr. Hubert Druce. The waits were filled out by some classical selections of music, played by Mr. Rupert Borowski's quartet.

ONE of the best effects in the enlarged and elaborated edition of *Blue Bell* at the Aldwych is the introduction of the dainty little heroine to fairyland by Oberon, who wears a beautiful costume of shimmering gold. The King of the Fairies is played by Mr. Reginald Kenneth, a young baritone who has just signed a three years' contract with Mr. Frohman, and in whom Mr. Seymour Hicks takes a keen interest. A pupil of Signor Baraldi, Mr. Kenneth's very first part was Bobbie Preston, the hero of *San Toy*, and it really seemed as if Bobbie Preston was likely to be his only part, for he made such a success that directly one tour ended he was engaged for the next, playing with ten different San Toys, beginning with Miss Annie Purcell and ending with Miss Fanny Dango. *Lady Mollie* succeeded *San Toy* in his affections, followed by *The Duchess of Dantzic*, *The Cingalee*, and *Lady Madcap*. Mr. Kenneth is an enthusiastic golfer, and plays a good game of cricket.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

"MR. GEORGE LE BRUNN has left a widow totally unprovided for. He was admittedly the most prolific popular melodist of the time," writes Mr. Leslie Stuart in the *Daily Mail*. "His songs are being sung in every corner of the earth, and he had probably more current songs in prominence than any other living composer. Through the monstrous depredations of the music pirate, he died in financial difficulties."

"INCREDIBLE as it may seem," continues Mr. Stuart, "the grand total of royalties due to Mr. George Le Brunn for a twelvemonth from his publishers, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter—who are ready to show their books for confirmation—is £1 0s. 7d. (one pound and seven pence). Could anything portray more eloquently the sad position in which those who live by music find themselves?"

WE need no excuse, therefore, for drawing our readers' attention again to the grand special matinée that is to be given at the Oxford on Monday, the 22nd, in aid of the fund being raised for George Le Brunn's widow. Mr. John P. Harrington, in his appeal, asks that any professional ladies and gentlemen, absent from London on the date of the matinée, who would like to assist the funds so urgently needed to ensure the future welfare of the widow, to forward subscriptions to Mr F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*; or, Mr. David Day, 142, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

SIR EDWARD MOSS will be the guest at a banquet organised by the London Entertainments Protection Association, in order to mark their sense of the distinguished honour conferred upon him by the King. An early date has been fixed, and the affair, we need hardly state, will command the attendance of the most influential people in the variety world.

A CONTRACT has just been signed between Mr. Cecil Raleigh and Cissie Louie Lawson to produce a sketch entitled *The King's Minister*, with John Lawson as the Prime Minister. The sketch is in two scenes, the first at A Restaurant in Soho, and the second at Carlton House. The draperies and furniture will be unique, as is always the case with productions in which John Lawson appears. Mr. Raleigh's "book" has been pronounced by a well-known critic as the finest twenty-six minutes' episode ever written. The production will take place on Feb. 12, when a general invitation will be given to managers and critics.

DR. KUKLA, the president of the Czech University College of Medicine, has, by a clever surgical operation, separated the Bohemian twins, Rosa and Josetta Blazek. Some years ago one of them suffered from a serious attack of typhus, while her twin-sister, in spite of the bodily connection, remained in perfect health. Rosa and Josepha will now enjoy an independent existence, as the operation was a complete success. They attracted considerable curiosity in town in the autumn of 1904, when they made their first London appearance at the Metropolitan, and fulfilled a series of engagements at other important halls. They are highly intelligent girls, and possess musical ability.

THE International Artists' Lodge will hold an extraordinary general meeting at the Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m., to which all members of the music-hall profession are invited to attend. With the view of establishing an *entente cordiale* between the I.A.L. and the M.H.A.R.A., it was resolved to send an invitation to the committee of the latter society. The invitation has been cordially accepted. The executive committee of the I.A.L. take this opportunity to extend an invitation also to the representatives of the professional Press.

THE officers, committee, and the members of the Music Hall Sick Fund are also most cordially invited to attend the same meeting, at which it is intended to discuss the ways and means of obtaining a better working understanding between the various music hall societies in England, and to propound schemes for the better organisation of music hall artists and the improvement of the conditions under which they work.

IN the lovely production of *Cinderella* at the Empire on Saturday, the audience were puzzled for a few seconds as to the identity of Mdlle. Genée, in the Baronial Hall scene, where Cinderella sees herself in the ball-room dancing. The illusion is created by the employment of a double, who is exactly the same height, and bears a wonderful resemblance in features and colour of hair to the popular queen of dance. The name of the young lady is Miss Olive Lang, who, at the end of the ballet, runs into the ballroom as the distressed Cinderella, who had outstayed the hour at which she was to return to her lowly state as the "cinder wench."

MR. JOHN LAWSON will appear on Monday at the Grand, Clapham, in a revised version of the sketch, *The Progenitor of Man*, under the title of *The Flying Man*. The costumes in the ball scene have been supplied by Messrs. John Hyman, the phonograph effects are by the Edison-Bell Co., and the flying effects by Mr. Neale.

TWELFTH NIGHT is always made a feature of at the Chelsea Palace, and the festivities on Monday were again under the genial sway of the popular Teddy Swanborough. Mr. Lyon, as in previous years, provided the cake, and there was a merry gathering of the staff and a few friends in the lounge after the performance. Mr. Swanborough proposed the health of Mr. Henri Gros, the managing-director, and of his co-directors, and the toasts that followed were "the genial Teddy"; his lieutenant, Mr. Norman Berlin; and Mr. Angelo Asher, the popular musical director. The Chelsea cake bids fair to become even more popular than the Chelsea bun.

MR. WALTER TILBURY has written the words of a parody on "The Death of Nelson," which will be sung by Mr. W. H. Berry at the Empire for the first time on Monday. It will probably become a favourite ditty with the advocates for Tariff Reform at the elections.

MISS MADGE HAINES, who is playing Cassim, jun., at the Shakespeare, Clapham, has earned much favourable comment by her singing of the popular numbers, "Little Wooden Hut" and "My Jappy Coon."

MR. HENRY HERNE AND MISS IDA MILLAIS will play the celebrated rainstorm incident in *No Man's Land* at the Palace, Hammersmith, on Monday, when they will commence their fourth engagement at that hall within six months.

MR. ALFRED PAWLEY concluded his season of variety entertainments at the Public Hall, Croydon, on Saturday, Dec. 30. He had been successfully running them for the past four months, and regrets that he is unable to continue them, owing to the hall being engaged.

"POPS," the magnificent black feline mascot who (when he is awake, which is seldom) presides over the destinies of the mice at Messrs. Francis and Day's London branch establishment, has been presented with a silver collar by admirers, and the "pirate" cats of Bloomsbury are duly abased thereat. "Under an Um-ber-el-la," "Little Glowworm" and "Who said Girls?" have been added to the series of "Sixpenny Pops."

WE regret to report that Mr. Fred Harcourt, magician and illusionist, died on Friday morning from cancer at the Central Nursing Home, Glasgow. He is deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife, family, and relatives.

ALTERATIONS have been carried out on the stage and in front that have brought the People's Palace, Tottenham, right up to date. The auditorium now holds 1,800 people. Mr. Payne, the manager for Mrs. Lawson, is very popular there. The chief attraction is *Aladdin*. The varieties this week include Harry Wenburn, the Kendalls, and Sisters Beatrice. There is a first-class orchestra under the direction of Mr. Holman.

THE Grand Theatre, Gravesend, was honoured on Wednesday, Jan. 10, by a visit from Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., Captain Davis, K.C.C., A. E. Enfield, T.C., and several of the Corporation to witness the performance. They congratulated Mr. David Hart, the general manager, upon his programme, which included Royal Zerbinis and Miss Millie Payne, the Comedy Queen, and thanked him for an enjoyable evening.

AT the last directors' meeting of the Star Theatre Co., Ltd., Dublin, Mr. George H. Marsh, secretary of the Dublin Empire Theatre, was appointed to the dual offices of manager and secretary, and we learn that the same gentleman has also been chosen for the position of secretary to the Empire Theatre, Ltd., Belfast. Mr. Marsh will take up these duties as from Feb. 1 next. Both establishments, we should add, are booked in conjunction with the Moss Empires and Stoll companies.

WE are given to understand that Mr. Walter de Frece, acting on behalf of a syndicate, has leased the Palace, Belfast, from Messrs. Warden, Ltd., for a term, and that the establishment will be run on the two-houses-a-night principle from Monday, the 22nd inst.

As an extra turn at the Empire Theatre, Dublin, the initial performance was given last week of a very interesting act, which is both novel and effective, entitled "Mdlle. Sylvia's Vocal Electric Tableaux," which are produced under the able management of Mr. Harry Milne.

AT the Royal County Theatre, Bedford, on Saturday night, the concluding evening of the pantomime, Mr. Fred Alberto (Baron Badlot), on behalf of *The Babes in the Wood* company, presented Mrs. Edward Graham-Falcon with an emerald and diamond pendant brooch, and hoped she would live long to wear it. Mrs. Falcon briefly responded, and the large audience cheered and applauded.

AT Grosvenor Park, Belfast, an amusing football match was played on Wednesday afternoon last between the Little Shamrocks and Belfast pantomime artists. The pantomime artists were arrayed in the most fantastical and grotesque costumes, and the fun provided was both fast and furious. Messrs. Fred Cary, Russell Wallett, and Chas. Coverdale were especially prominent in their efforts to create amusement. The result was stated to be four goals each. Mr. Russell Wallett acted as referee. The proceeds were to be devoted to the Newsboys Appeal Fund; and a goodly sum was realised.

MR. DAN THOMAS with his touring pantomime *Aladdin*, which he presented at the Bedford on Boxing night, has been scoring all along the line. In remembrance of its success at the Camden Town variety theatre Mr. B. P. Lucas presented Mr. Thomas with a silver-fitted dressing case; and Mr. Harry Day gave him a box of cigars. At the Argyle, Birkenhead, last week, Mr. D. J. Clarke endowed him with a diamond scarf-pin.

JUDGMENT was pronounced in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, in the action by Isaac Nathaniel Lyons, merchant and Government contractor, 51, St. Mary-axe, London, against Moss' Empires, Ltd., Edinburgh. The pursuer sued for £1,361 18s. 4d., the balance of the price of goods supplied and work done on the order of the defenders, from Oct. 22, 1904, to Jan. 20, 1905, at the London Hippodrome. The defenders admitted liability for £500, the amount of contract estimate; £457 for goods supplied; and £45 3s. 10d., the amount of two accounts not previously rendered. They paid £750 of that amount, and tendered payment of the remainder, £252 19s. 8d., as all that was due by them. In the beginning of November, 1904, Mr. Parker, the defender's stage-manager, resolved to bring out a new Christmas show, called *Butterflies in Fairyland*. The spectacle required for its production an outer circular red cloth curtain, and an inner partially transparent blue gauze curtain, with a diameter of 42ft. inside, for the purpose of producing certain light effects. The show was intended to occupy both the arena or ring of the hippodrome, and the adjoining stage on the side of the building opposite the audience. Mr. Lyons's estimate for the work was accepted. Lord Ardwall dismissed the action, and found neither party entitled to expenses.

MR. HENRY T. DOWNS, the esteemed manager of the New Alhambra, Belfast, was accorded his third annual benefit on Wednesday evening last. By kind permission of Mr. Fred W. Warden, Miss Olive Marston, Mr. Fred Cary, the Tally-Ho Trio, and Mr. Chas. Coverdale came over from the Palace, and achieved much success. With their usual courtesy, Mr. A. S. Findlater, LL.D., J.P., managing-director, and Mr. John A. Walker, acting-manager, of the Empire, permitted the Three Victorias and Miss Ella Retford to appear. The popular beneficiaire, when he appeared on the stage, thanked all the artists who had so ably assisted, especially those from the Palace and Empire, and the directors of those theatres for their courtesy. At the same time he wished also to heartily thank his innumerable patrons, who, during the three and a half years he had been manager of the New Alhambra, had rallied round him so loyally, and made the Alhambra one of the successes of Belfast.

AN interesting ceremony took place in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, Bolton, on Monday afternoon, when His Worship, Colonel G. Hesketh, V.D., J.P., named four cubs, two lions and two lionesses, belonging to Sedgwick's menagerie, which is now paying its annual visit to the town. Two baby lions were the first to be named, the Mayor selecting the names "Rex" for one, which was thereupon decorated by him with blue ribbon, and for the other "Colonel," whose ribbon was of white. These two animals were three months old. Then the two baby lionesses, which were born in Bolton a week last Saturday, were brought forward, and these were named "Venus" (adorned with white ribbon) and "Juno" (whose decoration was purple). The Mayor picked up one of these little animals, which were no bigger than cats. We are given to understand that the two baby lions will be taken round the country by "Zarmah," who is Mr. Sedgwick's son, and that he will pass them round for the audiences of the halls at which he appears to fondle, until they are old enough to be trained.

WITH characteristic kindness, Messrs. Warden, Ltd., intend giving a matinée performance at the Palace, Belfast, of the pantomime *Cinderella*, on Wednesday next, 17th inst., in aid of the Ulster Hospital for Women and Children, Belfast.

THE Ayr Town Council have granted to Messrs. Lee and Arden the use of the Newton Public Park for their al fresco entertainments this summer. This will make the above entertainers' third season at Ayr.

MR. LESLIE STUART, in a letter in another column, advocates a bold, unanimous, and uncompromising attitude and a disregard of all other individual party politics in the struggle against musical piracy. Putting aside all party feeling, the letter will be read with interest by every professional voter.

IT is not often that two candidates who are opposing each other for Parliamentary honours appear on the same platform together during the progress of their electioneering campaign. Yet this is what happened on Thursday afternoon at the Paragon Theatre, Mile-end-road, when Mr. H. H. Wells, a popular director of that establishment, gave his third annual benefit performance in aid of the deserving poor of the district of St.-George's-in-the-East and Wapping. Mr. Wells is the treasurer of this relief fund, and the secretary is Mr. Wedgwood Benn, who is opposing the first-named gentleman in the contest for the division of St.-George's-in-the-East. Both the gentlemen, as well as Sir Thomas Dewar, who accompanied them, had a hearty reception, and Mr. Wells remarked that this was an instance where two people who were diametrically opposed to each other in politics could work together as true Englishmen to assist those who could not help themselves.

MISS ARABELLA ALLEN has been suffering from a slight attack of congestion of the lungs. The charming Dickens Girl was obliged to cancel three weeks' engagements, but Messrs. Rosen and Bliss, who had looked forward to starring her at Aberdeen, Dundee, and Sunderland, have kindly offered her dates later on, and she has this week been able to make a welcome re-appearance—for she is too fond of the work to enjoy resting under any circumstances—at the Palace, Manchester. Next week she is at the London and Collins's, and is always adding to her big répertoire.

MR. GEORGE ADNEY PAYNE and the directorate of the Euston have given Captain Jessel, the Imperialist and Unionist candidate for South St. Pancras, permission to use the whole front of the house for his bills, and have also allowed him to place cards all over the hall inside.

AN amusing incident occurred at the Grand, Clapham Junction, on Thursday evening, the 4th inst., during the second house. The act-drop was going up after the overture when, by some means or other it caught the sprinkler connections, turning on the water, the audience being treated to an unexpected (and exceptionally fine) water display lasting for some few minutes. Needless to say, although causing a little damage and inconvenience, the accident had its humorous aspect, The prompt action of Mr. H. Ketteman, the able manager, and his staff prevented anything like a serious delay, and the programme was run through with the usual smartness.

THE New Tivoli Company has declared an interim dividend of £4 per cent. (being at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum) for the half-year ending Dec. 31, 1905.

MR. BEN NATHAN, in celebration of his birthday on Friday, the 5th inst., invited a number of his friends to supper at The Lounge in Maiden-lane. Among those present were Mr. J. L. Graydon, Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Albert Gilmer, and several well-known music-hall stars. A most agreeable evening was spent.

MR. SYDNEY M. HYMAN, who represents the Empire Theatre, Johannesburg, and Tivoli Theatre, Cape Town, is always on the lookout for star turns for their halls in South Africa, and during a visit to Birmingham last week he was able to persuade Miss Ada Reeve to accept their South African tour.

MISS REEVE, who is now making a very big success at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, will sail for South Africa immediately on the conclusion of the run, so that she will arrive in Johannesburg in time for the opening of the new theatre on May 14 next. What is England's loss will be South Africa's gain, and there is no doubt Miss Ada Reeve will make the big success which such a talented and popular artist deserves.

MR. GUS ELEN, who is an ardent motorist, gives high praise to the cars manufactured by the Panhard Levassor Car Co., Regent-street. He says: "I have accomplished to date something like 14,000 miles on my Panhard Levassor car, and for the last 600 miles I have not once cleaned the valves of my engine or unscrewed a single nut, which speaks volumes for these wonderful cars. My car is running beautifully. I have had eight chauffeurs, and discharged them all. On referring to my dictionary I find 'chauffeur' is a small iron furnace, which evidently means something hot. If 'chauffeur' is not spelt exactly as its English equivalent, it doesn't matter much. H-o-t is certainly the way "chauffeur" should be spelt in the future, for he is decidedly a very 'hot' person."

SEVERAL notable changes will be made in the variety section of the programme at the Alhambra (where the booking for the new dramatic ballet, *Parisiana*, easily exceeds all previous records at this historic theatre) on Monday next, the 15th inst. Miss Lalla Selbini returns from a most successful season in Paris. Julius Thorn, of whose jugglery as a bibulous and slothful restaurant waiter the Alhambra public so definitely approves, makes fresh fun at every representation; a novel card expert and conjurer will be found in Dunningarto; and Vanola, the Mexican Antipodiste, will continue to amaze and amuse.

NEW pictures are so frequent in "Urbanora" that no single series has a chance to lag superfluous on the screen, and the present timely set of scenes, "The Sultan of Morocco and his Army," will be supplemented on Monday by a remarkable set, taken specially for Mr. Urban by Mr. T. J. West, illustrating "A Trip to New Zealand," and the many industrial achievements and thermal wonders of the land of the Maoris. The new departure, by which 3s. balcony stalls may be booked in advance, is meeting with marked success.

MISS KATE CARNEY, who is scoring such a success in *Our Laundry*, will shortly produce a new scena, entitled *The Flower Girl*. It was as a seller of "Three pots a shilling" that the coster queen made her first hit, and the title-rôle of the new production will therefore be quite familiar to her.

MESSRS. T. AND T. E. READ, who have given a series of wonderful shows at the World's Fair, Agricultural Hall, for a quarter of a century, have been much annoyed at the currency of a report that it is their last season at Islington. They are desirous of emphatically contradicting such an absurd statement, which is not only misleading to the public, but detrimental to themselves.

THE revival of *'Appy 'Ampstead* at the Canterbury has been postponed until Monday in consequence of the success of Mr. Joe Elvin's newest farcical sketch, *Obedient Billy*. The humours of Mr. Joe Elvin among the crowd on the famous heath were immensely enjoyed during the original run of the sketch at the Oxford, and elaborate preparations are being made "across the bridge" by Mr. Fred Miller for the illustration of the drollery of a typical cockney holiday.

WE announce with regret that Mr. Harry Villiers, the husband of Miss Daisy James, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 7, after a long illness.

AT the Coliseum on Monday Mr. Eugene Stratton will be heard in a new song by Mr. Leslie Stuart, entitled "There's nothing like your first love after all." Mr. Stratton will also present his latest provincial success, "The coon who never told a lie." A new song, with an old title, "Sweet Marie," will be introduced into *Aladdin's Lamp*, and treated in interesting fashion, by Mr. Marshall Moore. At the 6 to 8 performance Mr. Will Bishop will present a new version of "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," a darkie romance, in which Miss Clarissa Talbot, and the tiniest coloured comedian in the world, Pete Washington McKinley, supported by the Coliseum stock company, will take part.

VOTERS anxiously waiting the results of elections need not be afraid of missing them by attending the evening performances at the Coliseum. Mr. Oswald Stoll has made special arrangements whereby results of elections becoming known between six o'clock and eleven each evening will be either thrown on the biograph cloth or announced from the stage.

SO great was the success of the spectacular ballet, *Cinderella*, at the Empire matinées that the directors decided to put it in the evening bill on Wednesday. Some alteration of the scenery was necessary to shorten the production, but to Mdlle. Genée, as Cinderella, were given some additional dances. To make room for the new ballet, *The Bugle Call* and the excerpt from *Madame Sherry* have been temporarily withdrawn from the evening programme.

MR. HERBERT CYRIL, the seven-foot comedian, who at present is resting after his late severe illness, opens on Feb. 5 at the Empire, Bristol, on the Barrasford tour.

THE lady who plays Miss Giggles in Arden and Abel's *Three of a Kind* sketch was taken suddenly ill on Tuesday last at Aberdeen, and Elsie Roby ("The slavey's at home") kindly consented to play her part, and continued it for the rest of the week. On Saturday, Miss Roby was presented by Miss Ethel Arden with a beautiful ruby and pearl bracelet, and she was also thanked by Messrs. Rosen and Bliss for coming so aptly to the "rescue."

A LARGE number of Terriers met at Waterloo Station on Saturday last to give a send-off to Signor and Madam Borelli, who were sailing from Southampton for South Africa. Among the members of the fraternity present were Fred Neiman, Harry Lester, Willie Benn, the Two Whitleys, Griff, C. Clarke, Walter Norman, C. W. Burgess, H. Hopter, J. Dunedin, and many more.

MR. JAMES WILLARD is producing an original historical sketch at the Theatre Royal, Oldham, on Tuesday next, entitled *Moll Cutpurse, the Highway Queen*. The sketch is of the spectacular order, in four brief scenes, and deals with an incident in the life of the notorious Moll Cutpurse, who fought in the Royalist ranks as a trooper at the battle of Marston Moor. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Grace Lester.

FRED EUSTACE, of *Our Curate* fame, will shortly produce a spectacular comedy-dramatic sketch in four scenes, specially written for him by Chris. Davis. This production will be well within the limits provided by the agreement lately arrived at between the Theatrical Managers' Association and the magnates of the variety theatres. The subject has probably never before been dealt with in a dramatic form.

MR. FRED MOULE and Mr. E. D. Nicholls's company, in the farcical sketch, *The Battle of the Belles*, will come to the Bedford on Monday next. The trifle was originally produced at the Metropole, Manchester, on Nov. 6, 1905.

MR. HARRY LESTER, the "Terriers'" secretary, has been laid up this week with a very severe cold, which has troubled him for some weeks past. Under the care of Dr. G. F. M'Carthy he is making rapid progress.

MISS MAUD ESMOND scored an instantaneous "hit," at the Euston this week with Alf J. Lawrance and Tom Mellor's melodious number, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you." This song, which is also being "featured" in all Mr. R. C. Buchanan's pantomimes, is published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, of Berners-street.

THE secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £5 from Mr. A. W. Matcham, being his pence box collection up to date at the Empire Palace, Birmingham. The president and committee are very grateful for his kind efforts on behalf of the fund.

THE directors of the Empire Palace, Portsmouth, recently gave their annual matinée to the inmates and patients of the Workhouse and Milton Asylum, numbering over 800. Each man received a packet of tobacco and a pipe, and to the women were given packets of sweets and oranges. They made a most enthusiastic audience.

MR AND MRS. EDGAR FORREST'S company will start on the Stoll tour on Monday next. The name of Forrest has been associated with sketches for the last twenty years.

LADE HENDERSON'S success at the Portsmouth Empire has seured for him contracts from Captain Warren Wright for three years.—Mr. Frank Coyle is successfully treating politics from a non-party point of view in his song "Master and Man."—Mr. Billy McClain is stage-managing *Jack and Jill*, the successful pantomime, at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, produced there by Mr. John Tiller.

MISS GWENNIE HASTO, who is playing the part of the Princess Roxana in Mr. Robert Courtneidge's pantomime, *Cinderella*, at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, is scoring a striking success. This is her fourth year in the same part. She is rebooked for the Continent in 1907.

AN original farcical episode from the pen of Mr. Louis Coen, entitled *A Glass of Port*, is in active rehearsal, and will shortly be produced—as a sketch—at a West-end music hall.

THE Miltons are scoring a most gratifying success in their knockabout and comic roller-skating act in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Exeter.

MR. JOCK WHITEFORD is so pleased with the success of his song, "Keep on doing it, Sandy," by Mr. J. F. Lambe, that he has accepted another ditty called "Tillie-tud-lum," by the same author.

MR. DAN CONROY, who is touring on the Moss and Stoll circuit, is taking the fancy of the hardy northerners with his comicalities, and has recently been complimented by Mr. Richard Thornton.

"OUR ISLES ARE BRITAIN'S GLORY," by Tom Mellor, author of "Little Wooden Hut," and T. Bingham Sedgwick, the author of "The Crown of England," is a non-party song, and will be sung by Mr. Norman Mills at the Camberwell Palace of Varieties this evening.

THE closing prices for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 11-16; Canterbury, 1¼; Drury Lane, 1 3-16; Empire (15s. paid), 2¼; do. (10s. paid), 1¼; Gaiety, 1¼; London Pav. O., 4¼; do. Pref., 5; Lon. Coliseum, 2⅜; Lyceum Ord., 1s.; do Pref., 1s. 6d.; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss Empire, 4⅜; do. Pref., 3⅜; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 11s.; Tivoli, 5¼; Var. Cons. Theas., 14s.

MISS ANNETTE KELLERMAN, Australia's mermaid, made her 100th appearance at the Hippodrome on Thursday evening, and again scored a triumph by her magnificent exhibition of diving, being enthusiastically applauded by a crowded house, in which the New Zealand footballers were conspicuous. During the evening Mr. Fred Trussell, in a short speech, welcomed the All Blacks, who were evidently delighted with their reception. Miss Kellerman gives the bushman's cry of coo-ee during her performance, and on Thursday night the Colonials took it up, and gave quite a vigorous response. Miss Kellerman's style of swimming is so perfect, and her manner of performance so unconventional, that her wonderful popularity can be easily understood. She gives perfect imitations of Holbein and Burgess's methods, and her performance can be seen again and again with the greatest pleasure. Among the audience present on this festive occasion were Sir Malcolmn McEacharn, K.C.M.G.; the Hon. T. A. Coghlan, and the Hon. J. W. Taverner. Messrs. W. N. Benjamin, H. Benjamin, George Pragnell, and A. Hudson were among the gentlemen present connected with swimming.

"THE LADY IN RED," a new farcical sketch by that experienced dramatist and comedian, Mr. Tom Craven, has scored a success that has exceeded that gentleman's most sanguine anticipations. With the author in the cast it topped the bill at the Hippodrome, Brighton, Christmas week, playing to enormous business. Mr. Barrasford at once booked it for all his towns. Mr. Craven has written a regular screamer, and we hope shortly to welcome it in town.

MISS ADA ALEXANDRA, the popular "Dutch girl," has just returned from Canada the picture of health and vigour. Nearly two years ago, after a long fight against ill-health, Miss Alexandra had to give up her work. She now, happily, enjoys better health than she has done for many years, and has already arranged with Messrs. Henri Gros, Livermore, and others for the return of that evergreen success, *The Mason*.

AT the last meeting of the M.H.A.R.A. one of the proposals of Mr. George Gray's scheme that the Association be registered under the Friendly Societies Act was carried, and the Secretary was instructed to obtain the necessary forms. The consideration of the proposal to establish a Sick and Burial Fund was held over. In this connection we may point out that the wants of the profession are fully met by the Music Hall Sick Fund Provident Society, which is rapidly growing in importance, its objects having recently been brought prominently forward by well-known members of the profession, who have become staunch supporters.

THE death took place on Sunday, the 7th inst., at Rochdale, from heart failure, of Mr. Alfred H. Hamilton, of *Hamilton's Excursions*. Mr. Hamilton, who was in his fifty-fifth year, was the eldest son of the late Joseph Hamilton, the originator of this well-known entertainment. For many years Mr. Alfred Hamilton toured Great Britain and the Continent with his diorama, but recently turned his attention to animated picture work, and from 1899 till the close of the building in 1903 produced the Bioscope at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster. The remains were cremated at the Crematorium, Manchester, on Wednesday, January 10, those present being the deceased's son and daughter, his brother Felix, and Mr. Ralph Pringle.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON, who is now engaged in the concluding weeks of her provincial tour, has met with an excellent reception from North country audiences, who keenly appreciate her captivating style and abandon. The popular American soprano will next month fulfil a three weeks' engagement in town prior to a short tour in the West of England, after which she will begin a series of engagements at West-End halls.

MR. CECIL RALEIGH, writing to the *Standard*, says:—"I hope that you will not lose sight of the fact that whatever anomalies may exist in London as a result of the confused condition of entertainment law, the provinces remain undisturbed. The last prosecution of *The Belle of the Orient* ended in a victory, for the magistrate dismissed the case. Every second hall in the country has a double licence. You will find them as near to London as Walthamstow and Richmond. If the Lord Chamberlain and the County Council only put their heads together, and introduce the same system in the metropolis, the sketch question would be at an end. Anomalies will always continue so long as the office of Lord Chamberlain remains, but the double licence is, pending legislation, the best practicable solution of a complicated question." We propounded this solution of the sketch difficulty some twelve months ago, and said then that what was possible at Richmond should be practicable in the Edgware-road.

MR. HARRY TUCKER, husband of Miss Polly Albert, late of the Albert and Edmunds Troupe, who was well-known in the trotting world, passed away last week at the age of 74. He was interred in Forest Hill cemetery on Tuesday. A large crowd gathered at the graveside. Wreaths and floral emblems were sent by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Mrs. Tucker and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Baugh, Mr. and Mrs. Edmunds, Mrs. G. Preston and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. Shirley (Miss Jessie Preston), Mr. Grimmett, Mr. and Mrs. J. Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Mulford (Vinnie Edmunds), Mr. and Mrs. John Dipple, Mr. and Mrs. Hyhams, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, and others.

MISS ALICE MAY, who presents no fewer than seven different characters in her successful sketch, *Tranquillity*, is paying a return visit within four months to Olympia, Liverpool, where her sketch is winning golden opinions.

THE funeral of the late Harry Hampson (of the Brothers Hampson) took place at the Elswick Cemetery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday. A large attendance of professional and other friends assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to the deceased, who was very popular. Numerous wreaths and flowers were sent from all parts.

THAT enterprising firm, the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, have this week acquired three new songs, which they purpose at a future date, including in their "Sixpenny Successes" series. These are, respectively, "Ma Bonnie Jean," a Scotch "coon" serenade, by Harrington and Le Brunn, which will be produced at the London Pavilion, with special scenery and effects by Jock Whiteford; "A Tale that will never Die," by Harrington and Tate, sung by George Leyton; and "That's your Cactus Over There!" one of the quaintest of coon songs, by that versatile author and composer, H. K. Hamilton Field.

MESSRS. JOHN P. HARRINGTON AND JAMES W. TATE have this week equipped Mr. Jock Whiteford with two new comedy songs, entitled "I'd be better if I had ma troosers on," and "Naebody could touch me."

PARTICULARLY strong companies have been engaged for the Empires of the Moss-Stoll circuit in town next week. The greatest magician of modern times, Chung Ling Soo, will appear at Hackney Empire; the realistic military play, *Our Lads in Blue*, at Holloway; Dr. Hermann, the hypnotist, at Shepherd's Bush; Vesta Tilley at New Cross; and Ella and her lions at Stratford.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE LYCEUM.

Mr. George Leyton had a most sympathetic audience at the Lyceum on Saturday, when the veterans of Chelsea Hospital were invited by Mr. and Mrs. Barrasford to listen to the excellent entertainment. Mr. Leyton revived his well-known scena, "The boys of the Chelsea School," in which he was assisted by a chorus of twenty-four lads, and the stirring patriotic verses roused the old soldiers to enthusiasm. A specially interesting occurrence was the introduction by Mr. Leyton of the veteran, John Ford, of the 4th Queen's Own Dragoons, who, dressed in the picturesque uniform of 1855, recited Lord Tennyson's poem on the famous charge at Balaclava, the glories of which he shared. The proceeds of the sale of the words of Mr. Leyton's song were to be handed to another Crimean veteran, R. Topp, late of the Grenadier Guards.

But Mr. Leyton does not restrict his benevolent exertions to one veteran, and during the week he has introduced to Lyceum audiences Gunner James Groves (aged 72), of the Royal Artillery, who was present at the battles of the Alma, Inkermann, in the trenches at Sebastopol, and at Balaclava. Groves served for over twenty years, and enjoys the munificent pension of one shilling a day. Mr. Leyton briefly stated the facts of the veteran's career, and then appealed to the members of the audience to purchase copies of the song in order to provide some extra comforts for the old soldier. The popular actor-vocalist, we should add, has been the means of raising a large amount for neglected heroes of the Crimea—no less than £1,017 having been collected in the various provincial towns where he has introduced his descriptive scenas.

After what we have written, we need hardly state that "The boys of the Chelsea School" had a rousing welcome on the night of our visit, and a thrill of sympathy ran through the audience when the veteran Gunner Groves was seen to be marching on the stage at the head of the boys in front of a scene of the Duke of York's school, which is shortly to be pulled down. Mr. Leyton sang with all his well-known ardour and spirit, and the chorus was repeated again and again in response to enthusiastic plaudits.

One of the most popular items in the current programme is the sketch, *Three of a Kind*, presented by a specially-selected company, under the direction of Miss Ethel Arden. The plot of this most amusing trifle is founded on the farce, *Tom, Dick, and Harry*, and is an ingenious muddle of mistaken identity. Mr. Dick Whimpers, who has been sent to a *maison de santé*, returns to his home soon after the opening of the farce. His coloured photo, which has been lost by Mrs. Whimpers, suggests a disguise to two of the young lovers in the trifle, who in this way completely bamboozle a fiery general, the guardian of one of the girls. The scenes are in the spirit of pure farce, and are acted with a drollery and an agreeable rattle that are completely successful in bringing out the fun of the situations. Miss Ethel Arden herself plays in whimsical style the part of Mrs. Minerva Whimpers, who, like Niobe, is all tears, and she evokes the heartiest laughter when she requests her beloved, in a caressing voice, to call her "Nervy."

A dramatic turn of considerable interest is submitted by Mr. Victor Newman, who is announced as an actor-mimic. He chooses for his first impersonation Svengali, from *Trilby*, as embodied by Mr. Beerbohm Tree. The remarkable power of the Jew over the heroine of Du Maurier's novel is explained in the monologue, and the famous air "Ben Bolt" is sung by a vocalist in the wings. The audience heartily appreciate the strenuous work of the actor, and also applaud him in his concluding item when he gives an "impression" of the lamented Sir Henry Irving in Mathias's dream-scene from *The Bells*.

A cheery entertainment is that of Miss Fanny Wentworth, who has been called the Corney Grain in petticoats. She is very rightly making a little capital out of the election excitement by singing a special version of "Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" Very ingenious and neatly-turned are the verses. Miss Wentworth adds to her success by some well-told stories, and by her singing of "Now, isn't that like a man?" a capital number that causes considerable amusement among the fairer half of the audience. The Harmony Four, in their original musical comedy, repeat the success that they made at this house at the opening performance. Mr. Edward Hughes, as the Happy Hooligan, plays the fantastic tricks that have made him so popular; Mr. T. C. Bergeron is an artistic Professor Schultz, evincing considerable talent as a pianist; Mr. F. M. Barrett is a capital fiddle as Mike Murphy; and Mr. Tom Lloyd sings nicely as Reginald Astorbilt. The farcical business is heartily laughed at, and the harmony highly appreciated. Early in the evening Miss Evelyn Taylor, a vivacious and attractive comedienne and dancer, sings with spirit and animation, "When I backed a winner." Bud Primrose is a tireless step-dancer; the Fedoras are most successful operatic duettists; and Great Scott, cult and intrepid feats. The animated pictures unfold a dramatic theme in "The Vendetta," the progress of which is very keenly followed.

THE METROPOLITAN.

The popular Mr. Jack Edgar's New Year programme at the Metropolitan sustains the reputation of that fine house for excellent entertainment, and for something like four hours the stage is occupied by turns that have, for the most part, already won favour from the inhabitants of Paddington and the regions beyond. Early in the evening is presented a duologue entitled *A Yacht for Sale*, which has been played with considerable success at other London halls. It is winning a very favourable verdict at the Edgware-road house. The imbroglio arises from the error of a Mrs. Pendleton. She calls on a Dr. Smithkins—who incidentally has a yacht for sale—in reference to the character of a domestic. It is another Smithkins who runs the servants' registry, but this fact does not come out until an amusing game of cross-purposes has been played. The doctor becomes duly eloquent in his description of the qualities of the yacht, but the "fast" character of the *Saucy Polly* is not at all the sort of thing that is required in a housemaid. The lady is astonished to hear a number of particulars as to weight, figure, measurement, and construction, which not only puzzle her considerably, but keep the audience laughing all the time. The interpretation of the trifle is excellent, and its reception uproarious. Miss Alice Yorke, an experienced, clever actress, makes a fascinating and agreeable Mrs. Pendleton, and though the opportunities of the part are not great, she plays it with no little humour. Mr. Royston Keith makes a gentlemanly doctor, and cleverly supports Miss Yorke.

Miss Lottie Siegenberg, in a sketch, entitled *The Lazy Slavey*, is responsible for some meritorious vocal work. A Spanish song is followed by a coon melody, and "Il bacio" is also sung with spirit and animation. In her final selection, "The song that reached my heart" she plays her own accompaniment at the pianoforte, and is well received. Comedy is in the ascendant with the arrival of Mr. Jock Whiteford, the young Scotch comedian, who made his first appearance in London in the early part of last year. He has a command of pawky humour that is very exhilarating, and is especially funny in his description from the point of view of an excited boy spectator of a football match that takes place in Glasgow. The monologue is cleverly done, and keeps the house in roars of laughter. Miss Rose Hamilton, one of the most attractive of our burlesque actresses, displays a command of dialect and comedy in her first song, "Shopping," descriptive of the New York lady, a Scotch dame, a Lancashire girl, and a coster's donah, and their varying methods. The different types of character are skilfully accentuated, and it is evident that Miss Hamilton is happily suited with such work, which runs out of the common groove. She puts also an immense amount of life and go into her rendering of the coon song, "The Hottentot Man," her success being rounded off by a capitally-executed dance.

Miss Marie Lloyd is in brilliant form just now with "It's a thing of the past, old dear," in which a couple of old ladies exchange confidences over a nip or two of gin. The verses are extremely funny, and the touches of low comedy decidedly happy. Indeed, Miss Lloyd has never done better than in this song, which is making a great hit nightly wherever she sings it. "The little rustic maid" and "In town, in country" are also great successes. Mr. Fred Earle scores a real triumph in "Seaweed," and has to give encore verses nightly. It is a song in which funny situations are funnily described, and the humour lies in the fact that the "weed"—which is supposed to foretell the state of the atmosphere—is always prophesying what is already known. The audience commences to laugh from the first verse, and would listen to any number of additional ones were they supplied. Mr. Earle cuts a quaint figure, and emphasises the whimsical nature of the song with much cleverness. Mr. Chris. Richards is one of the drollest personages on the variety stage. He is particularly so in his dances, which are full of surprises. He is also responsible for much amusing business with a hat, and his effervescent style in the song, "On the hop," makes him extremely popular. The Three Laurels are responsible for one of the neatest and cleverest displays of acrobatism that are just now to be seen on the variety stage. Many of their most skilful tricks are performed on what is called a ping-pong table; but their ground tumbling has an intrepidity and smartness that are only to be found in the most finished performers. The funny member of the trio is a clever manipulator of hats, and we may also add that what he does not know about acrobatism is not worth learning. Florence and Lilian, two very attractive ladies, give a refined musical entertainment, in which Miss Lilian sings "Mary or Argyle" very prettily, and plays a selection from *Il Trovatore* on the fiddle like an angel, to the artistic piano accompaniment of her partner. Both of them are capital posthorn and bugle players, and are repeating the success they scored on their first appearance at this hall a few years since. Burke, Moller, and Teller, as *The Professor and His Pupils*, make their customary hit. The professor—who we may suppose is Mr. Burke—is a very fine dancer, and revives the best form of step-dancing, which is nearer to the poetry of motion than most people imagine. The programme is opened by Mr. Wal Robbins—a black-and-white performer, who plays with skill on the Japanese fiddle, and sings to his beloved mandoline, accompanying himself on that instrument. The Zampas are energetic and vigorous dancers and smart bâton twirlers. Miss Sylvia Du Barry is heard to advantage in "Sing me to sleep"; and the name of Mr. Jack Camp, comedian, is also on the bill. A cold, however, has prevented his appearance since Monday. Mr. Leon Zeitlin is the zealous acting-manager here, and Mr. D. M. Trytel the clever musical director.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

"Half-time at nine-thirty" is a phrase without meaning at Brixton this week, for the hall over which Mr. Nelson Francis rules so ably has been filled to the doors soon after their opening, and variety lovers who have sought to avail themselves of reduced prices later have found only standing room, and very little of that. The cause is not far to seek, for the current bill is graced by a number of turns of West-End renown. Miss Vesta Victoria is a favourite of particularly high standing at Brixton, and whether her selections are of the sentimental or the comic order, the results are equally favourable. Laughter is aroused at once by her appearance with a perambulator containing an assertive baby, her manner of recounting the infelicities of domestic life and her exquisitely droll antics keeping the flow of mirth unchecked.

Versatility is displayed by Mr. Austin Boyd and Miss Trixie Gilfain in their scena, which includes burlesques of melodrama and opera. Both artists are highly-gifted, and their excerpts, besides creating unlimited laughter, display the possession of vocal talent of a high order, Miss Gilfain also giving a specimen of her ability on the bagpipes. The vitality of Mr. Will Evans is wonderful. His antics were wont to amuse a generation of an older growth, and to-day he is indisputably funnier than ever. His preliminary patter, amusing enough in itself, gives way to an impersonation of "The Villain of the Piece," in which all the details of the part are travestied without mercy for the melodrama or for the laughter-staying powers of the audience. A couple of supernumeraries add valuably to the effect of the song, for the extension of which the audience make an enthusiastic demand.

A welcome hearty and sincere is reserved for Mr. Mark Melford, who appears in his popular sketch, *My Wife Won't Let Me*. The evening is well advanced when the little piece takes the stage, and the risible faculties of the audience have been thoroughly exercised, but Mr. Melford's deliciously dry humour seems to have a recuperative effect, and the progress of the sketch is made to an accompaniment of shrieks of laughter. The favourite comedian is assisted by a capable company, among whom is Miss Jackeydawra, a youthful actress, who gives proof of inherited talent. She looks very attractive in the "poke" bonnet and sober-hued costume of the stern and unrelenting young wife, and plays with commendable care and delicacy. A sketch which has won more recent favour is that of *The Member for Muddlesex*, played by Mr. William Lee and Miss Helen Bentley. It exercises an irresistibly droll effect, Mr. Lee's resignation and mild retorts being in comic comparison to the passionate invective of the shrewish wife. Miss Bentley preserves the character of the latter part unfailingly, her strong and clear voice, full of expression, making every line tell.

A charming exponent of the illusionary art is found in Mdlle. Von Etta, who is able to produce from a tall hat a number of bouquets with which she deluges the audience. A silk handkerchief yields a profusion of ribbons, followed by a number of flags of many nations, the production of the Japanese ensign arousing a hearty cheer. Mdlle. Von Etta, who assumes many varied and becoming costumes in the course of her performance, at length enters a box at the back of the stage, a pistol is fired, and the performer is seen making her way back to the stage from among the audience, while the lid of the box is lifted, and a young girl rises up waving a wreath of flowers in each hand. My Fancy gives a captivating display of the art of dancing, the experts among the audience watching her well-measured steps in silver clogs with undisguised delight. A sand-dance is productive of similar pleasure, and the talented exponent of terpsichore, whose equal in her special line it would be difficult to find, gains well-merited testimony of her success. The eccentricities of Mr. Phil Ray are as irresistible as ever, his song, "Only seventeen," being supplemented by a wealth of funny "patter," that causes laughs innumerable. Mr. Whit Cunliffe, a comedian with fresh and invigorating methods, retains the well-pleased ear of the house throughout his turn; Mr. Leo Tell gives specimens of equine language, which prove novel and clever; Fraser and Haley are harmonising vocalists of great excellence; and the programme which includes Mason Keeler and company, and Mr. Pat Rafferty, is brought to a mirthful conclusion by the Harvey Boys, in their boxing sketch. Mr. Robert Allington is a skilled musical director; and Mr. Francis Winchcombe acts as assistant-manager with courtesy and efficiency.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Though in the thick of the excitement and turmoil of a General Election, the residents of Hackney and district continue to support with liberal patronage the handsome and commodious place of amusement in Mare-street. Pantomime has deprived the variety stage for the time being of the services of many clever artists, and some weakening of the programmes—more particularly in regard to the comic turns—must of necessity be the result. However, the regular theatres have not absorbed all the talent, as the current programme at the Hackney Empire proves beyond question, a satisfactory level of excellence being maintained throughout.

Ridicule is known to have a deadly effect in some cases; and possibly the frequent burlesque of the conventional melodrama has done much to make that particular form of dramatic entertainment less popular than it was. Anyhow, Miss Louie Counsell and Mr. Oscar Mills industriously apply themselves to making fun of the sensational drama as presented at the theatres. Mr. Mills first represents the immaculate hero, whose only consolation in the midst of his many troubles is that the heroine remains faithful to him; and in this part he takes care to have all the limelight directed upon him, while he does a burlesque dying scene. Mr. Mills later comes on as the villain, with the black hair and the heavy moustache, who, in guttural gasps, accuses the distraught heroine of being false, and thereupon proceeds to make a murderous attack upon her in the good old melodramatic style that was wont to send a keen thrill of excitement through the audience. Excellent assistance in the scheme of amusement is rendered by Miss Counsell, as the much-harassed heroine, who is not made happy until the very end of the last act is reached. Another entertaining couple are Terry and Bentley, the gentleman, dressed as a huntsman, causing the lady to lose her temper by his aggravating way of asking questions and replying to inquiries. The male performer varies the act by some eccentric posturings and acrobatic feats, while the lady obliges with a neat song and dance. Miss Sable Fern, petite and pretty, meets with a good reception. She delights the audience by her piquant rendering of "There can only be one Phœbe in the house" and "I want you to be my girl." Her songs, by Frank Leo, are especially acceptable by reason of refrains which tempt her listeners to join in with vigour. The item, *America's Lads in Blue*, proves to be an interesting nautical spectacle, in which appear twenty-one young men as sailors. They go through a series of drills on board a man-o'-war, and the precision and quickness they display cannot fail to be greatly admired. The Marlo and Dunham Trio, consisting of two men and a lady, perform a number of clever feats on the horizontal bars, and their performance elicits much applause. The Sisters Aindow give a refined and eminently pleasing musical speciality, playing with skill the xylophone and other instruments. Madame Alice Simmons, Australian operatic prima donna, sings a couple of ballads with charming expression, and in the style of the well-trained vocalist. Mdlle. Heloise Dupont, comedienne, sings with all the vivacity which is characteristic of her countrymen and women; and Mr. Frank Bell also adds variety to the programme by his comic discourse.

The entertainment concludes with the American Bioscope, which, in a series of twelve tableaux, tells "The Story of the Hen that Laid the Golden Eggs." Being the fortunate possessors of this wonderful bird, a couple of peasants become rich "beyond the dreams of avarice"; but the place where they store their gold is discovered, and they are robbed. With the object of acquiring wealth at one stroke the owner of the hen kills it, and, of course, has reason to repent his foolish action, the couple being again reduced to penury. The story is graphically illustrated, and is a seasonable addition to the ordinary items of a well-diversified bill. Mr. John Christie is the popular acting-manager here, and Mr. Kennedy Johnson performs the duties of assistant-manager.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE ANNIVERSARY.

The second anniversary of the opening of this popular theatre of varieties was celebrated by a special grand performance on the evening of the 5th inst., and drew an audience that simply packed the great house from stalls to gallery. Expectation regarding the event had been on tip-toe since the first announcement, and all the reserved seats in the house had been booked long before the day arrived, while early in the afternoon crowds collected at the pit and gallery doors eager to participate in the pleasures of an evening that will be remembered as a red-letter day in the annals of Walthamstow's amusements. The demand, indeed, for places in the boxes, stalls, and circle was far in excess of the holding capacity of the theatre, and many would-be spectators had reluctantly to retire. The Palace was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Festoons of roses, interspersed with electric lights, hung from gallery, circle, and boxes; looped themselves over the proscenium, stretched up the white-and-gold pillars and ran along the lines of the orchestra, while on the velvet cushion of every private box rested an exquisite bouquet of white flowers. The whole effect was brilliant in the extreme.

For such an important occasion the programme was arranged to occupy the entire evening, and this it certainly did, the curtain rising promptly at seven o'clock, and the strains of "God Save the King" not being heard until close on the stroke of midnight. The bill of fare provided by Mr. Arthur J. Barclay was worthy of the event and of the audience. Many leading "stars" of the variety stage travelled down to give their services, while Mr. G. Adney Payne, as managing-director, accompanied by Mrs. Adney Payne, occupied a private box. A great and emphatic success was made by Little Tich who, making his first appearance in Walthamstow, was at once admitted into the select constellation of "stars" that are marked as prime favourites. The inimitable droll was at his best, and gave two of his most popular songs, adding thereto his wonderful dance in the big shoes. Miss Marie Lloyd, who may now be reckoned as one of the established idols of Palace audiences, was in splendid form, and sang first one of her *chic chansons* in her best manner and her daintiest frock, and followed this by her exceedingly clever impersonation of the elderly lady somewhat addicted to looking upon the gin when it is clear in the cup, and discoursing to her friend of matters that are "things of the past, old dear." Mr. Alec Hurley had a great reception with one of his admirably rendered coster songs, and Mr. Will Evans, one of the special pets of the audience, amused everybody with his *Villain of the Piece*. Miss Vesta Victoria was as good as ever in a couple of her favourite and ever-popular effusions, and was loudly applauded. Mr. Will Cornish played delightfully on his hand-bells; Great Scott mounted his ladder and kept everyone in breathless excitement during his performance; Mr. Harry Champion was, as usual, an unmistakable favourite. Mr. Paul Martinetti and his clever company were seen to advantage in *Robert Macaire*, and Mr. V. L. Granville repeated the clever impersonations he had been giving during the week. Miss C. Stroud-Wilson's fine voice rang through the house in Tosti's "Good-bye!"; Miss Elsie Croft sang sweetly a pretty song, entitled "Wild Rose"; The Sabots gave their dainty Dutch entertainment. The other artists who contributed to the success of the evening included Hill and Hull, Major Newell, Mr. Charles Penrose, Datas, of the marvellous memory, Mr. Fred Earle, Mr. Tom Carney, Miss Wynnie Darrell, as neat and graceful as ever, My Fancy, in her unique sand dancing, Miss Rosa Loader, Mr. Hal Chapter, the Norman and Leonard Trio, Mr. Walter Stanley, Messrs. Stuart and Morgan, Mr. Frank Cumminger, Miss Violet Irving, and the Leonards (Bob and Jennie), the whole winding up with excellent portraits of Mr. Adney Payne, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay, and Mr. George F. Slatter, displayed by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. H. Petersen, gave that gentleman's rattling overture, "Derby Day," in brilliant style. Great credit is due to the admirable stage-management of Mr. John Grant; everything went smoothly, there not being a single "wait" all through.

After the great audience had filed out into the street and the doors were closed, an interesting ceremony was performed in the saloon behind the circle. A large number of Mr. Arthur J. Barclay's personal friends and well-wishers in the town, having conceived the happy idea of presenting that gentleman with a testimonial in acknowledgment of the esteem in which he is universally held, and as some slight return for the unvarying kindness and courtesy he displays to visitors, considered that the celebration of the second anniversary of the opening of the Palace would be an excellent opportunity for the presentation. An influential committee was formed, with Mr. James Francis as chairman and Mr. George F. Slatter and Mr. G. W. Atkinson as honorary secretaries, Mrs. Young, of The Chequers, kindly consenting to act as hon. treasurer. The presentation was accordingly made after the conclusion of the public celebration. Councillor Friend (in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Francis) occupied the chair, and made the presentation. This consisted of a handsome silver salver, a purse of gold, and an illuminated address, beautifully engrossed in gold and colours, and suitably framed. Councillor Friend, having referred in felicitous terms to the high position Mr. Barclay held in the estimation of the inhabitants of Walthamstow, to the splendid results that had attended his untiring efforts as manager of the Palace, his unwearied desire to meet the wishes of all classes by placing before them a brilliant succession of entertainments which the most captious could not adversely criticise, handed over the gifts to Mr. Barclay amid loud and prolonged cheers. The presents having been handed round for inspection, and much admired, Mr. Barclay replied in a capital speech, thanking everyone concerned for the treasured testimonial and expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the expressions of goodwill that had been showered upon him. Mr. Barclay's health having been cordially drunk, the interesting proceedings concluded with three cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Barclay.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

For this week and next, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay has practically abandoned the variety entertainment which forms the usual attraction at his handsome house, and, in its stead, seeks to lure the public with the mirth and dazzle of pantomime. And, judging from the state of business up to the moment of writing, the "lure" seems to prove irresistible to Walthamstow playgoers. By special arrangement with Mr. G. Adney Payne, Mr. Peter Davey produces his successful annual, entitled *Goody Two Shoes*, which has been entirely devised and arranged by the latter gentleman. The author of the piece, Mr. Hugh B. Pinnock, set himself what may strike one as an uphill labour in combining the somewhat incongruous elements of Coventry's legendary heroine, Lady Godiva, with the doings of the quaint little girl so dear to the hearts of our grandmothers; but in his hands it seems quite natural that little Goody should ride the high-horse through the streets of Silkopolis, and that Peeping Tom, ignoring his "augur hole," should hang half-way out of a window to enjoy his mischievous "peep." The action of the play—which, having no harlequinade, partakes more of the nature of a musical comedy than a pantomime—has already been fully described in these columns, and therefore does not require recapitulation. A very clever company is engaged in the interpretation. As the Earl Godiva, a capital representative is Mr. George Mudie, whose make-up and dress, in the style of the eighteenth century, certainly do not suggest the Tennysonian idea of the "grim earl." Mr. Mudie's performance is a triumph of delicate art; it is not burlesque, but pure high comedy. The actor has one or two good songs; that in which he writes letters to distinguished people being highly dramatic in itself, and capitally rendered. A more charming Goody Two Shoes than Miss Polly Prim it would be difficult to discover. Petite and pretty, Miss Prim acts with great spirit, dances marvellously well, and sings sweetly, making a great hit in the popular song, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," with its accompanying dance. Miss Nell Richardson is altogether acceptable as Goody's defender and sweetheart, Crispin, her fine figure and expressive face telling greatly in her favour. Miss Richardson acts very well, while her singing, especially her rendering of "Rainbow," is excellent. A most amusing Dame Durdan is forthcoming in Mr. Sidney Young, who simply revels in the opportunities for fun-making given to him. Mr. Gus Garrick also extracts much comic capital from his part of Peeping Tom, and early makes himself a favourite. Mr. George Belmore as Marcodison and Mr. F. G. Martindale as the Town Crier both score. Miss May Hart is a lively Chevalier Hurley, Miss Madge Christopher a pretty Margot, and Miss Violet Broughton a bewitching messenger boy, Twig. The stage is filled with a crowd of young ladies, who enter with uncommon zeal into the business of their scenes, and are as merry and musical as they are good-looking. The scenery, painted by Mr. George Miller, is of a high order of merit. The music, arranged by Mr. J. H. Russell and Mr. Corelli Windeatt from popular airs of the day (by permission of the various publishers), is appropriate and lively; while Mr. Windeatt (who also directs the orchestra) has composed several new numbers. The general-manager (for Mr. Peter Davey) is Mr. Tom Taylor, and the acting-manager Mr. F. Cellier, jun.

SADLER'S WELLS.

A chic and engaging little lady is Miss Dot Stanley, who is this week scoring heavily with her song, "Mandy," who, we learn, is a young gentleman "as sweet as candy." The song is sung in most spirited strain, and Miss Stanley dances in the sprightliest manner imaginable. Gymnastics of an interesting order are indulged in by Adee and Agwin in their comedy act, *Antics of a Road-repairer*. One sees on the stage a sight familiar to Londoners—the sight of the labourer's wooden shelter, the brazier, the red "danger" lamp, and the sign-post bearing the words, "No road." The gentleman in the act referred to exhibits his skill in using his hands as the ordinary person would use his feet. By means of his manual extremities he succeeds in mounting and descending steps, cleverly balancing his body the while. Miss Rita Resdan dons a white bowler and masculine dress, wherein she cuts a nice figure of a young man, and sings the praises of the captivating creature, Irish Molly. Her second appearance is as a dandy with the indispensable monocle and Johnny ways. Then we get to hear a lot about one Charlie, who is always to be seen with a lady on his arm. Miss Resdan has fine scope for character comedy in this number, and she fully avails herself of it.

Fox and Melville, American song illustrators, make a decided hit with their vocal scenas. In the first we get the well-known song, "There's somebody waiting for me," the different pictures in connection with which are really beautiful specimens of the photographic art. In "The man in the overalls" the lady singer tells of the many-sided usefulness of the working man, and a series of extremely fine coloured slides aids in describing the various departments of labour with which the artisan has enriched his country. The two songs are sung with expression and feeling, and are amongst the most delightful items in the programme. Mr. Will Lytton is a host in himself, and offers a lot of immensely funny patter. From an absurd Scotchman, adorned by incomprehensible tartans, and with a lot of laughable dialect, he changes quickly into the character of an inebriated individual, with torn clothes and a rubicund, Bacchus-like countenance, and treats the house to a variety of whimsicalities in word and deed. Claude Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts* sketch company are uproariously lively in the telling of their story about the sale of a white horse. The latter itself possesses a fine sense of humour, and one wonders at the amazing intelligence it displays. There are three other horses which also give evidence of remarkably successful training. Mr. Ginnett is excruciatingly comical as the unsophisticated purchaser of the animals, and the other members of the little company assist with excellent result in the merry-making. One sees some smart sand-dancing while Mr. Frank Cumminger holds the stage, his agility and eccentric movements and twists and turns, being greatly admired. Mr. Cumminger also renders in capital style a verse or two in which the ladies of different countries receive appreciatory notice.

Miss Dorothy L. Clarke has two endowments which should go far in the making of a successful stage career. One is a fine presence, and the other splendid vocal talent. Her songs are of an inspiring character, and they are sung in a fashion which permits full justice being done to the dainty sentiment of the themes. Sweet and tuneful is her rendering of "My morning glory," and her second number, in which the military strain enters, is given with stirring spiritedness. Whatever Miss Clarke does is refined and refreshing, and her verses are of the class that tend to raise the tone of a music-hall programme. Mr. Fred Southern and his company appear in the sketch, *A Waif of the Sea*. Mr. Southern is extremely amusing with his low comedy acting in the part of Tim the carter, and the husky voice and irresponsible chatter of the tavern-loving driver make the rôle, as played by Mr. Southern, a realistic study. Mr. Courtney Robinson vigorously portrays the character of the villainous Roger Moreland; and Mr. C. H. Handon admirably represents the finer and manly qualities of the hero, George Manton. Pathetic and dignified is the portraiture of Lil Manton by Miss May Emery; and Mr. Percy Emery is seen to advantage in the rôle of Jack Gausden. Miss Gipsy Alexander enhances the humorous element of the sketch in her part of Dolly Farmer. Raymond's Bio-tableaux present a number of interesting and well-defined pictures.

MISS ANNETTE KELLERMAN'S 100TH PERFORMANCE AT THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"AUSTRALIA'S MERMAID" made her 100th appearance at the Hippodrome last evening, and gained unstinted applause for her charming and very graceful water show from a big house that included several gentlemen well-known in connection with swimming, and the New Zealand footballers. During the evening Mr. Trussell, the manager of the Hippodrome, in a short speech on behalf of the audience, extended a hearty welcome to the New Zealanders, his requests for three hearty cheers being loudly taken up by those present. The footballers replied with their well-known Maori war cry, and apparently appreciated the compliment paid them. It says much for the quality of a variety turn that nowadays stands the test of one hundred consecutive performances, and is still popular, but there is that in Miss Kellerman's display that causes one to regret when her all too rapid twelve minutes in the Hippodrome tank are ended and arouses a desire to again witness it. The "mermaid" compels attention, if only for the fact that she is quite independent and declines to be shackled by the etiquette of the "show" profession. She laughs and talks, brings fish out of the water as if she had caught them, and intimates to those in front that she is an Australian girl with the bushmen's cry of "c-o-o-ee." Last night there was quite a vigorous response to Miss Kellerman's call, for the footballers immediately took it up. Her display, which has greatly improved—for Miss Kellerman is now thoroughly familiar with the conditions—is quite the best that could be seen in its way. Imitations are given of Holbein's and Burgess's methods of swimming, these being so accurate that Miss Kellerman, whose own style is perfect, reproduces the former's excellent back-stroke and Burgess's ungainly leg-kick without the least exaggeration. Her diving—which is quite the feature of the show—is delightful to watch, for it does not matter in what style she enters the water, it is always graceful. The front-back feat—a singularly difficult trick—is accomplished well, and somersaults into the water and dolphin and "wooden soldier" dives made with the minimum amount of splash. Swimming with the hands tied and "headers" are all included in the show, at the end of which Miss Kellerman just nods to the audience, as much as to say "Good-night," and goes away. In order to celebrate the occasion a charming souvneir programme of Miss Kellerman's show was presented by the Hippodrome management to all present. In this are excellently produced photographs of the New Zealand footballers, and the fair Australian is seen as an advocate of "mixed bathing," her companions being mackerel, octopi, skate, and what are known as "nightmares"—a remarkable combination. The Hippodrome programme is of a very attractive character just now, "Among the Stars" and the Fishing Cormorants being in themselves well worth seeing. A number of gentlemen connected with swimming were present, amongst them being Mr. W. N. Benjamin (President A.S.A.), Messrs. Geo. Pragnell and H. Benjamin (Past Presidents A.S.A.), and Mr. A. Hudson.—*The Sportsman*.

Last night being the 100th performance of Miss Annette Kellerman, "the Australian Mermaid," the directors of the Hippodrome invited the triumphant "All Blacks" to witness the magnificent exhibition of fancy swimming and diving given by their famous fellow Colonial. A souvenir of the event was distributed among the audience, and at the conclusion of the performance Mr. Fred Trussell made a short and apt speech, in which he wished the team goodwill and Godspeed on their homeward journey. After the audience had given three hearty cheers the New Zealanders stood up in a body and chanted the inspiring Maori war cry. Topical allusions concerning the guests were made throughout the performance, and the programme supplied was certainly excellent fare for the last public appearance of the Colonials, with whom were Sir Malcolm McEacharn, K.C.M.G., the Hon. T. A. Coghlan, and the Hon. J. W. Taverner.—*Sporting Life*.

MISS MARGUERITE BROADFOOTE, who is playing the part of the Prince in the pantomime of *Jack and Jill* at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, is making a great hit with her "Fables" song as well as her specially written "Girls from Leeds," her other numbers being "Irish Molly" and "When the boys come marching home." Miss Broadfoote is well booked into 1908, and has had numerous offers to play in musical comedy, which her music hall engagements prevent her from accepting for the moment.

MUSIC HALL SICK FUND.

The monthly meeting of the members of the Music Hall Sick Fund Provident Society was held at the York Hotel, Lambeth, on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Pat Carey (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. W. J. Wainratta (vice-president), Frank Heath (hon. treasurer), H. Griff, G. Dezmonti, J. Mulcaster, and W. West.

The Secretary (Mr. R. T. Baines) read a letter from Mr. Frank Weeks, manager of the South London, accepting the position of one of the vice-presidents of the fund.

The secretary submitted a list of members who had joined since the last meeting, and stated that the new rules, which had, in accordance with the demands of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, been prepared, were still in the hands of that official. As soon as they received the official sanction, copies would be printed, and one sent to each member of the society. Messrs. Williams and Griff had been specially energetic and successful in obtaining new members for the society.

The chairman remarked that the fund was being much more talked about in the variety profession, and was now regarded as one of the best and soundest investments for a music-hall artist to become connected with. They could not be told too often that the fund made provision for times of sickness, and in the event of death a grant of £10 was made to the nearest relative. The society had now been in existence nearly forty years, and its financial position was thoroughly sound, the sum of £1,000 having been invested in Consols.

Mr. Griff suggested the formation of a Superannuation Fund for the benefit of members of the profession who, by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity, were no longer able to follow their calling. The formation of such a fund had, he said, been often mooted, but nothing practical had ever been done in the matter. He believed that a fund of this kind would receive the support of a great many members of the profession. The details would, of course, require very careful attention, and he moved that the further consideration of the proposal be deferred until a general meeting of the Sick Fund, to be held on March 14 next, and to which members of the profession would be specially invited.

Mr. Wainratta seconded the motion, which was carried; and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

The local elections of gentlemen to represent the various divisions of Islington in Parliament has had little if any effect upon the attendance at the Islington Empire; and references to the event by the comedians engaged here this week are remarkably few and far between. The spirit of pantomime is strongly represented in the rollicking skit, entitled *Moving In*, played by Mr. Herbert Darnley's hard-working company. Great fun is made out of the removal of furniture from a carrier's van into a house; the riotous proceedings being joined in by the father of the family, who is handicapped by a gouty leg swathed in bandages, the energetic mother, who breaks into a dance on the slightest provocation, a mischievous boy, and a little girl, also fond of a prank. The scene of confusion which arises can better be imagined than described; the furniture-shifters literally throw the goods into the room; and plates and dishes are scattered all over the place, while a pianoforte comes in for a considerable amount of rough usage. A safe excites the cupidity of the men, and when the members of the family have retired to rest they attempt to open it by violent means, but are interrupted by the entrance of the little girl already mentioned, who quietly opens the door of the safe and proceeds to fill a scuttle with coals! The expression on the faces of the would-be thieves is ludicrous in the extreme. Finally, the members of the family show by their actions that there is a strong smell of gas, and one of them endeavours to discover the leakage with a lighted candle, when a loud report is heard, and the house collapses, like a built-up pack of cards, bringing the sketch to a sensational conclusion.

Amongst other artists who excite the merriment of the audience are Messrs. Tray and Rich, patter comedians, who win well deserved popularity. They make fun of the local slow moving, old-fashioned tram-cars. Says one to the other, "I had twopennyworth on a tram from Holloway—started this morning—you see I wanted to get here to-night." This couple also excel in some smart song and dance contributions. Mr. Boyd and Miss Gilfain appear in a musical sketch, in which the lady gives a song descriptive of the various people she met while a barmaid, imitating a Frenchman, a German, a Scotchman, &c. These clever and versatile artists also submit a laughable burlesque of the sensational drama and grand opera, concluding with a skit on the entertainment given at a Scotch concert. Mr. Gilbert Girard opens with imitations of the Æolian harp and the Jew's harp, showing the difference between the two. He next causes considerable amusement by his clever reproduction of the crow of the farmyard rooster of various breeds, also giving remarkably exact imitations of fighting dogs and cats. His performance is greeted with loud applause. Lozelle, described as a sensational gymnast, gives an interesting exhibition, in which he displays both skill and strength. Miss Marion Hood sings "Will anybody take me home?" the enquiry being at last specially directed at a certain gentleman sitting in the stalls, to whom the fair vocalist also throws a pretty button-hole, as well as a tender glance. Mr. Arthur Gilbert, in his ditty, "Model England," is sarcastic at the expense of time-honoured customs and institutions, but his caustic comments are quite inoffensive, as he takes care to point out before singing the song. Mr. Milner Verren makes good use of his tenor voice in a pathetic ballad, which is well received. On the evening of our visit Mr. Michael Nolan, the popular Irish comedian, was absent, but in his place appeared Miss Venie Clements, an attractive serio, who gave imitations of various performers at a party, including a little girl with a dilapidated doll. Miss Clements made a most favourable impression, and was heartily recalled. The programme concludes with the Bioscope, illustrating the story of "The Hen that Laid the Golden Eggs." Mr. R. L. Adkin is the courteous manager at this hall, assisted by Mr. Bertram Jay, acting-manager.

The fourth anniversary was celebrated on Friday night, when a number of extra turns appeared, and there were at both houses large and enthusiastic audiences.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS v. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.—Played on Clifton Downs Dec. 16. Messrs. Harry Belding and Fred B. Nicholls played well in goal for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.—H. Belding, goal; A. Hamblin (captain) and J. Lewis, backs; S. Carter, E. Bailey, and W. Miller, half backs; E. Bowman, H. Edwards, P. Hewlett, H. Clements, and E. Belding, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; F. Arni and E. Denton (backs); T. Neagle (captain), Dan O'Connor, and J. Lacey, half backs; R. Cullen, P. Reardon, F. Hansford, W. Hinder, and H. C. Douglas, forwards.

Referee, H. Slade (Bristol X.L.C.R. A.F.C.); linesmen, H. Hare and F. Stevens. No goal was scored on either side.

THE LATE GEORGE LE BRUNN.

A BRIEF APPRECIATION.

George Le Brunn was born in Pool Valley, Brighton, on June 20, 1864. His parents were business people, with no particular leaning towards music, so far as I have been able to ascertain. Yet, at an exceedingly tender age, the youthful George evinced a talent for music surprising in one so young. When quite a tiny slip of a boy he played the violin regularly in the orchestra of one of the principal music halls in Brighton. All his life, he had a strong leaning towards the harp, on which he excelled, although few had the privilege of hearing him play on that delightful instrument. The piano was, of course, the instrument on which he was *facile princeps*, and his command of it was simply wonderful.

In 1883, he married Miss Lizzie Hewer, one of the most constant, true-hearted companions that ever blessed the life of a clever man, the faithful partner of his life struggles. This is the bereaved one for whom an apeal to the charity of the profession is now being made, so that she may have a bumper benefit matinée at the Oxford (so kindly placed at the disposal of the benefit committee by the directors), on Monday, Jan. 22, and not be left stranded, now that the bread-winner has been called away.

On attaining to manhood, George Le Brunn drifted from Brighton to that Mecca of the English composer, London; and, thenceforward, he made the metropolis his home. He arrived an unknown man; but, in little more than a year, his genius had triumphed over all obstacles, and he became famous as a music-hall song composer. When I first joined him, he had published some six songs in all; when he died, some twenty years later, he had published considerably over 1000! A great number of these were composed to lyrics (and very notable ones many were) by authors other than myself. The very best writers in the business were proud to have their words set by George Le Brunn. He composed the music to almost the first songs that Richard Morton wrote. Many a score of songs and sketches written by Wal Pink have had his music wedded to them; while Fred W. Leigh, Edgar Bateman, the late A. J. Morris, and many other popular writers, whose names I cannot at the moment remember, have been collaborators with him in famous songs, which have made music-hall and theatrical history.

The first song that established the fame of the deceased was "The seven ages of man," sung by that departed "king" of all descriptive vocalists, Charles Godfrey. Then came "Across the bridge" (written by Fred Bowyer), also sung by Godfrey; Jenny Hill's triumph, "Masks and faces," her highly-popular scena, "The city waif"; and in rapid succession, Bessie Bonehill's "Girls of to-day," Millie Hylton's "As in a looking-glass," Harriett Vernon's "Sappho," Godfrey's "Hi-tiddley-hi-ti" (in conjunction with E. W. Rogers), Vesta Tilley's "Pretty little maiden's sea-trip," and hundreds more. In conjunction with Mr. Wal Pink he composed "The Seventh Royal Fusiliers" and "Half-past nine"; with Edgar Bateman "The 'ouses in between," "It's a great big

THE LATE MR. GEORGE LE BRUNN.

shame"; with W. T. Lytton, Miss Marie Lloyd's first and possibly greatest success, "Wink the other eye"; with myself, the late Bessie Wentworth's "My gal hab not eyes like diamonds" and "Looking for a coon like me." These are only a few, selected haphazard from many hundreds of successes.

He spent his life in the service of the profession—aye, spent it long before the proper time, till at last the overwrought brain could bear no more. Meningitis laid its deadly hand on music's favoured son, and at the all-too-early age of forty-two, George Le Brunn, the greatest composer the music-hall world has ever known, passed away into the Great Beyond.

Naturally, many will ask: If George Le Brunn wrote so many and such great successes, how comes it that his widow is not more amply provided for? By way of reply, I would point to the glaring inadequacy of our copyright laws. The fell hand of the music pirate robbed George Le Brunn of the fruits of his genius, and a miserable "mess of pottage" was all these human vultures left him as the reward of his life's labours. Were it not for the presence of the pirate in the land, encouraged by the absurd laws of the England we extol in our patriotic songs, and the perfervid adherence of such judges of equity and music as Caldwell, M.P., there would have been no need for a matinée benefit for my poor colleague's widow.

Furthermore, let me here mention that he, when alive, had a host of claims upon his purse, chiefly family concerns into which it is not my province to enter. And, again, did anyone ever appeal to George Le Brunn in the cause of charity and go empty away?

A final exhortation. Professional brothers and sisters! rally round, and help the good cause of the helpless widow. If every artist for whom George Le Brunn wrote a success sent a guinea to the fund we are raising, we should net a thousand pounds!

Subscription lists are now ready, and will gladly be forwarded to any address, on application to Mr. Albert Gilmer, chairman of the committee; Mr. David Day, hon. treasurer, 142, Charing Cross-road, W.C.; or from myself, as hon. secretary, at the Oxford Music Hall, W.

JOHN P. HARRINGTON.

GEORGE LE BRUNN FUND.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Eugene Stratton	10	10	0
Gus Elen	10	10	0
Francis, Day, and Hunter	10	10	0
George Adney Payne	10	0	0
Joe Elvin	10	0	0
J. W. Monk	10	0	0
Miss Eileen Douglas	6	0	0
Miss Vesta Tilley	5	5	0
Julia Neilson and Fred Terry	2	2	0
H. Joyner	2	2	0
Frank Allen	1	1	0
Lester Barrett	1	1	0

THERE will be a Committee meeting of the George Le Brunn Fund Supporters on Monday, to be held at the Oxford Music Hall. Arrangements for the benefit performance are progressing satisfactorily.

PACEY AND REEVES' VARIETY AGENCY.

"Our agency business," said Mr. Fred Reeves, in reply to a question put by a representative of *The Era*, "has developed tremendously during the last two years. The principal reason of this, I suppose, is that both Mr. Tom Pacey and myself are hard workers, and admirably suited to each other. Then, we never submit a turn to a manager or proprietor until we have seen it and satisfied ourselves that it is a suitable one. This system has proved of immense advantage to us, as we have

MR. FRED REEVES.

gained the confidence of the people with whom we deal, and this, of course, has resulted in a renewal of business transactions."

Mr. Fred Reeves has had twenty-eight years' experience of variety affairs—fourteen years as a performer and a similar period as a manager. Mr. Pacey's agency connections date more than twelve years back, and the extensive knowledge the two gentlemen have acquired of music-hall requirements has undoubtedly stood them in good stead. "We never," affirms Mr. Reeves, "abuse the confidence managers place in us, and we have consequently always retained their friendship and a good share of their bookings. Although last year was considered by most people to be a bad one for this business, we made 212 more contracts than in the prévious twelve months. We have done exceptionally well with all the Continental turns, and I found, while in Germany lately, that most of our principal artists are booked up for several years.

"Amongst those whom we consider our regular clients are G. H. Elliott, Erne Mayne, Duncan and Godfrey, Little Cliff, Walter Stanley, Blake and Granby, the Dunedin Troupe, Stirling and Love, *The Barmaid* Sketch Company, May Marton, Speedwell, V. L. Granville, Athos Troupe, Geoffreys and Benson, Maudie Forde, Hallam and Stanton, Herbert La Martine, King and Benson, W. H. Downs, Terry and Bentley, Bert Brantford, the San Remo Girls, Fred Land, and the King's College Boys. All these artists are now booked up for years, and every contract has been made by us. Our latest lady client is Miss May Marton, whose name we have only had on our books for six months, and already we have her booked up for some time to come. She bids fair to become a star, and she has had fresh contracts at a big increase of salary wherever she has appeared. At present she is making a great success in pantomime as Aladdin, at the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh. The Athos Troupe come to us three months ago, with only two weeks arranged for. Now they are nearly full for this year, and have few vacancies for next. Speedwell, the "demon painter," affords also another instance of our successful bookings. Those are only a few of the turns with whom we are making great headway. If we were to mention all, we should require two or three pages of your paper to describe their acts.

"We work exclusively for 186 artists, and have nearly 600 others on our books. It is scarcely necessary to say that we transact business with all the principal firms and syndicates, and we also have a fairly satisfactory business on the Continent and in America, to which country one of us is going at the end of the year. We also do a lot with Mr. Harry Rickards in Australia. Pantomime is another branch of our business that has developed wonderfully of late, as will be understood

MR. TOM PACEY.

when I mention that in 1903 we only had fourteen turns working pantomime, in 1904 we had twenty-eight, and this Christmas season the latter number has doubled."

Both Mr. Reeves and Mr. Pacey have felt the advantage of the change of address from Waterloo-road to Brixton. At 186, Brixton-road they have commodious offices, and are, moreover, in pleasanter surroundings. Mr. Pacey lives on the premises, so that telegrams and telephone messages can be attended to without delay. Mr. Reeves resides hard by at the Cedars, only a minute's walk from the office, so that he is easily accessible. "Over two years ago," remarked Mr. Reeves, "you wished us good luck. Now, with the assistance of hard work, we have got it."

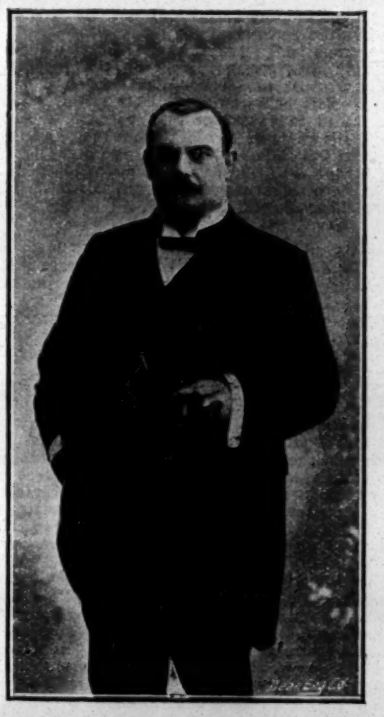
Mr. Pacey, who, as already mentioned, has been a variety agent for twelve years, takes a great interest in the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, of which he was the vice-chairman in 1903 and 1904, and chairman during last year. Of Mr. Reeves's busy career much is already known. He was born in 1865, and his father was a highly-respected member of the legal profession, a member of the London School Board, one of the Westminster Poor Law Guardians, and chairman of the Westminster Ratepayers' Association. The present Mr. Reeves was introduced to the music-hall profession at the age of eight as the "boy magician," and he appeared at every hall of note in London and the provinces under the name of Rowland Lorimer. He worked on the stage, too, as an acrobat; and, later still, he produced and stage-managed seven pantomimes, and played principal parts in no fewer than fourteen, being for three years with the late Sir Augustus Harris. For nine years he managed the Leicester Empire in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Harold Verdel, and on leaving Leicester he opened and managed the Bristol Empire for Mr. Ernest Carpenter. He was next seen in charge of affairs at the Camberwell Palace, which establishment he also opened. Then followed his three-and-a-half years' successful control of the Hammersmith Palace. When he resigned his position there he quitted the place on the very best of terms with Mr. Coe, the proprietor, a gentleman of whom he speaks most highly.

It should be stated that Messrs. Pacey and Reeves have a most diligent manager in Mr. H. S. Hart.

"THE ERA" NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

"We are very comfortable indeed, sir," said one, after the writer had wished them all a Happy New Year. "We couldn't be better treated if we paid a couple of pounds a week for the accommodation," asseverated another. "We are not interfered with in the least," was the story of the third. And so on. In fact, words were not necessary to convey what was too apparent in the faces and general outward appearance of the men. They all agreed upon one point: that they were being treated with the utmost consideration, just as if they were, to use one expression which was



[*Photo by Brooks.*

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD.

dropped during conversation, "lodgers." They spoke of the kindliness both of Mr. and Mrs. Fruin.

"Had a jolly Christmas?"

Had a jolly Christmas, indeed! What need to ask the question? The "turk" was splendid; never had a more tasty bird been eaten at a Yuletide banquet. The "turk" had been cooked as it should be cooked; there was more than plenty of it. So heartily was it honoured in the feasting that, when the Christmas pudding came on, only so much of it was eaten as would justify "good luck" in the New Year!

This doesn't sound like a charitable institution at all, and if you were to pay a visit to 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, where the beneficiaries under the Music Hall Home scheme are taken care of, you would be willing to admit that it was a home in the best sense of the word.

Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work performed by the institution in the past; this must be in the recollection of our readers. At present there are seven inmates, all of whom are advanced in years, their ages ranging from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funerals will be paid for out of the funds of the Music Hall Home. Hitherto the burial expenses of an inmate have been met by the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, but in future it is intended that the Home shall perform this office. One of the residents—"inmates" is far too harsh a word to use in this connection—died last year, and was laid in his last resting-place by the institution which had looked after his welfare during the closing years of his life.

The vice-presidents and the committee of the Music Hall Home are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving members of the variety profession who have fallen upon evil times. To those who are reading these lines we would say: Some day you yourself will have to retire from the activities that are called into being within the noisy arena of business affairs, and then memory and imagination will revive the doings of the past as you sit quietly watching the shadows creep along the wall. While we trust that the retrospect in your own individual case will be a very happy one, we would beg you to think of what it would mean to you should Fate so will it that disaster overtakes you in the evening of your days, when physical disabilities and the despairing cry of "old men not wanted" bar you from again entering the field. There are men and women belonging to your profession who are in that unhappy condition to-day. A few of them are receiving adequate support, but the majority are not. Let us point out that in these days of quick changes a man may be driving in his motor-car one day, and be comparatively rich so far as this world's goods are concerned. To-morrow he may be a victim of the vicissitudes which threaten in an age of fickleness.

It is, as we have already indicated, the desire of the principal gentlemen connected with the fund to procure such additional donations as will enable them to provide accommodation for more music hall performers who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years. It is hoped that as a result of the appeal now being made that the subscriptions will be of a sufficiently encouraging character to warrant the establishment of a Home for women. Therefore, send your contribution to the fund, and, even if it be a small contribution, let it be a speedy one, for he who gives quickly gives twice.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Music Hall Home Fund, made a strenuous appeal about this time last year for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. and he desires again to urge upon artists the claims of this deserving charity. By means of *The Era* collecting cards the money at the disposal of the fund was increased by £217 6s. 6d. This means that practically 4,346 separate shillings were collected, and in this direction great praise is due to Miss Nellie Wilson for her strenuous efforts in the cause of charity.

We have now to renew the appeal we made this time twelve months ago. That appeal and most of the money obtained by it are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." We have entered upon a new year. What is the prospect? It is that of help badly needed by many of your brother and sister artists who are down on their luck, and some who, by reason of their age, are likely to remain so. There is no necessity, nor would it be right, to harrow your feelings with tales of poverty and misery. You have contributed handsomely in the past. We know that you will do so again, and we shall be pleased to acknowledge your donations to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund in these columns. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C. First list of subscriptions will be published next week.

BOW PALACE.

The patrons of the Bow Palace have been pleased to see Mr. Fred Baugh, Mr. Macnaghten's able general-manager, sufficiently recovered from his recent serious illness to be able to supervise affairs once more. Although his normal strength has not yet returned to him, he is now in a fair way towards complete health, and we trust he will not experience any further inconvenience of the nature in which his late malady placed him. An admirable programme at the Bow Palace this week is headed by Mr. Lew Lake and his "colossal comedy company of cunning conspitators and crafty coppers"—so the alliterative description runs—in the absurdity, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*. Mr. Lew Lake is as uproariously farcical as ever in his portrayal of the doings of Nobbler; and Mr. Bob Morris is scarcely less comical as Jerry. Miss Kitty Wilmore does full justice to the rôle of the "fickle jade," Edith Arlington, and the amusingly absurd dignity of the flunkey is cleverly represented by Mr. Ernest Webb; while Mr. Harry Lavers gives a capital sketch of the quieter character of the artist. Miss Ena Richards, the Canadian comedienne and dancer, sings in agreeable fashion of one Arabella Cole, her "Guessing" ditty also causing a pleasing diversion.

A delightful item in the programme is a musical duologue, entitled *What Price Me?* in which Miss Dolly Vernon and Miss Marie Burdell took part. These ladies appear in place of Amstell and Louie, who have been unable to turn up. Miss Vernon and Miss Burdell play the characters of an actress and her servant. The latter "makes up" after the manner of her mistress, just to prove her claims to the Thespian art. The effect is laughable, to say the least, and the two ladies acquit themselves to the entertainment of the audience in song and dance. That disconcerting, secret-divulging creature, the dickey bird, forms the subject of some amusing verses, sung by Mr. Will Driscoll. The feathered detective tells a lady a lot of things about her husband, and Mr. Driscoll deals with the various tales in a diverting manner. Vocalists of no small calibre are found in Miss Edie Gray and her White Nippers, and their rendering of coon songs furnishes one of the most enchanting items in the programme. The Washingtons also excel in a similar direction, their singing of a song about the wind and the rain, and their dancing, being very popular with the East-enders.

More comedy duologists enter the field in the persons of the Elvins, in whose parody on *East Lynne* one gets a good deal of really funny burlesque fooling. Tennyson and Wallis distinguish themselves as eccentric comedians, their patter being full of sportive quips and cranks. Their facial expressions, gestures, and quaint mannerisms are a programme of humorous revelry in themselves, let alone their lincs. Mr. Harry Gold, in his song-scena, entitled "Cloudland," submits some dainty dreams, which are especially welcome at this time of the year. The pictures with which they are illustrated add a charm to his words, these illustrations being extremely well executed. As a singer, he commands one's attention and admiration, and the turn is quite a dainty one of its order. The concluding number is provided by Lacey's Erascope, and the name alone is sufficient to ensure good work. The story of a waif is strikingly told in an interesting series of scenes. The pictures are very clear, and congratulations are due to those who conceived them, as well as to those who assisted in producing the little play from which these photographs were taken. No variety show nowadays seems complete without the inclusion of animated pictures, and there is not the slightest doubt that audiences of all classes derive great enjoyment from the results of that wonderful science of modern invention—cinématography.

MASKELYNE AND DEVANT'S MYSTERIES.

Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant are attracting the public in large numbers to the St. George's Hall with their varied and exceedingly strong programme. C. Tamamoto climbs a rope and walks his wire in his usual graceful and intrepid manner, and is a great favourite. *The Mascot Moth* still puzzles an ever-curious audience. Mr. David Devant's cleverness both as actor and magician is displayed in the part of Captain Robert Wentworth, the hero of the adventure with the illusive "insect." Mr. Charles Glenrose is good as his chum, Captain Jack Holt, and Colonel Passmore finds a capital exponent in Mr. Nevil Maskelyne, Miss Cassie Bruce acting with charming grace as Elsie, Captain Wentworth's betrothed. A word of praise should also be given to Mr. Henri Hermann, who enacts the part of an Indian juggler.

The perplexing playlet, *The Enchanted Hive*, a charming little sketch, is smartly worked, Mr. Arnold Mussett being very amusing as an old negro. Miss Helen M'Culloch, Miss Cassie Bruce, Mr. Edward Morehen, and Mr. Charles Glenrose also figure in the cast. All sorts of beverages flow abundantly from the "mystic kettle," and are thoroughly appreciated by members of the audience; the Burmese Gong works its customary wonders; and the sketch, *Shades of Shifters*, Mr. David Devant's demonstrations of mental magnetism, and animated pictures still furnish the bill.

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' LODGE.

The members of the International Artists' Lodge met at the Hotel Provence on Sunday, Brother 876 occupying the chair. Twenty-seven members and two guests were present.

A letter from the headquarters in Berlin was read asking those members who have been elected to the Executive Committee, and are willing to serve, to write to the headquarters and signify their acceptance of this position. The Executive Committee have granted 1,000 marks yearly for the purpose of starting an office in London, where committee meetings may be held and correspondence for the Lodge and its members written and addressed.

The Chairman made a communication with regard to the Arbitration Committee appointed to consider the difference between Brother 1,156 and an agency firm. The Chairman explained that he had seen the agent's representative during the week, who had written to Mr. Adney Payne, the latter in turn replying that he was sorry to be unable to act as chairman on this committee, as he was too busy. It was suggested that Mr. J. L. Graydon be asked to act as chairman for this Arbitration Committee.

Brother 1,183 reported that he had spoken to Mr. Graydon about the letter from the London County Council with reference to the lighting regulations lately proposed by the L.C.C. Mr. Graydon, on returning the letter, wrote that the London Entertainments' Protection Association was pleased to see the interest taken in the matter by the I.A.L., and hoped that they would continue to act on their own behalf, and the proprietors would act on theirs.

The Chairman asked any German members who were present if the question of "Lights Out" had come forward in Germany at all. To prohibit the lowering of lights in theatres and music halls during the performance would greatly spoil dancing acts and such like, which depend so much on lighting effects. He also asked what kind of lights were used behind the illuminated signs showing exits in German theatres. After some discussion it was agreed that candles, such as are used for carriage lamps, are the most generally used. The Chairman then suggested that these candle lights be mentioned in the letter to the London County Council.

Brother 1,183 proposed that the social be postponed until a more favourable time. The resolution was passed unanimously. The Executive Committee was called the next day at 12 p.m. to settle the business connected with the extraordinary meeting on Sunday.

The Chairman also reported some information sent by Brother 1,041. On going to the Hook of Holland by the Great Eastern, the brother had noticed regulations referring to excess luggage. Commercial travellers, artists, &c., are allowed double the amount of luggage, but it is not generally known that commercial travellers and artists, &c., are charged at the rate of 50 per cent. less for excess luggage than the ordinary travellers, beyond the reduction first mentioned. The Chairman suggested that the presentation of the membership cards of the I.A.L. or the M.H.A.R.A. would probably be sufficient guarantee that the passenger is an artist, and he could obtain this reduction.

Brother 142 suggested that, in view of the combinations of managers and the much harder conditions for artists which now prevail, the greatest possible unity should exist between all the members of the profession, and that as a step in this direction he would like to see a still greater *entente cordiale* between the members of the I.A.L. and the H.H.A.R.A. With a view to promoting this good feeling, would it not be advisable to invite the committee of the latter body to the extraordinary general meeting on Sunday next? This was agreed to. Some discussion also ensued in connection with contracts.

DUCHESS PALACE ANNIVERSARY.

The second anniversary of the Duchess Palace, Balham, was fittingly celebrated on Thursday evening last week, when two crowded houses were pleasantly entertained by a little array of talented artists. Mr Gus Elen was seen and heard in his admirable characteristic representation of a coster who had much that was diverting to say about one Maria; Mr. Whit Cunliffe gave his views upon certain matters and certain people in his song, "I would, I would," the late Prime Minister and the present one being treated to some amusing banter. Mr. Arthur Roberts and company appeared in the sketch, *The Importance of being Another Man's Wife*, and Mr. Roberts's comical sayings and doings fairly brought down the house. Los Rupertos were seen in a fine exhibition of hand-balancing and acrobatics; and Farley, Rennie, and Farley, created great merriment with their sketch, *Fun at a Railway Station*. Mr. Sam Mayo came on with his tin can, and contributed an entertaining number in the song, "Oh, yes"; Mr. Ted Cowan tickled one's risible faculties with his "Dearie, oh, dearie me," and "The nicest house you've ever seen"; the Dunedin Troupe submitted their marvellous cycling act; and Miss Mab Fowler enchanted her hearers with her exquisite rendering of "Within my heart." Mr. Barney Stuart, the character vocalist, applied his genius with excellent result to some Irishisms about a judge, as well as to his song, "Mary Ellen Malone." From the Imperial Bioscope one got the magnificent series of pictures entitled "The Hen that Laid the Golden Eggs"; Mr. Phil Ray introduced himself with his fire-bucket, and contributed a lot of laughable patter; and Mr. Fred Earle was exceedingly whimsical in regard to the wonderful qualities of seaweed. Miss Cissie Dryden had an agreeable item in "The Jockey." Others who assisted in the merrymaking were Mr. Johnny Dwyer, Miss Millie Grey, Edward Crossland, Bros. Loenworth, Charles Stevens, H. J. Kisbey, Gilbert Girard, E. J. Sheldon, O. H. Kurtz, Lillian Elfreda, Lillie Lawrence, Norman and Leonard, Franz Crisp, Amy Marsden, Nina Gordon, The Camerons, Allis and Casatti, and Harry Maynard.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

The entrancing story of Nell Gwynne and the merry monarch, King Charles, is told this week to patrons of the excellent variety hall under the régime of Moss's Empires, who derive great enjoyment from the cleverly-concocted sketch, entitled *Orange Nell*, which Miss Minnie Palmer and company are playing. Miss Palmer is admirably suited to the rôle of the vivacious, light-hearted, Nell Gwynne, and the artistic blend of comedy and pathos appeals greatly to the audience. Seeley and West prove themselves very entertaining musicians and comedians, and their well-known turn affords keen pleasure. Their cornet duets reveal much musical ability, and they are equally at home with various novel instruments, the while causing roars of laughter by their comic doings and sayings.

A British officer and a well made-up military son of Japan are found in the persons of Verno and Voyce, who strike the right note with their patriotic duet, vociferous applause greeting their efforts. Afterwards, as a butcher and a baker, they are exceedingly amusing. The Picquays contribute a clever act, in which muscular feats play a prominent part, some exceedingly novel handdancing concluding their interesting turn. The Sisters Gasch arouse much attention with their graceful athletic performance; and Ryan and Hall win a most cordial reception with their acrobatic comedy business. Leone Dare, in a musical gymnastic act, is very favourably received; and E. J. Sheldon scores heavily as a comedian and whistler. Alburtus and Bartram prove themselves club experts of no mean order; and the Wally-Hoste Trio are watched with keen interest in a comic acrobatic and juggling act.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE EMPIRE.

A beautiful setting of an immortal legend is to be seen at the Empire in the fairy ballet of *Cinderella*, which on Saturday afternoon revealed its daintiness and charm to an audience in which the juvenile element was conspicuous. The story opens in a glade in the Royal Park, a lovely bit of woodland by Hawes Craven, wherein a *fête galante à la* Watteau makes the prettiest of pictures. Hardly has the melody of the gavotte died away than "Tantivy" announces the entrance of the Prince Fleur-de-Lys, his secretary Dandini, and a number of gaily-attired huntsmen. Cinderella, timid and gentle, soon comes to gather sticks, and to win our hearts by her sweet humility. The *entrée* of the Baroness Fi-Fi, mounted on a donkey *à la* Veronique, and accompanied by the Baron Sans-Sous, of the old nobility, and his two ugly elderly daughters, Brunette and Blondine, gives opportunity for some droll behaviour on the part of the moke and its fair rider—a lady who sets a value upon herself; and further amusement comes of a picnic, in which extraordinary insects from the overhanging trees get mixed with the viands. The scene closes with the introduction of the fairy-godmother, Fortunée, who, after speaking some words of comfort to Cinderella, summons her sprites, to enchant us with their fairy revels. The Kitchen scene—a cleverly-painted front cloth by J. Harker—brings into play some excellent old-fashioned pantomime fun, with flour-tubs and pastry-making, by comic and acrobatic cooks, and later the Baroness interviews the greengrocer, the milkman, and the poulterer. The latter can apparently produce eggs at will, and much is made of the incidental comicality of this scene. We resume the thread of the story in the Baronial Hall—a very fine apartment, by J. Harker—where the invitations to the ball are brought. The Baroness, much exercised in her mind as to her appearance, puts herself into the hands of the perruquier, and then takes a lesson in dancing and deportment from the Court dancing-master.

Cinderella, left to her own devices, cleverly mimics a ball-room flirtation, and, falling asleep, is awakened in the good old-fashioned way by the fairy-godmother, to be dressed for the ball by gossamer-winged fairy milliners, and to be transported thither in a superb Sedan chair, electrically illuminated. The Baron and Baroness, and daughters, had preceded her in a motor-car, which breaks down in the approved fashion. The ball-room (by H. Brooke) is at length reached—a magnificent apartment, indeed, crowded with dancers, and gay with processions of the Prince's corps of gentlemen-at-arms. With its thousand lights and its floral beauties, it forms a spectacle of glittering loveliness that has rarely been equalled even at the Empire. Even more enchanting becomes the scene with the arrival of Cinderella's wedding procession, headed by beautifully-attired pages, and the ballet concludes to the strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" and the ringing of joy bells.

A perfect Cinderella has been found in Mdlle. Adeline Genée, who, in the words of the poet Suckling, "dances in such a way that no sun upon an Easter day is half so fine a sight." Her acting throughout brings out the sentiment and romance of the character, and her triumph is assured from the moment of her entrée. Mr. Fred Farren, who has arranged the dances and action, plays the Baroness on broadly funny lines, but is always refined. He is exceedingly droll in the amusing toilet scene, and is of course enthusiastically encored for his solo dancing. His pantomime, too, is always expressively droll. Mdlle. Zanfretta makes a most interesting figure of the fairy godmother, and is altogether a delightful personage, full of eloquent amiability. Miss Elise Clerc and Miss May Paston are cleverly made up as the step-sisters, Brunette and Blondine, who share with Mr. Farren the success of an umbrella dance, and artistically sacrifice appearance to the interests of fun. Miss D. Craske is a courtly and graceful Prince—divinely tall; and Miss L. Collier is effective in the part of Dandini. A hit is made by Little Jimmy, a coloured page, who scores generally in the comic scenes, and particularly in a buck dance. Mr. P. Sundberg, as the Court dancing-master, is a perfect *maitre de danse*, and contrives to be amusing when he shows profound contempt for the step-dancing of the Baron, a part that is played with no little drollery by Mr. W. Vokes.

The brush-work of Messrs. Hawes Craven, J. Harker, E. Banks, and H. Brooke has provided a series of admirable illustrations, and the dresses, designed by C. Wilhelm, who has retold the story, realise the richness, elegance, and charm of the Watteau period. They have been executed by Miss Hastings and Morris Angel and Son. Mr. Sidney Jones's choice of music is apt and varied, and includes some delightful themes as motifs for the chief characters.

The matinée variety company includes one of the most interesting animal turns that we have seen of late. Miss Raffin has a troupe of monkeys which she has trained to such perfection that they are able to perform a number of astonishing gymnastic feats. One of them finds it quite easy work to turn somersaults from a swinging trapeze bar. Another accomplishes the disrobing feat and then drops into the security of a sheet spread underneath. Perhaps the most extraordinary of the feats accomplished is when one of the simians, blindfolded, jumps from one barrel into another, and then into a third. The Gaudschmidts, too, have a couple of clever poodles who share their acrobatic triumphs. One of the animals becomes top-mounter, and seems to thoroughly enjoy its share in the toppling column feat. Another assists in the final acrobatic rally, jumping and rolling over in quite the approved fashion, and with an alacrity that shows he thoroughly enjoys the work. The turn is an excellent one, and years must have been spent in training the dogs to such perfection. The Barber-Ritchie Trio of bicyclists include Mr. Ritchie, the funniest man on a wheel that we know. He plays the "josser" with delightful sangfroid, and such fantastic tricks does he invent that one is in fits of laughter all the time he occupies the stage. At one time he is riding a machine with a hind-wheel that wobbles in the most curious fashion; at another he is propelling the spokes of a small cart-wheel "shod" with old boots; and, as a final *tour de force*, he shares with a most accomplished partner the inside of a cart-wheel, in which he careers round the stage. Mr. Ritchie's companions, one of which is a lady, are responsible for more serious work, which includes some exceptionally skilful feats. Mr. Burt Earle, the famous banjoist, plays a lively American march as an introductory item, and then soars to higher musical flights by his rendering of the overture to *Semiramide*, which has a peculiarly old-fashioned ring. It is, however, very well played, and Mr. Earle adds to his success some amusing banjo imitations. The Biograph winds up the afternoon with one or two excellent pictures.

At the Wonderland Palace of Varieties, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway, Eagle Davis and Wild Bess are giving their great knife-throwing act to large houses.

CHAT WITH MDLLE. JULIETTE.

(By Our Own Commissioner.)

We stood in the wings and watched the rehearsal by Mdlle. Juliette's sea-lions of the feats which they were to show to a delighted audience at the Palace Theatre the same night. And the more one looked the more one wondered at the docility and intelligence displayed by these animals. To see one of them balancing hats, balls, and billiard-cues upon his nose while seated upon a horse was to witness, perhaps, the most remarkable demonstration of the extent to which it is possible to train the lower animals. One sea-lion would catch a clown's cone on his head and toss it backwards to a second, who, in his turn, would catch it, throw it up in the air, and then balance it on his nose before finally dropping it on to his head. Sometimes the cone would rest in an absurdly rakish manner over one eye. Another of the animals balanced a doll, ran with it across the stage and left the doll still balanced as he clambered on to his seat. So serious, indeed, were they about their tricks that if they failed the first time they would immediately prepare for a second attempt, and roar loudly until they had succeeded, though possibly the fact that triumph was followed by a piece of fish had something to do with the energy and conscientiousness displayed.

"Béby" is the name that Mdlle. Juliette has given to the cleverest member of her little troupe. And Béby *is* clever. Her "horse-sea-lionship" is something to be watched with admiration. One wonders how many weary hours must have been spent by its trainer before the animal was able to perform these equestrian feats. One quality, however, was clearly recognisable between the lady and the lion. Béby knew her mistress and the mistress knew and understood the curious creature with the long, drooping whiskers, who required no harsh commands to fulfil her stage duties. And Béby, like the rest of the sea-lions, is not averse to being fondled. "I have had Béby," says Mdlle. Juliette, "for nearly five years, and she and I are great friends. She, as well as the others, has made herself extremely popular all over Europe—France, Russia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, &c. This is our first visit to England."

"How long does it take to train one of these animals?"

"At least a year. It is a matter of practice, practice, constant practice and constant

MDLLE. JULIETTE.

supervision. The new equestrian act of Béby's just produced at the Palace took two years of hard work to perfect. My sea-lions, by the way, come from California."

"And their grub?"

"Grub—grub, what's that?" And Mademoiselle, who is French, gave the interviewer a quizzing glance.

"Food, Juliette," said the lady's husband, laughingly.

"Oh! Each one eats from 18 to 20lb. of fish per day, and during their training I must feed them myself. The first thing in teaching them is to get the animal to give you paw, and the next to make them understand you when you say 'Come here' or 'Go to your place.' So far as the juggling is concerned, they begin with three balls and then go on to four or five.

"Our main trouble with them," continued Mademoiselle, "is the water difficulty and getting acclimatised to the different atmospheric conditions of the various countries to which they are taken. At this time last year we were in Russia, and you will know that it is much colder there than in England. My four sea-lions live in two large tanks, and if you'll come with me I'll show them to you."

By this time the talented performers had been carted off, whither we were soon to find out. Mademoiselle led the way to a large stable lying between the Palace Theatre and the Hippodrome. Going down a horse-lift, we came to a large and airy underground apartment against the side of one wall of which were a couple of large cages made of iron bars. These were joined together in such a way that the animals could emerge from one cage into the other. The lower part of the second cage consisted of a big tank, full of water, in which the sea-lions were merrily disporting themselves and nearly saturating the bystanders with their splashes. Apparently they were in the best of Christmas good humour, for every now and then they would raise their heads and indulge in an appreciative roar. A little to the right of the large tank was a smaller cage containing a seal, which we were told was separated from the others because he had a habit of spoiling the shiny, silken texture of the coats of the sea-lions with his sharp claws. On one occasion when let into the large tank he made himself sufficiently unpopular by nearly scratching out the eye of one of the other inmates. So he was only permitted to reside and to perform by himself.

These amphibious athletes understand only one language—Mdlle. Juliette's native tongue. When she speaks to them they draw themselves forward with their flippers and gaze at her from large, expressive, appealing eyes. It is easy to see that they regard her with as much affection as a pet dog shows towards its master.

Mdlle. Juliette's idea of training sea-lions and seals for stage performances occurred to her through her father, a captain of a merchantman, bringing home on his return from a voyage in the Pacific a seal. She made a great pet of this animal, and trained it with such excellent results that her father made her a present of two or three more. Then the young lady decided to give the public an opportunity of seeing what these inhabitants of the sea could do on land. So she and the seals made their début at Rotterdam, and were the objects of a most gratifying reception. Contracts quickly followed. Mdlle. Juliette has presented her act before our own King and Queen, when, as Prince and Princess of Wales, they visited Copenhagen some time ago. Their Royal Highnesses expressed themselves as delighted with the performance. She has also appeared before most of the other crowned heads of Europe. It was at the Olympia, Paris, that Mr. Alfred Butt witnessed the interesting exhibition, and at once made arrangements to bring Mdlle. Juliette to London.

THE TERRIERS' ANNUAL DINNER.

The Terriers held their third annual dinner, with their president, Mr. Jesse Sparrow, in the chair, on Sunday last, at the Café d'Italie, Old Compton-street. Messrs. Molinari and Baglioni catered in a most excellent manner for their guests. The dinner was arranged for half-past seven, but it was ten minutes to eight before the fraternity and their friends sat down to the following menu:—

Hors d'Œuvres.

Petite Marmite—Crême Portugaise.

Sole—Sauce Remoulade.

Côtelette de Mouton Niçoise.
Pommes Château.

Celery demi-glace.
Spaghetti à l'Italienne.

Volaille en Casserole.
Salade.

Bombe Terriers.
Dessert.

The *pièce de résistance* was the Bombe Terriers. This was made of various-coloured ices, and represented two terrier dogs crouching at the foot of a plinth.

The following toasts were heartily drunk:—"The Terriers' Association," proposed by the chairman and responded to by the secretary, Mr. Harry Lester; and "The Chairman and Officers of the Association," proposed by Mr. H. Cory Woodrow, and replied to by Treasurer Douglas White, Trustee Chas. Pratt, Tom Packer, the W. T. for the month, and also by Mr. Jesse Sparrow.

During the evening the company was entertained by Walter Norman, who also acted as musical director—Chas. Clarke, Andie Caine, Slade Murray, and H. C. Woodrow. In addition to the above-mentioned there were present: Terriers Busbridge, Sam Stockton, Fred Hughes, E. Appleyard, Tom Riley, Archie Howells (who acted as accompanist), H. Gage, B. Whiteley, W. H. Downes, E. Steel, J. Traynor, W. Maddern, Syd Baker, E. Cooke, J. Dunedin, Griff, M. Ringham, Chas. Cornish, C. C. Bartram, Geo. Nynian, J. Alexander, A. Clapp, H. Maisner, Fred Neiman, Gerald Burgess, Leon Bassett, and W. S. Bassett.

"WANTED, A WIFE."

Comedietta, by Harold Bartlett,
Produced at the Grand Palace, Clapham, on Monday, Jan. 8.

Jack Grover .....Mr. Hubert Bartlett
Mabel .....Miss Edith Muir

An addition to the fast-increasing number of comediettas on the variety stage was made on Monday, when a playlet, admirably fitted to the light and agreeable comedy talents of Miss Edith Muir and Mr. Hubert Bartlett, was given its first representation. The scene is the interior of a matrimonial agent's offices, whither Jack Grover, having had a lover's quarrel with Mabel, his fiancée, has come in a fit of pique to obtain a wife, determining to accept the first offer. Mabel arrives on a similar errand, and while Jack awaits the return of the agent in the inner office, the young lady occupies the outer room. Both are anxious to learn what kind of a partner is reserved for them, and, availing themselves of the partition which separates the rooms, each discovers the other's identity, and resolves to obtain a disguise, Jack posing as his own sister, and Mabel passing herself off as her brother. Jack is aided in his scheme by assuming the skirt which Mabel casts off, the cycling "bloomers" which she wears beneath serving to make Mabel's transformation complete. The identity of the lovers, however, is but thinly veiled, and recognition soon sets in, their little trouble is smoothed over, and the purpose which prompted the visit to the matrimonial agent's is amicably achieved. Honours are fairly divided in the performance of the little piece. Both characters are animated by the same sentiments and the same ideas, and the method of giving expression to them is at all times very pointed. Miss Muir plays with agreeable artlessness as the masquerading Mabel, her delivery of the lines allotted to her being remarkably good. Mr. Bartlett revels in the fun of the part of Jack Grover, giving due emphasis to the witticisms which frequently recur, and the ingenious resources to which he is driven become very comic. Considerable merriment was the outcome of the performance, and applause awaited the artists at the close.

The Kodak Company, of Clerkenwell-road, have presented the committee of the Children's Branch of Our Dumb Friends' League with a number of lantern slides, illustrating animal life. The League does an enormous amount of work in poorer districts in encouraging kindness to animals with the aid of its magic lantern.

The short season of Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie at West Derby-road, Liverpool, terminates to-night (Saturday). Business has been good. The previous visit of this wonderful collection to that city was made twenty-three years ago.

Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, is meeting with enormous success at the Colosseum, Oldham, and concludes the third week there to-night. Mr. Joseph Ball says that this production has taken more money than has ever been taken by any company during his nine years' management of the Colosseum Theatre.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—On perusing your last issue of the *Era* I noticed that you mentioned Arthur Reece was making a hit with the song entitled "The Girl with the Big Brown Eyes." I may mention that it was not Arthur Reece who sang the above song it was I, who deputised for him on the Monday night.—Yours faithfully, J. W. Ellison.

The Middlesex, Drury-lane, W.C., Jan. 11.

MR. H. H. WELLS'S CHARITY MATINEE.

Mr. H. H. Wells, a highly-respected director of the Canterbury and Paragon Theatres, Ltd., gave his third annual matinée performance in aid of the St. George's and Wapping Relief Fund, on Thursday afternoon at the Paragon, Mile End-road, Mr. Wells, who has for several years taken a great interest in questions affecting the unemployed and distressed poor in the East End, is the Conservative candidate for St. George's in the East. During the afternoon a photograph of Mr. Wells was thrown on the cinematograph screen, the audience singing, to the accompaniment of the orchestra, "For he's a jolly good fellow." Mr. Wells, who appeared on the stage later, along with Mr. Wedgwood Benn, his opponent for Parliamentary honours, and Sir Thomas Dewar, was received with hearty cheers, and made a short speech as follows:—

"Ladies and gentlemen,—I just want to say one or two words before the performance is resumed. I desire to thank you all for the very generous way in which you have turned up here to-day to support the fund in which, for the last three years, I have taken the greatest possible interest—I mean the fund that is being raised for the benefit of the deserving poor in the district of St. George's in the East and Wapping. Last year you were kind enough to come here and support me, with the result that I was able to hand over to the fund something like £64. Now, I am sorry to say I see so many vacant seats here to-day that I am afraid I shall not realise so much from this performance. Nevertheless, I am extremely grateful to everyone who has come into this hall this afternoon, as each of you have thereby contributed something towards the fund. I want to ask one question. Have you all enjoyed yourselves up to now (cries of 'Yes' and cheers)? Have you had good value for your money? (renewed cries of 'Yes' and applause). Then I want you to prove it. Let each one who is present leave a small donation for me before he quits the building. Now, I desire to tell you this: I have been the treasurer of this fund for three years, and my friend, Mr. Wedgwood Benn, who is opposing me in Parliament, is the secretary of this fund. This is an instance where two gentlemen, who are diametrically opposed to each other in politics, can work together as true Englishmen to assist those who cannot help themselves. I venture to hope that for some years to come Mr. Wedgwood Benn and myself will be able to do similar work in St. George's in the East and Wapping, and that you, who are our neighbours, will come here and assist us in a very good object. I desire to express my thanks to my co-directors, the proprietors of this establishment, for giving me this hall free to-day. I have also to thank the artists who have appeared on the stage—who are always willing to do good and charitable works—and giving their services to-day free; and I also wish to acknowledge the kindness of the orchestra and the general staff of the establishment, who have done everything they could to promote the success of this function. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I will not interfere further with the remainder of your programme, but will simply tender you my grateful thanks, and I trust that that prosperity which is wanting in St. George's in the East and Wapping will be with you during the rest of the year."

The three gentlemen then retired from the stage amid loud and pleasing demonstrations from the auditorium.

A fairly well-filled house, and certainly a very enthusiastic one, followed such of the forty announced turns that were able to appear with immense delight. One of the most attractive features was the sensational cycle act, called "Cyclomoto," in the first part of which Dare-Devil Shreyer competed with Leslie Jenkins in a cycle race along a circular track, the pace being truly a terrific one. Some animated pictures were next shown depicting Shreyer performing his daring cycle shoot act at Winnipeg Fair some time back. In the third portion of Shreyer's demonstration he succeeds in completing a mile on a cycle in 57 2-5 seconds, the feat being accomplished upon a roller track. Mr. Phil Ray entertained the audience for a short period with his amusing patter; and Mr. Whit Cunliffe offered a lot of advice to certain eminent persons in his song, "I would, I would." Mr. Arthur Roberts and his company created an agreeable diversion with the sketch, *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife*, in which Mr. Roberts submitted his intensely comical impersonation of a middle-aged female. Stewart and Morgan rendered in pleasing style a couple of duets, one of which was "Killarney"; and Walker and May smartly performed a cake-walk, and made a distinct hit with their coon business. Impersonations of Mr. R. G. Knowles, Mr. Harry Ford, and other well-known variety artists were contributed in capital fashion by Mr. Charles Norton; and Lord, Murray, and Lord were seen to advantage in a ball-punching act. Griff, assisted by Alpha, offered a neat turn, in which both the gentlemen showed their talents in the hoop-manipulating line. Jordan and Harvey simply convulsed the spectators with their lively absurdities of a couple of Jews, and their whimsical mannerisms and sayings were heartily appreciated. Tray and Rich distinguished themselves with their laughable patter; and Eadie and Ramsden had something of a very enchanting order in the songs, "It's the love that speaks to me" and "My little Signorina." Miss Tots Davis, assisted by her sister Ettie, sang and acted in the dainty and pathetic domestic scena, *The Flower Girl and Blind Sister*. The song, "Keeping me company," is most prettily and feelingly rendered by Miss Tots Davis. Miss Dolly Harmer indulged in some quaint sayings about "My old man"; and Mr. Harry Bamford aroused one's risible faculties with his ditty, "If you can't afford the motor, wear the hat." The Crown Trio appeared in a military song-scena; and others whose names were included in the list were the Avrignys, Burke, Moller, and Teller, Lily Burnand, Vi Carlyle, Clark and Hamilton, Ian Colquhoun, Cruikshank, Fred Earle, George English and Flo Penley, Will Evans, Harry Ford, the Harmony Four, Will Humberstone, Lennie and Hast, Ethyl Parker, Pat Rafferty, Chris Richards, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, Bijou Russell, Harry Sims, Miss Grace Wilson and Mr. Wilfred Page, Eunice Young, and Black and White Zouaves.

Louie Cissie Lawson is still catering at the People's Palace, Hounslow, for the entertainment of Hounslow and Brentford and surrounding districts. This is the last week of the successful pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. The Sisters Dagmar are excellent as the two "kiddies," and the Robbers are humorously played by Mr. T. B. Lloyd and Mr. Hind. Managers would do well to see the latter artist, who has a natural fund of humour. Miss Louie Belrose is captivating and bewitching as Marion. The varieties include Reynell's Minstrels, who give much pleasure by their vocal work; the Sisters Velasco, who present real Spanish dances, hailing as they do from Castille; and Vona and Merele, capable singers. The decorations and comfort of this hall will compare very favourably with many of our best London houses. The stage-management is in the hands of Mr. Sydney, and the master hand of John Lawson as director can be seen everywhere. Mr. Lennox Barry is the manager. There was a Sunday concert on Jan. 7, when Stewart and Morgan and others appeared. John Lawson is announced for a flying matinée on Wednesday, Jan. 17, commencing at 2.30.

WORK AMONGST THE SHOW PEOPLE IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

Mr. G. W. A. Norton, hon. member and local hon. agent for the Showmen's Guild, has been carrying on for some considerable time a most successful and interesting work amongst the Devonshire and Cornish showfolk.

This work, entirely spontaneous on his part, and first essayed without much knowledge even of the Guild's existence, has been of great utility to the travelling showfolk and the worker.

When Mr. Norton (who is a gentleman of independent means first took a living interest in the children of the fair-ground, it was during a long holiday sojourn in the West. Making Penzance his headquarters, he followed the fair, and, like all true social missioners, won the hearts of the fathers and mothers by devoting himself to the training and well-being of the children. In the photograph which we reproduce with this article Mr. Norton is seen with "his kiddies"—that is the affectionate phrase he uses. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Jones—of Jones's circus. The eldest girl, Fanny, is a tight-rope walker; the second girl, Sophie, is a clever and graceful dancer—the champion juvenile dancer of the West—having won a silver cup against 191 competitors at the Theatre Royal, Devonport. The Boy Clown, Funny Wee Johnnie Jones, like his sisters, is growing up in the business, and is already a performer of renown.

The show people of the West are full of appreciation for Mr. Norton's work amongst them, and deeply grateful for the way in which he has championed their cause and defended them against unjust aspersion.

In a recent article in *The Commonwealth*, a Church of England organ of social thought and work, Mr. Norton tells the story of his work amongst the Western showfolk. We have great pleasure in making his story known in the Showman World.

"Impelled by the exigencies of his profession to be on the road most Sundays, the showman has little opportunity of availing himself of the services of the Church, and this being so, the Church must be carried to him. The happy ideal, which we hope to soon realise, of a Church Van carrying a priest to serve at its altar in the fair field, and also educate the children, would be heartily welcomed by the travellers, and is, I am glad to say, the ideal of the 'Showmen and Van Dwellers' Protection Association,' known as 'the Showmen's Guild.'

"This Guild protects the interests of the 70,000 show-people engaged in the British Isles, assists them with legal advice, watches legislation affecting their profession, affords timely assistance on the death of a member, watches over the education of the children, and possesses an Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, whose invaluable work is thoroughly recognised by the show-people, whose cause he has for long so well and so persistently championed.

"The showman's profession is an honourable one, and plays a not unimportnant part in the political economy of the nation; for the visit of the showman to a country fair is often the only splash of colour in the countryman's life for that year. Entailing much hard work and many discomforts and anxieties, it yet breeds a philosophy of content that a town-dweller seldom acquires. For, though a rainy season may spell financial loss for a time, yet the sun is bound to shine some day, and then the show-loving public will respond to the showman's efforts to amuse, and come and enjoy the fair.

"Through constant intercourse with ever-varying personalities the showman learns to be a hard bargain-driver through constantly appealing to people by the aid of oratory, tights, music, painting, and a judicious blend of gorgeous colouring, he learns the value of the appeal to the eye and is naturally a Ritualist, and can appreciate the reason of a magnificent ceremonial. And yet, although he is by nature and training a Catholic, here, in England, the clergy are apt to taboo the show-people, and show by face and manner, that they regard the time of the parish feast as a time of special affliction. This is a fatal mistake in judgment; fatal to the showman and his faith, and hardly less dangerous for the general parishioners.

"Were the clergy to visit them in their moveable dwellings, and treat them as parishioners for the time being, they would be rewarded by gaining the show-people's gratitude and esteem. The children—and some of the travellers' children are amongst the purest and sweetest on God's earth—would be sent to their religious duties, and so have a better chance of learning to practise the faith, which alone can help them in their hard and difficult lives."

Speaking of the domestic side of the showman's life, Mr. Norton testifies that

"No child left orphan by one of the fraternity but will find a host of ready protectors; the irresponsible friends, the wayward relatives, know where to turn for help which is always readily forthcoming even if from a straitened purse. The Sacrament of Matrimony is held in high esteem amongst the show-people, the showman, as a rule, making a good father, and in his love for, and care of, his children, setting many a man an example that might well be copied. The majority of travellers in England will, on close acquaintance, be found to be downright good fellows, and they are men whose comrade I am proud to be.

"Last June, in Paris, M. Jean Lorrain, in his drama *Thécla, ou le Drame de Neuilly*, has depicted this view of the showman's life. This play, which M. Lorrain had the happy idea of presenting in a booth in the Avenue de Neuilly, in the middle of the great Fair then in progress, is a biting satire on Society, which is shown to be vicious, heartless, and ridiculous, whereas the contrast of honesty and virtue, albeit allied to overmastering passions, is shown to be in the showman's world. Though, possibly, by reason of its bias, overdrawn, it will yet do good if a certain section of the public can be brought to see the humanity behind the tinsel and the big drums, and so learn to respect their entertainers, and extend to them when needed, a kind word and a helping hand."

We are glad to have such men as Mr. Norton seeing from the inside the true life in showland.

On the afternoon of the 3rd inst. the remains of Mr. Alfred Stocks, the well-known steam horses proprietor, were interred at the Norwich Rosary Cemetery amidst many expressions of regret. The deceased, who had been ailing for some time, died on the Norwich Hill during the fair, aged forty-eight years. The mourners at the funeral consisted of the deceased's six sons and one daughter, his sister (Mrs. Abbott) and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abbott. Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holmes, Mr. A. Westrop, Mr. and Mrs. H. Barker (Reading), Mr. and Mrs. J. Hurn, Mr. J. Westrop, sen., Mr. Tidman and the staff of men employed at the fair, Mrs. A. Westrop, Mr. and Mrs. G. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thurston, Mr. and Mrs. H. Westrop, Mrs. R. Bond and sons, Mrs. T. Bond and family, Mrs. and Mr. R. Perkins, Mr. H. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Bond, jun., Mr. J. Bond, jun., Mr. and Mrs. R. Holmes, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Ralph, Mrs. John Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rudling, Mrs. Archer (Lowestoft), Mr. and Mrs. Boody (Lowestoft), Mr. and Mrs. G. Osborne, &c. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mrs. R. Bond.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Bolton Winter Fair, held in the New Year week, is the greatest open-air festival of the mid-winter holiday season. Other towns have their Christmas carnivals, and in "Braw Scotland" the New Year is the national holiday. None the less, to Bolton belongs the honour and glory of having the premier open-air fair at the Feast of Janus. To the enterprising and up-to-date British showman it is a highly coveted business advantage and professional honour to have a pitch at Bolton, and if the Corporation had twice their present ground space it would be readily occupied.

This year's fair has been a record one both for business and enterprise. The local and Manchester Press are sounding the praises of showmen, and giving Bolton the honour due unto her for her broad-mindod and liberal co-operation with the showpeople in providing the open-air holiday entertainments of the people.

Our own special commissioner visiting the fair thus chronicles the shows:—Machines and varieties: President George H. Kemp with his Anglo-American Variety Combine and Cinematograph; Prince Samonda, the Escteric magician; Baker's British Circus and Marvels of the Arena; Captain Tom Payne's Bioscope; Braham's Trained Birds and Lady Conjurer; Colonel Clarke's Electric Coliseum of Varieties and Animated Photography; Haydon's Dark Séance and Temple of Mysticism; Dr. Lawrence's Humanities and Living Pictures; Ingram's Dog and Monkey Circus; and Wright's Fine Art Gallery—a notable list of exhibitions.

The electric and steam driven machines (a great display) were as follows:—John Whiting's Excelsior electric set, the Venetian gondolas; T. Hurst's No. 1 set, the racing birds (three-saddled); J. Green's new machine, the electric motor-cars; Wm. Mitchell's twin ships in the air; Ben Mitchell's farmyard set; C. Marshall's rolling switchback; Wm. Mitchell, jun.'s, new motor-cars; R. H. Williams's bike motor track; and Morley's lighthouse, or "Slipping the Slope."

Excellent small-arms practice was afforded by the shooting ranges, bottle batteries, and Morris tubes of Messrs. George H. Cornwell (2), Hughes and Martin, R. H. Williams, Mrs. John Cornwell, and Mrs. Jewell. The refreshment booths were by Messrs. Ingham and Butterworth, Mrs. Bowser, and local caterers. In the crowd of caterers with minor novelties (throwing games, cokers, dolly frames, pannum, and variety stalls) were Messrs. Lee, Taylor, Holmes, Harrington, Wilson, Sedgwick, Langton, J. Jewell, Forshaw, and Mrs. Jewell.

The attendance of visitors from all parts of the country was enormous, and the Boltonians entered heartily into all the fun of the fair. The business was extremely good. That 'cute showman, Mr. T. Hirst, assured us that the tide has turned, and, as regards Lancashire, showmen may look forward to their share of the prosperous times of the long-delayed boom in the cotton industry. It is particularly true of the people's fairs that they are the first to suffer when wages are low amongst the workers, and the very last to benefit when trade is on the mend.

The utmost praise is due to Mr. Superintendent Robert Pike, the Corporation official responsible for the market fairs; the setting out of the fair, and the necessary control of most difficult arrangements, reflects the greatest credit upon the able and indefatigable Mr. Pike.

On the Tuesday after the fair an important business meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union was held at the Flag Hotel, adjacent to the fair ground. Mr. P. Collins, president, was in the chair, and the members present included Messrs. John Green, Wm. Mitchell, John Whiting, G. H. Kemp, J. Proctor, B. Mitchell, H. R. Hibbert, J. Relph, R. Newall, R. H. Williams, C. Marshall, Wm. Wright, P. Collins, jun., T. Payne, Wm. Mitchell, jun., and others. The Secretary (Mr. T. Hurst) submitted a variety of important matters, and the agenda was satisfactorily exhausted. The Rev. T. Horne was a visitor, and at the end of the Union business he and Captain Tom Payne brought up (by permission) the report of the Van-dwellers' Sub-Committee on the Dean Memorial.

A most fitting and appropriate design—a granite column, the sub-committee's suggestion—was shown, and the dignity and simplicity of it was much admired. Speeches in favour of making a final effort to get over-long standing matter ended in a way worthy of the man and his work, and a credit to the profession he adorned, were made by the Chairman (Mr. P. Collins), the Rev. T. Horne, and Messrs. Hurst, Payne, Mitchell, and others.

It was ascertained that only £23 6s. was in hand for this purpose, and a subscription list was handed round the room with the following gratifying result:—

Rev. T. Horne	£2	2	0	C. Marshall, Esq.	0 10 6
P. Collins, Esq.	2	2	0	R. Newall, Esq.	0 10 6
W. Mitchell, Esq.	1	1	0	J. Proctor, Esq.	0 10 6
J. Whiting, Esq.	1	1	0	B. Mitchell, Esq.	0 10 6
J. Green, Esq	1	1	0	W. Wright, Esq.	0 10 6
T. Payne, Esq.	1	1	0	H. R. Hibbert, Esq.	0 10 6
T. Hurst, Esq.	0	10	6	T. Relph, Esq.	0 10 6
G. H. Kemp, Esq.	0	10	6	R. H. Williams	0 10 6
W. Holmes, Esq.	0	10	6		

This subscription list will be brought before the Manchester and London meetings, and the many friends of the revered James Dean will, we feel sure, take advantage of this final opportunity of helping to erect over his honoured grave a national showmen's memorial to his sterling worth and character. The treasurer is Mr. Wm. Mitchell, 53, Hindhill-street, Heywood, Manchester; and subscriptions may also be sent to the Rev. T. Horne, c/o *The Era*.

Subscriptions to the Showmen's Guild, 1905:—

P. Collins, Esq.	£5	0	0	G. H. Cornwell, Esq.	0 10 6
T. Hurst, Esq.	2	2	0	A. Hibbert, Esq.	0 10 0
J. Green, Esq.	1	1	0	J. Hibbert, Esq.	0 10 0
J. Hibbert, Esq.	1	0	0	Mrs. J. Cornwell	0 5 0
H. R. Hibbert, Esq.	1	0	0		

Subscriptions for 1906:—

G. H. Kemp, Esq.	£2	2	0	R. H. Mellor & Son	1 1 0
Mrs. Thornley	1	1	0	J. Bibby & Co.	1 1 0

The Showmen's Year Book, edited by the Rev. T. Horne, will in future be issued only to subscribers to the funds of the Guild and the Parliamentary Defence Committee. The hon. editor hopes to have it ready for the Manchester and London meetings. Copies of the 1905 issue, the only available copies for the general public, may still be obtained, price one shilling, from *The Era* offices.

The next meeting of the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be at the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, on Thursday next, the day after the general meeting of the Van-dwellers' Association in Manchester, when the annual report will be submitted, the officers for 1906 elected, and other necessary business transacted. There will be two sessions, one in the morning, beginning at eleven o'clock, and an evening session.

The annual dinner and ball at Bolton of the showpeople and market tenants took place in the Empress Ball-room, Mealhouse-lane. It was from start to finish a brilliant affair. The local committee, headed by that giant for hard work and good deeds, Mr. Robert Pike, and with him two able lieutenants, Mr. Wm. Pike and Mr. W. Davenport, it is no figure of speech to say, excelled themselves, and more than deserved the universal encomiums passed upon their highly successful efforts. The prominent showmen on the Ball Committee and hon. stewards at the dinner were Messrs. Hurst, Whiting, Kemp, Wm. Holmes, T. Payne, and John Green. Upwards of three hundred guests were present, and the immense and delightful Temple of Terpsichore was a glorious vision of "Brave Men and Fair Women." An excellent band gave the musical incentive to the devotees of the light fantastic toe, and merrily, with mirth and song interpersed, the festive gathering continued until four the next morning.

Amongst the local guests who honoured the showmen with their presence and patronage were Alderman Dickinson (chairman of the Markets and Fairs Committee) and Mrs. Dickinson, Alderman Wild and Mrs. Wild, Councillors Webster, Kearns, Warburton, and Harper (members of the Fairs Committee), Councillor and Mrs. Morris, Councillor and Mrs. A. S. Wild, Councillor and Mrs. Mutch (Salford Corporation), Mr. Rhodes (Manchester), Mr. J. Miller (Blackburn), and Messrs. R. Pike, Wm. Pike, W. Davenport, T. Riley, Ross Isherwood, George Barron, John Wood, and Thomas Scowcroft (Bolton). The showpeople at the dinner and ball included Mr. and Mrs. John Whiting and party, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kemp and party, Mr. and Mrs. George Cornwell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Holmes and family, Colonel and Mrs. Clarke and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Green, Mr. T. Hurst, Miss Hurst, and party, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mitchell, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. P. Collins and Mr. P. Collins, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Tom Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Braham, Mr. and Mrs. Forshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. S. Mercer, Mr. Hibbert and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. Marshall and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. Langton, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Morley, Mr. J. Norman and party, Mr. R. Newall, Mrs. Robert Dixon, Mrs. Bowser, Mr. Will Nugent, Mr. Booker, and a great crowd of other guests.

During one of the intervals an impromptu meeting of the Van-dwellers' Association was held, the floor of the ball-room being crowded with eager listeners, and great enthusiasm was manifested. Alderman Dickinson, who presided, said that he was proud to be associated with so enterprising and so respected a class of men as the van-dwellers. He had been chairman of the Markets Committee for fifteen years, and during that time only one case of complaint against the show people had come before him. He ventured to think that few classes of workers in the community stood higher,

G. W. A. NORTON, Esq.,

Hon. Agent and Worker for the Showmen's Guild in the West of England, with some of his show-children friends.

if at all, than the travelling showpeople. Other people in business might profitably take example by the up-to-date methods of these men, who year by year brought to Bolton the latest novelty in entertainments.

In their work and enterprises he recognised, and the Corporation and people of Bolton recognised, that here was an industry, a profession and business on thoroughly sound and satisfactory lines, and also employing many thousands of skilled workers, and finding an outlet for a large amount of capital. These things were good in themselves, and for them the showpeople deserved all credit, and much more generous treatment than they usually obtained. The vast improvement in his time as regards the shows and roundabouts was to him an unending source of pleasure and surprise. Let them remember that Bolton is proud of the fact that it was a Bolton man—Mr. William Hurst, the father of Mr. T. Hurst—who first applied steam power to hobby horses, and that it was at a Bolton New Year Fair many years ago that the first steam roundabout was shown. He concluded by wishing them a Most Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Rev. T. Horne proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Markets Committee, its honoured chairman, its members, and its most courteous and able official, the showmen's friend, Mr. Robert Pike, Market Superintendent. In so doing he tendered in the name of the assembled showpeople their sincere gratitude for and high appreciation of the ever-increasing kindness and goodwill of Bolton, its people, Corporation, and officials, to them, the showmen of the Empire. It was no light achievement on their part to live down as they were doing in all parts of the kingdom the prejudice that was raised against them and their work in life. Yet, so they were doing. When, however, they visited towns like Bolton, where every appreciation was given them, it gladdened their hearts, and encouraged them to give of their their very best for the recreation and amusement of the people.

All that he asked for showfolk was the recognition of their just position in the economy of the State. They were, he confessed, carrying on an extraordinary business, but in their individual life, as men and women, fathers, mothers, and citizens, they were ordinary people, with faults and failings, virtues and vices, like other men and women. The day of the "grand taboo" was drawing to an end, and the nation was now beginning to see that showmen and show-women were doing a necessary work, and doing it as all work should be done, with all their best powers and ability.

To Alderman Dickinson, the members of the Markets Committee, their esteemed officials, and to Bolton friends in general, he expressed in their name, and as their chosen spokesman, their deep, heartfelt appreciation of all the kindness and goodwill that was bestowed upon them year by year at this time. He moved, therefore, that the heartiest vote of thanks possible be given to the Corporation and people of Bolton from the showmen of the Empire.

Councillor Mutch, of Salford, gladly seconded the resolution, and in doing so expressed his friendly jealousy of Bolton in the matter of her treatment of showpeople. He wished his Corporation of Salford could, or would, follow the grand example of municipal wisdom given by Bolton, and give the showmen something like the same encouragement. Anyhow, he could assure them that he was not alone in this desire, that many of his colleagues on the Borough Council were of his way of thinking. He had come on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. John Whiting, and it had given him great pleasure then and in previous years to attend their festive gatherings at Bolton. He therefore seconded the resolution with great pleasure.

The vote was carried with acclamation, and then the dancing was resumed.

The Manchester *Weekly Times* says:—"Hi, hi, hi, walk up, and see the finest show in the fair, all for the small sum of one penny. Ladies and gentlemen, men, women, and children, you never had such a golden opportunity of seeing so much for so little, and if you miss it you will never cease to regret it." This and a score of other equally enticing entreaties have been addressed to thousands of people who have thronged the fair grounds at Bolton during the New Year holidays, for Bolton enjoys the distinction of possessing the largest New Year fair in Lancashire, if not in England. Hull lays claim to pride of place in the matter of fairs so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, but everything considered, the fair with which each New Year is inaugurated in the great fine cotton spinning centre of Lancashire, will take a lot of beating.

Not only does it crowd the wholesale market, the largest open space in the centre of the town; but it overflows on to the fine open square surrounding the Town Hall, besides which every available yard of spare ground about the centre of the town is at this season utilised by people of the itinerant class. The whole town is, in fact, literally given up to the New Year's fair, and for about five days everybody seems to be infected with fair fever.

Falling as it did this year on Monday New Year's Day was heralded with exceptional enthusiasm, and immediately the bells of the Town Hall clock had sounded the hour of midnight on Sunday, the fun of the fair commenced. Until the hour struck all was peaceful and reverential, but the people were there in their thousands ready for the fray, and almost before the echoes of the midnight chimes had died away all was life and gaiety; for another year had been ushered into existence, and the people had turned out in force to bid it welcome, and to wish God-speed to their friends and neighbours. The shows were ablaze with light, and the "music" from a hundred different bands and organs resounded in the frosty morning air. The sport was maintained until four or five o'clock in the morning Those people who wish to see an old English fair at its best should visit Bolton when the year is young, and when the inhabitants, casting off the cares of life, and throwing to the wind all thoughts of to-morrow, give themselves up to boisterous but innocent enjoyment.

In recent years attempts have been made in some places to suppress the showman's calling, but thanks to the splendid organisation behind the showmen, all efforts in this direction have so far been frustrated. The attempts have been mainly due to a wave of misguided puritanical enthusiasm, for, as conducted to-day, old English fairs like that of Bolton are as harmless and as innocent as can be. They cater for the pleasure and enjoyment of thousands of people whose lives would otherwise be dull and dreary at this season of the year. The far-reaching popularity of the Bolton fair may be judged by the fact that special excursions are run from Manchester and many other large Lancashire towns. The showman is one of the few remaining relics of olden days that we can ill afford to lose, as the amusement provided by his class is something which has long been understood and appreciated by the masses. From time immemorial showmen have tried to brighten the lives of the toilers in town and country by giving them a pure entertainment at first under the broad canopy of heaven, but now in gorgeous canvas tents and sumptuously appointed erections. In some quarters there is a disposition to look askance at them, and to say, "They are only showmen."

But the people who indulge in these epithets forget the antiquity of the showman's calling, and the homage that has been paid to him from the earliest times. Shows and showmen have flourished in all ages in all parts of the civilised world, and their performances not only form an index to the character of the people, but also illustrate the growth of national life. It must not be forgotten that that sweet singer of ancient civilisation, Homer, the poet, was an itinerant bard or minstrel, nor that the greatest poet of all ages, William Shakespeare, was a strolling player. He caught the passion of the drama from the strolling players who acted their plays to grammar school boys at Stratford-on-Avon. Indeed it is quite safe to say that no period of reputable history, and no phase of settled or normal life but had its shows and showmen. It is not a difficult matter to picture the evolution of the fair as we know it to-day. Quite nine out of every ten fairs originated in the annual festival of the patron saint in whose honour a particular church had been named. The church kept high festival on the martyr day of its saint, and a holiday naturally followed. Neighbours and friends from far and near mingled together in fellowship at the fair, joining in the festivities with song and dance and merry joke.

To these fairs strolling players, gleemen, mountebanks, pedlars, dealers in foreign marvels, mummers, tumblers, astrologers, quack doctors, and clowns all came. And it is of such that a modern fair is made up to-day. The quack doctor and the astrologer, it is true, have gradually diminished in the face of improved education on the part of the people, but there are places in Lancashire where they still flourish. Many of the old orders of things have given place to more modern contraptions. The ghost shows, performing animals, monkeys and mice, and a score of other similar variety entertainments are still with us, but fat women and other monstrosities have vanished from the fair ground—let us hope never to return.

It is only natural that van dwellers should be in the van of progress, and some of the features witnessed at the Bolton fair do credit alike to their ingenuity and enterprise. No modern fair would be complete without roundabouts and steam or electrically-driven machines, gondolas, and switchbacks. The steam roundabout was the pioneer of rapid advancement in the world of shows, and it is, perhaps, only in keeping with the engineering reputation of the town that Bolton should have witnessed the birth of the steam roundabout.

It was the invention of Mr. William Hurst, father of Mr. T. Hurst, of Clifton, Manchester, one of the most successful showmen of the day, and himself the inventor of several valuable patents designed for the amusement of the public. There are many people still alive who remember the time when "hobby horses," pushed round by hand, were the only features of the kind in the fair. In those days the "donkey" work was done by boys, and a man stood over them with a whip which he did not scruple to use if they slackened their energies in speeding the roundabout on its course.

But all this has changed. In the fair ground, as in other places, steam and electricity long ago supplemented hand labour, and some of the mechanical contrivances cost the proprietors large sums of money. Some are more elaborately got up than others, and more than one riding machine on the Bolton fair ground was pointed out as having cost between £2,000 and £3,000, while the very latest idea—an equipment of real motor cars, on real pneumatic tyres—involved the proprietor in an expenditure of nearly £4,000. And this is where showmen who want to keep abreast with the times are put to great expense. Only a few seasons ago gorgeous gondolas and farmyard fowls as roundabouts were all the rage, but these are now being superseded by motor car roundabouts, which have proved exceedingly popular with the public. Next season some other new idea will come to the front and thus, though they make plenty of money at the business, caterers for public amusement have to spend a lot to keep up to date. It is very probable that in a month or two a novel new flying machine will be launched on a waiting world. It is claimed that it will completely outstrip the Maxim flying machine with which visitors to Blackpool are familiar, inasmuch as it will do all that the Maxim machine does at present, but will, at the same time, exactly simulate the motion of a bird in gliding up and down through the air. Mr. T. Hurst, the Roosevelt of the road as he has been called, is one of the inventors of this latest patent novelty—another proof of that engineering skill which is native to the soil of Bolton. Extensive works exist in different parts of the country for the manufacture of steam and electric roundabouts.

Over a quarter of a million pounds sterling are invested in roundabout works alone, and thousands of people are engaged in the industry itself and its allied trades. Many of the shows and roundabouts are so equipped as to make their own electric light, and a brilliant spectacle it is to see the fair ground when the powerful lamps from a hundred different shows are shedding their refulgence around. What this glare is like will be understood when it is stated that the total power of the arc and other electric lamps in use is equal to half-a-million candles.

If it is a lively time for the people who visit the fair it is a profitable one for the van dwellers and itinerant dealers as well as for the Corporation, which receives the rents for the land. Several of the show people pay as much as £40 in rent for the five days that the fair lasts, and altogether the Corporation nets about £800 as the result of the fair. This is good for the ratepayers, and reflects credit on the Superintendent of the Markets (Mr. R. Pike), who is responsible for the allocation of the spaces and the conduct of the fair. Attempts have at times been made to estimate the amount of money taken by the various show people during the New Year holidays. It is difficult to arrive at exact results, but this week many thousands of pounds have passed from the pockets of the public into those of the showmen.

When spoken to on the money side of the question they one and all admitted that it had been a real prosperous New Year, and that they would go away perfectly satisfied. When a showman unbends sufficiently to make this confession it may be taken for granted that times have indeed been good. Some of the roundabouts earn from 12s. to £1 every three or four minutes, and what the receipts will be may be gathered when it is stated that this is kept up hour after hour on the opening days of the fair. But they deserve all they get, for the showman is the first to feel bad trade and the last to feel good trade, which is only another way of showing how prosperous things are in Lancashire to-day. Then again they have long "off" seasons, when they simply hibernate, or, as one of them aptly put it, bury themselves like the opossum, until the holiday season comes round again.

Moving in and out, and talking freely with all classes of showmen, one could not fail to be struck with the high standard of intelligence and keen business acumen displayed by them. They are not the irresponsible class that tradition makes out. A vast army of people—the rank and file—are dependent on show life for a living. It is estimated that in Great Britain and Ireland there are at least 70,000 people all directly employed in the show business, besides whom there is an army of workers making and handling the goods sold or used on fair grounds. Except by a few narrow, biassed individuals, showmen are no longer regarded as pariahs or Bohemians of the road, they are no longer a difficult class to determine or fix—nomads on the borderland between gipsydom and vagabondage—but a highly respectable body of traders ministering in their craft and industry to the complex needs of the Empire. The Showmen's Guild has done much to elevate them, and the code of morality existing among them to-day is so strong that it is impossible for a vicious person to be a showman.

This is all very encouraging for the future, and is an answer to the busybodies who would like to see showmen banished off the face of the earth. They make good fathers, and strive hard to give their children the very best education possible. Some of the children of showmen have distinguished themselves in other walks of life, and among those may be mentioned the Rev. T. Horne, hon. chaplain to the Guild, who was born in a showman's van of show parents. Most of the show people have settled residences, where they leave their children to be cared for and educated, while they themselves tour the country in search of the golden shekels. With such a powerful organisation behind them there is little fear of showmen being driven off the road. If any serious attempt were made in this direction the public voice would be heard in their favour, for the average Britisher dearly loves the fair, and their vocation is closely identified with the growth of the British Constitution. There is scarcely a page in the history of the country that has not some reference to the itinerant entertainers of the people. They existed as a class long before circuses and other such pleasure places came into existence. Indeed, long before the theatre, and ages before the concert hall, the travellers and showmen of the country were the entertainers of the people. They can, therefore, boast an ancestry dating back to the beginning of organised social life in England, and closely identified with the life and liberties of the people.

Deptford Winter Carnival, at Weathered's Fair Ground, High-street, maintains to the full its well-won reputation. The exhibitions are Mander's wild beast menagerie, Biddall's theatre of variety, and animated photography. The lessee, Mrs. Weathered, exhibits the steam roundabouts and range of park swings; rifle saloons, bottle smashers, football games, varieties, and cokers by Messrs. Bishop, Knighton, Weathered, and other caterers.

Vinegar Hill Carnival Fair (Lessee, Mr. George Green) attracted a large crowd of amusement caterers with capital concerns for the holiday season. To give the shows and novelties in detail will quite sufficiently demonstrate the high standard of excellence that marks Mr. Green's enterprise. The lessee's own ventures include two

cinematograph theatres; the Whitevale Theatre, with pantomime, "The Babes in the Wood"; the halls of grotesquerie and optical illusion; a gondola set; Kaffir ostrich farm set; highflier, gem horses, and a straight switchback; Paulo's circus, Swallow's cinematograph, and similar concerns by Wm. Clark, jun., and Harris; Swallow's galloping horses, Howard's steam yachts, Martin's high fliers, and swings, by Messrs. Swallow and Lawrence; Winchester ranges and bottle batteries, by Messrs. Day (two); Irvin, Newton, Wilson, and Merrick. The usual addenda of the carnival were present in goodly number and great enterprise, these including Messrs. Macintosh, Blake, Hiscoe, Anderson, Kelly, Ogden, Blake, Hiscoe, Codova, and others.

ON the Common, Hook Norton, Mr. A. Tiller's Bioscope Exhibition and Palace of Varieties are giving excellent performances to good houses. Tiller's Bioscope and Varieties have been paying a visit to Leafield. Chipping Norton has received a visit from Tiller's Bioscope and Varieties. Mr. H. Strudwick's roundabouts, &c., are at Burton Latimer. Tiller's Bioscope and Varieties have visited Whitney. At Headless Cross are Mr. C. Herbert's roundabouts, &c.

EASTER Fair Fixtures include Abberley Valley, Malvern, Evesham, and Hales Owen, all in Worcestershire. Showmen and roundabout proprietors should make a note of Malvern Link Common on Easter Monday, one day only.

ON the Royal Hotel Yard, Redditch, are Clarke's Venetian gondolas, park swings, shooting saloons, cokernut gardens, striker, &c.; Wilson's shooting saloons and African Jungle; Chipperfield's Fisheries; and Taylor's Varieties. At Leafield and Chipping Norton Mr. A. Tiller's Bioscope and Varieties have been paying a visit. Mander's Cinematograph Exhibition gave some excellent entertainments at Bloxham.

MISS JENNIE GREEN, who has been associated with her father, Mr. Tom Green, for some length of time in the production of his famous pictures, was on the occasion of her twenty-first birthday presented with a number of valuable presents, including a handsome watch from "Dad" and most esteemed tributes from Messrs. Cricks and Sharp, the well-known film producers, of London. The birthday was celebrated by a large assembly of professional friends until the early morning.

THE inquest upon the body of George Gaunt, the itinerant boxer who fell dead in the Royal Oak Public-house, King-street, Norwich, after a forced quarrel on the deceased's part with Ernest Bridgeman, employed by Mr. Charles Thurston at the recent Norwich fair, resulted in a verdict of death from natural causes, and no blame was attached to Bridgeman or anyone else. On the 4th inst., before the Norwich magistrates, Bridgeman was brought up on remand, and formally charged, when, in face of the doctor's evidence and the verdict of the Coroner's jury, no evidence was offered, and he was discharged, amidst the congratulations of his friends.

THE West of England was well provided with attractions during the Christmas Holidays. In Union-street, Torquay, were Hancock's famous motor-car roundabout; park swings and shooting saloons by W. Whiteleg; and cokernut shies, throwing games, &c., by W. Jones. At Cockside, Plymouth, were Charles's roundabouts and throwing games, and J. Jones's marionettes and living pictures. The Winter Gardens, Plymouth, were well patronised through the holidays, the attractions being supplied by Hancock's No. 1 motor-car roundabouts, switchback railway, park swings, living pictures; Oldridge's cokernut shies, shooting saloon, and ring stall; Locke's ring stall and football; Wright's boxing saloon and ring stall; roll-up boards and Emma and dip by Whiteleg; and fruit stalls and refreshments by Perkins. Devonport: Roundabouts, shooter, swings, and throwing games by Mrs. W. Locke.

WE are glad to be able to contradict with full official warrant the rumour concerning the possible cessation of the World's Fair. The following correspondence tells its own tale:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—There is a persistent rumour in circulation to the effect that this season is the last of the World's Fair, at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. We beg to give this a most emphatic contradiction, for, in fact, we hold a lease for a number of years to come.

You will note by the enclosed that the Royal Agricultural Hall Company have previously repudiated a similar statement as far as the hall itself is concerned; but what we complain of more directly concerns the World's Fair, annually held here with the greatest success; for we think such reports are not only misleading to the public, but most detrimental to ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
T. and T. E. READ.

World's Fair, Jan. 4.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In view of the persistent rumours which are now being circulated to the effect that the Royal Agricultural Hall has been secured by the London County Council in connection with its tramway system in this district, I should feel greatly obliged if you would kindly permit me through the medium of your paper to say that such rumours are very misleading, and totally devoid of truth.

I feel that it is due to the promoters of the many exhibitions in this hall, and to the very large section of the public who attend them, to do all in my power to contradict these mischievous statements.—Yours faithfully,

GARRETT TAYLOR.
(Managing-Director, Royal Agricultural Hall Co., Ltd.).

Royal Agricultural Hall Co., Limited,
Islington, London, N. Nov. 28, 1905

MR. RANDALL WILLIAMS made application before the West Hartlepool magistrates for a licence permitting him to play his organ publicly on Christmas Day; but the magistrates, having already refused a licence to the Grand Theatre, in the same town, for a proposed sacred concert, would not assent to Mr. Williams's application. None of the showman fraternity, however, had applied for licences, and when he heard the organs going in the market yard, Mr. Williams decided to allow his instrument to join them. The result was that Mr. Williams appeared at the West Hartlepool Police Court on the Monday, in answer to a summons charging him with disregarding a term on a music licence by causing an organ to be played outside a cinématograph show in Lynn-street, on Christmas Day. In answer to Mr. Dodd, the Corporation Superintendent said he did not know any other town in England or Wales where a licence was required for performances such as defendant's. It was a fact that shows in the market yard were going full swing on Christmas Day, but he could not speak as to those on the vacant ground near the cemetery. A police-inspector stated that on Christmas Day he heard defendant's organ being played at the entrance to a tent, in which an exhibition of animated pictures was being held. The exhibition, of which defendant was the proprietor, continued from 2.45 to 4.30, and from 7 till 10 p.m. The platform on which the organ stood was part of the show.

DEFENDANT, on oath, said he had never been required to take a licence for his shows, except at West Hartlepool. When the licence was granted, he asked to be allowed to reproduce the Passion Play, without the music, on Christmas Day. The show was altogether independent of the music, and there was no music at all inside the tent. The structure on which the organ stood was quite separate from the tent. No person had complained to him of annoyance through opening the show on Christmas Day.

MR. DODD, who said he had been asked to take special pains with the case, as it was one of importance to showmen all over the country, contended that the Corporation had instructed the police under a mistake as to the actual law. It had been held, he said, that the music and dancing must be inside the building, and it must be an essential part of the entertainment. In this case, the entertainment was a cinématograph show, and the tent was not opened for a musical performance. It was a singular thing, Mr. Dodd added, that it should be left to West Hartlepool to discover that the Act under which the proceedings were taken applied in such cases as this. It was only at the request of the police that defendant took out a licence, but he intended to loyally abide by the arrangement made until he found the whole of the shows in full swing in the market yard and on the vacant ground near the cemetery.

THE Bench considered for some time in private, and the Chairman announced that the case was dismissed. Mr. Williams thereupon, in consideration of the courteous manner in which he had been treated by the police and magistrates, handed over £1 1s. to the Charity Organisation Society.

AT the Newcastle-on-Tyne carnival, in the Exhibition Building, Kitty Bryant and Captain A. Gerard's group of performing lions (pictorially depicted in our advertising columns), are creating a rare sensation. The way in which this charming young lady and her smart coadjutor put these monarchs of the forest through their different tricks is quite out of the common. A perfect *entente cordiale* seems to exist between the whole of the performers concerned, making the show a most enjoyable one. We hear that it will soon be seen in London, where its advent should be heartily welcomed.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

MR. C. PORTER, who has been master-carpenter at the Waldorf Theatre since that house was opened, has secured a long engagement with Mr. J. Welsh to take charge of the stage at Terry's Theatre. Mr. Porter will continue at the Waldorf until Mr. T. Marshall takes over the stage for Mr. Maude. Mr. J. Simms is Mr. Maude's property master.

MR. W. ROACHE succeeds Mr. A. Lenton as property master at the Adelphi. Mr. E. A. Taylor will continue as master carpenter at the Scala Theatre during Mr. Kelly's season at that house.

MOST of the scenery for *Noah's Ark* at the Waldorf has been made and painted in Germany. Some of it arrived in an unfinished state, and Mr. Bruce Smith was called in and succeeded in putting the required finishing touches in time for the curtain to go up as usual.

THERE is probably no section of the industrial community who are working under more exacting conditions than the permanent staffs of most of the West End theatres at the present time. As an instance, the case of one theatre may be cited where there are ten performances a week and scenery for a new play in course of preparation. Rehearsals are taking place every day during every moment of time available before and between the morning and evening performances. mealtimes are dispensed with, and the staff work all day on Sundays this month. Each day, from seven o'clock in the morning until 11.30 at night, the work goes on incessantly. If the work were not skilfully organised and in the hands of thoroughly competent men, it would be impossible to do what is being done. The hardest work and much of the worry fall to the heads of departments, who, at this theatre, are putting in over 100 hours a week.

MR. J. SUMMERFIELD has been presented with a medal and silver-mounted umbrella by the members of the *Era* Sick and Benevolent Fund, a society formed by members of the staff of the Britannia Theatre. The presents bear an inscription testifying to the appreciation of the members of the work done for his fellow-members by Mr. Summerfield.

THE third annual dinner of the General Staff Branch of the National Association Theatrical Employees was given on Sunday evening in the Nag's Head Hotel, Floral-street, Covent Garden. In spite of the inclement weather there was a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. C. Thorogood, president of the branch, presided, and was supported by most of the officers and members of the branch committee. Among those present were Mr. A. E. Wood, master carpenter of the Shaftesbury Theatre; Mr. T. Bryan, electrician, the Grand Theatre; Messrs. J. Atterton, H. Beasley, Cooper, and H. Penny, the Grand Theatre; Mr. J. Hands, master carpenter, and Mr. C. Jones, flyman, the Pavilion Theatre; Mr. H. Skinner, T. Gooch, J. Kinkaid, and R. Perks, the Drury Lane Theatre; Messrs. J. Finninghan, T. Delgano, and E. Burton, Empire; Mr. C. Burgess, the New Theatre; Mr. P. Smith, Covent Garden; Mr. Ed. Stow, Lyric Theatre; Mr. R. Nixon, His Majesty's; Mr. H. Kelly, Daly's; Mr. A. J. Mason, the Vaudeville; Messrs. P. Thomas, J. H. Radford, G. Montgomery, J. Lineham, H. Coombes, Phillips, Cox, Gray, Smale, Earnshaw, Devonport, Clements, the Alhambra; and others. A smoking concert followed the dinner. Mr. Will Randall sang "Ninepence-ha'penny an hour," "If the world were ruled by girls," and "Do you remember," in fine style, and was much applauded. Mr. Harry Elsbury's fine voice was heard with much effect in "Sweet Susan," "The Blind Boy," "Thou and I," and "The Soldier Song." Mr. Elsbury's natural voice is a baritone, but he retains the unusual gift of being able to sing falsetto, and so sang the chorus to "Sweet Susan." Mr. G. Wilton sang "The Grand Hotel," and included some amusing imitations of other artists; as an enore Mr. Wilton sang "She's a lady." Messrs. H. Dott, Earnshaw, and Slack also contributed to the programme. Mr. Francis White acted as accompanist. During the evening the chairman proposed the usual loyal toast and "Success to the National Association of Theatrical Employees," which was enthusiastically received. Mr. William Johnson, secretary, responded, and in the course of his remarks said that the past year had been a very satisfactory one for the branch, as they would gather when the balance sheet was published in the course of next week. He urged them to persevere in their efforts to induce every eligible theatrical stage worker to join the Association. A vote of thanks to the artists for kindly contributing to the entertainment and a vote of thanks to the chairman brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

ON Sunday evening next the usual monthly meeting of the General Theatrical Operatives' Society will take place, and the officers and committee elected at the previous meeting duly be installed in their offices. It is likely that a proposal to arrange a dinner and concert for the members of this society will be submitted to the meeting.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page 13.*)

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company is here for the week with the drama *The Branded Woman*. Mr. James Stilwell in the double rôles of Philip Maurice and Zarka proved very successful; Miss Zana St. George in the title-rôle was seen to advantage; Mr. Beckett Bould as Dick Brown provided plenty of fun, and Messrs. Paul E. Teulon and Mr. Val Gully in their respective rôles of Leon Baron Hanber and Louis Duroc assisted greatly the success of the performance.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. George Dance's company appeared in *The Cingalee* for three nights. Mr. F. Payne scored as Chambuddy Ram, and Mr. A. Wortley Drewitt as the Hon. Harry Vereker acted and sang in fine style. As Boobhamba Mr. F. Sutton gave a fair performance, and Mr. E. Edwards achieved success as Bobby Warren. Mr. Eric Fenton as Sir Peter Loftus played well; Miss Edith Harmer as Nanoya, a Cingalese girl, was graceful and pleasing; Miss Maude Guy as Angy Loftus, and Miss Phyllis Herbert as Peggy Sabine, were also distinctly good. Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company, in *When a Man Hates*, appeared on Thursday and Friday.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Local playgoers have looked forward with such keen interest to the initial visit to this town of that successful play, *The Walls of Jericho*, that it was not surprising to find this popular house crowded with a most appreciative audience on Monday. The play is admirably dressed, and the mounting reflects the greatest credit on Mr. G. A. Brandram's stage-management. Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the business direction of Mr. Geo. D. Day, is a particularly strong one. Mr. Herbert Bunston embodies the important rôle of Jack Frobisher very finely, being powerfully eloquent in the great speech of the play. He is cleverly supported by Mr. George A. Brandram, who submits a forcible and effective portrayal of the part of Hankey Bannister; by Mr. Lawrence Hanray, who must be commended for the excellent judgment with which he plays the Marquis of Steveston; and by Mr. Sydney Hamilton, who is seen to advantage as Harry Dallas. The part of Lady Alethea is delineated by Miss Florence Jackson with exquisite grace and finish; and that of Lady Westerby receives artistic treatment at the hands of Miss Nora Greenlaw. Miss Molly Carton, as Lucy, and Miss Edith Cuthbert, as Lady Mornington, also do well.

TODMORDEN.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Todmorden Corporation.—Miss Inez Howard's Company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattel, appeared here on Monday evening in the stirring melodrama, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, before a good house. Miss Gertrude Evans gave a touching portrayal of Molly Vernon; the villain of the piece, Captain Geoffrey Caversham, was admirably depicted by Mr. Herbert Pearson; Mr. Hugh Brady made an amusing Dick Punch; and Mr. Frank Etheridge scored a distinct success in the dual parts of Private Johnson and Jack England. Miss Phyllis Vaughan was lively and pleasing as Rose Seymour, and a word of praise is due to Miss Kathryn Eckart for her forcible impersonation of Marian Franklyn. Mr. Charles Coleman's delineation of the Rev. Robert Everton won the warm sympathy of the audience, and Mr. Richard Fulton as James Sutton was most effective. The minor parts of Detective Weathersby and Red Cabbage, a London salesman, were well played by Mr. W. B. Sommerville and Mr. Frederick Dickson respectively. The play was finely mounted.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is this week presenting *A Path of Thorns*. The part of John Edmonds is assumed by Mr. Wm. Fazan, who gives a masterly interpretation; Mr. F. G. Fenn does well as the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. C. Mason is well placed as Sam Hallett; Jonas Deane, the villainous contractor, has a capable exponent in Mr. George K. Bull; and Jim Price and Ratty Gabbit are well presented by Mr. F. Gordon and Mr. H. Mann respectively. Miss Kitty Lofting shows a thorough appreciation of the character of Constance Howard, and the part of Nellie Hallett is safely entrusted to Miss Emilie Leslie.

TORQUAY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Managing Director, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. A. Pearse.—Mr. G. H. W. Burrough's pantomime, *Sinbad, the Sailor*, was well received on the first night of the second week (Monday), when new songs and fresh business were introduced. Miss Florence Barnes, the principal girl, sang, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," and was much applauded; Miss Louie Fuller, the principal boy, was the recipient of a handsome basket of flowers for her song, "My Irish Molly," one of the hits of the pantomime. The comedians, Mr. J. MacMahon and Mr. Fred Fuller, were responsible for new and smart business; and the Captain Cuttle of Mr. Arthur Weston was also good. Mr. George Sinclair's Excelsior quartette of dancers continue to be received with repeated applause.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Charles Carey.—After Mr. Davey's pantomime of *Puss in Boots*, which concluded a successful local season on Saturday, when presents were handed to the principal artists over the footlights, we have this week a return visit of *Two Little Vagabonds*, in which Hardie and Von Leer's original company is very cordially received. Mr. Carey has kindly lent the Opera House for a concert for the Unemployed Fund.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company is here this week in the drama, *Passion's Power*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy gives a fine rendering of Prince Karidos; Miss Cecil Cromwell depicts with ability the rôle of Zorah; Miss Stella Carmichael is successful as Countess Delauney; Mr. Walter Raynham is seen to advantage as General Karan; and Mr. Walter Roberts does well as Rudolph Laski. The humour of the play is well provided by Mr. Ernest Dare as Felix, and Miss Lowe Dare as Lucie. The characters of Michael Laski and Patrice are ably filled by Messrs. Stephen Scanlan and Henry Howard.

HIPPODROME. — Lessees, Varieties (Wakefield), Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Alfred Selwyn and Sam L. Bury; Manager, Henry Lucas.—Altas and Miss Vulcana, assisted by Miss Gwennie Atlas, give a clever exhibition of feats of strength, which is enthusiastically received; Harry Clyo and Rose Rochelle are a smart comedy couple; Les Dorians contribute a clever act on the trapeze; the Monckton provide an interesting comedy act; Mr. Fred Villais, comedian, sings and acts in good style; Miss Florence Nolan is a pleasing comedienne; and Miss Nina Carlton, vocalist, wins favour.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. James Kiddie's company, in *Little Aladdin*, has entered upon its third week, and is proving as popular as ever. There is a considerable change in the programme of songs. Miss Maudie Clarke is the principal dancer this week; and the Carnville Troupe of lady dancers prove themselves finished artists.

GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt and company opened here on Monday with the romantic play, *The Temptress*. Mr. James C. Ashworth, as Sir Oswald Fordyce, is all that could be desired; Mr. Robert Wilton is well placed as Austin Dale; Mr. Frederick Moss makes a capital Lucas Denbeigh; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is remarkably good as Pedro Gonzales; Miss Dora Mason does well as Dennis; and Miss Blanche Steele acts the title-rôle admirably.

WALTHAMSTOW. — KING'S THEATRE.—*Blue Beard*, now in the third week of its successful career, is going even better now than when first produced, the various artists having "warmed up" thoroughly to their parts, introduced a large amount of new and amusing business, and have been provided with additional songs. Mr. E. C. Matthews is still full of fun as Sister Anne, and his songs, "Jamsie" and "What price Mother?" are loudly encored. As Blue Beard, Mr. Mark Milton has greatly improved his performance. Miss Isobel Cairns is more attractive than ever as Selim, her song "Bombay" being one of the big successes of the piece. Miss Ethel Cambridge is a beautiful Fatima; and Miss Amy Robson, as Beda, scores with a new song, "What a silly question to ask." Miss Dolly Bell is seen to great advantage as the Demon King, and sings "A little boy called Taps" admirably; while little Miss Hazel Kirke, as Fairy Queen, sings "Rainbow" with much delicate expression.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is here in *Lucky Durham*. The play has scored an unqualified success. The piece teems with pathetic reminders of the deceased actor-dramatist, Wilson-Barrett. There is the incisive trenchant style of writing so characteristic of him. Mr. Edmund Kennedy, in the title-rôle, plays powerfully throughout, making the noble nature of the man stand out with lifelike fidelity. Mr. Benson North, as Lord Mountfallon; and Mr. A. E. Walker, as Mr. Vallerton, prove highly capable exponents of their respective parts; and the vacuous Hon. Reginald Steighton is well presented by Mr. Arthur Leigh. Mr. W. F. Clitherow makes a good impression by his impersonation of Ben Verstein, a money-lender; and the part of Tasker, a servant, is cleverly assumed by Mr. John Hartt. Mr. Campbell Goldsmid scores as Arthur Walcombe; Miss Gertrude Robins, as Helen Vallerton, acts with brightness and charm; and high praise is to be bestowed on Miss Louise Gourlay for her pathetic rendering of Miss Durham. A winsome Hon. Margaret Steighton is Miss Florence Dullumty; and Lady Mountfallon is admirably portrayed by Miss Frances Wolviston. The scenery is admirable and the dresses are effective.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Nellie Coleman, a thoroughly versatile comedienne, is the chief attraction here this week, and her up-to-date business has won for her many admirers. Dusty Rhodes is an original comedian; and Dome is quite an expert clay modeller. Bertha Winder is really a dancing marvel; and the Clarkes score in a series of banjo duets. Jack Truman has a capital tenor voice and a good selection of songs. Other good turns are submitted by Tom Dunn, comedian; and Riboe and Crawford, comedians. The Royal Bioscope pictures are also an attraction.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—This week Mr. Will Cranston's variety company, including the biograph, is appearing here this week to crowded houses. Miss Minnie Newman, of the Albert Hall concerts, proves a big attraction; Mr. Will Cranston, in his dramatic scena, evokes loud applause; Mr. Alfred Shaw's comic sketches are a success; and deserving of special mention is Monk Santos in his expert juggling performance.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore. Mr. Gerald Alexander has paid us a first visit for three nights, with his new musical farce, entitled *The Lady from London*. The title-role was portrayed in fine style by Miss Dollie Beaufey; Miss Violet Lytton did well as Fanny Brooks; and the same remark may be applied to Miss Stella Schumann. The Dr. John Wise of Mr. Percy Compton was a smart performance; Mr. G. Alexander gave a clever impersonation of the difficult part of Algy Wise; Mr. Herbert Dickenson succeeded perfectly as Charles Wise; Miss Gertrude Le Sage made a capital Mrs. Wise; and Mr. E. Harvey White portrayed with considerable amount of ability and tact the character of Frederick. Mr. Douglas Hamilton was decidedly good as the Rev. Thos. Mole. The latter portion of the week was filled out by Mr. E. Lockwood's London Company in *Sergeant Brue*.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND. — Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—*The Face at the Window* is being played here by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company. A notable success is scored by Mr. T. W. Dunscome in the rôle of Paul Gouffet, the detective; his acting throughout is markedly realistic. A capable representative of Lucien Cortier is found in Mr. Gilbert Hall. Mr. Alfred Warne gives a studied rendering of the character of Henry de Brisson. As Lucio Delgado Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale is especially effective. Miss N. Thorn Hallams, acting in the somewhat trying rôle of Marie de Brisson, is earnest and commendable, and other characters have able exponents in Miss Gwynne Warren, Miss Elain Grant, Mr. C. Alan Hineson, and Mr. George Phythian.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—A most enjoyable turn, and one that is as clever as it is amusing, is provided by Paulinette and Piquo. Nellie Adams is here again with her excellent entertainment at the piano and other numbers on the bill are contributed by Dolly Agnes, and Maud, the factory girls, on a return visit, the Sisters Caselli, Bert Brantford, Charles Baldwin's comedians in a sketch *The Old Kent Road*, and Raie Walters, vocalist.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's répertoire company is here this week with Robert Marshall's charming piece *The Duke of Killicrankie*. Mr. Lovel gives a most amusing interpretation of Henry Pitt Welby; as Ian Douglas McBryne Mr. Guy Cary is exceptionally good; Mr. Ivan Pat Gore does well as Mr. Ambrose Hicks; and Mr. Arthur McCullock is a praiseworthy Alexander McBayne. Miss Naomi Neilson's impersonation of Mrs. Mulholland is highly artistic, and the Lady Henrietta Addison is sweetly portrayed by Miss Octavia Kenmore. Miss Celia Gordon as the Countess of Pangbourne and Miss Ethel Savill as Mrs. McBayne are both commendable.

VICTORIA HALL.—Manager, Mr. E. W. Sully.—The Leon Vint's Scenorama and Globe Choir attract large audiences nightly. The pictures, as shown by the biograph, are most interesting, especially the fifteen tableaux of Gounod's opera *Faust*. As a clairvoyant Madame Vint is truly marvellous.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company is here with the melodrama, *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Annie Saker proves herself a resourceful actress, doubling the rôles of Lieut. Karl Kelsburg and the Princess von Strelsburg. A telling performance of Marie comes from Miss Prudence Laurence; the Satanella of Miss Florence Hunt is worthy of praise; the Paul Valmar of Mr. Alfred Paumier has many good points; and the villainy of Captain Rudolf von Scarsbruck is ably emphasised by Mr. Clinton Baddeley. Mr. Fred W. Freeman is capital as the Crown Prince Leopold. Mr. Cecil Melton scores as Lieut. Strelsburg. The comedy is well supplied by Mr. Fred Constable (Sergt. Max), Mr. Reginald Payne (Corporal Otto), Mr. Algie Spalding (Private Bobo), ably assisted by Miss Ada Champion as Kathie.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Lessee, Mr. David Williams.—The Elliotts and Savonas are paying a welcome return visit here. The entertainment is of a refined and high-class description. The Elliotts are ably assisted by the following artists: Bob Stephenson, that well-known Irish comedian and dancer; Miss Florence, a vocalist of merit; and Mick O'Brien, a smart Irish comedian.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Clark.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is engaged here in the military play, *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. George Steel acts well as Lieutenant Manley, and Mr. Cyril Harrison is good as Captain Manley. Mr. John Davidson has a military bearing as Major Ingleby; and Mr. George Scully is amusing as Terry. Mr. Villiers Stanley is sufficiently villainous as Nebu Sing; and Mr. Ernest Keand works hard as Ra Goonga. Miss F. Melrose-Millett both looks and acts well as Ghuz-hah; and the parts of Mrs. Ingleby and Kate Ingleby have able representatives in Miss K. Bruce and Miss A. Kingston.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is here, and has merit enough to draw good houses, despite the turmoil of the General Election. The pantomime is beautifully staged, and the dresses of principals and chorus afford plenty of ground for admiration. Miss Edith Wallace is an altogether charming Aladdin; Miss Vera Ray is excellent as Princess Balroulbadour; Mr. J. H. Maxwell's Abanazar is screamingly comical, and he has a wonderfully good ally in Mr. Fred Ramsdale, who portrays the Widow Twankey in the most farcically funny fashion. In the Palace scene a number of clever speciality turns are introduced. These include Arnold, a clever illusionist; Bendene, contortionist; J. H. Maxwell, Miss Marie Walker, and the Silverdale Troupe of lady dancers.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—A capital attraction is provided this week in *The Village Blacksmith*, presented by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's capable company. Mr. Sam Livesey as John Strong is responsible for powerful acting; Mr. Joseph Carter plays the part of Captain Leo with ability; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall cleverly portrays the character of Jeremiah Parkins; Mr. Geo. V. Campbell does well as Billy Twig; and Mr. Edwin Maydew is effective as Lucas Marlow. Miss Laura Hansen plays with power and pathos as Kate Strong; Mrs. T. C. Livesey is well placed as Sal Parkins; and Miss Cassie Edwards is satisfactory as Ruth Parkins.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—An extremely diverting programme is presented here. Mr. Charles Majilton's company, with their farce *The Trippers*, are genuinely funny; Bosanquet, the famous musician, plays admirably several selections upon the violin; Ross and Lewis, musical comedy artists, create much amusement; and the Paul Hesse Trio of acrobatic wire performers, Mark Merry (comedian), and Dunningarto (conjurer) are exceptionally good turns. *The Mystic Grotto* is responsible for pretty water and electrical effects, and the pictures shown on the bioscope are much appreciated.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—The visits of the Compton Comedy Company are always very popular, and this week's is no exception to the rule. On Monday the company opened in *Davy Garrick* to a capital house. On Tuesday *The School for Scandal* was produced, and received with as much enthusiasm as if it were a new play. Mr. Edward Compton played the part of Charles Surface in admirable fashion; Mr. Henry Crocker was a really excellent Sir Peter Teazle; Mr. A. B. Imeson did full justice to the part of Joseph Surface; and Mr. Arnold Lucy essayed the part of Sir Oliver Surface satisfactorily. The Lady Teazle of Miss Mackenzie was exceptionally well done; Mrs. Elbert-Orton was a pleasing Maria; and Miss Marie Hassell was good as Mrs. Candour. The week's bill also includes *To-morrow, New Men and Old Acres*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A capital programme is provided for this week's entertainment. It includes Davis and Gledhill in their American sensational bicycle race; Dutch Daly, comedian; Oakley and Jones, comedy artists; Verno and Voyce's No. 1 Company in *Jack Sheppard*; Les Frasettis, musical artists; Val Watkins, comedian; Lily Esplin, comedienne; and Percy Maye, female impersonator and dancer.

WORCESTER.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Ward.—*The Gay Parisienne* is an old favourite with Worcester playgoers, and is this week being well received by good houses. As the irrepressible Ebenezer Honeycombe, Mr. Edward Kipling is the life and soul of the piece; and in the title-rôle, Miss Alice Nixon achieves success. She is a graceful dancer and clever vocalist. Mr. Rudolph Kloss is a distinguished figure as Major Fossdyke; and Mr. Graham Wentworth is a capital Amos Dingle. Miss Gwennie Harcourt makes the part of Ruth a most laughable one; Mr. Lester Carey and Miss Lucia Collins contribute considerably to the success of the production; and Mr. Charles Sequin presents a comical sketch of Pompier. The Imperial Glee Singers contribute some excellent numbers.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is here this week, presenting *His Majesty's Guests*. Too much praise cannot be allotted Mr. Arthur Lenville for an admirable impersonation of the character of Sergeant Lightning. From start to finish he kept the house highly amused. Mr. F. Fredericks was also thoroughly entertaining as Bunker; Mr. Frank Morton, who possesses an excellent voice, capably acts the part of Lord Esem; Mr. Chas. Usher ably represents Chas. Winn; Mr. H. W. Lumley is extremely funny as Mr. Minks; Mr. W. Simpson does excellently as Fritz; Mr. S. Bolton capitally portrays the character of Harry; and Mr. S. Gosling scores as Josiah Giles. Miss Dolly Royce is a winsome Dolly; Miss Amy Rogerson is a typical picture of the New Woman, as Miss Manley. Mr. Harry Rowe is extremely clever as Selina; Miss L. Castelle leaves nothing to be desired as Lady Maude Esem.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week the following excellent talent appeared: Mr. J. H. Crew, quaint comedian and dancer; the Bros. Hannaway, comedians, cross talkers, and dancers; Miss Lil Dresden, characteristic vocalist; Mr. Syd Herman, popular Hebrew comedian; Miss Maud Marlow, burlesque artist and dancer; together with the Empire Electric Animated Tableaux.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; General-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Notwithstanding the political excitement in the city a large house on Monday evening witnessed the play by G. R. Sims and Wilson Barrett *The Golden Ladder*, which was presented by Miss Mary Austin and E. Vivian Edmonds' company. Mr. Harry Cullenford as the manly Frank Thornhill performs an exacting part with considerable skill; Mr. J. Milne Taylor is excellent as Michael Severn; Mr. Graham Winsford and Mr. Henry Belford are heartily applauded for their clever acting as Peranza and Dixon; Mr. Joseph Rowlands, a splendid comedian, causes much fun as Peckaby; he and Miss Nellie Graham as Mrs. Peckaby keeping the audience in roars of laughter; Miss Eva Moss gives a thoroughly natural and forcible impersonation of Lilian Grant; Miss Jessie Gillette as Peckaby's daughter is exceedingly good; and Miss Holly Haslewood makes a particularly pleasing Lily.

EMPIRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Carl Lynn's mimicry causes much diversion this week, he is deservedly applauded; the turn of the Babusio Brothers is deservedly popular; Cooke and Rothert's laughable entertainment is smart; and Hilton and Hilton on the bars are as clever as they are amusing. Mozzetto, juggler; the Three Clarions in a sketch; Manning's, entertainers; Walter Gurney, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

MR. DAN ASHTON, "the Lancashire collier lad," met with a serious accident at Manchester on Saturday, Nov. 18, when he was taken to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. He is now recovering, and will be ready to commence business shortly.

MISS MILLIE PAYNE, the popular exponent of low comedy, has been meeting with enthusiastic receptions during her provincial tour, and opens at the Chelsea Palace and the London on Monday.

MR. JOHN BRILL, who was for some time proprietor of the Royal, Holborn, has taken possession of the Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford, which came under his management on Tuesday last. Mr. Brill broke his leg badly some twelve months since, and his many friends will be glad to hear that he is once more on the active list.

A CONCERT in aid of the Seamen's Hospitals will be given by the Stock Exchange Orchestral and Choral Society at the Queen's Hall on Thursday, Jan. 18. As an attraction, pictures from the Sherborne pageant, conducted by Mr. Louis N. Parker, will be shown. Miss Bertha Bird, the charming Australian soprano, will contribute to the programme. Miss Bird is constantly using her talent in helping objects of charity.

MR. FRED H. ANDERSON, sole proprietor of the Palace, Northampton, recently presented to Mr. Robert Barton, his acting-manager, a very valuable solid gold double Albert guard, with a massive gold medal attached, having a garter of perforated design, showing the words, "Anderson's Palace, Northampton," with a shield in the centre; on the reverse is the following inscription: "From Fred H. Anderson to Robert Barton, 'Xmas, 1905, as a token of esteem."

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD H. LUCAS, the well-known impersonators of

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
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WANTED, Companies for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 26, April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 19, March 5, 19, April 2, 9, 16, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
May 7, Race Week, 14, 28, June 4, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Feb. 26, March 12, 26, April 2, 9, May 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 9, 16, 23, May 14, 28, June 4.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant April 9, 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 19, 26.
March 5, 12, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for LEAMINGTON, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 19, 26, on.
READING, Feb. 19, March 5, 19.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, 26, April 30.
TERRISS THEATRE,
Feb. 12, and various onwards.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
March 12, May 7, 14, 21, June 11, 18, 25, July 9.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Vacant Feb. 5, 26, March 5, 12, 26, April 2 (6 nights), Feb. 15 (3 nights, Bedford only), Feb. 19 (3 nights each town).
Address,
E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 5 (6 nights), Luton; Feb. 15 (3 nights), Bedford; Feb. 19 (3 nights Bedford, 3 nights Luton).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Pantomime, Feb. 19; Musical Attractions, April 2, 9, on. Address, HERBERT VERE.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, HUGH ROBERTSON.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Feb. 19, March 26, April 9, 16, and 23. Managers are requested to note that the bookings for this theatre include the principal attractions touring. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.
WANTED, for Spring,
Musical Attractions only.
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre, Islington.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions for Spring. Apply, J. E. BULL (General-Manager for Samuel James), Grand Theatre, Islington.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Good Dramas, Jan. 22, Feb. 12 and 19.
Apply, J. E. BULL, General Manager for Samuel James, Grand Theatre, Islington.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomime, for Christmas, 1906-7.
State where can be seen.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 7, 21, and onwards, with exceptions. Can negotiate for really First-class Pantomime for Xmas, 1906-7. State where can be seen. Address,
T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, RADCLIFFE.
WANTED, big Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Pantomimes, including Comedians and Vocalists, but not Dramatic Students; good Pantomimes take big money. Refer F. Denman-Wood, Esq Last week's actual returns: Monday, £96 3s. 4d.; Tuesday, £56 4s. 1d.; Wednesday, £34 2s. 10d.; Thursday, £26 17s. 7d.; Friday, £17 6s. 6d.; Saturday, £78 7s. 3d.; total, £309 1s. 7d. Managers with good Pantomimes requiring a good Pantomime date, address, SANTE, Opera House, Radcliffe.

JERSEY and GUERNSEY.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 5, 12, 19, March 19 and 26.
C. ROBT. PERKINS,
Opera House, Jersey.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 12, and on, Musical Pieces and Good Pantomimes. Write, ALBANY WARD.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Jan. 29, Feb. 19, 26, March 5, April 9. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Easter, onwards. Apply, R FOGERTY, Proprietor, Theatre Royal, Limerick. Musical Comedy or High-class Drama preferred.

PAVILION THEATRE, ALTRINCHAM.
WANTED, Pantomime, Jan. 22, and First-class Attractions, Jan. 29, onward. HARRY TAYLOR, Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, Good Companies, Jan. 22, Feb. 19.
A. D. VERNON.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Mexbro', First-Class Attractions, Feb. 26 (musical preferred). Address W. H. MELTON.

WANTED, a Company for Feb. 5, Pantomime preferred. WM. B. BROADHEAD,
Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 5
(through obliging Manager).
Wire, JORDISON, St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

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THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
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THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant March 19, April 9, 23, 30.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Required, Strong Company, to Re-open under Mr. Carlton's Management, on Jan. 22.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant Feb. 12, March 12, May 21, June 4.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 5, 26, March 5, 12.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Jan. 18 (3 nights), Jan. 22 (3 nights), Feb. 8 (3 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Jan. 15, Feb. 12, 26, March 5.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Jan. 18 (3 nights), 29, Feb. 5 (3 nights), 12.

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WANTED, Good Company, to re-open under Mr. Carlton's Management, Jan. 22.
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LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
Proprietor, RICH. WALDON.
WANTED, Good Attraction (not Drama) for Feb. 19,
Musical Comedy Preferred.
Last week's Receipts,
£709 10s. 2d.,
with Mr. Eade Montefiore's "Cinderella."
Vacant Feb. 19, also April 23 and 30.
Address, J. H. OAKDEN, as above.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for AVENUE OPERA HOUSE,
SUNDERLAND,
the Home of Pantomime.
Wanted, for Above, a First-class Pantomime, commencing Feb. 5, to follow J. F. Elliston's Gigantic Success "Cinderella"; must have been produced this Xmas, at a No. 1 Theatre, and have Proved a Success.
Reliable Managers Only need apply to
CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Feb. 5 and 12. Applications, with full particulars, to J. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager,
Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 30, May 21 (?), 28, and June 4.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Jan. 29, 30, 31, March 26, 27, 28, onward.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

HIPPODROME, NEW BROMPTON.
Lessee, D. S. COOPER. Gen.-Man., ROY COCHRANE.
Great Success of the Dramatic Season. Jan. 1, Miss Francis Delaval's "Biggest Scamp on Earth" (return booked). Jan. 2, "Aladdin." Jan. 15, "My Lady Molly."
WANTED, Company, for Jan. 22. Jan. 29, Harry Bedford's "Gipsy Jack." Large stage, band of 8 (R.E.), magnificently billed, district within 1½ miles 75,000. Wire for Jan. 22 to ROY COCHRANE.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 1 and 8 (three nights each), and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 29, March 5, Sunday, onwards. See "Provincial Theatres" Page. J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R, Batley.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Company, Comedy or Pantomime, Jan. 22 and 29,
Share or Certainty. E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Feb. 5, Jarrow. Apply,
HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 5, 15, 22, March 8, and 15, Vacant (3 nights each), March 19, 26, and Easter Week. CHARLES CAREY.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Dunfermline, 3 nights, Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 8, 13, Dumfries, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 12, 26, and April 2. Address, W. E. POTTS, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Three Nights, Jan. 25; 29th, three or six; Feb. 5 three or six.
Wire, W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 22, onwards, good business, good shows. Good pantomime wanted. Wire, MANAGER, Theatre, Musselburgh, Scotland.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Attractions for
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 12, 19, April 2, 9, 23.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
Feb. 5, 6, 7, Feb. 12, 13, 14, March 12, 19, 20, 21, March 26.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
March 26, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE,
Vacant March 19, 26, April 9, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
Vacant April 9, May 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 26.
Address all Communications to
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Companies, May 14, 21, also Whit Week,
Share or Certainty.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Companies, for Feb. 26, April 2;
also First-class Attraction for Easter.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, as above.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Feb. 26,
March 12,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
LORD GEORGE SANGER, Sole Proprietor.
Manager, HENRY BOWMAN.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for July, August, Sept., and October. Bookings and pencillings include "The Blue Moon," "Prince of Pilsen," "Earl and the Girl," "Walls of Jericho," "The White Chrysanthemum," "Freedom of Suzanne," George Dance's Companies, Fredk. Melville's, and all the Leading Touring Attractions.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, as above.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Feb. 12, 19, and 25, March 19. Good Panto. wanted. Booked in conjunction with T. R., Whitehaven. Apply, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-rd., Carlisle.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 12, 26, April 9, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

Grand Theatre, Chorley,
WANTED, Big Attractions, Something Musical and Something that Will Draw. Last week the Dramatic Mascot, "The Life of a Showman," drew on Monday, £53 9s. 2d.; Tuesday (market night), £21 0s. 3d.; Wednesday, £26 11s. 9d.; Thursday, £23 9s. 1d.; Friday, £24 4s. 2d.; Saturday, £67 9s. 1d.—£216 3s. 6d.
Good Pantomimes Wanted 1907.
Address, re Dates,
SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, Feb. 19, 26, March 26, Easter, and on; also Panto., Avenue Theatre, Morpeth. Wanted, good Attractions, Feb. 12 and 26, on; might arrange short stock season, Fit-up Panto. Write all communications, DUNHAM and HAMMOND, T. R., Workington.

WORPLE HALL, WIMBLEDON.
Seats 800. No other Theatre.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. and March. Rent or share. CHARLES JONES, Lessee.

NEW COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Good Attraction, for Jan. 24, 25, 26, 27, on, with exceptions. PHILLIPS.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, three nights, commencing Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1.
CONNOLLY, Public Hall Theatre, Scunthorpe.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, COLWYN BAY.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 12 (3 nights), onwards, with exceptions. CHAS. CHAPLIN.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties.
J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 12, March 12, 19.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 5,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 12,
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, March 5, Aug. 6.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
Fredk. Melville's New Production.
WANTED, Important Theatre, Aug. 13,
FREDK. MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre,
April 16, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatre, Feb. 12.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Bruges, Willow-avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of April 2 and May 7, for this Powerful Attraction.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, May 21, 28.
"THE SAILORS OF THE KING,"
Feb. 26, March 12, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Theatre Royal, Batley.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 12, onwards.
Address,
Lister-road, Liverpool.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26. Address, 36, Gloucester-road, Kew, Surrey.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, "Mason," Jan. 29, Feb. 19, 26, March 19; "Gay Parisienne," Feb. 12, 19, March 26. Communicate,
CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Feb. 5 and 12, for either Thomas Thorne and Co., or David James and Co.
Wire, RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

PANTOMIME,
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"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
Written by Victor Stevens.
Written by Victor Stevens.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, for this "Mascotte" Version, now being performed at Royal West London Theatre.

Company includes:
Chas. Gardiner,
Chas Lilburn,
Henry de Solla,
Philip Sefton,
Geo. Elliston,
Fred Hutchings,
The Maples
(from Alhambra),
The Six American Belles,
Lily Stewart,
Ethel Morden,
Marie Beaufort,
and
Louie Hurman.

Selected Chorus of Pretty Girls.

N.B.—This Pantomime is full of fun, and the Book has a Story. This is the same version used for the last twelve seasons, and has been played at Clapham, Dalston, Ealing (three times), Richmond, Birmingham (twice), Portsmouth, York (opening of theatre), Leeds, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Edinboro', Cheltenham, and other large centres, and with the same unvarying success.

Pleased to arrange for the Book and Music for next Season.

The People says:—Mr. Brydon Phillips is a past-master in the art of pantomime, and the pretty production, "Little Red Riding Hood," does him infinite credit. The story is closely adhered to, and is clearly carried through beautifully painted scenes.

Laughter is loud and long.

Open to negotiate for entire production.
Theatre Christmas, 1906-7.

A safe Booking.

Address,
GEO. BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Royal West London Theatre, London.

Telephone, 2247 Mayfair.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, March 26, between Swansea and Swindon, only vacant date. CHALMERS MACKEY, this week, Standard T., Hetton, Durham; next week, His Majesty's T., Barrow-in-Furness.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 23 and 30.
J. W. CORDINER,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

MESSRS. WARAM-WATERS' COMPANIES.

"WHAT MEN DARE."
WANTED, Jan. 29, (to precede Weymouth), Feb. 19, (to follow Hastings).
G. WATERS,
3, Woodstock House, James-street, Manchester-square, London.

"DAYS OF CROMWELL."
WANTED, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, March 12, April 22, 30, May 14, June 5, July 9.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN,
Next, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
By arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey.
WANTED, Feb. 12 (South), April 2 (North).
EUGENE BERTRAM,
5, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Feb. 26,
Feb. 26,
March 5,
March 5,
March 12,
March 12,
Aug. 6,
Sept. 10,
and Xmas.
Wire, EDWARD MARRIS,
To-day, T. R., Blackburn; next, A., Lancaster.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN,"
The Successful Musical Comedy,
Feb. 5, 19,
onwards.
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
This week, Theatre, St. Helens;
next week, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

HARDIE AND VON LEER'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres,
"THE WOMAN FROM GAOL,"
by Geo. R. Sims.
Several vacancies between Easter and Whitsun.
First-class Company, Elaborate Production,
Enormous Advertising Plant.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12.
"A PATH OF THORNS,"
Feb. 5, 12, May 7.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel., 7504 Gerrard.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
An Artistic, Established, and Pronounced Success.
WANTED, the weeks of Feb. 12, 19, 26.
J. H. CLYNDES, Central Theatre, Northwich.

MR. FRED KARNO'S NO. 1
"HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS" CO.
WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, and 19, and on, with exceptions.
Address,
Park House, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, Feb. 12 (3 nights, to follow Walsall and precede Loughboro'), Feb. 26 (?), March 19, Easter. The old success, better than ever, and played by an excellent cast. Refer McLeod Loader, Esq., O. H., St. Helens. Wire, E. A'DELL, T., Heywood.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Feb. 5, various, onwards, for this Stirring Drama, magnificent costumes, uniforms, &c. W. J. MILLER, Opera House, Treherbert.

Mr. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S TOUR.
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 5, onward, now booking Autumn. Everything new, everything carried, everything good. LEWIS GILBERT, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEO. KIRK'S COMPANY.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Chas. Darrell,
Author of "When London Sleeps," &c.

A Huge Success. A Great Success.

Equal in Every Respect to Drury Lane Drama of the Best Type.

Magnificently Staged, Acted, and Advertised. Sixteen Artists Travelled, headed by the Brilliant Actress, Miss Mary Neil, as Nellie Harborne.

Refer Wm. Morton, Esq., Alexandra, Hull, who saw show, and immediately booked for his Easter Attraction.
Only First-class Theatres can be Entertained.

WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, March 5, 19, April 9, May 28, June 4.

The First, and will undoubtedly be the Biggest, Success of 1906.

Already Booked by Messrs. W. B. Broadhead (all theatres), McLeod Loader, Charles E. Machin, Colonel Winstanley, Thomas Sergenson, H. Masterman, Hugh Robertson, Sawyer and Woodruff, George E. Mudd, A. C. Mitchell, Wm. Morton, J. F. Elliston, &c., &c.

Address, GEO. KIRK,
Grand, Blackpool.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 26, only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, for this Elaborate Production,
Vacant Feb. 5, 19, and 26.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Theatres, with Holding Capacity, for this Financial Success,
Vacant, through transferring, Feb. 19 and 26.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR,
"THE MANXMAN,"
by Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Dates for this Sterling Attraction, Vacant Jan. 29, Jan. 29, Jan. 29, also Feb. 5, Feb. 12, and March 5. Rapidly booking Autumn. Managers, please forward Vacant Dates. Bookings include T. R., Cardiff; G., Swansea; L., Newport; South Shields; Chester; G., Middlesbrough; G., Newcastle; A., Gravesend; Stratford; Leicester; M. and G., Glasgow; G., Birmingham; P. Bradford; R. and S., Liverpool; T. R., Hull; Clapham; Broadway; Northampton; Brighton; Yarmouth; O.H., Blackpool. Jan. 15, T. R., TON-Y-PANDY.

WANTED, owing to a misunderstanding, one of the most elaborate productions in the country. Four big Specialities.
Company of Fifty-four.
Vacant Jan. 29.
Vacant Jan. 29.
Milton Rays'
Milton Rays'
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
To follow Bolton.
Wire, ARTHUR MILTON, T. R., Bolton.

"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
by Sydney Spenser and Clarence Burnette.
Absolutely Everything Carried.
A Superb Production.
WANTED, Big Theatres Only, Autumn, 1906.
JAMES HARE, 70, Part-street, Southport.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, March 5, April 16.
No greater success touring.
Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre, Darlington.

"PUSS IN BOOTS."
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
On Feb. 5 a run of the above Pantomime could be arranged after the six weeks' production at this theatre.
WANTED, First-class Theatre.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad Court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S TOURS.
The Great Oriental Production,
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, Easter, and Whit.
Wire Queen's, Dublin; next, STAR, LIVERPOOL.

MESSRS. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, Easter, and Whit. Only Vacant Dates till Autumn. All communications to
JOHN B. SHINTON, Aquarium T. Yarmouth.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
Scored another Success at Barnsley.
Kindly refer A. C. Mitchell, Esq.
WANTED, First-class Theatres for the few remaining Dates, 1906, which are: Feb. 26 (South), Aug, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, 31. Managers, do not miss this Novelty in Drama.
SANTE, T. R., Barnsley; P. O. W., Mexboro'.

WANTED, March 5, 12, 19, for "The Guilty Man," by arrangement with James Hare, Esq. EVAN ROLAND, 39, Chapel-st., Ormskirk.

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS."
Mr. REUBEN PAYNE'S TOUR.
WANTED, for this Recognised, Sound Attraction, Various Dates, from March 5, onwards. Neither energy nor expense will be spared to satisfy the "Pay-box Requirements."
Address, ARTHUR JEFFERSON, Metropole, Glasgow.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 5, 12, 19.
FRED BULMER, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 5, 12, 19.
FRED BULMER, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

"A WOMAN'S REDEMPTION."
WANTED, June 11 (follow Grand, Llandudno), July 9 (between Stratford and Alex., Birmingham), only No. 1 Drama Houses Entertained.
JAMES HARE, 70, Part-street, Southport.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, May 28, June 18, and on, with exceptions. Recognised by Managers, Public, and Press to be the leading Russian Drama Touring. New Scenery; Correct Dresses; Attractive Printing. Result, Success. Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 5 (three nights), to precede Grantham; March 5 and 12 (to follow third visit to Stratford).
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, to-day, P.O.W., Mexboro'; Jan. 15, Gaiety, Burnley (third visit).

"AFTER THE BALL."
The most successful Musical Comedy. Full Chorus, Six Gibson Girls. New Scenery. New Printing.
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant August Bank Holiday ("A" Company). CHARLES CAREY, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."
WANTED, Theatre for March 5, through obliging Mr. Robert Arthur.
Address,
LIONEL RIGNOLD, 398, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, for "No Escape," or "Money Makes the Man," or Both. Everything sound. Wire, COLEMAN DAVIES, Theatre, Colwyn Bay.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH,"
by F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Jan 29, follow third return to T. R., Stratford, Mar. 5, 12, North, June 4, Aug. 6, Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, C. T., Bedford; next, St. Remo, Woodlawn-ter., Whitstable.

THEATRES WANTED.

Wire! Wire!! Wire!!!
Wire! Wire!! Wire!!!
Wire! Wire!! Wire!!!

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Jan. 22 Vacant.
Jan. 22 Vacant.
Jan. 22 Vacant.
Jan. 22 Vacant.

G. H. W. Burroughs' Panto.,
"SINBAD THE SAILOR."
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"SINBAD THE SAILOR."

45 Travelled. All New Scenery Carried.

Vacant Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, and On.

Owing to Gigantic Success extending Tour.

Wire BURROUGHS, Opera House, Torquay.

WANTED, Dates, for
Mr. Leigh Lovel,
Miss Octavia Kenmore and Company, in
"THE DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE."

One of the few First-class Companies which have been able to keep Continuously on the road. Several Spring Dates open.

"SOWING THE WIND."
A most Favourable Reception has been accorded to the Revival of this Powerful Play.

"IN THE SOUP."
(By arrangement with Mrs. Lumley.)
One of the Funniest Farces ever written.

Spring Dates Open.
Address, Weston-super-Mare.

MESSRS. MURRAY and STAFFORD'S CO.,
In an Entirely
New and Original Drama in Four Acts.
"THE CURSE OF CRIME,"
Written by Alfred Stafford.
Carefully Selected Company.
Specially Constructed and Painted Scenery.
The Best of Pictorial Printing.
WANTED, First-class Theatres for Spring and Autumn, with few exceptions.
Address, 39, Evan's-square, Beetonsville, Hull.

PAUMIER AND HOWARD TOURS.
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
"UNDER THE RUSSIAN FLAG,"
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
New Romantic Play, by Walter Howard.

ANNIE SAKER,
ALFRED PAUMIER.

WANTED, Weeks, April 23, Oct. 15, for "The Midnight Wedding." Now booking 1907.
Coms., ALFRED PAUMIER, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
SPECIAL CONTINENTAL COMPANY.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Jan. 18, 3 nights, to follow the Leading State Theatres in Holland, Feb. 19, 26, and April 16.
Add., Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, Terry's Theatre, W.C.

THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES, CO., LTD.
Managing-Directors, Mr. ERNEST STEVENS and Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
"CINDERELLA,"
The Record Success, now Running at the Brixton Theatre.
A Refined, Operatic, Spectacular, and Genuinely Funny Fairy Pantomime.
Managers of First-class Theatres are Invited to see this Magnificent Pantomime, with a View to Production next Season.
WANTED, also, First-class Theatres, for Jan. 29, Feb. 5, and 12,
"THE FAIR ONE WITH GOLDEN LOCKS."
An Instantaneous Success at the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER,"
Enormous Success at Leith, Business Phenomenal.
Pronounced by Press and Public to be the Funniest Pantomime in the District.
General-Manager, Mr. STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for
James Kiddie's
James Kiddie's
Colossal and Gorgeous Pantomime,
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Theatres having Large Stage and Large Holding Capacity only need apply.
Address, THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Theatres, 1906-7, for
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
Magnificent Production, now Playing to Record Houses, Theatre Metropole, Devonport.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

PETER THOMPSON'S
"BABES IN THE WOOD" CO.
WANTED, Feb. 12 (First-class Theatre only), for the most genuinely funny and successful pantomime of this season. Add., WALLACE CHILDS, this, T. R., Batley; next, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK."
WANTED, Feb. 12, for Haddon and Loader's Grand Pantomime, Enormous Success. Can be seen this week, Dewsbury; next, BURY.
Address, M. LOADER, T. R., St. Helens.

"THE BRANDED WOMAN." by F. Wybert Clive.
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, March 5. Whit., Sept. 10, and on, with exceptions. Address, JAMES STILLWELL, Alhambra, Stourbridge

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"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, March 5, 19, 26.
FRED BULMER, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S
"THE PLUCKY NIPPER" CO.
WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, and on.
EDWARD SURREY, to-day, T. R., Colne; next, T. R., Macclesfield.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT" COMPANY.
WANTED, March 19, and on; also Good Theatre for Easter, "Another Man's Wife," Production shortly.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, for this great success, Feb. 5, 19, 26, March 12, 19, only Vacancies till August Bank Holiday. Wire, OSMOND, Queen's, Liverpool.

"CINDERELLA"
WANTED, Jan. 29, precede Kidderminster, over forty Artists travelled, a magnificently dressed, refined show. Christmas vacant, 1906-7, first-class theatre only, for "Cinderella" or "Aladdin." Wire or write,
HERBERT BARRS, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 12, 19 (?), and 26.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT, Jan. 15, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Vacant. "Under Two Flags" and "At Cripple Creek." MARK BLOW, Theatre, Folkestone.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 5, 12, 19.
FRED BULMER, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
Feb. 19 (?), March 19 (?), April 9, 16, 23, 30.
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
Feb. 12, March 5, 12.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Moneymaking Attraction, Jan. 29. Wire for Jan. 29.
Feb. 12 and 19, Midlands.
Autumn fast filling. Wanted, Oct. 1, 29, Lancs.
Company, Printing, and Scenery A1.
23rd Week of Present Tour.
FRANK AYRTON, Opera House, Dudley.

"CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, North, for Mr. Eade Montefiore's Production.
The Record Success of Last Year at Edinburgh and Newcastle,
and this Year the Breaker of all Records at Lyceum Theatre, Glasgow.
Wire, "Montefiore, Edinburgh."

EDWARD MARRIS'S
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
WANTED, for the Most Successful Version of 1905-06.
Company of 50.
Refer Stephen Pritt, Esq., Preston.
Refer Harry Yorke, Esq., Blackburn.
Feb. 25.
Feb. 26.
Feb. 26.
(Between Newcastle and Nottingham.)
Enormous Success of Walter Wade, the Most Original Idle Jack for years.
Cast and Specialities include: Miss Madge Merry as Dick, Miss Winnie Reece as Alice, Mr. W. H. Ball as Fitzwarren. Mr. Walter Nugent as The Cook, the Sisters Vincent, the Sprays, the Kashmas, Miss Effie White, &c., &c.
Re Feb. 26 and next year wire Edward Marris. To-day, Theatre Royal, Blackburn. Next, A., LANCASTER.

WANTED, Large Theatre, in No. 1 Town, for Xmas, 1906-7,
London Hippodrome Pantomime,
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
"ALADDIN,"
Now Playing to Record Business at the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, acknowledged to be One of the Biggest Productions of Pantomime in the Provinces. Scenery by T. Ryan, Drury Lane Theatre.

Could not consider less than four weeks from Boxing Night.

Might arrange to Sell the Entire Production.

"BABES AND ROBIN HOOD" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Feb 12 and 19, North, for this Record Nottingham Pantomime, with the Finest Travelling Cast this Season.
Wire,
"Montefiore, Edinburgh."

"ALADDIN" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Good Theatre, next Xmas, for this Production,
which has become the Talk of Edinburgh.
Monday next, Sixth Week, and still doing Holiday Business.
Wire,
"Montefiore, Edinburgh."

Miss ETHEL CLAYTON'S
Superb and Mirthful Pantomime,
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Full at Early Doors at Muncaster, Bootle. Refer Messrs. Pennington. Company of over Thirty Recognised Artists. Miss MARIE VESTA as ROBIN HOOD. Miss ETHEL CLAYTON as MAID MARIAN. Specialities include Percy Victor's Wonderful Dog Orchestra, Swan and Vesta, Bernardo and Travelli, Rizonis, Ruby Troupe of Dancers, The Demon Head, Vulo, and The Valmores.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Vacant Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 only (fol. Blackpool and pre. Rawtenstall). Wire for this Attraction, this, Grand, Radcliffe; next, T. R., TYLDESLEY.

WANTED, Known, Claude Ginnett's Original Rejected Remounts, Vacant Feb. 12, 19, to follow Leeds;
also April 2, 9, onward.
C. GINNETT, JUN.,
59, Nichols-square, Hackney-road, N.E.

WANTED, for Andrews' Animated Picture Co., Theatres, Halls (South), share or rental, Vacant Feb. 5, onwards, with exceptions, everything up to date, electric or lime. Films include every topical subject; effective printing; 2½ hours' continuous show. H. ANDREWS, Post Office, Salisbury.

WANTED, Good Halls or Theatres, for First-class Combinations, including Prof. Inman Hocking, Electric Healer. J. LARDER, 22, Levington-street, Grimsby.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Musical Play, "Somebody's Sweetheart." Sing and Dance, also Trio of Dancers. Lowest terms and photos (stamped envelopes, or will not be returned), W. H. KIRBY, Theatre Royal Hanley.

WANTED, Several Young Ladies of good appearance for Musical Comedy Sketch in Vaudeville Theatres; must have good Singing Voices and be good Dancers. Apply personally between 1.30 and 2.30, Tuesday and Wednesday next, MOLLER, The Prince Albert, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.

WANTED, Full Company, for "Romeo and Juliet." Those having played in Manchester or Glasgow production preferred.
Address,
J. W. TURNER, Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, First-Class Leading Lady, Leading Gentleman, Heavy Gentleman, Comedian, Chambermaid, and Gentleman for old man; all must be first-class, for sketches at a Suburban Music Hall. Month's engagement guaranteed to capable artists. Open the 29th, rehearse week previous. May be long engagement. State where can be seen playing, and all particulars, including latest references, Sketch, SECRETARY, 49, Binfield-rd., Clapham.

WANTED, Known, Advertiser giving London matinée wishes to hear from clever artists wanting appearance. Strict investigation courted. AMERICAN, 39, Grange-road, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Lady Holyrood, for "Florodora" immediately; also Dancers. The latter apply to day, 10.30, with practice dress. F. DARRELL and Co., 415, Strand.

"SAPHO."
WANTED, to Rehearse and open at once, Gentleman, for Caoudal and Flamant, (double), Char. Old Man and Small Juvenile Part. Address, stating last two references, enclosing photo., &c., JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

"THE LITTLE BREADWINNER."
WANTED, to Rehearse Jan. 23, at West Stanley, tall, powerful young actor, for character heavy; must be tall and powerful; good voice. Send terms, photos. (cost essential), height, and references, to J. A. CAMPBELL, New Theatre, Consett.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Gentleman, tall, for First-class Dramatic Company, on Tour. Address, first instance, with full particulars, to Box 2,649, "The Era."

WANTED, tall, robust Character Actor (heavy father type). Photos., references, &c., to
GEORGE KIRK,
Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, for the Variety Theatres, Amateur Gentleman, play small, important part in first-class sketch. No premium. Box 2,654, "The Era."

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Known.—Advertiser would like to Hear from Gent. capable of Booking Dates for a First-class Sketch Co., also to take part in same. Particulars, terms, and references, and photo. if possible, to
Box 2,636, "The Era."

WANTED, Brilliant Soprano and Contralto, for Summer Season on Pier; must be young and of good appearance, with experience as Principals, in Comic Opera or Musical Comedy. Good Ballad Singers, and well up to Quartette Work. Also a First-class Tenor, young and of gentlemanly address, with same experience as above. Apply, DIRECTOR, Box 2,629, "The Era."

WANTED, High Baritones or Robust Tenors, for Special Songs, London and Tour; must be exceptionally good voices. Apply first instance, with fullest particulars, Box 2,657, "The Era."

WANTED, Vocalists for Sunday Concerts, also Instrumentalists. Ability, last engagement, and terms, WHITE and SHARP, 20, New Park-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Bass-Baritone, Refined, Pupil of Signor Alberto Randegger, Ada Lewis Scholar, R.A.M., large répertoire of songs, &c., can accompany self, compass 2½ octaves, engagement, in high-class concert party, from May to Sept., 1906, South Coast preferred. Full particulars to Messrs. DYSON and SONS, 19, George-street, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts, 1905, Madame Natalia, the celebrated S. African contralto, soloist, plays own accompaniment. Address, C. WILKINSON SCOTT, Manager, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Jeanne Damyel, Prima Contralto; fine Voice, Appearance, Wardrobe, Liberty Concert, Variety, &c. 19, Castle-st., Bolton, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement by Young Actor, experienced, répertoire, age 23, quick study, in known company. STAIR ROBERTSON, P.O., Mendlesham, Suffolk.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Good Principal Girl, Two Single Comedians, for Squire and Simple Simon part, "Mother Goose" Pantomime. PILKINGTON, Queen's Theatre, Longton.

WANTED, Principal Girl, Two Single Comedians, for Pantomime. Open immediately. ARTHUR PILKINGTON, this week, Court Theatre, Warrington; next, Grand, Rawtenstall.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE and EDWARD COMPTON'S SCENE FACTORY, READING.
WANTED, Known, Estimates Given for all Kinds of Scenery, Properties, Electrical Effects, Music Stands, &c., First-class Work Guaranteed.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, high-class work, and best materials at reasonable prices. Studio and workshop, 107, Waddon New-road. CHARLES SAYER, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery. Large Quantity of Profile for Sale. SHARP, 20, New Park-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Whyatt and Son, at Liberty to accept Contracts of every description. Christmas Productions, Lester Collingwood's "Blue Beard"; W. H. Hallatt's "Temptress." Studios, Lyceum, Crewe.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery by Alexander and Co., Bell-street Studios, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Orders for Scenery, by ALEXANDER and Co., The Bell-street Scenic Studios, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Smith, jun., Artist, Figure, Animal, Landscapes, and Flowers, Gilding, Writing, and Decorations. Address, 66, Stanbury-road, Peckham, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Experienced Music Hall Manager, with £2,000 to Invest,
Wanted,
to Join others in New Venture,
Excellent Prospects.

Replies in Confidence,
Box 2,627,
"The Era."

WANTED, Artists to Note that I write High-class Sketches (Musical or Otherwise), also Songs, Scenas, Duets, &c., on Moderate Terms, Consistent with Good Work.
CLIFFORD GRAHAM, 8, Campden House-rd., Kensington (High-street Station). 'Phone, 2260 Western.

WANTED, Immediately, Tall, Smart, Acting-Manager, play small part, recognised touring company. Small cash security required. Age, height, Box 2,650, "The Era."

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Smart Electrician, one able to Work Bioscope, long engagement to a reliable man. Lowest terms, references, &c., to
J. L. ARTHUR,
as above.

WANTED, Electrician; must be capable, steady and reliable. Apply with fullest particulars and references, F. R. YEULETT, King's Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, Good Window Biller, and Baggage, combined, assist agent; must understand smalls, for animated photograph show; single, and steady. References, CLIFFORD, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Powley, late Manager Theatre Royal, Croydon, and Greenwich Palace, is at Liberty for Management of Dramatic or Variety Theatre. Full Knowledge of Bars. First-class references. Offers invited. Box 2,645, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Kingstone Trollope, Actor-Stage-Manager, Disengaged Jan. 13, nine years Stage-Manager Empire Theatre, Liverpool, open for Variety or Theatre, home or abroad.
Address, Care of Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Evening only, thorough experience Acting-Management; occupation more essential than salary. RAYNER, Hornchurch-road, Romford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Advance Agent, late with Mr. Fred Storey in "Rip Van Winkle," Music or Drama, Travelling. Write, Box 2,628, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Electrician Disengaged. Would undertake installing of Theatre or Hall, or maintaining same. J. H., 14 Hainesbuildings, Leicester.

WANTED, Situation by Smart Man, Billing and Check-taking, or Pay-box. Unquestionable references, London preferred. H., 36 Hartismere-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Evening Employment, by a Gentleman engaged in City during day, occupation of time more essential than remuneration. Box 2,639, "The Era."

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Employment in Theatre or Music Hall, any Capacity; no experience. Excellent personal reference. P., 512 Wharncliffe-gardens, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, by Young Man, Berth as Assistant, any Capacity, height 5ft. 10in.
Box 2,644, "The Era."

WANTED, by Scotch Piper and Scenic Artist, thoroughly useful man, any capacity.
MEDAIN, 52, Princes-square, Kennington, S.E.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Good Violin, Flute, Reed, and Brass Players, to become Members of a Militia Band at once. In addition to Regimental Pay, Bounty, Rations, and Clothing, &c., a Bonus will be given at the end of Training. Age up to 45 years. Nothing to do but band work. Civilians and ex-Army men apply at once to BANDMASTER, 6th Middlesex Regt., Mill Hill Barracks, London, N.W.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Dublin, Solo Cornet, to open Monday, Jan. 22; must be first-class performer. Apply, stating terms, and enclose references, to
JOHN MOODY, Musical Director.

WANTED, at once, by the Weston-super-Mare Town Band, First Cornet; young preferred. Terms, Shares. W. PFAFF, Villa Nassau, George-st., Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Cornet, Clarionet, and Trombone, for Town and Promenade Band, Cheltenham. Terms, shares. J. GRAINGER, 17, Glenfall-st., Cheltenham, Gloucester.

WANTED, Trombone, Special Week, Musical Comedy, open Monday. Wire terms, &c., LINDEN, Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

EMPIRE,
ASHTON-U-LYNE.
WANTED, to Open Monday, Jan. 15, Rehearsal 11 a.m., 'Cello. Apply, with last reference, to PERCY B. BROADHEAD.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.
WANTED, 'Cello, experienced in Variety Work. Apply, with terms and references, to J. HOWARD SHACKLETON, Musical Director.

WANTED, 'Cello Player; must be well up in variety business, steady and reliable. Age, refs., F. BRAHAM, Conductor, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, for Pantomime, Jan. 15 (9 shows).
State lowest inclusive terms.
Address,
MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, to augment Band, two nights, Jan. 19 and 20, Flute, Drums, and Second Violin. Lowest inclusive. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Stafford.

HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Pianist, Violin, Bass, Flute, and Piccolo, Cornet, Drums, used to Variety, open 22nd inst. Terms, references, to J. STUART PAUL, 191, High-street East, Glossop.

WANTED, Smart Young Man or Lady, to play Piano, one that can do turn preferred. Particulars in first letter, LYNTON, 52, Foundation-st., Ipswich.

WANTED, immediately, good Pianist and Comic Vocalist combined, must be good Sight Reader. Address, with lowest terms, to Dr. ORMONDE, 5, Murieston-place, Edinburgh.
C. Deakin and Jepson please write.

WANTED, Pianist, capable of Playing another Instrument. Permanency to suitable man. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Pianist, Lady or Gentleman, used Variety and Pictures, open Wimbledon Jan. 19, five nights. Terms, EDGAR BROOK, Worple Hall, Wimbledon.

WANTED, First-class Drummer, with Effects; must be thoroughly steady and reliable. State salary and experience. W. C. HORNER, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, for Six Months' Tour, Lady Instrumentalist; must invest capital; black-and-white entertainment. Write, B. CHRISTY, 715, Fulham-road.

WANTED, First-class Exceptionally Clever Novelty Band (12 to 15), for March 12 week. Good terms for one with drawing powers. Experienced exhibition bands, with or without additional attractions. State inclusive terms, HAGUE, Spa, Bridlington, Yorks.

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Composer of "Silver King," "Lights of London," "Golden Ladder." 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood.

WANTED, Engagement, by Jacques Bruske, Musical Director, late Hippodrome, Birmingham. Prima references. First-class offers only. Communications, c/o "Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, First-Class Variety Conductor, shortly Disengaged; highest credentials; always reliable; large library. Address Box 2,635, "The Era."

WANTED, by Conductor, or as Leader, Permanency, thoroughly experienced any business; up-to-date Répertoire. Box 2,634, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor or Leader (Violinist), with very best experience, Grand Opera, Symphony Work, &c. Highest references. Apply, Box 2,608, "The Era."

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WANTED, Engagement as Musical Director, Violinist, and Conductor, Variety or Theatre, up-to-date Répertoire, at Liberty 22nd. VINCENT WHITE, Hippodrome, Scarboro'.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement in London as Second or Third Violin; inexperienced. Address, B., c/o Stone, 88, De Laune-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist, any business, experienced; good references.
VIOLINIST, 86, Park-place, Darlington.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement as First Violin, can combine Clarionet, good refs.
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WANTED, Known, Good Violinist, at Liberty, Leader or First Violin, Experienced, and Stock of Music. CARPENTER, Gilpin-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, by First Violin, Permanent Engagement. Excellent refs. Apply, C. H. D., 33, Longbridge-road, Barking.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin, can combine clarionet. Good references. H. SMITH, 14, Princes-square, Kennington, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Violinist, experienced in Dramatic or Variety Business. Good references. Apply, D. DEACON, 25, Commercial-road, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, soloist, young, steady, Brilliant Player, experienced. Good references. F. D., 43, Marshall-st., London-rd., Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Cornet, Experienced, any business, out through closing. Add., H. B. METCALFE, 39, Whitehouse-st., Walsall.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, any Business.
Box 2,631, "The Era."

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, any Line, good references, sight reader, strictly temperate, moderate salary, can join at once. CREAMER, 2, Granville-st., Kettering.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet, well Experienced, would deputise, good refs. JOE HEATH, 37, Balham New-road, Balham, London.

WANTED, Known, Good Clarionet Player, Open for Yeomanry Trainings, 12 years' Cavalryman, and Good Trumpeter. Apply, Box 2,637, "The Era."

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, experienced in any Business. Exceptional references. Apply, J. DUNLEARY, 24, John-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, by Clarionettist, Engagement, any Business, competent and reliable, genuine refs. MCCORMICK, 82, Chester-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, young and steady; any business; well up in variety. BASSO, 12, Hunter-rd., Thornton Heath, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Bassoon Disengaged, Theatre or Oratorio Work.
BASSOON, 15, Warwick-road, Hampton Wick.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass Player, Dramatic, Variety, or Circus Orchestra, combine bombardon. Refs. BASSO, 26, Lord-st., Stockport.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, Theatre or Variety, reliable, total abstainer. R. LANGRIDGE, 66, Priory-street, Colchester.

WANTED, by Trombone, Experienced, Engagement, any business. Good refs. Wire or write, TROMBONE, 2, Cromwell-terrace, King's Lynn.

WANTED, Engagement by thoroughly reliable and competent Trombone Player, Theatre or Concert Hall. Address, F. WILLIAMS, 99, Rhondda-street, Swansea.

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced Euphonium, Engagement any Business. Can open at once. Address, CHAS. PRICE, 184, Waterloo-road, Norwich.

WANTED, by First-class First French Horn, Engagement. Good references and good experience. V. DIDOMENICO, 70, Frederick-st., Gray's Inn-rd., W.C.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class 'Cellist, Theatre or Variety. T. CATHIE, Theddlethorpe, Louth, Lincolnshire.

WANTED, Engagement or Deputising, by capable 'Cellist; must be in London. For references, &c., apply, 'CELLIST, 29, Oakley-crescent, Chelsea.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced 'Cellist. Good references. Address, W. D. KNUSSEN, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagement, by Viola, any Business, Disengaged Jan. 13, reliable. BOWER, 14, Maude-terrace, Walthamstow.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (Age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool.

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WANTED, Known, Flautist, at Liberty, steady, reliable, good references. FLAUTIST, 8, Moorland-place, Hyde Park-road, Leeds, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Pianist, at Liberty, combine Second Violin or Viola, just concluding three years' engagement at the Theatre and Grand Hotel, Folkestone. SUTCLIFFE, 10, Albert-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, any Business, exper. in var., dram. business, steady, reliable, excellent refs. PIANIST, 24, Harvey-st., Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist, Sight-reader, sober, gentlemanly, any Business. Excellent references. 4, St. John-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist, Conductor, Quick Arranger, Panto., Musical Comedy, &c. Best refs. CHALLIER, T. R., Sunderland.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Experienced Orchestral Pianist (Lady), in or out of London, per nanency preferred. Liberty end Jan. Address, M., c/o Miss Brooke, Beauchamp Lodge, Warwick crescent, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, join at once, thoroughly experienced, any Business. Address, DRUMS, c/o Mulard, 15, York-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, can open at once.
BILLY PALMER, Presto House, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Drummer, at Liberty, well up in any Business. Address,
J. H. BRUNSDUN, 34, Well-street, Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, by Expert Mandolinist, Engagement. Address, EMELINE GRACE, 5, Bennerley-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists, Scarlet Domino, and other Ladies' Bands. BUREAU, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-Class Family Band (five upwards), thoroughly experienced instrumentalists; up-to-date library. CONDUCTOR, 19, Mayton-street, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Boy Instrumentalists (string); must be good readers and players, smart appearance. Address, 30, Gloucester-crescent, Regent's Park.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency. Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester: Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Wilder's Great Fêtes and Galas, Whit. Week, June, July, Bank Holiday, and onwards, First-class Performances and Novelties, of every description. Aërial Flying Shows, Rope Shows, Single and Double Turns, &c. Full particulars, sample, lithos., and lowest terms, to WILDER'S, Gt. Francis-street, Birmingham.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.

WANTED, Big Stars, Startling Sensations, and Great Novelties, for Present and Future Dates.
Something Good, Jan. 22 and 29, Bigger the Better, Anything that can follow Tom Cannon's Wrestlers. Also Useful People in all Lines. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, PAISLEY, N.B.

WANTED, the best of talent, most especially Dumb Shows, for the above popular Palace of Amusement, for present and future dates. Address, TRANSFIELD, as above. Artists when writing please state when and where last in Paisley. Although the worst week in the year (after the holidays) the building has been comfortably full nightly, Monday having to turn many away from all parts. The building will be to let for any high-class entertainment, or to be sold at the termination of season. Address as above.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, Specialities, of Every Description, Nothing too Big, for Ring or Stage.
P.S.—Owing to the epidemic of accidents which occur usually on Saturday or Monday, Mr. Algie informs artists that all contracts are stamped, and engagements will be enforced, unless substantial proof of said accidents is established. Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, for Hancock's Circus, Winter Gardens, Plymouth, Male and Female Bareback Equestrians, without Own Horse, and Variety Artists in all Lines, for Monday, Jan. 22, and onwards.

WANTED, for Summer Season in America, Tenting, Lady and Gent. Trick and Jockey Rider, together or separate, with or without Horse. All particulars in first letter.
GEORGE ROWLAND,
9, Huntingdon-road, East Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, to open Jan. 22, good sound Speciality, Animal Show preferred, Jugglers or Musical Show. Write, with lowest terms, fullest particulars, to W. PARDOE, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Smart Boy Acrobat, for Established Act; state tricks and particulars; must join me about March 12, or in May, for Europe and America. Address, PETE BELL (private), Jan. 15, Nottingham Empire.

WANTED, Young Man that can Work fairly well on Bar. E. KINGSTON, 96, Francis-road, Leyton, Essex.

WANTED, Smart Boy Tumbler. State age and height. SYDNEY, 17, Baker-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool. Good home.

WANTED, Steady and Reliable Grooms, for small Ponies. Address, Mr. ROGERS, Palace of Varieties, Boston, Lincs. Little Len write.

WANTED, sober Attentive Groom, not Boss or Manager, for Troupe Dogs; one not afraid to exercise dogs, and can be depended upon being always to time. Address, Box 2,633, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah, and his Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals, consisting of African forest-bred lions, lioness, grizzly and silver-grey bears, and boarhounds, all performing together. The most exciting, original, and exclusive performance with wild animals ever seen, being the only one of its kind travelling. As far as we are from the sun, so is this animal act above all others. The beauty of this act, the animals are smart in each pose, and exciting, and show the nature of wild animals, so that the spectators see at once that they are wild animals performing, not dogs. Thanks to Frank Allen, Esq., for Contract for South Shields. Liberty Jan. 15, 22, 29. Wire, Grove Hotel, Bury New-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella, greatest and best existing Lion Show of the World, Vacant May 7, onwards.
Comm., week, Jan. 15,
Empire Palace, Stratford.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, the best Jumping Ponies and the Greatest Riding Goat, Carnival, Newcastle. Address, after Saturday, FRASER, Blyth.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Family Riders and Good Ground Act, Own Horses, &c, also Good Troupe of Dogs, at Liberty or Tenting. Address, Exhibition Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Mrs. Dudley Smith, with her novel leaping act, introducing her mare Dainty Lass, at Lib. 25, Gt. Thornton-st., Hull.

WANTED, Known, J. H. Swallow, Bareback Equestrian, at Liberty Jan. 29, also summer, home or abroad. Address, Circus, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Clowns, owing to Postponement of their Russian Tour, are at Liberty Jan. 22, onwards. Address, Empire, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Agouste, with comic entrées, John Henry Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh, until further notice. Offers invited for summer season, or tenting. Address, as above.

WANTED, Known, Buer and Son, with Educated Talking Donkey, the only one Britain, Liberty March. J. H. COOK'S Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Jan. 15, 22, Mayeno Trio, Two Ladies, One Gent, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Clown, Up-to-date Entries, Number First-class Acts. Write or wire, Circus Storage, George-st., Belfast.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, smartest of all Lady and Gentleman Modern Gymnastic Acts par excellence, great success, Empire, Dudley. Monday, Empire, Northampton. Free Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12.

WANTED, Monday next, Unda and Ovah, burlesque triple bar act. Finish, to-night, 4 weeks, Carnival, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Jan. 15, 22, Devonas, Lady and Gentleman, Comedy Gymnasts, Acrobats; also Miss Enor, tight wire. Turley's Hotel, Chichester-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Jill and Laval, New Original Comedy Acrobats, Liberty Jan. 15 and 22. Wire or write, 7, Tennyson-street, Burnley.

WANTED, by Clement Trio, Jan. 15, 22, 29, Comic Flying Trapeze Stage Act, doing four different kinds of doubles and double pirouettes. Wire, Hollydene, Hall Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Les Greers, Continental Comedy Acrobats, and their Acrobatic Dog, new and up-to-date business. Vacant Monday next, 22nd, 29th. All coms., until Saturday, Carnival, Newcastle-on-Tyne; after, 15, Union-st., Southport.

WANTED, Known, Almero, Aërial Norwegian Spar and Wire Act, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Liberty for summer months, right acts for galas. Offers invited. Address, as above.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hall and Family, with several acts, free for Summer. Thanks for offers. Address, Carnival Grounds, Paisley.

WANTED, by Young Man (20), Situation as Assistant to Juggler or Conjurer, &c., Juggler preferred. SANDS, c/o "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, for Jan. 22, and on, all Lines. Lowest terms to save correspondence to STANHOPE and Co., 63, Regent-street, W. Telephone, 6070, Gerrard. Silence means unsuitable.

SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, Jan. 22, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, 22nd, 29th, Feb. 5, North, nothing too big.
Apply, EVANS, Waterloo Hotel, Blyth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists for
The North,
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Send all Northern Dates and full list,
DALTON'S Agency,
5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester; or personally,
W. DALTON, Pavilion, Glasgow.

WANTED, Star Artists, Big Attractions, for Fêtes and Galas,
Piers and Summer Gardens,
Big Aërial and Ground Acts,
June 4, onwards.
Lithos., photos., terms, bookings,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Star Artists in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury. Monday next, onwards. Please Note, hall small. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 5, 19, onwards. All Artists promised future dates, write now.
CHAS. A. JAMES,
Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for Jan. 22, 1906. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Coatbridge, March 12. Artists going North send absolute lowest combination terms. SID COTTERELL, Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 29, for Rochdale. State when last there, and lowest combination terms, SOROS, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley.

DUDLEY CASTLE FETES,
Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
June 4, 5, and 6, 1906.

WANTED, to hear from First-Class Artists and Entertainments suitable for the above Fêtes. All applications to be sent in not later than Saturday, Feb. 3, addressed to the SECRETARIES,
J. MILLS HOUGHTON,
WILLIAM WOODHOUSE,
Town Hall, Dudley.
Artists not hearing by Feb. 13 to take it as a negative.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME CO., LTD.

WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that, from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contract will be recognised unless Signed by the Secretary and Manager.
T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager.
G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Jan. 22, onwards, for
Liverpool, St. Helens, Accrington, and Warrington,
Stars and Novelties of all Kinds.
Address, F. WILLMOT, 156, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Jan. 22, 29, and Feb. 5, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 56, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars and Tops, in every Line, for immediate dates. Full particulars, DEETRICH'S Agency, 15, Hotham-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars, Nothing too Big. Send full Bookings and Terms to FRANK LYNNE, New Theatre Royal, Halifax. AYTOUN'S Agency.

WANTED, Variety Stars, in every branch of the business, for immediate dates. BAYLEY, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. Notice, Britannia and Tivoli closed.

WANTED, for Town and Country, Big Stars and Tops, for Jan. 22, onward.
Nothing too Big.
Artists on my books keep me posted.
FRED NEIMAN,
Hippodrome, Norwich.

WANTED, Stars, Specialities, Novelties, and Comedy Acts, Jan. 22, 29, and Feb. 5, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c., I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Star Turns, Wanted, Comedy Acts, Novelties, Comedians, Comediennes, Comedy Musical Acts, &c., Big Tops and Bottoms,
Towns and Seasides, Immediate and Future Dates. Send bookings, photos., lithos., terms, to FREDERICK YATES (late Manager, Regent T., Salford), Church-avenue, Weaste, Manchester.

WANTED, good Turns (or useless), five nights, Wimbledon, open Jan. 19. Lowest terms, litho., &c. EDGAR BROOK, Worple Hall, Wimbledon.

Telephone 288. Telegraphic Address, "Zalva."

GEO. ZALVA'S AGENCY,
HIPPODROME,
SCARBORO'.

WANTED, High-grade Specialities, Immediate and Future Dates, Good Comedy Acts.

Apply, lowest terms and full bookings, in first instance, as above.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wiggles-worth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Numbers, all Kinds, for Immediate Dates. It will pay you to Keep me Posted.
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY,
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY,
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY,
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY,
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY,
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY,
RICHARD CASS'S AGENCY.
30, Maiden-lane, Strand. Telephone, 6704 Central.

WANTED, Big Attractions for
Paris,
Berlin,
and
Vienna.
Immediate Dates.

SHERRK and BRAFF,
10, Leicester-place,
London, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, from April, on, Tops and every kind of Good Act.
Send Vacancies,
and where to be seen, to
GRAYDON'S Agency, 164, Drury-lane, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Acts, in all Lines,
in all Lines,
in all Lines,
for
All the Principal Seaside Towns.
All the Principal Seaside Towns.
All the Principal Seaside Towns.
Communicate at once.

Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Tops of Bill,
Tops of Bill,
Tops of Bill,
for
Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 6.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686, Royal.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, BURY.

WANTED, Star Acts, Jan. 29; must be good and refined. Address,
OTTO C. CULLING, Theatre, Bury.

WANTED, Gala Acts, all Kinds, for Northampton, Aug. 6, 7, 8, twice daily. Terms, lithos., to MCASKELL, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, Comedy Acts, Comedy Acts, in fact all Lines, for Town near Manchester. Apply with particulars to EVELYN TAYLOR, Hippodrome, Hull.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS.

WANTED, Known, the Corporation of South Shields invite applications for the provision of Pierrot Entertainments during the ensuing Summer, on a Stage and Covered-in Enclosure, situate between the Marine Parks in South Shields. 200 chairs will be provided
Applicants must state the character of their Entertainments, the period during which they propose to provide the Entertainments, and the amount of Rental or other payment they would be prepared to pay to the Corporation for the use of the Stage and Enclosure.
Conditions of letting, with form of Tender attached, will be forwarded on application to the Town Clerk, Court-buildings, South Shields, to whom Tenders must be delivered not later than Wednesday, the 24th Jan., 1906, sealed and endorsed, "Tender for provision of Entertainments."

WANTED, Known, Palace, Boston, re-opened on Monday under entirely new management to a packed house, for Dr. Seaton's Animated Photographs, George Bohee and Concert Company. This week, Caban's Performing Ponies and Variety Combination. Vacant Jan. 22, onwards, for good Combinations, Minstrels; must have good picture posters. Wire, CLIFFORD, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Tops of Bill, for Monday week, onward, also Artists in all Lines, for Ten Weeks' Immediate Work. Full particulars, list of bookings, photo., litho., &c., to
DAY'S Variety Agency,
Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, London.
Telephone, 6915 Gerrard; 1500 Central.
Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London."

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, for Empire, Dundee, Jan. 29, week, top and bottom, also good turns; must be good, or useless. State when last played Dundee, and where, actual lowest, lithos., particulars, EDGAR BROOKE, Worple Hall, Wimbledon.
Endorse Envelope, "Dundee."

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, for two weeks only, March 12 and 19, First-Class Novelties, Comedy Acts, must be clever and free from vulgarity. Lowest terms. Kinnaird Hall, Dundee.

WANTED, by Sketch Writer, Lady (Good Voice) and Gentleman, for Comedy Sketch Production, several good sketches on hand, new and original ideas, nothing like it on the road, a sure success, rehearse at once; artists must share small expenses. Particulars by letter. Address, M. L., 4, William Henry-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, First-class Vocalists and Entertainers Requiring Engagements,
Apply,
Albert Hall,
Portsmouth.

WANTED, Lady, to Perform with New Animal Act; must be used to stage. Small security required. Letters,
Box 2,640,
"The Era."

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, Jan. 22, 27, and onward, Star Comedians,
Big Specialities,
Jugglers,
Cycle Shows,
Comedy Act.
All must be
First-class and Refined,
or Useless.
No Sketches.
Lithos and lowest net terms to
HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, a few First-class Al Fresco Performers, Comedians, Dancers, Vocalists, &c., young, and thoroughly reliable, 18 weeks, commencing Whitsun; some to open Easter. Full particulars and salary to HARRY REYNOLDS, 104, Great Dover-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 19, Big Star Comedians and other lines, best Syndicates.
Lowest to
GEO. AYTOUN, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.
Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Pair Versatile Comedians, Sisters (Good Voices, Dancers, Good Wardrobe), also Comedy Specialities, Refined for Established Al-Fresco Concerts, June to September. Lowest terms, photos., permanent address, to ALFRESCO, 51, Gordon-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, at once, perfect Tumbler-Knock-about, must be good comical, only artists wanted.
Apply to
14, Yerbury-road, Holloway, London, N.

WANTED, Boys, over 14, small for age, Boy Comedians, Boy Vocalists, Boy Acrobats, Boy Musicians, Boys all Lines. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Coloured Boys, for Music Halls; must be small and over 14, able to Sing or Dance. Open immediately. Good home. ISMAY, c/o JAMES FIONI, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, a Good Tumbler, to join experienced Performer, not more than 9st. Act ready, and booking certain. Good opportunity for suitable man. Apply, TUMBLER, 7, Eskdale-villas, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Young Man, to Assist in Illusion, state height; also Good Cartoonist.
INNES, 82, Freeman-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Fancy and Knockabout Skater, to join Well-known Act. Height, age, experience, photo., HESS, 15, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Expert Bioscope Operator, thoroughly accustomed alternating and direct currents. Give references. VERNON'S Bioscope, Palace, Blackpool.

Bioscope.

WANTED, Smart Operator, total abstainer. Address, with last two references, terms, full particulars, E. V. EDMONDS, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, the Great Male Impersonator, offers accepted for one week, Monday next; also Lib. Jan. 29, Feb. 6. Wire, Black Bull Hotel, Cleator Moor.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Musical Act, Monday next, big success, Empire. Wire, 45, Western-road, Ealing, London, W.

WANTED, for Jan. 15 and 22, Queenie Lo Lo, in her Graceful Trapeze Act and Teeth Expert. C/o W. Simpson, 12, Buchanan-street, Leith.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle La Tosca, Artist's Model (Originator), Symmetrically Perfect, 5ft. 8½in, Draped Studies, requires May 7, follow Rochdale. Address, see Card.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, every evening, New Hippodrome, Mansfield, shortly at Liberty for home or abroad. Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Dancers, are at Liberty 22nd and Feb. 5. Wire or write, this, Palace, Tottenham; next, P. Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Monday and 22, by Sisters Ely, the Talented and Handsomely Dressed Duettists. Wire quick, Theatre Royal, Rugby.

WANTED, Known, the Five Casino Girls, Brass Instrumentalists, Jan. 15, Empire, Islington; 22nd, Barnard's, Greenwich and Woolwich. DAY'S Agency.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, another success, and re-engaged week longer, Lib. Jan. 22. Add., Circus, Hull.

WANTED, Kardoc, Handcuff King, free Jan. 22, on, with the Best Show Extant. Book it. Sure draw. (See "Card.")

WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, on, by George Ritter, vocal, musical, patter comedian. Big success, this, P. P., Portsmouth (return); next, Hippodrome, Reading.

WANTED, Jan. 15 and 22, by Will Pettitt, Musical Variety Entertainer, splendid props., smart, clean. This week, People's Palace, Scarborough. Wire.

WANTED, Engagement, by George Barr, Eccentric and Low Com. Good Songs and Musical Speciality. 95, Fentiman-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Johnnie Roland, Novelty Burlesque Entertainment, free owing to misunderstanding, Monday next, Jan. 15, also Jan. 29. Address, 99, Derby-road, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Will Belasco, Jan. 15, onward, "An interesting and novel musical act." Concludes to-night, Olympia, London. Wire for Monday, 37, Doon-street, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 15, 22, by Ben Jackson, the Lightning Trick Banjoist and Virtuoso. Positive Hit. Wire, 19, Bodfor-street, Rhyl.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. Monday, 15th, Wm. Jenkins, Baritone Vocalist, Experienced all Lines, versatility guaranteed, large répertoire. Address, WM. JENKINS, c/o Geo. Malcolm, 261, Waterloo-road, London.

WANTED, by Alf Hey, Popular Vocal Comedian, Monday next, also Jan. 22 and 29. Wire, 59, Great Jackson-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 22, by Fred Casburn, Droll Comedian, hit, Hippo., Preston. Next week, Hippo., Huddersfield. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, also Ventriloquist. Sure Success. Wire, Music Hall, Inverness.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist, Jan. 29, on. Perm., 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Monday, Sam Jesson, the Original Sheeny Man. Look out for Hums, assisted by four of the best. Wire, Bradford, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 22 and 29, by J. H. Carney, Vocal Comedian and Mimic, Knocked the Bill at Hippo., Dewsbury. Mon. next, Empire, Rochdale. Agents and Managers should see him.

WANTED, Dates, for Prof. Inman Hocking, Electric Healer, Jan. 22, and onwards. Sole Agent, J. LARDER, 22, Levington-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, immediately, active Baggageman, for Dr. Ormonde's Entertainment; sobriety indispensable. Address, with lowest terms, to Dr. ORMONDE, 5, Murieston-place, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Carl Volta, Refined Comedy Magician, Jan. 15, 22, 29, double vent. show, two big acts, suit panto. speciality. Wire, Poste Restante, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Comedian, 21, height 5ft. 10in., smart appearance, two years' experience as Partner in Knockabout and Eccentric Business. Any Capacity, Sketch, Assistant, &c. Address, Box 2,630, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 22, 29, Sardow's Marvellous Illusionists, also Marie Riviers, Queen of Song. Wire, c/o "Merrie Men," Durham.

WANTED, by Yankee Varno, Speciality Artist, and Jessie Harper, Soprano, Jan. 29. This, Market Palace, Burnley; next, Clarence M. H., Rotherham.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 5, by Syd. Herman, Hebrew Comedian, and Lil Dresden, Vocalist, one or both. Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, by Bert and Dora, Comedy Artists, Jan. 15 and 22. This week, big hit Empire, Ashton-under-Lyme, Wire or write.

WANTED, Jan. 22, on, the Mintos, Lady and Gentleman, refined musical eccentrics and vocalists, a smart act, second distinct turn if required. Address, "ROYAL REVENGE" Co., Theatre, Northwich.

WANTED, Monday next, also 22nd, The Dunvilles, Comedy Musical Act, "Les Domestiques de la Maison," Spectacular Stage Set. Wire, Theatre, Workington.

WANTED, Dates, Clark and Clare, Double-voiced vocalist and contralto, "The Tramp and Girl," novel act, combining comedy with high-class singing. 19, Morgan-st., Govanhill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Jan. 29, onwards, by Stanert and Yondi, Comedy Musical Duo. Address, this, Sadler's Wells; or, 59, Nickols-sq., Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, Monday next, and 22nd, by the Two Musical Seebolds.
Wire, Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED. Known, Sword and Robb, Comedians and Dancers, Liberty Monday and 22nd. Wire, 5, Vere-st., Birmingham. Thanks to Leo Fritz, Esq., and Albert Bushell, Esq., for return contracts.

WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, Sterling and Cashen, instrumentalists, vocalists, patterers, dancers, double, single. Offers, Victoria Theatre, Tredegar, Wales.

WANTED, by Handel and Lee, Musical Speciality, Talented Saxophonists, Jan. 29. Enormous Success, Macnaghten Tour. Palace, Blackburn; next, Tivoli, Barrow. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Original Two Eltons, Comedy Bars, Marblesque Trio, Statuary Tableaux, Lib. Jan. 15, 22. Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Monday, through Glasgow closing, also Jan. 22, 29, by Chant and Chant, Refined Comedy Vocalists. Wire for Sure Success, Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, Pollard Bros. and Kitty Grey, Speciality Act, "The Soldier, the Policeman, and the Cook," shrieks of laughter, top any bill. Hippodrome, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, The Lovelaces, Song Illustrators. Vacant Jan. 15, 22, and 29, Feb. 5, 12, and 19, and several dates onwards; second week and great success, Circus, Rochdale. Wire, Wire.

WANTED, Monday, also 22nd, by Four Abadoffs, Big Comedy Act. Wi Palace, Cork; or 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Clement Trio, Jan. 15, 22, 29, Comic Flying Trapeze Stage Act, doing four different doubles and double pirouettes. Wire, Hollydene, Hall Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hall and Burlesque Acrobatic Nippers. Monkey, and Dog. Lib. Monday, on, through hall closing. Wire, Carnival, Paisley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagements (North), by the Lennards, Cinématograph and Illustrated Songs. Other items if wanted. LENNARD, c/o Anderson, 36, Nicholson-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, by The Moncktons, Feb. 19, March 5, in Screamingly Funny Comedy Act, "A Woman's Curiosity." Next, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

WANTED, Feb. 26, for the Great Comedy Success, "The Battle of the Belles," Six Artists, Own Scenery. FRED MOULE, Tivoli, Dublin; next, Bedford M. H., Camden Town.

WANTED, for Ross Clyde's Screamers, "I Must Have It" and "My Wife's Husband," Jan. 15, 22, four artists, special scene. 51, Elizabeth-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Jan. 22 and 29, by Billy Ross and Co., great comedy act, big success, this week, Empire, Dudley. Audience still laughing. Wire.

WANTED, Galas for Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his marvellous High Ladder Act, a splendid show for Galas. LE CLAIR, Pier, Pav., Southend.

WANTED, Known, Sergt.-Major Williams's Dogs, in their Novel and most Interesting Exhibition of Canine Intelligence ever witnessed. Every dog an artist, the perfection of training. Wire, 43, Lowerhead-row, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert's Original Troupe of Dogs and Cats, including Champion Diving and Football Dogs, Sure Success, Lib. Jan. 29 and Mar. 12 (North). Add., 74, Boyson-rd., London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, Chard's Dog Circus, now the Whole Talk of Glasgow.
Wire, Hippodrome, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, with Hypnotist, Acting, Dancing, Clairvoyance under Hypnosis. QUEENIE ROYELLE, 23, Homestead-road, Fulham, London.

WANTED, Known, Cinématograph (latest model), with splendid films, and first-class Operator, Disengaged. Terms, £5 a week and fares. Show lasts forty minutes; the best on the road. Illustrated Songs by arrangement. FANT ABBOTT, 78, Charrington-street, London, N.W.

WANTED, by Operator, Place, Experienced Lime and Electric. A. and C. currents, refs. given. Letters, Box 2,649, "The Era."

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLER'S PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD).
President, Lord George Sanger.

WANTED, Known, the Annual Meeting, the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, Manchester, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1906, at 4 p.m., prompt. Speakers:—The Rev. H. Norburn, the Rev. T. Horne, Charles Howard, Esq., T. Watson Wright, Esq., and other gentlemen. Notice.—General Committee Meeting at the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, the same day, at 11 a.m. Agenda: Annual Report, Financial Statement, Nomination of Officers, and other Business. T. HURST, Hon. Sec.
T. HORNE, Organiser.

WANTED, Known, Important, Important, that the Annual General Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be Held at Headquarters, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, on Thursday next, Jan. 18, the Day after the Van Dwellers' Meeting, when there will be on the Agenda the following:—The Election of Officers for 1906, the Revision of Rules, and other business. To commence at 11 a.m., when all Members are requested to attend.
Signed, T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, TOM ORTON,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.
Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, TOM ORTON, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Known, Motor Cars, for Roundabouts, all shapes, sizes, and prices, prompt delivery, satisfaction guaranteed, very moderate prices, easy terms to responsible people if required. We are making a speciality of showmen's business in all its branches.
Repairs and alterations to machinery carried out quickly and cheaply. We undertake to carry out ideas for novelties of all descriptions. No patents infringed. PHŒNIX CARRIAGE Co., Aston-road, Birmingham. Sole representative, Mr. Albert Brandon.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

Patent No. 252,351. 1905.

WANTED, Known, by Every Roundabout Proprietor, that
SAVAGE AND CO.
have taken Stanley Works, New North-road, London, N.,
the same Works formerly carried on by
Alf. Bedford, Carver and Gilder,
where they are manufacturing motor cars for switchbacks and every kind of roundabouts at reasonable, and not exorbitant prices.
Remember, we are the Descendants of the Original Inventor,
F. Savage, late of King's Lynn.
Repairs of Every Description Connected with the Trade.
Note our only Address,
Oxford-road, New North-road, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Properties. Ball Box joint (double), complete, 80s.; Football joint, 60s.; Cocoanut joint, 80s.; Puncher and Lifter, 80s. each; Switchback Skittle Board, 60s.; Avery Weighing Chair, 100s.; Weight and Height Machine, 60s.; 3-section Striker, complete, 60s. STACEY, Settles-street, E.

Move with the times, or get left.

WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. We make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time. Send for catalogue and testimonials,
MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co.,
120, York-road, King's Cross,
London.

WANTED, Showmen and others requiring Hand-painted Posters, 6ft. square, 2s., attractive. Sample Letters, 3d. SHEARING, 8, Eldon-parade, Lordship-lane, Wood Green, N.

WANTED, Known, all Kinds of Automatic Machines, Models, &c., Repaired on the Shortest Notice. HOLT, 16, Station-avenue, Prittlewell, Essex.

OBSERVE.
OLYMPIA (LONDON) WINTER GARDENS,
Open Every Evening. Matinées Thurs. and Sat.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
A Few High-class Novel Side-shows.
Remember, Novelty is Necessary.
Good Positions for Stalls.
To Let, to Good Sound Firms Only.
Letters only, with full particulars, absolute terms, to MANAGER, Café Chantant Theatre, Olympia.

TRADES EXHIBITION, WIMBLEDON,
Jan. 27 to Feb. 10.

WANTED, Small Side-show, for Room 18ft. square. JONES, 59, Alexandra-rd., Wimbledon.

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER GENERAL TRADES EXHIBITION, TOWN HALL,
Saturday, Jan. 27, to Saturday, Feb. 3, inclusive.
Admission Free by Programme, 1d.

WANTED, High-class Side Show. Address, MANAGER, Exhibition, Assembly Rooms, Bath.

WANTED, Novelties, for Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. I can Book you for two months.
Write at once,
HUMBER,
Permanent Waxwork, 112, George-st., Aberdeen.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

'Tis not in Mortals to Command Success,
But I'll do more—deserve it. My ambition is to please you.—Namron.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Norman wishes to publicly thank Lord George Sanger, the World's Greatest Showman, for his great kindness in favouring him with his instructions to Sell by Public Auction the well-known Menagerie, &c., at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, also his World-renowned Circus Plant, at his Private Residence, Park Farm, East Finchley, London; likewise for the two following letters, which will always be retained and looked upon with great pride, in giving me the satisfaction of having conducted undoubtedly the largest, grandest, and most popular auction sale of its kind in the world, and for the Grand Old Man of the Showman World :—

Park Farm,
East Finchley,
London, N.W.
Sept. 18, '05.

TOM NORMAN, ESQ.,
Dear Sir,
Allow me to express my entire satisfaction of the way you disposed of the animals at the Hall-by-the-Sea, and I have no doubt that I shall be able to find you another job upon a larger scale shortly. I herewith enclose you cheque for your amount.

Yours very truly,
G. SANGER.

Park Farm,
East Finchley,
London, N.W.
Nov. 28, 1905.

DEAR NORMAN,
Enclosed you will find cheque £256, in full settlement of your account for services rendered during your great sale here. I must express my full and entire satisfaction at the excellent manner in which you carried the sale through, and I may go further and say that a great many people have made enquiries of me asking who was the man that sold the circus, mostly finishing with the words, "He knew his business," or remarks to that effect.

With best wishes,
Yours truly,
G. SANGER.

Mr. Tom Norman,
The Silver King.

I also wish to sincerely thank the under-mentioned for their great and valuable assistance and courtesy to me during the above Sales :—
Arthur Reeves, Esq., Mrs. Reeves, Messrs. Martin, Austin, Hickey, the Stud Groom, and all the Household, not forgetting Mr. Charles Evans, Manager, and Staff, at Margate. My triumphs as an auctioneer since I started seven-and-a-half years ago have indeed been great in all parts of the United Kingdom, but none so great as the one that I now proudly acknowledge, and I have two sons who already bid fair to be capable of taking up the reins in case of emergency.
I do my own auctioneering, and believe I do it well.

N.B.—Those showmen, travellers, and friends who intend favouring me with entries for my Annual Auction Sale, which takes place after the Showmen's Meeting at the Agricultural Hall, on grounds in close proximity, will please forward same early, so as to secure good position in Catalogue. Address, Auction Office, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Good Novelties, with Paintings, to open Monday. Good money for good show. Wire, SPINCH, 18, Chrisp-street, Poplar, London.

WANTED, Living Novelties of every description; also Tattooist; good window flash or useless. Frank Marwood write. F. DURLAND, Exhibition, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED, to Travel with Bostock and Wombwell's Royal No. 1 Menagerie, a Good Living Novelty; long engagement and living waggon supplied. Address,
E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo, Glasgow.

WANTED, Novelties, with good flash, best shop in London, last week Lucas Troupe, great success; this week, Nicholas the Strong and Lady Wrestlers, doing big business.
Apply, FRED WILLIAMS, Manager for Madam Amelia's Exhibition, 15, Beresford-square, Woolwich, London. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, with good window flash, best position. Wire for Monday, Whatman wire. MANAGER, 120, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, First-class Living Freaks and Attractions, also Smart Lady Palmist. Apply, DIRECTOR, Pickard's Waxworks, Glasgow.

WANTED, Quick Showing Freaks and Novelties, for Maxwell's Exhibition, Reading. Wire for Monday or future dates, MAXWELL'S Exhibition, Oxford-street, Reading.

WANTED, Male and Female Midgets, for Side Show, in Trades Exhibition, March 12, week. Terms, 55%. State height and full particulars, HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Ltd., Bridlington.

WANTED, High-class Lady Palmist that understands her Business, to Travel. Terms, share. BAINES'S Grand Waxwork Exhibition, Snargate-street, Dover.

WANTED, Useful People for Popular Studios making a Speciality of Stamps, Married Couple for Management, Youths as Improvers, &c. Good money and regular employment. Apply with references to REGINALD INNES, 82, Freeman-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Auction.—Smart Assistant Hand-seller or Auctioneer can obtain work on commission, Saturday night's sale, crockery, china, swag. LINDSLEY, Auctioneer, 31, Shields-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Established 1894. Nat. Tel. 2425.

WANTED, Steady Man, used to a Waxwork Exhibition, one that can clean wax. Those that wrote before please write again. Addresses mislaid. SYLVESTRE, 50, Ladywell-park, Lewisham.

WANTED, Man and Wife, to Find and Work Marionettes; must be good show; one month, longer if suitable. No fancy price; money sure. E. CRECRAFT, Bioscope, Mardy, Glam.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Animated Pictures, Marionettes; also Royal Punch and Judy, with Dog Toby. 101A, Penwith-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, to Share with Showman, with large Booth, good Front and Stage, for one of the finest troupes of Dogs in England, owned by a well-known performer.
Treat with First-Class Shows only.
6, Hyde Park-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, the Original Saxo, having just concluded two years' successful tour with his Great Strong Show, at Liberty, good draw, paintings. Wire for Monday, 121, Jubilee-street, Stepney, London. Managers send dates. Distance no object.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Fêtes, Galas, an Ideal Act of Strength, Ajax, the Modern Hercules. Address, 23, Foxley-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Animal Trainer would undertake to Train a Troupe for a Salary or Partnership. Box 2,643, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man, Berth with Animal Trainer, experienced.
Box 2,642, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Le Neve thanks those that answered advertisement re Wrestlers. All settled at present. Agricultural Hall, London.

To Showmen.—Belfast.
WANTED, to Let, within about 100yds. of Royal Avenue, the leading street in Belfast, about 2,000 square yards Vacant Ground, with frontages to Library-street and Union-street. Apply to PROPRIETORS, Belfast Evening Telegraph.

WANTED, to Let, Few Spaces, Games, Stalls, &c., rent 10s. week. Enormous success, two weeks more, Arcadia, Zoo and Exhibition, Drill Hall, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Spaces to Let, in the Original Touring Trades Exhibition, for gold and silver plating, handkerchief embroidery, or any other novelties, opening at Aberdare, Jan. 15, 1906. Apply, CHAS. COOKSON, New Market Hall, Aberdare.

WANTED, Known, Spaces to Let, in the Bridlington Ninth Annual Trades Exhibition, six days, March 12.
HAGUE,
Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Fair Ground is the Only Place of Outdoor Entertainment and Attraction in Blackpool. Situated at South Shore, next the Promenade. The Electric Trams run right to it. Finest Position in the Town. The land faces the sea, and has a frontage of over 500yds. The Permanent Attractions now installed include the River Caves of the World, the Maxim Flying Machine, Helter Skelter, &c. Native Village Wanted. Room for New Attractions next Season. 14, Balmoral-road.

EXHIBITION.
WANTED, Known, the Largest Free Exhibition ever organised, Opens at Winter Gardens, Blackpool, Feb. 13-23, by the Oldest and Leading Syndicate Touring Exhibition. Address, promptly, please, MANAGER, 120, Davenport-street, Macclesfield.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Cinématograph Show, 31 by 41, with Gavioli Paper Organ. WARD, 29, Alexandra-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, for all Kinds of Shows, Gray's Switchback open on the ground. ARTHUR BURGESS, Trafalgar-place, Upper Edmonton.

WANTED, Known, Ye Olde London Touring Exhibition (Scenic), Irish Tour, commencing Assembly Rooms, Cork, Feb. 13 to 24, Visiting all the Principal Towns throughout Ireland. Six months' tour. Can Book Spaces as under for this Tour :—Sketch artist, handkerchief embroidery, gold wire jewellery, monograms, pens and pencils, electric engraving, electric plating, glove cleaner, knife cleaners, music, Daisy needle, or any other novelty; also Vacancy for a novel and up-to-date Side Show and Working Ant Show. Apply immediately to MANAGER, Exhibition, St. John's Rooms, Winchester.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, Stalls, Aërial Flight, Swings, Roundabouts, Helter Skelter, &c. Palmist write immediately. MANAGER, Theatre, Musselburgh, Scotland.

WANTED, to Let or Share, Spaces in Large Premises (admission free, open Sundays), for Games, Models, Side-shows, Stalls, Anything and Everything. Good Business being done. Apply, 150, Seven Sisters-road, N.

WANTED, Known.—All Parties requiring Ground for Exeter Easter Fair, in the Old Fair Field, Love Fair in May, Redruth Fair Whit. Monday. Poole, and Hayle, and others en route, apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Cinématograph Exhibitors, and Entertainers, to Let, for any part of winter months (unlicensed for music), large hall, Balham, rear Balham Empire, size 100ft. by 35ft., fireproof building, balcony all round, seats 600, gas, installations, complete. Particulars, DICKESON, 15, Laitwood-rd., Balham.

WANTED, to Let, Large Shop, Previous to Alterations, Best Position in Hull, suit Auction or Show. LEWENDONS', Estate Agents, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Le Neve thanks those that answered advertisement re Wrestlers. All settled at present. Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Living Van, Road or Rail, 10ft. 6in. long, in excellent condition, all inside fittings plated, American cooking range, wardrobe, table, with drawers, lockers, cupboard, sleeping accommodation, skylight length of top, &c., easily drawn by one horse, just newly renovated. Will accept £25; recently cost £75. A. BARNES, Bridge-street, Belper, Derby.

WANTED, to Sell, Great Bargain, Excellent Modern 6 n.h.p. Compound Showman's Road Locomotive, by Burrell, Mounted on Springs, practically new Firebox, and everything in splendid condition. Apply, CHARLES D. PHILLIPS,
Emlyn Engineering Works, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, to Sell, Showman's Road Living Waggon, 16ft. by 7ft., every comfort for living and sleeping, £40. BARRON, High Mill-rd., Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, to Sell, Biograph Show, complete, with Travelling and Living Waggons. Cost £400; price £170. Genuine. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Rail Living Carriage, Good Condition, and must be sold quick. JONES, Fair Ground, Astley Bridge, Bolton.

WANTED, to Sell, Kemp's Grand Double Waggon Front, the most Elaborate Front in the World, practically New. Will those who wrote me, please write again, or see me in London? KEMP, Fair Ground, Bolton.

WANTED, to Sell, one Set of Roundabouts, the Largest Travelling, 52ft. in diameter, engine by Savage, King's Lynn, 14 sections, 48 horses and birds, 6 double-seated cars, overhead motion, twisted brass rods and pillars, 5 wagons, working up to Jan. 6; also another Set, smaller, engine by Savage, overhead motion, 56 horses and birds, complete with trucks.
The above, belonging to the Trust Estate of John White, Amusement Caterer.

Offers to, and particulars from,
EDWARD COWAN,
Solicitor, 4, High-street, Dundee; or,
WM. LAWSON CLARK,
Accountant, Whitehall Chambers, Dundee.

WANTED, to Sell, Organ Truck (Rail), 18ft. long, 6ft. wide, a well one end, 12ft. long, for Organ, and a space over lock end, 6ft. square, Carved and Gilded where required, built by Orton, of Burton; would suit Roundabout Frame or Show Front. Now being used on my Show.

Cheap. For price, apply,
KEMP, Fair Ground, Bolton.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Slot Machines, Large Assortment. Now you can buy Bargains at STACEY'S, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Storey's Fine Art Exhibition, equal to new, can be seen open at Agricultural Hall, London, during World's Fair. Recently decorated by W. Giles and Son, Burton.

WANTED, to Sell, Butterscotch and Fortunes, 3s. per gross. Late GREEVES and Co., Leicester; now, GRAHAM and Co., 7, Banbury-street, Watford.

WANTED, to Sell, the New Toboggan Slides, shown at the World's Fair, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Arcadia, Portsmouth, achieved the biggest success at both places, can be put up in 2, and taken down in 1½ hours. A gold mine at the seaside or fairs. No trouble, only taking the money. LARCHER, 30, Pimlico-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell Cheap, Gavioli's full size Five-figured Organ, on Truck; also Engine to drive same, good condition. Would sell separately. HENRY REYNOLDS, Broseley, Salop.

WANTED, to Sell, Ball Punchers, Guessing Scales, and all kinds other automatic machines. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Pony Set of Roundabouts, complete, and single shooting tube gallery, cheap. H. STRUDWICK, Burton Latimer.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Large Set of Swings, nearly new, would exchange for small set of swings; also large peepshow glasses, 7in. lenses, with boards, cheap. KITSON, The Evicted Carnival Show Ground, Reed-st., W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, I have for Sale Miles of Good Films, from 1d. a foot, first come, first served. KEMP, Fair Ground, Bolton.

WANTED, to Sell, Bosco Photo Machine, Flashlight, Automatic Action. Cost £60; price to clear, £6, bargain. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Waxworks, forty figures, complete, with scenery and drapery, splendid wax, noted figures. Sacrifice to clear. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Piano Organ, complete, £4; Hot-air Engine, £5; Fish Pond, and joint, complete, £9, cost £18. STACEY, Settles-st., London, E.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, the Well-known Organ and Front of Randall Williams' Great Show.

The Magnificent Organ,
89 Keys, by Gavioli,
with Two Entrances.

Size of Organ with Entrances, 38 feet;
Also Six Boxes of Up-to-date Music.

This
is
the
Best
Organ
in
England
To-day.

Wind up Truck for Same
to go by Rail or Road,
with Stages, Steps, &c.

The Entire Front of
This Grand Show
to be Sold
at a Great Sacrifice
to the
First Reasonable Offer.

Cash
or
Easy Terms.

For Particulars,
Apply,
MONTE BROS.,
Howcrofts Works,
West Hartlepool.

WANTED, to Sell, Great Novelty, Part Horse, Part Camel, 3 years old, good worker, £8; worth £15 to pull Living Waggon. 150, Seven Sisters-road, N.

WANTED, to Purchase, Waxwork or Variety Business, in permanent position. Particulars, A. E. PICKARD, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Le Neve thanks those that answered advertisement re Wrestlers. All settled at present. Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Known.—Will Mr. Harry Bailey (Ghost Show) please write me, or will someone let me know his address? KEMP, Fair Ground, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed, according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, to Sell, Happy Home, Cheap, Six Furnished Rooms. Going to America. Dunedin Troupe, 35, Walcot-square (off Kennington-road), London, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, or Let on Hire, good-class Films, low hire rates. THE MICROGRAPH CO., LTD., 7, Great Queen-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, 20,000ft. of Films, majority good as new; must be cleared, from 1d. per foot. POOLE, Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, to Sell, Shetland Ponies, all colours, from £5 5s. to £15, delivered free in any part of England direct from breeders. Inspection invited from JAMES HUNTER, Stome, Whiteness, Shetland; or Headquarters, Great Central Pony Repository, 6,810, Jackson's-row, Manchester. Over 600 imported yearly. Stage Horses, Jumpers, and Ponies always on hand. Apply, 8 Jackson's-row, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, the Cleverest Talking and Trick Pony in existence, does everything, original tricks, harness. JOE PORTER, Chequers, Dorchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Bioscopes, Steady, Flickerless, mechanism, base, lantern, lenses, spools, in case, £16. Best value in the trade. THOMASSIN, Engineer, Streatham.

WANTED, to Sell, Shetland Ponies, Pair Skewbalds, 34in; bays, 40in; and large selection all colours, heights, and lowest prices. G. STEPHEN, Braehead, Ferryhill, Aberdeen.

WANTED, to Sell, Blondin Donkeys, Woven Wolves, Monkeys, Cats, Dogs, Harlequin Dresses, Cows, Baby Elephants, Leg Paddings, Masks, &c., cheap. B. MAYERS, Maker, 22, Shepperton-road, Islington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Beautiful Dresses, and other superior second-hand clothing. Catalogue free. DUPONT, 68, Grand-parade, Harringay, London, N.

WANTED, to Sell, Six Vent. Figures, good as new, £3 the lot; also Dress Basket, 8s.
VENTO, Post Office, Grays, Essex.

WANTED, to Sell, Pair Stage Electric Arc Light-boxes, with Lamps, Cable and Coloured Glasses, complete, little used, 70s. Box 2,646, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Woven Animal Dresses, Paddings, Tights, Opera Hose, in all Materials. Lowest Prices. H. J. BOXALL, 166, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

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WANTED, Known.—Should this meet the eye of any Professionals who were travelling from Barrow on Sunday, Dec. 31, Ada Gatley lost a Hamper. Anyone having seen the same, will they kindly give information. 149, Waldegrave-road, Preston, Brighton.

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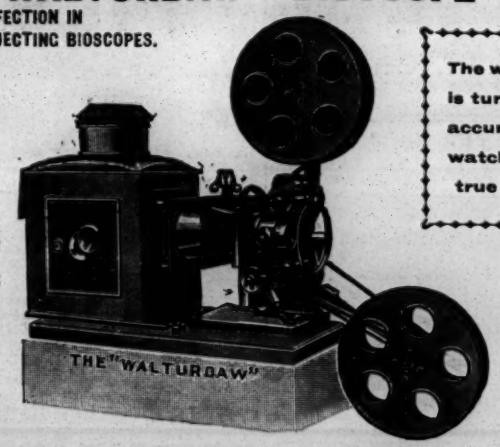

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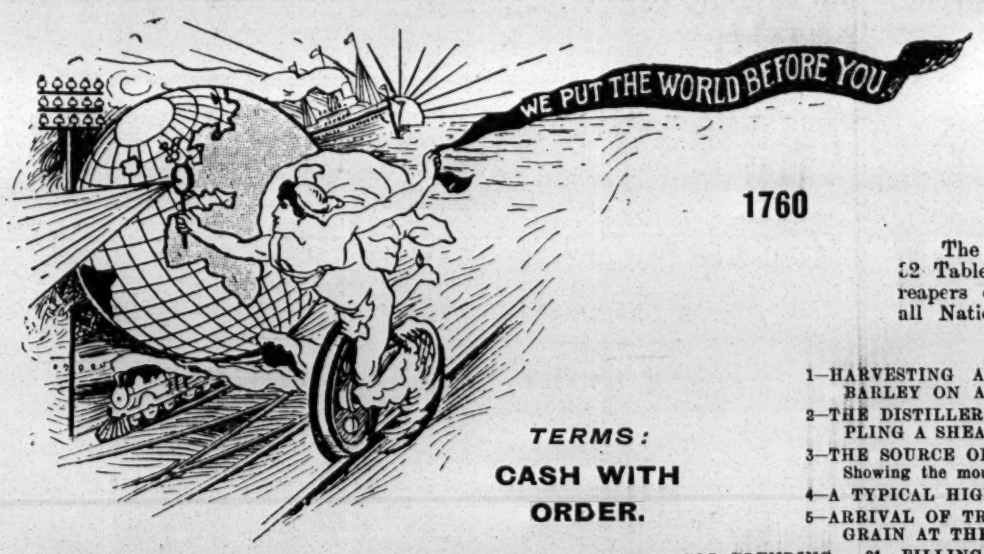

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Rehearsal at 2 for
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ESTABLISHED JAN. 4, 1879.

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Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines.

ARMENDO BROS., Two, Comedy Acrobats. Success on Broadhead's Tour. Lib. Mon., 15th, 2 weeks. Offers. Met., Openshaw.

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ABEL and WELSH, Cirque Medrano, Paris.

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ALBINI, London's Society Comedian and Mystery Merchant, on a Laughing Mission, Granville, Walham Green. Fifth Return.

ALBINI, BLANCHE, Big Success, this week, Hippodrome, Hastings; next, Hippodrome, Eastbourne; next vacancy, Jan. 22.

ALDRIDGE, ARTHUR, The Phenomenal Tenor. Palace, Halifax. See Back Page.

ALETHEA, The graceful Lady Contortionist and Gymnast. Return, London Pavilion, Jan. 15, Five Weeks.

ALEX and JOLLY, First-class Comedy 3-Bar Act. Palace, Portsmouth.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company, Empire, Stratford.

ALMAR and OSTIEER, Triple Bars, Flying Rings, two turns, Liberty Monday, Wire, 37, Upper March, Lambeth, London.

ALMERO, Aerial Norwegian Spar and Smart Wire Act. Success Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Open for Galas; the Right Acts.

ALVANTEE, King of Slanting Wire, Opens Monday, Palace of Varieties, Swansea. Liberty 22nd or Later, England or Abroad or Galas.

AMEDA, MDLLE., Refined Novelty Entertainer, Panto., this week, Grand T., Rawtenstall. Next, T., Longton.

AMERICAINES, LES BELLES, This week, Grand Theatre, Derby; next, Royal Theatre, Preston. Agent, H. DAY.

ARAYAMA, The Japanese Wonder. Jan. 15, Pavilion, Southport.

ARIZONA TROUPE, Acrobatic Tumblers, Jugglers, and Foot Equilibrists. Theatre Royal, Warrington.

ASHDOWN, PERCY, Author, Composer, and Arranger. First-class work only. Lyric House, 1, Holland-street, Brixton, S.W.

ASHLEY BROS. "Next, Please." Argyle, Birkenhead. 15th, Empire, Dudley. G. BARCLAY, and FORTUNE and GRANVILLE.

ASTLEY BROS. and **FREDA TUDOR,** Comedians and Male Impersonator. Big Success Panto., "Aladdin." Jan. 15, T. R., Leigh.

ATHLONES, THE, Refined Athletes. This, Hippo., Hull; next, Tivoli, Leeds. At Liberty, Jan. 22 and 29.

ATLAS and the Beautiful **MISS VULCANA**, the Society Athletes. World's Greatest Artists. T. R., Oldham. ATLAS Agency.

ATORAS, Comedy Athletes, Packing Houses, in London (moving), Vac 15th and 22nd. 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

AUBREY, STAN (late Stan Martell, of Bennett and Martell), Panto., Jordison's "Cinderella." Jan. 15, Hippo., Preston.

AUSTIN, RUMBO. Resting, at 123, Kennington-road, S.E. Jan. 22, Empire, Bristol.

BACCHUS, WILL, Coster Comedian, Big Success, in New Songs. This, Pav., Leicester; next, Palace, Bradford.

BAKER and BALFE, Zoo, Hippodrome, Glasgow.

BANCROFT, HARRY, Terrific Success on Tour. Jan. 29, Chelsea Palace.

BANDONI, Original Concertina King One Man Band. Circus, Paisley. Monday, Return, Tivoli, South Shields.

BANZAI-PAREZ MUSICAL TROUPE, Victoria Hall, Weston. Next, Jubilee Hall, Weymouth. Perm., 151 Knutsford-rd., Warrington.

BAROUX and BION, "Robinson Crusoe." Opera House, Leicester.

BARRETT and KNOWLES, Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Agents, TOM SHAW and Co. "Are we Downhearted? No!"

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, The smart and successful pair. Hip., Preston. 15th Palace, Lancaster.

BARTLETT, ROSE, Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

BARTON, MARIE, Tyrolean and Operatic Vocalist. Success Grand, Bolton. Requires Feb. 12 or 19. 124, London-rd., Sheffield.

BAWN'S AGENCY, 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. 'Phone, 1178 Battersea. Tels., "Orderless, London."

BAYNE and HOPE (RONALD and EVELYN), in "An Emperor's Divorce." Jan. 15, Palace, Bath.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, Monday next, Empire, Wrexham.

BEATRICE, SISTERS, This, Palace, Tottenham; next, P. P., Portsmouth (Second Return). At Lib. Jan. 22 and Feb. 5. Wire or write.

BELFORD and MARS, The Postman and The Slavey. Finish tonight, P., Accrington; next, G. T., Rawtenstall.

BELL, CHARLES H., Comedian, Great Success with Herbert Darnley's Company. Next week, Empress, Brixton.

BELL, THE H. LESLIE, and **LILLY PEARL CO.,** presenting "A Bit of String," Jan. 15, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BELLA, MISS PATTIE, Principal Boy, "Forty Thieves." Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

BELLONG BROS., Pantomime with Mr. Milton Bode. Free March and April.

BELLONINI, W., On Tour. Agent, SIDNEY HYMAN.

BELROSE, GEO, & MAUD DE VELIN, Speciality Duettists and Soloists. Avenue T. Panto., Sunderland. Few Vacancies.

BENET, MR. HARRY, Proprietor Alhambra, Sandgate. Artists communicate FRED DURHAM'S Agency.

BENNETT and MARTELL, the Original Team. Metropole Theatre, Oppenshaw, Manchester.

BENT, HARRY, & CARLOTTA LUNN, Starring. Last week, Empire, Rochdale. Monday, Address Westminster, Liverpool.

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BERNARD, GEO., Modern Vocal Actor. "Now" is yours; "Then," may never be. Bow-wow. Monday. Empire Palace, Oldbury.

BERNARDO, Comedy Juggler, Theatre, Tyldesley. One good turn deserves another (return date).

BERRICK, TOM, Original Black Tit-bit. Concludes Avenue, Morpeth; Circus (Tudor's), Blyth. Vac. Jan. 15, 22. Offers invited.

BERT and DORA, Comedy Artists, Big Success, Empire, Ashton-u-Lyne. Wanted, Monday, Jan. 15. Wire or write.

BEST, CHAS. F., as MacBunker, the Mountebank. Palace, Derby.

BEVERLEY, NORA, With Mr. Gar Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Co. Jan. 15, Lyceum, Sheffield.

BLANCHE and DIACOFF, World's Premier Cyclists; India, India, India. Address, C/o 86, Hornsby-rd., Bombay.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Conclude Birchmore Minstrels. Vac. 15th and 22nd. 1, Sandringham-buildings, Charing Cross-rd.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. Next Week, Palace, Glasgow. G. and F. PEEL.

BLYTHE, MARIE, the Successful Contralto. Jan. 15, Hippo., Ashton-under-Lyne. Agents, S. M. HYMAN, LTD.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL & MADGE), Instrumentalists. The Palace, Bordesley; next, Empire, New Cross. GEO. FOSTER.

BON BONS, THE, the Original Comedy Acrobatic Trampolin Trap Scene. Harry Bon-Bon's Comedy Troupe.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, En route to South Africa. Agents, T. SHAW and Co.

BOSANQUET, Great Success, Flora, Hamburg. This week, Hippodrome, Wigan. Cheered to the echo. Jan. 15, Empress, Brixton.

BOULTONS, THE, and MDLLE BARTENELLI. Grand Theatre, Woolwich, S.E. Vacant Sept. 16 onwards.

BOWERY BOYS, THE, SKETCH CO., in "Mixed," a smart new act, Vacant April 2, on. Panto., Grand T., Leeds.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Hippo., Stoke; Monday, Empire, Northampton.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy. Permanent, 8, Lime-street, Hull.

BRADLEY and TRUMAN can Recommend Mrs. Salts' Apartments, 124, Haviland-road, Boscombe. Red Lion, Costock, Notts.

BRADY, JAMES, Tivoli Theatre, Grimsby.

BRAY, LOTTIE, Speciality Artist. Usual Sucess, E., Paisley. Monday Next, Hippodrome, Accrington.

BREWSTERS, THE, Novel Speciality Act. Hippodrome, Paris.

BRIGHT, LUIE O., Irish Com. and Dancer. Vac. Jan. 15 and 22. C/o Pringle, 27 Taylor-st., Townhead, Glasgow.

BRONSON SISTERS, Enormous Success in Mr. Peter Davey's Panto. "Puss in Boots." This week, Folkestone; Next, Eastbourne.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), Enormous Success, Second Boy and Girl, Prince's Theatre, Bradford. Encored nightly.

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BROWNIE, SISTERS, Dandini and Ugly Sister, R. A. P. Williams's Panto. Jan. 15, T., Dunfermline. Offers invited.

BUCKINGHAM, STEVE, Versatile Vocalist. Coms., 1, Henstridge Villas, St. John's Wood, London.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE, "Ye Brown Cow Inn," Coms., The Lodge, Quinton, near Birmingham.

BURNELLS, Panto, "Cinderella," Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham. Get together, Boys, Get together.

BURTON'S AGENCY, Fargate, Sheffield, Artists, Managers, Requiring good useful diary date book, send P.O. 1/1.

BUSH, MISS SADIE, Contralto Vocalist, Fairy Godmother, "Cinderella." Jan. 15, Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.

CABAN'S Marvellous Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs. Palace of Varieties, Boston.

CADLE'S AGENCY, 105 and 106, Strand. Telephone No. 1975. Gerrard.

CAINE, ANDIE, "Humorous History," Francis, Day, and H. Panto., Principal Comedian, Grand, Fulham.

CAMBO, The Musical Monkey. Liberty Monday. Wire, Music Hall, Inverness.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjurer. Success with New Act. Jan. 15, Grand, Sheffield. SLEY.

CARDEN and ZESCH (The Carigatis), Big Success, Elephant and Castle Theatre. Pantomime Agent, FRANK WEATHERSBY.

CARL and CARR, the Great Comedians, in "Fun Outside the Workhouse." Success Grand Opera H., Middlesbrough. (See Big Advt.).

CARLTON, HENRY, in his High-class Success, "One Night Only." Palace, Lancaster (return),

CARNEY, J. H., a Comedian and Vocalist. This, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, E., Rochdale. At Lib. 22nd and 29th.

CARNEY, TOM, Hippodrome, Coventry, Finish to-night. At Liberty Jan. 15 and 22. Address, 13, Hollingsworth-street, Holloway, N.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), presenting "Any Old Thing You Like," "Hot or Cold." Broadhead's Hippo., Bury.

CELLOS, THE TWO, Refined and Genuine Musical Entertainers, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

CHALLIS, FLORENCE, Tremendous Success in Australia with Monologues and Songs; returning home in Jan.

CHANDOS, THE TWO, Lib. Monday, 15th and onwards. Refined Comedy, Musical Act. Wire, or write, 55, Kenbury-st., Camberwell.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS, No Act could be a greater Success. Hippodrome, Glasgow. Vacant Monday.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE & EDIE), Bâton Manipulators, Duettists, and Dancers. Big Success Albert. Mon., Alhambra, Sandgate.

CHESTER and LEE'S Marionettes, Monday, Barnard's, Greenwich. No immediate vacancies.

CHEVALIER, MISS FLO, Vocalist and Comedienne, Concludes most Successful Week, Alhambra, Brighton; Monday, Palace, Glasgow.

CHIRGWIN, Resting, for Two Weeks.

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, the Five Feet of Versatility, now Touring North. Communications to 12, The Crofts, Rotherham, Yorks.

CLAVER and PICCOLO, Sensational Equilibrist and Juggler. Jan. 15, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant Jan. 22, 29, Feb.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, As a "Baby," and other people. Big Success. The Bedford.

CLEVELANDS, THE, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells. America August.

CLIFF and KEAN Finish To-night, Pal., Dundee. Monday next, return, Empire, Paisley, after four weeks' absence.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Versatile Comedian and Eccentric Dancer. Successful numbers Palace, Portsmouth, two weeks, Sixth Return.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLLINS, GEO., The Quaint Comedian, 14, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, London, S.E.

CONLIN, HARRY, and **ROSIE COLEMAN.** 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, London.

COOKE, STEVE, Prince's, Portsmouth. Thanks to the Girls and Boys "Cinderella" Co. for Kindness.

CORDELIA, Luminous Danseuse; also Fairy Godmother, H. Barrs', Esq., "Cinderella." Theatre Royal, Hyde.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, Star (third date); next, The London (ninth date).

COSTELLO, BROS., Comedy Acrobats and Legmania Artists and Patter Comedians. This, People's Pal., Portsmouth.

COTTERELL, SID, and CO., In the Great Comedy Success, "The Substitute," Panto., Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

COUSSELL and MILLS, "Musical Playlets," Moss-Stoll Tour. Empire, Hackney. Monday, Empire, Holloway.

COVERDALE, CHAS., Baron Acres and Grotesque Charity Footballist, "Cinderella" Pantomime, Belfast.

COWPERS, THE, "Missus' Double." Re Dates. Coliseum, London.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. c/o "The Era."

CRANKS, ORIGINAL, Comical, Whimsical, Trick Cyclists. Vac. Jan. 16, 23. Perm., 19, Alexandra-road, Manchester.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Stanley's Transformation Co., Jan. 22, Argyle, Birkenhead.

CROSS, JOLLY CRISS, the Popular Girl, Next Week, Hippo., Wakefield. At Lib. Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, Coms., Direct.

CULLEN and CARTHY, and **LITTLE CLULEY.** Enormous Success, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack; **ADA JENNER,** Captain Cable, Huge Success, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

DAINTON, MAUD, COMEDY CO., In Screaming Sketch, "Selina." Palace, Bristol, week. Vac. Jan. 22.

DALTON'S AGENCY, Wanted, Big Acts of all kinds. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

D'ALVO, SISTERS, Speciality Dancers and Vocalists, New Songs, by Harrington and Le Brunn. This, Tivoli, Grimsby; next, Vacant.

DANBYS, THE, Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood." Vacant 1906-7. Offers. Grand Theatre, Nelson.

DANIELS, THE TWO, a Darkie's Holiday, on Tour ("Beauty and Beast"). Offers invited. 63, Sherbourne-road, Birmingham.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, the Lady with a Voice. Always a success. This, Palace, Grimsby; next, Palace, Attercliffe.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). Metropole T., Gateshead, Jan. 15.

DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and MAY), Big Success, Title-rôle and Dandini, Pardoe's "Cinderella." Next, T. R., Ilkeston.

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. Always Vacancies for stars. Tele. 712 Brixton.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE, Jan. 15, Tivoli, Manchester.

DE GRUCHY'S "Britannia" Bioscopes, Success, The Circus, Hull. 2 weeks. Permanent address, Craigie-street, Glasgow.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA. Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Wonderful Cockatoos. Surrey Theatre, London, S.E.

DELEVINES, THE, in Original Comedy, "The Bell Inn." Euston Music Hall.

DENBY and DENT, Pantomime Success. Gaiety Theatre, Leith, N.B. Free for 1906-7.

DENHAM, MILLIE, the Sprightly Burlesque Actress. Tremendous Success this week, P., Glasgow; Mon., Hippo., Huddersfield.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy. Malicio. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Prince's T., Portsmouth.

DE VENA, MDLLE., the Queen of Clubs, a Unique Juggling Act, Hippodrome, Dewsbury. Monday, Ohmy's Circus, Leigh, Lancs.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week, Grand, Bolton.

DIAMOND, HARRY, Comedian and Dancer. Relinquished panto., illness. Pleased to hear from Friends. 30 Gilmour-st., Glasgow.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Very great, "Jock from Kilmarnock." Metropole, Manchester; Monday, Var., Leeds.

DIXONS, TWO, Empire P., Dudley. Sole Agent, DE VERE.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Refined Vocalists. Genuine Success. Mon., King's, Kirkcaldy. H. DAY.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, Jan. 15, Pavilion, Leicester. Should like to hear from friends any time.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, The Factory Nightingales. Originality and ability. Mon., return, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

DOMINOS, TWO, Clown and Donkey, Educated Talking Arabian Donkey. Lib., March 5. Cook's Circus, Edinburgh.

DONANS, LOS, Gymnasts, Big Success, This, Hippo., Wakefield; next, return, Hippo., Dewsbury. Perm, 11, Derby-st., Hulme, Manchester.

DONNA and CLIFF, Monday next, Palace, Lancaster. "Everybody Works but Father."

DORMER, DAISY, Principal Girl, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Singing Maiden. Monday, Jan. 15, Empire, Leeds.

DOYLE and GIBSON, Comedians, Mr. John Walters' Panto. Next, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

D'S THE TWO (DOROTHY and DORA), New Act in Active Rehearsal. Address, c/o "The Era."

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Comedienne and Dancer, Jan. 15, Bijou Empire, Hull. 11, Arnold-street, Liverpool.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Comedians, Continued Success, "Broker's Men." Next, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

DUNEDIN TROUPE, Going to America. For Sale, Happy Home, cheap, Six Furnished Rooms. 35, Walcot-square, Kennington-rd.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, Griffin and Drake's Panto., "Cinderella," Albert T., Brighouse; next, Q. T., Gateshead-on-Tyne.

EDISON, CONNIE, the Lady Electrician, in her Latest Speciality Act. Disengaged Feb. 17. 22, Penton-street, N.

ELCOCK, AMY, and **FLORRIE ST. ROY.** Great success Woolwich. Vac. Monday (few weeks). 1, Castle-st., Stoke Newington, N.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast; also **LA BELLE TOSCA,** Two or Three Acts, Vacant Jan. 29, on. Add., 30, G. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELGARS, THE ORIGINAL (WALTER and ELLA), Operatic Scena and Speciality Duettists. Next, Parthenon, Liverpool. No vacs.

ELLA'S, MISS, Best existing Lion Show. Empire, Stratford.

ELLIOTT, MADGE, Success, Palace, Lancaster. All communications to Sole Business-Manager, B. DELMAR, 29, Lorn-road, Brixton.

ELLIOTT, THE ORIGINAL SILLY BILLY. Great success in Panto., "Cinderella," Avenue T., Sunderland. "Its' a nice day."

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Jan. 15, Victoria Theatre, Stanley.

ELLISON, J. W., the Popular Light Comedian. Next, Hippo., Hull. All coms. to sole agent, BENTLEY, 169, Stamford-st. 12706 Cen.

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne, Hippodrome, Eastbourne (return). Next week, Barnard's, Chatham (return). DAY's Agency.

ELTON and ELMA, Smartest Knockabout Three Bar Act on the Road. Free Jan. 29. Communications, Tivoli, Grimsby.

ELVIN, JESSIE, and **CO.,** Gigantic Success, "On the Boards," Palace, Bow. London Production shortly, "A Gipsy's Revenge."

ENDON, EDIE, Big Pantomime Success, Principal Dancer, Alex. Theatre, Sheffield, Till further Notice.

EPLETT, KATIE, FRANK ZARA, Comedienne and Dancer, Comedian, Raconteur. Per. add., 44, Greenheys-lane, Manchester.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian, Big Hit this week, Hippo., Stoke-on-Trent. Agent, STEBBINGS, Manchester.

ESCOTT, ALBERT, Rose and Crown, Hounslow; opposite Palace. Always at home. Recommended by H. Leslie Bell.

ESDALE BROS., Novelty Comedians. First vacancy June 4. This, Park Palace, Liverpool. Monday, Paddington.

EUSTACE, FRED, Jan. 15, "The Amber Light," South London. Jan. 22, "Our Curate," Granville, Walham Green.

FAME, PEGGY, Alice, a Pronounced Success, Monday, T. R., Norwich; HARRY WRIGHT, Emperor and Stage-Manager.

FAWN, MISS ADA, Palace, Derby. Monday, Pavilion, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FIMANS, THE, Vaudeville Act. Touring England, May, 1906.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS. HAROLD, Empire, New Cross.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,586 Royal.

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FLORADORA GIRLS, Enormous Success Queen's, Glasgow, "Aladdin" Panto. Mon., Hippo., Stockton. Few Vacs. E. DE VERE.

FLORIZELL, ORIGINAL, Away From all others; this week, Pier Pavilion, Southport; next, Tivoli, Dublin.

FORD and HANSON, American Musical Millionaires. Address, Midland Hotel, Hull.

FORDYCES, THE, Last Week, Fifth Return, Tivoli, South Shields, this, Terrific Success; New Hippodrome, Stockton.

FORREST, EDGAR, COMEDY COMPANY. Monday, Start Stoll Tour, Empire, Hackney.

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Theatre Royal, Smethwick, Jan. 22, 6 nights.

MISS SYLVIA STELLA,
Felicia (Lead), "Sailors of the King."
Jan. 22, King's Theatre, Gateshead.

MISS GERTRUDE STERROLL,
At Liberty.
Letters, &c., 121, Kennington-road, S.E.

MISS EDITH STEWART,
"100 to 1 Chance."
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MISS V. ST. LAWRENCE,
Disengaged.
68, Trouville-road, Clapham Park, S.W.

MISS ADELAIDE STONEHAM,
Disengaged. Musical Comedy, &c.
64, Gloucester-crescent, Regent's Park.

MISS MAUD E. STONOR,
Disengaged.
39, Hampton-place, Brighton.

MISS MURIEL THOMPSON,
Karie Louise,
"A Royal Divorce."

MISS N. THORNE-HALLAM,
Lead, Miss MARGUERITE THORNE.
Disengaged, Char. parts. 22nd, T. R., Torquay.

MISS ADA TILLEY,
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Engagement, Mrs. Sinden, "A Doll's House"; Edith, "Maker of Men." D. P. T., Eastbourne.

MISS MARION WAKEFORD,
Joan, in "Home Sweet Home."
Jan. 22, Athenæum, Lancaster.

MISS NELLIE WALTERS, an Accomplished Actress, Expert Danseuse, and Clever Costumiere. Dis. Spring and on; O. H., Perth.

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MISS FRANCES WARING,
Lillian Harborne, "Her Luck in London."
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MISS FLO WARNER,
Great Success, Hippodrome, Stockton; next, King's, Manchester. Thank B. Armstrong.

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MISS MAUDE WESTERN, Big Success
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MISS FRANCES WHITE,
Disengaged.
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MISS JENNIE WIGNEY, Second Year
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"Uncle Tom's Cabin" Co. Dis. Spring.

MISS LILLA WILDE,
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MISS KATE WINGFIELD,
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Hampstead, N.W.

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Shaftesbury Theatre.

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Comedy, Character, Lead, or Pantomime (Baron or Dame). Wire, Theatre, Colwyn Bay.

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Terry's Theatre.

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Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

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Producer and S. M., "Babes in the Wood."
Disengaged Spring. T. R., Sheffield.

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En route.

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Rehearsing Drury Lane Theatre.

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Producer and Stage-Manager, "Puss in Boots."
Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow.

MR. HUBERT HARBEN,
"Stephen Undershaft" in "Major Barbara."
Court Theatre.

MR. A. C. HARDIE,
Queen's Theatre,
Manchester.

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Disengaged.
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MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
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MR. R. CALVERT HAWS, late "Walls of Jericho," Shaftesbury. Dis Juveniles, L. Com., Dudes. 13, Upper Bedford-place, W.C.

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Garrick Theatre,
W.

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Marlborough Theatre, N.

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Brixton Theatre. Disengaged spring & Court.

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(Miss Lily Brammer), Ali Baba and [illegible]
giana, "Forty Thieves" Panto. T. R., Middl[illegible]

MR. RULE PYOTT,
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MR. ERNEST RAMSAY,
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Disengaged.
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MR. PERCY RHODES,
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Liberty, Spring.

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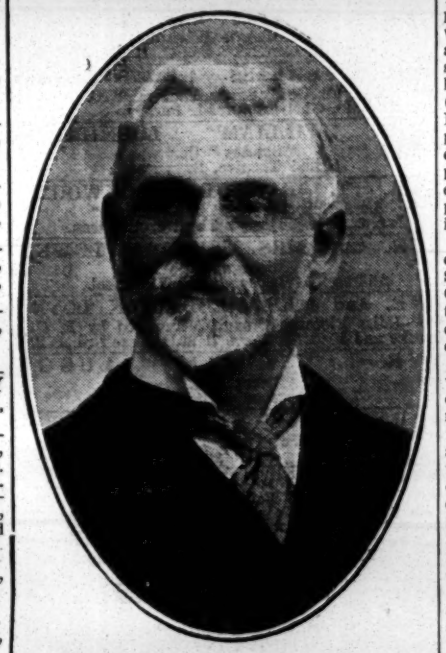

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AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, JAN. 3.—"ALICE SIT-BY-THE-FIRE," with Miss Ethel Barrymore in the leading rôle, was produced at the Criterion Theatre on Christmas Day, and a great many people shortened their Yuletide festivities in order to be present at this important opening. In fact, the house was crowded in every part, and as the subsequent performances of Mr. Barrie's play have been equally well attended, it is safe to include it among the season's successes. Miss Ethel Barrymore invests the character of Mrs. Grey with all of her own familiar charm. Miss Beatrice Agnew is conspicuously successful as Amy Grey; Mr. Bruce McRae gives an excellent representation of Colonel Grey; Mr. John Barrymore acquits himself well as Stephen Rollo; Master Cyril Smith plays Cosmo Grey with a sincerity of manner that is praiseworthy; and Miss Lillian Reed contributes a clever little character-sketch as the maid Richardson. *Pantaloon*, by the same author, serves as a curtain-raiser, and is well received. Americans know very little of that ancient appendix to the Christmas pantomime, the Harlequinade, and for that reason the remarks of the "old 'un" do not possess the point or interest that they would have for an English audience. But Mr. Barrymore's Pantaloon is such a clever characterisation, correctly conceived and faultlessly executed; and the other parts are so intelligently acted that none but the dullest of audiences could fail to appreciate the humour and pathos of Mr. Barrie's "plea for an ancient family." Miss Beatrice Agnew plays Columbine with a dainty grace that is very captivating. Mr. John Barrymore is an excellent Clown; Mr. John P. Kennedy is a satisfactory Harlequin; and the part of the child is well sustained by Miss Leona Powers.

MISS HENRIETTA CROSMAN is appearing at the Garrick Theatre in a comedy called *Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary*, which quite unexpectedly proved to be another adaptation of Sardou's *Les Pattes de Mouche*, known to English and American playgoers as *A Scrap of Paper*. The new version is by Eugene Presbrey, and the general opinion is that it is not an improvement on the old one. Mr. Presbrey has not altered the original situations, but has brought the dialogue "up-to-date." The rôle of Mary, the central figure of the play, provides Miss Crosman with opportunities of which she avails herself most agreeably, the character being particularly well suited to her breezy style. Mr. Addison Pitt is capital as the jealous husband Horace Belmore; Herbert Danvers (Prosper Couramont) is well represented by Mr Boyd Putnam; Mr. George Woodward wins approval as Thaddeus Brown; and Miss Belmore is charmingly played by Miss Miriam Nesbitt. The play is tastefully mounted, and its reception was decidedly favourable. Miss Crosman's personal popularity ensuring a hearty welcome for any play in which she appears.

"THE LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR," a three-act comedy, with Mr. Herbert Kelcey and Miss Effie Shannon in the leading rôles, was produced on Christmas Day at the Taylor Opera House, Trenton, N.J., and was well received. The play is a dramatisation by Harry B. Smith of the story of the same name.

MR. E. S. WILLARD devoted the last week of his very successful engagement at the New Amsterdam Theatre to the most popular plays of his répertoire, these being *Tom Pinch*, *The Middleman*, *The Professor's Love Story*, *The Man Who Was* and *David Garrick*. The performances throughout the week attracted large and appreciative audiences, these including many whose interest in the drama is invariably renewed whenever Mr. Willard fulfils an engagement in this city. It is announced that his répertoire for next season will include *The Bells*, *Louis XI.*, and, perhaps, *Charles I.* and *Waterloo*.

"AS YE SOW," a drama of the domestic and didactic variety, with plenty of "heart interest," is the current attraction at the Garden Theatre. The author is a Unitarian clergyman, the Rev. John Snyder, and the hero also is a young divine named the Rev. John St. John. There are four acts, of which the third is the strongest, the scenes being laid in the seaside village of Cape Cod. The minister, who has just returned from a trip to Europe, meets Dora Leland, with whom he had fallen in love just before his departure. At the first avowal of his love she confesses that she has been married. But her husband and daughter are gone, and believing that the former is dead she consents to be the minister's wife. Just as the bridal couple are about to enter the church, which stands near the shore, the wedding is stopped by a storm that drives a ship on the rocks. As the life-saving crew need two more men the preacher volunteers, and with a former burglar, whom he has reformed, joins the rescuing party. On his return to the shore the wedding proceeds, but again is stopped when an injured sailor is brought to him for religious consolation. The man proves to be Frank St. John, the minister's long-lost brother, and the deserting husband of his intended bride. A little girl whom the minister has adopted is discovered to be the child of the scapegrace and the deserted wife. Frank St. John, a man of fierce passions, recovers from his illness to perceive that his wife is in love with his brother and accuses them of disloyalty. The child clings to her adopted father, and finally, with impartial curses for all concerned, the parson's brother takes himself off and enlists in the Army. He is killed in the Spanish-American war, and just as the minister has decided to take up new duties in the West he learns that the woman he loves is free, and makes new plans for their mutual happiness. Mr. Frank Gilmore as the parson, Mr. Franklin Roberts as the brother, and Miss Charlotte Walker as the deserted wife, sustain their rôles in a highly creditable manner. Mr. Forrest Robinson, as the reformed burglar, contributes a clever character-study; and Mr. Douglas Fairbanks is very amusing as a jack-of-all-trades.

MISS FRITZI SCHEFF has scored an unqualified success at the Knickerbocker Theatre in *Mdlle. Modiste*, a comic opera in two acts, with an excellent libretto by Henry Blossom, and a melodious score by Victor Herbert. As Fifi, a Parisian milliner's shop-girl, Miss Scheff acts with a vivacity that is irresistible and a charm that is all her own. Fifi has a talent for singing and acting. She is loved by Captain Etienne de Bouvray, whose aristocratic uncle will not hear of a match with her. But Hiram Bent, a benignant and wealthy American promoter, who is captivated by her beauty and wit, lends her the money to make herself an artist and win success in London. She returns to Paris to sing at a charity bazaar in the grounds of the aristocratic uncle, who presently gives his consent to the marriage and bestows his blessing. Mr. William Pruette as the gouty Uncle, Mr. Claude Gillingwater as the American promoter, Mr. William Percival as Fifi's soldier lover, Mr. Howard Chambers as a dashing Lieutenant, and Mr. Leo Mars as Gaston, the son of Fifi's employer, were all very successful in their respective rôles. Mr. Mars sang a French song in the English language which was encored again and again. Mr. Pruette's fine bass voice was heard to advantage in "I want what I want when I want it." Miss Scheff sang "I'm the mascot of the troop," and played the drum in such a stirring manner that the house rose at her. The other good things in the opera are too numerous to mention. It is beautifully staged, the millinery shop in the first act being a particularly pretty scene.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—Mr. F. Marriot-Watson's company is playing here this week in the drama, *A False Wife*. Mr. George Langham is good as Sir Colin Mansfield; Mr. Howard Barlow makes a manly George Mansfield; Mr. Elton Morgan keeps the house in roars of laughter as Ben Rattler; Mr. Frank Strickland is successful in his rendering of Jean Berand; Mr. John Cecil is weird as Zorak; Miss Ellen Armor wins the sympathy of the house as Agnes Weyland; Miss Nita Imeson assists largely in the funmaking as Bessie Blazier; and Miss Florence E. Florence incites the displeasure of the house by her excellent rendering of the part of Estelle du Lussau.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanagh, C.A.—Mr. Esmonde Bramley's Shakespearean Company opened on Monday with *Romeo and Juliet*. Mr. Cyril Este gave a fine interpretation of Romeo, playing throughout with a marked but highly artistic degree of restraint. He was admirably supported by Miss Nellie Ford, who made a charming Juliet. Mrs. Bernard Parkin gave a fine portraiture of the old nurse, and Mr. Baliol Halloway was an efficient Mercutio. The parts of Friar Lawrence and Peter were most capably filled by Mr. F. Owen Chambers and Mr. Philip Gordon. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented, with Mr. David Beattie as Shylock, Mr. Este as Bassanio, and Miss Ford as Portia. The company all round is one of considerable merit.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Managers, Mr Walter Gilbert.—There is, as usual, a first-rate company at this house. The New York Nippers act most vivaciously in an amusing farcical sketch, *Bed-time*; Conn and Conrad, the "quiet burglars," are exceedingly funny; and Doody and Wright receive an enthusiastic welcome. Mr. Hamilton Hill, the Australian baritone, scores a great success; and among the other enjoyable turns are those of Mr. Harry Cotton, eccentric comedian; the Sisters Oswald, in a novel dancing act; Zooroof, an admirable mimic; Mr. Arthur Croxon, who is excellent in the same line and also as a comedian; and the Lannons, who do well as pedestal dancers and duettists. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope pictures prove another great attraction.

ACCRINGTON.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—A smart bill is provided here this week. Mr. E. Carter Livesey gives a clever sketch, *The Would-be Actors*; the Elkethrones introduce an acceptable cycle act; Mr Harry Hyton is an amusing eccentric comedian; the Clarks are particularly good as banjoists; Lottie Bray is well received; Ray and Calden are favourably received; the Belmonts meet with success; and the Hippodrome pictures complete the evening's entertainment.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr Frederick Melville's company opened here on Monday with *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Albert Ward gave an excellent performance of George Maddison; Mr. Lionel D'Arragon's impersonation of Charles Devereux was life-like and convincing; Mr. Holland Day must be complimented on his performance of Geoffrey Broughton; Joe Tompkin was well played by Mr. George Littleton; Timothy Tuttutt was in the safe hands of Mr. F. De Vere; Miss Sybil Hammersley gave an ideal impersonation of Pattie Lovejoy; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne submitted a scholarly reading of Lucy; Lady Lucretia was well depicted by Miss Egmie Magnus; Miss Barbara Gott was good as Mother Superior; and Little Lucy gave a capital performance as Little Lucy.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company undoubtedly score a huge success in their clever interpretation of *The Duchess of Dantzic*, which is being played for the first time in Aldershot. Miss May Glenn, whose success as Nan in *The Country Girl* is well remembered, makes an interesting Sans-Gêne. Mr. Gilbert Yorke gives a fine portrayal of Napoleon Buonaparte; it is a powerful performance. Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths is an excellent Lefebvre, his clever acting and tuneful voice aiding his successful conception. Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy possesses a powerful and well-trained voice, which he uses to advantage, and his Adhemar is one of the many able contributions. Mr. Chas. Adeson provides a humorous portrayal of Papillon. The Misses Violet and Maisie Blyth are clever as Napoleon's sisters, and Miss Ella Derwent as Josephine is good. A charming Renée comes from Miss Mabel White, and Miss Beana Bent is capable as Lisette. The staging reflects credit on those responsible.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—The powerful and thrilling drama, *The Grip of Iron*, is here this week, breaking into the season of pantomime somewhat abruptly. Mr. Fred Power still sustains the rôle of Jagon, the man of double life, with undiminished power, and exciting the customary terror and thrill in the audience. Mr. Geo. Dinham also gives a humorous as well as impressive impersonation of the Smiler. Effective embodiments are also given of Lorentz de Ribas, by Mr. G. Langdon; the detectives of the old and the new school, by Messrs Jno. Brittain and Harry Agar Lyons; and of other characters by Messrs. H. Scott, S. Carlton, and E. Dane. Misses Nellie Fletcher, as Cora; Ruby Maude, as Sophie Blanchard; Hilda Baynton, as Marie Guerin; Cissie Hayes, as Babette; and Pope Royal, as Mdlle. Delaney, each give satisfactory interpretations. The drawing-room of Lorentz de Ribas's villa continues to be a brilliant stage "setting."

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Something attractive has again been furnished for the patrons of the Empire for the week. The Donatos, the famous one-legged clowns, are here on a revisit in their astonishing acrobatic feats, jumping, burlesque dancing, and celebrated military march; Henderson, the famed blind musician, astonishes with his instrumental skill; the Four Vindobonas, in a novel musical act, win admiration and applause; and Marie Blythe is successful; the Leotards are watched with silent and fixed attention in their extraordinary feats as staircase clowns, aerial hand-balancers, and remarkable hat-throwers and catchers; something decidedly novel in its way is introduced by the Sisters Petram, with their Fantoches. It is a complete circus, with visitors, entrées of all possible artists, and specialities, orchestra, &c., a really interesting show; Harris L. Bell and Lily Pearl and company appear in their popular success, *A Bit of String*; the other artists are Fred Horsfall, smart mimic; Winona and King, American speciality performers; and the Bros. Middleton, comedians, patterers, and dancers; the Bioscope shows a series of amusing pictures, entitled "Roof-top Garden Episode."

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—*At the World's Mercy*, described as a "musical-comedy drama," is being presented here this week by Mr. Carr Loates and his good all-round company, which includes Messrs. Carr Loates, Leo. Rodway, W. Felton, Hyland Shea; the Misses Guinevere Shilton, Annie Hunter, Cissie Milford, Alice King, Jennie Gilmore, and Kitty Jerome.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—This week's programme is contributed to by the following artists:—The Loma Trio, herculean gymnasts, on a novel electrical revolving trapeze; Mr. J. P. Carroll, military tambourine player; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn; Mr. Joe Mack, eccentric comedian; Mr. E. C. Clayton's pictures on the Palace Attergraph; Onda and Leon, bar performers; the Barlows, high-class duettists, in a vocal sketch, *Old Pals*; and Henri Bekker, conjuror, assisted by Mdlle. Maie.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. Frank Lindo is paying another visit to this theatre, with his domestic play, *Home, Sweet Home*. He gives an excellent pathetic and humorous interpretation of Stephen. David Armitage is ably portrayed by Mr. J. W. Henson; Mr. S. Bryant is funny as the Hon. Percy; as the Duke of Ancaster Captain Gerald Gambier acts with becoming dignity; Mr. Wilson Coleman plays effectively and soundly as Lucas Lyle; and Mr. George Overs sustains Dick Redmayne very creditably. Miss Marion Wakefield makes a good impression as Joan; Miss Edie Langley plays Sybil Fay in vivacious style; and special mention should be made of Miss Daisy Rochefort, who, as the child Dora, added considerably to the success.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Female Swindler* occupies the boards this week. Mr. Frederick Victor gives a striking impersonation of Jack Coulson; Abraham Meikstein is a veritable Shylock in Mr. Bernard Dunstan's hands; Mr. Luke Foster is most successful as a man of many parts, his rôle of Billy Binks being the chief; Harold Travers is finely acted by Mr. Arthur Page; Mr. Weldon Atherstone is a capital Geoffrey Warden; Mr. A. Renyon Gray is an excellent James Oliver; Miss Florrie Kelsey makes an admirable May Andrews; and Miss Grace E. Leslie plays very powerfully and with rare skill the difficult part of Lu Valroy.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. William Maclaren and company are here this week with a revival of *Claudian*. Mr. William MacLaren gives a masterful and convincing portrait of the title-rôle; Miss Lily C. Bandmann is an exceedingly winning and artistic Almida; the elocutionary powers of Mr. A. G. Carr as Holy Clement are finely displayed; and the company generally acts with excellent effect.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty.—A naval play, *The Sailors of the King*, is here under the direction of Mr. Charles Harrington. It is very well staged. Mr. Harrison plays the part of Admiral Drake with feeling and conviction; Mr. Harry Douglas gives a fine manly portrait of the young lieutenant; Mr. F. Vernon Travers makes the most of a somewhat colourless part; Mr. Richard Cowell is earnest and effective; Mr. Kenneth Black, junr., revels in a comedy part; Miss Maude Digby is a sound exponent of a heavy part, her work being admirably done; Miss Sylvia Stella has a small part, which she handles with judgment; Miss Hero Hathaway is a demure and interesting Quakeress; and Miss Sylvia Stella is emotional and pathetic in the character of Daisy Dent.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—An early return visit of the successful play *The Walls of Jericho* unfortunately clashes with local political enthusiasm, consequently business was poor at the commencement of the week, but has improved nightly since. Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux's excellent company remains almost identical with that previously here, Mr. Herbert Bunston and Mr. George A. Brandram repeating their clever impersonations of the true-hearted Queenslanders Jack Frobisher and Hankey Bannister. Mr. Lawrence Hanray and Mr. Sydney Hamilton, if possible, have improved upon their former portrayals of the Marquis and Harry Dallas. Miss Nora Greenlaw (Lady Westerby), Miss Edith Cuthbert (Miss Mornington), and Miss Molly Carton (Lady Lucy) continue to give capital embodiments of their respective rôles. The newcomer is Miss Florence Jackson as Lady Alethea, whose fine acting of this arduous character has secured the favourable verdict of Bath playgoers.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—Considering the city was participating in an exciting election on Monday, a fairly good audience was present at the first house to enjoy the excellent programme provided by the management for the week. Austin Rudd is a foremost favourite, his amusing songs being received with boisterous applause; the Great Northern Troupe of international dancers evoke the usual enthusiasm by their clever dances; Tate and Tate strike out upon novel and original ideas as acrobats, the gentleman's "spring" feats securing a deserved recall; Cordite, assisted, as before, by Wild Buffalo, are exhibiting their wonderful skill as rope spinners with all their old-time success; Bayne and Hope enact a Napoleonic episode, *An Emperor's Divorce*, with marked elocutionary ability and quiet conviction. In another vein Harry Russell and company appear in a screaming farce, *Binks's Blunders*; Arthur Melrose, comedian and word whistler, gains no little favour; Raymond's bioscope concludes with new films.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—For the third time Mr. Norman Macowan's company is here in the successful play *Monsieur Beaucaire*. Mr. Norman Macowan gives a powerful interpretation of the difficult title-rôle; Mr. Murray Hathorn makes an excellent Duke of Winterset; and Mr. Arthur Somers is a good exponent of Major Molyneux. Mr. P. Ramsey Forman interprets Captain Badger with vigour; and Mr. Leonard Laurence impresses by his calm and dignified demeanour as Beau Nash. Mr. Hans Schlesinger is an admirable François. In her impersonation of Lady Mary Carlisle, Miss Violet Sterne displays natural charm and tenderness contrasted by tragic force; Miss Annie Windsor makes an attractive Lucy Rellerton. On Thursday and Friday *A Soldier of Fortune* was played by the same company.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company opened here on Monday, and presented for the first time in Ireland the play entitled *Lucky Durham*. The success achieved was undeniable. A competent cast includes Mr. Edmund Kennedy, who, as John Durham, at once gained a great success with his convincing impersonation. Miss Gertrude Robins must be congratulated on her delightful and natural impersonation of Helen Vallerton: and Mr. Arthur Leigh's assumption of the rôle of the Hon. Reginald Steighton could not easily be excelled. Much praise must be accorded Miss Louise Gourlay for her pathetic interpretation of Mrs. Durham; and Mr. Benson North was good as Lord Mountfallon. Miss Florence Dalhunty portrayed the part of Hon. Margaret Steighton with decided ability; and Miss Frances Wolviston cleverly filled the rôle of Lady Mountfallon. Other parts were ably sustained by Miss Katie Evelyn, Miss Violet Thorold, and Messrs. A. E. Walker, Campbell Goldsmid, W. F. Clitherow, John Harit, Sydney Bancroft, &c. The piece was magnificently staged, and the beautiful dresses were the theme of admiration. It should be added that on Monday a handsome souvenir of the piece was presented to each patron occupying a reserved seat.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. P. Beardmore.—*Cinderella* is now in its last week, as notwithstanding the success achieved, this attractive pantomime must be withdrawn to-night, as it opens on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Dublin. Benefits have been the order of the day. On Wednesday evening Mr. Fred Cary appealed to his many friends, and on Thursday Mr. Arthur Reynolds and Mr. Russell Wallett took their benefit. Friday night was set apart for the benefit of Miss Olive Marston and Miss Empsie Bowman, who have both been so successful in their respective rôles of Prince and Cinderella.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The star here this week is Miss Josephine Sabel, a clever American comedienne, who must be congratulated on the great success she achieved on Monday. A hit of no small magnitude has been made by Mr. G. W. Hunter, who as a raconteur has few equals. Smythson's Comedy Company appears to much advantage in their comedy sketch, *Our Suite*; and Mr. Arthur Lennard, the well-known comedian, upholds his popularity in Belfast with "Butterfly" and other capital songs. Miss Daisy Ray, a fine dancer, gains much applause for her exhibition of the art; and the sweet ballad vocalism of Miss Elsie Clare has been much admired. Also here are Corty Bros., aerial humorists; and Miss Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downes.—The College Boys top the bill, and have evoked much enthusiasm with their selections from operas. An acquisition to the bill is the humorous sketch, *Sally's Dilemma*, presented by the Bensley Evans Sketch Company, a capital combination. Les Henris appear in their attractive act, *Sport in the Electric and Floral Garden*; and the contortionist feats of Souplessi have created quite a sensation. King and Mackay appear in their clever comedy sketch; and Miss Daisy Devonport is a charming comedienne. Also appearing with undeniable success are Miss Flossie Jee, comedienne; Mr. R. C. Note, comedian; and Miss Flo Morton, comedienne.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Instead of the ordinary drama, we have this week the Biograph, from the Palace Theatre, London. There are among a variety of views

"Races and Scenes at Goodwood," "London in a Hurry," "Holidays," "Burglars at Work," "The Suburbanite," &c.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is doing big business with *Florodora*. It would be difficult to improve upon the Tweediepunch of Mr. Albert Bruno; Miss Gwladys Elvey, as Dolores, gives a clever and attractive performance; Mr. Edward Chester is an admirable Cyrus W. Gilfain; Mr. R. Courtice Dutton is a capital Frank Abercoed; and Mr. Harold Perry handles the part of Captain Arthur Donegal with skill and effect. Miss Florence Hersee is a capable Angela Gilfain; Lady Holyrood is well played by Miss Kate Leicester; Miss Bessie Nunan is excellent as the Typewriter; Mr. C. A. James is a good Leanpro; and the piece is produced with a wealth of supernumeraries and accessories. There are several pretty dances by Miss Lilian Coe, and the musical forces are under the bâton of Mr. B. J. Paterson.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—The Kellinos, in their grand speciality act, *A Fête in Venice*, are deservedly a centre of attraction, and as an acrobatic display it is undoubtedly unsurpassed. The Marconis, electrical manipulators, also give a remarkable and bewilder ing exhibition; and Mr. Edward Sillward, in a sketch entitled *Satan*, is a leading success in the programme. Other excellent turns include those of Otto and Olga, clever comedy artists; Johnny Johnstone, a versatile vocalist and instrumentalist; Orpheus, in his capital musical entertainment; Miss Nina Gordon, an accomplished mimic; Mr. Fred Curran, a popular comedian; and Blanco White, coon vocalist.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* has increased in favour at every performance, until now the notice, "House Full," appears constantly. Miss Ada Reeve, as the best of all Aladdins, sends away her admirers delighted and satisfied; Mr. Harry Tate has made an enduring name as Abanazar, in which character he assumes the personalities of various other stars, besides introducing his own original creations; Miss Fanny Dange fascinates all beholders with her grace and art as So-Shi, and Miss Rose Harvey as Pekoe, Miss Doris Deane as a most lissome dancer, Miss Lilian Pollard as Chee-Ki swell the wealth of beauty and talent, in addition to which the Eight Mimosa Girls add their charm. Messrs. Harry Brayne, Harrison Brockbank, Maitland Dicker, and Regan and Ryan are eminently successful.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* has its many adherents who nightly fill the theatre with their presence and praises. Miss Lelia Rose scores with her bountiful charms and fine singing in the character of the Prince; Miss Edith Fink acts and sings with exquisite charm in the title-rôle; and Miss Agnes Tandy, with her fine contralto voice, raises the part of the Fairy Queen into exceptional prominence; Mr. Mark Sheridan embellishes the character of the Baron with his own peculiar and witty sallies, which have raised him to the highest point of popularity; Mr. George Lashwood assumes the airs and graces of the Valet with perfect sangfroid; and Messrs. Josh Dixon, Gus Le Clerq, the Four Burnells, and the Eight of Hearts have their admirers in plenty.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*The Sleeping Beauty* has awakened enthusiasm from crowded audiences, who have vented their admiration on Miss Maud Mortimer for her charming and dashing assumption of the Prince, with songs; Miss Lillian Digges is also much admired for her *chic* singing and acting as Beauty; and Little Vera, Les Voce, Sisters Cora, the Morton Trio, Miss Ada Tilley, the Four Merry Madcaps, and Messrs. James Chippendale, Lonnen Meadows, Alfred Bishop, and J. W. Churchill play strong rôles. The pantomime is enhanced by specialities by Alma and Abdullah, La Superba, the Russian Troupe, &c., and the new local and topical lines by Mr. W. Jackson Houlston invariably hit their mark.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* is received with thunders of applause, and the songs incidental to the pantomime are chorused by the audience with glee, such enthusiasm and satisfaction seldom being witnessed in a theatre. Miss Minnie Jeffs captivates all by her sparkle and vim as Selim; Miss Lilian Stanley appears with charming grace as Fatima; Miss Bertha Cousins must be singled out for her intelligent acting, mellifluous singing, and clever dancing as Cassim; Miss Dorothy Ward, as the saucy Zobedie, is extremely popular; Miss Millie Warde makes a most attractive rôle of Beda; and the Bogannys as the "lunatic bakers" are a huge success. Messrs. F. A. Marston, T. W. Graham, Bert Atherton, Syd Bayley, and Joly Florador continue to shine with undiminished vigour, and the Three Rubys and the Brothers Smarte are very popular.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*The Beast and the Beauty* has been exceedingly well patronised and applauded here, thereby enhancing the reputation of Mr. Frederick Melville, the author, who has provided an excellent company. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gets all the effect possible out of the Beast, otherwise Jack Barrymore; Mr. Bernard Mervyn acts with all the guile of the villain as Henry Denver; Mr. H. Wimpenny scores as Dick Soanes; Mr. Ronald Adair comes out strong as the persecuted fighting man, Samson; Miss Georgette Therry acts as Delilah Vane with telling power; Miss Alice Bowes is sympathetic and attractive as Beauty; and Mr. J. Bernard Lieli, Mr. Will Corrie, and Miss Jessie Danvers give capable support. Mr. Duse Mohamed acts as advance representative in a courteous and good manner.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Hands of Sin* has met with a flattering reception each night this week, and Messrs. Arthur Whitaker and Gifford Stacey's company has been obviously well chosen. Mr. Cyril W. Mackay invests the rôle of Captain Bruce Glenister with many brilliant qualities which never fail to arouse enthusiasm; Miss Ethyle Murray acts with consummate art and power as Zepham; Mr. H. Elliott Ball cleverly and thoroughly realises the character of Stephen Glenister; and Mr. Arthur Willerby, Mr. Clive Ross, Miss Lilyan Lait, Miss Daisy Snawden, Mr. Frank Ridley, Mr. Hamilton Travers, and Mr. E. H. Dobell deserve and win the highest encomiums.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Revenge* is the title and motif of this week's play, which is presented with due elaboration and detail by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and company. Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's study of Prince Orloff is forceful and wholly successful in all its aspects; Mr. Wellesley Draper gains the utmost admiration with his romantic and heroic presentment of Captain Loris Vanessa; Mr. Theo. Balfour comports himself as the King in a clever manner; Mr. Edward Lowrie as Count Mussant infuses the necessary spice of comedy with good effect; Miss Violet Carlyle acts with exquisite feeling and dignity as the Queen; Miss Rosabel Dodd brings out the vices of Draga Vanessa with powerful effect; and Miss Hettie, sen., Mr. E. Jenner, Miss Alice Barber, and Miss Grace Aimes act most acceptably.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The tableaux vivants presented by Diane de Fontenoy constitute a refined and interesting turn. Fred G. Peake and company are seen in a dramatic sketch, *The Hypocrite*, which is well played throughout; Fanny Robina is a charming comedienne; the Five Julians are clever in song and dance, as also are Nelson's Newsboys; Gertrude Bradshaw puts her rich soprano voice to advantage; the Three Merrils, comedians on wheels; Harry Weldon, humorist; Frank Darwin, descriptive vocalist; and Genard and Theol, contortionist, come in for a good share of applause.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—George Leyton is always a big draw here, his song scena, "The Death of Nelson," being most effective; while selections from the "Lily of Killarney" are rendered by Edward Arthur and Tom Griffiths with their usual success. The Narrow Brothers are most eccentric cyclists; Little Queenie May is loudly applauded for her songs; Les Uniques are seen in a smart gymnastic display. Plenty of humour is introduced into the musical entertainment of Tee and Tee. Robert Lytton, comedian; Spring and Spring, barrel jumpers; and Marba and Verity, acrobatic dancers, complete the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The nautical sketch, *The Little Stowaway*, is the principal item this week, in which Miss E. Lumley appears in the title-rôle, and Mr. J. K. Walton as Captain Worley. Rex King is exceedingly smart in his quick-change character impersonations; Bonnie Goodwin scores a big success with her Apollo piccaninnies; George Victor has a good song; Sidney Lee is appreciated for his conjuring entertainment; Tom Yorke, coster comedian, and Keen and Waller, acrobatic comedians, are well applauded.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The musical entertainment presented by the Empire Comedy Four is clever and amusing; Bijou Russell is applauded for her sand dances; Mdlle. Chalon is one of the finest acrobats we have seen, her performance being loudly applauded; Tom White's Arabs; Edward E. Forde, comedian; Gallando, clay modeller; and the Bros. Hayes add to the mirth of the evening.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company is here in *Passion's Power*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy acts the rôle of Prince Kandos with marked ability; as Michel Laski Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan gives an effective rendering; the General Zuran of Mr. Walter Raynham and the Rudolph Laski of Mr. Walter Roberts are delineations which deserve warm praise; Miss Cecil Cromwell is seen to great advantage in the character of Zora Varno; Miss Stella Carmichael is well suited to the part of Countess Delauney. The humour of the play is ably supplied by Miss Lowe Dare as Lucie, and Mr. Ernest Dare as Felix.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—*The Forty Thieves* pantomime, presented by Mr. Fred Granville's company, is making its bid for popular favour this week. Miss Cissie Kingsley plays the part of Abdallah with point and vivacity; Miss Gertie Douglas is no less successful as Ganem; the quaint style of Mr. Walter Purvis is admirably adapted to Ali Baba; and Cogia finds a humorous representative in Mr. Leo Trainer. Miss Lily Brammer is a captivating Morgiana, Mr. F. L. Conynghame as Lieut. Hassarac, Mr. Forsyth Bruce as Cassim Baba, and Miss Ada Western as Fizzali, also contribute to the success of the production. The pantomime is well mounted.

PALACE THEATRE.—Harry Tate and company are appearing here in the mirth-provoking sketch, *Motoring*; Reilly and Taylor are a couple of American-Dutch comedians, whose business is both novel and amusing; Madame Luba De Sarema is paying a return visit with her unique animal show; Rose Elliott wins much applause for her well-rendered songs; Les Bollingers, the Parisian rag painters, are a good turn; the Sisters Caselli and Raie Walters also deserve mention. Raymond's Bioscope completes a very attractive programme.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Messrs. Charles Carey and Alexander Loftus's *Cinderella* company is in possession here this week. The cast is a very capable one, and includes Miss Freda Godfrey in the title-rôle, Miss Ernestine Walters as Prince Charming, Miss Maud Terry as Dandini, Miss Maud Nichols as Lord Gadfly, Messrs. Nash and Noel as the Broker's Men, Messrs. Norman Bowyer and W. E. Chewd as the Ugly Sisters, and Mr. J. B. Montague, who scores a great success as Peter the Page.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Her Luck in London* is being played here this week by Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company. Miss Neil, who enacts the part of Nellie Harborne, displays great dramatic skill; Mr. Charles A. Leicester presents a capital portrayal of Gerald O'Connor; and Mr. Charles Draycott does well as Richard Lenowen.

PALACE. — General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The bill provided here this week includes the Warsaw Bros., musical comedians; Marie Santoi, in an illuminated scena; Allis and Cassati, who score in an amusing sketch; Alf Levarni, a clever tight wire artist; J. H. Crew, a popular comedian; Lil O'Gorman, who sings well; and the Avocas, in a sensational act entitled *The Reckless Miner*.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—The visit of Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's excellent company, with the romantic play entitled *The Midnight Wedding*, has met with a most enthusiastic reception, chief honours falling to Miss Annie Saker, who undertakes the dual rôles of Lieut. Karl Helsburg and Princess Astren von Strelsburg. As the Sword Master of the Red Hussars, Mr. Alfred Paumier gives a powerful performance; whilst Mr. Clinton Baddeley is sufficiently villainous as Von Scarsbruck. The comedy element is well supplied by Messrs. F. Constable, R. Payne, Algie Spalding, and Miss Ada Champion.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert E. Wilson.—We have pantomime again here this week, Mr. A. E. Smith presenting *Bo-Peep*, which is drawing large houses. The staging is good, and the dresses are very pretty. Miss Elsie Douglas, in the title-rôle, gives a pleasing interpretation, her singing and dancing being well received; Miss Kathleen Garnon is a dashing Boy Blue, rendering her songs in an attractive and catchy manner; Miss Hilda Dayton as Colin and Miss Lily Desmonde as Maisie are well received. The humour of the production is well sustained by Reed and Lerne, their songs and patter being very quaint in the parts of Percy and Patsy. Other characters are capable played by Mr. H. J. Kemble (Granny Peep), Mr. Billy Beever (Baron Hardup), and the Sisters Marie (Jack and Jill). The specialities in the Palace Scene are introduced by Arnold, magician; Mr. Oliver Chew, a silfleur of extraordinary ability; Reed and Lerne, comedians; and Bendene, a clever contortionist. The chorus and ballet deserve a word of praise.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—An enthusiastic reception by a large audience was given on Monday to Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *The Catch of the Season*. The piece was lavishly mounted and dressed. Miss Maie Ash, as the fascinating Angela, exhibited a vivacity which quickly established her in the favour of the audience, and with Mr. Frank Lincoln, who gave an excellent rendering of the Duke of St. Jermyns, she divided the honours of the evening. The rôle of Sir John Crystal was sympathetically played by that old favourite, E. W. Royce, and Miss Belle Napier, as Lady Crystal, was very convincing. As the two daughters, Miss Alice Lethbridge and Miss Hettie Muret played in charming style, the former quite bringing down the house by her graceful dancing. Mrs. A. B. Tapping was particularly excellent as Lady Caterham, and others who should receive special mention are Mr. Laurence Caird, Mr. Henry Kerr, Mr. Evelyn Wickens, and Miss Hilda Stewart.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The crowded audiences are a fitting testimony to the excellence of Mr. Hart's latest achievement in the way of pantomime. *Mother Goose* is one of his best efforts. Fun, brightness, and magnificent spectacular effects are its leading features, and the company possesses an all-round ability which could not fail to guarantee success. In the title-rôle, Mr. J. E. Nightingale is delightfully quaint. As Jack, Mr. Harry Dent is resourceful and funny; Mr. Arthur Powell is humorous in his impersonation of the Laird, and he has a capital foil in Mr. Harry Roxbury as Alexander; Mr. Lancelot Usher contributes to the fun as the Mayor. There is a distinct air of grace in Miss Mabel Lait's energetic impersonation of Colin, the principal boy, and Miss Godwynne Earle is very charming as Jill. The abandon and energy displayed by Miss Daisy Jerome in a humorous impersonation of Gretchen are enjoyable features of an excellent effort. The Two Cabiacs present a graceful and wonderfully clever performance as Continental dancers. There is much charm in the Lady Ida of Miss Mamie Brickwell, in the Eric of Miss Yvonne Morel, and in Miss Joan Deering's performance of the Fairy Heartsease. Mr. Dennis Drew is excellent as Malignum, the Evil Spirit. Roars of laughter greet the antics of the Valdo Brothers as the two donkeys, and the charming ballets and beautiful scenic effects command applause.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Laidler has established a record with *Dick Whittington*; his most successful effort in the direction of pantomime. It is brimful of brightness and fun from start to finish. For this the company is in the main responsible, for their resources are great. In the way of stage and scenic effects, there is much to command admiration. In her bright and energetic performance of the title-rôle, Miss Esmé Gordon has won golden opinions, and Miss Edith Ager is very winsome in the part of Alice. Mr. Gilbert Rodgers makes a capital Alderman. There is a wealth of fun in Mr. T. B. Fayme's quaint Idle Jim, and Mr. Percy Curry's more energetic Idle Jack; and Mr. Johnny McElroy is a great source of fun as Mrs. Desiccated Edwards. Excellent efforts on the part of Mr. John Green as the Emperor, Mr. Frank Robinson as the Vizier, Miss Bella Brookland as the Princess, Miss Ethel Brookland as Lord Dedbroke, Miss Ada Jenner as Captain Cable, Miss Retta Righton as Dolly Varden, Miss Marie Wilson as Will Wherry, Mr. Will Henry as Harry Hamper, and Mr. Alfred Clegg as the nimble Cat, contribute largely to the success.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—Manager, Mr. C. Carter.—The success attending Mr. Carter's local pantomime *Bo-Peep* has led to its run extending over the present week, after which it is announced to be finally withdrawn.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Ella Retford, who heads an enjoyable programme here this week, submits a capital "coon" song in bright style. The Brothers Webb are entertaining clowns and experts on a variety of musical instruments; Sam Elton convulses the audience with his silent fun and clever juggling. In their musical absurdity, *The Midnight Express*, Cecil Linden and Elsie Hayward are amusing; a very fine acrobatic performance by the Brothers Andreassen elicits well deserved applause; the charming trio of vocal comediennes, the Sisters Hayden, provide an excellent turn. Fred Elton's musical scena, *On Board Ship*, is very entertaining; Mabel Hind's turn is bright and attractive, and the American Bioscope shows some excellent films.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Clever juggling and capital comedy by the Seddons entertain the audiences here this week, and Will Bacchus renders his coster songs in good and convincing style. Using two brushes (one in each hand), Speedwell in remarkably quick time paints some striking portraits; Nat Watkins is a "peculiar comedian" of a distinctly original type. A very expert banjo performance is submitted by Casselli and James. That versatile comedian George D'Albert re-appears with all his old success; Sam Harrison, vocalist, proves an acceptable deputy for Belle Braham, pictorial songstress; an absurdity, called *Hello!* presented by Frank Bernard and company, has some humour in it, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, as usual, prove very entertaining.

BRIDGWATER. — HIPPODROME. — Lessees, Bridgwater Hippodrome Co.; Manager, Harry Seaton.—The Camerons (Jim and Marie), comedy artists, in the sketch, *Sammy in London*, head the bill this week with a smart turn; Marie de Voy is recalled for her fine singing; Jim Fitzroy, comedian; Coe and Koe, in a comedy act; Dot Leoni, comedienne; Charley Moore, comedian; Ruby Norris, serio; the Sisters Lennard; and a sketch complete the programme.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. William Greet's company opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday with *The Earl and the Girl*. The musical comedy was superbly staged and dressed. Mr. William Stephens won hearty applause for his humorous portrayal of Jim Cheese; Miss Aimee Grey acquitted herself admirably as Elphin Haye; Miss Florence Imeson made a bright and winsome Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Dot Carey submitted a charming character study as Liza Shoddam; Mr. Percy Carr was highly effective as Dick Wargrave; Mr. Ernest Torrence was entertaining as the fierce uncle; Miss Helen Langton's Miss Virginia Bliss was well played; and able support was given by Mr. Vernon Davidson (Hon. Crewe Boodle), Mr. Will Hudson (Downham), Mr. J. C. Graves (Mr. Talk), and Miss Gladys Fontaine (Mrs. Shimmering Black). The chorus and augmented orchestra did well under the direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, continues to attract crowded houses, and seems likely to achieve a record local success. Miss May Mars, as Robinson Crusoe, is splendidly suited, and is nightly encored for her charming vocalisation; Miss Rosalie Jacobi makes a graceful and winsome Polly Perkins; and capital fun is provided by Mr. Walter Kooney (Will Atkins), Mr. Harry Karr (Dick Deadeye), and Mr. Allan Wye (Mrs. Crusoe). The singing of Mr. Ernest Laws (Sultan), Miss Winifred Norman (Princess), and the dancing of Miss Maud Percy and Mr. Edgar Budden are warmly appreciated.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A varied and attractive programme is sustained here this week. Wright and Elton (Crazy and Daisy), eccentrics, are entertaining; Nina May, a young vocalist, contributes her songs in pleasing style; Zeta Grey and company are highly successful in the musical comedy sketch, *The Lancashire Lass*; Ted Saunders, mimic, is well received; the Sisters Selwyn are dainty duettists and dancers; the Five Bon-Bons are amusing in their pantomimical trap scena, *A Hot Time for One*; Selma and Onga are clever on the triple bars; Frank Seeley, comedian, is enthusiastically applauded for his comic songs; the Tilley Up-to-date Minstrels provide an admirable turn; the Mackinnon Family, Scotch entertainers, win great favour with their song, instrumental, and dancing mélange; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent. *George and the Dragon*, a pantomime, or sort of play, in two acts and six scenes, written by W. Graham Robertson, was produced here on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, the performances being in aid of the Working Men's Club, Providence Place, Brighton. Mr. A. Bromley Davenport as John Smith, confidential clerk and valet to George of Cappadocia (of the firm of George and Co., family dragon slayers), was very amusing. Tiny Miss Nancy Marson as "George's Gentleman's Gentleman," fascinated the audience with her clever and dainty dancing; Mr. Mervyn Trevor made a capital Dragon; Miss Frampton was an excellent Mother Nightmare; Miss Liddell's Princess Sabra, Miss L. Colbatch Clark's Queen of Egypt, Miss Trevelyan's Good Fairy, and Mr. Lionel Marson's King of Egypt were admirable impersonations. Miss Elaine Hawkings and Miss Maud Row contributed graceful dances; and especially delightful were the dances by the chorus of children, which had been kindly arranged by Miss Park. The picturesque scenery was painted by Messrs. B. and H. Drury; the music was orchestrated and arranged by Mr. A. W. Leggett (director of the Alhambra Orchestra), who conducted; and special numbers were composed by Mr. Ino Bastien.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Barton and Ashley, "breezy Americans," are especially effective in their representation of *Canal Boat Sal*; Charles Coborn "the man who broke the Bank at Monte Carlo," is as popular as ever; Gus Harris, Hebrew vocalist, is well received in his fine scena *The Synagogue*; Madame Bernice de Pasquali displays artistic vocalisation; Charles Steuart's company achieve much success in the sketch *The Water Cure*; Tom Stuart is a clever character actor and mimic; E. J. Wilkes, with his dog "Woof," submits a pleasing turn; Flem and Brok are amusing in their comedy act; the Jansons are very smart gymnasts; Maud Esmond is a refined comedienne; the Herald Comedy Four are effective in an Indian scena; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER. — Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—*The Cherry Girl* is enjoying a very prosperous career here. By permission of Mr. Seymour Hicks, the termination has been altered, "for the especial benefit of younger patrons." Miss Ellaline Craigie, the charming Queen, has been indisposed during the last few days, and her part has been ably filled by her sister, Miss Florence Craigie. Mr. G. Langford Kirby, as Moonshine and Happy Joe, is a great favourite. Mr. J. Edward Pearce, as Starlight and the Squire, is highly successful; Mr. J. P. E. Hussey and Mr. George Howard, as chamberlains and policemen, are very droll; and Miss Dorothy Green dances herself into favour.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. J. Sallmayer; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. John Henderson.—The pantomime, *Robin Hood*, continues its prosperous run here, and large audiences are the rule. Miss Nellie Henderson is a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Susie Rusholme makes a charming Maid Marian; and Mr. Coningsby Brierley, is a mirth-provoking Friar Tuck; while Newham and Latimer as the Baron and Baroness are amusing. The pantomime concludes with a harlequinade and shadow pantomime.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—There was a large attendance here on Monday evening in all parts of the house, and the audience fully appreciated the *Mother Goose* pantomime. Mr. Wilkie Bard has made a capital study of the title-rôle. He amuses immensely with his quaint peculiarities, and at the same time his study is an artistic one. Happy Fanny Fields scores heavily as Grechen, the Dutch servant of Mother Goose. She is always bright and amusing. Miss Lily Morris and Miss Nina Wood are pleasing as principal boy and girl, and are now very popular. All the comedians are exceptionally good in their respective parts. They include Mr. Edward Lewis, Mr. Marriott Edgar, Mr. Fred Conquest, Messrs. Rick and Rich, and the Brothers Griffiths, an accomplished contingent. Miss Nellie Stratton is pleasing as Lady Biddy O'Rowke; Miss Kathryn Comber is graceful and stately as the Fairy Heartsease, singing in an exceptionally artistic style; and the Tiller "Superba" Troupe execute thier dances admirably. The dresses and scenery are quite up to the high standard we have been accustomed to here.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Goody Two Shoes* continues to be successful in attracting good houses. The pantomime runs smoothly. There is a lot of comic business which causes much hilarity, and the staging, both in the way of costumes and scenery, is on a liberal scale. The principals, including Miss Harriet Fawn, Miss May Fallowfield, the Sisters Lunelle, Miss Minnie Love, Mr. Dave O'Toole, Messrs. Harrigan and Holt, Mr. Alec Kendall, and Mr. Leo Fallowfield are all excellent in their respective parts.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Miss Dolly Elsworthy's company heads the bill with an interesting sketch, entitled *The Orange Girl*, the story dealing with an episode in the life of King Charles II. Miss Dolly Elsworthy plays effectively as Nell Gwynn, as also does Mr. Frank Liston as Charles II., and excellent support is given by other members of the company. The sketch, in three scenes, is nicely staged. Mirzah, "the Man in Green," does some good banjo playing and juggles with the instruments at the same time; J. P. Dane, comedian, has some smart songs; Mike Cray, comic juggler, is successful; the Waldrons amuse with their eccentricities in a funny sketch, *The Silly Burglar*; T. C. Calaghan, comedian, obtains applause; Miniature Marie is decidedly clever as a mimic and dancer; Hector and Paulus are expert comedy acrobats and equilibrists; and Frances Drew is a pleasing burlesque actress. Animated pictures by the Barrascope conclude the entertainment.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman. — The Alexandroff Troupe of Russian singers and dancers present a quaint and attractive turn. They are nine in number, mostly ladies, and clever acrobatic feats are introduced. A-Ba-Be, the "living picture postcard album," presents a very pretty novelty, the lady posing in an artistic manner, and the background pictures are cleverly painted and illuminated. Other attractive turns are provided by Ethel May, a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Jack Thornbury, a clever artist in sand and smoke pictures; the Henderson and Stanley Quartette of vocalists, instrumentalists and dancers; the Five Sisters Warwick, experts in trick, acrobatic, and fancy cycling; Maud Dainton and company, in their funny sketch, *Selina*; and Little Don, comedian and eccentric dancer. The performance concludes with an interesting exhibition of Vernon's animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama and variety entertainment continues to attract a large attendance.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Still Alarm* is well presented here by Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company. Mr. M. H. Glenville makes a good impression as Jack Manley; Mr. Cecil du Gue as Jack Bird gives an excellent performance; the Doc Wilber by Mr. Fred Osmond causes much laughter; Miss Maud Warburton is a charming Elinore Fordham; Miss Eva Reed is a sprightly Carrie Wilber; Miss Mabel Veriton makes an excellent Mrs. Manley; and Mr. Tom Beasley as Willie Manley, Mr. J. S. Pateman as Franklyn Fordham, and Mr. Lewis Corden as Joe Jones are well placed.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner. Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in Mr. J. Comyns Carr's version of *Oliver Twist* is here this week, and is being well received. Mr. Stanley Drewitt plays the heavy rôle of Fagin in a clever and brilliant manner, and is repeatedly applauded. The Bill Sikes of William H. Kemble is a well-studied representation; Mr. Arthur Brown ably portrays the benevolent Mr. Brownlow; Mr. W. H. Rotheram, a clever actor, plays the dual rôle of Mr. Grimwig and Mr. Monks; Mr. Cyril Cattley is a handsome Harry Maylie; and Mr. Charlie Clarke gives a clever representation of the Artful Dodger. Miss Marie Polini is responsible for a life-like portrayal of the repentant Nancy; Miss Helen Clement is a pleasing Rose Maylie; Miss Alice Maude does well as Mrs. Maylie; and Miss Dorothy Marsdin is an excellent Oliver. Other parts which are well played are Charlie Bates by Mr. Reginald C. Hunter, Mr. Bumble by Mr. Edward Walsh, and Giles by Mr. J. C. Appleby.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company, under the direction of Mr. Charles M. Julian, is here on a return visit with *I Defy the World*. Mr. Lewis Gilbert gives a meritorious performance as Leon Darville; Mr. Horace Booth is sufficiently villainous as the Count de Beaulieu; Mr. Alfred Denning distinguishes himself as General Delaporte; and Laroches is ably portrayed by Mr. Charles Conway. The honeymoon couple, Samuel and Marie Wozzle, as played by Mr. Charles M. Julian and Miss Maud Lillian, provoke endless merriment. Miss Trixie St. Albans is an able exponent of Pauline Delaporte; Miss Gertrude Coates is very good as Fanchette; and Miss Maude Malvern displays dramatic ability as Blanche Darville.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Herr Georg Chante is the premier turn here this week, and his clever dancing and wonderful quick changes provoke loud applause. Signor and Madame Belloni's Cockatoos are heartily applauded for their almost human performance, the tricks reflecting great credit upon their trainers; Vandinoff produces beautiful floral pictures with lightning rapidity, and is strongly welcomed; J. W. Barker is a humorous and versatile comedian; the Babusio Brothers are as much at home on their heads and hands as on their feet; J. S. James is a smart banjoist; and Ailsa Douglas is a pleasing soprano vocalist. An amusing picture, "A Butterfly Chase," is exhibited by Raymond's Bio Tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—The attraction here this week is Miss Mary Austin's company in *The Cotton Spinner*, which attracted a good audience on the opening night. Miss Mary Austin, who undertook the rôle of Mary Prescott, gained much applause by her graceful and sympathetic acting. She was admirably supported by Miss Dorothy Mackenzie, who gave a finished performance as Constance Harrington. As John Prescott, the Cotton Spinner, Mr. John S. Haydon submitted an interesting performance, which was well appreciated. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds was very successful as Arthur Northbury, and Mr. Edwin F. Fysher acted well as Lord Northbury; Mr. Henry Howard made the most of his part as Foster Cunningham; and Mr. Ernest C Edwards as Major Stratton and Miss Bella Power as Lady Charlotte Needy caused much amusement. The play was preceded by some excellent animated pictures shown by the Rayograph.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs. Haddon and Loader's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*, is here this week. The company is a good one. Miss Nellie Burdette is a lively Jack; and Miss Rose Sylvester sings charmingly as Dora. The comedians include Mr. Leon Simkin (Dame Trotter), Mr. Dan Paulton (Squire Musty), and Mr. Jay Laurier (Silly Billy). The specialities include the Sisters Poole, charming dancers; Sisters Florenca, Grant and Allen, and the Alhambra Trio of speciality dancers. The scenery is capital.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The week's programme here includes the Five Whiteleys, acrobatic and musical turn; Mahatma, who answers questions regarding absent friends, &c.; Valoni, a juggler; the Three Seabornes, acrobats; H. F. Wilson, vocalist; Barton and Franklin, vocalists; Maxwell and O'Neill, comedians; and Percy Maye, female impersonator.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The chief turns here are the Hadley Juveniles, a capital turn; the Celtic Comedy Trio; Carr and Rose; and Conway and Yarland, comedians.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Harry Yorke's company is here this week with a welcome return visit of *Sherlock Holmes*, and on Monday night Mr. Lawrence Leyton gave a most effective and realistic rendering of the famous detective; Dr. Watson was equally well presented by Mr. Edward Heanley; Professor Moriarty was remarkably well played by Mr. W. T. Stirling; Larraber and Prince were made the most of by Messrs. Ernest Gray and Phillip Renouf. Miss Beatrice Marsden as Miss Faulkner successfully represented the character.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford. — *Robinson Crusoe* finishes this week, and Cardiffians are taking advantage of the last opportunities of witnessing a pantomime which is acknowledged by all to be one of the best ever seen in South Wales. Very popular is Miss Cassie Walmer, her impersonation of the Empress of Jungalow having proved most attractive. Miss Veronica Brady has been a particularly pleasing principal girl, her singing and dancing being a great feature of the production; Miss Maisie Ellinger as Crusoe has worked hard, and gained unbounded praise; and Miss Lily Beverley as Lieut. Bobs and Miss Blanche Courtney as Jennie Hopkins have been well to the fore. The clever comedians are to be congratulated on their respective delineations, Mr. Tom Owen, Mr. Frank Couch, and Messrs. Downes and Langford being a very sound combination of exceptional talent; while Mr. Clifford Morgan's baritone singing and Larola's brilliant juggling speciality deserve special mention.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—The original New

Dick Whittington on Monday to a large house. Miss Grace Henderson makes an excellent Dick, acting and singing with great success; Miss Emmie Hands is a charming Alice Fitzwarren; and Mr. Ben Ford is capable as Alderman Fitzwarren; Messrs. Henry Albery and Will Dennis as Martha Muggine and Idle Jack respectively are a useful and amusing pair of comedians; Mr. Leo Lambert undertakes the rôle of the Emperor of Morocco, his songs being well received; Miss Mona Wells as King Demon and Miss Gladys Wells as the Fairy Queen are both well placed and effective. The specialities include Miss Marie Winsome, an admirable male impersonator; Leslie Murray, the Court magician, with clever business; the Maros, skilful triple bar artists; the Etos, capital contortionists; and Mdlle. Dora, a charming oboe soloist. The scenery and dresses are of a very superior character, and the Verona troupe of dancers do effective work. The augmented orchestra and large chorus are under the efficient command of Mr. William Crandon-Bevan.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Bayne. — Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian* is proving a strong attraction here this week. Mr. Frank Tennant as John Storm displays histrionic abilities of a high order. Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood gives a fine interpretation of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe submits a finished performance of Father Lamplugh; Mr. Charles C. Dering scores as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Oswald Marshall is highly successful as Mr. Lorimer; Glory Quayle has an excellent exponent in Miss Grace Chalmers, who does every justice to the part; and Miss Molly Hayden is well suited as Mrs. Callender. Every attention has been paid to the dressing and staging of the play, which are excellent.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—The new management made a hit in opening with Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens' pantomime company in *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*. Miss Mona Emerald, in the title-rôle, is very dainty, and sings admirably; Miss Dollie Hook looks handsome as the Count Von Nickel, and delights the audience with some excellent songs; Mr. George Westland, as Vinaigrette, makes a capable Scotch comedian; Mr. H. O. Wills successfully portrays Prince Pippin; Miss Ida Gladstone makes an admirable Avenant; and Sauciboy is cleverly acted by Mr. Barry Lupino. Specialities are many, and among them are Mr. Ball Valentine's Flying Ballet, which again and again receives applauses for its well-executed turns.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Notwithstanding the fact that Monday was polling day, a very fair house assembled to witness Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company play *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Cyril Austen Lee gave a striking portrayal of Horace Parker; and Mr. William H. Brougham made a capital Messenger; whilst the Man of Genius found an exceedingly capable exponent in Mr. Bruce Lindley. A couple of clever adaptations were those of Miss May Saker as Minnie Templar, and Mrs. Edward Saker as the egotist's aunt.

GRAND THEATRE.—The local garrison amateurs are giving performances this week of *Mamz'lle Natouche* for the benefit of the Army Pensioners' Widows' Fund, assisted by one or two well-known artists.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's principal company is here this week with the drama entitled *The Little Bread Winner*. As Lord William Dorrington, Mr. J. A. Campbell portrays the character to the life; whilst as Richard Lawrence Mr. Evan Roberts is very good. Mr. Roland Yorke scores as Joseph Prior; and as Charles Prior Mr. Allen Charles is excellent. Mr. Walle Spinner appears as Doctor Chadwick; and Mr. Lea Hair as Monty. Miss Mary Mallalim is most pathetic as Margaret Daventry; and Miss Jenny Bostock is a capable Bridget O'Flanaghan. Miss Maud Buchanan does full justice to the part of Kate Cherry; the same remarks apply with equal force to the rendering of the rôle of Ruth Cherry by Miss Emma Litchfield. Too much praise cannot be accorded Little Emmie Thomas, who appears as Meg, the little bread winner. She is applauded again and again for her singing and dancing.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's company in *The Duke of Killicrankie* opened a week's engagement here on Monday. The players are exceptionally bright and clever. Mr. Walter Ringham's impersonation of the title-rôle was most artistic; as the Lady Henrietta, Miss Octavia Kenmare gave a clever delineation. Miss Naomi Neilson, on the passage over, was thrown out of her berth, but still she appeared with her customary success in the part of Mrs. Mulholland. Mr. Leigh Lovel also did well. *Sowing the Wind* was also billed by the same clever company on Thursday.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—There is an all-round good bill of fare supplied here this week. The La Vails, on the silver chain ladders and breakaway bars, give a really marvellous performance. Ted Waite is a capital eccentric comedian; Max Merlin, the human crocodile, is a clever contortionist; the Mar-ta-Fi acrobats are clever; and Gretta May is very pleasing in her songs and dances. The De Almer Trio introduce single-stick fencing and ball-punching, their turn being much admired; Harry Jennings, comedian and dancer, is smart in his clog dancing; Marstro and Mdlle. Oretta, equilibrists and tumblers, are successful. The male performer balances himself on billiard cues, and does some clever tricks with balls off a billiard table. The American bioscope pictures are a fine collection.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—An attractive Christmas pantomime entitled *Dick Whittington*, written by Mr. James P. Moore, is being presented this week with success by the Moore Kennedy Company. Mr. Hyam Long is very amusing in his impersonation of Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Dan Agar soon sets the house in roars as Idle Jack, and sings some excellent songs; Mr. Arthur Behan is successful as the cook; and the two Canadian boys, Doyle and Massey, are respectively responsible for Shuffle and Shirk. Miss Vera Snowden is a winsome Alice Fitzwarren, and Mdlle. Lucreta captivates the house as Dick Whittington. Monsieur Pauletti is an excellent Cat. The fairy characters are well rendered by Miss Mollie Revell, Miss Clara Dudley, and Miss Lena Dudley. Miss Lily Townshend makes a capital Prince Charming. Specialities are introduced by Mdlle. Lucretia (dancer), the Palais Royal Quartette of Dancers, Pauletti (bicycle acrobat), and Mr. Hyam Long (musical eccentric).

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—The programme here includes Lew Lake and his comedy company in an amusing sketch entitled *The Bloomsbury Burglars*; Charles Fanning, comedian; Harry Maynard, a capital character vocalist; Les Strads, speciality musical artists; Miss Ella Dean, burlesque actress and vocalist; Deon Walker, speciality artist; and Jimmy Shields, Scotch comedian; the usual animated pictures concluding the programme.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—This week we have a return visit of Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company, with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale is a favourite here as Chevalier Lucio Delgado, a character which gives him ample scope to show his histrionic ability; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe, as Paul Gouffett, a difficult part, is particularly pleasing. The fun of the play is in the capable hands of Miss Gwynne Warren and Mr. C. Alan Hineson, who, as Babette and Peter Pottlebury, make some amusing hits. Mr. Alfred Warne gives a dignified impersonation of Henry de Brisson; and Mr. Gilbert Hall is well placed as Lucien Cortier. Mr. George Phythian makes the most of a small but prominent part, Le Blanc, the mad doctor; and Mr. F. C. Raphael is well placed as Jean Barbelow. Miss N. Thorn Hallam, as Marie de Brisson, wins the sympathy of the audience; and Miss Elaine Grant is quite successful in the rôle of La Pinau.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. Robert Perris is paying a return visit this week with *A Fight for Millions*, an American drama with several sensational effects, notably the submarine boat. As Willie Neverwork Mr. Perris displays abundant humour, and his singing of "Pal of mine," an illustrated song, is enthusiastically received. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves as Tom Manley shows marked ability, and Mr. Archie Helsby gives an excellent portrayal of Richard Dudley. Mr. Karl Edwards as Moses and Mr. Nicholas Conway as Hobbs are very clever and amusing. Among the ladies Miss Elma Turner fills the rôle of Ellen Dudley with distinction, and Miss Eva Purcell as Pearl Rivers is very effective, her singing of "A little boy called Taps," pictorially illustrated, being excellent. Mrs. Audrey Conning as Mrs. Hudson Rivers, Miss Lottie Pearce as Betty, and Miss Audrey Sutherland as Little Madge are deserving of every credit.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Davidson.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company is paying a return visit here this week with *When a Man Hates*. As Pietro Danelli, Mr. Arthur Hinton submits a forcible rendering; Miss Leila Zillwood is an admirable Olga; Mr. Travis Green is a manly Lawrence Hastings; Miss Dorothy Haigh a sweet Letty; and Peter Pimple and Dolly Dimple are in the able hands of Mr. F. Brunell and Miss Cissie Cleveland. On Thursday night, for the benefit of Miss Zillwood, *The Sorrows of Satan* was played.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company is here this week with *Leah Kleschna*. In the title-rôle Miss Haidee Wright plays with all the tact and skill of an accomplished actress; Miss Ethel Marryatt is efficient as Madame Berton; Miss Haidee Hemsley is charming as Claire Berton; Miss Dorothy Sidney is a lively Sophie Chapponiere; and useful aid is given by Misses Cecile Leith and Alice Davis as Frieda and Charlotte. Mr. H. Cooper-Cliffe gives a well-thought out rendering of Kleschna; Mr. J. Graeme-Campbell submits a sterling portrayal of Paul Sylvaine; Mr. E. H. Brooke has closely studied the rôle of Schram; Mr. Kenneth Rivington is a commanding General Berton; Mr. Cyril Harcourt acts carefully in the part of Renoul Berton; Mr. Roland Daniel causes amusement as Valentin Favre; and smaller rôles are creditably enacted by Messrs. William Wilson, George Fairburn, M. Loomis, and John Harding. Unstinted praise is due to Mr. Leonard Gautier's orchestra; and Mr. Lawson Lambert gauges to a nicety the requirements of his patrons.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is attracting good houses here. Unstinted praise is due to Mr. Herbert Williams for his quaint impersonation of Granny; Messrs. Condon and Preston are a whimsical pair as Pen and Ink; Mr. Tod Squires extracts incessant fun from the rôle of Baron Badlot; Mr. Charles Marston does himself credit as the Wolf; and Mr. Alf. Aubyn is a favourite as Lawyer Fox. Miss Rita Rhylle is a sweet and pretty Little Red Riding Hood; Miss Ethel Dove is an attractive and animated Robin Hood; and Miss Sophie Swaby is cordially received as Fairy Bluebell. The Sisters Brand do wonders with the rôles of Jack and Jill. Mr. Sid Morton may be congratulated upon his able stage-management; Miss Idalia May is a clever dancer; and admirable specialities are submitted by Mr. Mansell Fane, vocalist; Knoto, contortionist; and Clito, coloured coon dancer.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. James Bell.—The attraction this week is Miss Mary Austin and Mr. Vivian Edmond's company in the late Wilson Barrett's play, *The Golden Ladder*. The principal parts of this interesting drama are taken by Mr. Harry Cullenford, as the Rev. Frank Thornhill, shows ability; Mr. Harry Belford evokes much interest in the character of Mr. Dixson; Mr. Clayton gives a creditable rendering of Noah Learoyd; Mr. James Rowland is droll as Samuel Peckaby; Miss Eva Moss, as Lilian Grant, is pathetic and forcible; Miss Nellie Graham, as Mrs. Peckaby, scores; and Miss Kate Haslewood, as The Tearer, is amusing; Miss Jessie Gillette, as Victoria Alexandra Peckaby, is responsible for a pleasing portrayal.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—The attraction here this week is Mr. T. Morton-Powell's company in *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn, as Gabriel Garth, displays ability; Mr. Douglas B. Watson is well suited as Jack Halyard; Mr. C. Craig impersonates Duncan Bly in an able manner; Mr. W. H. Melrose is an amusing farm servant; and Mr. W. M. Cameron is good as Mike. Miss M. Coleman does justice to the rôle of Lillian Garth; Miss M. Scott is clever as Mercy Merry; and Miss Lizzie Morley is a humorous Nurse.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley.—This week's attraction is supplied by Mr. George Dance's principal company in *The Cingalee*. In the name-rôle Miss Winifred O'Connor plays and sings with grace and charm, and secures an all-round success. Mr. Lauri De Frece as Chambhuddy Ram leads the comedy, and deserves unstinted praise. In the same connection Miss Gladys Guy as Peggy Sabine also merits high commendation. The Hon. Harry Vereker is ably accounted for by Mr. Frank Crimp, whose fine voice is heard to advantage in the various numbers allotted to the part. Mr. Bertrand Gates acquits himself admirably as Boobhamba, his topical song being several times encored. As Sir Peter Loftus Mr. Coop Edmunds is distinctly clever and diverting; and Mr. Ethelbert Edward is in every way satisfactory as Bobby Warren. Miss Phyllis Herbert, Miss May Owen, Miss Nellie Gladwell, and Miss Laurie Lindsley figure most agreeably as the four tea girls; and Miss Marjorie Clarke as Lady Patricia Vane and Miss Essie Perrin as Angy Loftus are excellent. The dancing—as is also the case with the singing—is thoroughly good throughout, and special mention should be made of Miss Perrin's delightful pas seul. The chorus is capital, and the special orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Otto Manus, leaves nothing to wish for. A first-rate production.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—An entertaining star turn here this week is supplied by the Harley Troupe of comedy trampolin acrobats. Their performance, which is both smart and deserving of praise, is accorded hearty approval. Clown Barker is responsible for much amusement with his dogs, monkey, pony, &c., the animals having evidently been well trained. C. F. Best is distinctly funny as "Mac Bunker, the Mountebank"; Mill, Ray and Theresa appear to advantage in their quick-change act; the Wallys, expert jugglers, are commendable; Wat Tyler is a successful character vocalist; the Laurens, in a novel statuary act, receive due recognition; and the Palace Bioscope has an exceedingly interesting film entitled "Life and Scenes in India."

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Mr. J. W. Turner's opera company is occupying the boards here this week, and doing excellent business. The répertoire consists of *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Fra Diavolo*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *Faust*, and *Maritana*, in this order. The principals include Messrs. J. W. Turner, John Ridding, F. J. Hargreaves, Chas. Le Sœur, Sidney Clifford, Miss Jessie Dennis, Alice Boaden, and Kitty Brownless. The chorus is a strong one. Mr. T. Lawton conducts.

HIPPODROME AND VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Weldon.—Monday night was given up to a gigantic mass meeting held by the Liberal Party of this constituency. On Tuesday, when business was resumed, Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the singing factory girls, achieved their former success; and Bert Hague, a local singer of some note, did well. The Two 'Cellos, musical artists, scored; and Wheeler and Wilson, in their acrobatic act, were satisfactory. The turn of the bill was provided by the Dorians, in a clever aerial show. Bertha Norwood, soubrette and dancer; Fred Harrison, comedian; Bert Williams, in an amusing ventriloquial act; and the Harriscope, with a stock of pictures, are also in the programme.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Goody Two Shoes*, a pretty pantomime, came here on Monday. The title-rôle is daintily presented by Miss Annie Casey; and a particularly commendable interpretation of Roland, the hero, comes from Miss Chummie La Mara. The Dame Freckles of Mr. Sidney Dean could scarcely be improved upon; hearty recognition is accorded Miss Hawthorne Thwaites for her impersonation of Benevalantia; and Miss Julie Fuller gives piquancy and effect to the rôle of Mephisto. The specialities include the Mikado troupe of lady dancers, Messrs. Selby and Myers, Miss Annette Aseiky, Messrs. Keith and Merson, the Sisters St. Julian, and Cyrus and Maude.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Poole's Myriorama is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Many new pictures have been added, and the entertainment given by the clever company of variety artists is also much appreciated. Little Doretta contributes a pretty Dutch song, followed by a smart acrobatic dance; Miss Kitty Wood sings a charming song entitled "The Face in the Firelight," illustrated with lantern slides, and later on in the evening gives a highly effective turn with her clever and well-trained canine circus and orchestra. Mr. Harry Stewart, the American protean change artist, is exceedingly good; while Leonard and Mac, patter comedians, are amusing, and meet with well-deserved applause. The Avondale Quartette are responsible for some exceptionally well-rendered glees; and one of the prettiest and most successful items on the programme is Miss Daisy Graham's collection of trained birds. Mention must be made of the fine series of animated pictures. Mr. Cecil F. Couper is an efficient guide, and the orchestra is under the able control of Mr. A. S. Morrell.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Parrington.—On Monday The Moody Manners Opera company entered on its last week here after a most successful season. Meyerbeer's opera, *The Huguenots*, was excellently staged on Monday, and the work was thoroughly and satisfactorily rendered, the orchestra being under the direction of Herr Eckhold. Madame de Vere submitted a finished and artistic embodiment of Valentine; her singing was excellent and greatly admired. Miss Kate Henderson in the rôle of Valois sang and acted admirably. Mr. Joseph O'Mara gave a remarkably good representation of Raoul, and sang his music with exquisite taste. Mr. Charles Manners was warmly applauded for his praiseworthy performance of Marcella, his song "Piff Paff" being deservedly encored. Mr. Charles Magrath did well as Count San Bris, and Mr. William Dever filled the character of Count de Nevers in a successful manner. The week's programme included *The Lily of Killarney*, *Maritana*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *Carmen*, *Siegfried*, *Faust*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The enormously successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, is still the attraction here, and is drawing full houses.

QUEEN'S.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Mr. Kennedy Miller's company is here this week with *Lord Edward, or '98*. Mr. Robert Faulkner capitally portrays the part of Lord Edward and Miss Cecilia Dare is a creditable Pamela. Mr. James O'Brien causes much laughter by his impersonation of Thady, and as Lady Louisa Connolly Miss P. Reynolds is excellent. The part of Higgins is in the capable hands of Mr. Ion Ireland, and Mrs. Brady is successful as Madame de Sillery. Mr. Dane Clarke acts with judgment as Francis Magan, and Miss Monica Kelly makes a humorous Katey Malone. Napper Tandy is ably depicted by Mr. R. Payne, and Major Sirr is well sustained by Mr. Ryeland Leigh. The Misses Ada Turner and May Axon are both good as Mrs. and Miss Moore, and Major Swan is well played by Mr. Phillip Blake.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Musical Director, Mr. H. J. Baynton.—This week's programme is a good one, the principle position being alloted to Madame Marzella's performing birds, whose wonderful training elicits applause; Vasco, the mad musician, pays a return visit, and is as popular as ever; Tony and the Vernon Comedy Four receive due recognition; and the Three Victorias are charming vocalists and dancers; Holles and Goldman's Trio, in their musical comedy, *The Little Charwoman*, are highly amusing; and Bicknelle is an expert in clay-modelling; Alexandre and Bertie's gymnastic performance deserves commendation; and Les Adoz, in Olympian plays, makes a favourable impression. The Empire pictures are also interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Mr. W. Permane's educated bears, the current attraction here, give an interesting show; and the Brothers Hannaway are smart comedians and dancers; Ned Kennedy and company's sketch, *Life in a Tenement House*, causes much laughter; and Dave Watson's cornet solos scores a success; a clever display is given by Mlle. Florizell, the flexible lady; and Volp and Cleveland's musical specialtiy meets with approval; Clavers and Piccolo are an acceptable pair of comedians; and Shirley Liggins, negro comedian; J. A. Cassels, Scotch comedian; and the Bioscope complete the bill.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated company is still here, and has in no way diminished in popularity.

WORLDS FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—Pettigrove and Son's Marionettes pantomime, *Cinderella*, continues to attract.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Perkins.—Milton Bode's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, which we inadvertently referred to last week as *Cinderella*, has now entered in the last week of a most successful season. The management have good reason for congratulation, the production having been a success in every way, and everyone will say farewell with the greatest reluctance.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The Saxon Trio of strong men return with their amazing athletic performance. *The Children's Picnic* is still going strong; and a capital programme is contributed to by the Venola Brothers, ring performers; the Brothers Ralston, vocal duettists; Jack Charman, vocalist; Miss Millie Harris, and Miss Agnes Molteno, in classical excerpts from opera. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope remains up-to-date.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Mr. Williams's second pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, was produced on Monday with great éclat. It is picturesque from a scenic point of view, and strong in principals and specialities. Miss Kathleen Emmet makes a dashing Dick, and scores a big success with her rendering of "My Irish Molly O"; Miss Rose Whillier, as the Fairy Bluebell, has a fine voice, which is heard to advantage in "Dreamland"; Miss Irene Vincent cuts a dashing figure as Mustapha; Miss Kitty Ward makes an exceedingly handsome Princess; and Miss Renée Walton is effective as Grimalkin. Mr. Fred Pearce keeps the fun going as Idle Jack, and contributes a clever eccentric dance. Mr. Jack Wilson has a fine sense of humour, and is distinctly quaint as Captain Reuben Ratlin; Mr. Fred Collins, as the Dame, is a mirth-provoking Scotch comedian, his song, "I'm getting married to John Mackay," being received with great delight; Mr. Harry Cardoe is a clever contortionist, and makes an excellent Cat; Mr. James Millar, as King Rat, displays an excellent baritone voice in his song, "A soldier's life"; Miss Alma Evelyn as Sir Potter Hill, Mr. Alf. Bilford as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Claude Morton as Bill Barnacle, and Mr. Ed. Chas. Howitt as the Verger, are alike excellent in their respective parts. Rappo and Ella give an amazing and daring equilibrist entertainment; the Two Flowers contribute a cleverly-executed dance; and the Gaiety troupe of dancers score well in their clog dance.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Crowe's company produce *The Way of the World*. The outstanding feature is the assumption of the part of Adela Roche, the circus queen, by Miss Sydney Crowe, who gives an excellent impersonation. Mr. Herbert Scardon makes a dashing Cecil Montague; and Mr. Clare Temple, as the clergyman, gives a fine character study. Miss Violette Vivian, as Polly Bell, the circus strong woman, manipulated the heavy weights with great success.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Miss Lillie Mowbray's successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, is being played here this week, and was attended on Monday night by a good audience. Miss Ethel Burns makes a handsome Prince Peerless, her singing being a great attraction; Miss May Garnet Vayne is a sweet Cinderella, her singing and dancing being much appreciated; Miss Vesta Brownie, as Dandina, does well; Miss Maggie Brownie, in her comic make-up as Semolina, plays her part well; Miss Eva Dumante, as Fairy Light Heart, is enthusiastically encored for her fine singing; Miss Lilla Kedwards is seen to great advantage as Babette; Mr. Will Wilson, as Peter, does ample justice to his part; Mr. Tom Read, as Angelina, keeps the audience laughing; and the Boston Twins, as Knipp and Knapp, are a decided success. The specialities are a special feature, and consist of Ivy Valescoe's troupe of trained ponies; Read and Wright, premier top-boot dancers; and Hampson's grotesque act.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—During the latter part of the week Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company is billed to appear here in *Bluebell in Fairyland*.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Peter Davey's capital company is supplying the first pantomime at this house with *Puss in Boots*. A complete success must be voted to Mr. Wyn Weaver for his excellent work as King Komilfo. His style is original and quaint, and he bubbles over with fun and merriment. Mrs. Arthur Royce is a distinct and highly-amusing Dame Donna; Mr. Ernest Noble provides a liberal quantity of laughter as Bilbabio; and Mr. Arthur White is a first-class cat, his contortion work being loudly applauded. Particular mention must be made of Messrs. Eugene and Willie, who, in addition to being a most diverting Bull-Bovrillio, contributes an attractive musical and acrobatic show, which is one of the hits of the pantomime; and Mr. Leslie Digby and Mr. Reginald Ring are a couple of effective comedians as Sancho and Pancho. Of the charming, shapely ladies, first mention must be made of Miss Nellie Groves, who is a vivacious and laughing Princess Carita; Miss Marie Kildare is quite a favourite as principal boy Juan; Miss Maud Brockwell is a very pretty and fascinating Lola; Miss Dollie Shaw, as Katrina, is a graceful and accomplished dancer; and Miss May Hollom a pretty Fairy Perdita.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—Miss Minnie Cunningham quickly obtains a firm footing in the favour of the audience, and she is a charming comedienne; Messrs. Burns and Burns have a most effective sketch; the Three San Remo Girls sing and dance in good style; Ford and Hanson score in their musical turn; Bishop and Vale succeed as comedians; the Misses May and Lilly provide enjoyment as singers and instrumentalists; and the Sainsburys and Miss Blanche Albini very capably complete the bill.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Responsible-Managers, Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Hood.—Mr. Oswald Brook's company was here during the first three nights of the week in *The Trail of the Serpent*, and for the concluding nights Mr. Chas. H. Phelps's company, with *One Woman's Wickedness*, was announced.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The pantomime *The Forty Thieves*, with Mr. Tom Murray as first comedian, Miss Ruth Lytton as principal boy, and Mr. Felino as the donkey, continues to provide good entertainment for full houses.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. G. T. Minshull.—*Lady Madcap*, now in the fourth and last week of a very successful run, is still attracting large audiences. Miss Marie Studholme in the name part is mainly responsible for the popularity of this latest musical play.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—*Aladdin* still holds the field at this enterprising house, where new songs and further novelties are seasonably introduced by Miss May Marton, Messrs. Walton and Lester, and other members of the company. Cordial appreciation of the performance is manifested by the crowds flocking to the theatre.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—In the programme here this week Miss Florence St. John is the principal attraction in Godfrey's comedietta, *My Milliner's Bill*. The part of Mrs. Merridew is played by Miss St. John with all the old charm of manner, and her rendering of "Sally in our Alley" is full of the expression which always marks her singing. Mr. Chas. B. Bedells gives adequate support as Mr. Merridew. The sketches of characters from Dickens's novels are graphically done by Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, who display dramatic powers of a high order. Miss Minnie Mace is graceful and vivacious as vocalist and dancer; and the Two St. Johns provide a very pleasing musical act. The Serenaders, masked musicians, appear to much advantage in solo and part singing and dainty dances. Mr. F. K. Dundas, actor-vocalist, is heartily applauded for his dramatic sketches; the Four Kamlos are clever and amusing in their horizontal bar act; Miss Edie King dances with expertness; Miss Edie Veno sings coon songs with success; and Miss Haidee Lee and Mr. Wallace Kingston are really amusing in a somewhat novel farcical sketch.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The Arctic spectacle *Lapland* is still the main attraction here, and good houses are the rule. Mr. Cooke never spares himself or his staff in his efforts to please his patrons, and his entertainment this season is marked by the care and variety which characterise all his programmes. The horsemanship is admirable; the turns are excellent of their kind, and the clowning of the drolls is sufficient to make the building ring with laughter.

EDMONTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Joseph L. S. Moss; Manageress, Mrs. Amelia H. B. Moss.—On Monday, Miss Emily Huby's company commenced the second week of its engagement, the piece selected being *The Convent Bell; or, the Secret of Sinners' Point*. Miss Huby's conception of the Lady-mother of the convent was excellent; and the part of Sister Gertrude was well played by Miss Isabel Treton. Miss Dot Russell, as Susette, added greatly to the success of the piece, and her singing and dancing were greatly appreciated; Miss Agnes Imlay as Christine Valgrave played a difficult part in capital style; and Miss Lily Barley Clarke gave a charming impersonation of Marguerite Courier, the much-suffering heroine. Mr. Howell Webb, as Pickle Podd, scored another success; and Mr. L. Clements again delighted the audience with his quaint comedy as Jean, a very tired page-boy. Philip Vautier was capitally played by Mr. Horace Herbert; and the part of Colonel Vautier was safe in the hands of Mr. Charles E. Howell. Henri Cassella was excellently played by Mr. R. Harris. The remaining parts were well interpreted by Mr. J. H. Howard (Captain Drummond), Mr. Ben Fletcher (George Fireater), Mr. J. Williams (a prison warder); and Mr. L. Manville Huggins (a fisherman).

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* continues to draw large and appreciative audiences. There has been a further change this week, more new songs and jokes being introduced, and the pantomime is as bright and pleasing as ever. Mr. Henry Buss as Dame Durden, and Miss Bessie Allayne as Jack, have become very popular, and also Mr. H. A. Griffiths as MacHaggis. He is intensely funny with his dry Scotch remarks. The other ladies and comedians are also great favourites. Amongst the specialities Leon Clarke is the special feature this week with his performing monkeys, rabbits, rats, mice, and canaries.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. William Greet's company holds the boards this week with the musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Alfred Donohoe, as Jim Cheese, is the life and soul of the piece; Dick Wargrave has a capable exponent in Mr. Leslie Gaze; Mr. Thomas Kennard as the Hon. Crewe Boodle, Mr. A. E. Wilson as A. Bunker Bliss, Mr. Tom J. Edwards as Downham, are also excellent in their respective parts. The ladies of the cast are also successful, particularly Miss Hylda Dugdale as Elphin Haye, Miss Lina Hicks as Lizzie Shoddam, Miss Beatrice Anderson as Mrs. Shimmering Black, Miss Ida Stratham as Daisy Fallowfield, and Miss Winnie Plumpton as Miss Virginia Bliss.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, T. Morton Powell, Esq.—Messrs. Carson and Kendall's company is here in *The Power of the Cross*. Mr. Fred Goddard is responsible for an excellent impersonation of Gerald Fairfax. As David Kingsley, Mr. Charles Johnson meets with success, and Mr. Horace Denton, as Dr. Fairfax, submits a clever piece of character-acting; Mr. Percy Hayes gets everything possible out of the part of Timothy; Miss Cissy St. Elmo is a capable exponent of Rita Lascelles; Miss Etta Turner is very funny as Dolly Gray; and Miss Ethel Bracewell plays naturally as Blanche Kingsley; Miss Stanley Burt as Margaret Seaton is all that could be desired.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—On Monday evening Mr. Fred. J. Kirke and company presented *The Naval Detective*, a musical comedy-drama that met with a hearty reception. Mr. Kirke, as Lieutenant Jack Beresford, the naval detective, was interesting, his various disguises being excellent; Mr. George Frere was well placed as Dr. Schreiner; the Captain Hustle of Mr. Mack Practice was extremely funny, his eccentric dancing being very clever; Mr. Bert Leighton as the Hon. Bertie Fairlox proved himself to be a comedian of merit; Mr. C. H. Barnes (who introduced a pleasing musical speciality) gave a good character-study of the part of Hans Winklepump; Miss Louie Fountaine was a charming Phyllis Leslie, her singing being greatly appreciated; Miss E. Claris, as Susan Scrubbs, made herself very popular; Miss Ethel W. Stuart gave a powerful rendering of the part of Lulu Kaufman; Miss Lily Seymour was very successful as Rebecca Gentle. Some clever dances were given by Misses Nancy and Amy Shaw. *Our Sailor Lad* was announced for the latter part of the week.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here this week in *A Sailor's Sweetheart*. Mr. Mark Blow gives an artistic portrayal of Lieut. Charles Clive; Mr. Theodore Hill, as Admiral Sefton, plays his part creditably; Mr. Fred Lillywhite acts with care as Captain Mayland; Mr. A. Johnstone gives adequate support as the Rev. Robert Clive; Mr. A. B. Cuncliffe, as Sinfallah, deserves special mention; Mr. Dan Shields is excellent as Prentos; Mr. Thomas Miller is well placed as Nicoya; Mr. E. R. Wyvers is satisfactory as Ashwah, the Seer; Miss Maud Locker is a pleasing Mrs. Pembury; Miss Ella Dixon, as Phœbe Pembury, is charming; and Miss Mollie Pearson specially good as Grace Mayland. *Moths* was played on Friday by the same company.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—In its fourth and last week *Aladdin* continues to draw crowded houses. Mr. Daley Cooper (Abanazar) has made himself an immense favourite with local playgoers. Messrs. Story and Trigg (Policemen) and Mr. Edward Thirlby (Widow Twankey) also have numerous admirers. Miss Lilly Gullick (Princess) and Miss Leonora Grieve (Aladdin) are successful in their respective parts, the former's song, "My Irish Molly O," being undoubtedly the "hit" of the pantomime. Miss Nellie Barnwell is a very dainty Pekoe, having an excellent number in "Buttercups and Daisies." Benefit performances were given during the week as follows:—Tuesday, Miss Leonora Grieve;

character part of Hommeybeg; while the part of the Governor of the Island has a gentlemanly representative in Mr. F. C. Robson.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here this week playing *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, in which Miss Beatrice Homer sustains the part of the supposed ugly one with powerfully dramatic effect; the hero, Jack Merriman, being also ably played by Mr. Philip Darien. Mr. Leyton Chancellor as Hubert Gold and Mr. Allan Devonport as Redvers are well fitted in their parts; Mr. Charles Barrett as Antonio Luchesi looks and acts the plotting Italian to the life; a fine part is that of Morita, an Italian girl disguised as a boy, nicely performed by Miss Margaret Wilson; Miss Agnes Denver as Rose Courtney acts an intriguing woman powerfully; Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown, together with Mr. Tubby Eblin as Herrick, impart a plentiful supply of comedy to the drama. Mr. William Wallace as Raggles, a loafing hooligan, is extremely life-like, and all the other characters are ably sustained.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—The company appearing here this week includes Fred Karno's company in their amusing sketch *The Mumming Birds*, which is well received. Other turns are Hetty Lee, comedienne and dancer; the Silvas, ladder experts; Dan Conroy, comedian; Frobel and Ruge, on the revolving pole; Lambert and Glover, comedy sketch artists; C. Vincent Adams, comedian; dainty Ethel Ra Leslie, ballad vocalist; Sydney James's Strolling Players; and the American bioscope, with a pleasing series of pictures.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Moss's Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal turn this week is the Caledonian Boys' orchestra, which gives unbounded delight. The grace and daring of the gymnastic Moulier Sisters excite intense admiration; Harry Carsdale cleverly imitates bird and animal language; Baker and Balfe are spirited performers upon the xylophone; the Three Merrions in the music shop is an entertaining turn; Dandy George and his dog are a highly appreciated pair; Mabel La Blanche sings her sensible songs with much spirit; the Salambos give some astonishing exhibitions of what can be done with electricity; and the Juggling Geraldos are wonderful exponents of club juggling. The bioscope winds up a pleasing entertainment.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan.—The Gems are the star turn here, and with their varied musical and comedy business do exceedingly well; Ray Wallace is again giving her clever imitations of popular artists; Helen Martin is a sweet singer with a charming and refined style; the Stack and Milton Trio give a clever bar and spring somersault display, which is neat and smart; Cooke and Clinton are a skilful pair of lady sharpshooters; while Millie Hylton, Mueller and Coyne, Hill and Hull, Jimson's sketch *The Burglar's Surprise*, and the bioscope all contribute to an enjoyable programme.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. McKelvie.—Joe Peterman's company in *The Belle of the Orient* provides lots of fun here, Mr. Peterman himself as the Jew being mainly responsible. The company includes several fine singers and clever dancers, and the chorus is large and attractive. Bliss and Bliss are a smart pair of comedians; and enjoyable turns are contributed by Starr and Jerome, Flo Chevalier, Sisters Lytton, the Delomes, Two Errolls, Ida Ross, and Les Rallis.

PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The programme submitted here this week includes the sensational cycling feat by Tom Graves, flying the revolving wheel, an astonishing act. The other members of the company are Mabelle May, comedienne and Terpsichorean expert; François Rothig, conjurer; the Virginians, coon singers and dancers; Arthur Bromley and Line Fontein, vocal entertainers; Dardan and Iris, acrobats and dancers; Vosper, facial caricaturist; Will Dalton, character comedian; Florrie Fairfax, vocalist and mimic; and Toch and Tard, burlesque acrobats.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and Barney Armstrong.—Albert Sturm, the 14-stone Græco-Roman wrestler, is giving displays here, and interesting contests are taking place nightly. J. A. Wilson, "the black oracle," is again in Glasgow, and fetching the East-enders with his quaint songs and amusing patter. Miss Flo Smithers and company appear in a lively sketch, and numerous other attractive turns are included in the bill of fare.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is this week presenting *In Holy (!) Russia*, which met with a good reception from a large house on Monday. Mr. Joe Cuthbertson gives a good reading of the character of Count Gregori Petrolski; Mr. Louis Norman is successful as Michael Natolski; and Mr. Stephen Crossley impersonates skilfully the part of Baron von Plevo; Mr. Carl Rovinelli, as Laurice Storagoff; and Mr. John Chesterfield, as Ivan Overitch, are also prominent; Mr. Frank Copeland, as Sir Harry Berresford, gives a good delineation; and Mr. John Nelson, as Sergeant Touloff, deserves praise; Mr. Haughton Macauley, as Colonel Richard Forrest, and Mr. J. Rice Cassidy, as Mickey Nolan, cause constant outbursts of merriment; Miss Ada Roscoe is excellent as Catska Lavotski; and Miss Florence Halton, as Mrs. Richard Forrest, is amusing; Miss Alice Marsden is a dignified Madame Natolski; and Miss Evie Norman, as Natalie Natolski, is commendable; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy, as Rennee Rubinoff, is applauded for her really clever acting. The drama is well staged.

GLOUCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole.—West's Naval and Military Cinematograph is showing here this week. The pictures are excellent, and the whole exhibition is instructive and amusing.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company is paying a first visit to this theatre. On Monday the engagement opened with *Othello*, Mr. Allan Wilkie gave an impressive and powerful portrayal of the name-part; as Desdemona, Miss Ine Cameron played with touching grace and tenderness; an excellent and forcible reading of Iago was contributed by Mr. Geo. Lampton; Mr. Clifford Rean was highly successful as Cassio; Miss Lizzie Maddocks was a charming Emilia. On Tuesday, *The Merchant of Venice* was staged; on Wednesday, *The Sleigh Bells* and *Robert Macaire*; and on Thursday, *Belphegor*; and Friday, *The Fool's Revenge*. The scenery and dresses are worthy of special mention.

GRAVESEND.—NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—The first two nights of the week Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime company, *The Babes in the Wood*, was in occupation here. Introduced into the pantomime were the Butterfly Troupe of Lady Dancers, whose acrobatic and speciality dancing gave much pleasure; Carl Moneta, the eccentric legmania artist in his speciality sand dance; Claire Wadham, an accomplished contralto vocalist; Winifred May, a good coon artist; Young and Mack, comedians; and the Crystals, who did well as society speciality dancers.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—This week a good all-round company is here, the chief star being Wal Pink, the bright comedian, in his latest success, *The Cheap Jack*; Sam Dalton, a clever character comedian; Lillian Travellie, an attractive American soubrette; Rossetti, the marvellous musical girl, who introduces the smallest fiddle in the world; Bert Dansie, vocal comedian; Ruby Aston, a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and Lauri Wylie, with his amusing mimicking mannikin.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The powerful Russian drama, *The Price of Her Soul*, is being played here this week by Messrs. John B. Shinton and Alexander Greenwood's company. Lord Rolf Mandeville is excellently represented by Mr. John B. Shinton; Mr. Langden Goulding depicts with dramatic force the character of General Demetrius Lanovitz; and Mr. Annersley Hely is equally successful as Major Ivan Skoboloff. Captain Lawton is capitally acted by Mr. Sydney Ross, Mr. Will Percy is amusing as Pat Murphy, and Miss Tina Frank as Polly Perkins proves very diverting. The Countess Inez Steinmetz is charmingly represented by Miss Ada M. Ryder; Miss Mona Grey is admirable as Olga Lanovitz; and Vera is prettily played by Little Ida Thompson.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—This week's attraction here is *The Toreador*, played by Mr. George Edwardes's company under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone. Mr. J. Colclough Fagan is successful as Caragolo, and is applauded for his "Toreador" song. Mr. Richard Telford is very amusing as Sammy Gigg; Mr. Tom May as Pettifer keeps the house in the best of humour; and Mr. Henry Arthur makes an excellent Governor of Villaya. Mr. Charles W. Anson fills the part of Rinaldo with ability, and Mr. Daniel Maston is well suited as Moreno. A small part amusingly played is that of the Bandmaster by Mr. Arthur Lenborn. Mr. T. Hulme Sharp represents Sir Archie Slackitt in good style, and is well supported by Mr. Charles M. Heslop, who acts, sings, and dances well as Augustus Qaill. Miss Leah Howard is a volatile Susan, and vocalises nicely; Miss Sadie Neville and Miss Ethel Netherton are much admired as Dora Selby and Nancy Staunton; Miss Gracie Desmond makes the most of her opportunities as Mrs. Hoppings; and Miss Florena Spurgeon is good as Donna Teresa. The chorus and orchestra are ably directed by Mr. Herbert Linwood.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Tom Bassett's company heads the bill here with a spectacle entitled *Santa Claus*, and the display is appreciated. Other members of a good company are Cosmans, comedy artists; Tom Bassett, comedian; the Itrams, in a Perch pot-pourri act; Harry Legbourne, novel comedian; Bonnetti and Currie, comedy jugglers; and Tennyson and Wallis, comedians.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The Palace Theatre (Greenock) Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Slingsby.—The Musical Johnstons head the bill here, and give an artistic xylophone entertainment. Stanley and Vandyke submit a very amusing comedy act; Gracie Taylor is a charming vocalist; Will Souls is a clever laughing comedian; the Redferns, banjoists and dancers, are capable performers; Charlie Jerome, American speciality artist, assisted by Connie Ferndale, gives an enjoyable entertainment; Harry Clys and Rosie Rochelle, acrobatic comedian and soubrette, are very humorous; and the entertainment is completed by a capital bioscope display.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—*Peggy Machree*, which was originally produced at this theatre fourteen months ago, has paid a welcome return visit. It is now seen in a considerably revised form, and proves more entertaining than ever. Miss Claudia Lasell is now impersonating Peggy, and does so in a very winsome manner, her singing being especially pleasing. Mr. Leslie Stiles is also a great success as Barry Trevor, and is heard to special advantage in the several ballads allotted to him. Miss Blanche Astley makes a charming Molly, and also sings sweetly. The quaint Scot, McDougall, is humorously portrayed by Mr. Milroy Cooper, and Mr. Edgar Ashwin is equally good as Michael, the piper. Others who are worthy of mention are Miss Madge Avery as Moira, Miss Doris Kelvey as Madame de la Cour, Miss Dorothy Garden as the Hon. Emily Pryor, Mr. Ralph Lynn as Sir Lawrence Borthwick, Mr. Marc MacDermott as Captain de la Cour, and Mr. John Morley as Sergeant Bampton.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Manning's Entertainers were, unfortunately, unable to appear on Monday evening owing to the non-arrival of their luggage, but later delighted the Tivoli audiences with their amusing business. Rastus and Banks, a couple of coloured artists, give popular songs, and good vocal work is also accomplished by Ethel Dunford. Zaid, a Spanish Moor, performs extraordinary contortionistic feats whilst suspended from swinging rings. Alma Curzon's patriotic songs meet with approval; good songs are given by Ernest Ball; and James Brady's humorous ditties cause much laughter.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—A capital military burlesque, in which many novel scenic tricks are introduced, has been seen in *Young Recruits*, presented by the Hudson-Powell Troupe. Haydee's miniature theatre is a very pleasing turn, the puppet impersonations of various well-known variety artists being very smartly accomplished. The Indian pastimes displayed by Ara, Zebra, and Vora are more than ordinarily interesting, and include some neat gymnastic work. The Demon Chef gives a clever exhibition of conjuring feats in a kitchen scene. Others appearing are Mdlle. Sylvesto, contortionist; Will Walton, comedian; Gold and Stirling, in a speciality combining scene-painting with singing; and Major Moss and Son, who contribute good songs.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Pantomime reigns supreme at this beautiful modern house of amusement, where Mr. Peter Eland's brilliant spectacular and mirth-provoking pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is doing enormous business. Mr. Harry Gribben and Mr. J. C. Bland keep the ball of fun rolling in the quaint characters of Sammy the Sneak and Billy the Brute, while Mr. E. H. Bertram is one of the best of Barons. Much of the success is attributable to Mr. Frank Lynne, whose Superintendent Corkshaw would be difficult to surpass. The amiable Robin Hood, Maid Marian, and Tom the Tinker are in the safe keeping of the Three Sisters Sprightly, who are as clever as they are charming. Miss Ada Mansfield is a typical Mother Shipton. The singing of the ladies is perfect, and some delightful specialities are introduced by the Three Sisters Sprightly. Helene Cecile (the mimicker of mummers), the Musical Howard, Messrs. Lytton and Bland, and George Hall, the whistling wonder.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—This week we are having a welcome visit of Mr. John F. Preston's powerful company in the realistic drama entitled *The Rich and Poor of London*, which is being staged in masterly style twice nightly. Large audiences enjoy the play greatly.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—That clever comedienne, Miss Lottie Lennox, holds the bill here this week. Another capital turn is submitted by Les Louberts in their refined and captivating comedy, *Uninvited*. The Four Jumels in their musical act, together with Paulinetti and Piquo in an original comedy gymnastic act, provide capital amusement.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Charles Howard.—The pantomime is now in its last week. Mr. Nat Clifford has several capital songs, which create roars of laughter, especially one entitled "The Little Drummer Boy," which is exceedingly funny. Mr. W. H. Kirby has scored a decided success as Abanazar, his topical song, "Don't tell anyone I told you," having become most popular. Miss Elsie Steadman has won much favour as the Princess, her song being rendered most artistically. Miss Florence Wilton in her song, "Jenny Mine," is excellent. All the artists work well together, and the chorus is good. A burlesque photographic scene causes much amusement. *Aladdin* has proved a truly capital pantomime, and Mr. Charles Elphinstone is to be congratulated.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwards.—At the head of the bill this week are the Ten Loonies in their comedy instrumental act. This is one of the funniest turns ever seen at the Grand. The Max-Wesseley Troupe of Jugglers return in their clever performance, which meets with the heartiest appreciation; Miss Addie Dorina presents her quick-change sketch, viz., *How It Is Done*, during which she impersonates six female characters; the Three Cape Girls score a huge success, a notable feature being their excellent dancing; Lillian as a trick cyclist has but few rivals, her performance being clever and daring; Tom Brantford's turn is most amusing; and Pollo Jerome is a lady trapezist of much ability. The Grand Pictures are always well worth seeing.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs.—Ben Hur, who heads the list this week, gives a wonderful display of muscular strength and weight-lifting. Notwithstanding the number of visits, Jack Pleasants has paid here, the audience never seems to tire of him. A conspicuous hit is made by Golden Michalini, whose equilibristic and juggling act creates something like a sensation. The Four Blackbirds, coloured comedians and expert dancers, are clever; Leo Cecil, comedian and dancer, contributes a pretty number; Will Bell dances in good style; the jumping by the Brothers Wynford is done with an alertness that is truly wonderful; Bert Bowden's songs are provocative of considerable amusement; and the programme is concluded by some interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week in *The Freedom of Suzanne*. Miss Beatrice Lindley supplies an excellent impersonation of the wilful heroine of the story and Mr. Percy D. Standing as Charles Trevor is also praiseworthy. Mr. F. G. Thurstans as Fitzroy Harding makes a very amusing old beau, and Mr. William Mallalieu is stately as the Family Solicitor. Suzanne's trio of admirers are well acted by Mr. Townsend Whitling (Lord Dachet), Mr. Edward Bonfield (Capt. Harry), and Mr. Archie Selwyn (Tommy Keston). Miss Emily Patterson is severely stern as Lady Charlotte Trevor, Miss Charlotte Mead acts cleverly as Miss Minching, and Miss Annie Statman (who is locally very popular) is very good as Mrs. Tustall. The piece is well staged, and is preceded by *Two in a Trap*.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The spectacular and military drama, entitled *Dishonoured; or, Through the Battle Smoke*, is holding the boards here this week. The author, Mr. Arthur St. John, as Philip Cunningham, plays the part in manly fashion; Mr. E. Armitage is equally successful as Sir William Cunningham; Mr. Powell James and Mr. C. H. Fenton take important parts in the play; Mr. Victor Herne looks an Oriental to the life as Mhooleb Khan; Miss Ida St. John gives a well-studied and graceful sketch as Leslie Maynard; Miss Kitty Bennett does excellent work in the part of Sybil.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—The change from two to a one-house nightly performance is proving very successful. Burns and Bentley, American artists, are skilful dancers; Mr. Cyrus Dare gives some remarkable imitations of a child; Miss Jenny Belmore is an attractive comedienne and dancer; Messrs. Dante, Bentley, and Elton introduce an amusing novel scena, *Always Moving*. A good song or two is sung by Mr. Andrew Higginson, comedian; the Stavordale Quintette give some harmonious vocal selections; Miss Jessie Albini, a refined comedienne, receives a warm welcome.

HEBBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—This week Messrs. Monti and Firth present their pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which was well received on Monday night by a large and appreciative audience. As Robin Hood, Miss Florrie Bray makes a graceful and dashing principal boy, being encored in her popular songs; Maid Marian is capably rendered by Miss Ada Clare; Miss Daisy Cecil does well as Phyllis; and Miss May Edney gives a pleasing impersonation of Will Scarlet. Much amusement is created by Mr. Dan Idle, as Belinda (the nurse), an amusing representation of Baron Graball is submitted by Mr. Arthur Allen; the Brothers Valmore are well placed as Weary Willie and Tired Tim, provoking much mirth by their ready patter; and another notable impersonation is that of Mr. Fred Monti as Simple Simon. Miss Lily Cleave and Miss Maudie Cleave, in the parts of "The Babes," worked with untiring zeal.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Whitly Smith.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' company is here this week in the grand juvenile pantomime *Cinderella*. The company is received with every mark of approbation. The most noteworthy individual performance is that of Mr. Paddy Mills as Buttons; Miss May Bishop, dainty and pretty, plays nicely in the part of Dandini; Cinderella is winsomely presented by Miss Kitty Rafferty, scoring a success with her charming singing. The same may be said of Miss Kitty Chester as Dewdrop; Miss H. Deacon's protrayal of the Baroness is broad comedy of an excellent kind; and Miss Jessie Hardacre is very effective as Prince Charming.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—A musical comedy, entitled *The Girl from Japan*, is here for the week. The piece is of the light, inconsequential order, and is adequately represented by the cast engaged, which includes Miss Dorothy Glenton in the principal part of Violet, Mr. George Hudson as the vapid Lord Allenbury, Mr. Ernest Spalding as an impossible parson (the Rev. John Smith), Mr. Percy Baverstock as General Baugh, Miss Mabel Kerridge as Polly, Miss Jeannie Holmes as Lady Flippington, and Miss Josephine Ellis as Maud. There is a bright, active, and attractive chorus.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—There is a good all-round entertainment here with the Ando Troupe of Japanese at the top. Their clever performance is highly appreciated. Mr. Fred Casburn is a comedian of merit; good sketches are presented by Ernest Leicester and company in *V.C.*; the Arthur Lloyd Trio and the Lyons Trio; contortionism is submitted by Bendo; fine concertina playing by Percy Honri, a song or two by Miss Millie Denham (comedienne), and the pictures on the biograph complete the programme.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* well deserves the great success which it has achieved. Mr. Tom Foy as Idle Jack still keeps the house continuously amused, his quaint humour causing roars of laughter; Mr. Bert Bryne as Gertrude the Cook will long be remembered for his exceptionally clever conception of this character. Other popular members of the company are Mr. Jack Foy, Mr. Will Musgrave, and Mr. John Power, with Mr. Ted Foy as the Cat. Miss Hetty Zillwood as Dick Whittington and Miss Clara Reid as Alice have established themselves as firm favourites, with whom the Hull public will be sorry to part. Miss Cissy Murray as second boy has made a good impression, the rendering of her songs being one of the chief successes of the pantomime.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*The Girl from Kay's*, presented by Mr. George Dance's company, is here this week, and, in spite of the distraction caused by the General Election, good business is being done. Miss Beatrice Poole is entirely successful in the leading rôle of Winnie Harborough, which she enacts with much grace and energy; Miss Emily Taylor is a pleasing Nora Chalmers; and Miss Mabel Dent makes a dainty maid. Mr. George Blunt as Hoggenheimer is amusing, and Mr. Reginald Grey is funny as Fitzthistle. The part of Harry Gordon has an able exponent in Mr. J. S. Durant, and Mr. Tom Seymour is a humorous Joseph. Others deserving of special mention are Miss Lily Beaumont as Mrs. Chalmers, and Mr. Thomas Pauncefort as Mr. Chalmers, who handle their parts in a satisfactory manner.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Morton, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—This week Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is presenting the romantic melodrama *The Love that Women Desire*. The play is well staged, and performed by a capable company. Miss Lydia Donovan appears to advantage in the rôle of Sybil Thornburn, handling the part with great care throughout; Mr. David G. Noble distinguishes himself as the hero, Philip Carnaby; Mr. Wallace (who is the author of the piece) gives a creditable performance as Frank Hardy; Mr. J. O. Stewart as Squire Abingdon is exceedingly good; and Mr. C. Quinton Fulford as young Abingdon is also well placed. Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke and Miss Maud Stuart as Pattie Swift supply a good deal of fun.

NEW PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—Mendel, the wonderful blind pianist, tops the bill here; Selma Braatz is an exceedingly clever juggler. Other artists appearing include Stephens and Rennior; Lora, a very smart exponent of figure-reading; The Gittis, Sinclair and Parr, The Fitzroys, Irving Jones, and Margaret Ashton.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—The Six Brothers Luck present their funny sketch, *The Demon of the Cellar*; Hilton and Hilton are very smart bar performers; and Evelyn Taylor makes herself very popular. Other attractions appearing include Edna Thelma, J. W. Ellison, Fred Lloyd and Co., The Rushforths, King Leo, and the Bioscope.

THE BIJOU.—Lessee, Mr. T. N. Turner; Manager, Mr. Fred Thorne.—The Cumberlands provide a sensational trick cycling act here. Other good artists include Lily Mason, Florence Schubert, Polly Heath, Newport Bros., Bertha Duckett, Harry Morris, Walter Gurney, and a very exciting boxing competition.

THE CIRCUS.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The Imperial Circus company is doing big business here.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The pantomime of *Cinderella* is the attraction here, played by Pardoe's company. As principal girl Miss Dolly Wright wins a favourable verdict, and as the principal boy Miss Lottie Holland is decidedly successful, her stage presence and singing being to the taste of the audience. Dandini finds an excellent exponent in Miss May Daventry; Mr. Tom Hulme makes a hit as the Baron, and Mr. George Hyam as Scoot exhibits great ability as a comedian. The two sisters Eva and Maud are well represented by Messrs. Bert Gordon and Jesse Boxer; Mr. Tom Griffit is in fine voice as Father Time. The following specialities and a good chorus much enhance the effect: The Pardoes, in a clever gymnastic display; Paul Rundle, with a troupe of dogs; Zenieth, animal impersonator; France and Francis, equilibrists; Nellie Rose, dancer; Nellie Cross and troupe of drummers and dancers; and Bert Gordon, vocalist and Milanese piper.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—James Day is clever in his handcuff feats; the Reays are equilibrists of merit; English and Edwards have a good reception for their duologue, *A Smart Racing Story*. Arthur Edwards, vocalist; Alice Dora, comedienne and dancer; Regan, illusionist; Dan Conway, comedian and dancer; and May English, serio, are the other turns engaged.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company in *A Trip to Chinatown* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Harry Stuart is good as Welland Strong, Mr. Edward de Vere is amusing as Ben Gay, Mr. Osmond Grey as Rashleigh Gay, and Mr. George Handel as Saxon Blood do well; all the other parts are in capable hands.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—On Monday evening Mr. George Edwardes's *Cingalee* company commenced a week's engagement here. Miss Zoe Gilfillan presented the role of Nanoya in admirable style, her singing and dancing being equally good; the part of Peggy Sabine found an excellent representative in Miss Cissie Sephton; Miss Emilie Mayhew was a stately Lady Patricia; and Miss Vi Holmes did some graceful dancing. Mr. Johnny Osborne was exceedingly droll as Chambhuddy Ram; Mr. Kenneth Wynne did full justice to the part of the Hon. Harry Vereker. Other characters were capably enacted by Messrs. Helier Le Maistre, Roy Sidney, and H. J. Williams. The play was capitally staged.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Large audiences are still the rule at this popular place of entertainment, the current week's bill of fare containing some novel and attractive items. The Three Macgregors gain much applause for their Scotch dancing; while Musto is a humorous and clever contortionist; Walter Custer justifies his claim as a "merriment merchant"; and Clotilda, with her well-trained cockatoos and parrots pleases audiences immensely; Steve McCarthy contributes some clever dancing and singing as an Irish coon; Professor Duncan displays much skill and patience in introducing his educated collie dogs; and other turns include Miss Marie Kendall, who renders a couple of popular songs in excellent style; and De Wynne, a neat and clever equilibrist.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. G. Jefferson.—Mr. H. Swinerd's company is paying a return visit this week with *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Mr. C. W. Parke gives a good account of the part of George Fielding, and Mr. H. C. Ward does full justice to the rôle of Capt. Edward Dudley. Mr. Frank Howard is quite at home as Featherstone Haugh; Mr. Alf Stretton scores as Hawkins; Mr. Arthur Verne is well placed as Silas Crump, and contributes some excellent specialities. He is ably assisted by Miss Nellie Harcourt; Miss D. Desmonde is an admirable Dorothy Montrose, and Miss N. Caronne is good as Ruth Montrose. The specialities introduced include a mirror dance by Miss Mabel Blake and Miss Nellie Anderson.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's pantomime *Aladdin* commenced here on Tuesday evening, under the able management of Mr. James R. Le Fane. Miss Rose Helene gives a sprightly interpretation of the name-part, and is the possessor of a pretty voice and shapely figure; Miss May Davis, who was a great favourite here last year, when she played Beauty, is a particularly pleasing Pekoe; whilst Miss Dolly Varden (Princess), Miss Laura Humphries (So Shi), and Miss Daisy Browne (Electra) do good work. Mr. Jamie Douglas is an amusing Widow Twankey; Mr. Victor Wallace, who is the possessor of a fine voice, is exceedingly funny as Abanazar; and Mr. T. Gulliver is good as So Long. Messrs. Welda and Wynne contribute a clever juggling act, and the dexterous dancing of the New York Quartette is much appreciated.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard's Co., Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. Arthur Howard.—Mr. Ernest E. Norris's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, has been presented here during the whole of this week. It is gorgeously dressed and staged, and many of the scenic effects and tableaux are beyond praise. In the company are many artists of ability and charm. Messrs. Lauri and Ellis, as the principal comedians, are good; and Messrs. George de Lara and Fred Tenour, as the miller's sons, are droll. Miss Kitty Courtney is a naturally graceful Princess Pansy; and Miss Mabel Murray is excellent as Gilbert. The Lord Chamberlain is well enacted by Miss Frances Clare, and special mention must be made of the Cupid of Miss Lily Vine-White, which is charmingly elfish. The dancing of the Rosie-Rice Quartette proves the favourite feature of an altogether excellent pantomime.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company is here in the comic pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Marion May as Sinbad is a dashing principal boy, and is well assisted by Miss Amy Calcott as Zorilda. Much amusement is caused by the antics and humorous patter of Mr. Walter Adams as Tinbad, Messrs. Newcombe and Sullivan as Baccah and Stoppah, and Mr. John E. West as Mrs. Sinbad are also very funny. Mr Albert E. Mann is a capable Captain Cook; and Mr. Fred Dobito is good as the Emperor. Mdlle. Corra Arnitta is an excellent Lustre. Specialities are successfully given by the Stuart Quartette, dancers; the Calcotts, banjoists; Miss May Wyatt, 'cellist; Little Tim, big boot dancer; Dobito and Buxton, operatic vocalists; and the Westwoods, comedy cyclists. The dresses and scenic effects are good, and the chorus is strong.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Henry Wilkinson.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime *Dick Whittington and his Cat* is the attraction this week, and was right well received on Monday evening. The scenery and dresses were up to the mark, and the various songs went with a swing. Miss Madge Merry appeared as Dick Whittington with much success, and Mr. William Kashma as the Cat was very good. Miss Winifred Preece was a winsome Alice Fitzwarren, and Mr. W. H. Ball did well as Alderman Fitzwarren. Mr. Walter Nugent made a decided hit as Julia, the Cook; Mr. Walter Wade was droll as Idle Jack; and Mr. C. Kashma successful as Captain Kettle. Specialities were introduced by Les Sprays, dancers; the Kashmas, knockabouts; the Thalian Glee Singers, the Sisters Vincent, coon singers; and Miss Effie White, in a fire dance which elicited rounds of applause.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—Cliff Ryland, comedian, heads the bill this week; Henry Carlton and company merit applause for their *One Night Only*, and the Sisters Bartholomew sing and dance nicely. Donna and Cliffe, duettists and dancers; Winnie Scott, dancer; Linton, funambulist; Molly Doon, comedienne; and Walter Payne's animated pictures, complete the programme.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—That excellent specimen of the best type of melodrama, *The Silver King*, is paying a welcome visit again after an absence of some years. Messrs. Polini and Melford's company is a thoroughly adequate one. Mr. Herbert Ford, as Wilfrid Denver, gives a natural and unforced yet quite powerful rendering of the part; Miss Daisy Scudamore is a gentle and womanly Nellie; and Mr. E. J. George is as able an exponent as ever of the part of the faithful Jackes. Messrs. Algernon J. Hicks, Arthur Wright, and W. Thompson are a sufficiently villainous trio of scoundrels; and Mr. James L. Power creditably enacts the part of Corket.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*The Babes in the Wood* is now at the height of its popularity, and full houses are the rule nightly. The ladies of the show, notably, Miss Katie May and Miss Ivey Roze, display commendable vivacity in their work, and their various songs are vociferously encored. Mr. G. H. Elliott, with a charming voice and style, has established himself a big favourite, his coon speciality business constituting quite a feature of the evening. The Anartos find opportunity for the display of their fine musical abilities in several enjoyable interludes; Carlton, the famous conjurer, never fails to mystify his audience, and enjoys immense popularity; whilst Mr. Arthur Stigant has great opportunities as the Dame, of which he avails himself to the fullest extent. Mr. J. W. Rowley and Mr. Frank Calvert, amongst others, are very prominent in helping along the humour of the production.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, runs merrily along, amply realising the brilliant success predicted for it at the commencement of the run.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, by arrangement with Mr. C. St. John Denton, put on here on Monday, for a three weeks' run, the excellent pantomime, *Cinderella*, which was welcomed by a crowded house. The company is particularly strong in vocal ability. Miss Hilda Guiver as the Prince, Miss Aimee Roberts as Cinderella, and Miss Nora Emerald as Dandini, each proving immensely popular in the singing of tuneful melodies. A brilliant company of comedians is thoroughly entertaining; Mr. Morny Cash as the Baron's page doing specially good work; whilst the New Macs, as a pair of comic brokers' men, with Mr. T. Hybert and Mr. F. Beck as the ugly sisters, find opportunity for many interludes of uproarious merriment. Mr. J. G. Taylor plays the Baron on novel lines. Entertaining speciality business, by Miss Madeline Rossiter, the Sisters Dorrell, and Donaldson Brothers and Ardel, are big features; and an excellent chorus performs its duties in commendable style.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr.

expert musical act; a novel ventriloquial turn by Oakdene comes in for a deal of attention; and Geo. Bendon, coon specialist, is a very strong turn in his own particular line. A local youth, J. Noble, is doing a clever conjuring act, which promises well; and other successful contributors are Charley Dixon, eccentric comedian; Paul Peiham, a favourite in the vocal line; and Gena Monan, soubrette.

ALBERT HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrot Troupe conclude an eminently successful three weeks' season here, their excellent entertainment having attracted most generous patronage.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater.—To-night (Saturday), the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*, which has afforded so much amusement to many thousands during the past four weeks, will terminate in consequence of prior bookings. Nancy Langtyre has throughout won golden opinions by her delightful embodiment of Robinson Crusoe; Mr. Ainslie Burton has kept the audience in the merriest of moods as Dame Crusoe. Miss Florrie Saunders has captivated all as Polly; and other ladies who have been prominent are Mdlle. Ebba Darcier as Princess Moonshine, Miss Gwen Clifford as Britannia, and Miss Dorothy Dempster as Jenny Wren. Mr. Lionel Braham, who has an excellent voice, has both acted and sang well as Will Atkins, and much hearty laughter has been caused by Mr. Alfred Sandoe as Bumper, Mr. Charles A. Stephenson as Billy Crusoe, and Messrs. Baroux and Bion as Captain Crosseye and Bo'sun Bobstay. Mr. John R. Val has been admirable as Man Friday. The marches and processions arranged by Miss Nellie James reflect great credit on her abilities in this department, and a final word of praise must also be bestowed on the really excellent chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. H. Sullivan Brooke.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company, presenting the romantic play *The Temptress*, is the attraction here this week. The company and staging, as is usual with Mr. Hallatt's productions, leave nothing to be desired. Mr. W. H. Hallatt brings to bear on the part of Pedro Gonzales histrionic abilities of a high order, and Miss Blanche Steele in the title-rôle is also a conspicuous success. Mr. James C. Ashworth is excellent as Sir Oswald Fordyce; Mr. Robert Wilton makes a capital Austin Dale; Mr. Frederick Ross is well-placed as Lucas Denbigh; Miss Dora Mason is good as Dennis; and both Miss Lizzie Chambers and Mr. Allan Carruthers are well to the front with popular and clever portrayals.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The principal attraction in this week's programme is Mr. Fred Storey and company, who are presenting on a return visit the popular *Rip Van Winkle*. Mr. Storey, as Rip, scores a great success with a portrayal which allows of full scope for his exceptional abilities in this well-known and diversified character. He is assisted in capital style by Mr. A. Maitland Stapley as Derrick, Miss Lilian Holmes as Gretchen, Miss Gwendolen Burney, Mr. Herbert Burney, Master Reginald Connor, and Miss Florence Gardner. Spessardy's performing bears and ponies reflect great credit on their trainer, their performance being one of the best seen here. Dot Hardy is aptly described as the funniest little "slavey" ever seen. Brown and Robinson are cordially received for their harmony in the kitchen; Hart and Leo as amusing comedy artists score their usual success; Rackett and Hazard are very good in "A Musical Trip round the World"; Terley is clever in his novel plastic figure performance; Robert Ganthony is popular with his humorous sketches; and the American Bioscope throws on the screen in fourteen scenes "A City Man's Busy Day."

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—A big hit is being made here this week by Ford and Barris, two boys picked up in the streets of London by Mr. Thomas Barrassford. They are remarkably clever. Lady Mansell and her juveniles on a return visit are cordially received in their speciality *A Concert Rehearsal*. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, showing the usual well-selected and entertaining films, is a popular feature. Mephisto, assisted by Mdlle. Marie, goes through a smart act as a contortionist; Clara Victor displays her fine voice to advantage in *An Operatic Rehearsal*; Sidney Dolf is good in his new act, "Versatility"; the Haverleys, song illustrators, please the audience greatly; Marie Gibson, a gifted soprano, scores a success.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Mr. A. E. Smith's company is appearing here to good audiences with the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Muriel Love, as Princess Balroulbadour, depicts the rôle charmingly; Miss Edith Wallace is an admirable exponent of Aladdin; Mr. Edward Raymond does exceedingly well as the Emperor of China; as does also Mr. Frank Wheatcroft, as the Grand Vizier. The comedy element is cleverly supplied by Mr. Fred Ramsdale, as the Widow Twankey; and the Brothers Astley, as the Policemen. Several good specialities are introduced in the Palace scene, amongst them being Mr. J. H. Maxwell, big boot dancer and hat spinner; Arnold, illusionist; Bendene, contortionist; Miss Marie Walker, trombone player; and the Silverdale troupe of lady dancers.

OHMY'S CIRCUS. — Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince. — Franz Josef, champion wrestler of Austria, tops the bill here this week, and some exciting bouts are being witnessed with Mr. T. McInerney, who on Tuesday withstood the Austrian for the specified time of ten minutes, and therefore won the £10. Mdlle. Venda, lady juggler, is very smart; a novel turn is that of Messrs. Hinton and Wooton, with football on bicycles; Miss Lilly, with her performing ponies, is quite successful. Other turns are Messrs. Claude Ohmy, Swallow and Rabbit, in riding acts; Mons. Atbrey, in a gymnastic performance; and a laughable sketch by the clowns.

LEITH. — NEW GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison. — The pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, now in the fourth week of its very successful run, enjoys undiminished popularity. New business and fresh items of interest have been introduced by the comedians and other members of the company, with happy effect; and the admirable co-operation of all concerned in the production continues to be a marked feature in the entertainment. Miss Mimi Fisher, Miss Bijou Dreus, Miss Louie Niemann, Miss Pattie Fairley, and Miss Evelyn Robson have all gained a large share of public favour; while Messrs. Charles Grantley, F. C. Imbert, G. Payne, John Henri, Denby and Dent, and, though last not least, Mr. W. S. Stevenson cleverly sustained the burden of work set down for the male performers. Far from losing anything of its early attractiveness, the pantomime has developed considerably its capability of providing amusement.

LEVEN.—TOWN HALL.—Mr. George Dance's company, with the sprightly *Girl from Kay's*, paid a welcome visit here on Tuesday evening. Miss Lily Edmonds, as Winnie Harborough, was very successful; Miss Irene Vere made a dashing and popular Ellen; Miss Marie Greenhouse was musically pathetic as Norah Chalmers; and Miss Maud Leonard, as Mrs. Chalmers, was distinctly good. The part of Harry Gordon was well played by Mr. H. Jeffcoats; Mr. J. W. Hooper, as Max Hoggenheimer; and Mr. Fred Thompson, as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle, were very amusing. Messrs. Claude Dampier and H. Jennings made the most of the parts of Joseph and Pepper. Mr. Arthur Jackson was a sufficiently legal Theodore Quench, K.C.; Mr. E. Forde a genial Mr. Chalmers; and Mr. J. Hart an accommodating Frank.

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Frank King.—*The* 10.30 *Down Express* is being presented here by Mr. Horace Stanley and company. As Wagstaff Mr. Horace Stanley is continually in evidence, and with Miss Kate Kilpack keeps the audience amused. The episode of stopping the express is as effective as ever.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur. — The Frantz Family of acrobats contribute the principal turn, and their exhibition is superb; Rae and Len also give a clever turn; Charles Whittle and Harry Lawson are entertaining comedians; Guy Rider is an excellent sifflеur; Nelson and Thomas are always a success at Lincoln; and Will and August are well applauded for their clever work. Pallister's bioscope is a welcome attraction.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, still remains here, enjoying much patronage. North-end theatregoers have certainly taken to it, for this popular house is nightly crowded.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—The temporary return to pantomime has been a fillip to the business of this theatre, crowded houses nightly witnessing the presentation of Mr. J. James Hewson's *Jack and Jill*, played by the Six Brothers Luck and their company. Mr. Hewson's treatment of the story is quite in keeping with its traditions. The brothers do full justice to their respective parts, roars of laughter greeting their antics. Miss Mabel Thorne makes a delightful Jack, and Miss Marjorie Cecil a pleasing and vivacious Jill. Flora MacDonald, as the Fairy Queen, sings her numbers in an artistic and finished manner. The very numerous chorus has been carefully trained, and do justice to their painstaking instructor, every detail being carefully looked after. The dresses are exceedingly pretty and tasteful, and the scenic effects are quite up to date.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's able company is here this week with *A Traitor Prince*, which has been much appreciated. Mr. Ernest A. Duval, in the part of Frank Derrick, plays with much effect; Miss Rose Routledge is excellent as Lola Vane, the heiress; Vashti is well portrayed by Miss Nita Langford; Mr. G. M. Montanini makes an excellent impression with his Prince Rao, acting most ably; and the humorous parts are well placed with Mr. Alfred Selwood, as Bobby Bright, and Miss Kitty Thomas as Pansy Blossom.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—A strong attraction here this week is *The Indian Mutiny*, played by Mr. Frank E. Burdett's able all-round company. The play has afforded large audiences much satisfaction, the scenery and Oriental costumes being particularly pretty. Mr. George Steel, as Lieut. Manley, acted with much earnestness and power; Miss F. Melrose Millett handled the part of the Priestess, Ghuz-mah, with much care and ability; Mr. Cyril Harrison filled the rôle of Captain Manley with credit; the Nebu Singh of Mr. Villiers Stanley proved telling; a successful picture of Abul Khan was given by Mr. J. S. Shedden; and Mr. George Scully made a humorous Teddy O'Brien.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole. — Fred Karno's *Moses and Son* is still here, causing great laughter. A big line in the bill this week is Miss Minnie Palmer and company with *Orange Nell*. The sketch was cordially received, and gave much satisfaction, many playgoers being pleased to renew acquaintance with the popular actress, and perhaps one of the best items on the programme was Herbert Lloyd, "Crazy on Napoleon," who caused shrieks of laughter with his antics; the Moran and Mareece Quartette, with their ingenious musical act, were a good turn; Park's Eton Boys showed themselves gifted juvenile vocalists; Amber Austa, a quaint dancer and singer, afforded every satisfaction; the ventriloquial turn by Tom Edwards was much appreciated; and others in the bill were Ida Heath, transformation dancer; and Will Haines, comedian. The orchestral selection played at the interval included a valse, "Le Desir," composed by Mr. Fred Reynolds, son of Mr. Charles Reynolds, proprietor of the famous Lime-street Waxworks. The young man is studying music in Berlin, and shows promise of a brilliant future. His valse was a composition of much merit.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Top here this week are Ergotti and King Luis troupe of Risley acrobats, who have earned much applause. Florrie Forde, with all her latest songs, had a capital reception; the Lurins, with their delightful drawing-room speciality, gave great satisfaction; quite an ovation was bestowed on Reynold's Minstrels, who are five American star artists; Dusty Rhodes makes everybody laugh; the Sisters Marion, as duettists, were very pleasing; a smart comedy bar act was given by the Two Eltons, their antics being very droll; Harry Bedford is entertaining as a comedian; and others on the list are Violet Stockelle, chic comedienne; and Bert Weston, comedian and raconteur.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—Martine and Son pay a welcome return visit with their song illustrations, which are highly appreciated; Tony Iveson, "the ragman at the piano," gives a turn which provokes much laughter; as speciality duettists the Elgars are exceedingly pleasing; Elliott and Warne (Carrie and Tony) earn applause with their comedy and dancing; and also on the list are Gracie Bard, vocalist and dancer; and Harry Phillips, actor-vocalist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Percy Boucher's dramatic stock company are doing good business here, despite the attractions of pantomime "down town." This week, the sketch selected is *Mysteries of London*, in which Mr. Boucher takes the part of Dick Coppin. Mr. Harry Tresham plays well as Philip Conway; a capital William Rawson is presented by Mr. E. D. Allen; and other strong supporters are Mr. Herbert Cecil, Mr. Cecil Ravenswood, Miss Marjory Armstrong, and Miss Beryl Ravenswood.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Heading the bill here this week is Martin Conway, the popular eccentric comedian, with his "walk round Martin"; Ismay's Piccaninnies supply a very taking vocal scena; a good turn is given by the Arundels (Will and Harry), with their speciality act and comedy boxing; Sheila McNeil sings several pleasing Scotch songs; Pearson and Marks are vocalists of ability; and others in the list include the Brothers Easdall, comedians and dancers; and Carlos Menard, violinist.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot. — Principal here this week is Lizette Sutherland's spectacle, *Donnybrook*, which has proved a strong attraction, particularly on account of some forty children of the neighbourhood being engaged; and Alf. Berg, a strong man, has aroused some interest with his challenge for weight-lifting; Cora Gray sings with taste; the Musical Silvo plays on some novel instruments; and others who appear are Cissie Oliphant, vocalist; and George Raper, character comedian.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Percy Boucher's company remains another week with their successful sketches. That now given is entitled *The Father's Oath*, and consists of nine tableaux. A capital turn is provided by Emma Don, with her black and white comedy company, in a vocal scena; the Franch Bros. have a clever and unique acrobatic act; and the bioscope shows some attractive pictures.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—At the head of the bill here this week are the Three Pirmans, with their clever gymnastic act. Shawlene, a mimic and sifflеur of ability, had a cordial reception; the Sisters Volbeque render duets in a pleasing style; Harley and Hardon cause great laughter with their songs and patter; as an all-round comedian, Fred Cullane gives every satisfaction; and others who appear are Bob King, comedian; and Florence Conroy, soubrette. The Wednesday matinées are proving popular.

OLYMPIA. — Proprietors. Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—*The Redskins* spectacle puts in a last week here. Paul Spadoni, a remarkably clever juggler, who catches cannon-balls fired at him, has been performing some wonderful feats; Morris and Morris, with their comedy sketch, *Fun on a Broom-handle*, provoke much laughter; the Sisters Mullini delight everyone with their playing of the cornet; the Brontes have a laughable comedy sketch; the dialect singing of Madge Grey is particularly good; and others who appear are the Three Amaranths, smart acrobatic dancers; John Callan, comedian; and Frank Harwood, vocalist.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. F. R. Benson and company are here this week, the répertoire including *King Lear*, *Henry V.*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Cæsar*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III.* In *King Lear* Mr. Benson in the title-rôle gave a fine rendering of the mad king, and kept the audience enthralled by his vivid and impassioned impersonation. Mr. Cyril Keightley, a great favourite with the Derry audiences, as Edgar was very good, and Mr. G. R. Weir played the part of the Fool in his own admirable style. Cordelia, as embodied by Mrs. Benson, was a finished performance. Goneril and Regan were finely played by Miss Tita Brand and Miss Katherine Boyce.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Miss Grace Warner, with a strong company, is here in the drama *The Scarlet Clue*. The story gives ample scope for the talents of Miss Warner, who is ably assisted by Miss Esther Dean as the French Maid, Miss Maud Steeple as Elsie Dane, Miss Ellen Beverley as the aunt; while Mr. George Gordon is the villain as Michael Stanton, Mr. Reginald Brown figuring as the Twin Brothers, and Mr. Horace Moseley as Edward Croker. Mr. V. T. Raymond as the burglar and Miss Mowbray as the servant keep things lively. Musical numbers are introduced by Miss Warner, little E. Rutland, and Mr. Raymond. *Lady Audley's Secret* is billed for the week-end.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—The pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* (Messrs. C. St. John Denton and George Blunt's company) is the attraction this week. Miss Rose Dearing is a fascinating principal boy, being all animation and brightness. Mrs. Edwin Adeler is genuinely funny as Maude, the Babes' nurse. The Babes Harry and Carry are cleverly represented by Miss Nora Doone and Miss Marie Duncan. Baron Wrathwilde, the wicked uncle, is in the hands of Mr. George Rowlands, a distinctly good comedian; Miss Dot Reeve makes a charming Phyllis; Master Freddy White is very smart as Augustus; and Lord Tommy Tucker is played in a dashing manner by Miss Ethel Hubert. The specialities include Messrs. Myles and May, the Olympian Stars, Mr. Tom Parker, and Messrs. Ryde and Beeman.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. Tom Taylor's company is here on a second visit with *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Florence Dalton skilfully enacts the part of Frances Vere; Mr. H. H. Barrington is admirably suited as James Milford, and Mr. Wallace Campbell presents a capital performance as Jack Felton. Mr. Paul B. Lewers is excellent as Vincent Lyle, and a capital piece of characteracting is given by Mr. H. W. Monte in the rôle of Hugh Drayton, the father of Frances Vere. Miss Effie Bartlett is sympathetic as Ruth Milford, and Miss Florence Lovell (Matilda Parker) and Mr. Alvin Sawyer (Bob Goldfinch) appear to advantage in the lighter scenes.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company with the domestic drama *The Great Awakening*, opened here on Monday. As Lola Selby, alias Lady Merton, Miss Hildyard once more gave proof of her exceptional powers as an actress. Mention should also be made of Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass, and Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worts, who cause much hearty laughter.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—The chief attraction here this week is the sketch *The Cook's Guest*, and as played by the Collinson Combination it proves to be a very amusing item. The Eight Lancashire Lads are clever dancers and singers; Hope and Wayho, Dickens impersonators, appear with success; Mr. George Adams, vocalist, and Mr. Wallace Whitney, comedian, are popular. Miss Beattie Foster, comedienne, and the Hippograph are also in the programme.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—On Monday evening, Miss Bonwin Carlton presented *The Plucky Nipper* to a good house. Mr. William Heilbronn, as Richard Vanbrugh, was very good; Mr. Edward Stream, as Captain Frank Leslie, gave a manly interpretation; Miss Bonwin Carlton, as Polly Hithard, in her vocal numbers was much applauded; Mr. Edward Surrey, as Bill Burgess, was a success; Mr. Dick Evans, as Tommy Atkins, was effective; Miss Esther Lamonte, as Daisy Paget, was charming; and Miss Ethel Whiteley, as Ina Fenwick, interpreted the part to perfection.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An interesting melodrama, *At Cripple Creek*, is presented here this week by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. The play deals successfully with the adventurous life of American goldminers, and among the exciting features is a sensational rescue in mid-air—an incident highly pleasing to the audience. Mr. Hilliard Vox, as the heroic Joe Mayfield, is a great success; and Miss Vera Fordyce is equally pleasing as "Dynamite" Ann. These are excellently supported by Messrs. Walter Thornton and Chas. D. Pitt, as the villainous schemers; Mr. Reginald H. West, in a dignified and capable rendering of Wahketah, the faithful Indian; Miss Daisy Carlton, as Maggie Mason; Little May Douglas, in a well-presented juvenile part; Miss May Straker, as Belle Gordon, the lucky New York girl; and Messrs. Albert Rogers and Will Hook as laughter-makers.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Jordison's successful pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is doing good business here, after a week at the Junction Theatre.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*A Girl's Cross Roads*, excellently presented by Mr. Walter Melville's company, is here this week, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. S. Nicholas.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife ?*, a play produced at Liverpool a month ago, is being played here successfully this week by Miss Marie Dagmar, Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, and a clever company, in a style above the average. It is an interesting story, and the dresses and scenery are worthy of high praise.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes-Parry.—Julie Mackay, the famous American contralto, tops the bill here this week, and is well received; the Du Gros trio are particularly good in a first-rate comedy gymnastic act; Harry Taft, the well-known whistling comedian, makes a big hit; Maud A. Edwards, the lady ventriloquist, provides an excellent turn; and Gus Dalton is a most versatile entertainer. Good items are also contributed by the Chicago Gaiety Girls, who are neat and clever acrobatic dancers; and Cissy Schofield, comedienne, The Palace Pictures, as usual, are good, and the Christmas production, "A Trip to the Isle of Man," still figures in the bill.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll: Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—A capital sketch, entitled *Dick Dare, M.P.*, is presented here this week with success by Fred Maxwell, Lois Du Cane, and company. Theo. Hardeen, the handcuff and trunk manipulator, gives an interesting turn; and considerable amusement is caused by the "Great Hughes," in his "Codology" sketch, an exposure of stage mesmerism; Walter Munroe is a first-rate Irish comedian; Katie Marsh is good in a pot-pourri of drama and song, "Grave and Gay"; Vi and Ethel Esdaile are pleasing vocalists; the Rhoda Brothers are clever hand-balancers; Fraser and Mac present an entertaining act; and an American racing comedy, entitled *100 to 1 Chance*, is well played by Frank H. France and Edith Stewart. Pictures are also shown on the bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Captain Woodward's Seals and Sea Lions are the attraction here this week, and go through a most wonderful performance, to the delight of large audiences; another excellent turn is that of the Charles Fisher Pocket Opera Company, in a capital item, *The Music Master*, introducing excerpts from famous operas; the Royal Six, a sextette of beauty, sing nicely, and are very graceful in their bicycle manœuvres; Gallagher and Hild introduce some capital dancing in their speciality, "The Dancing Goose," and are loudly applauded; wonderfully clever are the Garganis, acrobats with funny methods; Martin and Quigg, "the long and the short of it," are very amusing; Sybil St. Elmo is a pleasing vocalist; Harry Clifford sings his well-known song, "Tired"; the bioscope shows an interesting film, "On Ticket of Leave"; and (second week) the choir render "The Wreck of the Hesperus" in fine style.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Dayton Troupe of Risley and pedestal acrobats top the bill here this week with a remarkably clever and highly finished act, some of their feats being exceedingly smart and daring; Frank Cass and Frank Coyle are comedians much above the average, and both prove very successful; Joad Heteb, the Wizard of the Sphinx, presents a turn mysterious and clever; whilst acceptable items are contributed by Kittee Rayburn, comedienne; Ethel Walker, society entertainer; Nellie Navette, comedienne and dancer; Ruby Bijou, a dainty dancer; and Charles H. Harrold, comedian. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures complete.

THE KING'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Baynham. —A. J. Rebla, a comic juggler who follows the methods of the great W. C. Fields, heads the bill here this week, and is most successful; Harry Gray is a very funny comedian, and is well received; Bertha Stuart sings several songs sweetly; Clara Walters, at the piano, is decidedly entertaining; the Two Neros go through a clever and amusing acrobatic performance with contortions; and good turns are also provided by Fred Villers, swell comedian; the Sisters Russell, burlesque artists; Vere and Royal, very versatile artists; and Chris Masters, character vocalist. Animated pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead. —The Bounding Avolos gain considerable applause here this week by their remarkably clever somersaults from a novel arrangement of poles; the Vyponds offer a pretty scena, called "The Wedding Day"; the Four Mill Lads sing satisfactorily; Carny and Armstrong are amusing as "The Pro. and the Baggage-Man"; and Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian, is very funny. Other good items are contributed by Primavesi, juggler; Ada Marjuth, contortionist; Marti and Julietta, comedy artists; and the Paytes, society entertainers. Interesting pictures complete.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead. —Charles Baldwin's comedians, in their absurdity *The Bank Clerks*, are the attraction here this week, and cause much merriment; the good singing of Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire mill girl, is highly appreciated; and the Hesso trio, in a wire potpourri act, are very clever. The Hartley Wonders, including Arthur Hartley, give a fine exhibition of jumping; and the Three Gregsons cause much laughter in a short sketch; Horace Sade is a very neat dancer; and Bernard Noble, a "new style" comedian, and Olive Veno, a lady clog-dancer, give acceptable turns. The animated pictures complete.

MANSFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings. — This place of amusement, so recently opened, is drawing large crowds nightly. This week the principal attraction is undoubtedly Prof. Dickinson and Miss Johnson in their swimming exhibition. Comical Walker is very good in his turn on the ball; Mdlle. Emmie and T. Fossett on the wire meet with success, and the latter gives a daring exhibition of riding. Miss Scott, in her vaulting act, is also loudly applauded. The lady riders, Miss Lilian Davies and Miss Fossett, are both very good. There are also effective entries by the Clowns, Teddy Saul, Poor Billy, and Comical Walkers; Topsy, the performing elephant, continues to be appreciated. The new building, which is now approaching completion, will be second to none for comfort and decoration.

VICTORIA THEATRE.— This popular place of entertainment has provided drama for its patrons this week. On Thursday and Saturday *The Anarchist Terror* was billed, and on Friday *The Sorrows of Satan*.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree: Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—This week's programme is headed by Will English, a real coon comedian, who has been most enthusiastically received. Next in order of merit is Vardon, the golfing ventriloquist, who creates considerable fun with his comical caddie, whilst his imitation of Chirgwin is extremely good; Rezene and Robini as usual cause a great deal of merriment with their drolleries; and the remaining turns include Eva Richards, Canadian Comedienne and dancer; George W. Foster, comedian; and Rose Waller, burlesque artist. A number of entertaining pictures are depicted by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here this week, in *The Eternal City*. As Baron Bonelli, Mr. D. L. Mannering gives a well-studied impersonation; Mr. Henry Deas is a capable exponent of David Rossi; Miss Rona Merriell gives a talented performance of Donna Roma; Mr. J. Fortescue submits a dignified study of Pope Pius XI.; and Mr. George Cartwright is effective as Bruno Rocco. The play is mounted and staged in a commendable manner, and the various choruses are well given.

METHIL.—TOWN HALL.—Mr. J. W. Morton's company commenced their second week here with *The Rajah of Ranjapore*. Mr. P. Piercy Watson was effective in the title-rôle; Mr. Harry Sinclair made a capital Horatio Hicks; and Mr. Jas. Stirling a sinister Captain Hertage. Messrs. Jock McKay and W. Harrison were amusing as Thistle (a comedian) and Potts (a publican). As Mr. Stubbs (racehorse owner), Ted Perkins (trainer), and John Cole (stableman), Messrs. Fred Hart, M. Drury, and Ernie Stannien respectively were good. Miss Maggie Sinclair and Miss Nell Ascott acted and sang brightly as Eliza and Primrose. Miss Minnie Blackmore was capital, and Miss Annie Trevor made the most of the part of Mary. *My Sweetheart*, *The Octoroon*, and *East Lynne* are billed for the remainder of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. —Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. G. T. Santé's company is this week presenting the novelty drama, *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Geo. T. Santé is prominent as the strong man and showman, Brien Leader; Mr. Chas. Osborne gives a powerful interpretation of Noel Hartland; as Hendrick Marias, Mr. Logan Darra plays vigorously; Mr. Ed. Warden is a capable Rev. Mr. Arliss; Mr. J. G. Santé, as Laurie Grey, contributes some excellent violin solos; Miss Enid Trench is a sympathetic Lena Hartland; and Miss Amy McNeil plays skilfully the rôle of Agatha Winter.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's company is appearing here this week in *The Coal King*. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland is Tom Roberts, and gives a masterly interpretation. As "The Coal King," Mr. Robert Shiells acts with distinction; and the Jim Williams of Mr. Charles Stone is all that can be desired. Mr. Joseph Millane figures prominently as Walter Harford. Mr. C. W. Grove supplies an excellent impersonation of Saxby. Upon Miss Gertrude Valentine falls the bulk of the work. As Grace Shirley, she acts with sympathetic refinement. Miss Hetty Cornwallis appears as Aramita Green; and Miss Joan Dellman and Miss M. Rose do well in their respective rôles.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Mr. E. Carlton's company, in the pantomime *Aladdin*, entered on Monday upon its last week, much to the regret of the patrons of the house. The pantomime has been well received, and the principals have established themselves as favourites. During this week, the performances have been set apart for the principals' benefits. On Monday, Mr. Wilfred Shine took his benefit, and Wednesday and Friday were allotted to Miss Julia Kent and Miss Lallah Davies.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—Miss Alexander Edwin, a lady with a fine soprano voice, proves a popular turn here; Miss Bessie Travers maintains her reputation; Albert Whelan is well applauded for his clever whistling; the Jackley Trio are an interesting turn; Gus Hindell and Nellie Chandos also contribute to the entertainment.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Charlie Deane proves a popular turn at this place of amusement, and is well applauded for his comic singing; T. W. Barritt maintains his popularity; the Three Zavacs, in comedy act, prove a laughable turn; the Wilfords are well applauded for their balancing entertainment; the Ladderites get a good reception; and Helen Charles and the Two Whites also contribute to the programme.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company is this week appearing in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Paddy Duprès sustains the title-rôle with delightful comicality, and is supported by Mr. Chas. M'Logan as Crookie Scrubbs. An exceedingly apt impersonation of the city magistrate, Mr. Crank, is given by Mr. Henry Chichester; Mr. Percy E. Rogers is suitably placed as Michael Brue, as is Mr. Arthur Stroud as Gerald Treherne. A bright and bonny Aurora Brue is found in Miss Lillian Middleton, who sustains the rôle with just the necessary amount of light-hearted gaiety; Miss Eliza Earle is a pert and pleasing Daisy; that up-to-date Society woman, Lady Bickenhall, has an exceedingly apt exponent in Miss Midge Clark.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—*Mother Goose* continues its run of popularity, and this pleasing state of affairs is not to be wondered at considering the all-round excellence of the show.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Teale Lingham. —The pantomime of *Cinderella* is doing exceptional business in spite of the electioneering fever, and the Royal is packed to its utmost capacity nightly. A worthy member of a famous family, to wit, Mr. Stephen Adeson, has scored a distinct triumph as Choddles. His humour is of the wholesome sort, and he also creates a favourable impression as a dancer. Another leading member is Mr. W. H. Powell, who brings a fund of genuine comedy to bear on the part of Dandini. Miss Gwennie Hasto is rapturously received for her song and dance, and Miss Luna Love is encored nightly for her spirited rendering of "My Irish Molly."

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—The last two weeks of the *Aladdin* pantomime are announced. New songs and dances have been introduced, and the whole performance goes with a refreshing swing from start to finish.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—The Riogoku Family of Japs have proved exceedingly popular here this week by a brilliant exhibition of juggling and tumbling, and have aroused the utmost enthusiasm; the Leslie Brothers, comedy musicians, are mirth-provokers of the first water; Conway and Leland submit with their usual success their always acceptable speciality; Collins and Rice prove thoroughly entertaining; and the list also includes the Coloured Meisters, vocalists; the Three Sisters Chesters, dainty comediennes and dancers; Horace White, ventriloquist; and remaining over from last week are Richard Sawade's troupe of lions, tigers, bears, and dogs, an act that creates the utmost excitement.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—A wonderful improvement has been made by the Picaninnies introduced by charming Miss Belle Davis, and their turn is now second to none; nothing funnier could be imagined than the wrestling bout indulged in by two miniature members of the company; a magnificent electrical scena, entitled *The Maiden's Prayer*, gives Mdlle. Chita Corri an excellent chance to prove her abilities as a vocalist; Miss Ada Fawn is ent

tation. Miss Mabel Kessler, as Dick, acted, sang, and gave solos on the cornet in a very pleasing manner; Miss Peggy Vane was equally successful in her dancing, and with her "canine champion"; Mr. Dan Lyndon, as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Harry Howe, as Belsyr, Mr. Gus Granville, as Jack, and Messrs. Rex Kempton and Harry Pastor, as McFlip and O'Flop respectively, created any amount of fun. Mr. Harry Wright, as Merley Ben Whac, with his extempore verses, was well received; Mr. Vistor Le'Glere, as the Cat, was droll. During the last scene, Miss Kessler exhibited her talent as a cornet soloist; and the Dandies, in their dance, were seen to much advantage. The scenic effects were admirably arranged.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—Notwithstanding the excitement of election week, an excellent programme is presented, and well patronised. Cooke and Rothert, the "Yankee-Doodle boy and girl," are very successful, and convulsed the house with laughter; Verne and Verne, in their trick comedy skating act, are very funny; Roma and Romani are pleasing musicians; Neiman is a clever ventriloquist; Alma Gray displays ability as a step dancer; Les Ruebens are an entertaining turn; Les Pollos are good as acrobats; Hanvaar and Lee, "the golfer and the maid," are successful as jugglers; and the Hippo. Bio., with new pictures, continues attractive. On Thursday a matinée was given by the proprietor, the proceeds of which were to go to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—In spite of the election excitement this house is nightly filled by audiences, a fitting tribute to the excellent representation of *Humpty Dumpty*. The sprightliness of Miss Rachel Lowe, and her effective rendering of the songs, "Lucky Duck," "Kettles to Mend," &c., gives the utmost satisfaction; and Miss Georgina Middleton's graceful impersonation of Curly Locks gains her appreciative applause; Mr. R. H. Douglass, who sustains the rôle of the King so humorously, was away on Monday, owing to a regrettable family bereavement, and his place was capitally filled by Mr. Sydney Burt. Mr. Bob Baxter continues as funny as ever, his song "Good-bye" evoking hearty plaudits; and the fun is kept moving by those clever comedians Messrs. Algernon Newark, Wally Scott, Seth White, and Bishop and Hanlon. Miss Nellie Lomas comes in for her share of applause; and the Crystals are deservedly rewarded for their dancing.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—There is no abatement in the favour extended to *The Babes and Robin Hood*. Miss Sophie Harriss introduces a new song entitled "Bombay," in the execution of which she has the able assistance of the clever sisters, The Four Trees, and it bids fair to be as popular as her other numbers; Miss Lulu Evans gives her delightful impersonation of Maid Marian with unvarying success, and much applause falls to the share of the Babes, Misses Maisie Rawlings and Renee Lancaster. Mr. F. S. Gilbert deserves high commendation for his magnificent singing; and the exuberant humour of the comedians, Messrs. Fred Rolph, William Rokeby, J. J. Macmillan, Tim Ryley, and the Bros. Lorenzi is rewarded with peals of responsive merriment.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—A thoroughly amusing representation of *Are You a Mason?* is being given here by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Mr. Allan Pollock, as George Fisher, and Mr. H. Langdon Bruce, as Frank Perry, add point to the comical situations they are found in; and Mr. E. H. Paterson causes the highest hilarity by his delightfully droll humour as Amos Bloodgood. Miss Adelaide Grace realises the comedy of her character as Mrs. Bloodgood; and she has a charming trio of daughters in Misses Mabel Yonge, Babs Stuart, and Mabel Jowett; Miss Ploensgains (Franchon Armitage), Miss Rita Narcelli (Mrs. Halton), and Miss Alice Raynor (Lottie) capitally sustain their parts. John Halton is well described by Mr. Richard Purdon; and Mr. Howard L. Tracey makes an excellent exponent of Ernest Morrison; Mr. Percy Bell and Mr. Atherton also add to the success of the play.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—The premier turn is supplied by Morris Cronin and his assistants, in which the marvellous dexterity and neatness of their juggling with clubs draw forth the greatest enthusiasm; Newhouse and Ward pay another welcome visit, their daring bicycle feats being the more enjoyable by the burlesque absurdities introduced; Baker and Lynn are responsible for a large element of fun, especially Baker, as "The Brainless Boy." The musical items of the Bandurrias compel vigorous applause; and the songs of Grace Merton are deservedly rewarded; the Huxter Brothers show wonderful skill as acrobats; and Francis Wylie presents his attractive dog circus. Solbrig's Automatus produces several merry moments; and the fun is further helped by Bell and Henry; Bertha Vere, comedienne, also contributes a pleasing song.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Miss Florence Baines and an excellent company are this week presenting the farce, *Miss Lancashire, Ltd.*, which is nightly attracting good houses. Miss Baines, as "the Lancashire Lass," wins high approval, and her laughing chorus is well received. Mr. Payne Fletcher does good work as Thompson; Mr. J. H. Selby appears as Herbert Fox; Mr. David Donaldson, as John Higgins; Mr. Patrick Evans, as Harry; Mr. R. C. Hicks, as Grant; Mr. Chas. Reeves, as Morgan; and Mr. Alan M. Servington, as Moses Goldberg. Miss Pattie Groves gives a capital impersonation of Bridget Thompson; Miss Jennie Hallworth represents Eva Lancashire; and Miss Mabelle Clinton, Bertha.

OLDHAM.—GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. E. Dottridge.—The programme here this week includes Tom and Marie Motramo, in their successful comedy musical act, *Do You Reverse?* Gladys Mavius presents *The Canadian Girl*, which is well received; Amy Anderson and Co. create much amusement in their entertainment depicting coster life; Cline and Clarke are a success as comedy artists and dancers; Beatty and Blanche, duettists and dancers; Will Farrell, comedian; Alice Maple, comedienne; and the bicscope conclude an excellent entertainment.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—The popular comedienne Miss Marie Loftus is here this week, in her latest successes; her rendering of "Singers Past and Present" is heartily appreciated; Atlas and Vulcana, society athletes, are duly appreciated for their clever performance of feats of strength; Gwennie Atlas scores in her poses illustrative of muscular development; Vermettie and Dionne are excellent in a gymnastic bar performance; Burnettie is a success as a quick-change character musician; the Three Clarions are a success in their musical absurdity *The Would-be Tenor*; W. J. Webber, bass singer; Chas. Johnson, the "Black Diamond"; Jeannette Latour, a charming vocalist; Austin and Cowan, in a vocal entertainment, add to the success of the bill.

EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—*Veronique* is the attraction here this week. Miss Rita Leonhardt, in the title-rôle, is dainty and charming; Mr. Ellis Holland appears as Coquenard, and his quaint humour is highly appreciated; the other artists do creditable service.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—For the thirteenth time Mr. Milton Bode has brought a pantomime here, and the crowded house that heartily welcomed *The Babes in the Wood* on Monday, the opening night, showed the confidence of his patrons. Miss Ernestine Desborough is a handsome Prince Rupert, and both sings and acts with much charm; Miss Kitty Tims is an attractive Tommy, and meets with a most flattering reception; Miss Florence Arnold as Rose is uncommonly good; and Miss Alice Wade dances in exquisite fashion as Daisy. The babes are played very naturally and prettily by Miss Renie Reel and Miss Daisy Connell; Mr. Ernest Sefton scores a big success as the Baron; Mr. Will Harman is full of quaint humour as Buttons; the Brothers Brooks revel in the parts of the two thieves, and keep the fun going right through the show; Happy Attwood provokes roars of laughter as Bumble; and Mr. Percy Dawsone is exceedingly happy in his impersonation of Maria Slapp. The songs of the Carmen Glee Quartette meet with the keenest appreciation; Cyclo is a marvellous trick cyclist; while the Bellong Brothers positively thrilled the house with their marvellous acrobatic and bicycle balancing act.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Miss Rose Moncrieff's company is here in the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*. Mr. Bert Collins seems quite at home as Mrs. Sinbad, and Mr. Sam Poluski, jun., is invaluable with his bright rendering of Sinbad. Mr. Joe Lyons is sufficiently repulsive as Vanderdecken, Mr. J. E. Manning is good as the Old Man of the Sea, and Mr. James Gradon effective as Caliph. Mr. S. Vincent fills the rôle of King Kafoozle, while the Two McGormans make the most of Daggles and Diggles. Miss Rose Moncrieff comports herself well as Sinbad; Miss Emily Harlowe makes a charming Sadie; and Miss Grace Rosaire is a success as Yosan. Miss Katie Begley as Azor and Miss Josephine Begley as Moriana are attractive. Miss Kitty Reveni sings delightfully as Fairy Coralie.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—The run of Mr. Savile's pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty* terminates to-night in the height of its popularity, so that bookings already arranged for may be adhered to. A feature has been the excellent singing capabilities of the company and the exquisite good taste displayed in the dresses. To Miss Nellie Walters, the costumier of the theatre, is in no small measure due the attaining of this result. As in past years, Mr. Savile has not been unmindful of the inmates of the various charitable and other institutions in the town, they having witnessed the pantomime at matinée performances with much delight.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—Here this week are the Five Comical Rhynes, in their laughable musical absurdity; Sabino, instrumentalist; Will Robinson, descriptive vocalist; Fifi Gordon, vocalist and dancer; the Schoolmaster and his funny pupils; Mamie Cannon, society entertainer; and Cliff and Kean, in a singing, comedy, and dancing act.

TOWN HALL.—The Harry and Fred Poole's Myrioramas, depicting all the latest events of the twentieth century, is a capital attraction here. There is also a strong variety company appearing, which includes Houston, Chinese magician; Takergero and Commie, in a new and sensational mid-air performance on the high ladder; Learto and his dog Babs, in an original comedy musical act; and the Two Mitsutas from Japan, feet equilibrists. The Poole Bioscope reveals the latest films of the Royal Animated Picture Company. Mr. J. Brierley, who directs the combination, superintends with marked ability.

PENTRE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Roberts Jones.—Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company is here this week in *Her One Great Sin* and *The Penalty of Crime*. The former was presented on Monday evening. As Reuben Warhurst, Mr. Sam Arthur gives a capital impersonation, ably assisted by Miss Maude Lambert, as Little Grace. Mr. Fred Hodson and Miss Nellie Lambert contribute lively humour in their vivacious acting of Jerry Jumble and Nancy Winpenny respectively; Mr. J. Leicester Jackson sustains the part of Arnold Thornhill with force and effect; while Miss Blanche St. Albans earns deserved praise for her clever interpretation of Grace Warhurst. Miss Phyllis Damian makes a capital flower-seller in the rôle of Charlie. Other well-acted parts are Dan Hundle, by Mr. Chas. E. Lambert; Jack Hundle, by Mr. Harold B. Ford; and Bet Hundle, by Miss Louie Walton.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. George Dance's company, in *The Orchid*, is scoring a huge success here this week. Miss Marjory Moore assumes the rôle of Lady Violet Anstruther with marked success; and Miss Trilly Collier cleverly depicts the pupil teacher, Josephine Zaccary; Miss Phil Gumpel is amusing in the part of Caroline; Miss Sissie Brand gives a vivid portrayal of the adventuress, Zelie Rumbert; Miss D. West-Collins makes an excellent Thisbe; and Miss Maude Davis an admirable Countess Anstruther. Mr. Sinclair Holden and Mr. V. Wakeman are entertaining as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour and Dr. Ronald Fausett respectively; Mr. Charles Seymour makes a hit as Mr. Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. Geo. Asaf causes considerable amusement in the rôle of Comte Ravil; Mr. Albert Sealy is advantageously placed in Zaccary; while Mr. Harry Walsh receives unstinted approbation for his entertaining qualities, seen to every advantage in the rôle of Meakin. Mr. J. Burt has the part of M. Fontenbras; Mr. David Hallam that of M. Merrignan; Mr. H. Malthouse is the Registrar; Mr. Mann a Commissionaire; Mr. Collins, Master of Ceremonies; and Mr. Graham, M. Deauville.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company is here this week with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Harold Carson is responsible for hearty laughter in his thoroughly amusing impersonation of Sergeant Brue; Mr. Frank Wilson, as Michael Brue; and Mr. Albert James, as Crookie Scrubbs, are capital representations of their respective parts. Miss Elsie Molloy ably fills the rôle of Lady Bickenhall; and Miss Gertie Fawcett is graceful as Aurora Brue.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The popular pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* is still going strong. New songs and comic business have been introduced this week, with conspicuous success, and all concerned work hard to do full justice to the piece.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—After a lapse of several years the naval drama, *My Jack*, was again produced here this week, and received a very cordial welcome. Well written, the piece is cleverly acted and wonderfully well staged, the scenery being especially good. Mr. Henry Renouf's interpretation of the title-rôle is full of good points; Mr. Richard Bosco is convincing as Peter Meredith; Mr. Gordon McLeod makes a striking and realistic villain; Mr. R. F Stacey and Mr. Greene Taylor are very effective in other characters. Miss Irma Farington creates a favourable impression as Dorothy; and Miss Elsie Mesnerd is amusing and versatile as Mary Ibbetson.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—In consequence of the great success of the pantomime of *Cinderella*, the management has decided to extend its stay here by another fortnight. It is being played to big houses, and is going with a swing, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of all the artists engaged.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—A capital entertainment here this week includes turns by Mr. Harry Atkinson, whose marvellous imitations evokes hearty plaudits; the Steinway Quartette, whose song-scena is deservedly popular; Miss Ethel Loftus, a clever comedienne; a smart and novel acrobatic display by the Terras Brothers; a funny farce, *Mistaken Identity*, by Miss Kitty Clover's company; amusing songs, well sung by George Collins; an acceptable musical fantasy by Sherlock and Van Dalle; and coin-manipulating by Mersano.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles's company is here this week with *The London Fireman*. Great interest is centred in the assumption of Hal Curtis by Mr. J. Forbes Knowles. Mr. Edward Garside admirably portrays Ratty, the convict; Mr. Charles Preece is highly diverting as Nixey Stinger; Mr. Walter Wilby scores as Joe Blowner; Mr. Frank Hertie as Dr. Gerrard is good. Too much praise cannot be given to Miss Nellie Garside for her admirable rendering of Polly Bramble; Miss Nellie Shirley does well as Ida Curtis; Countess Fleming and Grace Curtis are ably portrayed by Miss Nellie Waddington and Miss Florence M. Daly respectively.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Edwardes's well-balanced company is finishing up a triumphal fortnight here with *The Spring Chicken*. Mr. George Gregory is well-fitted with his part of Mr. Girdle, making his points cleverly. Rosalie is played by Miss Gertrude Glyn with animation and success, the duet "The Delights of London," shared with Mr. Gregory, causing great amusement. Miss Irene Verona's rendering of Mrs. Girdle is very meritorious indeed; Miss Gertrude Gilliam, as Baroness Papouche, and Miss Rita Everard, as Dulcie Babori, are well-placed. Mr. L. W. Harris, as Gustave Babori, does good work, and shares with Mr. Gregory the success of the duet "Under and Over Forty"; Mr. Donald Hall is duly impressive as Boniface. The scenery and appointments are rich and artistic.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime of *Cinderella* is coming to the end of a merry and most successful run, Saturday being the last performance here. The production has been a credit to all concerned, and crowded houses have testified in no uncertain way their keen appreciation.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The sensation and star turn here this week is provided by Dr. Walford Bodie, who adds to scientific experiments in electricity some public examples of bloodless surgery, which evoke from crowded houses thunders of applause. The doctor winds up with a funny mesmeric entertainment. The usual variety programme is contributed to by Millie Howall, a pleasing soubrette; Kavados, juggler and equilibrist, a clever and capable artist; Fred Ace, with musical specialties; the Sessors, comedy duettists and baton swingers; Herbert Madden, vocal comedian; Hughes and Elliott, rag-time vocalists and eccentric dancers; the Arleys, a capital pair of knockabout cyclists; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope—all meeting with a good reception.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—A hearty reception has been accorded this week to Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company in *Aladdin*. Miss Madie Scott—who was an immense favourite here last year—makes a captivating Aladdin. She has a charming presence, and by her sweet singing and dainty dancing again scores a great success. The Princess Badroulbadour has an attractive exponent in Miss Lily Lonsdale, whose songs are deservedly greeted with loud applause. Miss Madge Northcote, who appears as Rhadianta, is also an accomplished vocalist, whose songs win cordial approval; and to Miss Flo Collier, as well, praise must be accorded for her vocal efforts and dancing. Julian Mack, another local favourite, figures as the Widow Twankey; he is a genuine comedian, and his funny patter evokes roars of laughter. Mr. Joe Robins contributes a big share of the fun as Wot-Iz-It, his jokes and grotesque acting creating much merriment; Mr. Ernie Myers takes full advantage of his opportunities as Abanazar; and Mr. Geo. Cooper is an excellent Emperor. Mr. Carl Muller (Busyoso) is to be commended for his smart dancing.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's Co., is appearing here this week in *The Village Blacksmith*, which has met with a cordial reception. Mr. Sam Livesey gives a powerful impersonation of John Strong; Captain Leo has an excellent representative in Mr. Joseph Carter; Mr. Edwin Maydew acquits himself well as Lucas Marlow. Much praise is due to Miss Laura Hanson for her portrayal of Kate Strong; Miss Cassie Edwards makes a charming Ruth Parkins; Mrs. T. C. Livesey is seen to advantage as Sal Parkins; Mr. Geo. V. Campbell creates much merriment as Billy Twigg; Mr Thos. E. Marshall is a mirth-provoking Jeremiah Parkins; Miss Bertha Hanbury wins the sympathy of the house as Harry Strong; and Miss Edith Giddins acquits herself creditably as Martha Mopps.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime *Cinderella* fills the bill here this week. The company is an all-round good one, and the staging very effective. Miss Maimie Iris, as Cinderella, sings sweetly and dances gracefully; Miss Daisy Morrell puts the necessary "go" into her part of the Prince; and Mr. Will Letters scores well as Buttons. Quite a feature of the production is the singing and dancing of eight little girls.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. and Mrs. Wm Maclaren's company is doing good work in the romantic play, *Proof*. Mr. Wm. Dexter continues to score as Lazare, alias the Count de Laval; and Mr. Wilford Bailey is an ideal Chamboran. Mr. F. H. De Quincey makes a manly Pierre Lorance; and Mr. Terance Norrey is exceedingly good as Duke d'Aubeterre. Miss May Grimshaw plays with much force Valentine; Miss Phena Powell displays talent as Madame Defrets; while Miss May Hawthorne is seen to advantage as Adrienne; and Miss Lucy Prittie Lydd is good as the Duchesse d'Aubeterre.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—The abundance of lively election meetings in the three-cornered political fight in Thanet have acted as a considerable counter-attraction to the excellent performances of the drama, *The Days of Cromwell*, which Messrs. Livesey and Hardy's company has been giving at the Amphitheatre. Mr. Montague Beaudyn acts cleverly in the rôle of Ironhand, the Avenger; Miss Irene Munroe is a charming Ruby Avondale; and the other characters are interpreted in excellent fashion.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Mr. Erno Aguzzi's pantomime company opened here on Monday night with a good performance of *Sinbad*. Miss Dora Harrison is a fine principal boy, and very ably sustains her part, contributing several songs, which she sings exceedingly well. Miss Ethel Mars is a charming Princess, and acts with vivacity; the duet "Teasing" is well sung by her and Sinbad. Sinbad is in the able hands of Mr. Erno Aguzzi, who imparts considerable "go" and humour to the character. Miss Marie Gerrard makes a pretty and piquant Haidee; Mrs. Sinbad is impersonated by Mr. Bert High, who makes an exceedingly funny dame and gives a clever roller-skating turn. Messrs. Kerr and Koe take the parts of Scuttleum and Stopper with considerable ability; and Mr. Harry Collins is an acceptable Rajah. Miss Lillie Redfern also proves successful as Prince Florizel; and Miss Violet Fair is a charming Fairy, and is responsible for an exceedingly pretty and well-sung solo. Specialities are introduced by Adrim and Oram, ragtime eccentrics; Arthy, in his clever wire act; Kerr and Koe, expert dancers; Belford and Mars, and the Four Tomboys. The choruses are well arranged and equally well sung, and the whole performance is clever and enjoyable.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. John Tully's company is appearing this week in the ever-popular play, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Miss Edith Blanche acts most effectively in the dual rôles of Eliza Harris and Cassy; Mr. William Taylor plays with pathos as Uncle Tom; Mr. John Tully is excellent as Phineas Fletcher; Mr. James Palmer as Mr. Selby, Mr. J. D. Geddes as George Harris and Mr. Charles Colwyn as Mr. St. Clair all play well; Mr. Fred G. Kay makes a thorough-paced villain as Simon Legree; and Mr. St. Vincent Beechey acts characteristically as the rascally Marks. Miss Marie Lyndon makes a prim and proper Aunt Ophelia; Miss Kitty Wood is exceedingly droll as Topsy; and Little Marie plays the part of Eva most sympathetically. A grand plantation festival is introduced in Act IV., in which Kitty Wood, flap shoe dancer; Lillian Francis, quadroon vocalist; Florrie Mack, coon songstress; Billy Taylor, the whistling coon; Sergeant H. Darby, rifle and tambourine expert; and King Roy, basso, all appear to advantage.

REDHILL.—MARKET HALL.—Market Hall Co., Proprietors; Mr. A. Smith, Secretary and Manager.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, under the local direction of Mr. G. W. Bowes, is the attraction here this week. Miss Beatrice Wadham is a dashing Robin Hood; and Miss Edith Madelle a pleasing Little John. Miss Clair Wadham proves a charming Fairy Sylvania; Miss Stella Rose as Maid Marion, and Miss Daisy Stone as Mavis are all that can be desired. Miss Minnie Litchfield as Harold, and Miss Kathleen Cogan as Lucy (the "Babes"), fairly captivate the audience, both by their winsome ways and their dainty dancing. Mr. Newton Pearce is a decidedly evil-looking uncle; whilst the antics of Dumpling, his page (Mr. Carl Moneta), cause much merriment; as does also the funny business of Friar Tuck (Mr. Fred Taylor). Mr. Ted Mack and Mr. Henry Young are typical ruffians in make-up and manners. Mr. Tom G. Warren deserves great credit for his characterisation of Araminta Koffkake, the schoolmistress. The evolutions of the Butterfly troupe of lady dancers are a pleasing feature of the performance.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hague.—*Her Second Time on Earth* is the title of the play here this week. It is highly sensational, and finds much favour with the patrons of the popular parts of the house. Mr. George Gaisford powerfully portrays the part of Captain Jasper Norman; Mr. Harry Hiller makes a manly Jack Carlton; Mr. William C. Reid is amusing as Teddy Butterfly; Mr. W. H. Porter cleverly acts his part as Guy Brand; and Mr. Charles Langton is effective as Tom Norman. Miss Marjory Millbank is vivacious as Kitty Rosebud; Miss Polly Marsh makes a typical drunken woman as Elizabeth Burke; Miss Dorothy Hildebrande sweetly enacts the part of Laura Norman; and Miss Hilda Beverley plays with force and telling effect as Dora Grey.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—Pringle's North American Animated Picture Company continues a third week's engagement here with an entire set of new pictures, which are highly appreciated. The variety turns include the Attila Brothers, strong men; Nellie Dunbar, soubrette; Poole and Poole, comedians; T. E. Box, comedian; G. W. Hastings, vocalist; Kitty Gower change artist; and Kivitz, Mexican Vaquero.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—J. W. Hall tops the bill here this week. He was accorded a hearty reception on Monday evening, and contributed his numbers in quite his old style, keeping the audience in roars of laughter. The Violas submitted a clever and mystifying turn in their second sight act; Shanghia in his entertainment, *Orienta*, performed some clever conjuring tricks; and other good turns are submitted by Thirza Hirst (male impersonator), J. H. Carney (comedian), Harlem Bros. (rifle manipulators, acrobats, and sand dancers), Little Beattie (child song and dance artist), and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here this week with the drama, *Between Two Women*. Mr. C. W. Standing is a manly Harry Millard; Mr. Jerrold Heather is a typical muscular Christian as Rev. Philip Carton; Mr. Louis Hector is seen to advantage as James Darwood; Mr. Arthur B. Murray has a fine part as Henry, Earl of Millard; Mr. N. Graham scores as Mr. Jorkins; and Mr. George B. Montford is deserving of mention as Major Strangeways. Miss Marjorie Murray is pleasing as Violet Thornton; Miss Winifred Pearson as Carmen de Savereaux gives a capital portrayal; Miss Sybil Hare scores as the Lady Customer; and Miss Lulu Bowes is very successful as the Blind Boy.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Rugby Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross.—This week Mr. Chas. Macdona's company is paying a much appreciated visit with *The Country Girl*. Miss Eileen Guilbert, as Marjorie Joy, is a charming and capable actress; and as Nan, Miss Florence Burdette gives a clever and artistic impersonation. Miss Madge Campbell is vivacious as Sophie; and as the Princess of Bhong, Miss Vera Vizard is very successful. Miss Florence Brewster is very good as Mrs. St. Quentin; and Miss Cecilia Broughton, as Lady Anchester, makes the most of her opportunities. In the capable hands of Mr. Johnny Clegg, the rôle of Barry is quite safe. He proves himself to be an actor of great ability and humour. Mr. Bernard Vaughan, as the Rajah of Bhong, gives a dignified and artistic impersonation; and as Sir Joseph Verity, Mr. W. O. Billington is clever and amusing. Mr. W. Besley Beltran is good as Douglas Verity; and as Geoffrey Challoner, Mr. J. Mansell Stringer fills the part with success. Mr. George Stone, as Granfer Mummery, gives a clever character sketch; and Mr. A. W. Metcalfe is good as Lord Anchester. The various musical numbers are well and artistically rendered, and the orchestra is under the able leadership of Mr. C. W. Nightingale.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—Mr. F. H. Neville's company is presenting *A Queen's Vengeance*. Mr. R. Nelme Grasswell presents an interesting portrait of the harassed monarch, Henry II.; Sir Rupert Warringer, the traitorous knight, is strenuously presented by Mr. Richard Creswick; Mr. Harold Macartrey's Gilbert Ormonde is an edifying piece of work; Mr. Thos. Bowron is well placed as Sir Martin Clifford; Mr. Ulicke Burke, as Bibeau, the Court Jester, does well; Mrs. Walter Bentley makes a decidedly pronounced hit as Queen Eleanor, the vengeful consort; Miss Leegarde Atheling is a charming Mistress Clifford; and Miss Peggie Baddle, as Janet Jessop, should also be praised.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden. — Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company, under the general-management of Mr. James Willard, had a good reception on Monday from a large house, when they commenced with *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. George Harvard does well as Harry Steyne; Billy Brewer, as portrayed by Mr. Fred G. Evison, is a fine study; Miss Grace Lester represents Mary Steyne with good effect; Miss Mildred Carr as Nancy Brewer does capable work; and Mr. Austen Mortimer as Leonard Royle, Mr. C. P. Wentworth as Hassan Padisha, Mr. Dobell Lyle as Donald Craig, and Miss Hilda Merrilees as Lady Phyllis Eustace give adequate support. The scenery is good, and the staging, especially the scene of the fight on the locomotive, is most effective.

REGENT OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*The Curate* is the attraction this week, and draws good houses, as presented by Miss Hettie Jeffreys' company, under the direction of Mr. Whitmore Ledger. Gilbert Westwood is well played by Mr. Ledger; and Miss Hettie Jeffreys presents Dick in an able manner. Mr. Arthur Mervyn makes a good Rev. John Audley; as Katinka Vodsky, Miss Winifred Stuart is effective; and Miss Isabel Norman does well as Mabel Verner. Mr. Frank Stuart as Sergeant Snipe, Mr. Clifford Spencer as Simon Peter Mugs, Mr. Paul Gascoigne as Benjamin Beniebow, Mr. Harry Irvine as Private Hobbs, Mr. Charles Coventry as Gregory Verner, and Miss Agnese D'Aragon as Mrs. Mugs, each give a good performance.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Edna Groves, comedienne and dancer, and Wake and Dean, comedians and dancers, give excellent turns, after which John Tiller's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, by Charles Fletcher, fills the bill. It is a pretty and amusing production, with eight scenes, and there is plenty of good singing and dancing, together with clever comedy business. Miss Bessie Cohen is a sprightly Prince Charming, getting much applause for her singing and dancing; Miss May Merry is a clever Red Riding Hood; and Mr. Harry Morgan as the Baron, Mr. Harry Elliston as Johnny Stout, and Mr. Teddy Gibbs as Johnny Green, with Mr. Howard Ward as Dame Crump, continually cause roars of laughter. Miss Edna Morgan as Lieutenant Tommy Tucker, and Miss Maud St. John as Margery Daw, are also successful. The Poppy Quartette and the Excelsior Troupe of children do some pleasing evolutions.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—This week's programme is headed by *Spiff Spaff Spoof*, a farcical absurdity, by Walter Howard, who appears as Terence O'Flanagan, and is assisted by Mrs. Ellen Snow, Mr. Charles Liddon, Mr. T. Kirkwood, Miss Kathleen Allen, Miss Alice Berte, and Mr. Cecil A. Melton, whose performances are very much appreciated. Billy Richardson gives an amusing stump oration; and Flora Lumière's new Electrical Fairy Grotto is very pretty. Sultan Brothers are responsible for an amusing comedy acrobatic act. Other excellent turns include Copeland and Son, expert dancers; a comical novelty, called *Phantom Ship*; Toner, the singing newsboy; some smart conjuring by Anthony; and the Sisters Williams, Welsh duettists.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—*A Royal Divorce* is the attraction here this week, with Mr. Frederick Moyes as Napoleon, a part which he fills with all the necessary determination and vigour. Miss Lilian Dundas acquits herself creditably as the Empress Josephine; and Talleyrand is suitably depicted by Mr. H. Gray Dolby. Miss Muriel Thompson gives a strong rendering of Marie Louise; and Stephanie de Beauharnais is prettily played by Miss Entwistle. Mr. Henry Ludlow as the Marquis de Beaumont, Mr. C. Lionel Brocknor as General Augereau, and Mr. T. W. Ford as Marshal Murat, give characteristic delineations of their respective parts.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company made a welcome reappearance here on Monday night, when *Richard III.* was played to a large audience. Mr. Tearle's Duke of Gloucester was keenly appreciated; as King Richard VI. Mr. T. W. Benson acquitted himself well; Mr. Richard Vane scored as the Duke of Richmond. Edward and Richard, the princes, were cleverly delineated by Mr. A. W. Wynne and Miss Clara Armitage. Mr. Vernon Crabtree played Henry of Buckingham in fine style; Miss Mary Campbell, as the Duchess of York, won much favour; Elizabeth was played with marked ability by Miss Mary Cleveland; Miss Esther Tearle gave an admirable rendering of Lady Anne. During the week the following will be staged:—*Othello*, *Virginius*, *Rob Roy*, *Hamlet*, and *Jeanie Deans*.

SEVEN KINGS.—CENTRAL HALL.—The popularity of the Lester Entertainers was again proved on their return visit on Saturday, when the building was filled. Mr. Cliff Lester proved himself a versatile and clever artist; Mr. Morris Andrews, who is baritone, was enthusiastically encored; Mr. Charles Hutchins, a great favourite here, sang and danced in artistic style; and a most acceptable turn was the living marionette show presented by Mr. Fred Drage. *The Home-Made Motor-Car*, an original sketch, brought a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment to a close.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Variety gives place to pantomime here this week, and on Monday the

Messrs. Seeley and West are two good black and white entertainers; and other clever artists this week are the Driscoll and Beattie company, Mr. Charles Cardow, comedian; Miss Rosie Archer, serio-comic; Messrs. Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, in a comic absurdity; O'Gust, the popular animal mimic; Mr. Bert Woodward; and Mezzetti and Mara, agile bar performers.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Engaged at this hall are Miss Carlotta de Yonsen, the well-known leading actress, and her dramatic company; Loudoun Cameron, Mr. Carl Rosine, Jack Renson, and Rose Waite, two old local favourites; Mr. Mark Merry, vocal comedian; and Miss Mollie Seymour, comedienne. In addition there is Pallister's Bioscope with up-to-date events.

ALBERT HALL.—The celebrated Joseph Poole Pierrorama and variety aggregation finish a successful month's engagement to-night. The Three Phydoras, old pantomime favourites in Sheffield; the Sisters Verona, De Marche's dogs and ponies, Miss May Finch, and Mr. Felix Somers have delighted the Sheffield public.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—Here is still located the famous Maskelyne and Devant entertainment with a new series of smart and bewildering illusions, including the Burmeze gong.

WONDERLAND.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Lemley.—The pantomime of *Sinbad* has proved a great success this week.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's highly-talented company played the bright musical comedy, *The Gay Parisienne*, here on the first four nights of the present week. Mr. Edward Kipling was droll as Mr. Ebenezer Honeycombe; Madame Ilma Norina gave a capable impersonation of Mrs. Honeycombe; Miss Lucia Collins was a charming and tuneful Nora; Miss Gwennie Harcourt a clever Ruth; Mr. Rudolph Kloss a successful Major Forsdyke; and Mr. Graham Wentworth an effective Amos Dingle. Mr. Lester Carey sang and acted with considerable ability as Tom Eversleigh; Mr. Norman Craigh, as Algernon P. Ducie, was a typical American citizen; Mr. J. Fritz James made a picturesque Hans; Mr. Bloomfield Jones was a smart Fritz; and Mr. Charles Sequin merited high praise for his exceedingly smart acting as M. Pompier. The singing of the original Imperial Glee Singers (Messrs. Jones, Reid, Carey, and FitzJames) was most enjoyable, their quartettes being loudly redemanded.

MUSIC HALL.—Licensee, Mr. V. C. L. Crump.—Mr. Joshua Dyson's highly entertaining company is here this week with their ever-popular dioramas and Gipsy Choir. The programme of vocal and instrumental music is admirably arranged, the views are up-to-date and interesting, and a dramatic sketch is diverting.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Pantomime made a welcome appearance at this theatre on Monday, when *Little Aladdin* was presented by Mr. James Kiddie's company. From start to finish the ball of fun and frolic is kept going merrily. Mr. Arthur Aiston is particularly prominent as Abanazar, and introduces several popular songs with good effect; Miss Marie Beresford is a capital principal boy; and Miss Emmie Milsted is responsible for some popular songs and dances. Miss Lena Page is a popular Fairy Queen, her singing being much appreciated; Mr. W. G. Wesley is droll as Widow Twankey; Messrs. Tom and Will Kelso are inimitable drolls; Mr. Joe Bell is a hard-working Wishee Washee; Miss Cissie Gold a charming and piquant Princess; Mr. D. J. McCarthy a rollicking Emperor of the most bibulous type; and Mr. Jack Waller is an exponent of that peculiar dry, eccentric humour termed by the Caledonians "pawky." Miss Maude Clarke is responsible for some very clever dancing. The chorus is strong, and the ballets are taking, the production being admirably staged. Mr. J. Gill is also worthy of special note for the capital work of the orchestra. The whole of the production is under the personal supervision of that well-known writer of pantomime and musical comedy, Mr. J. S. Barry.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—This week Mr. George Dance's company is presenting *The Little Michus* for the first time here. The musical play is exceedingly well presented, and is nightly received with uproarious applause. First favourite is Mr. Leslie Holland, who, as General des Ifs, is singularly happy in his work. His clever comedy acting is highly appreciated. Good support is rendered by Mr. Cecil Clayton, delightfully droll as Bagnolet; Mr. Gerald Clifford sings and acts well as Gaston; and Mr. T. E. Conover plays Pierre Michu in a highly meritorious manner. Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gracie Sinclair, the little Michus, are seen to great advantage. Miss Maisie Gay, as Madame Michu, acts with briskness and humour; and Mdlle. Marjorie dances gracefully. The scenery and dresses are extremely handsome.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—T. E. Dunville, the droll comedian, is the star artist here, and receives a hearty welcome for his clever ditties and quaint mannerisms. *The Member for Muddlesex* is capably presented by Mr. W. Lee and Miss Helen Bentley; and the Four Maisons excel in a clever musical act. The Dean Twins dance delightfully; and other capital turns are given by Lily Langtry, comedienne; Walter Emerson, the lengthy comedian; and the Delmars, speciality comedians.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. C. Aldin.—Mr. Edwin Leslie, late acting-manager here, departed for Belfast last week to take over the management of the Palace. Mr. Percy Aldin, who has been connected with the Hippodrome since the opening, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Leslie. The choice is an admirable one, for Mr. Aldin, in addition to being extremely popular with the patrons of the "Hippo," is a most zealous worker and courteous young man. We wish him every success in his more responsible position. This week the usual variety entertainment is abandoned, and in its stead Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's pantomime, *Cinderella*, reigns supreme. The production is very successful, and a special feature introduced by the Brothers Pollard and Miss Kitty Grey, entitled *The Soldier, the Policeman, and the Cook*, is very popular.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Mr. Henry Bedford presented his new play, entitled *The See-Saw of Life*, in very creditable style, his excellent company earning great praise for their all round ability. Mr. Henry Bedford takes the prominent rôle of Matt Marsten, once a detective and now a super, and wins repeated and unstinted applause for his really clever characterisation. Sir James Dalroy is well embodied by Mr. Alec Alexander, and Mr. Walter H. Domoney is well suited as James Denton. Mr. Sid Bedford causes merriment for his droll methods as Augustus. In Miss Bessie Bedford, the poor seamstress Laurie Musgrave finds a clever exponent, and Miss Ella Sennett is successful as Judith Dalroy. Mrs. Palmer is capably delineated by Miss Frances Foley, and the Misses Jeanie Risley and Enid Trench are both pleasing as Liza Allen and Kit respectively. *Gipsy Jack* was being played for the last three nights of this week.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—This skating rink is gaining more popularity each week, and crowds enjoy this fascinating pastime daily. Mons. Le Clair shows a capable set of new pictures on the American Bioscope, and music is furnished by the celebrated Red Band.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—The engagement of Mr. Martin Harvey and his excellent company is proving a sound attraction here this week. An unusually large audience accorded the popular actor an enthusiastic reception on Monday evening, when a brilliant interpretation of *The Breed of the Treshams* was presented. In the part of Lieutenant Beresby (otherwise "The Rat") Mr. Martin Harvey is eminently successful, and submits a strikingly natural portrayal of the character. Mr. Charles J. Cameron is a praiseworthy exponent of Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Charles Glenney displays talent in the rôle of Colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford; Mr. Percy Anstey is a highly commendable representative of Cornet the Hon. Francis Tresham; Miss N. De Silva imparts natural charm and vivacity to the rôle of Batty; Miss Coleridge merits unstinted praise for her graceful and polished delineation of the Hon. Margaret Hungerford; Mrs. Bagshaw and Helena Pierrepoint have able representatives in Miss Francis Ivor and Miss Bessie Elder respectively. On the evenings of Thursday and Friday *The Only Way* was presented.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—A remarkably good turn is supplied here by Arayama, Japanese slack-wire walker and barrel manipulator. The programme includes Mattie Crawford, serio and dancer; Charles Woodward, comedian; York, Mack, and York, *Widow Mack's Troublesome Boys*; Richardson Taylor, mimic, ventriloquist, and silleur; Nuttall Cross, pianist; and the bio-tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—An excellent pantomime, entitled *Cinderella*, presented by Mr. Eade Montefiore's company is occupying the boards here. Mr. George Rydon is responsible for the major portion of the fun as Peter the page, his antics, singing, and dancing creating much mirth. Miss May Merton, a capital Cinders, both sings and dances with becoming charm. Miss Georgina Leonard (Prince Peerless), who possesses a good stage presence, is an ideal principal boy. The comedians, who work together in excellent harmony, and cause hearty laughter, include Mr. Fred Lincoln (Baron Hardup), Mr. Arthur Byron (Jawrinda), Mr. George Antley (Clawrinda), and Messrs. Conan and Doyle (Nabem and Nailem). Miss Vera Schlesinger assists successfully as the Fairy Godmother; Miss Adele Lincoln creditably sustains Dandini. Specialities are introduced by Mr. Morrice Holmes, a clever whistler, the Four Fiori Del Moutes, dancers, and Miss Adele Lincoln, a neat and able dancer. The scenery and costumes and effects are commendable, and the chorus and orchestra are under the capable baton of Mr. Michael Connelly.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Kelly and Ashby, bounding billiardists, head the bill, and are accorded an excellent reception; Florrie Gallimore, comedienne, easily sings herself into favour; a clever aquatic display is given by the Finneys; Geoffreys and Benson appear in a smart comedy sketch entitled *Spoofed*; W. B. Vox, ventriloquist, successfully amuses the audience; some clever acrobatic work is contributed by the Hans Hansen Trio. The remaining items are Princess Pauline, a bright comedienne and clever dancer; the sisters Neilson, duettists and dancers; Billy Hobbs, coon singer and dancer, and the American Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Joseph Sweeney.—A novel turn is provided here this week by Everton and Burns, cyclists, in a racing act; the Three Seymours, smart equilibrists, are well received; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian; and Yorkshire Tom, mimic, are in high favour; Bandoni, one-man band, displays ability. Other popular turns are Lily Turner, descriptive vocalist; Will McIvor, vocal comedian; and Walter Payne's Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Charles Carte is paying a welcome return visit here, and has been delighting local playgoers during the week by his clever depiction of Jerry the Tramp in that well-known American drama, *A Noble Brother*. Miss Doris Brookes submits a pleasing performance as Nana Leigh, Miss Alice Ballard succeeds as Mrs. Leigh, and Miss Katie Cameron gives a lively and spirited rendering of Rosie Rapid. Mr. Arthur Gilroy scores as Henry Travers; whilst Mr. J. Ansell Wilson, as Jack Elsworth, is deservedly popular. Mr. Maurice Jones appears with marked success as Colonel Leigh, and the rest of the cast is capably filled.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the St. Helen's Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—The attraction here this week is the reappearance of Mr. George Dance's company in the perennial musical comedy, *A Chincse Honeymoon*, which is again proving very popular. As Fi-Fi, Miss Minnie Leslie displays much cleverness and sprightliness; Miss Ada Watson is full of vivacity as Soo-Soo, her vocal efforts being excellent; Miss Poppy Wilkinson makes an irresistible Mrs. Pineapple; as the Emperor, Mr. St. John Hammond is highly diverting; Mr. Percy Russell and Mr. Jack Leslie find congenial rôles as the Lord Chancellor and Lord High Admiral respectively; Mr. Foster Courtenay does exceedingly well as Pineapple; and the Tom Hatherton of Mr. L. Bullock Webster could scarcely be improved upon.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmot; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Heading the bill here we have an old favourite, Mr. Charles Majilton, and competent company, in a mirth-provoking absurdity, *The Trippers*, which has caught on. Mr. Jake Friedman is a clever versatile artist; Miss Bertha Winder, an exceedingly clever dancer, is justly styled "the dancing marvel"; Drum and Major are good in a speciality act; the Zenary Brothers are clever equilibrists; and Allsopp and Beckwith score a success in a burlesque act.

ST. LEONARDS.—THE KURSAAL.—Pier-Master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The vocalists for the week in connection with the orchestral concerts are Mr. Henry Parsons (baritone), Miss Winifred Dixon (soprano), Miss Marjorie Gummerson, and Madame Ella Russell.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Revill.—Mr. Walter Reynold's latest play, *Mr. Smith*, is a strong attraction here this week. The company presenting it is one of exceptional excellence, and has commanded the heartiest appreciation from large audiences. Mr. Stewart T. Ewart submitted an impressive impersonation of Mr. Smith; and Mr. E. Edwin Holloway acted with much power and ability as Lord Angleland. A pleasing character was Herr Deidrich Anheuser, in the hands of Mr. Fred Darrell; and the Hon. Dudley Dysart was effectively portrayed by Mr. Chas. Pilling Baird. Most charming was Miss Rosmond Berkeley as Lady Mary; and Miss Fife Alexander delightfully filled the part of Ruth Anheuser. Miss Mary Bates, as the Duchess of Angleland, and Mrs. Louis Lestrange, sustained their respective parts with marked ability.

EMPIRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Will Onda's company, in a laughable sketch, *Servants Wanted*, forms the chief attraction here, and has provided abundant fun for large audiences. Ada Twibell, a charming burlesque artist, much admired, has been distinctly successful; and Prince Fee Lung was entertaining in his display of juggling and conjuring. Gillins, ventriloquial humorist; Harry Nation, laughing comedian; Helene and Emilon, gymnasts; the Airlies, duettists; and Eugene, the boy musician, contributed their share to the evening's enjoyment.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Sin of Her Childhood* is here. As Stephen Haysel, Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes does well; Mr. Borresford Lovett is good as Rev. Alan Grey; Mr. Franklin Graham is a dashing Captain Thornton; and Mr. Fred Elvin gets a lot of fun out of his Barney O'Reilly. Miss J. D. Hicks scores as Maria Haysel; Little Dot Moss, as Hannah Spry, acts, sings, and dances cleverly; and Miss Ruth Sheppard acts very pathetically the part of the heroine, Mary Haysel.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—The chief turn here is the Pichel troupe of acrobats; also there are Les Fraisettes, talented xylophone soloists, &c.; the Glendenbergs, hand balancers, &c.; Ada Parker, coon vocalist; Phil Mouat, "the singing joiner"; Brown and Kelly Combination, in *The Butler Knows*; Two Romas, vocalists; Jimmy Shields, comic; Charles Mildare, comic whistler; and Payne's bioscope.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. G. and R. A. Nicholson; Manager, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—Mr. W. Holland's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is staged here. Miss Frances Haskoll makes a hit as Aladdin; Miss Flo Wood does well as Badroulbadour; and Flo Warner's Pekoe is brisk. Mr. Geo. Reeves's Widow Twankey is clever; Mr. Jack O'Connor, as Wishee Washee, is funny; Mr. R. M. Woodville's Emperor is effective; and Mr. Fred Russell's Abanazar is played in capital style. Mr. Glanmore Jones, as the Vizier, is also good; Sandy and Carl are very laughable as Bo-ki and Bo-ko; and specialities are introduced by the Floradora Girls.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—This week we are receiving a return visit from Mr. C. Watson Mill and company with the drama *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Rosalind Tate gives an admirable delineation of the character of Risca Mallison, and Mr. Milner Noble as Pharosaphus proves a capable artist. Mr. C. Watson Mill as Jim Murley gives a powerful impersonation; Mr. Gilson Brooke as Kailton presents a careful study; and Mr. Percy Horton gains distinction as Guise Strange. Mr. N. Carter Slaughter as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt is prominent, and Mr. Henry Rutland in a dual rôle is most effective. Mr. Alfred Maurice depicts well the rôle of Eric Melville, and Miss Cissie Penmore as Dorris Melville plays in a pleasing manner. Miss Kitty Melville provides nearly all the fun in the character of Navasole Slopper.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—On Monday Mr. Henry Furnival's company in *Lost in Paris* opened to a good house. The play was well received, and the acting is good all round. Jacques and Pierre are capably represented by Messrs. Edward Valentine and Henry Furnival. Mr. Charles Macdona's *Country Girl* company was announced for Thursday.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—That popular musical comedy *The Orchid* has been a considerable time reaching this town, but when it made its appearance on Monday it was welcomed by local playgoers in no half-hearted manner. This piece is well performed by Mr. George Dance's company, under the business-management of Mr. H. Wright Scaddan; while the staging and dressing, under the direction of Mr. R. N. Corray, deserve high praise, as also does the chorus and augmented orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Morton Huchesson. Miss Constance Hamilton gives an admirable impersonation of Lady Violet, full of charm and vivacity, while her cultured vocalism wins the heartiest applause. She is ably supported by Miss Maud Jay, who is delightful in her treatment of the part of Josephine Zaccary, Miss Madeline Maude very funny as Caroline Vokins, and Miss Daisy W. Collins pleasing as Thisbe. Mr. Ian Maxwell proves himself exceptionally clever as the Hon. Guy, and is deservedly encored for his dances and vocal efforts. Mr. W. Garland is highly successful as Dr. Faussett, and Mr. R. Corray is seen to advantage as Mr. Chesterton. A striking feature of the piece is the remarkable activity and quaintness of Mr. Colin Campbell, who, as Meakins, keeps the fun going briskly throughout.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Barrie. —Mr. A. B. Cross and company occupy the boards here in *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross as Pete proves himself to be as capable as of yore, and Miss M. Watersford is thoroughly successful as Kate Cregeen. An excellent interpretation of Phillip Christian is given by Chas. Hallings, who is seen to special advantage in the closing scene.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey.—The attraction this week is Mr. J. D. Hunter's pantomime of *Cinderella*, fresh from Hastings. Miss Blanche Bayley is a dashing Prince, and Miss Doris Dew a charming Cinderella; Mr. Hunter is as funny as ever; Mr. Dick Tubb gives a humorous study of the Baron; and Miss Eva Bayley charms the audience as the Fairy Godmother. Miss Nell Raymond and Miss Mable Mavis, as second boy and girl, infuse much animation into their parts. Messrs. Dale and O'Malley are responsible for plenty of fun as the Baron's pages, and the Misses Florrie and Lilly Zetina are clever as the Prince's dancers. Miss Rene Ashley as the Prime Minister and Mr. Fred Cleveland as Father Christmas must also be commended. The specialities include the Cleveland Troupe of acrobats and Rosie's miniature circus, introducing Rosie Silbon, the youngest equestrienne in the world.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. F. G. Kimberley's company, in the drama *Two Little Drummer Boys*, is paying a return visit this week. Mr. F. G. Kimberley gives a smart portrayal as Quiney O'Quirke; Miss Lottie Addison submits a clever rendering of Meg; Mr. Edward Bicker does well as General Kingsley; and little Elsie May displays ability as a vocalist. Other parts are capably sustained.

HIPPODROME.—Lessees, Varieties (Wakefield), Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Alf. S. Selwyn and Sam. L. Bury; Manager, Henry Lucas.—The company here this week comprises Vernando, a clever ventriloquist; Salmons, a wonderful trick cyclist; Miss Stella May, a pleasing comedienne; Reg Templeton, an amusing character comedian; Lee and Lucas, a couple of smart singers and dancers; Jolly Criss Cross, comedienne; and Tom Davis and his comedians in a successful turn.

WALSALL. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Joint-Management, Moss's Empires, Ltd., and the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The leading attraction is furnished here by the American Comedy Four, in the funny vocal and dancing scena, *Outside Ye Olde Bull and Bushe*. The pictures by the American bioscope are vastly entertaining; Mr. W. H. Downes, the coloured tenor, has some good songs; the Finneys (three sisters), in the aquatic entertainment, are most successful; and Alice Maydue, comedienne; Collins and Hawley, vocalists and dancers; Spry and Monti, in an effective combination of wit and humour; and Hall and Earle, acrobatic comedians, are also in the bill.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is here in the drama *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt makes a capital Anthony Raybrook; Mr. Hubert Humphreys displays ability as Walter Hatherleigh; Andrew Emm as Willie leaves nothing to be desired; Laura Raybrook is skilfully portrayed by Miss Frances Ruttledge; and the remaining characters are in capable hands.

WALTHAMSTOW.—PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter. —Mr. Peter Davey's pretty production of the pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* has taken a firm hold on the affections of playgoers here, and Mr. Arthur J. Barclay has every reason to be satisfied with the state of business in this, its second and concluding week. No alteration has been made since we wrote last, but the various artists, having apparently taken the correct measure of their new public, throw themselves with even more zest into their parts. Mr. Geo. Mudie's capital performance of the usurping Earl Godiva is as full of artistic touches as ever, and richly deserves the encomiums that have been showered upon it. Miss Polly Prim acts, sings, and dances with (if possible) increased charm; Miss Nell Richardson sings beautifully; and Mr. Sidney Young, as Dame Durdan, is responsible for any amount of laughter. Messrs. Gus Garrick, George Belmore, and P. G. Martindale, Misses May Hart, Madge Christopher, and Violet Broughton are all good, while the chorus sing even better than before.

KING'S THEATRE.—An acceptable production of Wilkie Collin's fine play *The New Magdalen* is presented here this week by Mr. St. John Beecher's company. Miss Patey Trounsell, with her command of pathos, is an excellent Mercy Merrick; Mr. Charles Freeman gives a polished and gentlemanly rendering of Horace Holmcroft; a fine, manly portrayal of the Rev. Julian Gray is given by Mr. Harry Gilbey, who looks the part of the courageous young clergyman to the life. Miss Oliph Webb is a stately Lady Janet Roy, and Miss Blanch Ripley does well in the unsympathetic part of Grace Rosebery.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *A Modern Adventuress*, is the attraction here this week. The play abounds in exciting situations, and is well acted by a capable set of artists. In the title-rôle Miss Kate Froude plays with dramatic force throughout. A careful study of Myrtle Delby is submitted by Miss Alice Defoe; and Miss Ivy Chandos in the light part of Sally Hodges is responsible for much merriment. Mr. Leonard Aardale is especially successful as Pietro Donelli; Mr. Frank Wilton is good as the Banker; and Mr. Louis Edmonde is well placed as Harry Delby. Mr. Sydney Grant as Wallace Dalton, Mr. Leonard Montgomery as John Crompton, and Mr. Stanley F. Champion as the detective, are each seen to advantage in their respective parts. The staging is good.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Another capital company is here this week. Ted and May Hopkins head the bill in the clever sketch, *Courtship*, which evokes much laughter; Tom Lloyd again pleases with his ditties and witticisms; the Tysons supply an excellent musical entertainment; and the Perkins are refined coloured vocalists. Other excellent turns are Will Percival, comedian; the Arizona troupe of jugglers and foot equilibrists; Billy Williams, comedian; and the Royal Bioscope pictures.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—This week Messrs. Chesney, Sanderson, and Bessie Elma's company in the interesting drama *The Power and the Glory* is attracting good audiences. Mr. A. Fitzmaurice as Harry Goodluck and Mr. Reginald Fox as Harold Harker are both admirably suited to their respective parts; as Ferdinand Crape Mr. Victor R. C. Moors makes the most of his opportunities; Miss Bessie Elma acts admirably the rôle of Kate Goodluck; Little Linda, the blind girl, is artistically rendered by Miss Flo Florence; Miss M. Le Ray as Bessie Goodluck, the flower girl, meets with a hearty reception; and the rôle of Lady Gwendoline is effectively portrayed by Miss Fanny Olive.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — PALACE. — Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten. — Howard and Harris in a sketch, *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*, find an opportunity of introducing some amusing comedy and clever dancing; Percy Hannon, a young American baritone, finds favour; a society episode of exceptionally sensational character is played by Miss Diana Hope, Mr. W. Hurst, and Mr. Monte Bayly; and others who contribute are Burke and McVoy, Fisher and O'Neale, Casey and Mitchell, Rose Cass, and Carl Rosine.

GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—Another visit is being paid here by Go-Won-Go Mohawk and her company in the drama written by herself, *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. Go-Won-Go Mohawk gives an energetic interpretation of the title-rôle. The part of Colonel Stockton has a capital exponent in Mr. C. W. Charles. Some exceptionally good character acting is displayed by Mr. Theo. Alker in the rôle of the Chief Ge-Ne-Gua. A sprightly Nellie Stockton is found in Miss Minnie Goepel. Mr. Edward Leroy deserves creditable mention for what he does as Manuel Lopez. Mr. Ike Shawcross ably delineates the character of Captain Franklin; and the company business is chiefly entrusted to Mr. Guy D. Hackney as Sam White, Mr. Dan Ryan as Garry Cullen and Miss Dora Past as Matilda Shiffles.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's excellent company opened here on Monday with *The Three Little Maids*. The maids, Ada, Hilda, and Edna are well played by Misses Doris Lind, Cora Lingard, and Marie West. Miss Kate Beck is a very effective Lady St. Mallory; Miss Laura Wright is charming as Gretchen; and Miss Phyllis Castleton excellent as Miss Price. A fine piece of acting comes from Mr. Frank Henderson, who as Lord Cheyne keeps the audience in a continual titter. Mr. W. P. Morgan is satisfactory as Rev. Mr. Branscombe. Mr. Ewart Drake's representation of Cupid, a caddie, is good; Mr. Wilfred Heath is a capital M. de L'Orme; and Mr. Garnet Wilson is successful as Brian Molyneux.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Lessee, Mr. David Williams.—The Elliotts and Savonas are here for the second week, and are doing excellent business. They are introducing Mr. J. B. Elliott's latest musical invention entitled *The Demon Musical Lantern*, which has been well received. The following artists are also here:—Miss Violet Robson, a descriptive vocalist of merit; Messrs. George and Edwards, comedians and dancers; Senorita Eloina, queen of the air; and Daley and Doran, comedians.

WEXFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan.—The Alexandra Opera Company is here this week, and the operas announced are *Maritana*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Lucia Di Lammermoor*, *Faust*, *The Lily of Killarney*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment*. On Monday night *Maritana* was produced, with Miss Constance St. Bride in the name-part. Miss Stone Humphries as Lazarillo, Mr. Frank Land as Don Jose, Mr. H. G. Place as King of Spain, and Mr. William Hillier as Don Cæsar.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Mr. George Edwarde's company is here with *San Toy*, and the delightful Chinese musical comedy goes with all the old-time swing. Miss Nina Osborn is a charming San Toy, singing with much tunefulness, and, at the same time, revealing herself as an accomplished actress. Mr. Howard V. Cropton is a manly and effective Captain Bobby Preston; Mr. Edward G. Hall is capital as the mandarin, Yen How; and it would be difficult to find a better Li than Mr. Clifford Seyler, whose fund of humour seems in exhaustible. Mr. Harry Turner is a dignified Sir Bingo Preston, and Mr. George Partie is good as the Emperor. Miss Madge Hamilton does some satisfactory work as Poppy; Mr. Francis Mackintosh reveals undoubted histrionic ability as Fo-Hop; and the rest of the lengthy cast acquits itself creditably. *San Toy* is staged and dressed in that perfect manner which the public have been led to expect from all that bears the hall mark of Mr. George Edwardes' name.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—The delightful play in three acts, written by Walter Reynolds, entitled *Mr. Smith*, is drawing big houses. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart, in the title-rôle, gives a strong portrayal of Mr. Smith; Mr. Sydney Price is very good as the Earl of Oxted; Mr. William Dunlop scores as the Duke of Angleland; Mr. Herbert Bentone is charming as Deidrich Anheuser; Miss Mary Relph is a typical aristocratic Duchess of Angleland; Miss Phyllis Relph, who represents Ruth Anheuser, is much admired; Miss Ethel Milton is a charming Lady Mary Hildergate; Mrs. Alfred Davis as Mrs. Smith plays the part in good style.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—The programme here includes Horace Goldin, the talented conjurer, assisted by Miss Fransioli and company, quite mystifies the audience with his wonderful feats. Boswell's circus of educated mules, dogs, and ponies are highly appreciated; Ethel Arden and company create much mirth in their sketch entitled *Three of a Kind*; Sisters Llewellyn, Australian duettists, give several selections in good style; Stylo, with hoops, is well received. Other good turns are given by Francis and Melli, a comical musical couple; Jack Lennol, comedian; Ringling Trio, comedy artists; and Tom Sansome, comedian.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —An acceptable return visit of *Dr. Wake's Patient*, played by Mr. Louis Calvert's company, is being made here this week. Mr. Douglas Vigors acts the part of Dr. Forester Wake admirably; Mr. Alfred Wellesley is excellent as Andrew Wake; Mr. Herbert Ross is clever and amusing as Duff Wynterden; and Mr. Arthur Willoughby is capital as the Earl of St. Olbyn. Miss Olive Terry most charmingly and naturally portrays the part of Lady Gerania; Miss Ina Pelly is a vivacious and effective Countess of St. Olbyn; Miss Beatrice Webb plays efficiently as Harriett Bronson; and Miss Amy Fanchette is satisfactory as Mrs. Wake.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The Cingalee Troupe is the leading item in this week's bill, their singing and posing being well received; Mdlle. Roza introduces the canine element into a clever turn; and Matt Wilkinson is seen to advantage in a farcical absurdity. Other items in the programme are Aida Martine, comedienne and dancer; Violet Beatrice, vocalist; Vincent, acrobat; Monty Walker, laughing comedian; and Raynor and Reece, variety artists. Ruffell's bioscope also shows some good pictures.

WORCESTER.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. L. Wards.—This week *Sunday* has occupied the boards of the Theatre Royal. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay (daughter of the late Madame Antoinette Sterling) apeared in the title-rôle and won general admiration. Mr. Wm. Lockhart, Mr. Sidney Rennef, Mr. T. Norman Walter, and Mr. Arthur Vezin gave a capital account of themselves, while Mr. Lockhart and Mr. Walter were particularly good as Towzer and Lively. Mr. Cecil Duncan played well the part of Arthur Brinthorpe, and Mr. Leonard Pagden made a manly Colonel Brinthorpe. Mr. Ernest A. Douglas was a capital Tom Oxley, and the other parts were in capable hands.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company is here with *Bluebell in Fairyland*. Mr. Lawrence Emery gives an admirable impersonation of Dicky; Mr. David Cruikshank capitally fills the part of Mr. Joplin; Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart as Will and Won't are quaintly funny; Mr. Fred Allen is excellent as Policeman 1C. Mr. Percy Farrimond as the Singing Collier possesses a good voice, his rendering of "Ora pro nobis" being greatly admired; Mr. Stanley Crisp is distinctly clever as Peter the Cat; Miss Minnie Blanchard is highly successful as a fairy, and dances extremely well; Mr. Edgar Pleon deserves praise as the Yellow Dwarf; Little Ruby Carter as Will o' the Wisp dances admirably; Miss Gladys Cooper excellently acts the part of Blue Bell. Commendation is also due to the Misses Connie Emerald and Marie Edmonds as Mab and Winnie.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week a fine all-round company has appeared here. The Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists, do well; Mr. Charles Beauland, comedian, has caught on; while Wallie Gilbert, descriptive vocalist; Miss Lil Hartley, comedienne; and Mr. Harry Tomlinson, vocal comedian, with the Empire pictures, complete a capital programme.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Considerable interest is being aroused this week by the visit of the Carl Rosa Opera company, who appeared before a well-filled and delighted house on Monday in *Carmen*. In the title-rôle Miss Doris Woodall was delightful; her full, fresh voice, sympathetic enunciation, and thoroughly artistic rendering of the popular rôle became the theme of general admiration. Miss Elizabeth Burgess was at once a success as Michaela, singing with much taste and freshness. As José Julius Walther proved himself an excellent actor and vocalist; Mr. Charles Victor was a picturesque Escamillo, and was encored for his vocal contributions; Miss Ina Hill and Miss Anna Hope each sang sweetly; and

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"BLÉ DE LUNE."

Play, in Three Acts and Five Tableaux,
By M. Georges Madague,
Produced at the Théatre Molière, on Jan. 11.

Claude Varagnez .....M. POUCTAL.
Pierronnet .....M. DEAN
Le Père La Bique .....M. ANGELY
Albéric Soucaud .....M. MORGAN
Frédéric Silvère .....M. MAEYEN
Le procureur de la République .....M. GICQUEL
La Gourlette .....MDME. CLAUDE RITTER
Chérie .....MDLLE. B. MAUFRO.
La tante Agathe .....MDME. J. MALVAU
Christiane .....MDLLE. DARBELLY
La Pétélonne .....MDME. MONTOUT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18.—The Théatre Molière has departed from the course we thought it had taken. For a while it gave us works of real merit, whilst now it has brought out a melodrama of the most ordinary kind. The new production may find favour in the eyes of the inhabitants of that populous quarter, but from a literary point of view this change of front is to be regretted. The piece certainly bears a pretty title. In the neighbourhood of Arles, in the sunny South, the term "Blé de lune" is applied to illegitimate children. They are "moon corn" not sown on the earth. The play is as follows. Chéries has never known her parents, and has been brought up by Agathe, the widow of a rich farmer, who ill-treats her. Agathe is by no means a good woman. She is hard, avaricious, and the only one in the village who refuses a piece of bread to La Bique, the old mendicant. She has a nephew, Claude Varagnez, a barrister, who, with his wife Christiane and his daughter Marie-Thérèse, comes every year to spend a few weeks with her. Agathe hates her relations, and small wonder. Some twenty years ago she had fallen violently in love with Claude, and despite the close relationship and the fact of her being ten years older, she aspired to become his wife. Claude never knew that he had inspired such a passion, but Agathe has neither forgotten nor forgiven what she considers a slight. Smarting under this blow, she has been waiting to be avenged on her nephew, when at last an opportunity presents itself. Claude is in financial straits, and asks Agathe to advance him two thousand pounds. Agathe not only refuses to help him, but in an angry flow of words informs him that it was she who separated him from Charlotte, his mistress, the girl he loved, and who committed suicide from despair. Mad with rage, Claude seizes a knife and kills Agathe. Marie-Thérèse, his daughter, has witnessed the crime, and Chérie has also overheard the violent scene between Claude and Agathe. Chérie has now only one desire—to save Claude—for she has heard that she is his daughter, and that Charlotte was her mother. And whilst Claude is struck down by a brain fever that brings him to death's door, Chérie accuses herself of the murder of Agathe, who, she says, used to beat her. Marie-Thérèse could have saved Chérie, but in that case she would have to accuse her father; and Chérie is sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. So far events have taken more or less their natural course; now a great surprise awaits us. Claude is restored to health, and we expect that he will cry Chérie's innocence over the housetops. Not a bit of it. He visits the girl in prison, and tells her that he intends to confess his crime. "If you do that, I will kill myself," says Chérie, and Claude accepts her decision to continue to bear the blame of his crime, promising to secure her a free pardon. She is pardoned, and marries Albéric, a youth she has known for a long time. But she is consumptive in the highest degree, and dies in her bridal dress, amidst the flowers, to the sound of the tambourine and of the farandole. In the second act there is a rather telling scene that reminds us of that terrible play, *La Fille Elisa*. We are shown the interior of a prison, as a protest against the barbarity of the so-called silent system. We see an old woman whom persistent silence has reduced to a state bordering upon insanity; and another prisoner, a woman of the most degraded type, who has conceived for the luckless Chérie an extraordinary affection. The work was well interpreted by Mdlle. Maufroy, very pathetic in the part of Chérie; by Mdme. Ritter, terrible as La Goulette, the before-mentioned prisoner; by Mdme. Malvau, who impersonated Agathe with much power; and by M. Pouctal in the difficult rôle of Claude.

The Théatre Molière also gave us two satirical one-act pieces that deserve to be mentioned. One by MM. Georges de Buysieulx and Roger Max, is called *Messieurs de la Cour*, and describes the mishaps of Paul Durieux, a struggling young barrister. He certainly has no luck. His speciality lies in the divorce court; but no sooner is a brief handed to him than he receives notice that the dispute has been made up, and the matter will not be brought into court. He receives the visit of a M. de Méran, who wants to separate from his wife; and our barrister makes up his mind to prevent by every means a reconciliation between the parties. When, however, he sees Madame de Méran, he recognises in her the charming Luce, one of his former mistresses. He is placed in a predicament. If M. de Méran proceeds with his action, he (Paul Durieux) will be compromised; and he is compelled to advise his client to pardon his wife.

The heroine of the other play is Chichette, a young damsel whose parents are *concierges* in a house belonging to an austere, high-principled man, who will not let one of his apartments to a lady whose morals are not above suspicion. This is very hard on the old *concierges*, who despair of ever letting the empty rooms in the house. But one day another austere gentleman, having met Chichette, takes one of the apartments in the house, so as to be near the pretty girl; an example followed by a second high-principled man; and finally the proprietor happens to see Chichette and loses his heart to her. Ere long every apartment in the house is occupied by single gentlemen.

M. Curel's next work to be produced at the Théâtre Antoine bears the title *La Danse devant le Miroir*. It is in three acts, two of which are finished. *Le Coup d'aile*, by the same author, has caught on well at Antoine's, and is bringing in the maximum.

M. Porel of the Vaudeville expects great things of *Le Péril jaune*, M. Alexandre Bisson's new piece, that will see the footlights on the first of next month. Besides Mdlle. Marthe Regnier and M. Max Dearly, who have been specially retained for the principal rôles, the cast includes MM. Gaston Dubosc, Baron fils, Lérand, and Mdmes. Cécile Caron and Yvonne de Bray. There is a piece of the same title now running at the Théatré Royal, but it is only in one act.

The Bouffes-Parisiens announce a revival of the old operette *Joséphine vendue par ses Sœurs*, wherein the chief part, that of Benjamine, was created by Mdme. Milly Meyer. This artist, whom we have not seen for years, will make her reappearance in that rôle, wherein she scored such a tremendous success. We shall be glad to welcome her back on the Paris stage.

The important event this season at the Opéra-Comique will be the production of *Aphrodite* by M. Louis de Grammont, for which M. Erlanger has written the music. The libretto is founded on M. Pierre Louys' novel, which, it will be remembered, created a tremendous sensation at the time. The scenes in the book are very "warm," and in the theatrical world people are curious to know how M. de Grammont has dealt with the subject. The rôle of Aphrodite will be sung by Mdlle. Mary Garden.

M. Maurice Donnay has read his play *Paraître* to the artists of the Comédie-Française who will have to interpret it. M. Grand and Mdlle. Berthe Cerny will make their début therein.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS LAURA HANSEN.

Miss Laura Hansen was first engaged by Messrs. Gatti to understudy leading parts in *The Harbour Lights* at the Adelphi Theatre, and toured all the principal towns afterwards for eighteen months as Dora Vane in that play. For twelve months at the Garrick Theatre she understudied Miss Rorke in *A Pair of Spectacles*, and played her part of Mrs. Goldfinch for a short time during her absence. She was offered this rôle for tour with Mr. Hare, but she had already accepted a starring Shakespearean engagement with the Hon. George Coppin to visit Australia, supporting Mr. Walter Bentley, for six months. She stayed eighteen months, playing almost every leading Shakespearean part, and many others, such as Clara Douglas in *Money*, Ada Ingot in *David Garrick*, Julie in *Richelieu*, &c.

On returning home, Miss Hansen joined Mr. Ben Greet, and played lead in all the old comedies with him—Peg Woffington, Lady Teazle, Kate Hardcastle, Pauline, and many others. After a short season at the Royalty, where she played Hannah in *St. Ronan's Well*, she went to the Pavilion Theatre for a stock season to play the lead in *The Prodigal Daughter, The English Rose, Black Domino, The Lights of London, A Lion's Heart, The Romany Rye, East Lynne*, and others too numerous to mention. Miss Hansen left the Pavilion to join the late Osmond Tearle for Shakespearean lead. At the end of two years, during which period she added to her répertory such parts as Parthenia in *Ingomar* and Galatea in *Pygmalion and Galatea*, Miss Hansen was engaged by the late Augustin Daly for America, to play seconds to Miss Ada Rehan in Shakespearean plays and comedies. She also played Le Beau in *As You Like It*, when that comedy was represented by ladies only at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in 1894, and was most highly complimented by the late Mr. Clement Scott.

It was at that performance Mr. Daly saw her, and engaged her for America. Before joining the Daly company, she created the part of Madge Brierly in *Old Kentucky*, and played it with great success at eight principal provincial towns. Whilst in America, Mr. Daly "lent" her for a short season to play Louise to Miss Olga Nethersole's *Frou-Frou*, and understudy her as *Camille and Juliet*. Mr. Osmond Tearle cabled to her to rejoin him, which she did for another two years. Then followed a long tour of *The Two Little Vagabonds*, Miss Hansen playing Marion Thornton. She was specially engaged to play that part in the revival of the drama at the Adelphi Theatre. One of her happiest short engagements was to play Lena Nelson to the late William Terriss in *The Harbour Lights*, which he revived for a short season at the Grand, Islington (with Miss Millward as Dora Vane). She also during the run had the pleasure of playing Dora herself to Mr. Terriss's David, Miss Millward being the

Photo by Langfier.
MISS LAURA HANSEN.

victim of a nasty accident. She felt very proud and happy that evening (while sympathising with Miss Millward, for whom she had the sincerest admiration) at having the honour of playing lead (and to his entire satisfaction) with an actor whom she considers to have been amongst the cleverest and most charming the stage has ever known.

Another short and very happy engagement was with Mr. Arthur Roberts at the Royalty Theatre in *Tra-la-la Tosca*, in which she burlesqued Mr. Waring's part of Angelotti, and received the highest praise from the late Sir Augustus Harris, and a charming letter from the author himself, Sir F. C. Burnand. Mr. Roberts offered her a leading burlesque part to tour with him, which, however, she declined, assuring him that her mock tragedy part and the clever lines Sir F. C. Burnand had given her to speak were far above ordinary burlesque. Miss Hansen also had a long and successful tour some years ago with Mr. W. W. Kelly as Josephine in *A Royal Divorce*. Recently she accepted a starring engagement in this part, and also as Glory Quayle in *The Christian*, Miladi in *The Three Musketeers*, and many other leading parts with Mr. Leonard Rayne in South Africa, and received most flattering notices out there; but unfortunately the climate and hard work led to a long and serious illness. Miss Hansen was invalided home, and unable to play for nearly twelve months. She joined Mr. Robert Arthur's stock season, and started again at Aberdeen and Dundee, playing the heroines in Drury Lane and Adelphi dramas. Subsequently she rejoined *The Two Little Vagabonds* for a tour, and later she played the starring lead in a répertoire company with Mr. Allan Wilkie, Madeline in *Belphegor*, Fiordelisa in *The Fool's Revenge*, May Edwards, Lady Isabel, &c.

At present she is playing the part of Kate Strong in *The Village Blacksmith*, which is being toured by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey. Miss Hansen claims to have played about 150 leading parts during her career.

MISS IDA PHILLIPS.

Miss Ida Phillips is the only daughter of Mandeville B. Phillips, who was for over twelve years private secretary to Archbishop Benson. Miss Phillips commenced her stage career with Mr. Mark Melford, as Ada Baltic in *Turned Up*, at the Reading Theatre. Mr. Melford was the first actor she had ever spoken to, and the advice he gave her was, "Don't tell the members of the company you are an amateur, or they'll borrow your grease-paints." Mr. Melford and his pretty wife were very kind and encouraging to her, and she had many happy special weeks with them.

Tours with *The Fatal Card, The Harbour Lights, Sorrows of Satan, The Mariners of England*, and *A Bunch of Violets* followed.

Miss Phillips has worked hard, having been a member of most of the London stock companies. She also played lead (starring) in a season at Aberdeen and Dundee. Last October she went to the West Indies to play lead in a large répertoire—*The Idler, Our Flat, Niobé, Dr. Bill, Lord and Lady Algy, My Friend the Prince, Two Little Vagabonds, East Lynne, The Ticket of Leave Man*, &c. The experience there was delightful, though the work was very hard, a fresh piece

Photo by Gillard.
MISS IDA PHILLIPS.

being played nightly. Miss Phillips is the proud possessor of a tiny cottage at Sarratt. In the summer she spends a great deal of her spare time there, doing most of the work and leading a simple life.

"CYMBELINE."

Revival, at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, January 13.

Cymbeline ..... MR. E. STORY GOFTON
Cloten ..... MR. ARTHUR GRENVILLE
Posthumus Leonatus ..... MR. ERIC BLIND
Belarius ..... MR. HENRY MARSTON CLIFFORD
Guiderius ..... MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Arviragus ..... MR. RICHARD HATTERAS
Philario ..... MR. A. C. HARDIE
Iachimo ..... MR. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Caius Lucius ..... MR. LEONARD ROBSON
Pisanio ..... MR. GEORGE FITZGERALD
Corneilus ..... MR. A. HORNBY WARBURTON
A Roman Captain .. MR. ST. BERNARD WYNTOUR
First British Captain .... MR. AUSTEN MILROY
Second British Captain .. MR. ALFRED HILLIARD
A French Gentleman .. MR. WILFRID BECKWITH
A Dutch Gentleman .... MR. EDGAR C. WHITE
A Spanish Gentleman ..... MR. J. E. DANIELS
First Lord ..... MR. MURRAY CARRINGTON
Second Lord .....MR. JOHN RICHTER
Queen ..... MISS MARY RABY
Helen ..... MISS ELLA THORNTON
Imogen ..... MISS NORA LANCASTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The revival of *Cymbeline* marks Mr. Richard Flanagan's eleventh successive production of Shakespearean drama at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, when this class of entertainment is provided annually in the most sumptuous style and under distinguished local patronage. The piece was chosen by public ballot nearly twelve months ago, and it is evident that the bulk of the patrons of the Bridge-street house were on the scent of an interesting play, though for modern purposes it is somewhat unmanageable in its original form. Mr. Richard Dalton, the adaptor, has managed to extract the essential elements of the story and condense them into a clearly intelligible and compact shape. An example of Mr. Dalton's condensation may be seen in a comparison of his scene "Before the Cave of Belarius" with the loose original text. Skill is also evident in the introduction of the fighting in the "Lane near the Battlefield," an episode full of picturesque energy, and in the "Battle Tableau," a vivid living picture that animates the stage with a brilliant though momentary glimpse of war. Beside this, Mr. Dalton's idea of Cloten should be commended from the spectator's point of view, howsoever much students may differ upon this debated character. He is a knave, and something of a fool, yet, like all Shakesperean fools, not without wisdom on occasions. Mr. Dalton has made him the comedian of the play, and he provides comic relief of a high order, mainly because the part is in the hands of a genuine character comedian, Mr. Arthur Grenville, to wit; and there can be no doubt that to this character no small part of the acting success of the production is due. Imogen personifies all that is most beautiful in woman, and it is a rare treat to see this ideal of Shakespeare embodied with such charm and grace and emotional sincerity as Miss Nora Lancaster brings to bear upon the part. She comports herself with a sweetness and dignity that awakes the immediate sympathy of the audience, a hold which she never for a moment loses throughout all her trials and adventures. Her lover, Posthumus Leonatus, is rendered in manly and cultured style by Mr. Eric Blind, who delivers his lines with sympathy and, at times, strong emotion, without ever descending to that staginess so frequently adopted in classic drama. Iachimo is a sinister and devilish character about whom there is no redeeming feature, until circumstances bring him to his knees; and in the person of Mr. H. A. Saintsbury he moves through the action like a spirit of evil, dark and sardonic, and such is Mr. Saintsbury's power that he holds the audience absolutely under a spell. Nothing better than this could be imagined; it is a triumph worth going a long way to see. From the long caste others may be selected for their praiseworthy rendering of parts. Miss Mary Raby gives a natural and vigorous impersonation of the unprincipled Queen; Mr. George Fitzgerald works his way into the affections of the audience by his simple and sincere depiction of the faithful Pisanio; Mr. E. Story Gofton is well-placed as Cymbeline; Belarius and his supposed sons are agreeably presented by Messrs. H. M. Clifford, Halliwell Hobbes and Richard Hatteras; Mr. Leonard Robson is effective as Caius Lucius; and Miss Ella Thornton gives a pleasing delineation of Helen.

An elegant souvenir of the play sets forth an "Argument" by Sir William H. Bailey, which is instructive and interesting. It contains also a number of reproductions, from Sepia, of the most important scenes. But no reproduction can convey any idea of the magnificence and beauty of the staging. Imagination in design and colour, splendour in dress and accessories, and an accompaniment of appropriate yet unobtrusive music, have combined to produce a setting which can hardly be described. For the scenery, Messrs. Hugh Freemantle and William Palmer are responsible; and Mr. Yorke Sheffield has composed the incidental score. Altogether, Mr. Richard Flanagan may honestly be congratulated on the production of a really notable and important success.

CHAT WITH MRS. BILLINGTON.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

It seemed almost difficult to believe that the vivacious and active lady who entered the room with sprightly gait had even reached her grand climacteric, let alone passed it by eighteen years.

"I'm just over eighty-one."

Then followed a lively account of an anniversary celebration held on the 4th of this month. Instead of an octogenarian it might have been a newly-emancipated schoolgirl of eighteen giving a description of her first "grown-up" party. Apparently accumulated weight of years has only tended to the lightening of Mrs. John Billington's spirits.

"I received numerous telegrams and remembrances from friends far and near. Perhaps the message I valued most was that of my husband's old friend, Mr. J. L. Toole, who has been most unremitting in his attentions and kindness to me since Mr. Billington's death. I have also received acts of kindness and sympathy from Mr. Tree, Sir Charles Wyndham, and other leading actors and managers, and I feel I could not express my appreciation better than through the pages of *The Era*. Now I come to a standstill. My life is uneventful."

The writer glanced at the pictures on the walls. In front of him, by each side of the mantelpiece, hung oil paintings of J. L. Toole and the late John Billington. To the left Madame Patti and Tom Robertson shared each other's company, while a turn of the head brought him face to face with Sir Henry Irving and Charlotte Brontë.

"Surely your thoughts need not be at a standstill, Mrs. Billington, and surely you're satisfied at eighty-one?"

"No, indeed I'm not," retorted the lady, with quizzical petulance which betrayed a trace of the old player's art. "I want to be ninety-one," she added, with a laugh.

"Appearances justify a greater ambition than that, and the pictures round you will help you to live your life again."

"Isn't that a life-like one of Irving? What a dear man he was! The last time he was in this room occurred shortly before my husband's benefit. Sir Henry very nobly offered not only to be chairman for the function, but said he would play himself in *Waterloo*. I well recollect him crossing over to the portrait of Toole, and flicking the picture with his handkerchief as he said, 'Dear old Johnny! Dear old friend!' He then turned to my husband's picture, afterwards glancing across to his own just opposite. 'Well, John,' he remarked to my husband, 'I wonder which of us will go first.' My husband replied, 'Me—I'm shot,' using a well-known Americanism. 'My boy,' said Sir Henry, 'don't say that. I'm not the man I used to be, and I shan't be sorry when I've done with it all and able to rest.'"

A reference to Mrs. Billington's sixteen years' work at the Alelphi Theatre forced more than one pleasing reminiscence to the mind of the veteran

Photo by Langton
MRS. JOHN BILLINGTON.

actress. "One of my most delightful experiences," she went on, "was in Charles Dickens's and Wilkie Collins's *No Thoroughfare*. Dickens was away in America just prior to the production, and when the play was read by Mr. Benjamin Webster, I refused my part because it was so small. However, both Mr. Webster and my husband begged I would play it, and I agreed to do so. While I was rehearsing the lines, I was more than repaid by seeing the scene-shifters stand by every morning and cry. The character, as you will be aware, was that of an 'unknown woman,' who goes to the Foundling Hospital to claim her child. At the time I visited the institution many times, and was received most kindly by the matron. I remember that on the first night of the piece I cried so much that I lost my voice for a while, and my dresser stood by with a lemon ready for me when I went on for another touching scene. The man who blew the clarionet implored me in the name of heaven to go away, as he could not blow a note while I was sucking the lemon. Towards the conclusion of the play Charles Dickens arrived, and astonished us all by appearing in the stage box. I had left the theatre by then, my part being over in about half an hour, but Mr. Dickens asked Mr. Webster to tell me that he never thought he should be compelled to cry at his own work as he had done that evening. I had various disagreements with Mr. Wilkie Collins while the play was in the preparatory stage. He wanted to insist upon my wearing a bonnet, which I would not agree to. I told him that I could not speak sentiment in a bonnet, so he eventually yielded the point and permitted me to wear a head-dress of lace."

"The green room was a happy meeting-place in those days, Mrs. Billington?"

"It was a very pleasant rendezvous for literary and artistic, as well as theatrical notabilities. At the Adelphi green room I frequently came in contact with William Makepeace Thackeray, John Leech, Mark Lemon, Albert Smith—oh! and a host of other brilliant men. At the time the green room was a most delightful place. Ah! it is now no more."

"The old order changeth——"

"Yes; and in the old order we never thought of playing golf, and cricket and football. It was hard work then, and we had to stick to it. Oh! I must tell you something that happened when I was playing with Mr. Sam Phelps in *The Gamester of Metz*, at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. By the by, I took all the principal rôles with him. He told me that in one scene in this particular play I was to let him fall three times before I shrieked, and returned from the wings, and fell down by his side. So I most carefully watched him from the wings. He fell, as I thought once, then resumed his chair, again got out, and finally fell at the footlights. According to the business of the stage, I shrieked, and threw myself down by his side, when he turned to me, and in guttural tones exclaimed, 'I'm not dead yet!' In my anxiety to follow out his instructions to the letter, I was too quick.

"There is a little story I want you to tell. It concerns one of the lots put up for auction at the Irving sale, consisting of the printed scene between Nancy and Sikes, upon which my name was written by my husband. It came into my possession in this way, and the present owner may be glad to learn his history. I happened to be starring in Birmingham with Toole and my husband, and during our stay in that city Charles Dickens came to the Town Hall to give readings. I expressed a great desire to hear him, so he very kindly reserved a seat for me. I told his secretary that I would very much like to read the scene between Nancy and Sikes, and the result was that Dickens forwarded a copy to me. Irving picked up the paper in my husband's dressing-room one evening, and took such a keen delight in it that Mr. Billington gave it to him. I had played Nancy with Mr. Toole, who appeared as the Artful Dodger, my husband being Bill Sikes."

What need to mention all the parts played by Mrs. Billington? A few, however, may bring agreeable recollections to many old playgoers and players. She was the original Mrs. Craigen, in *The Colleen Bawn*, produced at the Adelphi, and Mrs. Billington mentions incidentally that all the women who took part in the production are living, while all the men have passed away. She, too, was the first to play Gretchen, in *Rip Van Winkle*, at the Adelphi, with Joseph Jefferson in the title-rôle. Mrs. Billington was associated with Miss Mary Anderson for six years, going twice to America with that lady. "One of the best women I ever met," is the opinion she holds of Miss Anderson. "She conducted her companies admirably. Her Juliet was a great success, as also was her Rosalind. She is now living very happily in the country with her husband, Antonio de Navarro, and her children." Mrs. Billington was also seen to great advantage as Juliet, with Charlotte Cushman. The last time the subject of this interview appeared on the stage was in *Pygmalian and Galatea*, in Miss Janet Steer's company, at the Comedy Theatre.

"Any final message?" The interviewer was being escorted to the door by his very charming "victim," whose lightness of step and easy grace hurled defiance at the idea of four-score years being anything in the nature of an encumbrance.

"You might say that I'm hale and hearty, and not looking my age."

And that's true.

"LA RAFALE" AT THE ROYALTY.

"LA RAFALE."

Piece, in Three Acts, by M. Henri Bernstein,
Performed on Jan. 12.

Hélène de Bréchebel .....MME. REJANE
La Marquise de Doullence....MDLLE. S. AVRIL
La Baronne Lebourg ....MME. ALCIME LEBLANC
Mme. de Thizieux .....MDLLE. TALMONT
Robert de Chacéroy .....M. PIERRE MAGNIER
Baron Lebourg.....M. CHARLES BURGUET
Amedée Lebourg .....M. DAUVILLIERS
Bragelin .....M. ALCIME LEBLANC
Comte de Bréchebel .....M. G. DEVRENS
Général Duc de Brial .....M. BENEDICT
Jean .....M. BOSMAN
François .....M. DELORME
La Vieillarde .....M. MAX ROBERT

When the characters of a play are a young wife who starts the game of adultery a few months after marriage; a lover who is entirely despicable, not merely in his amours, but beyond that, a gambler, a fraudulent trustee, and a coward to boot; a father who is a parvenu and a humbug, a husband who is a nonentity, a cousin who bargains with one of his own flesh and blood to make her his *chère amie* before he will consent to help the unfortunate woman out of her trouble; in fact, when the only persons with whom one can sympathise are the servants, the *milieu* chosen is indeed a choice one!

Such are the personages of Henri Bernstein's *La Rafale*, now brought to England for the first time. Spice lends a savour to many a dish that without it would be tasteless, and difficult to set before the *gourmet;* but all spice may be too hot for even the epicure in things dramatic. The time has passed when only the good side of the hero or heroine could be shown. To-day the public forgive faults when there are redeeming features to make the spectator think—"this is a real man"; but when such a collection of depravities are depicted as this comedy of horrors holds up for our inspection, the question must arise, is "all-black" a truer colouring of a life-picture than "all white" would be? No English company could make this play tolerable; but the fine art of Réjane and of Magnier steps in, and holds the interest with a grip never relaxed until the end of the last scene. The tension is very strong when, at the end, the wretched wife brings the proceeds of her shameful bargain to the unworthy lover, for whose sake she has sold herself, only to find that the mean wretch who prated of his honour and his family has blown out his brains an instant before, leaving her, a double adulteress, to bear her burden alone. After the clever *La Souris*, the witty, if risky, *Décoré*, the fetid atmosphere of *La Rafale* (The Squall), which is breezy in title only, made the air of Dean-street, Soho, at 11 p.m. seem fresh and restorative.

PRESENTATION.—At the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on the 12th inst., Miss Ethel Negretti was the recipient of a handsome diamond ring, won by her in open competition as one of the most popular pantomime artists in the United Kingdom. The presentation was made on the stage during the performance of the pantomime by "Ally Sloper, F.O.M."

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT THE KING'S.

(SECOND NOTICE).

A cure test of the popularity of the King's pantomime is found in the necessity for four matinées a week, at each of which the audiences exceed in size and enthusiasm those of the evening performances. Brightness, melody, scenic splendour, and wholesome fun are happily combined in Mr. Mulholland's fourth annual at Hammersmith, and the adventures of Whittington, as set forth by Mr. William M. Wade, embellished with music composed and arranged by Messrs. S. P. S. Wanton and Henry Sprake, could not be put in more attractive form. Scenes of great magnificence and pastoral beauty have been provided by Messrs. Dangerfield, Kinninmont, and Janson, that of Highgate Hill, with its realistic cornfields and undulating woods, being an especial delight to the eye. A feature of this scene is a beautiful Ballet of Flowers, remarkably well arranged, and executed with grace and precision. Wapping Old Stairs forms a quaint picture, and the Emperor's Palace is rich in colour and design. A grand display is reserved for the last scene, in which the Lord Mayor's Fête and Procession of Nations forms a striking finale.

The characters of the piece are fitted with equal felicity from first to last. Miss Carlotta Levey, who has attained an enviable place in popular favour, makes a dashing and strapping Dick, her stalwart and perfectly-proportioned physique being set off by many handsome costumes. Her vivacity and merriment are unfailing, and the singing of her numerous songs is distinguished by the artistic finish of which she is mistress. The chorus of "Put a little bit away for a rainy day" is taken up in quite melodious fashion by the gallery, and similar distinction is given to the coon song, "Back to Baltimore," both of which are encored. "Hear the pipers calling, Jenny mine," into which Miss Levey puts the utmost expression, is similarly honoured; and so much pleasure is derived from her rendering of "Lola," the Indian maiden, in which the singer makes a picturesque appearance in the dress of a noble red man, that recalls are numerous. Miss Levey's vitality and animation are invaluable throughout the evening, every scene in which she takes part deriving an added brightness from her presence. No more charming exponent of Alice is to be imagined in all the kingdom than that supplied by Miss Maud Noel, whose gracefulness and artless simplicity hold everyone captive. A sweet and cultivated voice adds to the fascination of her performance, and her popularity with the audience, begun on the first night, is thoroughly endorsed. Her rendering of her "Diary" song is particularly neat, and a love duet with Dick is harmonised with pretty tunefulness. The insinuating melody of "Rainbow" is also treated with rare delicacy by Miss Noel, the effectiveness of the lilting refrain being accentuated by an octet of ladies, who dance a mazy measure. Alderman Fitzwarren has a comic exponent in Mr. Harry Kilburn, who makes the most of the droll situations in which he is constantly placed. His singing of Mr. Harry Lauder's song, "She is my Daisy," proves very mirth-provoking, and Mr. Kilburn's acting is throughout steeped in quaintness, each utterance being sure of a laugh. An original and very mirth-provoking comedian is found in Mr. Fred Spencer, whose impassive countenance lends effect to his oddities. He makes of Martha Mixit, Fitzwarren's housekeeper, a female of stylish propensities, whose desire to be in the fashion leads to the impersonation of a "Gibson Girl," the burlesque of which is irresistibly droll. A comic complexion is also put upon the song of "Bed," the funny lines of which are strikingly emphasised. Fun of a sort quite alone is that supplied by Mr. Harry Rogerson, who as Jack Idle exploits a quiet drollery that is none the less productive of merriment. His rendering of "Sleep" is particularly well managed, the acrobatic tumbling with which it is accompanied being cleverly done. Mr. Rogerson also takes part in a duet with Alice, in which various styles of making love are skilfully travestied, and his song and dance as a three-legged sailor is also strikingly novel. Coadjutors in comedy are found in Foreman and Fannan, whose interludes of mirth are heartily welcomed. In the parts of Captain Taffrail and his boatswain they work into each other's hands with admirable effect, and loud is the laughter with which they are invariably greeted. The political speech to an audience of one is conceived and carried out in the drollest spirit; a riding lesson, with an automatic equine, provides an hilarious time; and a circus act, performed by the funny pair in conjunction with Dick Whittington, is similarly productive of laughter. Miss Winnie Channing makes an attractive Fairy Bluebell, rendering the ballad, "Sing me to sleep," in a voice of rare excellence; and an engaging Princess of Morocco is supplied in the dainty person of Miss Rhoda Ray, whose grace and prettiness are admirable. A cheery Tommy Turner is found in Miss Ruby Wentworth, whose prepossessing appearance and singing are distinct aids to the success of the pantomime. Mr. W. Clark's powerful voice gives due solemnity to the part of the Emperor of Morocco, who can be, nevertheless, a very facetious monarch at times; and M. Marius Gerard develops a distinct vein of humour in his make-up and acting as the Vizier. Mr. Johnny Fuller gives a natural imitation of a cat. Pussy's leaps and bounds are very realistic, a series of somersaults over a number of chairs arousing hearty cheers. In the Billiard Room, the tenth scene, Kelly and Gillette go through an acrobatic performance of an extraordinary nature. Parts of minor importance are played by Miss Poppy Haines, Miss Mabel Diss, and Mr. C. Thornley Stewart. The chorus are numerous and well drilled, and the smartness maintained throughout is a credit to Mr. Frederick Stanhope, to whom, in conjunction with Mr. Frederick Mouillot, the production of the pantomime is due.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 15, 1906,
the Musical, Pantomimical Farce, entitled
"HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS."

A return visit of Mr. Fred Karno's company in the ever-popular pantomimical farce, *His Majesty's Guests*, is the attraction at the Pavilion for the current week. A good audience on Monday evening followed the performance with evident pleasure, as it is just one of those light productions that are most enjoyable; while at the same time the piece serves as an admirable vehicle for displaying the many talents of this versatile company, the many amusing situations provoking outbursts of hilarity from start to finish. Mr. Arthur Lenville was exceedingly funny as Sergeant Lightning, and kept the audience in roars of laughter. His quick changes in the second act were skilfully and cleverly managed. Miss L. Castelle sings effectively, and makes a success of Lady Maude Basem; and Miss Dolly Royce is delightfully piquant as Dolly. Mr. Frank Morton gives an interesting representation of Lord Easem, singing with power "The Yeoman's Wedding"; Miss Amy Rogerson is amusing as Miss Manley; and the part of the acrobatic Selina is well filled by Mr. Harry Howe. Mr. W. Simpson is smart as Fritz; and Mr. Charles Usher is well suited as Mr. Miffin. Mr. F. Fredericks scores as Bunker; while Mr. S. Bolton as Harry, and Mr. H. W. Lumley as Mr. Minks, are also seen to advantage. The remaining characters are capably impersonated by Mr. S. Gosling, Miss W. Stewart, Miss M. Hazleton, Miss Evelyn Moore, Miss Pearl Pond, Miss Athelina Montrose, Miss Blanche La Rose, and Miss Florence Dooley. The musical-director is Mr. F. H. Moran, and the stage-manager Mr. Charles Usher, for Mr. F. Karno.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT THE MARLBOROUGH.

(SECOND NOTICE).

Amongst the North London "shows" of various kinds one that should certainly not be missed is Mr. F. W. Purcell's third successive pantomime at the Marlborough. At the first performance on Boxing Day its many attractive qualities gained for the Christmas piece a favourable verdict from a holiday audience, and since then many hundreds of playgoers have confirmed the flattering opinions that were expressed on all sides concerning its merits. The story lends itself to picturesque treatment, and Mr. Purcell has freely availed himself of the opportunities thus offered for lavish decoration and sumptuous dresses. The eye is delighted with a succession of brilliant and charming scenes, some of which suggest the rich luxuriance of life in the East. In the tale of the Forty Thieves there is, too, a strong flavour of romance; and the incidents connected with the discovery by a poverty-stricken woodman and his son of the robbers' cave are strangely interesting, and a close familiarity with them from childhood's days has failed to produce the proverbial contempt. The cry of "Open, Sesame!" falls upon our ears, and we watch the mouth of the mysterious cave open with much the same feeling of expectancy and delight as in the days of youth.

Mr. J. Hickory Wood's version of the story may be said to run somewhat on musical-comedy lines; a great deal of the sparkle and brightness of that particular form of the entertainment of the stage being noticeable in the production. Mr. Purcell is no believer in the dark, dismal opening scene which was at one time a never-absent feature of pantomime. He prefers that the curtain shall rise upon a scene of animation and life—the crowded market-place of a city of Cashmere, where the story starts without the preliminary altercation between the benficent fairy and the evil spirit.

Mr. Tom Leamore is a comedian of infinite resource, and his embodiment of Ali Baba is genuinely funny. He represents the woodcutter as a poor, nervous, timid individual who was never intended to occupy a conspicuous position in the world. All his songs and business are in keeping with the true spirit of burlesque, and he seizes every opportunity of contributing to the hilarity of the audience. Mr. Maitland Marler deserves every credit for his comical impersonation of Cogia, a middle-aged lady whose eccentricities are responsible for much hearty merriment. His songs are also rendered in gay, rollicking style; and at the same time his embodiment of the dame is quite free from vulgarity. Mr. O. E. Lonnen, to whom is entrusted the part of Hassarae, the lieutenant of the Forty, has become a prime favourite by reason of his quaint humour and keen appreciation of a comical situation. This is more particularly shown in the scene where the robbers treat their diminutive but self-important lieutenant with contumely, and literally turn their backs upon him. His helplessness in this situation is extremely amusing, and indeed throughout the performance Mr. Lonnen's services are of the utmost value. Mr. Frank Hemming also does good work in the rôle of Cassim, and Mr. Walter Ingram is a fine stalwart Shacabac, the slave-dealer. Miss Stella Gastelle, whom illness kept out of the cast for a brief period, is now back again, and no one could wish for a more lovely representative of the part of Ganem. She excels both as an actress and vocalist, and her vivacity and high spirits are happily joined with refinement of manner. Miss Elise Cook is an exceedingly pleasing and graceful Morgiana, whose attractions fully account for the woodcutter's son falling in love with her at first sight. Her vocal contributions are greatly appreciated and applauded. Very effective are the Spirit of Avarice of Mr. Alfred Rogus and the Fairy Sesame of Miss Dorothy Myers, other minor parts being safe in the hands of Mr. F. Henfrey, the Misses Rosemary Rees, Daisy Webb, A. Ross, and Cassie Ross. Miss Lottie Stone's Royal Troupe of Dancers are well received in their Terpsichorean interludes. We have already referred to the beauty of the dresses and the charm of the scenery.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT CLAPHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE).

Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett, and those associated with him at the Shakespeare, are to be heartily congratulated on the enormous success which has attended their efforts in the production of *The Forty Thieves*, which is without doubt one of the most gorgeous and entertaining pantomimes now running. The book is exceedingly well written, free from all vulgarity, and abounding with humour, which keeps the audience in continual merriment. The songs are tastefully arranged, and the incidental music is bright and tuneful. The gorgeous scenery and dresses were fully described in a former notice, and it is sufficient to say that they could not very well be surpassed. The chief mirth-providers are Mr. Chas. Kitts, who is an excellent Ali Baba; Mr. Harry Phydora, as Cassim; and Mr. W. P. Sheen, who gives a capital representation of Cogia, Ali Baba's wife. Messrs. Evans and Halter also contribute their share of the fun by an excellent performance in the rôle of eccentric policemen. Miss Addie Lennard is an exceedingly vivacious Ganem; and Miss Alice Digby is charming as Morgiana. A dashing Captain of the Forty Thieves is found in Miss Cecilia Maude; and Miss Rhoda Windrum is seen to great advantage as Zoe. Miss Fanny Wright, as Cassim, jun., contributes some excellent songs; and Miss Muriel George as Beda, gains much applause for her rendering of "Robin Adair." A hit of the evening is the song and dance by Miss Marjorie Lawrence, an engaging and clever young girl, who wins an enthusiastic recall. Mr. Picton Roxborough's fine physique is seen to advantage in the rôle of Hassarac, Lieutenant of the Forty Thieves; and Mr. R. H. Vallis as Ibrahim, Ali's donkey, gives a good performance. A feature of the pantomime is the numerous specialities, amongst which we may mention the Digby Girls, who give some excellent dances; De Gracia's Performing Elephants; and the grand International ballet, *L'Entente Cordiale*.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 15,
the Fairy Pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood,
entitled
"DICK WHITTINGTON."

Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime, which is being played at the Dalston Theatre this week, is based on the time-worn story of Dick Whittington; but there is such an amount of novelty and fun introduced into the production that one forgets the old story in the resemblance to modern musical comedy. It is one of Mr. J. Hickory Wood's "books," the music is written and composed by Mr. Frank Seddon and Mr. John Gregory, and the entire production is under the general stage-management of Mr. Henry Dundas, the acting stage-manager being Mr. Henry Nelson. Alderman Fitzwarren has a humorous representative in Mr. Bob Hutt. Together with Mr. Rolando Martin, who plays Jack, the idle apprentice, he introduces some very funny business. Miss Elsie Morgan is Dick Whittington, and Miss Annie Morgan Alice Fitzwarren, and their duet, "Teasing," is one of the features of the performance. Miss Evelyn Geldard, the Good Fairy, is also much applauded for her "Rainbow" song. Mr. Fred Dark is Matilda, Fitzwarren's cook, and he sings well. Lanton and Lane, as Captain and Mate respectively of the ship "Saucy Sarah," are responsible for a good deal of laughter; Mr. Tom Gilmore is agile as Dick's Cat; Miss Blanche Marion looks smart as Tommy Trot, an apprentice; and Miss Annie Laurie is his captivating sweetheart. Miss Nellie Lauraine makes a fine Empress of Morocco. The specialities include the Four Athos, the original head acrobat and ball manipulators; Elverton, the spinning marvel; and the Regent Comedy Four, whose singing is evidently well appreciated.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE CORONET.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

Mr. Robert Arthur's second annual pantomime of *Cinderella*, at the Coronet Theatre, gave such excellent promise of ripening into a pronounced success at its initial performance on the Saturday before Christmas, that it is small wonder its lasting popularity has decided the management to prolong its run a week more than usual. There is something to suit every taste in this pantomime, and a pretty fairy story, run on the old-fashioned lines, with plenty of pretty songs and scenic embellishments, appeals to the little ones, whilst the more advanced humours of the comedians tittilate the senses of the grown-ups. The vivacious singand dancing of Bert Coote's clever and agile Irish-Indian maids, give added charm to the production, in the eyes of young and old alike. Mr. Ernest Shand has settled down to his part, and loses no opportunity of adding humorous developments to the character of the page, Pickles, and his song, "Merrie, merrie England," and his discourse on bachelors and married men in his ditty "Eve," go with a swing, and score an unmistakable success. Mr. Harry Herbert has much improved the part of Anona, one of the ugly sisters, and his mincing, affected manner, and his capital rendering of the song, "I don't know, do you?" cause him to be a prime favourite throughout. Mr. John Brabourne's more pronounced humour and colossal stature, as Bedelia, who has caught the "*entente cordiale*" badly, are in striking and effective contrast, and his speciality in Act 2, Scene 2, outside the Baron's house, with the tales of his early love culminating in the vocal absurdity, "Gazing at the stars," is a delightful bit of fooling. As Fitter and Fatter, the comic brokers' men, Alexandre and Hughes more than confirm the good impression they created on their first appearance in this pantomime, and their quiet, natural, original, and unforced drollery, aids considerably in the success, while their concertina playing is entirely excellent. Mr. H. C. Barry's part of the Baron Balderdash now plays much closer, and has gained considerably in effectiveness thereby. He is now well in the picture throughout. We have left the ladies till last, but by no means least is the admirable assumption of the page Dandini by Miss Meg Hamylton, who is as smart and well-set-up a valet as one could wish to meet. Her song, "The ice-cream girl," is regularly encored. Miss Katie Vesey was so good on the first night that little room for improvement was left, and this she has contrived to make in the meantime, and her song, "Some boys have one love," goes with a rattle. Miss Ruby Forbes is still daintiest of Cinderellas; Miss Ethel Dunbar an attractive and sweet-voiced Fairy Flora; and Mrs. H. T. Wood as Aconite, A. Linton as the donkey, B. G. G. Duppa as Little Billee, the gigantic footman, and Miss E. Trevelyan as Quillino, still do excellent service. The chorus is well drilled and expert, and Miss Enid Errol heads a capital set of calisthenic experts.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" AT CAMDEN TOWN.

(SECOND NOTICE).

This pantomime has now quite settled down for a prosperous run, and is drawing crowded audiences nightly. It is as bright and merry a show as can be found anywhere. Everybody concerned works hard for success, and sundry new songs have been added. Any slight defects there may have been at the opening performances have entirely vanished under Mr. Michael Ring's excellent stage management. Mr. Arthur Rigby is going very strong as Mrs. Noluck Jones, and his discourse on "Men" is the cause of much hearty merriment. He has a new number in "Gay Paree," in which he is assisted by four clever dancers, and which goes excellently. Mr. John E. Coyle has made hosts of friends here, and continues to amuse with his irresponsible patter. His drilling of the Army is very funny, and causes roars of laughter. Mr. Coyle has introduced a new song, "A thing like that speaks for itself," and is scoring heavily with it. Those excellent comedians, the Poluski Brothers, have quite surpassed themselves, and the shouts of merriment which greet them testifies to the success of their endeavours. They work very hard indeed, and their mock fight is quite one of the gems of the pantomime. Miss Margaret Wilson is as vivacious as ever as Jack Hayseed, and is scoring with her song, "Give my regards to Leicester-square"; Miss Gladys Huxley is as captivating as ever as Marian; "My Irish Molly" is a welcome addition, and is charmingly rendered by Miss Dorothy Firmin, who makes a sweet Mavis; Miss Nellie Emerald remains a dashing Colin, and her song, "Molly Green," is well received; those clever young ladies, the Sisters McCalla, are proving very popular as the Babes, and they sing and dance prettily; Mr. Berte Coote's children's scene is as great an attraction as ever, and these young people fully deserve the big reception accorded them. To their programme has been added a clever pair of children, the Herberts, whose singing and dancing are remarkably clever. The chorus are putting in much good work, while the orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. G. F. Lord, is in fine form. Several electric lighting features are in evidence which were absent at the first performance, and now add greatly to the effect. We much regret to hear of Mr. Wilfred Stanford's illness, and hope to see him back again shortly; meanwhile, Mr. Adam Raynor is undertaking the duties of acting-manager, and is making himself very popular.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, January 15,
the Drama entitled,
"THE SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD."

The stock company at this popular South London house is giving this week an excellent rendering of Mr. J. A. Campbell's exciting drama. That sterling actor Mr. Ashley Page gives a convincing and manly rendering of the part of the clergyman hero, the Rev. Alan Gray, and warmly deserves the applause which is freely lavished on him. Miss Marion Denvil is impressive and sympathetic as the gentle heroine Mary Haysel, who suffers so severely for the sins of her childhood. Mr. John Chippendale soon becomes a prime favourite as Barney O'Reilly, a good-natured son of the Emerald Isle, and his eccentric love scenes with Eliza Muggins, a character very brightly played by Miss Mattie Everett, are greeted with roars of laughter. Captain Thornton is played in a polished and artistic manner by Mr. Cyril Vernon. Miss Maggie Lindsay is excellent and natural in the difficult rôle of the dipsomaniac, Marion Haysel. Mr. Edward Sorley give a graphic delineation of the crafty schemer Stephen Haysel. Mr. John Sargent makes the most of his one appearance in the prologue as Thomas Haysel. Little Marie is very nicely played by Miss Winifred Williamson, who evokes much sympathy for the character; and the little waif Hannah Spry is well rendered by Miss Maud Harris. Little Minnie makes the most of Erick Dugdale.

"THE SEA MAID," a comedy, in three acts, by Ronald MacDonald, was produced, for copyright purposes, at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Tuesday. A novel under the same title, founded on the play, has just been published.

"THE LITTLE CHERUB."

A new musical play in Three Acts.
The Book by Owen Hall, Music by Ivan Caryll, and Lyrics by Adrian Ross.
Produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, on Saturday, January 13.

Earl of Sanctobury .....MR. FRED KAYE
Algernon Southdown ....MR. LENNOX PAWLE
Shingle .....MR. W. H. BERRY
Ethelbert .....MR. GEORGE CARROLL
Captain Hereward ....MR. SPENCER TREVOR
Mr. Grimble .....MR. HENRY ADNES
Alderman Briggs .....MR. EDMUND COOPER
Crumm .....MR. FRED J. BLACKMAN
Sir George Monteith ....MR. FORD HAMILTON
Interpreter to the Rajah ....
MR. VALENTINE O'CONNOR
Bricks .....MR. ARTHUR HOPE
The Rajah of Talcutta ..MR. MAURICE FARKOA
Lady Isabel Congress .....MISS ZENA DARE
Lady Dorothy Congress ..MISS GABRIELLE RAY
Lady Agnes Congress .....MISS LILY ELSIE
Lady Rosa Congress ....MISS GRACE PINDAR
Mrs. Briggs .....MISS IDA LYTTON
Letty .....MISS ELISE CLARE
Miss Cuckoo Vanblane..MISS MILDRED DE VERE
Miss Kitty Cranbourne .....MISS HILDA CORAL
Miss Maudi Rochester
MISS STELLA HAMMERSTEIN
Miss Mabel Ducross ....MISS DAISY DENVILLE
Miss Mary Macclesfield ..MISS AMY WEBSTER
Miss Olive Manderville..MISS BLANCHE THORPE
Miss Molly Montrose .....MISS EVIE GREENE

All concerned in the preparation and production of the new musical play at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Saturday night are such experienced hands in catering for those who prefer the lighter forms of theatrical fare that success might well be regarded as a foregone conclusion. Mr. George Edwardes sees to it that nothing shall be wanting in the way of dresses and scenery; Mr. Owen Hall can be relied upon to supply a smart book, Mr. Adrian Ross as a writer of lyrics has few equals, and Mr. Ivan Caryll as a composer of melodious music has a high and well-deserved reputation. Such a combination, when supported by a thoroughly competent company, is bound to win, more particularly as on the present occasion Mr. Caryll is in his best form, his music having all those bright and sparkling qualities which usually distinguish his work.

The author of the book acknowledges his indebtedness to Meilhac's *Decoré* for at least one incident in the story, which opens in a room at Lord Sanctobury's town residence. His lordship has four daughters, and we find them and their lady and gentlemen friends engaged in the rehearsal of a new burlesque called *The Little Cupid*, but they are not making very good progress, one reason being that the stage manager, Mr. Algernon Southdown, is an incompetent amateur, who admits he has no real knowledge of the business he has undertaken. In these circumstances, Lady Isabel, the youngest daughter of the Earl, sends an invitation to Miss Molly Montrose, the star actress, who is playing the leading part in *The Little Cherub* on tour. This lady duly makes her appearance, and shows the amateurs how the piece should be performed; but the Earl, who has written to *The Times* severely criticising the musical play in question, professes to be horrified at finding an actress in his house. However, he has a private interview with Molly, and finally agrees to run down to Dunbridge Baths and see the play himself. Making an excuse that he is going to the House of Lords and shall be home very late, he sets out for Dunbridge, attends the performance at the local theatre, and invites Molly and a party of actresses to supper with him at the hotel. But his Lordship, who says it is the only spree he has ever had in his life, is fated to undergo some unpleasant experiences. In the first place, the Rajah of Talcutta turns up in amorous pursuit of the adorable Molly, and the Earl is taken to the local police station for creating a disturbance at the hotel. He is also recognised by his daughters, who, under the escort of Southdown, have travelled to Dunbridge to see *The Little Cherub*. Other complications arise out of Algy's plunge into the river to rescue a man who is supposed to be drowning and to his being mistaken for Lord Sanctobury. Before the end is reached his Lordship makes an offer of marriage to the fascinating actress, and is accepted.

Upon Miss Evie Greene, as Molly Montrose, the actress, devolves the responsibility of playing the leading part, but she is quite equal to the demands which this position involves. That the fascinating Molly is mercenary cannot be denied, and her manners are not those of Lady Clara Vere de Vere; in fact, she occasionally shows distinct traces of vulgarity; but no doubt when Molly settles down as the Countess of Sanctobury she will take good care to discard these peculiarities. Miss Evie Greene plays the part naturally and easily; and her success as a vocalist is never in doubt. In her admirable rendering of the exceptionally clever song, "Experience," Miss Greene scores a triumph, and again in the pretty duet, "A String of Pearls," with Mr. Maurice Farkoa, at the end of the second act, she affords further proof of her powers as an accomplished singer. She has another song in the last act and a duet with Mr. Fred Kaye, "Molly and Dolly," and these contributions are rendered with much spirit and effect. Mr. Maurice Farkoa, as polished an artist as ever, gives quite a delightful embodiment of the Rajah of Talcutta, who is so susceptible to the charms of the fair sex. To Mr. Farkoa falls a full share of the musical honours, he delights the audience in the first act with a song and chorus in praise of "the girls." Later he makes a decided hit with "The Supper Girl," the theme being illustrated by several young ladies, including a fair American, a part well played by Miss Hilda Coral. Mr. Maurice Farkoa's co-operation is, as usual, of the most valuable kind. Mr. Fred Kaye gives a quaintly comical portrayal of the Earl of Sanctobury, who, coming under the influence of the charming actress, succumbs at once, and becomes her devoted admirer. Mr. Lennox Pawle is throughout amusing as Algernon Southdown, the amateur and incompetent stage manager, and he cuts a comic figure when his plunge into the river compels him to put on somebody else's garments, which are not a good fit. Mr. W. H. Berry plays well as Shingle, Lord Sanctobury's valet; and he has a capital song in "The Gentleman's Gentleman." In the last act he makes a decided hit with a topical ditty, containing references to the President of the Local Government Board, the London County Council steamboats, and the General Election. Mr. George Carroll is a diminutive comedian, who, as Ethelbert, a waiter at the Hotel at Dunbridge Baths, adds greatly to the fun of the piece. He and Miss Elise Clare, as a lively chambermaid at the same hotel, contribute a capital song and dance. Mr. Edmund Cooper makes an imposing Alderman Briggs, of Dunbridge, and his song, "My wife shall be a lady," is well received. The four daughters of the Earl of Sanctobury have captivating representatives. Miss Zena Dare, as Lady Isabel, is the picture of girlish grace and freshness. She takes a leading part in a quartette "I should so love to be a boy," which is one of the chief hits of the piece. The four ladies give imitations of various outdoor games, concluding with football, the ball being passed quickly from one to the other, and finally kicked into the auditorium. Miss Gabrielle Ray is a dainty Lady Dorothy, and in the last act appears in the character of Cupid, attended by some half-dozen little girls, and discarding the bow and arrow for the rifle, she brings down one after another a row of toy figures as she sings the verses of her song. Miss Lily Elsie is an attractive Lady Agnes, and her ditty, "Baby Bayswater," with chorus, is capitally rendered. Miss Grace Pindar is a pleasing Lady Rosa, and Mrs. Briggs has a fascinating representative in Miss Ida Lytton, who joins Mr. Maurice Farkoa in the duet "Won't you waltz with me"? one of the most catchy melodies in the piece. Mr. Henry Adnes is well placed as Mr. Grimble, the landlord of the hotel; Mr. Spencer Trevor gives a brisk embodiment of Captain Hereward, and other minor rôles are safely entrusted to Messrs. Fred J. Blackman, Ford Hamilton, Valentine O'Connor, and Arthur Hope. The actresses who appear in the hotel scene are represented by half-a-dozen handsome young ladies.

Mr. Frank E. Tours, the musical director, is responsible for the music of the opening chorus of the second act, also of "I should so love to be a boy" and "Cupid's Rifle Range," sung by Miss Gabrielle Ray. Mr. George Grossmith is the author of "The Supper Girl" and "Baby Bayswater" songs. The dances and chorus business have been arranged by Mr. Willie Warde; Mr. J. A. E. Malone is stage director, and Mr. Sidney Watson, stage manager.

STOCK EXCHANGE ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

A concert was given by the above Society at Queen's Hall on Thursday evening, January 18, in aid of the Seamens' Hospital Society. It was to be regretted that a larger audience were not present for so deserving an object, but this was to be accounted for owing to the wretched weather. The programme appropriately opened with Sir A. C. Mackenzie's *Britannia* overture, played with great spirit by the orchestra conducted by Mr. Arthur W. Payne. The band also did themselves great credit in the pictures from *The Sherborne Pageant*, Mr. Louis N. Parker conducting. Other performances by the orchestra were Sullivan's *Overture di Ballo*, two Hungarian Dances by Brahms, and Norwegian Artists Carnival Op. 14. Miss Bertha Bird was the solo vocalist, and had a magnificent reception at the close of her first song, "Couplets du Mysoli," (from *La Perlé du Brissil*) by F. David. Miss Bird was assisted by Mr. J. F. Bartlett, who played the flute obligato admirably. After being three times recalled to the platform the lady responded with Guy D'Harllelot's "Because." Miss Bird is a native of Melbourne, but is of Scottish descent. She claims to have the highest voice in the world, easily reaching F in alt., but what is more important, the singer not only possesses a soprano voice that contains such high notes, but these notes are delightfully pure and brilliant in quality. Melbourne has before given us a great singer, which is a happy omen for the future of the young artist. Later in the concert Miss Bertha Bird sang C. Deacon's "Love's Adoration," and Verdi's "Sapei Vorreste." Other interesting vocal items were the part songs given by the Male-Voice Choir conducted by Mr. Munro Davison. The choir sang with capital intonation a part song "Autumn" by W. Macfarren, Sir John Goss's glee "O Thou whose beams," and a charming madrigal, "Lady! see on every side," by Marenzio, and later in the program Dr. Cumming's "Song should breathe," and Integer Vitæ. Mr. Percy Hughes played some pianoforte solos, being encored for a brilliant rendering of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12. In the second part Mr. Hughes gave two solos, "Songs without words" and "Rigandon." The Stock Exchange Society are to be congratulated on so good a concert which, given better weather, would have been a great success and have drawn a large audience.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

There was a good attendance at the Fancy Dress Ball given on the night of the 12th inst., and the usual spirit of thorough enjoyment which pervades these gatherings was as conspicuous as ever. Mdme. Jeanne gained the first prize for a striking costume called "The Old Dutch." Over a foundation of white chiffon were panels painted with pictures of Dutch life, and from the centre of the back were the sails of a windmill painted with figures of peasants in their picturesque costumes. A Dutch head-dress and wooden clogs were also worn; and Mr. W. Clarkson was awarded first prize for the wig and make-up. Messrs. Swan and Edgar won the second prize with an original design entitled "Imperial Orchid," consisting of a dress of mauve chiffon frills with pictures of well-known statesmen round the top of the bodice; on the front of the skirt was a hand-painted portrait of Mr. Chamberlain and a view of the Houses of Parliament. The whole dress was brilliantly illuminated with frosted electric lights.

Mr. Clarkson succeeded in winning gentlemen's first prize with a comic costume, "The Sscotch Mail," and third ladies' prize for another political design, "To be or not to be," sixth ladies' prize for "It's never to late to mend," and others for "A Few Songs," &c. Other prize-winning costumes were "Good old vine," "Over the snowy mountains," and "The Merry Masqueraders."

APARTMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Might I add my small support to Mr. Lockhart's admirable suggestion in the *Era* last week as to landladies being asked to keep an address book for apartments recommended in other towns, and giving the references' names. Twice only I have come across such books, but each time I have been saved much inconvenience and discomfort by finding addresses, having failed to get such from professional friends or from the —as far as it goes—valuable little Actors' Association list of lodgings. The being able to write and take rooms beforehand, with anyhow a certainty that they will be clean and satisfactory, *sometimes* means being spared hours' hunt in the rain and perhaps in the early morning hours, or late evening, so the question is really larger than the trifling one it sounds, and I trust you will consequently forgive my wishing to encroach on your valuable space in support of so excellent an idea.—Yours faithfully,

MARGARET DAVIES WEBSTER.
38, Flanders Mansions, Bedford Park, W.,
Jan. 16.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I quite agree with Mr. Lockhart's idea. Very excellent!—Faithfully yours,

JERROLD HEATHER.
T. R., Rotherham, Jan. 16.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN received gratifying testimony of his ability from Mr. R. Redford on finishing his engagement at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff. The pantomime was a record success, Mr. Martin being most enterprisng and energetic in working the excursions and advertising.

MR. EDITOR, Sir,—In your notice of the pantomime at the Palace, Belfast, last week, you say that I have "happily recovered from indisposition." Kindly correct this in your next issue, as I have not in any way been indisposed during the pantomime, nor have I missed a single performance.—Yours faithfully, OLIVE MARSTON. The Palace, Belfast, Jan. 14.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

DESTINY, Victoria, Feb. 9, 1860.
DESTROYED BY DRINK, Queen's, Dublin, Aug. 25, 1879.
DESTROYER, THE, Royal Colosseum Theatre, Liverpool, June 15, 1868.
DETECTIVE, THE, Mirror, May 29, 1875.
DESERTED, Shepherd's Bush, Dec. 13, 1894.
DESERTER IN A FIX, Grand, March 23, 1885.
DESPERATE DEED, Sadler's Wells, Feb. 7, 1893.
DESPERATE MAN, Strand, May 15, 1891.
DESPERATION, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich, June 10, 1887.
DESTROYING ANGEL, Theatre Royal, Barnsley, Dec. 8, 1896.
DEVIL AT THE ELBOW, Britannia, Aug. 3, 1874.
DEVIL CARESFOOT, Vaudeville, Aug. 6, 1887.
DEVIL-MAY-CARE, Ealing, Aug. 10, 1893.
DEVIL ON TOWN, Surrey, April 18, 1863.
DEVIL ON TWO STICKS, Adelphi, April 18, 1859.
DEVIL'S DEVICE, Stalybridge, Aug. 19, 1895.
DEVIL'S DISCIPLE, Bayswater, April 17, 1897.
DEVILSHOOF, Victoria, June 9, 1862.
DEVIL'S HOUSE, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, June 15, 1900.
DEVIL'S IN IT, Surrey, July 26, 1852.
DEVIL'S LUCK, Adelphi, Liverpool, Aug. —, 1885.
DEVIL'S MINE, Maidenhead, April 25, 1894.
DEVIL'S RING, Drury Lane, April 1, 1850.
DEVOTION AND PREJUDICE, Theatre Royal, Brighton, Sept. 7, 1874.
DEVOTION, Court, May 1, 1884.
DEVOTION; OR, A PRICELESS WIFE, Britannia, March 14, 1881.
DEVOTION, Sadler's Wells, March 21, 1870.
DHRAME, THE; OR, BARNEY'S MISTAKE, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, July 10, 1876.
DIAMOND QUEEN, St. George's Hall, April 6, 1889.
DIAMOND DEANE, Vaudeville, March 18, 1891.
DIAMOND GANG, Theatre Royal, Bilston, July 30, 1892.
DIAMOND KING, Shepherd's Bush, May 14, 1892.
DIAMOND RING, Queen's, Manchester, March 6, 1835.
DIAMOND RUSH, Theatre Royal, Cambridge, Feb. 6, 1895.
DIAMONDS AND HEARTS, Haymarket, March 4, 1867.
DIAMOND STATUE, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1882.
DIANA; OR, THE ADVENTURESS, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, March 29, 1880.
DIANA; OR, THE GODDESS OF THE MOON, Lincoln, Oct. —, 1882.
DIANE, Toole's, Sept. 9, 1882.
DIARMID, Covent Garden, Oct. 23, 1897.
DIARY OF A TRAMP, St. George's Hall, Oct. 19, 1891.
DICK DRAYTON'S WIFE, Ladbroke Hall, July 24, 1888.
DICK, Globe, April 17, 1884.
DICK; OR, THE BEAU OF THE BELLES, Wimbledon, Jan. 29, 1895.
DICK SHERIDAN, Comedy, Feb. 3, 1894.
DICK SWIVELLER, Theatre Royal, Brighton, Dec. 5, 1871.
DICK TURPIN THE SECOND, Gaiety, May 6, 1889.
DICK VENABLES, Shaftesbury, April 5, 1890.
DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT, Astrophe, Walsall, June 16, 1884.
DICK WILDER, Vaudeville, June 20, 1891.
DIDDLECOMBE FARM, H.M.S. *Rainbow*, April 1, 1886.
DIE EHRE, Drury Lane, June 18, 1895.
DID I DREAM IT?, Strand, Nov. 19, 1860.
DIDO AND ÆNEAS, Strand, Oct. 26, 1893.
DIDO, St. James's, Feb. 11, 1860.
DID SHE MEAN IT?, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, April 17, 1871.
DID YOU RING?, Prince of Wales's, June 27, 1892.
DIE AHNFRAU, Drury Lane, June 16, 1881.
DIE FLEDERMANS, Alhambra, Dec. 18, 1876.
DIE FLEDERMAUS, Drury Lane, June 22, 1895.
DIE GOLDENE EVA, Daly's, June 30, 1897.
DIE GOTTERDAMMERUNG, Covent Garden, July 13, 1892.
DIE MEISTERSINGER, Drury Lane, May 30, 1882.
DIE PARLAMENT'S WAHL, St. Pancras, March 8, 1890.
DIE RAUBER, Drury Lane, June 6, 1881.
DIE RAUBER, Opera Comique, Nov. 2, 1894.
DIE ZARTLICHEN VERWANDTEN, St. George's Hall, Oct. 24, 1900.
DIGGINGS, THE, Theatre Royal, Jersey, May 14, 1877.
DIMITY'S DILEMMA, Gaiety, Feb. 19, 1887.
DING DONG BELL, Marylebone, Dec. 26, 1866.
DINNER FOR NOTHING, Prince of Wales's, Oct. 16, 1865.
DINNER FOR TWO, Theatre Royal, Brighton, March 9, 1893.
DINORAH, Covent Garden, Sept. 26, 1859.
DINORAH UNDER DIFFICULTIES, Adelphi, Nov. 7, 1859.
DIOGENES, Kings' Cross, Nov. 3, 1888.
DIONE, THE CANON'S DAUGHTER, Gravesend, Oct. 2, 1895.
DIPLOMACY, Garrick, Feb. 18, 1893.
DIPLOMACY, Prince of Wales's, Jan. 12, 1878.
DIRECTOR, THE, Terry's, May 7, 1891.
DISCARDED SON, Adelphi, Oct. 10, 1853.
DISCREET PRINCESS, Olympic, Dec. 26, 1855.
DISHONOURED, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield, Aug. 3, 1896.
DISHONOUR OF FRANK SCOTT, Theatre Royal, Belfast, Sept. 7, 1900.
DISINHERITED; OR, LEFT TO HER FATE, Theatre Royal, Yarmouth, June 1, 1874.
DISTRACTION, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, June 29, 1885.
DIVER'S LUCK, Theatre Royal, Jarrow, May 30, 1887.
DIVIDED DUTY, Highbury, Oct. 18, 1885.
DIVIDED WAY, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Oct. 31, 1895.
DIVORCED, Imperial, May 19, 1898.
DIVORCE, Effingham, Jan. 29, 1866.
DIVORCONS, Gaiety, July 3, 1882.
DJAMILEH, Manchester, Sept. 22, 1892.
DOCTOR DAVY, Lyceum, June 4, 1866.
DOCTOR IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, Globe, June 23, 1877.
DOCTOR KLAUS, ——, Dec. 15, 1882.
DOCTOR KLAUS, Opera Comique, Oct. 16, 1894.
DOCTOR OF ALCANTARA, Opera Comique, Feb. 6, 1897.
DOCTOR PADDY, Theatre Royal, Lincoln, April 14, 1884.
DOCTOR'S DILEMMA, Scarborough, April 13, 1899.
DOCTOR'S BOY, Surrey, Jan. 8, 1877.
DOCTOR'S BROUGHAM, Strand, Oct. 9, 1875.
DOCTOR'S STORY, Ladbroke Hall, Dec. 26, 1894.
DOCTOR'S SHADOW, Accrington, Jan. 2, 1896.
DOCTOR, THE, Globe, July 9, 1887.
DOCTOR'S WARD, Teignmouth, Feb. 7, 1899.
DODGE FOR A DINNER, Strand, Dec. 28, 1872.
DOES HE LOVE ME? Haymarket, June 23, 1860.
DOGE OF VENICE, Drury Lane, Nov. 2, 1867.
DOGS OF ST. BERNARD, Mirror, Aug. 21, 1875.
DOING BANTING, Adelphi, Oct. 24, 1864.
DOING FOR THE BEST, Sadler's Wells, Nov. 13, 1861.
DOING MY UNCLE, Surrey, Sept. 8, 1866.
DOING THE HANDSOME, Lyceum, Nov. 3, 1856.
DOING THE SHAH, Globe, July 5, 1873.
DOLLARS AND SENSE, Toole's, Aug. 1, 1884.
DOLLUSIONS, Whitechapel, May 11, 1896.
DOLLY, Carlisle, Oct. 27, 1890.
DOLLY, Gaiety, Aug. 22, 1870.
DOLLY VARDEN, Theatre Royal, Bradford, April 29, 1872.
DOLLY'S DILEMMA, Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton, April 22, 1887.
DOLL'S HOUSE, Jodrell, June 7, 1889.
DOLLS, Ladbroke Hall, July 11, 1892.
DOLORES, Britannia, April 6, 1874.
DOMESTIC DIPLOMACY, Gaiety, Dublin, April 1, 1872.
DOMESTIC ECONOMY, Comedy, April 7, 1890.
DOMESTIC HERCULES, Drury Lane,
DOMESTIC MASH, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Nov. 22, 1888.
DOMESTIC MEDICINE, Theatre Royal, Grantham, June 2, 1887.
DOMENICO THE VILE 'UN, Camberwell, April 26, 1872.
DOMINICANS, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dec. 13, 1894.
DOMINO; OR, THE FALL OF THE CURTAIN, Theatre Royal, Darwen, Feb. 26, 1883.
DOMINO, Theatre Royal, Stockton, March 7, 1879.
DONA CONSTANZA, Criterion, Nov. 20, 1875.
DONAGH'S ROMANCE, Theatre Royal, Lincoln, Oct. 8, 1883.
DONAGH, THE, Grand, April 12, 1884.
DON BUCEFALO, Covent Garden, May 29, 1869.
DON CÆSAR DE BAZAN, Kennington, Aug. 21, 1899.
DON CARLOS, New Theatre Royal, South Shields, Aug. 6, 1869.
DON CARLOS; OR, INFANTE IN ARMS, Vaudeville, April 16, 1870.
DONELLAN, Strand, June 13, 1889.
DONE TO A CINDERELLA, Theatre Royal, Exeter, Sept. 12, 1881.
DON GIOVANNI IN VENICE, Gaiety, Feb. 17, 1873.
DON GIOVANNI, JUN., Greenwich, May 17, 1875.
DON GIOVANNI, M.P., Princess's, Edinburgh, April 17, 1874.
DON GIOVANNI, Theatre Royal, Greenwich, March 11, 1872.
DON JOHN OF SEVILLE, Elephant and Castle, Sept. 30, 1876.
DON JUAN, burlesque, Theatre Royal, Bradford, Nov. 22, 1870.
DON JUAN D'AUTRICHE, Royalty, Oct. 10, 1885.
DON JUAN, Grecian, June 20, 1870. Sept. 24, 1870.
DONNA JUANITA, Ladbroke Theatre, Feb. 24, 1880.
DON JUAN, JUNIOR, Royalty, Nov. 3, 1880.
DON JUAN, Lincoln's Inn Hall, Dec. 15, 1899.
DON JUAN'S LAST WAGER, Prince of Wales's, Feb. 27, 1900.
DON'T JUDGE BY APPEARANCES, Princess's, Oct. 22, 1855.
DONNA DIANA, Princess's, Jan. 11, 1864.
DONNA DIANA, Prince of Wales's, Nov. 4, 1896.
DONNA LUIZA, Prince of Wales's, March 23, 1892.
DONNA THERESA, Institute, Wandsworth, May 21, 1885.
DONNYBROOK, Coatbridge, Aug. 5, 1899.
DON PASQUALE, Royal Academy of Music, April 2, 1897.
DON PEDRO, Strand, May 26, 1892.
DON QUIXOTE, JUNIOR, Globe, April 21, 1879.
DON QUIXOTE, Cabinet, Oct. 28, 1869.
DON'T DECEIVE YOUR WIFE, Yarmouth, Jan. 15, 1897.
DON, THE, Toole's, March 7, 1888.
DON'T JUDGE BY APPEARANCES, Princess's, Oct. 22, 1855.
DON'T LEND YOUR UMBRELLA, Strand, Jan. 26, 1857.
DON'T MIND ME, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, Dec. 16, 1873.
DOO BROWN AND CO., Vaudeville, March 11, 1886.
DOOMED BRIDGE, Victoria, March 24, 1856.
DOOMED, Southampton, Feb. 8, 1890.
DORA, Adelphi, June 1, 1867.
DORA AND DIPLOMACY, Strand, Feb. 14, 1878.
DORA INGRAM, Pavilion, Feb. 23, 1885.
DORA MAYFIELD, Britannia, Feb. 25, 1878.
DORA'S DEVICE, Royalty, Jan. 11, 1871.
DORA'S DREAM, Gall. of Illus., June 17, 1873.
DORA'S LOVE, Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, Aug. 12, 1872.
DORCAS, Kilburn, Feb. 21, 1898.
DORCHLAUCHTING, St. George's Hall, Feb. 16, 1900.
DORIS, Lyric, April 20, 1889.
DORMEA, THE LAWYER'S DAUGHTER, Victoria, Longton, Sept. 2, 1878.
DOROTHY GRAY, Princess's, April 10, 1838.
DOROTHY, Leeds, April 2, 1877.
DOROTHY'S STRATAGEM, Criterion, Dec. 23, 1876.
DOROTHY VERNON, Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oct. 4, 1889.
DOT, Adelphi, April 14, 1862.
DOTHEBOY'S HALL, Court, Dec. 26, 1871.
DOTTY, Leith, May 9, 1896.
DOUBLE AND QUITS, Avenue, Sunderland, March 4, 1885.
DOUBLE CONQUEST, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, Oct. 27, 1873.
DOUBLEDICK, Theatre Royal, Halifax, Oct. 18, 1875.
DOUBLE DOSE, Surrey, March 10, 1890.
DOUBLE DECEPTION, Bayswater, Oct. 25, 1897.
DOUBLE EVENT, East London, April 10, 1871.
DOUBLE EVENT, Kilburn Town Hall, May 6, 1891.
DOUBLE EVENT, St. George's Hall, Feb. 18, 1884.
DOUBLE-FACED PEOPLE, Haymarket, Feb. 7, 1857.
DOUBLE LIFE, Birkenhead, April 11, 1892.
DOUBLE LIFE, Theatre Royal, Swansea, Dec. 4, 1871.
DOUBLE MARRIAGE, Adelphi, March 8, 1873.
DOUBLE MARRIAGE, New Queen's, Oct. 24, 1867.
DOUBLE MISTAKE, Pier, Hastings, June 23, 1884.
DOUBLE SHUFFLE, Theatre Royal, York, Oct. 25, 1900.
DOUBLE SIXES, Southampton, July 16, 1900.
DOUBLE ROSE, Adelphi, June 17, 1882.
DOUBLE ZERO, Strand, Oct. 10, 1883.
DOUBTFUL PROPOSAL, Great Queen Street, June 26, 1900.
DOUBTFUL VICTORY, Olympic, April 20, 1858.
DOUBT, Strand, June 4, 1889.
DOVE AND THE SERPENT, City of London, March 21, 1859.
DOVE-COT, Duke of York's, Feb. 12, 1898.
DOWN AMONG THE COALS, Court, Nov. 15, 1873.
DOWN IN A BALLOON, Adelphi, April 10, 1871.
DOWN ON HIS LUCK, Oxford, Oct. 4, 1894.
DOWN THE SLOPE, Stalybridge, June 28, 1897.
DOWNWARD PATH, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, July 17, 1893.
DRAGON OF HOUGUE BIE, Royal House, Jersey, Dec. 8, 1871.
DRAGOONS, THE, Folly, April 14, 1879.
DR. AMBROSIAS: HIS SECRET, St. George's Hall, Aug. 8, 1868.
DR. AND MRS. NEILL, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Sept. 28, 1894.
DRAPERY QUESTION, Adelphi, Oct. 28, 1857.
DRAWING-ROOMS, FIRST FLOORS, AND ATTICS, Princess's, March 30, 1864.
DRAWN BATTLE, Opera Comique, April 17, 1893.
DR. BELGRAFF, Vaudeville, Oct. 31, 1896.
DR. CLYDE, Alexandra Opera House, Sheffield, July 19, 1880.
DR. BILL, Avenue, Feb. 1, 1890.
DR. CHETWYND, Opera House, Cheltenham, Jan. 20, 1896.
DR. CLAUDIUS, Vaudeville, Jan. 29, 1897.
DR. D, Royalty, May 30, 1885.
DREADFULLY ALARMING, Philharmonic, Sept. 30, 1871.
DREAM, A, Avenue, July 16, 1883.
DREAM FACES, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate, Oct. 18, 1888.
DREAM FLOWER, Comedy, June 30, 1898.
DREAM OF LOVE, Opera Comique, Oct. 21, 1872.
DREAM OF THE WHITEBOY, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Sept. 23, 1868.
DREAM OF WHITAKER'S ALMANAC, Crystal Palace, June 5, 1899.
DREAMS, Alexandra, Liverpool, Feb. 22, 1869.
DRED, Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, Nov. 19, 1872.
DREGS, Vaudeville, May 16, 1889.
DRESDEN CHINA, Vaudeville, July 21, 1892.
DRESS COAT, Strand, Jan. 29, 1876.
DR. FAUST AND MISS MARGUERITE, Queen's, Dublin, Aug. 24, 1885.
DR. FAUSTUS, St. George's Hall, July 2, 1896.
DRIFTING CLOUDS, Bow and Bromley Institute, Oct. 31, 1894.
DRIFTING DOWN, Windsor, April 19, 1900.
DRIFTING SPAR, Theatre Royal, Edmonton, Aug. 5, 1893.
DRINK, Princess's, June 2, 1879.
DRIVEN FROM HOME, Grecian, July 31, 1871.
DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE, Merthyr, July 26, 1883.
DR. JOHNSON, Theatre Royal, Richmond, May 11, 1896.
DROP BY DROP, Adelphi, Liverpool, March 24, 1884.
DROPPED IN, Ladbroke Hall, Nov. 24, 1843.
DROWNED MAN'S LEGACY, Britannia, Sept. 23, 1872.
DR. SYNTAX, St. Leonard's, June 3, 1895.
DR. SYNTAX THE HYPNOTIST, Liverpool, Sept. 24, 1894.
DRUIDS ELECT, St. George's Hall, April 19, 1899.
DRUID'S OAK, Victoria, June 23, 1851.
DRUID, THE, St. George's, Feb. 22, 1879.
DRUMCLOG; OR, THE COVENANTERS, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Sept. 5, 1871.
DRUM MAJOR, Coronet, Oct. 1, 1900.
DRUNKARD, THE, Holte, Birmingham, Sept. 29, 1879.
DRUNKARD'S DOOM, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Sept. 8, 1879.
DRUNKARD'S LIST, Coliseum, Liverpool, April 1, 1872.
D.T.; OR, LOST BY DRINK, Theatre Royal, Bradford, Aug. 4, 1879.
DUBLIN BAY, Adelphi, Feb. 10, 1862.
DUCHESS OF BAYSWATER AND CO., Haymarket, Dec. 8, 1888.
DUCHESS OF COOLGARDIE, Drury Lane, Sept. 19, 1896.
DUCHESS OF DIJON, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, Sept. 20, 1897.
DUCHESS ELEANOUR, Haymarket, March 13, 1854.
DUCHESS OF MALFI, Standard, March 26, 1855.
DUCHESS OR NOTHING, Olympic, July 9, 1860.
DUCK-HUNTING, Maymarket, Sept. 29, 1862.
DUDE AND THE DANCING GIRL, Brixton Hall, Nov. 4, 1893.
DUKE IN DIFFICULTIES, Haymarket, March 6, 1861.
DUKE OF SWINDLETON, Opera Comique, June 11, 1885.
DUKE'S BOAST, Avenue, March 21, 1889.
DUKE'S DAUGHTER, Royalty, Jan. 10, 1876.
DUKE'S DIVERSION, West Norwood, May 21, 1892.
DULCAMARA, St. James's, Dec. 29, 1866.
DULVERYDOTTY, St. John's Wood, March 2, 1894.
DUMAUR'ALISED TRILBY, St. George's Hall, Dec. 6, 1895.
DUNBAR; OR, THE KING'S ADVOCATE, Glasgow, Oct. 2, 1899.
DUMB PRINCESS, Kensington, Jan. 17, 1894.
DUNDREARY MARRIED AND DONE FOR, Haymarket, June 13, 1864.
DUPLICITY, Eclectic, Dec. 14, 1871.
DURING HER MAJESTY'S PLEASURE, Grecian, May 21, 1877.
DUSTMAN'S TREASURE, Britannia, July, 16, 1866.
DUSKIE, Ladbroke Hall, June 17, 1890.
DUTCH THE DIVER, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, Sept. 30, 1878.
DUTY, Prince of Wales's, Sept. 27, 1879.
DUX REDUX, Novelty, Jan. 18, 1887.
D'YE KNOW ME NOW? New Theatre Royal, Reading, June 14, 1872.
DYING FOR LOVE, Princess's, June 28, 1858.
DYKE HOUSE, THE, Sandgate, Feb. 12, 1877.
EAGLE JOE, Princess's, Dec. 26, 1892.
EAGLE'S WING, Folkestone, Dec. 26, 1892.
EARL OF MULLIGATAWNY, Greenwich, Oct. 22, 1898.
EARL'S DAUGHTERS, Theatre Royal, Croydon, July 21, 1890.
EARL'S HOUSEKEEPER, Britannia, April 22, 1872.
EARNEST APPEAL, Strand, May 6, 1875.
EARTHLY TWINS, St. James's, July 6, 1896.
EASTER EGG, Terry's, Dec. 7, 1894.
EAST LYNNE, burlesque, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Sept. 16, 1869.
EAST LYNNE, Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, Oct. 3, 1865.
EASTWARD HO! Opera Comique, Dec. 24, 1894.
EASY SHAVING, Haymarket, June 11, 1863.
EBB AND FLOW, Theatre Royal, Brentford, Nov. 19, 1888.
EBONY CASKET, Gaiety, Nov. 9, 1872.
ECCENTRIC GUARDIAN, New Cross Hall, April 25, 1885.
ECHOES OF THE NIGHT, Pullan's, Bradford, Jan. 7, 1884.
ECHOES OF THE OPERA, St. George's Hall, June 15, 1893.
ECHO, Trafalgar Square, April 25, 1893.
ECLIPSING THE SON, St. James's.
EDELWEISS, Opera House, Cork, April 3, 1893.
EDENDALE, Charing Cross, June 19, 1869.
EDGAR HARISSUE, Ladbroke Hall, July 19, 1898.
EDITHA'S BURGLAR, Princess's, Oct. 28, 1887.
EDMUND KEAN, Chichester, Nov. 20, 1893.

IRVING REMINISCENCES.

My earliest personal reminiscences of Henry Irving (says Mr. Austin Brereton, in his interesting book, "Henry Irving," recently published by Anthony Treherne and Co.) take me back to the year 1883. I had known him before that, but not intimately, and, in the summer of 1878, he had sent me a letter and a photograph bearing his signature—a most encouraging and kindly act towards the youthful aspirant to journalism. In the early part of the year named, however, his first American tour having been then decided upon, I projected a biography of the actor, who was then in the heyday of his fame. This brought me into close touch with him, for he gave me his cordial co-operation, and the friendship then established remained unbroken until his death.

Of the book in question, it is only necessary to say that it was the first of its kind, and much of its early matter has been frequently appropriated from that day to this. I only mention the book because it gave me ample proof of Irving's capacity for taking infinite pains—a capacity which never deserted him, and to which much of his success is to be attributed. On turning to the volume, I find that eleven large pages are devoted to the enumeration of the characters which he had acted during his first two and a half working years. This list was made for his own manuscript record, which he kept in a small book to which he always referred in subsequent years when any question arose regarding his early career. That list, by the way, makes it evident that during the period named—two years and a half—Irving played the enormous number of four hundred and twenty-eight characters.

And talking of his little manuscript book, I am reminded of a funny circumstance in connection with his first appearance in the Irish capital. First of all, let me set right an error which has crept into some of the biographical notices. It has been stated that Irving made his first appearance in London at the Surrey Theatre in March, 1859. This is not so. At that time he was playing in Edinburgh, and there he remained until Sept. 13, as he had been offered an engagement by the father of the late Sir Augustus Harris for the Princess's Theatre, and at this house, eleven days after leaving Edinburgh, he made his first appearance before a London audience. But he found that he was only allotted a few lines in a four-act play, and, seeing that there was no chance for advancement, he obtained the annulment of his contract. After giving some readings of *The Lady of Lyons* and *Virginius*, at Crosby Hall, to a few friends who believed in the young actor, and shared in his disappointment in regard to the Princess's, he shook the dust of London from his feet.

Here the little black book comes in. Not long since, a wrong statement appeared in regard to Irving's *début*, and with characteristic promptness—for he was most particular in regard to the professional record of his early life—he asked me to set the matter right. So the little black book was brought out and the subject was rectified. Irving's manuscript note lies before me as I write, and here is a copy of it:—

"Leaving London, Irving made his first appearance in Dublin, March 5, 1860, at the Queen's Theatre, under the management of the eccentric Henry Webb—by whom he was engaged for four weeks—and his experience was a novel one. Irving found to his surprise, on arriving in Dublin, that he was expected to take up the part of a popular favourite who had been suddenly dismissed, and, powerless and protesting, went through the ordeal of facing for three weeks the howling and hooting of as merry, reckless, and impulsive an audience as were ever gathered together. At last, the indignant manager protested, soundly rated and rebuked 'the boys,' who, on discovering the injustice they had done the young actor, as warmly encouraged and applauded him for one week—as they had before d——d him unmercifully for three."

The part that he first played in Dublin was Fulvius in *Gisippus*, a drama by Gerald Griffin, author of *The Collegians*.

I take at random another note that I have, this time of an after-dinner conversation, from which it will be gathered that in Irving's case the boy was certainly the father to the man. The story of his seeking seclusion in the packing-cases when he was a boy in the City office of a firm of East India merchants has already been told. But Irving related it to me with renewed enjoyment only a few weeks since, for he was ever fond of dwelling upon his early days.

They were only busy in the office on one day a week—Friday, mail day—and the rest of the time was largely devoted by young Irving to study of plays in the shelter of the packing-cases. At this time, as he told me, he had two companions in the office with whom he used to spend some of his evenings. The father of one of them kept an undertaker's shop, and in this gloomy establishment the boys made merry. The father of the other boy was an importer of nuts, chiefly from Brazil, and here also, in a little street near to the river, the boys disported themselves. But, surrounded as they were with the nuts, it was a point of honour among the boys that they never took a single one. "They were so hard to crack," said Irving, with a twinkle in his eye. These incidents seem but trifles when one thinks of the great work which Irving has accomplished, but the recollection of little things like this always amused him, and enabled him to get away from the strain which his career placed upon him so incessantly.

There is no harm in stating now that Sir Henry, in his own mind, abandoned the idea of another American tour some months ago. For I was talking to him not long since in reference to the pieces which he intended to play in the United States next year. "That is a long time off, a long time off," he said, with a sigh. "Plenty of time for that," he added. For he felt that it would be too much for him. But he was looking forward, and with great interest, to next spring, when he intended to return to Drury Lane. A few nights before his death, he was discussing with me the possibility of reviving *Faust*. But he came to the conclusion that, to do it as he felt that it should be done at Drury Lane, would cost far too much money. So he fell back in his conversation upon *Olivia*, but he thought that possibly Drury Lane stage was too large for the production of Wills's dramatisation of "The Vicar of Wakefield." "Again," he said, "where is there an actress to play Olivia—where is there another Ellen Terry?" And then he went on to speak most charmingly of his old companion in art, as, indeed, he invariably did whenever the name of this delightful actress cropped up. In the very last conversation that I had with him—on the night that I left Sheffield, Oct. 4, he described the rare grace with which Miss Terry had acted Iolanthe in the Wills version of *King Réné's Daughter*. Loyalty to his friends was one of the finest traits in the character of this great actor.

MISS EDNA HOPPER, an American actress, has obtained leave at Victoria, British Columbia, to appeal to the Privy Council in her contest with Mr. James Dunsmuir, the ex-Premier of the colony. Mr. Alexander Dunsmuir, who married Miss Edna Wallace Hopper's mother, left property to the value of £600,000 to his brother, Mr. James Dunsmuir, the owner of a railway and vast landed estates in British Columbia. His step-daughter has since twice challenged the will in the Canadian courts, which have hitherto decided in the legatee's favour.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham, who was sent on the wings of report to Mentone on Wednesday, is nevertheless playing with unimpaired vigour and success in *Captain Drew on Leave*. All London is flocking to Wyndham's Theatre to witness Sir Charles's fine impersonation, in which his buoyancy, his dramatic resource, and his abounding versatility are put admirably to the proof.

Sir Squire Bancroft has just sent to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London his annual subscription of £50.

A distinguished audience were present to greet Mr. Cyril Maude on his opening night at the Waldorf, among them being:—The Lord Chief Justice, Mr. J. M. Barrie, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Lady Charles Beresford, Viscountess Parker, Earl of Kilmorey, Viscount Churchill, Mr. John Hare, Mr. Nat Goodwin, Mrs. McKenna, Captain Marshall, Mr. G. A. Redford, Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Colonel Ellis, Colonel Fletcher, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, Miss Madge Lessing, Mr. Kinsey Peile, Mr. C. F. Gill, K.C., Major Finlay, Miss Fortescue, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. Carl Rosa, Mr. Otho Stuart, Mr. Hubert Henry Davis, and Miss Marie Tempest.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree will be supported in his creation of Nero, which is due at His Majesty's on Thursday next, by Miss Constance Collier and Mrs. Tree, and the cast will be completed by Messrs. Esme Percy, Basil Gill, Fisher White, Lyn Harding, C. W. Somerset, Robert Farquharson, James Hearn, Frank Lascelles, Henry Leslie, and Yates Southgate, and Miss Phyllis Embury, Miss Dorothea Baird, Miss May Price-Owen, and Miss Hilda Moore.

Mr. Tree's own view of the character is as idealistic as the author's. "The part," he says, "offers many opportunities to an actor. There is hardly a note in the gamut of the human emotions which is not touched by him. As Mr. Phillips has drawn him, he was a man of an infinite range of sensibility, with a fine sense of beauty, and a great imagination, with instincts of cruelty, of love, of poetry, of high idealism, and above all and through all with a strain of madness. Flattery, of course, was his ruin, and his natural egotism was magnified into a vastness of vanity by the atmosphere of adulation that surrounded him.

"Yes," continues Mr. Tree, "this part appeals to me. There are those thrills of artistic sensibility, those subtle sensations of mystery and fatefulness and inevitable tragedy, and of life's inexhaustible treasury of sensuous emotion, which stirred in Nero's heart. There are some wonderful moments in the play, such as when in the Imperial supper a young boy falls dying and sings his swan song, and all the people who have been laughing and applauding are silent when one of them touches the lad and starts back with a shriek, and when Nero bids them go on with the ceremonies, for it is but part of the game—the music playing more madly, but the people gazing with horror at the corpse, till one by one they steal away.

Mr. E. S. Willard, at the close of his New York engagement, received an ovation of an enthusiastic description rarely manifested by an audience of that city. The large New Amsterdam Theatre was crowded, the boxes and orchestra stalls being filled by fashionable society. At the end of the play flowers were thrown from boxes and stalls until the stage about Mr. Willard was fairly heaped with bouquets. In responding to the insistent demands for a speech, Mr. Willard smilingly declared that he had been made to feel so much like a prima donna that it seemed in order for him to sing an aria by way of returning adequate thanks.

Mr. Leonard Boyne, who was one of the house party at Aske Hall during the visit of the Princess Christian and Princess Victoria to the Marquis and Marchioness of Zetland, has returned to town and hopes soon to appear in London in a new play. Mr. Boyne, who has been taking a well-earned holiday after the long run of *Leah Kleschna*, has had some exceptionally good sport with Lord Zetland's hounds.

Miss Lena Ashwell, who is to represent Hermione and Perdita in the dramatic reading of *The Winter's Tale*, to be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Thursday afternoon at St. Peter's Institute, Buckingham Palace Road, will be supported by Messrs. Acton Bond (under whose direction the reading will be given), Athol Stewart, Quinton McPherson, Clive Currie, Lewis Casson, Milton Rosmer, Charles Doran, Fewlass Llewellyn, Michael Sherbrooke, C. F. Collings, and Misses Eily Malyon, Alice Arden, Margaret Parker, Sybil Ruskin, Rita Tomkins, Winifred Rae, Florence Martin, and Margaret Nybloc.

Mr. John Hare's reappearance in London will be made in a new play by Captain Robert Marshall, which is to be produced at the Comedy Theatre next month. The eminent actor, whose return will be more than ordinarily welcome, will appear under the direction of Mr. Arthur Chudleigh and Mr. Charles Frohman.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux, which has been making a most successful tour of Holland with *The Walls of Jericho*, arrived in London on Wednesday evening and will resume the English tour at the New Theatre, Cambridge, on Monday. The final performance at the Stadsschouburg, Amsterdam, was given to a crowded house, notwithstanding that Madame Dusé opened at another theatre in the town. The company were all delighted with the cordial and enthusiastic reception given them everywhere in Holland, with the fine theatres they had played in, and with the courtesy which had been extended to them by the different managements.

An amusing account of his impressions is given by a member of the company, who says: "When the curtain fell on the third act at the Hague we could not make out what had happened. The cries of 'Bravo!' sounded exactly like wolf-noises. They were simply a series of 'Vo-vo-vo's,' which, of course, was very encouraging, but quite disconcerting until we discovered what the cries meant. The Queen-Dowager came to see us at the Hague. We felt so sorry for the people in attendance; they stood right through the performance, as there was only one place in the box that gave a good view of the stage, and of course the Queen was in that. They all seemed rather surprised at the number of cushions used by the ladies in the play. Their own furniture is all stiff and formal, and they like to sit upright in it. One of the papers went so far as to comment on the free-and-easiness of sitting upon the back of a sofa to talk to anybody; I am afraid the critic's wife must have been shocked, and rubbed it into him."

The Incorporated Stage Society will mark the second performance of their seventh season by the production of Ibsen's *Lady Inger of Ostrat*. The cast of the piece, which will be given on the 28th and 29th inst. at the Scala Theatre, will comprise Miss Edyth Olive and Miss Alice Crawford, and Messrs. Henry Ainley, Alfred Brydone, Harcourt Williams, Charles A. Doran, W. R. Stavely, Kenelm Foss, C. L. Delph, and Talbot Homewood. The play will be produced by Herbert Jarman.

Mr. Edward Compton celebrated his birthday in Wolverhampton on Saturday last, and a large house assembled to honour the occasion. At the end of the second act a beautiful horse-shoe of flowers from the ladies and gentlemen of the Compton Comedy Company, was handed up to Mr. Compton, who said in reply: "Ladies and Gentlemen,—You've done it! In the face of bad times, indifferent weather, and a mass of private gatherings, and last, but not least, a General Election, you have returned me at the head of the poll, for I am proud to say that this is the best week I have ever done in Wolverhampton. In bringing about this magnificent result you have bereft me of words, only my blood speaks to you in my veins, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I don't forget either that many of you are here to-night to do honour to my birthday, and to wish me many happy returns of the day; and again I thank you for your good wishes; but the 'happy returns' I look forward to most are the many happy return visits I hope to pay to Wolverhampton." Mr. Compton has commenced his winter and spring tour most successfully. He will celebrate the 100th performance of his successful fantastic play, *To-Morrow*, at Huddersfield on Wednesday.

Two actresses have within the last few days sought and found, in the Divorce Court, release from obnoxious ties, and in both cases it was with the parties unconnected with the theatrical profession that the guilt rested. Miss Isabel Jay, the charming singer and popular favourite of the Savoy and other London theatres, secured a decree nisi on the 12th inst. against Mr. Henry S. H. Cavendish, the chief figure of the notorious "Planchette" case, who admitted the misconduct with which he was charged. Mrs. Daisy Moss, also an actress, who went on the stage in order to overcome financial embarrassments, won a decree nisi on the same day against Mr. Harold Kenneth Moss, formerly a stockbroker's clerk, who likewise made a confession of his guilt.

Mr. Martin Harvey's Spring Tour was successfully inaugurated at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday, a large and enthusiastic audience greeting the popular actor's performance as Lieutenant Peresby in *The Breed of the Treshams* with continuous applause. It is Mr. Harvey's first appearance at the favourite Lancashire watering place, and it is interesting to note, as an instance of his magnetic personality, that numbers of Manchester and Liverpool playgoers were present on the occasion. On Thursday *The Only Way* was presented, Miss N. de Silva, of course, appearing as Mimi. The company which is supporting Mr. Harvey on the present tour is identical with that which rendered the same service last autumn.

Mr. George Giddens, being available for his original part in *Public Opinion*, Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison have decided to start a tour of the clever comedy immediately, beginning, on February 12th, at the Grand Theatre, Croydon. The company will visit all the most important suburban Theatres and eight of the large cities.

Mr. Charles Manners and Madame Fanny Moody and the directors of the Theatre Royal Dublin were "at home" at the Theatre Royal on Thursday afternoon, 11th inst. Some fifteen hundred ladies and gentlemen availed themselves of the invitation, the guests on arrival being received by Madame Fanny Moody. Coffee, tea, and ices were served in the buffet, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The proceedings, which lasted from three till five o'clock, were enlivened by an enjoyable musical programme, all the artists giving their services. Mr. Charles Manners sang "In Sheltered Vale" and "To-morrow will be Friday; the harp solo, "Patrouille," was played by Mrs. A. E. James; "My Raptured Gaze" (from Flotow's *Martha*) was rendered by Mr. John Child, and the prologue to "Pagliacci" by Mr. Lewys James. "Hail, bright Abode" (from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*) was sung in chorus, and operatic selections were given by the orchestra, directed in turn by Herr Richard Eckhold and Mr. Cuthbert Hawley.

In the Court of King's Bench on Monday, before Mr. Justice Walton, Messrs. J. Defries and Son (Limited), decorators, of Houndsditch, brought an action against Mr. Gilbert Hare and Mrs. Brown Potter for £154, the price of electroliers and brackets supplied to the Savoy Theatre. Mr. Morton Smith, who appeared for the plaintiffs, said that Mrs. Brown Potter had become a bankrupt since the action was started, and Mr. Justice Bigham had that day held that the manager of the theatre had authority to pledge her credit for the goods. He had, therefore, only to deal with the action as against Mr. Hare, who denied that the work was done or the goods supplied for him or at his request or on his authority. The order was given, continued counsel, by Mr. Legge, the general manager of the Savoy, which was being "run" by the defendants. Mr. Legge was now dead.

Mr. Gilbert Hare said he was engaged by Mrs. Brown Potter to act in *Pagliacci*, which was her venture, and was produced under their joint management. *Du Barri* was the next play, and he was approached by Mrs. Brown Potter to continue with her in the management, she stating that she was no longer his employer and that the play was to be financed by a syndicate. He never authorised Mr. Legge to pledge his credit for the electroliers. The scenery was in no sense either the property of himself or of Mrs. Brown Potter. The hearing was continued on Wednesday, when judgment was given in favour of Mr. Hare.

Mr. William Gillette has explained his farewell speech at the Duke of York's Theatre, in which he declared his intention not to act again in London. It apears that he is destined to become a "fixed star" at one of Mr. Charles Frohman's Broadway theatres, where he will not only act but will be the stage manager of the house and have a hand in the selection of plays.

Mr. George Edwardes has maintained the prosperity of the Gaiety Theatre at a gratifying altitude. The interim dividend just declared by the directors for the half-year ended Dec. 31 is 1s. per share.

Mr. M. Russell Rosse had a rather unpleasant New Year's communication to the effect that during his absence in Ireland his flat in Buckingham-street had been burgled and goods to an extent still unknown abstracted. He at once communicated the news to his friend, Mr. Frank Weathersby, and asked him to take action in the matter and inform the police. A cheerful reply was received in which Mr. Weathersby said that he had taken the necessary steps, and that the same detective that was looking after his own predatory disappearances—viz., his fur coat and a considerable sum of money—had the dual task in hand. Up to the present, however, nothing has been reported.

On Sunday afternoon and evening last, for the second time within the month, Mr. Henry Taylor, the veteran manager and lessee of the Lyceum Theatre, Crewe, placed his theatre at the service of Committees organised to assist the sufferers by the long continual spell of short time in Crewe Works, and the unemployed of the town, sacred concerts being given, and handsome sums realised. Local artists have, on each occasion, furnished the entertainment. For several years past this generous action has been extended to aid the needy local charities.

Mr. Arthur Rousbie will revive the new version of Mr. Leo Trevor's comedy, *Brother Officers*, at the Garrick Theatre on Monday, with himself in his original character of the blunt and honest John Hinds, V.C., who has risen from the ranks. Miss Violet Vanbrugh will repeat her impressive creation of the Baroness Roydon, and the complete cast will comprise Messrs. Julian L'Estrange, O. B. Clarence, Walter Pearce, Alfred Bristowe, D. Imbert, Harrison Carter, F. Cecil, Charles Goodhart, and George Trollope, and Misses Kate Sergeantson, Muriel Beaumont, Elfrida Clement, Celia Powis and Annie Stuart.

Mr. Eade Montefiore's pantomime *Cinderella*, which recently broke all records at the Lyceum, Govan, has been turning money away nightly at the Theatre Royal, Stockton. The show is greatly admired for its brightness in all departments, and may be termed one of the most perfect entertainments of its kind on the road. During the next fortnight the pantomime will be at the Theatre Royal, South Shields—near Newcastle, the scene of its solid triumph last season.

We regret to announce the death on Sunday last of Mr. Herman Merivale, the well-known playwright. Son of the late Herman Merivale, Under-Secretary of State for India and the Colonies, and nephew of the late Dean Merivale, of Ely Cathedral, Mr. Merivale passed a brilliant youth at Harrow and Oxford. Passing thence with a fine record in honours, he was called to the Bar; but a longing for literature and the stage seized him, and he devoted all his spare time thereto. Mr. Merivale, who formed deep friendships with the Keans, Irving, and Miss Terry, finally abandoned politics, and settled down entirely to literature. Among his best-known plays are *The White Pilgrim*, *Ravenswood*, produced by the late Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum Theatre, *Fedora*, produced at the Haymarket, *Forget-Me-Not*, which has been played in every corner of the globe, and, in company with his talented wife, *The Butler* and *The Don*, produced by Mr. Toole. In latter years, the loss of all his money, through a fraudulent solicitor, greatly broke Mr. Merivale's health, and the big benefit Mr. Tree gave at His Majesty's will still be fresh in people's minds.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bacon, who many years ago won celebrity as a vocalist under the name of Miss Poole, died on Monday at Langley, Bucks. Miss Poole, who retired in 1870, had a mezzo-soprano voice of remarkable sweetness and power, and her repertory of operatic rôles was a very extensive one. She also attained eminence as a ballad singer.

The Children's Fancy Dress Ball at the Mansion House the other day was graced by the presence of Master Jack and Miss Margaret Harvey, who appeared in character as Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harvey.

Over 10,000 performances in England alone is the marvellous record of that wonderful play *The Private Secretary*, which looks like running on for ever. Mr. Eugène C. Stafford, the original Manager from the Globe Theatre, is still booking this merry comedy, and has re-engaged Mr. Donald Price-Evans to play the Rev. Robert Spalding. The Autumn Tour starts at the Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough, on August Bank Holiday, under the personal direction of Mr. Stafford.

Mr. William Lockhart wishes to thank all those who have so enthusiastically taken up his suggestion made in *The Era* last week with regard to registering apartments. He finds it impossible to answer the numerous letters he has received personally.

Mr. Duncan Tovey, whose admirable acting has always been a feature of the entertainments given periodically by members of the London Scottish, has a part in the pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*, with which Mr. Clarence Sonnes opened his handsome new Prince's Theatre, at Poplar, at Christmas. His brother members of the regimental corps accordingly intend to visit the theatre informally on Tuesday, and to hold a "London Scottish night," in order to celebrate their comrade's return to the stage. The hope is expressed that every member of the corps will make an effort to be present at the gathering, for which the front rows of the stalls will be specially reserved.

The entire touring rights of *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)* have been secured by Mr. Charles Macdona, who purposes sending out two companies, starting from August Bank Holiday, and is arranging for the services of a well-known star and also a very strong cast in connection with this latest success from the Apollo. This enterprising manager will have his hands full in August, for during that month he will also send out companies with eight of the most notable London "hits," and possibly two other pieces for which he is at present negotiating.

The Theatre Royal, Coatbridge, has now been acquired by the Coatbridge Theatre Company, of which Mr. R. C. Buchanan, of Glasgow, is Managing Director, several local gentlemen being interested in the undertaking. The bookings will now be made in conjunction with the other fourteen theatres owned by the company.

The funeral of Mr. James Sheering, whose death was recorded in our last issue, took place at Greenbank Cemetery, Bristol. Mr. James Macready Chute, of the Prince's Theatre, and Mr. George Chapman, the conductor of the orchestra, were present at the ceremony. Three generations of the family were numbered among the mourners, the principals being Mrs. Bainton (daughter), Mr. W. Bainton (grandson), Mrs. Leftwich (granddaughter), Miss Bainton (granddaughter), Mrs. Cooke (granddaughter), Mr. Cooke, Mr. J. Bainton (grandson), Mrs. J. Bainton, Miss Ruby Bainton (granddaughter), Miss Leftwich (great-granddaughter), and Mr. J. Bamford. The service was read by the Rev. John Webster, vicar of Holy Trinity. Among those who sent wreaths were Mrs. Bainton, Mr. W. Bainton, Mr. J. Bainton, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, Miss F. Bainton, Miss R. Bainton, "Baby Jim," Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Chute, Miss Christine Chute, Mrs. Leftwich, Mr. C. Knapp, Mr. and Miss Morgan, Miss Ellen Chute, Mr. William Chute, and Messrs. Tanner and Sons.

The German Company are entering upon their last weeks of the present season at the Great Queen-street Theatre. Mr. Hans Andresen, in response to numerous requests, will give two final performances of *Alt Heidelberg* on the evenings of Jan. 25 and 26, and *Der Militairstaat*, a comedy by G. von Moser and Thilo von Trotha, will be produced on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who exerts such a droll influence in the part of The Dame at the Kennington Theatre, went down to Brighton on Sunday last to give selections from his songs and recitations on the West Pier. The clever comedian's entertainment was a great success.

The Tunbridge Wells Opera House has been doing excellent business this week with *Cinderella*. Next year Mr. Charles Carey will produce his own pantomime there, the subject chosen being *Dick Whittington*. Mr. Carey is to be congratulated on the bookings his enterprise has obtained for this beautiful theatre, of which the Moody Manners Opera Company, *The Eternal City*, *The White Chrysanthemum*, and his own successful musical comedy, *After the Ball*, may be cited in proof of their excellence.

The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which is making a tour of the world with the Gilbert and Sullivan masterpieces from the Savoy, has won the highest praise in Cape Town, where they opened at the Opera House on Boxing Day with *The Mikado* before a crowded audience, who were delighted with the work and its representation. Mr. Albert Kavanagh in the title-rôle, Mr. Fred Billington as Pooh-Bah, Mr. Pacie Ripple as Nanki-Poo, Mr. C. H. Workman as Ko-Ko, Miss Nancie Freyne as Yum-Yum, Miss Jessie Rose as Pitti-Sing, and Miss Theresa Rassam as Katisha have all secured high encomiums, and Mr. Leicester Tunks, Mr. Fred Drawater, and Miss Mabel Burnege have also become big favourites. A six weeks' stay at Cape Town will be followed by a season at Kimberley, and afterwards the company go to Johannesburg for twelve weeks.

An artistic programme well worthy of preservation as a souvenir is supplied to the patrons of the New Theatre, where *The Scarlet Pimpernel* is continuing on a successful career. The programme contains sketches of some striking scenes in the play, and portraits of Mr. Fred Terry and Miss Julia Neilson, in their impersonations of Sir Percy and Lady Blakeney, and others of the principal characters. The experiment, which is primarily due to Mr. A. F. Henderson, has proved eminently satisfactory, as the circulation of the programmes is more than doubled, members of the audience frequently applying for additional copies.

Miss Fanny Wright, in consequence of Miss Godwyn Earle retiring from the engagement as principal boy at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, has assumed the part, and will sustain it during the run of the pantomime.

The Hastings Gaiety Theatre, which was closed on Monday in consequence of the General Election, was put to a novel use by the energetic and popular resident-manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt, who conducted an open competition as to the result, the prize being a box at the theatre on the following evening. Over 1,800 persons competed, and the winner, who came within two of Mr. H. Du Cros' majority, duly occupied the box, which was decorated for the occasion.

Mr. Holberry Hardy, the new manager of the Theatre Royal, Rotherham, has quickly obtained the goodwill of his staff by his geniality and strict sense of duty, and these qualities were recognised a short time ago by the presentation to him of several articles of virtu. Mr. A. B. Cross, who made the presentation, added his good wishes to those of the staff, and Mr. Hardy suitably responded.

Mr. Nat Goodwin is shortly to be seen again in London, an arrangement having been made with Mr. Thomas Ryley by which the popular American actor will produce at the Shaftesbury some time next month the New York success, *A Gilded Fool*, by Henry Guy Carlton. The play is decidedly American in tone, and before being introduced to London playgoers will receive attention at the hands of a well-known author.

Mr. Cyril Maude will add to the burden of his responsibilities at the Waldorf by appearing during the first week of February in a series of matinées of George Colman jun.'s five-act comedy *The Heir-at-Law*. Mr. Maude will in this revival play Dr. Pangloss, and the cast will include Mr. Charles Allan, Mr. Sydney Brough, Mrs. Charles Calvert, Miss Janet Alexander, and Miss Jessie Bateman.

Miss Vane Featherstone, after paying all the expenses of her recent Tea Party, was able to add the generous sum of £266 17s. to the resources of the Theatrical Christmas Dinner Fund.

Tom Taylor's historical drama, *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, will be revived by Mrs. Russ Whytall at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, on Monday, February 19th. The part of Princess Elizabeth, originally played by the "beautiful" Mrs. Rousby, will be undertaken by Mrs. Whytall. Mr. John Beauchamp, Mr. J. J. Bartlett, Mr. Godfrey Tearle, Miss Mabel Knowles, and Miss Geraldine Olliffe are also in the cast.

"The Little Stranger," a three-act comedy by Michael Morton, which was produced at the Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough, in October last, has been to some extent revised by the author, and will be produced in the West-End by Mr. Frank Curzon within the next few weeks. An amusing idea—that of a baby into whose body the spirit of his father has passed—is worked out in the play, which quite took the attention of provincial audiences.

Miss Naomi Neilson, who is playing the part of Mrs. Mulholland in the production of *The Duke of Killicrankie* at the Cork Opera House this week, met with an accident on the passage over, being thrown out of her berth and bruised. She nevertheless played the part with her customary success.

Mr. J. Henry Twyford has accepted a special offer from Mr. Frank Bertram to play Mr. Martin Harvey's part in his company of *The Breed of the Treshams*.

Mr. Lewis Casson played the part of Adolphus Cusins in *Major Barbara* at the Court Theatre last Saturday and Monday in place of Mr. Granville Barker. This is the third time within the last year or so that Mr. Casson has been called on to play a part he has been understudying, the other parts being Laertes, at the Adelphi, and the Old Huntsman in *Hyppolytus*, at the Court.

Mr. Henry Renouf has been engaged by Mr. Arthur Collins for Magnus in the spring tour of *The Prodigal Son*, and thus resumes acquaintance after a long period with Drury-lane drama. Mr. Renouf will be remembered as leading man for the late Sir Augustus Harris, playing in many of the celebrated dramas with which that gentleman was associated. Mr. Renouf was also the original John Storm in the tour of Mr. Hall Caine's *Christian*, playing the part for three years and a half. More recent assumptions have been those of the title-rôle in *Mons. Beaucaire* on tour, Prince Dmitri in Mr. Tree's *Resurrection* company, and Denis Mallory in Mr. Louis Calvert's tour of *The Garden of Lies*, which went out last spring.

Mr. Allan Wilkie, who played Mathias in his own version of *The Sleigh-Bells* for the first time at Hoyland last week, met with great success in the part. He was called before the curtain no less than eleven times at the end of the play, the audience demanding a speech before they would consent to be dismissed. For the future this play will occupy a regular place in the répertoire of Mr. Wilkie, whose spring bookings include Dublin, Jersey (where he plays a three weeks' stock season), Tunbridge Wells and Ipswich.

Mr. G. Morton-Williams, who recently concluded an eighteen months' engagement as heavy lead with Messrs. Bertram's *The Convict's Daughter* company, has been re-engaged by the same management to play the part of Colonel Hungerford in their spring tour of *The Breed of the Treshams*.

The Playgoers' Club will this afternoon entertain some 2,500 children at the Britannia Theatre, where the Pantomime of *King Wow Wow* is pursuing its merry career. In connection with this treat, Miss Jessie Preston, the Principal Boy of the Pantomime, has very generously contributed to the Playgoers' Club Children's Fund a sum sufficient to provide a substantial feast for 1000 of the poor children of Hoxton.

Mrs. Brown-Potter's unfortunate enterprise at the Savoy Theatre was mentioned before Mr. Justice Bingham, in the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, when the Partington Advertising Company appealed against the rejection by Mrs. Potter's trustee in bankruptcy of a proof for £137 for advertising the *Du Barry* play. The trustee's case was that Mrs. Brown-Potter and Mr. Gilbert Hare were only responsible for the theatre from August, 1904, to Feb. 4, 1905, and that from then till Easter, 1905, Mrs. Potter and Mr. Hare were "mere salaried players," under Mr. Alfred Fossick, a Maidenhead solicitor, who, said Mr. Powell Williams, K.C., financed the play with other people's money, and had been sentenced to a term of penal servitude. The judge decided that Mrs. Brown-Potter should be held responsible for the contract, and the appeal was allowed.

The new Royalty Theatre programme for next week is a well-varied one. On Monday will be given the first performance of *Le Barbier de Seville* and that charming one-act play *Le Cœur a ses Raisons*, in which Mlle. Marie Leconte should make an exquisite Rosine. M. de Féraudy will resume the part of Figaro. On Wednesday M. de Féraudy will appear in his own dramatization of M. Jules Claretie's novel "Brichanteau," playing the part of a successful comedian. London will, in this instance, witness the production of a French play before Paris. On Thursday evening M. Silvain (Sociétaire de la Comedie Française), Mme. Silvain (de la Comedie Française), ing M. Silvain (Societaire de la Comédie Française), will make their first appearance in *Le Père Lebonnard*, the hundredth performance of which in Paris will thus coincide with its first London production. It is a long-standing custom in France to organise a fête in honour of the author whose play has attained its century, but on account of M. Silvain's visit to London, this ceremony has had to be deferred, and Mr. Gaston Mayer has accordingly invited the author, M. Jean Aicard, to attend the London production on Thursday.

The directors of the Stadsschouburg, Amsterdam, where Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux produced *The Walls of Jericho*, sent a beautiful wreath to Miss Dorothy Thomas, the leading lady of the company, on the second evening of her appearance there, and a similar courtesy was extended to Miss Thomas by the directors of the Groote Schouwburg, Rotterdam, on the opening performance in that Theatre.

Mr. T. W. Rowe, of the Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, travelled expressly to town to see the Royal West London Pantomime, and immediately arranged for its transference to his house on Monday, the 29th inst. This will be the second time that this version of *Little Red Riding Hood* has been selected to follow Mr. J. F. Elliston's well-known production of *Aladdin*.

Mrs. Culling has been re-engaged to play the leading rôles with the stock company at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, and has also been cast for Lady Alethea in the frothcoming production at Canterbury of Mr. Sutro's play, *The Walls of Jericho*.

Mr. J. Bannister-Howard's pantomime is in its last week at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, and a complimentary benefit will be given to Mr. Howard to-night (Saturday), all the prices being doubled. *Aladdin* is a very gratifying success, hundreds have been turned away nightly, and Mr. Howard's only regret is that he cannot prolong his visit, as all arrangements are complete to open at the Theatre Royal, Hull, on Monday week.

Miss Sophie Harriss, whose fine impersonation of Robin Hood in Mr. Eade Montefiore's Pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, has secured her hosts of admirers, entertained her confrères in the company and several local notabilities to supper at the George Hotel there on Sunday evening. Amongst those present were Mr. Baron Harriss, Mr. H. A. S. Grant, Mr. C. Ford-Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rolph, Mr. T. de Banzie, Mr. Hugh Fleming, Mr. J. T. Macmillan, the four sisters Tree, the Brothers Lorenzi, the Sisters Phillips, Miss Renée Lancaster, Miss Maisie Rawlings, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rokeby, Mrs. Goodal, Miss Edyth Goodal, Miss McGann, Mr. Collingwood Hope, and Miss Lorenzi. The repast was followed by a most enjoyable conversazione, a pleasant feature of the evening's proceedings being the presentation by the charming hostess of a handsome silver cigarette case to Mr. Hugh Fleming, Mr. Montefiore's popular acting-manager, who is resuming his former position with Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company.

Mr. Walter Maxwell, who has the exclusive dramatic rights of Mr. Guy Thorne's novel "When it was Dark," will produce a play founded on this story on Monday, February 12th, at the County Theatre, Kingston. The adaptation has been made specially for Mr. Maxwell by the Rev. Forbes Phillips, Vicar of Gorleston, and the production is in the experienced hands of Mr. Frank Vernon. The play will go on tour for a few weeks, visiting the principal towns. The Right Rev. the Bishop of London, it may be stated, preached no fewer than seven times in eulogy of this remarkable story.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree's presentation of *The Enemy of the People* at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday evening last was as keenly enjoyed as the memorable revival at the same house on the afternoon of Nov. 2. Few, if any, changes have been made in the cast; but it should be noted that Mr. James Hearn is very successful in the character of Peter Stockmann, formerly sustained by Mr. John Beauchamp; and that Mr. William H. Day is seen to real advantage in the rôle of Morten Kiil, which on the previous occasion fell to the lot of Mr. George Shelton. The other members of the cast are as efficient and artistic as ever. Mr. Tree has improved his fine creation of Stockmann greatly, taking a slightly more serious view of this character; and he also gives his wonderfully intense and thrilling performance of the part of Austin Limmason in *The Man Who Was*, which follows the Ibsen play.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard, who has been practically a continuous W.M. for three years, and has retired from the degree, is now holding the position of I.P.M. both of the Yorick Lodge 2705 and La Tolerance 538.

Mr. Sydney Alport's friends will be sorry to learn that in consequence of a serious relapse which happened last September, it was found necessary to send him from London to Ventnor for atment for consumption. Through the kindness of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, under the late David James's bequest to that Institution, he was provided with a letter of admission, for the second time, to one of the Ventnor sanatoriums. Under the best treatment and in the pure air of the Isle of Wight, it is to be hoped that Mr. Alport will quickly recover. He is sadly wasted away.

Miss Kitty Loftus, in consequence of slight indisposition, is staying at Brighton, prior to accepting an engagement for South Africa.

The Royalty Theatre, Limited, was registered on January 12 with a capital of £5000 in £1 shares. The object of the company is to occupy the Royalty Theatre, London, and to carry on the business of theatrical proprietors, managers, and agents generally. The first directors are T. F. Maher, D. J. G. Lawson, T. Brumby, A. G. Ankers, W. C. Davis, H. Bundy, and A. G. Beaumont. There is no initial public issue.

FRENCH PLAYS AT THE ROYALTY.

"LE PAON,"
Comedy, in Verse, in Three Acts, by Francis de Croisset,
Produced at the Royalty Theatre, on Monday, Jan. 15.

Boursoufle ..... M. De Feraudy
Frontin ..... M. G. Laine
De Brécy ..... M. Laumonnier
De Lussac ..... M. Dauvilliers
Subtil ..... M. Henry-Houry
Patu ..... M. Mondet
Le Marquis ..... M. M. Lagrange
Gratelard ..... M. Romanet
Le Comte ..... M. Spitalie
La Flèche ..... M. Defrenne
Le Facteur ..... M. Sigaud
Annette ..... Mme. Marie Leconte
Lucinde ..... Mdlle. Denise Morena
Corysande ..... Mdlle. R. Thorigny
Azais ..... Mdlle. G. Madge
Eglé ..... Mdlle. Jane Marnac

When Charles Surface's Uncle Oliver intimated to him, in connection with the fearful family portraits, that they didn't make such men and women nowadays, Charles, in complete assent, breathed a cheerful ejaculation; and there are many Philistines on this side of the Channel who may make a similar remark concerning M. Francis de Croisset's comedy, *Le Paon*, which was performed at the Royalty Theatre on Monday last. We have certainly nothing like it in England. The toleration, not to say the enjoyment, of a piece like *Le Paon* presupposes an intelligent and cultivated public meeting the author half-way, on the alert for any happy expression or well-turned phrase, and with its collective mind watchful for any intellectual power which the writer may exhibit; also a company of artists who give each line, each word, their exact value. What prevents *Le Paon* from being a wearisome work, in spite of the simplicity of its "fable," is the dash of philosophic consideration—of character analysis. In *Le Paon* these qualities are not very plentiful; but there are, as the analysts say, "traces of them"—enough to prevent us brushing the piece aside as a mere tiresome trifle.

The purely literary quality of *Le Paon* is not very high. It contains none of those happy lines or couplets that remain in the memory after one has forgotten even the story and the characters of a piece; with instances of which the works of Hugo and Augier teem. But the verse has always the proper number of feet, and is always to the point; and it is never allowed to overload the plot. A significant fact is that the play, in its printed form, has gone into a second edition in Paris; and that, after the production at the Comédie Française in 1904, it was thought good enough to present as a sample of modern French dramatism to an English audience in a London theatre.

It is not for nothing that K. Croisset has put his date back to 1780, a "period" in which elegant libertinism seems a matter of fashion, and morality appears, like Ko-Ko's flowers in the spring, to have "nothing to do with the case." There is a lingering Watteau odour about these Barons and Marquises and "fancy" peasantesses, who never seem to have any work to do, and who wear the daintiest costumes, boldly *decolletées*. The hero, the Baron Boursoufle, is a generous, kind-hearted fellow, but inordinately vain. His valet, who talks in a literary vein quite in keeping with the phantasy of the whole work, thus describes the Baron, in Alexandrines, of which the following may give an idea:—

He is a peacock. Tease a turkey, and
He swells and struts in indignation grand.
Kick at a cock, he darts a blow at you
Of beak or spur, with—cock-a-doodle-do!
A peacock simply stands and spreads his tail;
A "great attraction," never known to fail.
Such is my master. As he speaks, he swells.
All eyes are on him; every gesture tells
He knows he is admired. He preens his plumes.
Annoy him, and he angers not—he fumes.
So does a peacock. Hit at him in play,
He will not fight, he will not run away;
But with a scream, he rends the air—and ear;
A cry of wounded vanity, not fear.
Leave him unnoticed, and he drops his flag;
Its glories all along the garden drag;
No more the splendid "symphony" we see.
Such is Boursoufle, my master—such is he!

The Baron, when out shooting, has seen at a window Annette, the pretty daughter of the old inn-keeper, Patu, and has wagered with his companion De Brécy, that he will, without the assistance of his rank, win the girl's heart. Under the name of Janel, he makes her acquaintance, and dazzles her by his volubility, and by the vast extent of his information—he "crams" industriously from various text-books. To the ignorant Annette he seems a prodigy, and, compared with the louts of her village, something divine. Brécy owns himself a loser, but protests that Boursoufle has only half-proved his case. To create full conviction, he must carry the girl off to Paris; and this Boursoufle boastfully agrees to do. Patu plays into his hands by trying to force his daughter to marry a blockhead named Ferrat; and Annette, to Boursoufle's immense surprise, throws herself into his arms, and begs him to take her away with him at once. He conveys her to his country house, and there his inordinate vanity makes him have her trained to dance and sing, so that he may bring her out on the stage as a rival to his former mistress, Lucinde, an actress of repute. Annette breaks down from sheer fright at a kind of dress-rehearsal before Boursoufle's friends, and his wounded vanity inclines him to throw her over. But even that he must do *en prince*. So he makes over to her his country house, with all its appurtenances. Lucinde, a woman of the world who understands the situation completely, sympathises with, and advises Annette, who induces De Brécy to pose as her lover. When Annette becomes fashionable, Boursoufle grows fond of her; and this feeling is increased by the way in which she politely "snubs" him, Lucinde at the same time throwing him over for the sake of a certain Prince. Boursoufle, be it understood, is by no means a mere mass of conceit. He is kind hearted, brave, and generous, and, as his valet says, his love of display, his boastfulness, and his passion for parade, are poetical and boyish defects, not to be weighed against his virtues. Annette has never ceased to love him; and when he fights a duel with De Brécy, and is slightly wounded, her affection is revealed, and Boursoufle, realising that De Brécy has never been her lover, asks her to marry him. There is a very pretty scene, in which she gently touches on his great fault, and tenderly advises him to correct it. She says, in excellent French Alexandrines:—

O, child that you are! Be as vain as can be;
But not for the world, dear—for me, only me!
In public, be modest. It hurts me to hear
The horrible things that they say of you, dear.
Keep conceit for us only; with others, retire.
Let me be your audience! I'll always admire!

And then Boursoufle resolves to be "simple," to settle down in a village, with all the poetic accompaniments of rurality. For a moment he forgets, in his elation, his promises of reform. He becomes "lyrical," and cries: "Everyone shall talk of my generosity, of my bounty, of my proverbial, my magnificent simplicity! I'll astonish them all!" "Hush!" says Annette, holding up an admonitory finger. "You are right!" says Boursoufle, remorsefully. "I am beginning again, already!"

In a performance of this sort, the great thing is all-round excellence of interpretation; and, with two Sociétaires of the Comédie Française in the cast of *Le Paon*, that was assured. Both M. de Feraudy, who played Boursoufle, and Mme. Marie Leconte, the Annette, are highly-trained and expert artists, and both appeared to great advantage. M. Laumonnier was brisk and alert as Brécy; and Miss Denise Morena, if her diction was not quite as polished as that of the other principals, was bright, animated, and expressive as Lucinde. M. G. Laine deserves special praise as the valet, Frontin; and the other members of the cast were clever and competent. Some monologues, delivered by M. de Féraudy and Mdlle. Marie Leconte, were excellent examples of high-class French recitation. Mr. Julian Hicks's scenery was very pretty indeed, and quite in harmony with the spirit of the play.

"LIGHTS OUT" AT THE SAVOY.

On Monday evening the English version of Franz Adam Beyerlein's play, entitled *Lights Out*, was transferred from the Waldorf Theatre to the Savoy, the first-mentioned house having been given up to Mr. Cyril Maude for the production of Mr. Sidney Bowkett's new play, *The Superior Miss Pellender*. The German piece is well worth witnessing, if only on account of three or four exceptionally strong scenes, which, played with vigour and feeling, powerfully impress an audience. Moreover, *Lights Out* presents a vivid picture of military life in Germany; the characters seem to have been taken from life; and the story, sad and sinister as the end is, has the saving grace of humour. It may be said that Corporal Queiss, as played by Mr. Charles Weir, is not in any respect a German soldier. The corporal is an Englishman—there is nothing of the foreigner about him, but we welcome him all the same as a relief to this gloomy, depressing story of love and murder. There are many who would have preferred a happy ending. Why does not Lieutenant Von Lauffen come forward in manly fashion, and at least attempt to appease the angry father by offering to marry the girl who has loved him "not wisely, but too well"? But it would be too tame and conventional a conclusion for the modern dramatist.

The changes in the cast call for attention first of all. Mr. Leslie Faber now plays the part of Lieutenant von Lauffen in succession to Mr. H. B. Irving. It is a character with which the audience can have no sympathy, because, having done Klara Volkhardt a wrong, he does not adopt "the only way out," and make the girl his wife. He bears the tempest of the old man's wrath, and then, letting his head fall upon his arms, allows things to take their course. He is paralysed at the prospect of a mesalliance, and the result is a terrible tragedy. Mr. Leslie Faber does his best to conceal the weakness of the character, and is surprisingly successful. Playing with intensity and earnestness throughout, he presents the lieutenant as a young man with a good deal of the boy about him—the spoilt boy, who all his life has never been refused a thing he wanted. Lauffen, if he is deficient in moral courage, has plenty of pluck, and bears himself at the Court Martial with the same resolute spirit that he faces Sergeant Volkhardt's revolver. The physical bravery of the man is admirably indicated by Mr. Faber, and his whole performance deserves the warmest commendation. The other important change in the representation is that Mr. W. T. Lovell follows Mr. Dawson Millward in the part of Lieutenant von Howen, and on Monday night the audience were emphatic in their verdict of approval. As the candid friend of Lauffen, Mr. Lovell plays in an easy, natural style that is quite convincing and satisfactory. The only other change in the cast is that Mr. Charles Franks takes the place of Mr. Henry Vibart as Major Paschke, the President of the Court Martial, and endows the part with the requisite quality of dignity. Mr. H. V. Esmond continues to represent the rôle of Corporal Helbig, and in his hands the character stands out prominently in the picture of military life in the small German garrison town. Nothing is wanting in Mr. Esmond's thoroughly sound portrayal of the young soldier—his keen disappointment at discovering the change in his old sweetheart Klara, his dismay and outburst of rage on finding the girl in Lauffen's quarters, and, above all, his haggard despair as he stands half-fainting in the presence of the Court Martial, and presently, overcome by weakness, collapses on the wooden seat. Mr. Charles Fulton's Sergeant Volkhardt is a remarkably powerful embodiment of the old soldier who regards his good name above all things; and in the last act his denunciation of Lauffen, and then of his daughter, when she asserts her determination to stay with the man she loves, is a most convincing piece of acting, that holds the house spellbound. Mr. Charles Weir gives a capital sketch of the woman-hating Corporal Queiss, and is the rough, matter-of-fact soldier to the life. "Let her go—let 'em all go," is his advice to Helbig; and there is no mistaking his blunt sincerity. Mr. Arthur Walcott helps to brighten the piece by his impersonation of Private Michael, and in this laudable work he has the assistance of Mr. Philip Darwin as Private Speiss, Mr. C. F. Collings as Captain von Bannewitz, and Mr. Albert Sims as an orderly, who is bound hand and foot by military red-tapeism. There is only one female part in the play, Klara Volkhardt, and this rôle is happily entrusted to Miss Eva Moore, who invests the character with a delightful womanly charm. Her love for the handsome young lieutenant is prettily expressed, and Miss Moore's acting in the Court Martial scene, and again in the last act, is as effective as it is natural and artistic. To her finished performance much of the success of the military play is undoubtedly due. Minor rôles receive careful treatment from Messrs. Roland Cunningham, Leslie Victor, Fewlass Llewellyn, C. Rutland, Carlton Brough, F. W. Permain, and R. S. Boleyn. In its new home, *Lights Out* had a very cordial and encouraging reception on Monday evening.

The principal piece is preceded by the mimo drame in one act, entitled *La Main*, in which Miss Camilla Dalberg repeats her clever and graceful embodiment of Vivette the actress; and Mr. Akerman May as the Baron, and Mr. Philipp Lesing as the Burglar, also play their parts in expressive pantomime that wins ready recognition.

Mr. Alfred Manners, the proprietor and manager of the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, with characteristic generosity gave his annual sacred concert on Sunday last, in aid of the local hospital, the funds of that institution being swelled by the sum of £35. The theatre was densely crowded with an appreciative audience, and a really excellent programme, largely contributed to by members of Mr. George Dance's *Orchid* company, was thoroughly enjoyed.

"THE SUPERIOR MISS PELLENDER."

Comedy in Three Acts, by Sidney Bowkett.
Produced at the Waldorf Theatre, on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Mrs. Pellender ..... Miss Winifred Emery
Miss Pellender ..... Miss Beatrice Ferrar
Edith ..... Miss Dagmar Wiehe
Nancy ..... Miss Madge Titheradge
Noel ..... Mr. Robert Bottomley
Mr. Tister ..... Mr. Cyril Maude

What a slight, simple play is *The Superior Miss Pellender!* and yet how it wins us, charms us, pleases us, lays us in an atmosphere of comfort, refinement, and matter-of-course security. Oh, fortunate ones at Abingdon who are ignorant of your happiness! The Pellenders' place there is in a backwater, and they live, figuratively speaking, in a similar position. The rush of the great stream of life does not disturb them; the lilies—or are they lotuses?—bloom placidly on the surface of the still water. Thus blest a life these Pellenders display; thus idly happy rolls their life away. Yet, even here, the roseleaves *will* develop creases. In this harmonious oaken-panelled hall picked out so delicately with Delft and pewter, worries will intrude themselves, and to Mrs. Pellender, the gentle and amiable widow-mother, her little difficulty seems intensely important. Each member of the family is strongly characteristic. There is Edith, a *malade imaginaire*, who is always complaining of ill-health, so as to be spared the dusting of the drawing-room; there is Nancy, a tom-boy of fourteen, with a wealth of dark hair; there is Noel, a mischievous, impudent youth, who freely satirises his sisters; and there is also the eldest, Miss Pellender—the "superior" Miss Pellender—as crisp as a biscuit and as sharp as a knife. Miss Pellender, otherwise Grace, is the terror of the family. Rigidly logical, she deals with everything in stern, sententious phrases; and when her mother falls in love with a diffident gentleman named Tister, she feels the greatest reluctance to break the news to her smart and unsparing child. Grace considers that for a mother to engage herself a second time without consulting her children by the first marriage is absolutely immoral. This is exactly what Mrs. Pellender has done; and there is a very comical consultation between her and her fiancé as to how the news shall be "broken." As she cannot muster up courage to "confess" to her family, they are in the dark as to the object of Tister's visits; and when he tries to make himself particularly agreeable to Grace, she arrives at the conclusion that her mother is offering him to her as a suitor. The idea of being disposed of without her wish or consent is very irritating to Miss Pellender's superiority, and in the last act, when her mother and Mr. Tister try to explain matters, she bitterly resents their imagined attempt to provide her with a husband. Things are now worse than ever; for Mrs. Pellender feels that Grace, when she discovers the truth, will be more than ever opposed to the marriage. Tister, in desperation, proposes a plan. They shall elope! After a frenzied appeal to Bradshaw, they agree to get away to Oxford on Tister's launch, thence to take train for London, and be "made one" by special licence. And they escape accordingly, leaving a note which the "superior" Miss Pellender reads with amazement and horror as the curtains close down.

Mr. Sidney Bowkett's little comedy needed most delicate handling, and it had it at the hands of Mr. Cyril Maude and his company. Nothing could have been more winning, more affecting, and more artistic than Miss Winifred Emery's Mrs. Pellender. Its effect was irresistible. The still-pretty woman, who finds herself in love for the first time; her kind, considerate, and unselfish attitude towards everybody, and her loving toleration of her troublesome family; her amusing worship of the romantic and sentimental Tister; and withal her extremely practical purview of her little sphere—all were indicated by Miss Winifred Emery with a skill, a refinement, and a charm which can hardly be over-praised. There is one passage—a little rhapsody on Youth—that has the real literary ring, and this was delivered by Miss Emery with admirable daintiness and pathos. Mr. Cyril Maude, as the diffident, hesitating, and chivalrous Mr. Tister, gave a rendering which was the acme of quiet, unforced comedy. Polished, acute, and always diverting and expressive, Mr. Maude's Tister takes a place in the long list of his comedy successes. Good breeding peeped through all the oddities of the lover, and common sense through the aberrations caused by his reverent adoration of his goddess. A better choice than that of Miss Beatrice Ferrar for the part of Miss Pellender could not have been made. She looked every inch the perfectly equipped, self-satisfied, sternly "superior" Miss Pellender, and acted with a clear-cut confidence which gave the rôle its proper prominence in the piece. Miss Dagmar Wiehe was quite easy and natural as the languid Edith; Miss Madge Titheradge was agreeably impulsive and unconscious as Nancy; and Mr. Robert Bottomley scored well with a very active and diverting impersonation of Noel. The scenery, by Mr. Walter Hann, was quite idyllic, the lovely old-fashioned riparian house with its quaint architecture and flowering creepers being a dream of calm delight. The real launch which was introduced in the second act worked well, and altogether the atmosphere of luxurious simplicity was very cleverly created.

The *Superior Miss Pellender* was preceded by a piece in one act, taken by Edward Knoblauch from Max Maurey's *L'Asile de Nuit*, played for the first time, and entitled—

"THE PARTIK'LER PET."

Tutt ..... Mr. Cecil Maude
Nicholls ..... Mr. F. Percival Stevens
"Skilly" ..... Mr. G. M. Graham

The "notion" of this sketch is slight but ingenious. Nicholls, the self-important Superintendent of a casual ward, is much vexed by reading the revelations of the "Amateur Casuals" of the Press, who, in disguise, obtain materials for critical articles. A real tramp named Tutt arrives at the ward over which Nicholls presides, and claims a night's lodging; and the Superintendent, taking him for a reporter in search of "copy," loads him with courtesies and presents, and tells him to stay as long as he pleases.

Artistic merit is supplied by the finished character-studies given by the three artists who appear in the piece. Mr. Cyril Maude's make-up, voice, and bearing as Tutt are wonderful in their elaborate art, and he plays the part with most quaint and insinuating humour. Mr. F. Percival Stevens is admirably realistic and natural as the "puffy" but politic Superintendent, and a very curious and original representation of a cringing pauper—a completely individual creation—is contributed by Mr. G. M. Graham.

Mr. Maude has opened his season at the Waldorf under excellent auspices.

THE "ELECTRA" OF EURIPIDES.

Translated by Gilbert Murray,
and Produced at the Court Theatre, on Tuesday Afternoon, Jan. 16.

Electra ..... Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison
Clytemnestra ..... Miss Edith Olive
Orestes ..... Mr. R. Harcourt Williams
A Peasant ..... Mr. Stratton Rodney
An Old Man ..... Mr. J. H. Barnes
A Messenger ..... Mr. Hubert Harben
Pylades ..... Mr. Frederick Lloyd
Castor ..... Mr. Lewis Casson
Leader of Chorus ..... Miss Gertrude Scott
Chorus:—Miss Gwendolen Bishop, Miss Amy Lamborn, Miss Vera Longden, Miss Violet Myers, Miss M. Saumarez, Miss Elaine Sladdall, Miss Hazel Thompson, Miss Penelope Wheeler.

That theatre of the intellectuals—the Court—was filled on Tuesday afternoon with a highly-cultured audience, to give welcome to Professor Gilbert Murray's translation of the *Electra* of Euripides, which we may say at once, by its beauty, dignity, and impressiveness, completely justified its presentation in a house noted for high artistic endeavours. Mr. Murray, in his introduction to the play, refers to the abuse of it by Schlegel, who considered it "a singular monument of poetical, or, rather, unpoetical perversity; the very worst of all his pieces." The German critic judged it by the standards of conventional classicism, and he could scarcely have arrived at any other conclusion. For it is essentially, and perhaps consciously, a protest against those standards. So, indeed, is *The Tragedy of the Trojan Woman*, but on very different lines. The *Electra* has none of the imaginative splendour, the vastness, the intense poetry, of that wonderful work. Sophocles' tragedy on the same subject is enthusiastically praised by Schlegel, for the "celestial purity, the fresh breath of life and youth that is diffused over so dreadful a subject." Everything dark and ominous is avoided. Orestes enjoys the fullness of health and strength. He is beset neither with doubts nor with stings of conscience. But the Orestes of Euripides is more human. It is to him a cruel destiny to have been chosen to avenge a father's murder by killing his mother, and the depth of his soul-agony is sounded in the lines:—

'Twas she that bare
My body into life. She gave me suck.
How can I strike her?

This is indeed a very different Orestes—whose character bears some analogy to that of Hamlet—to the man who returns hot-foot from the murder of the usurper, Ægisthus. But Electra is the central figure of the tragedy. The daughter of a king, the virgin-wife of a peasant, she stands forth a sorrowful figure at the opening, wherein her brooding grief is sounded in the lines: "Toil, toil is a weary thing, and life is heavy about my head." As Mr. Murray remarks, "there is no woman's character in the range of Greek tragedy so profoundly studied." She becomes an heroic figure in the splendid speech over the body of Ægisthus, and yet she shows the cowardice of the mere woman. A panther-like disposition is suggested by the cunning way in which she gets Clytemnestra into her power, and yet her sisterly affection is almost as overpowering as her unwomanly thirst for revenge.

The story is simple and direct. Orestes, the son of Agamemnon, and his sister Electra avenge their father's murder by deliberately slaying the usurper, Ægisthus, and their guilty mother, Clytemnestra. The deed was done by the direct command of Apollo, who enforced the old savage doctrine of the duty and manliness of revenge. To the dramatist, however, the mother-murder was a a sin and a horror that should not have been committed, and is to be expiated by unfathomable suffering," shadowed forth by Castor at the end of the play.

As we have said, Electra—lonely, embittered, full of human feeling, and with will imperial—is the dominating character of the tragedy, and fortunately it found in Miss Edith Wynne Matthison an actress endowed with the great abilities which are demanded in such a part. She sounded the note of deep humility in the early passages of the play, the absorbing sisterly affection shone out in Electra's recognition of Orestes in front of her peasant home in the mountains, and the grandeur and nobility of tragedy echoed through Electra's magnificent speech over the body of the murdered Ægisthus. Again, in the accusation of her mother, Clytemnestra, were we impressed by the accomplished actress's lofty perception of the part. Electra's softer speeches are admirable, as emphasising the more womanly traits of a complex character; and the delivery of these was so keenly sympathetic that Miss Matthison had taken our hearts captive even before she had extracted our admiration by the depth of her tragic power. Each succeeding scene added to her triumph, and she gave us such an elevating picture of noble womanhood as we are not likely to forget. Clytemnestra, who may be likened to Gertrude in *Hamlet*, is strangely human, and most unlike a conventional wicked queen. She has a lengthy speech, in which she justifies the murder of her husband, Agamemnon, as a punishment for his sacrifice of their child, Iphigenia, as a sin-offering for the fleet. It is an excellent piece of special pleading, and powerful withal. Miss Edyth Olive, who played the part of the unhappy Clytemnestra on Tuesday, showed considerable feeling, and excited sympathy in the piteous character. Mr. R. Harcourt Williams, who was the Orestes—the Greek counterpart of Hamlet—made a very favourable impression. His virility and manly dignity appealed to us in the beautiful speech, "How dark lies honour hid!" a graceful and well-deserved tribute of the man of noble birth to the fine character of the peasant. The distress of Orestes after the murder of his mother is an intensely human touch, to which the young actor also did complete justice. Mr. Stratton Rodney as the Peasant, whose first speech is a sort of prologue to the play, realised the manly simplicity of the character, and made the most of his opportunities. Mr. J. H. Barnes as the Old Man—who, like other old family servants in Euripides, is absolutely and even morbidly devoted to his masters—gave one of those careful and finished impersonations which may be always expected of him. His rich voice did complete justice to the speeches of the part, which alternate between the expression of humble affection and of the ferocity of the blood-feud. Mr. Hubert Harben as the Messenger told the tragic tale of the murder of Ægisthus with sufficient impressiveness; Mr. Frederick Lloyd was the Pylades—a *persona muta*; and Mr. Lewis Casson, raised on high as the demi-god Castor, pronounced with sonorous eloquence the sentence on Orestes, Miss Gertrude Scott, as the leader of the chorus of Argive women, showed the value of excellent training and experience by the clearness of her elocution, and though sometimes the chanting of strophe and antistrophe sounded monotonous, yet on the whole the work of the chorus was artistically done. The music, by Theodore Stier, admirably fulfilled its purpose. The play was most artistically mounted, the one scene of the hut on the mountain-side, with the river Inachus stretching away in the distance, being an excellent piece of brush-work. Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker are entitled to our congratulations, not only on a successful matinée, but a most interesting experiment. Fortunately it is to be repeated on several afternoons.

Mr. Edwin Sir.—In your notes *At Cinderella* last week, you mention Mr. Walter Bale as Ethel. It should have been, yours faithfully, Walter Dale. Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, Jan. 11, 1906.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER HEILIGE BRUNNEN,"
Three-Act Legendary Play, by J. M. Synge, German by M. Meyerfeld
Produced at the Deutsches, Jan. 12.

Doul ..... Herr Schildkraut
Mary ..... Fraulein Wandel
Jimmy ..... Herr Sauermann
Molly ..... Fraulein Heims
Nora ..... Fraulein Flanz
Der Heilige ..... Herr Henrich

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Jan. 18.—The Deutsches had a very interesting programme on Wednesday, three short plays—two of which were new to Berlin—being excellently performed. Mr. Synge's piece met with a most cordial reception, and the head-manager thanked the audience in the name of the absent author. It is drawn from an Irish legend, and the plot is very probably known to your readers. The story of the blind beggar, Martin Doul, and his blind wife Mary, who are healed at the sacred well, is excellently translated, and the fine acting of Herr Schildkraut, in particular, helped much towards the success. The second piece was Oscar Wilde's *Florentine Tragedy*, also translated by Herr Meyerfeld, and this, too, was well received. Courteline's one-act tragi-burlesque *Der Herr Kommissär* completed the list. This has been given here before—at the Trianon, if my memory serves me—and each time of performance there have been persons among the audience who energetically objected to the prolonged scene of the lunatic contra the police authorities. The little play was capitally acted by Herren Schildkraut, Biensfeld, and Victor Arnold in the principal rôles.

At the Komische Oper the long-expected production of Hugo Wolf's four-act comic opera *Der Corregidor* took place on Monday evening, and its success was undisputed. The music is beautiful and original, as would naturally be expected from the pen of Hugo Wolf, and our grateful thanks are due to Director Gregor, who has brought it before our notice. It is a work which requires several hearings to do it full justice, and there is little doubt that it will have a long and well-deserved run. The book is, unfortunately, exceedingly poor. It is drawn from a Spanish novel by Alarcon, the adaptor being Fraulein Rosa Magreder, and it has not been very skilfully treated. A few words will suffice for the narration of the plot. Don Eugenio de Zuniga, the Corregidor or Mayor, is the hero, and a very contemptible one. Despite his advanced age and civic position—not to forget that he is married into the bargain—Don Eugenio is an incorrigible rosé, and pesters Frasquita, the pretty young wife of the miller Lukas, with his attentions. He is amply and frequently punished and humiliated; he falls into a sack of flour, he tumbles into the brook, and two or three times in the four acts is treated to a good thrashing. Lukas is foolish enough to doubt his wife, without any reason, but after a time he regains his common sense and all ends happily. The third act is divided into three scenes, which is a mistake, as it unnecessarily prolongs the work. The interpretation under Kapellmeister Cassierer and Herr Moris was a very fine one, Fraulein L'Huillier as Frasquita and Herr Buers as Lukas being specially worthy of mention. As is customary at this theatre, the mounting was everything that good taste could suggest.

At the Schiller Theatre, O. Björnson's mystical drama *Ueber unsere Kraft*, Part I., was produced on Saturday with very satisfactory results. The management of these enterprising theatres, the Schiller, N., and the Schiller, E., does not expend much money in the acquirement of new plays, but holds itself judiciously in reserve. When a piece has enjoyed a long run at the West End, and has spent itself somewhat, it is received as a novelty by the Schiller audiences, and thus everybody is satisfied at moderate expense. The funds of the sister theatres are in consequence in a thoroughly healthy condition. Björnson's play was detailed at length on its production at the Berliner some years ago. Its interpretation at the Schiller was admirable, Herr Pategg in the rôle of Pastor Sang being especially good, while he was adequately supported by Fraulein Feldhammer in the difficult part of the Pastor's wife. The mounting, too, which is all-important, had been well managed, and the reception of the piece was an enthusiastic one.

The Mozart Cycle, which promises to be full of interest, begins at the Royal Opera next week. The works are not in chronological order, and the list opens with *Don Juan*. *Cosi fan tutti* will be given with a very select cast, and the same may be said of *Die Zauberflöte*.

Herr Albert Niemann, one of the most famous of German tenors of the past generation, and for many years chief tenor at the Royal Opera, celebrated his 75th birthday last Monday, being the recipient of many honours—from the Emperor downwards. Herr Niemann was the finest Tannhäuser and Tristan I have ever heard here, and I fear there will never be such another.

At the Royal Schauspielhaus, Schiller's tragedy, *Die Räuber* has been revived. "Revived" is, perhaps, scarcely the right expression, for, strange to say, this crudest work of the great poet rarely leaves the bill for long together. The part of Franz Moor is the acme of ambition for all rising actors, while artists who have long gained their spurs revel in it too. At the recent performance at our State theatre this rôle was effectively played by Herr Erich Ziegel, who has been for a long time one of the most valued members of the Schiller Théatre company. After this successful début Herr Ziegel will no doubt be invited to come up higher and grace the Royal stage.

Herr Intendant Prasch has entered into an arrangement with Herr Bonn whereby the Berliner Theatre is occupied by the Theatre des Westens company several evenings a week. The success of *Schützenliesl* at the latter house is so great that it might fill the bill night for night. In consequence of the long run certainly in store for the pretty operetta, the two novelties, *Der Herr von Hann* and Wolff-Ferrari's *Die Vier Grobians*, have had to be postponed for a while. Herr Fritz Werner from Munich is still here and with Fraulein Doninger making the running in *Schützenliesl*.

Frau Berta von Suttner's famous novel *Die Waffen Nieder* has been dramatised by the authoress in collaboration with Herr Robert Overweg, and will be produced before long on one of our best stages. The play—which is a four-act drama—will retain the original title. It is a matter of wonder that this—one of the finest of modern German novels—has not yet been adapted for the stage.

Tannhäuser has been repeated at the Royal Opera with the same success it met with a fortnight ago. This time the title-rôle was sung by Herr Kraus in place of Herr Gruening, and again two American singers were in the cast—Miss Farrar as Elisabeth and Mr. Griswold as the Landgraf. Frau Plaschinger sang the part of Venus and Herr Hoffmann that of Wolfram. It was an excellent cast, and the mounting of the opera with the new scenery and arrangements met with universal appreciation.

Frau Agnes Sorma met with a slight accident on leaving the Deutsches Theatre, where she had been playing in *The Merchant of Venice*, on Saturday. A collision occurred between the droschke of the popular actress and an electric tram-car, and Frau Sorma's lip was badly cut by the smashed window glass. The wound was, happily, not deep, and stitching was found to be unnecessary, so that in a few days Frau Sorma will be able to continue her charming rendering of Portia.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the members of the Association, held in accordance with the resolution passed by the recent meeting at Drury-lane Theatre, took place in the saloon of the Institution, at 10, King-street, Covent Garden, on the 11th inst., when Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (the deputy-chairman of the Council) was appointed chairman.

There were present—Mr. Adam Alexander, Mr. Cecil Barth, Mr. H. G. Bentley, Mr. Pascoe Bioletti, Mr. Acton Bond, Miss Lydia Busch, Miss Claire Cavendish, Mr. Burton Cooke, Mr. F. Cremlin, Mr. Clive Currie, Mr. David Denard, Mr. William Devereux, Miss Gladys Ffolliott, Mr. Arthur Fitzgerald, Mr. Robert Forsyth, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, Mr. Lawrence Grant, Mr. Laurence Grove, Mr. Talbot Housewood, Miss Agnes Imlay, Mr. George Ingleton, Miss Isa Johnson, Mr. P. L. Julian, Mr. Quinton McPherson, Mr. M. R. Morand, Mr. Simon D. Ord, Mr. H. P. Owen, Mr. Robson Paige, Miss Margaret Parker, Mr. Reginald Rivington, Mr. Stanley Ronalds, Miss Ethel Russell, Mr. Leonard Russell, Mr. J. E. Savery, Mr. Edmond T. Sayers, Mr. Walter Selby, Miss Lucy Sibley, Miss Mary E. Smith, Mr. Adnam Sprange, Mr. James Stevenson, Mr. Alfred Tate, Miss Minnie Thurgate, Miss Rita Trekelle, Miss Eugenie Vernie, Mr. F. Stuart Willson, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

ELECTION OF ASSOCIATES.

MR. QUINTON MCPHERSON proposed the alterations following:—

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

That the words "and Associates" be inserted after "Members" in Article 1.

That Article 4 should read: "Any person shall be eligible for election as a member who has fulfilled 100 weeks' salaried engagements. The election of Associates shall be vested in the Council."

That in Articles 5, 6, 7, and 8 the words "or Associate" or "Associateship" follow the words "member" or membership—except in Article 7, line 3, the only difference between the Member and the Associate being that the latter would have no vote.

MISS GLADYS FFOLLIOTT seconded the proposition, which, after Miss Lucy Sibley and Messrs. Cecil Barth, Acton Bond, F. Cremlin, Lawrence Grant, Simon D. Ord, H. P. Owen, and F. Stuart Willson had spoken, was put to the vote and carried as a matter to be submitted to the Council for their consideration.

VOTING PAPERS.

MR. QUINTON MCPHERSON proposed and Mr. George Ingleton seconded the proposition "That for election of Councillors voting papers be mailed to all members giving the names of candidates and their proposers and seconders. After a discussion upon this question, in which Miss Agnes Imlay and Messrs. Cecil Barth, Acton Bond, F. Cremlin, M. R. Morand, and Adnam Sprange took part, the resolution was put to the vote, and carried as a matter to be submitted to the Council for their consideration.

MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

MR. CECIL BARTH suggested that there should be some kind of magazine published dealing only with matters connected with the Association—say, a monthly magazine at a 1d., maintained by sale of copies and profits on advertisements. Mr. Drinkwater and Mr. Morand having spoken on this subject, Mr. Barth said he would like to think the matter over, and perhaps at some future time he would bring forward a scheme with figures showing its practicability.

WAYS AND MEANS.

MR. WALTER SELBY, who had given notice that he wished to put a question on "Ways and Means," stated that he thought it not desirable to ask the managers to leave the Association, but rather that they should be told it was not the intention, in future, to make any calls upon their purses, and in order that the necessary economy might be practised to enable the Association to refrain from any further appeals to the managers for monetary aid, he proposed—"That the Sergeant's salary be increased by £5 per annum; that £5 per annum be added to the Typist's salary, and £10 to the Agency Clerk's stipend, and that the Secretary be requested to resign, inasmuch as the Secretary did nothing, and as the affairs of the Association were practically governed by the Sergeant, the Typewriter, and the Clerk, there was no need for a secretary, and there would be a saving of £180 per annum, after making the allowance to the staff as suggested."

There was no seconder to the proposition. Mr. Lawrence Grant suggested there was no need to defend the Secretary, and the matter dropped.

UTILITY OR OTHERWISE OF THESE MEETINGS.

Messrs. W. Devereux, Lawrence Grant, and M. R. Morand spoke as to the utility or otherwise of these meetings.

RESOLUTIONS.

It was agreed that the decision of the Council be forwarded to the proposers and seconders of resolutions.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

An adjourned meeting of the Council to further consider the scheme connected with the "Qualification and Registration of Actors" was held on Friday, the 12th inst. There were present—Messrs. Edward Terry (in the chair), A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Acton Bond, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Norman McKinnel, Walter Russell, C. Aubrey Smith, Hubert Willis, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

A telegram from Mr. Frank Benson was received, and the Secretary was instructed to reply. Regrets for non-attendance were received from Mr. George Alexander and Mr. Cyril Maude.

The scales of fees collectable under the scheme were agreed upon, and it was further resolved that, in view of the broad scope of the scheme, a proportion of the Senate, as completed, should be representative of the allied arts of dancing, pantomime, and opera.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held last Tuesday. There were present—Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, F. Cremlin, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Fewlass Llewellyn, M. R. Morand, Walter Russell, A. Morrice Seaton, and Hubert Willis, Miss Kate Phillips and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors reported they had advised members on points submitted, and had had some correspondence with the company connected with the proposed Insurance Scheme. Ultimately it was arranged that the agreements between the Insurance Company and the Association should be submitted to them for approval before final settlement. The scheme for the "Qualification and Registration of Actors" was again under discussion, and it was arranged that typed copies be sent to all members of the Council before proceeding further.

The following ladies and gentlemen were nominated for election:—Leonard Williams, Marmaduke Wetherell, George Stratton, Winsome Etherington, Violet Lytton, Florence Brandon, and Phyllis Relph. Two former members were reinstated.

The Secretary reported the receipt of a framed and signed photograph of the President, Sir Squire Bancroft, bearing these words, "Always faithfully yours." The Council desired the Secretary, on behalf of the Association and themselves, to thank Sir Squire for his gracious and acceptable gift. A case of alleged insanitation was under consideration, and the Secretary received certain instructions. The accounts for the year 1905, prepared by the Secretary, having been certified as correct by the honorary auditors, Messrs. Westcott, Maskall, and Co., chartered accountants, the Council adopted them, and they were referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for verification, and to deal with generally.

It was decided to hold the fifteenth annual general meeting, if possible, about the middle of February. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. The Secretary received instructions in connection with an arbitration now pending.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held their thirty-seventh meeting on Tuesday last. There were present—Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, A. E. Drinkwater, Lawrence Grant, M. R. Morand, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. Charles Macdona's scheme was again under discussion, and it was agreed that further consideration should be deferred until such time as Mr. Macdona could attend a meeting of the Committee, and confer with the members. The accounts for the year 1905, prepared by the Secretary, and certified as correct by the Auditors, were verified.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Miss Rose Hamilton—Saturday, Jan. 20.
Frank Stuart—Saturday, Jan. 20.
Miss Cis Gasparro—Sunday, Jan. 21.
Miss E. Shannon-Clyndes—Sunday, Jan. 21.
Arthur E. Behan—Sunday, Jan. 21.
Charles Grantley—Sunday, Jan. 21.
D'Arcy Kelway—Sunday, Jan. 21.
F. W. Lowther—Sunday, Jan. 21.
Fred Reed—Sunday, Jan. 21.
J. O. Stevenson—Sunday, Jan. 21.
Howard L. Tracey—Sunday, Jan. 21.
Violet Bessle——Monday, Jan. 22.
Kitty Wager—Monday, Jan. 22.
Harry B. Stanford—Monday, Jan. 22.
Miss Constance Collier—Monday, Jan. 22.
Miss Ada Murray—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Lady Orkney—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Coquelin aîné—Tuesday, January 23.
Bessie Munroe—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Miss Alice Spry—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Fred Cherry—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Clavering Craig—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
George Millard—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Harry Ray—Tuesday, Jan. 23.
Katie Marsh—Thursday, Jan. 25.
Suzanne Sheldon—Wednesday, Jan. 24.
Mrs. Geo. H. Smythson—Wednesday, Jan. 24.
F. H. Anderson—Wednesday, Jan. 24.
Rowland Hill—Wednesday, Jan. 24.
Bertha Kingston—Thursday, Jan. 25.
M. Henri—Friday, Jan 26.
George Adney Payne—Friday, Jan 26.
George S. Shelton—Friday, Jan. 26.

"LOVELY LONDON," the quaint old masque, by George Peele, which was first presented to Lord Mayor Wolstone Dixie in 1585, was reproduced in almost every detail before the present Lord Mayor of London in the famous old Charterhouse Hall on the 12th inst. The performance was private, and by express desire the names of the actors were not revealed, but among the performers might have been recognised the features of an eminent divine, a titled minister of the Church of England, and one of the most eminent musicians of the day. The Craftsman was played by a master of a City company; Science by the principal of a university, and one of the magistrates by a well-known coroner; while three Associates of the Royal Academy played the Architect, Sculptor, and Painter respectively.

JUDICIAL humour brightened the proceedings at the Court of King's Bench on the 12th inst., when Mr. Powell, K.C., applied that the action of Mackay v. Edwardes, which was brought by Miss Mackay, an actress, against Mr. George Edwardes for an injunction, should not be taken until the 29th inst., as the plaintiff was under a contract to appear at Newcastle and other towns, and it would be inconvenient for her to come to London before the date mentioned. The case, he said, would have been heard some time last year, when the plaintiff was disengaged, but, for the convenience of the defendant, who had to go to America, the hearing was postponed. Counsel for the defendant was in court, and felt that the indulgence asked for on behalf of the plaintiff should be granted. Mr. Justice Bigham asked where the lady was at the present time. Mr. Powell replied that she was at Newcastle. His lordship said he should be in Newcastle shortly, and would place himself at the lady's disposal if she wished to avail herself of the opportunity. Mr. Powell said that would not do, because the lady was not resident at Newcastle. The Judge opined the question was evidently when, and not where, the case would be heard. Perhaps the lady would like a Sunday. Mr. Powell replied that she would. Would his lordship place himself at the lady's convenience on a Sunday? Mr. Justice Bigham emphatically said he would not. He would fix the hearing of the case for the 30th inst.

MESSRS. FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER, in the Court of King's Bench, on Monday, obtained an injunction and nominal damages of 40s., with costs, against Mr. George Hancock, a bookseller, of Manchester, in respect of the sale of plaintiff's copyright songs which had been pirated. The unsold copies were also ordered to be delivered up. Mr. Walter Payne said that such transactions as the defendant had been engaged in inflicted very heavy loss on the legitimate music trade, and rendered it very difficult for business to be carried on. In May, 1905, the plaintiffs received complaints that a large trade was being done in song-books which contained songs of which they were the copyright owners. They made inquiries, and found that the song-books were being sold by the defendant, who appeared to have bought about 2,800 copies in the previous February. It was believed that the books were printed in Darlington. The defendant, who appeared in person, said he was ignorant of infringing the copyright, and that he withdrew the sale of the song-books immediately he learned the facts. The songs had been sold for years, and were being sold at the present time in the streets of Manchester.

ON Tuesday evening, at the Theatre Royal, Preston, Mr. Julian Mack, the widow Twankey of Dottridge and Longdon's *Aladdin* Pantomime, suddenly lost his voice and could not appear. Mr. Billy Broom (of Williams and Broom), without rehearsal, went on for the part and made a decided success.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

POOR CHILDREN AT THE PANTOMIME.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

The little lady reflectively chewed the orange peel as she thought out a suitable answer to the question, "Who do you like best?" Finally, after the last bit of savoury and pungent peel had found its way down her throat, with all the diplomacy of ten years she said, "I think I like them all."

That, too, was the opinion of the 2500 school children who were on Saturday afternoon last taken by the Playgoers' Club to see the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* at the Elephant and Castle Theatre. There was not, as may be imagined, a vacant seat in the house. Even the niches and corners and window ledges were taken up by those youngsters for whom it was not possible to find seating accommodation. "Ain't it 'ot?" remarked one of the urchins to a pal, both of them hanging on to one another in a wall recess. The question gave a fair indication of the atmospheric conditions, which were, to say the least, oppressive.

Genial and radiant, Mr. Harry Hart, the chairman of the afternoon, darted from one part to another, exhorting the boys and girls to "let the chorus go this time." No one works harder on behalf of the children at these performances than the "Major," as Mr. Hart is popularly nicknamed. And the children did let the chorus go. The noise was earsplitting. They even momentarily resisted the temptation of dipping into their bags of sweets, oranges, and buns in order to show how well they knew the words of the song, "Give my regards to Leicester-square," which was first charmingly rendered by Miss Alice Williams (Polly Perkins). There was no need for Miss Williams to start the chorus; the kiddies were sufficiently well acquainted with it, and they were quite satisfied that the lady should pirouette up and down the stage while they engaged in a tumultuous demonstration of their vocal abilities.

Wondering eyes gazed upon the handsome white furs and feathers worn by Robinson Crusoe, a part in which Miss Julie Zesch delighted her juvenile critics. They liked her singing, too, and didn't she cut a dashing figure? Well, they wouldn't mind at all being wrecked themselves on a desert island! How they shrieked with merriment as that very frolicsome doggie ran round and round the stage, and indulged in all manner of laughable antics. But it wasn't a real canine after all. It was only Mr. Mark Lupino pretending to be a dog. All the same what a jolly, frisky, humorous mongrel he was!

And it didn't mean that because a man had a black skin he had a black heart. Friday had a darker complexion even than Othello, but the children all voted Friday to be a ripping good sort. Some of them ventured the remark that they would like to see Friday with his skin off, and in the event of such a catastrophe taking place they would certainly find a most agreeable person in Mr. George Lupino. Every time that gentleman appeared he was greeted with repetitions of his own exclamation, "Oh, me, I, me, oh, me, oh!"

The audience were heart and soul with Polly Perkins when she sang in her expressive way, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you." They all agreed that she shouldn't do anything of the kind, and to show that they had the courage of their convictions one and all joined vigorously in the chorus. They evinced a considerable partiality for the Widow Crusoe, though one sportive young gentleman in the pit somewhat let the cat out of the bag when he said to his mate, "Bet yer wot yer likes that's a man." Then to the "Major," who came up to still the storm, he protested, "Hey, Guv'nor, this 'un 'ere"—pointing with a well-licked finger to his mate—"sez as 'ow's the ole girl in the red frock ain't a man. Ain't I right, guv'nor—she ain't a female?" "It's a lady," said the "Major," who, for the moment at least, had greater ideas of pacification than of speaking the truth. "I told yer all along, Sid, that that were a woman"—this from the boy's mate. "Go and play wiv yerself," muttered Sid, "you can believe that bloke if yer like. I knows it ain't a female." And Sid could with safety have laid his shirt upon the veracity of his asseveration, for the very entertaining mother of Robinson was no other than the comical Mr. Howard Templeton.

What did the villainous Will Atkins mean by repeatedly saying to the children "Give my regards to your mother." Was he endeavouring to ingratiate himself into the affections of the mothers through the innocent instrumentality of the offspring? Were these overtures merely a cloak to disguise the innate wickedness of his nature? Anyhow, there was so much to be seen and heard that the youngsters did not trouble to engage in a judicial investigation of the conduct of William. Even if he was a villain, he was a merry one, and they recollected that they themselves were merriest when they were doing what they were told was wrong. So they responded right heartily to Mr. Jo Monkhouse's salutations, and pronounced him a most agreeable person. Dreams of a life on a very adventurous ocean wave and of fights with ferocious pirates were conjured up as Mr. Harold Wagner showed them what a breezy, bold, and light-hearted creature a Bo'sun was. After this, who wouldn't be a sailor?

What an excruciatingly funny harlequinade it was! Yet how righteously indignant did the juvenile spectators become when the butcher's meat had been thrown to the ground and the clown tried to "do" Pantaloon out of his fair share of the spoils. From 2,500 throats came the cry of "Cheat! cheat! cheat!" It sounded like the one unanimous, clamourous, mighty voice, but even underneath the weight and contempt of its judgment the unscrupulous clown continued to defy "public opinion," and went on cheating, giving his partner a few remnants from the lean kine while retaining for himself the better bred and fatter portions. Finally, however, Mr. Clown admitted that he had been acting dishonestly, and promised to reform. Then he got into their favour once more by flinging a "side" of beef at a policeman, and generally disposing of the property of poor Boney, the butcher, with a freedom and generosity which affected the onlookers so strongly that tears were forced to the eyes—with laughter. The children were by this time in a boisterous mood, and very vociferously did they shout their cheers for the gentlemen who had brought them to the theatre. And, gentlemen of the Playgoers' Club, the hurricane of thanks you got, and the sight of so many thousand pale and wan faces flushed and wrinkled with gaiety, and eyes that see not too much of the brighter side of life sparkling with keen anticipation and appreciation—were not these a handsome recompense for the time and the trouble and the money you had expended in preparing this feast of mirth for guests to whom, perhaps, last Saturday's entertainment will be the one redeeming ray of sunshine in a grey and desolate twelve months.

MISS OLIVE MARSTON has made such a success in the pantomime at the Palace, Belfast, that Mr. Warden invited her to take a benefit yesterday (Friday), in conjunction with Miss Empsie Bowman.

MR. MILTON BODE'S pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, which has proved such a success at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, concludes a month's run to-day, after which it will be transferred in its entirety to the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, where good business is also anticipated.

ON THE ROAD, JANUARY 22.

ARE YOU A MASON?—Stockton.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—T. R., Batley.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—Theatre Royal, Rugby.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.—Theatre Royal, Bolton
BENSON, F. R. (B).—Dundalk.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
BESIDE THE BONNIE BRIER BUSH.—St. James's T.
BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH.—T. R., Stratford.
BRAMLEY ESMOND.—H. M. T., Dundee.
BULMER, MR.—Regent Theatre, Salford.
CATCH OF THE SEASON.—Grand Theatre, Southampton.
CHINESE HONEYMOON.—Dudley.
CHRISTIAN (HOWARD).—Mountain Ash.
CHRISTIAN, THE.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
CINGALEE.—Barnsley.
CINGALEE (2).—Bournemouth.
CLAUDIAN.—Opera House, Southport.
COAL KING.—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Royal, Huddersfield.
COTTON SPINNER.—Carlton, Greenwich.
COUNTRY GIRL (MACDONA).—Oswestry.
DANDY DOCTOR.—Paisley T., Paisley.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—New Theatre, Consett.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Stockport.
DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE.—Theatre Royal, Limerick.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Opera House, Torquay.
FAITHFUL FRIEND.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—Bishop Auckland.
FREEDOM OF SUZANNE.—Folkestone.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Woolwich.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
GIRL FROM JAPAN.—O. H., Blackpool.
GIRL FROM KAY'S.—Bath.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Derby.
GO-WON-GO MOHAWK.—T. R., Sunderland.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Pier, Eastbourne.
GRIP OF IRON.—Irving T., Seacombe.
HER ONE GREAT SIN.—T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.
HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH.—Alexander T., Hull.
HER WEDDING DAY.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
HOME, SWEET HOME.—Athenæum, Lancaster.
I DEFY THE WORLD.—T. R., Hyde.
INDIAN MUTINY.—St. James's, Manchester.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Hoddesdon.
LADY MADCAP (DANCE).—Reading.
LADY MADCAP (EDWARDES).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
LA POUPEE (RALLAND).—T. R., Blackburn.
LAUGHTER LAND.—T. R., Coatbridge.
LIFE OF A SHOWMAN.—T. R., Gloucester.
LITTLE BO-PEEP.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
LITTLE BREAD WINNER.—T. R., W. Stanley.
LITTLE MICHUS (DANCE).—Wolverhampton.
LITTLE MICHUS (EDWARDES).—Lyceum, Edinburgh.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Star T., Swansea.
LOST IN PARIS.—Central T., Northwich.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—T. R., Castleford.
MANXMAN.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
MARTIN HARVEY.—Grand T., Middlesboro'.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Rotherham.
MODERN ADVENTURESS.—Metropole T., Hoyland.
MOODY MANNERS (A.).—O. H., Cork.
MOODY MANNERS (B.).—Royalty, Chester.
MR. SMITH.—Gateshead.
MR. SMITH.—Preston.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—T. R., North Shields.
OLIVER TWIST.—Grand T., Woolwich.
ON THE LOVE PATH.—Croydon.
ON THE STROKE OF TWELVE.—New Cen., Motherwell.
ORCHID (2).—Cardiff.
PASSION'S POWER.—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
PEGGY MACHREE.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
PLUCKY NIPPER.—Grand Theatre, Stalybridge.
PRICE OF HER SOUL.—Grand T., Halifax.
PRODIGAL SON.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
PROOF.—Grand Theatre, Newcastle.
REVENGE.—T. R., Bury.
ROMANY'S REVENGE.—Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Corporation T., Chesterfield.
ROYAL REVENGE.—Pavilion, Altrincham.
SAILORS OF THE KING.—King's Theatre, Gateshead.
SAINTS AND SINNERS.—Treherbert and Maesteg.
SEE-SAW OF LIFE.—Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Pavilion, Mile End.
SILVER KING.—West London Theatre.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—G. T., West Hartlepool.
SINS OF A CITY.—Theatre Royal, Edmonton.
SPRING CHICKEN.—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
STILL ALARM.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
SUNDAY.—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
SWISS EXPRESS.—T. R., Ilkeston.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (S.).—Barrow.
THRONE OF TERROR.—Dudley Port.
TOREADOR.—Leith.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—T. R., Smethwick.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—T. R., Hanley.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
VERONIQUE.—Carlisle.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—O. H., St. Helens.
WALLS OF JERICHO.—(N.).—New T., Cambridge.
WALLS OF JERICHO (S.).—Jersey.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—Lyceum, Long Eaton.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Jarrow.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—Queen's Theatre, Keighley.
WILKIE, ALLEN, AND CO.—T. R., Runcorn.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
WRECKER OF MEN.—Pier Pav., Hastings.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—O. H., Coventry.

HOCKEY.

BENSON'S ELEVEN V. LIMERICK COUNTY.

On Tuesday evening, under most inclement atmospheric conditions, and in the presence of a goodly gathering, the Shakespeareans met the unconquered County, when a pretty tough contest was witnessed. During the first half-time the Bensonians had it pretty well their own way, keeping the ball in County territory, but at the opening of the second time sides changed, and the County made it warm for the visitors, the result being a victory for County by 4 goals to 2. Messrs. Wilson, Howlett, Benson, Pittar, Davis, and Buchanan did excellent work for the company's team; whilst Messrs. Cyril, Fogerty, Wallace, McCullough, Ross, Dowd, Spillane, Lynch, Fogerty, Stokes, Gloster, and Roche represented the home team, in an excellent and well-contested game. There was an unusually big sprinkling of the ladies present, and the members of the company were in evidence.

MR. GEO. GROSSMITH, JUN., took the chair at an At Home given by the Concert Artistes Benevolent Association held at the Criterion on Sunday evening last, and in an interesting speech indicated the benefits resulting from membership of the Association and its Benevolent Fund, and also announced his intention of becoming a member. Mr. Grossmith pleaded eloquently on behalf of the fund, and at the subsequent collection nearly £4 in excess of any previous sum was realised.

FRANZ VON SCHONTHAN, the author of so many successful comedies, including a dramatisation of *Little Dorritt*, has just had a new play produced in Vienna, entitled *Three Adventures of an English Detective*, its reception being most enthusiastic. The rumour that the new play is based on one of Conan Doyle's stories is entirely unfounded. The International Copyright Bureau, Limited, which represents the author in this country, is preparing an English version, and the rival to Sherlock Holmes may shortly be seen on the London stage.

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the best form of Cocoa for every-day use.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. REYMOND.—*Herbert Campbell died July 19, 1904, Dan Leno, October 31, 1904.*

S. BURTON.—*"The Silver King" was produced at the Princess's Theatre on November 16, 1882, and first toured a few months later.*

M. J. BARDAY.—*It is against our rule to give the age of members of the profession. We do not know where the lady was born.*

J. E. B.—*You will find all the information you require in "The Era Annual," just published.*

DANSEUSE.—*We do not know of any boarding-school where professional dancing is taught.*

C. G.—*The Britannia Theatre was re-opened as a variety house on December 23, 1905.*

W. JOHNSON.—*(1) The title of the piece which was in course of preparation at the Alhambra, Leicester-square, when that theatre was burnt down in 1882, was* King Comet; or, Love of the Flame and Icicle. *(2) The piece was not, we believe, produced at any other theatre.*

303.—*We are unable to inform you.*

H. M. T.—*"Clockwork" has been used as the title of a one-act piece by Robert Reece, performed at the Lyceum Theatre in February, 1877.*

M. D.—Diamond Deane, *a play in four acts, by H. J. W. Dam, was produced at the Vaudeville Theatre on Mar. 18, 1891, the cast including Miss Dorothy Dorr, Miss Jessie Millward, Messrs. T. Thorne, F. Thorne, and H. B. Conway.*

GOBO.—*(1) Folly Theatre, London, Feb. 23, 1878. (2) The piece was transferred to the Globe Theatre in August, 1878, when Miss Cora Stuart appeared as Germaine and Miss Emma Chambers as Serpolette.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

ANDERSON.—On Jan. 14, at 41, Lavan-street, Liverpool, the wife of Frank Anderson, of a son.
FORBES-ROBERTSON.—On the 12th inst., at 42, Bedford-square, to the wife of Norman Forbes (Robertson), a daughter.
HARROW.—Jan. 5, 1906, wife of Bert. Harrow (comedian), Marion Walker, of a son. Both doing fine.
KEDWARDS.—Elsie Kedwards, wife of Tom Hulme, of a son. Both doing splendid.

DEATHS.

BACON.—Jan. 15, at Langley, Bucks, Elizabeth Bacon (Miss Poole), ballad and operatic vocalist, aged eighty-six.
BELL.—On Jan. 6, at 9, Gosford-street, Belfast, William Bell, the beloved son of Will Bell and Ida Dalton, aged 13 years. "Gone, but not forgotten."
DRACO.—Jan. 19, 1906, at sister's residence, 38, Wilton-street, Stoke, Devonport, Pattie Draco, née Elliott, aged 24 years, the beloved wife of Pan E. Draco; also on the 17th, infant son of above. Into Thy hands, O Lord, into Thy Hands.
HARCOURT.—Jan. 12, at the Central Nursing Home, Glasgow, of cancer, Fred Harcourt, magician and illusionist. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife, family, and relatives.
HARDY.—At No. 3, Addington-road, Margate, Charles Edward Hardy (late manager of the Richmond Theatre and Grand Theatre, Margate), passed peacefully away on Sunday, Jan. 14, 1906, aged 50 years.
MERIVALE.—Jan. 14, at 69, Woodstock-road, Bedford Park, of heart failure, Herman Merivale, playwright and journalist, aged sixty-seven.
READ.—Jan. 16 Theophilus Read, of the "World's Fair," Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, N., at his residence, 74, Palatine-road, Stoke Newington, aged 59.
SCHLESINGER.—On Jan. 13, 1906, suddenly, at 76, Devonshire-road, Aberdeen (the residence of her son-in-law) Florence Augusta, widow of Anton Schlesinger, and dearly beloved mother of Vera Schlesinger.
VERNON.—On Jan. 17, Louie, beloved wife of A. Darville Vernon, Theatre Royal, Peterborough, of pneumonia.

IN MEMORIAM.

LOCKHART.—In ever unfading memory of my dear husband, George Lockhart, died Jan. 24, 1904.
A little longer yet of expectation,
Of patience strong and brave,
And then the wondrous life of revelation,
The life beyond the grave.

STEPHENSON.—In loving memory of Charles Henry Stephenson, Father Tom of the Adelphi, who passed away in his eighty-second year, Jan. 20, 1905. Not forgotten by his friends and fellow churchmen, New Church, Southport, or his loving wife, ELIZA STEPHENSON.

VERNO.—In ever-loving memory of Sydney Verno (late Verno and Voyce), who passed away Jan. 17, 1897. Mourned and affectionately remembered by his only brother, Albert Voyce.

FOR SYMPATHY.

HARCOURT.—The widow of the late Fred Harcourt begs to acknowledge with deep-felt thanks the kindly tokens and expressions of sympathy tendered her by friends on her sad and sudden bereavement. 133, Moss-lane ast, Manchester.

MR. NELSON HARDY, the well-known ventriloquist, with "Joey the Clown," has now been added to the programme at Maskelyne and Devant's mysteries at St. George's Hall, Langham-place, W.

MR. EDITOR, Sir,—In last Saturday's issue your Preston correspondent, in his notice of Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, stated that the production was under the direction of Mr. Forsyth Bruce. I beg to inform you that Mr. Bruce is stage-manager of the company; but the whole production is under the sole direction of yours faithfully, CARTHAGE CALDCLEUGH. Theatre Royal, Hyde, Jan. 15, 1906.

OUR notice of the performance of *Red Riding Hood*, at Ebbw Vale, last week, was incomplete, inasmuch as all reference to Miss Marie Liston, who plays Boy Blue, the principal boy, was omitted. Miss Liston is undoubtedly the success of the pantomime, and is the recipient of numerous encores nightly.

Gerhart Hauptmann's new fairy-play *Und Pippa tanzt* is to be produced at the Lessing, Berlin—for the first time on any stage—on Friday. It is perhaps hardly necessary to observe that every seat in the house is already taken, as well as for the second performance on Saturday, at which the author will probably be present too.

MR. EDWIN TRUEMAN, author of "Poetical Fragments," has dedicated his poem "Only a tramp" to Mr. Charles Carte, who has now played the part of Jerry the tramp in *A Noble Brother* over 2050 times.

The Silver King, with Mr. Austin Melford as Wilfred Denver, established a record for drama under the present management, at the Opera House, Northampton, on Saturday night, money being refused at all parts of the house.

PRESENTATION.—Miss Peggy Fame was presented on Tuesday with a handsome make-up box and silver note-case by Mr. Porter, of the Theatre Royal, Norwich. She also had several other presents from a few of the host of her admirers.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—The Lynches appeared at the Westminster, Liverpool, last week in place of Miss Hilda Corelli, who was mentioned in your last week's report of that hall.—Yours truly, ARTHUR LYNCH.

SORE THROAT OR HOARSENESS

CURED IN A FEW HOURS.

Sir Morell Mackenzie, M.D., the Eminent Throat Specialist, constantly recommended Condy's Remedial Fluid to be used as a Gargle for speedily curing Sore Throat or Hoarseness.

The late Sims Reeves, the world-famed Tenor Vocalist, wrote:—"Condy" used as a Gargle clears the voice and braces up the uvula."

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"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Aldred, Mr. C.
Alexander, Miss M.
Alexandra, Miss A.
André, Mr. Victor
Anson, Mr. G. W.
Anson, Miss L.
Arthurs, Mr. E.
Austin, Miss Louie
Bailey, Mr. J. W.
Balcombe, Mr. H. A.
Baroni, Mr.
Barret, Mr. J. S.
Barrie, Mr. Gus
Bayliss, Mr. W. J.
Bedford, Mr. Harry
Boise, Mr. Harry
Bon Bon, Mr. Harry
Bradshaw, Miss D.
Branscombe, Mr. Arthur
Breton, Mr. A
Brightwell, Mr. E.
Broton, Mr. Fritz
Brough, Miss F.
Browne, Mr. Grahame
Burney, Miss E.
Caisdall, Mr. A.
Campbell, Miss Dora
Cardona, Mr. Wm.
Casson, Mr. Frank
Castle, Mr. C.
Cawthorn, Mr. Alf.
Chiverrell, Mr. F.
Cody, Mr. D.
Collins & Hart
Comstock, Mr. M.
Conningham, Mr. Fred
Coopers, The
Cordwell, Mr. Levey
Creighton, Miss M.
Cronow, Mr. John
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
Dale and O'Mally
Dalmour, Miss S.
Danby, Mr. Gus
Daniells, Mr. Gus
Davidson, Mr. Wm.
Davies, Mr. Geo.
Davis, Mr. A.
Deas, Mr. Harry
De Bessell, Mr.
De Laporte, Miss Nana
Denman, Mr. Royston
Devereux, Capt.
Digby, Miss Alice
Dodsworth, Mr. Chas.
Dudley, Miss Lydia
Dykes, Mr. R. M.
Dyson, Mr. Joshua
Edwards, Mr. H. Collier
Elkin, Mr. Bernard
Ellicott, Miss V.
Ellis, Mr. T.
Ely, Sisters
Emmy, Madame
Evans, Mr. F.
Evans, Mr. R.
Fentross, Mr Burt
Fisher, Mr. Chas.
Flexmore, Miss M.
Florence, Mdlle.
Foldi, Miss F.
Fontaine, Mr. Victor
Forrest, Mr. H. W.
Foy, Mr. Fred
Fysher, Mr. Edwin
Geoffreys, Mr. T.
George, Mr. Greek
Godwin, Mr. Will
Goldin, Mr. Horace
Gordon, Miss C.
Grant and Grant
Gratton, Miss D.
Gray, Miss Winifred
Gregsons, The
Grimshaw, Mrs. L.
Grovini, Mr. James
Haldon, Lady
Hallam, Mr. Fred
Hamilton, Mr. Sydney
Harcourte, Miss M.
Harris, Miss D.
Hazlewood, Mr. G. J.
Hearn, Mr. J.
Hebden, Mr. Will
Helen and Emilon
Herman, Dr. Carl
Hobson, Miss Maud
Hopley, Mr. E.
Horford, Mr. W.
Howard, Miss May
Howard, Miss P.
Howard, Dr. Paul
Howard, Mr. Thomas
Howes, Miss Millie
Ipswich, Mr. Francis
Jacquinot, Mr. Claude
Jarrough, Mr. Dan
Jolly, Mr. Laffan B.
Joly, Mr. E.
Kayser, Mr. Fred
Kendal, Mrs.
Kingsley, Miss B.
Kondo, Mr. T.
Kramer, Mr. Paul
Lavater, Mr. Louis
Leader, Mr. Harry
Le Gay Quartette
Leonard, Miss Flora
Leonard, Mr. Bob
Lewis, Miss Isabella
Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
Leyseno, Mr. Barry
Loates, Mr. Carr
Lovering, Mr. Harry
Mackay, Mr. J. W.
Mannings, Mr.
Marian, Sisters
Marlow, Mr. W. F.
Martin, Miss Sylvia
Martine, Miss Ada
Maye, Miss Jennie
Medway, Miss Constance
Mercer, Mr. B.
Mervale, Miss Lindsay
Milner, Mr. C.
Milton, Miss Maud
Moneata, Mr. H.
Montefiore, Mr. Ernest
Montgomery, Mr. John
Moore, Mr. W. T.
Mortenette, Mr. and Mrs
Moxon Family
McQueen, Sisters
Nat & Doris
Nelson, Mr. Frank
Norman, Mr. N. V.
Norton, Mr. Chas.
Olgar, Mdm. Frances
O'Neill, Mr. Ed.
Osborne, Mr. W.
Paulis, Mr. Edmond
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Picquay, Mrs. G.
Pleasants, Mr. Jack
Powell & Connor, Messrs.
Power, Miss Eugenie
Prince, Mr. Arthur
Probin, Mr. Will
Ramier, Mr. Ed.
Reco, Mr. E.
Richardson, Mr. J. F.
Richmond, Mr. Arthur
Ringham, Mr. Mark
Rizarelli, Signor
Ross and Lewis, Messrs.
Royle, Miss Vera
Rudd, Mr. Arthur
Ruthman, Mr. E. A.
Sargent, Mr Jack
Scott, Mr. M. D.
Shaw, Mr. Allan
Shaller, Mr. Arthur
Sheridan, Mr. R. B.
Shine, Mr. J. L.
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Siegenberg, Miss Lottie
Simpson, Mr. Herbert
Sivronis, Mr.
Stafford, Mr. Eugene
St. Alban, Mr. E.
Starr, Mr. Harry
Sumner, Mr. W. J.
Swan and Stanley
Sydmon, Mr. N.
Taylor, Capt. Joe
Teague, Mr. Harry
Telford, Mr. Will
Temple, Mr. Fred
Terry, Mr. Herbert
Theodora, Miss Stella
Thomas, Mrs. Ronald
Thorburn, Mrs. Chas.
Tinglass, Mr. Thomas
Todd, Mr. Garratt
Towle, Mr. Edward
Trevoir, Miss F.
Trueman, Mr. A. E.
Valmore, Miss Jennie
Van Allen, Mrs. Will
Vane, Miss Edith
Vaughan, Mr. Wilfred
Veevers Miss G.
Vernon, Miss Jessie
Vetter, Mr. Oscar
Victoria, Miss Kate
Victor, Mr. G.
Volbecque, Sisters
Volpe, Mr. Fred
Von-etta, Mdlle.
Wallace, Miss Nellie
Walls, Mr. Tom
Walpole, Mr. E.
Wardroper, Mr. Harold
"Wee Mona"
Wheatcroft, Mr. Frank
Wheeler, Miss Lilian
Whitaker, Mr. E.
Wilson, Mr. C.
Wilton, Mr. G. W.
Willett, Miss M.
"Winona"
Woodville, Mr. R.
Zanella, Mr. Chas.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS v. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs on Dec. 23. Messrs. Ern. Belding, Jack Aubrey, Harry Edwards, and Joe Lacey (two) scored the goals for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

BRISTOL X.L.C.R.—H. Belding, goal; J. Lewis and A. Hamlin (captain), backs; A. E. Bailey, F. Stevens, and W. Miller, half-backs; E. Belding, E. Bowman, J. Aubrey, H. Edwards, and E. Palmer, forwards.

MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; J. Tyley and F. Arni, backs; T. Neagle (captain), J. Lacey, and W. Hinder, half-backs; F. Hansford, R. Cullen, P. Reardon, H. C. Douglas, and W. Meadows, forwards.

Referee, M. Clarke (St. Michael's Reserves A.F.C.); linesmen, H. Hare and P. Hewlett.

Result:—
Bristol X.L.C.R. ..... Three goals.
Music Halls ..... Two goals.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for THE ERA by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters:—

PATENT ILLUSTRATED (18590).—Living pictures; advertising; displaying. Patentee, F. Boggis (known as De Dio), 18, Adam-street, Strand, W.C. A large frame, representing a picture-postcard album, for displaying living pictures in theatres, or for advertising or displaying goods, has a front cover hinged to the back. The back is open, and has a frame with two-grooved rods, on which an imitation of a large picture-postcard, forming a background, slides. The front cover may be opened by any means, such as by the lever worked by the handle, thereby exposing the "leaf," in which is an opening carrying a board or screen, on which may be projected by a lantern the title of the picture to be exhibited. Living persons enter the box-like enclosure, and, when they are inside, the postcard bearing pictures or other scenery is slid into position. The front cover is then opened, and the picture is displayed. The pictures are changed while the front cover is closed. Instead of the leaf with its screen, a screen working on springs or other rollers may be provided, which is raised out of sight while the picture is being displayed. The cover may be held in position when closed by the spring.

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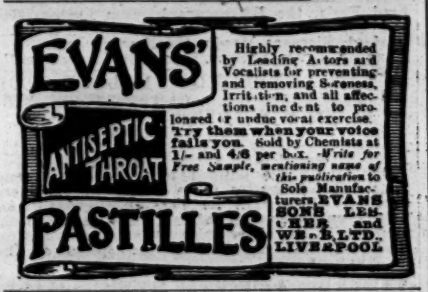

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H. BEERBOHM TREE, Esq., in the Chair.
The attendance of subscribers is requested, and all those interested in the work of the Fund are invited to be present.
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5, ROBERT-STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.
COMMITTEE MEETING, at OFFICES, 8 p.m.
MONDAY NEXT, JAN. 22, 1906.
H. LAWRENCE HARRIS,
Honorary Secretary.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1906.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AMUSEMENT.

The tendency amongst the unthinking is to regard amusement as one of the "extras" of life, a mere frill on the garment of existence, and a thing of no national importance whatever. The great amusement of the English middle-class is making money; and it is followed and enjoyed with an intensity that throws all artistic attractions into the shade. There is no greater mistake than to suppose that avarice is the motive-power of most money-makers. They are artists in spirit; and what entrances them is the game, not the stakes. Art proper, therefore, becomes merely a handmaiden to the ruling passion, which satisfies all the needs of desire and imagination.

Everything, however, comes from the soil; and one of the many grave problems of the great European nations is the preservation of an agricultural class. In Germany the "Bauers," in France the peasant proprietors, answer to this description; in England the migration from the country to the towns is a commonplace of patriotic lament.

Some years since, Mr. ANDERSON GRAHAM went practically into the matter, and explained the causes of the tendency in his book "The Rural Exodus." The sum of his solution is the single word Dullness. The agricultural labourer, it appears, has lost all the old-fashioned fun of his life, and has nothing to put in its place. The fiddling, the dancing, the badger-drawing, the rat-killing, the cock-fighting, the quaint customs, the "moth-erings" and the "mummings" have died out, and all the zest of village life has died out with them. School Board education has substituted book-learning for observation of natural history and simple botany; and the fact that railways have brought the town and country into touch has made the rustic quite conscious of the slow, sordid monotony of his existence. Despite the establishment of Parish Councils, the village has little or no corporate spirit—everything is done for it at some urban centre; and the life of the rustic is like the "empty house swept and garnished" of Scripture. Is it matter for surprise that, whenever he can, he decides to get out of it?

It is useless and absurd to expect Hodge to go to his amusement. He can spare neither the time nor the money. His diversion has to be taken to him; and the only apostles who visit the rural districts are the once-despised, now-prosperous and important class of showmen. We must look at the enjoyments they offer from the point of view of the class to whom they are supplied. It is useless to preach "over the heads" of a congregation, or to expect great refinement of taste in people who live the hardest and roughest of lives, and in whom a certain insensibility is necessary for them to exist at all in a state of sanity. The showmen have always managed to discover what the common people wanted. We remember being at the Alexandra Palace when contingents from all the English troops were camping in the grounds. Seated on the horses of the roundabouts were samples of all the finest soldiery in the world—tight-uniformed Hussars, broad-hatted Australians and Canadians—all were supremely happy on their wooden steeds. Looking on stood a magnificent specimen of a native Indian soldier, tall, dark, nobly handsome, richly ornamented, turbanned vastly and voluminously. He seemed to be regarding the amusements of the Anglo-Saxons with placid scorn. The roundabout stopped, and several of the riders dismounted. Instantly a smile came over the superb features of the Indian onlooker. He promptly tucked in his loose lower garments, quickly seized on one of the vacant saddles, and in a few moments was whirling round with the rest. And, after all, are not the instincts of the people right and true? The riding instinct and the shooting instinct, the roundabout and the "gallery"—if half the trouble were taken by the State to develop these two desires from far-sighted patriotism that the showmen take from plain self-interest to gratify them we should not have our national defence in the state in which it is—according to so good an authority as Lord ROBERTS.

"People," as Mr. SLEARY told Mr. GRADGRIND, "must be amused; they can't always be working"; and quietly but steadily the show business in England has developed into a vast interest, in which thousands of pounds are invested. It enlists in its service not only capital, but science. The wonderful invention of the Cinematograph has enabled showmen to carry into the dullest and most distant districts films which, better than any description, inform the mind of the beholder in very various ways. No set of engravings, no printed account, can bring the actual details of manufacture, of natural history, of varied adventure, and of foreign life and scenery to the understanding like one of these instruments. Carried on with wonderful enterprise and energy, the production of these films is one of the most striking features of our modern civilisation; and the adoption of them by showmen proves how ready as a class they are to adapt themselves to up-to-date conditions. If anything can tempt Hodge to remain on the land, it will be the realisation that his life must be made less dull, that he must have more amusement. Unfortunately, the very people who deny this are those who do not work very hard, if they work at all, or whose lives are spent in some kind of pleasant frivolity. But those who have lived in a village in the wet winter months know "where the shoe pinches"; and it is in these times, when even the showmen's vans are not seen on the green, that the "rural exodus" from the villages to the towns is resolved upon.

THE dreamy Silvius, in the St. James's Theatre production of *As you Like It*, is played by Mr. Henry Worrall, much of whose short experience of the stage has been in Shakespearian parts. Born and educated in Manchester, until three years ago he was a prominent member of Mr. Ryder Boys's Old English Comedy Company, playing for charities as an amateur, but firmly determined to become a professional. Mr. Courtnedge's revival of *As You Like It* gave him the hoped-for opportunity, and soon afterwards he obtained an engagement to play juvenile parts in Mr. Oswald's Brand's tour of Dickens's plays. A sunny season of pastorals—in *As You Like It* again—should not be forgotten in mentioning Mr. Worrall's pleasant experiences up to date.

MISS CARLOTTA ZERBINI is one of those actresses whose long experience of the stage has not spoilt her freshness in playing herself or her interest in watching other people act. A member of a famous musical family—her brother, the late Mr. J. B. Zerbini, was well known as viola and pianist in the great days of "the Pops" at St. James's Hall—she has appeared in every style of theatrical production from grand opera to burlesque, from screaming farce to intensely serious drama. In the old days when she was a charming Pantomime hero, Miss Zerbini met with the most exciting experience of her career behind the footlights. She was playing Sinbad, and in the scene where the eagle descends from the sky, holding Sinbad in its claws, the men in the flies did not manage the ropes properly, and the eagle made a fierce swoop to earth, nearly smashing Tinbad, the comedien, who was also clinging to its claws, and literally taking away the breath of the audience—to say nothing of Sinbad.

MISS ZERBINI tells another good little story of being "left." She was playing Francis Osbaldistone in *Rob Roy*, one of her most effective exits being at the end of a touching farewell duet with Diana Vernon. One night, to her great surprise, she found herself warbling alone, "Though I leave thee now in sorrow," and discovered that Diana had indeed left her, having suddenly forgotten the words and fled in dismay. Miss Zerbini, however, was not nonplussed, for she finished the duet as a solo, and could easily have taken an encore. This most reliable and versatile of actresses was last seen in London in *That Brute Simmons*. She had the pleasure, by the way, of speaking the first words in the new Haymarket Theatre, when Mr. Harrison and Mr. Maude opened the season with that capital little piece.

THE trial of the six men charged with conspiring to print and sell copyright music has been continued throughout the week at the Central Criminal Court. The case for the prosecution was closed on Thursday, when counsel were heard in behalf of several of the prisoners. On Friday the prisoners were found guilty on all counts. Willetts was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, and a bad record drew some scathing remarks from the Judge. Tennant was sentenced to two months; Puddifoot to one month; Ross was fined £50; and the two other prisoners were let off on promises of good conduct, or if repeating any offence to forfeit £50 each, and to receive sentences in addition. The various counsel for the prisoners made strong appeals for their clients, and in the case of Ross, it was stated his father was so ill that death would be probable if the son were sentenced. The admirable and severe speech of the Judge was all on the point of protecting creative work.

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"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

Drama, in Five Acts, by W. G. Wills, revived at the Scala Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 13.

Napoleon ..... MR. FRANK LISTER
Talleyrand ..... MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL
Marquis de Beaumont ..... MR. GEO. W. COCKBURN
General Augereau ..... MR. NORMAN PARTRIEGE
Marshal Murat ..... MR. MAURICE H. HOFFMANN
Marshal Ney ..... MR. FRANK MELVILLE
Dr. Corvisart ..... MR. FREDERICK POWELL
Grimaud ..... MR. T. P. HAYNES
Brigadier Antoine ..... MR. EDWARD LANGFORD
Brigadier Pierre ..... MR. LORTON ORME
Lord Keith ..... MR. PERCY H. VERNON
Bob Royal ..... MR. WARBURTON GAMBLE
Officer ..... MR. JOHN HARFORD
Servant ..... MR. C. WATT
Marie Louise ..... MRS. CECIL RALEIGH
Stephanie de Beauharnais ..... MISS MARY JERROLD
Blanche d'Hervas ..... MISS IRMA FOLDI
Angelique de Varennes ..... MISS MAUD ABBOTT
The Little King of Rome ..... MASTER H. HOLLOM
Jeanne la Terreure ..... MISS EDITH WILSDEN
Gouvernante of the King of Rome / Mother Lomas ..... MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND
Empress Josephine ..... MISS EDITH COLE

When a dramatist has to choose between satisfying the learned and pleasing the ignorant, he will, if he be wise, undoubtedly take the latter course. Had Mr. W. G. Wills, the author of *A Royal Divorce*, which Mr. W. W. Kelly revived at the Scala Theatre on Saturday evening, allowed himself to be trammelled by history, he would certainly not have written a play whose popularity has been proved by a long and successful career in the provinces. And what would have been the use of casting and contriving the cast so as to give "counterfeit presentments" of the members of Napoleon's Court? Not one in a hundred in an English audience knows that Ney was a common-looking man with a *retroussé* nose and reddish hair, that Talleyrand looked like a serene light-comedian, that Josephine was a rather shallow Creole, and that Marie Louise was a placid and commonplace German blonde. Plays are written to attract the public, and not to please such pedants as those who object to Josephine's presence at the Battle of Waterloo years after her historical death. Mr. Wills made an affecting and an effective drama; and Mr. W. W. Kelly has cast and mounted it in thoroughly good style. Since the production of the piece at the Olympic in 1891, the last act has been re-written by George Gervaise Collingham; so that now we have Napoleon brought on shore at Portsmouth to receive the ultimatum of the Allies as to his imprisonment in St. Helena, and to take a last leave of Josephine before sailing for the island prison. The part of the unhappy Empress is played by Miss Edith Cole in a whole-souled, earnest, emotional way that enlists sympathy for Josephine in every act. Nor is the note of pathos the only one which is struck. Miss Cole, in Josephine's passage of arms with Marie Louise, and in her speech to the people in the third act, employs admirable fire and fervour, and bears herself powerfully and proudly. She handles the part with all the ease and confidence of an experienced actress. A really charming exposition of the rôle of Stephanie de Beauharnais is supplied by Miss Mary Jerrold, who is bright, piquant, and animated, and delightfully arch and amusing. How the thorough training of an actress of the old school tells is shown by Miss Dolores Drummond's performance of the little rôle of the Gouvernante, and by her broadly picturesque interpretation of that of Mother Lomas. Mrs. Cecil Raleigh gives a superb embodiment of Marie Louise, taking up the author's idea of the personage most loyally, and carrying it out very cleverly. She looks particularly pretty in the Empire costume of the Malmaison scene, and makes Marie Louise as hard, scornful, proud, and unfeeling as the necessity of the drama demands. The part could hardly be better played. Mr. Frank Lister deserves our gratitude for not caricaturing Napoleon, and for the realistic moderation of his method. Mr. Lister gives what is quite imaginably a reproduction of the actual man. It is a most artistic and well-considered reading. Mr. F. Joynsen-Powell is excellent in every way as Mr. Wills's Talleyrand—courtly, sententious, and severe; and Mr. George W. Cockburn's strong and tragic acting as the Marquis de Beaumont deserves warm commendation, his work in the Waterloo act being deeply dramatic. Mr. Norman Partriege is soldierly and spirited as Augereau; and Mr. Maurice H. Hoffmann is an entirely satisfactory Murat. Mr. Frederick Powell is careful and considerate as Corvisart; and the low-comedy character of Grimaud is liberally supplied with broad drollery by Mr. T. P Haynes. Mr. Percy H. Vernon looks truly magnificent as Lord Keith, and is, besides, appropriately firm and dignified; and Mr. Warburton Gamble does good work as Bob Royal. A pretty performance of the part of Blanche d'Hervas is supplied by Miss Irma Foldi; and Miss Maud Abbott is acceptable as Angelique de Varennes, Master Herbert Hollom showing intelligence as the Little King of Rome. The minor parts have competent representatives and Mr. W. T. Hemsley's scenery and Mr. Charles Pell's battle tableau are in the best style of the art. The piece is mounted and dressed in a most liberal manner, and evident pains have been taken to make the revival of *A Royal Divorce* at the Scala a success.

THE foundations of Miss Theresa Osborne's success as a heroine of melodrama were laid in the good school of Shakespearan companies. A favourite pupil of the late Miss Amy Sedgwick, she commenced to act at about Juliet's age—when, according to unwritten laws of the stage, she played Lady Capulet—studying and touring with such excellent managers as Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and Mr. Edmund Tearle. Miss Osborne married into a well-known theatrical family, her husband being Mr. Sydney Compton, one of the youngest brothers of the house. He has been playing Brasset in *Charley's Aunt* for the last 14 months. Miss Osborne's most recent engagement was in a highly successful tour of *Alone in London*.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR'S four suburban Pantomimes are still going very merrily and playing to excellent business, the advance booking for the Coronet *Cinderella* being such that it has been decided to extend the run. *Dick Whittington*, at Kennington, *The Babes in the Wood*, at Camden Town, and *Red Riding Hood*, at Fulham, are playing to crowded houses, but Mr. Arthur is reluctantly compelled to withdraw the last-named on Saturday in consequence of arrangements made last autumn with Mr. Martin Harvey to appear there during the week of January 29 in *The Only Way* and other pieces from his repertoire.

"THE ERA" can be obtained of SAY, of SMITH and SONS' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MISS MARIE LLOYD has sent a cheque for 100 guineas as a donation to the George Le Brunn Fund. We have not been permitted to publish the amount until to-day, because the kind-hearted little woman desired that her generosity should in no way act as a possible deterrent to other professional ladies and gentlemen who might have felt that the sums they were disposed to give would be overshadowed by this special tribute of the loyal-hearted comedienne to the dead friend whose genius did so much for her artistic fame.

THEATRICAL and music-hall artistes will combine in the splendid effort that is being made to ensure the welfare of George Le Brunn's widow, and among those who will positively appear at the matinée given at the Oxford on Monday next, will be Marie Lloyd, Vesta Tilley, Kate Cutler, Adrienne Augarde, Little Tich, Eugene Stratton, Marion Winchester, Arthur Roberts, Joe Elvin, Alec Hurley, Will Evans, Vesta Victoria, Louis Bradfield, and a host of other stars.

MUCH of the sparking music in Mr. Albert Gilmer's present magnificent programme was composed by the late George Le Brunn, Miss Amy Clevere's songs, and the music of both Mr. Elvin's and Mr. Alec Hurley's fine sketches. That of the latter, for charm, variety, and haunting melodies, puts the score of many an ambitious musical play utterly in the shade.

THE Holborn Empire, standing on the site of the old Royal, with its new and beautiful interior, will open its doors to the public on Monday, Jan. 29. The seating accommodation of what is, practically speaking, a new variety theatre is much increased, and with the opening up of the new and widened thoroughfares to Holborn, the greater facilities of communication, and the establishment of a theatre centre in the immediate neighbourhood, there is every prospect of a prosperous career for this latest addition to the Empires of the Metropolis. Mr. Walter Gibbons will run the establishment on the two-houses-a-night plan, at prices that will be within the means of the toiling masses. The seat tariff will range from 1s. 6d. in the fauteuils to 4d. in the balcony; and an excellent pit-stall may be obtained for 6d.

THE opening entertainment will have as one of its chief attractions a nonsensical romantic absurdity, entitled *A Trip to the Isle of Man*. All seats except those in the balcony may be booked in advance at a charge of 3d. extra. The Holborn Empire will be run in conjunction with the other houses controlled by Mr. Walter Gibbons, viz., the Islington Empire, the Ealing Empire Palace, the Duchess Palace, Balham, and the Grand, Clapham Junction.

MR. JOHN LAWSON has determined upon a trial of Mr. Cecil Raleigh's sketch *The King's Minister* at the Hounslow Varieties on Feb. 12. The plot of the piece, which deals in a striking manner with the alien question, and will be found to be very absorbing, has been worked out by Mr. Raleigh with the dramatic skill for which he is renowned. The characters are drawn from the highest circles of society, the moving spirit being no less a personage than a Prime Minister of England, and Mr. Lawson is devoting all his energies to the mounting, which will necessarily be very elaborate. Mr. Lawson, it may be noted, gave a matinée at Hounslow on Thursday for the relief of the unemployed.

MOST of the halls and variety theatres made arrangements whereby audiences could learn the latest results of the elections each evening by means of the Bioscope. In some cases the figures were read quietly and with a resignation and calmness that betrayed an audience largely composed of Unionists; in others party feeling broke out, and applause and "boos" were freely mixed. Fortunately we have had no political songs at the halls. For this relief much thanks. The twentieth-century artist scorns apparently to obtain cheap applause by *ad captandum* appeals to party passion; and the depressing practice of setting an audience by the ears has died a natural death.

UNANNOUNCED on the bills, and nameless to the audience, Coram, the new ventriloquist who made his first appearance in London at the Lyceum on Monday, established his right to be considered a performer of considerable ability. His technique is perfect; the dialogue of his show is humorous; and the working of the figure excellent. The singing of "Lucky Jim" is also decidedly droll, the final flood of "tears" evoking loud laughter. The polyphonist subordinates himself to the dummy, and the figure soundly "rates" its manipulator. Coram's success has been so pronounced that he is retained by Mrs. Barrasford on the Lyceum bill for next week, when he will occupy a premier position on the programme.

CORAM is the son of a well-known Halifax cotton commissioner, and was intended for the veterinary profession. Witnessing a ventriloquial entertainment in the town, he was fired with the ambition to learn the art. Without tuition of any kind, he commenced to practise, and within six weeks he appeared at local concerts with imitations of voices. Since that time he has taken occasional provincial engagements with a view to obtaining perfection in polyphony. Coram is now only 23 years of age, and possesses an extraordinary voice power, which is attributed by medical men who have made examinations to an abnormally high roof of the mouth.

MR. H. H. WELLS, a well-known director of the Syndicate Halls, who was a candidate in the Unionist interest for St. George's-in-the-East, was unfortunately defeated by Mr. Benn, the Labour candidate, by a majority of 621. Mr. Wells polled 1664 votes. Many music-hall managers and artists took a great interest in the contest, and Mr. Charles Beecham, of the Paragon, and Mr. Fred Miller, of the Canterbury, worked excessively hard. Mr. Alec Hurley brought up voters in a red motor-car; and quite an interesting appearance was made by a theatrical state coach belonging to Mr. Fred Karno's company, which also carried Mr. Wells's supporters to the polling places. Carriages, motors, and other conveyances were also lent by Mr. Will Evans, Arthur Roberts, Harry Ford, and Miss Victoria Monks.

AT the last meeting of the M.H.A.R.A. the following resolution was passed:—"That a conference be called at the offices of the M.H.A.R.A. on Sunday January 28, at half-past two o'clock, to consider the question of forming a music-hall artists' association, and that the following bodies be asked to send six representatives to the conference, viz.: The International Artists' Lodge, the Terriers' Association, the Order of the Water Rats, and the M.H.A.R.A." The chosen representatives of the last-mentioned Association are Messrs. Harry Blake, Reinart, Foreman (Foreman and Fannan), George Gray, Frank Gerald, and Fred Herbert.

MR. GEORGE COURTNEY (brother of Miss Maud Courtney) received at the East India Dock on Friday the remains of their brother, who died quite suddenly at Johannesburg on November 9. The interment takes place at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green, in a vault adjoining the chapel. Miss Maud Courtney will close her engagement at the Tivoli, Cape Town, on January 31, arriving in London February 17. She had the sad experience of losing her brother on the day following her début at the Empire, Johannesburg.

MISS MILDRED DE GREY, who dances in her bare feet, is to appear at the Tivoli on Monday. This lady, hailing from America, has just returned from St. Petersburg and Berlin. In the former capital, on her journey to the station, she was under fire for several minutes. At last she fell into the hands of the revolutionists, from whom she was rescued by a troop of Cossacks led by a young officer, not without being severely bruised and shaken. Miss De Grey is a very charming and pretty woman, and her performance à la Trilby should be a fascinating novelty.

SONG-WRITERS have lost a staunch champion by the defeat of Mr. W. J. Galloway, who went down on Saturday in the South-West Division of Manchester, before the wave of Liberalism which has swept over the British Isles. Mr. Galloway, it will be remembered, had charge of the Musical Copyright Bill in the late Parliament, and but for the obstinate opposition of Mr. James Caldwell would have carried the measure through. Mr. Caldwell's fate still remains in the balance, but should he be returned for Mid-Lanark, and become one of the party in power, it may not be presumptuous to hope that his antagonism towards that section of the community who contribute so valuably to the pleasure of the nation will cease.

MR. EDWIN LESLIE, of the Hippodrome, Southampton, has been appointed acting-manager of the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Belfast, which theatre, as stated in our columns of last week, has been leased from Messrs. Warden for a term by a syndicate headed by Mr. Walter De Frece.

MR. LESLIE was entertained at Scullard's Hotel, Southampton, on Wednesday night, Jan. 10, and presented with a very handsome gold-mounted cigar-holder, in silver case, inscribed "E. L."—Mr. Leslie's initials—from a few friends and well-wishers of Southampton. Mr. Sydney Paxton (manager of the Grand Theatre) presided over the gathering with characteristic geniality, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. W. Trussell, manager of the Palace. Mr. Percy Aldin, who has been connected with the Southampton Hippodrome since the opening, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Leslie. The choice is an admirable one.

THE management of the Hastings Hippodrome has been summoned for infringements of the Stage Plays Act. Six occasions were cited by Mr. C. F. Baker, the Chief Constable, beginning with the production, on December 21 last, of Mr. Dan Thomas's pantomime *Aladdin*, and followed by *Robinson Crusoe* a fortnight later. Mr. Harry Day admitted the character of the pieces, but submitted to the Hastings Bench that no proceedings had been before taken in the provinces in respect of the production of sketches, &c. Mr. Benjamin Pearce Lucas, to whom the licence of the Hippodrome was transferred last July, was fined £2 in each case for the first performances and 5s. for each subsequent performance, with costs.

ON Saturday last the Hastings Hippodrome was the scene of a panic at a special matinée performance for children. A cry of fire was raised in the gallery before the performance began, and the crowd of children already there met those ascending on the stairs, and the result was that four children were conveyed to the local hospital suffering from internal injury.

MR. PERCIVAL CRAIG, the manager of the Bradford Empire, noticing the prominent references to the "Empire" in the Election speeches and advertisements of both parties, obtained some slips with the words "Vote for," and had them posted on the tops or sides of the theatre's ordinary posters, so that they read, "Vote for the Empire to-night at 6.50 and 9," thus obtaining a novel advertisement, and one that caused a good deal of comment in the town. It was an amusing incident that really suggested the idea. Two Bradford men, strangers, were arguing as to whether "C.-B." or Chamberlain would "wreck the Empire," and asked the opinion of Mr. Craig, who was standing by, and he replied that, "seeing he was manager of the 'Empire,' he hoped neither nor would they, if he could help it."

MR. F. V. ST. CLAIR is making a pronounced success with his election songs on the Moss and Stoll tour. The candidates in several towns have sent him letters, and at Cardiff he was complimented by the Lord Mayor. At Newport, after the first house on Monday evening, he received a letter thanking him for his eulogy of Councillor Winstone, who is running in the Labour interest in that town.

WISPER, the comedy tourist juggler, has been laid up for the last eight weeks through an attack of typhoid fever. He has had the good fortune to be under the skilful treatment of the medical staff of the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, and has now completely recovered. After a short rest he will resume his professional engagements on January 29.

MR. FRED REYNOLDS, the son of Mr. Charles Reynolds, proprietor of the famous waxworks in Lime-street, Liverpool, who is studying music in Berlin, has written a charming waltz, "Le Desir," which has been played nightly with great success at the Empire, Liverpool.

MENDEL, the blind pianist, who is on a provincial tour of twenty-four weeks, has received many letters expressing admiration at his wonderful technique and memory, his extraordinary gift of improvisation, and his clever reproduction of the various styles of the masters of music. At one hall in the North a 2s. piece was thrown upon the stage, with the remark that it was from a poor woman, and the following evening a gentleman stood up in the stalls to testify that the piece Mendel had just played was the finest that had ever been heard on the variety stage.

A Deserted Hero was produced at the Leicester Palace Theatre, on Thursday, the 11th inst.; by Mr. Henry W. Hatchman and Miss Trissie Humphreys, and met with immediate success.

FRANK SHERLOCK and Jean Van Dalle, who are making a big hit in the provinces with their Eastern musical fantasy, *The Mummy and the Undergrad.*, have been booked for the Barrasford tour through Mr. John Halpin.

MISS RUBY BIJOU, a versatile artist and an expert in the art of dancing, has been scoring at the Tivoli, Manchester, where she is booked until 1910. She has also been secured for all Walter and Jack de Frece's enterprises.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON is this week at the Metropolitan, singing two new songs, entitled *The Hoodo Landlord* and "Things I'd like to know." Both songs are written and composed by J. F. Lambe and Tom Mellor, and have met with instantaneous success.

MR. SOMERS-BELLAMY writes:—"In reply to many inquiries, it is Miss Margery Lawrence who does the Japanese dance with Miss Madge Haines at the Shakespeare, Clapham."

MR. GEORGE DESMONTI, who together with his partner Mora is appearing with marked success this week at the Empress, Brixton, has become an active member of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund, of which society W. J. Wainratta, a well-known wire-walker in his day, is vice-president.

MISS MARIE LOFTUS, who has not been to Oldham for six years, has been gratified this week by her wonderful receptions nightly. It is quite certain that "Owdham" has not forgotten the fascinating "Glesca" lassie.

MISS LILY BURNAND, after a most successful engagement at the Oxford and other halls, is leaving town for a fortnight, after which she returns to open again at the West End. She has secured from Von Tilzer & Co. the sole music-hall rights of "On the banks of the Rhine" with a 'stein'" and "Sunny, sunny side." She also has in preparation some elegant new costumes.

THE Miles Stavordale Quintette (the original act) sailed for Australia on Friday by the P. and O. liner Mooltan for a long tour in the Antipodes, under Mr. Harry Rickards's management. The cornstalks are keen lovers of music, and will be sure to appreciate the playing of this most artistic combination, who, we feel sure, will repeat the success that is always theirs in the old country.

AT the Palace Theatre Miss Elsie Bernard, one of America's foremost burlesque actresses, will produce in the near future a musical burletta entitled *The Gibson Widow*, and she has commissioned Messrs. John P. Harrington and James W. Tate to supply her with special songs for the same.

MISS DAISY JEROME, the charming representative of the Dutch girl "Gretchen" in Mr. John Hart's pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, is, we regret to say, confined to her bed with a severe cold. Her place has been taken at very short notice by Miss Florrie Walker, who has scored a signal success in the part.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES has shown his liberal-mindedness by a concession of a very rare nature in theatrical management. In order to enable Mr. Alfred Butt to put on *Hero and Heroine* at the Palace Theatre, the little play which was produced three weeks ago by the Pioneers' Society, he has agreed to allow Miss Kate Cutler to appear at the Palace every night—with Mr. Arthur Playfair—in the course of a rather long wait that she has in *The Spring Chicken*. The piece will be produced at the Palace next Monday.

OUR readers will regret to hear that Miss Florence Harcourt, until recently a member of Mr. Joe Elvin's sketch company, has had to resign her engagement with Mr. W. W. Kelly's *Royal Divorce* company in order to undergo a serious operation. It will be some time before Miss Harcourt will be able to resume work.

MR. J. W. CRAGG, of the Marvellous Craggs, on Sunday morning had rather a startling experience. He was standing at the window of his apartments in Glasgow when someone fired a shot through the window. The bullet passed close to his looking-glass, and had its direction been a few inches to the right the result would have been serious. The police have the mysterious affair in hand.

THE fourth anniversary of the Islington Empire was celebrated on Friday, the 12th inst., amid much enthusiasm from two crowded houses. Portions of the hall and the vestibule were tastefully decorated, and no less than forty took part in the double entertainment. They included Herbert Darnley and company in the sketch *Moving In* (twice), Arthur Gilbert (twice), Gilbert Girard (twice), Lozelle (twice), Milner Verren (twice), Tray and Rich, Boyd and Gilfain, the Bioscope, Harry Champion, Venie Clements, Fox and Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene, Ferris and Farnley, Bessie Benson, Kisbey, Harry Markham, Stewart and Morgan, F. Crisp, Datas, Carne Curre and dog, Venellos, Fred Earle, Anna Kenwick, Amy Marsden, Will Evans, George Victor, Walker and May, Dolly Harmer, Sam Dalton, Ruby Emmerson, Alfreda, Elmore and Raysford, Rossi Ashton, Ike Scott and Son, and others. The stage was under the management of Messrs. Alfred Bishop and R. Dallinger.

IN writing last week of the testimonial presentation to Mr. Arthur J. Barclay at the Walthamstow Palace, by a slip of the pen we gave the name of Mr. Geo. F. Slatter as one of the hon. treasurers. Mr. Slatter was vice-chairman of the committee, and the chief hon. treasurer was Mr. Albert E. Hill (of the Palace), to whose unceasing activity and whole-hearted enthusiasm not a little of the successful issue of the testimonial and its subsequent presentation was due.

IT was Mr. John Nathan who gave a birthday supper to his friends at the Lounge, Maiden-lane, on the 5th inst., and not Mr. Ben Nathan, the well-known agent, as stated in our gossip paragraph last week.

THOSE clever performers, the Delevines, are presenting this week their new act at the Euston, and rejoice in the fact that it has been accepted by Mr. Oswald Stoll for his tour, which they commence on Monday at the Hippodrome, Manchester.

KYOTO, the original comedy Japanese entertainer, and his wife, Miss May Geraldine, commence the Stoll tour on Monday at the Empire, Hackney.—My Cyril Gilbert left Gateshead on Tuesday to produce a local ballet at the Theatre Royal, Hull, for Mr. J. Bannister Howard.—Miss Esta Stella has been suffering severely from muscular rheumatism, but has bravely fulfilled all engagements.

AT the Hammersmith Palace Mr. J. C. Coe is making some important structural alterations which will add immensely to the comfort and convenience of that popular suburban hall. On the eastern side a new entrance and corridor leading to the fauteuils is being constructed, and visitors to the best parts of the house will avoid the crowding that has been unavoidable up to the present with only one entrance for pit and stall patrons. At the end of the corridor a new saloon and lounge is being fitted up for the use of those patronising the higher-priced seats.

THE new palatial entrance will be inaugurated on Feb. 5, when the programme will be of festival proportions, the week's bill being contributed to by one of the finest companies that Mr. Coe has ever presented. It will include the cream of the profession, and will be headed by Miss Marie Lloyd.

"CRUSHED VIOLETS," Mr. Clifford Graham's one-act episode, will shortly be put on at a West End hall. The dress worn by Miss Alice Heathcote (who plays Violet) is of old Honiton lace—one hundred years old, and cost two hundred guineas. She will be supported by Mr. R. George Lake-Grange, who has been six seasons with Mr. Walter Melville.

A VERY smart advertisement hand-bill was sown broadcast throughout these islands during the present General Election time by Mr. "Sixpenny Pops" Smith. Printed in red and blue on a white ground, and surmounted by the Union Jack and Royal Standard crossed, it read: "General Election. British Public Division. Vote for Francis, Day, & Hunter, publishers of the 'Popular' favourites in Sixpenny Musical Copyrights. On sale everywhere. Printed by Guy Whittem, Ltd., and published at 22, Denmark-street, W.C." On the back of the bill were printed the titles of about fifty of the firm's pantomime successes and "standard sellers," and results have been prodigious.

CARL HERTZ has had many adventures of varying kinds during his long career as a magician, but never a more exciting stage experience than happened to him recently at the Scala Theater, Copenhagen. During his conjuring performance, an inebriated occupant of the stalls kept on creating a disturbance, and though requested to desist several times, paid no attention. Later, in answer to Mr. Hertz's invitation to any member of the audience to come upon the stage to assist him in one of his tricks, the inebriated one made an attempt to come up, but was so much under the influence of liquor that he fell, and rolled into the stalls. The audience took the incident in a jocular spirit, but the shouts of laughter so exasperated the man that he pulled out a loaded revolver, and levelled it point-blank at Mr. Hertz. Fortunately for that gentleman, a lady in the stalls, with great presence of mind, jumped up and secured the revolver, her prompt action evoking loud applause. The objectionable person was then forcibly removed from the theatre.

STRONGFORT, the latest specimen of Herculean man, has a name that suggests the *entente cordiale*, though we believe he is a German. He has been secured by Mr. Frank Glenister for the London Pavilion, the scene of Sandow's greatest triumphs. We are told that Nature has endowed him with the strength of Hercules and the beauty of Apollo, and that the Berlin Art Gallery possesses his marble statue, modelled and erected at the request of the German Government. He lifts a dumb-bell weighing 312lbs. with one hand above his head at arm's length—a great feat.

MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS has been going extremely well at the Tivoli and the Paragon this week, introducing new and telling jokes at every performance. Miss Lucy Webling, who was formerly a member of the Follies, joined him at literally half-an-hour's notice on Wednesday night, taking the place of a member of his smart little company who had suddenly been taken ill, and played successfully in both *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife* and *Where's the Count?* without a single rehearsal.

MR. CHARLES W. O'CONNOR, who has had considerable journalistic experience on various papers and recently acted as press agent for the Grand Theatre, has been appointed to a similar position at the Lyceum.

MR. HARRY TATE and his company made themselves very popular during their engagement at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre, New York, in the side-splitting sketch called *Motoring*. Mr. Tate's offering was considered one of the best things in current Vaudeville.

"YOU'RE a thing of the past, old dear," in which Miss Marie Lloyd gives one of her finest character studies, has been added to the "Six-penny Successes" of the Monte Carlo Publishing Company. The song is one of the last in which the late George Le Brunn collaborated with Mr. J. P. Harrington.

MESSRS. John P. Harrington and Jas W. Tate have this week equipped Miss Rosie Lloyd with a new and striking comedy song, entitled "The Sparrows went 'Chip! Chip!'" This favourite artiste will also, on Monday next, produce at Collins's, the London, and Chelsea Palace the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's latest "winner," by Lawrence and Mellor, "I've built a Bamboo Bungalow for you."

SO universal have been the applications for that gem from *The Coster's Beanfeast*, entitled "You're my Donah, you're my Gal," the exquisite rendering of which by Mr. Alec Hurley has nightly at the Oxford been evoking furores of applause, that it has been issued by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter as No. 256 of their "Sixpenny Pops" series.

MR. HENRI ZERBINI, the musical director of the Middlesex, has been presented with a handsome silver-mounted baton from a few friends at the Cambridge, where he was musical director for over six years. Mr. P. Phillips made the presentation in the saloon of the Middlesex, and Mr. J. L. Graydon spoke of the recipient in highly complimentary terms.

MESSRS. KARR AND KOONEY'S success at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, has been so pronounced that Mr. Ernest Carpenter has offered them another two years' engagement, making five years in all.

MISS EDITH STEWART wishes to correct the impression that she has abandoned the theatres for the variety stage. The migration is only temporary, but owing to the success of the American racing duologue, *The 100 to 1 Chance*, at the Palace Theatre and elsewhere, she has extended her engagement as "Florence Winton" therein, and is now appearing at some of the Moss and Stoll Empires in the provinces.

CARL and Carr, the successful comedians, are scoring an unqualified success with their refined comedy act, *Fun Outside the Workhouse;* also as Chinese policemen in the Aladdin pantomime at the Opera House, Middlesbrough.

HANS and Lux, who have been appearing with such success in Mr. Samuel James's pantomime *Jack the Giant-Killer*, were last week presented with a diamond pin and a handsome dressing-case by their agent, Mr. Ernst Warner, in remembrance of their success.

REX KING has good reason to remember the warmth of a Birmingham audience, and will not easily forget his flattering reception there at the Hippodrome, where he made his first appearance on Monday in his lightning changes.

The latest Stock Exchange quotations in reference to music halls, &c., are as follows:—Alhambra (at close), 1⅞; Canterbury, 1½; Drury Lane, 1 3-16; Empire, (15s. pd.) 1½, (10s. pd.) 1⅛; Gaiety, 1½; London Pavilion, Ordinary 4¾, Preference 5; London Coliseum, 2½; Lyceum, Ordinary 1s., Preference 1s. 6d.; Metropolitan, ⅝; Moss Empire, 4¾, Preference 3½; Oxford, 6⅝; Palace, 11s.; Tivoli, 5½; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 15s.

"APPY AMPSTEAD" at the Canterbury on Monday went better, if possible, than on its first production at the Oxford, and is drawing big houses. Mr. Joe Elvin will appear in *Toffy's Trotter* at the Oxford on Monday afternoon for the benefit of the widow of the late George Le Brunn, the composer of the music of nearly all his sketches—*Over the Sticks, Appy Ampstead*, &c.

MR. DAN CONROY must have been heartily pleased at the reception given to him at the Empire, Glasgow, on Monday. It was a truly Scottish welcome.

MISS ETHEL RA-LESLIE, with her new songs, beautiful dresses and charming appearance, is making a pronounced success on the Moss-Stoll tour.—Miss Nellie Monckton (of the Monckton), who is successfully playing Prince Charming in Mr. Herbert Barr's *Cinderella* pantomime, has scored with her excellent singing of "For better or worse" and "My Irish Molly." Miss Monckton, with her husband, Mr. Fred Monckton, is well booked with her musical comedy acts, *A Woman's Curiosity* and *The Lady and the Burglar*.—Miss Elsa Joel, who made her re-appearance on Monday at the Duchess, Balham, after her severe indisposition, was most successful in a new coon imitation, given in her latest song, "Lulu mine."

MR. RICHARD WARNER, in celebration of his jubilee, gave a house dinner at the Eccentric Club on Wednesday, when a joyous gathering of friends congratulated the popular and young-looking agent on his excellent health, and wished him many years of continued prosperity and happiness. The birthday festival was very heartily enjoyed.

MR. WARNER was presented by Mr. Jack Harrison, the Eccentric Club's Hon. Secretary, on behalf of Sir Edward Moss, with a case containing a gold cigar case, cigarette case and gold match box and sovereign purse. A case of cutlery from some of his brother Eccentrics was another birthday present. Both gifts bore appropriate inscriptions. Among the invited were Messrs. George Adney Payne, Frank Allen, Walter Gibbons, J. L. Graydon, George Ashton, Alfred Butt, Edward Ledger, Lionel Brough, Albert Gilmer, Major Cranston, Eugene Sandow, Joseph Lyons, James Bell (Town Clerk of London), Augustus M. Moore, Ben Nathan, H. G. Hibbert, Frank Boor, Walter de Frece, Frank Glenister, George Peel, F. H. Pedgrift, Harry Lundy, Charles Chapman, Ernest de Vere, E. Mayhew, Colonel Newit.

WITH the dawn of the last day of the Waverley Market Carnival at Edinburgh came the news, writes the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, that Mr. "Fred" Harcourt, who had been connected with the entertainment since its inauguration, had passed away at Glasgow. The circumstances of Mr. Harcourt's death were peculiarly sad. For months he had been suffering continual pain from an internal trouble, which on or about last Christmas Day assumed a more dangerous aspect. The well-known "illusion" show in the Market was opened as usual, but it was soon apparent that Mr. Harcourt was not the man he was. He gave one performance, and the following day deemed it advisable to consult Professor Annandale. But the trouble had gone too far for medical skill to remedy. As a last resort Mr. Harcourt went through to Glasgow, and was operated upon. The operation was unsuccessful, as had been prognosticated, and since then Mr. Harcourt had been practically hanging between life and death.

FOR eighteen years, with scarcely a break, Mr. Harcourt had performed in Edinburgh, and on the platform outside his side-show at the Waverley Market Carnival the man was at his best as a showman. A witty remark or two, accompanied by a graceful wave of a handkerchief, would attract the attention of the crowd, and then Mr. Harcourt would proceed to show how a few card tricks were done. Not infrequently he would give a gratis exhibition of hypnotism on the platform—first and last with the object of inducing the crowd to "walk up"—an invitation which, needless to say, was rarely declined.

FRED HARCOURT had a varied and interesting career, and had travelled in all parts of the world as an illusionist and conjurer. With his charming wife, Miss Lilian Warren, he went to Australia in 1902, opening at the Tivoli, Sydney, under Mr. Harry Rickards' management, later on appearing at Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth. They also went to India and Ceylon, where they formed their own company. They had a most tempting offer to appear at the Delhi Durbar, but were unable to accept owing to their English engagements. Mr. Harcourt exploited the famous illusion "The Mysterious Lilith," which he presented with wonderful success at the Coliseum just lately. Miss Lilian Warren, his accomplished wife to whom we extend our sincerest sympathy, is the well-known singer of illustrated songs.

MR. HARCOURT was quite a young man, being born thirty-nine years ago in Manchester, where the funeral took place on Monday. He made his first beginning on the stage of his native town at the age of eight, being then billed as the "boy magician."

MESSRS. FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER have acquired for immediate publication Miss Minnie Cunningham's great success, "If new friends are silver, old friends are gold." The song, which is from the pens of those talented young song-writers, Messrs. Bert M. Megson and Illingworth Moorwood, is exceedingly pretty.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON, who is this week appearing at Hull, where the local Press are unanimous in praise of her, is introducing Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford's new song, "Twit-twit, my little Redbreast," a melody which promises to prove extremely popular.

MR. J. F. LAMBE has written and H. E. Pether has composed a ballad entitled "The Bonny Brier Bush." Mr. Lambe wrote to "Ian Maclaren," the author of the famous work, asking if the song might be dedicated to him, and has received the following reply from the celebrated Scottish clergyman and novelist: "I am honoured by your proposal to dedicate your song and music to me, and shall value a copy of both very much. The music and poetry both seem to me excellent. —Believe me, yours faithfully, JOHN WATSON."

AT a matinée performance given at the Theatre Royal, Oldham, on Tuesday last, Mr. Ernest Dottridge's company appeared as an extra turn in an original and historical episode, entitled *Moll Cutpurse, or the King's Highway*. The sketch, which was produced by the author, Mr. James Willard, proved a great success, and will be sent on tour in the halls next autumn.

MDLLE. RENEE, in her refined drawing-room musical act, has just concluded a successful engagement at the London Pavilion. She was asked to stay on next week, but could not on account of provincial engagements. She will, however, return shortly.

MISS VICTORIA MONKS has returned to town after her short stay at Brighton, feeling fit and well, and in better voice than ever. She will open at the Coliseum Jan. 29, when she will introduce two new songs, specially written and composed for her by Messrs. J. F. Lambe and Tom Mellor, entitled "Can't you hear me calling, Mister Primrose Brown," and "On our honeymoon."

ANYONE passing the old "Goat Inn," Beddington Corner, Mitcham, at twelve o'clock Wednesday last, would have been somewhat astonished and bewildered to see enacting in the near distance on the common a veritable highway robbery, and "holding up" of a mail coach and its passengers. A masked horseman, mounted on a splendid black mare, was waylaying the said coach, and relieving the travellers of their spare cash. He had, moreover, cut the traces of the four horses, and overturned the coach. A fair passenger was on her knees beseeching the good-looking red-coated horseman to spare her aged father and herself, whilst the other passengers held up their arms in token of surrender. The highwayman, evidently impressed by the beauty of the lady passenger, raises her from her kneeling position, kisses her hand, and begs a rose from her breast. A hurried embrace, the horseman has mounted his black mare, and is away at full speed. What does it all mean in this dry-as-dust, matter-of-fact, unromantic age? On inquiry, it just meant this, that Fred Ginnett and his company, now performing at the Duchess, Balham, were giving a full-dress rehearsal of the *Robbery of the York Mail* for inclusion, by means of the Bioscope, in the spectacle of *Turpin's Ride to York*. It would be about Dick Turpin's time, A.D. 1737, that this same old "Goat Inn," Beddington Corner, was built, and who knows that history has not repeated itself in reproducing a highway robbery on the self-same spot of yesterday's mimic show.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

Miss Fatmah Diard is a singer who reaches a high note of excellence. Her voice is quite of the classical order, and her rendering of "I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls," and her other song, "It is not mine," is a most pleasing performance and a finished piece of work. Most of the Alhambra habitues are great music lovers, and Miss Diard's singing will have an attraction for them, especially as she will conclude her present engagement at this hall to-night. An act in which one sees much that is interesting from the animal-trainer's point of view, is provided by Miss Rosina Caselli and her troupe of Chihuahua dogs from Mexico. This class of dog apparently possesses finer intelligence than can be claimed on behalf of most of the other canine races. They make their entry by means of a small motor-car, driven by the animals themselves. Then we get an exhibition of doggish cleverness. One of them walks along a rope placed in a horizontal position and performs the feat of balancing itself, much after the style of a wire-walker. All the dogs show strength and ability in one way or another, and the performance is one of the best of its kind. Some amazingly smart sleight-of-hand tricks are brought to our notice by Dunningarto. Cards appear and disappear in a most wonderful manner before one's eyes, and the conclusion is arrived at that there must be something more than music in the air. Exceedingly neatly executed is his ping-pong ball trick, whereby he contrives to make one ball blossom forth into three or four by some unseen force.

Mr. Julius Thorn succeeds in arousing roars of laughter with his burlesque juggling. He juggles with many articles of domestic use—plates, jugs, glasses, flower-pots, &c., and manages to break one after the other. In a very few minutes the stage is the scene of a most pathetic debris, in the midst of which Mr. Thorn is to be seen looking as absurdly disconsolate as he well could be. The beautiful Miss Lalla Selbini appears in her attractive act, composed of baton-swinging and cycling. She gives evidence of remarkable skill in everything she does, her feats on the double and single wheel being much admired for their originality and daring. The little black boy she brings on the stage in connection with her work causes a good deal of amusement with his funny antics. The ballet, *My Lady Nicotine*, remains a popular feature of the programme, the tuneful music, the pretty dresses and scenes, and the graceful dancing delighting the earlier visitors to the house. "Urbanora" is now quite a "newsy" thing. For several days past election results have been announced on the cinematograph screen. The scenes depicting the manœuvres of the Sultan of Morocco's Army furnish us with a vivid presentment of at least one phase of Eastern life. One cannot help feeling deeply interested, too, in "The Trip to New Zealand," which affords some glimpses of the country, customs and manners of a portion of the British Empire many thousands of miles from the old homeland.

The dainty divertissement, *Parisiana*, increases its number of admirers as it increases its age. The fine art of the costumier has been brought to bear with delightful effect upon the story this ballet is supposed to tell. Then, what could be more daintily poetical than the dance and movements of Mdlle. Jane May and of La Sylphe and of Miss Edie Slack? And what more enchanting to the ear than the running accompaniment of the exquisite music of Mr. James M. Glover. The scene which represents a fête at Neuilly, is a veritable panorama, in which sprightly actions set in gaudy picturesqueness, form a spectacle of brilliance of life and of colour, the aesthetic charm of the whole being most entrancing. Clown Pacal distinguishes himself as an imitator of animals. His mimicry of one dog fighting two ferocious canines is extremely laughable. Natural and life-like also are his vocal representations of the bellowing of a cow, the grunting and snorting of a sow, the whining of a bull-pup, the cackling of a hen and the crowing of a cock. Vanola, who is described in learned language as a Mexican antipodeste, submits an exhibition of barrel balancing. Resting his head and trunk upon a pedestal he cleverly juggles with his feet, operating upon large globes and a barrel. In the concluding part of his show, Vanola manipulates with his feet an umbrella-like contrivance which, on opening out, throws out the flags of all nations. In the end a big sunshade falls down, and it is made to revolve round and round at a tremendous rate by a simple twirling movement of Vanola's boot.

THE CANTERBURY.

An event of the evening at the Canterbury this week is the sketch, *'Appy 'Ampstead*, which Mr. Joe Elvin has revived with the wealth of detail for which his producitons are renowned. All the fun of the fair on the historic heath is depicted, realism being secured by a veritable boxing match, a donkey race, and a skipping-rope contest, with roundabouts at work, a Punch and Judy show, and swing-boats in the perspective, of which a real motor-car and a four-in-hand arc prominent features. Amid the gay revels, the quaint personality of Mr. Joe Elvin is a conspicuous figure. As Tommy Flipper, the retired bookmaker, who has married into society and insists on treating his aristocratic relations to a Bank Holiday on Hampstead Heath, he takes part in the wildest diversions, and no opportunity for rest is given to the audience, who are kept in throes of laughter the whole of the time. Mr. Leslie Carter gives a good performance of a peppery major, amenable only to the influence of his wife, a part admirably assumed by Mrs. J. W. Broughton. Miss Annie Anthony makes a graceful appearance as the young wife; a designing foreigner is amusingly played by Mr. Harry Low; and Mr. Kenneth Altamont is well placed as Flipper's friend.

Among the stars shining earlier in the evening is Mr. Gus Elen, whose welcome is of the most cordial description, and well does he justify it. Never was a funnier figure to be seen on the variety boards than that of the homely bridegroom, in borrowed plumage, who serenades his belated bride on the morning of the wedding. His plaint to the sleeping "Meriah" is most whimsically delivered, and the impersonation is one to be witnessed over and over again, without any diminution of mirth. "An 'arf a pint o' ale" affords an equally effective outlet for Mr. Elen's humour, his facial play and eloquent pantomime as the humble devotee of Bacchus, being as irresistible as ever. Mr. Whit Cunliffe makes a new departure as a draper's assistant, who sings blithely at his counter, the sound of the tearing of calico strips being well-timed. Topics are also freshly treated by Mr. Cunliffe, who makes several palpable hits with his rhymes, to which additions innumerable have to be made.

Appreciation is heartily bestowed upon Fielding and Hull (Annie and Bert), who sing a medley of excerpts from musical comedy. Both have cultured voices, and the selections are artistically rendered. Griff pins his faith with every reason to his hoop manipulation, of which the clever contributions of Alpha form a part, and the impalement of oranges thrown from above on to a couple of forks held in the merry little pierrot's mouth supplies something of a sensational ending to his popular entertainment. A new skit, called *Four Bob*, written by Wal Pink, affords Mr. Albert Athas and Miss Lizzie Collins an opportunity of exercising their distinctive talent for travesty, laughter awaiting every utterance of the droll Albert, who is supposed to be a theatrical agent, charging four shillings for his fee. Miss Collins, in the part of an aspirant for dramatic fame, looks charming as ever in a handsome dress, which she presently changes to that of an Italian girl, with an organ. Mr. Athas supplies the monkey, in which part he does a clever somersault over the head of his fair partner, standing upright on a table.

Mr. Will Evans asserts his droll authority over the house, which is kept in uncontrollable merriment during his presentation of the pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*. Mr. Evans, in the part of Will Atkins, being full of the funniest resource. The humour of Little Tich is as richly displayed as ever in his impersonation of a female of mature age, whose every movement inspires a roar of laughter. Nor does the hilarity languish in the second contribution of the little comedian, who, after singing a song with the refrain, "It's very warm to-day," is obliged by a unanimous demand to return to the stage, to give his excruciatingly funny big-boot dance. Three songs are sung by Mr. Harry Ford, each one being heartily enjoyed; and Mr. Dutch Daly, with his funny sayings and his concertina imitations, is always the means of passing an amusing ten minutes. My Fancy, comely and clever, dances in artistic style, her Highland fling in the costume of a Scotch lassie and her sand dance arousing enthusiastic applause. The talented turn of Walker and May (Charles and Ida), America's premier coloured comedians and dancers, is the more remarkable from the fact that Mr. Walker is totally blind. Another importation from the States is that of the Black and White Zouaves, whose lightning drill and wall-scaling is quite exhilarating. Miss Vi Carlyle sings in captivating style of "My Congo Queen"; and the Harvey Boys stimulate the audience early in the bill with their comical concoction, *The Fighting Dummy*. Mr. Archie Howells skilfully directs the Canterbury band, and Mr. Fred Miller presides with his customary ability over as fine a programme as may be seen in a metropolitan hall.

THE BEDFORD.

Local election excitement had subsided in Camden Town on the night that we visited the Bedford, where Mr. B. P. Lucas and Mr. Harry Day carry on the campaign against dulness with considerable spirit and success, and we found a numerous audience enjoying a capital bill. Chief among the novelties presented during the current week has been the sketch, entitled

"THE BATTLE OF THE BELLES.

Kendal Croat	FRED MOULE
Sam Flatfoote	E. D. NICHOLLS
Hector Rooney	ERIC FORTH
Laurie Linden	ADA LUCELLE
Brenda Croat	MADGE TREVELYAN
Joanna	ADA FRANK

The success of this piece was immediately established on Monday, and every evening audiences have been laughing heartily at its exuberant humour, broad based on the love of mirth which is inherent in everyone. It is difficult to place the piece in any particular category, nor is it necessary. Mr. Fred Moule, the author, takes the part of the landlord of the Old Red Bull Inn, and arrives on the scene in a most hilarious state. The tragedies of life seem to supply Kendal Croat—that is his name—with excuses for explosive demonstrations of mirth. This unconventional character has a daughter—the antithesis of her jovial parent, and endowed with a waspish temper. Miss Brenda Croat is anxious to get married, and is deeply disappointed because the man of her choice, Hector Rodney, a young soldier, has yielded to the fascinations of a dressmaker's assistant, Laurie Linden. As a desperate expedient, Brenda proposes marriage to Rodney, and stung to the quick by his refusal, she roundly abuses her rival. Young Rodney leaves for the wars, and his sweetheart, Laurie, finds a home with Sam Flatfoote and Joanna, formerly waiter and chambermaid at the hotel, which they have left to set up housekeeping. From waiter to policeman has been quite an easy transition for Sam, whose "feet" are even astonishing for the "force." He puts on a bold front when Kendal Croat and Brenda call and insist on their departure from the cottage, which we may suppose belongs to Croat. It is Brenda, who urges her father to take this step, in order that she may be revenged on her rival, Laurie, who is stricken with grief at the news of Hector's death. Her tears, however, do not appeal to Brenda, who flings her to the ground. Joanna takes the part of the poor dressmaker, and then we have the "battle of the belles," in which crockery is thrown by both combatants. Kendal Croat, in his turn, is assailed by the irrepressible Sam, and a comic combat is "put up," which excites the most uncontrollable mirth. Eventually happiness is restored to Laurie Linden by the return of the young soldier; and Brenda Croat, who seems none the worse for her fight, and her father retire.

A most humorous bit of character-acting comes from Mr. E. D. Nicholls, who plays the rôle of Sam Flatfoote, a melancholy waiter (afterwards a policeman) with an unctuous drollery that is as rare as it is refreshing. Joanna, the hotel chambermaid, who becomes Mrs. Flatfoote, is a part presented with considerable spirit by Miss Ada Frank. She infuses much energy into the "battle" with Joanna, who makes fun of Sam's feet, and tells him he is descended from "a long-distance race," "two feet to the yard." Mr. Fred Moule's impersonation of the landlord, who laughs at the saddest happenings, is one that takes immensely with the Bedfordians, who catch the contagion of mirth as soon as he arrives on the stage. Miss Madge Trevelyan exhibits, with no little success, the vixenish qualities of Brenda Croat, and makes an excellent foil for the whimsical landlord, her father. *The Battle of the Belles*, though it has its serious moments, is treated in the spirit of pure farce, both by its interpreters and the listeners, and laughter rules throughout. With a popular audience it is bound to be a success wherever produced.

The variety entertainment includes two ladies at the piano, Miss Lottie Siegenberg and Miss Adey Spencer. We described the former lady's entertainment in our notice of another hall last week. Miss Spencer, who elects to be known as the "girl from the hat shop," plays her own accompaniment to a ballad, which she sings well; gives an imitation on the piano of Mr. Frank Lawton's whistling solo in *The Belle of New York*; and sings and dances in imitation of an American soubrette. Her versatility is a passport to her success, and she might with advantage extend her songs at the piano repertory. Kisbey, the call-boy, has delightful assurance, and is quite a *persona grata* at the Bedford. For the most part he contents himself with patter of a humorous kind, but also introduces a burlesque of Eugene Stratton. The Sivronis are a happily-associated pair, whose main purpose is burlesque. Mr. Sivroni is a most eccentric dancer, with ideas of comedy that exactly coincide with those of the audience, who give him a hearty welcome. Mr. Charles Bignell, who looks a typical policeman, sings with considerable drollery "Duty must be done," and has a rousing chorus song, "Are we down-hearted?—No!" The possibilities of such a phrase in the matter of additional verses are almost limitless. Mr. Bignell has a very hearty recall. Early in the evening Miss Maudie Ford, comedienne, sings, with plaintive expression, "Throw a few crumbs to the birds," and dances prettily. Mr. Andy Burn amusingly deplores the woes of a millionaire who is reduced to £10,000 a year; and Lord, Murray, and Lord give a fine exhibition of ball punching, the comedian of the trio supplying plenty of fun. The special engagement of the week is Dartigan, who loops the loop on a 2½-h.p. motor-cycle, and supplies a thrilling sensation. The Imperial Bioscope supplies a series of amusing films in "Father's got a Holiday." Mr. A. F. Lovesy directs affairs here in a courteous and tactful manner; and Mr. F. W. Venton directs a capable orchestra.

ROYAL STANDARD.

Character comedy is Mr. Jack Mansfield's forte. This week, at the Royal Standard, Pimlico, he has been showing us how the men of different countries make love. His representations of a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Lancashire lad, and a German serenading a lady fair have proved most entertaining; while not less so are his studies of a coster, a clergyman, and other folk criticising a work of art. Celest, the well-known American gymnast, gives a clever display of bâton swinging, both while standing on the stage and while balancing himself on the high wire. By far his most daring feat is that in which he mounts a ladder while balancing the same on the wire. A very delightful turn is that of Miss Helena Sleath and Mr. Chas. Aldin, whose operatic scena, *Dashing Duval*, is a pretty and dainty thing of its kind. Miss Sleath and Mr. Aldin appear in handsome eighteenth century costumes, and the stage-setting is in accordance with the period in which the famous highwayman made his influence felt. The movements and dances of the two artists are executed with dignity and grace, and their duet is exceedingly well rendered. Eccentricities of a most diverting fashion are indulged in by the Lorrisons, their absurd patter and comicalities causing roars of laughter; while their dances are smartly and briskly performed.

"Why I took to the drink" is the theme of one of Mr. Frank Crisp's songs, and in it he describes how various men fall under the influence of alcohol. The song is sung with much expression, as is also another, in which he draws the moral of the dreamer who drifts helplessly along the stream of life. Mr. Crisp has vocal talents of no small order, and his performances are greatly appreciated. An amusing debate on the respective merits and demerits of the sexes is carried on between the McKays. One gets many really funny sayings in their "dry humour and wet paint" act. "There's music in the air," says the gentleman, as he picks a strand of the lady's hair, draws it out, while a member of the orchestra plays a couple of notes on his violin. The concluding part of the act consists of an exhibition of the artistic gifts of the male artist, who paints a river and field scene in full view of the audience, and paints it remarkably quickly and remarkably well. Miss Nell Gwynne sings the praises of "The man in the corduroys," and not unnaturally her sentiments are heartily endorsed by the gentlemen in the gallery, who, more than any other class, have an intimate acquaintanceship with the individual with the brown corded trousers. In her succeeding item Miss Gwynne tells a pathetic story of two lovers. The man loves the woman, but, during dark days of his life, the girl relinquishes him in favour of someone with greater abundance of this world's wealth. This fight of love against gold is described by the clever lady with true delicacy of feeling.

Mr. J. W. Rickaby comes on as a policeman, his uniform being somewhat exaggerated. He details the funny experiences of a "copper," and his "copper" is a highly-entertaining personage. His second appearance is as an absurd Tommy Atkins, and here we are treated to much more of his whimsical patter and singing. Miss Dinah Morris and her company of "Southern Belles" present the musical extravaganza, entitled *The Lost Coon*. This is a very pleasing number, the music and singing being most agreeable to the ear, while the dancing is quite of an exquisite order. Both Miss Dinah Morris and Miss Bessie Morris distinguish themselves in their vocalisation of such songs as "Dinah," "Has anyone seen a little coon?" and "Love like mine." The setting of the sketch, as well as the dresses, is picturesque, and the audience pronounces a verdict of unqualified approval on the doings and sayings of Miss Morris's merry band. The story of Esmeralda is vividly told in a series of cinématograph scenes, thrown upon the screen by the Edisonograph. Miss Marie Strabor charmingly renders "The Dream of Paradise," and the Two Bennetts take part in an interesting exhibition of mace swinging and dancing, their speciality business being generally admired. A neat and dainty dancer comes along in the person of Miss Rhoda Dendron; and Mr. Will Powell offers a capital entertainment in his own particular line.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Election enthusiasm has in no way affected the excellent business which is the rule at Mr. J. C. Coe's popular hall in the King-street, and on Monday evening a large audience was early in attendance to sample the splendid programme provided. An exceptionally hearty welcome was that extended Mr. Will Evans, a comedian who is seldom absent from the London stage, such is the demand for a really funny comedian. The favourite droll's first contribution is a humorous attempt to describe the plot of *The Prodigal Son*, and this is followed by a laughter-provoking song, "The villain of the piece," in which he impersonates the Bloodthirsty Bounder of Battersea, and enacts most of the characters—with the aid of a couple of assistants—in a screamingly funny mock melodrama. The versatile and volatile comedian also cuts a most ludicrous figure as a jockey, mounted on Gluepot I., a quaint-looking quadruped, that excites the derision of a newspaper boy and a cat's-meat man, and eventually collapses on the stage, to the mortification of its rider and the hilarity of the audience. Much funny patter and many laughter-compelling antics are indulged in by Mr. Evans as the intrepid horseman, and the gentlemen who impersonate the fiery, untamed steed, also deserve mention for their successful efforts in the cause of mirth.

Midway in the bill is presented, by Mr. Henry Herne and company, the episode *No Man's Land*, an exciting fragment from the celebrated drama of the same name. Conspicuous in this is the fine impersonation of Mr. Herne, the actor giving a powerful and realistic portrait of the villainous first mate, Mat Marsden, especially impressive being the concluding scene on the desolate island in the Pacific. The other characters were all admirably enacted, and the rain-storm at the finish is very well managed, and excited the enthusiasm of the audience, who recalled Mr. Herne before the curtain. The comic sketch of the bill is the absurdity, *Jack's Uncle*, an amusing trifle, for which Mr. George Davis and his company are responsible; and more merriment is aroused by Mr. Wal Robins, the "black and white comedian," who contributes an acceptable interlude of vocal and instrumental items. He gives a pleasing rendering of "Queen of the Earth" on the one-stringed fiddle, and his song in praise of his mandoline is a much-appreciated item.

An alluring story of domestic felicity is told by Mr. L. B. Athol in the character of a contented British workman, whose return from his labours to home and fireside apparently brings joy to the entire household. The wife wears a smile that should compensate any man for the day's drudgery, the cat purrs, the baby in the cradle expresses its delight in its own peculiar fashion, the kettle gaily sings, and even "the sausages in the pan burst their sides laughing!" The song has a good melody, and Mr. Athol is to be commended for his admirable rendering of it. That it appealed to his auditors was very apparent, for they were easily persuaded to join in the chorus, and accorded the vocalist a flattering reception at its conclusion. The humour of the young Scotch comedian, Mr. Jock Whiteford, is keenly enjoyed; and the vocalism of Miss Maud Yaeger, an accomplished coloured comedienne and dancer, are also greatly appreciated. Mr. Frank Sylvo contributes some neat and clever juggling, especially attractive being his cigar-box tricks and his hat manipulation, the various droll remarks and humorous bits of business with which his show is interspersed largely aiding in its success. A novel and prettily-mounted interlude is supplied by the Four Herberts, in which they appear as jolly Californian farmers, and execute some marvellous tumbling and somersaulting. The lady of the combination is as agile and smart as her three male companions, and the quartette are tireless in their efforts to amuse and interest, in both of which they are completely successful. Mr. Tom Bass, a comedian who was a favourite when variety theatres were neither as plentiful nor as palatial as at present, still retains his powers to amuse, and on Monday created much hilarity with his ditty, "Six big girls," in which he impersonates a damsel of uncertain age, whose attractions do not appeal greatly to the sterner sex. The patter in this was especially humorous, and the popular comedian was loudly acclaimed at its conclusion. Ellis and Watts, comedians; Miss Lilian Rigby; Mr. Carson Hicks, vocalist and buck-dancer; Carlo and Maine; and the Edisonograph, also contribute to the evening's enjoyment. Mr. Lewis Vincent is Mr. Coe's courteous and astute acting-manager; and Mr. J. H. Cleve directs an excellent orchestra.

CHELSEA PALACE.

Liberal gains in attendance have been scored at Chelsea this week, where the electors have found relief from political stress in the palatial hall where Mr. Edward Swanborough, the veteran manager, has ever a cordial welcome. A piece particularly appropriate to the moment is found in the sketch *Beneath Big Ben*, in which a set representing the Houses of Parliament figures. Mr. Brien McCullough has added largely to his popularity in a character entirely adapted to his methods, and as the mercurial Walker Wallop he moves the audience to frequent fits of laughter. Able assistance is derived from Miss Nellie Nelson, who impersonates Marion Medwin, and from Mr. Alfred Beaumont, Mr. Gilbert Vernon, Miss Nelly Howlett, and Mr. Stafford Smith. The sketch is elaborately set, and the excitement aroused during its presentation is intense.

A "bright and breezy vaudeville" called *The Two Love Birds* is submitted by Mr. Edwin Brett and Miss Emmeline Orford, whose versatility is effectively displayed in the impersonation of a business man and his typewriter. A skilfully-acted duet entitled "Sweethearts All the Same" involves the appearance of the clever couple in various characters, including those of a sailor and his lass, and a pair of juveniles. Comedy is the predominant note of the turn, but a little bit of sentiment is added at the end, in the celebration by an aged couple of their golden wedding. Miss Orford is throughout charmingly vivacious and admirably distinct in delivery, and Mr. Brett's make-up is excellent, his acting in the character of the old man moving the audience to enthusiasm. Edwards and Espinosa are respectively accomplished in the arts of music and Terpsichore, the comely young lady doing a particularly expert dance, and her companion giving a taste of his talent on the violin and the banjo. His rendering of "Killarney" on the former instrument is elaborated by some skilful bowing which brought forth veritable thunders of applause, while his playing of an excerpt from *William Tell* was no less appreciated.

The latest arrival at the goal of public favour is Miss Millie Payne, a young lady who develops a new vein of low comedy. Her appearance as a dowdy young girl is in itself a stimulant to mirth, but when she begins to sing the comic effect is irresistible. It is the style and accent rather than the words of the song that exercise the hilarious effect, and whether Miss Payne is singing a comic variation of the juvenile lay about "Jenny Jones," or rendering the equally quaint refrain of "Ring-a-ding," the effect is the same. The thermometer of mirth is continually on the rise during the turn of Miss Payne, whose return to Chelsea after a very short absence is heartily welcomed. The juggling feats of Francis, the Cannon-ball King, are set off by the expert drollery of his assistant, whose identity is now disclosed on the programme as Alfred. A smart and wholly interesting interlude is presented, the tricks being all of an extraordinary nature. Francis fondles a 28lb. cannon-ball as if it consisted of so many ounces, balancing it on his head while walking the stage on another ball, at the same time keeping a number of spheroids moving in the air. His sensational balancing on a long pole held up by his mouth of a heavy cannon-ball, which he subsequently catches on the back of his neck, also exercises its customary sensation.

The old style of humour and the new are skilfully combined by Mr. James Fawn, who is able to touch the springs of laughter with as firm a hand as ever. A magistrate and a misogynist are the characters which just now serve him as a medium for his comic patter, every line of which draws forth a responsive roar. Mdlle. Sylvia Du Barry gives a cultivated rendering of the pretty ballad "Sing me to sleep," for which she wins cordial applause, the pleasure of her hearers being still more emphatically expressed for her singing of the "Toreador" song, the difficulties of which are cleverly surmounted. Mr. Fred Russell and his "Coster Joe" are allied in a conspiracy of mirth which meets with every success, the photograph episode being especially moving; and the well-selected programme also includes Mr. Leslie Rale, vocal comedian. Mr. Angelo Asher keeps his orchestra up to the pitch of perfection, and Mr. J. Norman Berlin officiates as acting-

ROYAL ALBERT.

What a popular number is "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you." To say that it has caught the ear of the public is to put a fact in a very mild way. Miss Ivy Lelands is winning golden opinions with the song this week at the Royal Albert, Canning Town, where her tuneful voice is greatly admired. She dances, too, in agreeable fashion. Sid Arnold, an extremely youthful artist, plays nicely on the dulcimer, and gives a capital rendering of some pathetic verses about a wayward youth who leaves home not on the best of terms with his parents, and who pleadingly makes the request, "May I come home?" The chorus is sung in a sweet, boyish manner by a lad stationed in the gallery. A lively and exhilarating comedienne is Miss Flo Penley, whose song "She only came to London for the day" details the adventures of a country maid who proves to be not altogether unsophisticated. Miss Penley exhibits a sense of humour in this ditty, as well as in her succeeding number, "All among the hay." Upon her third entry Miss Penley is attired in a gaudy dress of many colours, sparkling with diamonds. For the time being, she tells us, she is the Queen of the Romany, and she tells fortunes with wonderful accuracy. Topical allusions abound in this song, which is sung with spirit and expression. Mr. George Mayes makes a comical "copper," and in that character treats the house to a good many funny sayings, his quaint mannerisms creating general merriment.

Mr. Brien McCullough and company are seen in the sensational sketch entitled *The Girl I Love*. It is not necessary to recapitulate the plot of this stirring drama. Suffice it to say that every word of it is keenly followed by the visitors to the Royal Albert, Mr. McCullough himself playing with conspicuous ability in the character-rôle of Jaspar Bradwin. On the whole the piece is capably presented. Mr. J. C. Manley feelingly interprets "Come back to Erin." He succeeds better with his coster impersonation, his enunciation and movements and gestures being well in keeping with the character he presents. A more serious item is his "As the Christmas bells ring out," in his performance of which he rises to a high-water-mark of vocalism. The story of how a servant girl endeavours to relinquish her fishmonger lover in favour of an actor is amusingly told by Mr. and Mrs. George English. Mr. English, who is one of our veteran favourites on the halls, shows that he has not lost his powers of entertaining in his impersonation of the vendor of fish, who suddenly becomes an actor, or assumes that he is one, in order to win back the love of the romantic-minded maid, a part charmingly played by Mrs. English. During the progress of the little sketch the lady delights the audience with her smart rendering of "In the meadows making hay." Mr. English's actor is a most cadaverous-looking individual, and his burlesquing of a tragedy scene is exceedingly diverting.

Miss Millie Dawn, who appears in place of Dante, Bentley, and Elton, does some low comedy in her song, "Oh, Ruth!" Her succeeding efforts, however, are much better appreciated. In one of them she is a vivacious schoolgirl in a pretty white frock. She frolics with all the merry abandon of youth, and sings of the jolly time the schoolgirl has when the teacher's back is turned. Returning to low comedy, she dons a tattered dress and sings of the gay doings of a family on a Sunday. Miss Dawn has decided talents as a comedienne, and one may reasonably expect to see her occupying an important position on the variety stage before many years have passed over her head. Laughable absurdities abound in the turn of the Maynards, whose cross-talk and duets are taken up with great gusto by the house. Their facial expressions are indeed an entertainment in themselves, and it would be difficult to find a wittier couple of comedians. An interesting and attractive feature of the programme is furnished by the Kato Komical Kidgets, whose "live" marionette act is most artistically managed. One wonders how they continue to get the different models to exert themselves so vigorously, while one marvels scarcely less at the neat dancing of the two figures controlled by visible human heads. The duets in which the lady and gentleman engage are well sung, and the miniature stage scene provides a pretty and picturesque setting for the act. Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope in its mute yet plain pictorial language strikingly depicts in brief space of time what it might take hours to describe orally. The scenes indicating a bicycle tour cannot fail to arouse one's risible faculties. We were pleased to see Mr. Walter Leaver, the much-respected chairman of the Royal Albert, still at the post of honour, and we trust that he may be long spared to wield the mallet at Canning Town.

A PASTORAL POET and HIS PIPE.

"I spent two hours yesterday in the big house at the corner of Clarges Street, in company of the Duke. His Grace gave me three segars, one of which I then smoaked, carrying the others away in my pocket. His Grace tells me this style of smoaking is much in favour with Frenchmen and Spaniards, and that it is the great cost of segars stands in the way of their use here. For my part, I care little for them. I do not account three segars worth one pipeful of good, honest tobacco."—From a letter written by Robert Bloomfield, author of "The Farmer's Boy," etc., May 21, 1803.

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"THE FLYING MAN."

Sketch, in Three Acts, by "M. M. and B. B.," produced at the Grand Palace, Clapham Junction, on Monday, Jan. 15.

Professor Brawn .....MR. E. S. VINCENT
Captain Merton .....MR. BAILEY COHEN
Birdie, the "Vulture" .....MR. JOHN LAWSON
Lady Lester .....MISS MABEL WYNNE
Nellie Gray .....MISS CISSIE LAWSON

Something of the abnormal seems ever to be required of Mr. John Lawson, and in the new sketch, which he produced at Clapham Junction on Monday, the demand is amply fulfilled, a succession of shocks and thrills being administered in the course of its performance. The little piece was inspired by the late F. A. Scudamore's play, *Because I Love You*, the rights of which were bought outright by Mr. Lawson in order to avoid any charge of plagiarism; but the resemblance to Mr. Scudamore's drama ends with the idea, the plot and dialogue being entirely original. The character suggested by the title is not a creation of science, but a freak of nature, by which a child owing to a fright sustained by its mother, comes into the world in the form of a vulture. The purpose of the playlet is to advocate the destruction at birth of such monstrosities. It is a wide question to treat within the twenty-one minutes which the sketch occupies in representation, and though Mr. Lawson succeeds in awakening a feeling of pity for the unfortunate creature, no conclusive proof is given that the Law of Moses should be set aside. Birdie, the name of the animal, though possessing the beak and claws of a vulture, has the nature and understanding of a man, and has been taught to speak by Professor Brawn, who secured him for purposes of exhibition. The creature sees and loves Nellie Gray, the servant to Lady Lester, and the betrothed of Captain Merton, an officer risen from the ranks, whose valour has made him the hero of the hour. The young soldier has also excited the love of Lady Lester, who gives a masked ball in his honour, to which Nellie goes like Cinderella in disguise. Birdie is also present at the reception, his deformity being looked upon as a make-up. He recognises Nellie Gray, and makes violent love to her, but she repulses him with horror, and, anxious to get away before her mistress, procures a rope ladder and escapes by the window high above her head. No sooner has she disappeared than the bird-man, with an exultant cry, takes wing and flies out through the opening in pursuit. He conveys the fainting girl to the Professor's laboratory, where Lady Lester arranges with Brawn to kill Nellie so that she may marry the Captain, but Birdie overhears the conspiracy, and just as the Professor is about to make a fiendish experiment on the brain of the young girl, who has been strapped to the operating-table, the Vulture suddenly descends from above and stays his hand, while Jack rushes to the rescue of the fainting girl, and Birdie, rising in the air, is killed by a shot from the Professor's revolver.

Mr. Lawson has an exhausting part in that of the man-bird, a character which he carries out with artistic realism. With his hooked beak and horrible talons he looks a veritable vulture, while the manner in which he perches on chairs and tables, his moaning cry, and his ferocity are all suggestive of the species, a startling effect being obtained when the creature spreads his wings and soars aloft. The rôle of Nellie Gray is invested with gentleness and grace by Miss Cissie Lawson, who is quietly effective in her reprovals to her overbearing mistress, her little scene of comedy in the ball-room being agreeably managed, the later scenes, in which she has to endure some distressful moments, being also well sustained. Mr. E. S. Vincent, admirable in everything he does, bestows the refinement of villainy upon the part of Professor Brawn; a gallant and well-spoken young soldier is found in Mr. Bailey Cohen; and the malignant nature and fell purpose of Lady Lester are suggested with such intensity by Miss Mabel Wynne that she becomes abhorrent to the audience. The sketch, in which some marvellous quick changes are made, is mounted with great care and liberal attention to detail, Mr. M. Neale being responsible for the arrangement of the flying effects, which are perfectly managed. All the performers were heartily recalled at the end of the sketch, a specially cordial reception being reserved for Mr. Lawson.

"THE ERA"
NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND
FOR THE
MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

"We are very comfortable indeed, sir," said one, after the writer had wished them all a Happy New Year. "We couldn't be better treated if we paid a couple of pounds a week for the accommodation," asseverated another. "We are not interfered with in the least," was the story of the third. And so on. In fact, words were not necessary to convey what was too apparent in the faces and general outward appearance of the men. They all agreed upon one point: that they were being treated with the utmost consideration, just as if they were, to use one expression which was dropped during conversation, "lodgers." They spoke of the kindliness both of Mr. and Mrs. Fruin.

Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work performed by the institution in the past; this must be in the recollection of our readers. At present there are seven inmates, all of whom are advanced in years, their ages ranging from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funerals will be paid for out of the funds of the Music Hall Home. Hitherto the burial expenses of an inmate have been met by the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, but in future it is intended that the Home shall perform this office. One of the residents—"inmates" is far too harsh a word to use in this connection—died last year, and was laid in his last resting-place by the institution which had looked after his welfare during the closing years of his life.

The vice-presidents and the committee of the Music Hall Home are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving members of the variety profession who have fallen upon evil times. To those who are reading these lines we would say: Some day you yourself will have to retire from the activities that are called into being within the noisy arena of business affairs, and then memory and imagination will revive the doings of the past as you sit quietly watching the shadows creep along the wall. While we trust that the retrospect in your own individual case will be a very happy one, we would beg you to think of what it would mean to you should Fate so will it that disaster overtakes you in the evening of your days, when physical disabilities and the despairing cry of "old men not wanted" bar you from again entering the field. There are men and women belonging to your profession who are in that unhappy condition to-day. A few of them are receiving adequate support, but the majority are not. Let us point out that in these days of quick changes a man may be driving in his motor-car one day, and be comparatively rich so far as this world's goods are concerned. To-morrow he may be a victim of the vicissitudes which threaten in an age of fickleness.

It is, as we have already indicated, the desire of the principal gentlemen connected with the fund to procure such additional donations as will enable them to provide accommodation for more music hall performers who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years. It is hoped that as a result of the appeal now being made that the subscriptions will be of a sufficiently encouraging character to warrant the establishment of a Home for women. Therefore, send your contribution to the fund, and, even if it be a small contribution, let it be a speedy one, for he who gives quickly gives twice.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Music Hall Home Fund, made a strenuous appeal about this time last year for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund, and he desires again to urge upon artists the claims of this deserving charity. By means of *The Era* collecting cards the money at the disposal of the fund was increased by £217 6s. 6d. This means that practically 4,346 separate shillings were collected, and in this direction great praise is due to Miss Nellie Wilson for her strenuous efforts in the cause of charity.

We have now to renew the appeal we made this time twelve months ago. That appeal and most of the money obtained by it are, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." We have entered upon a new year. What is the prospect? It is that of help badly needed by many of your brother and sister artists who are down on their luck, and some who, by reason of their age, are likely to remain so. There is no necessity, nor would it be right, to harrow your

[*Photo by Brooks.*

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD.

feelings with tales of poverty and misery. You have contributed handsomely in the past. We know that you will do so again, and we shall be pleased to acknowledge your donations to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund in these columns. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

	Shillings.
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Johnny Holland	21
Charles Weldon	20
Bros. Webb	10
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

THE COLISEUM.

Since our last visit to the famous palace in St. Martin's-lane, Mr. Oswald Stoll has applied for, and obtained, the Lord-Chamberlain's licence, and the establishment is now run as a theatre, with a permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages, but with the privilege of smoking in the auditorium withdrawn. To the uninitiated in such matters the change is hardly perceptible, because the entertainment presented remains very much on the same lines as formerly, Mr. Stoll pinning his faith to music hall scenas, excerpts from favourite comic opera, original operettas, and illustrated songs, as his chief attractions. There is, however, an important difference in the manner of presenting the variety turns. These are specially introduced as specialities—if we may use the term—in a brightly-written farcical extravaganza, *Aladdin's Lamp*, by Arthur Shirley and Marshall Moore. We are taken to Holly Tree Hall, where we make the acquaintance of the Rice family, of which Captain Plato Rice, an old sea-dog, is the head. The Christmas is being spent in quite the Dickensian fashion, and the arrival of Major George Rice, brother of Captain Plato, from India, with a number of presents, adds no little to the enjoyment of the youngsters. The newcomer brings with him a mysterious fakir, who is the only one acquainted with the properties of a still more mysterious lamp, which has been given in quite a haphazard fashion to Captain Plato. The old gentleman is left alone during the absence of the family at the Coliseum, and, taking it into his head to polish his new possession, is at once confronted with the geni thereof, who at once grants his wish—that he may lose his gout. We need go no further into the Arabian Nights story, but follow the Rice family to the Coliseum, where we find them in two private boxes on the stage in the second scene. They are enjoying the variety entertainment. Messrs. Stelling and Revell, who are labelled as immortals, open this entertainment with a horizontal bar performance, possessing many original features and no little humour. There are many diverting devices in the show. Even the "long arm" of coincidence has a look in; and the audience is convulsed when one of the performers, in swinging round the bar, leaves the whole of his outer garments hanging thereon. He is also responsible for other fantastic business, and some spoof balancing, and the accidental dropping of a tin can upon his head, which causes the instantaneous appearance of an immense bump, is such a whimsical incident that grown-ups laugh as heartily as if they were children witnessing an amusing bit of clowning for the first time. Fun is certainly in the ascendant in the turn, but it is allied to one of the most skilful gymnastic performances of its kind.

La Berat, the fire-maiden, is another of the immortals. She finds a habitat in a stalactite cavern, and dances, *à la* serpentine, in robes of diaphanous and shimmering white, in front of a constantly changing background of beautiful designs. Now we have a continually ascending cloud of brilliant-hued butterflies; then are produced with bewildering colour effects the horticultural beauties of roses, chrysanthemums, lilies; and later we gaze at a tasteful series of wonderful and indescribable patterns. These effects are of course adventitious aids to the success of De Berat, who lends grace and charm to a fascinating performance. Mr. Eugene Stratton, who returns to the Coliseum after a short absence, comes back with a song from the accomplished pen of Mr. Leslie Stuart, the composer of *Florodora*, who knows exactly the measure of the well-known coon impersonator. Mr. Stuart's latest is a very charming addition to the Stratton repertoire. It is entitled "There's nothing like your first love, after all." In this, Mr. Stratton impersonates a spoony nigger, who goes to a ball, but is seized with a settled melancholy, arising from "heart trouble," associated, as one may easily guess, with the eternal feminine. He can no longer shoot or fish as he used to do; but a return to cheerfulness is brought about by the full appreciation of the sentimental axiom of the refrain, which is one of the prettiest the composer has given us. It is quite in his characteristic vein, and Mr. Stratton imparts to it the utmost expression, completing his success by one of his very remarkable dances, which have a cachet entirely their own. "The coon that never told a lie," one of Mr. Stratton's old successes, prefaces the new number. In the early portion of the bill, the popular song, "In Dreamland," has been pictorially illustrated by John Hassall, who has cleverly depicted what a child saw after a Christmas party. The exuberant fancy of the words of the song, which are from the pen of Mr. Roland Carse, give the clever artist plenty of opportunity for quaintness of design, and the series of pictures marks a new departure in the illustration of songs; for Mr. Hassall is a humorist with the brush, and distinctly clever. The chief novelty of the programme is *Love's Apotheosis*, a spectacular episode, or, rather, a poetic cycle, in one scene and three tableaux, translated from the French of Armand Silvestre, by the late Clement Scott, Alfred Berlyn, and André Raffalovich. Mrs. Brown-Potter, clad in clinging white draperies, and with her beautiful hair wreathed in cornflowers, impersonates the "Spirit of Love," and recites the tender stanzas of the poem, which is illustrated by three tableaux, "Boaz and Ruth," "Antony and Cleopatra," and "Dante and Beatrice." The lines describe equally well the simple faith and affection of the young Moabite widow, the power and intensity of the passion of the Egyptian sorceress for the noble Roman, and the soul-worship of the Italian poet. Mrs. Brown-Potter, who acts as a sort of chorus, realises to the full the beauties of the poem, and is responsible for a very artistic effort. The music which has been arranged by Mr. Walter Slaughter, is quite in keeping with the theme. A pretty scene of a cave has been painted by Mr. Cecil Hicks, and the arrangement of the tableaux reflect the greatest credit on Mr. Marshall Moore. *In Bells and Motley* and *Fenella* are still retained among the chief attractions of the bill. In the former musical playlet Miss Mabel Love is responsible for a fascinating performance of the Arcadian Princess, who becomes a May Queen; and in the latter Mr. Richard Green, Mr. Andrew Roy, and Miss Madge Temple give the utmost effect to the excellent music by M. Napoleon Lambelet.

MR. AND MRS. E. H. LUCAS IN EDINBURGH.

Glasgow Herald, Jan. 9, 1906, says:—

THE EMPIRE.

There is much to interest and amuse at the Sauchiehall-street house this week, and under the first heading the "turn" submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Lucas takes first place. This talented couple are already well and favourably known in the city, and the pieces played, *The Courtship of Jonas Chuzzlewit and Mercy Pecksniff*, in two acts, and *The Death of Jo*, from "Bleak House," were received with hearty approval.

Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, Jan. 16, 1906:—

FEW HAVE MET WITH SUCH SUCCESS.

Selections from Dickens's works always prove an acceptable "turn" at the Empire, but few have met with the success of those which Mr. and Mrs. Lucas give. Their entertainment consists of a couple of scenes from "Martin Chuzzlewit" and one from "Bleak House." The courtship of Jonas Chuzzlewit and Mercy Pecksniff was last night their best effort, though the heavier passages were naturally more to the liking of the "gods," who were hearty in their approval.

CHAT WITH MR. J. D. HAMLYN.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER).

The place looked innocent enough from the outside. Harmless little feathered songsters could be seen, and their chirpings were distinct enough, even though a window separated them from the listener on the pavement. But inside—pandemonium! It seemed as if the parrots and cockatoos had divided themselves into two political parties, and had decided to screech one another out of hearing. This parrot Parliament allowed small peace of mind to the web-footed frogs who lay in tanks underneath the cages of the birds, while the look of fear on the face of the trembling fox in the wire net-worked box was surely well accounted for. No doubt the bark of a hound would be like unto sweet music in the ears of Reynard compared with the ear-splitting nagging of the parrots and cockatoos.

"English foxes are surely not pets, Mr. Hamlyn?"

"Oh, we get them for hunting purposes," replied the naturalist. We turned our gaze to a part of the floor which was covered with tortoises, occasionally languidly stretching out their arms and heads from beneath their ornamental carapace. "I have a thousand of them," said Mr. Hamlyn, "and they sell at from 1s. each to £5 each."

Passing the aviary, which contained the romantic little green lovebirds from Madagascar, we went on to make the acquaintance of South African meercats, cassowaries from New Guinea, a large tortoise weighing 35lb., which came from 200 miles inland from Port Elizabeth, and jackals, who treated you to sly, suspicious glances. Beautiful-plumaged pheasants, pigeons, and partridges from India, Africa, and Australia, claimed one's attention a little further on; while, next door to them, little South African rock rabbits rushed bashfully back into the inner recesses of their

MR. J. D. HAMLYN.

residence immediately you proferred the hand of friendship. A few steps further on a majestic eagle, who paced up and down his cage with lordly dignity, threw upon you the keenness of his gaze, his example being followed to a lesser extent by some African springbuck and a herd of duykerbuck.

"The greatest novelty in my latest collection," remarked Mr. Hamlyn, "is these sixty penguins, from Penguin Island. Never has such a large number been imported before. The bird over there, with the long legs and delicate fawn-grey plumage, is an African crane, and those others are black and white-necked swans and African wild ducks. I ought to tell you that my Polar bears, lions, and hyænas were sold before I left South Africa."

Perhaps the most interesting apartment in Mr. Hamlyn's establishment is that which contains the monkeys and baboons—of the latter he has fifty South and West African specimens—armadilloes, mongooses, civet cats, Java apes, bishop monkeys from West Africa, Indian monkeys, African black crows, antelopes, frogs, snakes, and other lively creatures who would not make very pleasant bedfellows.

And now something about the man whose name is known practically all over the world as a collector and importer of wild animals, birds, reptiles, &c. Mr. John D. Hamlyn was born in Taunton, Somerset, in 1859, the first few years of his business career being spent in London as a shipping clerk. During his nine years' connection with the London Docks, he speculated in foreign birds and small pet animals, which he might see on any of the numerous steamers he had to attend to in the course of his duties. His first purchase was an Indian monkey, for which he paid ten shillings, and which he sold for twenty-five. After six months' working on his own account in this way, he was offered an engagement by the late celebrated naturalist, Mr. Charles Jamrach, and purchased specimens for that gentleman for some six months. On leaving Mr. Jamrach, he started in business for himself, at 63, Upper East Smithfield, and since then he has never left the neighbourhood, his present premises at 221, St. George-street, London Docks, East, being but a hundred yards from the old house.

"The business in those days," said Mr. Hamlyn, "was totally different from what it is now. London was then the centre of the bird and animal world, and all the Continental dealers, menageries, and zoological gardens were supplied from the English Metropolis. The daily and weekly arrivals of birds and animals ran into many thousands of pounds. Now the trade has entirely drifted to the Continent, to French and German hands, the seafaring men of these countries taking up the business with great vigour and enterprise, and it is impossible for us to enter into competition with them in their own ports."

In the year 1889 Mr. Hamlyn received his first big contract, which was to supply 1,000 monkeys to Brooks's Monkey Show, at the Alexandra Palace. Many were the congratulatory messages he received in connection with that wonderful exhibition. When Messrs. Barnum and Bailey visited London during the same year, Mr. Hamlyn was called upon to assist in their animal show, and during the years 1890 to 1898 he was kept busy transhipping and moving various shows belonging to Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell and Mr. Carl Hagenbeck, the well-known Hamburg dealer. All this while Mr. Hamlyn's own business was increasing by leaps and bounds, and his consignments took him frequently to Antwerp, Hamburg, and Rotterdam. In 1897 he was again approached by Messrs. Brooks to perform for them a service similar to that he undertook before, and he did so to their entire satisfaction. In 1900 to 1904 he was kept employed by the various laboratories, hospitals, and, latterly, by the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, supplying them with specimens for their work. In 1904, too, he visited the Belgian and the French Congo, at the request of Dr. Steegman, for the purpose of procuring chimpanzees for the Royal Commission. He left England in March, 1904, and visited numerous places in the Belgian Congo, and, from thence travelling to the French Congo seaboard, stopping at such places as Loango, Mayambs, and finally settling down at Settecama for a couple of months' stay. There he found the gorilla, the chimpanzee, and the mandrill in abundance, and he returned home in the following September with a very fine collection. The ensuing year saw him again in the French Congo, in quest of gorillas and chimpanzees, and this trip proved one of the most successful ever made, for it resulted in twenty-five chimpanzees being obtained, and three gorillas, the largest number ever got together at any one time. His collection also included the celebrated lady gorilla, Miss Crowther, which was eventually sold to the New York Zoological Gardens. The number of boxes of animals secured on this particular journey totalled 120. "I would like to say," resumed Mr. Hamlyn, "that the collection of gorillas and chimpanzees is a very risky and dangerous undertaking—not so risky and dangerous in the manner of obtaining the animals, but in the manner of landing and shipping the stock from the perilous surf, which is always found on this coast.

"In September of last year I left for Cape Town, and, after traversing the surrounding neighbourhood, I betook myself to Port Elizabeth and Graaf Reinet, and from the latter point twenty miles inland to a small village, where I found the best part of the specimens just brought home. Although with the consignment just arrived none of the larger antelopes has been brought, I have already obtained nine gnus, four koodoos, and two pairs of boutebok antelopes, the latter of which have not been seen in Britain for a quarter of a century. The antelopes and birds of South Africa I found were fully protected, and it was only with the greatest amount of trouble that I could obtain permission to procure the specimens I particularly desired. When I return to Africa, as I shall do shortly, I shall go up country as far as Victoria Falls, where I expect to receive four giraffes and various other antelopes. I have been furnished with the necessary permits to secure these animals."

J. F. LAMBE and Tom Mellor have collaborated in a clever and tuneful song entitled "Can't you find a sweetheart of your own?" Mr. David Day has secured the number. Mr. W. Frame, who has been scoring heavily in the North with Mr. Lambe's "The Hielan' King of France," has accepted another song, also by the same author and composer, named "Dinna, Donal', do."

THE amazing swiftness with which the late George Le Brunn could write his brilliant and fascinating melodies was a matter of wonder and admiration to many of his collaborators, and was incredible to those artists who had not witnessed the genius at his work. On one occasion, at a Tivoli matinée, Mr. Leonard Barry looked at a set of words brought him by Edgar Bateman, a comic-song entitled "Two can live cheaper than one," and, asking where was the music, the reply was that there was no music as the composer had not arrived. Mr. Barry left the hall for a few minutes only, and at that moment George Le Brunn entered. Borrowing a bit of music-paper from Mr. Angelo Asher and a pen from one of the young ladies in the buffet, the composer wrote the melody while the orchestra was playing a march as overture, and the comedian, re-entering, was astonished to find the composition finished, and almost refused to believe it was possible to have been written in the time. A few moments later it was played over in poor George's inimitable style on a piano at Dallas's well-known music-shop opposite the Tivoli, accepted, and was published on the Monday.

ON yet another occasion the same writer, who had had some wonderful successes, thanks to Le Brunn's melodies (notably "The 'Ouses in Between," "It's a great big shame," "The Cockney's Travels," and "Folkestone for the Day"), showed Le Brunn the words of a coster song, which took the latter seven minutes to compose and write out. Together they called at Miss Kate Carney's house, and, a piano being unearthed from beneath a pile of furniture—"spring cleaning" operations being in progress at Boylands Oak—the song was played over and paid for by Mr. George Barclay on the instant. Miss Carney often recalled afterwards how, when the pair had departed, she and her husband grumbled a little at their calling on such an inopportune day. That song, which took Le Brunn seven minutes to compose, was "'Liza Johnson," and the first of the author's to be "pirated," utterly ruining the sale of legitimate copies.

ONE of the most refined and artistic items given on the variety stage has this week been delighting huge audiences at the Holloway Empire, and is composed of four ladies and five gentlemen, who are billed as The Vaudeville Entertainers. Mr. Paul Mill, the head of the combination, sings his own songs, "Penelope; or, the Pierrot on the Portobello Pier," and "Isn't it wonderful, eh?" and the fine tenor has held the house spellbound by his rendering of "The Trumpeter." Mr. Henry W. May, the accomplished chef d'orchestre during this portion of the programme, gracefully relinquishes his baton to Mr. J. Airlie Dix, the composer of the last-mentioned song.

ON Thursday Giuseppe Sacco began an attempt to fast for 45 days, during which time he will be confined in a hut or cabin specially constructed for his reception at the Royal Italian Circus. It is stated that Sacco was formerly secretary to Succi, who some years ago fasted for 40 days at the Westminster Aquarium. Sacco, who is of Hungarian origin, is 40 years of age, and has already had considerable experience of fasting, having gone through 43 periods of abstention from food, ranging over periods of time varying from nine to 31 days. He has exhibited himself while undergoing these voluntary privations in St. Petersburg, Hamburg, Vienna, Milan, Cologne, and other Continental cities.

THE death of Mr. Theophilus Read, of the Agricultural Hall, will cause profound regret both in the variety and showman worlds. He was the pioneer of the World's Fair, which every Yuletide for the last quarter of a century has been gathered under the hospitable roof of the great Hall in the Upper-street, Islington. The deceased gentleman had been ailing for the last twelve months; but his strenuous nature impelled him to look after the great show whose interests he had so much at hear when he was inwardly suffering. His elder son had, however, given him loyal assistance. Mr. Read was known to every travelling entertainer, and the news of his death will be learnt with the deepest sorrow by every vandweller in the kingdom. The interment will be at Abbey Park Cemetery on Monday.

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INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' LODGE.

An extraordinary general meeting of the International Artists' Lodge was held at the Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, on Sunday evening. The attendance of all members of the music hall profession was invited. The object of the meeting was to discuss the ways and means of obtaining a better working understanding between the various music hall societies in England, and further to propound schemes for the better organisation of music hall artists and the improvement of the conditions under which they work.

BRO. C. BANTRAM presided, and there was a large attendance of members of the profession.

THE CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, read telegrams from Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, secretary of the M.H.A.R.A. Association; Mr. H. Lester, secretary of The Terriers' Association; Mr. Cliff Ryland, and Mr. Sam Ostend, expressing regret at inability to attend the meeting.

The balance-sheet up to Sept. 30, 1905, showed the assets to amount to £6344, while the total number of members was 3846.

THE CHAIRMAN said that this balance had in five years accumulated in spite of the fact that to carry on the Society cost £1 6s. per year per head. The satisfactory financial condition had been brought about by the practice of economy, and also by investing the funds in the best possible manner.

BRO. H. GRIFF read the report of the Executive Committee, from which it appeared that during the past year 100 meetings had taken place, at all of which a quorum had been present. He also read a list of members who had joined the Society in England; these included a number of well-known artists. A legal Protection Committee had also been established during the year, and not a single case had been lost.

BRO. H. MOUNTFORD, in an able and telling speech, explained the objects of the International Lodge. The initials "I.A.L.," might be taken to signify "In Any Land." A member of the Society, in whatever country he might happen to be, would have at his disposal the services of a solicitor and counsel in the event of a dispute arising with the proprietor of a hall. Mr. Mountford pointed out the importance of combination, and regretted that the membership of the Lodge only amounted to 1,300. The agents, he said, had found it necessary to form a society; so, too, had the stage hands. The International Lodge was started five years ago in Germany, and now they had formed an English branch with their own Executive Committee, their own office, and their own solicitors. He saw no reason why artists in England should not join the Association, which might be described as of a democratic character. It was formed for the purpose of removing abuses from which music hall artists had hitherto suffered. The most important of these was the barring clause. The Association would not attempt to abolish this clause, because it was admitted to be a necessary trade protection, but what they did propose to do was to make the barring clause fair and equitable, both to proprietor and artist. He might state that the Lodge was on friendly terms with the London Entertainments' Protection Association; and they had been fighting the London County Council for three months on the question of the lighting arrangements in theatres and music halls. The Theatres and Music Halls' Committee had refused to see a deputation from the Lodge, but had agreed to postpone the consideration of the matter. In conclusion, Mr. Mountford made an eloquent appeal to all artists to join the Lodge. One of the main objects was to protect them against unjust treatment and secure for them a fair contract with proprietors and managers.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out the importance of an international organisation, and explained the reasons why the White Rats' Society in America had failed. They had invited to the meeting the officers and committees of other music hall societies, their object being to fraternise for the benefit of the profession at large.

MR. WILLIAM LEE, speaking as a non-member, said he thought that there was a general feeling amongst artists that the Society was more for the protection of the foreign than the English artist. Its objects ought to be made more generally known.

MR. PAT CAREY inquired as to the mode by which artists were elected members of the Lodge.

THE CHAIRMAN produced a nomination form, and explained that an artist wishing to join was nominated by a member who knew him and supported by two other members.

MR. FRANK GERALD pointed out that the barring clause and other matters concerning artists had been considered by the Committee of the M.H.A.R.A., and while thanking the Lodge for their invitation to that meeting, he thought that his Association ought to have been approached, and not vice-versâ. He felt he should be in a somewhat false position if he joined the Lodge, because he held that the M.H.A.R.A. was the English society to whom should be entrusted the maintenance of the rights of music-hall artists.

MR. W. HAST said he was a member of the Committee of the M.H.A.R.A., but he did not agree with Mr. Gerald, as the rules of that Society did not permit them to take up the objects which were being promoted by the International Lodge.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the M.H.A.R.A. was approached some time ago, but declined to have anything to do with the Lodge.

MR. A. VOYCE spoke in support of the Lodge, and expressed his intention of becoming a member.

MR. CHARLES COBORN said he had always been an advocate of establishing a trade union amongst music hall artists, and with regard to the Lodge, he had already expressed his opinion that it was the finest thing ever made in Germany. He was in complete sympathy with its objects, and they might enter his name as a member. He cordially wished it every success. After some further discussion the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

SIR,—Over twenty years ago I convened a meeting in the neighbourhood of the Trocadero from which arose the first protection association ever formed by music hall artists. From one cause and another the institution, after proving that music hall artists could combine, despite the croakings of those half-hearted people who said such a thing could never happen, and despite the efforts of actual enemies, gradually fell to pieces, but not before it had given birth to other valuable institutions, which, happily, are still with us. The decease of the parent society appeared to have revived the delusion that "professionals" would never stick together, but there are some of us who have never lost faith in the idea, and there are others to whom it appealed so strongly that at last arose an association which seems likely to fulfil the brightest hopes of the pioneers. I allude to the International Artists' Lodge, firstly of Berlin and now of world-wide importance. We artists have often availed ourselves gladly of things which have been "made in Germany," and to my mind this is the best piece of goods which that enterprising country has brought forward for our use and benefit. I am proud to state that I have become a member of it, and, from what I know of its intentions, constitution, and workings, I would strongly recommend my fellow-workers who have the best interests of our business at heart to go and do likewise. I call our entire profession to witness that I have never ceased from urging that an association of the kind should be formed amongst ourselves, but I have urged in vain. The fault lies at the doors of those in high position, with great privileges and great powers in their hands, who, though marked out before all men as leading men, would not lead. Either from absolutely causeless fear or from comfortable indifference, they have left it to men with better hearts, greater faith, and more honest determination to see right and justice done by them and their class and craft. Personally it is a matter of indifference to me from what quarter of the world they come who are willing and ready to raise and defend the banner of right and reason against prejudice, indifference, and factious opposition. Art is of no nation, and surely amongst such a cosmopolitan community as we music hall artists, it is a little late in the day to inquire if the head of the bill is an Englishman, German, Scotchman, Dane, or any other nationality, however "foreign" we may choose to call it. The motto of the I.A.L. may be described as "Defence, not Defiance." It does not seek quarrel or litigation, but is formed to prevent such if possible. A powerful branch has been instituted in this country, with practical Home Rule, and it is very gratifying to know that many very prominent artists amongst our own ranks have welcomed the idea with the utmost heartiness, and signified their sincerity by becoming members. God speed the I.A.L., say I, and preserve it from foes, whether without or within.

"THE LADY IN RED."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your generous an eulogistic reference to that highly successful sketch *The Lady in Red* you inadvertently give me the credit of its authorship. In justice to a clever and brilliant gentleman, will you permit me to state that *The Lady in Red* owes her origin to Mr Frank Dix? I could not think of permitting his giant's robe to descend upon the dwarfish shoulders of your faithfully, TOM CRAVEN.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, DEC. 5, 1905.—"LEAH KLESCHNA" was an instantaneous success at Her Majesty's Theatre on the 2nd instant. Mr. J. C. Williamson produced the much-boomed play in excellent style, and the performance was a good all-round one. Miss Minnie Tittell Brune was an ideal Leah Kleschna, all that is womanly and true shining out. Her best work was with Kleschna, ably acted by Mr. Roy Redgrave. It would be well if the authors abolished the anti-climax contained in the fifth act, save that Mr. Williamson has given us a most delicious lettuce-field scene. Mr. Roy Redgrave made a hit as Kleschna, giving a strong, consistent portrait, full of professional pride tempered by paternal love. Mr. Gaston Mervale presented us with a Raoul Berton alert with villainy, and Mr. J. B. Atholwood justified his selection for Schram—forcible and replete with vigorous activity. Mr. Albert Gran made General Berton a melodramatic father; Mr. Harry Sweeney scored a success as Valentin Favre; and Sophie was vivaciously acted by Miss Florence Gibson. Miss Clara Stephenson and Miss Olly Deering embodied with much cleverness two typical peasants. The curtain had to be raised every act many times, and at the finish the enthusiasm, undamped by the lettuce scene, was very great. Mr. John Gordon, the scenic artist, was loudly cheered. The play will run the rest of the Brune season.

"PRINCESS IDA," after a long absence, returned to the Criterion on the 2nd inst., escorted by Mr. Williamson's répertoire company. Mr. Howard Vernon, who now plays King Gama in place of Hildebrand, had a well-deserved reception, and many recalls. His work was as good as ever. Mr. Charles Kenningham, in excellent voice, made Cyril a delightfully funny man, every line of Gilbertian humour being distinctly given; Mr. Walter Whyte, the fast-arriving tenor, as Hilarion, was loudly applauded. The rich-voiced Miss Celia Ghiloni made a fine Dame Blanche, and Miss Dolly Castles, as Princess Ida, was quite satisfactory; Miss Venia De Loitte's glorious voice and piquant refinement gave Psyche a charmful attractiveness. Mr. Frank Wilson sang King Hildebrand's music well; and Miss Aggie Thorne and Messrs. Ernest Fitts, Arthur Crane, Fred England, and others aided the success of the opera

"THROUGH THE DIVORCE COURT" was produced at the Theatre Royal by Mr. William Anderson on the 2nd inst., and the play was capitally acted throughout. It has an Othello-ish aspect; pathos mingles with humour, and tragedy rules the whole. The characters are judiciously distributed. Miss Eugenie Duggan is Dolores; Mr. George Cross Lord Penarth; and Mr. Laurence Dunbar is Mendoza. These principals do their work well, and Misses Ada Guildford, Georgie Leighford, and Lorna Sinclair, with Messrs. Sterling Whyte, Bert Bailey, Temgill Harrison, Walter Dagleish, May Clifton, and Edmund Duggan have responsible duties to perform. Without any mechanical sensations, the interest is kept going by a strong story and situations of startling moment.

THE Tivoli has Leroy, Bosco, and Talma in their last week, a new boy raconteur, Boy Glen, and Mr. Ryder Slone, a character singer. These attractions are increased by the engagement of Mr. Percy Denton, tenor singer and comedian, once of Moore and Burgess Minstrels, and *The Belle of New York* company; the Four Jacksons, Tom Dawson, Maud Faning, Arthur Albert, Olive Lenton, and Kelly and Agnes.

THE personal estate of the late George Le Brunn, the lamented composer of music-hall songs, is declared of the value of £183. This amount includes £100 derived from an insurance policy with the Prudential.

MISS FANNY WENTWORTH, who is playing a special fortnight at the Lyceum, tells a quaint little story of the second night of her successful re-appearance in Wellington-street. She obtained admission for her maid, whose experience of entertainments is very small, and waited with some amusement for her verdict on the performance. On the following morning her maid repeated the hurried praises of the previous night, but added, in a somewhat troubled voice, "There was one thing I didn't understand, miss. Why did two men come out on each side of the stage before you commenced and put up the word 'Disputed' on those pieces of white card where they showed numbers for the other people?" "Disputed?" repeated Miss Wentworth in amazement. "Whatever did they mean by that? I think that the word must have been 'Deputy.'" "Perhaps it was," answered the maid, "for I'm sure nobody sittin' near me disputed whether you ought to be there or not. You went very well!" The popular lady "musical sketcher" has been making quite a hit with a political version of a nursery rhyme, perhaps the most applauded verse ending with the question and answer—"Shall I go with you, my pretty maid?" "I need no Protection, sir," she said; "I'm British, not foreign goods, kind sir," she said.

MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS revives on Monday at the Tivoli *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife*, in which he will sing "La Mattchiche," the present craze-tune everywhere. He is supported by his clever company and a chorus of "Spanish" ladies, who, report says, are exceedingly fair to look upon.

VARIETY fills the bill this week at the Richmond Theatre. Excellent is Jenny Hartley, a bright soubrette; clever are Mrs. Frederica's terriers; and very pleasing are the ballads of Miss Sybil Montagu. Mr. Geo. A. Stevens is entertaining, the Hulines are funny in the extreme, and delightful are the coon ditties of the Cotton Blossom Quartette. Ted Leo, Adams and Ward, and the bioscope complete the bill.

CHAT WITH MISS KITTY LOFTUS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Miss Kitty Loftus, the clever actress who is delighting audiences at the London Pavilion, has a complaint to make. "Ever so many picture postcards," she says, "are sent to me to be inscribed with my autograph. I have had as many as twelve from one man, all sent at the same time. When I get my secretary to write this gentleman a note to the effect that he might forward a small donation to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, or some other professional fund, I receive no answer whatever. Now, I do not know whether or not that man is selling my autographs. There have been other cases, however, where only one signature has been asked for, and six penny stamps have been sent for one of our charitable institutions, but the majority of applicants and autograph-collectors do not seem willing to part with a single penny. But, in any case, why should artists be asked to sign picture postcards?"

Unfortunately, Miss Loftus is not the only one who has suffered from this peculiar form of nuisance. A few of our well-known actors and actresses have taken the precaution of securing something in the shape of a quid pro quo for their autographs. Mr. Tree, we believe, sends a circular letter to applicants for a specimen of his handwriting stating that the said specimen will be duly forwarded after a small sum of money has been added to the Actor's Benevolent Fund or the Actors' Orphanage. But there is just this thought: One or two of the autograph-seekers may be in need of charity themselves, and might have to deny themselves or their families if they assisted a fund with which, after all, they are really not concerned. All the same, we think, as a general rule, that members of the profession

Photo by Histed, Baker-street, W.

MISS KITTY LOFTUS.

might reasonably ask for a few coppers in return for their autographs.

"Does your appearance at the Pavilion mean that you have forsaken the theatres, Miss Loftus?"

"Indeed, no. I am too much in love with my own work for such a thing as that to happen. The moment I can get a suitable play and a suitable theatre, I shall return to what we call the legitimate."

"Perhaps the 'illegitimate' pays you better?"

"Variety work is more remunerative, but, then, you know, money's not everything in this world. I shall finish at the Pavilion at Christmas, and after that I hold a contract with Mr. Oswald Stoll. I had hoped to produce a very charming Yuletide play entitled *Sunny Locks*, by Mr. G. P. Hawtrey, and in the hope of finding a theatre I refused a very lucrative engagement. However, I may be able to bring it out towards the close of next year. A little later on I shall produce a one-act dramatic piece, written by myself, and called *The Mountebank and His Little Maid*. The scene is laid in a fairground, and will be a very bright set, and the principal characters will be a jester and a young girl. In addition to that, I am now engaged in writing a comedy, which will extend to three or four acts. Of course, I only write plays for myself."

Miss Loftus, who has been touring the provinces since she was a child, was, as she puts it, "brought up on Shakespeare." Her grandfather was an old Shakespearean actor, and much of her early training was received in Mr. F. R. Benson's company. She began by playing the children's parts in most of the plays written by the Immortal Bard. A few years saw her in more responsible rôles, such as Polly Eccles in *Caste* and Naomi, as well as in the Gaiety burlesques on tour, including *Little Jack Sheppard*, *Cinderella Up Too Late*, generally appearing in Miss Nellie Farren's parts. *The Lady Slavey* was specially written for Miss Loftus. Coming to London, she played in *Santa Claus* at the Lyceum under Mr. Oscar Barrett's management, and here it is of interest to state that she did a last performance and a first performance on the same evening, for within a few hours she took her final call before the curtain at the Lyceum in *Santa Claus*, and made her initial appearance in the production of *Gentleman Joe* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre with Mr. Arthur Roberts. Remaining for a time at the Shaftesbury, she was seen in *Biarritz*, *The White Silk Dress*, and *A Pierrot's Life*. The last-mentioned was a wordless play, the music being by Sig. Costa, and the company of artists, with the sole exception of herself, were foreigners. Subsequently she performed notable service in *The Yashmak*, also at the Shaftesbury, and the following Christmas was at the Queen's Hall in a little sketch, *The Order of the Bath*, produced by herself. In this piece Miss Loftus and Mr. Albert Chevalier were the stars. She was one of those in the company who bade farewell to the old Opera Comique in its concluding performance of *The Good Old Time*. At Terry's Theatre she made herself extremely popular in Mr. Basil Hood's Christmas fairy plays. These were succeeded—as far as Miss Loftus was concerned—with the production of *The French Maid* and *Her Royal Highness* at the Vaudeville, in both of which pieces she assumed title-rôles. Engaged for a six weeks' stay in America, she became such a favourite that she remained six months, and before she left signed a contract for two years. She found the work, however, to be beyond her strength, and her managers kindly released her. Back in London, Mr. F. R. Benson secured her for Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the boy in *Henry V.*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, and Lucy in *The Rivals*. She next produced and played on tour a play called *Baby*, by Mr. Kinsey Peale, and, on returning to town, appeared as Foolish Harriet in *Shock-Headed Peter* at the Garrick. Subsequently she for a while took the place of Miss Marie Tempest as Nell Gwynne in *English Nell*, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and played it in the suburbs. In the revival of *Morocco Bound* at the Comedy she enacted the rôle of Maud Sportington. This was followed by a tour with her own company in *Naughty Nancy*, Mr. John le Hay being in the cast; later appearing as Betty with Sir Charles Wyndham at Wyndham's Theatre, after which she took the Savoy Theatre and had a successful four months' run of *Naughty Nancy*. After a holiday in France, spent partly in enjoyment and partly in securing good French pieces suitable for adaptation, Miss Loftus returned to take her company on tour with Mr. Frank Stayton's play, *The Maid from School*, which she produced at Terry's Theatre, with an afterpiece called *The Duchess of Silliscrankie; or, The Earl and the Cheery Girl on their singularly Entangled Honeymoon*. Miss Loftus then commissioned several authors to write for her, including Mr. Louis N. Parker, and she arranged a tour last Easter with a triple bill, namely, *The Circus Rider: A Means to an End*, and several variety artists, including Mr. John le Hay and the Musical Johnsons.

"From that," says Miss Loftus, "I was tempted by an offer to go to the London Pavilion, where I am now giving selections from musical comedies. It was my first music-hall engagement, although variety contracts have been placed at my disposal over and over again. It seems to me that the best people are rushing to the halls.

"It is easy work doing only one turn a night, though no doubt it must be rather nerve-straining to perform at three or four in one evening. That I cannot do, and have no intention of doing. For one reason, at this moment I am exclusively engaged at the Pavilion."

In a few weeks Miss Loftus will be seen at another place of amusement in London, and it will certainly be interesting to watch her progress in a class of entertainment which is so far foreign to her. She is attractive as an artist, and in private life she is no less attractive.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

MR. E. A. CLAPHAM, who has been the electrician for Collins's Music Hall, Islington, for many years past, has been engaged by Mr. De Frece to take charge of the electricians' department at the Hippodrome, Boscombe. Mr. Burrows has been appointed to succeed Mr. Clapham.

THE annual dinner of the staff at the Grand Theatre, Islington, will be given on Sunday evening in the Woolpack Hotel, St. John-street, Clerkenwell, at 6.30. About fifty employees and friends will attend. Mr. Samuel James, proprietor, will preside, and Mr. Newman Maurice, the manager, will occupy the vice-chair.

A "FRIENDLY" meeting will be held on Sunday evening in the Freemasons' Arms, Long Acre, for the benefit of Mr. J. Crawford. A meeting for a similar purpose will be held the same evening in the Enterprise, Long Acre, for the benefit of Mrs. George Cooper, whose husband died in hospital recently.

AT the monthly meeting of the General Theatrical Operatives' Sick and Benevolent Society held on Sunday evening, it was decided to arrange a dinner and social evening for members and friends.

AT the fortnightly meeting of the General Staff Branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, held on Wednesday evening, fifteen applications for membership were granted. The Secretary submitted the annual financial statement and the Auditor's report thereon. The Committee unanimously accepted the statement and report. The following nominations for election to office in the Branch at the forthcoming annual general meeting of members on Sunday, Feb. 4, were reported to the Committee. For President, Mr. Charles Thorogood; Vice-President, Mr. John Cunningham (Drury-lane Theatre); Treasurer, Mr. Edward Stow (Lyric); Secretary, Mr. William Johnson; Trustees, Mr. J. H. Tillett, Mr. F. Wilson (Alhambra), and Mr. A. George, master carpenter, Grand Theatre; Auditors, Mr. J. Finnigan (Empire), Mr. H. J. Kemp (His Majesty's); Committee, Mr. P. Thomas, Mr. J. Hunt, Mr. J. Lineham (Alhambra), Mr. H. T. Wood, Mr. J. Phelps (Drury-lane Theatre), Mr. H. Bowmer (Gaiety), Mr. A. J. Mason, Mr. W. J. Hindley (Vaudeville Theatre), Mr. J. Atterton (Grand, Islington). The above, with the exception of Mr. George and Mr. Hindley, now hold the offices for which they have been nominated for re-election. Other nominations are—Mr. Edward Keating, master carpenter (Queen's Theatre); Mr. W. G. Farrell (flyman, Savoy Theatre), Mr. W. Bevington (Tivoli), Mr. H. Porter (Wyndham's), Mr. G. Pickering (Apollo). There are fourteen candidates for ten vacancies.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION THEATRICAL EMPLOYEES,
GENERAL STAFF, LONDON, NO. I. BRANCH.
Extract from the financial statement for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905.

Gross Income.	£	s.	d.
Entrance Fees	24	1	3
Contributions to General, Sick, and Funeral Funds	424	17	11
Contributions to Benevolent Fund	8	2	7
Share of Theatrical Sports' Balance, 1904	2	18	0
Share of Good Friday Concert	2	19	3
Share of Dramatic and Musical Fund	120	0	0
Share of Opera House Joint Concert	30	16	1
Sale of Cards, Badges, and Fines	3	9	0
Interest on Funds	6	13	0
Compensation recovered for a Member	21	0	0
Other Items	3	16	0
	708	13	1
Balance carried forward from Dec. 31, 1904	911	15	8½
Total	1,620	8	9½

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Allocation from 1905 Income	366	13	7
Balance from 1904	350	7	4½
	717	0	11½
Expenditure.			
Rent of Office and Halls	42	12	6
Secretary's Salary	156	0	0
Officers' and Committee Fees	24	14	6
Collecting Stewards' Commissions	19	12	4
London Trades Council Dues	8	13	4
Printing	2	14	0
Gas and Office Cleaning	8	6	7
Postage, Telegrams, Stationary, &c.	7	9	4½
Organising Expenses	3	10	6
Central (National) Fund Dues	25	0	0
Theatrical Employees' Journal	6	0	0
Grants to Other Societies	5	0	0
Compensation Recovered for a Member	21	0	0
Telephone	6	15	5
Dispute Pay	2	1	0
Money Refunded and Sundry Items	1	3	10
Bank Charges	0	8	4
	341	1	8½
Balance Dec. 31, 1905	375	19	3
	717	0	11½

FUNERAL FUND.

Income.	£	s.	d.
½ Class B. Contributions	85	7	6
½ Class C. Contributions	58	4	8
Portion of Sum Received from the Dramatic and Musical Fund—allocated	50	0	0
	193	12	2
Balance carried forward from Dec. 31, 1904	247	14	7
	441	6	9

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Death Claims—			
3 Members	30	0	0
3 Members' Wives	15	0	0
Allocated to General Fund	48	7	10
	93	7	10
Balance Dec. 31, 1905	347	18	11
	441	6	9

SICK FUND.

Income.	£	s.	d.
Contributions	58	4	9
Sick Pay Refunded	0	8	4
Allocated from the Dramatic and Musical Fund	50	0	0
	108	13	1
Balance Carried Forward from Dec. 31, 1904	57	14	2
	166	7	3

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Sick Benefits paid—			
W. J. Hall, Alhambra	1	5	0
William Townsend, Alhambra	3	1	8
W. James, Alhambra	2	18	4
W. Littlefield, Alhambra	0	8	4
H. Bowmer, Gaiety	0	13	4
J. Brennan, Gaiety	0	18	4
J. Atterton, Grand, Islington	0	16	8
J. Took, Grand, Islington	0	8	4
T. Raglass, Paragon	0	16	8
J. H. Tillett, Paragon	3	4	2
T. O'Mara, Wyndham's	1	3	2
J. Barlow, Empire	0	13	4
G. Oakley, Empire	1	1	8
H. Skinner, Drury-lane	0	5	0
	17	14	6
Allocated to General Fund	21	14	8
	39	8	8
Balance Dec. 31, 1905	126	18	7
	166	7	3

BENEVOLENT FUND.

Income.	£	s.	d.
Members' Contributions	8	2	7
Sports, 1904, Share of Balance	2	18	0
Good Friday Concert, ditto.	2	19	3
Opera House Joint Concert, ditto.	30	16	1
Allocated from the Dramatic and Musical Fund	50	0	0
	124	15	11
Balance Carried Forward from 1904	55	19	7
	180	15	6

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Grants—			
Mrs. Hill, widow on Member No. 640	5	0	0
Mrs. Skelly, widow on Member No. 160	5	0	0
Mrs. Landeg, widow on Member No. 512	2	0	0
Mrs. Cotterell, wife of Member No. 412	1	0	0
Member No. 789	6	10	0
,, ,, 987	3	0	0
,, ,, 989	4	0	0
,, ,, 247	2	7	0
,, ,, 92	1	0	0
,, ,, 492	1	6	0
,, ,, 88	1	0	0
,, ,, 655	1	0	0
,, ,, 826	1	0	0
,, ,, 667	1	0	0
,, ,, 636	0	10	0
	35	13	0
To Loss on Sports, 1905	0	7	8
Allocated to General Fund	14	19	2
	50	19	10
Balance Dec. 31, 1905	129	15	8
	180	15	6

Note.—Most of the grants were made in weekly allowances of 10s. per week.

Assets and Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
To Credit of General Fund	375	19	3
,, Funeral Fund	347	18	11
,, Sick Fund	126	18	7
,, Benevolent Fund	129	15	8
,, Reserve Fund	200	0	0
Gross Balance Dec. 31, 1905	1,180	12	5
On Deposit London and County Bank	900	0	0
Current Account	271	12	5
To Theatre Shares	9	0	0
	1,180	12	5

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.

We, the undersigned auditors of this Branch, certify that we have examined this Statement of Accounts and the Quarterly Statements, and all the books and vouchers relating thereto required by us, together with the Bank books and cheque books, and find the same to be correct. We find the books are in proper order, and that the payments made were duly authorised by the rules, and that the balance to the credit of the various funds is as stated above.

Signed this 15th day of January, 1906.

JAMES FINNIGAN,
HENRY J. KEMP,
Auditors.

Endorsed on approval of Committee by Charles Thorogood, President; Edward Stow, Treasurer; and William Johnson, Secretary.

MR. GEORGE ARTHURS, who is annually in great request with pantomime producers for his undoubted talent in localising songs—notably with Mr. F. W. Wyndham's splendid productions—is the author and composer of Mr. Will Evans's two latest humorous items: "The Jocular Jock; or, Gluepot I.," and "The Villain of the Piece."

MR. EDITOR, SIR,—In your last issue you gave an interview with Messrs. Pacey and Reeves, and on page 24, column 4, you mention that Mr. Reeves for nine years managed the Leicester Empire, in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Harold Verdel. This name is quite wrong, and I shall be much obliged if you will find room in your columns for this correction. I am still in Leicester, and am now, and have been for seven years, with the well-known firm of theatrical printers, Willson's, of Leicester and Notts. The name of Mr. Reeves's brother is that of yours faithfully, HAL VERDO, 59, Welford-road, Leicester, Jan. 16.

MISS MAY YOHE, with the deep contralto voice, is once again in London—this time at the Lyceum, where she is singing very successfully "If I were only you" and "In dear old Georgia." The popular artist will be well remembered by her success in *Little Christopher Columbus* at the Lyric.

MISS ELSIE EBELE, the charming comedienne, in her scena, *Love Against Gold*, has been a great success at the Standard and Camberwell. Next week she appears at the Granville. She is well booked up to the end of 1907.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

CONSIDERABLE interest attached to the annual general meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Manchester on Wednesday last, owing to the prominence given to Parliamentary defence work and the fight with powerful corporations for the people's fair, rights, and privileges. The ordinary public and the specially expert and technical work of the guild did not come under discussion, or it received a mere passing allusion. Such as the usual statement of the organiser and hon. chaplain that over a thousand letters had been received and dealt with, and that he had visited over one hundred fairs North, South, West, and Midlands. The passing reference also to the constant watch and guard of showmen interests when threatened by local authorities in proposed restrictive or vexatious bye-laws, was also taken as a matter of course, and well within the ordinary every-day work and unceasing vigilance of the guild officials. The main interest was centred upon the defence of the popular fairs, and the maintenance of the guild as an effective bulwark of defence and strength against the overbearing authority of "elected persons" who misinterpreted the proper and useful sphere of their collective endeavour, and have assumed powers they do not really possess. Clad in a "little brief authority," they believe they can make or unmake existing laws, or abrogate by a vote in council the rights and privileges won for the people in days gone by, and assured to them in ancient charters and at common law. Showmen recognise (Wigan is striking example of this) that when once an adverse vote is given in a town council, it is extremely difficult to get it reversed, and to enter an action in the High Court against a public self-governing body is extremely difficult, expensive, and uncertain. The corporation may take the view (as was done at Wigan) that under a private Act of Parliament they have powers in excess of the statutory law. They act upon that opinion, and in doing so place the whole risk and burden of disproof upon the travelling showman. When we remember the expensive nature of appeals to the Higher Courts, and tremendous advantage the corporation possess of almost unlimited means through the rates, there is no wonder that the organised showmen move very cautiously and warily in every instance.

This caution is necessary—how necessary the Edgware Fair case fully illustrates—and we put this before our readers now that showmen in the home counties may realise the need of the greatest circumspection and inquiry before taking action. It is no use saying "there is a charter," or taking the general opinion of the townspeople that a charter exists. No action should be taken without the most definite proof—proof strong enough to satisfy a judge on the bench. No taking the law into our own hands ought to be attempted. We stand for law and order, utter and complete, and he is no friend of the showman who takes individual action without the most substantial proof, and not hearsay evidence. Above all things, work in a constitutional and legitimate manner. Carry the law and justice and freedom of the subject with you. When you cannot do these altogether necessary things, then learn to be patient, and win public sympathy and public tolerance by your law-abiding methods of defending your trade and vocation in life. South country showmen may well take example in these important maters by their brethren in the North.

At Wigan there were no attempts to capture by force the old fair grounds, as was done at Edgware. The showmen applied, as usual, for ground, they were refused; the corporation was asked to reconsider its refusal, but to no avail. Then the showmen took a suitable piece of land and carried on a fair at the old fair time, and no one was a penny the worse for it, except the corporation, which lost to relief of the rates between one and two thousand pounds. The showmen took the true constitutional line of action in Wigan; they organised and successfully carried out a popular movement to bring pressure to bear upon the corporation to rescind its snatch vote against the fair. The town was thoroughly well circularised, every man of public note and position, every town councillor—the elect of the people; every alderman—the city fathers; every minister of religion—the men of God; every schoolmaster and teacher were clearly told the showman's case for the retention of the fair.

At a public meeting a resolution was carried without dissent, and with great enthusiasm, asking the borough council to rescind its prohibitive ukase. They did not do so; but it must not be supposed that the showmen's constitutional appeal to Wigan had no effect. Far from it. The work done rallied to the showmen's side large elements of public sympathy and support. The dominant vote on the council altered its tactics, and instead of forcing their will with a high hand, and making their unwise resolution effective by an endeavour to prohibit the private venture fair at the old-time date, not only made no move, but were apparently glad that the matter was thus compromised. These and other burning questions formed the politics at the Manchester Conference of the showmen of the Empire, and who shall dare now to say that these sometimes despised showmen are not merely good at the graft of the fair, but are thoroughgoing citizens, and able to take their part and lot in national concerns.

The committee meeting at the guild headquarters in Manchester, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, was but poorly attended, but the necessary detail work was done in preparation for the open and public meeting. The report was read and adopted. The financial statements, duly certified by Messrs. Halliday, Pearson, and Co., chartered accountants, Manchester, was also read. In consideration of the important issues at stake (especially with reference to the Parliamentary defence work), its confirmation was deferred until the London Committee meet next Wednesday. Letters of apology for absence owing to illness were read from General John Wilmot, Glasgow, and John Whiting, Stretford; also for urgent reasons from Richard Newall and others. Captain Tom Payne, V.P., was chairman of the committee, and the Rev. T. Horne and Mr. T. Watson Wright took part in the proceedings.

It is more than likely that the General Election touched the show and fair ground community as it has touched other classes, and materially affected the attendance at the Manchester annual public meeting of the guild. The meeting, however, was fairly well attended, and great interest shown in the work done in 1905, and the prospective work outlined for the present year. The chairman was Fred Bibby, Esq., hon. member, and a long and tried friend of showmen. He was supported by the Rev. H. Norburn, rector of St. Agnes Birch, and hon. local chaplain; the Rev. T. Horne, senior hon. chaplain and acting organiser of the guild; Charles Howard, Esq., hon. local solicitor; T. Watson Wright, Esq., Leicester, solicitor for general and Parliamentary work; Wm. Clark, V.P.; Tom Payne, V.P.; G. H. Cornwell, V.P.; H. J. Wallis, V.P.; George Green, V.P.; John Green, V.P.; Jas. Norman, V.P.; and the following members of the committee:—Messrs. Wm. Holmes, E. P. Holland, H. R. Hibbert, and J. H. Geoghegan. The visitors included:—Mr. Mellor, of Mellor and Sons; Mr. J. Goodwin, Mr. Kemp, of the London and North-Western Railway; Mr. T. Smith, of the Great Central Railway; Mr. Gwinnell, of the Midland Railway; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pike, Bolton; the representatives of Baxendale and Co., the Gourock Ropework, Tyas and Son, the Ocean Accident Insurance Company, and other tradesmen and business firms dealing with show and fair ground materials. Amongst the prominent show folk were:—Messrs. Davies, Sedgwick, Sharpe, Shuttleworth, Jewell, Chaplain, Ingham, Hancock, Forshaw, Cardwell, Harrington, Dixon, Holmes, Bowser, Jennings, Williams. There were, as usual, at Manchester a good attendance of outside friends and sympathisers.

Mr. Bibby made an ideal chairman, and in a speech bristling with telling points, exhorted show people to greater powers of combination. He contrasted their present organised condition as a body of workers and traders with their isolated and utterly divided position twenty years ago, and demonstrated that their recognition by the public as the open-air amusement caterers of the Empire was entirely due to the fact that they bonded themselves together to defend and to extend their business and vocation in life. He severely deprecated those showmen who could use the fair grounds of the country, and enjoy to the full the advantages of their acknowledged work, and yet never gave a penny to the support of the organisation that had by hard work and perseverance obtained those advantages. He pointed out that the minimum subscription amounted only to a little over a penny a week, and that an amount so small as 5s. a year was well within the compass of the humblest and poorest of the show and fair ground caterers. Like an up-to-date showman himself, he made a reference to, and drew a moral from, the election excitement now raging throughout the country. He ventured to take the great party watchwords of both sides in the political arena, and to enforce the lesson that, as the amusement caterers of the British public, they needed both "protection" and "free trade"—protection that their work in life might be kept from the prejudice of the fanatic and the faddist—protection like all other providers and workers of things the commonwealth needs—in a phrase, protection to give full and fair opportunity with all other workers to gain an honest livelihood. They also needed "free trade"—liberty to do their work and to live their life without let and hindrance from those misguided people who do not understand the importance of the showman's calling in life—free trade that cheap and up-to-date amusements may be brought to the very door of the people—protection to them and their business—freedom to work for the entertainment of the people. He concluded a masterly speech by exhorting them to drop sectional and petty jealousies, and to rally to the support of the guild, and called upon Mr. Thomas Hurst, hon. secretary, to read the annual report, as follows:—

The year 1905 has been fraught with many issues of the most serious moment to the show and fairground industry of the United Kingdom. It is no exaggeration of speech to say that increasing success in trade defence has brought with it to the Guild executive officials increasing responsibility, anxiety, and arduous toil.

The Executive Council readily tells the story of that work, and lays down its burden, in order that the whole body of showmen may select in accordance with the democratic basis of the organisation, the workers to carry on to even more triumphant success its principles and objects in the year 1906.

In the very beginning of the year the Guild found itself engaged in a most serious conflict with the authorities at Wigan. It will be remembered that the Corporation, by a resolution of a Council meeting, assumed that it had power under a Borough Improvement Act of the year 1874 to discontinue the annual pleasure fairs.

This was an entirely new reading of the Act, and practically abrogated the statutory law existing for the purpose of constitutionally abolishing obsolete and undesirable fairs.

In the business interests of the members, and in order to challenge in a constitutional manner the Council's assumption of power to abolish under a private Act of Parliament the people's rights and fair franchises, a public meeting was held with extraordinary success in Wigan. The hall in which the meeting took place was crowded, and an unchallenged vote was taken, asking the Corporation to reconsider the question and to rescind its resolution to discontinue the pleasure fairs.

This public action was followed by a serious effort to arrange a working compromise with the Corporation, and it is felt by the Committee that, although not directly successful, the work then done was of a valuable and useful character.

It only needs to be added that, at the time of the regular fair, a fair was held in Wigan without let or hindrance, and upon private ground.

Another interesting event in connection with the defence of the people's fair rights and the showmen's business interests is the compromise arranged over Edgware Fair.

In this instance the fair franchise was the property of the Lord of the Manor, who was also the freeholder of the fair ground.

Owing to the unfortunate fact that the old Charter had been lost, and no copy could be found, the people's fair rights and the showmen's business interests could not be substantiated.

The whole question was submitted for decision in the High Court of Justice, and the Lord of the Manor was victorious.

Although the Urban District Council and the people of Edgware were anxious to retain the old-time fair, their supposed right to do so, on the fair ground owned by the Lord of the Manor, had been decided against them.

At a crowded meeting of the people, with the chairman of the District Council presiding, Mr. T. Watson-Wright, Guild solicitor, and the Rev. T. Horne, Guild chaplain, explained the position of affairs from the showmen's point of view, and it was resolved: That the fair, with the consent of the District Council, should begin a new lease of life upon a new ground, even more suitable than the old fair field, over which the dispute has raged.

During the past twelve months meetings of the Guild have been held in London (two), and one each at Manchester, King's Lynn, and Porth, Wales. These have all been attended with the usual success.

Under the altered conditions of his work the hon. organising chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, has been able to visit a great number of fairs, particularly in the south of England. He has also been able to visit the great fairs—Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Hull, and many of the Lancashire wakes and Yorkshire feasts.

It will be remembered that, in 1898, Mr. F. Millar, of 25, Victoria-street, Westminster, was appointed the Guild's Parliamentary agent, and Mr. T. Watson Wright, of Leicester, the Parliamentary solicitor. Their joint work was to scrutinise all private Bills deposited by Corporations at the Private Bills Office of the Houses of Parliament, and to report back to the Committee all inimical proposals against the rights and privileges of the fair ground entertainers and traders of the kingdom. After due consideration and conference between the Parliamentary experts and the Committee, all necessary action to safeguard the trade rights of showmen was taken. This work has been continued with unfailing energy since its inauguration. From 1898 to 1905 it is the story of unbroken success; in every case, either by private negotiations or persistent opposition, the Guild has caused the bad clauses in private Bills to be thrown out.

A critical examination of the work accomplished each year demonstrates the interesting and satisfactory truth that Corporations show an increasing willingness to negotiate a settlement rather than face an expensive defeat before Parliament. Although the work of vigilant scrutiny must continue, the unbroken record of success achieved by the Guild leads to the gratifying conclusion that expensive opposition will become less and less a necessity, and conference and negotiation between the Guild and public bodies in all disputes will become more frequent.

So salutary has been the effect of the Guild's work that, in the Sessions of Parliament, 1905, there were only some half-dozen private Bills introduced containing bad clauses. The significance of this will be understood when we contrast it with the year 1898, when twenty Bills were introduced, containing objectionable proposals. In 1898 it was difficult to open up negotiations with the Parliamentary agents of public bodies. It was regarded almost as a breach of Parliamentary decorum that travelling showmen should be organised and wealthy enough to have their own Parliamentary agents and solicitors. It was also a "surprising thing" to the permanent officials of the great public departments. The Home Office, the Board of Trade, and the Local Government Board almost refused to recognise the locus standi of the showmen of the Empire.

Of the six Bills scrutinised at the beginning of the last Session, five of them were immediately settled by private negotiations, and only one—the Corporation of Colne Bill—remained unsettled for a time. The necessitated a somewhat serious outlay, two petitions, one by local showmen and the other by the Guild collectively, having to be presented against the Bill. This determination of the Guild to oppose the Bill ultimately influenced the Corporation to reopen negotiations, which were carried to a successful conclusion in friendly conference between the officials of the Corporation and the Guild. As an indication of the expensive character of this very necessary work, we may state that even a friendly compromise, as in the case of Colne, cost no less a sum than £70.

It will be remembered that early in 1904 the Showmen's Parliamentary Defence Fund was established. The object of this new departure was to remove, as far as possible, the responsibility of raising the necessary funds from the Guild, and to place the responsibility upon the whole body of showmen and open-air amusement caterers. By the kindness of *The Era*, the Parliamentary Defence Fund was kept well before the show community, and—of equal value to the show business—well before Corporations and the whole official bady engaged in the arduous work of local government.

The objects of the new defence organisation were twofold—first, to scrutinise private Bills, and to take action against all proposed injurious or restrictive legislation promoted by public bodies; secondly, to preserve the common law rights of the British people in their fairs, feasts, wakes, and public holidays.

It will readily be seen that a work so necessary—and at times, despite every attempt to work it economically, so costly—commands the serious attention and the generous and constant support of all engaged or interested in the show business. We record with great satisfaction that, independent of increased subscriptions to the funds of the Guild, in the year 1904 the great majority of the members of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union subscribed £2 2s. each to the Parliamentary Defence Fund.

Whilst we recognise this generous response to the appeal of the Guild for money to carry on its necessary work, we must also express our surprise at the slowness evinced by the great mass of showpeople in grasping the necessity for constant and increased support. When the fund for defence work was started there was a serious deficit on Parliamentary expenditure alone. The response made to the first appeal in the columns of *The Era* did not cover that deficit, and since then there have been two years' of costly defence work. The Guild Committee, recognising that the past two years have been, from a business point of view, very much below the average, did not feel justified in unduly pressing the urgent necessity for immediate and full support. It is earnestly hoped that the general improvement in the trade of the country before us will give even the poorest of the travelling community the means of contributing their share to the maintenance of this necessary branch of trade defence.

When the Parliamentary Defence Fund was started, it was estimated that at least £300 was necessary to put the fund into effective working order, and that a guarantee fund of £300 was necessary to carry on Parliamentary work year by year.

By a resolution of the Guild Committee, it was determined to pay over year by year the balance of its funds to the Parliamentary Defence Fund. The Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union also promised a 2-guinea contribution from each of its members. The North of England Amusement Caterers' Amalgamation have also passed a levy of one-fourth their members' subscriptions.

The Executive Committee, whilst fully appreciating the generous support of these kindred societies, yet feels that it is its bounden duty to lay before the members of the Guild, and all showmen, the serious nature of the deficit on the Parliamentary Defence Fund, and the urgent necessity of generous and constant support of this important branch of trade defence.

We have left for the concluding paragraphs of this report the most important and far-reaching event of the year. We refer to the retirement of Lord George Sanger, our honoured President, generous patron and strenuous worker.

The Executive Council, in saying good-bye to its distinguished President, wishes him long life and great opportunities of rest, and assures him that he will carry with him the heartfelt gratitude of the men and women of the fair ground, for whom he has worked so long, so faithfully, and so successfully.

In conclusion, the rallying cry of the old Guild to its members, to kindred societies, and to all showmen, is—*this is your work, it is done for you, and see you to it that it is done well, and that it is not starved out of existence for want of the means to carry it on.*

Signed on behalf of the Executive,
LORD GEORGE SANGER, President.
REV. T. HORNE, Organiser and Hon. Chaplain.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1906:—Honorary Life-President, Lord George Sanger.

The Rev. H. NORBURN then arose, and met with a warm reception. Many of those present remembered his kindly ministration when at Longsight Wakes they were domiciled in his parish. He proposed "That the report as read be adopted, and that this meeting hereby heartily endorses the action of the Executive Council and fully supports the aims and objects of the Showmen's Guild." He remembered that when he first read a copy of the Showmen's Year Book that he stood alone with his friend, their Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. Thomas Horne, on the list of local chaplains. Now there were quite a dozen names in the book. That was a good sign of progress in itself; but there were other indications of advancement. The better tone of public opinion with regard to them and their business in life proved to him that it was ignorance—not vicious ignorance, but lack of accurate knowledge—that had in time past led so many people to question the utility and necessity of their work. He noted that in the good old town of Lynn that the Guild had several clerical helpers. Well, he was proud of that fact, for he was himself a "man from King's Lynn." When as a boy he went to the grand old fairs at Lynn Mart and at Whitton close by, what joy and delight it gave him, and with him the whole neighbourhood. In fact, it was the coming of these stranger folk from other worlds, bringing with them "the world of shows," that made them realise that there were other things, other people, and other interests in the world besides Norfolk.

He then referred in most sympathetic words to the anxiety of the show-people—the fathers and mothers—for the education, religious and secular, of their children. He had seen all along the immense difficulties that beset this question. Now what were they doing? What he had striven to do was to gather the children into the schools while they were in his parish. He had been pleased to notice that this had had a very gratifying effect on his own people; for instance, in the Sunday school his children had welcomed the show-children. Again, on the Wakes Sunday he had provided a service for the show-people, and they had attended in goodly numbers. He regarded them and their vocation in life as being necessary for the well-being of his own people, and he had combated considerable prejudice on their behalf. He instanced that he too was an amusement caterer, for he felt it part of his duty to provide in his schoolroom entertainment for his people, dramatic and musical. He had run the gauntlet of narrow-minded prejudice many times. One parishioner of his went so far as to say that "he (the rector) was leading people to the Devil" because he had provided and allowed his young people dancing. He answered that he had yet to see where the sin of dancing came in. He knew that recreation and amusement were necessary, and a means towards a good end. He urged them to continue their good work and enterprise. In the Guild was the centre of their activities, and to make it still more satisfactory to cast out all doubtful kinds of entertainments, and to trust the people. He, too, like the Chairman, drew an illustration from the pending Election. The most significant of all lessons, he said, was the way in which Labour was coming to the front. He saw in that a lesson for them, It was the organised trades that had come to the front. It was a victory for combination. They were members of a Trade Union. They were in their Guild organised, and the lesson for them all was—to still further strengthen and perfect their organisation. He wished them all success in their endeavour, and he felt that the great heart of England had a warm place of affection for the shows and showmen of the kingdom.

MR. CHARLES HOWARD seconded the resolution, remarking that the capital speeches already given left him with little ground to cover. He expressed the pleasure it gave him year by year to meet them, and also to say what interest he took in their enterprise. Their Guild had been a bulwark of defence to them, and "a rock of offence" to their enemies. Above all he felt concerned that so many kept from joining the organisation, when all reason pointed without doubt or cavil to the necessity of helping it along and making it still more useful. With their excellent body of honorary workers (for he found on scrutinising their annual report that the great bulk of the work was done without fee or reward) they ought to become a power in the land. What was the cause of the success of the Labour Party in the General Election, to which reference had been made already? Why, it was simply and only this—they were supported by their people, by their own trades. Each Labour member will be dependent on the money help of his Union. Did they not see the force and reason of that? Was it not their duty to support well and regularly the work and objects of the Guild? With the greatest possible pleasure he seconded the resolution.

MR. T. WATSON WRIGHT, Guild Solicitor, then dealt with the past year's work in Parliament, and also with the defence of the people's popular Fair Rights. As he had foreseen at last year's meeting, the corporations introducing obnoxious clauses into Private Bills were slowly but surely recognising the folly and mistake of their action, and less, and still less, Bills at each Session was the sign of their coming to a better mind. He contrasted their labours of the last Session with their first Session's work, and saw in it every hope for the future. From forty Bills to deal with in 1899 they came down to a dozen Bills in 1905, and of that dozen only seven threatened their business seriously. By conference and negotiation with the promoters of these seven they obtained justice, and only in one case was it necessary to lodge a petition and prepare to oppose by counsel—that was the case of Colne Corporation Bill. Had that Bill passed as it was introduced, it would have meant good-bye to their business in Colne. However, he found that after their petition was in and their case ready, better counsels prevailed, and with very happy results. He and the local showmen were received by the Mayor and Town Clerk, and he confessed with pleasure that the Colne Corporation treated them in the most friendly manner possible. Mutual concessions were made, and the Corporation expunged the objectionable clauses, whereupon they for their part withdrew their petition. Casting his mind ahead, he had to tell them of the danger that threatened through Private Bill legislation in the first Session of the new Parliament. Of the numerous Bills lodged in the Private Bills Office only some four were concerned with their business, and probably only one—the Pontefract Bill—would give them serious trouble. The other Corporations with Show and Fairs Clauses in their Bills were the Essex County Council, the Newport and Todmorden Corporation, and the District Council of Wallassey. These would come in due course, before Parliament met, before the Committee. They might rest assured that their officials would do all things possible to safeguard their trade interests, and upon them lay the duty of giving the Guild ample means for its necessary and arduous work.

The Rev. T. HORNE, the Hon. Chaplain, on rising to deliver the annual address on the general work of the Guild, was received with great cordiality. He began by reminding them that a year ago they left that Hall with a great enterprise before them. That was, in effect, to bombard the Borough of Wigan, in order to bring the legitimate pressure of an enlightened public opinion to bear upon the elected of the people of Wigan, and by fair and constitutional means bring about a reversal of the mistaken policy of the Borough Council with regard to the discontinuance of the Pleasure Fair. They did bombard Wigan with giant posters, setting forth the case for the showmen and also the case for the people of Wigan being deprived of their Fair rights, without a mandate from or a popular vote being taken. Some 500 circulars to the leading citizens of Wigan, giving full information on the question at issue were sent out, handbills distributed, the Wigan Press fully supplied with special articles, and, in fact, no man could sin in ignorance as to the right or wrong of the matter. A public meeting, with a crowded and enthusiastic audience, attended by the leading showmen of the country, listened to speeches by their solicitor, hon. secretarys, and himself. In the end a resolution was passed, unanimously asking the Corporation to rescind its prohibition against the Fair, and this was done without a word of protest from well-known Town Councillors who were present at the meeting. He ventured to say that all the time and talent and money spent upon that effort was well spent, and that it was an "object lesson" of the power and influence of the Guild that would be noted and remembered from one end of the kingdom to the other. The Corporation did not reverse its mistaken policy, but it treated the showmen with respect and kindly tolerance when the private venture Fair was held at the old Fair time. What were the net results of the mistaken policy of the Wigan Corporation? Why, a loss of two thousand pounds a year to the easement of public burdens. The Private Fair ground paid its toll not to the Corporation, not to the relief of rates, but to the profit of the lessees running the Fair. They had always advocated public Corporation Fair grounds as against private venture Fairs. They still believed that Fairs like Hull, Nottingham, Halifax, and scores of others, were all the better for being under Corporation control, and with the tolls helping the rates. That was a sound and just division of profits, and gave elements of security that other methods did not guarantee.

He had been able, owing to his fixed work on *The Era*, to visit over one hundred Fairs, Feasts, and Wakes in the south, north, and west of England and Wales. Circumstances he could not control—but he hoped for better opportunities in the coming season—had prevented him getting to Scotland, or holding meetings at Hull, Birmingham, Holbeck, Rotherham, and Longsight, as he had intended to do. He had dealt with over a thousand letters on the work of the Guild, and of vital concern to the show business. The Corporation of Whitchurch, the London County Council, the Urban District Council of Southend-on-Sea, the Corporations of Wigan, Blackburn, Colne, and Rawtenstall had been corresponded with upon important matters, chiefly with reference to proposed Bye-laws, and satisfactory results had accrued in almost every instance. In fact, it was to the Guild that local governing bodies now applied upon questions affecting showman interests. This, of course, was eminently satisfactory, and it made the Guild every year of its existence more and more valuable as an instrument of trade defence and protection.

As their organising hon. chaplain, his duty, his highly-valued privilege had been to provide for mental, spiritual, and educational necessities. As illustrating how this work was accomplished, he instanced their hon. local chaplain for Manchester, the Rev. Henry Norton's, work at Longsight. That was being done at many other centres of church life. The children were cared for in the schools, both day and Sunday schools. Interesting work was done amongst the children on the West of England fair ground, and done by their hon. local agent and helper, Mr. Norton. In conclusion, he urged them to remember the concluding words of the annual report: This is your work, it is done for you, and see you to it that is done well, and that it is not starved out of existence for want of the means to carry it on.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried with unanimity and great applause.

The HON. SECRETARY then read out the nomination of members of the executive council as suggested by the retiring committee for election at that meeting:—

Vice-Presidents:—H. Ashington, Leeds; T. Read, London; E. T. Read, London; E. H. Bostock, Glasgow; Frank C. Bostock, Paris; J. W. Bostock, London; John Barker, Norwich; B. T. Burnett, Manchester; Wm. Clark, Manchester; John Collins, Liverpool; P. Collins, Walsall; Geo. Cornwell, Bolton; F. Turner, London; Robert Dixon, Salford; George Green, Glasgow; B. Howden, Boston; T. Harniess, Rotherham; G. H. Kemp, Leicester; R. Newall, Manchester; James Norman, London; Tom Norman, London; Thos. Payne, Ashton; H. Studt, Wales; Jacob Studt, Gloucester; John Studt, Wales; Wm. Toft, Dublin; D. Turnbull, Belfast; W. J. Waddington, Leeds; H. J. Wallis, Liverpool; J. Wilmot, Glasgow; J. Whiting, Manchester; Councillor G. T. Tuby, Doncaster; W. H. Marshall, Bradford; John Cottrell, Manchester.

Hon. Treasurer:—Wm. Mitchell, Heywood.

Hon. Secretary:—T. Hurst, Broadhurst Farm, Clifton, Manchester.

Trustees:—Frank Turner, London; B. Mitchell, Heywood; John Wilmot, Glasgow; Wm. Mitchell, Heywood; H. Thurston, London.

Solicitors:—T. Watson-Wright, C.C., 7, Friar-lane, Leicester; Charles Howard, 33, Princess-street, Manchester.

Law Agent for Scotland:—Joseph Shaughnessy, 190, West George-street, Glasgow.

Parliamentary Agent:—Frederick Millar, Esq., 25, Victoria-street, Westminster.

Bankers:—The National Provincial Bank of England.

Auditors:—Halliday, Pearson, and Co., Chartered Accountants, 13, Spring-gardens, Manchester.

Organiser and Hon Chaplain:—The Rev. T. Horne, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

Executive Committee for 1906:—Wm. Bedford, Wm. Chaplain, J. B. Butlin, W. Clark, jun., J. Creighton, R. Dooner, Chas. Farrell, J. Geoghegan, W. Gibson, J. Hastings, Edmund Holland, W. Holmes, Ed. Lawrence, James Leo, J. Lloyd, G. Marshall, A. Martin, J. Monte, R. Monte, S. Plinston, J. Ravenscroft, H. Scard, H. R. Hibbert, Geo. Gray, T. Burgin, T. Hartshorn, C. Thurston, jun., J. B. Whitehead, James Wilmot, W. Wilmot.

Hon. Local Agents:—T. Hartshorn, Esq., Hettonle-Hole, R.S.O., Co. Durham; G. W. A. Norton, Esq., Penzance; J. Miller, Esq., Blackburn; W. C. Sorrell, Esq., Redditch; H. H. Hutchins, Esq., Neath; J. B. Whitehead, Esq., Pudsey.

The names, with the addition of Messrs. Wm. Shuttleworth and Wm. Marfleet, were put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. HURST then made several interesting announcements. The Committee would meet at the Black Lion Hotel at 8 that evening, and that the proceeds of the Bolton Dinner and Ball amounted to over twenty pounds.

The HON. CHAPLAIN then made a feeling reference to the memory of the late James Dean, and informed the meeting the sub-committee dealing with the matter had selected a most suitable memorial to be placed over the honoured remains of James Dean. He appealed for further funds, and read out the list of subscribers given in last week's issue of *The Era*, and continued in this.

At this point in the proceedings a telegram was handed to the Hon. Chaplain, who at once in grave tones read it to the meeting. It was worded as follows:

"Rev. T. HORNE, Showmen's Meeting, Memorial Hall, Manchester.—Truly sorry; just missed 12.10 train to Manchester. Attended committee meeting last night here when it was decided that owing to the death of T. Read to have no supper or ball, but to hold the Guild meeting as usual on Wednesday. I was deputed to attend personally and communicate this sad message to you. You will all regret this sad loss that has befallen us, more especially at this period. Trusting you will have a good meeting.—TOM NORMAN."

In the midst of the solemn hush that sad news cast over the meeting the Hon. Chaplain asked the audience to stand, and he moved:—"That the deepest sympathy and the most heartfelt condolence of that meeting be conveyed to the bereaved family."

This was passed in silence.

Then in a few touching and impressive words the speaker referred to the sterling worth and character of the late Mr. Read, and finished by quoting the well-known In Memoriam words:—"The souls of the Righteous are in the Hands of God, and there shall no torment touch them. Let Light perpetual shine upon. May he rest in Peace."

Subscriptions to the funds of the Guild at the Manchester meetings:—George Green, Esq., £5; T. Smith, Esq. (G.C.R.), £1 1s.; Wm. Clark, Esq., £1; Arthur Righini, £1 1s.; E. P. Holland, Esq., 15s.; J. Wingate, 10s. 6d.; John Sharpe, Esq., 5s.

To the Dean Memorial Fund:—Wm. Clarke, Esq., £1 1s.; E. P. Holland, Esq., 10s. 6d.; A. Righini, Esq., 5s.; J. Wingate, Esq., 5s.; J. Sharpe, Esq., 2s. 6d.

The adjourned Committee meeting took place at eight o'clock at the Black Lion Hotel. John Geo. H. Cornwell, Vice-President, presided.

It was resolved to further consider the balance-sheet and financial statement at the London Committee, and Mr. T. Hurst, Hon. Secretary, was appointed to attend London meetings as the delegate of the Guild.

MR. J. D. HAMLYN, the well-known naturalist, gives a thrilling account of the snake which escaped and made its way to the saloon deck of the *Kildonan Castle* during that vessel's voyage with a zoological cargo from the Cape to Southampton. "A young lady first saw the intruder,

and her screams alarmed everybody. A stampede followed," said Mr. Hamlyn, "and the deck was cleared in something under five seconds. It was an exceptionally large and nimble creature, and looked very terrifying. I was told by an excited sailor that my beasts had escaped, and were devouring the passengers. Rushing up, I saw the snake in solitary splendour, looking very surprised at all the commotion it had caused. I caught it without much trouble, and took it to its own quarters. At dinner that night I was congratulated on my bravery in seizing the dangerous reptile. I explained that the snake was non-poisonous and very tame, but my hearers refused to believe me."

AT the World's Fair, West Hartlepool, are Walter Murphy's racing motor-cars, Beaumont's park swings, Emmer's shutes and roundabouts, and Randall Williams's grand show.

THE Minerva Automatic Company, the well-known firm of King's Cross, are the sole agents for the slot constructions of the Mills Novelty Co., who manufacture 200 varieties, and are the patentees of the famous ball-punching machine which has proved such a success. Over £25 has been taken in one week in London. The latest invention of the Mills Novelty Co. is an automatic violin, orders for which are so numerous that delivery cannot be undertaken under three months.

MESSRS. HANCOCK BROS., the well-known and enterprising proprietors of Plymouth Winter Gardens, this week applied to the local Bench for a music and dancing licence for stage purposes. The Chief Constable paid the firm a high tribute as to the manner in which they conducted the gardens. The application was adjourned for a week, to enable a full Bench to consider it.

MR. CHARLES AUGUSTUS JAMES, once an auctioneer and now proprietor of the World's Fair Music Hall, Dublin, topped the poll at the local municipal election on Monday, a very hard fight resulting in a majority of twenty votes.

THE lamentable and somewhat unexpected death of Mr. Theophilus Read, who for the past two years has continued the world's fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, in conjunction with his son, Mr. T. E. Read, has cast a deep gloom amongst those more closely associated with this well-renowned popular home of amusement. Started some twenty-seven years back under the lesseeship of Messrs. H. and T. Read and F. Bailey, this great amalgamation has been annually held and looked upon by the amusement-seeking public as London's one great show not to be missed, and the explanation to this is practically in a nutshell; it is and has been from its innovation the one aim of its promoters to give a real good big show for the multitude at a small and popular price. As year succeeded year, so did the enterprise of the lessees, who strained every point to make each eclipse its predecessor, and this determined perseverance has met with that success it so thoroughly deserved. They were painstaking in all their endeavours, working in harmony one with the other, but on Nov. 21, 1898, a gap came by the death, after a short illness, of Mr. Henry Read.

THE show was then continued under the lesseeship of Messrs. T. Read and F. Bailey, being still run upon similar lines, with modifications and improvements as year succeeded year—till December 2nd, 1902—when Mr. F. Bailey died. The late Mr. Theo. Read then had the whole burden of responsibilities upon his own shoulders, this he took with a good heart, looked far and strove hard to make still further improvements, culminating in taking his son, Mr. T. E. Read, into partnership in 1904, and by their joint efforts have endeavoured to, and succeeded in, bringing the present fair up to a record pitch of perfection, successfully accomplishing this big effort, the aim of their ambition. But a gloom has been cast upon the scene by the sad and unexpected death of Mr. Theophilus Read, the last of the original trio, who after leaving the office on Thursday night, 11th inst., had a somewhat severe relapse, took to his bed, and breathed his last at 3.30 on Tuesday afternoon, January 16, though having been in very indifferent health for a long time past, still kept his shoulder to the wheel with determined pluck and energy. The interment will take place at Abney Park Cemetery on Monday, January 22, at 2 o'clock. The family express their sincere appreciation of the many tokens of sympathy and condolence in their sad bereavement.

WE can only add our own expression of grief and deepest condolence to the bereaved widow and family. For years the great work done by the late Theophilus Read has been the theme of admiration and sincere appreciation by all sections of the showman world. His untiring energies and unfailing courtesy to the show people who made pilgrimage every new year home to the world's fair was a mark of his fellowship with the men and women of the road. He was a vice-president of the Showmen's Guild, and a friend and patron of the trade defence movement from its very inception. We feel sure that the whole body of fair-ground caterers will be of one heart and mind in rendering every meed of respect to the memory of a good man gone to his rest, and of deepest sympathy with the widow and family. May he rest in peace.

HOCKEY.

MISSES CECILIA FOWLER AND WINIFRED BRADLEY'S LADIES' XI. v. J. LEONARD'S GENTS.' XI.

Played near Bristol on Dec. 23. During the second half of the game Miss Edie Francis was injured, and had to retire. Misses Winifred Bradley, Kit Montgomery, Lillie Belding, and Jack Leonard, Bertie Green, and Sam Coombes (two) scored for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

MISSES FOWLER AND BRADLEY'S XI.—Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Edie Francis and Miss Minnie Hamilton, backs; Miss Lucy Norris, Miss Edie Laurence, and Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), half-backs; Miss Winifred Bradley, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Lillie Belding, Miss Kit Montgomery, and Miss Bertha Godfrey, forwards.

J. LEONARD'S XI.—M. Leonard, goal; B. Green and T. Willis, backs; W. Jones, E. Adams, and G. Thompson, half-backs; F. Hodges, E. Poole, S. Coombes, A. Lucas, and J. Leonard (captain), forwards.

Referee, Miss Ethel Bowman (of Miss Cecilia Fowler's team).

Result:—

Misses Fowler & Bradley's XI.. Three goals.
Jack Leonard's XI. ..... Four goals.

MISSES CECILIA FOWLER AND WINIFRED BRADLEY'S LADIES' XI. v. J. LEONARD'S GENT.'S XI.

Played near Clifton Downs on Dec. 29, the following were the teams:—

Misses Fowler and Bradley's XI.—Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Ivy Bowman and Miss Lilla Carter, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler, Miss Lucy Norris, and Miss Lillie Belding, half-backs; Miss Winifred Bradley (captain), Miss Kit Montgomery, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Bertha Godfrey, and Miss Amy Bernard, forwards.

J. Leonard's XI.—M. Leonard, goal; S. Coombs and F. Price, backs; G. Thompson, A. James, and B. Green, half-backs; T. Alway, J. Leonard (captain), F. Foley, T. Ferris, and G. Wilson, forwards.

Referee: Miss Nellie Bailey (of Miss Cecilia Fowler's team).

Result: Misses Fowler and Bradley's Ladies' XI., nil. Jack Leonard's Eleven, 2 goals.

F. Foley and G. Thompson scored the goals.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Kind expressions from Authors and Managers.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT.

"I congratulate you on your 'Fifty Years of the Drama': the list must prove both interesting and useful to lovers of and workers for the stage."

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES.

"I think the new feature of *The Era* is most interesting and useful. A list of plays produced from 1850 to 1900 will certainly be of great service to a very large number of your readers."

MR. EDWARD TERRY.

"An admirable idea, and will prove a most valuable record."

MR. FRANK CURZON.

"Your list, I think, will be most useful for reference."

MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD.

"I think the list will be immensely useful."

MR. SYDNEY GRUNDY.

"Your list will be exceedingly useful. But, of course, there is no reason why old titles should not be used again. Indeed, some day we shall have to go back to them. Some of our modern titles, when they are not mere proper names with an adjective attached, display the desperation of the dramatist in too ludicrous a light. Such a title as 'The Importance of Being Earnest' amounts to a misdemeanour."

MR. ARTHUR W. PINERO.

"The list of plays produced during the last half-century is a most valuable record. The thanks of those interested in the theatre are due to *The Era* for this and many other enterprises."

MR. ALFRED SUTRO.

"The list you are compiling will be of very great benefit, and I am looking forward to the time when it shall be complete, and obtainable in pamphlet form."

MR. JUSTIN HUNTLY McCARTHY.

"I have watched with the greatest interest the progress of your alphabetical list of the plays published during the last half of the nineteenth century. It is a most useful undertaking, and when it appears in volume form, it must prove of great value to all who are concerned with the drama."

MR. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

"The list of plays will be very interesting and useful when published in complete form. The etiquette of the profession apparently still allows of novelists' titles being used by playwrights. Thus, *The Master*, which will appear in your list as a play by somebody else, is the name of a book of mine; while the new play, *Noah's Ark*, has the same title as a shorter story of mine."

MR. ARTHUR LAW.

"The publication in *The Era* of a list of plays produced during the fifty years, 1850-1900, is an excellent idea, and will be most useful to authors who may be in doubt as to their right to a certain title. When it is issued in book form I shall be very glad to possess a copy."

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER.

"Mr. Arthur Bourchier thinks the list very useful indeed."

MR. TOM GALLON.

"Your idea seems to me to be a most excellent one. Quite apart from the fact that there is always a difficulty in knowing what titles have been used, there very often arises the question of when and where a play was actually produced—a question difficult to be answered. Actors and authors should alike be grateful to *The Era*."

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE.

"I think the idea of printing a list of plays produced during the last fifty years an excellent one. It should be of great value to authors."

MR. ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

"The list of produced plays was not merely a happy thought, for the same idea has probably occurred to many, though until *The Era* carried it out no one took the pains to collect and publish such a truly valuable record.

"Managers, dramatists, as well as would-be authors, will henceforward have a long list of titles to refer to, and there will be neither reason nor excuse for encroaching on pre-existing copyright in play titles. What a lot of trouble it should save us all!"

MR. WALTER MELVILLE.

"I think it shows great enterprise on the part of your journal, and likely to prove most useful and at the same time interesting to the general profession."

MR. ARTHUR MORRISON.

"The list you are publishing will be a most valuable work of reference to everybody taking an interest in the stage, and I have no doubt that when it is published as a book you will find its success warrant you in issuing fresh editions from time to time, with the information brought to date in each case."

MR. J. J. DILLEY.

"The idea is an excellent one, and there can be no question at all of the usefulness of such a summary. *Cousin Grace* has not been included. This is a little piece from the French, played at a matinée performance at the Gaiety Theatre, Dec. 4, 1884."

MR. COSMO HAMILTON.

"I think that your new feature is an excellent and most useful one. A list of plays produced during fifty years is interesting not only to the playgoer, but essentially so to the manager and the playwright. They will only have to consult it to be sure that a title has not been used before."

MR. CHARLES H. E. BROOKFIELD.

"My attention has been called to your list of plays produced between 1850-1900. I have no doubt it will prove interesting and useful to many."

MR. F. FRANKFORT MOORE.

"The list of plays produced during the past fifty years, now appearing in *The Era*, will, I am certain, prove, when completed, extremely valuable to everyone associated with the drama in England. I am convinced—and I have had a considerable amount of experience in this direction—that it will be especially valued by all writers upon stage matters. The advantage of being able to refer at a moment's notice to the criticisms upon the production of various plays in various newspapers must be apparent to everyone. If such a list had been in existence some years ago, I would have been saved a vast amount of worry and vexation of spirit. The *Era* has once again proved itself appreciative of the conditions under which the best interests of the drama in England are maintained."

MR. LOUIS N. PARKER.

"I think your list of plays, produced between 1850 and 1900, will, like the other contents of your paper, be invaluable."

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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The Offices of "The Era" are "THE ERA" BUILDINGS, 5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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WANTED, Companies for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 26, April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 19, March 5, 19, April 2, 9, 16, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
May 7, Race Week, 14, 28, June 4, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Feb. 26, March 12, 26, April 2, 9, May 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 9, 16, 23, May 14, 28, June 4.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant April 9, 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 19, 26.
March 5, 12, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for LEAMINGTON, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 15 (3 nights each), 19, 26, on. READING, Feb. 19, March 5, 19. Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, 26, April 30.
TERRISS THEATRE,
April 9.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
March 12, May 7, 14, 21, June 11, 25, July 9, 23.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
Vacant Feb. 5 (through obliging), 26,
March 5, 12, 26, April 2,
Feb. 15 (3 nights, Bedford only),
Feb. 19 (3 nights each town).
Address,
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 5 (6 nights), Luton, through obliging Mr. Arthur Branscombe; Feb. 15 (3 nights), Bedford; Feb. 19 (3 nights Bedford, 3 nights Luton).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Pantomime, Feb. 19, Musical Attractions, April 2, May 7. Add., HERBERT VERE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Companies, May 14, 21, also Whit Week, Share or Certainty.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Company, for April 2;
also First-class Attraction for Easter.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's, Keighley.

WANTED, Good Drama Company, for Feb. 5. Quote lowest, certainty, and full particulars, No Wires,
J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 26, March 19, April 2.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies Only, FOLKESTONE, March 8 (3 nights), 19, 26.
HASTINGS, March 5 (3 nights), 12, 26, April 9.
Coms., H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
March 5, 19, April 2, Aug. 6, 13, 20.
Apply, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Feb. 26, March 19, 26, April 16 (Easter), April 23, 30, May 7, 28, June 4 (Whit.).
Apply,
C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

P. O. W., NUNEATON.
WANTED, Companies, March 5, April 30, May 14, 28,
Whit, Aug. 13, 20,
Oct. 22, and Nov. 5.
A. F. CROSS.

T. R., RUGBY.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 12, March 5, 15 (3), April 2, 9, 16, 23, Whit, and August Bank Holidays. A. F. CROSS, P. O. W., Nuneaton.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-Class Company, Monday next, Jan. 22 (vacant through disappointment). Printing can be got out if received by to-night. Wire immediate. Also vacant, Jan. 29 and various later dates. ALBANY WARD.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Good Attractions, March 19, 26, Easter, onwards. Great Success, second week of the Elliotts and Savonas. Good shows can take money here, and I give good terms. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, through obliging Manager, Good Company for Feb. 12. Address, WHITEREAD.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 19, 26, March 26, April 2, Big Attraction for Easter.
Address, FRED HAMMOND.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 29, onwards, Good Shows, Good Business. Good Pantomime required. Wire, wire, wire. MANAGER, Theatre, Musselburgh, Scotland.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Easter, onwards. Apply, R. FOGARTY, Proprietor, Theatre Royal, Limerick. Musical Comedy or High-class Drama preferred.

WANTED, Company, Feb. 19 and 26. Apply, H. A. JORDISON,
St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

THEATRE ROYAL, TYLDESLEY.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. BRIERLEY.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
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Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 9, 23, 30, May 7, 14.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant Feb. 12, May 21, June 4, 18.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 5, 26, March 5, 12.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant Jan. 22 (three nights), Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Feb. 8 (three nights), Feb. 12 (three nights), Feb. 22 (three nights), Feb. 26.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 5, 12.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5 (three nights), 12, 26, March 5 (three nights).

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 5, April 2.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications, to ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

BRIXTON THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. ERNEST STEVENS.
General-Manager, J. MURRAY HERRIOT.
WANTED, through Transferring Date, Feb. 19.
First-class Attraction,
Feb. 19,
Brixton Theatre, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND, the Home of Pantomime.
Wanted, for Above, a First-class Pantomime, commencing Feb. 5, to follow J. F. Elliston's Gigantic Success "Cinderella"; must have been produced this Xmas, at a No. 1 Theatre, and have Proved a Success.
Reliable Managers Only need apply to
CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Dramatic Attraction, Feb. 26, April 23.
THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 12, May 7, 28.
KING'S THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 5, 19, March 12, 19, April 2, 9.
FRANK MACNAGHTEN,
King's-chambers, Angel-street, Sheffield.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 30 (?), May 28, and June 4, Whit Week.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, March 5, Sunday, onwards. See "Provincial Theatres" Page.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Batley.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Feb. 19, 26, April 6, and June 4. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 1 and 8 (3 nights each), 12th (6 nights each), and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 12, 26, April 9, April 23, 30,
May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 12 and March 19.
H. MASTERMAN, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Jan. 29, 30, 31, March 26, 27, 28, onward.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

WANTED, First-Class Dramatic or Pantomime Companies, Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, April 9, 16. MORTON, Theatre, Cradley Heath.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 19 and March 5.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

THEATRE ROYAL, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 29 and Feb. 12.
Address, CADDICK.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 19 (?), May 14, 28, June 4 (Yeomanry Camp Week), Aug. 20, on. Silence polite negative.
Address, FRANK KING.

NEW COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Musical preferred. Feb. 5, on. Companies Touring Wales book above Hall. PHILLIPS.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 (three or six nights). PAYNE.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, three nights, Jan. 26, Feb. 1, 8.
CONNOLLY, Public Hall Theatre, Scunthorpe

COMPANIES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE,
Vacant March 19, 26, April 9, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
Vacant April 9, May 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
Vacant Feb. 26, March 26, April 9, 16.
Address Communications to,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies for March 12,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Required, Sound Attraction for Easter Week.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, for Christmas, 1906-7. State where can be seen. Also First-class Attractions, April 30, May 7, June 4, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 29, Feb. 12, 19, March 5.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

NEW PAVILION, EASTBOURNE PIER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Feb. 19, March 12(?), April 2, and various dates, onward. Spring Bookings include "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," "The Duffer," "The Eternal City," "Beauty and the Barge," "One of the Best," "Old Heidelberg," "Monsieur Beaucaire," "The Christian," "The Sign of the Cross," &c. All the latest musical attractions booked during the season. The popular place of entertainment in Eastbourne. Receipts for 1905 10 per cent. in excess of 1904. Please address, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Good Companies, for Poole's Theatres, Gloucester, Feb. 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 9, 23, and 30; Porth, Feb. 5, 19, on, with exceptions; Treherbert and Maesteg, Feb. 19, on, with exceptions; Pontypool, various dates. Trade now good in Wales.
Apply, C. W. POOLE, Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

WANTED, First-class Company, Dramatic Attraction, for April 2, also Easter (certainty), April 23, and on. Communications to FRANK BATEMAN, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Dunfermline, 3 nights, Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 8, 13, Dumfries, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 12, 26, and April 2. Address, W. E. POTTS, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Three Nights, Jan. 25; 29th, three or six; Feb. 5, three or six.
Wire, W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Companies, Assembly Hall, Bulford Camp, Jan. 29 (4 nights), Feb. 7 (2 nights), Splendid Hall, holds 1,000. Address, DIRECTOR ENTERTAINMENTS, 80, St. Paul's-road, Salisbury.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

WANTED, Choirs, Minstrels, Good Combinations, Jan. 29, onwards, for Palace, Boston; must have good print. CLIFFORD, Palace, Boston.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 12, March 12, 19.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 5,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 12,
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, March 5, April 2, Aug. 6.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
Fredk. Melville's New Production.
WANTED, Important Theatre, Aug. 13,
FREDK. MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 16, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of May 7 and 14, for this Powerful Attraction.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
Scala Theatre, London, W.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, May 21, 28.
"THE SAILORS OF THE KING,"
Feb. 26, March 12, 19, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
King's Theatre, Gateshead.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, March 26, between Swansea and Swindon, only vacant date. CHALMERS MACKEY, this His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness; next, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, Jan. 29 (through misunderstanding), Feb. 5, Feb. 12, 26, and onwards, with exceptions.
Wire for Jan. 29,
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
To-day, 24, Upper Brook-street, Manchester; next week, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S TOURS.
The Great Oriental Production,
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 12, Easter.
Wire Star Theatre, Liverpool.
Letters, HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 23 and 30.
J. W. CORDINER,
New Theatre, Consett.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.S.
WANTED, Feb. 5 and 19 for the huge success, "Two Little Drummer Boys." Wanted, Feb. 12 and 26, for the money-maker, "A Sister's Sin." Wire for both attractions to KIMBERLEY, Wakefield; next, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

JOHN TULLY'S "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Feb. 12 and 19, for this truly Remarkable Revival.
Address,
JOHN TULLY, Opera House, Northampton.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 26, only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, for this Elaborate Production,
Vacant Feb. 5, 19, and 26.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Theatres, with Holding Capacity, for this Financial Success,
Vacant, through transferring, Feb. 19 and 26.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dates, for
Mr. Leigh Lovel,
Miss Octavia Kenmore and Company, in
"THE DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE."

One of the few First-class Companies which have been able to keep Continuously on the road.
Several Spring Dates open.

"SOWING THE WIND."
A most Favourable Reception has been accorded to the Revival of this Powerful Play.

"IN THE SOUP."
(By arrangement with Mrs. Lumley.)
One of the Funniest Farces ever written.

Spring Dates Open.
Address, Weston-super-Mare.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
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"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
By Walter Howard.
Paumier and Howard's
Superb Production.
ANNIE SAKER,
ALFRED PAUMIER.
WANTED, April 23, Oct. 15.
ALFRED PAUMIER,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S CO.'S.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"THE WOMAN FROM GAOL,"
by Geo. R. Sims.
Several Vacancies between Easter and Whit.
First-class Company.
Enormous Advertising Plant.
"A PATH OF THORNS."
April 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 6.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Feb. 12, March 12, 19, May 7.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wire, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

WANTED,
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN,"
The Successful Musical Comedy,
Feb. 5, 19,
onwards.

F. MARTIN MORRIS,
This week, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield; next week, Opera House, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT" COMPANY.

WANTED, March 19, and on; also Good Theatre for Easter, "Another Man's Wife," Production shortly.

"PUSS IN BOOTS."
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
On Feb. 5 a run of the above Pantomime could be arranged after the six weeks' production at this theatre.
WANTED, First-class Theatre.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad Court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal and Gorgeous Pantomime,
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Vacant Feb. 19 and 26.
Only Theatres having Large Stage and Large Holding Capacity need apply.
Address, THOS. SWINTON,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 29, March 12, 26, June 4, Aug. 6, for "Her Lost Self" and "The Biggest Scamp on Earth." Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, St. Remo, Woodland-terrace, Whitstable. Next, T. R., Stratford, E.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, various, onward, for this Unique Costume Drama.
W. J. MILLER, Alhambra T., Dudley Port.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 19, April 2.
HENRY L. OSMOND, Alexandra T., Widnes.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 12 and 26.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
Jan. 22, St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

"THE GIRL FROM CHICAGO."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Easter Week and on, for this very successful Musical Farce.
Address, HAROLD S. Parkhurst-rd., Sutton, Surrey.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Feb. 5 and 12, for either Thomas Thorne and Co., or David James and Co.
Wire, RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

"CINDERELLA" or "ALADDIN."
WANTED, Jan. 29 (L. and Y. or Midlands), for either of these Magnificent Pantomimes.
Fifty People on Stage. Everything carried. Wire, HERBERT BARRS, T. R., Hyde;
Monday, Prince's Theatre, Horwich (re-opening).

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Feb. 5, 12, 19.
FRED BULMER, Regent Theatre, Salford.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 5, 12 19.
FRED BULMER, Regent Theatre, Salford.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, March 19, 26, Ap. 2, 9. FRED BULMER, Regent T., Salford.

Mr. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S TOUR.
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Vacant March 19, April 2, now Booking Autumn. Everything new, everything carried, everything good. LEWIS GILBERT, T. R., Hyde, Lancs.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANY, LTD.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 29,
"THE ETERNAL CITY."
Wire, MARTIN, Opera House, Burnley, to-day; "Playgoing, London," Monday.

WANTED, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, "At Cripple Creek;" "Under Two Flags"; Jan. 29, "A Sailor's Sweetheart." MARK BLOW, Prince's T., Portsm'th.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, "Gay Parisienne," Feb. 12, 19, March 26; "Mason," Feb. 19, 26, March 19, April 2, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S
"THE PLUCKY NIPPER" CO.
WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19. Wire for Feb. 5, 5, 5,
EDWARD SURREY, to-day, T. R., Macclesfield; next, Grand, Stalybridge.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 12, 19, South or Midlands.
HORACE STANLEY,
To-day, Lincoln; Next, Coventry.

Pantomime.
Pantomime.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

WANTED, Feb. 12, onwards, for above, to follow Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, now being performed at Royal West London Theatre.

Address, G. BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Royal West London Theatre.
Telephone, No. 2247, Mayfair.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEO. KIRK'S CO.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by
Charles Darrell.

Miss Mary Neil as Nellie Harborne.

Third week of Tour. Saturday night at Castleford packed from floor to ceiling. Saturday night at Saltley packed from floor to ceiling. Wednesday's receipts Blackpool doubled Monday's.

Thanks T. Sergenson, Esq., for return date on Tuesday night; also Wm. Morton, Esq., Hull, who saw show and immediately booked for his Easter attraction; W. B. Broadhead (all theatres), McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Col. Winstanley, Milton Bode, H. Masterman, Hugh Robertson, Geo. E. Mudd, A. C. Mitchell, J. F. Elliston, J. and F. Coulson.

£1,800 printing by David Allen, from special designs by the celebrated artist, Will True.

WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, March 5, April 9, May 28, June 4, only vacant dates until Aug. 20.

Address,
GEORGE KIRK,
To-day, Grand, Blackpool;
next, T. R., LINCOLN.

WANTED, Dates, Xmas, 1906 and '7, for
"SINBAD THE SAILOR,"
now being Played at the Grand, Islington.
Lloyd's News, Dec. 31, said:—One of the best pantomimes seen at Islington for some years.
Referee, Dec. 31 said:—"Sinbad" is a funny as well as a beautiful pantomime.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
Mr. James's Crouch End Pantomime.
Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said:—The entertainment can claim rank among the liveliest and most pleasing to be found.
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."
Mr. James's Croydon Pantomime.
The Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this pantomime, that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
Apply,
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

SAMUEL JAMES and NEWMAN MAURICE'S CO., "WHY WOMAN SINS."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Aug. 6, and onwards, with exceptions. Every Scene and Property Carried, clear stage only required.
SAMUEL JAMES, Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
An Artistic, Established, and Pronounced Success. A Really Remarkable and Powerful Attraction. A Great Play. A Splendid Production. A Strong Company. Managers Note.—Third Visit to Manchester within Eight Months, and the last visit a Record.
WANTED, Feb. 19 (to follow Dublin), Feb. 26, March 5, Easter, and Whitsun, for this Great Attraction. CLYNDES, Pavilion, Altrincham.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this Sterling Attraction,
Feb. 5,
Feb. 12,
March 5.
Only Vacant Dates. Rapidly Filling Autumn.

Jan. 22, L., Pentre, third visit.

"DAYS OF CROMWELL."
WANTED, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, March 12, April 23, 30, May 14, June 5, 19, and 26, July 9.
Wire for Feb. 5.
MONTAGUE BEAUDIN,
This, Ramsgate; Jan. 22, T. R., Dover.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, for this Brilliant Attraction, Feb. 19, 26, and March 5,
to follow Yarmouth and precede Portsmouth.
Five full sets of scenery by Egerton.
HARRY FOXWELL, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

The Greatest Dramatic Success of the Age.
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
Mr. HARRY YORKE'S Principal Company.
WANTED, Feb. 5, Six Nights, to follow Dalston T., London. Only vacant date, through obliging. Wire, HARRY YORKE, T. R., Blackburn.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 5 (3 Nights), to Precede Grantham;
March 5 and 12,
to Follow Third Visit to Stratford.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, T. R., Hyde.

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS."
Mr. REUBEN PAYNE'S TOUR.
WANTED, for this tried and proved artistic and financial success. March 12 (Tyne district preferred), and various onwards.
Address, ARTHUR JEFFERSON, Metropole, Glasgow.

Mrs. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26.
Address,
36, Gloucester-road, Kew, Surrey.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Moneymaking Attraction, Jan. 29. Wire for Jan. 29.
Feb. 5 and March 12, Midlands.
Autumn fast filling. Wanted, Oct. 1, 29, Lancs. Company, Printing, and Scenery A1.
24th week of Present Tour.
FRANK AYRTON, Grand Opera House, Radcliffe.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, for this acknowledged Success, Feb. 12 (3), March 19, 26, on.
Feb. 12 (3), March 19, 26, on.
E. A'DELL, Muncaster T., Bootle.

EADE MONTEFIORE'S
PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Feb. 12, 19, 26.

MONTEFIORE,
Edinburgh.

LITTLE AND DARCY'S PANTOMIME,
"SINBAD THE SAILOR."
WANTED, Feb. 12, must be large Theatre, Company of Fifty Artists.
Address,
FRED J. LITTLE, New Century Theatre, Motherwell.

WANTED, Feb. 12, for Haddon and Loader's Pantomime. See Bury Notice in Stage for Cast. Wire, LOADER, Theatre, St. Helens.

WANTED, Known, Claude Ginnett's Original Rejected Remounts, vacant Feb. 12 19, to follow Leeds; also April 2, 9, onward. C. GINNETT, JUN., 59, Nichols-square, Hackney-rd., N.E.

WANTED, Good Halls or Theatres, for First-Class Combinations, including Prof. Inman Hocking, Electric Hypnotic Healer. LARDER, 22, Levington-street, Grimsby.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Production of "The Prodigal Son," Manchester Version, on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Rehearsals commence Tuesday, 23rd.
WANTED, First-class People in all Lines, may send in terms and references to RICHARD DALTON, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

"THE LITTLE BREADWINNER."
WANTED, to Rehearse at Blyth, 30th inst., pretty, dainty young actress, for juvenile lead, sort of Puritan part, blind in two acts. State age, height, fair or dark, terms, references, and enclose photos. (most important), to J. A. CAMPBELL, New Theatre Royal, West Stanley.

WANTED, Several Young Ladies of good appearance for Musical Comedy Sketch in Vaudeville Theatres; must have good Singing Voices and be good Dancers. Apply personally between 12 and 2, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next, MOLLER, The Prince Albert, Upper St. Martin's-lane.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Ladies with Good Voices and Good Appearance, for West End Production. Photos., terms, and particulars, to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Young Emotional Actress for Production, week, of New Dramatic Sketch, London Hall. Full particulars and lowest terms, Box 2,671.

WANTED, Sketch, Leading Lady and Gentleman Comedian, Child over 14, Rehearse Tuesday, open 29th. Terms, &c., no callers. 40, Morat-street, Brixton.

WANTED, for Spring Tour of "The Bank of England," first-class juvenile man; also light comedian. Percy Braithwaite send address. Terms, photos., refs., CHAS. H. LESTER, P. T., Portsmouth.

WANTED, a Really Good Refined Comedian, and Humorous Singer, who has been accustomed to play in musical comedy and burlesque, for a summer pier engagement, 9 weeks' certain, in a good concert party. Address, DIRECTOR, Box 2,671, "The Era."

WANTED, Robust Character Actor, for Aristocratic Old Man, for act in Halls, Spring. Photos., height, &c.
TRIBUNE, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, for production of Play, by well-known Author, Young Actor, to play Irish part, and introduce capital; Irishman preferred; must be good looking and a gentleman. Magnificent opportunity for ambitious and clever actor. Genuine. Box 2,667, "The Era."

WANTED, Comedians, for Burlesque. Apply personally, between 12 and 1, WILLIAMS, Savoy Palace Hotel, Savoy-street, Strand.

WANTED, Amateur Gentleman, play small, important part in high-class Sketch. No premium. Box 2,687, "The Era."

WANTED, Several Tall Young Gentlemen, to speak few lines; must be refined; first-class tour, theatres and music halls.
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
10, King-street, Covent Garden, London.

WANTED, High-class Soubrette, sing and dance; Char. Comedian, tall; must give trial performance. OLIVER, New Cross Empire, S.E.

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman, to play Small Parts and Understudy. NORMAN V. NORMAN, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Entertainer, à la Grossmith, for Costume Concert Party. Fullest particulars required. State lowest salary, Box 2,683, "The Era."

WANTED, Dancers, good appearance, not very tall, and capable of a little singing, for Continental Tour. Write immediately, sending photo. FREEMAN, 79, Rue Des Martyrs, Paris.

WANTED, Strong Acrobatic Dancer, able to Sing, age about 20, Feb. 19. Photo to SUTCLIFFE, 6, Grafton-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, Young Lady Vocalist, must also Play Instrument in Orchestra. Permanency. Lowest terms, photo., references, &c., ETHEL SOMERFORD, Trades Exhibition, Drill Hall, Spalding.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen Amateurs, anxious to appear in Steinway and other Concerts, may write; get thorough tuition before. 90, Netherwood-road, Shepherd's Bush (Tube).

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, to Open at Once, good Sopranos, for Fairy Queen. Send terms, height, and particulars to KIDDIE, Rotunda, Liverpool.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE and EDWARD COMPTON'S SCENE FACTORY, READING.
WANTED, Known, Estimates Given for all Kinds of Scenery, Properties, Electrical Effects, Music Stands, &c., First-class Work Guaranteed.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, high-class work, and best materials at reasonable prices. Studio and workshop, 107, Waddon New-road. CHARLES SAYER, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Smith, jun., Artist, Figure, Animal, Landscapes, and Flowers, Gilding, Writing, and Decorations. Address, 66, Stanbury-road, Peckham, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, Frank Rogers, jun., late Advertising-Manager, London Hippodrome (6 years' engagement), 20 years' London, Provincial, and Transatlantic Experience, in all business duties connected with the combined Professions. A solid, tireless worker, with best of references. 7, Church-st., Soho, London, W.

WANTED, Stage-Manager and Electrician Combined, small Variety Theatre, in the North of England. Apply, stating lowest terms and references, ALFRED GRAHAM, Hippodrome, Hull. Mark letters, "Stage-Manager."

WANTED, Assistant Acting-Manager. Apply, stating age, salary required, and giving names and addresses for references, to OSWALD STOLL,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

SOUTHSEA.
WANTED, Energetic Man as Secretary, to Manage Chair-letting, Guide Book and Entertainments, one with experience and similar position preferred. Write, with copy testimonials, CHAIRMAN, Entertainment Committee, Town Hall, Portsmouth.

WANTED, an Assistant Acting-Manager, to play small part. Full particulars, photo., refs., lowest terms, CHARLES HARRINGTON, King's Theatre, Gateshead. Morris Harper write.

WANTED, Advance Agent, knowing Picture Towns; Lady Song Illustrator (Adela Lambert write); and Select Variety Turns. Lowest terms absolute, for tour. Silence polite negative. HUBER, Post Office, Romford.

WANTED, Billposters for Buffalo Bill's "Wild West"; must be good men, able to use long-handled brush. Those speaking Italian, German, Hungarian, Hollandish, or French given the preference, but knowledge of English only is not a bar to good workmen.
Apply to JOHN MOORE, LONDON, Ltd.,
25, Oxenden-street, Piccadilly Circus,
Sole Agent for the Donaldson Litho. Co., largest printers in the world of Pictorials for Circuses, Menageries, Agricultural and Horse Shows, Cinematograph, &c.

Billposting.
WANTED, Experienced Foreman, for the North Staffordshire Billposting Company, Ltd., Hanley. State wages required, experience, and full references. Apply, SECRETARY, care of Mr. Timmis, Fountain-square, Hanley.

Billposter.
WANTED, a Steady High-ladderman.
Apply, giving reference, to
RICHEY and Co., Ltd.,
Clayton-street, West, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, a good Bill-poster; permanent job to suitable man.
Age about 24.
Apply, J. STOCK, 17, Commercial-road, Bedford.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Smart Young Bill-poster, used to High-ladder Work. Wages 26s. Apply with references, GREENHALGH and BRAKELEY, Billposters, Bolton.

WANTED, by Agent in Advance, experienced Press Agent, Engagement; finest English and American References. JAMES O'NEILL, Blackwood Hotel, 97, Stamford-street, S.E.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Feb. 12, Charles F. Meadows, for Advance or Resident Bill Inspector. Thanks G. W. Bowes, Esq., for 5 years comfortable engagement. First-class Window-billier. Good refs. Per. address, 13, York-st., Dover.

WANTED, Situation as Electrician, 7 years' practical experience, willing to take small part as Comedian. G. F. B., 71, Lillington-street, Westminster.

WANTED, Engagement, by Handy Man, Good Carpenter, Own Tools; age 28. KIRBY, c/o W., 35, Gillespie-road, N.

WANTED, Situation as Billposter, just finished six years' engagement with the Dover Billposting Co. Good refs. Terms, &c., WM. MARTIN, 5, Durham-place, Dover.

WANTED, by Young Man, gentlemanly, tall, smart, Re-engagement as Attendant, Check, Money-taker, or Assist. Bonus or time given. Managers' references. L., 103, Plimsoll-road, Finsbury Park, N

WANTED, by Young Lady, Employment in Theatre or Music Hall, at Liberty Jan. 27; evening only; thoroughly experienced in Bar or Waiting; good reference from present employer; age 29. Address, Miss B., Box 2,652, "The Era."

WANTED, Evening Employment, by Gentlewoman engaged in City during the day, Theatre preferred; could attend Matinées. Box 2,681, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement in Theatre or Music Hall, by Youth 17, any capacity, Box Office preferred; three years' previous experience in leading London Variety Theatre. T. LAMPORT, 178, Kennington-road, Lambeth, London, S.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Wardrobe Mistress, experienced dressmaker. Good refs. BLAKE, 41, Hartland-road, West Kilburn.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Solo Violinist, also Solo Cornet, for Exhibition on Tour in Scotland, Ladies or Gentlemen. Address, MANAGER, Exhibition, Town Hall, Tillicoultry, N.B.

WANTED, First Cornet, for Cardiff. Apply, stating age, salary required, with references, to
OSWALD STOLL,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London.

THE SPA, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, for Summer Military Band, First-class Solo Cornet, also Repiano Cornet, also Solo Trombone. Three performances daily. CHARLES GODFREY, JUN., Musical-Director.

WANTED, Good Reliable Cornet Player, must be first-class instrumentalist.
Address,
with references and lowest terms,
W. E. BARNETT, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, at once, for Croydon Town Band, Good Cornet Player, terms, shares, sobriety indispensable. WALTERS, 51, Waddon New-rd., Croydon.

WANTED, Good First Cornet, First and Second Violinists. Apply, with lowest terms and references, to W. J. ANDREWS, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

WANTED, First-class Cornet-player; must be used to variety.

State age, last references, wages required,
COUNCILLOR HALL, Proprietor,
Tivoli Music Hall, South Shields.

WANTED, Good Cornet, Permanency to Good Man. Apply,
J. WORSWICK, Court Theatre, Wigan.

WANTED, Second Cornet. Apply, stating references, &c.,
D. J. CLARKE, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

WANTED, a good Clarionet or Cornet Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum; salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found; single man.
Apply, with testimonials,
W. GRAINGER,
County Asylum,
Stafford.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION MILITARY BAND.
WANTED, Clarionets, Flutes, Bassoon, French Horns, Sax Horns, Solo Trombone, Euphonium, and Saxophone (B flat).
Address, with references, to
Messrs. BARTLE and RIMMER,
Southport.

WANTED, immediately, a Solo Clarionet Player, knowledge of both Orchestral and Military work indispensable. Apply to CONDUCTOR, R.A. Band, The Castle, Dover.

WANTED, Solo Bassoon, for Two or More Weeks, commencing Jan. 22.
VAL MARRIOTT,
Symphony Orchestra, Kursaal, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, Flautist, Experienced, commence Jan. 29, variety, twice nightly, 2 matinées. Age, lowest terms, recent references, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Boscombe.

WANTED, for First-class Dublin Hotel Orchestra, Young Lady 'Cellist, competent. 24s. weekly guaranteed, other engagements extra. State experience, references, age to LIBRARY, 27, Grafton-street, Dublin. Send photograph, will be returned.

BOTANICAL GARDENS, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, Season 1906 (April 13 to Sept. 29), Pianist, Sight Reader, to combine Violin. State terms, experience, and references.
Apply, OLIVER GAGGS,
Urmston, near Manchester.

WANTED, Young Lady, Pianiste and Vocalist, good vamper, good home. For terms, apply, DODDS, Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, First-class Band, with Good Drawing Powers, Ladies or Gentlemen (English only), 12 or 15, for One Week, commencing March 12. No fancy prices entertained. Address, full particulars, HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Limited, Bridlington, Yorks.

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, one week certain, commencing Jan. 29, Competent Drums, Cornet, Grand Opera. Lowest terms first letter. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Composer of "Silver King," "Lights of London," "Golden Ladder." 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood.

WANTED, Re-engagement by a thoroughly experienced Theatre and Variety Conductor, Composer, and Arranger, extensive library (at a cost of over £200), including all the Standard Works, also British and Continental Novelties; only good offers entertained. Offers invited for Summer Season. Highest references. Box 2,666, "The Era."

WANTED, by Bandmaster (late Royal Navy), position as Bandmaster. Excellent testimonials. BANDMASTER, 16, Clarendon-street, Landport, Portsmouth, Hants.

WANTED, immediately, by First-Class Musical Director, brilliant pianist, experienced, Musical Comedy or Panto. Letters, ALLAN GREY, Box 2,661, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement, by First-class thoroughly experienced Musical Director, Varieties or Theatre. Excellent references, reliable. Address, Box 2,673, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, W. Crabtree, Musical Director, Pavilion, Glasgow, at Liberty after 27th. First-class offers invited, any business. Highest credentials; splendid répertoire.

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor or Leader (Violinist), with very best experience, Grand Opera, Symphony Work, &c. Highest references. Apply, Box 2,608, "The Era."

WANTED, by Conductor (Violin), or as Leader, permanency, thoroughly experienced, any business, up-to-date répertoire, at Lib. Jan. 29. Box 2,674, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. Toggart, Conductor, Violin and Piano, desire Re-engagement. Modern Library, experienced, steady. 21, Beaconsfield-rd, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Conductor, Violinist and Pianist, good refs., library, &c. Address, LEONARD S. TUTE, 31, Marie Hill-parade, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Young Lady Violinist, Engagement, in Ladies' Band, as First Violinist, previous experience. VIOLINIST, 60, Kimberley-gardens, Harringay Park, N.

WANTED, Known, a First-rate Violinist requires Engagement for the ensuing Season. W. ALMON, 11, Elizabeth-cottages, Sandycombe-road, Kew Gardens.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist, any Business, experienced. Good refs. VIOLINIST, 9, Taylor-street, Darlington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Theatre or Concert Orchestra; good refs. and experienced; any distance. JAMES, 46, Ravenstone-road, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, by Good Violinist, Engagement, experienced Variety and Dramatic, Stock of Music, Up-to-date. CARPENTER, Gilpin-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Re-engagement, First or Second Violin, experienced. References.
VIOLINIST, 55, York-road, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, experienced in all Lines, any distance. Good refs. MONTAGUE, 46, Ravenstone-road, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Cornet, Disengaged, 2½ years last situation. References; moderate terms, Theatre, Music Hall, Cinématograph CREAMER, 2, Granville-street, Kettering, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, long experience; good refs. in any business. Write or wire, F. T., care of LENNOX, 8, Cairnton-street, Tillicoultry, Scotland.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Cornet, just concluded 6 months' engagement. State terms. CORNET, 11, Buxton-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Cornet, any business, out through closing. Address, H. B. METCALFE, 39, Whitehouse-street, Walsall.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Variety or any Business. Good testimonials. ALFRED RICHARD BENZING, 3, Ridgmount-street, Ampthill-road, Bedford.

WANTED, by 4-String Double Bass Player, out through closing, any business, good refs., would deputise. BRYANT, 15, London-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, Experienced, steady, reliable. PETER JONES, 6, Gt. Norwood-st., Cheltenham. Music copied, transposed, scored.

WANTED, an Engagement, by Double Bass, Theatre or Variety. R. J. LANGRIDGE, 66, Priory-street, Colchester.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, Theatre or Oratorio Work.
BASSOON, 15, Warwick-road, Hampton Wick.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass Player, abstainer, smart and reliable. Good reference. 12, Hunter-road, Thornton Heath, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, B Flat Euphonium, age 35, Corporations, Trainings, Piers, could conduct, 20 years' experience. ELLIOTT, 243, St. James's-rd., Bermondsey.

WANTED, by thoroughly Experienced Euphonium, Engagement, any business, good refs., can open at once. CHAS. GRICE, 184, Waterloo-rd., Norwich.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist, theatre or music hall, London or near preferred, good refs. RYAN, 55, Waddon New-rd., Croydon.

WANTED, by Trombone, Experienced, Engagement, any business. Good refs. Wire or write, TROMBONE, 2, Cromwell-terrace, King's Lynn.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLS, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, Engagement, by Competent and Experienced 'Cellist. T. CATHIE, Theddlethorpe, Louth, Lincolnshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced 'Cellist. Good references. Address, W. D. KNUDSEN, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, Evening Engagement in London, Sundays excepted. 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Oboe, experienced Theatre and Varieties, London or Suburbs preferred. C. DELEVANTE, 60, Collingbourne-road, Shepherd's Bush, London.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (Age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Flute and 'Cello, Ladies, finished ten months' engagement, London Coliseum. Apply H., 121, Albany-street, Regent's Park.

WANTED, by Flautist, at Liberty. Highest refs.
BARDSLEY, 106, Peter-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist, Licentiate R.A.M.; highest references.
Address,
W. B. C., 4, Stanhope-avenue, Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement by Lady Pianist, only here in London; thoroughly experienced; age 22. Box 2659, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Experienced Pianist, at Liberty, combine Violin or Viola, just concluded three years' engagement at the Theatre and Grand Hotel, Folkestone; good references. F. SUTCLIFFE, 10, Albert-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist, Sight-reader, sober, gentlemanly, any Business. Excellent references. 4, St. John-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, Drums, &c., can Open at Once, any Bus. BILLY PALMER, Presto House, Great Yarmouth. Respects to old pals.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Music Hall or Theatre. Highest Refs.: Experienced.
F. G., 50, Flood-street, Chelsea, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, join at once. Address, DRUMS, Bright's Villa, 2, Myrtle-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First-Class Family Band (five upwards), thoroughly experienced instrumentalists; up-to-date library. CONDUCTOR, 19, Mayton-street, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists, Scarlet Domino, and other Ladies' Bands. BUREAU, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.

WANTED, Big Sensations, Great Novelties, and Star Turns in all Lines, from Jan. 29, onwards; also useful Circus Performers, Clowns, &c. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

BURTON'S FETE AND GALA AGENCY.
5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.
First in 1864. Foremost in 1906.
WANTED, Sensational Aerial and Ground Acts of every description, Continental Novelties, Double Acts, for Whit Week and numerous dates. Send Lithos., Memos., Full Bookings, Permanent Addresses, and Terms.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Specialities of Every Description, also Animal Acts, anything that can be done in Ring or Stage.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WANTED, for the Winter Gardens, Plymouth, Jan. 29, onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines, male and female, barebacked equestrians, to ride our horses. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK.

WANTED, Easter Monday and Whitsuntide Sensational Specialities and Parachute Drop Hot-air Balloon. Lithos., memos., terms, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, for Easter and Later Dates, Good Gala Acts, Acrobats, Cyclists, Wire Performers, and Novelties. WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, for Wilder's Great Fêtes and Galas, Whit. Week, June, July, Bank Holiday, and onwards, First-class Performances and Novelties, of every description, Aërial Flying Shows, Rope Shows, Single and Double Turns, &c. Full particulars, sample, lithos., and lowest terms, to WILDER'S, Gt. Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, a Young Circus Clown, &c., one that is funny and can knockabout, to play Agouste in an Animal Show; must be able to handle and know something about a pony.
Address,
Box 2,682, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady Contortionist, Gymnast, for a long American tour; must be good looking, good figure. Send photos., TREBORO, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, a sober, steady Young Man, with Knowledge of Acrobating and Tumbling, age between 19 and 24, height not less than 5ft. 9in., weight not exceeding 9st.
Apply,
photos. or personally, to P. P.,
21, Wardour-street, Leicester-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, for Season 1906, Youth, about 16 or 17 years old, used to Acrobat business. Send full particulars and experience, stating weight and height, to
LORD JOHN SANGER and SONS, Ltd.,
Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Smart Boy Acrobat, for Established Act; state tricks and particulars; must join me about March 12, or in May, for Europe and America. Address, PETE BELL (private), Jan. 22, Empire, Leicester.

WANTED, Boy about 14, to join well-known family of Risley Performers, as Apprentice. Good home; splendid chance for smart boy; preferred slender and light figure.
Apply, Box 2,670, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella, greatest and best existing Lion Show of the World, Vacant May 7, onwards.
Comm., week, Jan. 22,
Empire Palace,, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Known, Educated Talking Arabian Donkey, Liberty March 6, a comic act, stage or ring. BUER and SON, J. H. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh

WANTED, Miss Pinder, with her Novel Equestrian Performance, introducing her Highly-trained Horse-Riding Collie Dog and Flight of Pigeons, twice daily, at Fossett's Circus, the Royal Agricultural Hall, London. Miss Pinder is the only lady doing this New Turn on the Music Hall Stage. Agents and Managers are invited to see this Turn. At Liberty Feb. 12, with John Irvin, the Dexterous Foot Equilibrist.
Address,
Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, Bareback Equestrienne, at Liberty Jan. 29. Thanks for Offers. Address, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Funny Musical Clown, Lib. for Tenting Season, Home or Abroad. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good entrées, Vacant Monday, also tenting. Wire or write, Hippodrome, Mansfield, Notts.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Austin, Clowns and Agoustes, good entrées, eccentric, pyramid of chairs, and foot equilibrist, re-engaged after first week, London Hippodrome, at Liberty for summer months. Address, 3, Wincott-street, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Jan. 22, 29, Mayeno Trio, 2 Ladies, 1 Gent., Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Stilt Tumblers, Tub Posturers, 3 Specialities, or Comedy Turns. Wire, Turley's Hotel, Chichester-st., Belfast.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, absolutely the smartest of all Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Pot Pourri Acts, free Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12. Monday, Hippodrome, Dewsbury, where address.

WANTED, Known, Smarte Bros., Liberty March, with new and original acrobatic act. Big Success, "Blue Beard" Panto., Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. Good agent wanted.

WANTED, Monday next and Later Dates, by Les Greers, Continental Acrobats. Vacant for Tenting Season. Address, 15, Union-st., Southport.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo Lo, this week Hull; Jan. 29, Transfield's Circus, Paisley; at Liberty Feb. 5.

WANTED, Known, Herman, High Telephone Wire Performer, at Liberty, for Fêtes, Galas, and Carnivals. Add., 21, Branson-st., Beswick, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Phinias and Aida, Revolving Equilibrists, Liberty Jan. 29, also tenting season, several acts. Ohmy's Circus, Leigh.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Almero, Aërial Norwegian Spar and Smart Wire Act, open for the summer months, galas, &c., continued success. John Henry Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, for Fêtes, Galas, &c., an ideal act of strength, Ajax, the Modern Herculcs. Address, 23, Foxley-rd., Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, Clown Benbo, Eccentric Juggler and Necromancer, two acts if required. Vacant Jan. 29 and Feb. 6. 99, Carmen-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Will Daulby, Catcher, Bearer, and Tumbler, at Liberty.
Particulars to 21, Morledge-street, Leicester.

WANTED, at Liberty, March, good Tumbler, Acrobat, join good Troupe of Acrobats, Straight or Comedy. Address, TUMBLER, 1, Fenwick-street, Warwick-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, at the expiration of the World's Fair, Le Nève and Sullivan's Troupe of Male and Female Wrestlers, including Peter Gotz, the Light-weight Champion, are free for engagements. For full particulars, address, LE NEVE, Royal Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Known, Le Neve thanks those that answered advertisement re Wrestlers. All settled at present. Agricultural Hall, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, Jan. 29, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artists and Specialities, for Jan. 29, Hippodrome, Blyth. Wire or write lowest. GEORGE and EDWARDS, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley. Bouncing Dillions wire.

WANTED, Star Artists, Big Attractions, for Fêtes and Galas, Piers and Summer Gardens, Big Aerial and Ground Acts, June 4, onwards.
Variety Artists, Jan. 29, onwards. Terms, &c.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

BURTON'S FETE AND GALA AGENCY.
5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.
First in 1864. Foremost in 1906.
WANTED, Sensational Aerial and Ground Acts of every description, Continental Novelties, Double Acts, for Whit Week and numerous dates. Send Lithos., Memos., Full Bookings, Permanent Addresses, and Terms.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big. All artists known to me write. State full bookings, and lowest terms, J. LARDER, Manager, Bennett's Vaudeville Companies and Variety Agency, 22, Levington-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Serios and Dancers. Send lowest, lithos., particulars, SAM LEE, 148, Great Tichfield-st., Portland-rd., W.

WANTED, Star Artists every description, Big Tops and Bottoms. Bookings, terms, &c., to FREDK. YATES, Church-av., Weaste, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for Jan. 29, 1906. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 5, 19, onwards. All Artists promised future dates, write now.
CHAS. A. JAMES,
Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, for the Hippodrome, Bridgwater, Artists, in all Lines, Jan. 29, and onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, H. LEATON, Manager.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, those doing two acts preferred; big specialities; sharing terms. HUGH DEMPSEY, Miners' Hall, Trimdon Grange.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, Serios and Sisters. Lowest; Hall Small. Jan. 29, onwards. GEO. EDWARDS, Tivoli, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal Monday next, Jan. 22, 2 o'clock, for Abdy's Dogs, Marconis, H. O. Boric, Stephen Blythe, Sisters Darnton, J. Oliver, Decona, and Marvelles' Cockatoos. Letters, S. L. LEE.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, for Jan. 29, and Feb. 5 and 12, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Jan. 29, onwards, for
Liverpool, St. Helens, Accrington, and Warrington,
Stars and Novelties of all Kinds.
Address, F. WILLMOT, 156, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars, Nothing too Big. Send full Bookings and Terms to FRANK LYNNE, New Theatre Royal, Halifax. AYTOUN'S Agency.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Hippodrome, Mansfield, Jan. 29 and onwards, all the Biggest Stars and Novelties in the Profession; Nothing too Big. Some good Wrestlers and Boxers may write. Address, J. MORRELLA, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, for Town and Country, Big Stars and Tops, for Jan. 22, onward.
Nothing too Big.
Artists on my books keep me posted.
FRED NEIMAN,
Hippodrome, Ipswich.

WANTED, for Cheltenham, Jan. 29, Star Turn and Good Comedy Acts. Call for Monday, 22nd: Victor Newman, Nicodemus, Flo Hill, Paul Vandy, Bodina Trio, Dora Barrington, Vernando, C. Bayman, J. H. McCann, C. Osborne, and Weisker's Pictures. Terms in first letter, PAUL VANDY, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham.

CAVILL'S AGENCY, RED HALL, LEEDS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
the Biggest Acts in the Profession,
for immediate dates for the
North and Ireland.
Nothing too big. Price no object.
Wire Vacancies and Terms at once.
Also Artists all Lines, for
London Halls and Seaside Towns.

WANTED, Good Gala Acts, Aug. 6, 7, 8. Twice daily, Northampton. Bookings and offers this week include Harry Lauder, Boris Fridkin Troupe, Gibson and Doyle, Valvo. Thanks Williams, Gaiety, Dundee, for Contracts. Address, MCASKELL, Empire, Paisley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.
WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, and onward,
Big Specialities,
Novelties,
Animal Shows,
Cycle Acts,
Star Comedian,
Ballad Vocalists.
Must be Refined, or Useless.
Call, Monday, Jan. 22:
Boccaccio Minstrels,
W. E. Gillin,
Fanny Erris,
Davis and Gledhill,
R. C. Note,
Volpe and Cleveland,
Craige, Roze, and Craig,
Clement Trio,
Pictures.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Tops of Bill, for Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, on,
Tops of Bill, for Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, on,
Tops of Bill, for Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, on,
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Tops of Bill, for Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, on,
and all Kinds of First-class
Artists Wanted.
Wire or Write Immediately,
with Fullest Particulars.
Also
First Class Artists of Every Description Wanted, for the Principal Seaside Towns,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686, Royal.

WANTED, Good Comedy Acts, for immediate dates.
ANDERSON'S AGENCY,
6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, for above, Big Comedy Acts, Sketches, Comedians, in fact anything good, Jan. 29, onwards. All communications to JESS VERNO, 61, West Derby-st., L'pool. Telegrams, "Merriment."

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Specialities of Every Description, Feb. 5, for town near London, comedians, comediennes, knockabouts, triple bars, acrobats, sketches, bioscope (to take few locals), &c., &c. Write, giving full particulars, and absolute lowest, in first instance, MANAGER, Rose Cottage, Wellington-street, Hanley.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Top Liners, for Jan. 29, onwards, Nothing too Big. Luigo Serenaders communicate immediately. Artists seen by appointment only. Address, JOE BROWN, Variety Agent, 58, Chicksand-street, London, E.

WANTED, Specialities, Novelties, every Description, suitable Fêtes, Midlands, Yorks., commencing Whitsun. Particulars, terms, vacancies, pictorials, permanent address, to ARTHUR EVANS, Amusement Caterer, 86, St. George's-road, Southwark, London, S.E.

WANTED, Talent, the Best Money can Buy.
DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

Unique Opportunity, Novices and Others.
WANTED, for Old-established High-class Drawing-room Entertainment, a few really clever, refined, and original Speciality Acts. Ordinary Variety Turns not required. Clay-modelling, a good Illusion simple to work and not requiring trap, Boy Violinist, Lady Violinist, or Cartoonist, &c. Apply by letter only, INGLE, 7, Dorset-road, S. Ealing.

THE PIER PAVILION, DOVER.
WANTED, Easter, Whitsun, and onwards, High-class Concert Parties and Big Attractions. Valuable Sites for Automatic Machines to let.
Apply,
F. C. DEW, The Theatre Royal, Dover.

SIDNEY DOOLEY'S AGENCY.
WANTED, for Feb. 5 and onward, First-class Numbers in Every Line.
Send full list of bookings, lithos., and lowest terms, 55A, Booth-street East, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Star Numbers, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, wire; also Artists of every description, Jan. 29, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL (LANC.).
WANTED, First-Class Comedy (Funny Acts); also Sisters. Comediennes, for Jan. 29. All communications address, CHEVALIER CLIQUOT, as above.

WANTED, First-class Pierrot Troupes for the Summer. Send full particulars to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

WANTED, for Arthur Roberts' forthcoming Season, several Tall, Smart Ladies, must be of good appearance and experienced. Apply by letter only, with photograph. Authors with smart Comedy Sketches please send scenarios. All communications to STANLEY DAMERELL, Tivoli Music Hall, Strand.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Star Comedians, Star Comediennes,
Big Specialities, Comedy Acts,
Bar Performers,
Comedy Musical Acts,
Animal Acts.
WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address,
"Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Experienced Comedians and Al Fresco Artists, for Glasgow and West of Scotland. Fullest particulars, LEE and ARDEN, Palace, Sunderland.

WANTED, Boys over 14 (small for age), Boy Actors, Boy Comedians, Boy Vocalists, Boy Acrobats, Boy Musicians.
Exceptional Opportunities Clever Boys.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Two Coloured Boys,
able to Sing and Dance.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Banjoist who can sing Humorous Songs, and Tenor, for Tour of Concert Party; must be young and gentlemen. Write all particulars to HEATH, 47, Elliott-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Very First-class Juggler or Conjurer, or Troupe, wishing to be assisted by a smart Juggler, Conjurer, and Shadowgraphist, same has Splendid Ideas, speaks and writes five languages. Only First-class, Well-educated Artists need apply. Box 2,665, "The Era."

WANTED, well-educated Young Lady or Gentleman, to assist Juggler and Illusionist, knowledge of Juggling or Conjuring desirable. Full particulars, Box 2,686, "The Era."

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects. Write,
Box 2,669, "The Era."

WANTED, Cinématograph Show, 10 Nights, 2 Matinées, commencing Feb. 21, for Lancashire town. KAY, Variety Agent, 25, Fleet-st., Burnley.

WANTED, Expert Bioscope Operator, thoroughly accustomed alternating and direct currents. Give references. VERNON'S Bioscope, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Smart Man, for Music Hall and Show Business. State experience, qualifications, salary, &c., to A. E. PICKARD, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Cinématograph Operator, with own machine and films, as Partner, for Provincial Tour. Address, SINCLAIR, 48, Brailsford-rd., Brixton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Luie O. Bright, Dainty Irish Comedienne and Dancer, Everything Smart and Original, vacant Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and 12. Wires and letters, c/o PRINGLE, 27, Taylor-street, Townhead, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Musical Act, Monday next, Big Success, Empire, Ealing. Wire, 81, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Madge Roberts, the Charming Comedienne and Dancer, at Liberty Jan. 29. Big Success, Palace, Northampton; Monday, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, by Sisters Ely, the pretty, talented Duettists, Monday, 22nd and 29th. Wire. Wedgwood Theatre, Burslem, Staffs.

WANTED, 22nd, 29th, on, by George Ritter, Musical Singing Patter Comedian. My act is clean, clever, and novel. If you want a turn to rely upon, wire for Monday. Big Success here, Hippodrome, Reading.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Liberty Jan. 22. Wire, Circus, Hull. After, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

Notice, Notice. Wire, Wire, South of England to follow.
WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, in Songs, Patter, and Dancing, tremendous success Parthenon, Liverpool, four turns every house, twelfth engagement; also this week, Palace, Cork, the audience wild with enthusiasm. Complimented by H. Kemble, Esq. The Cork Constitution says: H. J. was one of the hits of the programme last night. I am vacant Monday through mistake in date. Wire Sat., Palace, Cork; after Sat., 56, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Kardoc, the finest Handcuff Act in the Kingdom. Refer to every Manager where I have worked; they will tell you to book this Act if business is bad and you require a sure draw. See Card. Free Feb. 5, on. Wire. See Card for address. Wire.

WANTED, Jan. 29, by Will Belasco, in his interesting and novel musical act.
Address, 37, Doon-street, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by George Barr, Eccentric and Low Com., Sing, Dance, and Musical Speciality. 95, Fentiman-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next, also 29th. Wire, Empress, Hartlepool.

WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, by Jas. Day, Postman, Handcuff King, Great Novelty, Star Turn, Lithos.; also Ragson, Conjurer. For either or both, permanent address, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement by Harry Baker, Refined Versatile Instrumentalist, seven instrument show, Concerts, &c. Terms moderate. 4, Borough-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, by Fred Casburn, droll comedian. Another hit, Hippo., Huddersfield; after Sat., Hertford-st., Hunslet, Leeds. Wire.

WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 12, by J. H. Carney, Character Comedian and Mimic; a Show away from any other Artist. This week, Empire, Rochdale; next, Hippo., Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Frank Whiteley, First-class Turn, at Lib. Mon., 22, also Feb. 12. Wire, 7, Clifford-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 29, between Gravesend-Grimsby, by Ventom Swift, Swell Singer, Eccentric Dancer. Wire, Gaiety, Chatham; next week, Grand, Gravesend.

WANTED, Known, Robert Emslie, Descriptive Vocalist, Pianist, and Versatile Entertainer, Lib. Jan. 29. Offers invited. 11, Peas-hill, Cambridge.

WANTED, by Will Gay, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, Monday next, also 29th. Wire, Hippodrome, Bridgwater, Wire.

WANTED, Known, Mysto, the Man of Many Modes, marvellous musical merchant, unique, sure success, Vacant Jan. 29. Offers invited. C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by First-class Continental Juggler and Up-to-date Conjurer, at Liberty February. First-class Agent wanted. M. MALINI, Hotel de l'Etoil, 30, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, Monday and 29th, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist. Wire, Corn Exchange. After Sat., Albany-terrace, Burnley.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, for Prof. Hocking. Last week, at Oldbury, hundreds turned away, including Saturday, notwithstanding Election. Previous week, terrific success, Kidderminster; return Feb. 5. J. LARDER, Sole Agent, 22, Levington-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, by James Taylor, acknowledged the finest Plate Manipulator and Conjurer, Feb. 5 and onward. 565, Wandsworth-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED.—Prof. Garland, Vent. and Conjurer, wants Feb. 19, 26, now working the high-class Drawing Rooms in Ireland. Testimonials from Dukes, Lords, and Earls. Success everywhere; none better. Coms., perm. address, Temple-row, Wrexham.

WANTED, Monday next, one week only, Empire, Hull, to follow, by Bonnie Maud Marlow, Burlesque and Dancer; and Jolly J. H. Crew, Quaint Comedian, hit Pal., Blackpool, where wire. Agent, WILL OLIVER.

WANTED, Monday next, Reg. Templeton and Stella May, comedian and comedienne, Hippo., Wakefield. Wire, 17, Charlotte-street.

WANTED, by Bert and Dora, Comedy Artists, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12, Broadhead Tour to follow. Wire or write. 24, Brook-avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Walter Gurney, Comedian; also Lily Mason, Comedienne and Dancer, Jan. 29. Feb. 5. Address, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 19, by The Monckton, in Screamingly Funny Musical Comedy Act, "A Woman's Curiosity." Next, T., Horwich.

WANTED, Known, Le Warren, the Ventriloquial Foli; also Sadie Dana, Comedienne, Liberty Monday, 22nd, 29th. Wire, 103, Hoxton-road, Scarboro'; after Sunday, 4, St. James's-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Monday, George Macintosh, comedian, and world's champion dancer; also Tina Royal, variety artist and expert dancer. Wire, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

WANTED, after twelve months' successful tour, at Liberty, Jan. 29, the Two Daniels, most Novel and Laughable Negro Comedians, Vocalists, and Expert Dancers. For terms, 63, Sherbourne-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 22 and 29, Belford and Mars, Funny Vocal Comedy Act. Wire, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

WANTED, Feb. 5, on, by Carl and Carr, Comedians, in Refined Comedy Act, "Fun Outside the Workhouse." Wire quick, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

WANTED, Jan. 29, by the Two Daniels, Black Variety Stilt Duettists. Wire,
63, Sherbourne-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday, by Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics. Second week, big success, Central Hall, Sheffield, where wire.

WANTED, Known, Smarte Bros., Liberty March, with new and original acrobatic act, big success, "Blue Beard" Panto., Alex. T., Birmingham. Good agent wanted.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, The Zaros, through obliging, Liberty Feb. 5. Monday, Tivoli, Grimsby; Carlisle to follow.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 29, by Chant and Chant, Refined Comedy Vocalists and Patterers. Wire for a Success, Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, by Keir and Allen, the Great Eccentric Speciality Comedians. Jan. 29, Feb. 5. Offers. Grand, Hanley.

WANTED, by Handel and Lee, Refined Musical Speciality, Feb. 29. Enormous Success. Wire, Tivoli, Barrow; next week, Palace, Halifax.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, World-renowned Musical Clowns, Jan. 22, and onwards. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London.

WANTED, Monday next, and onwards, through sudden closing of old establishment. Wire or write, AMURAT THE ATHLETE, 253, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, Pollard Bros., and Kitty Grey, in act, "The Soldier, Policeman, and the Cook." Yells of Laughter. Come and see. Come and see.
Palace Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, the Haverleys, American Song Illustrators, 2 ladies (contralto and soprano), 1 gentleman. Pavilion, Leicester; Palace, West Hartlepool, to follow.

WANTED, by Clement Trio, Comedy Flying Trapeze Stage Act, doing Four Different Kinds of Doubles, and Double Pirouettes. Vacant Jan. 29. Wire, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, by Atoras, England's Comedy Athletes. The All Blacks were a Success. The All Reds will be a Success. The Atoras, a Sure Success. 17, Waterford-rd., Fulham.

WANTED, Monday, also 29th, by Four Abadaroffs, Comedy Act, "Prehistoric Peeps." Wire, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Feb. 12, 19, and 26,
by the
Albano Troupe,
Albano Troupe,
the Greatest Refined Musical Act of the World.
New Hippodrome, Stockton.

WANTED, Known, Three Cheers, Vacant Jan. 29, in Original Musical Sketch, "Dick Whittington," with real performing Cat. Special Scenery and Effects by Ernest Howard. Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

WANTED, Seaside Dates, July and August, 1 to 4 weeks, for Matt Wilkinson's laughter-makers, in really funny comedy sketches. Address, Barnard's, Chatham (return, two weeks).

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 22, 29, for Tom Davis's Comedy Sketch Co., Lee and Lucas. Two Distinct Acts. Wire, Hippo., Wakefield.

WANTED, for Ross Clyde's Screamers, "I Must Have It" and "My Wife's Husband," Jan. 22-29, four artists, special scene. 51, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah, with his Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals, consisting of African Lions, Lionesses, Grizzly and Silver-grey Bears, and Boarhounds, at Liberty Jan. 22 and 29. Wire, Grove Hotel, Bury New-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, by Parisian Specialist, to Join in Sketch. Also, he wishes to hear from Pretty Girl and Light Baritone. Box 2,677, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, The Armoury Stockport, the Greatest Handcuff and Sack Manipulator; also
The World's Leading Hypnotist.
Ludicrous Performances, both Wonderful and Amusing.
The Wonderful and Sidesplitting Spectacle.
Audiences Amazed and Spellbound, Imaginable.
A Packed House at Each Performance.

WANTED, Known, Operator, Disengaged, 10 years' experience, late Moss' Empires, Ralph Pringle, Esq., &c.; also Madame Travers, illustrated songs; and Chris. Jones, effect worker and advance agent. Wire, TRAVERS (Member of the Firkinbolt Institute), 91, Totterdown-st., Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bioscope Operator, Lime or Electric, up-to-date films and machine, Illustrated Songs. Liberty to open Monday. H. WATTS, Post Office, Crewe.

WANTED, Known, Le Clair's Bioscope, and Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his marvellous high-ladder act. Still at Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, Engagements, De Gruchy's Britannia Bioscopes, up-to-date machine, reasonable terms, personal attention, best show. Add., 32, Craigie-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Royal Bioscope, Disengaged Jan. 29. Terms, £5. All Latest Films; 40 minutes' show if electric. PARKINSON, Kursaal, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, that the London Cinématograph Syndicate have Operators, with High-class Machines and Films, available for Animated Pictures. Reasonable terms. Address, LONDON CINEMATOGRAPH SYNDICATE, 205, Queen's-road, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Halls for Cinématograph Entertainments. State terms, particulars, &c. Mr. DOBBS, 45, Frederick-street, Gray's Inn-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, at the expiration of the World's Fair, Le Neve and Sullivan's Troupe of Male and Female Wrestlers, including Peter Gotz, the Light-weight Champion, are free for engagements. For full particulars, address, LE NEVE, Royal Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Known, Le Neve thanks those that answered advertisement re Wrestlers. All settled at present. Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Engagement, with Hypnotist or Illusionist, or to assist in Show of any Kind. Would perform with animals. Some knowledge of dancing. RUBY ELLIOTT, 496, Wandsworth-road, Clapham, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
TOM ORTON,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.
Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, TOM ORTON, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Important to Travellers.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Chiappa and Sons, Ltd., beg to inform travellers that the "entirely new style 1906 Grand Model 110 key Organ" will be on show at the Factory, 6, Little Bath-street, London, E.C., about Jan. 30. They respectfully request any travellers who are intending purchasers to defer placing their orders until this 1906 Model has been seen and heard, as it will be the true Organ of the Future, and will supersede all others yet made.
All the Latest Pantomime Music Kept in Stock.

Move with the times, or get left.
WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time. Send for catalogue and testimonials,
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
120, York-road, King's Cross,
London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, N. Through the regrettable and somewhat unexpected death of the late Mr. T. Read, sen., Lessee of the above, and Chairman of the Showmen's Supper and Ball, the Committee beg to inform their Committeemen, Fellow Showmen, and Travellers, that the Supper and Ball, announced for the 24th inst., will not take place this season. This announcement is made with the Committee's deep regret and sincere sympathy.
Yours sincerely,
CHAS. DAY, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, the Next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be held at The Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, Wednesday next, Jan. 24, at 2.30 sharp.
Very Important Business.
Signed, T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, the Showmen's Guild Annual Meeting, at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Wednesday next, Jan. 24, at 11.30.
The President, Lord George Sanger, in the Chair.
Supported by the Rev. T. Horne, the Rev. N. J. Devereux, F. Millar, Esq., T. Watson Wright, Esq., Fred Bibby, Esq., and F. H. Pedgrift, Esq.
T. HURST, Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, that owing to insufficient entries for my Auction Sale, advertised for Wednesday next, I have decided to cancel same. I shall, however, offer a few lots in the Agricultural Hall immediately after the Showmen's Meeting. I take this opportunity of thanking all those Clients who have favoured me with their instructions to act for them on that occasion; also inform them that I hope during next week to procure for them, in most instances by private treaty, purchases at satisfactory prices. I shall be in attendance at the World's Fair during next week, when Showmen and others requiring to purchase or dispose of anything appertaining to the business would do well to consult me, as I have an unusual number of instructions from sellers, and enquiries from buyers from all parts of the United Kingdom.
Signed,
TOM NORMAN,
Silver King.

Patent No. 252,351, 1905.
WANTED, Known, by Every Roundabout Proprietor, that SAVAGE AND CO. have taken Stanley Works, New North-road, London, N., the same Works formerly carried on by Alf. Bedford, Carver and Gilder, where they are manufacturing motor cars for switchbacks and every kind of roundabouts at reasonable, and not exorbitant prices.
Remember, we are the Descendants of the Original Inventor,
F. Savage, late of King's Lynn.
Repairs of Every Description Connected with the Trade.
Note our only Address,
Oxford-road, New North-road, London, N.

The Success of the Show World.
WANTED, Known, Motor-Cars, Motor-Cars, Motor-Cars, all Shapes, Sizes, and Prices, Fitted with our Splendid Patent Wheels, Perfect Running Guaranteed.
Absolutely the Best in the Market for Strength, Lightness, and Symmetry.
Half the Weight and Twice as Strong as any other.
As for Looks, come and see for yourself, and be Quick if you want Delivery for Easter.
Sole Representative, Mr. ALBERT BRANDON.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

THE THREE GREATEST CONTINENTAL EXHIBITIONS, 1906.
WANTED, Attractions, Side-shows, Novelties of every description, either on shares or rental. Big Prices paid to really Sensational Novelties. Stalls to be Let at a moderate rental, and all sorts of Concessions granted. Wanted, also, Aquatic Performers, Aquatic Novelties; Chinese, Japanese, and Indian Natives, from four to six months, on salary. Journeys paid. State lowest terms.
Address all communications, by letters only, in the first instance to M. L. S., c/o Davenport and Co., 14, Coventry-street, W.C.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, or any kind of Show. Wire for Monday. WATSON and JACKSON, Showman's Hippo., 20, Old Market-st., Bristol.

WANTED, First-Class Novelties, for March, onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings, for Four Good Shops. Wire for Monday,
SPINCH, 18, Chrisp-street Poplar, London.

WANTED, Living Novelties of every description, if not good posters or paintings, &c., useless. F. DURLAND, Exhibition, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED, Good Living Freaks and Novelties, eight weeks' engagement, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, &c. FREDK. STEWART, New Waxwork, 124, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Anderton and Rowland's Grand Empire, on Tour for the Coming Season, to commence first week in April, a First-class Doorsman and Lecturer, one that is not afraid to make himself generally useful. Also Wanted, a First-class Variety Turn. Address, with terms and particulars, ANDERTON'S Grand Empire, Regent-st., Swindon.

WANTED, Good Doorsman for Waxwork, must be used to cleaning and well up in the business. Wanted, to Buy, thirty Bodies, cheap for cash. Address, SYLVESTER, 50, Ladywell-park, Lewisham.

WANTED, at once, through disappointment, a thorough good Comedian and Planksman, for Auction Mart, must be a good worker. Apply, WILLIAMS, Auction Vans, Porth, Rhondda Valley.

WANTED, Funny Planksman, experienced Auction Mart Business; sobriety indispensable. Wanted, 6 good Pierrot Dresses, cheap. BARBER, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Watch Jobber, Good Workman, teetotal preferred, for Auction Mart.
BLOOM, Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington.

WANTED, a Reliable Man, used to Show and Fair Business, capable of putting up and pulling down a small show, &c; long and comfortable engagement to suitable man. Open Feb. References and particulars to PROPRIETOR, 4, Duciegrove, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Lady Character Reader, at once, for STEWART'S Exhibition, 124, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

WANTED, Experienced Operator and Printer, for Stamp Photos; long engagement.
LIONEL TAYLOR, 4, Alexandra-ter., Maesteg, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Animated Pictures, Marionettes; also Royal Punch and Judy, with Dog Toby. 101A, Penwith-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy and Toby, still at Crystal Palace, London, daily. Liberty Feb. and March. Chair up.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lucy Moore, Giantess, and her Manager, Arnold Bounds, wish to thank Mr. Humber, Waxworks, Aberdeen, for the three weeks' most comfortable and successful engagement, and many kindnesses. Next Monday, Mr. Rickard's Waxworks, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, First-class Tattooist is Disengaged, through disappointment, electricity, permanent exhibition or waxworks. Prof. KILBRIDE, 9, Wellington-rd., Pakefield, Lowestoft.

WANTED, to Sell, Ormonde motor bicycle, 2½ horse power, perfect running order. Cost me £25 last March; sell £12, owing to business appointment, no further use for same, or exchange for Bioscope, no toys. HARRIS, Stage-manager, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

To Roundabout Proprietors, Showman, Stallholders, &c.
Messrs. P. COLLINS, Ltd.,
Gondola Works, Walsall.
WANTED, Known, they are now open to book Tenants for their well-known and old-established Fair Grounds, commencing Shrove-Tide, Longton, Lichfield, and Oswestry,
March run in the Black Country;
Dudley, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Brierley Hill, and Stourbridge, up to Easter.
Easter, London, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Birkenhead; then continuous run over Bromsgrove, Midsummer Fair, Worcester July Races;
Birmingham Great May and October Fairs, Wednesbury, Darlaston, Oldbury, West Bromwich, and numerous Fêtes, Carnivals, and Flower Shows. Parties requiring grounds, address as above, with full particulars. All first-class and well-conducted concerns liberally dealt with.
Telegraphic address, "Gondola, Walsall." Telephone, No. 80, Walsall.

To Showmen.—Belfast.
WANTED, to Let, within about 100yds. of Royal Avenue, the leading street in Belfast, about 2,000 square yards Vacant Ground, with frontages to Library-street and Union-street. Apply to PROPRIETORS, Belfast Evening Telegraph.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Fair Ground is the Only Place of Outdoor Entertainment and Attraction in Blackpool. Situated at South Shore, next the Promenade. The Electric Trams run right to it. Finest Position in the Town. The land faces the sea, and has a frontage of over 500yds. The Permanent Attractions now installed include the River Caves of the World, the Maxim Flying Machine, Helter Skelter, &c. Native Village Wanted. Room for New Attractions next Season. 14, Balmoral-road.

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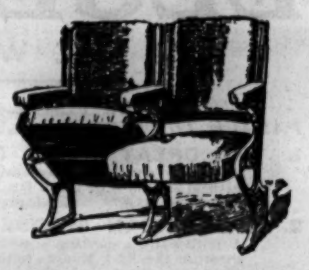

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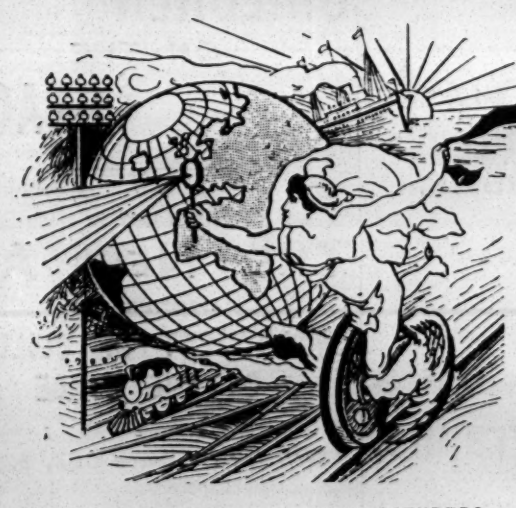

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First of a series of Political Pictures, presenting in graphic and convincing form political questions of the hour. Scene shows arrival of steamer crowded with aliens at London Docks, and the ousting of the British workman by these competitors. A most vivid and descriptive film.

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937. THE BABES IN THE WOOD.

This pretty picture follows closely on the lines of the well-known story, based on the beautiful pictures by Caldicott, and gives a startlingly realistic display of the covetous longing of the uncle for the money left the children by their dead parents. He bribes two ruffians to murder the babes, and these men carry them screaming through some of the most beautiful woodland scenery possible to imagine, where they are eventually left to perish.

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872. TWO SENTIMENTAL TOMMIES.

Interesting Military Story, very grotesque and amusing.

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Motor Car tries to pass vegetable wagon with amusing results.

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1906.

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"Among the Stars," Bioscope, Cormorants, Miss Kellerman, Alice Lorette, Novellos, Delbosq Brothers, Cole De Losse Duo, Lukishima Troupe, Aurora Troupe, Urma Sisters, Mezzettis, the Rinaldos, Tschernoff's Dogs, Hardinis, Lavater Lee, Leonard Gautier, Possiutis, Genaro and Theol.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for
Carl Hermann, Billy Hobbs, Hans Hansen Trio, W. B. Vox, Florrie Gallimore, Lydia and Albino, The Finneys, Three Amaranths, Princess Pauline, Coloured Meisters, Neilson Sisters, Bostonians, Bros. Leslie.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for
The Grigolatis, Bioscope, Vi and Ethel Esdaile, Edie King, Sarnthalers, Frank Seeley, Griffin and Judge, De Breans, Jan Rudenyi, Poole and Poole.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for
American Comedy Four, Bioscope, Nellie Coleman, Dome, Ruth Molloy, Andy Griffin, Four Ramlos, Northern Troupe, Celeste, Lempriere Pringle and Co.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for
Sawade's Animals, Bioscope, Edie Veno, Lily Lenora, Serenaders, Four Herberts, The Tupps, Two St. Johns, Little Barney.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Woodward's Seals, Cora Caselli, The Korries, Geoffreys and Benson, Les Ados, Three Sisters Slater, Fanny Robina, W. H. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Mabel Hind.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Florence St. John and Co., Marie Duma, Will Haines, Three Missouris, Bert Woodward, Brooks, Dale, and Bliiz, Seeley and West, Amber Austa, Mezetti and Mora, O'Gust, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Selma Braatz, Stevens and Rennior, Gittis, Irving Jones, Fitzroys, Ella Retford, Sinclair and Parr, Lora, Frank Harwood, Three Merrils.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Bella and Bijou, Ruth Doris, Sam Redfern, Brontes, Warren Doyle, Dan Conroy, Mullini Sisters, Bioscope, Bijou Russell, Herbert Lloyd.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Empire Comedy Four, Lidden and Hayward, A Bo Kou, Gallando, Royal Six, Lux's Dogs, Frazer and Mac, W. H. Clemart, Griff and Alpha, Mendel.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Paul Spadoni, Bioscope, Rose Archer, Lilieth Leyton and Co., The Uessems, Wood and Bates, Katie Butler, Walter Munroe, Harry Carsdale, Gallagher and Hild.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Sam Elton, Bioscope, Margaret Ashton, Bros. Andreassen, Payne's Vagabonds, Chas. Cardow, Driscoll and Beattie, Glenroys.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Karno's "Moses and Son," Bioscope, Tom Edwards, Marzella's Birds, Bicknelle, Holles and Goldman, Three Victorias, F. Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for
The Gems, Bioscope, "100 to 1 Chance," Jimson's Animals, Leo Stormont, Tony and Flo Vernon, Whallen and West, Alexandre and Bertie, Vasco, De Fontenoy.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for
The Kellinos, Duncan's Dogs, Esdale Bros., Cape Girls, The Swickards, Kyoto, May Geraldine, The Sleedes, A. C. Lilly and Co.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Laurie's Kindergarten, Mariano Sisters, Terry and Lambert, Harry Brown, Forrest Combination, Dumond Minstrels, Chung Ling Soo, Bioscope, The O'Learys.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Kronau's Sketch, Alice Simmons, Marlo and Dunham Trio, Sisters Aindow, The Silvas, Terry and Bentley, Five Julians, Sable Fern, Mills and Counsell, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Vesta Tilley, The Bohemians, Sisters Bellatzer, Fyne and Hurley, The Findens, Drawee, W. H. Downs, The Mannons, Amann and Hartley, Stewart and Morgan.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Ella's Lions, Selbinis, Alf. Gibson, J. Alexandre and Co. Herr Grais, Five Olracs, Harding and Ah Sid, Mdlle. Olive, Lilian Lowe, Dion Wade, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for
Tarro Myaki, Verno and Voyce, The Picquays, Leona Dare, Ryan and Hall, Albertus and Bartram, Wally Hoste Trio, Sisters Gasch, Sybil St. Elmo.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF.
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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for
Madrali, Ike Scott and Son, Trapnell Family, The Howards, Alexandra Dagmar, Viviana, H. La Martine, The Ushers, Hayes and Suits.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for
Geo. Gray and Co., Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Duncan and Godfrey, Moulier Sisters, Harry Drew, Sadie Simpson.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 3 for
Tom Costello, F. V. St. Clair, Two Bostons, Sisters Geretti, Phil Hermann, Morton and Elliott, Mdlle. Chalon, Powell's Marionettes, Derenda and Green, Mattie Wilks.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for
Morris Cronin, Francis Wylie, Bandurrias, Newhouse and Ward, Huxter Bros., Bertha Vere, Grace Merton, Bell and Henry, Baker and Lynn, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for
The Harmony Four, Robt. Ganthony, Bioscope, Orla's Dogs, Dot Hardy, McPhee and Hill, Rackett and Hazard, Brown and Robinson, Terley, Spessardy's Bears.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Chirgwin, Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Arthur Lloyd Trio, George Ridgwell, Five Delevines, Kelly and Ashby, Bros. Hayes, Hart and Leo, Majilton's Co.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Programme for 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock Performances:—
Mrs. Brown Potter, "The Charioteers," Miss Mabel Love, "Fenella," "In Dreamland," "Aladdin," Eugene Stratton, La Berat, Stelling and Revell.
Programme for 6 o'clock Performance:—
"Arabian Nightmare," Ten Genis, Wolkowsky Troupe, Frank Maura, Mason and Bart, Adele De Frece, Andre Kaya, Clarissa Talbot, "Cup of Tea," "Charioteers," Bioscope, "Madame Angot.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Josephine Sabel, Daisy Ray, Smythson Comedy Co., Elsie Clare, G. W. Hunter, Pictures, Park's Eton Boys, Lizzie Fletcher, Arthur Lennard.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for
Karno's "Jail Birds," Chas. Adams, Mueller and Coyne, Ethel Ra-Leslie, Corty Bros., Pictures, Helen Martin, Baker and Balfe, Sisters Chester.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Riogoku Family, F. H. Dundas, Horace White, Bertha Winder, Collins and Rice, Pictures, Rhoda Bros., Fred Elton, Conway and Leland.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. GEORGE DANCE.
Rehearsal at 2 for
Marzello and Millay, Florence and Lillian, Tom Dunmore, Rose Newport, Muir and Bartlett, Alberto, Pictures, W. P. Dempsey, Mdlle. Sylvia's Vocal Tableaux.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 1 for
Ella Shields, Burnettis, Dave McNeill, Paxton Trio, Bioscope, Automatos, Harry Leybourne, Ed. E. Forde, Prince Kokin.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN
Rehearsal at 2 for
Harry Ford, Johnny Dwyer, Whit Cunliffe, Syd Godfrey, Chas. Johnson, Fred Frampton, Woolmer Young, Clown Charlton, Sisters Desmond, Ethel Dunford, Ethel Yorke, British Quartette, Groves Duo, Blake and Granby, "Our Curate," Stanley and Greenop, Bioscope, Evie Hamilton, Millie Payne.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 3 for
Harry Ford, Billy Farrell, Tom E. Hughes, Jock Whiteford, Elsie Clare, Childie Stewart, Tiny Arnold, Nellie Wilson, "Early Birds," Meier and Mora, Brighton Boys, Forrest and King, Allen and Hart, Rex Fox, Goggin and Davis, Bioscope.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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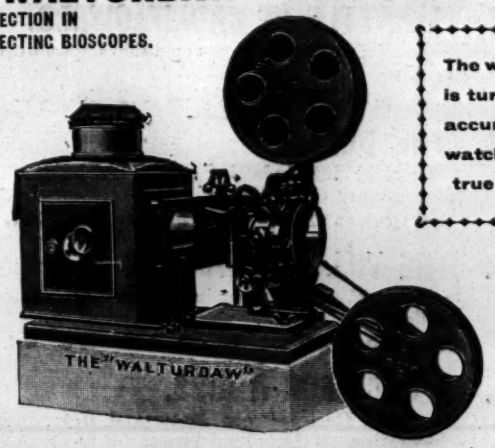

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H. GOLDSMITH-WHITTON,
Late Manager, West's "Our Navy," &c.
London, May 19, 1904.

IN case of the non delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers, with the time of delivery marked upon them.

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It having become known that attempts are being made to trade on my advertisements and use the above title, which is the popular name given by the Press and public to Dallimore's Band, the "Ex British Guards," so well known in London and the provinces, Directors and Managers are courteously asked not to countenance any such imitation or imposition. The above-named band is the only genuine Ex British Guards Band which has ever been organised, held, or conducted, or which has performed in or emanated from Great Britain.

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THE ERA

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"HOW'D YOU LIKE TO SPOON WITH ME?"
The Best Principal Girl Comedy Song of the year.

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"BACK, BACK, BACK, TO BALTIMORE."
AND
"PUT A LITTLE BIT AWAY FOR A RAINY DAY."
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"MY IRISH MOLLY O," "I WOULDN'T LEAVE MY LITTLE WOODEN HUT FOR YOU," "RAINBOW," and "HEAR THE PIPERS CALLING JENNY MINE."
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Plan and further particulars may be obtained from the undersigned.

The council do not bind themselves to accept any application.

E. C. BYRNE,
Town Clerk.

Albion House, Ramsgate,
Jan. 13, 1906

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTS (AND THEIR AGENTS) HOLDING OR SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS AT

THE OXFORD,
OXFORD-STREET, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.30 o'clock.
Joe Elvin and Co., Alec Hurley and Co., Vesta Victoria, Will Evans, Harry Ford, Athas and Collins, Stave, T. E. Finglas, Alice Hollander, Herbert Shelley, Amy Clevere, Collins and Hart, Ian Colquhoun, The Three Laurels, Bernar's Fantoches.
Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

THE TIVOLI,
STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday at 12 o'clock.
Marie Lloyd, Little Tich, Arthur Roberts and Company, Clark and Hamilton, Mildred De Grey, James Fawn, Dolly Harmer, Gus Elen, Will Evans, Collins and Hart, Vesta Victoria, Tray and Rich, Burke, Moller, and Teller.
Manager, JOSEPH WILSON.

THE CANTERBURY,
WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday at 11.0 o'clock
Joe Elvin, "'Appy 'Ampstead," The Jackley Trio, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, Jordan and Harvey, Lee and Kingston, Boyd and Gilfain, Walter Wallis, Mark Melford and Co., in "Only a Wedding," Dolly Harmer, May Walters, Collins and Hart, Howard and Collinson, Johnny Dwyer, Will Evans.
Manager, FRED MILLER.

PARAGON,
MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artists are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3.0 o'clock.
Marie Lloyd, Brown and Nevarro, Cruikshank, The Folkestones, Pat Rafferty, Alice Hollander, Fielding and Hull, Prinz's Lions, Ruffell's Bioscope, Whit Cunliffe, Vesta Victoria, Burt Shephard, Charles Penrose, Arthur Roberts and Company in "Where's the Count?"
Manager, CHARLES BERCHAM.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE,
LONDON-ROAD, S.E.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Lockhart's Elephants, Frank Sylvo, Henry A. Moore, Arthur Reece, Amy Sullivan, Maudie Ford, Black and White Zouaves, Great Scot, Ford and Hanson, Ruffell's Bioscope.
Manager, FRANK WEEKS.

EUSTON,
EUSTON ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Lew Lake and Co., "The Bloomsbury Burglars," Geo. Newburn, Geo. Powers' Combination, Violet Carlyle, Clark and Hamilton, Wynne Darrell, Athas and Collins, Salvino, Walter Wallis.
Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

THE EMPRESS,
BRIXTON ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.0 o'clock.
Special Engagement of the Great and Only Marie Lloyd, Great Scott, Walker and May, Oakley and James, Dutch Daly, Massano, Rita, and Roma, Burke, Moller, and Teller, Dora Martini, The Allisons, V. L. Granville, Harry Maynard, Ruffell's Pictures, Sisters Kingsley, V.C. Sketch Co.
Secretary and Manager, NELSON FRANCIS.

GRAND PALACE,
CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday at 2.0 o'clock.
"A Trip to the Isle of Man," Walter Stanley, A. B. Houghton, Millie Howell, Los Rupertos, Grove and Chalmers, J. W. Rickaby, Silent Tait, W. L. Murray, Imperial Bioscope.
Manager, H. KEITHMAN.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE,
UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON, N.
Two Performances Nightly.
Matinées, Mondays, at 2.30.
Rehearsals on Mondays, at 1.30.
Leonard Mortimer and Co., Alec Kennedy, Gladys Archbutt, Lee and Kingston, Will Van Allen. The Avrignys, Harry Lynn and Co., Edgar Romaine, Imperial Bioscope, The Mackweys.
Manager, R. L. ADKIN.

DUCHESS PALACE,
HIGH ROAD, BALHAM.
Two Performances Nightly, 6.45 and 9.18.
Rehearsals on Mondays at 1.30.
Telephone, 58 Balham.
Herbert Darnley and Co., James Fawn, Herbert Clifton, Gilbert Girard, Tiny Reiff, Jordan and Harvey, The Mozondos, Four Australian Meister Singers, Imperial Bioscope, Astley's Circus.
Manager, G. L. WILSON.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE,
WALTHAMSTOW.
Two Performances Nightly, at 6.30 and 9.
Band Rehearsal, which all Artists must attend, Mondays, at 3 o'clock.
Sidney Bacon's Co. in "The Maniac," Selkirk's Juveniles, Pat Rafferty, Cline and Clark, Charles Mildare, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, Charles Norton, Fraser and Haley, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.
Telephone, 40, Walthamstow.
Manager, ARTHUR J. BARCLAY.

EMPIRE PALACE, EALING.
THE BROADWAY, EALING,
One Minute G.W. and District Station.
Two Performances Nightly, 6.45 and 9 p.m.
Rehearsal on Mondays, at 12 o'clock.
Little Tich, Percival, Arabella Allen, Dandy George and Dog, Clown Barker, Herald Comedy Four, Arden and Abel.
Telephone, 1056 Ealing. Manager, E. W. JAMES.

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Manager, J. W. EDGAR.

THE CHELSEA PALACE,
KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Mrs. Charles Sugden and Co., "The Woman who was Bored," Syd May, Rosie Lloyd, Barton and Franklin, Cissie Heath, Henry Anthony, Guy Rider, J. Lloyd, Edie Gray and Coons, and Holden's Marvellous Mannikins.
Manager, EDWARD SWANBOROUGH.

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"What a Woman Did."
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Miss Dolly Elsworthy and Co., in "The Orange Girl," Carson Hicks, Tom Yorke, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Adams, Maxford and O'Neill, Roma and Romani, 2 Rubies, Pictures, Madame Bernice de Pasquali.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Six Brothers Luck, Frances Lyric, E. J. Wilkes, Violet Stockelle, The Jansons, Tokio Troupe, Sisters Marion, The Delomes, Miniature Marie, Pictures, Charles Coborn.

EMPIRE, BRISTOL.
"The Little Stowaway," Wat Tyler, Bert Weston, Sydney Lee, Prof. McCann, Rumbo Austin, Pictures, Bros. Ashley, Herbert Madden.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
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LYCEUM, LONDON.
Dorothy Gould, Lew Lake, May Yohe, Lowenwirth Bros., Fanny Wentworth, Fedoras, Tiny Arnold, Edie Grey, Bernard and Weston, Pictures, Coram.

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BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, (VIOLET and DAISY), Smart and Ideal Pair. P., Lancaster, 22nd, E., Stockport.

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BAWN'S AGENCY, 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. 'Phone, 1178 Battersea. Tels., "Orderless, London."

BAYNE and HOPE (RONALD and EVELYN), in "An Emperor's Divorce." Jan. 22, Pavilion, Leicester.

BAZLEY, SYD, the Peculiar Comedian, Enormous Success as Shacabac, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, A Natural Comedian. Monday next, Tivoli, Dublin.

BEATRICE, SISTERS, Duettists and Dancers. This, P. P., Portsmouth; at Lib. Mon.; after Sat., 35, Florence-st., Islington. Wire.

BELL, CHARLES H., Comedian (late Fred Karno's Co.). Great Success with Herbert Darnley's Co. Next week, Duchess, Balham.

BELL, THE H. LESLIE, and LILLY PEARL CO., presenting "A Bit of String," Jan. 22, Metropole, Manchester.

BELLONINI, W., On Tour. Agent, SIDNEY HYMAN.

BELROSE and DE VELIN, Speciality Duettists and Soloists, Panto., Avenue T., Sunderland. A few Vacancies '06.

BENET, MR. HARRY, Proprietor Alhambra, Sandgate. Artists communicate FRED DURHAM'S Agency.

BENNETT and MARTELL, the Original Two. T. R., Rochdale.

BENSON, ALLY, Terrific Success, Baron and Speciality, Mr. J. Walters' "Cinderella." Garrick, Hereford; next, Carlton, Birmingham.

BENSON, BESSIE, Ragtime Vocalist, Buck and Sand Dancer.

BENT, HARRY, the Mimic; also CARLOTTA LUNN, Big Hit, Oldham. Mon., Westminster M. Hall, Liverpool. Agents, FORTUNE

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. Telegrams, "Yeltneb, London." 'Phone, 12706 Central.

BERNARD, GEO., Submits Character Studies. Monday, Aquarium, Scarborough.

BERT and DORA, Comedy Artists, Empire, Ashton. Wanted, 29th, and Feb. 5. Coms., 24, Brook-avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester.

BEST, CHAS. F., as MacBunker, the Mountebank. Regent, Salford.

BEVERLEY, NORA, Vocalist, Mr. Gar Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Co. Jan. 22, Empire, Oldham.

BLANCHE and DIACOFF, World's Premier Cyclists; India, India, India. Address, C/o 86, Hornsby-rd., Bombay.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, in New Act, with Waltzing Dog. Finish, Middlesex. Add., 1, Sandringham-blds., Charing X-rd., W.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. This Week, Palace, Glasgow; Next Week, Pavilion, Newcastle. G. and F. PEEL.

BLYTHE, MARIE, the Successful Contralto, Jan. 22, Salford Hippo. Agents, S. M. HYMAN, Ltd. Few weeks vacant 1906.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL & MADGE), Instrumentalists and Comedy Artists. This, E., New Cross; next, E., Stratford. G. FOSTER.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, En route to South Africa. Agents, T. SHAW and Co.

BOSANQUET, This week, Empress, Brixton, great success. Jan. 22, Empire, York. Add. above, or "The Era."

BOSTOCK, N. C., and NELLIE ELLIENE, Two Star Turns. 10, Silver-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Agents, MACDERMOTT & SHELDON.

BOULTONS, THE, and MDLLE BARTENELLI. Panto. Prince's Theatre, Poplar, London, E. First Vacancy, Sept. 9.

BOWDEN, BERT, Quaint Comedian. A Few Open Dates. All Coms., STEBBINGS, E., Hartlepool; next, Tiv., South Shields.

BOWERY BOYS, THE, SKETCH CO., in "Mixed," a smart new act, Vacant April 2, on. Panto., Grand T., Leeds.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy. Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

BRADLEY and TRUMAN Wish Old and New Friends a Prosperous New Year Old Home, Red Lion, Costock, 9 miles from Notts.

BRADY, JAMES, City Varieties, Leeds. Open to buy good, clean, funny songs.

BRANT, EUGENE, Eccentric, Droll Comedian and Grotesque Dancer. Vacant Jan. 29, Halls or Tour; Jan. 22, Hip., Bridgwater.

BRAY, LOTTIE, Usual success, Hippodrome, Accrington. Monday next, Grand, Gravesend.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Big Success, Second Boy and Girl, Lyric, Liverpool. Jan. 22, Royal, Aston, Birmingham.

BREWSTERS, THE, Novel Speciality Act. Hippodrome, Paris.

BRONSON, SISTERS, Enormous Success in Mr. Peter Davey's Panto, "Puss in Boots." Eastbourne; next, Gaiety, Hastings.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA). Enormous Success, Second Boy and Girl, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W. 'Phone, 2099 Gerrard.

BROWN, PAPA, Agent, 8, Cleveland-house, Hackford-road, S.W. Telegraph address, "Jibbers, London."

BROWN and ROBINSON, Solos and Duetts. Jan. 22, Empire, Ardwick.

BRUCE and ROSS, Comedy Artists, Acrobats, and Expert Dancers. Vac. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12. Mon., Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE, "Ye Brown Cow Inn," Coms., The Lodge, Quinton, near Birmingham.

BURTON'S AGENCY, Sheffield. Cherish your enemies, you may need them as an antidote to your friends.

BUSH, MISS SADIE, Contralto Vocalist. Fairy Godmother, Grimn and Drake's "Cinderella," Theatre, bacup.

CADLE'S AGENCY, 105 and 106, Strand. Telephone No. 1975, Gerrard.

CAINE, ANDIE, "Humorous History," Francis, Day, and H. Panto., Principal Comedian, Grand, Fulham.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, The Celebrated Conjurer. An Artistic Success. Jan. 22, Palace, Bath.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Comedy Sketch, Starring this, Hippo., Bridgwater; next, Hippo., Coventry. No vacancies.

CARDEN and ZESCH, King and Principal Boy, Elephant and Castle. Tremendous Success.

CARL and CARR, the Successful Comedians, in Refined Comedy Act, "Fun Outside the Workhouse." Next 2 weeks, T. R., Worcester.

CARLTON, HENRY, in his High-class Success, "One Night Only." Empire, Stockport.

CARNEY, J. H., Character Comedian and Mimic, with an Original Act. This, Empire, Rochdale; Next, Hippo., Wakefield.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), Presenting "I didn't hear the penny drop; or, the tale of the slot meter." Met., Manchester.

CELLOS, THE TWO, Refined and Genuine Musical Entertainers, This, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Palace, Lancaster

CHALLIS, FLORENCE, Tremendous Success in Australia with Monologues and Songs; returning home in Jan.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE & EDIE), Big Success, Alhambra, Sandgate. Monday, Grand M. H., Gravesend.

CHEERS, THREE, "Whittington, Cat, and Co.," this, Wedgewood, Burslem; next, Queen's, Fleetwood. Vacant, Jan. 29.

CHESTER and LEE'S Marionettes, Monday, Empire, Dover. Idle boast portrays vulgarity.

CHIRGWIN, Hippodrome, Manchester.

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, the Five Feet of Versatility. Touring with Clifford's Concert Party. Perm. add., 12, The Crofts, Rotherham.

CLAVER and PICCOLO, Sensational Equilibrist and Juggler. Jan. Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant Jan. 22, 29. Feb.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEVELANDS, THE, J. D. Hunter's Pantomime, Theatre, Ramsgate.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Versatile Comedian and Eccentric Speciality Dancer, second week and sixth return, Palace, Portsmouth.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLLINS, GEO., 14, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, London, S.E.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN. 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, London.

CONWAY and GARLAND, Usual Solid Success, Hippodrome, Bury. Jan. 22, Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester. "Left in Charge."

CONYERS, CISSIE, as Captain Billie Taylor, "Crusoe" Panto., Messrs. Little and Darcy Co. Understudied Robinson Crusoe last week.

COOKE, STEVE, County Theatre, Bedford. Vacant Summer Season.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, The London; Next, Collins's.

COSTELLO, BROS., Comedy Acrobats, and Legmania, and Patter Comedians. This, S'ton; next, T. R., Rhymney.

COTTERELL, SID, and CO., In the Great Comedy Success, "The Substitute," Panto., T. R., Drury-lane, Fourth Season.

COWPERS, THE, "Missus' Double." Re Dates. Coliseum, London.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. c/o "The Era."

CRANKS, COMICAL CYCLING, Trick Cyclists. Vacant 22nd, 29th. New and Novel Act. Perm., 19, Alexandra-road, Manchester.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Stanley's Transformation Co., Jan. 22, Argyle, Birkenhead.

CROSS, JOLLY CRISS, the Popular Girl. This week, Hippo., Wakefield. Next, Empress, Hartlepool.

CULLEN and CARTHY, and LITTLE CLULEY, Chinese Police, "Aladdin," Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack, ADA JENNER, Captain Cable. Huge Success Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

CUSTANCES, THE, in Successful Comedy Duologue, "A Game for Two." This, Bolton; next, Westminster, Liverpool.

DAINTON, MAUD, COMEDY CO., In Screaming Sketch, "Selina." Palace, Bristol. Vacant Jan. 22.

DALE and D'ARGAN, In their Novelty Comedy Act, "Le Café Maqique." Perm. add., 6, Dolly-lane, Leeds.

DALE and VALE, Dancers Extraordinary. Genuine Success, The London. Next week, Collins's.

DALTON'S AGENCY, Big Acts of all Kinds required. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

DANBYS, THE, Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood." Wanted, good Comedy Songs. T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

DANIELS, THE TWO, Negro Pump, Flip, and Big Boot Song and Dance Artists. Lib. Jan. 29. Wire, 63, Sherbourne-rd., Birmingham.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, Burlesque Artist, Complimented by Managers and Artists for Good Songs and Pretty Dresses. Next, R., Salford.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). Jan. 22, Theatre Royal, York.

DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and MAY), title-rôle and Dandini, Pardoe's "Cinderella." T. R., West Bromwich. Lib. March 5.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE, Jan. 22, Opera House, York.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Wonderful Cockatoos. Macnaghten Tour, London.

DELEVINES, THE, in Original Comedy, "The Bell Inn." Hippodrome, Manchester.

DENBY and DENT, Pantomime Success Fifth Week. Gaiety Theatre, Leith, N.B. Free for 1905-7.

DENHAM, MILLIE, the Sprightly Burlesque Actress; big success this week, Hip., Huddersfield. Monday, E., Greenock.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy. Malicio. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," County T., Bedford.

DE VENA, MDLLE., the Queen of Clubs, a Unique Juggling Act, Circus, Leigh. Monday, Royal Varieties, Warrington.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week, Hippodrome, Norwich.

DILLONS, BOUNCING, Novel Gymnastic Comedy Act. Jan. 22, return, Bijou Empire, Hull.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Monday, Empire, Burnley.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Refined Vocalists. Recalled Nightly. Complimented by everyone. Mon., Gaiety, Ayr.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, Variety Entertainer, Jan. 22, Palace, Bradford.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, the Factory Nightingales, Originality and Ability. Monday, Empire, Stockport.

DOMINOS, TWO, Clown and Donkey, Educated talking Donkey, the only one. Lib. March 6. J. H. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

DONNA and CLIFF, Monday next, Empire, Stockport. Return to London 29th inst.

DOOLEY, SIDNEY, Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent, 55A, Booth-street East, Manchester.

MR. W. V. GARROD, Shylock, in Special Production of "The Merchant of Venice," Liverpool. 3, March-rd., Anfield, L'pool.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY (Kitty Jones), J. H. Savile's Pantomime. Opera House, Perth.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, Stephen Magnusson in "The Prodigal Son." Rehearsing Drury Lane Theatre.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD, as John Storm, in "The Christian," Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON, Disengaged. Address, T. R., Plymouth.

MR. CLIFFORD GRAHAM'S AGENCY, 8, Campden House-road, Kensington, W. 'Phone, 2260 Western. Tele., "Cliffalla, London."

MR. and MRS. A. CARLAW GRAND (Miss Rollo Deas) Disengaged, Light Comedy. Address, 4, Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey.

MR. HERBERT GREVILLE, at Liberty. 19, Mornington-rd, Regent's Park, N.W.

MR. ROBERT GREY, Address, C/o J. L. Shine, Esq., Hippodrome, Brighton.

MR. FRED GROVE, Disengaged till Feb. 10. 6, Court-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE, at Liberty, Juvenile and Light Comedy Parts. Add., 69, Huron-rd., Upper Tooting, S.W., or A.A.

MR. CHARLES HALLING, Ross Christian, "The Manxman," Mr. A. B. Cross's Co. T. R., Leamington.

MR. A. HALL-MENZIES, Dis. Character or Character-Comedy. Elizabeth Villa, Bee Hive, Ilford.

MR. AUGUSTUS HAMMOND, Producer and Stage-Manager, "Puss in Boots," at Liberty Feb. 12. T. R., Coatbridge.

MR. HUBERT HARBEN, "Stephen Undershaft" in "Major Barbara." Court Theatre.

MR. A. C. HARDIE, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. FRANK HARDING. Address, all Coms., 21, Argyll-mansions, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W. T. No. 2077, Ken.

MR. W. S. HARDY, Father Gerard and Business Manager, "The Midnight Wedding."

MR. FREDERICK HARKER, Disengaged. Berkeley, Chester-road, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY, Disengaged. 13, Western-road, Ealing, W.

MR. BERT HARROW, Principal Comedian, Carlton and Duckworth's "Red Riding Hood." All Coms., 28, Highbury-park, N.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY, Business Manager, "The Earl and the Girl," Jan. 29, New Century Theatre, Motherwell.

MR. R. CALVERT HAWS, Big Success, Gussie, "The Collar Stud," Richmond. Dis. Juv. L., Com., Dudes. 13, Upper Bedford-pl., W.C.

MR. T. P. HAYNES, Address, Scala Theatre, W.

MR. GRAHAME HERINGTON, Principal Comedian and Stage-Manager. Disengaged Spring. 36, Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. A. T. HILTON, Disengaged. Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD, Disengaged. Address, 86, The Drive, Fulham Park-gardens, S.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK, Touring, "The Prodigal Son." Jan. 29, Star Theatre, Swansea.

MR. FRANK HOWARD, Acting-Manager and Light Comedian (10 years' refs.). Address, Opera House, Northampton.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE HOWARD (Miss Clara Earle). Address, 39, Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. ROBT. H. HOWARD, Steinway Quartette. Tony, with Minnie Palmer, &c. At Lib. for a Few Weeks. 80, Union-rd., Clapham.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD (Miss Carlotta Anson), "Claudian" Co., Theatre Royal, Stockport.

MR. JAMES P. E. HUSSEY, Light Comedy or Char. Dis. Spring Tour. Perm. Address, "Langton," Worthing.

MR. RALPH HUTTON, 9, Grafton-mansions, Duke's-road, W.C.

MR. ROBERT A. INNES, Sixth Year with Mr. John Hart. Address all communications to Grand T., Leeds.

MR. and MRS. FREDERIC JACQUES (Miss M. Rayner), offers invited, Spring and on. Soubrette (con.), and Char. 52, Crowndale-rd.

MR. and MRS. EDWIN JENNER (Hettie Senior). E. Hill Mitchelson's Co. Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES, Touring the Success, "Life's Sweetest Sins." Address, 25, Wightman-road, Finsbury-park, N.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES, at Liberty, 101, Sugden-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. THEODORE JONES and ADA MANSFIELD. Friar Tuck and Mother Shipton, in "Babes in the Wood." R., Halifax.

MR. MAX JEROME, "Saints and Sinners" Tour. 134, Castellain-mansions, Maida Vale, W.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON, Backbite, Hastings, Capt. Smooth, &c. Compton Comedy Co., Lyceum T., Sheffield.

MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL, "Talleyrand," Scala Theatre. Address, 49, Waldemar-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. WHITFORD KANE, Paul Martin in "The Duffer." Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden.

MR. OGILVY KEITH. Address, Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. and MRS. EDGAR KENT (Ada Clarke), "Saints and Sinners," "Middleman," on Tour. Perm. Add., Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. CLAUDE KING, in "The Fascinating Mr. Vandervelt." Daly's Theatre, New York.

MR. CECIL KINGSLEY, Address, Garrick Theart, W.

MR. F. RUSSELL KIRKLEY, The Theatrical Expert, 29, Wellington-st., W.C. (4 doors Lyceum Theatre).

MR. J. POOLE KIRKWOOD, John Forman, in "Sherlock Holmes." Jan. 29, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

MR. HENRY KITTS, Snout, "Midsummer Night's Dream." Adelphi Theatre every evening.

MR. ARTHUR KNIGHT, MISS EDITH KNIGHT, at Lib. Spring. Opera House, Porth, S. Wales.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Disengaged Leading Heavies. 19, Dunalley-parade, Cheltenham.

MR. FRED KNIGHT, Disengaged, Robust, Character, Comedy, Old Men. 181, Fentiman-rd, S.W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE. Address, 10, King-street, London, W.C. Permanent address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE, Address, 10, King-street, W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY (Jessie Price). Dis. Jan. 29. 3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE, Lead, every evening. Standard Theatre, E.

MR. EDMUND LEA, Address, 30, Bedford-street, W.C.

MR. EDWIN LEVER, Disengaged. Heavies, Character, Old Men. Address, 161, Cambridge-street, Pimlico, London.

MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING, Special. Pharus in Production of Calmour's "Produgal Son." Jan. 31, Grand T., Glasgow.

MR. GEO. ENCYL LEWIS, Musical Director, Returns from South Africa, Feb. 1. Offers invited. Address, c/o "The Era."

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON, Playing Sherlock Holmes, Pavilion; next, Dalston.

MR. FRANK LILLIPUT, Short Comedian. 23, Dorothy-road, Clapham Junction.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN, Disengaged. 51, Victoria-street, Bradford.

MR. EDWIN LING, S.M. and Character. Offers invited. KISHMET, Wolsey-road, Esher.

MR. FRANK LISTER, Napoleon, Scala Theatre. 47a, Bedford-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. FRANK LISTON, Heavies, Juveniles. King Charles II., "The Orange Girl." 29th, Tivoli, Leeds.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY (Miss Maggie Edwards), "The Village Blacksmith Co., T. R., Bedford Leigh.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN, "Lights Out," Savoy Theatre, W.C. 28, Chelverton-road, Putney.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART, "Sunday" Co. Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE, Disengaged. Address, 7, Bridson-street, Liverpool.

MR. FREDERICK LOYD, Engaged for Matinée, Caxton Hall, Westminster, Tues., Jan. 30. Offers invited. 71, St. George's-rd., S.E.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG, Disengaged. 7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. GEORGE F. MACKARNESS, Mr. Henry Furnival's "Lost in Paris" Co. En route.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY. Own Tour, "Wearin' o' the Green." En route, or Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN (Miss Lily C. Bandmann). Own company in "Claudian." Opera House, Stockport.

MR. AUBREY MALLALIEU, Light Comedian. Meynell-Gunn Australian Tour. Address, Princess's Theatre, Melbourne.

MR. JERROLD MANVILLE, Acting-Manager for Edward Marris, Esq. Disengaged, T. R., Grantham.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER, Cogia, "The Forty Thieves." Marlborough Theatre, N.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL, Carbury, "Lady of Ostend" Co. Jan. 29, Ebbw Vale.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN, Advance-Manager, Milton Bode's Pantomime. Jan. 29, Grand, Derby. Spring settled.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL. Address, Vaudeville Theatre, London.

MR. HENRY W. MAY. All Kinds of Music Composed and Orchestrated. Pantomimes, &c. Add., C/o "The Era."

MR. ERIC MAYNE, Disengaged. Lead or General Management. 1, South-place, Kennington Park.

MR. QUINTON McPHERSON, at Liberty for Character or Comedy parts. 18, Bonneville-gardens, Clapham Park, S.W.

MR. LONNEN MEADOWS, Yellow Dwarf, and producer Grand, Birmingham. Offers invited for Spring.

MR. CHARLES MEDWIN, Duke of York's and Tour of "Peter Pan."

MR. BERTRAM MILLAR, Address, 47, West 28th Street, New York, U.S. America.

MR. WILLIAM J. MILLER, Robespierre, "The Throne of Terror." Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY, MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, "Napoleon the Great" Co. T. R., Bishop Auckland.

MR. FRED MORGAN. All Communications to 55, Amersham-road, New Cross, S.E.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY, Vacation, 57, Warrington-crescent, W.

MR. GUS OXLEY, Daly's Theatre, London, W.

MR. BOB PADLEY, Vizier and Speciality, A. E. Smith's "Aladdin," Monday, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

MR. and MRS. ROBSON PAIGE (Mabel Syringa), Address, 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. MARK PATON (Miss MABEL REES). 1, Stockwell-avenue, Brixton, S.W.

MR. POPE PAX, Journalist and Dramatic Critic, Address, 18, Trinity-road, Birmingham.

MR. DOUGLAS PAYNE, Address, 1, Elmfield-road, Bromley, Kent.

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE, At Liberty. 63, Bedford Court-mansions, W.C.

MR. & MRS. W. KINGSFORD PEARCE W. K. P. Engaged. Miss Wynne Hanley (Mrs. W. K. P.) Dis. 58, Ormeley-rd., Balham.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE, Engaged for Monks, in "Oliver Twist." Mr. Tree's Spring Tour. Perm. Add., 65, Redcliffe-rd., S. Kensington.

MR. F. PENNINGTON-GUSH, Rehearsing Charles Chester in "The Duffer," Mr. Louis Calvert's Co. Address c/o "The Era."

MR. FRED W. PERMAIN Address, 118, Southampton-row, W.C.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY (Miss Gertrude Price), Leading Business. Dis. Feb. 12. Address, Empire, Sheffield.

MR. FELIX PITT, Engaged by Andrew Melville, Esq., Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. & MRS. DONALD PRICE-EVANS (Miss Marcella Hudson), "The Talk of the Town" Co., T. R., Portsmouth.

MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE, Capers in "Cinderella." Brixton Theatre. Disengaged spring.

MR. RULE PYOTT, Disengaged. 49, Hyde-vale, Blackheath, S.E.

MR. ERNEST RAMSAY, Disengaged. Meadowbank, Epsom-road, Guildford.

MR. J. NELSON RAMSAY, Disengaged. 58, Portland-road, Holland Park, W.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR. On Tour with Mr. Martin Harvey. Jan. 29, Grand Theatre, Fulham.

MR. and MRS. SIDNEY RENNEF, S. R., Davy, "Sunday" Co., Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

MR. PERCY RHODES, Disengaged. 10, Elmstone-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD, Address, Jan. 29, Theatre Royal, Ipswich.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD, Panto., T. R., Manchester. Liberty, Spring.

MR. WALTER RINGHAM, Offers invited. Address, 50, Curzon-street, Mayfair, W.

MR. WALTER ROBERTS, Rudolph Laski, "Passion's Power," P. O. W.'s Theatre, Mexborough. Six Nights.

MR. GORDON ROBEY and MISS ANNIE MEGSON, "Sin of Her Childhood" Co., En Route.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON, Leading Business, 115, Grosvenor-street, All Saints, Manchester.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE, Disengaged, Light Comedy, &c., Disengaged. Address, 32, Kelvedon-rd., Fulham, S.W.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS. Address all communications, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. HARRY ROUSBY, Principal Comedian, General-Manager, "Laughter Land" Tour. Jan. 29, Royal, Sunderland (6 nights).

MR. and MRS. JOHN D. SAUNDERS (Miss Dora de Winton). Disengaged. The Nook, Loveday-road, Ealing.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT, Principal Comedy, "Great Awakening" Co. This, Luton; next, T. R., Dover.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN, Tommy Keston, "The Freedom of Suzanne." Jan. 29, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE, at Liberty. Theatre Royal, Worcester.

MR. FRED SINCLAIR, Monday, Hippodrome, Hull.

MR. JAMES SKEA, Character Actor, Disengaged shortly. Offers invited. Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY, Manager for Mr. Robt. Courtneidge, Lyric Theatre, W.

MR. FRANK STANLEY, Acting-Manager, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. E. STANTON-SHARP, Lord Robert Ure, in "The Christian." Jan. 29, Clarence T., Pontypridd.

MR. GORDON STARKEY, Disengaged Spring. Autumn Arrangements Complete.

MR. W. R. STAVELEY, Scala, Jan. 28 and 29, Stage Society. 239, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. ERNEST ST. JOHN, General Gordon, "At Duty's Call." Gainsboro' and Harrogate.

MR. HERBERT ST. JOHN, Dandini, "Cinderella," Brixton Theatre. Capt. Donegal, "Florodora," Spring.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES R. STONE, Offers Invited. 10, Borough-street, Brighton.

MR. GEORGE STONE, Resident-Manager (Twelfth Year), Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK, General Manager, "Jack the Giant Killer" Co., at Lib. shortly. Grand T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. P. HOWARD STURGESS, "Among the Stars," London Hippodrome.

MR. EDWARD SWINTON, Count Mussant and Stage-Management, Mr. Chattell's "Revenge" Tour. P. O., High Wycombe.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS, Char. Com., &c. MISS KATE PARRY, Juv., Light Com., &c., Dis. Feb. 5. T. R., Aldershot.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS, Disengaged, Leading Business, Disengaged. Perm., 3, Springdale-road, Clissold Park, N.

MR. TAPPING. Address, 28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. ALFRED TERRAINE, Artist. 25, St. Alban's-avenue, Bedford Park, London, W.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER, The Baron, "Cinderella." At Liberty Feb. 19. Grand Theatre, Swansea.

MR. ALLEN THOMAS, Old Adam, "As You Like It," Every Evening, St. James's Theatre, London, S.W.

MR. E. W. THOMAS, Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON, Late with Messrs. W. S. Penley, Lionel Rignold, &c. Disengaged. Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. WALTER THORNTON Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's Co. Jan. 29, Opera House, Wakefield.

MR. ALFRED C. TOONE, Musical-Director, "Lady Madcap." 28th, Cambridge; Feb. 1, Ipswich.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL, "The Breed of the Treshams" Tour. Grand Theatre, Southampton.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD, On Tour, Jan. 29, Grand Theatre, Southampton.

MR. A. W. TYRER as Harry Dallas, "Walls of Jericho" Co. Jan. 29, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

MR. and MRS. LANCELOT USHER (Amy Ellam), L. U. Mayor, T. R., Bradford.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE (Kate Hallam), Bus. Mgt., Char., and Lead. Dis. till Autumn. 33, Glengall-rd., Kilburn, N.W.

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MR. SIDNEY VAUTIER, Panto., T. R., Edinburgh. Liberty for Spring.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON, "A Royal Divorce," Scala Theatre, W.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR, Lead, Disengaged. 86, St. George's-road, S.E.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS (Miss Lucy Beaumont). D.V., "Dr. Wake's Patient," on tour. L. B., 8, Bridge-av., Ham'smith.

MR. A. N. VINCE, Acting-Management or Advance, Disengaged. 6, Ranelagh-gardens, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. T. W. VOLT, King Encyclops, "Among the Stars," London Hippodrome.

MR. EDWIN WALTON, Address, Playgoers' Club, 6, Clement's Inn, W.C.

MR. E. C. WARBURTON-GAMBLE, Scala Theatre, Disengaged for Spring.

MR. ALBERT WARD, Lead, 41, Hodson-street, Wigan, Lancs.

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MR. WYN WEAVER, Disengaged until March. To-day, Gaiety T., Hastings. 10, King-st., W.C.

MR. and MRS. ALFRED WELLESLEY (Miss Beatrice Webb), "Dr. Wake's Patient" Co. 29th, Malvern (three), Hereford (three).

MR. C. A. WHITE, Comedy and Character. Address, Park House, Harewood-road, Merton, S.W.

MR. WILL WHITE, F.O.S., Thanks for Offers. Lib. April 25. No Vac. from August until March, 1907. H. M., Walsall.

MR. VICTOR WIDDICOMBE, At Liberty. 27, Algburth-mansions, Brixton, S.W.

MR. JACKSON WILCOX, Horatio Drake .. "The Christian." January 29, H.M. Theatre, Dundee.

MR. JOHNNIE WILKINSON, Comedian, Disengaged for Spring. Grand Theatre, Brighton.

MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS, Granny in "Red Riding Hood." Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS, Juv. Lead, Returned from S. Africa. Offers Invited. Burkelands, Carlisle-road, Hove, Brighton.

MR. BREMBER WILLS, Norman V. Norman Tour. 29th, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

MR. H. O. WILLS, Finished To-night, Terrific Panto. Success. Monday, Palace, Aberdeen.

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MR. A. WOOD. Address, 59, St. Mary's-road, Peckham, S.E.

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MR. STEWART D. WRIGHT, Disengaged Feb. 10. Acting or Advertising Man. Finish of Panto. Offers now. Grand, Falkirk.

MR. SIDNEY YOUNG, Now Disengaged for Comedy, Character, or Musical Comedy. See Front Page.

MR. FRED ZIETZ, Gibby, Fulham Theatre. Liberty, Spring, Eccentric Dancing Part. 5, St. George's-terrace, Primrose Hill, N.W.

NOTICE

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS.

Alexandra Theatre, Hull, Jan. 12, 1906.

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for gloves received safely. Am so pleased with them that in future will send all my things to you to be cleaned.

Yours faithfully, Mrs. G. C. Wallace.

33, Flanders-mansions, Bedford Park, W., Jan. 14, 1906.

Dear Sir,—My white dress which you have just dyed for me for the part of Esther Coventry in "One of the Best" came last night, and I am delighted to find how successfully it has turned out. I am the more pleased that, as the lining is silk and the skirt wool, I feared one might have shrunk, and much needlework be needed, but they are just right. Thank you very much for all the trouble that must have been taken over it, and for letting me have it so quickly.

Yours faithfully, Margaret Davies Webster.

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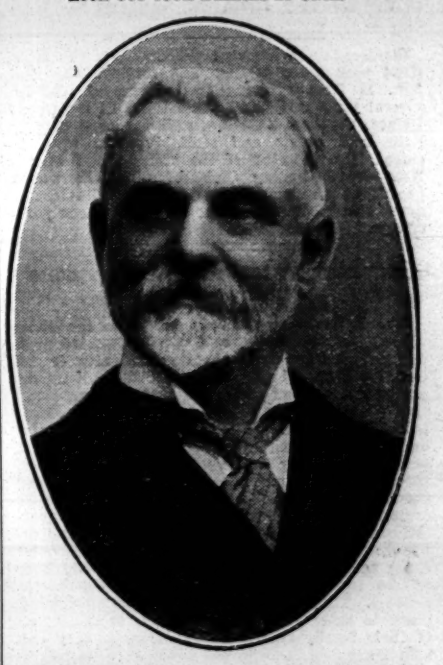

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1906—THE ERA ANNUAL—1906

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STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

AT a meeting of the Committee of the Heads of Departments' Association it was decided to invite a well-known West-end manager to take the chair at the forthcoming fourth annual dinner, the date to be subject to his convenience. It was also decided to convene the annual general meeting of members as soon as the date of the annual dinner was fixed.

OWING to the success of this Association, whose funds now amount to some £240, it is proposed that the subscriptions shall be reduced, and Mr. Cullen, president, and Mr. Barbour, hon. secretary, propose that the subscription shall be uniform, and reduced to 6d. per week, for which will be given sick pay at the rate of £1 per week, with benevolent and funeral benefits in addition. Voting papers on the proposal are being issued to members.

THE nineteenth annual dinner of the staff of the Grand Theatre, Islington, on Sunday last, was a great success. The dinner was given in the Crown and Woolpack Hotel. Mr. Samuel James, the managing-director, presiding. A lengthy programme of speeches and music occupied the whole of the evening. The Chairman, in the course of his response to the toast of "Success to the Grand Theatre, Ltd.," paid a tribute to the staff for the able manner in which they had performed their duties and the goodfellowship they had shown towards one and all at the theatre. He had never had, and never wanted to have, a better staff than the one he had at the Grand Theatre. It was unity that tended towards success, and he was proud to say the Grand Theatre was on the high road to success once again, that is, if he could believe the box-office returns, and, he for one, did not look for a better barometer than that.

AMONG those who contributed to the entertainment that followed the dinner were—Mr. Austin, Mr. Ernie Williams, and Messrs. A. George, J. Belmore, B. Miller, H. Penny, and F. Richards. Mr. T. F. White acted as accompanist. Votes of thanks to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Stewards brought the proceedings to a close.

A MEETING of the members of the Theatrical Carpenters' Society will be held on Sunday evening at the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, W.C., at 8.30.

ON Monday at Wandsworth Cemetery the interment took place of Mr. W. Munday, who died Jan. 15 from consumption. Deceased had for several years acted as a check-taker at the Grand Palace, Clapham Junction, and was most popular with both public and staff. Wreaths were received from the staff of the hall (two), from the New Grand Cycling Club (of which he was a prominent member), Mr. and Mrs. J. Davis, and many others. Deceased was only twenty-one years of age.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AMUSEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I read your leading article on the above subject last Saturday, and must admit there is a great deal of truth in it; but there is one question I should like to bring before all amusement caterers and artists—viz., the "Jingoism" that prevails in the theatres and variety halls. I think it is a great pity professionals should play on one string only, or carry all their eggs in one basket. They are assured of the support of those who have patronised them for years, and should seek after those who rarely enter a theatre or music-hall. The vast body of dissenters generally seek some other form of amusement, and denounce the theatre and music-hall, possibly because when they are tempted to enter they hear or see something they hold dear held up to ridicule. They go out with the determination never to enter such a place again, or allow any of their family or friends to do so, if they can help it.

The same argument applies to politics. Liberal money is as good as Conservative money. Yet there are very few of the profession who are Liberals politically, and the programme as a rule is plentifully supplied with Conservative tit-bits at the expense of the Radical, which is not pleasant to the latter, more especially when he has a Tory friend sitting next to him, who digs his elbow into his ribs, or uses some derisive remark to drive the point home. My experience is that the vast majority of the profession are not political students, and even if they were, they can invent plenty of fun and jokes that will please all and offend none. At my Gloucester theatre I have cultivated the patronage of the Dissenter and also the Salvation Army (although a Churchman myself), and I am pleased to say I get their support.

I do not mean that the eccentricities of the curate, the sneaking of the Stigginses, and the faults of politicians should not be shown up in their true form, as much good is done thereby, but that other samples should not be dragged in just for the sake of causing a laugh amongst the commonest of our audiences. Mr. Gladstone and other famous Liberals of the past were ardent theatre-goers, and there are plenty to-day who recognise the vast amount of good the theatre and music-hall can do when used as they should be—viz., in the true interests of all.—Yours faithfully,

C. W. POOLE.

Theatre Royal, Gloucester, Jan. 25, 1906.

ACTING-MANAGERS AND THE A. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May we by means of your columns notify our intention of bringing forward the following proposition at the next annual general meeting of the A. A., viz: "That acting-managers shall be admitted as members of the A. A." We take this step because we feel it to be an important question, and would prefer that it should be fully considered and discussed before the meeting, rather than submitted to the chance of a catch vote. By acting-managers we mean those who are on the salary list, and who, in most respects, are subject to the same conditions as the actors employed by the proprietor of the company. Evidence of their service in this capacity would have to be supplied to the council before election.

Yours faithfully,

C. AUBREY SMITH and A. E. DRINKWATER.

Actors' Association, 10, King-street, W.C.

Jan. 22, 1906.

MR. GRAHAM FALCON, whose enterprise at Luton has caused his theatre there to become so greatly popular, has instituted a series of high-class Sunday concerts, the second of which was held on Sunday last, under the direction of Messrs. White and Sharp, who had provided a capital programme. The principal artistes engaged were Miss Ethel James (soprano), Miss Marian Brereton (contralto), and Mr. Laurence Derrick (baritone and musical monologue artiste). Miss Brereton and Mr. Derrick were very successful in their duets "The Children's Home" and "Life's Dream is O'er," and Mr. Derrick made a remarkable impression with a fine rendering of Geo. R. Sims' recitation, "A Man-Hunt," being compelled to give a double encore. A first-class cinematograph show was sandwiched in between the vocal items, and greatly contributed to a highly successful entertainment. Mr. Graham Falcon must be congratulated on providing an elevating and amusing attraction on the one evening in the week when the streets are too often the only means of recreation available.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company occupies the boards this week with *The Christian*, which is well received by large audiences. Miss Grace Chalmers plays with great intensity as Glory Quayle; Mr. Frank Tennant gives a strong, manly portraiture of John Stern; Mr. T. R. Lockwood acts incisively as Lord Robert Ure; and the other parts are capably filled.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. W. J. Ashcroft appears in an exceedingly humorous musical interlude, in which he is assisted by Mr. C. W. Morton; and the Caledonian Boys make a great hit as instrumentalists and singers. Doody and Wright are as successful as last week; Miss Mona McDonald sings sweetly; and the rich, powerful voices of the Brothers Ralston are heard to excellent advantage. Paller and Cussick are warmly received; Hortin and Linder contribute an amusing grotesque acrobatic act; and Mr. Eric Graham is appreciated as a comedian. A capital new series of pictures is shown by Vernon's Bioscope.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventoin.—Mr. Fred J. Kirke and company are here this week in the musical comedy *The Naval Detective*. In the title-rôle Mr. Fred J. Kirke is very good; Mr. Geo. Freer scores as Dr. Schreiner; Mr. Mark Practice as Capt. Hustle is exceptionally smart; Mr. Bert Leighton as the Hon. Bertie Fairlox keeps the house in good humour; Miss Edith Claris, who plays the part of Susan Scrubbs, causes roars of laughter; Miss Edith W. Stuart as Lulu Kaufmann well suits the part; Miss Lily Seymour is also good as Rebecca Gentle; and Miss Louise Fountain has become a firm favourite as Phyllis Leslie. The special dances by the Gaiety Girls, the Sisters Shazd, deserve mention.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Miss Florence Baine's company opened here in *Miss Lancashire, Limited*. Mr. David Donaldson was excellent as John Higgins; Mr. Patrick Evans must be complimented on his performance as Harry; and R. C. Hick was good as Herbert Fox; Messrs. Charles Reeves and Horace Pollock score in their respective parts. Miss Florence Baines had a cordial reception; Miss Jennie Hallworth was highly successful as Eva Lancashire; and Miss Patti Groves made an ideal Bridget Thompson.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—An excellent company this week includes Harry Taff, the laughing comedian; Will Percival, who is a wonderful dancer; the Arundels; the Arizona Troupe; Fields and Lewis; Wilfred Stylo; and Martin. The Hippodrome pictures complete a good bill.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. Sonnes' pantomime *The Forty Thieves* is being presented here. The pantomime, from a spectacular point of view, is certainly one of the best that has been seen here, the electrical effects being especially brilliant. There are some first-class songs. Miss Mary Thorne as Ganem sings with unbounded success "If the world were only mine for a day." There is a genuine children's harlequinade, which has been invented and arranged by Mr. Harry Gardner, the popular clown. The pantomime itself is from the versatile pen of Mr. Fred Bowyer, and the familiar rôles are well and faithfully portrayed. Mr. Leonard Barry works hard and successfully as Ali Baba, the wood-cutter, and Miss Mary Thorne as Ganem plays with marked vivacity. Roars of laughter are elicited by Mr. Frank Gee in the rôle of Cogia, Ali Baba's wife; Miss Lucie Caine makes a prepossessing Morgiana; Miss Beatrice Fitgerald cleverly portrays the rôle of Lola, Cassim's daughter; Miss Rosie Bartlett does well as Doris.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Mr. Peter Thompson's spectacular burlesque *The Babes in the Wood* is running for the week at the Theatre Royal. It is some time since we heard so capable a couple in the parts of principal boy and girl as Miss Maud Beaumont as Robin Hood and Miss Molly Hackett as Maid Marion. They are the beau-ideal of vivacity and song, and they dance with ease, grace, and nimbleness. The comedy parts are mainly in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Danvers as the masculine female Nurse to the Babes, the Danbys as the two Ruffians, and the Bad Baron, Mr. Templar Ellis; and much comic relief is given to characters of a minor type by Messrs. Willie Barrett and Fred Paget. Mr. Danvers is the very spirit of drollery; he has inherited the Danvers' unctuous manner, which is extremely ludicrous and laughter-provoking. The Danbys, in a different type of humour, also command attention. The burlesque duel in the forest is very funny, and their share in the unfolding of the plot makes them prominent on the stage for a large part of the evening. The Babes are Little Renée Grahame and Little Daisy Noel, who fill their respective rôles to the great delight of all. Indeed, the juvenile talent of this couple is exceptional. Miss Georgie Thomas is a charming Fairy Queen. The pantomime is specially notable for its expert and capable terpsichorean artists, prominent, of course, being the Yankee Quartette of supple-limbed girls; also Miss Rose Walmsley, remarkably graceful as a skipping-rope and acrobatic dancer; and Miss Nellie Grahame, as a nimble speciality dancer. Special mention should also be made of the talent of Little Renée Grahame, one of the Babes, as a male impersonator; and the Danbys as Hungarian dancers. Perhaps the most exciting "turn" as a "speciality" is the wonderful performance of Kioto, the Japanese equilibrist. He should be seen to be appreciated. From a spectacular point of view, the pantomime is very attractive, notably the scene, entitled The Village of Ashton in the Time of Henry VIII.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime *Cinderella* is here for the week. Some little curtailment of the familiar nursery legend is necessary to give two exhibitions each evening, but a very satisfactory performance is given, nevertheless. Much fun is extracted from the humours of Buttons, Baron Bunker, and the two Ugly Sisters, and Ben and Bob, a couple of broker's men. Mr. Will Letters made his mark as Buttons, the impersonation being ridiculously funny. Miss Mamie Iris makes a very attractive little maiden as Cinderella, singing and dancing prettily. The Prince of Miss Daisy Morrell is a capital principal boy. She sings well, and by her pleasing manner earns the approbation of her auditory. Miss Madge Allen is a good second hero to the Prince. Some ludicrous business is carried out successfully by Mr. C. Russell as the Baron; and his two masculine daughters, Mr. J. Worman and Mr. Billy Keene. There are also a number of sprightly and shapely girls who sustain minor characters very gracefully. Mr. Jordison's eight juvenile lady vocalists and dancers add to the attraction of the "panto." The pantomime is run in eight scenes, and is very prettily staged and dressed.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director. Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—The drama *What a Woman Did* is the attraction here this week, presented by Mr. William A. Armour's company.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—This week's "bill" includes *The King's Highway*, in which Mr. Frank Gerald makes a dashing Dick Turpin; the sketch is received with hearty applause. The Franch Brothers, Chinese grotesque acrobats and equilibrists, give a clever exhibition; Miss Amy Bellwood, comedienne, is well received in her songs and dances; Mdlle. Sylvesto is a contortionist of more than average merit; the popular Attergraph, under the direction of Mr. E. C. Clayton, shows a varied number of pictures; Mr. Arthur Holland, vocal comedian, does well; Gold and Stirling in their refined musical-scena entitled *The Street Singer, or the Welsh Girl and the Artist*, are heartily applauded; and Peublo and Cropp score as Creole speciality artistes.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company is here in *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Marion May in the title-rôle displays much life and dash; the Zorilda of Miss Amy Calcott is excellent; while Madame Corra Arnitta makes an admirable Lustre. As Tinbad, Mr. Walter Adams is funny; and Newcombe and Sullivan, as Baccah and Sioppah, give valuable support. The Mrs. Sinbad of Mr. John E. West is also lively and provocative of much mirth. The Stuart Quartette of dancers; the Calcott banjoists; Little Tim, big boot dancer; the Westwoods, eccentric cyclists; Dobito and Buxton, operatic vocalists; and Miss May Wyatt 'cellist, give enjoyable turns.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denmann-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake's pantomime *Cinderella* is here this week. Mdlle. Du Roche is a very popular principal boy, and infuses animation into her songs. Miss Ivy Dawn gives a charming impersonation of Cinderella, and her songs are sung in cultured style. Miss Marie Le Grahame is a vivacious Dandini. As the Baron, Mr. Charles Benett displays a fund of dry humour. Mr. W. Griffin is responsible for a funny representation of one of the ugly sisters, and Little F. Elliot plays the second ugly sister. The Brothers Lang provide plenty of amusement as Flip and Flop, and work energetically to make their part of the performance a success. Mr. Jim Topping is funny as Choddles, the Baron's Page. Miss Sadie Bush makes a charming Fairy God-Mother, and Mr. Clifton Hall scores as Demon Dischord. A popular turn is the juggling entertainment given by Marlo. Harland and Rollinson are two clever artists, whose musical performances are much appreciated. Lona, Dora and Maude are clever trapeze performers, and the three Sisters Le Graham execute some graceful dancing.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company is here in the *Cingalee* this week. Mr. Lauri De Frece in his impersonation of the part of Chambuddy Ram, takes high honours; the Hon. Harry Vereker is a masterly embodiment by Mr. Frank Crimp; Mr. Bertrand Gates is an impressive Boobhama; Sir Peter Loftus as presented by Mr. Cook Edmunds is all that can be desired; Bobby Warren is remarkably well acted by Mr. Ethelbert Edwards; Mr. A. Wilmer is responsible for the part of Nyamgah. Owing to the indisposition of Miss Winifred O'Connor, Nanoya was successfully played by her understudy, Miss May Owen; Lady Patricia was charmingly portrayed by Miss Marjorie Clarke; Miss Gladys Guy delighted everyone with her rendering of Peggy; and Miss Essie Perrin was a bewitching Angy Loftus.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the musical comedy *Three Little Maids* is the attraction here this week. Miss Doris, Miss Lingara, and Miss West give charming and artistic representations of the maids. Miss Laura Wright is a capital Gretchen, and, together with Mr. Ewart Drake, a droll Cupid, has to respond to several encores for songs and dances. Mr. F. Henderson as Lord Cheyne is extremely funny; and Mr. Wilfrid Heath is full of life and vivacity as the Frenchman.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *Leah Kleschna* is here this week. The difficult part of Paul Sylvaine is played with delightful effect by Mr. Langhorne Burton; Mr. Thomas Sidney gives a fine character study of Kleschna; Mr. Cyril Rawdon is a capable Schram; Mr. Pat Newall plays the part of Raoul with force and subtlety; and Mr. Dan Fitzgerald is an acceptable General Berton. Miss Pearla Gardner is a pleasing Claire Berton, and Miss Pilar Morin in the title-rôle displays histrionic gifts of high order.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—At the top of an exceedingly strong bill here this week is Max Wessley's troupe of jugglers, who obtain a tremendous reception for their bewildering tricks; Tom and Mary Motramo give a musical sketch of a very high order; Miss Cora Grey has a particularly good soprano voice and a charming stage presence. Alf Berg, as a strong man, gives a novel show that is much appreciated; and Ben Houndsworth, Beatty and Blanche, and Tom Johnson are also in the bill.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the second time *The Girl from Kay's* is exercising her sway over Bath admirers, Mr. George Dance sending one of his excellent companies again to present this bright and entertaining musical play. Upon Mr. George Blunt, as Max Hoggenheimer, much of the go of the piece depends, and this gentleman is never at a loss to keep the audience amused. Winnie Harborough is portrayed in a captivating manner by Miss Beatrice Poole, who can sing well, and dances with agility and grace. Mr. Reginald Grey impersonates the dude Fitzthistle in droll style, creating plenty of laughter. The young bride and bridegroom Norah and Harry Gordon are pleasingly enacted by Miss Emily Taylor and Mr. J. S. Durrant. Miss Mabel Dent throws plenty of brightness into her work as Ellen; and Mr. Tom Seymour supplies an excellent sketch of the Hall Porter, Joseph. Others who win favour are Miss Lily Beaumont (Mrs. Chalmers), Mr. Robert Rivers (Theodore Queuch), Mr. Thomas Pauncefort (Mr. Chalmers), and Mr. H. Val Morgan (Pepper). A delightful item is the rendering of "Under the Bamboo Tree" by two ladies and a gentleman of the company. The chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Arthur L. Spittle, are much to be praised for their work.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—It is difficult to choose out of the present bill which of the artists claim premier place in the appreciation of the audience, one and all being so popular. The first number announced here is the well-known sketch duo Nelson and Thomas, who appear in *Mushroom Ketchup*; Frank Coyle, comedian, follows with some amusing songs; Burke and McVoy perform amazing acrobatic feats; a vocal turn of merit is submitted by the Four Avocas, whose part-singing in their scena, *The Reckless Miner*, is loudly applauded; the conjuring of Loudoun Camero equals anything that has been seen here; the Sisters Caselli continue to hold their own as expert high kickers; and nothing funnier could be desired than the interlude in which Howard and Harris appear, entitled *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*. Raymond's bioscope concludes with an interesting series of hunting scenes.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes, jun.—A return visit is this week being paid by the New Animated Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. Albany Ward. The subjects are quite up to date, and are highly interesting and amusing. Madame Edith Vivian in illustrated songs, and Mr. George A. Deighton, ventriloquist and sleight-of-hand performer, appear at intervals with success.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty.—*At Cripple Creek*, an exciting melodrama dealing with American mining life, is proving a success at this theatre. Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow have got a capable company together for its performance. Mr. Hilliard Vox, a sound and earnest actor, takes the part of the hero with infinite credit to himself; Mr. Walter Thornton plays the Terror of Cripple Creek very well; Mr. Chas. W. Pitt does good work; Mr. Reginald H. West gives a telling rendering of a picturesque Indian; Mr. Albert Rogers is humorous as the coloured servant; and Mr. Will Hook gets through his comedy work excellently, introducing some excellent grotesque dances. Miss Vera Fordyce is a complete success, giving an embodiment of a difficult part which carries conviction; Miss Daisy Carlton is smart, alert, and effective; Miss May Straker gives a quiet, ladylike portraiture of Belle Gordon; and a child's part is intelligently played by May Douglas. The play is suitably dressed and staged.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Cinderella; or, the Bibulous Baron*. Mr. Dick Thomas makes a merry Baron Shiphtalotte; Mr. Sydney Benson and Mr. W. G. Wesley contribute a great deal of the fun as the two ugly sisters Ethel and Maud respectively. The life of the piece is undoubtedly Pimples the Pye, humorously impersonated by Mr. Frank Dunlop. Miss Adele Roze makes a charming little Cinderella, and her sweet voice quite captivates the audience. Prince Perfect is well represented by Mdlle. De Rose. There is a powerful chorus, trained ballet, and augmented orchestra. Mr. John S. Kershaw is the musical director.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The annual visit of Mr. F. R. Benson and his clever company is always anticipated with feelings of much pleasure by his many Belfast admirers, who certainly attended largely on Monday to welcome this talented Shakesperean actor. The piece selected was *Romeo and Juliet*, and the performance was in every sense most satisfactory. Mr. Benson was an interesting Romeo, speaking his lines with the utmost effect, and his success was certainly undeniable. Mrs. Benson was a delightful Juliet, her charming interpretation gaining the entire approval of the audience. Mr. Cyril Keightley—a clever actor and a decided acquisition to Mr. Benson's company—made an excellent Mercutio. Miss Elinor Aicken furnished a finished rendering of the Nurse; and Mr. George Buchanan, as Paris, acquitted himself with distinction. Mr. H. O. Nicholson's acting as Capulet was admirable; and the same may be said of Mr. Stanley Howlett's impersonation of Montague. Miss Violet Holland and Miss Mildred Forster were good as Lady Montague and Lady Capulet; and a decidedly humorous interpretation of Peter was submitted by the Belfast favourite, Mr. George R. Weir. Other rôles were carefully sustained by Messrs. P. D. Owen, C. Derwent, Philip Sanders, B. A. Pittar, Miss L. Hannam, and Miss A. P. Nicholson. On Tuesday evening *Julius Cæsar* was the attraction; and during the week *The School for Scandal* (Annual Students' Night), *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Macbeth* have also been performed.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—This handsome theatre reopened for the variety season on Monday, under the direction of Mr. Frederick Mouillot and Mr. Walter De Frece, and provided a capital programme, headed by Captain Woodward's sea lions and seals, whose remarkable feats have created quite a sensation. Mr. Michael Nolan, the clever Irish comedian, has been most successful with his capital rendering of several songs; and a big hit was made by Virginia, who introduces with much effect a troupe of genuine coloured boys and girls in *Coons Cutting Capers*. Mr. Juno Salmo, "the Golden Mephisto," is undoubtedly one of the finest contortionists in existance; and Miss Agnes Hazel, a dashing comedienne, with fine songs, takes well. Mr. Charles Fanning is a good comedian; and also appearing are Miss Flo Cecil, comedienne; Narstro and Oreta, in a clever acrobatic act; and the attractive Palace pictures. The prices on Mondays and Saturdays have been reduced in gallery, pit, and balcony, and this reduction should be a strong incentive to the Belfast public, who will doubtless patronise this popular and handsome theatre in crowds. Mr. Edwin Leslie is the courteous resident-manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. Fred Karno's company tops the bill, and produces with great success the exhilarating sketch, *Jail Birds*, which has created roars of laughter. Baker and Balfe, the clever xylophone players, render several selections, which have been well received; and Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie handsomely costumed, commands much success with her refined songs, so daintily rendered. The Three Sisters Chester gain much approval with their banjo selections and their dancing; and Mueller and Coyne, the talented comedy duo, who are always up to date, are paying a welcome return visit. Also appearing are Charles Adams, comedian; Helen Martin, a good balladist; and Corty Brothers, aerial humorists.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Three Richards head the list here, and have amazed the crowds with their startling acrobatic feats. Ned Kennedy and company create roars of laughter with their funny Irish sketch, *Life in a Tenement House*; and Mr. J. A. Cassells, a clever Scotch comedian, has been loudly and deservedly encored. The comedy acrobatic act of Ryde and Beeman is responsible for much merriment; and the Brothers Hannaway, vocalists and dancers, are accorded a good reception. Also appearing are Miss Minnie Dare, a charming comedienne; Mr. Shirley Liggins, negro joker and vocalist; George Helem and Emmie Cozens in speciality act, *The Doctor and the Patient*; and Miss Aida Martin, comedienne.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—We have this week the first visit to Bilston of *Sapho*, with Miss Annie Bell in the title-part. This popular actress plays Fanny le Grande admirably, and holds the audience. Mr. Pringle Roberts makes the most of Jean Gausin; and Mr. Lawrence Kingsley carefully depicts Paul Dechelette. Mr. Charles M. Daly combines with his acting-management the part of Father Legrand successfully; and the general management is in the hands of Mr. James Bell.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—A powerful attraction is provided by Mr. William Greet's company in the musical comedy *The Earl and the Girl*. The comedy is admirably performed throughout, and the staging is beyond reproach. Mr. Reginald Switz sustains the rôle of Jim Cheese with great natural humour; Mr. Alec Fraser is a capital Dick Wargrave; Mr. Stanley Harrison displays great ability as the Hon. Crewe Poodle; and A. Bunker Bliss is admirably enacted by Mr. H. E. Brandreth. The important part of Elphin Haye is entrusted to Miss Mary Fraser, who possesses vocal and histrionic powers of a high order. Miss Maud Aston is an excellent Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Maud Adams is well suited as Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Mary Morison is unexceptionable as Miss Virginia Bliss; and Miss Florence Wix is an efficient Liza Shoddam. Mr. Frank Lane as Downham, Mr. Robert Rous as Mr. Talk, and Mr. Tom Redmond as Mr. Hazell also contribute important aid. The chorus is strong in numbers and efficiency, there are several pretty dances by Miss Maud Schwitz, and the orchestral arrangements are under the direction of Mr. Norman Bath. Phenomenal business rules at this popular theatre.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's combination, in a well-played and amusing sketch entitled *Did He Deserve It*, is an important item in an attractive programme. Tom Lloyd, an excellent eccentric comedian, and a favourite here, is on a welcome return visit; Mr. Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice present an exceptionally good instrumental and variety entertainment; Miss Katie Marsh is an accomplished mimic; Miss Bertha Duckett is a promising young comedienne and dancer; and the company also includes Burg, Hand, and Wise (acrobatic pantomimists), Dwight and Son (comedians and dancers), Miss Winifred Ward (male impersonator), the Sivoronis (comedy artists), and an up-to-date display by the bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denny is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* has, without doubt, secured for Mr. Tom B. Davis a mighty hit, and Mr. Robert Arthur, whose pantomime it is, can be most heartily congratulated on the success of his production. Miss Ada Reeve continues to delight in "Two Brown Eyes," "If the World were Ruled by Women," "Bed," etc., being numbered among her vocal successes. Mr. Harry Tate, as Abanazar, is full of resource, and his name is great in Birmingham, while the other principals are no less indefatigable in their parts.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* continues its prosperous career, and Mr. Henry Johnston, who rules the front of the house like the able and amiable manager that he is, is often put to it to find room for the patrons of this successful pantomime. Miss Edith Fink, as the dainty heroine, does much to retain the poetry of the tale, both in song and story; Miss Lelia Roze as the Prince, is renewing past triumphs; and Messrs. Mark Sheridan and George Lashwood are in their respective styles impeccable. The *morale* of the company is well maintained, its vigour and spontaneity being most praiseworthy and exemplary.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*The Sleeping Beauty* is winning for Mis Maud Mortimer and Company much popularity, Miss Mortimer, as the Prince, receiving such favour as is likely to advance her well. Miss Lillian Digges, as Beauty, is in receipt of much applause for her chic and charm, and Messrs. James Chippendale, Alfred Bishop, Lonnen Meadows, J. W. Churchill, and the Morton Trio are in the forefront, and score many hits.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard*, the popular saying of which, "Are we down-hearted?" with its emphatic "No!" from the public, has, in addition to being the great catch-phrase of the Birmingham elections, been actually quoted by Mr. Chamberlain himself, shows no signs of diminishing in favour, and is sure to run for many weeks to come. Miss Minnie Jeffs, Miss Lilian Stanley, Miss Bertha Cousins, and Miss Millie Warde on the ladies' side, and Messrs. Fred A. Marston, Fred W. Graham, and Bert Atherton among the comedians, are great favourites, and the Bogannys are a tower of strength in their clever acrobatic speciality.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*The Beast and the Beauty*, as noticed in our last week's issue, is retained for the current attraction, and is again successful in drawing crowded houses.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Cinderella* is presented here in a charming and pretty manner by Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's Company, which includes many finished adult performers and a clever team of juvenile artistes. Cinderella possesses a sweet and clever exponent in Miss Kitty Rafferty; the Prince's rôle is delivered with much esprit by Miss Jessie Hardacre; Miss May Bishop plays the valet's part with much success; Miss Kitty Chester as the Fairy Godmother is among the favourites; Mr. A. Benson scatters fun in rich profusion with his clever acting as the Baron; Miss H. Deacon adds to the feast as the Baroness; Mr. Paddy Mills, as the indefatigable Buttons, is highly popular and Messrs. Dan Dougherty and Geo. Swinhoe disport humorously as the Ugly Sisters.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Jack and Jill*, produced by the Six Bros. Luck, has provided a pantomimic treat of rare quality and fun. The Misses Mabel Thorne and Marjorie Cecil do excellent and graceful work in the name parts; Miss Flora Macdonald gives a charming interpretation of the fairy's rôle; Mr. E. Bathurst shines as King Usurpa; Mr. Harry Levaine kindles laughter continously as Dame Miggs; and the fun is completed by Mr. Ernest Luck as Herbert, Mr. Fred Luck as Henry, Mr. Phil Luck as the Chef, Mr. A. Luck as the Dude, Mr. Oscar Luck as the Dwarf, and Mr. Harry Luck as the Demon. Miss Edie Brenton gives a sprightly representation of Margery, and the Misses Maggie and Brenda Travers sing and dance in a clever style.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Spadoni, the Cannon Ball King, is displaying his feats with his usual skill; Lilieth Leyton is seen to advantage in a smart sketch, *The Order of the Bath*, which is well played; the musical entertainment of Wood and Bates is artistic and amusing; Harry Carsdale is applauded for his farmyard and other imitations; Rosie Archer is a mimic of considerable merit; the Uessems in their clever equilibristic act, and Gallagher and Hild in their speciality act, "The Dancing Goose," are well received, and Katie Butler, comedienne, and Walter Munroe, Irish comedian, are very successful.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Nellie Wallace is proving a wonderful success here in her quaint songs, which are repeatedly encored. George Leyton remains another week, with a new song scena, *The Scamp of the Regiment*. The Charles Fisher Tabloid Opera Co. renders its selections in excellent style. The Osaka Troupe give a clever acrobatic display; Norman French is an exceptionally neat, eccentric dancer; Hector is an expert equilibrist, and an up-to-date series of films on the Bioscope is also attractive.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Six Brothers Luck, in their absurdity, *The Demon of the Cellar*, cause a continual roar of laughter. Charles Coborn, arouses admiration for his songs, which is well deserved; the Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese Jugglers come in for a fair amount of applause; the Sisters Marion, juvenile duettists, are a good turn; the Delornes have a weird act, *The Phantom Clogs*; Miniature Marie scores a success with her songs, as also does Violet Stockelle. E. J. Wilkes and his dog are amusing, and Frances Lyrio, vocalist and dancer, and the Jansons, in a novel gymnastic display, are well received.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster, Payne's Little Vagabond's, in their latest comedy act are proving a distinct success; Driscoll, Beattie and Co. have an excellent sketch; Sam Elton, a comedy juggler, makes things hum; the Glenroy Troupe are fine dancers, and the Brothers Andreassen, expert acrobats. Other popular turns are Margaret Ashton and Chas. Cardow, who complete the bill.

MASONIC HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots, on a return visit here, have been attracting crowded houses. Professor Lewis is a ventriloquist of a high order; George Houghton's tenor voice is heard to advantage; and Tom Catlin is loudly applauded for "My Lady Molly. The troupe also includes W. Catlin, H. C. Lovell, Sid Frere, Frank Blythe, and W. Fowler, an excellent pianist.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—The patrons of the above place of amusement are this week enjoying the return visit of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's Co., in the successful musical comedy, *Florodora*, which is attracting large audiences. The company, which is a very large one, contains several talented artists, who do not fail to take full advantage of the parts allotted them. As Anthony Tweedlepunch Mr. Albert Bruno invests the part with much innocent fun, occasioning continuous peals of laughter. The part of Dol

Lillian Hope and Elspie plays with much feeling, and Miss Ethel Ashleigh as Zamet, a gipsy boy, gives an excellent performance. The humorous parts are capitally played by Mr. David Hamilton as Bobbie Bloom, and Miss Fanny Wallace as Pollie Pluck, her clog-dances being particularly well received.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. George Dance's company, on a return visit, opened here on Monday in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Kenneth Wynne was successful as Harry Vereker; Mr. Helier Le Maistre, as Boobhams, gave a good performance; as did Mr. Roy Sydney as Bobby Warren. Mr. Johnny Osborne, as Chambuddy Ram, evoked heaps of applause; and with Mr. J. G. Williams, as Sir Peter Loftus kept the audience delighted. As Nanoya, Miss Zoe Gilfillan was distinctly good; and Miss Cissie Sephton as Peggy Sabine, Miss Emily Mayhew as Lady Patricia, and Miss Vi Holmes did excellently in their respective parts. Special praise is due to Mr. Edward Whitehall as musical conductor.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The pantomime *Mother Goose* is now in the full tide of success, the audiences are large and appreciative, and there is every prospect of a long and prosperous run for Mr. Hart's latest charming production.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Merriment reigns supreme here, and *Dick Whittington* bids fair to establish a record.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—At the head of an excellent bill of fare here this week is Herbert Lloyd, who, in his very funny sketch, *Crazy on Napoleon*, introduces many novel features which elicit roars of laughter. With cornets, bugles, and kettledrums the Sisters Mullini are clever, and their performance is appreciated; Warren Doyle submits some good clog dancing; those smart sketch artists, Bella and Bijou, are paying a welcome return visit, and are greatly applauded; Bijou Russell submits a bright turn, introducing a remarkably clever sand dance; Ruth Dorris is a charming young comedienne; the Brontes are here again with their entertaining sketch, *How I Love the Army*; Dan Conroy submits a good comic song in capital style; Sam Redfern's songs are funny, and his "patter" proves positively irresistible; and a new series of up-to-date films shown by the American Bioscope are greatly appreciated.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—There is a well-varied and attractive programme here this week. Paulinetti and Piquo heading it with a comedy gymnastic act as clever as it is original and humorous. Arthur Melrose submits a humorous turn as a "word whistler"; Rose Elliott's songs are in excellent taste, and rendered with effect; Barton and Ashley, on a return visit with their breezy sketch *Canal Boat Sal*, are as popular as ever; a remarkable turn by Mephisto the Contortionist (who is assisted by Mdlle. Marie) earns well-merited plaudits; Mdlle. Rosa, with her canine pets, gives an interesting performance; in admirable style Sidney Dolf illustrates some peculiarities in music hall turns; a capital acrobatic comedy entertainment, *Uninvited*, submitted by the Louberts is received with much favour; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux show some interesting films.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. William Greet's company concludes a fortnight's engagement here this week. Mr. William Stephens affords unbounded fun by his droll impersonation of Jim Cheese, whose sweetheart, Liza Shoddam, has an excellent exponent in Miss Dot Carey. Miss Aimee Grey is a pleasing Elphin Haye; Miss Florence Imeson is a vivacious Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss Helen Langton's Miss Virginia Bliss and Miss Gladys Fountaine's Mrs. Shimmering Black are well played. Mr. Ernest Torrence is admirably suited as the irate American uncle; and Mr. Percy Carr acquits himself effectively as Dick Wargrave. The remaining characters are ably sustained; and the chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* maintains its popularity here. New songs and comic business have been introduced, and all the artistes work with a hearty goodwill. Miss May Mars, a charming actress and artistic vocalist, is a great favourite as Robinson Crusoe; Miss Rosalie Jacobi makes a refined and delightful Polly Perkins; and the humorous business, jokes, and singing of Mr. Walter Kooney (Will Atkins), Mr. Harry Karr (Dick Deadeye), and Mr. Allan Wye (Mrs. Crusoe) are very entertaining. The vocal specialities submitted by Mr. Ernest Laws and Miss Winifred Norman are popular items; and the dances of Miss Maud Percy and Mr. Edgar Budden find great favour with the audience.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. Frank, Willie, and Albert Boisset and company are prime favourites, and are highly amusing in their pantomime, *The Bricklayers*; Little Salvino is a musical wonder; Daisy Reed, charming comedienne and dancer, wins hearty applause; Harry Thurston, a clever mimic, introduces an impersonation of R. A. Roberts in the protean act, *Dick Turpin*; the Jalvans, coloured Oriental humorous entertainers, give an excellent and refined performance; Harry Cooke is an amusing patter comedian; Princo Yata's speciality novelty painting act is cordially appreciated; A. W. Hall and B. P. Earle are a pair of eccentric comedians; Cooke and Miss Rothert, the Yankee Doodle boy and girl, merit praise; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is an admirable company here this week. The Dandies, a capital troupe of entertainers, achieve distinct success; Austin Rudd, comedian, is very mirth-provoking; Mike Gray, a comedy juggler, submits an excellent turn; the Waldrons are highly successful in their comedy act *The Silly Burglar*; the Ergotti and King Luis troupe are expert Risley acrobats; Hector and Paulus, comedy acrobats and equilibrists, display great skill; Francis Letty, American comedienne and dancer, is well received; Keen and Wallen are a talented and humorous pair of acrobats; J. P. Dane is a pleasing character comedian; Wat Tyler, in an extra turn, is effective in an act entitled *The Poacher's Son*; and the Barrascope pictures add to the success of the entertainment.

WEST PIER. — Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—*The Cherry Girl* is still popular here. Miss Ellaline Craigie acquits herself admirably as the Queen; Mr. G. Langford Kirby gives clever impersonations of Moonshine and Happy Joe; much fun is provided by Mr. J. P. E. Hussey and Mr. George Howard, who figure as chamberlains and policemen; and the remaining characters are capitally represented.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. J. Sallmayer; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. John Henderson.—The pantomime *Robin Hood* maintains its popularity here. Miss Millie Henderson is a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Lottie Page makes a handsome Wilfrid of Ivanhoe; Miss Susie Rusholme is a graceful and pleasing Maid Marion; and amusing representations are given by Newham and Latimer (Baron and Baroness), Mr. Coningsby Brierley (Friar Tuck), and Mr. Gerald Maitland (Little John).

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Mother Goose* is attracting a very large attendance in all parts of the house. Mr. Wilkie Bard's quaint assumption of the title-rôle obtains the utmost appreciation, and his songs all go well. Happy Fanny Fields has become an immense favourite; her Gretchen is a clever assumption, and her songs and dances are warmly applauded. Miss Lily Morris is pleasing in all respects as Colin, doing full justice to all her songs, and acting well. Miss Nina Wood acts very prettily as Jill, and also scores in song and dance. All the other artists in the principal rôles are highly successful; the mounting, both as to scenery and dresses, deserves high commendation, and the pantomime throughout runs smoothly.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Goody Two Shoes* continues to be successful in attracting good houses. Miss Harriet Fawn, as Boy Blue, and Miss May Fallowfield, as Goody, have become acknowledged favourites, and the same may be said of Mr. Dave O'Toole as Dame Durden. Jack and Jill are capitally taken by the Sisters Lunelle, their specialities of song and dance adding much to the attractions of the pantomime.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The leading attraction here is an interesting nautical sketch, *The Little Stowaway*, under the direction of Ethel Arden and George Abel, Ltd. The sketch is well staged, the solid built-up deck of the s.s. "Carisbrooke" being quite realistic. Miss Eva Lumley presents a fine exposition of the title-rôle. She acts with much earnestness, and her pathos has a true ring. Mr. J. K. Walton plays well as Captain Worley, and the other members of the company give effective support. The Brothers Ashley amuse with their boxing sketch, *Next, Please*; Professor McCann's Irish terriers and leaping dogs provide a good turn; Sydney Lee is an expert in card manipulation, &c.; Rumbo Austin amuses as an acrobatic comedian; and Herbert Madden, comedian, and Bert Weston, comedian, both obtain appreciation. The performance concludes with "The Wonderful Album," cleverly projected by the Barrascope.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Harry Atkinson heads the programme here, his imitations of various instruments obtaining much applause. Hanvarr and Lee present a smart juggling act, "The Golfer and the Maid"; George Davis and company have a good comedy sketch, *Jack's Uncle*; Sherlock and Van Dalle present a pleasing speciality, *The Mummy and the Undergrad*; Terras Brothers are successful acrobats; Ernest Montefiore and company introduce a capital scena, *The Little Colonel*; Harry Maxam, patter comedian, obtains appreciation; and George Adams, baritone vocalist, renders his songs in good style. The performance concludes with an excellent display of Vernon's animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama continues to attract good houses.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—On Monday evening, before a good house, commenced a return visit of Mr. Walter Melville's *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Miss Ada Oakley as Barbara Wade deserves much praise for her exertions, and so does Miss Nannie Meade, who presents Nellie Meadows with good effect. John Meadows is in the capable hands of Mr. Charles Franmore, and Mr. Frank R. Robertson cleverly sustains the part of Jack Livingstone. Mr. John Brooks as Luke Ramsden, Mr. Fred Ingram as Tony Turvey, Miss Elsie Saville as Constance Cornell, and Mr. Roy Fortesque as Cuthbert Luniley give successful performances.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company in the pantomime *Aladdin* is playing to crowded houses here. Miss Maidie Scott gives a charming performance as Aladdin, and her songs are well applauded. Miss Lily Lonsdale makes an excellent Princess, and is also an able vocalist, her rendering of "Violets" being highly pleasing. M. Julian Mack is a most amusing comedian, and is seen to advantage as the Widow Twankey. Another clever mirth-provoker is Mr. Ernie Myers as Abanazar. Others who render assistance are Mr. Geo. Cooper as the Emperor, Mr. Joe Robins as Wot Zi, Miss Flo Collier as Loo Li Ah Tee, and Miss Madge Northcote as Rhadiant.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—*The Convent Bell* is being presented here by Mr. Howell Webb's excellent company, and is doing good business.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A good programme is submitted here this week, and includes the Musical Johnstons, a trio of clever xylophone players, whose performance is loudly applauded. Will and August, comedy jugglers, are successful in creating much laughter; the Three Seymons are very acceptable in a smart equilibristic act, and "Roose," a supple contortionist, is greeted with much applause; Monty Walker is an amusing comedian; Kate Lynd, comedienne, is given a hearty welcome; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux is as popular as ever; and Charlie Dixon, eccentric comedian, is very good.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. John Gerant's company is here for the week with the military drama, *At Duty's Call*. Mr. Frank O Fenn is conspicuous as Captain George Allison and, in conjunction with Miss Alice Capel (Dora Drummond), readily gains the sympathy of the house. Villainy is capably enacted by Mr. John Gerant, his Harold Allison being a masterpiece of deceit and cunning. Miss Georgina Hamilton renders capable assistance as Salema, a slave. A well-studied portrait is that of Mr. Ernest St. John as General Gordon. In the lighter vein Mr Harry Ugar (Terry O'Hallaron), Mr. Gwyn Richardson (Jack Spencer), and Miss Harlington (Mary) all do well.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and company are presenting a drama entitled *Revenge* here this week. The play is well staged, and very forcibly played by a capable company, including Mr. Hill Mitchelson, Mr. Wellesley Draper, Miss Violet Carlyle, and Miss Rosabel Dodd.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The Brothers Artois, acrobatic clowns head the bill, their performance being very clever. Augustine and Hartley, jumpers; Zenary Brothers, acrobats; Gertrella, trapeze artist; Frank Stephens, vocalist; Minnie Dorina, dancer; and the Greys, operatic vocalists, are all good turns.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. Broadhead, jun.—The Leotards, comical clowns, are clever; the Sisters Petram have a good exhibition of marionette figures; and Lottie Abbey, vocalist; Grogie the Sussex yokel; Fred Villiers, comedian; and Great Hughes, who exposes hypnotism, add to the attractions of the bill.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P.D.L.—Mr Arthur Bourchier's Co., under the direction of Messrs. Sylvanus Dauncey and Mr. V. Leveaux paid on Monday night a return visit with the successful play, *The Walls of Jericho*, this being the company's first appearance after the visit to Holland. Mr. Edward A. Warburton played Jack Frobisher in a commanding and manly way; Miss Amy Ravenscroft gave him great assistance as Lady Alethea, her rendering of the part being excellent in every detail; Mr. Alfred S. Barber made the most of Hanky Bannister; Mr. Cecil Brooking was also very good as the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. A. W. Tyrer played the thankless part of Harry Dallas remarkably well. Miss Nora Wynne made a charming Lady Lucy; Miss Helen Haye was most effective as Lady Westerby; Miss Jean Harkness (Miss Mornington); Miss Mary Weigall (Duchess of Skye); Miss Mary Brooke (Lady Parchester); and Miss Alice Myddleton (Miss Wyatt) were all thoroughly capable in their respective parts.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford. — Mr. Redford has opened his season well, Mr. George Dance's principal company appearing this week in *The Orchid*. Mr. Bertie Wright is undoubtedly the life and soul of the piece, and in his exceedingly amusing impersonation of Meakin causes much merriment. Mr. Alfred Bennett, as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, is particularly droll and quaint; Mr. William Benson gives a clever and humorous portrayal of the fire-eating Comte de Cassignat; Mr. Clarence Seaton submits a capital delineation of Mr. Chesterton; Dr. Faussett has a reliable exponent in Mr. C. Stone; and Mr. Harry T. Butler's performance of Zaccary is decidedly good. Charming impersonations of Lady Violet and Josephine Zaccary are given by Miss Chrissie Ralland and Miss Mamie Stuart; while Miss Florence Vic as Caroline Vokins, Miss Elsa Werner as Zelie Humbert, and Miss Ruby Garman as Thisbe, are captivating exponents of their respective rôles.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—The pantomime *Cinderella* is here for another week. Miss M. Sadie, as Prince Charming is accorded much praise, her delineation being one of the most attractive features of the production. Miss Cissy Wade is doing extremely well as Cinderella; and the same can be said of the other artists, who render such excellent service. The comedians are also proving a big draw, and are largely responsible for the excellent business which has been done during the pantomime stay.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—As a contrast to Madrall and his wrestling troupe of last week, we have the scientific style of the well-known jiu-jitsu wrestler, Tarro Myaki, whose performance has excited much admiration; Verno and Voyce present their latest song scenas with great success; the Wally-Hoste Trio are clever acrobats and jugglers; the Picquays do extremely well with their graceful and difficult acrobatics; Ryan and Hall fairly bring down the house by their amusing and clever performance; while Alburtus and Bartram excel as club experts. The Sisters Gasch, graceful athletes; Sybil St. Elmo, a charming and gifted vocalist; and Leona Dare, in her refined musical trapeze act, complete a programme of exceptional merit.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. S. M'Kino; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers.—Capital audiences have this week accorded a hearty welcome to Mr. George Dance's company in the popular comic opera, *Veronique*. Miss Rita Leonhardt, in the title-rôle, contributes a most attractive and clever performance; her delightful rendering of the musical numbers allotted to the part is bright and artistic, and has gained her hosts of admirers. Miss Florence Lee is a lively Agatha, and Miss Florence Aylwin as the Countess is heard to advantage in her songs, and also displays histrionic powers of high merit. Miss Mary Young has met with much success as Denise, acting with plenty of "go" and singing nicely. M. Coquenard is clevery portrayed by Mr. Ellis Holland, a comedian with a style quite his own, which suits the character admirably, and creates roars of laughter. Mr. Roland Bottomley is a good-looking and smart exponent of the hero, Florestan; his singing is most effective, and is enthusiastically aplauded. Mr. Jack Crichton as the Bailiff and Mr. Tom Shefford as the Groom are responsible for much merriment.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—Frank Hilbert, the handcuff expert, is the star turn here this week, and meets with great appreciation; Jack Pleasants has made himself a firm favourite; M. C. Ugo, the illusionist, meets with a good reception; Bert Lytton, the swell comique, gets a fair share of applause; Carl Lynn is a clever mimic; the Voldam Bros., eccentric Dutch acrobats, cause roars of laughter; and Pollo Jerome is a graceful gymnast; the Hippodrome pictures complete the bill.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS. — Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Large and enthusiastic audiences greeted the appearance on Monday and Tuesday evenings of Mr. Lawrence Brough's original West-End company in the delightful farcical play *The Lady of Ostend* and *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally*. Mr. Lawrence Brough himself appeared as Le Baron de Longueville, and his performance of the Frenchman's part left nothing to be desired. Mr. Harry Hampson as Dick Whortles was irresistibly funny. Mr. Percy Marshall was admirable as Joseph Cadbury. Miss Kate Milford as Dorothy Whortles impersonated the part with much vim; and Miss Edith Ommandsen as Millie Grace enacted her part with grace and vivacity; Miss Dorcas Crosbie as Matilda Cazbury performed the rôle of the much-maligned mother-in-law excellently; Mr. Harold McNay made a droll Toby Knockitt; and Miss Stoke Edith in the title-rôle enacted her part capitally; Mr. Charles Groves, jun., as John Humbert; Mr. Hewson Elliott as Thompson; Miss Daisy Cook as Jane; and Mr. Ray L. Cody as James assisted in the success. On Tuesday evening *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was performed.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Charles Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor H. Masterman.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Love that Women Desire*, are appearing here, and meet with a good reception. Mr. J. C. Stewart plays effectively as Squire Abingdon, whose son Richard is well embodied by Mr. C. Quinton Fulford. Mr. David G. Noble is commendable as Philip Carnaby; Mr. G. Carlton Wallace proves himself a clever artist by his excellent portrayal of Frank Hardy; Miss Lydia Donavon gains approbation as Sybil Thorburn, and Miss Alice N. Livesey is a praiseworthy Madge Abingdon; Mariquinha finds a satisfactory exponent in Miss Clarissa Bamford; Mr. E. Morris and Miss Maud Stuart cause genuine hilarity as Dennis O'Rourke and Pattie Swift respectively.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. George G. Ridley.—Mr. Frank Curzon's *Sergeant Brue* company is paying a very welcome return visit to the Royal. Mr. George Barrett (Crookie Scrubbs), Miss Constance Lait (Aurora Brue), and Violet Dene (Lady Bickenhall) repeat their excellent representations to everyone's satisfaction; while among the new members of the company we notice Mr. Percy Clifton, immensely popular as Sergeant Brue; Mr. Charles Hanbury, an energetic Michael Brue; Miss Constance Berkeley, a lively Daisy; and Mr. A. E. E. Edwards, an eccentric Mr. Crank.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Miss Marie Kendall tops the bill here, and proves as popular as ever. Steve McCarthy is applauded for his neat dancing; Mozarto's instrumental selections are well received; plenty of pathos is introduced into Mr. and Mrs. R. Royston Dene's sketch, *His Birthday*; and lots of fun in *The Registry Office*, played by Matt Wilkinson's company. Violet Beatrice, Irish comedienne, pictures by Lacey's Erascope, and character songs by George Edney complete the attractions.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Here we have Beattie Kent, comedienne; Tom Collins, character comedian; Ada Vernon, burlesque actress; Mountford and Walsh, in a pleasing scena; Frank Cass, whose most successful ditty is "In Vanity Fair"; Jessica Grace, with a travesty on the coon song craze, in which she is ably assisted by a couple of smart lads; Joe O'Gorman, with patter, song, and dance, fairly brings down the house; while the concluding item comprises a number of interesting pictures projected by means of the Edisonograph.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company presented *Dr. Wake's Patient* on Monday evening. Mr. Douglas Vigors was dignified and human as the doctor; Miss Olive Terry played delightfully the part of the wayward yet lovable Lady Gerania; Mr. Alfred Wellesley and Miss Amy Fanchette as the doctor's parents—old Devonshire folk—made the most of their chances; Mr. Arthur Willoughby as the Earl of St. Olbyn was convincing; and Miss Ina Pelly as the heartless Countess was effective. Mr. Herbert Ross made an amusing Duff Wynterden, giving a clever and well-defined study of the good-natured man about town; Miss Harriett Webb was pleasing as Harriet Bronson; and Mr. Alfred Phillips as the Bishop of Selby; Miss Lidia Rachel as Mrs. Murdoch; Mr. H. L. Dobree as Mr. Murdoch; Miss Amy Townsend as the Gipsy, and Mr. Henry Martyn and Miss Dorothy Gordon as the farm servants, neatly sketched in their respective parts. The play is effectively mounted; the scenery being by Mr. Edmund G. Banks.

VICTORIA ROOMS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. B. Shenton.—Paul Vandy and his London company are here for two weeks. On Monday evening Mr. Victor Newman gave a thrilling impersonation of the late Sir Henry Irving as Mathias, and met with a very flattering reception. Vernando submitted a refreshingly original ventriloquial entertainment; Mr. J. McCann was responsible for an astounding exhibition of step-dancing, roller-skating, &c.; and the Bodina Trio and Miss Dora Barrington, mandolinists, banjoists, &c.; Mr. Paul Vandy in clever legerdemain; and a Bioscope entertainment complete the programme.

CHORLEY.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. G. T. Sante; Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's Company in the romantic drama *The Branded Woman* is paying a visit to the above theatre this week. Mr. James Stillwell in the dual rôle of Zarke and Philip Maurice shows considerable talent, his acting being greatly appreciated by the audience. The part of Geneviene Laroche, the Branded Woman, is well sustained by Miss Zana St. George. Miss Catharine Barrett, as Marie, and Miss Cissy Haighton, as Jaqueline, ably acquit themselves in their respective parts; as also do Mr. Edward Fryer, as Leon Baron Hauber, and Mr. Paul E. Toulon as Louis Duroc.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Bayne.—The attraction here this week is *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, presented by Mr. Frederick Melville's Company. Miss Beatrice Homer sustains the title rôle in a manner worthy of high praise; Mr. Philip Darien as the hero, Jack Merriman, displays histrionic abilities; as the scheming Antonio Luchesi Mr. Charles Barrett has a part that fits him like a glove; Miss Margaret Wilson is highly successful as Usrita; Miss Agnes Denver submits a convincing reading of the adventuress, Rose Courtney; Mr. William Wallace gives a smart character sketch of Raggles, a loafer; Mr. Tubby Eblin, as Herrick, and Miss Nellie Jackson, as Aggie Brown, are responsible for much of the fun; Mr. Leyton Chancellor, as Hubert Gold, and Mr. Allan Devonport are also worthy of mention.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—The Cragg's Congress of Comedians occupy the boards here this week with the musical-pantomimical absurdity *Laughter Land*, and on Monday evening the house was crowded. Mr. H. B. Lewis represents Professor Sylvanus Wood with great effect; Mr. Harry Rousby scores a big success as Dick Marlow; too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Cremorne Cragg for his admirable rendering of Billy; Mr. C. Edwards takes full advantage of his opportunities as Ald. Trentham; Mr. Dan Hardie is exceedingly happy in his impersonation of Squire Topsham; and as Archie Mr. S. Basil Reynolds meets with a good reception; Miss Amy Hastings deserves high commendation for her capable interpretation of Clarisse; and Miss Louise Millward acquits herself creditably as Clothilda. Specialities are introduced by the Sisters Belgrave, banjo duettists; the Cragge (six in number); Mr. H. B. Lewis and Mr. Harry Rousby in a catchy song, "Maiden fair and charming."

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. G. H. W. Burroughe's pantomime *Sinbad*, is here this week, and on Monday opened to a very good house. In the title-rôle Miss Louie Fuller is excellent; and as the dame Mr. H. G. Brandon is most efficient. Among the other male artists, Mr. Chas. J. Langton, Mr. Will Denny, Mr. Clarence Franks, Mr. Jack MacMahon, Mr. Fred Fuller, Mr Arthur Weston, Mr. J. Sanbrook, Mr. J. Graham, and Mr. Dick McKay are most noticeable, whilst the ladies include Miss Florence Barnes, Miss W. Hamilton, Miss May Gower, Miss Ada Langton, Miss Flo Spencer, and Miss Nellie Trevellian.

GRAND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Business-Manager, Mr. Ralph le Butt.—Prominent among the turns this week is a farce by Kitty Clover and Co., entitled *Mistaken Identity*; Harry and May Kent are a welcome item; Charles Clark scores as a character comedian; and a clever performance is that of Frobel and Ruge in an aerial act; Flo Banks, comedienne, and Harry Wenburn, comedian, well sustain their rôles; and the re-introduction of the biograph into the programme is greeted with acclamation.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is paying a return visit here this week with the musical comedy, *Dare Devil Dorothy*. Gerald Garston is being played by Mr. Walter Bryce, and Captain Geo. Fielding and Captain Edward Dudley are in the safe hands of Mr. Cecil W. Parke and Mr. Henry C. Wood respectively. Mr. Arthur Verne as Silas Crump, and Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith are exceedingly funny. Miss Norah Caronne is very pleasing as Ruth Montrose, and Miss Dorothy Desmonde is a charming Dorothy Montrose. Miss Nellie Harcourt in her song, "My Irish Molly" and her skipping-rope dance is deservedly applauded. Miss Dorothy Desmond is loudly encored for her song, "You're not the only rosebud," and her "Cuckoo" song.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday in *Carmen*. As Escamillo Mr. Lewys James was capital, his conception of the part being admirable; Mdlle. de Lussan as Carmen was as brilliant as ever, acting and singing with great charm; Mr. Joseph O'Mara as Don Jose was excellent in the part, his solos being heartily received; Miss Kate Anderson as Michaela was sympathetic. The other parts were well sustained, and the chorus and orchestra did good work. *The Huguenots*, *Tannhäuser*, *Faust*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Maritana* are also in the répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme here is up to the usual high standard. The Boccaccio Minstrels are singers and musicians of much excellence, Signor Francia being a remarkably skilled mandolinist; Gillin is a capital ventriloquist; Craig, Rose, and Craig, dental athletes, give a sensational turn; Miss Fanny Erris, as a character comedienne, does well; R. C. Note sings a number of popular songs; the Clement Trio of trapeze artists accomplish some clever feats; Volp and Cleveland delight the audience with selections on musical instruments; and Davis and Gledhill give an exciting turn in a sensational bicycle race around a miniature track.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—*The 10.30 Down Express*, a stirring drama, played by Mr. Horace Stanley's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Mr. George Arthur, as the villain, James Inderwick, shows marked ability; while Mr. Charles Burdon succeeds admirably as the hero, Jack O'Malley; Mr. Claud Haviland makes a very clever detective, Huntley Mason; Mr. Arthur E. Francis as Bletherby Bags, the man in possession, is another well-sustained part; Miss Elsie Capel is pleasing in her rendering of Besse Leigh; Miss Clara Stanley is good in the difficult part of Olive Coombes; Miss Evelyn M. Walton ably fills the amusing part of Letitia Leigh; and Miss Kate Kilpack is successful as Peggy Potts.

THE HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—A varied and capable company is drawing good houses to this place of amusement, amongst whom are the Eight Lancashire Lads, who prove to be talented singers and expert clog dancers; The Collinson Combination appear in a pleasing act entitled the Cook's Guest; J. C. Callaghan is a good comedian; The Camerons appear in a comedy duel entitled The Ploughman and the Lady Guide; Miss Florrie St. Clair, comedienne, Miss Gertie Gitana, a capable vocalist, Miss Beattie, comedienne, and Wallace Whitney, comedian, also contribute.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—*Driven from Home* is being played here this week by Mr. Andrew Melville's company. Mr. Felix Pitt takes the rôle of Anthony Raybrooke in a pleasing and dignified manner, and Mr. Herbert Humphreys is seen to advantage as Walter Heatherleigh. Miss Frances Ruttledge gives a pleasing interpretation of Laura Raybrook, and Miss Florence Nelson is effective as Barbara Ashdown. Mr. Andrew Emm deserves special mention for his rendering of Willie, the outcast; and Mr. Fred Harker wins applause as Geoffrey Waring. Mr. Howard Tracey shows a careful study as George Clissold, as also does Mr. Geo. Lawrence as Peter Pettifer. The fun of the play is in the capable hands of Mr. H. Liddle as John Anderson and Miss Evelyn Marrable as Margaret Bailey. Miss Jessie Yatman is a capital little boy (Walter Hatherleigh), and Miss Florence Wilson deserve mention as Peggy.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—The pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is presented here this week by Messrs. C. St. John Denton and George Blunt's Company to large and enthusiastic houses. Miss Rose Dearing makes a charming principal boy; and Miss Dot Reeve is admirably suited to the part of Phyllis, a village maid; Miss Nora Doonen and Miss Marie Dunca make two very clever and pretty Babes; Mr. George Rowlands depicts the wicked Baron in really funny style; and Messrs. Myles and May make very amusing and eccentric robbers; Mr. Edwin Adeler convulses the house with his drolleries as the Dame, and as the Baron's page Mr. Tom Parker is responsible for a large amount of mirth. Specialities are introduced by Messrs. Myles and May, the Olympian Stars, and Mr. Tom Parker, all of whom are very successful.

CROYDON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. James; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Herrick.—The attraction here this week is *East Lynne*...Mr. Frank Stone is satisfactory as Archibald Carlisle; Mr. Ernest Edwards is excellent as Lord Mountsevern; Mr. Fred Morgan is well placed as Francis Levison; Mr. J. C. Manning deserves praise as Richard Hare; and Mr. James May is adequate as Lawyer Dill; Miss Marie De Ross is a sympathetic Lady Isabel; Miss Nell Gilmore is commendable as Cornelia Carlisle; Miss Minnie Grey is creditable as Barbara Hare; and Miss Lottie Moss is a suitable Joyce.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Messrs. Haddon and Loader's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, is here this week. The company is a capable one. Miss Nellie Burdette, as principal boy Jack, well fills the part; Miss Rose Sylvester's singing is charming; Miss Rene Rennie, as the wicked Fairy, vocalises with great effect; the Sisters Poole are very charming dancers; Messrs. Grant and Allen cause much amusement in their eccentric business; Mr. H. A. Lonsdell, as the Giant, gives a wonderful performance; Mr. Dan Paulton as Squire Musty is amusing; Mr. James Laurier as Silly Billy is very droll; and the Sisters Florenca and the Alhambra Trio are clever in their speciality dances.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Drama is again the fare here, Messrs. Hill and Ayrton's company presenting *The Gambler's Daughter* to excellent houses. In the dual rôles of Mildred Grant and Miriam Grant Miss Adria Hill excels herself; Mr. Robert Ayrton as Desmond O'Dare gives a fine impersonation of an Irish character.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE. Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Denley. Miss May Austine and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds are presenting this week *The Golden Ladder*. As the young missionary, Frank Thornhill, Mr. Harry Cullenford scores a distinct success; the Lilian Grand of Miss Ena Moss is equally praiseworthy; as Michael Severn, Mr. J. Milner Taylor is eminently satisfactory; and the Greek adventurer is capably accounted for by Mr. Graham Winsford. Samuel Peckaby has a capital exponent in Mr. Joseph Rowlands; Miss Nellie Graham receives adequate support as Mrs. Peckaby; and Mr. Hy. Delford extracts a good deal of fun out of Jim Dixon. Miss Kate Haselwood as Prisoner No. 2, Miss Jessie Gillette as Victoria, and Miss Holly Haselwood, a child actress; Mr. William Millward as John Grant, Mr. Wm. Clayton as Noah Learoyd, Miss Janet Wakeling as Rossomazy and Mr. Eric Thompson as Rao, also deserve special mention.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. A. Edwards; Assistant-Manager, Mr.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—The management here provides a rare treat this week in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, the whole being under the capable management of Mr. H. R. Matthews. The part of Hang Chow is in the capable hands of Mr. St. John Hamund; Mr. Jack Lisle ably represents the Lord High Admiral; Mr. L. B. Webster acted in dashing style as Tom Hatherton; Mr. Foster Courtenay as Mr. Pineapple works hard, presenting comedy that is irresistible; and a delightfully vivacious exponent of Mrs. Pineapple is found in Miss Poppie Wilkinson, who captivates all by her piquant acting and charming singing and dancing. Miss Edie Ross as the mother-in-law, Mrs. Brown, deserves praise; Miss Ada Watson as Soo-Soo acts throughout very prettily; and Miss Minnie Leslie plays in inimitable style as Fi-Fi the waitress, her every appearance being the signal for a roar. All the principal songs are heartily encored, and the piece is highly appreciated.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Edwards.—The Great Haydas, a troupe of comedy acrobats, head the bill with a performance of exceptional skill; Rezene and Robini keep the house convulsed during their clever and amusing double trapeze act; Spry and Monti introduce some capital dancing into a very enjoyable turn; Frank Boyce, character comedian, is scoring with some smart songs; Lilian Rigby delights with first-class music and dancing; a very acceptable turn is that of Dan Filmer, comedian and dancer; and Madge Roberts, comedienne and dancer; and Alfred Le Thomas, vocal comedian, complete the programme.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Perkins.—Mr. Esmonde Bramley's company of Shakespearean players are located here this week. *Romeo and Juliet* was efficiently presented on Monday. Miss Millie Ford gave a cleverly-enacted embodiment of Juliet; Miss Maude Garth made an excellent and stately Lady Capulet; Mrs. Bernard Parkin acted with skill the part of the Nurse; Mr. Cyril Este was an admirable Romeo, and at times his acting rose to a very high level indeed; Mr. Philip Gordon as Peter, Mr. F. Owen Chambers as Friar Lawrance, and Mr. Baliol Holloway as Mercutio gave most praiseworthy interpretations of their respective parts. The week's bill includes *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *Richard III.*

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The New York Nippers, in their clever speciality act, *Bedtime*, are again delighting the audience here. Mr. Arthur Croxon gets a good reception for his clever imitations; G. Wilson returns with his exciting equilibrist act; and a fine programme also includes Miss Hetty Lee, Fifi Gordon, Jack Charman, vocalists; Albert Morrow, conjurer; and the Vernon animated pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington* has proved a very big draw. Mr. Pearce is a clever comedian; Mrs. Williams appears with great success as Alice; Miss Kathleen Emmet is still to the fore as Dick, and introduces "My Japanesy girl" with great success; Mr. Fred Collins is a big favourite as the Scotch Cook; Alveno and Cleo introduce a daring act on the swinging break-away ladder; and altogether the pantomime must be voted a popular success.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mon-Tag-a-Ragra, an Indian hypnotist, gives a most amusing and instructive performance; Josef Yerinik challenges with success all comers in any style of wrestling; Mons. Tevelayan is a clever trick cyclist; and Otto Roseno is a successful mimic; Russel and Hatton are smart comedians; and Nellie Spenser, vocalist, Arabella Rose and Charley Morris, clog dancers, complete the bill.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company appeared here the first three nights of the week in *A Trip to Chinatown*. Mr. Harry Stuart is a capable exponent of Welland Strong; Mr. Edward De Vere makes a capital Ben Gay; Mr. Oswald Grey is well placed as, and sings well, as Rashleigh Gay; Mr. Leonard May does justice to the character of Slavin Payne; Miss Hettie Gale is a vivacious and fascinating Mrs. Guyer, singing and dancing well; and Miss Lake Grange is a very clever Flirt. Mr. J. Clifford Wright and company appeared the latter part of the week.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—During the first part of the week Mr. Harold V. Neilson's company is appearing here in *A Doll's House*. As Nora Helmer Miss Amy Sangster scores quite a triumph; her work generally is worthy of the highest praise, and in the last act she displays commendable grip and judgment. Miss K. M. Romsey is a gentle and very effective Mrs. Linden, and Miss Marguerite Romney a homely, pleasing Anna. Mr. Courtenay Thorpe is again a very fine Torrald, giving a clever and polished performance. Mr. Lionel Atwill is an excellent Doctor, and plays with much appreciation of the part. Mr. Harold Neilson is a well-defined Krogstad. During the latter part of the week *A Maker of Men*, *The Light that Failed*, and *Cousin Jo* were billed.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Experimentally a melodrama is being offered to the patrons here, and Miss Maud Hildyard and company are appearing in *The Great Awakening*. Miss Maud Hildyard has established her right to be considered one of our leading actresses in melodrama, and as Lola Selby she fully maintains her reputation. A willowy form, clothed in brilliant raiment, a gliding grace and a seductive manner, all combine to make her performance a startling and effective one. Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worts is the source of much fun, and Miss Jessie Burgwitz is a satisfactory Molly Merton. Mr. Charles Vivian submits a powerful and well-defined portrait of James Selby; Mr. Bernard Copping does skilful work as Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton; Mr. Julian Hartleigh is a capital villain as Guy Loganne; and Mr. Willie Scott provides the comic element in liberal quantities as Billy Brass. Mr. James E. Page is a very good Richard Wilson; Mr. Tracy Barrow is an animated Antoine; and Mr. Charles Fancourt a satisfactory Captain Lambert. The scenery, dresses, and staging generally are of the best.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—The top-of-the-bill item is certainly a novelty here. Colossus (weighing 36 stone), and L'Homme (34lb.) are objects of admiration and wonder. Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company creates roars of laughter with the sketch, *The Battle of the Belles*; the Stavordale Quintette contribute a very meritorious musical turn; Miss Jenny Belmore is quickly a favourite with the audience in her songs; Mr. Andy Higginson scores with his up-to-date songs; Miss Edna Payne succeeds in her male impersonations; Mr. Martell amuses as a small comedian; and the bioscope pictures complete the bill.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, is wonderfully popular here. The mixture of beautiful scenery, excellent acting, and good music has drawn all the town, and the piece seems to run with as much vitality as it did at its early performances. Miss Ruth Lytton has proved to be a most fascinating principal boy, and her acting has lost none of its vigour or brightness. Miss Rhoda Gordon's pleasing impersonation of Morgiana is another capital bit of work, and Miss Molly Maguire's Fairy Sesame is also a graceful and easy performance, in which admirable singing is a feature. Mr. Tom E. Murray, Mr. M. S. Rigg, Mr. Henry Claff (a cultured singer), Mr. Ernest Rees, and other members of the cast work heartily together towards the general success.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. George Edwardes's company made an instantaneous success here on Monday in *The Little Michus*. The house was crowded and the audience enthusiastic. The melodious music of M. André Messager was admirably interpreted, and the opera was staged with the completeness of all Mr. Edwardes's productions. Mr. Eric Thorne as General Des Ifs was in excellent form, and played with immense comic force. His business was extremely humorous, his byplay thoroughly entertaining, and his speeches were delivered in irresistibly amusing style. The audience roared with laughter while he was on the stage and followed his exits with the heartiest applause. That sterling comedian, Mr. Jack Cannot, had in Bagnolet a part to which he did complete justice. His acting was funny, his dancing—frequently encored—was dexterous, and his singing was admirable. Mr. Leonard Mackay displayed his fine baritone voice to advantage in the music allotted to the character of Aristide Vert, and acted with quiet humour; Mr. Arthur Royd sang and played with credit as the young officer, Gaston Rigaud; Mr. Eardley Turner was happily cast as Pierre Michu; and Mr. Willie Wardo, jun., was a quaintly funny market man. The little Michus—Blanche Marie and Marie Blanche—had very charming representatives in Miss Iris Hoey and Miss Mabel Green. These young ladies acted with delightful grace and sweetness, and sang with taste and expression. Miss Lenora Braham was a bright and pleasant Madame Michu, and a word of praise is due to the capital sketch of a market woman by Miss Adeline Lester. Miss Ivy Louise, as Mdlle. St. Cyr, gave two solo dances with a daintiness and beauty that aroused the enthusiasm of the audience. Subordinate parts were filled with spirit by several young and pretty girls, gowned in the picturesque dresses of the Empire period. The chorus and orchestra did well under the direction of Mr. Harold Vicars.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Mr. Montefiore has added another to his many successes in the pantomime *Aladdin*. The piece is still running merrily before crowded and delighted audiences, who are abundantly satisfied with the feast of good things provided for them. Songs and dances are cheerful, quaint, happy, and the humour of the actors, headed by Mr. Walcroft, the Scottish comedian, finds full scope. Mr. Montefiore must be congratulated upon the production of a spectacle which contains so much that is undoubtedly enjoyable, whether as regards the art of the actor or the warmth and colour of the scenic effects.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—Quality is by no means overlooked in the quantity of items included in this week's bill. The most prominent turns include an amusing demonstration in electricity and hypnotism by Dr. Carl Hermann, the extraordinary aquatic feats of Mr. James and Miss Marie Finney, excellent singing by Miss Florrie Gallimore, and the Four Coloured Meisters, and some very mirthful diversions by the Brothers Leslie. A clever display of acrobatic dancing is given by the Three Amaranths; smart trapeze performances are successfully carried through by Lydia and Albino and by the Hans Hansen Trio; Princess Pauline proves herself a dashing comedienne; Mr. Barney Vox is a good ventriloquist; and some enjoyable singing as well as expert dancing is provided by Mr. Billy Hobbs, the Three Bostonians, and the Sisters Neilson.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—An excellent programme of equestrian and variety turns, including a graceful act by Miss Marie and Miss Edina Moika, and the Four Watsons in their society sketch, followed by the exciting Arctic spectacle, *Lapland*, continues to attract good houses to this popular place of amusement. The enterprising veteran manager never fails to cater well for his patrons, and the present entertainment is a signal addition to the successes of many seasons past. Some important changes in the bill are announced for the coming week, when a big spectacular novelty will be introduced.

EDMONTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Joseph L. S. Moss; Manageress, Mrs. H. B. Moss.—On Monday, Miss Winifred Maude's company, under the direction of Mr. Victor Du Cane, opened with *The Sins of a City*. Miss Winifred Maude impersonated the heroine, Seaweed (afterwards known as Nora), in a charming and graceful manner, and Sandy McDonald was capitally played by Mr. Royce Carleton. As Donald McIvor, Seaweed's adopted father, Mr. Edward Finlay was all that could be desired. Mr. Victor Du Cane acquitted himself admirably as Isaac Levi. He acted with finish and sound discretion, and his dresses were all well chosen. In the dual parts of Joe Woodleigh and Jasper Woodleigh (twin brothers) Mr. Norton Shields worked hard, and was quite successful. The part of Ralph Blackwater, K.C., was safe in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur E. Pringle, and another K.C. (Mr. Williams) was well played by Mr. Marton. Mr. Wilbrague was sufficiently important as the Judge; Miss Amy Corallie, who plays Midge, the servant of Jasper Woodleigh, greatly pleased the audience not only by the manner in which she interpreted the part, but by her singing and dancing also. Other characters were capitally played by Miss Jessie Mason, Miss Marie Lyons, Miss Lily Mason, Mr. W. E. Simpson, Mr. Yale, and Mr. Reginald Green.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, concludes a most successful run this week. It has drawn crowded and appreciative houses each night, and the company has given every satisfaction. Miss Bessie Allayne as Jack, and Mr. Harry Buss as Dame Durden, have been popular from the first; Miss Allayne has a very nice voice, and Mr. M. Buss is an excellent comedian. The Sisters Leigh are graceful dancers, and their songs are good. The other comedians, Professor Phlibinite (Mr. E. W. Laceby), the MacHagges (Mr. H. A. Griffiths), and Messrs. Esmond and Verona have ably assisted Mr. Buss, and have caused much laughter. The singing and dancing of the other members of the company have given unbounded satisfaction, and the pantomime has gone with a capital swing throughout. Captain Max Gruber, with his performing elephant, horse, and pony is the speciality this week.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—The stage at this cosy little house was occupied on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday by Mr. E. Lockwood's company in the successful musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. The title rôle is admirably filled by Mr. Paddy Dupres. Mr. C. M. Logan as Crookie Scrubbs was also responsible for much of the amusement. As Aurora Brue Miss Lilian Middleton scored a success by charming and animated acting. Mr. Crank found a capable exponent in Mr. Henry Chichester, and Mr. E. Percy Rogers as Michael Brue. Miss Midge Clark as Lady Bickenhall, Miss Elina Earle as Daisy, Miss Aileen Macdonald as Mabel Widget, and Miss Vera St. Claire as Eva Graham are deserving of special mention. Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company, with the Gaiety success, *The Toreador*, filled the bill the remainder of the week.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—This week Mr. Bert Rutlev's company is paying a return visit with *An English Belle*, described as a pantomimic burlesque. Miss Ida Dorrie is a dashing Jolly Jack; and Miss Gertie Wasley, a winsome Alice Oakfield, renders several songs in a pleasing manner. Miss Stella Sanger gives a good character sketch of Mrs. Oakfield; Mr. Bert Rutley, as Squire Hardacre, has a part which suits him to a nicety; Mr. Harry Hunter is exceedingly funny as Consul, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Will Redmond as Sunny Jim. Mr. Jas Christie is well placed as the Rajah. Several entertaining specialities are introduced in Act II., including Miss Lizzie Levaine, a pleasing coon singer and dancer; Mr. Will Redmond, bone soloist; Mdlle. Zarina, acrobatic contortionist; and the Three Cheers in *Dick Whittington*.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—This week's attraction is supplied by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *The Freedom of Suzanne*. Miss Beatrice Lindley (a native of Folkestone) is entirely successful in the title-rôle, which she enacts with much spirit and charm; Mr. Percy D. Standing, as Charles Trevor, gives a pleasing impersonation; Mr. F. G. Thurstans is equally successful, and causes fun as Fitzroy Harding; Mr. William Mallalieu as Sir Horace Hatton is exceedingly good; Mr. Townsend Whitling as Lord Datchet fills the part with ability; Mr. Edward Bonfield as Lord Cecil gives a neat portrayal; Mr. Archie Selwyn's Tommy Keston is well played; Lady Charlotte is capitally acted by Miss Emily Patterson; Miss Violet Ley is charmingly natural as Lady Isabel; Miss Annie Stalman makes the most of Mrs. Tustal; Mrs. Mallalieu and Miss Charlotte Mead must be commended for the skilful rendering of their respective parts.

TOWN HALL.—Lessee, Mr. E. J. Chadwick.—Mr. C. W. Poole's combination of amusements are here this week delighting large audiences. Miss Daisy Graham scores a success with her collection of birds; Little Doretta is a smart acrobatic dancer; Harry Stewart, Protean artist, receives applause; Kitty Woodford's canine circus and orchestra is a novel and interesting turn; the Avondale Quartette makes a hit; Leonard and Mac, comedians, show marked ability; and Cecil F. Couper, as the guide and descriptive vocalist, leaves nothing to be desired. The animated pictures are good; and the orchestra is under the efficient conductorship of Mr. A. S. Morrell.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robert Kirk.—Mr. Thos. Mackenzie's company (by arrangement with Mr. Lockwood) appeared here for three nights last week in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Harold Carson gave an amusing impersonation of the title-rôle; Mr. Albert James, as Crookie Scrubbs, was excellent; and Miss Elsie Molloy as Lady Bickenhall and Miss Gertie Fawcett as Aurora were charming. Mr. Frank Wilson sang well as Michael Brue; and the rest of the characters were capably played. The chorus was well-balanced and the scenery and costumes were pretty.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—*The Sailors of the King* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Charles Harrington is seen to advantage in the part of Admiral Drake; Mr. Harry Douglass is a convincing Dick Drake; Orrel Drake, a villainous naval chaplain, is successfully portrayed by Mr. F. Vernon Travers; an admirable piece of acting is that submitted by Mr. Walter Farnsworth, who plays Rufford Dent; Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., is very amusing as Barnet Fair; a like remark being applicable to Mr. Fred Owen, who portrays Harris Wilkinstein; Miss Sylvia Stela creates a good impression as Felicia Phrynne; Miss Maud Digby is sufficiently replusive as Rebecca Crosby; Daisy Dent is excellently impersonated by Miss Hero Hathway.

METROPOLE THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—At this house, Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard are presenting, with great success, the romantic play *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. Paumier submits a powerful impersonation of Paul Valmar, and is the recipient of loud applause; the Crown Prince receives full justice at the hands of Mr. Fred W. Freeman; Mr. Clinton Baddelely makes a villainous Captain Von Scarsbruck, and is ably assisted in his vile schemes by Lieutenant Eugene von Strelsburg, a part capitally played by Mr. Sidney Lynn. Mr. W. S. Hardy is successful in the small part of Father Gerrard. In the lighter parts of the play Messrs Fred Constable Reginald Payne, and Algie Spalding, as Max, Otto and Bobe, do well in their respective parts. In Miss Annie Saker is found an admirable actress for the part of Princess Anstrea; Miss Ada Champion is a very lively Kathie; Miss Florence Hunt as Satanella and Miss Prudence Laurence as Marie play their parts satisfactorily.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon. Acting-Manager, Mr. M. S. Smith.—The attraction here is Mr. Walter Reynolds's new play, *Mr. Smith*. In the title-part Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart scores a big success; as the Earl of Oxted, Mr. Sidney Price gives a good account of himself; Mr. William Dunlop's impersonation of the Duke of Angleland is complete in every way; Herr Diedrich Anheuser is in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert Bentone; as the Duchess of Angleland, Miss Mary Relph is seen to great advantage; Miss Phyllis Relph is a charming Ruth Anheuser; Mrs. Alfred Davis acquits herself creditably as Mrs. Smith; Lady Mary Hildergate is successfully impersonated by Miss Ethel Milton.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Aladdin* continues to cram the Royal nightly to its utmost capacity, and the advance booking is strong. Mr. Harry Lauder, Mr. Dan Crawley, Misses Bessie Featherstone, Alice Russon, Birdie Sutherland, and Jose Collins, and Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, in their respective parts, have combined to make one of the biggest successes the Royal has ever had.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is revisiting this city for a few weeks in the gay and tuneful comedy, *Lady Madcap*. The bright particular star of the company is still Miss Marie Studholme, in the part of Lady Betty. Miss Nina Sevening's Gwennie Holden is also a lady of considerable charm; and the parts of Mrs. Layton and Susan are attractively filled by Miss Ethel Griffies and Miss Mabel Russell respectively. Mr. J. Robert Hale sustains the part of Bill Stratford with fine, breezy humour; and in the hands of Mr. Oliver J. Round the character of Posh Jenkins becomes quite a study; a skilful delineation of Count de St. Hubert is given by Mr. Ernest Mahan; Mr. Arthur Longley's Oroya Brown causes much amusement; and Mr. E. Statham Staples is well-suited as Corporal Ham. Distinctive military types are seen in the Colonel Leyton of Mr. W. E. Richardson, the Major Blatherswaite of Mr. B. H. Eustace, and the Captain Harrington of Mr. J. Edward Fraser; while the parts of Lord Framlingham and Palmer are characteristically portrayed by Messrs. Henry Latimer and Douglas Munro.

KING'S THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—*Little Red Riding Hood* continues to meet with undiminished popularity. As Red Riding Hood, Miss Phyllis Monkman has established herself as a favourite; Miss Margaret Ruby, with her taking style, wins a host of friends. The comedians, Messrs. Malcolm Scott, George Le Clerq, Ben Brown, Fred Gray, Harry Grell, Will Cutler, and Arthur Ricketts, fill their respective parts with credit. Miss Dorothy Monkman as Bo Peep is most successful; and the clever dancing of the Tiller Girls is still one of the best items in the production.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Judging by the attendance, the interest taken in *Simple Simon* seems to be on the increase. Miss Esta Stella is now an established favourite; the Sisters Hall and Miss Lily Lingard are greatly appreciated. Plenty of humour is also provided, Messrs. Lawrence Barclay, Larry Lewis, and Jack Lorimer being the chief purveyors in this line. The dresses and scenery are pretty and effective, and new songs and business are being added whenever opportunity offers.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—This week sees the close of the run of *Aladdin*, and this bright and enjoyable pantomime, which has held the boards here since November, will soon be but a memory. Miss Carrie Moore's Aladdin has brought her hosts of admirers; and the Biddy of Miss Ada Blanche, the Princess of Miss Kathleen Courtney, and the lively "second boy" of Miss Rosie Begarnie, have all been of special merit. The comedians, too, have proved their ability, and Messrs. Charley Harvey, Alfred Beers, and Alfred Clarke are assured of a hearty welcome on their next visit. Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe's singing as Pekoe has also been a feature.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company is here this week with the interesting play, *Proof*, in which Mr. F. H. De Quincey sustains with fine effect the part of the hero, Pierre Lorance. Miss Lucy Pritty Tydd gives a good rendering of Madeline in the prologue and of Adrienne in the drama. The part of Valentine is powerfully acted by Miss May Grimshaw. A word of praise is due to Miss Ellina Turner for her charming rendering of the little girl Adrienne in the prologue; Mr. William Dexter satisfactorily portrays the villainous Lazare; Mr. Wilford Bailey imparts some enlivening comedy to the part of Chamboran; pleasantly picturesque representations are those of Madame Duprets by Miss Phena Powell, and the Duchesse D'Aubeterre by Miss Dorothy White.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Govan playgoers are this week revelling in their second pantomime, which is Mr. Milton Bode's *Puss in Boots*, after its successful season in Aberdeen and Dundee. Miss Gladys Warren as Colin makes a handsome and striking principal boy, with a taking style, and her songs are rendered with special animation and appreciation of their possibilities; Miss Janet H. Reynolds is a sprightly Princess Joy, sings well, and dances neatly, and ably helps in the general success. The comedians are a lively lot, headed by Mr. Tatten Hall, whose King Crabbus is a most amusing personation; while Mr. Harry Bickley as Dame Shortly, afterwards the Queen, is screamingly funny in every scene. Mr. Leo Sterling makes a comical Rumphiz, and, in addition to his share in the fun, gives a very clever musical turn; Mr. Tommy Nelldon as Muggles is most versatile, and in his numerous make-ups, and with his command of the Scotch, he soon establishes himself a favourite; Miss Marie Reeve is a smart Prince Rudolph, and her coon song and dance was enthusiastically encored; Miss Grace Langley as Phyllis also shares the honours in song and dance; Mr. Barry Gilmore makes a clever Puss in Boots, and his acrobatic antics are clever and enjoyable.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—The Grigolati's Flying Ballet is at the top of the bill here, and the flights are as wonderful as they are graceful, while the lighting effects are marvellous in their beauty; Jan Rudenyi, the Hungarian violinist, shows his skill in three diversified and difficult selections; Frank Seeley's eccentric humour keeps the audience in roars of laughter; Edie King contributes a clever Cinderella scena, introducing some very neat dancing; Poole and Poolo are a clever couple of eccentric dancers, who are also well received; the Sarnthaler Troupe of Tyrolean singers and dancers give an enjoyable turn; Griffin and Judge are smart acrobats, and their jumping feats are extremely good. The Debreans, Japanese jugglers; Vi and Ethel Esdaile, as dancers; and the bioscope complete a fine programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal attraction here is the engagement of the well-known basso profundo, Lemprière Pringle, assisted by Scott Russell, in an excerpt from Gounod's opera *Faust*. Both artists had a good reception. Nellie Coleman gives impersonations of different characters in her own funny style; a good turn is submitted by Dome, the expert clay-modeller; while the dancing of the Northern Troupe is much enjoyed. The other members include the Four Ramlos, whirling comedians; Alice May and company, sketch artists; Celest, wire marvel; American Comedy Four; Ruth Molloy, clever mimic; and animated pictures by Hippodrome Bioscope.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan.—Richard Sawade's lions, bears, tigers, &c, provide a star turn here of special merit; the Serenaders give an enjoyable musical turn, combining humour, song, and dance; the Tups are an amusing couple of comedy acrobats; the St. Johns again give their clever musical act, and also prove themselves step-dancers of much ability; Little Barney's quaintly comic style is effective; Frank Seeley ably deputises for an absent turn. Edie Veno, in lively coon song and sand dance; Lily Lenora as a Spanish dancer; and the bioscope complete a varied and enjoyable entertainment.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. McKelvie.—A first-rate variety company is the draw this week, in which good dancing turns are a strong line. Ford and Barris are musicians of ability, and give a varied selection of popular airs and clever dances; Mr. J. C. Morris is a comedian of ability; and a musical entertainment by Les Tafonas is of pleasing quality. Two able singing comedians, dancers, and patterers are Tennyson and Wallis, and they evoke hearty laughter, and secure much applause; Miss Nellie Chandos gives dances of the "rag time" order, and is in great request; the sand dancing of Hughes and Elliott delights those with a leaning to this branch of the art of terpsichore; the Hendres are clever young jugglers, and vary a pleasing performance with a display of club-swinging; extraordinary somersaulting is the feature of the Brothers Martine's contribution; and the bioscope pictures are good.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lyodd.—The top of the bill is taken up by Paul Martinetti and company, in the clever sketch, entitled *A Duel in the Snow*; and the King's College Boys give selections from opera and comedy. Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, are prime favourites; Joe Archer, comedian, has made a decided hit; and the Kentucky Trio, jugglers, are well received. The rest of the company include Mollie Doon, comedienne; the Falcons, in comedy act; and Chicago Girls, dancers and acrobatic experts.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and Barney Armstrong.—Mr. John Tiller's No. 1 company is here in the pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*. In the name part, Miss May Merry invests the rôle with engaging brightness; and an able and clever coadjutor is Miss Violet Palfrey as Boy Blue. As Dame Crump, Mr. Howard Ward is a clever comedian, and sustains well the humour of the piece; Miss Bessie Cohen is a pretty Prince Charming; and subsidiary parts, all, however, very well enacted, are embodied by Misses Edna Morgan, Maud St. John, Lily Bevin, Florence Leonard, Daisy Palfrey, and Cissy Walker. Mr. H. M. Morgan makes a deal of Algernon; and Mr. C. G. Calvert scores as Redfangs. Pleasing variety is introduced by the Excelsior Troupe of children and the Poppy Quartette in the several scenes. Mr. Ted Gibbs as Johnnie Green and Mr. Harry Elliston as Johnnie Stout are responsible for considerable fun.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Wm. Biggam.—Large and delighted audiences were drawn to this association's concerts, the leading attraction being Mr. W. F. Frame, the genial and popular Scotch comedian. Mr. J. M. Hamilton's tenor songs were a genuine treat; violin solos were played by Mr. Holroyd Paull; the Smith Family and the Murray Troupe in a series of national dances; Mr. W. E. Hilton, the Scottish Valentine Vox; Miss Clara A. Butter, well-sung ballads; Mr. Tony Black, Scotch comedian; and Mr. Archie Jack, descriptive vocalist; Lindsay and Harte, in the laughable sketch, *The Scotchwoman and the Heiress*, completed a first-rate entertainment.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime *Aladdin* is making a week's stay. On Monday evening the popular parts of the house were crowded, and the performance was in every way satisfactory. Mr. J. H. Maxwell as Abanazar scores on all occasions; Mr. Edward Raymond as Emperor of China, and Mr. Frank Wheatcroft as Grand Vizier are very good; Mr. Fred Ramsdale as Widow Twankey is excruciatingly funny; Nab'em and Catch'em, in the persons of the Brothers Astley raise the harmless, necessary laugh; Miss Edith Wallis, a charming Aladdin, is recalled for good renditions of up-to-date songs; Miss Vera Ray, as Princess Balroulbadour, scores a success; and Miss Marie Walker, Geni of the Lamp; and Miss Edna Vincent, Geni of the Ring, are praiseworthy. In the Palace scene good specialities are given by Miss Ray Anderson, top-boot dancer; Mr. J. H. Maxwell, big boot dancer and hat-spinner; Madame Helen Godfrey, instrumentalist; Mr. Bob Padley, contortionist; Miss Marie Walker, trombone player; and the Silverdale Troupe of lady dancers. The scenery is pretty, and the mechanical effects are excellent.

GLOUCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Mr. Geo. Testo Sante and company are this week playing here in the drama *The Life of a Showman*, which is chiefly written round Mr. Sante's strong acts. He plays the part of Brien Leader in a capable manner. The scheming Hendrick Marais is excellently enacted by Mr. Logan Darra, and Agatha Winter is well represented by Miss Amy McNeill. Mr. Edward Warden makes a good Rev. Cyril Arliss and Master Harry Warden and Miss May Warden enact the juvenile characters of Dickie and Lynette respectively with much skill. Mr. Charles Osborne is noticeable as Sir Noel Hartland. The comedy element is well provided by Miss May Neilson as Angelina Mutton, Mr. Frank Sante as Tommy Allthere, and Mr. Ernest Turner as Ben Tic-Tac. In Act II. the Brothers Testo successfully appear as musical acrobatic clowns, and Mr. Geo. Sante's strong performances win loud applause.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—This week we have a visit from Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's Co. in the Anglo-Indian drama, *A Traitor Prince*. The company was accorded a hearty reception from a well-filled house on Monday night. Mr. G. M. Montanini as Prince Rao Dalmirez is conspicuous in his assumption of this trying rôle. The part of Lieutenant Frank Derrick is excellently rendered by Mr. Victor Rae; Mr. Alfred Selwood makes an amusing Bobby Bright; Mr. Ernest A. Duval in the dual rôle of Colonel Vane and Richard Vane, acts with conviction and power; Mr. Francis Everard submits a well-defined sketch of Cora; Mr. Jerold E. Reed is a capital Hon. Bobby; Miss Rose Routledge is to be complimented on her rendering of Lola Vane; Miss Nita Langford as Vashti acts with all the cynicism which the part demands; and Miss Kitty Thomas as Pansy Blossom, Miss Clara O'Grady as Mrs. Martha Blossom, and Miss Ethel Bateman as Gertie De Vere are also worthy of special mention. The admirable scenery used in the drama adds considerably to the success. On Thursday the company presented *A Beautiful Fiend*.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The attraction for the week is the pantomime *Puss-in-Boots*, the scenery and dressing of which are exceedingly pretty. Messrs. Lauri and Ellis make the most of the comic side of the rôles of Marmaduke and his Queen; Princess Pansy is charmingly represented by Miss Kitty Courtney; Miss Mabel Murray is effective as Jilbert; Mr. George De Lara and Mr. Fred Tenaur provoke roars of laughter as Blinky Bill and Jaunty Joe; Mr. Reuben Kitchen makes a capital Cat; Miss Lillie Vine sings well as Cupid; the Rosie-Rice Quartette of dancers win loud applause for their clever dancing.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Bright.—This week we have Mr. Arnold Bell's company with *Ben My Chree*. Mr. Arnold Bell gives a capital representation of Dan; and Mr. Cuthbert Imrie makes an excellent Bishop; Mr. John Belton is an able exponent of Ewan Mylrea; and the part of the Deemster is well filled by Mr. Frank Carlile; Mr F. C. Robson submits a capital piece of acting as the Governor; Mr. H. Glenville does well as Davy Fayle; and Mr. Joe Bardsley is good as Hommey-Beg. Miss Lillian Earle, a charming heroine, acts very gracefully, and the other parts are all in capable hands.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The principal turn here is Nelson's Newsboys, who sing and dance smartly. Other good turns are Harry Kardoc, handcuff king; Cinizelli, comedian; Millie Denham, burlesque actress; Rex and Ford, comedians; and the Bromleys, in a musical entertainment entitled, *The Music Master*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre (Greenock) Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Slingsby.—Hardeen, handcuff king, heads the bill here and gives a clever, and interesting performance. Other members of a good company are Edith St. Claire, vocalist and burlesque actress; Little Harry, vocalist and comedian; Mamie Cannon, mimic; Marco, juggler; the Goldens, jugglers and equilibrists; and J. W. Hall, comedian.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The annual pantomime commenced its

J. Henry Rogers depict admirably the respective parts of George Harris and Legree; Mr. Walter Langford is most amusing as Marks. Miss Annie Watson as Topsy is a decided success, her antics being most amusing; Little Minnie as Eva plays with much effect. The songs, chorus, hymns, &c., are sung with good effect.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Mr. G. Ginnett this week is presenting his capital sketch, *Dick Turpin*, which is well received. The horses used are most intelligent. The Eskimo Troupe are seen in a smart turn, consisting of dancing, singing, conjuring, and acrobatic business; the Lyons Trio are paying a return visit in their clever and diverting pantomimical sketch; Keir and Allen are amusing in their eccentric boxing act; Little Queenie May sings her songs charmingly; Juan and McQne are a capable pair of comedians; and the Grand pictures are as usual capital. This week we are shown a film depicting the Sultan of Morocco and his Army.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—The Harrogate Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society on Tuesday presented Planquette's comic opera, *Rip Van Winkle*, a piece which has never been before played in Harrogate. It is a novel and daring experiment for amateurs. Messrs. B. J. Simmons and Co. have dressed the opera in their usual artistic and capable manner, and the special scenery by Egerton and Co., of Bradford, was greatly admired. Mr. George Musgrove, the musical director, undoubtedly added materially to the success of the piece by the capable and energetic way in which he performed his duties.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Undoubtedly one of the most gorgeous and brilliant sights ever witnessed on a Hartlepool stage is *The Palace of Orpheus*, with its myriads of electric lights, pretty dresses, novel instruments, and effective music. The Sisters Russell, old favourites, come in for a flattering welcome, and their performance fully deserves it. A sketch that is exceptionally funny and smartly worked is *Aunt Matilda*, as played by Frank Elliston and company; Yorkshire Tom's imitations are good; the Two Romers characteristic speciality Romers, are also renewing their acquaintance, and successfully too, with an Empress audience. A chic and pretty dance is executed by Jolly Criss Cross, comedienne and dancer; Florence Platt's songs, with their acompanying illustrations, are attractive; and some new pictures on the Bioscope are also on the programme, which is supplemented by a cycling show by the Elliotts at the first house Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Smith.—On Monday Mr. Peter Davey's pantomime company in *Puss in Boots* opened a week's visit here. Miss Marie Kildare made a success as Juan, the hero of the story. Mr. Arthur White as Gimalkin was very natural, and put in some good contortion business. The Princess was daintily played by Miss Nellie Groves. King Komilfo supplied much merriment, being quaintly played by Mr. Wyn Weaver. Mr. Arthur Royce proved a good comedian as Donna Dolores; Mr. Ernest Noble was quaint as Bilbalio; and Messrs. Eugene and Willie are diverting as the bull, and also contribute a clever turn as musical acrobats. The principal danseuse, Miss Dollie Shaw, was responsible for a clever pas seul; Perdita, the fairy had an attractive representative in Miss May Hollom; Miss Maud Brockwell was a pleasing Lola; and Messrs. Leslie Digby and Reginald Ring assisted effectively as Sancho and Pancho. Mr. R. Entwistle stage-managed, and the scenery was very good. the "Apotheosis of Pussy" being a very effective stage picture.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—*A Wrecker of Men*, as produced on the pier, is a well-staged drama. Mr. C. Watson Mill gives a fine characterisation to the part of the Burglar; Railton has an excellent exponent in Mr. Gilson Brooke; Mr. Milner Noble's Pharosaphus the Egyptian is a telling impersonation; Mr. Percy Horton, as Guise Strange, is a well-studied part; Miss Cissy Podmore gives a charming rendering of Dorris Melville; the acting of Miss Rosaline Tate, as Risca Mallison, shows all the piquancy which the character demands.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Ewing.—A good selection of artists occupy the boards this week. Saxo is clever on a variety of instruments; Mr. Charles Bignell sings a good comic song; Cavern and Cave introduce an amusing sketch, *A Morning Dip*; Mr. Harry Henrick keeps his audience in good humour by his droll patter; an excellent pianist is found in Miss Adey Spencer, who is also a pleasing singer; the Illumino Statuo is a lady represented as a statue, who vocalises amid electric and floral effects; Kisbey the Call Boy is remarkably smart; Miss Minnie Cunningham is an attractive comedienne; a highly sensational turn is given by Mr. Dartigan, whose feat of "Looping the Loop" on a motor-cycle is certainly astounding.

HEBBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—Mr. Chas. Carte and company are here this week in *A Noble Brother*. As Jerry (the tramp) Mr. C. Carte leaves nothing to be desired, sustaining his part throughout with the utmost zeal; Miss Doris Brookes capably fills the rôle of Nan Leigh, while Miss Alice Ballards scores as Mrs. Leigh; Mr. Alexander Haviland finds plenty of scope in the Strange Preacher; Mr. Maurice Jones successfully undertakes the part of Colonel Leigh; Mr. Arthur Gilroy portrays Henry Travers with considerable ability, and Miss Katie Cameron makes the most of Rosie Rapid.

HEYWOOD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Jopes.—*The Prairie Flower*, under the management of Mr. John Soden, opened for six nights here last Monday the eve of the poll, the result of which was announced from the stage on Tuesday evening. As Rosalie, Miss Ella Forrest plays commendably; and Mr. Gilbert Fernie shows marked ability in his songs.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Provincial Theatres Co.; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Neville; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke; Secretary, Mr. Chas. E. Bradley.—After a long spell of varied mixed management, a brighter era seems to be dawning here. The theatre has been closed several weeks, but the fact that both Messrs. Bradley and Hawke are well-known residents appears to be creating confidence in the town. It fell to Mr. Herbert Barrs' lot to open under the new management, and that gentleman's popularity in Horwich was fully exemplified on Monday evening when the curtain rose on his pantomime *Cinderella*, a packed house testifying their appreciation in no half-hearted manner. The scenery and dresses are very elaborate, and the musical numbers, under Mr. H. L. Gibson's direction, fully deserve the generous applause bestowed on them. Miss Evelyn Desa, in the title-rôle, proves a very winsome and charming character; Miss Lillie Monckton makes a very vivacious and picturesque Prince Charming; and Miss Josephine Preece plays Dandini to perfection, her singing being highly successful; Messrs. Grapho and Jackson, as the ugly sisters, have full scope for some genuine rollicking comedy, and do not fail to take every advantage of it; Mr. Carl Fredericks plays the Baron with great gusto; Mr. Alf Widdowson, as Buttons, has a part that he fairly revels in, and does not forget to make a very good use of his opportunities; Messrs. Duncan and Morton, as the Broker's Men, are brimful of comedy. The specialities include Madame Cordelia, in a very excellent picture dance; the Olive Trio, in a most amusing Doll song and dance; Ya Pyn Keto and family, Japanese magicians, in a very neat and clever exhibition: Grapho and Jackson, in a smart quick-change scena, entitled *In a Restaurant*; and Duncan and Morton, in cross-talk and song and dance. The electric coach, with real ponies, is especially picturesque, and the whole show goes without a hitch.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Arthur Carlin and Co.; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*A Modern Adventuress*, played by Mr. Lingford Carson's company, is visiting Hoyland this week. Special mention must be made of Mr. Leonard Aardale as Pietro Donelli, his scene in the third act being especially good; Miss Kate Froude as the adventuress makes the most of her part: Miss Alice Defoe is charming as Vivette Delby, and gains the sympathy of her audience throughout; Mr. Leonard Montgomery as John Crompton, the Yorkshireman, is very good; and Miss Ivy Chandos, a servant who afterwards becomes Mrs. Crompton, is very amusing. Mr. Louis Edmonde is satisfactory as Harry Delby; Mr. Stanley F. Champion as Walter Beal. Mr. Frank Wilton as William Delby, Mr. Frank Orchard as Steve Meredith, and Mr. Sydney Grant as Wallace Dalton aquit themselves creditably.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The many loyal admirers of Mr. Edward Compton are always glad to have him here with his company in the fine reproductions of old English comedy associated with them. The present week's plays are that favourite perennial *Davy Garrick*, preceded by *The Desperate Lover*, *The Rivals*, *To-Morrow*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *School for Scandal*, and *New Men and Old Acres*. Mr. Compton's performance of Garrick on Monday evening showed all the old charm and brilliance. Mr. Henry Crocker has a very natural and convincing style, displayed to advantage as Gresham; Mr. A. B. Imeson had the necessary dash as Tallyhaut; Miss Mackenzie was sweetly dignified as Miss Gresham; and the other principal parts were effectively played by Mr. Herbert Pigot (Rumbelow), Mr. Arnold Lucy (Sowerberry), Mr. G. W. Johnston (Simkins), Miss Marie Hassell (Mrs. Rumbelow), and Miss Muriel Meek (Selina).

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The entertainment here is provided by Charlene and Charlene in their clever speciality; Gus Harris, Hebrew descriptive vocalist; Sisters Melba, duettists; Fred Fox, comedian; Ray and Calden, comedians; Permane's troupe of highly-trained bears; Spring and Spring, expert jumpers; Hinton and Wooton, cycling footballers and the pictures on the Biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Following hard on the heels of the successful pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, Mr. Morton has been most fortunate in securing Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company with *Aladdin*, which comes here from Gateshead with a high reputation. Miss Leonora Grieve is a complete success in the title-rôle, having a charming voice which is heard to great advantage in her musical numbers. Mr. Daley Cooper, who plays Abanazer, is extremely popular, and keeps the house thoroughly amused. Miss Lily Gullich is very pleasing as the princess, her songs being particularly well rendered; Miss Louie Sands gives a graceful performance as Petti Sing; and Miss Nellie Barnwell is very attractive in the part of Pekoe. Little Briton is most amusing in the character of Wishee Washee, and contributes a large share of fun. A pair of clever acrobats are Messrs. Story and Trigg, who do some excellent knockabout business; and the Gilbert Girls in their speciality dances show considerable ability.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*Peggy Machree*, presented by Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company, is here this week, and is one of the most charming comic operas which have been seen in Hull for some time. Miss Claudia Lasell as Peggy is an accomplished actress and her voice is of excellent quality; Mr. Leslie Stiles makes a good impression as Barry Trevor, being heard to great advantage in his musical numbers; Mr. Milroy Cooper is a conspicuous success as McDougall, giving a genuinely comic impersonation of a solemn Scot; and Mr. Edgar Ashwin as Michael is also well placed. Miss Blanche Astley makes a very pleasing Molly, singing and dancing in a charming manner; Miss Madge Avery as Moira is also worthy of special mention; and Miss Dorothy Garden as the Hon. Emily Prior looks extermely well. Mr. Ralph Lynn as Sir Lawrence Borthwick gives an excellent study of an eighteenth-century dandy.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Morton, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*Her Second Time on Earth*, presented by Mr. Walter Melville's company, is here this week and, as on previous occasions, is drawing good houses. Miss Hilda Beverley gives an excellent portrayal of her original creation, Dora Grey, acting the part in a thoroughly realistic manner; Miss Dorothy Hilderbrande is very charming as the heroine, Laura Norman; and Mr. Harry Hiller's representation of Jack Carlton is highly commendable. Mr. George Gaisford ably impersonates Captain Norman; Mr. W. H. Porter as Guy Brand is very successful; and the comedy element is well sustained by Mr. Wm. C. Reid as Teddy Butterfly and Miss Marjory Millbank as Kitty.

NEW PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett.—Miss Florence St. John presents a well-acted comedy, *My Milliner's Bill*; Seeley and West are a popular turn; the Three Missouris are very funny in their sketch, *Captain Kettle*; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, Amber Austa, Marie Duma, O'Gust, Bert Woodward, Will Haines, and Mazzetti and Mora all help the success of the programme.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Leo Dryden is the top turn here, with several excellent songs; Rastus and Banks are old favourites; a pretty Japanese scena, headed by Miss Santoi, and assisted by a number of ladies and gentlemen, is one of the principal items. Alf Levarni, Percy May, and Joe Mac complete a good programme.

THE BIJOU.—Lessee, Mr. T. N. Turner; Manager, Mr. Fred Thorne.—Appearing here are Ada Lawn, Eno, the Three Schaffers, Charlie Jerome, The Dillons, Blanche Gerrard, Joe Humphreys, and the Two Romers.

THE CIRCUS.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are drawing good houses here.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. Julian Malvern's *I Defy the World* company, under the direction of Mr. Charles M. Julian, has done good business here this week. Mr. Lewis Gilbert gives an earnest and convincing interpretation of the rôle of Leon Darville, and his various disguises are cleverly assumed. The villainous side of human nature is well depicted by Mr. Horace Booth, as Count de Beaulieu; and Mr. Charles Conway, as Laroche; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt plays with zeal the part of Andre; and Mr. E. H. Cartwright makes the most of his lines as Sergeant Gamion. Miss Maud Malvern acts with power and feeling as Blanche Darville; a charming and graceful exponent of Pauline Dalaporte is found in Miss Trixie St. Albans; and the rôle of Fanchette is intelligently taken by Miss Gertrude Coat. Plenty of comedy relief is supplied by Mr. Charles M. Julian, as Samuel Wozzle; Miss Maud Lilian, as Marie Wozzle; and Messrs. Dunlop Stewart and Dalton J. Bosher, as Najac and Bochan.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Swiss Express* is taking well here, Messrs. C. and F. Renad providing the company. The Renads themselves as James and John, eccentric servants, work assiduously, and are greeted with abundant applause; Mr. Herbert Lewis makes an excellent Dr. Gull; Miss Jessica Ford as Virginia (the Bride) is all that can be desired; Mr. George Martin (Bob Rollingstone) and Mr. Alec Finlayson (Dudley Green) ably assist the fun of the piece; the part of Rhino is well taken by Mr. Frank Coston; and the Edna Quartette of vocalists and dancers are clever.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Dickinson and Johnson, ornamental swimmers, &c., give a clever show here; Elliott and Warne, comedy artists, are an amusing turn; Fred Evered is much applauded as a lady impersonator; and James Hewson, instrumentalist, Fred Ambrose, comedian, Marie Milford, serio, and Tom Dalton, comedian, complete the list.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week with *The Girl from Kay's*. Miss Lily Edmonds makes a fascinating Winnie Harborough; the acting of Miss Irene Vere as Norah is clever; Mr. J. W. Hooper presents an exceedingly droll impersonation of Max Hoggenheimer; Mr. Fred Thomson as Percy Fitzthistle and Mr. Claude Dampier as Joseph are responsible for a large amount of merriment; and Mr. Herbert Franklyn plays the part of Harry Gordon with unflagging spirit.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—*Blue-Bell in Fairyland*, now on a return visit for six nights, is played by Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company. This charming dream-piece is well received. The title-rôle was impersonated by Miss Gladys Cooper in a graceful and winning manner. Miss Muriel Juin, another clever lady, in the dual part of the Reigning Queen and the Water Lily, rendered excellent assistance to the cast; Miss Ruby Carter as Will o' the Wisp, and Miss Minnie Blanchard as the Good Fairy, were both seen to advantage; Mr. Lawrence Emery and Mr. Percy Farrimond filled the two most important parts satisfactorily, the last-named being much applauded for his vocal contributions.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—An attractive programme here includes some novel and effective turns. One of the most striking items is the appearance of Alma Gray, a young and accomplished Australian dancer, whose terpsichorean efforts are rewarded with a furore of applause. Another successful turn is that given by Vermette and Dionne on the triple bars, their feats including some unique somersaults. Some eccentric business is furnished by Les Pollos, a pair of Continental acrobats; Tom White's Arabs cause merriment; and other turns include Frederic Neiman, with his clever ventriloquial business; Albert Ventnor, low comedian; and Dare and Mavern in a laughable sketch.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—The holiday season here concludes this week with Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux's first-rate company in the successful play, *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Herbert Bunston gives a fine interpretation of Jack Frobisher; Mr. George A. Brandram is equally good as Hankey Bannister; Mr. Lawrence Hanray and Mr. Sidney Hamilton must be complimented on their rendering of the Marquis and Harry Dallas; Miss Edith Cuthbert is a pretty and interesting Miss Mornington; Miss Nora Greenlaw is good as Lady Westerby; and Miss Molly Carton does well as Lady Lucy; Miss Florence Jackson deserves the highest commendation for her performance of the difficult part of Lady Alethea.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Messrs. W. H. and R. A. Maddox's company is here with *Dick Whittington*. Miss Mabel Kessler is a dashing Dick; and Alice is charmingly presented by Miss Reggy Fame. The comedians work hard and successfully. Mr. Dan Lyndon as Fitzwarren is very funny; Mr. Harry Howe is highly diverting as Betsy; Mr. Gus Granville is a distinct success as Idle Jack; and the comicalities of Messrs. Kempton and Pastor cause roars of laughter. Mr. Harry Wright is a successful extempore vocalist, the Dandies contribute some clever dancing, and Miss Kessler gives solos on the cornet, &c., in first-class style. The scenery and dresses are admirable, and the electric ballets most effective.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. James P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun. The Moore-Kennedy company is here this week in the pantomime entitled *Dick Whittington*. Mdlle. Lucretia makes a dashing Dick; Miss Lilly Townsend is a handsome Princess; Miss Mollie Revell sings well as the Fairy Queen; Miss Vera Snowden, as Dick's Sweetheart, is very pleasing; Mr. Dan Agar, as Idle Jack, keeps the fun going from start to finish; Mr. Clarence Turner, as Captain Bunting, is distinctly quaint; Mr. Arthur Behan, as Betsy Mary Ann, is very comical; and the Palais Royal Quartette of dancers are clever.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hales.—Good entertainment is being provided here by Mr. Wm. Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Alfred Dinohoe makes an admirable Jim Cheese; Dick Wargrave is well represented by Mr. Leslie Gaze; Mr. Fred Locking is capital as George Bellamy, and Mr. A. E. Wilson does well as A. Bunker Bliss; Miss Lina Hicks is lively and interesting as Liza Shoddam; Miss Ida Stratham is vivacious as Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss Winnie Plumptress does well as Miss Virginia Bliss.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company in *The Toreador* is paying a return visit, opening on Monday night before a good audience. Mr. Richard Telford as Sammy Gigg is more amusing than ever; Mr. F. Hulme Sharp does good work as Sir Archie; and as Pettifer Mr. Tom May is capital; Mr. Charles M. Heslop is acceptable as Augustus Trail, and Mr. J. C. Fagan is good as Carajolo, his singing being well received; Miss Leah Howard is a charming Susan; Miss Sadie Neville as Dora and Miss Ethel Netherton as Nancy also score; Miss Grace Desmond is an effective Mrs. Hoppings; and Miss Florence Spurgeon as Donna Teresa is well suited; the chorus and orchestra lend valuable assistance.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Wilkinson.—*Home, Sweet Home* is being well presented here by Mr. Frank Lindo's company. Mr. Lindo appears to special advantage as Stephen Armitage; Mr. J. W. Henson is successful as David Armitage; and the same may be said of Captain Gerald Gambier as the Duke of Ancaster; Miss Daisy Rochefort gives a fine portrayal of Dora; and Miss Edie Langley is equally successful as Sybil Fay. Special mention should be made of Miss Marion Wakeford who, as Joan, delivers her lines with remarkable clearness.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and J. Porter.—Miss Lillie Langtry, comedienne, heads the bill this week, and is well received. Robert Gilbert's troupe of dogs and cats merit applause; and the Four Hearnes are clever acrobats; Harry Weldon, comedian, has a good reception; and others who contribute successfully include F. S. Hulme, actor vocalist, the Cellos in a musical act, and Daisy Pearl, comedienne. Walter Payne's pictures are still an attraction.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* occupies the boards here this week. The principal boy is Miss Ernestine Desborough, who acts and sings gracefully as the chivalrous Prince. The fun is provided by a thoroughly competent quintette of comedians, prominent among whom is Mr. Happy Attwood as the droll Beadle; the Brothers Brookes are diverting ruffians; Mr. Percy Dawsone makes the most of the absurd ditties of Maria Slapp; Mr. Will Harman is an amusing Buttons; the Babes are prettily enacted by Miss Renee Reel and Miss Daisy Connell; and the guardian Uncle is funnily impersonated by Mr. Ernest Sefton. The powerful chorus and orchestra are under the direction of Mr. C. F. Trevor; specialities are introduced by the daring Bellong Brothers, acrobats and balancers; Cyclo, a clever trick cyclist, and the Cameron Glee Quartette.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—This is the fifth week of *The Babes in the Wood*, and this gorgeous production continues to arouse the utmost enthusiasm in the crowded audiences which nightly assemble. Miss Hilda Jacobsen, with a plenitude of charming and fine singing, has hosts of admirers; Miss Katie May has likewise endeared herself by her charming and vivacious methods; and Miss Ivey Roye and Miss Kitty Lindley are also a clever and attractive pair. In enjoyable comedy Mr. Arthur Stigant and Mr. J. W. Rowley are indefatigable leaders, with the Anartos, Mr. Frank Calvert, and Mr. G. H. Elliott also playing strong rôles.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The excellent pantomime *Jack and Jill* continues to increase in popularity, and is received nightly with unbounded enthusiasm by an admiring crowd. The presentation is a special triumph for the comedians—Mr. Bob Selvidge, Mr. Harry Conlin, and Mr. Freddy Fowler—who have all reached the high-water mark of popularity with their witty songs and humorous business. Those clever juveniles, Miss Cissie Iris and Miss Emmie Moulson, continue to evoke unstinted praise for their excellent work as Jack and Jill. Miss Marguerite Broadfoote and Miss Lily Black have developed their parts of principal boy and girl with great success, and all goes with delightful and refreshing snap and smoothness.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—*Cinderella* is going exceedingly strong here, and promises to break all records before the end of the run. Miss Hilda Guiver, with a charming and dashing assumption of the Prince; Miss Aimed Roberts, as the attractive Cinderella; and Miss Nora Emerald, prominently successful in the rôle of Dandini, make an attractive and talented trio of leaders. Miss Dulcie Garland and Miss Elsie Stuart are not far behind in their efforts to please. The humorists are a merry lot and keep things going with exceeding briskness, Mr. J. G. Taylor as the Baron, Mr. T. Hybert and Mr. T. Beck as the Ugly Sisters, and Mr. Morny Cash as the Page doing specially well in this connection. The New Macs are also smart and entertaining; whilst Donaldson Bros. and Ardel get a big reception for their clever speciality interlude.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—The Three Merrils are a strong feature of the week's entertainment here, their expert and humorous trick cycling turn arousing great enthusiasm. Selina Braatz is exceedingly smart with feats of jugglery, and Ella Retford gets a hearty reception for a clever song and dance turn of the coon variety. Sinclair and Parr are a pair of accomplished duettists; the Gittis introduce their canine marvel; the Fitzroys are expert with an interesting acrobatic act; Frank Harwood finds a welcome for his song-scena, *The Looking-Glass*; Stephens and Rennior are to the fore with eccentric comedy business; Lora ? is a decidedly mystifying novelty; and further capital entertainment is subscribed by Irving Jones, the "little black man."

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Managers, Mr. Charles Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Belle Davis pays an early return visit with her clever juveniles, and is scoring the usual solid success. Mdlle. Ghita Corri is at the bottom of the bill with a realistic illuminated song-scena, *The Maiden's Prayer*, in the presentation of which her fine voice is heard to advantage. The Bros. Hartbert O'Reilly have a fine equilibristic and athletic act; Andrews and Thompson are doing well as vocal jokers; in the same line Fred Laud is also very popular; a smart song and dance turn by Starr and Jerome goes exceedingly well; as also do the excellent contributions by Ida Ross, vocalist; Reynolds' Minstrels, in a fine musical entertainment; and the Sisters Lytton, in song and dance.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Marguerite Ismay presents her accomplished juveniles in a pleasing and novel act, which is generally admired. Paul Courtney and company are prominent fun-providers in comedy sketch, *The Doctor*; the Three Gladenbecks arouse interest and enthusiasm with a fine gymnastic display; whilst James Brady and Frank Cumminge are strong favourites with vocal and comedy business; the Caritons do a novel living statuary act; Harry Tomlinson is a vocalist of merit; and the excellent speciality turn by Mill, May, and company is very well received.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater.—Frederick Mouillot's chief company is presenting here, on a return visit, the favourite play, *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Cyril Austen Lee displays exceptional histrionic ability as Horace Parker; Mr. William H. Brougham repeats his sterling portrayal of the Messenger; and Mr. Bruce Lindley is very good as the Tramp. Both Miss May Saker as Minnie Templar, and Mrs. Edward Saker as Miss Parker, are in every way admirable; and Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson as Arthur Dicey, and Mr. Lionel Gadsden as the Policeman, are excellent. The play is well staged.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—Mr. Edward Neville and Miss Lole Esmond's company, presenting the drama, *The Anarchist Terror*, is on a return visit here this week. Mr. George Langdon, who appears in a number of characters, is seen to considerable advantage; and others who play with success are Miss Lole Esmond as Kitty Malone, Mr. J. Nelson-Turner as Silas Washington Goldstraw, Mr. Gus Bowerman as Ishmael, Mr. J. Malcolm J. Cumming as Lieutenant Armstrong, Miss Constance Medwyn as Marita, and Miss Eleanor Groves as Columbia Goldstraw.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The leading attraction this week is provided by Morris Cronin and his talented troupe, whose remarkable juggling with clubs evokes the heartiest applause. The turn stands out as one of the smartest of its kind seen here. Newhouse and Ward, comedy cyclists, gain their usual warm welcome for their clever and versatile show; the Bandurrias are prominent with their delightful musical act, which is received with well-deserved applause; the Huxter Brothers score their usual success as acrobats and remarkably clever vaulters; Francis Wylie introduces his well-trained dogs, who go through a performance reflecting great credit on their trainer; Baker and Lynn arouse much merriment, Baker being especially mirth-provoking; Bell and Henry provide an entertaining and amusing turn; Grace Merton, the original street singer, is well received for her songs; Bertha Vere, comedienne, contributes a capital song; the American Bioscope is projecting "When father got a holiday," and "The Press Illustrated," to the delight of all sections of the audience.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company, the most popular sketch artists that visit this hall, are receiving their usual warm welcome here this week, and are presenting for the first time *Only a Trooper*, which is beautifully staged and elaborately dressed. The chief parts are well played by Mr. Fred Southern as Trooper Murphy, Mr. Percy Emery as Colonel Conway, Miss Gipsy Alexander as Countess Zarlinsker, Mr. Frank Delamere as Howard Darnley, Miss Ada Frank as Nadine, and Mr. Courtney Robinson as Mons. Zouroff. The company is also evoking the greatest merriment with the sketch, *His Lordship's Birthday*, in which Mr. Fred Southern, as the village tinker, causes screams of laughter. Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Hope are seen to great advantage in their historical duologue, *An Emperor's Divorce*; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, always a popular feature here, is projecting "Two Little Waifs" and other films; Renson and Waite are most amusing vaudeville entertainers; and Mark Merry, in mirthful melancholy, and Ford Williams, the Welsh basso, also contribute.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Little Bo Peep* is occupying the boards here this week. Miss Kathleen Garnon, a capital Boy Blue, sings with great vivacity; Miss Elsie Douglas plays the title-rôle charmingly, her singing and dancing being greatly appreciated; Miss Issa Steel scores a success as the Fairy Queen; Mr. William Greene, as King Sulphurino, is applauded for his songs; Messrs. Reed and Lerne provide ample fun in their amusing performances of Percy and Patsy; plenty of humour is also furnished by Mr. H. J. Kemble as Granny Peep; and Mr. F. Wheatcroft, as Baron Hardupp. In the Palace scene appear the Doreen troupe of lady dancers; Arnold, illusionist; Oliver Chew, silleur; and Bendini, boy contortionist.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—A good variety entertainment is here this week headed by the Five Whiteleys, in a good novel all-round acrobatic turn; Messrs. Phinas and Arda, in a revolving and balancing act, are very good; Funny Stelling and his performing dogs are very interesting; Miss Lilly's performing horse is very cleverly trained; and the Anartos, Mr. Frank Calvert, and Mr. G. H. Elliott also playing strong rôles. Mr. Harry Martino, in his act, "The Viper's Nest," is well received. On Monday night, Mr. King Ohmy, hero of the balloon, appeared to give his daring and sensational act in mid-air, his efforts being cheered to the echo.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Owing to the continued success of the pantomime, *Jack the Giant Killer*, the management have decided to retain this very popular entertainment in the bill until further notice. Since its production four weeks ago, the piece has proved increasingly attractive, thanks to the all-round smartness and ability of the company, and their happy method of working together. Individually and collectively the principals have gained favourable recognition from large and appreciative audiences; and the many subordinate parts are all adequately filled.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Mr. Cecil Claiston's pantomime company appeared here on Wednesday night in *Dick Whittington*. Miss Annie Rose was an excellent Dick; Mr. A. Evermond a capital Alderman; Mr. Tom Taylor a sprightly Idle Jack; and Mr. Tom Warren a most amusing Angelina. The remainder of the company was efficient; indeed, as a fit-up pantomime the company, scenery, and general appointments were excellent.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Proprietor, Mr. Robert Fogerty.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's comedy company in *The Duke of Killiecrankie* opened here on Monday before an appreciative audience. Mr. Walter Ringham was good in the title-rôle, and Mr. Lovel amusing as Henry Welby. Mr. Ivan Gore proved a most interesting Reporter Hicks, and as McBaine Mr. Arthur McCulloch was well placed. Mr. Eric West was a capital butler, and Mr. Frank Webber sound as the footman. The Countess of Pangbourne had a clever interpreter in Miss Celia Gordon, and as Mrs. McBaine Miss Ethel Savill was realistic. The rôle of Mrs. Mulholland had an admirable exponent in Miss Naomi Wilson, and Miss Octavia Kenmore was effective as Lady Henrietta.

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Frank King.—Audiences are giving unanimous approval to *Her Luck in London*, presented by Mr. George Kirk, in which Miss Mary Neil scores heavily as Nellie, the village girl, whose adventures in London form the subject of the play. Mr. Charles Leicester and others are concerned in the adequate representation of an interesting play.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—The Andos, one of the cleverest troupes of Japs yet seen on the boards, are giving their wonderful show here, and patrons are cracking their sides over Harry Tate's company in the clever sketch on *Motoring*. Belle Braham scores with illustrated songs; Howard and St. Clair are an entertaining couple; and Bert Brantford gains renown as a comedian. Percy Hannam is a pleasing baritone; the Seddons are amongst the most amusing jugglers we have seen; and Jimmy Shields gets through a dance very smartly, despite his one leg.

CENTRAL HALL.—The Lincoln Amateur Operatic Society is presenting *The Pirates of Pensance* very creditably. The coach is Mr. R. Weathersby, of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—At the popular north-end house Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, continues to enjoy a great measure of success. It has already remained three weeks, and will put in another. A deal of new business is being introduced, with the result that many of the public are paying the theatre a second visit.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Entertaining and decidedly amusing is this week's programme, which is headed by the Cratons in the screechingly funny sketch, *Front and Behind*, in which they depict the laughable side of stage life. Maude A. Edwards, an uncommonly clever ventriloquist, who is also very amusing, receives rounds of applause; Onda and Artell are clever and up-to-date gymnasts; Alsop and Beckwith are particularly good in their patter; Emma Don and company receive deserved applause; the Miltons delight the house with their banjo playing; Harry Hayton is a capable comedian; J. P. Carroll is successful; and the bioscope shows good pictures.

STAR THEATRE.—Pro

able dancing and singing are provided by the Three Victorias; Frank Darwin, descriptive vocalist, is given a capital reception; and Miss Gertrude Bradshaw, possessor of a charming voice, sang several songs in good style.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Heading a capital bill here this week is Miss Dolly Elsworthy's company with *The Orange Girl*, an episode in the life of King Charles. Miss Elsworthy's interpretation of the title part was praiseworthy, and she received able support. In the variety list Madame Bernice de Pasquali was principal. She is a talented vocalist. Austin and Cowan were a capital pair of entertainers; Mr. and Mrs. Blake Adams offered one of their successful duologues; Tom Yerke was a capable coster comedian; as musicians Roma and Romani are not easily beaten; Carson Hicks causes much laughter with his comedian work and buck dancing; a smart pair of repartee comedians are Maxford and O'Neil; and the Two Rubies, comediennes, are a good turn.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—The Mysterious Cardo, with his smart drawing-room entertainment, is at the head of the bill here this week. He has had a good reception. Martine and Sons, with their latest illustrated songs, remain another week; Queena Barnes, with her march and ragtime songs, has delighted everyone; some smartness as a comedian was shown by Will Harvey; Calvo, comedian and double-voiced vocalist, is a good turn; and Fred Graham sings with taste and effect.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*A Traitor to His Country* is the title of the Russian sketch being played here this week by Percy Boucher's principal dramatic company. The rôle of Petroff Petrovitch is undertaken by Mr. Boucher, who receives cordial support from Messrs. Harry Tresham, Herbert Cecil, E. D. Allen, Cecil Ravenswood, Kyburn Dellar, Miss Lina Nazeby, and Miss Beryl Ravenswood. Cissie Farrell is a smart comedienne, and John Etheridge has several taking songs.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Percy Boucher's dramatic company is at the head of the bill here this week with *A Wife's Dishonour*, a smart sketch in six tableaux. The Autheitts (James and Lily) have a neat vocal speciality act; Tom Hayes, for a lad, showed much ability as a comedian; and Miss Cissie Oliphant, a local prize-winner, sang several capital songs.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—One of the principal attractions here this week is the old-time favourite, Horace Wheatley, who seems as fresh as ever; Lillian performs some astonishing feats on the bicycle; the Orestos, with their impersonations of past and present celebrities, are a capital turn; Kendrick and Laura provide some excellent singing and dancing; Drum and Major are a versatile comedy team; Shelia McNeil, Scotch comedienne, proves pleasing; and Farr and Farland, vocal and banjo experts, submit one of the best items in the programme.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. F. Willmot.—Mr. E. Wordley, Hulse, and company are at the head of the bill here with the sketch, *The Fight in the Forge; or, a Sister's Honour*, in which a dispute with sledge-hammers is introduced. Hector and Lauraine are a capable pair of acrobatic comedy grotesques; Carney and Armstrong have a smart vocal act, *The Pro. and the Baggage Man*; a neat musical act is submitted by the Tysons; Bob Forrester acquits himself creditably as a comedian; and operatic selections are pleasingly rendered by the Elgars.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Foremost here this week is Addie Dorina, with her duologue, *How It Was Done*. Vandinoff, the lightning picture painter, surprises his audience; the Bros. Wynford give a display of marvellous jumping; Harry Bent, a clever society humorist, has some smart imitations in his *A Peep into the Music Hall*; the Custances present a bright comedy duologue, *A Game for Two*; and others in the list are Lily Currie, a charming singer, and Carlotta Lunn, vocalist.

OLYMPIA. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Under the business direction of Mr. Wallace Kennedy the Gems are here this week with their charming entertainment of song, play, and mirth. Diane de Fontenoy is a strong attraction, her beautiful poses being watched with interest; Vasco, the mad musician, is loudly applauded for his wonderful playing; Leo Stormont sings several ballads with taste and effect; some smart gymnastic work is done by Alexandra and Bertie; Frank H. France and Miss Edith Stewart have a neat comedy entitled *100 to 1 Chance*; a deal of fun results from the efforts of Whallen and West, a comedy duo; Tony and Flo Vernon submit a most acceptable turn with their singing, dancing, and paper tearing; and Jimson and his dogs provide a laughable item entitled *The Burglar's Surprise*.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—This week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, under the direction of Miss Marie Beckenham, is here in *The Christian*, the part of Glory Quayle being admirably embodied by Miss Laura Walker, whilst Mr. Alfred Goddard is most successful as the Hon. John Storm.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—A variety programme is presented this week, Caban's performing ponies, donkeys, and dogs, having a large share in the entertainment. The ponies' orchestra is greatly enjoyed; and the Royal Zerbinis Troupe give a capital instrumental performance.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—*The Curate* is this week being played here by Miss Hettie Jeffries' company. As Gilbert Westwood, Mr. Whitmore Ledger is forcible; Mr. Arthur Mervyn is well placed as the Rev. John Audley; to Miss Hettie Jeffries falls the rôle of Dick, the trumpeter, a part in which she is seen to advantage; Miss W. Stuart is good as Katinka Vodsky; Mr. Chas. Coventry is an excellent Gregory Verner; and Miss I. Norman does well as Mabel Verner, Mr. C. Spencer causes plenty of fun as Simon Muggs; and the remaining characters are in good hands.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Gus Levaine's company is appearing here in the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Florrie Gibson as Princess Baldroulbadour, depicts the rôle charmingly; Miss Marie Harding is an admirable exponent of Aladdin; Mr. Arthur Collins does exceedingly well as the Emperor of Chin, as does also Mr. Arthur Burgon as the Grand Vizier. The comedy element is supplied by Mr. Arthur Teesdale as the Widow Twankey; and Mr. Charles Arnett and Mr. Cecil Barry as the policemen. Some very good speciality turns are introduced, amongst them being Leon and Leoni, musical experts; Phil Ross, double voiced vocalist; Watty Griffin, the flexible marvel; Mdlle. Alberto, on the telephone wire; Cyrus Bell, Continental musical comedian; Ethardo, comedy juggler; Mdlle. Pardoe, dancer and contortionist; Robert Williams, sword expert; and the Baden troupe of dancers

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. T. Sylvester.—Herr Fritz, mystifier, is heading the bill here this week, and introduces some novel illusions, his cabinet mysteries being very smart. The Dunedin Troupe are causing great enthusiasm with their clever cycling and acrobatic act; the Cribb Comedy Trio, in their scena, *Idle Fellows with Idle Thoughts*, are popular. Les Strads appear in a clever musical entertainment; Mr. George Prince and Jimmy Martin, comedians, together with the Hippograph, complete the programme.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A very interesting play, *The Power of The Cross*, is presented here this week by a strong company under Mr. Lingford Carson. The chief interest centres in the Vampire part of Baron Curzola, in which Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby particularly shines. Miss Cissie St. Elmo as the adventuress, Rita Lascelles, gives a powerful rendering, and is well supported by Mr. Edgar L. Hocking as the shady solicitor, Mr. Hawke. Miss Stanley Burt and Miss Violet Ingram acquit themselves with credit in two strong and charming rôles; Mr. Fred W. Goddard and Mr. Horace Denton act cleverly as the brothers; and some engaging humour is exploited by Mr. Percy Hayes and Miss Etta Turner. The play from beginning to end is enthralling, and the scenery and dresses are excellent.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A big turn here this week is *Spiff! Spaff! Spoof!* a farcical absurdity, in which Walter Howard (the author) and Ellen Snow appear, supported by a smart company. Carr and Rose introduce a song-scena entitled *Catching the Catch of the Season*; Flora Lumiere's Fairy Grotto is a beautiful electrical set; the Harris L. Bell and Lily Pearl company appear in their popular sketch *A Bit of String*; and other clever and pleasing turns are supplied by Copeland and Son, expert dancers; Lilian Dorie, graceful wire walker; Rice and Rudge in a comic cycle act; Fred Horsfall, an accomplished mimic; and Jack Hylton, a capital eccentric comedian. The bioscope pictures show a series entitled "Jail Birds."

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company form the attraction here this week in a strong presentment of *The Still Alarm*. The cast includes Mr. Cecil Du Gue as the villain Jack Bird, a part he renders powerfully. A very fine impersonation of Jack Manley is given by Mr. M. H. Glenville, and Mr. Fred Osmond also succeeds in the rôle of Doc Wilber. Mr. Tom Beasley is funny as Willie Manley, "his mother's boy"; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman does well as the merchant Fordham; Miss Eva Reed is particularly good as Carrie Wilbere, of the music halls; and Miss Maud Warburton as Elinore sustains her share of the heroic interest with effect. The performance includes the usual sensational attractions of the fire-alarm and the fire, the vocal firemen (the Lyric Comedy Four), and a pair of beautiful horses. Altogether, it is a fine show.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. S. Nicholas.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is here this week in a new version of George Daventry's well-known military play *The Indian Mutiny*. An excellent performance is given, the principal British characters being played by Mr. George Steel, Mr. Cyril Harrison, Mr. John Davidson, and Mr. George Scully; and the prominent Hindoos by Mr. Villiers Stanley, Mr. J. S. Shedden, Mr. Ernest Keand, and Miss F. Melrose Millett. The staging and effects are capital.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—An attraction somewhat out of the ordinary here this week is the Cowboy Hypnotist Ahrensmeyer, who provides considerable entertainment without any help of machinery or electricity. One of his items is the breaking of a large stone by a 14lb. sledge-hammer upon the suspended body of a lady who is under hypnotic influence. He adds to the sensation of his visit also by making wonderful blindfold drives through the streets. Ahrensmeyer is not a very clearly articulate entertainer, but his business is certainly interesting and amusing. Another prominent item on the bill is a miniature pantomime of *Cinderella*, produced for Mr. Mouillot by Leslie Moreton; but it is unfortunately not long enough to provide sufficient opportunities for the cast, though several—particularly Miss C. Leonard and Miss Dolly Denton—act nicely, and Ben Nevis has one or two chances to exhibit his remarkably clever dancing. Of the other turns, Salbo gives a smart juggling entertainment; the Five Sisters Warwick are seen in a neat and graceful trick-cycling act; Bonnie Goodwin's piccaninnies dance well; and Chas. Williams, the Scotch nigger, and Wall Robbins, black and white musical comedian, satisfactorily complete the bill. The Palace pictures are good, as usual.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Collins.—One of the most amusing turns seen here for some time is that of the Harmony Four, whose capital vocalism is supplemented by excellent dancing and uproarious fun. For those who like to see highly-trained animals, there are Spessardy's bears and ponies, who ride, cycle, and eat at table; and an equally wonderful exhibition is given by Orla's acrobatic dogs, one of the neatest and cleverest of its kind. McPhee and Hill are extremely smart comedians and dancers; Terley exhibits a novel plastic figure performance; Robert Ganthony presents some humorous sketches in crayon; Brown and Robinson in their vocal item, "Harmony in the Kitchen," are pleasing; Rackett and Hazard give their "Musical Trip round the World" with success; and Dot Hardy distinguishes herself in "Slavey" songs. The pictures on the bioscope are up-to-date.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Chirgwin of the White Eye is one of the attractions here this week, and his amusing patter and quaint business are greatly appreciated. A screamingly funny sketch entitled *The Runaways* is presented in fine style by Charles Majilton and company. Highly amusing also are the Five Delevines in a sketch *The Bell Inn*; and the Arthur Lloyd Trio are seen to advantage in their capital playlet *The Twin Sisters*. The Brothers Hayes are clever sand dancers; George Ridgwell has a fine baritone voice, and is well received; Kelly and Ashby, the bounding billiardists, are remarkably clever; and Hart and Leo are smart comedy artistes. "The Wreck of the Hesperus" for the third week is well rendered by the choir, and the bioscope pictures, depicting "The Bicycle Thieves," are good.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Edith Muir and David Bartlett and company are appearing here this week in a decidedly amusing tabloid comedy entitled *The Collar Stud*; Les Parisiennes, Cecile and Francois, are clever in a novel pot-pourri act, introducing wire-walking, globe-rolling, acrobatic dancing, and a unique loop the loop dance; Les Rubens are exceedingly good operatic vocalists; Kate A. Traill sings popular songs at the piano in an original manner; and Bert Marsden is a versatile comedian. Other items of interest are those of Irene Meldon, comedienne and dancer; Le Tostia, mandoline soloist; Wheeler and Wilson, acrobatic comedians; Fred Walker, comedian, and Raymond's Vivagraph.

GAIETY THEATRE. — Proprietors, the United Theatres Company, Ltd.; Licensee, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—A big attraction here this week is Mr. George Edwardes's company in the latest Gaiety success *The Spring Chicken*. The principal parts are all in good hands. As Mrs. Girdle Miss Irene Verona is well placed, and scores a big success; Miss Gertrude Gilliam is charming as the Baroness Papouche; and Miss Gertrude Glyn as Rosalie, and Miss Rita Everard as Dulcie Babori act, sing, and dance in a delightful manner. Mr. George Gregory, a resourceful comedian, makes a big hit as Mr. Girdle; and Mr. L. W. Harris as Gustave Barbori and Mr. Donald Hall as Boniface are good; Mr. Frank Hector as the Baron is capital, and his dancing nothing short of wonderful; Mr. C. D. Cleveland is decidedly funny as the head-waiter; and Miss Nellie Lonnen and Mr. Nelson Keys are particularly good as Emmy Lou and Stephen Henry respectively. The chorus and orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Clarence Lucas.

THE KING'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. Baynham.—William Holland's pantomime *Aladdin* is the attraction here this week, and is presented in fine style by a capable company. Frances Haskoll does well as Aladdin, and sings "Molly, I love you" with plenty of go; Florence Wood is pleasing as the Princess, and sings "Rainbow" nicely; Flo Warner as Pekoe is good; and Fred Russell and Dan Armstrong as Abanazer and Widow Twankey respectively are decidedly amusing. Others who take prominent parts successfully, and from time to time appear in their own specialities are Jack (a sterling comedian) and Evelyn, who are particularly good; the Three Floradora Girls, excellent dancers; Sandy and Carl, knockabouts, burlesque boxers, and capital dancers; and the Colonial Comedy Four. The scenery and dresses are good.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent dramatic episode, *The Hypocrite*, is presented here this week by Fred S. Peak and company, and receives well-merited applause. Conway and Garland offer a laughter-making sketch; the rifle shooting of Winona, who is assisted by Colonel King, is clever; Smiler Lee sings and talks in eccentric fashion; the Gregson Trio appear in an amusing sketch; and the instrumental playing of the Carolottis is very good. The Three Rolands receive hearty applause for a wonderful performance in strength; and Olive Veno, the champion lady clog dancer, and Bernard Noble, character comedian, are excellent.

HIPPODROME (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Celtic Comedy Trio are the top star turn this week, and are highly successful in their vocal and humorous efforts. The Ringling Trio cause much laughter with their funny antics, and do some clever stilt cake-walking, a novel turn; Will Souls, a favourite laughing comedian, is as successful as ever; the Five Calandx play some tuneful melodies on various instruments; and a novel acrobatic act is gone through by the Bounding Avolos, who throw double somersaults from upright poles. Other good turns are given by Hallam and Stanton in a song-scena; Clara Walters, a juvenile pianist; Henderson, a clever blind musician, and James, a smart banjoist and bone soloist. Animated pictures complete the bill. King and Delane, who figure on the programme, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

MANSFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings.—A good programme here includes Mdlle. Adelina, facial expert; the Coopers, musical artistes; the Vaudevilles, in a comedy sketch; Mons. de Lil, illusionist and card expert; Alex and Jollig on the triple bars; and Professor Halbert in his ventriloquial turn; there were also the usual clowns and riders.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. Fox.—Mr. Edward Neville and Miss Loie Esmond's company appeared in *The Sorrows of Satan* on the 19th inst. Mr. Edward Neville as Prince Lucis was good, and was admirably supported by Messrs. Ben Brae, Gus Bowerman, Le Fleming, Cumming, and J. Nelson Turner; Miss Constance Medwyn, Miss Loie Esmond, and Miss Eleanor Groves. On Thursday and Friday this week Mr. E. Lockwood's company appeared in *Sergeant Brue*.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree: Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. P. Powell.—This week's programme includes among those contributing towards the variety entertainment Charles Deane, the comedian; May Moodie, piccolo soloist; the Lorrisons, eccentric comedy duo; Francisco, equilibrist and novelty juggler; Fred Harrison, the funny Chinee; and Zaro and Arno in their clever bar act. The series of films shown by Ruffell's bioscope is as amusing as ever, "The hen that laid the golden eggs," a really fine picture in colours, being especially good.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is here this week playing to good houses in *A Path of Thorns*. John Edmunds is embodied in manly fashion by Mr. William Fazan; and the Rev. Frank Selby is capably handled by Mr. F. Grebert Fenn; Mr. Chris Mason makes the part of Sam Hallett most humorous; and Jonas Dean is effectively impersonated by Mr. Gordon Kay Bull. Mr. Frank Gordon gives a capital impersonation of Tom Rice; and Mr. Harry G. Wright is successful as Gabbett. Miss Muriel Dean is painstaking and pathetic as Bessie Edmonds; and Miss Marion Ryder presents an intelligent reading of the child-part; Lucy Constance Howard and Nellie Hallett have suitable representatives in Misses Kitty Lofting and Miss Emil Leslie.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Jazon and Warner's company is playing here this week in the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Marie Braham is a dashing principal boy, and sings well; Miss Daisy Lane is a pleasing Princess Badroulbadour; and Miss Effie Morde a capital Petroe; Mr. Edwin C. Jazon plays capitally as Abanazar; the Widow Twankey is in the safe hands of Mr. Harry Carmen; Mr. Pete Vone as Snowball, and Mr. Dan Romans as Demonica do well; specialities are introduced by the Delaine Troupe of Continental Gymnasts; Mantel and Oval, comedy cyclists; Salidi and Vone, dancers; and the Sisters Varley, operatic vocalists.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Fred Granville's company, in the pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, is meeting with success. The pantomime is prettily staged, the Oriental scenery being greatly admired. The company is one of exceptional merit. Miss Madge Western is a charming and winsome Fizzali; Miss Cissie Kingsley makes a big hit as Abdallah; Miss Lily Brammer is a vivacious Morgiana; and Miss Gertie Douglas and Miss Loftus figure prominently in the cast. The comic element is well supplied by Mr. Walter Purvis, Mr. Fred Conynghame, Mr. Leo Trainor, and Mr. Forsyth Bruce. The Revals, the Sisters Loftus, Miss Patty Transfield, and the troupe of Bedouin Arabs provide specialities which add much to the success of the pantomime.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—The visit of Mr. Martin Harvey and company is always anticipated with pleasure by theatre-goers here, and the theatre has been crowded to its utmost capacity. During the week *The Only Way* and *The Breed of the Treshams* have been presented. The former play was given on Monday, when Mr. Harvey again triumphed in his favourite rôle of Sydney Carton. Miss N. de Silva did well as Mimi.

EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—The big attraction here this week is Atlas and Miss Vulcana, the great society athletes, who gain a very popular reception. The charming Miss Lily Burnand sings three songs in excellent style; and Miss Gladys Mavius is a capital dancer. Virto and his daughter Irene are capital instrumentalists; the Three Sisters Hayden delight the audience with their songs; and a pleasing novelty is A Ba Be, picture postcard album. Johnny Walker is here for another week; and Vincent, the tumbler, does some clever feats.

OXFORD.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Griffiths.—Excellent entertainment is provided here this week. The bill includes Fred Lloyd and company, sketch artists; the Pichel troupe of acrobats; Harold Hughman, impersonator; Agnes Molteno, balladist; the McConnell Trio, Captain Slingsby, Elly Adair, Dot Stanley, and the Kaufmann Sisters.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company is here this week in *Robinson Crusoe*. A bright and vivacious exponent of the title-rôle is found in Miss Marion Armitage; Miss Nellie Moore being an equally good principal girl. Mr. Allen Hanbury scores as the Dame, receiving excellent support from Mr. Willie Black (Will Atkins) and Messrs. Bass and Guinness (the Crusoe Twins). Mention should be made of the singing of Miss Cissie Conyers and Miss Bertha St. Ruth. The specialities include the Sidney Quartette of Dancers, the Snow Family, in their roller skate act, and the George French troupe of trick cyclists.

NELSON.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company is this week presenting Arthur Shirley's *Passion's Power*. Miss Cecil Cromwell as Zorah Varno scores a great success; Mr. Gerald Kennedy gives a capital performance as Prince Kandos; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan is good as Michael Laski; Mr. Walter Roberts submits a fine portrayal of Rudolph Laski; Mr. Henry Howard as Patrice plays his part creditably; Miss Stella Carmichael is much appreciated as Countess Delaunay; and Mr. Walter Raynham ably sustains the character of General Zuram.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Leah Kleschna* is being played here this week to appreciative houses. Miss Haidee Wright sustains the part of Leah Kleschna with feeling and power. Mr. J. Greanne Campbell represents Paul Sylvaine with polished dignity, and Mr. E. H. Brooke portrays Schram admirably. Mr. Kenneth Rivington does well as General Burton; Mr. Cyril Harcourt is a good Raoul Burton; and Mr. Ronald Daniel is good as Tallerton Favre. Miss Ethel Marryatt, Miss Haidee Hansley, and Miss Dorothy Sidney are well placed as Madam Berton, Claire Berton, and Sophie Chapomière respectively. Kleschna in the hands of Mr. H. Cooper-Cliffe is regarded as one of the finest pieces of character acting ever seen in Newport.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—George Gray and his company in *The Fighting Parson* give much satisfaction. Fred Poplar is a favourite comedian; the Sisters Moulier in a graceful gymnastic act are applauded; Professor Dunning presents a very interesting ventriloquial turn; Harry Drew is a bass vocalist of merit; Kitty Mayer is a singer with style and expression; Kahn and Kahn in modern necromancy are warmly applauded; Sadie Simson, comedienne, is a pleasing artist; and Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey in a coster romance, *Me and 'Er*, are responsible for much laughter.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. John Tully and company are here this week with *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in which Mr. Tully himself appears to advantage as Phineas Fletcher; Mr. William Taylor is very good as Uncle Tom; Mr. Fred G. Kay acts with intensity as Simon Legree; Mr. St. Vincent Beechey is amusing as the rascally Lawyer Marks; Miss Florence Venimore plays the rôles of Eliza Harris and Cassy with well differentiated effects; Miss Marie Lyndon is properly precise as Aunt Ophelia; Miss Kitty Wood is a lively Topsy; Little Marie completely realises the part of Little Eva; Mr. James Palmer, as Mr. Selby; Mr. J. D. Geddes, as George Harris; Mr. Charles Colwyn, as Mr. St. Clair; and Miss Annie Moore, as Emmeline, are all highly efficient. The Plantation Festival introduced into Act 4 gives opportunities to Kitty Wood, flap-shoe dancer; Lilian Francis, vocalist; Florrie Mack, coon songstress; Billy Taylor, whistling coon; Sergt. H. Danby, rifle and tambourine expert; and King Roy, basso, to show their varied abilities.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—Helene and Emilion give a pretty and clever gymnastic display; Zanfretta and Napio, the musical knife grinders, submit a high-class entertainment; Warden Reed and Co. are warmly welcomed on their return with the amusing duologue, "Married or Photographed"; Miss Jessie Albini is a refined comedienne, with some effective songs, notably, "My Little Diary"; Miss Ida Corral is broadly humorous as a comedienne; Fred Keeton sings a couple of good comic songs; and the Maitland Comedy Trio, in their funny absurdity, "The New Cook"; Charles H. Harrold, comedian and raconteur; and the Palace Pictures complete the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee. — Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company is this week presenting *Napoleon the Great*, which has had a cordial reception. As Napoleon, Mr. Hugh Montgomery is responsible for a capital portrayal of the character; Mr. Henry Earlesmere acquits himself well as Colonel Lavarennes; Mr. Phil Harper is highly successful as Colonel Jules Menrow; Mr. E. Bulmer Pitt plays with ability the part of Paul Lacqinska; Mr. Frank M. Thorne is well suited as Pierre Pomponnet; and Mr. C. W. Spencer shows capabilities as Sergeant Choupin. As Marie Valewska Miss Leslie Warner is particularly good; Miss Marie Harcourt is seen to advantage as Marcelle Choupin; Miss Maud Russell is clever as Mdlle. Leonie Marbronf; Miss Florence Thorne makes the most of the part of Mère Dumont; and Miss Adelaide Cromer is pleasing as Lisette.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—An attractive programme here is headed by Aryama, a clever wire walker and barrel manipulator. Mr. Oliver Conroy, comedian, comes in for a flattering reception; the Rushforths, song illustrators, meet with their usual success; King Leoni, ventriloquist, is entertaining; the Hindoo Trio in their scena, *An Eastern Maid*, meet with much favour; Mr. George Young, blind musician, is loudly applauded; and Messrs. Dardan and Iris, vocalists and tip-toe dancers, and the bio-photoscope complete a good bill of fare.

NORWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Hardie and Von Leer's original company is occupying the boards this week in *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Henry Hare is very successful as George Thornton; whilst Mr. Douglas Cecil is equally so as Capt. Darville. Mr. John F. Traynor is good as Bill Mullins; Mr. Dunstan Haye represents John Scarth with ability; and Ernest K. Nelson as Dido Bunce and Mr. Fred Archer as The Coughdrop deserve mention. Mr. Frank G. Kent as Leeson, Mr. Marston Moor as Hargett, Mr. Thomas Blakeman as Dr. Lynn, Mr. Hugh Holliman as Joe Gargoyle, Mr. Henry Buckland as Wiffles, and Mr. W. T. Harris as footman render valuable assistance. Miss Grace Heywood gives an effective rendering of the part of Marion Thornton; and Miss F. Russell Spiers deserves praise as Barbara Scarth. Miss Muriel Clay appears as Sister Randall; and Miss Constance May as the maidservant. Miss Freda Ettrick as Dick and Miss Helen Grenville as Wally submit an admirable representation of their respective parts; Miss Marie Pritchard's performance as Biddy Mullins is most realistic.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—A successful programme is presented this week. James De Voye's educated horse, Billy, is a wonderful exhibition of the kind, and astonishes all by his remarkable intelligence. The Paolias are well received in their classical poses, illustrative of physical culture; Will McIvor displays much ability as a vocalist; Adams and Ward are clever as well as humorous acrobats; Walter Curtis, comedian, excites much laughter; the Three Sisters Anderson, lady foot equilibrists, are a good turn; and Alice Melrose is a smart comedienne and expert dancer. In consequence of the indisposition of one of the troupe, the Three Resiras were unable to appear, but their place in the programme was admirably filled by Messrs. Thompson and company, in an amusing absurdity, *At the Front*. The Hippo Bioscope causes much merriment by the display of new comic pictures; and Captain Selby's band render valuable assistance.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Messrs. Barker and Thurston continue their "World's Fair" at this place of amusement, and for a short time have engaged Mr. Hardy, the king of the high rope, who displays his great ability twice each evening. The side shows of Messrs. J. Holmes, Westrope, Mackintosh, Tidman's mystic swing, &c., are all doing good business.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Humpty-Dumpty* is now nearing the end of its successful course, much to the regret of many patrons who have thoroughly enjoyed the gorgeous scenery and dressing, smart dialogue, charming music, tuneful songs, and wholesome fun. Laughter has reigned supreme each night, and nothing but pleasant recollections will be the outcome of Mr. Arthur's ninth annual.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*The Babes and Robin Hood* has now come to its last week, and the verdict is that it forms a record in every way for the "Grand." Miss Sophie Harriss has won golden opinions not only for her singing, but by her gracious demeanour and kindly manner, and Miss Lulu Evans has secured well-deserved popularity. The daintiness of the Four Sisters Tree is conspicuous; the Brothers Lorenzi and the Sisters Phillips have worked hard for their undoubted success; and the comedy element has been well looked after by Messrs. Rokeby Macmillan and Riley. The beautiful dresses and scenery have been rendered more effective still by the novel lime-lighting effects, for which Mr. Collingwood Hope has been responsible, and which have added so much to the artistic success. Miss Sophie Harriss took her benefit on Friday night.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—The juvenile pantomime company of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell is presenting *Beauty and the Beast* this week. The youngsters fairly revel in their work, and it is at times difficult to imagine they have only a limited knowledge of stage-craft, so capitally do they fill their rôles. The scenic arrangements are excellent, and the dressing well considered. Miss Kitty Trewhitt carries herself well as Prince Charming, and sings pleasantly. Miss Dolly Dodds makes a winsome and delightful Beauty, and Miss May Gibson plays and sings as Silver Star with a grace and vivacity that gain hearty favour. Miss Mona Townshend (Will Scarlett), Miss Isa Green (Maid Marion), and Miss Maggie Adair (Evil Heart) contribute much to the success. Miss Daisy Fielder (Tommy) and Miss Gladys Skipp (Marjorie) are also a lively couple. Master Will Kay (Baron Mumps), Master J. G. Aitken (Dressalinda), and Master Fred Ellis (Marigolda) contribute a large amount of fun, which is also helped by Masters Freddie Bentley, Tot Hunter, and Will Orston.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—The episode of a ten-pound note, sung by Tom Costello, evokes hearty laughter, and his portraiture of a poor old clown sounds the pathetic note, and is received with the warmest appreciation. Morton and Elliott are a lively pair with their musical instruments, and their manipulation of paper into various devices. The comedy juggling of Derenda and Green is worthy of high praise; F. V. St. Clair is cordially received for his songs; Paul Powell's electrical marionettes are a marvel of cleverness; another skilful item is provided by the Sisters Geretti, a graceful pair of trapeze artists; the descriptive vocalism of Phil Herman is an interesting feature; Mattie Wilks sings with taste and expression; and the equilibristic performance of Mdlle. Chaloni and the step-dancing of the Two Bostons are attractive items.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—*The Worst Woman in London*, as presented here this week by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, is full of interest and excitement from beginning to end. Miss Florence Dalton gives a skilful portrayal of Frances Vere; Mr. H. H. Barrington is well suited to the part of James Milford; and Mr. Wallace Campbell makes a first-rate Jack Felton; Mr. Paul Barry-Lewers is an excellent Vincent Lyle. In the rôle of Hugh Drayton, Mr. A. W. Monte displays considerable ability; Miss Effie Bartlett is well placed as Ruth; Miss Florence Lovell ably portrays Matilda Parker; and Mr. Alvin Sayer makes a good Bob Goldfinch.

OLDBURY. — PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Prichard; Manager, Mr. R. A. Brown.—A good bill here this week includes Messrs. Vowles and Ryan, comedy duettists, in a refined act; Mazzetto, expert juggler; Haddon and Clyde, comedy speciality artistes; Eva Searle, ballad vocalist; Frank Buckley, comedian; Bob Rixby, comedian; Dan Kennedy, comedian; and the Palace Bioscope.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Manager and Proprietor, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—Mr. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Bo Peep*, is receiving excellent support here. Miss Lizzie Payne, in the title-rôle, and Miss Susie Beavan as Boy Blue, are charming in their acting and singing; Mr. Dawson Dewick, J. W. Groves, Gilroy and Gross, Harry Wren, and Stern and Stern contribute largely to the fun.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howgate.—An excellent programme is submitted here. The centre of attraction is that wonderful magician, Horace Goldin, who is astounding his audience by his illusions; the Babusian Bros. are well received for their smart acrobatic performance; R. A. Speedwell, the demon painter, is highly appreciated; Marba and Verity create roars of laughter by their acrobatic dancing performance; Tom Brantford is successful in a musical turn; Harry Clifford is appreciated as a vocalist of merit;

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—The pantomime of *Cinderella* is still attracting capital houses here, despite its five weeks' run. It has been a marked success, reflecting credit on all concerned.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—The star turn here this week is provided by the Loonies, who contribute an abundance of fun and music. Tilley's Minstrels are extremely good, excelling in all that they undertake; Little Don is a versatile and smart comedian who is much appreciated; the Henderson and Stanley Quartette play, sing, and dance well; Mr. Jack Thornbury is a skilful ventriloquist, and his sand and smoke paintings excite general admiration. Other contributors are Miss Ethel May, comedienne and dancer; Etelka Nicklas, comedienne; and Vernon's animated pictures.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's powerful company is appearing here in *A False Wife*. Mr. W. Howard Barlow makes a manly and powerful Lieut. George Mansfield; Mr. Elton Morgan admirably utilises the opportunities presented by Ben Rattler; Archibald Brown Tee finds a capable exponent in Mr. Owen Edwin; Mr. John Cecil scores a great success as Zorak, the mad wizard; Miss Florence E. Florence as Lady Mansfield wins great admiration by her brilliant acting; Miss Nita Imeson scores as Bessie Blaser; and Miss Aileen Armour is a sympathetic Alice Weyland.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—On Monday evening Mr. Frank Bateman's company opened here in the play entitled *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Mr. George C. Doughty gives a clever impersonation of Dick Delver, a detective. As Frank Hatherleigh Mr. Stuart is most successful. Mr Louis Garton displays power as Montague Blair; Mr. Walter T. Clifford is well suited in the part of Abney Stone; Mr. Edward E. Louis makes a capital Harold Trevelyan; Horatio Lane, an old actor, has an excellent exponent in Mr. A. Balfour Mackay; Miss Ida Mackay is extremely fascinating as Doris Fane; Mr. Herbert J. Walton scores as Adonis Tightfist; Miss Ellen Owen gives a satisfactory representation of Marie; Miss Lizzie Montague is seen to advantage as Lola Delaspierre. The lighter parts are entrusted to the following, who contribute greatly to the evening's enjoyment: Mr. Will Skeleton as Simkins and Miss Helen Stewart as Peggy.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*The Talk of the Town* is for the first time being presented to a Portsmouth audience at this house by Mr. William Greet's company, who opened on Monday for twelve nights and four matinées. The piece was received with every mark of approval by a large audience, convulsed by the very natural and clever way in which the "man in possession," Jerry Snipe, was impersonated by Mr. William Cromwell. Reggie Drummond was presented by Mr. Arthur Harrold with ability and much earnestness, his singing of "My Ellaline" being admirable. Messrs. Tom Graves and A. Gambier created lots of merriment as Ernest and Frank English; Miss Louie Tinsley's Geraldine Evelyn Snipe was a capital embodiment of the part, and quietly effective; Ellaline Lewin, in the hands of Miss Joan Kiddie, was a charming and vivacious personage; Madame Modiste was acted by Miss Gertrude Melville in capital style; and the Gipsy Girl Jane was made the most of by Miss Evelyn D'Alroy. The costumes and scenery were much admired.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate—The naval drama, *A Sailor's Sweetheart*, the attraction here this week, is played by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. Grace Mayland is excellently portrayed by Miss Molly Pearson; Mr. Mark Blow as Lieut. Charles Clive, R.N., makes a manly hero; Mr. Charles H. Lester fills the rôle of the villain Phillip Pemberton with admirable judgment; and Mr. Douglas Carlile acts the rascally solicitor, Stephen Lucas, with ability. Phœbe Pembury and Mrs. Pembury, in the hands of Miss Ella Dixon and Miss Lucy Lester, together with Mr. Walter Westwood as Tim Kelly, A.B., are responsible for a great deal of fun. Messrs. Dan Shields, Thomas, Miller, E. R. Wyvers, and A. B. Cunliffe are also worthy of mention.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The programme for the week here is one of great variety. The Lorch Family, risley act performers, top the bill, and give an entertainment that is thoroughly appreciated. The Twin Bros. Dean, opera whistlers and dancers, are applauded for their excellent turn; Frank Leslie, vocal comedian, also has a good reception; Brett and Orford, with *The Two Lovebirds*, meet with success; the Crown Trio, speciality vocalists, are very good; Mr. A. Wyndham and company, with the Shakespearean sketch *Prince Arthur*, win much favour for their very capable efforts; Walker and Lake are popular patter purveyors; and the Three Sisters Thurbani, vocalists and instrumentalists; and Cissie Scofield, comedienne, aid the attractiveness of a capital programme.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Frank Ayrton's Co. in *The Power of Gold*, is pleasing audiences here. Mr. Charles Whitlock as Hadji Lambra, the Malay Doctor, is capable, and so is Mr. Tom Ronald as Paul Jutson. Mr. William Pimm undertakes the character of Dr. Stephen Saumners with success; Mr. Albert Sefton is good as Mark Harley; Mr. Wilson Wyte's Marc Anthony is funny; Mr. Frank Ayrton, as Sammy Smudge takes advantage of his opportunities for forcing the fun; Miss Lilla Wilde as Lady Brandon submits an interesting portrayal; and Miss Madge Seymour does good work as Norah Donnelly. Miss Georgina V. France is commendable as Miss Judson, and Little Mabel is praiseworthy as Paddy Blake.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—On Tuesday night Mr. J. D. Hunter—who is an esteemed native of this town—commenced an engagement with his brightly-written, well-staged pantomime, *Cinderella*. The genial "J. D." or "Johnny," as he is known to Ramsgate audiences, is thoroughly at home and extremely humorous as the Ugly Sister." Miss Blanche Bayley is a dashing Prince, and Miss Doris Dew a charming Cinderella. Mr. Dick Tubb is an amusing Baron, and the other parts are capably sustained. There is a full and efficient chorus; the Cleveland Troupe indulge in marvellous acrobatic revels, and an excellent *finale* to the panto. is provided in the shape of Little Rosie's Miniature Circus, introducing highly-trained performing ponies, dogs, etc. Mr. Hunter personally supervises the production, and Mr. L. J. Gunnell courteously acts as manager. The show is in all respects a very attractive one.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's excellent company opened here on Monday with a fine performance of Nita Rae's powerful new play, *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. As Elinore D'Arville Miss Marie Dagmar gave a finished impersonation, thoroughly delighting the audience with her artistic rendering; Mr. Fred C. Somerfield was also exceedingly clever as Will Maynard; in the dual part of Cyril and Geoffrey Langdon, Mr. Fred Emery was decidedly successful; Mrs. A. Ross Ford was a good Janet Miles; and as Rosina Phillipi Miss Marie Clavering proved herself an actress of undoubted talent; Miss Mildred Clay gave a delightfully natural reading of the part of Lily Lorrimer; Mr. T. G. Vane as Leonard Vimbart was admirable, and Mr. Edwin Cheetham was equally good as Harold Hingston; Miss Maudie Grayson as Phœbe gave a bright and piquant portrayal; and Miss Daisy Ruby as Florette de Vere was all that could be wished; M. Bradford Crosby as Peter Miles, Mr. Chas. E. Warne as James, and Mr. C. Barney as Charles were all thoroughly competent.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—The popular comic opera, *Lady Madcap*, is being presented this week for the first time in Reading by Mr. George Dance's chief company. Miss Vera Vere plays with chic and vivacity as Lady Betty; Miss Kathleen Ronayne is effective as Gwenny Holden; Miss Peggy Primrose's light and graceful dancing in the part of Susan, the lady's maid, creates great applause; Mr. H. V. Surrey plays the part of Oraya Brown with much humour; Mr. Vincent Erne is exceedingly droll as Corporal Ham; Mr. Ray Russell plays with ability and dances with great skill and agility in the character of Bill Stratford; Mr. Fred Payne is highly diverting as Posh Jenkins. The officers of the East Anglican Hussars are well impersonated by Messrs. Lyall Grant, Fredk. C. Leister, Robert Cranny, and E. Whitelock; Mr. Alex Chentrens is very successful as the French Count; Mr. Louis du Cane as Lord Fralingham, Mr. Ralph Holland as the Butler, and Miss C. Johnstone as Mrs. Layton all sustain their parts well. The full chorus and augmented orchestra are under the able direction of Mr. Alfred C. Toone. The production throughout is exceedingly well received, most of the musical numbers being vociferously redemanded.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hayne.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is attracting good houses here this week. The scenery is exceptionally pretty and tasteful, and the pantomime is brimming over with rollicking fun and humour. Miss Madge Daley impersonates Bold Robin Hood in dashing style. Miss Nancy Thornton wins all hearts as Maid Marion; Mr. A. Stratton maintains the traditions associated with the bad Baron; Mr. Gus Balsizer is amusing as the black page Bantam; Mr. R. Hill, as the Dame, creates roars of laughter with his merry patter; and the two robbers have a pair of clever representatives in Mr. Bennett and Mr. Martell, whose burlesque acting is immensely enjoyed. The Babes are charmingly acted by Little Dolly Cullen and Little Elsie Jordison, specialities are introduced by Mr. David Poole, ventriloquist; Gus Balsiger; and the Ariston Quartette of Dancers.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—Good business is being done here this week. The Marconis submit an interesting series of experiments with gas and electricity; Decona is an amusing and novelty instrumentalist; Mdlle. Marvelle's trained cockatoos and macaws perform some wonderful tricks; the Darnton Sisters, duettists; Miss Lily Turner, vocalist; Henry Abdy's canine hippodrome; H. O. Borie, comedy juggler; and Stephen Blythe, actor vocalist; complete a capital programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The programme submitted here this week includes several smart turns. The Llewellyns, operatic artistes, render some refined and tasteful songs; the Hugo Troupe submit a novel turn as "The Human Calyspintic-Kromocrene"; the Two Blamphins, in a nigger act, *Old Kentucky Home*; Connie Ford, vocalist and dancer; Harry Mansfield, comedian; Haig and Novel, comedy couple; Ray Ford, comedienne and dancer; and "Election results" by the Empire Bioscope, complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's Company is presenting *The Mid night Mail* this week. Mr. George Harvard is seen to advantage as Harry Steyne; Mr. Fred G. Evison scores as Billy Brewer; Mr. Austin Mortimer is a manly Leonard Royle; and Mr. T. Vincent is deserving of mention as Gerald Eustace. Hassai Padisha is capably enacted by Mr. C. R. Wentworth; Mr. H. Dobell Lyle does well as Donald Craig; Messrs. Warburton and Harry Emmerson as Edward Barclay and Jasper Thornleigh are effectively rendered parts; Miss Kitty Johnstone is a sprightly Parker; and Miss Jennie Weston scores as Mrs. Mildmay. Miss Lydia Hart is very smart as Nancy Brewer; Miss Hilda Merriles is pleasing as Lady Phyllis Eustace; Miss Grace Lester as Mary Steyne, gives a thoughtful and sympathetic rendering of the part, and Miss Ethel North, as Patty, speaks her lines effectively.

DRILL HALL.—The Joseph Poole Myriorama and Variety entertainment are paying their annual visit to the town with quite an up-to-date programme of pictures. Amongst the specialities may be mentioned Mr. Felix-de-Marce's exceedingly clever performing ponies and dogs; the Three Phydoras in their smart, knockabout turn; Miss May Finch, a pleasing character vocalist; and Messrs. Nash and Nash; the Vernons, and Mr. Nat Abatt, who all deserve special mention.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross. This week the drama *At the World's Mercy* is being presented here. Mr. Carr Loates as Captain Frank Manley is robust and effective, and as the Solicitor Mr. Albert Guyon gives a clever rendering; Mr. Hyland Shea as Goldstein submits an able and amusing impersonation; and as Charlie Smart Mr. W. G. Irving proves himself to be a versatile comedian; Mr. Leo Rodway as Slouching Sam is also successful; Miss Cissie Milford as Skittles meets with much applause; Miss Ginnevre Shilton as Alice Lloyd does exceedingly well; and as Kitty Smart Miss Annie Hunter is highly effective; Miss Kitty Jerome as Rose in smart and dances excellently, as also does Little Vera, who takes the part of Dot; Miss Alice King as Mother Haggard, and Miss Jennie Gilmore as Mrs. Rouke are both good.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H W. Caddick.—A repertoire of popular classical plays is being staged this week by Mr. Alan Wilkie's company, a pronounced success being the result. On Monday *Othello* was the attraction, the title-rôle being taken by Mr. Wilkie, who gives an interesting interpretation; Mr. G. Lambton is quite successful as the scheming Iago; Mr. Clifford Rean is responsible for an earnest rendering of Cassio; and Mr. Edwin Ling does well as the Duke of Venice; and Mr. Jas. Willoughby is effective as Brabantio; Miss Cameron enacts Desdemona with charm and emotional power; and Emilia is well played by Miss Lizzie Maddocks.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Peter Eland's pretty pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, was welcomed here on Monday by a large house. It is under the management of Mr. Harry Flockton-Foster, who cleverly sustains the part of the naughty Baron. Babs Lloyd, a clever little lady, made an ideal heroine in the title-rôle, singing and dancing in a charming manner. Miss Ruby Winstone is a dashing Robin Hood, and Maid Marian is well presented by Miss Celestine Brandon. Mr. Oswald Battye as the village policeman, Mr. Arnold Richardson as the village postman, Mr. Fred Cherry as Widow Bailey, and Mr. W. Brandon as the page form a comical quartette whose business keeps the audience in a continual roar. Miss Daintree as the good Fairy, Mr. Lorimer Stuart as the Wolf, Miss Fanny Humber as Will Scarlett, and Mdlle. Carmencita as Nell o' the Knoll also do well. Among the specialities is a most amusing cycling act by the Keegans; Mdlle. Thelma does some clever clay modelling; Miss Ruby Dahl's novelty marionettes cause roars of laughter; and Stentora, a lady baritone, and the Lotus Troupe of Dancers.

REGENT OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*Sentenced for Life* is presented by Mr. Bulmer's company this week. Sir Walter Stillwell is fittingly portrayed by Mr. Brancepeth-Nevill, and Mr. E. Vaughan successfully plays the villain, Captain Paul Derrick, and the hero, Lieutenant Roy Stillwell, is excellently undertaken by Mr. Arthur Keand. Mr. James F. Firth as Percy McGentle is very comical. Miss Madge Douglas, who sings well as Adele Gray, Miss Mary Dalby as Kate Reumel, and Miss Gladys Hawthorne are charming in their several rôles. Rev. Martin Orris is carefully sustained by Mr. Glenville. Messrs. Horton and Oldroyd as Old Sharkey and Toby add much to the comedy element.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Ben Hur deserves praise for his remarkable feats of strength; Miss Ada Colley's songs are well received; *The Daybreakers* is a comical acrobatic sketch. The excellent programme also includes Winnie D'Aubyn, burlesque artist; C. F. Best, a smart comedy acrobat; Grey and Welford, comedians in comic boxing; the Lurins, in comic sketch; Harry Nation, laughing comedian; and some comic bioscope pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Maggie Walsh, Lancashire singing mill girl, makes a great hit with her songs. Chas. Ashdowne, eccentric comedian and dancer, is well received; A. J. Rebla's comic and clever juggling is much applauded; and other good turns include the Two Neros (funny burglars), the Hartley Wonders, the Vyponds (in the song-scena, *The Wedding Day*), Carle and Carmanelli (musical comedians), Harry Morris, Marie Blythe (comedienne), and Payte's Society Entertainers, concluding with some interesting bioscope pictures.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—Lovers of the sensationally dramatic are well catered for here this week by Messrs. E. H. Knight and George Denham's company in *The Grip of Iron*. Mr. Fred Powell gives a powerful delineation of Jagon, alias Simmonet, and Mr. George Denham presents a satisfactory Loustalot. Miss Nellie Fletcher is excellent as Cora Simmonet. The other characters are in excellent hands.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is engaged here this week and presenting with success *Her Wedding Day*. Weedon Kenyon finds a capital exponent in Mr. S. Herbert Humber; Seth Mayson is performed with telling effect by Mr. T. Edward Ward; Harold Saxby is given an effective portrayal by Mr. Percy Brown; Jordan J. Jessop is made an amusing study by Mr. Morris Maud; Sam Klink is well done by Mr. James Barrett; Madge Conway is admirably acted by Miss Ward; Dora is acceptably presented by Miss Eva Bertram; Dolly Klink is pleasingly embodied by Miss Beatrice Sinclair; and Mrs. Caccles is capably interpreted by Miss Ettie Spalding.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—The programme submitted here still maintains its usual standard of excellence. Frank Purcell's comedy company in the farcical sketch, *Three Husbands*, provides an attractive feature of the bill. Mr. Cyrus Dare in his mimical entertainment includes some capital imitations of a child; the San Remo Girls, vocalists and dancers, are much admired; a recitation by Mr. Frank Purcell meets with well-deserved applause; Miss Jennie Reeve, comedienne, and J. D. Toner, mimic, are also worthy of praise; and a series of new and interesting pictures by Ruffell's Bioscope completes the entertainment.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—A good all-round bill here includes the Arundel Sketch Company in the comedy act, *The Artful Photographer*; Miss Flo Windsor, male impersonator, is also paying a welcome return visit; Mr. Will Danton, descriptive vocalist; Miss Lettie Young, Scotch comedienne; Mr. Charles Howard, comedian and dancer; and the Dennisons, comedy duettists, complete the programme.

SHEFFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—The second edition of Mr. George Davey's pretty pantomime *Babes in the Wood* presented to a good audience on Monday. Mr. Kirby's flying ballet and the Lottie Stone ballet troupe continue popular features of the pantomime, and Little Ganty, the whimsical Baron, keeps the house in roars of laughter.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The annual visit of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company is a big event with local lovers of music, and on Monday a large and demonstrative audience listened with pleasure to a fine performance of *Tannhauser*, which was excellently staged and efficiently cast, Herr Julius Waether and Miss Hana Mara specially distinguishing themselves. The ensemble was admirable, and vocally and dramatically the opera was an artistic success. On Tuesday the delightful *Marriage of Figaro* was given, with Mesdames Nicholl, Woodall, and Burgess, and Messrs. Winckworth and Victor as principals. On Wednesday Mr. Edward Davies, Mr. Winckworth, and Miss Grace Nicholl appeared in *Faust*, and the programme for the rest of the week was as follows:—Thursday, *The Bohemian Girl*; Friday, *Tristan and Isolda*; Saturday morning, *Carmen*; and evening, Wallace's ever popular romantic opera, *Maritana*.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—A more merry and exhilarating annual than *Cinderella* could not be desired, and crowded houses continue to testify by loud applause how much the Sheffield public appreciate the efforts of the enterprising and indefatigable management. A large share of the great success of the annual is due to the capital performances of Pete and Juno, the renowned transatlantic coloured comedians, and the extraordinary vivacity of the troupe of dancers known as the Tivoli Quartette, whose efforts nightly bring down the house. Miss Alma Obney, assisted by the Tivoli troupe, makes a big hit with "Four merry, pretty little Maidens." The Sisters Terry, handsome, clever, and refined, are big favourites. The Bros. Lavelle are applauded to the echo. Miss Celia Kent makes a hit with her songs and dances. Messrs. Dale and Mackenzie are two mirth-provoking Ugly Sisters. Miss Edie Endon, with her smart dancing, evokes great applause. Miss Townend makes a charming Fairy Sunbeam, Mr. Fred. C. Biron is a bluff John Bull-like Baron Hardup, and Mr. Harry Pleon scores with his funniosities and impersonations.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The bill this week is headed by the Empire Comedy Four, who appear in a novel, humorous, and versatile entertainment. Mendal, the blind pianist, again justifies the position he holds in the estimation of all lovers of music. Griff is still full of quips and quiddities, and continues a big favourite; the smart patter of Fraser and Mac causes hearty laughter; and other successful performers are Liddon and Hayward, A-Bo-Kon, W. H. Clemart (mimic), the Royal Six (in a novel act), Lux and his well-trained canine pets, Gallando, and Alpha.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—On Monday a large and appreciative audience welcomed the following new-comers:—The Brothers Zampah, Miss Mabella May, Miss Cordite, Mr. Nat Watkins, the popular Mortimers, and Prof. Pallister with his animated pictures of local and topical events.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—The famous Maskelyne and Devant mysteries and illusions are still drawing well-pleased audiences. A special feature this week is "The Burmese Gong."

WONDERLAND.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Sampson.—The pantomime of *Beauty and the Beast*, invented and produced by Mr. Herbert Lemley, is being performed here to good houses.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company was here on the first four nights of this week with the pretty musical comedy *A Country Girl*. Mr. J. Mansell Stringer was a thoroughly capable Geoffrey Chaloner; Mr. Bernard Vaughan looked well and sang effectively as the Rajah of Bhong; Mr. W. O. Billington was droll and lively as Sir Joseph Verity; Mr. W. Besley Beltran acted with ability as Douglas Verity; Mr. Geo. Stone was a picturesque rustic as Granfer Mummery; Mr. A. W. Metcalf made a capital Lord Anchester; Mr. W. Womack was successful as Lord Grassmere; Mr. Sawyer as Herr Tootser acquitted himself creditably; and Mr. Heath satisfactorily sustained the rôle of Rube Fairway. Mr. Johnny Clegg was a lively and clever Barry. Miss Eileen Guilbert was a charming and tuneful Marjorie Joy; Miss Vera Vizard made a fine Princess Meehelanah; Miss Madge Campbell was bright and pleasing as Madame Sophie; Miss Florence Brewster acted with care and judgment the part of Mrs. St. Quintin; Miss Kitty Stone was a sympathetic Nurse; Miss Cecilia Broughton sustained creditably the part of Lady Anchester; Miss Nellie Read was good as Miss Carruthers; Miss Barbara Antonie played conscientiously the part of an Indian attendant; and Miss Florence Burdett made a lively Nan.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*The Temptress* made her bow to a large audience here on Monday, and her career proved very interesting in the hands of Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company. Mr. W. H. Hallatt brings to bear on the part of Pedro Gonzales, a lion tamer, histrionic abilities of a high order; and Miss Blanche Steele in the title-rôle is also a conspicuous success. Mr. C. James Ashworth is excellent as Sir Oswald Fordyce; Mr. Robert Wilton makes a capital Austin Dale; Mr. Frederick Ross is well placed as Lucas Denbigh; Miss Dora Mason is good as Denis; and both Miss Lizzie Chambers and Mr. Allan Carruthers are responsible for popular and clever portrayals.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—This week's attraction is the musical comedy *The Catch of the Season*, which is admirably presented by Mr. Chas. Frohman's company. Miss Maie Ash is charming as Angela, and with Mr. Frank Lincoln (the Duke) easily carries off the honours of the evening. Mrs. A. B. Tapping is well placed as Lady Catherham; and Miss Belle Napier scores as Lady Crystal. Miss Alice Lethbridge dances delightfully; and Miss Hettie Muret excels as a vocalist. Mr. Laurence Caird and Mr. E. W. Royce also do exceedingly well.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Willie Trussell.—A popular feature here is the presentation of a number of scenes from the works of Charles Dickens, which are realisticaly given by Miss Eva Hope and Mr. Jack Wayho. Leo Tell excels as an animal imitator; and Tate and Tate do well in their acrobatic speciality. Lydia Yeamans, assisted by F. J. Titus, also wins golden opinions; and other capital turns were given by Wright and Elton, Harry Lawson, Toch and Tard, and Frank Bernard and Co. in a funny sketch, *Hello*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Freece; District Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percy Aldin.—The bright particular star is Marie Loftus, who evokes a perfect hurricane of applause by her versatile contributions. The Lynches, song illustrators, also do well; and others who appear are Jean Seul, the Indian mystery; Will English, the all-black; Onda and Leon, acrobats; Mayon and Marle; and Arthur Boyne.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips is presenting the pantomime, in two parts, entitled *Little Red Riding Hood*, and Monday's production was received most enthusiastically. The scenery is very pretty, and both this and the dresses are much admired. The choruses are well rendered, and the dancing by the Six American Belles deserves mention. Mr. Fred Maple and Miss Amy Maple, who take the parts of the Wicked Squire and Jill respectively in good style, are to be highly complimented on their really clever dancing, their exhibition of the cake walk, as danced in Japan, being rapturously applauded. Miss Louie Hurman made a dashing Prince Amoroso, being well supported by Miss Vera Saunders as Cupid, and Miss Marie Beaufort as the Fairy Gossamer. Mr. Henry de Sola gives a really clever impersonation of Lawyer Slyfox, working hard throughout. Mr. Philip Sefton and Mr. George Elliston as the Wolf and the Poodle respectively are good, and Mr. Charles Gardiner is seen to advantage in his character of Granny. Miss Lily Stewart is responsible for a clever portrayal of Little Red Riding Hood.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—For the second time this season pantomime occupies the stage here, the company engaged being that of Messrs. Charles Carey and Alexander Loftus in a good all-round production of *Cinderella*. The title-rôle had a chic and clever exponent in Miss Freda Godfrey; Miss Ernestine Walter piquantly depicted Prince Charming; Miss Maud Terry capably represented Dandini; the Fairy Godmother has a charming representative in Miss Hilda Blanche; Miss M. Nichols undertook the part of Lord Gadfly very creditably; the comic element was well sustained by Mr. Norman Bower and Mr. W. E. Chewd as the two Ugly Sisters; Messrs. Nash and Noel as the Broker's Men, and especially by Mr. Joseph B. Montague, who was the drollest possible Peter the Page. Mr. J. Grant scored highly in the part of Baron Bounder, and the remaining characters were all well sustained.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—An attractive entertainment is provided here this week. Prominent amongst the items submitted are Bert Williams, ventriloquist and chapeaugraphist; Oily Oakley, banjoist; the Society Quartette of vocalists, comedians, and dancers; and Hurman, juggler and hoop manipulator. Other good turns are supplied by Lily Dresden, refined vocalist; Syd Herman, Hebrew comedian; Minnie Mace, comedienne and dancer; and the Bio-Tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—The pantomime *Cinderella* maintains its popularity here. Mr. Eade Montefiore has carefully selected his company, and, judging from the excellent houses, the result is altogether satisfactory. The comedy, headed by Mr. George Rydon, a versatile comedian, is as strong as ever, adequate support being lent by Messrs. Fred Lincoln, Arthur Byron, George Antley, and Conan and Doyle. Among the ladies Miss Nellie Merton (Cinderella), and Miss Georgina Leonard (Prince Peerless) have both created favourable impressions. A further word of praise may be allotted to Miss Vera Schlesinger (Fairy Godmother) and Mr. Geo. W. Travener (Demon King).

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Thompson.—A remarkably clever equilibristic act is submitted by the Riogokus Family of Japanese acrobats, who are loudly applauded. Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are old favourites here. Expert dancing is given by Bertha Winder, the dancing marvel. A good comedy sketch is shown by Collins and Rice. Other attractive performances are supplied by Fred Elton, mimic; Rhoda Bros., acrobats; F. H. Dundas, vocal comedian; Horace White, ventriloquist; and the much-appreciated American Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Joseph Sweeney.—The attractions this week include the Four Blackbirds, coloured comedians and dancers, who head the bill. A clever turn is presented by Kloof and Ramsey, in their musical novelty burlesques; Vasey and Reed, smart comedians and patterers, find favour; and James Lowery, singing furnaceman, wins applause. Bert Bowden is a quaint comedian. Other turns contributing to an excellent programme are Bertha Norwood, comedienne; and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope, which is still popular.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Messrs. Monti and Firth are this week presenting their popular pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*. The choruses and dances are a marked feature of the performance. As Robin Hood Miss Florrie Bray is very piquant, and her rendering of several popular songs is much relished; Miss May Edney is conspicuous as Will Scarlett; the sisters Lily and Maudie Cleave submit a good performance of the Babes; Miss Ada Clare as Maid Marian and Miss Daisy Cecil as Phyllis do well; a good Dame is seen in Mr. Dean Idle, who succeeds in keeping his audience in the best of tempers. Mr. Arthur Allen fills the rôle of Baron Graball with distinction, and the Brothers Valmore are very funny as Weary Willie and Tired Tim.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Last Friday and Saturday Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in the bright musical comedy, *The Gay Parisienne*, was a big attraction at this theatre. Mr. Edward Kipling gave a droll and capable portrayal of Ebenezer Honeycomb; Miss Alice Nixon was a most vivacious and chic Parisienne; Miss Gwennie Harcourt was capable as Ruth; and as Norah Miss Lucia Collins was good. The singing of the Imperial Glee Singers (Messrs. Jones, Reed, Carey, and FitzJames) met with great applause. This week the theatre is occupied by Messrs. Ernest Chisney, Arthur C. Sanderson, and Miss Bessie Elma's company in the powerful drama *The Power and the Glory*. The play, which is of a highly sensational character, is well received, and the acting is good all round.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the St. Helen's Theatre, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—We have here this week a return visit from Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey sustains the title-rôle is a manly and clever manner; Miss Laura Hansen is thoroughly at home as Kate Strong; as the villain Leo, Mr. Joseph Carter is forcible. Other prominent parts are well-filled by Miss Edith Giddens, Miss Bertha Hanbury, Miss Cassie Edwards, and Messrs. C. Livesey and T. E. Marshall.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Miss Violet Whinworth's Cycling Girls in the act *Riding to Win* are proving a great draw here; Messrs. J. S. Benyon and G. Campkin, racing cyclists, are also well received; Livesey and Rosebery cause much hilarity in the sketch, *The Would-be Actors*; Dusty Rhodes scores as a vocal comedian; the Alskarno Trio are Risley acrobats of no mean order; Miss Lilian Victoria is clever in her vocal scena, *Aunt's Troubles*; the Perkins, coloured vocalists and dancers, are very good; Tony Iveson, "the Aristocratic Ragman," is funny; and Zaid, contortionist, is popular.

ST. LEONARDS.—THE KURSAAL.—Pier-Master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The orchestral concerts this week are supplemented by the distinguished soprano Miss Ethel Grimes, and Madame Ella Russell.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—A large and appreciative audience assembled here on Monday night to welcome Mr. George Dance's musical play *The Duchess of Dantzic* on the occasion of its second visit. Mr. Gilbert Yorke gave an effective impersonation of Napoleon, and Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths acted with satisfactory ability as Francois. Mr. Gilbert Childs, in the character of Papillon, created abundant laughter; and Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy made a smart and able Adhemar. Miss May Glum's performance as Sans Gene was exceedingly delightful; Miss Ella Derwent impersonated the Empress Josephine with dignity; and Renee was charmingly presented by Miss Maggie White.

EMPIRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The amusing patter of Cliff Ryland has quite suited the habitués of this establishment, who have laughed heartily; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, styled the Factory Nightingales, are a trio of entertaining vocalists; and the Autos, in their comedy, *The Musical Doll*, are well received. Gus Hindell in song and story is successful; whilst Henry Carlton as Billy Blobbs, ably supported in a sketch, *One Night Only*, causes abundant merriment. The Harlem Brothers show their versatility as rifle manipulators, acrobats, and dancers; Donna and Cliff sing and dance ably; and the Sisters Bartholomew, duettists, share in the applause of the evening.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *Are You a Mason?* is here this week. As George Fisher, Mr. Allan Pollock

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—A diversified bill is provided here this week, including as it does Jee and Arden, Scotch comedy artistes; *The Children's Party*, in which some half-hundred local youngsters appear; Harry Freeman, comedian; Frank Bertram and Co. in a short comedy sketch, entitled *The Chaperon*; Linton, a clever slack-wire performer; the Three Clarions, in their musical absurdity, *The-Would-be-Tenor*; Vernon's Animated Pictures; and last, but by no means least, Alexandroff's troupe of Russian singers and national dancers.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in *The Two Little Drummer Boys* is here this week, and a good house showed considerable approval on Monday. Mrs. F. G. Kimberley acts in a forcible manner as Margaret Rivers (Drunken Meg); Mr. Lionel Hamilton is excellent as Captain Frank Carsdale; Mr. Edward Birtker is good as General Kingsley; and Mr. Andrew Money as Captain George Darrell plays the heavy lead in a manner that is cool and refined. The comedy is well looked after by Miss Edie Macklin as Molly, Mr. F. G. Kimberley as Quincy O'Quirk, and Mr. Horace Custins as Timothy Trimmer; Little Elsie May, child vocalist, gains applause.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, which, under the general management of Mr. Hugh Nolan, has been transferred in its entirety from the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, is the attraction here. Miss Maisie Ellinger, as principal boy, plays with remarkable freshness and refinement, and Miss Veronica Brady is bright and captivating as Polly Perkins, both these talented artists being vociferously encored for their songs and dances. Miss Cassie Walmer is an ideal Empress of Jungalow, and is very popular; while Miss Lily Beverley as Lieut. Bobs, and Miss Blanche Courtenay as Jenny Hopkins, are each seen to considerable advantage. Mr. Tom Owen, the Welsh comedian, is an excellent widow, and with Mr. Frank Couch as Billy, and Messrs. Downes and Langford as Salt and Pepper respectively causes unbounded fun throughout. Larola is particularly good as Friday, and scores heavily with his clever speciality. Mr. Clifford Morgan has made a fine study of the part of Will Atkins, his well-rendered songs being highly appreciated.

TON-Y-PANDY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Barrie.—Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company this week is presenting *Her One Great Sin*. Being well mounted and capitally played, the piece is followed throughout with great interest. Mr. Sam Arthur gives a strong exposition of the part of Reuben Warhurst; Arnold Thornhill, a spendthrift squire, is excellently portrayed by Mr. J. L. Jackson; and Miss Blanche St. Albans is admirably cast as the erring Grace Warhurst.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gunnell.—There have been large audiences this week on the occasion of the first visit of Mr. Henry Bedford's company in such favourites as *Gipsy Jack* and *Mafeking*. In the first-named piece, on the opening night, Mr. Bedford had a cordial reception in the title-rôle, and was well supported by his company. On Thursday Mr. Carey, in conjunction with Mr. F. Hunnibell, gave a successful matinée concert in aid of the Mayor's Unemployed Fund.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. James Kiddie's company, in the pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is here this week, and has proved very popular. Miss Bessie Willows makes a dashing Dick. Miss Maggie Summersin is smart and refined as Alice; Miss Florence Hilton is lively as Sir Algernon de Mash, and wins applause with her pleasing songs; Miss Isabel Taylor is a handsome Captain Navycutie; the part of the Cat is well filled by Mr. M. V. Vido. The comedians, Mr. Cyril Dundas (Alderman Fitzwarren), Mr. Victor Vernon (the Cook), Messrs. Clifton and Gibson as the Apprentices, along with Mr. Will Summersin (Idle Jack), keep the house in continuous laughter, and contribute largely to the success of the pantomime. Mr. Archie J. Milne is good as the Emperor of Morocco, and Miss Florrie Crompton is dainty as the Princess. Some clever specialities are introduced by Curtis and Vanity, who head some excellent cake-walking; the Three Sisters Kilner, who dance delightfully; La Belle Troupe of Parisienne dancers; a capital acrobatic dance turn is also contributed by Miss Vanity; the Horbury Handbell Ringers win applause; Miss Cissie Clifton as the Fairy, and Mr. Archie J. Milne as the King of Rats sing well.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Mr. J. W. Turner's Opera Company occupies the boards here this week. The principals include Messrs. J. W. Turner, John Ridding, F. J. Hargreaves, Chas. Le Sœur, Sidney Clifford, Miss Jennie Dennis, Miss Alice Boaden, and Miss Kitty Brownless. The programme for the week includes *Maritana*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Killarney*.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucan.—A good programme is headed by Morritt, who performs some astounding, mystifying feats. Mr. J. H. Carney, vocalist and quick change artist, gets a good reception; Blind Man displays a wonderful memory; the Two Eltons are clever bar performers; Cliff and Keane, vocalists and dancers, make a great hit; the Marblesque Trio, in statuary poses, contribute an interesting turn; and Miss Nellie Dunbar, comedienne, is pleasing.

WALTHAMSTOW.—PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Pantomime, having run its brief but satisfactory career at the Palace, Mr. Barclay is this week tempting his patrons to forego the delirious pleasures of General Electioneering with a programme that certainly affords general satisfaction to the most eclectic tastes. The place of honour on the bill is occupied by Sidney Bacon's great dramatic production entitled *The Ellaniae*, written by Arthur Jefferson. If the tendency of this short drama be of the weird and gruesome nature, there is no mistaking its power and its potency to enthrall the audience. For the chief character, that of Nathan Black, Mr. Melville Bickford has been engaged, and that actor—whose face, when he is first beheld peering out from between the curtains, bears an almost startling resemblance to that of the late Sir Henry Irving in Shylock—gives a rendering of the part which for concentrated hatred and passion would be difficult to surpass. The impersonation is artistically worked up to the thrilling climax, and the death of the unfortunate maniac is the signal for loud and prolonged cheers, richly deserved. Mr. George Wybrow affords welcome relief to the sombre tone of the piece by his rich humour as Sammy Carrot; Mr. William Brandon acts with point the brutal cynicism of Jasper Woodleigh, whose long-suffering wife, Florence, has a careful and clever representative in Miss Alwynne Ermon; Miss Josie Bickford is full of life and spirit as the light-hearted Sally Jenkins; and Mr. George Proctor is good as Chawles. The final set of the Maniac's Den, with the awe-inspiring implement of death in full working order, is finely built up. The variety portions of the programme are all satisfactory. Chill and Clark repeat their lively singing and dancing with great appreciation; Farley, Rennie, and Farley are very droll in their act, *Fun at a Railway Station*. Mr. Charles Norton is an admirable mimic of many of the stars of the variety stage, those imitations of artistes who have appeared at the Palace meeting with immediate and hearty recognition; Selkirk's grand spectacle, *Our Empire's Defenders*, with its wealth of colour and its crowd of cleverly-trained children, proves no less popular than on previous visits; Mr. Charles Mildare is perfectly astonishing in his whistling imitations of many song-birds; Frazer and Haley, two young ladies with good voices and nimble toes, sing and dance charmingly; Miss May Belrose is loudly applauded for her song "Alexandra"; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays a series of amusing pictures.

KING'S THEATRE.—A pretty little burlesque on the popular subject of *Aladdin* occupies the boards here and is capitally played by the Regent Theatre Company under the personal supervision of Mr. St. John Beecher, assisted by Mr. James Dunlop. The burlesque has been adjusted and arranged for this theatre by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, and some pretty scenery has been painted by Mr. C. H. Markham and assistants. As Aladdin's "Ma," Mary Ann Twankey, Mr. James Dunlop is the life and soul of the piece, his drolleries keeping the audience in a constant state of effervescent mirth. He is capitally seconded by Mr. Edwin Fergusson as Abanazar, who acts with great point and speaks as a highly-educated magician should. Mr. Ernest Munro is amusing as the Emperor Gozgou, and Mr. Edward Alworth is a clever Fite Shi, the Vizier. A very sprightly hero is to be found in the elegant person of Miss Marie Jones, who is the personification of mischief; Miss Grace Emery is a pretty and captivating Princess Badroulbadour; Miss Gertie Winters is a neat Pekoe, and Miss Emily Petengall as the Genie of the Lamp and Miss Rhoda Dendon as ditto of the Ring both do well. The Doris Quartette perform adroitly some dances of the acrobatic description arranged by Miss May Doris; and a lady wrestler arouses enthusiasm by her deeds of daring. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. J. Sheridan Gordon, does ample justice to the music, composed and arranged by Mr. H. J. Wilcocks.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece. — The delightful and vivacious comedy, *San Toy*, is the attraction here this week, and it seems almost needless to add that the George Edwardes company is in every way an admirable one. Miss Nina Osborne enacts the title-rôle, and submits a graceful and effective portrayal, her duets with Captain Bobby Preston, admirably played by Mr. Howard V. Cropton, being vociferously applauded. Miss Madge Hamilton acts with animation as Poppy; and Miss Maud Lucy, as Dudley, is lively and vivacious, her dancing meriting the highest admiration. Miss Ethel Twitchen is seen to advantage as Rose Tucker; and Miss Lucy Donati makes the most of her opportunities as Ko Fan. Mr. Clifford Seigler, as Li, is exceptionally clever, giving a ludicrous exposition of Chinese cunning and duplicity. Mr. Edward G. Hall invests the character of Yen How with a grotesque humour, and incidentally he is to be congratulated on his six little wives, headed by Miss Florence Cameron as Yung Shi. Mr. George Partie is amusing as the Emperor; Mr. Harry Turner makes a droll Sir Bingo; and Mr. A. H. Majilton an efficient Lieutenant Harvey Tucker. Mr. Francis Hamilton is good as Fo Hop.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Jake Friedman, the "one-man opera," is a great attraction here this week; Les Momets supply an acceptable entertainment in the sketch *The Master and the Maid*; and T. W. Barrett scores in a capital repertory of songs. Other attractions are Rosa Cass, vocalist; Mdlle. de Devena, juggler; Alic Aubrey, gymnast; the Demon Chef; Bob King, comedian; and the Royal Bioscope pictures.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Fred Karno's celebrated company, in the successful musical pantomimical farce, *His Majesty's Guests*, is appearing here this week. The important rôle of Sergeant Lightning is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Arthur Lenville; Mr. Frank Morton makes a clever Lord Easem; and as Mr. Miffin Mr. Charles Usher is responsible for good work. Mr. H. W. Lumley as Mr. Winks and Mr. N. Simpson as Fritz prove themselves capable artists. The part of Miss Manley, the new woman, is humorously interpreted by Miss Amy Rogerson; Selina, by Mr. Harry Hawe, is also worthy of special mention; Miss L. Castelle displays remarkable talent in her rendering of Lady Maud Easem; and Mr. F. Fredericks evokes roars of laughter in his comical representation of Bunker.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—*Cinderella* is a bright, entertaining, and amusing pantomime, and as presented by the Pardoes' capable company here this week has not failed to draw delighted and large audiences. A comedian of fine talent is Mr. George Hyman, who provides abundant fun as Scoot; the Cinders of Miss Dolly Wright is all that could be desired; the same may be said of Miss May Daventry's Dandini; Mr. Tom Hulme is good as the Baron; the Prince Charming is in the capable hands of Miss Lottie Holland, who delights the house with her rendering of all the new songs; Miss Annie De Brice does remarkably well as the Good Fairy; Eva and Maude, the ugly sisters, are both well portrayed by Mr. Tom Gordon and Mr. Jess Boxer.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The bill this week includes the names of several artists who have already gained popularity in the district, among whom are Lady Mansell and her smart troupe of well-trained children; Caselli and James, who execute some really classical work on the banjo; and the Haverleys, with capital pictures accompanied by songs given in good style; Marie Gibson, a pleasing soprano, sings to the delight of her hearers; Mdlle. Haydee's mannikins are manipulated in a manner which gives them lifelike action. A conspicuous hit is made by Orpheus, who, on a variety of instruments, discourses some pretty music; the sabot dance by the Three Sisters May is well applauded; Harry Luck, character comedian, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are also in the programme.

GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's principal company this week is presenting *The Sin of Her Childhood* to appreciative audiences. Little Mabel gives a remarkably well-studied rendition of the rôle of Little Mary; and a marked success is made of the part of Mary Haysel by Miss Ruth Sheppard. The acting of Little Dot Moss as Hannah Spry and her rendering of some smart songs and dances calls forth warmest appreciation; a naive and lively Eliza Muggins is found in Miss Annie Megson, who, in conjunction with Mr. Fred Elvin as Barney O'Reilly, are responsible for the comedy of the play. Mr. Beresford Lovett as Rev. Alan Grey, Mr. Franklyn Graham as John Thornton, and Miss Jenny Douglas Hicks satisfactorily discharge their alloted tasks; and the character of Stephen Haysel is made a distinctly telling one by Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Little Breadwinner* is here this week. As Lord William Dorrington, Mr. J. A. Campbell, the author, gives a good reading of the part. Richard Lawrence is acted in manly fashion by Mr. David Gordon; a cool and clever Joseph Prior is found in Mr. Roland Yorke; Charles Prior is given with a versatility and a humour which win great credit for Mr. Allen Charles; the arduous part of Meg, the little breadwinner, is undertaken by Little Emmie Thomas, who plays with delightful freshness and charm, whilst her singing is very pleasing; Miss Mary Mallalieu is a capable and sympathetic Margaret; Kate Cherry is ably acted by Miss Maud Buchanan; and Miss Emma Litchfield is a pleasing Ruth Cherry; Bridget O'Flanaghan is humorously drawn by Miss Jennie Bostock.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. David Williams.—Miss Lena Stanton's pantomime company is here in *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Stanton is a capital Crusoe, and Miss Minnie Melbah is a charming Polly Perkins. Mr. Bruce Green keeps the audience in the merriest of moods as Dame Crusoe. Others who have been prominent are Miss Marie Grove as Britannia; Miss Eva Yank as Young Yank; Miss Millie Maxwell as Captain Teapot Taylor; Miss Dollie Richardson as Princess Pree-Tee-Fair; Mr. Dennis Syndon as King Kopp-'em; Mr. Bob Beirne as Davy Jones, Jun.; Mr. Geo. Melbah as Friday; and Little Keeno as Sunny Jim Crusoe. Specialities were introduced by Little Keeno, the boy comedian; the Musical Melbahs; La Belle Esma, in her graceful performance on the silver thread; the Orient Troupe of lady acrobats and dancers; the Drofias, in their juggling act; and Miss Nina, the wonderful lady gymnast.

WEXFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan.—A great treat is provided this week by the visit of the Osmond Tearle Shakespearean company in a number of classical plays. *Hamlet* was produced on Monday before a packed house. Mr. G. Alex. Marsh played the Prince of Denmark with much power and his impersonation can be highly commended; Mr. Cyril Grier gave a finished portrayal of Claudius; and Mr. T. Wilson Gunning as Horatio was all that could be desired. Mr. R. Seath Innes as Laertes had a part for which he was in every way suited; and Mr. Julian J. Gallier's presentation of the character of Polonius could scarcely be excelled. The Ghost was played in an effective manner by Mr. Ernest Lodge; and Mr. George Tearle as the First Gravedigger was highly amusing. Miss Lillian Harries as Ophelia held the audience breathless by her pathetic rendering of the rôle, and Miss Fannie Chamberlain was very imposing as the Queen, while Miss Kathleen Magee as the Player Queen was all that could be desired. On Tuesday night *The Merchant of Venice* was produced. *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gisippus*, and *Macbeth* were to be performed during the week.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clarke; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clarke.—A welcome return visit is being paid here by Mr. J. H. Tomkinson's Gipsy Children. The first half of the programme consists of songs, dances, and instrumental selections, and in the letter half the following clever variety turns are introduced: Elsie Rubina; the Lizzette Troupe, lady acrobats; Miss Minnie Richardson, solo violinist; Frank Weir, comedian; Dean Ryves, tenor vocalist; Miss May Jones, contralto; and the Musical Keiths.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Miss Winifred Chalmer's company is here with the powerful melodrama, *The Master Criminal*. Mr. Henry L. Osmond does good work in the extremely onerous part of Telford Lestage; Mr. Leonard Deurdon is a capital Philip Manners; Mr. Elinore Frith contributes a good study of a detective; Mr. J. W. Gallagher is a humorous Gentleman Jim; and Mr. Harry Cooke is well suited with the part of Tommy Dale. Miss Kate Summerville as Mabel Manners earns the sympathy of every member of the audience. Miss Mabel Tremere plays joyously as Peggie Perks; and an intelligent representation of little Winifred Manners is given by Miss Ivy Rochefort. Miss Winifred Chalmers as Lady Trevennes makes the hit of the evening, playing the part of the adventuress for all it is worth. The staging of *The Master Criminal* is adequate.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. James Kiddie has presented an excellent pantomime entitled *Little Aladdin* this week. Mr. D. J. McCarthy gives an excellent portrayal of Nanti Off, the emperor; and Mr. Jack Waller plays in amusing style the part of Wun Lung, the vizier. Mr. W. G. Wesley makes a good Widow Twankey, and, together with Messrs. Will and Tom Kelso, as Bossi and the Wrong 'Un, keeps the audience in roars of laughter. Mr. Arthur Aiston as Abanazar, the magician, and Mr. Joe Bell as Wishee Washee, create much fun. Miss Maria Beresford as Aladdin is a capital principal boy; the part of Radia is admirably taken by Miss Lena Page, who is responsible for some good songs; Miss Emmie Milstead, as Saucee, is also responsible for some good vocal selections and dances. The performances of Miss Minnie Grey as Lumino; Miss Ruby Danzell as Prince Peko; Miss Cissie Gold as Princess Badroulbadour; Miss Edie Graham as Lardi Doo; and Miss Minnie Parker as Fan Tan, are likewise greatly appreciated.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—A varied and attractive performance is given here this week. La Vails, on the silver arch chain ladder, gives a somewhat original and daring performance; Haley's Juveniles, in their carnival scene, are accorded a hearty reception; Zarmo, the comic juggler, with his clever show keeps the audience in a continual roar of laughter; the Sisters Lee, dancers and acrobats, give a pleasing turn; and Lillian and Vera, two Yorkshire ladies, are truly crack shots; Billy Burns, the Wigan pit lad, sings in fervent style; J. P. Ling, comedian and mimic, wins much applause; Harry Hale is a versatile comedian and vocalist; and the Donatos, the one-legged clowns, are also excellent.

WORCESTER.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—With characteristic enterprise Mr. Carlton has provided his Worcester patrons with an opportunity to witness the gorgeous pantomime production which delighted so many people at the London Hippodrome. The story of *Aladdin* is admirably told in Mr. Jack Cromo's book. Messrs. Stephen E. Blyth and H. F. Housden have provided some capital topical lyrics for the musical setting, for which Mr. Housden has also been responsible. Mr. Wilfred Shine is the life and soul of the production as Widow Twankey. Miss Lallah Davies is a dashing Aladdin and Miss Julia Kent a charming and vivacious principal girl. Messrs Carl and Cara are responsible for the knockabout business, which is excellent of its kind; Mr. Will Sanders makes up splendidly as the wicked uncle; and Mr. Louis Kerno and Mr. Dan Clifford as the Emperor and his Vizier respectively cause a lot of fun. There is a host of characters, all in most capable hands, and the quality of the voices of both principals and chorus is exceptionally good. Some marvellously effective ballets are provided, and the principals also are responsible for some delightful songs and dances.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week a strong company has appeared here. The Wiltons, in their comedy leg-mania triple-bar act, are decidedly smart and clever; Mr. Louis Murray, vocal character comedian, has caught on well; Vere and Royal, comedy artists, meet with a good reception; as do Miss Marguerita Chappelle, a chic comedienne; Mr. Fred Ryce, eccentric comedian, is also good; while the animated tableaux complete the programme.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's company has appeared during the week with great success in *The Forty Thieves*, a pantomime finely mounted and written in a humorous and racy style. Miss Minnie Silcott, with a handsome stage presence, makes a dashing Abdallah, singing several catchy songs in excellent style; Miss Marie Silcott is pleasing as Morgiana, dancing tastefully and contributing a large share towards the success; Miss Violet Silcott is a petite and pretty Ganem who has made many friends during the week; James Ferguson, quaintly amusing as Cogia, causes much amusement and enjoyment by his clever and quaint impersonation; George Rapley is a lively representative of Ali Baba, and hilarity is caused by Malone and Conley as two of the thieves. Specialities are freely introduced by the Three Sisters Silcott, the Daunton Shaw troupe, and the Three Henriques.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—The doings of the Dayton family are being heartily appreciated, and the applause which greets them must be very gratifying. Bosanquet's manipulation of the violin in various shapes is wonderfully clever; the Ladderites give their high-class show, and Geo. Barron is as mirth-provoking as of yore; Martin and Quigg are amusing; and Clarke and Gold give a clever exhibition, the bill being completed by the Three Zaracs.

"THE LITTLE MICHUS," played by Mr. George Dance's company, visited the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, on Monday, and nothing more attractive in musical plays has been seen for a long time. Mr. Leslie Holland is particularly successful as the General des Ifs, and kept the audience in a roar almost the whole of the time he occupied the stage. As Gaston Rignard Mr. Gerald Clifford sang and played very well; Mr. Cecil Clayton was a capital Baguolet; Mr. T. E. Conover was an excellent Pierre Michu; and Mr. D. FitzGibbon was efficient as Aristide Vert. The Little Michus were impersonated by two dainty and fascinating artists in Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Grace Sinclaire, who both played charmingly throughout, the former also singing admirably. Miss Marie Gay possesses a good voice, and portrayed the part of Madame Michu very effectively. Some finished and clever dancing was executed by Mdlle. Marjorie.

MR. H. G. PLACE'S Alexandra Opera Co. is this week's attraction at the King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale, opening on Monday with a highly creditable performance of *Maritana*. Miss Constance St. Bride's singing and acting in the title-rôle was particularly good. Mr. Frank Lund was also a success as Don Jose. *The Bohemian Girl* was given on Tuesday, Mr. Fred Wade as Thaddeus and Miss Kathleen McCabe as Arline being admirable. Mr. H. G. Place was seen to advantage as Count Arnheim. *Faust*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Lilly of Killarney* also figured in the bill.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In last week's issue your Dover correspondent states in his notice for the Theatre Royal that the illustrated song, "The face in the firelight," was sung by Kitty Wood, who also appeared later with her canine circus and orchestra. If should have been yours faithfully, KITTY WOODFORD.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 22,
the Drama, in Five Acts,
"OLIVER TWIST,"
Adapted by J. Comyns Carr.

Mr. Clarence Sounes was doubtless right in concluding that, after four weeks of pantomime, his patrons would prefer something quieter in tone, and the booking of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in Mr. J. Comyns Carr's version of *Oliver Twist* was a particularly happy thought, the sombre setting of the play and the human interest of the story being in the nature of a welcome relief from the glare and glitter which have recently held the stage here. A very clever impersonation of Fagin was submitted by Mr. Stanley Drewitt, who has evidently made a close study of the character. Every word and gesture was carefully thought out and admirably "in the picture," and in the strong scene in Fagin's cell, in the last act, Mr. Drewitt's acting kept the audience literally spell-bound. Miss Maria Polini played Nancy with considerable tenderness and undoubted power, being particularly successful in portraying the poor girl's desperate attachment to her lover, and her consuming anxiety that no harm should come to the boy Oliver. The last-named character was excellently enacted by Miss Dorothy Marsdin, who made a pathetic, lovable figure of the high-spirited lad trying to escape from his infamous associates. Foremost amongst these latter was Mr. William H. Kemble, whose Bill Sikes was a thoroughly artistic piece of work, Dickens's character being realised in voice, in manner, and in appearance to a really remarkable degree. Miss Helen Clement was responsible for a sympathetic rendering of Rose Maylie; Miss Alice Maude was a dignified Mrs. Maylie; Miss J. Tyers was amusing as Mrs. Bumble; and Miss Dorothea Black made the most of the small part of Betsy. Mr. Cyril Cattley playcd Harry Maylie in straighfforward, manly fashion; Mr. W. H. Rotherham, who doubled Mr. Grimwig and Monks, was notably successful in Monks's great scene in the third act; Mr. Arthur Brown made a charming old gentleman of Mr. Brownlow; and Mr. Charlie Clark acted well as the Artful Dodger. The smaller parts were in capable hands, and the drama was well mounted and staged, a particularly good effect being obtained with the scene showing London Bridge.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Jan. 22,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by Henry Arthur Jones,
entitled
"THE SILVER KING."

The Maryleboners assembled in full force on Monday to once again welcome *The Silver King* to the West London. Messrs. Polini and Austin's clever company is headed by Mr. Herbert Ford, who impersonated Wilfred Denver in most convincing fashion, his acting being neat and finished. Mr. Edward J. George was responsible for a truly characteristic rendering of Daniel Jaikes, all his actions being well-timed. The rôle of Captain Herbert Skinner, alias "The Spider," was quite safe in the capable hands of Mr. Algernon J. Hicks, who gave an admirable reading of the part; Mr. James L. Power did well as Henry Corkett; Mr. Arthur Wright scored as Elijah Combe; and Master Jack Evan deserves mention as Ned Denver. As Nellie Denver, Miss Daisy Scudamore made a most favourable impression, and her success was quite deserved; Miss Georgina Wynter was decidedly good as Olive Skinner, and certainly scored well; Miss Bessie Wright was bright and cheery as Susie; Miss Amy Wood and Miss Dolly Norton both did well respectively as Tabitha Durden and Mrs. Gamage, whilst Miss Amy Manfree was pleasing as Cissy Denver.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 22, 1906,
the Play, by William Gillette and A. Conan Doyle,
entitled
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

That excellent play *Sherlock Holmes* is once again at the Pavilion this week, and Mr. Harry Yorke's capable company was warmly welcomed on Monday evening by a large audience, who watched the interpretation of this successful piece with keen interest throughout. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton acted with discretion and power as the famous detective, whose arch-enemy, Professor Moriarty, was admirably sustained by Mr. W. F. Stirling. This actor's performance was marked by fine dramatic force. Mr. Ernest Gray was meritorious as James Larrabee; and Sidney Prince, in the hands of Mr. Philip Renouf, received judicious treatment. Master Charles Chaplin, who was here in July, 1903, was again seen as the faithful Billy, and deserves sincere praise for a capital representation. Mr. Edward Heanley played Dr. Watson with care and judgment; and a successful portrayal of John Forman was contributed by Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood. Miss Beatrice Marsdene, an attractive Alice Faulkner, gave a delineation of the character which was refined and artistic; Miss Gertrude Harrison must be warmly complimented on her excellent exposition of Madge Larrabee; and Terese was smartly presented by Miss Doris Digby. Mr. William Mansfield displayed care and intelligence as Jim Cragin; and Mr. Walter Maynard was satisfactory as Alfred Bassick, good work being done by Mr. Henry Littlejohn as Sir Edward Leighton, and Mr. Sydney Chaplin as Count Von Stahlburg. Miss Armine Grace was pathetic as Mrs. Faulkner; and Miss Constance Howard did all that was necessary as Mrs. Smeedley. The remaining parts were capably sustained by Messrs. Edward H. Fairburn, Harold Broughton, William Wilson, and S. Richardson. The scenery and mounting were unusually good. Mr. Walter J. Bayliss is the manager for Mr. Harry Yorke.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" at the BROADWAY THEATRE.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The pantomime of *Puss in Boots* is still going merrily, and large audiences assemble to witness each performance. The entertainment remains unchanged with one exception—Miss May Audrey now appears in the place of Miss Peggy Pryde. Miss Kathleen Grey repeats her delightful impersonation of Colin; Miss Florence Esdaile still sings as tunefully and acts as pleasingly as at the commencement of the run; Little Stella continues to score; and Miss Edith Adeson, as Phyllis, is a great favourite. The fairies are prettily represented by Miss Joan Webb, Miss Isa Bell, and Miss Mabel Clifford.

Mr. Martin Adeson has made a decided hit as King Grabbus; Mr. Fred Lyne is a capital exponent of the Dame; Mr. Phil Smith is funny as Muggles; Mr. Harry Johnson acts well as the Ogre; and Mr. Bert Lloyd, in the title-rôle, is deserving of unstinted praise. The songs of the Cecilian Glee Singers are admirably rendered and greatly enjoyed; while the agile and graceful dancing of the Tiller "Superba" Troupe is one of the undoubted attractions of the pantomime.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Jan. 22,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville,
entitled,
"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."

A large audience gathered at the Standard on Monday to witness the initial performance of Mr. Walter Melville's successful drama, *A Disgrace to Her Sex*. The company engaged in the interpretation of this play is practically the same as appeared in the last production here, and is, without a doubt, a particularly strong and powerful one. Mr. Wingold Lawrence shows exceptional ability in his delineation of Jack Dawes. His acting is characterised by intense power and feeling. The lighter scenes of the drama are safely entrusted to Mr. G. H. Asquin as Barnaby Mugg and Miss Daisy Maynard as Bella Mugg. Of every opportunity which is offered to raise a hearty laugh full advantage is taken by this amusing couple. Mr. Edwin Wilde makes a business-like detective; and Mr. Eugene Santley plays the part of David Carrington, a retired merchant, with marked success. Mr. Frank Adair is seen to great advantage as Jules Delarnet; he makes a typical Frenchman; Mr. Thomas Holding is well placed as Arnold Travers; and as Mabel Valley Miss Maude Stewart Drewry is pretty and effective, her acting in parts reaching a high standard of excellenco. Miss Ada Marius makes as much as possible out of the rôle of Mildred Carrington; Miss Marie McAulay enacts the part of Hilda Valley with success.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, Jan. 19,
the Comedy, by H. J. Byron, entitled
"OUR BOYS."

Mr. H. J. Byron's celebrated comedy has this week been very successfully presented at the Crouch End Opera House. As the retired old butterman, Perkyn Middlewick, Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey is excellent. He cleverly portrays the feelings of the old man who is not too proud to acknowledge that his money was made as a tradesman, and who has a wealth of affection for his son. As Sir Geoffrey Champneys, Mr. Charles Langley is also very good, his study of the stern, irascible old county magnate being quite convincing. Mr. A. P. Kaye makes a manly Charles Middlewick. As Talbot Champneys, Mr. E. Harvey White gives an interesting study of the effeminate but good-natured young man. Miss Ida Phillips, as Violet Melrose, is charming, being both graceful and natural in her manner; and Miss Minnie Grey, as the poor cousin Mary Melrose has a winning and pleasing style. Miss Emma Victor, as Clarissa Champneys, is well placed; and the minor parts are all in capable hands.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Jan. 22,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by F. A. Scudamore,
entitled
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH."

Sensationalism figures prominently in most of the productions from the pen of the late Mr. Scudamore, and *The Biggest Scamp on Earth* is no exception, for the principal incident is concerned with the working of a gigantic idol of torture, presumably set in motion by the terrible contortions of an unhappy prisoner incarcerated in the interior of the contrivance. This thrilling scene is watched with rapt interest, and it is a matter for general rejoicing when the extricated Vivian Wakefield gets the better of his tormentors. Mr. George Lyttleton plays Derrick Knight, the "biggest scamp," with an ease and fluency well befitting the character of this callous miscreant; and Mr. Percy Carne Waram is responsible for a forcible delineation of Vivian Wakefield, whose sufferings in the Idol scene are portrayed with a startling realism. Mr. Charles Kean ably undertakes the part of Napoleon Hawke; and Mr. Leslie York submits a dignified embodiment of Sir Aubrey Knight. Miss Frances Delaval skilfully handles the important rôle of the adventuress Naomi Belvedere, and meets with much success in the part; Miss Dora Hammersley makes a sympathetic and charming Irene Way; Mrs. Edmund Lyons admirably portrays the vicious nature of Mother Hawke; and a word of praise is due to little Miss Minnie Johnson as the child Bobby. Plenty of comic relief is provided by the amatory by-play of Rufus Liggins and Joe Piper, both in love with Molly Stirling, and these three parts are thoroughly safe in the hands of Mr. Harry Delmar, Mr. Charles Stewart, and Miss Nelly V. Warden. Minor parts are all capitally played, and the piece is well mounted.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

"LISELOTT."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Heinrich Stobitzer.
Produced at the Great Queen Street
Theatre on Friday, Jan. 19.

Ludwig XIV.	RICHARD STARNBURG
Philipp	DR. INGO KRAUSS
Elisabeth Charlotte	ELSE GADEMANN
Marquise von Maintenon	CHARLOTTE KELLY
Lenor von Rathsamhausen	HELENE MARSCHALL
Marschallin von Grancai	ELISABETH KIRCH
Graf Lauzan	OTTO COLLOT
Baron d'Auvray	BRUNO WIBURGER
Chevalier Pontigny	ERNST REICHER
Graf La Garde	OTTOMAR BLOSS
Chevalier von Lorraine	HANS STOCK
Küchenchef	OSKAR DIEHL
Beschliesserin	IDA WEISS
Garderobiere	ASTA EGGERT
Dubois	WILLY SCHMIDT
Poisson	PAUL WIND
Tissot	OTTOMAR BLOSS
Tenturier	BRUNO WIBURGER
Marais	WILLY KLEIN
Madelon	JOHANNA BECKER
Temple	GEORG BASELT

THIS play is of historical interest, especially now when the leters of Liselott, *recte* Elisabeth Charlotte, Countess Palatine of Baden, are being published. Liselott was married by proxy to Philipp, Duke of Orleans, the brother of Louis XIV. At the opening of the play she is eagerly expected by her husband and his household. The German girl forms a strong contrast to the affected men and ladies of the great King's court, who sneer at her and ridicule her simple manners. Liselott is greatly disappointed at finding things so different from what she had hoped for. Her husband, though good at heart, wastes his time inventing elixirs for the complexion and ballets for the entertainment of the court

THE MUSIC PIRATES' DOOM.

After a hearing extending over eight days, the trial of James Frederick Willetts, William Tennant, William Wallace Ross, George Wootton, John Wesley Puddefoot, and Philip Fleming Bockenham, who were indicted for conspiring to print and sell copyright music, came to an end at the Central Criminal Court on the 19th inst., before the Common Serjeant, Mr. Bosanquet, K.C. In summing up the case, the Common Serjeant said that it was now his duty to ask the jury to see what the men were charged with and what was the evidence against them. He was not going to trouble them with a long definition of the law, which might apply to one case and another. It had been pointed out several times in this case that, to do by unlawful means that which in itself was lawful, was one sort of conspiracy, and that to do by means which were lawful in themselves that which was unlawful was also conspiracy. By conspiracy they did not mean always the meeting of people with dark lanterns in dark places, and the taking of secret oaths and things of that kind. What the law meant was that if people combined to do that which was the subject of a conspiracy—that which was unlawful—then there was a case made out. The way in which what was called conspiracy at law was proved was not by production of verbal or written evidence of an agreement to do a thing, but was to be gathered from acts. If they found that people were working together to carry out an unlawful purpose, that was proof of conspiracy. They must deal with the evidence, and by the application of common sense and the elementary principles of law they ought to be able to come to a conclusion, and to treat the case fairly for the public and for the men charged. Now, it was said—and rightly said—that the law had not created an offence with regard to copyright—a term that they all understood; the law had not stated that to infringe a copyright was in itself a criminal act. Continually people were printing and publishing things which were copyright, and yet they did not know that they were copyright; but if a person had done a civil wrong, then he had to make compensation. What the law had said in the plainest possible terms was this: It had made copyright a property, and it had given to those who had composed a work, whether literature or music, the right to benefit by what they had made as the result of their brain and of their study. The statute spoke of such compositions as property. It stated how the property was to descend at death, and what sort of property it was to be—personal property, belonging to the owner of the copyright. It has also provided that, to prevent piracy so-called, of copyright—that was to say, infringement of copyright—certain very summary proceedings may be taken against anybody who is found publishing or selling (confining it to that case) what was called pirated music. The statute provided what steps might be taken against an offender; it provided that summary proceedings might be taken before a magistrate, and that the pirated music found must be destroyed. What they had got in the first place was property, and they knew how valuable it was in some cases—in this case to an extent which surprised him, for they were told that over two thousand pounds were paid for the copyright of a song. They all knew that copyright was a valuable property, and the law had provided that the person entitled to it had the exclusive right to make copies, and to deal with the copies of a composition exclusively; and it was provided for, not only by the word "exclusive," but other parts of the statute stated that nobody else shall infringe this exclusive right. If one man does intentionally infringe this right, it is not a thing for which you can indict him; but he may be subjected to civil proceedings. If one pirate of music carried on business and published by himself, and another man independently and not working with him also printed in large quantities, they could not be indicted for conspiracy; but the law was that, if people combined to work together to carry out an unlawful purpose (to deprive a man of his property), then they became liable to indictment. It might be that the case was a small affair in which no one would care to prosecute, and which, if brought before a jury, the latter might say that it was such a trivial case that it should not be brought into a criminal court. If two or more worked together (as in this case of pirated music), and so made profits to which they had no right so as to deprive the owner of his property, that would be a subject of conspiracy, and the two might be indicted and made liable. This was the plain case that the jury had to consider as regarded all the defendants and each of them; also to see if they or any of them combined together or if any one of them combined with other people not in the dock—a circumstance which would not probably arise in the present case. But, supposing that it was found that five of the defendants were wrongfully identified, and that the sixth was engaged in this nefarious business, and was carrying it out with somebody else not in the dock, then the sixth man would be guilty.

Mr. Bosanquet then traversed the chief points in the case, and referred to the prisoners in detail.

The jury, after a brief retirement, found all the prisoners guilty.

Mr. Head moved for an arrest of judgment, on grounds which he had previously stated.

The Judge: I shall arrest no judgment. I have had it fully argued before me. I have held the indictment to be good; if it is bad, you have your remedy without my help.

Mr. Avory stated that Willetts had recorded against him a conviction for embezzlement in 1901. All the time he was carrying on this business he was an undischarged bankrupt, so he was just the class of person who could do it with impunity, as he could not be sued under the statute.

Detective-sergeant Laing proved the conviction referred to by counsel, which was at the North London Sessions. The sentence was three months' imprisonment in the second division.

An officer of the Bankruptcy Court stated that Willetts was adjudicated bankrupt in 1899, and was still undischarged.

Detective-inspector Bower said Puddefoot had been sentenced to six weeks' hard labour for printing lottery tickets. He and Ross had also been fined at the Guildhall for a similar offence.

Counsel then addressed the Court in mitigation of punishment, Mr. Head mentioning that Willetts had a wife and eleven children dependent upon him. On behalf of Ross, Puddefoot, and Bockenham, it was pointed out that they had carried on genuine businesses as printers.

In passing sentence, the Common Serjeant said: You have all been found guilty of a nefarious conspiracy to defraud publishers, the owners of copyright music, of their right, and you, Willetts, have celarly been the head of the whole scheme, and have had a number of men working under you—some are here, and some have not been brought up—and have led other people into these criminal transactions. You were, at the time you were doing this, an undischarged bankrupt, and you have been convicted of embezzlement. The sentence upon you, therefore, must be heavier than upon the others, or than it would have been upon you if you had not led others into this mischief and been convicted before. The sentence upon you is nine months' imprisonment; I don't impose hard labour. As to you, Tennant, you were not a principal as Willetts was, but you were one of the managers of this business. The sentence upon you is two months' imprisonment. You, Puddefoot, have been taking an active part in this business, and that after promising that you would not engage in it again. You will be sentenced to one month's imprisonment. You, Ross, must pay a fine of £50, and will be kept in prison until it is paid. You, Wootton and Bockenham, have been convicted on clear evidence, but in some ways you played a minor part, and you will be treated very leniently. In the case of all you defendants (except Willetts), you must not expect such treatment if you do anything of the kind again. Now that this has been proved an illegal conspiracy, you must not expect to be dealt with as lightly again. This is a very important case, and the extent to which you have defrauded other people is very much. As to you, Wootton and Bockenham, you will each be bound over in £50 to come up for judgment, and if you do anything of the kind again, you will be brought up and sentenced.

THE MUSIC PIRACY TRIAL.

OPINIONS OF PUBLISHERS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER).

The fraudulent transactions of six men who were indicted for conspiring to print and unlawfully issue copyright music to the prejudice of the proprietors of the copyright, excited a great deal of public interest during the course of the case at the Old Bailey. The trial commenced before the Common Sergeant on Jan. 11, and terminated on the 19th inst. in the conviction of all the prisoners. The accused were John Frederick Willetts (aged 47), a secretary, who had been previously convicted of embezzlement; W. Tennant (36), hawker; John Wesley Puddefoot (50), printer; W. Wallace Ross (33), who styled himself a "journalist"; George Wooton (42), builder; and Philip F. Bockenham (30), printer. Willetts was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, Tennant to two months, Puddefoot to one month, Ross was fined £50, and Bockenham and Wooton were bound over to come up for judgment if called upon. The nominal prosecutors in the case were Messrs. Chappell and Company, the well-known music publishers, of whose songs many thousand pirated copies were seized in London alone within two years.

MESSRS. CHAPPELL'S VIEWS.

During a few minutes' conversation with our interviewer, Mr. Edward Goodman, of Messrs. Chappell and Co., stated that he regarded the case as an eminently successful one from the point of view of the music trade. "It is now established for the first time," he said, "that music piracy is indictable as a criminal conspiracy, and at the same time it does not do away with the necessity for an amendment of the Copyright law; in fact, it strengthens the argument for the Copyright Act. This is where Mr. James Caldwell floundered. He has all along opposed us, and he stated that he considered that copyright generally was not a property but a privilege. The Copyright Act says that copyright is a personal property, and can be assigned. The Common Sergeant, in dealing with this case, emphasised that point. He stated that they all knew copyright to be a valuable property, and the law provided that the person entitled to it had the exclusive right to make copies, and to deal with the copies of a composition exclusively; and it was provided for, not only by the word "exclusive," but other parts of the statute stated that no one else should infringe this exclusive right. As the Judge pointed out, it was the duty of the law to protect that right. Now, whatever reasons Mr. Caldwell has had for his misguided actions, he cannot stand up in face of that eminent pronouncement. To argue that copyright is only a privilege is to talk drivel. The effect of this action is this: We have certainly established these dishonest transactions of music pirates as a criminal indictment. It is not, however, to be expected that copyright-holders are always to be put to this enormous expense in protecting what belongs to them. There must be a more summary method of securing the protection of the Courts. Instead of our having to engage in a costly, cumbersome, and lengthy police court and criminal court prosecution, there ought to be a short Bill passed by Parliament which would make music piracy an offence punishable in a summary manner. Any new measure must contain a penalty clause to make it effective. The penalty clause was taken out of the 1902 Act to please Mr. Caldwell, and it made the Act nothing more or less than a farcical measure, for, since then, piracy has increased rather than decreased. This 1902 Act is simply an Act authorising the seizure and destruction of pirated copies. To make the new Act operative, a penalty must be fixed, according to the nature of the offence, and in default of a fine being paid, there should be a term of imprisonment. All we ask for is the same protection that is granted to the property of the jeweller, or the bootmaker, or the grocer. It is a scandalous state of the law which permits a man to be robbed of the product of his brains. Counsel for the prisoners in the case under review admitted the nefarious nature of his clients' illegal traffic, and practically there was no defence to offer."

"I believe, Mr. Goodman, you and other music publishers have been interesting yourselves in the Election fight of Mr. Caldwell?"

"Mr. Scott-Gibson, the Labour candidate for Mid-Lanarkshire, has been working very hard in our interests by opposing Mr. Caldwell's re-election. Mr. Scott-Gibson is a Glasgow town councillor, and one of the strong points in his programme was the provision of legislative protection for musical property. All the Scottish musical people were supporting him."

"You probably do not anticipate that the Old Bailey verdict will put an end to the piracy business?"

"Hardly. We do not suppose that it will absolutely stop it. I would like to mention that we have been working on this case for six months. We stood forward as prosecutors on behalf of the musical profession and the trade of the country, and you can imagine that our expenses, the full extent of which I am not at the moment aware of, have been enormous. And let me say that we have been extremely patient in the matter generally of dishonest song merchants. Piracy has been going on for ten years, and we have waited for one Session of Parliament after another in the hope of obtaining some redress. At the present time we are just as badly off as ever. We have, as I have already stated, established a criminal indictment, but we really cannot afford to go on with such expensive prosecutions as the Willetts trial has proved to be."

"Have you approached any members of the new Government on the subject of adequate legislation?"

"We have very great hopes of getting a Bill through at a comparatively early date, and we know that some of the prominent members of the predominant party are in favour of an ameliorative enactment."

"What is the position of the public in regard to the purchase of pirated music?"

"The public should know that all the money which has been spent on pirated editions of music is money that has been absolutely diverted from the proper channels of labour. It has been keeping music engravers and printers out of work. The honest workmen have been walking about doing nothing, while the black sheep have been making a fine income out of the misappropriation of other people's property. The small music publishers have been absolutely ruined, and thousands of pounds have been lost to composers. How can a man who pays a fair price for his wares compete with the retailer of stolen goods? If a man steals diamonds, and sells them at a ridiculously low figure, is it to be expected that an ordinary jeweller can thrive in his neighbourhood? The same reasoning applies to pirated music."

"I suppose you do not intend to slacken your vigilance, even after this conviction?"

"You may be sure of that. But it is a great shame that we have to keep a small army of men in London and the provinces on the lookout for copyright thieves. And then, imagine the enormous cost. What is the law for, what are the police for, if they are not to protect property?"

Mr. David Day, of the firm of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, was also good enough to grant a brief interview. Smart, brisk, and business-like, Mr. Day went to the heart of the subject at once. "The uppermost thought of all is that the public attention, which has been focused upon this trial, must certainly exert an influence that ought to ensure in the forthcoming Parliament the passing of such legislation as will effectually put an end to the scandalous state of the copyright law. If it should not, then all the money that has been spent on these proceedings is simply thrown into the gutter, and similar costly prosecutions will have to be taken over and over again—a condition of affairs that would be nothing less than a disgrace to what is considered a civilised country."

"The sentences upon the six prisoners, Mr. Day, are generally regarded as extremely lenient. In fact, justice in this case seems to have been very much tempered with mercy."

"I suppose," replied Mr. Day, "that the Judge made the sentences as light as he did because the conviction was the first under an hitherto unknown charge of conspiring to print, publish, and sell copyright music without the permission of the owners. One would think that the sentences should have been very much more severe. But there was this solatium: The Common Sergeant said that any further offences of the kind coming before him would not be dealt with so gently."

"I believe, Mr. Day, that you took a personal part in the hunting down?" And one could scarcely help smiling at the idea of this dapper, well-groomed gentleman, coming to grips with an up-to-date Captain Kidd, possessed of an insatiable craving for sentimental songs, coon melodies, and comic ditties.

"Well," returned the head of the famous Charing Cross-road firm, "I myself called upon Ross, in Faringdon-road, and, after a long conversation with him, I succeeded in gaining access to the basement of his premises, where I saw the pirated music being printed. There were thousands of copies. I claimed them, and he surrendered them. I knew he was printing them for Willetts, who gloried in the sobriquet of the Pirate King. On more than one occasion I gave Ross a receipt for what I took away, so that when he saw Willetts he could say that Mr. Day had been and claimed them."

There was something irresistibly humorous in the calm, sportsmanlike manner which characterised Mr. Day's description of his sallying forth and raiding a pirate's den, where he not only personally seized a quantity of illicit music, but coolly left an acknowledgment of his capture.

"Since 1902," continued Mr. Day, "we have been able, on laying information before different magistrates, to get an order to seize the contraband sheets. You have to take a policeman with you to claim the music, which is left in the possession of the police, and then you have to summon the pirate to show cause why the copies should not be destroyed. In summoning Willetts on several occasions, the Court not only ordered the destruction of the music, but mulcted him in costs, which sometimes reached as much as £10 at a time. Then, at the suggestion of a rogue of a solicitor, who ought to have been in the dock with the other prisoners, Willetts and his confederates formed themselves into a limited liability company, with the object of dodging the payment of the costs of the legal proceedings taken against them. They were advised by this solicitor that no individual member of a limited company could be summoned, and all that could be done in the event of non-payment was to make an application in the High Court for the company to be wound up. In addition, the Pirate King was informed that if one company was wound up one day, he and his friends could form themselves into a new one the next day."

"How are your efforts regarded by the provincial Bench?"

"We get very little support from them. In Leeds the authorities have shown no sympathy whatever towards the owners of copyright. Perhaps the country magistrates will realise the gravity of these crimes against commercial morality now that their attention has been drawn to the trial at the Central Criminal Court. But our great hope is in approaching the Government for protection against piracy. It is understood that the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary intend to give the subject their serious consideration at an early date. Mr. T. P. O'Connor was very helpful last session, and he will probably take the matter in hand again very shortly."

"Do you think the public always understand whether they are buying pirated music or not?"

"The method of discriminating is very simple. The public have only to look for the name of a firm of responsible music publishers at the foot of the front sheet. Of course, this music piracy is a very profitable business for those engaged in it. The sheets are always produced in the most economical and flimsy style, no fees are paid to anybody, and the sales are bound to be remunerative because only the successful songs are printed."

"Have you made a personal effort to induce Mr. Caldwell to modify his attitude on this question?"

"I had an interview with him, when he stated that he considered the price of music to be too expensive for the pockets of the general public. My own opinion is that he took the wrong view of the case at the outset, and, having made a mistake, did not feel inclined to withdraw from the position he had taken up. If ever there was an obstinate man in the world, it is surely he. I don't think he can possibly have realised what a serious interference his opposition to the rights of music composers and publishers has caused in the conduct of a useful calling."

MR. LESLIE STUART'S VIEWS.

"You, I believe, Mr. Stuart, hold opinions somewhat different from those of many of your musical confrères?"

"I am afraid," replied the famous song writer and composer, "that this case will not act as a deterrent against music pirates because they are all so familiar with every phase of the copyright law. It is my opinion that this conviction will only show them that they need only now avoid the charge of conspiracy to keep themselves within the pale of the law. The solicitor for Messrs. Chappell and Co., the nominal prosecutors, who were successful in obtaining the conviction of Willetts and his accomplices, joined issue with me on this point. It has been urged by those who disagree with me that it is not wise for me to publish my views, as by so doing I am giving the pirates information such as they were not in possession of before. Now what I want to emphasise is the fact that every pirate will give almost any lawyer points on the question of the restrictions regarding infringement. Any man selling these pirated editions in the street knows the law on the subject, so that, in drawing attention to this fact in the papers, I did it for the purpose of preventing men in Parliament, most of whom are entirely in ignorance of these matters, coming to the conclusion that we have been all these years asleep as to our procedure and that we have only just now wakened and found out that we have redress. It was only on a technical charge of conspiracy that these six men were convicted. We have always had the process of injunction against the printer after he has been discovered, and on many occasions we have obtained nominal damages—which were never paid—after we had spent hundreds of pounds in his detection. I defy any man to tell me that this conviction gives us more power to-day to seize copies from the street-hawker or that we have any power whatever to punish him any more than we could do before the conviction of Willetts."

"But surely this conviction must be of immense moral, if not material, assistance to you?"

"I fear that the result of the Old Bailey trial will damp the enthusiasm of our supporters in the House of Commons, as it may appear to them that we have now ample means of restitution. Certain publishers who have taken a very active part in the campaign against piracy have created an impression that musical piracy dates back only three years. I may tell you that musical piracy commenced at least twelve years ago, but publishers of music—and I cannot too strongly urge this point—assume that the pirating of copyright music dates only from the time when their publications were first attacked. The first song, as far as we know, pirated was 'The Soldiers of the Queen,' a work of my own. Two million copies of this were admitted to have been sold in the streets. A man named Oliver was injuncted after many months had been spent in trying to ferret him out, and many hundreds of pounds spent in his detection. He was brought before, I think, Mr. Justice Darling, and what seemed to us an exemplary order for damages—which, by the way, Oliver never paid—seemed to everybody else as the death-blow to music piracy. I am going back nine years, and for at least twelve months every second day was spent by us in instituting police-court proceedings."

"Did not the result in the least check these dishonest transactions?"

"Practically, no. The man Oliver learned after each case precisely what not to do. I believe it is true that on two or three occasions within the last half-dozen years men have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment in connection with music piracy, but always on some minute and technical infringement of the criminal law in connection therewith. The question now arises—How does it come about, in face of all these fines, penalties, and harassing police-court proceedings against these men, that music piracy is as rampant as ever? Therefore, I tell you frankly, that no possible harm can be done by my stating bluntly that this conviction of Willetts and his confederates will in no way mean that many hundreds of other men will immediately cease the remunerative business they have been engaged in for years."

"Very well; but on that assumption, what steps do you now propose taking?"

"It is my firm belief that the failure in our attempts to get Parliament to seriously take up this pirate question as a Government measure has been due entirely to the fact that so many different men have from time to time taken upon themselves the entire responsibility of securing a measure while they have not seen the immense difficulties in the way of getting the Government leaders to treat the subject seriously."

"Will you tell me what assistance you got from the legal advisers of the late Ministry?"

"I, myself, had several interviews with the late Attorney-General, Sir Robert Finlay, some nine years ago. I tried to get him to give his fiat in magisterial proceedings which might then in the early stages of piracy have resulted in summary conviction, which would have had much more effect than twenty of the convictions such as have been meted out to Willetts and his crew. The unfortunate optimism of all concerned in musical publications, in the thought that we would immediately get a Bill of the drastic kind, was the cause of my being told to stand aside, and although I had an appointment with Sir Robert Finlay, who, by the way, had promised to lend the aid of his high office, I was instructed that my action was not necessary, and that Parliament would readily see that such an iniquitous state of things would meet with immediate legislation."

"And friend Caldwell—did you not see him, too?"

"I did, but I failed dismally in my attempts to explain away the absurdly unfair position he had taken up. I could not even get him to realise that the music pirate was able to sell his sheets cheaply because he had no one to pay for the composition, &c. Now, Mr. Caldwell, who I see has been returned again for Mid-Lanarkshire, is a wealthy calico printer, and a big employer of labour, possessing valuable patents in printing and in calico designs. His name figures frequently in Somerset House as the owner of these patents. Yet the Gilbertian spectacle presents itself to us that while he is so often engaged in injuncting infringers of his own copyright, he is not opposed to piracy against music composers.

"I am going to tell you something you perhaps already know," continued Mr. Stuart. "About thirty years ago Miss Thompson, now Lady Butler, exhibited her wonderful pictures, 'Balaclava,' 'Quatre Bras,' 'The Last Stand,' and other famous battle scenes. Almost directly afterwards pirated photographs of these were sold on the side-walks at sixpence. That was soon stopped. An Act of Parliament passed almost within a week, making it a penal offence to sell photographs of copyright pictures, the punishment being six months' imprisonment. Unfortunately for music composers and publishers, this Act did not at the time include literary and musical publications.

"What is wanted," concluded Mr. Stuart, "is a keen organisation; not picturesque meetings at Queen's Hall, but an active, working organization consisting of men who can prove to the Government the depredation we have suffered from."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An interesting concert was given at the Royal College on Wednesday evening, the programme commencing with Brahms' fine quartet for strings in A minor op. 51, cleverly interpreted by Miss Vera Warwick-Evans, Mr. William Armstrong, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Ivor James. A first performance of three piano solos, composed by Mr. James Friskin, showed decided talent; they consisted of an Intermezzo in C sharp minor, quite Russian in treatment; a clever prelude in G major, and a bright and original Caprice in A major, all admirably played by the young composer, who at the close had to respond to no less than five recalls from the large audience. Also included in the programme was Grieg's sonata for violoncello and piano in A minor, the executants being Mr. F. Gershom Parkington, who produced a fine tone from his instrument, and Miss Alice Cotton. Several songs were given at the concert. Miss Enid Gabell, although at first somewhat nervous, displayed her fine voice to much advantage in two songs by Schumann, "Seit ich ihn gesehen" and "Er der Herrlichste von Allen." Mr. Frank Webster, who has a most pleasing and musical tenor voice, gave Goring Thomas's pretty song, "The Willow," with great success; and Miss Dilys Jones, Schubert's song, "Die Allmacht." The programme concluded with a trio for piano and strings in E flat, by Beethoven, carefully played by Mr. Edmund O'Neill Phillips, Mr. Herbert Kinze, and Mr. Ivor James. The accompanists were Miss Clara Smith, Miss Alice Cotton, and Mr. Edward G. Mercer.

The name of Miss Alice Nixon was inadvertently omitted from our notice of *The Gay Parisienne*, performed by Mr. Chas. Macdona's capable company at Shrewsbury last week. Miss Nixon plays the part of Mdlle. Julie Bon-Bon with refinement and vivacity, her spirited dancing and sweet singing being most attractive features in this entertaining piece.

"ON THE LOVE PATH"

IN THE SUBURBS.

Early possession of the field outlying the London area has been taken by *On the Love Path*, which began its travels, at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on Monday, on what is inevitably the road of success. The piece is in the care of a select company, organised by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison, a name that is associated with the foremost West-end attractions on tour, and the impression which Mr. C. M. S. McLellan's piece created on its production at the Haymarket in the early part of September last is certain to be renewed among playgoers outside the metropolis. The plaint of the provinces for improvement in the material set before them has in the immediate past grown quite pathetic; but with such pieces and such companies as those sent out by the well-known entrepreneurs above named, the cry need never be heard, a fact of which the appreciative audience crowding the stalls, boxes, and other parts of the well-appointed theatre at Croydon on Monday was sufficiently convincing. The dialogue of the comedy abounds in literary graces, and the story, slight as it is, stimulates the interest throughout, and provokes a keen sense of enjoyment.

Numbered among the powerful company is Miss Lilias Earle, who invests the part of Charity Concannon with delicacy and grace. Miss Earle possesses the rare art of enunciation which allows of every word being heard, and a musical intonation and elegance of movement, added to her charm of manner, succeed in realising to perfection the irresistible fascination by which the youthful Mrs. Concannon takes final possession of the heart of Arthur Taunton. It is not easy to win sympathy for a character of so invertebrate a nature as the amorous Arthur, who woos so indefatigably but inconsistently; but Mr. Percy Hutchison's ease and buoyancy, his light and airy manner, secured the general favour of the house, which remained with him throughout. His comedy methods are very agreeable, his dialogue being delivered with such skilfully varied emphasis as to make every line tell. Laughter loud and hearty is the constant accompaniment of the utterances of the young man, whose nobility of character is nevertheless also thoroughly suggested, and in the more serious moments, notably in the stormy scenes with his blackmailer, Mr. Hutchison rises by well graduated stages to a high level of dramatic attainment. Miss Earle and Mr. Hutchison are the central figures of the comedy, and well do they acquit themselves of their responsibilities. Mr. Frank Elliott gives a neat sketch of the aspiring young inventor, Gerald Marvel. His coolness is a valuable contrast to the mercurial nature of Arthur Taunton, and his gradual surrender to the influence of Cupid is also admirably depicted. The duty of pleasing the eye is well discharged by Miss Hilda Honiss, who adds to an attractive appearance as Norah Concannon a voice of power and sweetness; and Miss Margaret Marshall looks the intrepid and athletic Mary to the life. A liberal share of the laughter that prevails is to be credited to Mr. Frank Hill, whose depiction of Peter Concannon is irresistibly comic. It is a character-drawing which stands well beside the many fine assumptions of this finished comedian, who gives in both speech and manner a typical presentment of the retired Chicago beef magnate. A vivid assumption of the despicable Denbigh Thryle is given by Mr. T. W. Rawson, whose coarseness and arrogance are admirably in keeping with the part. There is something original about his laugh, which for savagery and brutality would be difficult to surpass. The fussy and officious solicitor, John Gripleigh, is played with tact and no little energy by Mr. George Mudie, who makes the personage as ridiculous as can be; and Mr. S. Irwin Barrett and Mr. J. Mitchell, in minor parts, complete the excellent cast.

Mr. McLellan's piece is preceded by the farce, by Vincent Collier, entitled *My First Patient*, originally produced at Ealing last October. Mr. T. W. Rawson makes up particularly well as the fierce Oriental who provides the mild-mannered Dr. Wilby with his first case; and Mr. George Mudie in the latter rôle acts quietly but effectively. Miss Margaret Marshall and Miss Hilda Honiss appear as the young wife and the serving-maid respectively. *On the Love Path*, which is produced by Mr. Percy Hutchison, whose experience as stage-manager with Sir Charles Wyndham is an assurance of perfection, is mounted with every care and taste, and the dresses are exquisite. The curtain had to be twice raised after each act.

ALBERT VISETTI'S PUPILS IN LIVERPOOL.

MISS KATHARINE WYLIE'S RECITAL.

In the small concert room of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on Monday evening, Miss Katharine Wylie gave her first vocal and instrumental recital. Miss Wylie is a young Liverpool lady who possesses a fine soprano voice, besides being an accomplished pianiste; and her efforts on Monday evening gave every promise of some excellent work being done by her in the near future. She received her early musical education from Miss Todd and Miss M. L. Wood, both of Douglas, Isle of Man. Nearly three years ago she went to the Royal College of Music, and studied singing under Miss Anna Williams, afterwards becoming a pupil of Mr. Albert Visetti. Miss Wylie recently sang at one of the College concerts, and was recalled three times, as well as being warmly congratulated by Sir Hubert Parry on her success. At Liverpool on Monday Miss Wylie appeared, naturally, to suffer from some little nervousness, but nevertheless acquitted herself with distinction in the numbers "Convien Partir," from Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment*, and "Le Nil," by Xavier Leroux, for the latter of which she received an encore. She was also heard to advantage in four neat little songs by Eugen D'Albert, James H. Rogers, C. Willeby, and Wilhelm Belzer. Some excellent vocal contributions came from other artists of merit. Mr. Alfred Ross, who is well known in Liverpool, was particularly fine with his violin work, rendering, among other items, Schumann's "Sonata in A Minor." Miss Helena McCullagh brilliantly presiding at the piano. Mr. Frederic Pedgrift, a baritone, possessed of a splendid voice, gave with most creditable ease and tender feeling Sargent's delightful song, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind," and "The Devout Lover," by M. V. White. Mr. Pedgrift has a fine range and a full, round tone. Mr. Ben Ivor, whose tenor notes were clear and strong, provided a treat with his rendering of "How Vain is Man" (*Judas Maccabeus*); and Miss Meta Buring, a contralto enjoying a rich, mellow tone, afforded every satisfaction with two sweet songs by Grieg and a selection from A. Woodforde-Finden's "A Lover in Damascus." Mr. Albert Visetti, who journeyed from London in order to be present, accompanied Miss Wylie's singing with characteristic skill and judgment. The recital was altogether a distinct success.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

A BRILLIANT first-night audience assisted at the triumph of *Nero* at His Majesty's on Thursday, among the distinguished assembly being Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Sir Edward Clarke, the Duke of Abruzzi, H.H. Princess Hatzfelt, Hon. Mrs. Petre, Mr. Nat Goodwin, Sir George and Lady Lewis, Sir Alfred and Lady Fripp, Lady Northcliffe, Mr. J. M. Barrie, Lady Campbell, Sir Ernest and Lady Cassel, Sir Edward and Lady Clarke, Colonel Fletcher, Sir Charles Euan-Smith, Miss Lena Ashwell, Sir Francis Laking, Lady McIver, Sir Albert Seymour, Mr. Rufus Isaacs, the Under Secretary for the Colonies, Sir Douglas Straight, Canon Wilberforce, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Viscountess Parker, Sir Gilbert and Lady Parker, Lady Maude Warrender, Lord and Lady Granby, Lord Churchill, Sir Felix and Lady Semon, Sir W. Young, Mr. John Hare, Mr. Lionel Brough, Miss Mary Brough, Mr. John Morley, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, Sir Lawrence and Lady Alma Tadema, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Sir Francis Burnand, Mr. Sidney Colvin, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Winston Churchill, Miss Viola Tree, Major-General Warden, Mr. Alfred Stead, and Mr. Norman Forbes Robertson.

SIR SQUIRE AND LADY BANCROFT'S wedding present to Miss Mary Boyd-Carpenter, who was recently married to Mr. Wentworth Shields, M.Inst. C.E., consisted of an elegant set of carvers in case. The bride is the daughter of the Bishop of Ripon.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER returns to his own theatre on Thursday, an event which will be marked by the production of *His House in Order*, written by one of our foremost dramatists, whose absence has been overlong lamented. Mr. Arthur W. Pinero, who furnishes Mr. Alexander with his newest play, may be trusted to prove that his pen possesses the power in an added degree to create situations of absorbing interest.

MESSRS. CHAPPELL AND CO., the well-known music publishers, who have suffered severely by the depredations of the music pirates, whom justice has at last to a certain extent overtaken, write as follows:—"Now that the defendants in the musical piracy case have been pronounced guilty of a criminal offence at the Old Bailey, it will be well to remember that but for Mr. James Caldwell's mistaken advocacy of their cause their ringleaders would not at this moment have found themselves in prison. Any one of the reasonable copyright Bills asked for by us, and persistently obstructed by Mr. Caldwell, would, by acting as a deterrent of crime, have at once knocked on the head this illicit traffic in other people's property, and would have made unnecessary the costly and laborious process by which their crime has been brought home to these misguided men.

"SMALL wonder that the men now convicted thought they could defy the law with impunity when they were so far encouraged by a Member of Parliament as to be afforded interviews by him in the Lobby of the House of Commons, and when their head and chief, who was admittedly the worst offender, was honoured by an invitation to give evidence before the Royal Commission on Copyright, upon which Mr. James Caldwell sat. An even more instructive fact is that, when the premises were recently raided of one of the defendants in this present case copies of Mr. James Caldwell's attack upon music composers and the music trade were discovered there, and upon the premises of another of the defendants letters from Mr. Caldwell arranging the terms for the printing of his circulars and instructions as to how they should be distributed. Further comment is superfluous." Mr. Caldwell, it may be noted, retains his seat for Mid-Lanark with an added majority.

THE annual general meeting of the subscribers to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, we may remind our readers, will be held on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre on Monday, at 12 noon for 12.30 punctually, to receive the report of the Committee and the accounts for the year 1905. Mr. Beerbohm Tree will be in the chair, and all those interested in the work of the fund are invited to be present.

THE Secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund has received a cheque for £78 16s. from Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, being the amount realised by the sale of catalogues during the disposal of the effects of the late Sir Henry Irving, and devoted to the Fund.

THE will of the late Sir Henry Irving has been proved at £14,633 4s. 4d. net, and after providing for an annuity to be paid to Mr. Walter Collisson, who was for many years his personal attendant, the bulk of the late actor's residuary estate is bequeathed to his two sons, Mr. H. B. Irving and Mr. Laurence Irving, in equal shares.

MR. HARRY NICHOLLS hopes shortly to make his re-appearance in London in a new three-act farce, tentatively named *His Little Joke*, which he has written in collaboration with Mr. Ralph E. Kerr. This announcement will be received with pleasure by large numbers of playgoers, who have known and admired Mr. Nicholls work' during his long career, and have lamented his too extended absence from the Metropolis. Mr. Nicholls, it will be remembered, was for fourteen years principal comedian at Drury-lane; four years at the Adelphi, during its palmiest days; many years at the Grecian, Surrey, &c., making in all a record of thirty years of good service on the London stage. Mr. Nicholls, it may be added, is part author of *Jane*, *A Runaway Girl*, *The Toreador*, and many pantomimes at Drury-lane.

EVERYONE at Terry's Theatre on Wednesday evening was remarking how pretty the house looked, so daintily is it re-upholstered by Messrs. A. and R. Dean, of Birmingham, who have excelled themselves in the creation of comfort and taste in the appointments of this comfortable and "cosy" playhouse.

MR. E. S. WILLARD was recently the object of an extraordinary demonstration at the National Theatre, Washington, at the conclusion of his admirable performance of Tom Pinch. The eminent actor had been seen at his best in one of his most fascinating impersonations, and at the end the audience rose *en masse* and continued to applaud until Mr. Willard was obliged to make a speech. In a few well-chosen words he expressed the pleasure he felt in visiting Washington, and his appreciation of the cordial reception given him, promising, in conclusion, to return next season and the season after. He then retired amid another ovation. The demonstration was remarkable from the fact that the audience in the upper circles, as well as in the lower part of the house, was on its feet cheering enthusiastically.

MR. A. W. PINERO, whose new play, *His House in Order*, is to be produced at the St. James's Theatre on Feb. 1, will be the subject of the *Vanity Fair* cartoon next Wednesday. Mr. Pinero, wildly caricatured but unmistakably recognisable, is turning away to the left of the picture; and in the background Mr. Bernard Shaw stalks along in Bohemian costume, glancing over his shoulder at his brother dramatist's fashionable up-to-date attire. It is an amazingly humorous effort by the well-known caricaturist who hides his identity under the name of "Ruth," but whose style, eccentric and individual as it is, betrays him. The production of this smart and spirited cartoon is one of many proofs of the enterprise and energy with which *Vanity Fair* is being conducted by the present proprietors.

TO-DAY is Actors' Saturday, when an appeal is made to the whole of the profession to contribute towards the collection throughout the United Kingdom on behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. Contributions may be made at every theatre to gentlemen who are kindly collecting, and no sum will be considered too small to add to the returns. It is well to bear in mind that a subscription of not less than ten shillings annually carries with it an absolute title to the Fund's assistance, and also enables the subscriber of that amount to recommend deserving applicants for help. We commend the cause heartily to our readers, and sincerely trust that to-day's result will surpass the highest expectations.

THE Actors' Association will hold their annual general meeting on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 15, at His Majesty's Theatre, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Beerbohm Tree. Sir Squire Bancroft, the president of the Association, will take the chair at the meeting, to which all actors and actresses, whether members of the A.A. or not, will be admitted on presentation of their professional cards.

MRS. BEERBOHM TREE is an earnest student of Tariff Reform, and pleaded the unsuccessful cause of the Unionist candidate in Bermondsey, speaking at meetings and canvassing the constituency with indomitable energy. The experience which the charming actress met with has a ring of wholesome sentiment. The lady who was with her went into a shop in the Old Kent-road and said, "Here is Mrs. Beerbohm Tree come to ask if you will vote for Mr. Cust." "No, I won't," the man replied; then suddenly he looked at Mrs. Tree and said, "What did you say your name was?" "Mrs. Tree," answered the actress. "And does Mr. Tree want us to vote for Mr. Cust?" he inquired. She assured him that Mr. Tree had sent her down to canvass for that reason. "Then I will vote for Mr. Cust," said the man. "I made the first pair of boots Mr. Tree wore in *Captain Swift*. Those were my prosperous days, when I lived in the Haymarket; but though I have come down in the world, I shall always be ready to do what Mr. Tree asks of me."

MISS DENISE ORME, the captivating "Little Michu" of Daly's Theatre, enthusiastically sings the praises of the Empire gown, in which she looks so attractive. She has carefully studied the most becoming manner of wearing it. "First of all," she says, "grace of movement must be considered and practised. There is no doubt that those gowns are difficult to manage, because they are narrower than the wide, flounced, modern skirt we are accustomed to. The girl who wears the Empire gown must learn to take short steps—strides would be terribly inappropriate—and she must also hold herself very upright. There is, however, a difficulty in walking upstairs in an Empire gown with a train, which only practice will overcome. To wear the Empire dress to perfection, it is absolutely necessary to adopt the Empire shoe, which is quite flat, and without the suspicion of a heel. At first I found this very tiring, but I am quite accustomed to it now."

MR. BEERBOHM TREE thus defends himself from the imputation which arose in some quarters that he made interpolations in *An Enemy of the People* at His Majesty's for political purposes: "As some representatives of the Press, some members of my audiences, some even of my personal friends are under the impression that in the Public Meeting scene of *An Enemy of the People*, produced here last week, I was so carried away by the electoral excitement as to interpolate references to the newly-elected Liberal majority, may I be allowed to quote briefly from the published version of the play? It will then be seen that I spoke on the stage as an actor presenting an author's words, not—as has been hastily assumed—a partisan intruding his private opinions on an inappropriate occasion. 'Dr. Stockmann: Yes; you may be sure I shall name them, for this is the great discovery I made yesterday. The most dangerous foe to truth and freedom in our midst is the compact majority. Yes; it's the confounded, compact, Liberal majority—that, and nothing else. There, I've told you.'"

MR. FREDERICK SARGENT has been engaged by Mr. R. C. Buchanan to play the title-rôle in *Jevan, the Prodigal Son*, in the forthcoming production of the piece at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND, who has concluded a highly-successful six months' tour in South Africa, will arrive at Southampton to-day, accompanied by his leading lady, Miss Edyth Latimer, and his manager, Mr. W. Angus MacLeod. Mr. Haviland had a most gratifying season in Johannesburg, where he played for five weeks, to record business, his répertoire consisting of *Resurrection*, *The Bells*, *David Garrick*, *Leah Kleschna*, and a new version of *The Vicar of Wakefield*.

"THE FASCINATING MR. VANDERVELDT," Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play, was produced on Monday at Daly's Theatre, New York, with every success. Miss Ellis Jeffreys is credited with a delightful impersonation of Lady Clarice, and Mr. Frank Worthing in the title-rôle found many admirers.

MR. ARTHUR HOWARD, who has been business manager for his brother, Mr. J. Bannister Howard at the New Royal Theatre, King's Lynn, during the greater part of 1905, has gone to the Crystal Palace Theatre, where he takes over the management on behalf of J. Bannister Howard's Co., Ltd. On Saturday last Mr. Howard was the recipient from the whole of the theatre staff of a silver-mounted cigar case, a silver cigarette case and match-box, suitably inscribed, the last-named bearing the borough coat-of-arms, and an address expressing regret at his departure, signed by all employed at the theatre. The management at King's Lynn is now in the hands of Herr Pareezer, a gentleman of wide experience.

MR. H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS, journalist, musical critic, and dramatic author, died on Sunday morning in his seventy-ninth year. As a young man he lived many years in Paris, and an amusing and interesting account of Paris in the fifties is to be found in the Reminiscences which he published a few years ago. Mr. Edwards was the author of several dramatic pieces, including *The Late Ralph Johnston*, produced in 1872; *Sampson and Delilah*, *Frou-Frou*, and *Fernande*, the two last mentioned being adaptations. He wrote the English libretto of *La Marjolaine*, *Madame Cartouche*, and *Eugene Onegin*. In association with Mr. Augustus Mayhew, he wrote the farce of *The Goose with the Golden Eggs*, produced at the Strand Theatre on Sept. 1, 1859, and collaborated with Mr. Brandon Thomas in *Lillie's Flight*, and with Mr. Sydney Grundy in *A Wife's Sacrifice*, both produced in 1886, and with Mr. W. Taylor in *The Fiend at Fault* (1894). Mr. Edwards was also the author of "The Lyrical Drama," "Famous First Representations," "Idols of the French Stage," and several novels. The funeral service was held on Wednesday morning, at St. Saviour's Church, Paddington.

"SHERLOCK HOLMES," which has done such extensive and successful touring, is again appearing in the suburbs. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, who has made a decided hit in the provinces, is seen in the title-rôle.

MR. EDOUARD JOSE, manager for Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler's enterprises in South Africa, who has been spending a holiday in England, sailed this week by the Kildonan Castle.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN proposes to present *The Beauty of Bath* at the Aldwych Theatre about Easter, up to which time it is probable that *Bluebell* will run. There have been some recent changes in the cast of Messrs. Cosmo Hamilton and Seymour Hicks' piece. Miss Ellaline Terriss, Mr. Hicks, Miss Filippi, Mr. Stanley Brett, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Maudi Darrell, Miss Mollie Lowell, Miss Barbara Deane, and Miss Topsy Sinden are still among the principals, but Messrs. William Lugg, Laurence Caird, and Murray King, and Miss Nellie Sousay and Miss Clarita Vidal have taken the places of others previously announced.

MR. GEORGE DANCE'S name appeared in a contemporary on Saturday as the defendant against whom Mr. George Edwardes obtained an injunction from producing *The Cingalee*, *The Duchess of Dantzic*, *A Country Girl*, *The Girl from Kay's*, and *The Orchid*, in Rangoon, Penang, Singapore, and Hong-Kong. Mr. Dance's association with the best musical comedies from the Gaiety, Daly's, and other theatres is such a long and extensive one that it is almost incredible that such a statement should gain currency, and the denial and apology had necessarily to be prompt and complete.

"CINDERELLA" went into a second edition at the Coronet on Monday, eight new songs being introduced. Mr. Robert Arthur's Kennington pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, and the Camden *Babes in the Wood* both commence the last week of their run on Monday. The dramatic season at Kennington will be opened by *Charley's Aunt*, and the first attraction after the pantomime at the Camden will be *What the Butler Saw*.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the Compton Comedy Company will be celebrated at Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, February 7th, with a revival of Lytton's celebrated play *Money*. The event will be specially interesting in view of the public presentation which it is intended to make to Mr. Edward Compton, as a testimony to the quarter of a century's devotion to old and new comedy, and a record of twenty-five years' work

MR. STERLING MACKINLAY'S forthcoming book, "Antoinette Sterling and other Celebrities: Stories and Impressions of Artistic Circles," goes to press in about a fortnight, and will be published by Messrs. Hutchinson early in March. In addition to various pictures of his mother, Mme. Antoinette Sterling, there will be signed photographs of Mary Anderson, the centenarian Manuel Garcia, Adelina Patti, Val Prinsep, Sims Reeves, Charles Santley, Ellen Terry, and others equally famous in artistic circles whom the writer has met. Of the chapters dealing with celebrities of the stage, one is devoted to the Lyceum, and contains anecdotes and impressions, not only of the "chief" and his life-long friend, J. L. Toole, but also of those who were most intimately connected with Sir Henry Irving's successes—Ellen Terry, Geneviève Ward, Forbes Robertson, William Terriss, W. G. Wills (the playwright), Bram Stoker, and others. Mr. Mackinlay was also recently commissioned to write for the March number of the *Strand Magazine* an article on "The Art of Expression in Singing," a subject of which he has made a special feature in his work as a teacher. Mr. Mackinlay is also at work on a four-act romantic drama of the 16th century, with a strong plot, the scene of which is laid in Holland.

"LUCKY MISS DEAN," that bright and clever "little comedy" recently played at the Criterion and Haymarket Theatres, will shortly be sent on tour. Mr. Eugene C. Stafford, having arranged with Miss Ethel Irving for the sole provincial and suburban rights, will commence a spring tour on March 5 at Eastbourne. Included in the company will be Mr. William E. Ashcroft, so long associated with the late Sir Henry Irving, and Miss Dora Gray.

MR. W. H. HALLATT has achieved another deserved success with his new production, *The Temptress*. The play has been enthusiastically received by large audiences in all towns visited. The local Press has been unanimous in its praise, and resident-managers have endorsed the verdict by their letters to Mr. Hallatt in eulogy of play, company, and mounting

MR. HARRIS FINEBERG, proprietor of the Star Theatre, Liverpool, accompanied by Mrs. Fineberg, made a good motor-car run this week from their villa near Southport to London. The roads were exceedingly heavy, but Mr. Fineberg's new motor did excellent work, performing the journey of 220 odd miles in about nine hours. The longest stretch covered without a stop was ninety miles.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE, who is doing excellent business with his répertoire company, in spite of the General Election and pantomime opposition, fully realises the importance of up-to-date printing. A special plant is being prepared for him by Messrs. David Allen and Sons, and when this is completed Mr. Wilkie will have as large a variety of pictorial printing as any répertoire company touring.

A SERIES of true detective stories, taken from the journal of M. F. Goron, late chief of the Paris Detective Police, and edited by Albert Keyzer, our Paris correspondent, has been begun in the January number of the *Novel Magazine*, published by C. Arthur Pearson. The first instalment is an engrossing episode entitled "The Scar," describing the discomfiture of a blackmailer.

"THE GILDED FOOL" is in active preparation at the Shaftesbury, and may be looked for in a little more than a fortnight. The play, which has had a long run in America, will be found to be entirely English in tone, and the scenery and accessories will all be of London make. Mr. Nat Goodwin, who will appear in his original rôle, will have the support of Miss Isabel Grey, Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Jessie Bateman, Miss Alexandra Carlyle, Miss Martheze, Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe, Mr. Hylton Allen, and Mr. Neil O'Brien.

MR. FRANK MACNAGHTEN, having renewed his lease of the King's Theatre, Nottingham, has added a heating apparatus that will come as a boon to the audiences of this popular house. Under the guidance of Mr. A. W. Bull, who, for the past eighteen months has directed the fortunes of the theatre, the extension of patronage has been considerable. Mr. Bull has laboured assiduously to promote the pleasure and comfort of all his *clientèle*.

MISS BEATRICE EDWARDES'S performance as Prince Charming in the highly-successful Stratford pantomime *Cinderella*, is winning her many eulogiums, a fact that is especially gratifying when it is considered that it is practically her first appearance in "principal boy" parts, although she is well accustomed to playing in male garb through touring in the name-part in *My Lady Molly* during the past two years. Miss Edwardes, whose native place is Cardiff, is in no way related to anyone bearing the same name on the stage.

SINCE Mr. W. T. Lovell left the cast of *Lights Out* at the Savoy, Mr. Fred W. Permain has been playing Lieutenant von Howen, the part originally played by Mr. Dawson Millward.

MISS MAUDE DARRELL, who is making a great success in *Bluebell* at the Aldwych Theatre, will this autumn be sending to the principal cities a company of her own.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S pantomime *Aladdin*, after enjoying a most successful season at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, came to a conclusion last Saturday night. At the end of the performance, all the principal artists individually thanked the audience for their support and appreciation of their efforts. Mr. J. Bannister Howard also spoke a few words. He deeply regretted the fact that this (Saturday) must be their last night in Gateshead, as previous arrangements compelled them to open in Hull on Monday. He was glad, however, to inform them that his company had been specially engaged to open at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, on Feb. 19, in *Florodora*, when all the pantomime favourites would be in the cast, including Mr. Daley Cooper, Miss Leo Grieves, and Miss Lily Gullick, a remark which was received with much applause. He hoped during that visit to renew acquaintance with all his Gateshead friends.

MISS BESSIE ALLAYNE, who has just finished a successful season as Jack in *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Theatre Royal, Exeter, has been re-engaged by Mr. Mouillot, to play O Mimosa San in *The Geisha* and Maia in *The Greek Slave* for the spring tour, and San Toy for the autumn tour.

"AS YOU LIKE IT" will be given for the last time at St. James's Theatre this evening, owing to the inability of Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison to secure any further extension of the lease of that house. An endeavour is being made to secure another West-end theatre whereat to continue the run of the successful Shakespearean production. Meanwhile the company will go on tour in order to fulfil contracts long since arranged, and at the close of these bookings they will return to London and resume their highly successful production of *As You Like It*.

MR. LESLIE CARTER has been engaged by Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell to create the part of Schaube in their forthcoming production of *When It Was Dark*.

MR. MARTIN ADESON, who is playing King Grabbus, in *Puss in Boots*, at the Broadway, New Cross, is taking his benefit on Friday next, Feb. 2, when, in addition to the pantomime, there will be a host of other attractions.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS, whose *Cinderella* is making a pantomime "record" at Brixton, has a trio of triumphs this season. *Jack the Giant Killer*, written and produced by this master of pantomime stagecraft, is still proving a huge success at Leith; while his *Fair One With the Golden Locks*, after a prosperous run at Glasgow, has been transferred to Newcastle. Author of thirty-three pantomime "libretti," Mr. Rogers has eight of his books in use this year.

MR. HENRI DE VRIES, the celebrated Dutch actor, made a brilliant début in America at the Madison-square Theatre, New York, on the 8th inst. in *A Case of Arson*, under the direction of Mr. M. B. Leavitt. Mr. De Vries, who impersonates seven out of the nine rôles, has been highly praised for his clever character delineations, the manner in which he changes his voice and appearance being regarded as marvellous. It is certainly the most artistic and wonderful performance of its kind that has ever been seen in New York.

MR. HERBERT ST. JOHN, who has made a great success by his artistic impersonation of Dandini in *Cinderella* at the Brixton Theatre, will not be able to take part in the extended run of the pantomime after Feb. 3, as he has to fulfil a long-standing engagement with Mr. J. Bannister Howard to play Captain Donegal in *Florodora*, opening at Bath on Feb. 5.

"CINDERELLA" is still running merrily at the Brixton Theatre, enormous audiences thronging this cosy playhouse. In consequence of the increased patronage the management have decided to extend the run of the pretty pantomime for at least another two weeks. A contingent of the Eccentric Club propose to visit the Brixton *Cinderella* on Thursday, Feb. 8.

THE seventy-fifth performance of *Mr. Popple* (of Ippleton) at the Apollo Theatre takes place to-night (Saturday). Mr. Paul Ruben's charming and amusing play is going better than ever, and promises to continue its success for many a long day to come.

MR. MATTHEW BRODIE gave a dramatic and musical recital to the patients, doctors, and nurses of Nordrach-on-Dee, Scotland, last Monday. This was the fifth anniversary of his having entered that sanatorium, where he so quickly regained his health.

MR. J. H. CLYNDES and his company will appear in *A Royal Revenge* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, on Monday next, this making their third visit to Manchester within eight months.

"THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER," after a run of three months' at the Comedy, will come to an end in about a fortnight's time, and will then be sent on tour. The theatre will shortly afterwards be occupied by Mr. John Hare, whose appearance under the direction of Messrs. Arthur Chudleigh and Charles Frohman, in Captain Robert Marshall's new comedy is being awaited with interest.

MR. F. R. BENSON, who is this week paying a visit to Belfast, unfortunately wrenched his knee in a hockey match played on Wednesday by his company against the Cliftonville eleven, and had to retire before half-time was reached. The match was a finely contested one, and resulted in a draw, both sides scoring a goal. The teams were as follows:—Mr. F. R. Benson's XI.: Goal, B. A. Pittar; backs, Cyril Keightley and Reg. Davis; halves, Stanley Howlett, J. P. Wilson, and W. Owen; forwards, D. Robinson, F. G. Warlock, F. R. Benson, G. R. Buchanan, and T. Lucas. Cliftonville: Goal, W. Campbell; backs, J. G. Dick and R. C. Robb; halves, A. H. Jarman, H. Harper, and W. Snape; forwards, J. Moore, F. J. Clarke, R. H. O. Smith, W. M'Cammond, and A. J. Dempsey. An interesting match was played in the same town on Tuesday, when Queen's College was engaged. The result was a victory for Mr. Benson's team, which was similarly constituted to the list given above, and scored two goals to one.

A SLIGHT accident happened at the Theatre Royal, Hull, on Monday night to Miss Gladys Raymond, who is playing in Mr. J. Bannister Howard's pantomime *Aladdin*. Upon making her entrance at the end of the trap scene, she fell through the vamp trap, which was about to be secured. She escaped with one or two bruises and a severe shock, but was able to resume her part.

MISS AURELIE REVY, the Hungarian prima donna, has been winning golden opinions in Dublin, where she has appeared at four concerts. Her voice and culture have won the praises of connoisseurs, and the newspapers are quite enthusiastic concerning her.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN is making arrangements to shortly produce a play in four acts, adapted by Messrs. Freeman Wills and Frederick Langbridge, the authors of *The Only Way*, from Stanley Weyman's powerful historical novel, "Count Hannibal." This adaptation is by special permission of the author, very few of whose works have been dramatised.

ON Thursday afternoon, January 18, the members of the Corinthian Club, which is one of the most representative clubs in Dublin, its members being drawn from the bar, music, art, literature, journalism, and society, gave a luncheon at the Gresham Hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Manners, and the principal members of the Moody-Manners Opera company. Sir Charles Cameron was in the chair, and in his speech welcoming the company to Dublin he reminded his hearers that Mr. Manners was an Irishman, and had been many years resident in Dublin, and that his professional career as an impresario began practically in Dublin, and that no one who visited Dublin at any time was surer of a warmer welcome. Speeches were also made by Mr. Justice Ross, and Mr. Manners replied on behalf of Madame Fanny Moody and the members of his company, and spoke very warmly and sincerely of the innumerable and continuous kindnesses he has received from the Dublin public. After the luncheon songs were rendered by Mr. John Child, Mr. Lewys James, Mr. Charles Manners, the Earl of Drogheda, Madame Fanny Moody, and Madame Clementine De Vere; and altogether the meeting was a most memorable and delightful one. Before breaking up, the chairman said it was not the least happy of similar meetings that had gone before, and hoped that there were many more similar meetings to take place in the future. The Corinthians had honoured soldiers, sailors, diplomatists, explorers, and scientists in a similar manner again and again, but a very warm corner was kept for artists and actors, and the warmest corner for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Manners and the members of the Moody-Manners Opera Company.

THE value of a name is strikingly exemplified in the case of Mrs. Brown-Potter, who it is said has received an application from the lady who has become the second wife of Mr. Brown-Potter to give up the use of the name for a consideration. The popular lady would no doubt act as fascinatingly under any other name, but her attractive powers would necessarily for the time being suffer. She has therefore set the price of £50,000 upon the cognomen, a sum which would appear prohibitive, so that the celebrated actress is likely to remain Mrs. Brown-Potter to the end.

AN iniquitous "deadhead" has recently been brought to book in Paris. He is the secretary of a theatre, and wrote for two free seats for the Opéra Comique, a request which was immediately granted. The recipient, however, sold the two stalls, worth 8s. apiece, for 12s. to a tobacconist, who let a customer have them for 7s. each. The Opéra Comique prosecuted and claimed £200 damages, but the Court ordered the delinquents to pay £2 compensation jointly.

"MISS HOOK, OF HOLLAND," is the title of the new comedy in which Mr. Paul Rubens is again playing the part of author, composer, and producer. The scene of the new play is set in Holland, all the characters are Dutch, and the story, though fantastic, is thoroughly modern. It will follow *Mr. Popple* at the Apollo whenever that remarkably attractive play requires a successor.

ANOTHER contingent of poor children will be the guests of the Playgoers' Club to-day. As on previous occasions, the little pantomime-goers will each receive a meat pie, some cake, fruit, and sweets on entering the various theatres where arrangements have been made for their visits, which on the present occasion are the Grand, Islington (2500), the Marlborough, Holloway (900), and the Grand Theatre, Fulham (600). On the following Saturday the Pavilion, Mile End, will accommodate 3500, and 1000 will be sent to the Camden.

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE'S courage and coolness saved the situation at the Harlem Opera House, New York, on the 19th inst. A boy struck a match in the gallery, and the cry of "Fire!" was at once raised. Miss Nethersole went to the front of the stage, and said: "Don't be frightened; there is no fire." Fortunately the audience listened to her reassuring words, and resumed their seats, without any mishap occurring.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS has been compelled still further to postpone the matinées for the benefit of various charities, owing to the advance booking at the Aldwych Theatre necessitating two performances a day of *Bluebell* for some weeks to come. Two shows a day and preparations for the production of *The Beauty of Bath* constitute a great strain upon Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Hicks; but as soon as rehearsals for the new play are more forward, Mr. Hicks hopes to be able to announce the dates of the matinées, and also of one for the benefit of Mr. Charles Danby.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS proposes to make his museum at the Aldwych the means of assisting theatrical charities, making a small charge to all persons booking seats at the theatre by which they will be permitted to view the interesting exhibition. The collection is made up principally of Irving relics, including the chair which the late actor used in his dressing-room at Bradford on the night of his death, the jewelled snuff-box, and the bag which he carried as Shylock, the real Waterloo medal which he wore in his famous impersonation, his doublet as Benedick, his dagger as Macbeth, the fencing foils of Hamlet, and many of the character costumes of his most notable parts. In addition to the Irving mementos, there are Kean's sword, Sir Joshua Reynolds' painting of Garrick, Zoffany's picture of Mrs. Garrick, and the late Fred Leslie's "Press cutting" book, containing an interesting collection of old Gaiety programmes, theatrical autographs, souvenirs, and menu cards. Garrick's cane, and the gnarled walking stick used in *The Spitalfields Weaver* by Mr. J. L. Toole also figure in the exhibits.

MR. H. B. IRVING'S resolve to take up the dual rôle in *The Corsican Brothers*, a part which is associated with the fame of his lamented father is one that will give satisfaction to all. Seldom has so striking an example of inherited genius been given as in the case of the late distinguished player's son, while the young actor possesses an individuality of his own that will give added significance to any rôle which he essays. It is hoped that the drama may be produced during the spring at Drury Lane.

MR. STEPHEN PHILLIPS' tragedy, *Paolo and Francesca*, is being translated into Japanese, and will be produced at Tokyo in the spring. The adaptation is being made by Mr. Shoyo, the leader of the new theatrical movement in Japan, where *Othello* and other Shakespearian plays have already been enthusiastically received.

AT the Elephant and Castle Theatre last Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Harold Wagner was called upon at a moment's notice to take the part of Billy Crusoe, in addition to that of The Bos'un, which he has played since the run of the pantomime, receiving an encore for his capital rendering of the song, "That's him!"

MESSRS. CARDWELL AND LEVY'S juvenile pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, is meeting with enormous success on tour, being pronounced by all who have witnessed it as the most dainty and charming production seen in the provinces. On the termination of its three weeks' run at the Colosseum, Oldham, the Misses Dolly Dodds (Beauty), May Gibson (Silverstar), and Isa Gibson (Maid Marion), were the recipients of lovely presents from the staff of the theatre.

"NERO."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Stephen Phillips,
Produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 25.

Nero ..... MR. TREE
Britannicus ..... MR. ESME PERCY
Otho ..... MR. BASIL GILL
Seneca ..... MR. J. FISHER WHITE
Burrus ..... MR. LYN HARDING
Tigellinus ..... MR. C. W. SOMERSET
Anicetus ..... MR. ROBERT FARQUHARSON
A Seaman ..... MR. JAMES HEARN
Parthian Chief ..... MR. FRANK LASCELLES
British Chief ..... MR. HENRY LESMERE
Xenophon ..... MR. YATES SOUTHGATE
Agrippina ..... MRS. TREE
Octavia ..... MISS PHYLLIS EMBURY
Poppæa ..... MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER
Acte ..... MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD
Locusta ..... MISS MARY PRICE-OWEN
Myrrha ..... MISS HILDA MOORE
Flavia ..... MISS WINIFRED ARTHUR-JONES
Lucia ..... MISS FLORENCE WELLS
Stella ..... MISS JANE SAVILE
Viola ..... MISS MARGARET LESLIE

"History tells us" a good deal about Nero, but very little that is to his credit. He began his reign—so it is stated—well, being an objector to flattery and capital punishment; but when he had his mother murdered, people began to explain his scruples on the latter subject unpleasantly. When, however, he declared that he had taken away his parent's life to save himself from ruin, the Senate and the people signified their approbation in the manner then usual. He then, we are informed, "sacrificed to his fury or caprice all such as obstructed his pleasure or diverted his inclination." There was, literally, "no living with" such an Emperor. He not only went on the stage, but chose bad parts to appear in—an instance of unnatural depravity which is almost incredible. He had a hoarse, rough voice, which he did his best to improve; but he neglected to ameliorate his morals, which were simply "unspeakable." He got into "a bad habit of killing people." He kicked his wife to death because she objected to his coming home late one night; although she did her best to please him in the only way possible, keeping 500 asses to supply her daily bath with their milk. He put to death Seneca, Lucan, and Petronius; and though some may feel that the execution of the last was not altogether undeserved, the sternest moralist must deplore the removal of the first-named writer. Nero burnt down Rome—so they say—for the sake of the spectacle, singing to his lyre during the conflagration. His subjects, strangely enough, put up with him for nearly fourteen years; but they seem to have got tired of him in the end, and the Senate finally ordered him to be whipped to death. To escape this doom, he committed suicide, remarking, "What an admirable artist now puts an end to himself!"—a vain estimate which emphasises the objection to letting persons write their own "notices."

"History tells us" all this, and more; but there is no reason why we should believe all the statements of the historians, who were naturally devoid of the sense of proportion, and avid of "spicy" and scandalous details. So Mr. Stephen Phillips has been in the favourable position, as regards *Nero*, of having a suggestion of a character, and a free hand in moulding it to his purpose. Except in *Paolo and Francesca*, he has never chosen a really dramatic theme. The legend of Nero, however, is not only full of "movement." It is capable, as Mr. Phillips proves, on the *solviter ambulando* principle, of being used for the finest achievement of drama—the development of character by action.

Nero is an epoch-making play. It is a work, not of deft and artful talent, but of high genius—a fine intellectual conception, realised with all the skill of the practical stage-craftsman. The idea with which it is inspired is that of an artistic temperament placed, by accident of fortune, in the stream of active life. The "notion," as Mr. Pinero used to put it in the old days, is raised to a height of tragic intensity by the possessor of the temperament being placed in the possession of absolute power in an age of general egoism and unscrupulousness. The idea is carried out, up to the end of the third act, with a masterly supremacy, a princely liberality and profusion of beauty that leave one breathless with admiration. Just as Shakespeare went to Plutarch for his facts, and "stuck to his text" as far as was possible, so Mr. Phillips has made his drama almost a chapter of history. In the first act we have the poisoning of Nero's father, Claudius, by his wife, the remorseless and ambitious Agrippina. Nero, fresh from success at a chariot-race, enters to be hailed Emperor. When his imagination is excited by the thought of the vastness of his dominion, he cries, "I shall go mad!" Five years and absolute power has made him a poetic voluptuary, an amateur artist surfeited with adulation and conceit. Agrippina has seized power, and governs while Nero is singing in public. The Ministers of State, alarmed at her aggressions, suggest to Nero that she shall be banished from Rome. When he gives her the order to depart, she seizes the young Britannicus, Nero's possible rival for the purple, and, after a furious and eloquent speech, goes off to lay her wrongs—remember, she is the daughter of the great Germanicus, whose memory is beloved of the Army—before the soldiers, who really settle Imperial elections. Nero is frightened. He dissembles, and sends a messenger, with fair words, to fetch Agrippina back again. Britannicus must die. The boy is poisoned at a banquet, and falls dead after reciting to the guests. "You are a poisoner?" cries Agrippina. Nero replies:—"I am—your son." Pale and grim, they gaze in each other's faces.

The deadly game does on. The Ministers use the beautiful Poppæa as their agent to persuade Nero to consent to the murder of Agrippina. Otho, Poppæa's husband, is sent out of the way to Lusitania; the woman plays her part craftily. One of the Ministers, Anicetus, invents a plan to kill Agrippina on board a pinnace off Baiae. Nero agrees to this; but natural filial instinct tortures him—until he learns of his mother's escape, when fear masters him again. The lives of the Ministers hang on a thread. Anicetus grips the situation desperately, and sends a party of soldiers to kill Agrippina at the villa to which she has fled. Three notes of a trumpet, ringing across the bay, announce that the murder has been done. Then comes the news of a great victory over the Armenians, and Nero enters Rome in a "triumph." The last act yields to the exigencies of spectacle. There are some comparatively "cheap" scenes, in which Poppæa and Nero's old playmate, Acte, are concerned; but the act exists for the inevitable "sensation" of Rome in flames with the now-insane Nero singing a dirge to his murdered mother.

A bald scenario like this can give no idea of the pomp, pride, and beauty of Mr. Phillips's drama. Speech upon speech rings out, absolutely in its place in the scheme, never exuberant or ornate, and always splendidly direct and dramatic. Nero's terror in the first act when he realises the awfulness of world-empery; Agrippina's tremendous tirade in reply to her threatened expulsion; and the agonised effusion of the Artist-Emperor after he has consented to his mother's murder, are examples which instantly occur; but the whole play is studded and jewelled with rich and rare poesy. *Nero* is not only the best-conceived work that Mr. Phillips has done; it is the best written, the best understood, and the most various.

Mr. Tree's grand creation of the principal character demands more than ordinary description and analysis; and we give a detailed "appreciation" of it in another column. It is, without doubt, the grandest achievement of his genius. Mrs. Tree astonished her warmest admirers by the vigour and vitality of her performance as Agrippina. Always distinct, dignified, and impressive, Mrs. Tree rose to unsuspected power in such intense efforts as Agrippina's desperate and almost tigerish denunciation of Nero's ingratitude in the second act, and in her denunciations of her son and his Ministers. Her delivery of the verse was excellent. Miss Constance Collier had a fine opportunity in the scene between Otho and Poppæa. Here not only dramatic energy was required, but subtle by-play and crafty touches of expression; and very cleverly did Miss Collier depict the artful treachery of the ambitious wanton. Otho's agony of distrust and his final delusion were spiritedly shown by Mr. Basil Gill; and all the Ministers of State had good representatives. Mr. J. Fisher White gave a calm and well-considered embodiment of the pliable philosopher Seneca; Mr. Lyn Harding, magnificent in appearance and sturdy in style, did full justice to the character of Burrus; and Mr. C. W. Somerset put such strong individuality into the character of Tigellinus that it stood out notably, and remains firmly fixed in the memory. Mr. Robert Farquharson gave a keenly original and very remarkable performance of the part of Anicetus, whom he made equally acute and repulsive; Miss Dorothea Baird was delightfully simple and tender as the young and affectionate Acte; and a picturesque interpretation of the rôle of Locusta was contributed by Miss Mary Price-Owen. The briefer rôles were all ably sustained. Mr. James Hearn spoke his lines well as a Seaman; and Mr. Frank Lascelles and Mr. Henry Lesmere were thoroughly competent as the Parthian and British Chiefs, Mr. Yates Southgate doing valuable service as Xenophon. Miss Phyllis Embury made a pleasing Octavia, and Miss Hilda Moore was an agreeable representative of Myrrha. That clever young actress, Miss Winifred Arthur-Jones, was very commendable as Flavia, and the other maidens were well represented.

So superb was the mounting of the play that a special notice is needed to do it justice. The beauty and the magnificence of the scenes were overpowering, the luxurious life of the Roman Emperors being brought before us in all its lavish splendour. The stately palace, finely painted by Mr. Joseph Harker, which formed the background for the first and second acts, and Mr. Henry Emden's beautiful sets in the third, may be briefly mentioned as examples of what our scenic artists can do when given full scope; and Mr. Harker's Conflagration in the last act could not have been better managed. Archæological accuracy in the beautiful dresses and accessories was secured by the superintendence of Mr. Percy Macquoid; and Mr. Louis d'Egville was responsible for the arrangement of a dazzling Oriental dance, introduced in a scene of Roman revelry, which "beggared description" by its elaborate stage-management, and the sumptuous liberality of its arrangement. Mr. Coleridge Taylor's fine incidental music merits a separate critique. This, indeed, is the difficulty of dealing with *Nero*—it has so many merits and beauties that some of them must needs be overlooked in a first notice.

The production was a triumph as complete as the Emperor's after the victory over the Armenians; and the three white horses of Mr. Tree's chariot—the noble drama, the fine acting, and the noble setting—will certainly bear *Nero* on its way for many a month to come.

"BROTHER OFFICERS" AT THE GARRICK.

The Comedy, by Leo Trevor, Revived on Monday, Jan. 21.

John Hinds, V.C. ..... MR. BOURCHIER
Lieut. Launcelot Pleydell.... MR. J. L'ESTRANGE
Colonel Stapylton ..... MR. O. B. CLARENCE
Lieut. The Earl of Hunstanton.. MR. W. PEARCE
Captain Hutchinson .... MR. ALFRED BRISTOWE
Lieut. Calverley ..... MR. D. IMBERT
Sergeant Foxall ..... MR. HARRISON CARTER
Jarvis ..... MR. F. CECIL
The Dean of Orchester.. MR. CHARLES GOODHART
Robert Hutton ..... MR. GEORGE TROLLOPE
Lady Margaret Pleydell ... MISS K. SERJEANTSON
Kate Johnson ..... MISS MURIEL BEAUMONT
Mrs. Hammond ..... MISS ELFRIDA CLEMENT
Mrs. Laceby ..... MISS CELIA POWIS
Maid ..... MISS ANNIE STUART
The Baroness Roydon .. MISS VIOLET VANBRUGH

No one can reproach Mr. Arthur Bourchier with want of variety in his artistic enterprises. Translations of serious French dramas, social satires, and Shakespearean revivals have been presented by him at the Garrick with marvellous boldness and experimental energy. When Mr. Bourchier wishes to rest—*se reposer, pour mieux sauter* afterwards—he revives an entirely agreeable and amusing piece like *Brother Officers*, in the leading part of which he is so much at home as to be able to act, in an emergency, as prompter of those of his company who are less letter-perfect than himself. It is too late in the day to criticise Mr. Bourchier's John Hinds, a creation familiar to every London playgoer. It is the same quaint, humorous characterisation as it was when *Brother Officers* was produced at the Garrick in the October of 1898. Mr. Bourchier shows, perhaps, a tendency to underline certain points, and to emphasise others more palpably than on that occasion; and he reaps his reward in the laughter evoked by the grotesque efforts of Hinds in the first act to adapt himself to the painful circumstances of promotion from the ranks to a commission. The piece is a valuable illustration of the difficulty experienced in the English Army in getting "rankers" to take commissions. There are hundreds of non-commissioned officers who, in action, would be in their proper place at the head of a company, but who shrink from the ordeal of introduction to the officers' mess. We never realised so fully the force of their objections till we saw that fine fellow John Hinds in *Brother Officers* rendering himself ridiculous by each attitude, movement, and speech. The author, for the sake of effect, has made Hinds especially unadaptable and obtuse; but still, the sketch is no exaggeration of the awkwardness of the promoted plebeian's position, which is really pathetic in its painfulness. A great merit of the revival is the excellent way in which the characters of the young officers are sustained. Mr. Julian L'Estrange as Lieutenant Launcelot Pleydell and Mr. Walter Pearce as the Earl of Hunstanton might have walked straight from any barrack-square to the stage of the Garrick Theatre, so simply and naturally well-bred are they, and so exactly do they reproduce a type of which Englishmen are proud. Mr. O. B. Clarence, always "safe" in an elderly character-part, plays Colonel Stapylton in his usual neat, crisp, and carefully-accentuated manner; and Mr. Alfred Bristowe and Mr. D. Imbert are quite efficient as Captain Hutchinson and Lieutenant Calverley. Quietly finished performances of the little parts of Sergeant Foxall and Jarvis are contributed by Mr. Harrison Carter and Mr. F. Cecil; and Mr. Charles Goodhart as the Dean of Orchester is the "image" of a sleek, self-important clerical dignitary, and acts with an oily humour which is very diverting. Mr. George Trollope plays Robert Hutton in a style of his own, which is original and effective; and Miss Kate Serjeantson is exactly the aristocratic, amiable mother suggested by the text. Miss Muriel Beaumont as Kate Johnson is as pretty and unaffected an example of a young English girl as could be desired; and Miss Elfrida Clement gives a bright, animated interpretation of the rôle of Mrs. Hammond. Miss Celia Powis does good work as Mrs. Laceby; and Miss Annie Stuart is a presentable maid. As for Miss Violet Vanbrugh's Baroness Roydon—how can we do justice to its noble frankness, its tender delicacy, its sensitiveness, its freedom, and its deep and tender feeling? The pleasure given by such a delightful embodiment can hardly be conveyed in words. Mr. Bourchier has had the advantage of the assistance of that excellent authority, Colonel Newnham-Davis, in the reproduction of the piece, so we may feel safe as to the accuracy of the military details. Mr. Edmond Rickett has arranged some pleasant incidental music. The revival of *Brother Officers* at the Garrick on Monday was received with every sign of satisfaction.

"THE HEROIC STUBBS."

The Comedy of a Man with an Ideal,
In Four Acts, by Henry Arthur Jones.
Produced at Terry's Theatre on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Roland Stubbs ..... MR. JAMES WELCH
Sir Arthur Candlish .... MR. DENNIS EADIE
Sir Thomas Starbuck .... MR. SYDNEY BROUGH
Willie Dellow ..... MR. EILLE NORWOOD
Harvey Dix ..... MR. GEORGE F. TULLY
Hobday ..... MR. E. DAGNALL
Mackett ..... MR. LEONARD CALVERT
Ballard ..... MR. LEOPOLD PROFEIT
Lady Hermione Candlish .. MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON
Lady Mildred Starbuck .. MISS HELEN PALGRAVE
Lady Bodicote ..... MISS MARIE HUDSPETH
Flora Stubbs ..... MISS GERTRUDE BURNETT
Mrs. Treviss ..... MISS IRENE ROOKE
Flitton ..... MISS ESTELLE WINWOOD
Agatha ..... MISS ETHEL HOLLINGSHEAD
Miss Trimmer ..... MISS ROSE TEMPLE
Miss Littlewood ..... MISS EVA TURNOUR
Miss Pierpoint ..... MISS PAULINE POTTER

The sight of a good man struggling with incorrect diction or awkwardness in Society is supposed to be a delight to the playgoing public. We have such a spectacle at the Garrick, where the fun of the first act is chiefly created by Mr. John Hinds's solecisms; and at Terry's on Wednesday Mr. Jones gave us a companion picture in the trials and troubles of a little boot-maker. The piece possesses all the virtues and defects of the Jones-ian method. In the first place, it has all that outside actuality which is such a valuable quality of Mr. Jones's plays. The first act is excellent in every way. We are shown a boot-maker's shop, a boot-maker's assistants, and a boot-maker—all most convincingly put upon the stage. The two assistants go up ladders and open boxes; the leather apron hangs over the back of a chair; the boot-maker himself talks much as the boot-makers we have known talk, allowing for Roland Stubbs's peculiar character. Stubbs owes his success in life to an incident of his apprenticeship. His cruel master had been ill-treating him, and a little girl of the upper class—a customer—spoke kindly to him, and encouraged him to persevere. This incident was engraved on Stubbs's memory, and by attention to business and by inventing a certain patent "soft kid," he rose to the possession of a fine business and four thousand a year. The kind little girl, when the play begins, has become Lady Hermione Candlish, the wife of a pardonably jealous husband. She is pursued, with evil intent, by a Don Juan called Willie Dellow. Stubbs worships Lady Hermione with a distant and reverent adoration; and when he finds that, without her husband's knowledge, she is going to trust herself on board the dangerous Dellow's yacht, Stubbs orders a special train so as to get down to the little watering-place of Yavercliff and save her from the consequences of her folly.

Here we touch the real weakness of the piece. Stubbs is "too silly for anything." Lady Hermione is quite old enough to know her own business best; and Stubbs has not the least right to interfere with her risky flirtations. Realising this, Mr. Jones makes the rest of his play action and intrigue. In fault of development of character, he falls back on incidents and complications. Dellow's plan is to get Lady Hermione on board his yacht to meet some friends, who will be conveniently absent, and then to run off with her to Dieppe. Lady Hermione—one of those female "players-with-fire" who are so useful to the constructive dramatist—is by no means prepared to be Dellow's victim; but Stubbs does not know that. He takes rooms at the only inn in Yavercliff, and boldly attacks Dellow, who yields when Stubbs threatens to make a disturbance which would spoil the seducer's scheme. The latter manages to get Lady Hermione after all to go on board his "lugger," but she refuses to be taken to Dieppe and insists, indeed, on being sent back to Yavercliff Pier. There the boat she is in upsets, and Stubbs, who has been following her in another, jumps into the water and saves her life. Fresh complications are created by the accidental presence in the inn of a reporter from a London daily paper, who sees an opportunity of making good "copy" out of the incident, especially if he can discover the name of the lady whom Stubbs saved. The faithful boot-maker smuggles Lady Hermione off at daybreak, and for the time prevents the disclosure of her identity, so that the mysterious heroine of the "Yavercliff mystery" remains unknown to the public. Taxed by her husband in the last act, Lady Hermione lies; and when the reporter turns up at her husband's country house and recognises her, she is in great distress. Stubbs, ever her good angel, persuades the reporter, for the lady's sake, to keep the secret, and induces her ladyship to "make a clean breast of it" to her husband. The piece ends with the reconciled pair embracing, and Stubbs strolling off pensively with his box of boots.

Roland Stubbs is a most difficult character to render probable or convincing, and Mr. James Welch had an up-hill task on Wednesday almost from the outset. A stage personage may easily be either ridiculous or admirable, but it is almost impossible to make him both at the same time. One felt from the first that there was a good deal of impertinence in Stubbs's egotistical intrusion into Lady Hermione's life, and in his attempt to arrange it for her by his interference. The position of the "hero" is a false one, and all Mr. Welch's delicate and finished treatment could not conceal that fact from the audience. On the other hand, there is far too much good in Stubbs for him to be heartily laughed at, like the mean little *parvenu* in *Mr. Hopkinson*. It was not Mr. Welch's fault, but the author's, that, despite the actor's entirely admirable handling of the rôle, the one creation fell a little short of the complete success of the other. Mr. Dennis Eadie was very intense and earnest as Sir Arthur Candlish; and Mr. Sydney Brough, in the few minutes during which he was on the stage as Sir Thomas Starbuck, made a very favourable impression by a vigorously funny depiction of a burly, red-faced, and stupidly-jocular baronet. Mr. Eille Norwood played the "bold, bad man," Willie Dellow, with a judgment and discretion which were much assisted by an exterior quite suitable to the character; and Mr. George F. Tully was full of vivacity and smart energy as Harvey Dix. Mr. E. Dagnall, as the oily inn-keeper, treated us to one of those "satisfying" low-comedy creations in which he so conspicuously excels; and Mr. Leonard Calvert contributed a picturesque and effective performance as a "long-shore" boatman. Mr. Leopold Profeit was efficient as Ballard; and Miss Rose Temple and Miss Eva Turnour were unimpeachable as the assistants in Mr. Stubb's shop. Miss Gertrude Kingston sustained the rôle of Lady Hermione Candlish with her usual complete accomplishment, making every point with care and cleverness, and looking very nice in some most becoming dresses. Miss Helen Palgrave was a dignified and well-bred Lady Mildred Starbuck; and Miss Marie Hudspeth gave a neat character-sketch as Lady Bodicote. Miss Gertrude Burnett being particularly bright and pleasing as Flora Stubbs, and Miss Irene Rooke enacting Mrs. Treviss with skill and sincerity. Miss Estelle Winwood made the most of her opportunities as Flitton; and Miss Ethel Hollingshead did useful work as Agatha. Miss Pauline Potter being commendable as Miss Pierpoint. Mr. Bruce Smith's shop interior for the first act was remarkably realistic; and Mr. Walter Hann's seaside hotel and country house sets were all that could be desired. *The Heroic Stubbs* had a cordial and friendly reception, and Mr. Welch's popularity was shown by a call for him, to which he responded.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA PETITE MADAME DUBOIS,"
Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts,
by MM. Paul Gavault and Jean Lahaix,
Produced at the Nouveautés on Jan 19.

Dubois ..... M. GERMAIN
Théodore ..... M. TORIN
Jardy ..... M. COLOMBEY
Gerbier ..... M. ROZENBERG
Balivet ..... M. LANDRIN
Jefque ..... M. PAUL ARDOT
Eve ..... MDLLE. CASSIVE
Elodie ..... MDME. ROSINE MAUREL
Hortense ..... MDLLE. PIERNOL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Jan. 25.—If the two last acts of MM. Gavault and Lahaix's comedy had proved as good as the first tableau the work would have been a perfect gem. But from subtle comedy we soon drift into vaudeville, and the dialogue in the second act drags considerably. On the other hand, we are treated to a series of very amusing incidents, and the laughter that greeted the performance augurs well for the future success of the piece. Moreover, the authors have a great surprise in store for us. Their heroine, Madame Dubois, is a good-principled woman, and, more remarkable still, remains respectable till the end of the piece, a feat thus far never yet performed by any other heroine at the Nouveautés Theatre. In the opening scene we are introduced to the Dubois family in Soissons. Dubois is rich, his wife is pretty, and Elodie, an elderly aunt who lives with them, does not make herself more unpleasant than strictly necessary. One day Jardy, a Parisian, gets stranded in the small provincial town, and spends a few days with the Dubois. He is a man of about fifty, a bachelor, very fond of the ladies, and beloved by them. Before he has been an hour in the place, he tries his luck with the pretty Eve Dubois, when, to his surprise, he finds that his advances do not meet with any response. Jardy, the sceptic, does not believe in a woman being virtuous. If a lady resists him, it is because she loves someone else. He expounds this theory very cleverly to his charming hostess, adding that as she would not be so foolish as to have a lover in the little scandal-mongering town, the gentleman on whom she had centred her affections must be a Parisian. And he triumphantly proves to her that the happy man can be no other than Gerbier, a young barrister who visits her frequently. Jardy's deductions are almost right. I say almost. Eve certainly loves Gerbier. She even loves him very much; but he is not her lover. She is a good-principled woman, and refuses to deceive her husband. Gerbier's prayers and lamentations are of no avail; he cannot drag her from the right path. At last Gerbier loses patience. "If you refuse to be my mistress," he says to her, "then get a divorce and become my wife." Eve accepts this plan with enthusiasm, but it wants working. Dubois has no mistress; he is kind to his wife; and Eve has no other choice than to run away. This she does with the old aunt Elodie, leaving a note to her husband informing him that she left him to meet the man she loves. "With whom can she have gone?" sighs poor Dubois. And Gerbier, whom Eve has not informed of her departure because she will only see him after her divorce, likewise asks, "With whom did she run away?" Jardy, too, is very much upset and also wonders who the happy man can be. Suddenly Dubois returns home in a great state of excitement. Théodore, Eve's cousin, a young idiot who stammers, has also left his home, and he, of course, is supposed to be the seducer. Dubois remains alone in the house, and feels sad. But at this opportune moment Mdlle. Hortense, a young employee in a dressmaker's establishment, comes to bring a toilette for Eve. She gives poor Dubois a sympathetic look, and he understands that with her he will find consolation. Six months elapse, during which time Eve and the old aunt have been travelling; and Eve, for some unexplained reason, has not communicated with Gerbier. Dubois has applied for a divorce, which the Court has granted. Gerbier and Eve meet, and the latter has no difficulty in proving that she never ran away with Théodore. They want to publish at once their banns, but an unforeseen difficulty has arisen. According to French law, Dubois had to give legal notice to his wife that the divorce was pronounced against her, and he has not done so. Why? Because Hortense (who has become Dubois's mistress) wants him to marry her, and the man has no inclination to do so. And as Eve is in a hurry to become Madame Gerbier, she calls on Dubois to ask him not to keep matters any longer in suspense. And here we witness a typical scene; for Jardy has turned up again, and this time it is he who is believed to be Eve's lover. At one moment it looked as if Dubois and Eve would fall into one another's arms, which would have been a tame ending to the piece, but we were spared that dénouement, and things take another course. Dubois promises to give Eve the required legal notice. The latter will marry Gerbier; Hortense will marry Dubois; and Jardy will become Hortense's lover. The work was fairly well acted. Mdlle. Cassive was not seen at her best in the rôle of a virtuous woman; flighty parts suit her better. MM. Germain and Torin imparted much humour to their rôles, but M. Rozenberg, as Gerbier, made a decided hit. His impersonation of that distracted lover was excellent in every respect. M. Colombey was a far too heavy Jardy; and Mdlle. Piernol supplied an amusing type of the vulgar and scheming Hortense.

MR. W. C. HORNER, of the Victoria Theatre, Burnley, was so delighted with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Aladdin*, that he 'phoned Mr. Dottridge as follows: "Delighted with the brilliant pantomime you have sent me, the best I have had for many years, and the business is sure to be gigantic."

MR. FREDERICK MELVILLE is presenting his drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, at the Theatre Royal, Dewsbury, this week. Mr. Albert Ward, in the rôle of George Maddison, makes a real hit. Mr. Lionel D'Arragon as the callous Charles Devereux also enacts his part in good style; Mr. F. De Vere is very funny as Timothy; Miss Barbara Gott as the Mother Superior could scarcely be improved upon; and Miss Eugenie Magnus as Lady Lucretia essays her rôle with character and feeling. Among others who appear are Messrs. E. Campbell, G. Lyttleton, Misses S. Hammersley, and I. G. Vane as Sir Geo. Lancaster, Lambkin, Patty, and Lucy.

THE BIJOU THEATRE.

"KING JONATHAN,"
a Musical Phantasy,
Written and Adapted to Popular Melodies, by A. M. Lee.

Jonathan ..... MR. LEONARD HEYWOOD
Ferdinand ..... MR. A. M. LEE
Douglas Mortimer ..... MR. CALDWELL MOORE
Daphne Ray ..... MISS DOROTHEE SNOW
Ruby ..... MISS MADGE LEE
Susanne ..... MISS MURIEL CAMPBELL
Babs ..... MISS ISABEL BURROWS
Première Danseuse .... MISS WINSOME WALKER

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 23, a performance of *King Jonathan* was given at the Bijou Theatre in aid of the Mersey Mission to Seamen, a large audience being present. *King Jonathan* is entitled a musical phantasy, and is written and adapted to popular melodies by Mr. A. M. Lee. The story relates how Jonathan, formerly known in humble life as Ikey Wilkins or Williams, reigns as king over the island. The first act shows the Gardens of the Cavern Palace of the King at night, and Before the Storm, and the two characters that first appear are Jonathan and Ruby, a lady to whom the King makes a proposal; but Jonathan, who it seems has a perfect mania for making proposals (this being his nineteenth), explains that he is not serious in this case, but is really in earnest as regards a young lady called Babs; but that lady has rejected him, and he has a rival in one Ferdinand. When Miss Babs appears, the King makes another appeal, but with no success, and, later on, discovering her with her lover Ferdinand, whose real name is Hugh Russell, declares he will banish the gentleman to the Island of Desolation. This so depresses the young man that, after Jonathan departs, he asks Babs to sing to him, which she does, giving a coon song about her "Little log cabin," and this being encored by the audience, considerably improves his spirits. The next couple that come on are Douglas Mortimer and his young lady, Daphne Ray, both in correct modern dress. We may here mention that the costume of Ferdinand is Elizabethan in character, and the King wears a long red robe, an ermine cape, and a crown. Douglas Mortimer and Daphne Ray have landed from a yacht, and lost their way on the island, and the first act closes by the King inviting all to a dance at the Palace that night. The second act takes place in the Antechamber of the Palace. All the former characters come on, and a fresh one in the person of Susanne, a young French girl, who recognises the King as the man Ikey Williams, who has not only some time before proposed to her, but also taken her money. They eventually agree, however, to square matters for £5, and sing a duet "Listen to my tale of woe," which was well received by the audience. The other scenes in this act are An Elfin Fantasy, with some effective solos by Miss Norah Campbell, and the Terrace Room, which serves to finally wind up the plot. Mr. Leonard Heywood played Jonathan with a certain amount of humour, being very successful with his song relating to a certain kidney pudding; and Mr. A. M. Lee acted well in the character of Ferdinand, and sang his solo, "Go slow, little boy," in the second act remarkably well. Mr. Caldwell Moore also appeared with success as Douglas Mortimer. In the part of Ruby, Miss Madge Lee was graceful, and has a most effective dance with a quaint cinématograph appearance, caused by clever treatment of lighting. Miss Winsome Walker also won applause for a clever dance. The character of Babs was skilfully undertaken by Miss Isabel Burrows, and that of Susanne by Miss Muriel Campbell. The orchestra was under the direction of Mr. Algernon Clarke, and the dances were invented by Miss Lizzie Maynard and Madame Wordsworth, and the dresses by J. A. Harrison, of Leicester-square.

DEATH OF B. C. STEPHENSON.

We regret to record the death, which took place on Monday morning, of Mr. Benjamin Charles Stephenson, the well-known dramatic author. He passed away at his residence, Hill Cottage, Taplow, and was in his sixty-seventh year. He was the only son of the late Sir William Stephenson, K.C.B., and a nephew of General Frederick Stephenson, who was in command of the Army of Occupation in Egypt and the Soudan from 1883 to 1888. Mr. Stephenson when a young man entered the Civil Service, but devoted much of his spare time to playwriting and other literary work. For the German Reeds' entertainment he wrote *Charity Begins at Home*, with music by Alfred Cellier, first performed at the Gallery of Illustration, London, on Feb. 7, 1872, and revived at the Gaiety Theatre in Feb., 1877, and at the Shaftesbury in Sept., 1901. It was also staged at St. George's Hall in June, 1892, and is a favourite one-act piece with amateurs. He was one of the adaptors of Sardou's *Nos Intimes*, produced by the Bancrofts under the title of *Peril* in Sept., 1876, at the old Prince of Wales's Theatre. The adaptors' names were given as Messrs. Bolton Rowe and Smith Rowe, the last-mentioned being Mr. Clement Scott. The same authors again collaborated in the version of Sardou's *Dora*, entitled *Diplomacy*, produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Jan. 12, 1878.

Mr. Stephenson achieved a notable success with the comic opera, *Dorothy*, Mr. Alfred Cellier being responsible for the charming music. This was produced at the Gaiety on Sept. 25, 1886, by Mr. George Edwardes, in conjunction with Mr. H. J. Leslie, and ran for about one hundred nights. On its withdrawal it was transferred to the present Prince of Wales's, and later to the Lyric. Altogether, its career lasted over three years. Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Ben Davies, and Mr. Arthur Williams were conspicuous in the cast.

Some years previously, namely in 1878, Mr. Stephenson collaborated with Mr. Clement Scott in a version of *Le Petit Duc*, named *The Little Duke*, staged at the old Philharmonic, Islington. *Impulse*, an adaptation of *La Maison du Mari*, Mr. Stephenson wrote for the Kendals, who produced it at the St. James's in December, 1882. He was the author of *Doris*, music by Alfred Cellier, first performed at the Lyric Theatre on April 20, 1889, but this failed to enjoy the unqualified success of its predecessor, *Dorothy*. Nor was the career of *The Young Recruit*, written in conjunction with Sir Augustus Harris, and produced three years later, more prosperous. The comedy called *The Passport*, by Mr. Stephenson and Mr. William Yardley, was produced at Terry's in 1895, and has since been revived. The list of Mr. Stephenson's productions also includes *Comrades*, presented at the Court Theatre on December 16, 1882, of which Mr. Brandon Thomas was part author; *A Woman of the World*, being a translation of the German play, *Der Probepfeil*; *Warranted Burglar-Proof*, *Faithful James*, both one-act pieces; and *On the March*, a comic opera, in the authorship of which he was associated with Mr. W. Yardley and Mr. Cecil Clay, produced at the Prince of Wales's in June, 1896.

ATROY, the society juggler, is achieving much success at the Hippodrome and Varieties, and Johnny Walker, character comedian, does well. Joe Oliver, singing coon, has a good style; and Verne and Verne, trick skaters, are clever. Viola, an instrumentalist of much ability, and Davis and Davis, refined comedians, have a good reputation. Ariel and Astarte, gymnasts and bar performers, have a very clever act; and Ted Waite, eccentric comedian, is amusing. The Harriscope gives an extended series of pictures.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

EDITH; OR, FALL OF PRIDE, Richmond, Aug. 22, 1870.
EDITH'S FLIGHT, Theatre Royal, Dundee, March 15, 1875.
EDITH WEST, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, April 26, 1875.
EDMUND KEAN, Holborn, Sept. 25, 1871.
EDWIN AND ANGELINA, Gall. of Illus., May 6, 1871.
EFFIE AND JEANIE DEANS, Albion, Oct. 29, 1877.
EFFIE DEANS; OR, LILY OF ST. LEONARDS, Surrey, Feb. 7, 1863.
EFFIE'S ANGEL, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, Sept. 4, 1871.
EGOTIST, THE, Brighton, Feb. 20, 1895.
EGYPTIAN, THE, City of London, April 18, 1853.
EGYPTIAN IDOL, Theatre Royal, Sunderland, Dec. 16, 1895.
EGYPTIAN WAR, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, Oct. 10, 1882.
EIDER-DOWN QUILT, Terry's, Dec. 21, 1896.
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE, St. James's, Dec. 26, 1863.
EIGHTEEN YEARS IN ONE HOUR, Park, Feb. 15, 1875.
EILEEN DHU, Sefton Theatre, Liverpool, June 26, 1882.
EILEEN OGE, Princess's, June 29, 1871.
EILY O'CONNOR, Drury Lane, Nov. 25, 1861.
EINE KRANKE FAMILIE, German Gymnasium, Dec. 15, 1883.
EINE PARTIE PIQUET, Opéra Comique, Oct. 24, 1894.
EIN SCHRITT VON WEGE, St. George's Hall, Jan. 27, 1896.
ELAINE, Kilburn, June 26, 1890.
EL CAPITAN, Lyric, July 10, 1899.
ELDER MISS BLOSSOM, Blackpool, Sept. 10, 1897.
ELDORADO, Strand, Feb. 19, 1874.
ELEANOR'S VICTORY, St. James's, May 29, 1865.
ELECTION NOTES, St. George's Hall, Nov. 9, 1885.
ELECTRA, Haymarket, April 25, 1859.
ELECTRIC SPARK, Olympic, May 8, 1889.

MR. F. R. BENSON IN BELFAST.

The annual "Students' Night" in connection with Mr. Benson's visit took place on Wednesday evening at the Theatre Royal, Belfast. A procession of the students in all kinds of fantastic costumes left Queen's College about 6 p.m., and marched through the city to the theatre. There they took entire possession of the gallery, and furnished a programme of songs, in which Messrs. J. Laird, H. C. Laird, C. Boas, N. Gordon, C. Cooper, D. McElroy, Stewart Megahy, and others took part. The piece, produced before a crowded and fashionable audience (including Sir James Henderson, J.P., Lady Henderson, and party), was *The School for Scandal*, in which Mr. Benson (although suffering from an injury to his leg sustained at hockey during the day) delighted his hosts of admirers with his dashing and manly impersonation of Charles Surface, and Mrs. Benson's graceful impersonation of Lady Teazle was certainly exceedingly charming. Other parts were cleverly sustained, and at the conclusion of the performance Mrs. Benson was the recipient of a handsome bouquet of flowers composed of lily of the valley and daffodils tied with black and blue ribbon (Queen's College colours), which was lowered from the gallery by wire.

There were loud calls for a speech, and Mr. Benson on coming forward was accorded an ovation. He thanked the students for the very warm, orderly, and harmonious greeting. The members of his company offered to them their heartiest congratulations on the successes achieved during the year, and on the way in which they intended, through the munificence of many generous frinds, to enlarge the scope of the college. If those present had observed anything appearing to limp or halt in that performance he hoped it would be imputed to an accident, and would therefore be overlooked He congratulated the students present on all the successes achieved in the school of medicine or the school of law; their school that evening had been *The School for Scandal*, a subject entirely unstudied by them. He asked them to give the performers a diploma in their examination, and see they were not "stuck." Once more would they allow him to offer, on behalf of his wife and himself, their sincere thanks for that very pleasing floral offering that came down the wire, and she asked him to say that the most precious flower in the bouquet was expressed in their friendship, their favour, and their goodwill which those flowers betokened. He would now bid his old young friends good-night, and he wished to thank them very much indeed for the warm welcome they had given him that evening. It added but one more to the many memories they possessed of college days, of college work, of college play, and of college joyousness. They could only thank them again and again for that heartiness and kindliness, which made those memories abide with them as the years rolled merrily on, and always kept their hearts hopeful and youthful.

"A QUESTION OF AGE," the comedy in three acts by Robert Vernon Harcourt, will be produced at the Court Theatre on the afternoon of Feb. 6. Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. C. M. Hallard, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. Stratton Rodney, Mr. Frederic Topham, Mr. C. L. Delph, Mr. Frederick Lloyd, Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Mabel Hackney, Miss Agnes Knight, Miss I. Fitzgerald, Miss Darragh, and Miss N. Daniells will be in the cast. Mr. Harcourt's piece will be followed by a play entitled *The Convict on the Hearth*, by Frederick Fenn, the cast of which will comprise Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Mr. Edmund Gurney, Miss Mary Brough, Miss Eily Malyon, Miss Merrie Omar, Mr. Ralph Green, Mr. Stratton Rodney, Miss Clare Greet, Mr. Norman Page, Miss Madge McIntosh, and Mr. C. V. France.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held last Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, C. Hayden Coffin, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, Will Dennis, Wm. Devereux, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Ernest Legh, Fewlass Llewellyn, Norman McKinnel, M. R. Morand, Walter Russell, A. M. Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, Edward Terry (vice-president), Brandon Thomas, Hubert Willis, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

The hon. solicitors reported they had advised a member on a point submitted, and had also written on behalf of another member making a claim for arrears of salary, &c. They were requested to advise another member as to his rights in connection with an alleged breach of contract, and also as to a claim for damages against a railway company for loss of luggage.

Edith L. Barwell and S. D. Allan Wade were nominated for election. A former member was proposed for reinstatement.

The suggestions for the institution of professional qualifications for actors were again under consideration, and after a lengthy discussion further deliberation was postponed until the next meeting, the secretary receiving instructions to inform those members of the Council who were absent of the adjournment.

The accounts for the year 1905 having been placed on the table, the preparation of the report of the Council was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The date was fixed for holding an arbitration. Two cases of alleged insanitation at provincial theatres were considered, and the secretary was directed to place the correspondence in one of the cases before the hon. medical officer of health.

The hon. solicitors reported that the negotiations between the A. A. and the company who were arranging for the carrying out of the insurance scheme were nearing completion, and that they (the hon. solicitors) had incorporated the two proposed agreements in one, and made certain provisos in connection with the settlement of claims. The secretary was authorised to sign the agreement with the insurance company on behalf of the association on receipt of a letter from the hon. solicitors informing him that the agreement was satisfactory.

The secretary reported that he had arranged for the holding of the fifteenth annual general meeting of the association at His Majesty's Theatre (by kind permission of Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree), and that Sir Squire Bancroft (the president of the A. A.) would preside. The Council fixed Thursday, Feb. 15, next, at 3 p.m., for the holding of such meeting, when members of the profession who were not members of the association would be admitted on presentation of their professional cards. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held their usual weekly meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, M. R. Morand, C. Aubrey Smith, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The committee drew certain suggestions as to matters in connection with the relations between members of the association and the hon. solicitors. The committee, having considered the question of the preparation of the annual report of the Council for 1905, adjourned their meeting until the following Friday, at 11.30, for the purpose of drafting such report for submission to the Council at their meeting next Tuesday.

During the week the secretary of the Actors' Association has been the highly-gratified recipient of a framed and signed photograph of the president, with the following inscription: "To Charles Cruikshanks, from Squire Bancroft, with good wishes for 1906." In 1902 Mr. Cruikshanks received a portrait of the late president, inscribed "Charles Cruikshanks, from Henry Irving, with kindest and most cordial greeting."

"THE DEAN'S DILEMMA."

A Comedietta, by Albert J. Dearden, Produced at the Garrick Theatre, on Thursday, Jan. 25.

The Dean ..... MR. O. B. CLARENCE
The Master ..... MR. CHARLES GOODHART
The Professor of Fine Arts ..... MR. ARTHUR WHITBY
Percy Smithells ..... MR. DOUGLAS IMBERT
Tibbetts ..... MR. FRANK LACY
Violet Grey ..... MISS EVELYN BEAUMONT

Mr. Albert J. Dearden's comedietta precedes *Brother Officers*, which Mr. Arthur Bourchier has revived at the Garrick Theatre. The scene is laid in the dean's rooms at a college in Cambridge during May week. The dean is a thin, pale, nervous individual, devoted to books, and so absent-minded as to excite the secret derision of Tibbetts, the gyp. The reverend gentleman has invited some college friends to luncheon, but cannot quite remember who they are. He is, however, considerably surprised by the sudden appearance of a charming young lady, who shyly informs him that she is engaged to Percy Smithells, an undergraduate, who occupies the set of rooms overhead. Her uncle, who is the Master of the college, is opposed to the engagement, and she called to impart some important information to her sweetheart, when, seeing him approaching with a party of fellow undergraduates, she sought refuge in the dean's room. The dean is acquainted with Smithells, and is, indeed, expecting a visit from him. The church dignitary sympathises with the girl who has brought a ray of sunshine into his bachelor abode, and she, having presented him with a bunch of violets, is about to depart, when the expected visitors are heard on the stairs, and she darts into the dean's study. The Master, accompanied by the Professor of Fine Arts, then make their appearance, and, sitting down to luncheon, their host behaves in an unaccountably nervous manner, which, however, is explained when the finding of a lady's glove on the floor leads to the further discovery of its fair owner in the dean's study. The Master is furious, and demands an explanation of the presence of his niece in the dean's apartments, and the lady herself comes forward and explains matters. The Master is eventually induced to give a reluctant consent to the marriage of the young people; and the dean, left alone once more, indulges in memories of some one he was once very fond of, and a vision of whom has been recalled by the visit of the fresh young girl who is engaged to the undergraduate.

The new curtain-raiser was favourably received. Mr. O. B. Clarence presented a very natural embodiment of the dean, whose extreme nervousness and anxiety to avoid the discovery of his lady visitor were cleverly depicted. Mr. Charles Goodhart did well as the bluff Master; and Mr. Arthur Whitby was excellent as the Professor. Mr. Douglas Imbert as Percy Smithells and Mr. Frank Lacy as Tibbetts the gyp rendered good service; and Miss Evelyn Beaumont was a pleasing and girlish Violet Grey.

MR. LESLIE STUART, one of the popular composers who is most directly injured by the illicit trade in music, points out that the sentences on the men at the Central Criminal Court last week will in no wise deter "piracy," for the prisoners were only convicted on the technical offence of conspiracy to print copyright music. It must not be assumed, therefore, that composers and publishers have obtained the redress they seek.

THE HIPPODROME.

THE touch-and-go travesty, *Among the Stars*, so ingeniously and drolly written by Mr. Arthur Shirley, still serves as the means of introducing a number of most attractive turns into the Hippodrome bill, and several of these made their first appearance at the Cranbourn-street house on Monday. It is somewhat bewildering to watch performances on the stage and in the ring at the same time; but this is practically what Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Oswald Stoll, and Mr. Frank Allen ask their patrons to do, so determined are they to give them an *embarras de richesse*. Early announcements by Mr. Hal Forde—the mere human being who is wafted from below to the planet Minerva "among the stars"—are Mdlle. Doris and the Brothers Delbosq. The lady commences her turn by dancing in very graceful fashion on the floor of the ring. She soon, however, proves her quality and skill as an equestrienne on a bare-back steed, and is responsible for a daring and fascinating performance, which includes skipping on horseback. The Brothers Delbosq, who are on the stage while Mdlle. Doris is in the ring, justify their title of drolls by their amusing tricks.

A great hit is made by the Novellos in their act "India in Europe"—one of the most interesting and varied shows that it has been our good fortune to witness. Nothing seems to come amiss to these clever people. In a wonderful series of acrobatic feats they, or some of them, are assisted by a small but sagacious elephant, who plants his foot on one end of a see-saw, and by thus immediately raising the other end, on which stands an acrobat, sends that performer into the air to turn a somersault over the animal's back. A number of intelligent fox terriers, a boarhound, and a pony add to the attractiveness of the show by performances that are entirely out of the ordinary groove. One terrier is balanced at the top of a pole, and a number of them do some clever tricks with the patient pachyderm already mentioned. The critic would be content to give his undivided attention to the Novellos, but he has also to note at the same time the wonderful doings of the Lukushimas, Japanese artists, in a remarkable Risley act. A notable achievement is the swinging round at express speed of two brass vessels attached to the ends of a rope, which is done with rare deftness and skill by an adult Jap. One of the kiddies revels in a series of balancing feats on a pole balanced by an older performer, and the force of acrobatic skill could no further go. The Sisters Urma—three pretty and well-formed girls—are seen to great advantage in their lithe and active doings on a suspended trapeze. The celerity with which the trio go through their tricks immediately strikes the visitor. The charm of the exhibition of these perfect lady gymnasts reaches its culminating point when the chief performer acts as a sort of apparatus for her sisters in a series of smart feats. The Hardinis are a quartet of violin players, who are responsible for an attractive musical act. Mr. Hardini, the tutor, and his companions—three pretty girls just entering their teens—choose *Il Trovatoré*, and perform a fantasia on the airs "Il balen" and "Ah che la morte," both well known to a popular audience. Their tone is excellent, and their technique remarkable. The most gifted of the girls adds to the success by a lively Scherzo, in which the playing of one of the variations is distinguished by a command of harmonics.

The Cole-de-Losse Duo may be credited with originality and comicality in their slack-wire act. One of the pair clowns delightfully, but cannot conceal the real difficulty of the many funambulistic feats that he performs. His partner negotiates the thin filament of steel on a bicycle; and the exhibition throughout is one of the very best of its kind. Lavater Lee and his mule form an amiable combination, and are special favourites with the kiddies. The animal certainly enjoys the performance as much as those watching him, and his owner well sustains the best traditions of English clowning. Tschernoff's animals include a trio of ponies, a number of borzois, a white poodle, and a fox terrier. One of the equines is very artful when, after eating the meal provided for his trainer, he lugs a fox terrier from his kennel and places him close to the empty plate. Another pony lets loose a number of pigeons, who alight on his back; and a third carries away some immense vases by placing his neck through the handles. Altogether a very amusing and ingenious show this of M. Tschernoff. The Pissiutis are apparently brother and sister, and their equestrian act is one on which to build a solid and enduring reputation. The brother is a perfectly formed and handsome athlete, and the sister is also beautifully proportioned. Both are dressed in white. At one time the sister mounts to the brother's shoulders, and the pair ride round in triumph; at another she is held aloft at arm's length by the young gladiator. The act is devoid of sensational incident, but it has a grace and skill much above the common. The Auroras, a quintet of performers, are clever cyclists. Four of them support on their shoulders and keep revolving a tea-cup track, while the youngest member of the troupe—a little girl—rides inside. It is a novel, refined, and marvellous act and never becomes monotonous, as wheel acts are apt to do. Genaro and Theol compass many difficulties in their contortionist business, the gentleman accomplishing his feats with his lady partner clasped round him. The latter can easily touch her back-hair with her toe, and the show generally is refined and graceful. Mdlle. Lorette, who appears early in the evening, is responsible for a very interesting series of pictures, in which she poses as a sportswoman with her intelligent statue dog—a well-trained white setter—as companion. The act is a decided novelty, and is most effectively presented.

Miss Annette Kellermann is literally a perfect duck in the water, and no lady swimmer that we know of has attained such popularity in so short a time as this really distinguished *nageuse*. She gives clever imitations of Holbein's and Burgess's methods of swimming, and dives into the Hippodrome lake in all sorts of ways with the grace and ease of a dolphin. Miss Kellermann, besides being a magnificent swimmer—always delightful to watch—is a most frank, unaffected girl, and her performance is entirely free from the conventionalities of the showman—or rather showwoman. Her dives, headers, and somersaults form a variety of feats that are accomplished with wonderful ease and finish, and though she comes late in a lengthy programme, no one thinks of departure until she makes her final bow. Other turns on the Hippodrome bill are the Mezzettis in a comic bar act; the Rinaldos, comedy head and hand balancers; the American Bioscope, with dramatic and comic pictures; and the interesting exhibition of the Chinese fishing cormorants. Belling and Augouste, the latter a droll dwarf, are responsible for much amusing business in the ring, in which they are ably assisted by Mr. Otho Twigg.

ON Friday evening last, at the Royalty Theatre, Llanelly, the performance of Mr. Alfred H. Hook's company in *The Prodigal Son*, was under the patronage of Mr. Llewyllan Williams, M.P. for the Carmarthen Burghs, the Hon. Vere Ponsonby, Lady Oranmore, and the Hon. Mrs. Congrieve. There was a large house, and at the conclusion Mr. Williams, the successful candidate, thanked his constituents for their kindness, and Mr. Hook and Mr. Andrews for their courtesy.

DR. WALFORD BODIE is the principal attraction at the Empire, Wolverhampton, this week, his performances drawing large houses. The variety company includes T. M. Mills, impersonator; Bella Skene, comedienne; Little Dolly Robson, child artist; Helen Henri, vocalist; and Signor Bandoni, one-man band. Ruffell's Bioscope also displays pictures.

ON THE ROAD, JANUARY 29.

ARE YOU A MASON?—Kilmarnock.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Gainsborough and Harrogate.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.—Theatre Royal, Chatham.
BANDMANN-PALMER.—O. H., Torquay.
BENSON, F. R. (B).—Court Theatre, Warrington.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
BULMER, MR.—Prince of Wales, Mexborough.
CATCH OF THE SEASON.—Shakespeare, Clapham.
CHINESE HONEYMOON.—Pavilion Theatre.
CHRISTIAN (HOWARD).—Treherbert and Maestag.
CHRISTIAN, THE.—H. M. T., Dundee.
CINGALEE.—Doncaster.
CINGALEE (2).—Cardiff.
CLAUDIAN.—O. H., Stockport.
COAL KING.—H. M. T., Blackpool.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.
COUNTRY GIRL.—Newark.
DANDY DOCTOR.—T. R., Grantham.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Ashton.
DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE.—Court T., Galway.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—New T., Oxford.
ETERNAL CITY.—Aberdare.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—T. R., Merthyr.
FAITHFUL FRIEND.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—T. R. W., Stanley.
FREEDOM OF SUZANNE.—Woolwich.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Preston.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—Princes T., Accrington.
GIRL FROM JAPAN.—Grand T., Middlesbrough.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Aquarium, Gt. Yarmouth.
GO-WON-GO MOHAWK.—T. R., Scarboro'.
GREAT AWAKENING.—T. R., Dover.
GRIP OF IRON.—Queen's T., Dublin.
HER ONE GREAT SIN.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH.—Met., Birmingham.
HER WEDDING DAY.—Miner's T., Ashington.
HOME, SWEET HOME.—T. R., Colne.
INDIAN MUTINY.—T. R., Stratford.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Ealing.
LADY MADCAP (DANCE).—Cambridge and Ipswich.
LADY MADCAP (EDWARDES).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
LA POUPEE (RALLAND).—Royalty T., Chester.
LAUGHTER LAND.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
LIFE OF A SHOWMAN.—Grand Theatre, Plymouth.
LITTLE BO-PEEP.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
LITTLE BREAD WINNER.—Theatre Royal, Blyth.
LITTLE MICHUS (DANCE).—Southport.
LITTLE MICHUS (EDWARDES).—Lyceum, Edinburgh.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Star T., Swansea.
LOST IN PARIS.—Theatre Royal, Stockton.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—Queen's T., Gateshead.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Leamington.
MARTIN HARVEY.—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Chesterfield.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—T. R., South Shields.
MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE.—T. R., Hull.
MOODY MANNERS (A).—Opera House, Cork.
MOODY MANNERS (B).—Court Theatre, Wigan.
MR. SMITH.—Leicester.
MR. SMITH.—Opera House, Dudley.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
OLIVER TWIST.—County Theatre, Kingston.
ON THE LOVE PATH.—Opera House, Cheltenham.
ON THE STROKE OF TWELVE.—Kirkcaldy.
ORCHID (2).—York.
PATH OF THORNS.—O. H., Kidderminster.
PEGGY MACHREE.—County T., Bedford
PRICE OF HER SOUL.—T. R., Colchester.
PRODIGAL SON.—Star T., Swansea.
PROOF.—Gaiety T., Leith.
REVENGE.—T. R., Rochdale.
ROMANY'S REVENGE.—Pardoe's T., Middleton.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Queen's T., Keighley.
ROYAL REVENGE.—P. O. W., Salford.
SAILORS OF THE KING.—T. R., Hanley.
SAINTS AND SINNERS.—Treherbert and Maesteg.
SEE-SAW OF LIFE.—Hippodrome, Brompton.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Dalston Theatre.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
SILVER KING.—T. R., Hyde.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—Grand T., Nelson.
SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART.—T. R., Grantham.
SPRING CHICKEN.—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
STILL ALARM.—Osborne, Manchester.
SUNDAY.—Grand T., Swansea.
SWISS EXPRESS.—Grand T., Hull.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (S.).—Coleraine.
THRONE OF TERROR.—Empire, Cradley Heath.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—T. R., Aston.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.—Empire T., Oxford.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—T. R., Darlington
VERONIQUE.—Aberdeen.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—New T. R., Leigh.
WALLS OF JERICHO (N.)—T. R., Brighton.
WALLS OF JERICHO (S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
WILKIE, ALLEN, AND Co.—Royalty, Llanelly.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Prince's T., Portsmouth
WRECKER OF MEN.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
WHEN WOMAN HATES.—Grand T., Nottingham.
WOMAN'S PAST.—T. R., Macclesfield.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—King's Lynn.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Charles Bush—Saturday, Jan. 27.
Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem—Saturday, Jan. 27.
Cecil Raleigh—Saturday, Jan. 27.
Frank Allen—Sunday, Jan. 28.
Emmeline Lewis—Sunday, Jan. 28.
Mabel Mainwaring—Sunday, Jan. 28.
Julie F. Opp—Sunday, Jan. 28.
Harry Barford—Monday, Jan. 29.
Phyllis Cecil—Monday, Jan. 29.
John S. Chamberlain—Monday, Jan. 29.
V. Barley Clarke—Monday, Jan. 29.
F. H. Cowen—Monday, Jan. 29.
Elsa Gademann—Monday, Jan. 29.
John E. West—Monday, Jan. 29.
George V. Wybrow—Monday, Jan. 29.
Mrs. Geo. Adney Payne—Tuesday, Jan. 30.
Madame Ghita Corri—Tuesday, Jan. 30.
Seymour Hicks—Tuesday, Jan. 30.
Barney Noble—Tuesday, Jan. 30.
Nelson Ramsey—Tuesday, Jan. 30.
Kate Flinn—Wednesday, Jan. 31.
William F. Grant—Wednesday, Jan. 31.
Elise Barone—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Vera Beringer—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Clara Butt—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Gustave Garcia—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Lily Harold—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Clarice Jenner—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Ada Melrose—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Grace Wilson—Thursday, Feb. 1.
Blanche St. Albans—Friday, Feb. 2.

MR. GEORGE DANCE'S Company presented *The Orchid* at the Leven Town Hall on Wednesday. Miss Margery Moore was an attractive Lady Violet, her singing of "Little Mary" being much appreciated; Miss Phil Gumpel made good use of her opportunities as Caroline Vokins. Miss C. Beck proved a sprightly Thisbe; Miss C. Brand was an acceptable Zelie Rumbert, and Miss Maud Davis as Countess Anstruther was effective. Miss Trilby Collier sang and acted brightly as Josephine Zacchary. Mr. Harry Walsh, who played Meakin, kept the audience amused, and the parts of Dr. Faussett and the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour were well played by Mr. V. Wakeman and Mr. Sinclair Holden. Mr. Albert Sealy was an agile Zacchary, Mr. Charles Seymour a politic Aubrey Chesterton, and others who may be mentioned are Messrs. George Asaph, J. Burt, Davies Hallam, H. Malthouse, Mann, Collis, and Graham. The chorus did capital work.

Everybody knows that
EPPS'S
is an admirable food, the nicest and most nutritious beverage for the breakfast table. It is made in a moment with boiling water or milk, and its sustaining qualities are
COCOA
Invaluable to all.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

H. J. B.—*The first London production of* Trilby *was at the Haymarket, Oct. 30, 1895.*
N. E.—The Duke of Killicrankie *was produced at the Criterion on Jan. 20, 1904, and was transferred to Wyndham's, to make room for* Winnie Brooke, Widow, *which was put on at the Criterion, Sept. 1, 1904.*
F. D.—*If the entertainment is in London, apply to the London County Council for the information you require. If in the provinces, apply to the local police station.*
ARTHUR J. WILLMORE.—Dorothy *was transferred from the Prince of Wales's to the Lyric on Dec. 17, 1888.*
MRS. BARNETT.—(1) *Miss Bessie Bonehill died on Aug. 21, 1902.* (2) *We have no record.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

KNIGHT.—Carrie Winterton, wife of Walter Knight, 3, York-road, Hove, a son. Since retiring from the profession, Walter Knight Meyers.
WILLIAMS.—Jan. 18, 1906, wife of Bert (Elsa Nicholson), of a daughter. Both doing well.

DEATHS.

ALDERSBY.—Jan. 21, Mrs. Ellen Aldersby, mother of the well-known artist, Arthur Linton. R.I.P.
BESSLE.—Jan. 24, at 9, Edith-villas, West Kensington, Elizabeth Bessle, after a long illness. R.I.P.
CHAPMAN.—On Jan. 17, 1906, at 24, Quay-street, Manchester, Catherine, relict of John Chapman, of Lamb and Chapman.
OWEN.—Jan. 21, of pneumonia and heart failure, Dave Owen, tenor vocalist, of the British Quartette.
PHILLIPS.—Jan. 17, at Worcester, Mrs. Phillips, aged 63, the dearly-loved mother of Kitty Phelps.
PINAUD.—Jan. 21, Charles Phoite Pinaud, of the original Pinauds.
PINDER.—On Jan. 19, at 117, Grove-street, Deptford, London, George Pinder, in his 76th year. Interred at Brockley.
STANFIELD.—At St. Edmund's College, Old Hall, Ware, Herts, on Monday morning, Jan. 22, 1906, suddenly, Darcy Clarence Clarkson Stanfield, eldest and dearly beloved son of Myra Stanfield (Mrs. Fred Elton), aged 14 years and 7 months. Thy Will be done, O Lord. Interred St. Edmund's Churchyard. R.I.P.
STEPHENSON.—Jan. 22, at Hill Cottage, Taplow, in his sixty-seventh year, Benjamin Chas. Stephenson, only son of the late Sir William Stephenson, K.C.B.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANATO.—In ever loving memory of Mdlle. Nina Anato, wife of Mr. Walter Melbourne, who fell asleep Jan. 23, 1889.
BUNTH.—In loving memory of Charles Bunth, of Bunth and Rudd, also known as Charles Sutton, stump orator, who passed away at Moscow, Russia, Jan. 26, 1904 Never forgotten by his wife and "Boysey."
CHAMBERS.—In ever loving memory of my dear mother, Mary Chambers, who departed this life Jan. 25, 1903. R.I.P.
ERNO.—In loving memory of my dear father, George Erno, who died Jan. 27, 1905.—LOTTIE BRAY.
Oh, for the sound of the voice that is hushed,
And the touch of the hand that is still.
HAMILTON.—In loving memory of our dear daughter, Margaret Hamilton, who entered into rest Jan. 22, 1905.
One year has passed; our hearts still sore;
As time flies on we miss her more.
Her loving smile, her welcome face—
Not one can fill her vacant place.
HAMILTON.—In ever loving memory of Willie, beloved son of William and Margaret Hamilton, "W. Hamilton's Excursions," who passed away Jan. 25, 1894, Dundee.
NEWMAN.—To my late esteemed friend, Will Newman, who departed this life Jan. 30, 1905. Not forgotten by his sincere friend and pal, HARRY NATION. R.I.P.
REARDON.—In affectionate remembrance of Eleanor Reardon, the dearly-loved wife of Edward L. Garside, who peacefully passed away, Jan. 31, 1900.
TAYLOR.—In ever-loving memory of Will Taylor, who died Jan. 29, 1901. Never forgotten by his wife and family.

DEATH OF MISS ELIZABETH BESSLE.

WE regret to announce the death on Wednesday morning of Miss Elizabeth Bessle, the actress. She was born in London, but came of an Irish family quite unconnected with the stage. During some years she "roughed it" in the provinces, graduating from "walking on" to lead in companies under the management of John Coleman, Henry Loraine, Rebecca Deering, &c. On coming to London she joined the "Dramatic Students," a band of enthusiasts which included Ben Greet, Hayden Coffin, Fuller Mellish, Eric Lewis, Rose Norreys, Ada Farrar, and Rose Dearing among its members, and she appeared at matinees at the St. James's, the Shaftesbury, and other West End theatres. Engagements at the Shaftesbury, the Princess's, and the Opera Comique followed, and about this time Miss Bessle organized a company to play poetic drama in the open air at places within easy distance of London. This enterprise obtained a great success under the able direction of the late Mr. Sidney Herberte Basing. The company included Sam John, John Le Hay, Henry Loraine, Frank Lindo. F. H. Westerton, Herbert Shelley, Mrs. Theodore Wright, Mrs. F. H. Macklin, and others. After touring with her own company for a couple of seasons, Miss Bessle tried an experiment in local management by turning an interesting little old theatre in a midland town into an artistic up-to-date house. In the summer of 1899 she joined the Pinero Comedy Company, playing Ruth Rolt, Mrs. Porcher, and other parts in the repertoire with much success.

Miss Bessle showed much skill in condensing old plays and in adapting comediettas from foreign pieces, and she also displayed talent as a contributor of papers on stage management, costumes, &c., to theatrical and other artistic journals.

A FOOTBALL match between the members of the *Lady Madcap* company and the Edinburgh University Wednesday, in aid of the funds of the University Dramatic Club, took place on the 18th on the ground of Hearts of Midlothian Club at Tynecastle, Edinburgh. The fact that Miss Marie Studholme had been announced to set the ball in motion was, no doubt, an additional attraction, and when, carrying a handsome bouquet presented to her on behalf of the Dramatic Club, she kicked off, a hearty cheer was raised, and the operation, it may be stated, was not overlooked by several possessors of cameras who had come as near the centre of the field as possible with the view to getting a good snapshot. There was a large attendance of students and their lady friends, and the ladies and gentlemen of the theatrical company lent their patronage to the proceedings by turning out in strong force. The ladies were keenly interested in the progress of the game, and many were the shouts of encouragement and praise which came from the pavilion stand. Some of the ladies, indeed, became quite excited when the prospect of a score for *Madcap* became anything like bright. The theatrical men made a good fight, and were only beaten by two goals to one.

SORE THROAT OR HOARSENESS
CURED IN A FEW HOURS.
Sir Morell Mackenzie, M.D., the Eminent Throat Specialist, constantly recommended Condy's Remedial Fluid to be used as a Gargle for speedily curing Sore Throat or Hoarseness.
The late Sims Reeves, the world-famed Tenor Vocalist, wrote:—"Condy" used as a Gargle clears the voice and braces up the uvula."
Condy's Remedial Fluid, sold by all Chemists at 1s. 1½d. Caution.—Insist on having "Condy's."

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Aida, Miss B.
Aldred, Mr. C.
Alexander, Miss M.
Anson, Miss L.
Austin, Miss Louie
Bailey, Mr. J. W.
Balcombe, Mr. H. A.
Barret, Mr. J. S.
Barrie, Mr. Gus
Bedford, Mr. Harry
Bell, Mr. Billy
Beltram, Miss J.
Biddall, Mr. Chas.
Birchmore, Mr. T.
Boise, Mr. Harry
Bon Bon, Mr. Harry
Boris Brothers
Bracewell, Mr. Joseph
Bradshaw, Miss D.
Brightwell, Mr. E.
Broton, Mr. Fritz
Brown, Mr. Hiam
Brough, Miss F.
Burgess, Messrs.
Burland, Mr.
Burney, Miss E.
Caisdall, Mr. A.
Calvert, Mr. Wm.
Carcassi, Duo
Cardona, Mr. Wm.
Carey, Mr. Pat
Castle, Mr. C.
Chiverrell, Mr. F.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul
Cinizelli
Cody, Mr. F. W.
Collins & Hart
Conningham, Mr. Fred
Coopers, The
Cordwell, Mr. Levey
Courtney, Mr. Geo.
Craston, Mr. C.
Crellin, Mr. Fred
Creighton, Miss M.
Curre, Mr. Carne
Curtis, Mr. Milton
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
D'Albert, Mr. Geo.
Dale, Miss Kitty
Dalmour, Miss S.
Davies, Mr. Geo.
Davis, Mr. A.
Davis, Miss Belle
Dawson, Mr. Percy
Deas, Mr. Harry
De Bessell, Mr.
De Laporte, Miss Nana
Delomes, The Two
Dempsey, Mr. Hugh
Denbigh, Mr. H.
De Orval
Digby, Miss Alice
Dooner, Mr. M.
Douglas, Mr. R. H.
Dunroy, Mr. A.
Dykes, Mr. R. M.
Dyson, Mr. Joshua
Edwards, Mr. H. Collier
Elkin, Mr. Bernard
Ellicott, Miss V.
Elmore, Miss Belle
Emmy, Madame
Evans, Mr. F.
Evans, Mr. E.
Fairfax, Miss F.
fentross, Mr Burt
Fisher, Mr. Chas.
Foldi, Miss F.
Fontaine, Mr. Victor
Fontaine, Les
Foy, Mr. Fred
Frank and Austin
Fysher, Mr. Edwin
Geoffreys, Mr. T.
George, Mr. Greek
George, Mr. Sidney
Glenny, Miss Blanch
Godwin, Mr. Will
Goldin, Mr. Horace
Gordon, Miss C.
Grant and Grant
Gray, Miss Winifred
Grey, Mr.
Grimshaw, Mrs. L.
Grovini, Mr. James
Haldon, Lady
Hamilton, Mr. Sydney
Harcourt, Mrs. Fred
Harcourte, Miss M.
Hare, Mr. John
Harris, Miss D.
Hatton, Mr. Russell
Hazlewood, Mr. G. J.
Hearn, Mr. J.
Hebden, Mr. Will
Helen and Emilon
Hiath, Mr. F. H.
Hill, Mr. Wm
Hobson, Miss Maud
Hope, Mr. Roland
Hopley, Mr. E.
Horford, Mr. W.
Horne, Mr. Chris
Howard, Mr. A.
Howard, Mr. J. H.
Howard, Miss May
Howard, Miss P.
Howard, Dr. Paul
Howes, Miss Millie
Ipswich, Mr. Francis
Jacquinot, Mr. Claude
Jolly, Mr. Laffan B.
Kelly and Ashby
Kempton and Murdock
Kettering, Mr. C.
Kingsley, Miss B.
Kondo, Mr. T.
Kramer, Mr. Paul
Lavater, Mr. Louis
Leonard, Miss Flora
Leonard, Mr. A.
Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
Leyseno, Mr. Barry
Loates, Mr. Carr
Lonsdale, Miss S.
Lovering, Mr. Harry
Mannings, Mr.
Marian, Sisters
Marlow, Mr. W. F.
Martin, Miss Sylvia
Martine, Miss Ada
Maxwell, Miss B.
Maye, Miss Jennie
Medway, Miss Constance
Mercer, Mr. B.
Meredith, Miss M.
Merritt, Mr. Mark
Mervale, Miss Lindsay
Michell, Miss M.
Milton, Miss Maud
Moneata, Mr. H.
Money, Mr. Andrew
Montefiore, Mr. Ernest
Montgomery, Mr. John
Moore, Mr. W. T.
Morgan, Sisters
Mortenette, Mr. and Mrs
Mysto
Nat & Doris
Norton, Mr. Chas.
Odlin, Mr. T.
Olgar, Mdm. Frances
O'Neill, Mr. Ed.
Osmond, Miss M.
Osnato, Mr. Chas. W.
Oxley, Mr. Gus
Paulis, Mr. Edmond
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Picquay, Mrs. G.
Powell & Connor, Messrs.
Power, Miss Eugenie
Prince, Mr. Arthur
Probin, Mr. Will
Purdey, Mr. Percy J.
Ramier, Mr. Ed.
Reco, Mr. E.
Richardson, Mr. J. F.
Richmond, Miss Josie
Ross, Miss Lilian
Ross and Lewis, Messrs.
Royle, Miss Vera
Rudd, Mr. Arthur
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Ruthman, Mr. E. A.
Sargent, Mr. Jack
Seymour, Mr. G.
Shaw, Mr. Allan
Sheridan, Mr. R. B.
Shine, Mr. J. L.
Simpson, Mr. Herbert
Sivado, Miss P.
Skein, Mr. F.
St. Alban, Mr. E.
Starr, Mr. Harry
Sumner, Mr. W. J.
Swan and Stanley
Sweet Bros.
Sydmon, Mr. N.
Teague, Mr. Harry
Telford, Mr. Will
Temple, Mr. Fred
Terry, Mr. Herbert
Theodora, Miss Stella
Thomas, Mrs. Ronald
Thorburn, Mrs. Chas.
Tinglass, Mr. Thomas
Todd, Mr. Garratt
Towle, Mr. Edward
Trevoir, Miss F.
Vallus, Mr. Henry
Veevers Miss G.
Vernon, Miss Jessie
Verona, Miss Irene
Vetter, Mr. Oscar
Victoria, Miss Kate
Victor, Mr. G.
Volpe, Mr. Fred
Von-etta, Mdlle.
Watts, Mr. Clive
Wheeler, Miss Lilian
Whitaker, Mr. E.
Weighill, Mr. R.
Williams, Mr. Chas.
Wilson, Mr. C.
Wilton, Mr. G. W.
Willett, Miss M.
"Winona"
Woodville, Mr. R.
Wyndham, Mr. S. W.

APARTMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I be permitted to offer a criticism of Mr. William Lockhart's letter on apartments published in your columns on Jan. 13 last? I think his suggestion excellent. I am afraid, however, that the careful and methodical actor would simply be keeping the careless and unmethodical in good addresses.—I remain, yours faithfully,
SIDNEY RENNEF.
Grand Theatre, Swansea, Jan. 24.

THE DUBLIN THEATRE COMPANY, LTD., held a meeting on the 15th inst, when Mr. D. Telford, the chairman of the company, presided, the other directors present being Messrs. S. C. Allen, David Allen, and F. Mouillot, managing-director. The director's report and statement of accounts for the year was read, and the chairman congratulated the proprietors on the satisfactory financial position of the company. The directors recommended the payment of the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on the share capital; the reserve funds were augmented by a further sum of £800, and carrying forward the substantial balance of £1,977. Mr. Mouillot, who seconded the chairman's resolution, paid a compliment to the resident-manager, Mr. G. Parrington, and to all the staff of the theatre. The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

MISS HETTIE LEE made a very decided success on her first appearance at the Empire, Glasgow, and was complimented by the management.

THE Pavilion Theatre, Edinburgh, was sold at auction on the 18th inst., the building, together with a hall and several shops adjoining, realising £1,000.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In his notice of the Palace, Halifax, last week, your correspondent omitted the names of yours faithfully, SPENCER and MARKS, speciality comedians.

ALEC LEONA HATZAU, proprietor of the American Dramatic and Vaudeville Touring Co., and a well-known composer and sketch author, who, unfortunately, sustained a severe compound fracture of the leg in a railway accident, and was taken to Guy's Hospital, has, after seventeen weeks' detention, been allowed to return home. He fears it will be quite another six or eight weeks before he will be able to get about again.

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(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900), 10, King-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Annual Subscription, 15s.; entrance fee 5s.
NOTICE.
Members having been struck off for non-payment of subscription may be reinstated on the FIRST OCCASION by payment of subscription for the year in which they were struck off and the current year's subscription. Members having been struck off for non-payment of subscription may be reinstated on the SECOND OCCASION by payment of subscription for the year in which they were struck off, plus a 7s. 6d. reinstatement fee and the current year's subscription.
A Scheme of Insurance will be adopted in 1906 by which every Member, whose subscription for the year is paid, will be covered under certain conditions, particulars of which can be obtained upon application to
CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS, Sec. Telephone, No. 1753 Gerrard. Telegraphic address, "Actoris, London."

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ACTORS' ASSOCIATION will be held at HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, HAYMARKET, LONDON, on THURSDAY, the 15th FEBRUARY, 1906, at Three p.m., for the following purposes, namely:—
To receive a Report and Accounts of Expenditure and Receipts and Liabilities and Assets.
To elect one President, twelve Vice-Presidents, and fourteen Members of the Council, and an Auditor or Auditors, and to transact any other Business of the Association brought before the Meeting by the Council, or by any Member who shall have given to the Secretary Seven days' written notice thereof.
Notice is also given that any two Members of the Association whose Subscriptions for the current year are paid may, within Seven days prior to the said Meeting, give to the Secretary a notice or notices signed by them, nominating any qualified Member or Members of the Association as a Candidate or Candidates for the Council. Such notice or notices must contain the Name and Address of the proposed Candidate or Candidates, and be signed by him or them.
Dated this 24th January, 1906.
By Order of the Council,
CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS,
Secretary.
10, King-street, Covent Garden.
The Chair will be taken by
Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT.
All Members are entitled to attend, and every Member whose Subscription for the current year is paid is entitled to vote.
If unable to attend, qualified Members may vote by proxy in the form prescribed by Article 31 (see page 26 in the A.A. Year Book, 1906).
NOTE.—Members of the Profession who are not Members of the Association will be admitted on presentation of their professional cards.

MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.
Established 1888. Offices, 18, ADAM-ST., STRAND, W.C. Hon. President, Sir JOSEPH RENALS, Bart.
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The Relief Committee Meets every Thursday, at 2 o'clock.

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Founded 1867. Postal address, 1, YORK-RD., LONDON, S.E. Committee Meetings Second Wednesday in Month at 2 p.m. Sick Payments, £1, for 6d. per week; £1 10s., for 9d. per week. £10 paid to nearest Relative on death of Member. President, Mr. PAT CAREY; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. FRANK HEATH; Secretary, R. T. BAINES.

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Director, Sir C. HUBERT H. PARRY, Bart., C.V.O., D.C.L., M.A., Mus. Doc.
Hon. Sec., CHARLES MORLEY, Esq., M.P.
Half-term commences on Feb. 12.
The Examination for Associateship (A.R.C.M.) will take place in April.
Syllabus and Official Entry Forms may be obtained from FRANK POWNALL, Registrar.

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The only School in London for
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Prospectus on application to H. SAXE WYNDHAM, Victoria-embankment, E.C., Secretary.

Price 3s. 6d. Post Free 3s. 10d.

THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER.
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.
Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act passed by the United States Congress last March are full of interest.—Referee.
Published at "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—
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Mr. J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, MELBOURNE;
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THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative,
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Companies Now Touring:
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GRANT FALLOWES.
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ALDERSHOT THEATRE ROYAL.—
Lessee and Manager, Mr. CLARENCE SOUNES.
Vacant April 2, and May 7, onwards. Rapidly Booking Autumn. SOUNES, Woodlawn, Blackheath. Telephone, 85, Woolwich.

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Under the Personal supervision of the Proprietors, MR. AND MRS. J. EDWARD WHITTY.
Within Two Miles of the Theatre there is a compact Population of 90,000 persons. The Theatre is at the Terminus of the Electric Cars.
Stage Capable of Mounting any Production. Holding Capacity, 2,200. £108 17s. 4d. taken last Saturday. Four Monster Election Meetings for Opposition. Refer, Peter Thompson, "Babes in the Wood" Panto.
Address, J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., BATLEY.

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Largest and most Comfortable Theatre in the Provinces.
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The Press says:—The Grand is the prettiest theatre in the world.
Everybody is charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
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Congratulations and Compliments on every hand from both Public and Professions.
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The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric Lighted Stage and First-Class Orchestra.
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Man. Director, Mr. W. B. REDFERN, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times. Vacant dates, March 1 and onwards, with exceptions.
Silence a polite negative.

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Vacant dates, Feb. 26 (?), March 5, 19, May 7. Whit Week, and onward.
All communications to CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

DUBLIN. — GAIETY THEATRE.
All Communications regarding dates for above, after May 1, 1905, to be addressed to MRS. MICHAEL GUNN.

DUBLIN, QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr. ELLIS JONES.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. WHITEREAD.
June 11, 18, July 2 and 9, vacant.
Address, J. W. WHITEREAD.
Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

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The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes
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Lighted by Electricity.
Accommodation for 3,700 People.
Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
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April 9, 23, onwards.
For First-class Companies only.
Required a first-class pantomime for four or six weeks, for Xmas, 1906-7.
CHAS. E. ELPHINSTONE, Managing-Director.

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General Manager, EDWARD EMERSON.
One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Concerts, Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a few Vacant Dates.

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Lessee and Director, ALFRED GRAHAM.
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Resident artist, William Maugham and Son, for many years the producers of the successful pantomimes at the Alexandra Th., Sheffield; contracts and quotations given for special production, dramatic or variety, high-class work guaranteed.

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THEATRE. Permanent Stage, seats 1150. Absolutely the Largest and Best Ventilated Theatre, with Heating Apparatus, and Electric Light, in the District. J. ROBERTS, Manager.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—
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Tel. No. 17. Vacant Feb. 26 onwards.
A few dates open for Pantomime.
Silence a courteous negative.

IPSWICH. — LYCEUM.
Managing-Director, Mr. HUGH TURNER.
Now Booking Spring.
All communications re dates should in future be addressed to A. Smyth-Pigott,
General Manager,
F. R. Benson companies,
11, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

JARROW. — THEATRE ROYAL.
BARROW, ROYALTY T. and OPERA HOUSE, CONSETT, NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
Jarrow, a few Vacant Dates.
Barrow, March 26, April 9, 16, and 23,
for First-class Musical Attractions.
Consett, Feb. 19, on, with exceptions.
Re dates, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

JERSEY and GUERNSEY.
Population 100 000. No opposition. Transit Service, Sept. to May inclusive, depart Bournemouth 11.33 p.m., Bath 11.27 p.m., Swindon 11.28 p.m., Bristol 11.0 p.m.; June to Sept. inclusive, leave Southampton 12.30 midnight. All communications to C. ROBT. PERKINS, Poste Restante, Jersey

KIDDERMINSTER OPERA HOUSE.
Elegantly equipped. Liberally patronised. Bookings, "Orchid," "Sergt. Brue," "3 Little Maids," &c. Vac. March 12, 26, April 2.
Add., JAMES P. MOORE, Ivydene, Lower Hagley.

KING'S LYNN. — NEW ROYAL.
Managing-Director, J. BANNISTER-HOWARD.
Recently Rebuilt at a Cost of £3000. Lighted with Electricity. Can be Booked in conjunction with Cambridge. 3, Bedford-st., Strand, W.C.

LEEDS. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.
Vacant April 9, 23; May 7, 21, 28.
Can Entertain a First-class Pantomime Production for Next Christmas Season.
All coms, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
AND THEATRE ROYAL. Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley has disposed of his Theatres to Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, who will enter into possession on February 19, 1906. Messrs. Bode and Compton will take over all Contracts entered into by Lieut.-Col. Winstanley with travelling Managements. Re dates, address, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

LEYLAND. — PUBLIC HALL,
LANCASHIRE. Stage 30ft. by 20ft. Proscenium seats 800 Balcony. District Population 8000. Small Stock Scenery. No Sharing.
Vacant dates for Companies or Entertainers.
Apply Managing Director, Park House, Leyland.

LLANDUDNO.—GRAND THEATRE.
Largest and Finest in Wales.
Record at Usual Prices £165.
Vacant June 25, onwards.
Address,
HALDANE CRICHTON,
THEATRE ROYAL, INVERNESS.

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Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
Vacant June 4, 11, and on.
High-class Attractions only.
Bookings include, "The Earl and the Girl," "The Cingalee," "On the Love Path," "The Geisha," "The Greek Slave," &c., &c.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General Manager.

NORWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL.
Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted Throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Silence a polite negative.
FRED MORGAN, as above.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, CHARLES P. COOKE.
Vacant March 12, May 14 (8.), June 25, Aug. 13.
First-class attraction only.
Silence a Courteous Negative.

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The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity, £200.
Vacant April 16, 30, May 7, 21, and 28.
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Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

OXFORD. — NEW THEATRE.
Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to
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Silence a polite negative.

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Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS.
A few Spring Dates Vacant. First-class Companies only. Open all the Year Round. For Dates apply,
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Licensees and Managers,
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Open all the Year Round. First-class Companies only. Vacant June 4, 11, 18, July 16, 30.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

SUNDERLAND. — AVENUE OPERA HOUSE.
Managing Director and General Manager, CHARLES E. MACHIN.
Only Vacancies in 1906: For No. 1 Musical Comedy, April 2, 9, 23, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, August 6, 13, 20, Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, 12, and 26, Dec. 3, 10.
All communications, CHARLES E. MACHIN
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

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Sole Proprietor and Responsible Manager, ALFRED MANNERS.
The only Theatre in the County of Wiltshire.
Population of Town and Districts exceeds 100,000.
Billed every week.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Seating capacity £100.
One of the most handsome Theatres in the Provinces.
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No Vacant Spring Dates.
Now Booking Autumn and Spring, 1907.
Please "Remember" this House is under my constant and personal attention, worked strictly on No. 1 lines, has a permanent orchestra of 12 Qualified Musicians.
Offers of Dates from First-class Companies will only be entertained and answered.
(Please note, I absolutely decline under any consideration to guarantee Printing Bill or Fares.)
Companies of this description are requested not to apply for Dates.
Open for First-class Panto., Xmas, 1906, two or three weeks.

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Vacant Feb. 22, March 8, and 15, 3 nights each, March 19, 26, and Easter Week.
CHARLES CAREY.

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Popular and Prosperous Theatre.
No Vacant Dates till after Easter.
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All communications to JAMES P. MOORE.

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Seats 500, Fitted Stage, Dressing-rooms, Electric Light, Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts, Small Select Theatrical Companies, Best Part Town, Acoustic Properties Perfect.

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Now in Eighth Week of run, the Brilliant Pantomime "Aladdin," Produced by Mr Robert Courtneidge. Spring, Carl Rosa Season. Autumn, "Blue Moon" (first production in the City). First-class Companies only.
Now in active preparation, for production on elaborate scale of Calmour's "Prodigal Son; or, the Judgment of Pharaoh."
KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
At present in course of erection. The most central site in the City. Will open Autumn, 1906.

Bookings include Carl Rosa Grand Opera Co., J. W. Turner's Opera Co., "The Cingalee," "The Orchid," "San Toy," "Earl and the Girl," "The Girl from Kay's," "Kitty Grey," "Florodora," "Three Little Maids," "Trip to the Highlands," "Sergeant Brue," "Dandy Doctor," "New Barmaid," "Gay Parisienne," "Laughter Land," &c.

MOTHERWELL, NEW CENTURY.
LEITH, NEW GAIETY.
GREENOCK, THE ALEXANDRA.
AYR, NEW GAIETY.
KILMARNOCK, THE KING'S.
KIRKCALDY, THE KING'S.
FALKIRK, THE GRAND.
CLYDEBANK, NEW GAIETY.
THEATRE ROYAL, COATBRIDGE.

Bookings include Grand Shakespearian Revival, "Romeo and Juliet," Ed. Terry, Ed. Compton, F. R. Benson's Co., "The Eternal City," "The Christian," "The Silver King," "Sapho," "Sunday," "Saturday to Monday," The Walter Melville Plays, "Ben-my-Chree," "Manxman," &c.

Also Booked in conjunction, THE METROPOLE, GLASGOW, and THE THEATRE ROYAL, NORTH SHIELDS.
By arrangement with Mr. Jefferson.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, and METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
By arrangement with the Directorate.
HER MAJESTY'S, CARLISLE.
By arrangement with Stanley Rogers, Esq.
All communications to Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN, General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic Address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

In Bankruptcy.

No. 823 of 1905.

RE C. U. BROWN-POTTER.

In Bankruptcy.

All persons having claims for wages or salaries in connection with the production of "DU BARRI" at the SAVOY THEATRE, by the above named, should communicate immediately with Mr. STEPHEN P. CHILD, 42, Poultry, London, E.C., the Trustee in Bankruptcy, who is now in a position to pay such claims in full, upon same being duly proved to his satisfaction.
Jan. 22, 1905.

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The Most Complete DRAMATIC DICTIONARY OF DATES and THEATRICAL TREASURY OF KNOWLEDGE ever brought before the Public.
It will also be found to be the most Interesting Annual of the Year.
Office, 5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

"The Era" Almanac and Annual for 1906, is not only a valuable collection of information and a history of the dramatic and musical year. It is also a very amusing and entertaining shillingsworth It contains contributions from many well-known actors and actresses. Mr. Frank Desprez, the editor, contributes a delightful story about an actress who sold her collection of Press notices in order to help a colleague in distress. There are numerous portraits. The lists of English, French, and German plays produced during the year are very useful. Altogether, "The Era" Almanack is indispensable to all interested in the stage.—The Star, Jan. 24, 1906.

FRANCIS, DAY, and HUNTER'S WINTER NOVELTIES.

"BLUE BELL" (Elaborated).
New Friends and Old Favourites.

"DON'T GO TOO FAST, LITTLE GIRLIE,"
"LITTLE GLOW-WORM," and
"ONLY A PENNY,"
Sung by Miss ELLALINE TERRISS.

"BOW BELLS."
Sung by Miss MAUDI DARRELL.

"MY DIARY" and
"THE PATCHWORK GARDEN."
Sung by Mr. SEYMOUR HICKS.

"I WOULDN'T LEAVE MY LITTLE WOODEN HUT FOR YOU,"
A Clever Coon Concoction, and a Pantomime Craze Everywhere. Featured at the London Coliseum.

"RAINBOW,"
Sung by Miss PHYLLIS DARE in "The Catch of the Season," and the "Hit" of a Hundred Annuals. Featured at the London Coliseum.

"THERE'S NOTHING LIKE YOUR FIRST LOVE AFTER ALL"
(Leslie Stuart) and
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Barrasford, Mrs. M.	September 15, 1905.
Barrett, Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barry, Mr. Lennox	March 4, 1905.
Bawtree, Mr. Arthur	March 18, 1905.
Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
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Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Billington, Late Mr John	September 10, 1904.
Booth, Mr. Junius	September 16, 1905.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	Oct. 21, 1905.
Bostock, Mr. E. H.	September 30, 1905.
Brand, Miss Tita	April 1, 1905.
Bromwich, Mr. F. Dudman	March 11, 1905.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown, Mr. Frank	May 27, 1905
Callan, Late Mr. H. J	June 17, 1905.
Carlton, Mr. Arthur	Nov. 11, 1905.
Casson, Late Mr. Walter	Nov. 11, 1905.
Castleton, Mrs. Robert	July 15, 1905.
Churchward, Mr Hedley	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1905.
Clark, Late Mr. Henri	Dec. 9, 1905.
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Conquest, Mr. Fred	Dec. 9, 1905.
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1906.

MUSICAL PIRACY.

The termination of the musical piracy case last week, and the significant, if far too lenient, sentences which were passed on some of the prisoners, show most conclusively the need of more stringent legislation on the subject. As Mr. MUIR, the able counsel for the prosecution, reminded the jury, the success of the unlawful trade in pirated music has been extraordinary. In 1903 it was so flourishing that the different publishers of music had to engage a small army of inspectors, or agents, to discover the places at which pirated music was stored in order that it might be seized and destroyed. Within the London area only, Messrs. CHAPPELL and Co., the nominal prosecutors in the case which opened at the Old Bailey on the 11th inst., found that *three hundred thousand* pirated copies of their songs were seized. These confiscations had no effect. The musical piracy business apparently resembles the slave trade, in which the rascals who carried it on found that if only one out of six of their cargoes escaped capture they made a handsome profit. Within the same year and limits *two million* copies of pirated music of other publishers were seized—a proof how lucrative, with all its losses, was the business, and what large sums were being stolen from the music-publishers. In the case which was concluded on the 19th inst., the care taken by the prisoners to conceal their operations showed that they were well aware of the illegality of their deeds; their solicitude to conceal identification by means of anonymous bill-heads; the blocks left in fictitious names at the cloak-rooms of railway stations; the payment of cash without anything so compromising as a receipt—all proved the full consciousness of fraud.

General indignation in the matter has been modified by the fact that the trade of music-publishing is a little out of the comprehension of the "man in the street." The actual "daylight robbery" of a chair or a table from the shop-front of a cheap cabinet-maker is comprehensible to him as a criminal act; but when he comes to deal with intangible things like copyrights he is not so apt at understanding. The fact is that property in brain-work is a thing that the Englishman is slow to realise. Our antiquated Patent Laws have done much to keep England back in the race for commercial success; and there is no nation in the world which has been so backward in defending Intelligence from the attacks of the unscrupulous. We are, however, slowly but surely advancing; and the decision of the jury in what we may call the WILLETT case, while it by no means does away with the necessity for the amendment of the Musical Copyright Law, establishes the fact that music piracy is indictable as a criminal conspiracy. Even this result has not been obtained without a vast expenditure—an expenditure which, in a country where the rights of traders were properly maintained, and not sacrificed to party considerations and petty expediency, would never have had to be made. It is nothing less than scandalous that business men carrying on a perfectly honest and open trade—a trade on which depend several other trades, giving employment in all to hundreds—should have to defend itself against open and acknowledged robbery. The Common Serjeant's statement that copyright is a valuable property is a truism to those who are and have been mixed up with trades with which talent is the motive-power; but we daresay, obvious as it is, it will be new to a great many ordinary persons, at the back of whose heads is the absurd idea that copyright is only a privilege. If there *is* a thing which a man has a right to as his own "property," it is that which he creates by his own brain, spinning it out of his own bowels as a spider produces its threads. An idea, musical or dramatic, is bone of a man's bone and flesh of his flesh; and, of course, if those willing to purchase the composer's or the playwright's ideas cannot make sure of the property belonging to them, the occupation of the "inventor" of music, of plays, and of books is gone. It seems unnecessary to state a conclusion so obvious; but it is not only necessary to state it, but to repeat it and to keep on repeating it, until it is driven by successive blows into the brains of the British public.

The present Government has gone into power with an immense majority, which deprives it of excuse for neglect of its duties. It has promised the electors to turn its attention specially to what we may call domestic legislature and to the improvement of education. There are few trades which minister more directly to the culture and elevation of the country than the music-publishing trade does. "Let us make the songs of a people, and anyone who likes may make their laws," said a celebrated writer; and the ballad and the instrumental "piece" humanise, refine, and elevate the public as nothing else can. The Government, therefore, is, by obvious implication, pledged to legislate on the musical piracy question. It is placed in power on the understanding that it shall make good the omissions of its predecessors. Whatever may be one's politics, it is a satisfaction to think that the recent election makes the passing of the Musical Piracy Bill a little more probable. We congratulate the music-publishers on the plucky way in which they have fought, and are fighting, their battle with the pirates. We feel sure that, in the end, they will win that battle; but we feel more or less indignant that they should have been forced into this costly crusade, that they should have had to pour out money in such profusion in doing work that ought to have been made unnecessary long ago by an Act of Parliament. If the present Government does not choose as one of its first good deeds the taking up of the Musical Copyright Act as a Government measure, and the carrying it through the House with the aid of its great majority, we shall know what to think of the protestations and promises at the recent election. We feel confident, however, that the Government will redeem its pledges; that the Bill will be an Act before many months have passed by; and that musical piracy will become a thing of the past.

MR. THALBERG CORBETT, who is going to produce Mrs. Bertha Pogson's English version of the successful German play, *Alma Mater*, as soon as time and tide allow—"time" meaning at the Easter or following autumn season, and "tide" representing in this instance his ability to obtain a suitable West-End theatre—is an actor who is ever young. He will himself play the leading character in *Alma Mater*, and although there are many men who could bring an equally long stage experience, running into the 'twenties, to bear upon the part, there are few who could look like the boyish student, of *Old Heidelberg* type, as Mr. Corbett is sure to do. For the past year he has been more or less resting on his oars, having only appeared in *Voysey's Inheritance* at the Court, after two years' touring in South Africa, with seventeen modern plays, when he worked with the energy and enthusiasm that alone ensure the success of a stock company, only snatching an occasional week's shooting and hasty visits to the places of interest in connection with the South African War. The leading lady in his company was Miss Katherine Pole, who will be remembered by theatre-goers for several pretty and intelligent performances—notably in Mrs. T. P. O'Connor's comedy, *A Lady from Texas*, as the heroine of *A Fatal Wedding* at the Princess's, and in *The Second in Command* on tour—and who is now married, and has left the stage.

IN the days when Mr. Thalberg Corbett toured America as Madame Modjeska's leading man, he met with the usual experiences, pleasant and otherwise, that fall to the lot of "strolling players" on the other side of the Atlantic. Once he was in a train that was flood-bound, and, in common with his fellow-passengers, felt the pangs of hunger added to the anxiety of the situation. So he volunteered to make his way on a hastily-constructed raft to the nearest farm-house, in search of food, if, like Horatius on the bridge, there were two others who would help him. Two men promptly offered their services, and the adventurers departed, punted and paddled their way to the farm house, and purchased a goodly number of fowls. These they prepared in a summary manner for the pot, made such a stew as a man does not readily forget, and returned to the train in triumph. This, in bald words, is a brief outline of how Thalberg Corbett fed the hungry and cheered the forlorn!

MISS EDNA MAY distinguished herself in Boston on Wednesday by averting a panic which seemed likely to arise through a fire breaking out in the cellar of the theatre. Despite the fumes and smoke, Miss Edna May boldly declared that the fire was in the yard outside, and so confidence was restored, and she continued playing while the men below put out the flames.

On the 31st inst., the marriage will be celebrated of Mdlle. Piérat, the charming actress of the Comédie Francaise, with M. Guirand de Scevela. M. Claretie, the manager of the Comédie Francaise, and M. de Féraudy, the well-known actor, and who was Mdlle. Piérat's professor at the Conservatoire, will be the bride's witnesses.

"NERO."

A RAPID IMPRESSION.

This is a rapid and brief impression. I would describe *Nero* as a study in ancient life under the light of modern science. Nero is no longer that inhuman monster who kills for sheer love of bloodshed. He is horrible, but human. And let me say at once that both Mr. Philips, the author, and Mr. Tree, the actor, having formed their conception of what Nero was, have drawn between them a portrait brilliant, symmetrical, and strong; with not a single contradiction except the natural contradictions of the character, with nothing irrelevant, nothing which is not as rigidly harmonious, as though it were a picture drawn by some mighty and steady painter's hand.

What, then, is Nero, as written by Mr. Philips and played by Mr. Tree? He is the Degenerate who has been so closely studied and analysed by modern science, and has figured so largely in the world of society—in the world of letters—above all, in the world of crime. We have seen the Degenerate in society—sometimes in what was supposed to be the best society; his name is synonymous with that of more than one brilliant man of letters; above all, we have seen the Degenerate in the Law Court. At this moment the image and specimen of the creature I best remember is that of Cream or Neill, an American degenerate who had taken his highest pleasure in poisoning fallen women. I saw the creature in the dock at Newgate—cool, watchful, moving his teeth all through the long days of the trial as though he were chewing tobacco; and silent and controlled until now and then when he felt that he was trapped, he burst into a wild and bestial cry of rage and protest. And yet this tiger was known by many people as a pleasant boon companion. In the evidence you could trace his course through that under-life of London—the life of the crowded and brilliantly-lit bar, with men drinking, good fellowship, and at boisterous or bibulous peace with all the world; and the women he killed, he first did his best to attract and to win.

The Degenerate of Mr. Phillips and Mr. Tree is a blend of the Degenerate of different types. He is at once Jack the Ripper and the poet or romancer who writes of lust with something of the suggestion of blood—to whom blood suggests lust. There is a modern writer—not an Englishman—whom I once in my wrath described as Jack the Ripper in literature. Nero is Jack the Ripper on the throne and in art. His worst crimes present themselves to him as part of a great artistic show; he stands outside his own acts, and gazes on them with admiration or philosophic contemplativeness. He is at once actor and spectator—that strange double attitude which is an essential part of the artistic mind, whether it be the mind of the good man, the sane man, or the Degenerate man. The heart of Nero is really in the circus, in the dance, in the poem, in the lyre. While he murders he is chiefly concerned in the thought of how it all looks as a bit of stage-production.

There is one very powerful and striking instance of this attitude which I may choose out of several. After some persuasion and some resistance, Nero consents to the murder of his mother. She is to be drowned as she crosses the bay from her son's house to her own. Nero and his parasites stand waiting for the shriek which is to announce her murder. The lake is soft and silent, the sky is clear, the moonshine bright and high; there is that extraordinary feeling of calm which makes the heart of man beat with a new sense of the peace that passeth all understanding. And meantime, amid this deadly silence, they wait for its being broken by the shrill shriek of violent death. This son, who is thus awaiting the last cry of a mother's agony, stops to dilate on the thrill of this scene; of the artistic completeness of its irony, and contrast its irony in the confidence with which the mother leaves the ardently loving arms of her son; in its contrast between the hideous work that is being done and the stillness of the night. He even dwells upon his own sensation and that of his companions as they stand in the strange pause that comes between the expectation of the shriek and its utterance. To him it is all drama—more than reality.

This is one side of the monster; the other is that of the pure debauchee—the creature of feastings and wine and lewdness. It is in these scenes that Mr. Tree reveals a splendid consistency and intelligence that are possible only to an actor of genius. The face is transformed. With puffy cheeks, with pendulous jaws, the loose and humid lips, with a curious leer at once tigerish and simpering, he brings up before you one of those wretched beings that come unbidden and unwanted into this world; who are neither man nor woman, but half one, half the other, and beast more than either. See him under the influence of this fatuity grow gradually more and more the victim of his own inordinate self-conceit, until, in the end, he dreams of himself as the divine poet; as the greatest of all artists; as the ruler who can sway even the heavens, and bid the thunder cease.

And mark how wonderfully the transformation is produced from the mime to the tiger. Of the several moments when the actor allows the face to change, and the wild animal to burst forth, there is one in particular which I must mention as perhaps the finest of them all. Nero has asked his mother and his brother and rival to a feast of reconciliation, and he is lavish in his fondlings of both; and then suddenly a draught is given to the boy, and he falls and dies poisoned. Then attendants and the nobles disappear. Nero and his mother Agrippina are left alone, and these two monsters look at each other—each horrible—and each loathing the other; and yet each groesquely and cruelly alike. "What art thou?" asks the mother. And, leering horribly, all the simper gone from the face, and only its rigid and hideous cruelty revealed, Nero replies, "Mother, I am your son." Words fail to give an idea of all the sinister horror of that moment.

I have only time and space to add that the character of Agrippina is also wonderfully well conceived; like that of Nero, rigid, consistent, and closely constructed. And Mrs. Tree never had a part in which she played with such distinction and success. As to the production, it stands supreme for magnificence and impressiveness, even amid the many wonderful things Mr. Tree has done.

T. F.

AMONG the good things provided at the Richmond Theatre this week, special mention may be made of the drolleries of Mr. W. P. Dempsey (a clever comedian), of Mdlle. Sylvia's charming electric tableaux, of Miss Rose Newport (a dainty comedienne) and Mr. Tom Dunmore (a quaint humorist). Other excellent turns are Florence and Lilian, Mazella and Millay, and Harold Alberto. Mr. Hubert Bartlett and Miss Edith Muir win approval in a bright little comedy of the tabloid order, entitled *The Collar Stud*. The bioscope is good.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. WALTER GIBBONS will be glad to welcome his friends at the private view of the Holborn Empire from three to five o'clock to-day. A descriptive account of the luxurious house will be found in another column of this issue. Mr. Eustace Jay, late of the Palace, Croydon, has been appointed manager, with Mr. Harry Bawn as general-manager. The musical-director is Mr. James Sale, late of the Grand, Clapham.

THE chief attraction of the opening programme will be *A Trip to the Isle of Man*, originally produced at the Palace, Manchester. The variety turns will include J. W. Rickaby, Silent Tait, conjurer, the Two Bees, Lily Lawrence, Lee and Kingston, the Australian Meister Singers, Zaro and Arno, Hill and Hull, Frazer and Haley, and Edward Sillward and Co. in a sketch. The Imperial Bioscope will provide an excellent series of films. The programme will be given twice nightly, and the house will be run in conjunction with Mr. Gibbons's other ventures at the Empire, Islington, the Duchess, Balham, and the Grand, Clapham.

IT grieves us very much to announce that Mr. Caldwell, the protector and open ally of the music pirate, was returned for Mid-Lanark by a large majority on Tuesday. We may draw the attention of our readers this week to our leader, which discusses the question of musical copyright and the prospects of a Bill protecting the composer and publisher in the new Parliament.

THE Water Rats, the Terriers, and the International Artists' Lodge will be represented at the conference to be held at the M.H.A.R.A. offices on Sunday, when will be discussed the question of the formation of a music-hall artists' association. The necessity for such an organisation need not be argued here; and the time is ripe for the M.H.A.R.A., with its comprehensive membership and administrative machinery, to extend the scope of its action on progressive lines, and form a united and representative body that will care for the best interests of the profession. The association started in the early 'eighties signally failed; but then there was no such thing as a railway concession to bind and consolidate members of the variety stage; and we trust that the result of the conference on Sunday, which, by the way, is private, will be a judicious and well-considered scheme of union.

ALL those who have subscription lists for the George Le Brunn fund are requested to kindly return them at once to the hon. treasurer, Mr. David Day, 142, Charing Cross-road, as the committee wishes to wind up the fund without delay.

THE committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association has decided to discontinue the annual dinner and dance that has been given for several years on the Sunday nearest to the date of the founding of the Association (Feb. 2, 1897). At first these popular functions were held at the Horns, Kennington, and at two of them the late Mr. Herbert Campbell and Mr. Dan Leno presided over large gatherings. Last year the venue was changed to the Trocadero, with the result that the Association sustained a loss. The abolition of the pleasant reunion will cause much regret in variety circles, as there are few such opportunities for social intercourse among members of the profession as the dinner supplied.

A NEW farcical extravaganza, designed to fill the entire Coliseum programme, is in active preparation. Mr. Arthur Shirley has been commissioned to do the book, and a burlesque by Chris Davis, of *Nero*, as well as Eugene Stratton's *Coon in Love*, will form two items to be introduced within its wide scope, besides many other novelties. Several important engagements are pending.

THE Palace scene from Act 2 of *La Mascotte* is to be submitted by Mr. Oswald Stoll at the Coliseum on Monday. In this the principal characters will be taken by Mesdames Cora Williams, Sybil Lonsdale, and Messrs. Andre Kaya and Watty Brunton. The musical numbers have been arranged by Mr. Walter Slaughter; Mr. Will Bishop is responsible for the dances; and the whole is produced by Mr. Marshall Moore.

THE ever-resourceful Mr. Alfred Butt, in order to give Miss Kate Cutler sufficient time to change her costume from the white muslin gown worn by the mischievous Baroness Papouche in *The Spring Chicken* at the Gaiety to the black robe of the heroine in the melodramatic skit at the Palace, has provided her with a specially illuminated and fitted-up Vanguard car as a dressing-room. She is able to be absent altogether from the Gaiety stage for only forty-three minutes; and as the Palace sketch occupies twenty-two minutes, and, in addition to getting to the Palace and returning to the Gaiety, Miss Kate Cutler has to change her dress twice, a few seconds delay at any point would spoil both productions.

MR. ALBERT GILMER, at the Oxford, announces a series of special matinées every day (Saturdays excepted), commencing Monday next at 3 p.m. The special attraction will be the marvellous photographic reproduction of the struggle for the light-weight boxing championship of the world between Jimmy Britt and Battling Nelson. It will be remembered that Jimmy Britt defeated the renowned Jabez White, and his encounter with Battling Nelson is one of the most determined on record. The pictures are exceedingly fine.

MR. JACK CAMP, his friends will regret to hear, is laid up with an attack of laryngitis, and hemorrhage of the right lung. So serious was his condition that the doctor at first had very little hope of his recovery. He has, however, taken a turn for the better, and hopes to resume work shortly in the syndicate halls.

THE opening of the new Johannesburg Variety Theatre—which is being built on a scale of magnificence hitherto unknown in our Colonies—has been postponed until May 18, and Miss Ada Reeve has thus been enabled to postpone her departure from England until April 21.

MR. B. PEARCE LUCAS, managing-director of the Bedford, on Thursday invited the aged dwellers in the St. Pancras Almshouses, Maitland Park, and the juvenile inmates of the St. Pancras Female Orphanage, Hampstead-road, to the usual Thursday matinée that is now a popular feature at the Camden Town establishment. Besides the exceptionally good programme now at the Bedford, there were special delights for both old and young, thanks to the kindness of friends of the two institutions, among the contributors being Mr. J. W. Hewett, who provided oranges and buns for the children and old ladies, with cigars for the old boys; Mr. Lucas, who had handed round chocolates for the girls; and Mr. G. Stevens, who sent over bananas for all.

MISS BESSIE TRAVIS (Mrs. Alec Huline), the lady ventriloquist, has had to cancel several weeks' engagements by her doctor's orders, as she is suffering from laryngitis and partial loss of voice. She is resting at her home in Highfields, Sheffield. We hope that her indisposition is of an ephemeral nature.

MR. WAL CROFT, the Scotch comedian of the Edinburgh Grand Theatre pantomime, has secured some excellent new songs, and will return to the halls at the termination of the pantomime.

THE Bijou Empire Theatre of Varieties, Grimston-street, Hull, of which Mr. T. N. Turner is the lessee and Mr. Fred Thorne the manager, is closing on Saturday, Feb. 10.

CHARLES COLLETTE, an old Nottingham favourite, was the chief attraction at the Nottingham Glee Club concert on Tuesday last. He went down specially from London, and gave a numerous selection from his repertoire of patter musical sketches, to the great delight of a large and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Collette returned on Monday week to the London Pavilion.

THE Chas. Fisher Pocket Opera Co. finished on Saturday last the Stoll tour at the Hippodrome, Manchester. Mr. Fisher has lately introduced *La donna e mobile*; also, as a grand finale to his highly humorous sketch *The Music Master*, a slightly condensed version of *Faust* in appropriate costumes, which has met with the success it so richly deserevs.

MISS DAISY DORMER, the dainty principal girl at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, will shortly open at the Palace, London, with a big collection of coon and chorus songs especially written for her by Geo. Collins, author and composer of her popular number "I'll be your Butterfly"; Charles Collins, whose chorus, "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," is the biggest success of modern times; Edgar Bateman, and Harry Castling. It might be mentioned that Miss Dormer is the original singer of "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you."

A NEW company has taken over and reopened the Empire Palace, in Market-square, Dover, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield being the secretary. Popular prices and good entertainment are promised, and without doubt a house of this kind should do well in the town. The place has been closed for the last few months, and the reopening has been signalised by redecoration and refurnishing.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON produced his latest military scena *The Scamp of the Regiment* at the Birmingham Gaiety on Monday, when both song and singer enjoyed an exceedingly fine and hearty reception. The scamp who has been supplanted in love by his own brother, and is "ill-treated through tyrants," emerges from his disreputable state by an act of rare and unselfish daring which brings him his death and sanctifies the hero among his comrades. The words and music are by Messrs. Harrington and Tate, and some picturesque scenery illustrative of the "tented field" has been supplied by Mr. Geo. Hemsley. Mr. Leyton, looking as soldierly and handsome as ever, retailed the story with much fervour and art, and was at the conclusion recalled before the curtain again and again. *The Scamp of the Regiment* is not only Mr. Leyton's latest, it is his best, and should serve the singer long and well.

MISS MAUDE A. EDWARDS, the new lady ventriloquist, is meeting with wonderful success in the provinces. This clever lady is sister to Tom Edwards, the well-known ventriloquist, and will make her first London appearance in a few weeks' time in the West End, where her artistic performance is sure to be fully appreciated. She has been offered the Moss and Stoll tours, but contemplates visiting America this year, having just received a very good offer to appear in New York.

MR. DAVE OWEN, the "Taffy" of the British Quartet, passed away on Sunday last. As a tenor vocalist he had been connected with the combination mentioned since its formation. Although very ill, he appeared on the first two evenings of last week at the Brixton Empress, but, becoming worse, took to his bed on Wednesday. The cause of death was pneumonia. The interment took place at Finchley Cemetery on Thursday. He leaves a widow and one child.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON, who has this week been appearing in Birmingham, has met with an extremely cordial reception in the Midland city. The popular American lady, who numbers many personal friends in Edgbaston and its neighbourhood, has been busy with a round of social engagements, besides paying flying visits to such institutions as the Hospital and King Edward's School. On Wednesday she entertained a luncheon party at the Queen's, and later gave a highly amusing children's party. She returns to town the second week in February.

MISS LELIA ROZE, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, has introduced a new medley, entitled *Musical Neighbours*, which has proved a great success, obtaining several encores nightly.

HARRY NATION narrowly escaped being drowned on Thursday whilst rescuing a boy who had accidentally fallen into a canal at Manchester. He succeeded, however, and seems none the worse for his plucky deed.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD AND MR. A. D. VERNON (of Peterborough) have arranged to run their theatres at King's Lynn and Peterborough alternatively as hippodromes.

A SYNDICATE is being formed, with a capital of £500,000, for the purpose of erecting several new hippodromes. We understand that the buildings will be of an entirely new design with many new ideas, which for the present will be kept quite secret. The new enterprise will commence at Coventry, where a splendid site has been secured. Plans are now being prepared by a well-known architect, and the building will be open before Christmas

WHEN returning home from school one day, young Eugene Stratton was struck dumb in astonished admiration by a butcher boy, who was carrying a tray of meat on his head and whistling like a couple of engines. It was a revelation, and from that day Eugene practised hard and with so much effect that in later years he was able to give forcible point to "The Whistling Coon."

"AS I grew into a bigger boy," says Stratton, who is now appearing at the Coliseum, "I became a devotee of the footlights. To visit the theatre cost money. So I used to pick up scrap-iron and odd-and-ends, which I sold to the dealers. My heroes were the acrobats. I thought they were sublime creatures, and I panted to do as they did. There was an old saw-mill near home, and in the yard I learned to tumble. Dancing I learned through practising on a flat stone in a tan yard. When I saw a new 'step' at the music hall at night, I would struggle next day on the stone till I had mastered it. My juvenile accomplishments were to me a source of great delight, and really procured for me my first appearance in public, for being a failure as a telegraph boy I finally persuaded my parents to let me take to the stage.

"I ENTERED into partnership with a full-grown man, and we appeared as 'song and dance artists.' As Wesley's hand was too hard and heavy we parted. For months after I had the pleasure of waiting for engagements; then I went away on tour with a Japanese troupe. When I was thirteen I became a regular Christy Minstrel. I spent some time with the Haverley Minstrels, coming with them to London in 1880. I joined the Moore and Burgess Minstrels soon afterwards. It was when I came into the halls that George Le Brunn wrote for me 'The Dandy Coloured Coon,' one of my greatest successes."

MR. GUS ELEN produced at the Tivoli on Saturday afternoon a sketch of one of the unemployed—a gentleman suffering from the inertia of the born-tired brigade, whose conduct brings into disrepute the honest "out o' works." The popular comedian, in this clever bit of character, amusingly satirised the idea of looking for work instead of "wyting" until it comes round, and spends his time drinking and resting. At length, temporarily throwing off his laziness, he hoists his bag of tools on his shoulder and starts for work; but his scarcely perceptible ardour is damped by the prospect of rain, and he turns into bed again as the curtain falls. The new impersonation was a great success, and has been repeated by Mr. Elen every evening during the week.

THE engagement between Mr. Leo Dryden and Miss Ada Colley is announced. Mr. Dryden is one of our most famous descriptive singers, and his fiancée is one of the most brilliant vocalists that have ever appeared on the variety boards, possessing a vocal compass that is extremely rare.

RATHER a sensational incident occurred at the London Pavilion on Wednesday evening. Albert Attila, of the Attila Brothers, the well-known athletes, accepted the challenge of Lionel Strongfort, the strong man, for £25, to lift above the head a dumb-bell weighing 312lbs. (world's record). The stalwart accomplished this wonderful feat of strength easily at the first attempt. The money (£25) was at once paid over to him by the management amidst great cheering and excitement.

"A POOR WEAK WOMAN"—the title of a comic sketch which Miss Helen Kinnaird has written and produced—is to be played at the Brixton Empress on Monday, when the favourite actress, who made such a success in the rôle of Mrs. Shimmering Black in *The Earl and the Girl* at the Adelphi, will appear in the title-rôle. Those who remember Miss Kinnaird's performance in the above-mentioned musical play will agree that she is exactly suited for the new part, which admits of handsome dressing. She will wear a different dress for each of the six performances. Miss Kinnaird is a fine figure of a woman, and she will be supported by two "small men." The situations in the farce are very funny.

RACHEL LOWE.

MR. B. P. LUCAS, of the Bedford, on Friday (yesterday) presented his patrons with a souvenir of the very successful pantomime of *Aladdin*, produced by Mr. Dan Thomas at Christmas and again played this week to crowded houses at the Camden Town establishment.

THE following artists will sail by the Kildonan Castle from Southampton on Saturday, Jan. 27, to fulfil engagements with the Messrs. Hyman in South Africa, at the Empire Palace Theatre, Johannesburg, and the Tivoli Theatre, Cape Town: The Brothers Horne, Walter Emerson, G. W. Desmond, the Brothers De Wynne, Miss May Evans, and the Strolling Players. Amongst those arriving home on the same day are: Ross and Grayson, Cissie Curlette, Winifred Stewart, Ferguson and Mack, and Grace Cameron.

"APPY 'AMPSTEAD" is going on Monday to the Paragon, where it will be mounted with special care. Mr. Joe Elvin is an immense favourite at this fine eastern palace, where this famous sketch beat all records on its original production for money taken at the doors. Let us hope this agreeable experience will be repeated. *'Appy 'Ampstead* goes to the Euston after its run at the Paragon.

THE remains of the mother of Mr. George Courtney and Miss Maud Courtney were interred at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green, on the 18th inst. Miss Courtney, who had the sad experience of losing her mother on the day following her début at the Empire, Johannesburg, will leave Cape Town on Wednesday next, arriving in London on Feb. 17.

MISS DAISY JAMES, "the Gibson girl," finishes her engagement on Feb. 2 at the Orpheum Theatre, Vienna, where she has been the biggest success of any English artist that has appeared in Vienna. She will be heartily welcomed back on her reappearance in London.

MLLE. GHITA CORRI, who has been repeating her Lyceum Theatre successes with the big Cathedral scena in the principal theatres on the Macnaghten and Barrasford circuits, returns to town on Sunday, having given 150 consecutive performances of this exacting sacred "turn" to enthusiastic and crowded houses throughout the tour.

MR. FREDERICK MAXWELL'S latest production, *Dick Dare M.P.*, is proving an immense draw wherever it is played. His company, which includes Miss Lois Du Cane, is a particularly strong one, and with its clever acting and artistic mounting, the sketch deserves the success it has undoubtedly achieved.

MISS ALICE MAY, whose capital sketch *Tranquillity* enables her to impersonate no less than seven different characters, is winning the golden opinions of the good folk of Glasgow. Miss May is appearing at the Zoo-Hippodrome.

THE International Artists' Lodge held its meeting on Sunday, Jan. 21, at Leicester-square. There were eighteen members present and four guests. The minutes having been read and adopted unanimously, the Chairman proceeded to deal with the correspondence. The meeting then elected six delegates, to be sent to the M.H.A.R.A. Conference at the Association's offices on Sunday. The Chairman referred to the desire of the I.A.L. to get into nearer touch with other organisations in England. With this object they had some time ago approached "The Water Rats'" Association, and they were met in a most friendly spirit. A member of that fraternity, who had just become a member of the I.A.L., suggested that some kind of pamphlet explaining the aims and principles of the I.A.L. should be got up, and a resolution was passed to this effect, the proposal being made by Brother 1226, and seconded by Brother 1243, and carried unanimously.

A LONG and animated discussion then ensued as to the desirability of lowering the salary limit, which constituted one of the conditions of eligibility for membership of the Lodge. Brother 1226 agreed that if an artist is willing to pay the entrance fee and the monthly dues the Lodge has no right to demand that his salary should reach a certain sum, and that it would be advisable to abolish the limit of salary. The entrance fee could remain as it was. Brother 1202 contended that not only should the limit be abolished, but that the amount of entrance fee be lowered, for it was more than many performers could afford. There was a great deal of discussion over this point, and it was declared by the Chairman that the meeting had no right to alter anything in the by-laws except by resolution at a general meeting, and this would have to be specially called. The question would be resumed at another meeting.

MR. HARRY WRIGHT, who is playing the part of Emperor and stage-manager in the *Dick Whittington* pantomime company, had a narrow escape of a serious accident. While assisting in the electrical scene a lamp exploded in his face. Fortunately, the electrician immediately, by aid of a strong arc light, located the two pieces of glass, and extricated them before any serious injury to the eye was done. Mr. Wright is able to work again.

IT is pleasant to record the success of a new comedian; and Mr. Charles Penrose, who has appeared this week at the Paragon, and rendered a laughing song, followed by another, entitled "Oh, who says so?" in the character of an imbecile child, made up with knickers and white socks, is particularly welcome. We understand that he has been secured by Mr. G. Adney Payne for the remainder of the halls he controls.

MISS MILLIE PAYNE will renew her acquaintance on Monday with the Camberwell Palace audience. It was there only two months before Christmas that she was spotted by Mr. Will Oliver. Her rapid strides since then are familiar to all. Those who gave her such a good start will be pleased, no doubt, to welcome her back.

MR. DAN BURKE (of Burke, Moller, and Teller) will shortly produce an entirely new music and dancing sketch, especially written for him by Mr. J. F. Lambe. The new departure will, as usual, introduce the Misses Moller and Teller's singing and dancing, and Mr. Burke's wonderful terpsichorean performance.

MR. CYRIL DANE produced an oriental musical scena, *The Sailor and the Slave*, with great success at the People's Palace, Hounslow, on Monday. The story deals with an Arab slave-owner, who sells his entire human stock with the exception of one girl. Her he determines to marry. But the inevitable British Naval officer comes along and upsets his calculations. Special scenery and dresses have been provided by Mr. Dane.

WE regret to announce the death on Sunday last of Mr. Charles Pholte Pinaud (Charles Hunt), one of the members of the original Pinauds. The deceased joined Mr. T. Reed Pinaud as one of the trio calling themselves the Pinauds in 1876, and three years afterwards they started a tour round the world, appearing in every city and town of importance in the four continents. No artists can boast of having played before so many crowned heads as did the Three Pinauds, including the late Queen Victoria, and our present King and the members of his family. The deceased was a past master in his particular line of business, and an artist to his finger tips. His life-long friend and former partner, Mr. T. Reed Pinaud, who is now engaged in producing a selection of the Karno pantomime sketches on the Continent, received a great shock when, on leaving the stage at the Apollo Theatre, Dusseldorf, on Sunday night, he was handed a telegram announcing the sad news. For a considerable time the deceased has lived in retirement, but recently he crossed the Atlantic on a visit to England. The funeral took place on Wednesday at Blackpool. Much to their regret neither Mr. nor Mrs. Reed Pinaud (Miss Florrie Robina) was able to attend.

CATCHY songs, pretty costumes, and good looks are the stock-in-trade of Miss Nellie Wilson, who is creating quite a success at the Palace, Camberwell, and the Grand, Clapham, this week.

ON Sunday evening 220 persons sat down to the annual staff dinner of the Palace Theatre at tables arranged on the stage, which, by means of scenery, was converted for the occasion into an old baronial hall. The company invited 70 more or less regular patrons of the house and a number of artistes, including Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Violet Loraine, Mr. Arthur Playfair, Mr. Horace Goldin, and "The Palace Girls." Mr. Alfred Butt was in the chair, and the directors were represented by Count Max Hollender. Mr. Ernest Polden, another of the directors, who for the first time since the inauguration of these dinners was compelled to be absent, paid the penalty by giving a £5 note for the nearest guess as to the number of leaves on a particular pine-apple. Only members of the staff were eligible for the competition, and the prize was taken by Joseph Allen, one of the firemen.

MR. HERMAN FINCK, the musical director of the Theatre, arranged a special small orchestra, which performed a selection of music up to the usual standard of the Palace Theatre band. The dinner was followed by an excellent entertainment in the foyer, to which, among others, Miss Ruby Wilson, Mr. Leipzig, Mr. Wilson James, Miss Violet Loraine, Mr. Barclay Gammon, Mr. Percival Mackenzie, Mr. Arthur Playfair, Mr. Demanche, and Miss Kate Cutler contributed. During the entertainment the stage was cleared for dancing, which lasted well into Monday morning. The arrangements of the dinner were in the hands of Mr. Thomas Miller, the treasurer of the Theatre, and Mr. Frank Dämer, the stage manager, organised the concert, while Captain Arthur Hill, the ever-popular sportsman and ex-M.P. for County Down, did duty as bar attendant, with rolled shirt sleeves and apron complete.

THE Alhambra directors will present the following most satisfactory report, together with the balance-sheet and accounts for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, at the annual meeting to be held on Thursday next. The gross receipts amounted to £96,999 6s. 3d. After providing for debenture interest, &c., £2560 8s. 10d., the net profit for the year 1905 amounts to £15,481 11s. 11d., and with £6576 11s. 3d., the amount brought forward, the net balance to the credit of revenue is £22,058 3s. 2d.

THE directors recommend that a sum of £4000 be applied in reduction of the freehold and buildings account, that a dividend of £10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. per share (both free of Income-tax), for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, being £7500, be now paid, and that the balance, £10,558 3s. 2d., be carried forward to the next account. The dividend and bonus will be payable on Feb. 2 next. The director retiring by rotation is Mr. C. A. Osborne, who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols, and Co., retire, and offer themselves for re-election.

Life for Life, the new dramatic episode written by Mr. Chas. Danvers, has beaten all records at Collins's, where it has been unanimously acclaimed as one of the best all-round productions at present on the variety stage. The scenery by Francis H. Bull, and the special costumes by Stagg and Mantle and Louis Benjamin, are excellent. In fact, the whole "dramatta" is up to the highest standard of excellence. Mr. Danvers is supported by an exceptionally strong cast, amongst them being Mr. William Glenney, Mr. Barrington Foote, Mr. Edmund Lester, Miss Daisy Murch, Miss Gertrude Williams, Mr. P. Kerstone, and over forty auxiliaries.

A PLEASING event in connection with the *Humpty Dumpty* pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, was a children's party, given on Sunday last by Miss Rachel Lowe—the principal boy—to the little ones engaged in the production. The scene of the festivities was the Victoria Station Hotel, where fourteen bright-faced children were received by their hostess in her suite of rooms. After a substantial tea, with cakes, sweets, and fruit galore, an impromptu entertainment took place, which revealed not a little unexpected talent. The principals in the pantomime were all "taken off" by their youthful admirers, and the laughter or applause of the little ones evinced the correctness of the imitations. Not the least enjoyable portion of the entertainment were the stories told by Miss Lowe of her early experiences as a "kiddie" in the pantomimes at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, and it is needless to say they were fully appreciated by the youngsters. On the conclusion of the pantomime Miss Lowe will spend a few weeks on the Continent before resuming her work in the halls.

MR. FRANK HARDIE on Monday next is producing at the Chelsea Palace *The Great Green Diamond*, an original Indian episode, in three tableaux, with special scenery and effects, and a comedy duologue entitled *Domestic Pets* at the Bedford.

MISS KATIE MARSH, whose entertainment we recently had the pleasure of noticing at the Alhambra, Leicester-square, has been highly successful on tour, and we note that she is being heavily booked by her agent, Will Oliver. She opens at the Empire, Birmingham, on Monday next.

MR. FRED ELTON, who has been scoring all round at the Moss Empires, has just signed, through his agent, Will Oliver, for another twenty-three weeks. He will shortly appear in the West-end of town.

THE letter which appeared at the foot of our report of the general meeting of the International Artists' Lodge on page 25 of our last issue, was from the pen of Mr. Charles Coborn. By an unfortunate printer's error his name was omitted.

MR. FRANK LYNNE has purchased a capital song in "The School Teacher," written and composed by Alf. Ellerton (author of "The Inquisitive Kiddie"). The song was immediately acquired for publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hnuter. Mr. Lynne, who is doing exceptionally well with these "talking" songs, is booked to open at the Palace Theatre on his return from America on April 30th next.

ON Monday Miss Victoria Monks will at the London Coliseum essay a new characteristic song, by John Francis Lambe and Tom Mellor, entitled "Can't you hear me calling, Mister Primrose Johnson?" Mr. David Day has the song in the press.

WHAT is known as piano acts are becoming quite a feature of modern music-hall entertainment; and Miss Adey Spencer, one of the latest of the artists to adopt this "line of business"—if we may use the term—has been following up her success at the Bedford at the Hippodrome, Hastings.

MR. HENRY CARLTON returns to London on Monday for five weeks, after which he goes to Manchester to commence his third engagement with Mr. Wm. B. Broadhead. This young comedian has a style entirely his own, and his well-known evening dress comedy *One Night Only* has met with great success throughout the country.

MISS RHODA BURNHILL (the well-known transformation dancer) and "The London Girls," who are scoring such a success at the Kennington Theatre pantomime for their dancing, leave England next month for a long tour of the principal Continental cities.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

The melodramatic absurdity by Mr. Herbert Swears, entitled *Hero and Heroine*, which was recently produced at a special performance given at the Scala Theatre, was on Monday evening introduced into the programme at the Palace; and the skit was well received by an audience which thoroughly appreciated the comical burlesque of conventional melodrama. As at the original production Mr. Arthur Playfair represented the Hero and Miss Kate Cutler the Heroine. All the traditional "business" of these leading characters was very cleverly burlesqued. The Hero wore the customary velvet coat, red shirt, and shiny top boots; while the Heroine's appearance was heralded by the usual snowstorm. Moreover, she was dressed in mournful black, and carried in her arms a large doll, representing "Little Willie," which, when addressed in endearing terms, emitted a squeak. But both Hero and Heroine have a secret desire to play the villain and the wicked adventuress, and after a while they assume these characters, the angelic Mary becoming Maud Montressor, "the worst woman in Clapham," and the Hero donning a cloak and a silk hat. Bent on crime, they resolve to put an end to Little Willie, and the villain endeavours to accomplish his fell purpose with a penny popgun, which misses fire every time. "The thing won't go off!" he cries, throwing the weapon into the wings, when a loud explosion is heard, causing him to stagger back in alarm. The skit begins and concludes with a few lines in rhyme, and finally Mr. Playfair reminds the lady that a motor is waiting outside to convey her back to the Gaiety Theatre. Both Mr. Playfair and Miss Cutler play their melodramatic parts with much spirit and a keen sense of humour. But for the fact that a mimic in the person of Mr. Arthur Bleackley appears earlier in the evening, they might well introduce their lifelike imitations of popular actors and actresses.

The other novelty in the bill was the first appearance of Mas-Andres, eccentric French duettists, in a burlesque of a revue. The gentleman is an expert quick-change artist, and represents in rapid succession a number of characters, including a bill-poster, a countryman, an amorous old gentleman, a masher, and the gendarme who is in active pursuit of him. Lastly, he appears in the guise of a long-haired conductor of an orchestra, and his extravagant actions are the cause of much merriment. The Frenchman is decidedly clever, and his partner gives admirable support as a vocalist and actress. They had a most cordial reception, having to respond to several recalls.

The last nights of the musical phantasy, *Moonshine*, are announced. Miss Ruth Lincoln is an attractive Phœbe, and sings in charming style; Mr. Harold Wardroper is well placed as the schoolmaster, Hugh Klydd; and Mr. W. J. Manning is a comical representative of Martha Matties, the proprietress of a ladies' school. Mr. Arthur Pearl as Tommy, the troublesome scholar, makes good use of his opportunities; and the pupils at the ladies' school are smartly embodied by the Palace Girls, whose dancing is greatly appreciated. Leipzig gives a remarkable conjuring performance with cards and coins. His card tricks are surprisingly clever, and he appears to possess extraordinary powers, not possessed by ordinary mortals. The Little Dartos are a boy and girl, who give illustrations of various kinds of dances, and the grace of their performance is only equalled by the agility and skill displayed by the young couple, who are rewarded by liberal applause. Mr. Wilson Hallett scores with his clever mimicry of children and his amusing stories, concluding with an imitation of a little girl singing "Daddy" to her father. The Flying Eugenes give an admirable performance on the horizontal bars, their feats eliciting deserved applause. Mr. Arthur Bleackley mimics Messrs. Lewis Waller, Charles Wyndham, George Alexander, and other well-known performers extremely well. Mdlle De Dio, with her spectacular dances, and Lennie and Hast, in *The Sea Nymphs*, conclude their successful engagements this week; and the new bioscope pictures include the election of the French President, M. Fallières, and the tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales in India.

THE EUSTON.

Looming large in the scheme of amusement that has been arranged by Managing-Director Payne at the Euston is the sensational comedy sketch, entitled *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, written by Harry Boden, and produced by Lew Lake and company. We have the semblance of a story in the piece, and learn that owing to the unscrupulous action of a certain Mr. Prescot, who holds a bundle of letters written to him by a lady, she engages a professional cracksman and his pal to break into Prescot's villa at night in order to steal the compromising documents. The reward is to be £5 each. But we need not say anything further about the plot, but endeavour to describe the doings of the comedians who play the parts of Jerry and Nobbler. These sportive, active, and hilarious gentlemen are seen to the greatest advantage, especially in the first scene, in which laughter holding both its sides is but faintly descriptive of the attitude of the audience during the progress of the reckless extravagance. We may regard both the characters as Bethnal Green editions of Robert Macaire and Jacques Strop. Nobbler suffers severely from fits of "abstraction," but he is afflicted with a kind of kleptomania that is very drolly carried through, and his education of his partner, Jerry, in the niceties of language is exceedingly quaint. Jerry himself pursues the industrial career of a window-cleaner; but his elevated calling does not take him above the amusing necessities of a low comedian, and his behaviour when seeking refreshment is laughable in the extreme. The second scene—a double-fronted villa—is the basis of a very remarkable struggle on the roof between the burglars and the police. The members of the force are hurled from the tiles with a vigour and realism that work up the audience into a fever of excitement. The "bobbies" return to the charge time after time to be defeated by the desperate Jerry and Nobbler, and one marvels how the clever crowd escape injury. For wild fun and excitement of an exhilarating character, commend us to *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, which has humorous qualities that recommend it to the million. The members of the troupe, without exception, work admirably together, and it is pleasant to note the extremely favourable reception accorded to the sketch.

In a sparkling little sketch Mr. Athas and Miss Collins burlesque transpontine melodrama in a very entertaining way. Mr. Athas, as an office-boy, who poses as a professor, has some whimsical ejaculations at the expense of the intense emotion of the lady who poses as an actress—a part that is exceedingly well played by Miss Collins, who infuses just the necessary exaggeration into her attitudes and speech. Later she sings a capital song, "I want to shine in society," and joins Mr. Athas—an eccentric acrobatic dancer of rare ability—in a *pas de deux*. Miss Amy Clevere, a lady of Anglo-Saxon beauty, and very prettily dressed, interests the audience in the fate of the coloured girl, who "tells them that she is going to wed a white man." The romantic storiette is wedded to a particularly catchy melody, that is well rendered by this winsome vocalist, who also dances in very pretty fashion. Miss Wynnie Darrell tells another interesting story in song of two black coons; and Miss Violet Carlyle, comedienne, is heard to advantage. Mr. George Newburn's mimicry is on a high plane of excellence. He counterfeits the voice and style of the popular comedian, Mr. Harry Randall, with astonishing truth; and as a contrast gives an impression of the quiet, unobtrusive style of the famous coster delineator, Mr. Alec Hurley. Other imitations in his répertoire include Mr. George Lashwood in his "Latchkey" song, and Mr. Harry Lauder ("She's ma daisy"), in both of which he is quite successful. Mr. Bert Clark and Miss Hamilton score their customary success as the "tramp millionaire" and the New York belle. As a comedian and as a pianist the former is an immense favourite, his amusing affectations and his playful pranks being heartily laughed at; while the latter vivaciously asserts her claims to popularity with complete success. Mr. Clark also sings effectively of "My Yokohama Queen," being joined in a delightful *pas de deux* by his fascinating partner. Mr. George Power's company presents the screaming comedy, *Matrimonial Bliss*, with complete success. The farcical situations remind one of the old Adelphi farces of Buckstone's day. The quartette of players include a husband henpecked by a virago, and a patient wife kept in a state of abject submission by her bullying lord and master. Towards the conclusion of the trifle the tables are turned. The lamblike gentleman gets the better of his funkiness, and while in a state of inebriation, breaks up the happy home; and the submissive wife also successfully rebels against marital authority so arbitrarily exercised. *Matrimonial Bliss* is well played, and is a series of laughs from beginning to end. Mr. Fred M'Avoy is the capable manager here, and Mr. Charles Welman the courteous acting-manager. Mr. Victor Opfermann directs a good band.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

The charm of novelty is possessed by many of the items contained in the well-selected programme at Mr. Walter Gibbons's hall at Clapham Junction. First mention is due to the absurdity, *A Trip to the Isle of Man*, in which a veritable musical comedy in miniature is presented. The deck of a steamship furnishes the opening scene, wherein a gentleman of the tramp persuasion takes possession of a fellow-passenger's clothes, and passes himself off as a nobleman. He becomes the object of the designs of a retired bacon merchant with six marriageable daughters, and accompanies them on their excursions to the Isle of Man, and afterwards to the family mansion, where a banquet is begun in his honour but ends in his discomfiture. Fun is the chief consideration of the piece, and Mr. Arthur Breton, who appears as the sham Count, works hard to secure it. Mr. Arthur Gaston plays excellently as the retired merchant, who puts his daughters up at auction, a pleasing interlude in which the members of the chorus acquit themselves ably. A "swell" lunatic is comically enacted by Mr. James Mallam; and a "woman of importance" is drollery played by Miss Kitty Terris. Many lively episodes occur in the course of the performance, one scene of which is laid on the beach, where a troupe of pierrots go through their entertainment, and a musical sketch called "Capital and Labour," is given by Miss Nell Rene and Miss Laura Lorne, one of whom gives a clever low-comedy impersonation as a Lancashire mill-girl. A skilful acrobatic dance is done in the dining-room scene by the Sisters MacGovern, who are also associated in a bathing-costume dance.

Freshness is apparent in the entertainment of Silent Tait, whose expertness in the art of conjuring is intensified by the oddities which surround his performance. An elaborate setting is given to the new show, the many curious adornments including a miniature tree upon which billiard balls grow. Plucking one of these the silent one proceeds to gather others from nowhere until he holds half-a-dozen in his hand. He also does a clever trick with a rolled-up paper bag, at one end of which he inserts a handkerchief, and produces flags at the other. Playing-cards are also duplicated with marvellous dexterity by Mr. Tait, whose odd little dance at the conclusion of his tricks is one of the many devices by which he contributes to the merriment of the evening. Society entertainers are found in Grove and Chalmers, who provide a brief but pithy interlude, in which the substitution of one hat for another causes a stormy lovers' quarrel. "Snapshots from life's highway" are also given, highly-coloured pictures of coster life and an incident of society being so well rendered as to evoke great applause. An exhibition of muscular development is furnished by Mr. W. L. Murray, who afterwards assumes the uniform of a Roman officer and reviews a dumb-bell drill by a company of soldiers, who also give an exhilarating display with brass rods. Mr. Murray subsequently balances on his chin a heavy Roman chariot, the axle and wheels of which are removed, and sustained in the same precarious position on the end of a pole, which, on being knocked away, lets the wheels down upon the neck of the bearer. The performer exhibits great strength and skill, and the show, which is a picturesque one throughout, is well applauded.

The sister services are brought into comic relief by Mr. J. W. Rickaby, who sings a song with the refrain, "I'm a bobby," and also appears as a soldier. Both impersonations are embellished with any quantity of patter, and the drolleries of the comedian are appreciated to the full. Another favourite artist is welcomed in the person of Mr. Walter Stanley, who sings "Don't stand there" with all his well-known comic resource, and the eccentricities of the optimistic individual who trills "I'm glad I live in England," to which he adds a funny, but none the less clever, dance, are keenly relished. A clever trick pianist is found in Mr. A. B. Houghton; Los Rupertos are novel equilibrists; and Miss Millie Howell, comedienne, and the Imperial Bioscope pictures add interest to the bill. Mr. H. Ketteman discharges the duties of manager in a thoroughly capable manner, and the orchestra is kept well up to the mark by Mr. James Sale.

FORESTERS'.

From what unlikely objects music can be extracted is shown by the Four Maisanos. The gentlemen, in distinctive black costumes, with red linings, and a pierrot's close-fitting skull cap, contrive, seemingly by simply pulling their coat tails, to produce the melody of a well-known song. After that they proceed to show their skill in the use of the ocarina and the dulcimer, the results being most happy. Their concluding performance is the rendering of a medley of popular airs by means of bells fastened to their ankles and hidden inside boxing-gloves. Mr. Mark Leslie, the "Dusky Prince," is indeed comical with his "Hannah" song, in which he delights the audience with quaint gestures, quaint sayings, and quaint mannerisms. He is no less successful with his "Rufus Bartis." Miss Dora Lyric sings with expression and feeling, and her interpretation of "Put a little bit away for a rainy day" is a delightful item in the programme. Her second number is "My dad's as good as yours," and the verses are pleasantly given. Mr. Harry Lynx has a lot to say about the "Seaside Girl," and what he does say is most amusing. He offers something laughable, too, in the song, "Oh! don't it dazzle your eyes."

"Don't make those eyes at me!" sings Miss Winnie Derson, and the person in imagination she is addressing is seemingly a gentleman with an Erebus-like skin, for she goes on to exclaim, "Sooner than be a black man's queen, I'd die a white man's slave!" The lines are spiritedly rendered, and evoke a considerable quantity of applause. The same remarks may be said to apply to her performance of "I've got no one to love me," into which she imparts a good deal of character work. Exceedingly entertaining are the Lowenwirth Brothers, who are capitally made up to represent Jews, and whose duologue in the most approved Yiddish-English dialect is exquisitely absurd. Their "sheeny men" gesticulations and movements are diverting in the extreme, and the turn is one of a kind that can be better appreciated and understood in the East End than in the West. Mr. Harry Anderson is one of the veterans, and not the less liked for that. In fact, his appearance is the signal for an outburst of applause, and the good opinion that is formed of him even before he has uttered a word is fully justified by his contributions to the evening's "show." His opening ditty, as well as that which succeeds it, is of the sympathetic strain, in which this favourite comedian is, perhaps, heard to the best advantage. In the former he arouses in the hearts of his hearers a homely sentiment by telling them that "My best pal's my own wife"; while in the followng song he draws a pathetic picture of an old married couple who are clinging together like the ivy. There is a sincere and earnest note in Mr. Anderson's enunciation which gives to the vocalism a fitting finish.

Raymond's Bio-tableaux have some very exciting pictures to offer in the series dealing with a band of train-wreckers. Very vividly is the story of the attempt to dislodge a train and rob the passengers told by these exceptionally clear and well-arranged scenes. It would be impossible to explain the incidents better in writing. A signalman's daughter is leaving the signal box and on getting some little way down the line she is seized by four ruffians, who bind her to a tree and then place huge logs of wood across the rails. The signalman's dog discovers the plight of his young mistress, and with his teeth severs the rope with which she is tied to the tree-trunk. The girl rushes back to the railway line and attempts to pull the logs from the permanent way; but finds the task beyond her strength. There is a way out of the dilemma, however. Quickly divesting herself of her red petticoat, she flourishes it in front of the approaching train, with the result that a catastrophe is averted. The little drama is admirably depicted. Lithe and agile are the Ameen Abou and Hamad Troupe of Arabs, whose acrobatics, accompanied by wild and shrill war cries, are simply bewildering. That talented comedienne Childie Stuart, makes a decided hit with her songs, "Madame Butterfly" and "A pair of stockings." She has a dainty and engaging personality, and is an able character vocalist.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

The maximum of mirth is attained at the Camberwell Palace this week, where Mr. Fred Karno's company of silent comedians are engaged in rendering the overflowing audiences similarly speechless with laughter. The scenes that are enacted in the street outside an hotel, in the small hours of the morning, are irresistibly comic, the pranks of a bootblack and a newspaper boy, who make a raid on a coffee-stall, and commit unprovoked assaults on the passers by, being the chief causes of the disturbance. Equally exciting is the interior of a lodging-house, wherein such strange scenes are enacted that roar after roar of laughter is provoked. Among the curious assortment of characters is a Jew pedlar, whose make-up is a curiosity. He is the object of the attentions of the bootblack and the newsboy, whose diversions after the rest of the motley crew have retired to rest causes riotous fun. The sketch *Early Birds* is a lengthy one, but not a dull moment is permitted.

The connection between the art of ventriloquism and that of walking the slack wire is not very apparent, but Mr. Rex Fox manages to combine them very agreeably. Few more unsuitable places could be chosen for practising the polyphonic art, but Mr. Fox manages while promenading on the metal cord to carry on a conversation with a lay figure, which he carries on his back, the duologue being really funny, and causing abundant laughter. Later, Mr. Fox is relieved of his companion, and settles down seriously to his work, playing a mandoline while walking the wire on stilts, and also balancing a lighted lamp on his foot, while the strains of a tuneful air are rendered on the mandoline.

A comedienne of talent is found in Miss Tiny Arnold, whose petite proportions make the excellence of her singing and dancing more intensified. She tells, in a sweet and penetrating voice, about "The girl at the B. T. T.," whose career at the counters is cut short in pleasingly romantic fashion. A tuneful coon song brings with it a neat and well-diversified dance, which is executed with such grace and precision that applause is enthusiastically bestowed. Allen and Hart win admiration at once by their smart dresses, the gentleman wearing a handsome Court suit of black. They give imitations of "People you meet in Society," their selections including the German and the Yankee. With a swift change of dress, the couple appear as jesters, in motley array, with cap and bells complete, and sing and dance blithely. Another quick change, and they are returned to give a statue dance, their hard work and undeniable talent securing a number of recalls.

Scotch humour of the pawkiest kind is provided by Mr. Jock Whiteford, who appears in gorgeous array to sing "Keep on doing it, Sandy, O," with many eccentricities of movement. His relation of an excitable Scotch lad's visit to a football match is certainly unsurpassed for drollery, and the applause at the close of his remarkably funny and well-sustained delivery is uproarious. Miss Elsie Earle, a comedienne who will be remembered under the name of Nell Gwynne, sings the praises of "The man in the corduroys," who is, after all, according to his fair champion, the main prop of the Empire. A ballad, in which a story of the "Battle of love against gold" is told, is also given by Miss Earle, whose refrain is echoed by a strong-voiced youngster in the gallery.

"One of the upper ten" is presented in the drollest fashion by Mr. Tom E. Hughes, whose appearance and "patter" as a "broken-down" swell, who poses as a millionaire, is very quaint. Mr. Hughes has a remarkably powerful voice, to which he gives full vent both in the song just referred to and in the plaint of a down-trodden husband, who is forced to fulfil the duties of housemaid. The ball-punching act of Meier and Mora is preceded by a coon song, vivaciously sung by the young lady and danced with equal energy. Her partner is particularly expert with the punching-ball, making it perform a well-regulated tattoo on the roof to which it is attached, using both head and elbow in addition to his fists. Mr. Billy Farrell keeps his audience loud in laughter during the delivery of his funny anecdotes. The bonhomie of the comedian is a sure recommendation to favour, and the heartiness of his recall is such that he has to add an encore, which takes the form of a song redolent of ragtime methods, and having the refrain, "You don't need nothing for yer nerves." Mr. Harry Ford, who deals with the woes of the hen-pecked husband, finds a further medium for fun in his "Porter" song. Goggin and Davis get on the best terms with the audience by means of their acrobatic comicalities; Miss Childie Stuart is a smart and dashing comedienne; and the programme, which also includes Miss Nellie Wilson, Forest and King, and the Brighton Boys, gipsy acrobats, is concluded by the animated pictures provided by Vernon's Bioscope. Mr. Jesse Sparrow is the assiduous manager at the Camberwell Palace, when the fine orchestra has a capital conductor in Mr. Leon A. Bassett.

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THE HOLBORN EMPIRE.

The old Royal Music Hall has been closed since June, and, during that period, the whole of the building, with the exception of the frontage to Holborn, has been pulled down and rebuilt, from the designs of Messrs. Frank Matcham and Co., architects.

Mr. Gibbons, the proprietor, has shown great enterprise in such a venture, and he has given his architects instructions practically carte blanche to make the Royal the handsomest and most comfortable hall in London, and it will be seen from a visit how well his wishes have been carried out.

The old building was approached practically level from the street, and was a one-tier house, containing a balcony only over the ground-floor.

The architects were met with most unusual difficulties in the planning of the hall, as, among other troubles, rights of lights prevented the raising of the new building above the old level, and to obtain the usual number of tiers required it was necessary to lower the building to the basement, and to utilise the old cellars that existed, and were practically useless. This has enabled them to erect a much larger hall than could have been anticipated, considering the room that has to be given up for the number of exits and staircases required to carry on successfully two performances a night, as it is Mr. Gibbons's intention not only to do this, but to give matinées every day during the week.

The striking difference between the new and the old Royal will engage the attention of those who had a knowledge of the old building immediately they enter, for the stage, which was originally on the left-hand side, is now immediately facing the entrance.

The levels of the hall have been so altered that the visitor now enters direct from the street into the grand circle, and descends to the stalls on both sides; but owing to the level of Whetstone Park (at the rear) being considerably lower than Holborn, the occupants of the stalls can make their exit on the same level as their seats, in a similar manner to the patrons of the grand circle, who exit practically on a level with Holborn.

Although the frontages of the Empire remain the same as before, the alteration of the position of the stage and the absorption of the oyster-bar in Holborn into the music hall scheme has enabled the architects to more than double the number of exits, which of course was necessary in consequence of the increased accommodation.

The principal entrance is from Holborn through the existing outer vestibule, the walls of which remain in Faience, but with artistic Mosaic panels introduced, representing music, singing, &c. The floor is covered with cube Mosaic, and the ceiling is panelled out and decorated with an art panel in the centre.

Entering the inner vestibule through pairs of polished mahogany doors, we find the commencement of the new order of things, the walls being formed with white and green marble, in bands, with a deep panelled frieze over a beautifully-designed and decorated ceiling. The floors again are Mosaic. Six wide white marble steps divide this vestibule, and on the higher level is the pay and booking office, and from here pairs of polished doors open into the foyer. This is most ingeniously contrived in the construction of the grand circle. It is 40ft. in length, and is divided up with curved panelled beams and arches, the walls being panelled and filled with silk. Between the pilasters and columns are luxurious settees, upholstered in cloth, with embroidery border and the crown in the centre. The floor is laid with super Saxony carpet, and the electric light has been introduced with good effect. The decorations are simple but very effective, in green and white.

From this foyer a wide staircase leads direct to the stalls and corridors on each side, conducting the visitor to the grand circle seats, on the lower level. A separate staircase from the outer vestibule is provided to the upper seats of this circle, at the rear of which is a raised promenade, with balustrading dividing this from the seating, and from this promenade entrance is obtained to one of the finest lounge bars in London. This is obtained by utilising the old disused rooms over the entrances, the windows of which overlook Holborn. It is divided into two parts by a large opening, flanked by pedestals and columns, between which three wide steps conduct the visitor to the lower level of this saloon. This is fitted with a counter and fittings, and the room is furnished with lounge chairs, settees, and tables, the floor being covered with thick velvet pile carpet, and the windows draped with rich silk-brocaded curtains, the walls and ceilings being artistically decorated, and the whole lighted with five polished brass electroliers.

The pit entrance is from Holborn, through a tiled corridor to the lounge at the back of the pit, and from here the pit saloon is approached. This is situated under the entrance vestibule, and is well lighted and ventilated. The whole of the walls are in Faience work, and the floor is Mosaic. The fittings are of polished oak, and the whole room is tastefully decorated and brilliantly lighted.

The gallery, which is formed over the grand circle, is approached from Holborn by a wide staircase, carried up to the promenade, from which access to the gangways dividing the seats is obtained. A large saloon is at the rear of the gallery, well ventilated and decorated, the walls, as well as those of the gallery itself, being lined with Faience.

The auditorium is of fine proportions, and designed on somewhat novel lines, the circle having wide, sweeping curves, and good heights between them, giving fine sight-lines and free circulation of air.

The ground floor is divided up into stalls and pit, the former containing nine rows of polished wood armchairs, covered with Angora goat-hair satin, the floor being of wood-block, and covered with super Wilton carpet.

The pit is also furnished with sixteen rows of velvet-covered tip-up chairs, and the floor of wood-block flooring and cork carpet.

The walls of the stalls are formed of polished marble, in panels, and the walls of the pit are tiled, the ceilings being richly decorated. Staircases on each side of the stalls lead up to the grand circle, and to a very unique stalls saloon, designed in old English. The floor is of polished parquet, and the room is furnished with a counter and fittings, and with leather-covered settees and quaint tables and rugs. The room is decorated in subdued tints, the electric fittings corresponding in style, the whole being very effective.

The grand circle contains twelve rows of seats, and is furnished with chairs, and carpeted similar to the stalls. There are four boxes on the lower level of this circle, two on each side of the proscenium, and two boxes are provided in the top corners at the rear of the circle, and are particularly well placed for seeing the stage.

The gallery is furnished in a comfortable manner, the seats being covered with a leather material, and the whole of the floor covered with a thick, warm cork carpet.

The decorations are artistic in the extreme. They are designed in a free treatment of French renaissance, the colours chosen being white, cream, and gold, relieved by beautifully-painted panel subjects by Italian artists. The ceiling has an opened designed dome, with a sunlight arrangement in the centre, forming the ventilation scheme. The flat ceiling is set out with curved ribs, forming panels, and the sides are covered down to the walls with pilasters, and coffers, and caryatides The box façades are well conceived, and the single boxes over those on the dress-circle level take the form of balconies, with a panelled coved ceiling, and the walls are ornamented and treated with the general decorations, no draperies being used here. The gallery and grand circle fronts are of fibrous plaster, and contain shields, &c., with the electric lights designed to correspond.

The whole of the furnishing of the auditorium is in two shades of Rose du Barri, the carpets, seats, and draperies all being in the same colouring. The tableau curtains and box curtains, being of a watered silk material, are very handsome and effective, and when the whole is brilliantly illuminated with the electric light from the handsome brass fittings a very charming effect is obtained; in fact, it is no exaggeration to say that the new Royal will vie for elegance, comfort, and artistic design with any theatre or music hall in London.

The safety of the public has received every consideration, the usual fireproof curtain and iron doors separate the stage from the auditorium, hydrants fully equipped are provided at all important positions, and the exits are numerous.

The comfort provided for the audience cannot fail to be appreciated, as, apart from the handsome auditorium, with its uninterrupted sight-lines and its luxurious seating, there are foyers and lounges, and retiring rooms for all parts of the house. The lavatory and sanitary arrangements are built with the latest improvements. The whole of the building is heated by hot-water pipes and radiators, and everything that skill and experience can suggest has been provided to make the audience comfortable and happy in their surroundings.

The stage is of goodly proportions, and large enough to comfortably stage any music hall productions. It has a hardwood floor, and the upper part contains the usual flies, grids, bridges, &c., and an up-to-date system of electric lighting.

At the rear of the stage is the dressing-room block, containing the manager's offices, property and wardrobe rooms, ballet and supers' rooms, and sets of dressing-rooms, the whole well lighted and ventilated, and comfortably furnished with lavatories and dressing-tables, the floors carpeted, and every convenience and comfort is provided for the artist.

Mr. Gibbons will open the new Holborn Empire on Monday

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

Large audiences have been attracted to the Holloway Empire this week, one of the principal attractions being the appearance of the famous Chinese conjurer, Chung Ling Soo. Not only does this performer lay claim to the distinction of being the "One Button Royal Chinese Sorcerer," but he can boast of being the proud possessor of a gorgeous palanquin, which is valued at the sum of £1,000. It was presented to him by the late Dowager Empress of China, and is constructed of solid ebony inlaid with gold and precious stones. The panels have thousands of solid gold sequins, and the carved roof is lined with beaten copper polished to mirror brightness. The robes of Soo's ancestors, which he always carries with him, consist of forty or more separate objects, and also on view are fifteen cases of similar exhibits. Each robe cost not less than £40, and the whole collection of curiosities is insured for £4,000. Ching Ling Soo is a tall, powerfully-built man, with a colourless impassive face, and he performs all his tricks with an air of quiet assurance that never fails to impress an audience. We have only recently described the Chinese magician's performance in detail; so that there is no need of going over the same ground again. His most sensational feat is the catching of bullets marked by the audience and fired from a loaded gun. The Chinaman's achievements as a necromancer are greeted with hearty applause.

Miss Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten School continues to be attended by some apt scholars, who, however, seem to occupy themselves more with play than work. One of the girls contributes a skipping-rope song and dance, and the other members of the troupe contribute in various ways to the entertainment. In costumes typical of England, Scotland, and Wales, and other countries they sing appropriate songs. The boy comedian who appears in the school scene as a red-haired yokel, represents a corpulent John Bull. Miss Laurie has well coached her pupils, and the result is an attractive and well varied entertainment, which receives the emphatic approval of the audience; the young people and their "teacher" are invariably recalled several times.

The Edgar Forrest combination are here again in their amusing little sketch, the scene of which is laid at the house of Mr. Flipper, who suffers at the hands of a discontented wife and a tyrannical mother-in-law. A comical domestic crisis is reached when the elderly lady discovers concealed in a cupboard a young lady of attractive appearance, and the distracted Flipper is called upon for an explanation. The sketch is very smartly played. A return visit is also being paid by the comedy couple known as Terry and Lambert. They represent a shoemaker and his wife, whose tiffs and reconciliations are exceedingly amusing. They also introduce some acceptable duets, concluding with the old favourite "Annie Laurie," which is excellently rendered. The O'Learys, described as Oriental acrobats, bring on the stage with them a Sedan chair out of which steps a black-bearded Eastern potentate, who disappears, leaving his bearers to accomplish some remarkable acrobatic feats. Mr. Harry Brown, an American coloured comedian, sings "I'm satisfied" in quaint style, and his often repeated enquiry, "Is everybody happy? eh?" is effective in causing laughter. The Mariano Sisters give a clever exhibition on the break-away trapeze, and the Dumond Minstrels, Parisian street-singers and instrumentalists, meet with success. A series of humorous and exciting pictures called "Down on the Farm" are shown on the American Bioscope. In their respective departments, Mr. Henry W. May, the musical director, and Mr. C. W. Adams, the acting-manager, continue to perform their duties very ably.

CORAM, VENTRILOQUIST.

A young fellow of twenty-three stood on the stage of the Lyceum Theatre on Monday and made his début as a ventriloquist before a London audience. The newcomer goes by the short but distinctive name of "Coram," and his exhibition is voted one of the neatest and most original acts of its kind seen for a long time. He carries on to the stage with him a "dummy," with oscillating, semi-detached legs and a face that would bring a fortune to a low comedian. It is not long before conversation opens between Coram and his tiny companion. The latter is made to be a most voluble, impudent, and amusing character, and his lively movements and sudden jerks of the head are an entertainment in themselves. Coram is exceedingly skilful in the art or science of causing the voice to appear to emanate from some source other than the speaker. The manner in which some verses about "Oh, lucky Jim!" are apparently sung by the dummy is extremely laughable, and absurdly funny, too, is the little contretemps in which the ventriloquist and his figure engage. Coram's dummy is something more than a merely farcical creature, for its master has taught it a few of the vices of humankind. It can smoke cigarettes, and it can spit as copiously and vigorously as a tobacco-chewing cowboy. But it also has a very sympathetic nature, for at the conclusion of its dirge anent "Lucky Jim" its grief overcomes it, and it breaks into a volume of tears, amid the roars of the audience. Coram may be congratulated upon the possession of really wonderful gifts in the direction of ventriloquialism, and he should certainly not lack engagements.

THE GEORGE LE BRUNN MATINEE.

The appeal in our columns on behalf of the widow of the late George Le Brunn has met with a noble response from the profession and the public, and the hearts of the influential committee, headed by Mr. Albert Gilmer, Mr. David Day, and Mr. J. P. Harrington, must have been gladdened at the sight of the packed house that gathered at the grand matinée given on Monday in aid of the cause. Towards the close of the entertainment, Mr. Albert Gilmer appeared in front of the curtain, and announced that the matinée had realised the sum of £600. He expressed the thanks of the committee to the directors of the Oxford for the use of the hall, he warmly acknowledged the services of the artists, the orchestra, the staff, and expressed his gratitude for the loyal way in which the patrons of the Oxford had supported the appeal. In conclusion, he spoke with considerable feeling of the deceased composer, whom most of them had known. He was a "right good fellow, and the leader of our composers of comic songs." The audience cheered Mr. Gilmer's remarks very heartily, and they became positively enthusiastic when he supplemented his speech by the further statement that Miss Marie Lloyd had given 100 guineas to the fund. This generosity is characteristic of the popular queen of comedy, for whom the deceased composer had written so many successes, from "Wink the other eye" to "It's a thing of the past, old dear." It was in the latter song that Miss Lloyd scored her chief success on Monday, when she had a reception of which a Prime Minister might have been proud. The droll presentment of character is quite away from the successful smart set impersonations in which it is customary for her to delight audiences, and its success is due to a keenness of perception and a power of observation that are always to be found in our best comic actresses. The amusing dialogue is delivered with an irresistibly whimsical effect by the gifted artist.

A list of the deceased composer's chief songs was given on a fly-leaf of the programme, specially designed by Mr. Rossi Ashton, and among them was the famous military scena, "The Seventh Royal Fusiliers," which in its day has excited as much patriotic fervour in barracks as the ballads of Rudyard Kipling. It was originally sung by the lamented Charles Godfrey, whose success in it will be well remembered by older music hall frequenters. On Monday Mr. Louis Bradfield appeared as the old pensioner, who recalls his fighting days in the famous regiment, and realises, in spite of his seventy years, something of the martial ardour of his youth. Unfortunately, the band parts were not forthcoming, and Mr. Bradfield, who was splendidly made up, and who put much earnestness into his impersonation, had to sing to a pianoforte accompaniment. However, he did exceedingly well under the circumstances. Early in the afternoon the fine orchestra, under Mr. W. Burgess, played as an overture a selection of the most popular airs by George Le Brunn, and it was only in accordance with the fitness of things that Mr. Eugene Stratton should revive that famous song by the deceased musician, "The Idler," of which the popularity is far from outworn. Mr. Stratton as the born tired coon put in a wonderful lazy dance, and scored most unmistakably in an impersonation which is still called for in the provinces, and might meet with a renewed lease of favour if revived in town. The very last song of Le Brunn's, entitled "Remember me to mother, dear," was sung by Miss Lottie Collins, who came as an extra turn, being specially announced from the stage by Mr. Albert Gilmer. A specially-arranged chorus of male voices from the prompt side of the gallery sang the refrain, and the packed audience chortled in sympathetic unison, the number being a great success. Another extra turn was Miss Victoria Monks, who made her reappearance after her serious indisposition, and was also specially announced by Mr. Gilmer. She sang with her customary success, "If you want to have a row, wait till the sunshine." Early in the afternoon, Miss Katie Lawrence sang with much success a number that satirised in the severest terms the Free Trade tenets, which, according to the verses of the song, make England the dumping-ground of the foreigner. The house gave a rousing reception to the selection, and it was evident that the listeners were entirely in sympathy with the politics of Mr. Chamberlain. Miss Lawrence also added to her success by her second song, in a more sentimental vein. Miss Vesta Victoria repeated her popular "It's all right in the summertime," wherein she poses as a burlesque Sappho, and also amused the house in her latest success, "Waiting at the Church." Miss Marion Winchester came specially from the Gaiety, and was heard to advantage in a tuneful chansonette. She had diamonds on her fingers and diamonds on her hose. Mr. Arthur Roberts and Miss Ruby Celeste were seen in their expressive realisation of "Courtship" and "Marriage," the comedian playing the bashful lover and the awkward bridegroom with inimitable drollery; Mr. Gus Elen's comic serenade to "Meriah" was voted immensely funny; Mr. Alec Hurley's scena, *Pickaninnies*, has quaint ideas, which were heartily appreciated; Miss Alice Hollander gave delightful renderings of "The Lost Chord" and Theresa del Riego's "O dry those tears"; Miss Adrienne Augarde sang a Japanese song; Mr. Harry Ford repeated his "Railway Porter" sketch; and Mr. Jock Whiteford, the new Scotch comedian, had something specially Scotch to offer in the lyric "Keep on daeing it, Sandy," and in his amusing impersonation of a Glesca lad at a football match, which scored its usual success. Bernar's Fantoches, a pretty and interesting show of its kind; and Athas and Collins, in a successful bit of burlesque, were other attractions in the programme, which wound up with that amusing sporting sketch, *Toffy's Trotter*, in which Mr. Joe Elvin repeated his droll impersonation of the greengrocer. Rare life and bustle were put into the Wembley Park scene, and the triumph of the adventurous Toffy, who wins the Tradesmen's Handicap on his famous mare Kitty, was hailed with delight by a house in which the element of sport largely predominated. The company supporting the popular comedian, who had an excellent reception, loyally aided the success that was achieved.

The matinée drew a large and representative gathering of the professional world, and among the audience we noticed Mr. and Mrs. David Day, Messrs. W. Grimes, Leslie Stuart, Will Oliver, Hugh J. Didcott, Harry Blake, Edgar Bateman, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Harry Lundy, Charles Beecham, H. Joyner, Jack Lotto, J. W. Edgar, George Fuller, Kandt, Lester Barrett, W. Francis, G. Adney Payne, Orlando Powell, Tom Mellor, E. V. Page, C. J. Taylor (Cee Tee), Walter Hast, Harry Bawn, Harry Masters, Charles Wilmott, F. W. Leigh, Henri Gros, and a host of others.

Miss Marie Lloyd, jun., was conspicuous among those who sold programmes, and in this connection excellent results were obtained by Miss Amy Clevere, Mrs. Harry Bawn (My Fancy), Miss Eileen Douglas, Miss Bella Lloyd, Miss Rosie Lloyd, Miss Morris, and Jennie Morris. The exertions of Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt, the acting-manager, must be highly praised, and the work of the orchestra under Mr. W. Burgess was, as usual, admirable.

MR. JAMES WILLARD and company, in the entirely original music-hall sketch, *Did He Deserve It?* including the specially trained champion mastiff dog Tiger, have made a great success at the Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

THE GEORGE LE BRUNN TESTIMONIAL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Marie Lloyd	105	0	0
Mr. Alec Hurley	10	10	0
Mr. Gus Elen	10	10	0
Mr. Eugene Stratton	10	10	0
Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter	10	10	0
Mr. G. Adney Payne	10	0	0
Mr. Joe Elvin	10	0	0
Mr. J. W. Monk	10	0	0
Miss Eileen Douglas	6	6	0
Miss Vesta Tilley	5	5	0
Miss Vesta Victoria	5	5	0
Messrs. Tom and Fred McNaughton	5	5	0
Mr. Harry Tich	5	5	0
Mr. Henry Sutton	5	0	0
Miss Alice Lloyd	3	3	0
Mr. Leo Dryden	3	3	0
Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry	2	2	0
Mr. Henri Gros	2	2	0
Mr. Wal Pink	2	2	0
Mr. Harry Freeman	2	2	0
Miss Cecilia Loftus	2	2	0
Miss Rosie Lloyd	2	2	0
Miss Lil Hawthorne	2	2	0
Miss Ella Lane	2	2	0
Miss Lucy Weston	2	0	0
Miss Kate Cutler	1	1	0
Miss Carrie Laurie	1	1	0
Miss Kittee Rayburn	1	1	0
Miss Millie Grey	1	1	0
Miss Agnes Hazel	1	1	0
Mr. Lester Barrett	1	1	0
Mr. Ben Brown	1	1	0
Mr. Will Oliver	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Allen	1	1	0
Mr. Michael Nolan	1	1	0
Mr. Barney Hyams	1	1	0
Mr. E. C. Stebbing	1	1	0
Mr. Fred Higham	1	1	0
Mr. Tom Holmes	1	1	0
Mr. Herbert Shelley	1	1	0
Mr. Jack Lotto	1	1	0
Mr. Jack Edgar	1	1	0
Mr. Fred McAvoy	1	1	0
Miss Amy Clevere	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Masters	1	1	0
Mr. Charles Beecham	1	1	0
Mr. Victor Opferman	0	10	6
Mr. W. Clarkson	0	10	6

MISS MARIE LLOYD'S LIST.

Messrs. Clark and Hamilton	5	5	0
Mr. S. W. Page	2	2	0
	7	7	0

MISS DOLLY MORRELL'S LIST.

Miss Dolly Morrell	5	5	0
Mr. W. Sampson	1	1	0
Mr. John Hanson	1	1	0
	7	7	0

MR. DAVID DAY'S LIST.

Mr. Chas. H. Taylor	1	1	0
Mr. Edward St. Quentin	1	1	0
Mr. E. W. Rogers	1	1	0
Mr. Karl Kaps	1	1	0
Mr. C. J. Taylor	1	1	0
Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott	1	1	0
Mr. Fred Murray	0	5	0
Mr. Chas. Lilburn	0	5	0
	6	15	0

MR. CHARLES WELDON'S LIST.

Miss Ada Colley	5	0	0
Mr. John Tiller	0	10	0
Miss Marguerite Broadfoote	0	5	0
Miss Lily Black	0	2	6
Mr. Sam Morrisson	0	2	6
Mr. Billy McClane	0	2	0
H. T.	0	1	0
H. S.	0	1	0
J. A.	0	1	0
J. C.	0	1	0
	6	6	0

MR. ALEC HURLEY'S LIST.

T. B.	3	3	0
Miss May Mars	0	10	6
	3	13	6

MR. HARRY JOYNER'S LIST.

Mr. Harry Joyner	2	2	0
Mr. Robert Astley	1	1	0
B. H. S.	0	10	0
	3	13	0

MR. HORACE LIVERMORE'S LIST.

Mr. Horace Livermore	0	5	0
Mr. C. Collette	0	2	6
Mr. B. Boswell	0	2	6
Mr. E. Warwick	0	2	6
Mr. J. Alexandroff	0	2	6
Mr. James Milburn	0	2	0
Little Don	0	2	0
Mr. P. Anderson	0	2	0
Mr. Goulton	0	1	0
	1	2	0

MESSRS. LAWRANCE AND GIFFORD'S LIST.

Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford	0	7	0
Miss Dorothy Grasdorff	0	1	0
Mr. Somers Bellamy	0	1	0
Mr. W. P. Sheen	0	1	0
Mr. Harry Phydora	0	1	0
Miss Espinosa	0	1	0
Miss Fanny Wright	0	1	0
Miss Violet Graham	0	1	0
Miss Millie Graham	0	1	0
Miss Alice Digby	0	1	0
Miss Addie Lennard	0	1	0
Miss Dolly Hunt	0	1	0
Miss Madge Haines	0	1	0
Miss Cecilia Maud	0	1	0
Miss Muriel George	0	1	0
	1	1	0

MR. LEWIS LESLIE'S LIST.

Mr. Tom Foy	0	5	0
The Matweef Hugoston Troupe	0	3	0
Mr. Will Musgrave	0	2	6
Mr. Bert Byrne	0	2	6
Miss Hettie Zillwood	0	2	0
	0	15	0

MR. ROWLAND STEWART'S LIST.

Mr. Rowland Stewart	0	3	6
C. W.	0	2	6
Miss Beckenham	0	1	0
Miss Hylton	0	1	0
Mr. Thos. Courtice	0	1	0
K. D.	0	1	0
	0	10	0

SECOND LIST.

Mr. Walter Hast	£5	0	0
Mr. E. Swanborough's list	2	1	0
Mr. Morny Cash's list	1	10	0
Mr. Arthur Lennard	1	1	0
Mr. J. W. Chapman	1	1	0

Miss Marie Lloyd's Second List.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss Marie Loftus	5	5	0	Miss Katie Lawrance	1	1	0
				J. W.	1	6	8
					7	12	8

Mr. Charles Wilmott's List.

Miss Jessie Preston	2	2	0	Messrs. Bert Megson and Illingworth Moorwood	0	10	6
Residue of Wreath Subscription Fund (from Brother Authors and Composers)	0	13	0		3	5	6

Mr. Walter Lapworth's List.

Mr. Wm. Wilson. Walter Lapworth	2	2	0	Miss Marie Gibson	0	1	0
Bros. Zampah	0	2	0	Miss Clara Victor	0	1	0
Miss Molly Seymour	0	1	0	Mr. Carl Rosine	0	0	6
					2	8	6

Mr. Joe Elvin's List.

Mr. Harry Tate	10	0	0	Master Harry Elvin's Auxiliaries in *Toffy's Trotter* (Oxford Music Hall)	3	8	6
Mr. Walter Gibbons	2	2	0	Master Harry Elvin	0	2	6
Mr. Fred Miller	1	1	0	Master G. Budd Law	0	2	6
Mr. Harry Ford	1	1	0	Mr. Manton	0	2	0
Mr. Tom Shaw	1	1	0	Mr. C. Windermere	0	1	0
Mr. E. De Vere	1	1	0	Mr. K. Altamont	0	1	0
Messrs. H. and M. Rayne	1	1	0	Miss Ethel Coates	0	1	0
Bal. of ticket raffled	0	4	6	Bal. of ticket raffled	0	12	6
					22	5	0

Mr. J. E. Coyle's List.

Mr. J. E. Coyle	0	2	6
Mr. Frank Dix	0	2	6
	0	5	0

Mr. Cayley Calvert's List.

Mr. S. F. Field	0	10	0
Mr. George Arthurs	0	1	0
	0	11	0

Mr. Fred Cole's List

Messrs. H. C. Arnold, G. Barrasford, and F. Willmott	1	1	0	Mr. Tom Stuart. Mr. Martin Conway	0	1	0
Mr. Fred Cole	0	2	6	Zaid	0	1	0
Mr. W. Elgar	0	1	0		1	8	6

Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes's List.

Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes	0	10	6	Mr. Edgar Stebbings	0	5	0
M. D. P.	0	10	0	G. K.	0	5	0
A friend	0	10	0	Mr. G. Cain	0	2	6
					2	3	0

Mr. W. J. Churchill's List.

Mr. W. J. Churchill	1	1	0	Miss Violet Burnell	0	1	0
Mr. Mortmore	0	5	0				
Mr. Barrett	0	1	0		1	8	0

Mr. James Field's List.

Mr. James Field	0	10	6	Mr. George Collins	0	2	0
Mr. Neil Carlton	0	5	0				
Mr. J. H. Grigg	0	2	6		1	0	0

Mr. H. Ketteman's List.

Mr. H. Ketteman	0	10	6	Mr. McFarlane	0	5	0
Mr Deverley	0	5	0				
					1	0	6

Mr. J. A. Walker's List.

Mr. Bricknelle	0	5	0	Mr. J. A. Walker	0	2	0
Miss Ella Retford	0	3	0		0	10	0

Mr. David Hart's List.

Mr. David Hart	0	10	6	Ted and M. Cowan	0	2	0
Messrs. Mountford and Walsh	0	10	6	Miss Lilian Travellie	0	2	0
Mr. Joe Arthur and Miss Ida Heath	0	5	0	Miss Millie Payne	0	2	0
A friend	0	5	0	Mr E. Cook	0	1	0
Gravesend Pilot	0	5		Mr. Walter Loosely	0	1	0
Mr. William Clinch	0	5	0	Mr. Walter Clyde	0	1	0
Mr. Sinclair Whiteford	0	2	6	Mr. F. Pottison.	0	1	0
A friend	0	2	6	H. S.	0	1	0
Mr. J. E. Dalno	0	2	6	Toffee	0	1	
Sympathiser	0	2	6	Ono Who	0	1	0
Mr. Joe Athos	0	2	6	Mr. Venlour Swift	0	1	0
Mr. Billy Ferguson	0	2	6	Miss Lottie Bray	0	1	0
Mr. W. W. Palmer	0	2	6	Mrs. Loosely	0	1	0
Clarke's Nippers	0	2	6	Massonia	0	1	0
Miss Ada Vernon	0	2	6	Miss Minnie Howell	0	1	0
Mr. W. Shaw	0	2	0	Miss Ruby Aston	0	1	0
The Ashers	0	2	0				
The Zerbines	0	2	0		4	10	6
Mr. John Parker	0	2	0				

Donations to the Fund will be gratefully received and acknowledged by Mr. David Day (Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter), 142, Charing Cross-road, London. Mr. David Day also asks all those friends who have had subscription lists sent to them to kindly return them as soon as possible, so that the amount collected can be announced without any undue delay.

"THE ERA" NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

	Shillings.
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Johnny Holland	21
Charles Weldon	20
Bros. Webb	10
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

The Miltons, trick knockabout skaters, have already been re-engaged for 1906 by Mr. Fred Mouillot, this making their fourth pantomime with that gentleman.—Mersano, the conjuror, late of the Winter Gardens and Alhambra, Blackpool, is now touring the provinces, and has been secured for the Macnaghten and Barrasford tours this year. The Delevines are making a big success on the Stoll tour with their new act, *The Bell Inn*, an original sketch that is quite different from anything they have hitherto done.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE THEOPHILUS READ.

The cortége, a long and impressive one, left the deceased's residence, 74, Palatine-road, Stoke Newington, on Monday, shortly after 1.30. The hearse was an open glass-panel one, the coffin being almost hidden with floral tributes, while a second similar one was requisitioned for a large number of wreaths, crosses, and various other floral emblems, each side of the road being lined with a large concourse of people, also up to and in the Cemetery. The Rev. T. Horne, Chaplain of the Showmen's and Van-dwellers' Protection Association, officiated at the burial service, in conjunction with the Rev. O. Palmer, B.A. There were a large number of other floral tokens brought to the cemetery, and placed in the vicinity of the grave. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. F. J. Hancock, 115, Stoke Newington-road, and were of a highly satisfactory character.

The mourners and followers were:—Mrs. T. Read (widow), Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Read, jun., Winnie and Claud (children), Mr. and Mrs. Lal Read, Mr. and Mrs. Ebsworth, Mrs. H. Read, Mr. Creber and Mrs. Creber, sen., Mr. Hyaniaison, Mr. J. James, Mr. H. Currie, Mr. F. Turner, Mr. T. Holden, Mr. Robert Fossett, sen., Mr. W. Slatter, Mr. A. Reeves, Mr. R. Fossett, jun., Mr. Guss Bostock (representing Mr. E. H. Bostock), Mr. Partington, Mr. J. Bostock, Mr. Jeffrey, Mr. Martin, Mr. Baker (Royal Agricultural Hall Company, Mr. Harold Burkett, Mr. F. H. Fowler, Mr. C. Greenwood, Mr. C. Day, Mr. C. Horne, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Emberson, Mr. Lord G. Savage, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Lord George Sanger. The late Mr. T. Reed's private brougham: Mr. Sternberg, Dr. Hunt, the Rev. T. Horne, Chaplain to the Showmen and Van-dwellers' Association. Several private broughams and carriages were occupied with a large number of showmen, &c., from the Royal Agricultural Hall and various parts of the country. The list of floral tributes were:—Mrs. T. Read (widow), harp; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Read, crown; Winnie and Claud, cushion; Mrs. Hart, wreath; Mr. Lal and Flem Read, heart; Mr. and Mrs. Ebsworth, sen., wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ebsworth and family, "Faith, Hope, and Charity"; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bostock, anchor; Lena and Frank Bostock, wreath; Garrett Taylor, Esq., cross; Lord George Sanger, wreath; Mr. A. Probyn, jun., wreath; Directors Royal Agricultural Hall Company, chaplet; Mr. F. H. Fowler and C. Greenwood, shield and cross; Mr. A. Probyn, wreath; Staff Royal Agricultural Hall Company, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. G. Hyaniason, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. James Bostock, cross; Mrs. T. Creber, wreath; Mr. J. H. Creber, wreath; Mr. Frank Turner, wreath; Messrs. Dale, Reynolds, and Co., wreath; Tenants' World's Fair, broken column; Mr. and Mrs. R. Fossett, horseshoe; Messrs. G. Tarrent and Son, wreath; Frank Turner's employees, wreath; World's Fair Band, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Birkett, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Day, wreath; Sir Hugh Myddleton Lodge 1602 Freemasons, wreath; Lord George Sanger and sons, wreath; Dr. G. Angus Hunt, chaplet; F. A. Glover and Company, wreath; Circus Artists, ring; Council and members of the Showmen's Guild, Rev. T. Horne, and *The Era*, cross; Employees of T. and T. E. Read's World Fair, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. A. Reeves, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. John Emberson, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Twigden, Directors, Confectioners, and Grocers' Exhibition, wreath; Emily, wreath; Staff of Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 Menagerie, wreath; Mrs. E. J. Panton, wreath; Borough Advertising Company, Stratford, broken column; Firemen Royal Agricultural Hall Company, cross; Mr. W. Ridsdale, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Minting, anchor; Mr. and Mrs. R. Fossett, jun., cushion; Messrs. Biddell Bros., wreath; Charles and Fanny Bailey, wreath; "Otto," wreath; Prince Alexander, wreath; Miss Nellie and Louie Slatter, Mr. and Mrs. W. Slatter, crown; Mr. Fell, Arthur, and Marie, heart; Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. John Collins, cross; Mr. R. Frost Smith, wreath; Mr. W. Medcalf, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. W. Taylor, chaplet; Messrs. Stroud and Co., chaplet; Mr. and Mrs. Mills, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. P. Collins, cross; Mr. and Mrs. C. Cox, wreath; Mr. Henry Slatter, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Slatter, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock and Walter, cross; Mrs. H. Ward, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Fowler, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. George Beach, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilson, wreath; Mr. A. Reinsch, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. W. Beach, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Mean, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Phil Pearce and family, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. James Manders, cross; Bill Duncan, G. Leighton, and Little George, wreath; Fred Bibbie (Manchester), wreath; Mr. and Mrs. J. Chittock, cushion; Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, horse-collar; Mr. and Mrs. A. Ball, lyre; Mr. W. Stone, wreath; Sarah, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Doe and family, cross; Mr. and Mrs. Le Neave, gates ajar; Mr. and Mrs. Leak, anchor; Mr. and Mrs. Fox, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cruft, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Norman, wreath; Mr. G. Rutland, wreath; Mr. Buck, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hill, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Powell, wreath; Mr. John Hastings and family, cushion; Mr. George Croker, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Irish, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Bedford, and Mr. C. Brown and Staff, Mr. James Manders, cross; Mr. and Mrs. H. Hunt, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Otto, wreath; W. M. A. Braburys, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, wreath; Mr. Glover, Director, and Staff, wreath; Mr. James, wreath; and Mr. Evans, basket.

BANDURRIAS IN NOTTINGHAM.

THE EMPIRE.

A genuine musical "turn" is always acceptable in a variety programme, and the Bandurrias are well-known to music hall patrons as in the front rank of mandolinists and guitarists. They played last night a string of popular melodies, quite idealising such hackneyed strains as "The Old Bull and Bush," "Stop your tickling, Jock," and imparting the sweetest significance to the plaintive air of "I'm a waitin' for you, Josie," and the reception which they were accorded was of the most cordial character.—*Nottingham Guardian*, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1906.

The musical items of the Bandurrias compel vigorous applause.—*The Era*, Jan. 20, 1906.

THERE is not a dull minute in Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant's entertainment at St. George's Hall, and quite a surprising number of pretty dresses add to the delights of the programme of mysteries.

C. Tamamoto wears a simple and beautiful Japanese costume of vivid red and bright golden satin, embroidered with a design of many colours, and black boots. Miss Dora Devant has given up the witch-like black robe, encircled by a huge green snake, in which she used to assist her brother in "Mental Magnetism," in favour of an evening dress of rose-pink silk, covered with D'Alençon lace. The gipsy (Miss Helen McCulloch) in *The Enchanted Hive* wears a poppy-coloured short dress, with a black velvet Swiss belt, and strings of bright beads round her neck. Miss Cassie Bruce, the heroine of the perplexing playlet, looks very pretty in a spotted muslin frock with a big white hat, trimmed with full-blown pink roses. Mr. Nelson Hardy, whose ventriloquial sketch is always encored, appears à la Arthur Roberts, in scarlet coat and black satin knee breeches, and he works with a smart little figure dressed as a Pierrot.

PROPRIETORS of circuses, menageries, cinématograph exhibitions, portable theatres, marionettes, ghost illusions, &c., should take note of Astwood Bank, Studley, Feckenham, and other villages in the needle district.

SHOWMEN IN COUNCIL.

MEETING AT AGRICULTURAL HALL.

Lord George Sanger presided over a meeting of the Showmen's Guild held at the Agricultural Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Among the vice-presidents who attended were Messrs. E. T. Read, J. W. Bostock (U.S.A.), P. Collins (Walsall), F. Turner (London), T. Harniess (Rotherham), Tom Norman (London), Jacob Studt (Gloucester), John Studt (Wales), Wm. Toft, D. Turnbull (Belfast), and W. H. Marshall (Bradford). Others present were the Rev. T. Horne (chaplain), T. Hurst (honorary secretary), Wm. Bedford, J. B. Butlin, J. Chittock, W. Mitchell, Jem Mace, Harry Hughes, Sydney Braham, T. Smith (Great Central Railway), J. Hastings, Edmund Holland, Ed. Lawrence, G. Marshall, W. H. Marshall, J. Monte, H. R. Hibbert, Geo. Gray, T. Burgin, Wm. Le Neve, S. D. Mellor (Oldham), Frank Mellor, Marshall Hill (Dursley), W. Taylor (London), John Toft (Dublin), Chas. Whiting (Norwich), W. Storey (London), Alf. Smith (Peckham), and Harry Powell, jun. (London).

The CHAIRMAN, who, on rising, was received with enthusiastic cheers, made a touching reference to the death of Mr. Theophilus Read. He thought that those who were present at the reading of the service for the dead must have been very much impressed with the quality of the Rev. T. Horne's rendering of the sacred lines. No doubt Mr. Horne would be pleased to comment upon the loss the profession had sustained in the passing away of Mr. Read, and they would all extend their sympathy to the family.

The REV T. HORNE said: I move, sir, that this meeting of showmen and showwomen, representing the itinerant entertainers of the Empire, express their deepest sympathy with Mrs. Read and her family in the sad and sudden bereavement which has fallen upon them. I ask that you pass in solemn silence this vote of condolence. I have been asked by young Mr. Read to answer for him. He cannot trust himself to speak so near to the sad event this vote is referring to. He wishes me to express for him and his mother and his own wife and children their great gratitude to you, especially to those friends in all parts of the Empire who have written or wired their expressions of sympathy. I had the privilege, as chaplain of this organisation, to minister very closely to our dear brother Read within a very few days of his sudden decease. I am asked by Mr. Read, who now remains the last of the Reads, to assure his showmen friends and comrades that the World's Fair will be perpetuated as one of the great institutions of entertainment in London, and that he hopes to carry on with a similar measure of success the great enterprise initiated by his father and by the late Frank Bailey under the dome of this great hall. I am sure you will join with me in expressing our sympathy, and also accept from me Mr. Read's expression of thanks.

The CHAIRMAN: The Rev. Mr. Horne has just delivered a very brief but a very fine address. As you know, I have announced that I must reluctantly take my leave of you as far as the presidentship of this Association of Van-dwellers. In doing so, I cannot help contrasting the position of the showmen of to-day with the showmen of my early days, who

the drink! Having made use of that awful expression, "Damn the drink!" there is another thing I would like to say. After the drink comes blasphemy. Loud and rebellious speaking mars a man. It isn't what you mean, it is what you say. You should avoid blasphemous expressions wherever you are, for you never know whether you are overheard by ladies and children. A man who was heard to swear a second time in my show was given his money, and told to go about his business. How much that inconvenienced me with my arrangements it mattered not. It was such a system that permitted me to keep my show on the road for fifty-two years. In concluding let me say that I thank you very heartily for the great honour you have done me for so many years.

The Rev. T. Horne said: I want to impress upon your minds, and upon the minds of those good people at this table, what our dear president has said. His remarks come to us with all the prophetical fervour that marks the man in the sunset of life. I feel that every word he has said is true of a certain section of our people. I thank God, however, that as a class you are not more tinged with the vices of our lop-sided social system than other classes. Now, sir, I am going to perform a duty which affords the greatest possible delight to me. This man of many surprises is going to receive a surprise himself. We have a surprise packet for Lord George Sanger, our honoured president. We dared not tell him this, because he would have forbidden the banns, as they say in holy church. He would not have allowed it. But you know that the strongest man in the world is at the mercy of his best friends, and the strongest man in the room to-day is at the mercy for a few minutes of the executive council and committee. The showmen of Great Britain and the Empire testify in these words their sense of the unique position in English life which George Sanger has achieved by the force and power of his own sterling qualities. These are the words which this illuminated address bears:—

UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.
The Showmen's Guild,
(Founded in 1890.)

Presented to Lord George Sanger, President of the Guild, the doyen of the Circus world, and Father of the Road:

We feel that your retirement into private life should be marked by some expression of the esteem and regard in which you are held by the whole showman world.

We, who have been privileged to work with you for many years past in the strenuous endeavours for the betterment and uplifting of the profession your arduous life and signal ability have adorned for a lifetime, blessed and prospered beyond the allotted span, desire to place on record our sincere heartfelt appreciation of your generous support, unsparing toil, and sacrifice for the poorer brethren of the road, and for the interests, socially and morally, of the men and women of the fair ground.

May God's bountiful blessings be showered upon you in the declining years of a well-spent life.

That is the wish of thousands of friends and admirers in whose name we, the signatories to this testimonial, speak.

T. HORNE (London), Hon. Chaplain.
M. MITCHELL (Heywood), Hon. Treasurer.
THOS. HURST (Manchester), Hon. Secretary.

Then follow the names of the whole of the working members of the Showman's Guild, its council and executive committee.

I will ask (continued Mr. Horne) the "Roosevelt of the road," Mr. Tom Hurst, to hand this very humble and simple tribute to the President.

After Mr. Hurst had performed this pleasing little ceremony, Mr. Horne stated that the address was the gift of the Guild, and that the people of the road had not been asked for one penny's subscription towards it, knowing as they all did Mr. Sanger would not accept presents.

Mr. Muskerry Tilson stated that he had had the honour and pleasure of serving under Lord George Sanger for many years, and Lord George was one of his earliest recollections as a child. He (the speaker) had been in many lands, and there was not one in which the name of Sanger was not respected. A better or a straighter man, or one who had done more good in the profession, never lived. They would never see his like again.

The Chairman: I have had to tackle a great many things in my time, and I thought myself capable of giving a fair encounter, but this last act of your favour has taken me quite a-back. I pledge you upon my word of honour that I knew nothing about it. I was written to in regard to a testimonial from the Guild, but I refused it. However, this testimonial will be more dear to me than most things I have received, because it comes from those men with whom I have mingled for some years now, and the expressions figured on the parchment will go with me to my grave. Of course, that time cannot be very long now. The number won't be long before it is up. George will go to his grave and some other bloke will take his place. I thank you all, and may the great God bless you.

The Rev. Howard Swinstead, one of the honorary chaplains, said that the meeting recalled a good deal of the early history of the Showman's Guild, which he considered a very great organisation. Although they had been out of his sight they had not been out of his mind. He thought showmen had had a lot to contend with in the prejudice of the general public, but the progress made by the Guild and the admirable work done by its excellent chaplain, the Rev. Thomas Horne, was gradually wearing down the unreasoning attitude of the lay mind. He had trained showmen's children as well as the sons of noblemen, and the Romany youngsters had turned out satisfactory students. The hope of their future was in the careful handling of their children, and the more the older members of the profession encouraged judicious training the better it would be for the profession, for their prospects in this life and their prospects in the life to come. He wished his hearers continued success and happiness.

Mr. Read, speaking for the Parliamentary agent, F. Millar, Esq., said: I will make a reference to the great success which was achieved with the Acton Bill in 1904. The victory that was then gained was, I may say, a very unusual one, and it has certainly been of great advantage to your Association. Up to that time it had been the practice of certain promoters of private Bills to put in a clause which would place the regulations of shows entirely in the hands of the local authorities, especially in respect of the closing hour, giving them power to fix such times and to make regulations for preserving order. These Bills were opposed regularly by your Association every year, and they were always defeated. It was a pure farce putting them in, and they were struck out as a matter of course. That has been going on for several years, and might have gone on I don't know how many more years. At last it was decided to make a bold move, which turned out successful. We asked for costs on the last occasion. That is a very unusual thing in Parliamentary proceedings. In fact, for centuries there was no power whatever to give costs for Parliamentary proceedings At last it was decided that costs could be given if it was found unanimously by the Committee that the proceedings were of a vexatious character. It was decided on the Acton Bill that costs should be asked for, and Counsel representing the Guild rose after the Committee had heard the case, and, to the infinite astonishment of the other side, asked for costs. The Committee did give costs, and the chairman, a man of great experience, said it was the only occasion he could remember in which costs had been allowed. The result was that nearly the whole of the costs were borne by the Acton Urban District Council, and I hope that the ratepayers liked it. The effect of that was that the case instantly dropped, and in 1905 the clause was entirely omitted. In the Bills for 1906 none of those old clauses have turned up, and I do not know that there is anything very serious beyond what is being put in the Bill of the Pontefract Corporation. It appears to me that some clauses in that particular Bill must be got rid of somehow. The main clause practically declares that if a man has a stretch of private property which he thinks is suitable for the setting up of roundabouts he is not to be allowed to let it be used in that way. If he hold, or permit to be held, on that ground any market or fair he is to be liable to a penalty, for every day, not exceeding £5. That is to say, the whole business of the place is to be thrown into the hands of the Corporation. That is the kind of thing you have to face in Pontefract, and in dealing with this clause there is no chance whatever of getting costs. The costs were given in the Acton case because of the persistency with which the unfair clause was forced in year after year when it ought to have been known that it could not be passed. This Pontefract clause is on quite a different footing. Clauses of this kind have been passed and some have been rejected, but whether passed or rejected it cannot be said that there has been any vexatious proceedings. I would point out that private Bills are not affected by the change of Government.

The Rev. T. Horne said: I want to impress upon you the importance of renewing your subscription, and in every possible case of increasing it. You are face to face with a very serious crisis in your history as tradespeople travelling from fair to fair. Your business is threatened from two

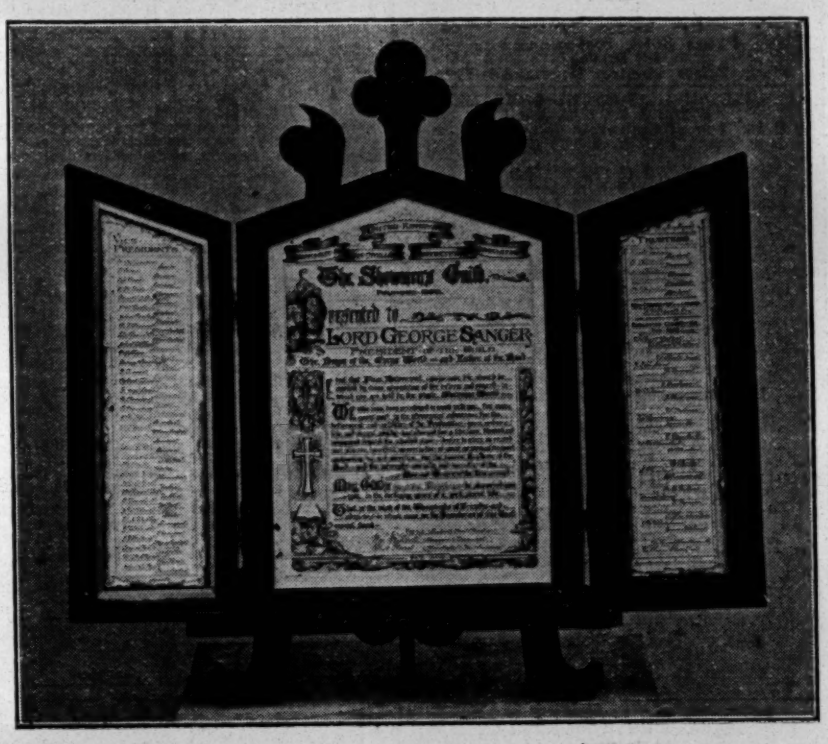

Photo by Hana.

ILLUMINATED ADDRESS TO LORD GEORGE SANGER FROM THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

serious quarters. You are threatened by by-laws, and you are threatened by private Bill legislation—threatened by by-laws which, as far as we can, we watch very carefully, and in every possible instance we oppose, in most cases with success. If you come across notices of by-laws or notices of private Bills in local papers, take the trouble of buying a copy of the paper and simply addressing it to me, care of *The Era*, London. You must take that trouble if you are to preserve your business and the interests of your fellow-travellers. Now, in regard to Parliamentary work, that means money, and you have got to find it. I find all the brains I have got, but I cannot find the money, so put your hands in your pockets and bring out the money. You have had a magnificent lead for years and years from the dear, good man in the chair, and you have got to follow that lead. It is your bounden duty. The Parliamentary agent has read to you from the Bill regarding Pontefract. It cost us between £300 and £400 to knock out the clause from the Halifax Bill. We have got to keep on with this work. At the end of this meeting, come forward to add to this list of donations—Lord George Sanger, £100; Chas. Birrell and Sons, £5; balance of Bolton Ball, £22 14s. 8d.; Mr. Tom Norman, £2 2s.; Mr. Tidman, £5 5s.. We want your intelligent minds as well as your money. Three petitions were got up against the London County Council for the purpose of enabling you to take your vans to Hampstead Heath. The Council were approached, and they expressed themselves willing to see a deputation of eight people. Now, London showmen, what happened? You ought to have been able to take eighty to show them what a determined and solid body of men you are. On the day of the deputation one showman appeared. The solicitor of the Guild was there to introduce the deputation, limited to eight persons, and one faithful soul turned up. It would have been far better not to have had those petitions and deputation, for our overtures were rejected. There ought to have been eight inside and eighty outside. Now I want to say a word about the work of the Guild. I have myself visited over one hundred fairs, feasts, and wakes in England during the past twelve months. I have attended to the business of this Guild and corresponded with over 1,000 people. I have conducted services on the fair-ground, in the show-booths; I have corresponded with the local clergy in regard to receiving your children in their Sunday schools and their day schools. I have corresponded with important Corporations who wanted to inflict upon you unjust by-laws and regulations, among them being the London County Council, and the Corporations of Wigan, Blackburn, Whitchurch, and Southend-on-Sea. We have endeavoured by every means in our power to further your interests. What we now want to do is to make this Guild so strong that when we petition Parliament, or when we write to a powerful Corporation, they will know that behind that petition or that letter stands an industry in which is invested millions of money, and in which directly there are interested seventy thousand people, and indirectly there are interested many important and thriving industries employing their thousands of daily workers. Such, then, briefly, is the report of the work.

Mr. Fred Bibby, of Manchester, stated that he had been a public entertainer from the age of four. They belonged to one of the most ancient callings there was in these isles. The itinerant showman dated back his history hundreds of years. The showman of to-day had strength, right, and justice at his back, and so long as he conducted his business in a legitimate manner there would be no lack of supporters. He begged to propose a vote of thanks to their worthy and esteemed old friend, Lord George Sanger, for presiding at that meeting, and he coupled with the vote the name of their dear friend, Mr. Read, who had kindly granted them the privilege of using the room for their meeting at the Agricultural Hall.

The Rev. T. Horne stated that he was requested to answer for Mr. Read, who would at all times be pleased to do what he could in the interests of the Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association.

Lord George Sanger: On my part, I think I had better help myself, because I'm a dear lover of myself. Now I want to look after our worthy chaplain here, the Rev. Horne. He's a plucky 'un. If Mr. Horne would take off his coat and go to the end of the hall, where there are six robust bruisers, he could slog the lot of them. As far as I am concerned, I thank you for your many favours.

Mr. Horne remarked that he would like to inform their dear President, Lord George Sanger, of the unalterable determination of the Showmen's Guild that, as long as he lived, they would refuse to nominate or elect any other man to be President. They would not force it upon him as a duty that he must attend or do anything. His honest name, his magnificent reputation, and sterling character were the most valuable assets that the Guild possessed, and they would be very sorry as men of business if they parted with such valuable assets. Mr. Sanger would remain to the end of the chapter—and might it be a very long chapter—the one and only possible President of the Showmen's Guild.

The Chairman replied that it was very kind of Mr. Horne to shower upon him these compliments. Upon second thoughts he would give further attention to the subject of retaining his position as President, but his continuing in office would solely depend upon themselves. If he saw that there was, among seventy thousand toiling creatures, enough pluck, enough energy, and enough liberality to put their hands into their pockets, he might be inclined to reconsider the matter. Mr. Sanger then formally announced the meeting to be at an end.

GUILD SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1906.

	£	s.	d.
Lord George Sanger	100	0	0
Proceeds of Bolton Ball, per R. Pike, Esq.	22	14	8
Messrs. R. and T. Tidman, Norwich	5	5	0
C. Burrell and Son, Ltd., Thetford	5	0	0
T. Norman, Esq.	2	2	0
J. W. Bostock, Esq.	2	2	0
Toft and Turnbull	2	2	0
John Studt, Esq.	2	2	0
Hastings and Whayman	2	0	0
Per Messrs. Bedford and Forrest	1	4	6
J. Wentworth, Esq.	1	1	0
Marenghi et Cie	1	1	0
Goldthorpe Marshall, Esq.	1	1	0
E. Lawrence, Esq.	1	0	0
Monte Bros.	1	0	0
A. Gledstone, Esq.	1	0	0
T. Harniess, Esq	1	0	0
Marshall Hill, Esq.	1	0	0
Fred Grey, Esq.	1	0	0
J. Butlin, Esq.	0	10	6
T. Burgin, Esq.	0	10	6
Harry Cox, Esq.	0	10	6
W. Fisher, Esq.	0	7	6
H. Forrest, Esq.	0	5	0
G. A. Howden, Esq.	0	5	0
T. Stone, Esq.	0	5	0
Mrs. Andrews	0	5	0
Wm. Biddall, Esq.	0	5	0
D. Stevens, Esq.	0	5	0
Per Frank Turner, Eso.			
T. E. Read, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. J. Pettigrove	1	1	0
Frank Turner, Esq.	1	1	0
W. Le Neve, Esq.	0	10	6
J. Manders, Esq.	0	10	6
Swales Forrect, Esq.	0	10	6
Geo. Beach, Esq.	0	10	6
Wm. Beach, Esq.	0	10	6
Minerva Automatic Co.	0	10	0
Mrs. Traylen	0	5	0
James Edwards, Esq.	0	5	0
Sidney Braham, Esq.	0	5	0
J. Westray, Esq.	0	5	0
R. Forrest, Esq.	0	5	0
C. Andrews, Esq.	0	5	0
C. Hyatt, Esq.	0	5	0
John Searle	0	5	0

When the hon. chaplain announced the determination of the executive council not to elect any other man as president during George Sanger's lifetime (and long may he live!), there was a burst of applause such as is seldom heard even at the most enthusiastic of public meetings. That applause was again and again renewed when the honoured president said that he would, under the extraordinary pressure placed upon him, reconsider his determination to resign, but—and here was the testing condition of their earnestness in the cause of showmen defence and progress—it would entirely depend upon his hearers—the men and women of the road. It would depend upon the hearty and generous support they gave to the funds of the society.

It will be seen from the above list of subscriptions that the general body of showmen do realise the duty impressed upon them at the meeting—the subscriptions taken and the new members enrolled far exceed any previous year of the guild's existence.

The call of the president and the executive council was most cordially responded to, and the greatest hopes are entertained that 1906 will mark the beginning of a still more successful and prosperous epoch in the world of shows than any that has gone before.

The committee of the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union was busily engaged in conference upon important matters after the Guild public meeting terminated. That gathering of the Union was immediately succeeded by an open committee meeting of the Showmen's Guild to discuss London and district questions only. Satisfactory arrangements were concluded, whereby the London show people may have greater business advantages, and, if necessary, legal advice under the direction of the Guild officials. The gratifying result of this open committee, and full and frank discussion, was that a large number of new members were enrolled, and a new impetus given to the work of the Guild in the Metropolitan district.

The following prominent London showmen were added to the committee: Mr. Alf. Ball, Mr. Fred Grey, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. Swales Forrest, and Mr. Beach. These gentlemen, with Messrs. H. and C. Thurston, Frank Turner, Wm. Bedford, and the Rev. T. Horne, will constitute the London and District sub-committee for urgent business.

After the above meeting, yet another committee met, and with the expert advice of the Parliamentary solicitor, discussed the Parliamentary work in the forthcoming session of the new House of Commons.

The Private Bills of Pontefract, Todmorden, Newport (Mon.), Wallasey (Birkenhead), and the Middlesex County Council were examined, and action concerning Pontefract, Middlesex, and Wallasey determined upon.

The Sanger illuminated address may be seen at *The Era* offices during the coming week.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

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List of Fairs, Feasts, and Wakes in Great Britain in the Month of February, 1906.

Feb	
2	Reading
3	Nantwich
5	Kineton
13	Beaconsfield
13	Harrogate
14	King's Lynn
14	Dorchester
27	Lichfield
27	Longton
28	Bildesden
28	Tetbury

Reading is a great railway centre, and is accessible from all parts of the kingdom, the Great Western, South Western, and South Eastern each having a station in the town. A Charter of Incorporation was granted by Henry III. under its old place-name, "Redinge," and historically it teems with interest. The more modern development and trade enterprise make a good centre for private business at other than Fair times. The chief trades and industries give employment to 72,000 workers, and there is a big influx of country folk on market day from the agricultural belt around the borough. There are iron foundries, locomotive engine and electrical plant works, and the world-famed Huntley and Palmer's biscuit works. The fairs and markets are under Corporation control. The market days are Saturday and Monday. Mr. George Steed is a great friend of showmen, and always ready to further their interests in every possible way. Showmen wishing to take Reading should write to Mr. Steed, toll collector, Reading Market Offices.

P. Collins, Ltd., advertise in our columns their excellent spring round of fairs, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Longton, with alternate fixtures for Shrovetide at Lichfield and Oswestry; continuous run thence in the Black Country right up to Easter, when the company provide fair-grounds at London, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Birkenhead. The round with the company then give Bromsgrove, Worcester and Birmingham May Fair. We place this round before our showman readers with every confidence. See it as advertised.

Redditch is an important and busy town in Worcestershire. It is 120 miles from London, thirteen miles from Birmingham, six from Bromsgrove, and sixteen from Evesham. There are several industries in the town, viz., cycles, needles, pins, fishing tackle, &c. It has a station on the Midland Railway. Several large villages are in the neighbourhood, including Astwood Bank, Alvechurch, and Studley. Headless Cross is an important village one mile from Redditch, and is noted for its annual pleasure fair in July, called the Cherry Wakes. No portable theatre has visited Redditch for some time.

A grand Trades Exhibition is now paying a visit to the Town Hall, Evesham. The attractions are the Flying Lady, Madame Montague, the well-known palmist, and Mabel Lucie Strebelle's celebrated orchestra. Prof. G. Washington Kidd gave a grand variety entertainment in the town. It consisted of limelight views of Egypt and the Nile, some card tricks, thought reading, &c

At the Music Hall, Shrewsbury, Joshua Dyson's Gipsy Choir and Dioramas has been giving some first-class entertainments.

Mr. W. H. Fountain gave some lantern slides, consisting of South African views, at Astwood Bank.

Pleasure Fairs on the Midland Round.

Mar. 31.—Stourbridge, Worcestershire.		
Apl. 16.—Malvern Link,	,,	
,, 16.—Abberley Valley	,,	
,, 16.—Evesham	,,	
,, 16 and 17.—Halesowen	,,	
,, 23.—Bewdley	,,	
May 1.—Tenbury	,,	

Showmen and others should take note of Evesham on Easter Monday, April 16. Ground can be had at the Fleece Meadow, on the banks of the River Avon, opposite the Workman Pleasure Gardens. The fair is open to all comers. Excursion trains run from Birmingham and Redditch. Evesham is a municipal borough union and market town, on the navigable River Avon, ninety-eight miles from London, twenty-nine miles from Birmingham, fourteen from Worcester, and sixteen from Redditch. It has two railways—the Midland and Great Western. Market gardening and fruit growing is the principal industry.

Hancock's Winter Gardens, Plymouth, are being well patronised, and a good variety programme is supplied by Miss B. Stewart, Miss A. Wilson, Messrs. O'Riley, and G. Ogden. The living pictures portray the tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales in India. To the local Bench this week Messrs. Hancock applied for a singing, music, and dancing licence, and the Chief-Constable did not object, remarking that the order preserved in the gardens was everything that could be desired. The Bench granted a licence for singing and music, but not for dancing.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 26, April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 19, March 19, April 2, 9, 16, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7, Race Week, 14, 28, June 4, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 26, March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16, May 7 on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, May 14, 28, June 4.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 9, 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Vacant
Feb. 5, 19, 26,
March 5, 12, 19, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for LEAMINGTON, Feb. 5, 15 (3 nights each), 19, 26, on. READING, Feb. 19, March 19, April 2, 9, 16, on. Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
March 19, April 2, Aug. 6, 13, 20.
Apply, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomimes for Xmas next, two and three weeks. Please state where can be seen and subject. Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, Walter Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 7, 14, 21, June 25, July 9, 23, 30, Aug. 27.
Address,
Sidney Bacon, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16, Feb. 15 (3 nights, Bedford only), Feb. 19 (3 nights Bedford, 3 nights Luton).
Address,
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, Feb. 15 (three nights), Bedford; Feb. 19 (three nights Bedford, three nights Luton). Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime Company, Feb. 26.
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas.
WANTED, Pantomime, Feb. 19, Musical Attraction, May 7. Add., Herbert Vere

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Companies, April 2, 16 (Easter Week), and 30,
Share or Certainty,
Address,
Lingford Carson.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Attractions, for the following dates:
May 28, June 4, only Vacant Dates until Autumn.
Address, Lingford Carson,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomime, for Xmas, 1906-7. State where can be seen. Musical Attraction, April 2 (Race Week); also First-Class Companies, April 30, May 7, June, 4, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON.
Easter Week, April 16, unexpectedly Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Musical preferred; also Mar. 19. Add., Lawson Lambert.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT,
and
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 9, 23, and 30. Address, Charles Revill, Stockport.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Good Attractions, March 19, March 29 (3 nights) (?), May 14, 28, June 4 (?), 11, also Aug. 20, on. Address, Frank King.
Silence polite negative.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
March 5 and 12,
June 4 (Whit Week).
Apply, John Hart,
Theatre Royal, Bradford.

Trying to Oblige.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction, for Feb. 12.
Communications to Frank Bateman,
King's Theatre, Cardiff.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Panto., Musical Comedy, Opera, or First-class Dramas, Jan. 29, Feb. 19, 26, March 12, 26, and onwards. No prepaid wires.
E. H. Page.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD, E.
Feb. 19 Vacant.
WANTED, Strong, First-class Company, for the above date.
Fred Fredericks.

WANTED, Strong Attractions, Palace Theatre, Newcastle, April 9 (five nights), May 21 and 28, also June 11 and 18.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Big Attractions, April 9, May 21, 28, and June 6.
Address, Mark H. Lindon.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, for the Premier Dramatic Theatre of Wales, Vacant April 2 (?), 9, 23, 30, May 14, 21, 28, and on, with exceptions. Communications to Frank Bateman, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, Good Drawing Attractions, for April and May, for Theatres Royal, Aston, Smethwick, and Chatham. The Bigger the Attraction the Better. Generous terms given. Barnard, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
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Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant Feb. 12, May 21, June 4, 18.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 5, 26, March 5, 12, 19.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant March 5, 19, 26, April 2.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant Feb. 5 (three nights), 12, 19, 26.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Feb. 8 (three nights), 22 (three nights), 26 (three nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 9, 23, 30, May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 12, 26, March 5.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 5, 26, March 19 (three nights), 26.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5 (three nights), 12, Mar 26

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 19.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 5, April 2.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies Only, PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
March 8 (3 nights), 26, April 30, May 7, 21, June 4 to July 9.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 5 (3 nights), 12, April 9, May 7, 28, June 11, 18.
Coms., H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
March 5, 26,
April 2, 9, and 23.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Comedy or Musical Play, April 23 or 30, to finish Season; certainty preferred.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
Vacant March 12 and 26; last three days only.
SPA THEATRE, WHITBY.
Wanted, Good Companies, from July to September.
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Opera House, Londonderry.

THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 19, April 2.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Feb. 26, March 19, 26, April 16 (Easter), 23, 30, May 7, 28, June 4 (Whit Week).

Silence in all cases a polite negative.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 12, 26, April 9, April 23, 30,
May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, Feb. 26, March 5, 26, and on. First-class Attraction wanted for reopening date, Aug. 13. Dumfries, Vacant March 5, on. Address, W. E. POTTS, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, 29 (3 or 6 nights), Feb. 5 (3 or 6). Wire, W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 12 (Vacant through Disappointment), Feb. 19, and 26. Apply, H. A. JORDISON, St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.
WANTED, Wanted, Company, Feb. 26
and March 12.
Apply, FRED MORGAN, as above.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.
WANTED, Important Attraction for Feb. 5, unexpectedly vacant through obliging a Manager. Wire to GEO. CONQUEST.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Feb. 19, 26, March 5 and 19. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Pantos., Big Attractions, Feb. 26. March 12, 26. Grand, Chorley; also March 5, 19, 26 Grand, Radcliffe. Good Pantomimes sure Winners. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

GLOBE THEATRE, DEAL.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Musical preferred, March 15, April 5, onwards (three nights. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 1 (3 nights), Feb. 8 (3 nights), Feb. 12 (6 nights), and on. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinematograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 12, 19, April 9, 16, 23.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 12, 19, 26, on.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
April 23, 30, May 7, 14, on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

LYCEUM THEATRE,
WELLINGTON-STREET, STRAND.
WANTED, a Pantomime, to commence Monday, Feb. 5, '06.
Apply by letter only to
THOS. BARRASFORD,
11, Leicester-place, London, W.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND, the Home of Pantomime.

Wanted, for Above, a First-class Pantomime, commencing Feb. 5, to follow J. F. Elliston's Gigantic Success "Cinderella"; must have been produced this Xmas, at a No. 1 Theatre, and have Proved a Success.
Reliable Managers Only need apply to
CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE,
Vacant March 19, 26, April 9, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
Vacant April 9, May 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 26, April 9, 16.
Address,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

GRAND THEATRE,
SWANSEA.

WANTED First-class Company, for
Three Nights,
Feb. 22, 23, and 24.
Feb. 22, 23, and 24.
Feb. 22, 23, and 24.

Apply,
E. OSWALD BROOKS.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 12, and onwards, with exceptions. Required, Strong Attraction for Easter, April 12 Musical Preferred.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 30 (?), May 28, and June 4, Whit Week.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, March 5, Sunday, onwards. See "Provincial Theatres" Page.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Batley.

RAMSGATE THEATRE
(The Amphitheatre).
LORD GEORGE SANGER, Sole Proprietor.
Manager, HENRY BOWMAN.
WANTED, No. 1 Attractions, for next Season. Bookings and Pencillings include: "The Earl and the Girl," "Freedom of Suzanne," "The White Chrysanthemum," "Walls of Jericho," "The Blue Moon," "The Prince of Pilsen," George DANCE'S Co.'s, Charles Macdona's Co.'s, Marie Hall, and all the recognised Touring Successes.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, as above.

NEW COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Musical preferred, Feb. 12, on. Companies Touring Wales book above Hall. PHILLIPS.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Feb. 19.
Address, RICH. WALDON, as above.

WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 5, onwards, Good Companies Good Paying Business. Splendid Stock Scenery. Wire, MANAGER, New Theatre, Musselburgh, Scotland.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12 (three nights each). W. PAYNE.

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, SCUNTHORPE.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, 3 nights, Feb. 8, 22. CONNOLLY.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 12, March 12, 19.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 5, March 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, March 5, April 2, Aug. 6.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
Fredk. Melville's New Production.
WANTED, Important Theatre, Aug. 13,
FREDK. MELVILLE,
14. Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 16, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
by Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 12. WALTER MELVILLE, Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH,"
by Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 5. WALTER MELVILLE, Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatre, April 2.
April 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE,
"Bruges," Willow-av., Edgbaston, Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, May 21, 28.
"THE SAILORS OF THE KING,"
Feb. 26, March 12, 19, on.

CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Theatre Royal, Darlington.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, March 26, between Swansea and Swindon, only vacant date. CHALMERS MACKEY, this, Queen's Theatre, Keighley; Jan. 29, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Six Nights.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 23 and 30.
J. W. CORDINER,
Spennymoor.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Feb. 5 (through breach of contract).
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexborough.

THEATRES WANTED.

Pantomime.
Pantomime.
Pantomime.
Pantomime.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

Written by Victor Stevens.
Fourteenth season of this version.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 12, onwards, to follow Palace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Acknowledged by Managers, Press and Public to be one of the brightest and funniest pantomimes in Town this past Christmas, when performed at the Royal West London Theatre

Mr. William Bailey and Mr. Geo. Conquest, both pantomime experts, pronounce it a "money-maker" anywhere, and have ratified former verdicts given at Clapham, Dalston, Ealing (three times), Birmingham (three times), Newcastle-on-Tyne, Edinburgh, Portsmouth, York, Leeds, Richmond, Cheltenham, &c., &c.

Company includes
Chas. Gardiner, Chas. Lilburn, Henry de Solla, Philip Sefton, Fred Hutchings, Geo. Elliston, Lily Stewart, Ethel Morden, little Vera Sanders, Marie Beaufort, Louie Hurman, The American Belles, and The Maples (from Alhambra).

Can arrange Christmas 1906-7
Also open to let Book and Music.

Address,
GEO. BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Palace Hotel, Southend-on-Sea, till Sunday;
after, Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID!"
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
Miss DORA PRICE as "THE WOMAN."

WANTED, Feb. 1 (3 nights), Feb. 5 (3 nights, precede Crewe), Feb. 19 (follow Shrewsbury), Feb. 26, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Feb. 1. Printing and Agent ready.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
This and next week, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for
James Kiddie's
James Kiddie's
Colossal, Gorgeous Pantomime,
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
Vacant Feb. 19,
between Birmingham and Liverpool.
Wire,
THOS. SWINTON,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Important Theatres, for following:
"ALADDIN,"
Vacant for next Xmas Season.
Managers can see it at Victoria, Burnley.
An Expensive but Magnificent Pantomime.
A Production. A Company of Artists.
One that a Local Manager can be Proud of.
"THE MIDNIGHT MAIL,"
March 26, May 7, and Aug. Bank Holiday.
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH,"
New Year's Week, onwards.
"A CITY OF SIN,"
Sept. 17, onwards, with exceptions.
MISS MAUD HILDYARD,
April 16, 23, 30, Aug. Bank Holiday.
Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S TOURS.
The Great Oriental Production,
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 12. Easter.
Wire, Hippodrome, St. Helens.
Letters, GRAND, STOCKTON.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 5 (3 nights), to precede Grantham; March 12, to follow third visit to Stratford.
Wire for Feb. 5 (3 nights),
CHAS. M. JULIAN,
To-day, T. R., Hyde;
next week, R. T., Morecambe.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Moneymaking Attraction, Feb. 5, Wire Radcliffe for Feb. 5, March 12 and 19, Midlands.
Autumn fast filling. Wanted, Oct. 1, 29, Lancs.
25th Week of Present Tour.
FRANK AYRTON, Pavilion Theatre, Altrincham.

Mr. CHARLES PRICE presents an entirely New and Original Musical Farcical Comedy,
"THE SHOP BOY,"
Exceptionally Strong Company, including the well-known London Comedian, Mr. HARRY PLEON, fresh from his Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, Pantomime Triumphs. Full Cast on application.
WANTED, Feb. 12 and 26, Feb. 12 and 26, Feb. 12 and 26. Wire. Wire. Wire. Also various dates, onward. CHAS. PRICE, 27, Cavendish-street, Ramsgate. Telegraphic address: "Seaside, Ramsgate." Telephone, 16 Y.

"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's Co., including Miss Sidney Crowe.
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 5 (North). This, T. R., Jarrow; next, Paisley T., N.B.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, March 5, 12,
SIDNEY DENCH, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, April 2, 16, 30, a High-class Drama.
W. J. MILLER, Empire T., Cradley Heath.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Feb. 5, and Easter, Fifth Year of Tour.
Also "THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Either or both Plays.
Wire, to-day, LOIE ESMOND, T. R., Leicester (return); Jan. 29, St. James's T., Manchester (third visit).

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 12 and 26.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
Jan. 29, T. R., Stratford, E.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN,"
the Dramatic Mascot, Holds its Own in spite of Political Meetings.
Enthusiastic reception here, refer C. W. Poole, Esq.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Feb. 26 (South), Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 19, Dec. 31.
SANTE, T. R., Gloucester; Grand, Plymouth.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for Miss Maud Hildyard, in "The Great Awakening," Easter week, April 23 and 30, August Bank Holiday, onwards, with exceptions. Mr. ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

Mr. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S TOUR.
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Vacant March 19, April 9, now Booking Autumn. Everything new, everything carried, everything good. LEWIS GILBERT, T. R., Hyde, Lancs.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 19, 26, April 2, 9. FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexborough.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, Feb. 5, Feb. 5.
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexboro'.

"THE CURATE."
WANTED, Feb. 5, 19, March 19.
Wire for Feb. 5.
Address, WHITMORE LEDGER,
To-day, T. R., Loughboro'; next, T. R., Gloucester.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES, LTD.
WANTED, "The Eternal City," Good Theatres, Feb. 19 (?), and April 2;
"Oliver Twist," April 2 to follow Middlesbrough;
"Florodora," April 2, to precede Glasgow.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 19, 26, and March 5.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
A Success.
A Success.
A Strong Play, Full of Powerful and Natural Situations.
Holds the Audience from the Rise to Fall of Curtain.
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
Brilliantly Played by a First-class Cast.
Magnificently Dressed, Splendidly Mounted, Vacant
March 19, April 9, 16 (?), 23.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
Feb. 12, Feb. 12, Feb. 12, March 5, 12, April 16.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Dates, for
Mr. Leigh Lovel,
Miss Octavia Kenmore and Company, in
"THE DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE."

One of the few First-class Companies which have been able to keep Continuously on the road. Several Spring Dates open.

"SOWING THE WIND."
A most Favourable Reception has been accorded to the Revival of this Powerful Play.

"IN THE SOUP."
(By arrangement with Mrs. Lumley.)
One of the Funniest Farces ever written.

Spring Dates Open.
Address, 29th, Court Theatre, Galway.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
An Artistic, Established, and Popular Success.
A Really Remarkable and Powerful Attraction.
Managers Note.—Third visit to Manchester within eight months, and the last visit a record.
WANTED, Feb. 19, to follow Dublin; Feb. 26, March 5, Easter, and Whitsun, onwards, with exceptions.
J. H. CLYNDES, Prince of Wales's T., Salford.

ROBERT PERRIS'S PRODUCTION.
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5, Feb. 5,
Agent and Printing Ready.
Illustrated Songs.
Wire, Marina, Lowestoft.
Next King's, Nottingham.

"PUSS IN BOOTS."
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
On Feb. 5 a run of the above Pantomime could be arranged after the six weeks' production at this theatre.
WANTED, First-class Theatre.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4. Broad Court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

"THE BABES AND ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19,
The Record Success at Nottingham for Years.
Company includes:—
Misses Sophie Harriss, Lulu Evans, Four Trees, Sisters Phillips, Messrs. J. T. Macmillan, F. S. Gilbert, W. Rokeby. Fred Rolph, Tim Ryley, Brothers Lorenzi.

Wire,
MONTEFIORE, Edinburgh.

"CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26,
The Successful Pantomime that drew £709 10s. 2d. at Govan. Company includes:—
Misses Georgina Leonard, Nellie Merton, Adele Lincoln, Vera Schlesinger, Messrs. Fred Lincoln, Arthur Byron, George Antley, George W. Traverner, Morris Holmes, Messrs. Conan and Doyle.

Wire,
MONTEFIORE, Edinburgh.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, March 5, April 16,

No greater Success Touring.
Miss Annie Bell as Fanny Le Grande.
Wire for March 5, Wire.

JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

JOHN TULLY'S "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Feb. 12 and 19,
for this truly Remarkable Revival.
Address,
JOHN TULLY, Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19,
onwards.
Wire, Lister-road, Liverpool.

WANTED,
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN,"
The Successful Musical Comedy,
Feb. 19,
onwards.

F. MARTIN MORRIS,
This week, Opera House, Winter Gardens, Blackpool; next week, Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough.

ERNEST R. ABBOTT and STAR COMPANY, in
"A WIFE'S TRIUMPH,"
Sutton Vane's Latest and Most Successful Sporting, Musical, and Domestic Drama.
All the Original Pavilion Production carried.
WANTED, Feb. 12, between Lowestoft and Brighton. Only other vacancies till Autumn are May 21 and Whit (North). A success everywhere. Refer to any Theatre visited. Can change bill if required. Repertoire of four or five Standard Plays, each a Perfect Production.
ERNEST R. ABBOTT, T. R., Exeter.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, April 30, and on; also Good Theatre for Whit.
"ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE"
Production Shortly.

"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
Special Continental Company.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Feb. 26, Feb. 26. Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, Terry's Theatre, W.C.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, for this acknowledged success, May 28 (?), June 18, 25, Aug. 6, and on, with exceptions. Sound Cast.
Mounted on First-class Lines.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS."
MR. REUBEN PAYNE'S TOUR.
WANTED, for this Elaborate Production, May 7, 14, 21. Tour terminates June 9; restarts Aug. 6. Various Autumn Vacancies.
Address, ARTHUR JEFFERSON, Metropole, Glasgow.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
Walter Howard's Wonderful Play.
ANNIE SAKER. ALFRED PAUMIER.
WANTED, Good Theatres, April 23, Jan. 7.
See "Companies" Page.
ALFRED PAUMIER, Theatre Royal, South Shields.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "Gay Parisienne," Feb. 12, 19, March 26; "Mason," Feb. 19, 26, March 19, April 2, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26.
Address, Opera House, Torquay.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, for this Evergreen Success, Feb. 12 (3), March 19, 26, April 2; another Success scored at Bootle this week. Refer A. E. Wilson, Esq. Wire for Feb. 12 (3). E. H. DELL, Pardoe's T., Middleton; G., Walsall, to follow.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Feb. 5 (through breach of contract).
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexborough.

THEATRES WANTED.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, for this Exceptional Attraction, April 9, 23, and 30.
Only Vacant Dates until Autumn.
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WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 5, 26, and March 26. A First-class All-round Company. Everything Carried.
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Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

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WANTED, for this Moneymaker, only Theatres with Holding Capacity, Vacant through transferring, May 7, 14, and Whit. Week.
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Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEO. KIRK'S CO.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Chas. Darrell.
Miss Mary Neil as Nellie Harborne.
Produced Jan. 1, and Secured by the following Managers for Immediate Dates:—
Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), Sawyer and Woodruff, G. Mudd, H. Masterman, W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Colonel Winstanley, Milton Bode. C. W. Poole, and W. Morton.

WANTED, March 5, only Vacant Date until Aug. 20.

Address,
GEO. KIRK,
T. R., Castleford.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
by Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this Sterling Attraction, Feb. 12, March 5, and June 18, the only dates vacant until Autumn.
T. R., LEAMINGTON, Jan. 29, Six Nights.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S Cos.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, "THE WOMAN FROM GAOL," by Geo. R. Sims.
Several Vacancies between Easter and Whit.
First-class Company,
Enormous Advertising Plant.
"A PATH OF THORNS,"
April 16, May 7.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Feb. 12, March 12, 19, May 7.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

WANTED, Known, "The Master of the Chain," a really excellent all-round show. Vacant Feb. 12. Wire, CARSON, Victoria Hall, Halifax.

WANTED, good Halls or Theatres, for First-Class Combinations, including Prof. Hocking, Electric Healer. J. LARDER, 22, Levington-st., Grimsby.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Musical Play, Sing and Dance, Trio of Dancers, Acrobatic, &c., Musical Conductor (Pianist). Rehearse Feb. 12. Photos. unless known. W. H. KIRBY, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, Artists for Edwin Drew's pieces, "Cynthia," "Vicar's Daughter," "Tec," also New Comedy, Drama. Write, Call, "Amusement" Office, 7, Whitefriars, London. "Amusement," 6d., post 7d.

WANTED, Lady for important responsible part (elderly Spinster); also Gentleman for Dude and elderly Gentleman; both must be young and dress well. Rehearse Wednesday next. Fullest particulars, and photos. CROSS, "Manxman" Co., T. R., Leamington.

WANTED, for Comedy Duologue, Actress, experienced, young, refinement essential. Full particulars, letters only, N. L., 18, Sinclair-gardens, Kensington.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Man, to Open Feb. 5, Birmingham.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Robust, Athletic, Heavy Man, capable of Big Struggle twice nightly. Particulars, C. WORDLEY HULSE, 69, St. Domingo-grove, Liverpool.

WANTED, High Soprano (Short), Capable of Small Part; must have Fine Voice.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, for Mr. Allan Wilkie's Tour, Amateur Lady and Gent., to walk on, and understudy; also Gent., to learn duties, and assist in bus management. MALTBY, Royalty, Llanelly.

WANTED, by Impresario, Ballet of 12 Young Ladies, and Lady Conductor; nice costumes and scenery required. Send terms and particulars by letter to Mr. G. A. DAWAS, 30, Lambeth-road, S.E.

WANTED, Acrobatic and Ballet Dancers, Chorus Ladies, Chamber Maids, Ballet Mistress at Liberty. Juvenile Pierrot Troupe want dates from Easter. YATES, 29, Newington, L'pool.

WANTED, Choristers (all Voices), and Small Part Artists, Voice Trial, Tuesday, 12 to 1. KIRKBY'S Agency, 29, Wellington-street, Strand.

WANTED, Educated Pianist-Vocalist, Pictorial Oratorios, Cantatas, &c.; also Lantern Manipulator, permanency. Photos., Refs. EVANS, 5 Armoury-terrace, Ebbw Vale, Mon.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Managers, to Give me a Call.
4,000 Artists, all Lines.
4,000 Artists, all Lines.
4,000 Artists, all Lines.
4,000 Artists, all Lines.
F. RUSSELL KIRKLEY,
29, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Pupils thoroughly Trained for Stage. Classes in Dancing, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Engagements Open for Spring and Summer in London. F. DARRELL & Co., 415, Strand.

WANTED, by Basso Profundo, Engagement with Concert Party or Cinématograph Company, big, deep voice. Address, Box 2,695, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Immediately Principal Boy, for "Dick Whittington"; must sing and dance. Photos., age, height, and salary, to CLAYTON, Theatre Royal, Windsor.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE and EDWARD COMPTON'S SCENE FACTORY, READING.
WANTED, Known, Estimates Given for all Kinds of Scenery, Properties, Electrical Effects, Music Stands, &c., First-class Work Guaranteed.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Painting, Joinery, materials of uniform excellence, at reasonable prices. large, well-filled studio. Add., CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, S. Beltram, open to receive contracts, scenery repainted, specially engaged for a few weeks, at Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Davies-Massey, Scenic Artist, at Liberty 29th.
For First-class Work only.
4, Princess May-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs. Address, 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Smith, jun., Artist, Figure, Animal, Landscapes, and Flowers, Gilding, Writing, and Decorations. Address, 56, Stanbury-road, Peckham, London.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, able to take Small Parts; also Wife. Enclose photos. and refs. Permanency to reliable persons. SHEFFIELD PHOTO. Co., Norfolk-street, Sheffield.

MISCELLANEOUS.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE PRODIGAL PARSON."
WANTED, Acting-Manager, to open Feb. 12. References, neight, terms, &c., to ALFRED NORTHWAY, 57, Warrington-crescent, London, W. No interviews unless by appointment.

PAVILION GARDENS, KINGSTOWN, LTD.
WANTED, a General-Manager. Reply, stating qualifications, salary expected, and enclose copies of testimonials and photograph, to THOMAS A. MARMION, Secretary.

WANTED, General-Manager, for First-class Music Hall in the Provinces, to take over Entire Control of Staff, Booking of Artists, &c., &c. Applications, stating experience, salary required, will be received in strictest confidence.
Box 2,688, "The Era."

WANTED, a Stage-Manager and Bill-Inspector, for Music Hall. Only those with excellent references and experience need apply. Comfortable engagement to the right man. Write, stating age, height, salary required, and copies (not originals) of last four references, with permanent address, stating also when at Liberty, to FRED H. ANDERSON, Palace Theatre, Northampton. Mark envelopes "S.M."

WANTED, Gentleman (one who is a Gentleman preferred), of unimpeachable character, as Acting-Manager for a Music Hall in the Provinces. Write, stating qualifications, experience, age, height, salary required, and fullest possible particulars, with copies of references, to Box No. 202, c/o STREET'S, 8, Serle-street, W.C.

WANTED, Manager, for London Music Hall; must have a thorough knowledge of booking terms, and well acquainted with the general business. State halls previously managed, age, and salary. Box 2,718, "The Era."

WANTED, Acting-Manager, Musical Comedy Tour, to take financial share preferred; also open to consider smart mus. com. libretto. Box 2,712, "The Era."

WANTED, Experienced Business and Acting Manager, for Hippodrome. State terms and qualifications; must be steady and reliable. Box 2,694, "The Era."

WANTED, Very Smart Man, to Manage the Stage; must be versatile, and willing to work. Full particulars, age, experience, terms, references, SAMUEL LLOYD, Pavilion T., Glasgow.

WANTED, Advance Agent, to Open Immediately, Fit-ups. Write, stating all particulars, WALTER MAXWELL, Vaudeville Theatre, London.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Crump seeks Re-engagement, as Advertising Manager or Advance Agent, 10 years' experience, good refs., late of Camden and Fulham Theatres, can open at once. Wire or write, 83 Falcon-road, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Useful Carpenter; must understand gas and, if married, wife to act as cleaner; must be hard-working, as stage-manager for small music hall. STAGE SECRETARY, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Lady, well educated, expert shorthand typist, Engagement as Secretary; three years' experience. Address, Box 2,690, "The Era."

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, Cut and Make, own machine; also Advance Agent. References, terms, NORMAN, 10, Edison-road, Crouch End, N.

WANTED.—£10 to £30 Bonus (according to Contract) Given for Engagement, by Manager of high-class, old-established show, now terminating tour on account of illness of proprietor, theatre, music hall, or first-class company only. Advertiser is well-known, and highly recommended by present employer, and is experienced in every branch of theatre and variety business. Box 2,715, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Stage-Manager or Carpenter, in Theatre or Music Hall, own tools, 20 years' experience, age 38, good references. W. WOOD, Pavilion, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, a Practical Stage-Manager, Carpenter, and Electrician, at Liberty shortly, best of refs. B. G., 2, Sackville-st., L'pool.

WANTED, Known, Kingstone Trollope, Actor-Stage-Manager, Disengaged. Nine years Stage-Manager Empire Theatre, Liverpool. Open for Variety or Theatre, home or abroad.
Address, c/o Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Practical Electrician, disengaged, resident or tour; good refs.; own tools. Terms low. TED HILL, 13, Darlan-road, Walham Green.

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter, Handy Man, Bench, Props., &c., own tools. C. WITHERS, 35, Gillespie-road, N.

WANTED, immediately, Re-engagement, as Foreman Billposter or Manager, nine years with Dover Billposting Co. Good refs. Terms, &c. E. BYE, 35, Snargate-street, Dover.

WANTED, Engagement, Money, Check-taker, Attendant, or any capacity. Theatre or Music Hall, middle aged, height 6ft. K., 71, Westbourne-street, Pimlico.

WANTED, Known, shortly at Liberty, Good Wardrobe Mistress. Good References.
Address, Box 2,610, "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Tenting Season 1906, Second Violin (combine Second Cornet for parades), Viola (combine Horn), Double Bass (combine Bombardon), Flute and Piccolo, Clarionet, Cornets, Trombone, Euphonium, Drums. Apply, stating terms, to AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus. Dir., 86, Victoria-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, First Violinist, for a London Music Hall. Apply,
MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 102, Camberwell New-rd., S.E.

WANTED, for Seaside Engagement, First Violins, Second Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, Drums. References and lowest terms to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 14, Seaforth-rd., Westcliff.

WANTED, to open immediately, First Violin. Lowest terms and references. LLOYD CLARANCE, New Theatre, Consett.

WANTED, immediately, First Violin and Good Drummer, with Own Effects. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, at Once, Good Second Violin. Terms, shares. Permanency.
Apply, J. DUCHSCHERER, Victoria-road, Exmouth.

WANTED, Violinists, Oboe, Clarionet, for Small Hall, in Shepherd's Bush District. Army men preferred, bandsmen. SECRETARY, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra, to commence in May, First Violin, combining Clarionet or Cornet for Military Band; also Second Flute and Piccolo (principal in Section Military Band); must be thoroughly experienced in Classical Music. Permanent engagement. 4½ hours daily; no Sunday work. Apply, with terms and references, &c., to Mr. DAN GODFREY, Musical Director, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, for Richmond Theatre, First Violin (Leader), experienced in variety business, commence Monday. Feb. 5. Write, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Richmond Theatre.

WANTED, First Cornet, for Cardiff. Apply, stating age, salary required, with references, to
OSWALD STOLL,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London.

WANTED, at once, Clarionet, for Nine Weeks, Municipal String Orchestra (14 performers); must be good and experienced. References and terms to HORACE TEAGUE, Musical Dir., Cheltenham.

WANTED, E-flat Clarionet, for Military Band, from May 28 to Sept. 15. Salary, 55s. weekly. Apply, JORDAN, Dewar-street, Dunfermline.

WANTED, at once, 'Cello and Flute and Piccolo Players, H.M.S. "Majestic," Service men preferred.
Instruments not required.
Apply
BAND PRESIDENT, "Majestic," Atlantic Fleet.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.
WANTED, 'Cellist, accustomed to Variety Business, to open Monday next, Jan. 29. Apply, with lowest terms, to J. HOWARD SHACKLETON, Musical Director.

WANTED, Flute and Trombone (Ladies), from July to end September; also Pianist, Easter, onwards. Miss Minnie Bush please write. Box 2,711, "The Era."

WANTED, Pianist, to Combine Organ (not paper), steady, and used to show business. LAWRENCE, Cinématograph, Clown, Derbyshire Send lowest terms.

WANTED, Pianist, used to Variety Business, state if vocalist, to open Monday, Feb. 5. State age, and lowest terms, to live in. Address, DOUGLASS, Alexandra, York.

WANTED, Pianist, to Travel with Auction Mart, Single, Good Vamper, Sight Reader. Box 2,701, "The Era."

WANTED, Pianist; must be well up in Dramatic and Variety Business, Sight-reader. Wire, lowest. Open Monday. Dunham Theatre, Morpeth.

Drum and Fife Band.
WANTED, Smart, Intelligent Men, to Join the 6th Battalion Middlesex Regt. (Militia); must be efficient with either drum or fife, fife preferred. Extra remuneration, in addition to ordinary pay and bounties, will be given after training, to satisfactory men. Apply, ADJUTANT, 6th Batt. Middlesex Regt., Mill Hill Barracks, London.

EMPIRE THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Double Drummer and First Clarionet, must be good instrumentalists, steady and reliable. Apply, with references and lowest terms, to Mr. JAS. HOWARTH, Conductor.

WANTED, Smart, Steady, young Musicians, Pianists, Violinists, and 'Cellists, and Cornettists, thoroughly experienced in Orchestral work, for South American trips from Liverpool; permanent employment, comfortable quarters, and musical duties only. State age and references. Rehearsals required in Liverpool.

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WANTED, Bandsmen, for Militia Trainings and other Band Business. The names of Bandsmen will be put upon our Register if sent in shortly. State qualifications, instrument played, whether first or second, and if double handed.
Apply,
HAWKES and SON,
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WANTED, Small Band (or Instrumentalists to form same), for Bandstands and Pitching. Permanency. Terms, salary and shares. State instruments, double-handed preferred. FORD, Band Offices, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Composer of "Silver King," "Lights of London," "Golden Ladder." 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood.

WANTED, by Bandmaster (late Royal Navy), position as Bandmaster. Excellent testimonials. BANDMASTER, 16, Clarendon-street, Landport, Portsmouth, Hants.

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor (Violin), with own band, 5 or more, including 2 ladies, any business. 19, Mayton-street, Holloway.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement by Competent Violinist, First-Class References; young; moderate salary; would lead. VIOLINIST, 10, Wilford-grove, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Leader and 'Cellist, permanent Engagement, together or separate. At present first-class theatre. Would arrange for tour. Thoroughly reliable. Box 2,699, "The Era."

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WANTED, Engagement, by Musical Director, Violinist, and Conductor, Variety or Theatre, up-to-date répertoire, at Liberty. VINCENT WHITE, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

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WANTED, by Leonard Spohr Tute, acknowledged to be one of the Smartest Conductors and Instrumentalists extant, Re-engagement, Theatre, Vaudeville or Tour. 31 Marle-hill, Parade, Cheltenham.

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. Taggart, Violin and Piano, desires engagement, conductor or leader, tour or resident, experienced. Refs. 21, Beaconsfield-rd., Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Violinist, Hotel, Theatre, or Music Hall, Orchestra, Soloist, Leader, or First Violin. PARISI, 38, Crawford-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, by Good Violinist, Engagement, Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Variety Hall, Travelling or Resident. CARPENTER, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, a First-rate Violinist requires Engagement for the ensuing Season. W. ALMON, 11, Elizabeth-cottages, Sandycombe-road, Kew Gardens.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Experienced, any business, excellent refs. Wire or write, H. GLAISTER, 25, Dan-y-Parc, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Theatre or Concert Orchestra, &c., &c.
JAMES, 46, Ravenstone-road, Hendon, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Two Violins, as Leader and Repetiteur, Varieties or Theatre. Good refs. Terms moderate. Address, VERNON, Leader, Violinist, Grand Palace, Colchester, Essex.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement in Theatre, good references, sober.
F. SMITH, 6, Bronsart-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, by Clarice Lilian, Violinist, Pianist, and Vocalist, Dis. Jan. 27, thoroughly experienced, highest refs. 40, Wellington-st., Bedford.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, experienced in all Lines, any distance. Good refs. MONTAGUE, 46, Ravenstone-road, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Steady, Reliable, Experienced Cornet, Disengaged. LEO RIPPIN, 13, Fir-grove, Pentre, Glam

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Cornet, Theatre. Music Hall. Good refs. Reliable, sight-reader. Address, CORNET, 9, Lydden-grove, Wandsworth, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet, experienced any business, at Lib. 29th. WM. JONES, 11, Ralph-street, Union-road, Borough, S.E.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Variety or any Business. Good testimonials. ALFRED RICHARD BENZING, 3, Ridgmount-street, Ampthill-road, Bedford.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, any business; reliable references; total abstainer. MCCORMICK, 82, Chester-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Experienced, Engagement, any capacity. Apply, F. V., c/o Crockett, 8, St. John's-lane, West Smithfield, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, young, experienced, steady, reliable.
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WANTED, Known, French Horn wishes to join London Band, with a view to Engagements, also Deputising. SMITH, 9, Hartington-rd., South Lambeth.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, by Capable 'Cellist, Engagement or Deputising, must be in London; highest references. 'CELLIST, 29, Oakley-cres., Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Viola, London preferred; can deputise.
A. C., 64, Whitney-road, Leyton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Oboe, 9 years' experience at London Theatres, Varieties, &c., London or Suburbs preferred; would deputise. C. DELEVANTE, 60, Collingbourne-road, Shepherd's Bush, London.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (Age 18). Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist, Licentiate R.A.M.; highest references.
Address,
W. B. C., 4, Stanhope-avenue, Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, at once, by Pianist, good sight reader and accompanist, any business; must be permanency, steady, good refs. PIANIST, 30, Market-street, Dalton-in-Furness.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, any business, exper. in var., dram. business, good reader, steady, reliable, excel. refs. PIANIST, 24, Harvey-st., Cadoxton, Barry

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Pianist and Concert Organist. Highest references. Box 2,698, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, in London, by Lady Pianist, from Conservatoire, highly accomplished and experienced, age 22. MARIE SEILER, 46, Cleveland-street, Euston-road, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist, Sight-reader, sober, gentlemanly, any Business. Excellent references. 4, St. John-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianiste, Lady Soloist, Accompanist, Sight Reader, and Vamper. SLATER, 164, Goldhawk-rd., London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Youth 16, as Pianist, good reader, used to Variety. Address, FRED GRIMSHAW, 23, White-street, Seedley, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, any Bus., experienced in Dramatic and Variety Bus. Could combine Clarionet. Good references. PIANIST, 35, Devonshire-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer, in Good Orchestra, as Drums, Timps., &c., thoroughly experienced. 95, South-street, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, R. Townend and Son's Professional Orchestra, open for Easter and Summer Season. Terms and particulars, 136, Great Horton-road, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, the Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra. For vacant dates, apply, CONDUCTRESS, Volthurst, Boundary-rd., Newbury.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists, Scarlet Domino, and other Ladies' Bands. BUREAU, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS,
LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, Great Sensations, New Novelty Acts, and Circus Turns, in all Lines, from Feb. 5, onwards.
Anything Big will have the Option of other Towns to follow.
Address, KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh.

WANTED, Aërial Novelties, Big Attractions,
All Kinds of Acrobatic Turns,
Single and Double Acts,
for F tes, June, July, and August.
Apply, stating lowest terms, sample lithos., &c., to WILDER'S, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Animal Acts of all Kinds, for present and future dates; must be First-class. Send lowest terms, particulars, and lithos., if any, Box 2,716, "The Era."

WANTED, Hippodrome, Mansfield, Funny Musical Clowns, Good Comic Shows, for stage and ring; must be new to Mansfield. A good clarionet player wire. MORELLA, as above.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Young Lady Gymnast, one Experienced in Ring and Trapeze Work preferred. Send age, height, and refs., BELLATZER SISTERS, Stoll Tour.

WANTED, Smart Tumbler or Contortionist. State age and height.
16, Rockwood-street (off Baker-street), Liverpool.

WANTED, a sober, steady Young Man, with Knowledge of
Acrobating and Tumbling,
age between 19 and 24,
height not less than 5ft. 9in.,
weight not exceeding 9st. Apply, photos. or personally, to P. P., 21, Wardour-st., Leicester-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, Lady Leaper, for Casting or Throwing Act. State what you can do, and send photo. State weight. Write, C. W., Osnato Troupe, c/o Das Programne, cor. Lisle-street and Leicester-place, W.

WANTED, Leaper, for Casting or Throwing Act; must do Doubles, and not over 110lb. in weight. Write, C. W. OSNATO, c/o Das Programne, cor. Lisle-street and Leicester-place, W.

WANTED, Girl 14, also Boy 13, to join first-class Troupe, used to acrobating, also riding. Address, LEA, Palace, West Hartlepool.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Miss Pinder, with her Novel Equestrian Performance, introducing her Highly-trained Horse-Riding Collie Dog and Flight of Pigeons, twice daily, at Fossett's Circus, the Royal Agricultral Hall, London. Miss Pinder is the only lady doing this New Turn on the Music Hall Stage. Agents and Managers are invited to see this Turn. At Liberty Feb. 12, with John Irvin, the Dexterous Foot Equilibrist.
Address,
Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, Bareback Equestrienne, at Liberty Jan. 29, also for tenting. Address, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella, greatest and best existing Lion Show of the World, Vacant May 7, onwards.
Comm., week, Jan. 29,
Empire Palace, Cardiff.

WANTED, Monday, also Feb. 5, Florrie Astarte's high-class animal circus, cheap speciality, absolute certain success. Wire, ASTURTE, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Don Miguel, with his Troupe of Performing Bulls, Goats, Sheep, and Dogs, at Liberty Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, after a Great Success, at the Crystal Palace, London. Address, 39, Fitzroy-street, Fitzroy-square, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Caban's Marvellous 16 Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, at Lib. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, salary or share. All coms., CABAN, Lyceum, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Agouste, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Offers invited for Summer or for Tenting. Address as above.

WANTED, Mdlle. Lillian and Clown, Agouste, Contortionists, &c., Feb. 19; also Tenting Engagement. Address, LILLIAN, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Eleonora, Lady Gymnast; La Belle Tosca, Charming Wire Expert; also the Beautiful Vanda, in her up-to-date Juggling Act; two or three Specialities. Vacant Feb. 5, on. 30, Great King-st., Macclesfield.

WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, by Levene and Wilton, acrobatic comedy gymnasts, usual success. Coms., People's P., Portsmouth (second week).

WANTED, Known, Elton and Elma, Smartest Knockabout Three-bar Act on the Road, Liberty Monday, also Feb. 5. Wire, Tivoli, Grimsby.

WANTED, Feb. 5, The Murgeno Trio, Two Ladies, One Gent, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Tub Posturers, Stilt Tumblers, Three First-class Comedy or Speculative Turns. Com., Turley's Hotel, Chichester-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo Lo, in her Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Expert. This week, Transfield's Grand Hippodrome, Paisley; at Lib. Feb. 5, and on.

WANTED, Fêtes, Galas, &c., Sisters Rizareli, Novel Revolving Trapezes Act; also The Recars, Chinese Acrobats; two Acts. Address, 3, Bowdon-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Seven Wulfrunas, Lady and Gentlemen Comedy Acrobats, Liberty Feb. 5, onwards. Big success, Palace, Grimsby; next, Palace, Belfast.

WANTED, Feb. 5, by The Bouncing Dillons, Great Gymnastic Comedy Act. Finish tonight, return Emp., Hull; Jan. 29, Tivoli, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Clement Trio, Comedy Flying Trapeze Act, Feb. 12, 19, 26.
Wire,
Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Almero, Aërial Spar and Smart Wire Act, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh, Vacant Shortly. Offers invited. Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, Most Daring High-rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous Success. 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Phinias and Aida, Revolving Equilibrists, Liberty Feb. 5, also tenting season, several acts. Ohmy's Circus, Leigh.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Novelty Leaping Acrobatic Cycling Staircase Performer; Big Success Cat and Speciality, "Dick Whittington." Liberty March. Lyceum, Crewe.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hall and Family, Thanks for Offers. Still at Liberty for Summer, Acrobats, Tight Wire, and Animal Show, Three Acts. Address, TOM HALL, Whitevale Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, two Young Men want Engagement with Troupe, do Tumbling, Hand-to-Hand Balancing, &c. GRAHAM, 65, Warden-road, N.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, Feb. 3, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, for Winter Gardens, Plymouth, Feb. 4, onwards, Variety Artists, in all Lines, male and female bare-backed equestrians, to ride our horses. W. C. and S. HANCOCK.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Feb. 5, 12, and 19, Jarrow and Carlisle; also Cinématograph. EVANS, 4, Croft-street, Blyth, Northumberland.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply.
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for Feb. 5, 1906. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, First-Class Speciality Artists, for Al Fresco Pavilion, covered stage, 36ft. opening, covered accommodation for 1,000 people, must be refined; also good Comedians, and a Baritone and Pianist. Season Easter to end of September. Terms, lithos., to MANAGER, Al Fresco Pavilion, Frizinghall, Bradford.

WANTED, Easter Week, Music Hall Artists, all Lines. Acrobatic Speciality and Drawing Novelty. Terms, specimen lithos. Saltinas write. BURTON, Grand Theatre, Luton.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next) onwards. Please Note, hall small. Address, MANAGER.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Feb. 5, 19, onwards. All Artists promised future dates, write now. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, by the Renowned John Clempert, Sole Proprietor of the Rink, building Hippodrome shortly. Devonshire-st., H. Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, hear from few First-class Artists known to me, to complete book. Post me fully. ATLAS, Agent, Emp., Stockport.

WANTED, for the Hippodrome, Bridgwater, Artists, in all Lines, Feb. 5, and onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. H. LEATON, Manager.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for 1 night, March 5, South London Hall. Terms must be low. Address, T. W. WRIGHT, 188, Walerán-mansions, Old Kent-road, S.E.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME Co., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that, from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contract will be recognised unless Signed by the Secretary and Manager.
T. M. SILVESTER, Manager.
G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

WANTED, for Feb. 5, 12, and 19,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Feb. 4, onwards, for
Liverpool, St. Helens, Accrington, and Warrington,
Stars and Novelties of all Kinds.
Address, F. WILLMOT, 156, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Town and Country, Big Stars and Tops, for Feb. 5, onwards.
Nothing too Big.
Artists on my books keep me posted.
FRED NEIMAN,
74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Stars, Nothing too Big. Send full Bookings and Terms to FRANK LYNNE, Empire Theatre, Bradford. AYTOUN'S Agency.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars and Tops, in every Line, for immediate dates. Full particulars, DEETRICH'S Agency, 15, Hotham-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars, all Lines, Feb. 5, 12. GEO. AYTOUN'S Agency, Tel., 1949 Hop, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Stars and Novelties, all Lines, immediate and future dates. Send bookings (not vacancies), lowest terms, &c. Old clients keep me posted. E. C. JAZON, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

WANTED, a Suitable Turn, for Picture Company, a Good Vent. preferred, long engagement to a suitable turn. Send full particulars of act and lowest terms in first letter.
Silence polite negative.
DOONER, Bioscope, Bridgend.

WANTED, Good Cheap Turns, for Small Hall, Doubles doing Singles preferred, Sat., Feb. 3, and other dates, on. Agents requiring practice for promising pupils write. BART STEWART, George Variety Theatre, Crawley (2s. 6d. from Victoria).

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.
WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, and onwards, Big Specialities,
Jugglers,
Comedians,
Ballad Vocalists,
Dancers, &c.
No Sketches.
Calls, Monday, Jan. 29:—
Captain Woodward's Sea Lions and Seals,
Kurtz,
Forest and King,
"Edna,"
The Three Rolands,
Bryan Sullivan,
King and Mackay,
Edith Courtney.

WANTED, Specialities and Variety Artists, new to Portsmouth and London.
Send Bookings, Lithos., and Memos., to
PAPA BROWN,
Musical Agent,
Scullard's Hotel, Southampton.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
the Old Firm,
Twenty-three years' standing.
the very best of Talent.
Just returned from a three weeks' Tour.
Address, DREW BAILEY, Agent,
170, Saltmarket, 170, Glasgow.

HIPPODROME,
WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Talent, in all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. All Communications to be addressed to ALFRED SELWYN.

GEO. ZALVA'S
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY,
Residential Offices:
The Hippodrome, Scarborough.
Telephone No. 288.
Telegraphic Address, "Zalva, Scarborough."
Sole Appointed Agent for the Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes,
Hengler's, Glasgow;
Scarborough Hippodrome; Gilbert's Cirque, Exeter; &c.
WANTED, Novelties, and Variety Artists, in all Lines,
for Various Towns.
Specially Wanted, for Easter Week,
Big Novelties.
Say where can be seen.
Give full bookings and lowest terms in first letter.
A Smart Clerk, Typist and Shorthand, used to Agency Business, may write.
Good Salary to Suitable Man.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Acts, for Immediate Dates. Wanted, Acts for Immediate Dates.

Send Full List Bookings and Lowest Terms,
DALTON'S Agency,
5, Matlock avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

WANTED, April 16, June 4, 18, Aug. 6, good Gala Acts; nothing too big. Lithos., bills. Permanent address, WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, for above, Big Comedy Acts, Sketches, &c., in fact, anything good. Feb. 5, onwards. All communications to JESS VERNO, 61, West Derby-st, Liverpool. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, for Palace, Boston, strong Combinations, Minstrels would do well, none for considerable time. Immense Success this week of Alex Bains' Wrestling Combination. Returns doubled Tuesday. Dates from Feb. 12. Must have good print. CLIFFORD, 32, Mainridge, Boston.

WANTED, Star Numbers, Feb. 5, 12, 19, wire; also Artists of every description, Jan. 29, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merrimeat." Telephone, 2,076, Royal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Ladies and Gentleman, for Music Hall Sketch, London, Monday next. Apply at once, HOUGHTON'S Agency, 253, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Sketch Artist, Lady and Gentleman (not Amateurs), for Novel Comedy Sketch Production, three people, new and up-to-date, nothing like it on the road; several good Sketches on hand. Rehearse at once. Particulars by letter. Address, M. L., 4, William Henry-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, Refined Young Ladies, Musical, good voices, for superior Lady Pierrot Troupe, June to September; busy seaside. Box 2,691, "The Era."

WANTED, Clever Lady, Amateur or Professional, ladylike and refined, one with good singing voice preferred, to assist recognised Comedian of ten years' standing in Comedy Sketches, working only first-class houses. No fees; no cash; no rot. State all you know in first letter. Box 2,689, "The Era."

WANTED, Strong Acroabtic Dancer, one able to sing, for Feb. 19. Send photo. to SUTCLIFFE, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Baritone, for Established Troupe, Variety Halls. Call this day, Saturday, between 5 and 6, or Monday, between 3 and 4, HICKS, 15, Kenbury-mansions, Coldharbour-lane, near Metropole Theatre.

WANTED, a Really Good Refined Comedian and Humorous Singer, who has been accustomed to play in musical comedy and burlesque, for a summer pier engagement, 9 weeks' certain, in a good concert party. Address, DIRECTOR, Box 2,710. "The Era."

WANTED, an exceptionally smart, refined, versatile Comedian or Humorist, for Summer Tour with Concert Party. Send fullest particulars, terms, répertoire, age, &c., to H. C., 101, Springbank-road, Hither Green, S.E.

WANTED, Funny (Short) All-round Character Eccentric Comedian, or Funny Boy, for Comedy Act. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, all-round Comedian, Double Act, Halls.
Box 2,706, "The Era."

WANTED, Two Young Ladies, of Good Appearance, also Gentleman, to take parts for animated pictures. Letters and photo., ALPHA, Cinématograph Works, St. Albans.

WANTED, a Young Lady, of Good Stage Appearance, who can Skate. Send photo. to H. B. MARINELLI, 29A, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Smart Boy Acrobat, for Sketch; over 14. State tricks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Expert Bioscope Operator, thoroughly accustomed alternating and direct currents. Give references. VERNON'S Bioscope, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, First-Class Operator, must be used to alternating and direct currents, also understand lime; Scotch and English Tour. Open Feb. 26. Call or write, with refs., &c. HENSON, 3, Bowdon-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, the Great Male Impersonator, vacant Feb. 5 and 12. Address, 76, Georgiana-street, Bury. Good Variety Representative required.

WANTED, by Gertrude Malyon, Descriptiv Vocalist, Feb. 5, 12, Big Hit in her latest Successes, "Boy Convict." "Home, Sweet Home." Agent required. Address, 8, Gilmour-st., Ardwick.

WANTED, Known, Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedienne, vacant Monday. Wire, 148, Fountains-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Feb. 12 and 19, by May Tudor, Balland and Descriptive Vocalist, with her Artistically Rendered Vocal Scenas and Songs, illustrated with Living Tableaux. Now Great Success Broadhead Tour. Mon., Jan. 29, Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, in Sketch, or Join others, by Comedienne, banjoist and pianiste, young, good appearance. SLATER, 164, Goldhawk-road, W.

WANTED, immediately, Engagement with Hypnotist, Illusionist, or other show, Actress, Dancer, and Clairvoyante. RUBY ELLIOTT, 496, Wandsworth-road, Clapham, London.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Refined and Original, Liberty 29th, Feb. 5. Wire, 16, Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 5, by Will Belasco, in his Refined Musical Speciality Act.
Perm. address, 37, Doon-street, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Bob Lord, Comedian, latest successes by Syd Churcher and Harry Payne. "Kindly Welcome." "What's the Good of Worrying."

WANTED, Monday, Geo. Macintosh, Comedian and World's Champion Clog and Big Boot Dancer; also Miss Tina Royal, Variety Artist and Expert Dancer. Wire, Empire, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday, also Feb. 4, Bob Rixby, quaint comic. Palace, Oldbury; after Saturday, 348, Ladypool-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Facial Mimic and Necromancer, Monday next, also Feb. 5. Address, 52, George-street, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Bandoni, One-man Band, Liberty Monday or later.
Wire, Empire, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, by Fred Fox, Comedian and Dancer, next week, also Feb. 5. Wire, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Monday, by Ventom Swift, Swell Singer, Eccentric Dancer. Grimsby to follow. Wire, Grand, Gravesend; Monday, 790, Romford-road, London.

WANTED, Known, C. H. Fergus, in Songs, Patter, and Dancing. clean and clever, wants offer, Feb. 12, 19, onwards. This, Victoria T., Tredegar; next, P. O. W. T., Rhymney; Feb. 5, Pavilion, Leicester. Permanent, 56, Buccleuch-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 5, Kardos, the Sensationalist, with the Handcuff Act. Empire, Greenock; Monday, Empire, Dundee. See Card. Wire, Wire, Wire.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Act, requires next week and Feb. 12. Wire, Hippo., Accrington; after Sat., 7, Clifford-st., Oxford-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Dates for Prof. Hocking, Electric Healer, Feb. 12, onward. Sole Agent, J. LARDER, Variety Agency, 22, Levington-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Wishart, Conjurer, Paper Tearer, Banjoist, now booking piers, specialities, his Double Box, Giant Bottle, and Handcuff Act, whole or part programme. Next, Hippo., Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Sam Leo, Knockabout, Pantomimist, wants shop. Sketch, Troupe, or Drama. Vac. Feb. 5; this week, T. R., Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, the Elbas, at Lib. Jan. 29, onwards comedy second sight and specialitv, entitled "Mysteries of the Sanctuary." Wire, 9 Clarence-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26, Golden and Grey, in American Vaudeville, "The Missing Will." An excellent duo. Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Lead and Lead (George and Marion), Characteristic Comedy Duettists and Patterers, at Liberty March. Offers invited. Care of "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, by Ryder Davis, Actor-Vocalist; Ena Ward, Refined Burlesque Artist. 46, Hanover-gardens, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Bernard Noble (Comedian) and Olive Veno (Dancer) want Feb. 5 and 12. Hippo., Salford.

WANTED, Known, Le Warren, Ventriloquist and Comedian, big show; also Miss Sadie Dana, Comedienne, Liberty Monday, Jan. 29, Feb. 5. Wire, 4, St. James's-st., Leicester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Hyam Good, with Mechanical Ostrich, Donkey, and Big Burlesque Drama, everything carried. Also Rosa Charles, Comedienne and Brilliant Dancer. Wire, 10, Washington-terrace, Deering-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, The Fullers (Fred and Louie), "Sinbad the Sailor." Congratulated by the management. Next week, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, by Teddie Worth and Nellie Stuart, Funniest Vocal Comedy Act extant. Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Feb. 5, by Harry Monkhouse and Sara Yost, in screamingly funny comedy act, singles if required. People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, The Lashmars, Fred and Flo, vacant Feb. 26, Refined Comedy Act, introducing our Acrobatic Table and Chair Act. Funny Patter, New Songs, and Smart Acrobatic Dance. Address, Public Hall, Mountrath, Ireland.

WANTED, Feb. 12 and 19, by the Danvils (Geo. and May), Comedy Entertainers, Illustrated Songs and Bioscope. Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 5, The Percys (Harry, Lillie), Duettists, Dancers, Speciality Performers (distance no object). Wire, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 5, by Walter Gurney, Comedian; also Lily Mason, Comedienne and Dancer. Wire, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Flora Steckel and Silent Steck, gymnastic pot-pourri speciality, Feb. 5. Monday, Circus Varieties, Bury. Agent, EDGAR STEBBINGS.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, World-renowned Musical Clowns, Jan. 29, and onwards. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, the 29th, by Gilroy and Boston, Ventriloquist and Bioscope, Two Sure Draws, Music Hall or Tour. Write, 93, Grosvenor-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, by Sullivan and Walsh, Coin Manipulators, Comedy Conjurers, &c. Jan. 29, Metropolitan Music Hall. Vacant Feb. 5 and 12.

WANTED, by Doyle and Gibson, Patter Comedians, Feb. 5, 12, and 19. This, T. R., Blyth; next, Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, Feb. 5, by the Two Daniels, in their well-worked continued successful nigger act, create roars of laughter everywhere. Tredegar.

WANTED, Feb. 5, by the Two Daniels. Are two clever negro comedians, with novel business. P. O. W. Theatre, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Known, Smarte Bros., Liberty March, with new and original acrobatic act, big success, "Blue Beard" Panto., Alex. T., Birmingham. Good agent wanted.

WANTED, Known, Austin and Austin, Eccentric Chair Pyramidists, at Liberty Monday next. 3, Wincott-street, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Astley Bros., refined Comedians and Patterers, Vacant Feb. 19, and on. Offers invited. Next week, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 5, by the Maddison Brothers, Quaint American Comedians and Original Burlesque Boxers. Wire, 6, Oakden-street, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known Bros. Paulo, Comedy Acrobatic Speciality, entitled "Jack's Dilemma in Hyde Park," Liberty Feb. 5 and 12. Address, 10, Little Paris-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, by Chant and Chant, Refined Comedy Vocalists and Patterers, Hippodrome, Coventry, to follow. Wire, 87, Wollaton-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cycle Act; Lillian Sivado, Charming Lady Gymnast; two distinct Acts. Vacant for Galas, &c. Monday, Alhambra, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 5, Sardous, Illusionists, Mysterious Laughable Act; also Marie Riviers, Balladist. Wire, C/o Merry Men, Durham.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Prinellas, in their Great Farmyard Scena. "A Country Flirtation"; also single. Wire, Palace, Portsm'th.

WANTED, Monday, also Feb. 5, by Four Abadaroffs, Great Comedy Act, "Prehistoric Peeps." Wire, 95, Stretford-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, the Three Seymons, Original Equilibristic Juggling Act, including Miss Anny, the only girl in the world that does this trick. Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5.
Wire, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, by the Silver Moon Team, or by Maude Evans and Rex Clifton, Refined Variety Artists Offers for Summer Engagement. Apply, 161, Albion-road, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Known, Hassan and Mohamed Family, in their Oriental Act, causing big success through France. This week, Kursaal, Montreux, Suisse.

WANTED, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Atoras, Refined Comedy Athletes, introducing heavy weights and bar-bells, a symmetrical lady, and funny American man. Coms., 17, Waterford-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted. Wanted.
Feb. 12, 19, and 26,
by the
Albano Troupe,
Albano Troupe.

the Greatest Refined Musical Act of the World.

New Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

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Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures.
A Pleasing and Refined Act.
Proprietors Wishing a Sure Draw,
Don't Miss these Two Turns.
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Wire,
"Magician. Manchester."

WANTED, Wanted. Wanted.
Feb. 12 and 19.
Hinton and Wooton, the Originators of "A Football Match on Bicycles," the most exciting Act ever witnessed within the limits of the arena.—Glasgow News. Wire, to-day, Hippodrome, Huddersfield; Jan. 29, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

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WANTED, for Herr Blumenfeld's Troupe of Performing Dogs, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5.
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The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
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WANTED, Known, Messrs. Chiappa and Sons, Ltd., beg to inform travellers that the "entirely new style 1906 Grand Model 110 key Organ" will be on snow at the Factory, 6, Little Bath-street, London, E.C., about Jan. 30. They respectfully request any travellers who are intending purchasers to defer placing their orders until this 1906 Model has been seen and heard, as it will be the true Organ of the Future, and will supersede all others yet made.
All the Latest Pantomime Music
Kept in Stock.

Move with the times, or get left.
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Half the Weight and Twice as Strong as any other. As for Looks, come and see for yourself, and be Quick if you want Delivery for Easter.
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3, Ernest-avenue, Leeds.

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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Vesta Tilley, The Bohemians, Sisters Bellatzer, The Findens, Drawee, Fyne and Hurley, W. H. Downs, The Mannons, Stewart and Morgan, Amann and Hartley, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Ella's Lions, Selbinis, Alf. Gibson, J. Alexandre and Co., Herr Grais, Lilian Lowe, Five Julians, Harding and Ah Sid, Mdlle. Olive, Dion Wade.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Cinématograph Exhibition, Curio Halls, Roller Skating, Phonograph, Waxworks, Galatea, Magic Maze, Shooting Ranges.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Tarro Myaki, Verno and Voyce, The Picquays, Sisters Dare, Ryan and Hall, Albertus and Bartram, Sisters Gasch, Wally Hoste Trio, Sybil St. Elmo, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Alexandra Dagmar, Ike Scott and Son, Trapnell Family, The Howards, Viviana, Herbert La Martine, Wood and Bates, Hayes and Suits, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
George Gray and Co., Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Prince Kokin, Moulier Sisters, Harry Drew, Sadie Simpson.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Tom Costello, F. V. St. Clair, Two Bostons, Sisters Geretti, Phil Hermann, Morton and Elliott, Powell's Marionettes, Mdlle Chalon, Derenda and Green, Mattie Wilks.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Morris Cronin, Francis Wylie, Grace Merton, Bioscope, Huxter Bros., Cooke and Clinton, Baker and Lynn, Olracs, O'Gust, De Fontenoy.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Redskins," Newhouse and Ward, Bertha Vere, Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Les Ados, Bell and Henry, Bandurrias, Automatos, The Gems.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Programme for 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock Performances :—
Mrs. Brown Potter, "The Charioteers," Miss Mabel Love, "Fenella," "In Dreamland," "Aladdin," Eugene Stratton, La Berat, Stelling and Revell, Victoria Monks.

Programme for 6 o'clock Performance :—
"Arabian Nightmare," Ten Genis, Wolkowsky Troupe, Frank Maura, Mason and Bart, Adele De Frece, Andre Kaya, Clarissa Talbot, "Cup of Tea," "Charioteers," Bioscope, "La Mascotte."

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Karno's "Jail Birds," Helen Martin, Mueller and Coyne, Sisters Chester, Baker and Balfe, Pictures, Ethel Ra Leslie, Morris and Morris.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Serenaders, Edie King, Bonnetti and Corrie, Chas. Adams, Tupps, Edie Veno, Two St. Johns, Parke's Eton Boys, Fred Trevor.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Sisters Slater, The Korries, Cora Caselli, Five Sisters Warwick, Pictures, Ella Retford, Fanny Robina, Will H. Fox, Chas. Danton.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gilbey, Carlotta Lunn, Harry and May Kent, Pictures, Fielding and Hull, Paul Pelham, Maud Holland, Harry Bent, Ben Hur.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Pantomime.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Chas. Cardow, Frank Boyce, Speedwell, Jock Whiteford, Irene Meldon, Constance Moxon, Edie Anderson, "Larks in the Park," Jno. Holland and Co., Katos, Dardinis, Five Bon Bons, Harvey Boys, Bioscope, Sisters Tinsley.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Marie Lloyd, Herbert Shelley, V. L. Granville, E. J. Sheldon, Barrington, Sisters Oswald, Zagas, Hy. Lynn's Sketch Co., Ethel Yorke, Marvelle and Abdy, Spring and Spring and Rosie Carlo, Dardam and Iris, Harvey Boys, Bioscope, Lee and Kingston, Millie Payne.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
Telephone, 1399 Gerrard. Wires, "Twigsome, London."

The Greatest Aggregation of Variety Theatres in the World.

FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER.

The Music Market of the World.

TWO GREAT SONGS.

"IN THE SHADE OF THE OLD APPLE TREE."
America's Latest Ballad Success,
AND
'PUT A LITTLE BIT AWAY FOR A RAINY DAY."

Sung with Enormous Success by Miss CARLOTTA LEVEY.

Send at once for Copies and Band Parts of the above Two Great Songs.

"MY IRISH MOLLY O,"
"I WOULDN'T LEAVE MY LITTLE WOODEN HUT FOR YOU,"
"RAINBOW,"
AND
"HEAR THE PIPERS CALLING JENNY MINE."

"THE" PANTOMIME SUCCESSES of the YEAR.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER,
Publishers of the World's most Popular Songs,
142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.
Telephone: 5425 Gerrard.
Telegraphic Address: 'Arpeggio, London.

. . . THE . . .

MONTE CARLO PUBLISHING CO.,

3, BERNERS ST., OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

TWELVE TRIED AND PROVEN SUCCESSES.

No. 1. HIS COUNTRY, KING, AND GIRL.
The Rage of Every Pantomine. Sung by Miss Margaret Ashton, George Leyton, &c.

No. 2. PRIMROSE-TIME.
Sung by Misses Maude Mortimer, Lilian Doreen, &c.

No. 3. A CIRL ON A DISTANT SHORE.
Sung by Miss Kitty Malone, &c.

No. 4. REMEMBER ME TO MOTHER DEAR.
Sung by Misses Jessie Preston, Florrie Gallimore, &c.

No. 5. GOOD-BYE, MR. WILLIAMS.
Sung by Miss Lottie Collins, Little Cliff, &c.

No. 6. CARRIE FROM CAMDEN TOWN.
Sung by Miss Florie Forde, &c.

No. 7. I'VE BUILT A BAMBOO BUNGALOW FOR YOU.
Sung by Misses Maud Esmond, Rosie Lloyd, &c.

No. 8. MY PYRAMID GIRL.
H. K. Hamilton Field's latest "Winner."

No. 9. SWEET EILEEN.
Sung by Mr. Hamilton Hill and Miss Florrie Forde.

No. 10. ANY OLD PLACE WHERE THE SUN SHINES.
Miss Florrie Forde's Greatest Success.

No. 11. MOLLY O'SHEA.
A Lilting Irish Song.

No. 12. TRY AN' FIND ANOTHER COON.
Sung by Little Cliff, &c.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
A Few Permissions for some of the Above Songs will be granted
ON APPLICATION ONLY.
Professional Copies, Post Free, 3 Stamps.
CALL OR WRITE.

. . . THE . . .

MONTE CARLO PUBLISHING CO.,
SIXPENNY SUCCESSES DEPT.,
3, BERNERS STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.
Telegrams, "Lyrical, London."
Telephone, 12805 Central.

THE
DOUGLAS TOWN COUNCIL
INVITE TENDERS
for the SEASON of 1906

(1) For the right to perform on one or more suitable positions on the Foreshore; nature of entertainment to be stated; exact position to be fixed by the Borough Surveyor.
(2) For occupancy of Band Stand on the Harris Promenade during the Forenoon and Afternoon, for Musical Entertainments. Applicants to state the nature of the entertainments.
(3) The right to perform with a suitable String Band on the Public Music Stands within the Borough, other than those on the Promenades, and to perform on the Band Stand during the Evenings.

Separate tenders may be submitted for 1 or 2 or 3, or alternative tenders may be submitted for all or any two of the rights advertised above.

Persons tendering to state the nature of the respective entertainments, number and description of performers in each class of entertainment, and all other necessary particulars.

Persons tendering must do so on the condition that any tender is subject to the conditions of letting laid down by the Council, copies of which conditions can be seen at the Town Hall, Douglas, or obtained on application to the undersigned.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender. Tenders, endorsed "Entertainments," to be forwarded to the undersigned not later than Monday, the 12th day of February, 1906.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Douglas, January, 1906.

THE
WHITLEY AND MONKSEATON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
are prepared to
RECEIVE TENDERS
for the exclusive privilege of using their
BANDSTAND
(20ft. in diameter) on the Whitley Links, for
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS
on Week Days,
during the coming Summer season, viz., from 1st May to 30th September, 1906. The entertainments must be guaranteed to be of a refined and first class order, and will be subject to conditions, a print of which can be obtained on application to the undersigned by post, or to Mr. John Moore, the Surveyor to the Council, personally, during his office hours, at the Council Buildings, Whitley Bay. Tenders must quote a sum per week or for the season, and must be sent to me endorsed "Tender for Stand on Links," on or before the 5th day of February proximo. The Council do not guarantee the acceptance of the highest or any Tender.

Dated this 18th day of January, 1906.
AUGS. WHITEHORN,
Clerk to the Council,
60, Saville Street,
North Shields.

BOROUGH OF MARGATE.
MARINE TERRACE SANDS.
OPEN-AIR PERFORMANCES.
SEASON 1906

THE COUNCIL INVITE TENDERS for the right to give performances on three spaces on the above sands during the ensuing season.

Particulars as to the position of the spaces, and any further information, can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

Tenders, stating the amount of rent offered (which, if accepted, must be paid in two instalments, viz., 25 per cent. thereof on the signing of the agreement, and the balance on or before the 1st August next), endorsed "Sand Entertainments," should be sent in to me on or before 1 o'clock p.m. on Monday, February 12th, 1906.

EDWARD BROOKE,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Offices, Margate.
16th January, 1906.

THE HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
TO BE DISPOSED OF,
By Private Treaty, with Early Possession,
the Building now used as a
MUSIC HALL OR PALACE OF VARIETIES,
known as
THE HIPPODROME,
situate at
CHURCH-STREET, BLACKPOOL.

The following Licences are held in connection with the property: (1) A Dramatic Licence; (2) a Magisterial Licence for the season for public dancing, singing, and music; and (3) a Licence for the sale of all intoxicating liquors, but limited to the periods when the premises are open for the purposes of entertainment.

The land is freehold, free from ground rent. The area is 20,095ft., or thereabouts. The buildings were specially erected as a place of public entertainment, are situate in the heart of Blackpool, about 5 minutes' walk of the two Railway Stations and the Promenade, and will accommodate from 4,000 to 5,000 persons.

Cards to view may be had, and plans showing the exterior as well as the internal arrangements of the Buildings may be seen upon application to Mr. Duignan, the Manager, Hippodrome, Blackpool, or at the Offices of Messrs. Procter and Son, Solicitors, Burnley, and Messrs. Rawlinson and Hargreaves, Chartered Accountants, 12, Exchange-street, Manchester, and 7, Grimshaw-street, Burnley. For further detailed particulars, and to treat, application must be made to Mr. F. A. Hargreaves, at either of the addresses of his firm of Rawlinson and Hargreaves, as given above.

TO SHOWMEN ENTREPRENEURS, AND CINEMATOGRAPH SHOW EXPLOITERS.

A CINEMATOGRAPH SHOW.

THE
"CRUISE OF THE OPHIR."

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS
FOR
TWENTY-FIVE SHILLINGS.

TO THE PUBLISHER, "THE ERA."

Sir,—
It may possibly interest you to learn that a Quarter-Column Advertisement in "The Era" (One Insertion) resulted in over £1,000 Bookings for an Entertainment with which I was connected some little time ago. The Entertainment was entitled

"THE CRUISE OF THE OPHIR,"

Cinématograph Show, and the Bookings were effected within a week.

Yours faithfully,
H. GOLDSMITH-WHITTON,
Late Manager, West's "Our Navy," &c.
London, May 19, 1904.

IN case of the non delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers, with the time of delivery marked upon them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTS (AND THEIR AGENTS) HOLDING OR SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS AT

THE OXFORD,
OXFORD-STREET, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.30 o'clock.
Joe Elvin and Co., Alec Harley and Co., Vesta Victoria, Will Evans, Harry Ford, Athas and Collins, Stave, T. E. Finglas, Alice Hollander, Herbert Shelley. Amy Clevere, Ian Colquhoun, The Three Laurels, Bernar's Fantoches.
Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

THE TIVOLI,
STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday at 12 o'clock.
Marie Lloyd, Little Tich, Arthur Roberts and Company, Mildred De Grey, Julie Mackay, Fred Earle, Desroches and Bianca, Dolly Harmer, Gus Elen, Will Evans, Collins and Hart, Vesta Victoria, Burke, Moller, and Teller.
Manager, JOSEPH WILSON.

THE CANTERBURY,
WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 11 o'clock.
Marie Lloyd, Charles Faning, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, the Mackweys, the Folkestones, Charles Penrose, Ruffell's Bioscope, Prinz's Lions (real Forest-bred African Kings of Beasts), Pat Rafferty, Jolly and Neilson, Will Evans, "The Villain of the Piece," Hill and Hull, Johnny Dwyer, Arthur Roberts and Co. in "Where's the Count?"
Manager, FRED MILLER.

PARAGON,
MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artists are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3.0 o'clock.
Joe Elvin in "'Appy 'Ampstead," the Jackley Trio, Charles Faning, Collins and Hart, The Three Laurels, the La Vails, Great Scott, Walter Wallis, Vesta Victoria, Whit Cunliffe, Harry Sims, Brown and Navarro, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, Jordan and Harvey, America's famous Hebrew Comedians.
Manager, CHARLES BEECHAM.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE,
LONDON-ROAD, S.E.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Geo. H. Chirgwin, Charles Penrose, Dolly Harmer, Aline Sudbury, Cline and Clark, Augustin and Hartley, The Walter Arleys, Ruffell's Bioscope, Frances Harold and Co.
Manager, FRANK WEEKS.

EUSTON,
EUSTON ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Ruffell's Bioscope, Taylor's Elephants, The Robertys, Dutch Daly, Burke, Moller, and Teller, Gilbert Girard, Norman and Leonard Trio, Cliff Ryland, Dezmonti and Mora.
Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

THE EMPRESS,
BRIXTON ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.0 o'clock.
Special Engagement of the Great and Only Little Tich, Julie Mackay, Harry Champion, Ruffell's Pictures, Walter Wallis, Violet Carlyle, Martine and Son, Howard and Collinson, Maud Esmond, Lord Murray and Lord, Chas. Penrose, Mr. and Mrs. Prospor Benn, Miss Helen Kinnaird and Co., Farley Rennie and Farley.
Secretary and Manager, NELSON FRANCIS.

GRAND PALACE,
CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday at 2.0 o'clock.
Fred Ginnett and Co., Arthur Gilbert, Harry Coats, Percival, Rex Fox, Will Van Allen, Victor Newman, Tray and May, Childie Stuart, Imperial Bioscope.
Manager, H. KEITHMAN.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE,
UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON, N.
Two Performances Nightly.
Matinées, Mondays, at 2.30.
Rehearsals on Mondays, at 1.30.
Oma Seer, Charles Faning, Millie Howell, Barney Stuart, Los Rupertos, Athas and Collins, Charles Vincent, Five Whiteleys, Grove Chalmers, Imperial Bioscope.
Manager, R. L. ADKIN.

DUCHESS PALACE,
HIGH ROAD, BALHAM.
Two Performances Nightly, 6.45 and 9.18.
Rehearsals on Mondays at 1.30.
Telephone, 58 Balham.
Lew Lake and Co., Pat Rafferty, Queenie Lawrence, Brothers Bright, Vernando, Mayvilles, Cruickshanks, Nelson and Thomas, Imperial Bioscope, Ray Wallace.
Manager, G. L. WILSON.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE,
WALTHAMSTOW.
Two Performances Nightly, at 6.30 and 9.
Band Rehearsal, which all Artists must attend, Mondays, at 3 o'clock.
Frank Gerald and Co., Frank Sylvo, Mark Melford and Co., Dandy George and Rosie, Great Northern Troupe, Jordan and Harvey, Agnes Hazel, Michael Nolan, Herr Fritz.
Telephone, 40, Walthamstow.
Manager, ARTHUR J. BARCLAY.

EMPIRE PALACE, EALING.
THE BROADWAY, EALING,
One Minute G.W. and District Station.
Two Performances Nightly, 6.45 and 9 p.m.
Rehearsal on Mondays, at 12 o'clock.
Herbert Darnley and Co., J. W. Rickaby, La Tostia, Zarmo, Frobel and Ruge, Harry Bedford, Daisy Davidson, Virginia and Piccs, Tray and Rich, Woodward's Seals.
Telephone, 1056 Ealing. Manager, E. W. JAMES.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.
"A Trip to the Isle of Man," J. W. Rickaby, Silent Tait, Two Bees, Lily Lawrence, Lee and Kingston, Australian Lady Meister Singers, Zaro and Arno, Hill and Hull, Frazer and Haley, Imperial Bioscope, Edward Sillward and Company. Manager, EUSTACE JAY.

Are particularly requested to read their Contracts carefully, especially the Clause as to barring, which will be strictly enforced. Any Alteration thereof can only be effected by Special Agreement, in writing, with the Managing-Director. For Engagements at the Royal, Holborn; Duchess Palace, Balham; Islington Empire, and Grand, Clapham, address, Mr WALTER GIBBONS, 1, Durham House-street, W.C. Telephone, 6,825 Gerrard. For Engagements at the other Halls, address, Mr. G. ADNEY PAYNE, Managing-Director, Oxford, Limited, 1, Durham House-street, W.C. Office Hours 10.0 to 4.0. Telephone No. 2,035, Gerrard.

THE METROPOLITAN,
EDGWARE-ROAD, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.0 o'clock.
John Lawson and Co., in "A Bride for a Living," Gus Elen, Dalas, My Fancy, Lieut. Travis, James Stewart, Elsa Joel, Maynard Dakin, Chas. Vincent, Fred. Herbert, Ruffell's Bioscope. Arabella Allen, Leslie Race, Madge Carlyle, Sullivan and Walsh, Nellie Wilson.
Manager, J. W. EDGAR.

THE CHELSEA PALACE,
KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Frank Hardie and Co., in the "Great Green Diamond," Ian Colquhoun, Rose Cabani, Fred Earle, Winnie Moore, Harry Bancroft, Sisters Selwyn, Clarisse Heney and Co., "Counsel's Opinion," and Los Granadas.
Manager, EDWARD SWANBOROUGH.

For Engagements at the Metropolitan or Chelsea, address, the Managing-Director, Mr. HENRI GROS, at the Metropolitan, 267, Edgware-road, W. For times, address the Manager of each Hall, to whom also all Billing Matter must be sent Two Weeks in Advance.

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, JAN. 29, 1906.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.

Proprietor and Director General:
Mr. FRANK MACNAGHTEN.
Business Manager for the Circuit:
Mr. E. P. LAWTON.
Special Representative:
Mr. BRANDON BLAKE.
Secretary:
Miss AMY ROBINSON.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES:
KING'S CHAMBERS, ANGEL STREET, SHEFFIELD.
Telegraphic Address, "MACNAGHTEN, SHEFFIELD."
Telephone No. 3449, SHEFFIELD.

Accountants: Messrs. HARDY, LAWTON and MOULSON, York-street, Sheffield.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pallister, Queenie May, Percy Hannan, Sisters Desmond, Fred Southern and Co.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Sisters Casselli, Bayne and Hope, Mephisto, Frank Coyle, Will Bacchus, Chas Baldwin and Co., Cordite, Ford Williams.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Harold Hughman, Pallister's Pictures, Phillips and Merritt, Harry Lawson, Minnie Dawn, George Victor, Carlotta De Yonson.

PALACE, BATH.
Sisters Wingrove, The Seddons, Harry Tate and Co. in "Motoring," Rumbo Austin, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Bert Brantford, Frantz Family, Mark Merry.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Four Jumels, Anna Kenwick, Three Sisters May, Toch and Tard, E. E. Ford, Renson and Waite, Harry Luck, Geo. Leyton, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Lady Mansell and Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Leo Tell, Nat Watkins, Mdlle. Haydee, Sidney Dolf, The Haverleys, Paulinetti and Piquo, Geo. D'Albert.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Andox Japs, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Marie Gibson, Caselli and James, Eileen Gomez, Albert Whelan, Steve McCarthy, Marie Kendal.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Reilly and Taylor, Tee and Tee, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Francis and Alfred, Rae and Lea, Rose Elliott, Howard and St. Clair, Morimura, Harry Russell.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Billy Williams, Guy Rider, Astarte, E. Montefiore and Co., Borghetti Troupe, Addie Dorina, Rosie Archer, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Ethel Loftus.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Cingalee."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
"Cinderella."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"The Midnight Mail."

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
"Fight for Millions."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Jack and Jill."

CORPORATION THEATRE, CHESTERFIELD
"Beauty and the Beast."

LONDON DISTRICT.

General Manager, Mr. FREDERIC BAUGH.
Telephone, 5954 Avenue.
Telegrams, "Stageyness, London."
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday at 12 o'clock.

PALACE, BOW.
Telephone, 417 East.
Matinée every Monday.
Geo Newburn. Reuben Hill, Dora Lyric, Dinah Morris, Ross and Lewis, Vandinoff, Ameen Abou Hamad Troupe, Royston Dene Co., Lacey's Erascope.

THE BRITANNIA.
Telephone, 7285 Central.
Matinées Monday and Thursday,
"King Wow-Wow" Pantomime, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Jessie Preston, Fred Lawrence, The Three Prestons, Marie Brian, Arthur Lawrence, Lilly Lassah.

FORESTERS.
Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Matinée Monday and Thursday.
Sisters Redfern, Coram, The Elvins, Raymond Bio-Tableaux, Dorothy L. Clarke, De Henau, Aladina, Lileth Leyton, Monks and Wood, Dunstan Cylford Sketch Co.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Telephone 5890 Central.
Matinée every Monday.
Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Four Maisanos, Herbert Dale, Burns and Bently, Susie Marney, F. Moule and Nicholls Co., J. C. Aubrey and Co., F. Bernard and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

SURREY THEATRE.
Telephone 1460 Hop.
Matinée every Monday.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Booker and Narbis, Sivronis. F. Maxwell and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Childie Stuart, Four Kweeries, Kate Carney, Dorothy Gould, Sisters Beatrice.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit must be addressed to "King's Chambers, Angel-street, Sheffield."

THOMAS BARRASFORD TOUR.

CALLS for MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1906.

REHEARSAL EVERY MONDAY AT ALL OUR PLACES AT 12 NOON.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
J. L. Shine and Co., Frances Drew, Bert. Weston, Bros. Ashley, Kentucky Trio, Sherlock and Van Dalle, Gus Hindell, Pictures, Edwin Barwick, Dora Barrington.

TIVOLI, LEEDS.
Miss Dolly Elsworthy and Co. in "The Orange Girl," Tom Yorke, Mabel La Blanche, Bliss and Bliss, Four Geraldos, Warden-Reed and Glenny, Spencer and Marks, Pictures, Walton, and Miss Ella.

PALACE, GLASGOW.
Reynold's Minstrels, Wake and Dean, Henry Anthony, Zetta Grey and Co., Ford and Barris, Dooly. Maud and Agnes, the Louberts, Pictures, Claude Ginnett, Herbert Madden.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
"Three of a Kind," E. J. Wilkes, Kit Keen, the Delomes, Lowenwirth Bros., Martin Conway, the Waldrons, Bros. Hartbert-Orelly, Miniature Marie, Pictures, Charles Coborn.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Ada Colley, Edna Thelma, Carson Hicks, Mack Olive, Andrews and Thompson, Joe Cheevers, Muir and Bartlett, Two Rubies Fred Dunstone, Pictures, Six Bros. Luck's Co.

EMPIRE, BRISTOL.
Austin Rudd, Violet Stockelle, Marion Scott, Frances Letty, Roma and Romani, Bros. Redmond, Tom Stuart, Bros. Zampah, Pictures, "Maiden's Prayer."

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Bros. Martine, Ida Ross, Starr and Jerome, Hughes and Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Adams, Flo Smithers and Co., the Henris, Gracie Taylor, Pictures, King's College Boys.

LYCEUM, LONDON.
Florrie Forde, Capt. Slema, F. Bernard and Co., Donatos, Coram, Ross and Lewis, Pictures, Bros. Dean, etc.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
For the Month Commencing Feb. 1.
Hadji Haussain, Florizell, Valoni, Carl Nobel, Les Rallis, Lombarts, Alexia, Las Tafanos, Tom Grave, Fedoras, Mdme. De Pasquali, Estio and Luigy, Pictures.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.
Grand Variety Company.

LYRIC, LIVERPOOL.
Grand Variety Company.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.
Grand Variety Company.

Bill Matter must be sent to the London Office Two Weeks before opening, or Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.
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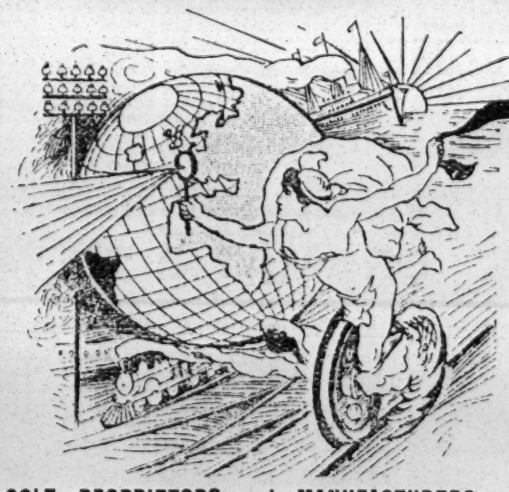

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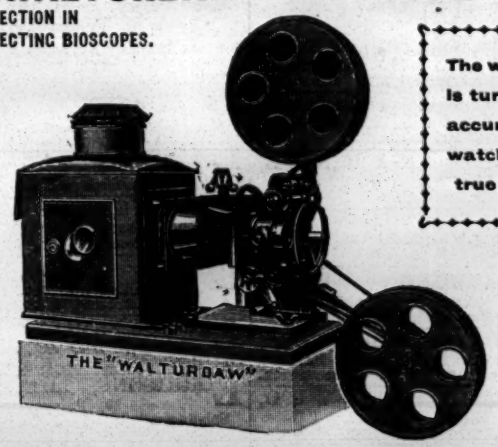

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ADAMS, WALTER, Principal Comedian. This, New Gaiety, Ayr. Next, O. H., Falkirk.

ADRIENNE, NELL, Burlesque Artist and Whistler, This, Prince's, Poplar; Next, T. R., Chatham. Vac. Feb. 12 and 19.

ALBANO TROUPE, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

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ALETHEA, The graceful Lady Contortionist and Gymnast. Return, London Pavilion, Jan. 29, Three Weeks.

ALEX and JOLLY, First-class Comedy Three-Bar Act. Hippo., Mansfield; Next, G. T., Rawtenstall.

ALEXANDER, MISS HANID, Title-rôle, Panto., Grand Theatre, Fulham, last week. Add., 2, Warrington-gdns., Maida Vale.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company, Empire, Cardiff.

ALFONZO, Foot Equilibrist, Thanks offers for Tenting, settled same. Liberty Jan. 29, Feb. 5. 48, Balaclava-road, Sheffield.

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AMERICAINES, LES BELLES, Two Weeks, Victoria, Burnley. Agent, H. DAY.

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AUBYN, ALF, Grand T. (Islington) Panto., until further notice, or Hastings (Sunny South).

AUSTIN, RUMBO, The Nipper King, Palace, Bath.

BACCHUS, WILL, Actor-Vocalist and Coster Comedian. This, Pal., Blackburn; Next, Pal., Lincoln. Summer Season Settled.

BACH, SID, "The Musical Landlady," Terrific Success, This, Re-opening Palace, Dover. Permanent, 11, Emerson-st., Southwark, S.E.

BANCROFT, HARRY, "Seagull," by Collins and Rogers. Usual Success on Tour. Monday, Palace, Chelsea.

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BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone, 84, Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

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BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, (VIOLET and DAISY), Popular and Ideal Pair. E., Stockport; 29th, London and Collins's.

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BAZLEY, SID, Peculiar Comedian, Unprecedented success as Shacabac, Alex. T., Birmingham. Panto Vacant 1912.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, This week, Tivoli, Dublin. Next, Alhambra, Belfast.

BELL, CHARLES H., Comedian (late Fred Karno's Co.). Great Success with Herbert Darnley's Co. Ealing and Hammersmith.

BELL, THE H. LESLIE, and LILLY PEARL CO., presenting "A Bit of String," Jan. 29, Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

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BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL & MADGE), Instrumentalists and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Stratford; next, Empire, Shepherd's Bush.

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BOSANQUET, This week, Empire, York. Great Success. Jan. 29, Grand, Bolton. Add. above, or "The Era."

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BOWERY BOYS, THE (Three), in a Smart New Act, "Mixed." A Sure Hit. Coms. to Grand Theatre, Leeds.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Empire, Dudley. Monday, return, Walham Green and Standard, Pimlico.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy. Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

BRADLEY and TRUMAN, Old Home, Red Lion, Costock, 9 miles from Notts.

BRADY, JAMES, Empire, Paisley.

BRAY, LOTTIE, Big Hit on Return, Grand Theatre, Gravesend; Monday, Return, Gaiety, Chatham.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Big Success, Second Boy and Girl, Bros. Luck's Panto., Jan. 29, Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

BREWSTERS, THE, Novel Speciality Act. Hippodrome, Paris.

BRONSON, SISTERS, Enormous Success in Mr. Peter Davey's "Puss in Boots." This, Gaiety, Hastings; next, Olympia, London.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), the Dainty Pair. Enormous Success, Second Boy and Girl, Prince's T., Bradford.

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BROWN, PAPA, Agent, 8, Cleveland-house, Hackford-road, S.W. Telegraph address, "Jibbers, London."

BROWN and ROBINSON, as the Two Cavaliers. Empire, Hackney, Jan. 29.

BROWNIE, SISTERS, as Ugly Sister and Dandini, R. A. P. William's Panto., 29th, T. Stirling. Offers invited.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE, "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees.

BURNELLS, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham. Big Success Panto., "Cinderella."

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BUSH, MISS SADIE, Contralto Vocalist, Fairy Godmother, Griffin and Drake's "Cinderella," Theatre, Darwen.

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CAMERON, LOUDOUN, The Celebrated Conjurer. An Artistic Success. Jan. 29, Oxford, Middlesbro'.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Comedy Act, "Plough Boy and Lady Guide." This, Hippo., Coventry. Coms., F. HIGHAM, Esq.

CARDOC, Comedy Contortionist, Big Success, as Cat "Dick Whittington," Next, Theatre, Hawick. Vacant Feb. 26, and on.

CARL and CARR, the Successful Comedians, in "Fun Outside the Workhouse," require Feb. 5. Wire, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

CARLTON, HENRY, Comedian; Sharing honours with Cliff Ryland "himself." E., Stockport; Monday, London, Star.

CARMEN, HARRY, DAISY LANE, Widow Twankey and Princess Badroulbadour, in E. C. Jaxon's "Aladdin," Prince's T., Preston.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), Presenting "Catching the Catch of the Season" and "A Domestic Episode," Pal., Dundee.

CAVALLOTTIS, THE, Instrumentalists, Big Success Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester. Next week, Ashton Hippodrome. Agent Required.

CHALLIS, FLORENCE, Tremendous Success in Australia with Monologues and Songs; returning home in Jan.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS, One great act. Excelled by none. Hippodrome, Paisley. Mr. Arnold write.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE & EDIE), Big Success, Grand, Gravesend. Monday, Gaiety, Chatham.

CHESTER and LEE'S Marionettes, Royal Victoria Hall, London. Monday next. Easter vacant.

CHIRGWIN, London until July 2, Plymouth.

CHIVERS and DE MONTI, Trick and Comedy Skaters. Success. Re-engaged 1906. Lib. Feb. 5, on. 37, Aber-st., Liverpool.

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, the Five Feet of Versatility. Touring with Harry Clifford's Co. Coms., 12, The Crofts, Rotherham.

CLAVER and PICCOLO, Sensational Equilibrists and Juggler. Jan. 29, Grand Hippodrome, Wigan; vacant Feb. 5, 12, 26.

CLEGG, ALFRED, A revelation as the cat. Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, as a Baby, and other people. This week, Greenwich; next, Woolwich.

CLEMPERT, the Renowned JOHN, Proprietor Rink and plot of land attached. 14, Devonshire-st., Higher Broughton, Manchester.

CLEVELANDS, THE, J. D. Hunter's Pantomime, Monday, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

CLIFF and KEAN, Success, Last Week, Empire, Paisley; also this, Hippo., Wakefield, re-engaged for next week. Hippo., Wakefield.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLLARD'S, MADAME, Boarhounds, Novel Specialité. Feb. 5, Hippo., Ipswich. Vac. Feb. 12, 19. Managers and Agents invited.

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CONDER, ALF, Comedian, "Bricks and Mortar" Merchant; always lucky. Conder Villa, 204, Palatine-rd, Blackpool.

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CONYERS, CISSIE, Captain in "Crusoe," Played Principal Boy, through Indisposition. Many Thanks to F. J. Little, Esq.

COOKE, STEVE, Burlesque Comedian; Maudie Shiftalot. Grand Theatre, Luton; Summer vacant.

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CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack, ADA JENNER, Captain Cable, in Francis Laidler's superb production. Prince's T., Bradford.

CUSTANCES, THE, in Successful Comedy Duologue, "A Game for Two," 104, Salisbury-street, Bedford.

DALE and D'ARGAN, In their Novelty Comedy Act, "Le Café Magique." Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

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DANBYS, THE, Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood." Wanted, Comedy Songs. Victoria T., Broughton.

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DANIELS, THE TWO, the Black Boys, with novel original business, require Feb. 5, P. O. W. Theatre, Tredegar, Mon.

DANVILS, THE (GEO. and MAY), Usual success Broadhead tour. Jan. 29th, Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE. "Fill up the Bowl of Friendship," by Reuben More. This, Regent, Salford; next, Palace, Blackpool.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). Jan. 29, His Majesty's, Walsall.

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DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and MAY), title-rôle and Dandini, "Cinderella." Lib. March 5. Agent wanted. T. R., W. Bromwich.

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DELEVINES, THE, In New and Original Comedy, "The Bell Inn." Empire, Hackney.

DENBY and DENT, Continued Panto. success, Gaiety T., Leith. Mon., Grand T., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Free for 1906-7.

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DE ROSE, MDLLE., J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy. Malicio. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Grand Theatre, Luton.

DE VERES, THREE, Vacant Jan. 29 and Feb. 12, through disappointment, in their Great Comedy Act. Hippo., Paisley.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week, Hippodrome, Ipswich.

DEWICK, DAWSON, Baron Hardup, Gar Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Lib. for Xmas, 1906-7. Jan. 29, T. R., Barnsley.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, "Jock," enormous success Empire, Burnley. Monday, Palace, Greenock.

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DORRIS, MISS RUTH, Gigantic Success, Empire, Bradford. Monday, Jan. 29, Empire, Edinburgh.

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DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Principal Boy, Grand Theatre, Islington.

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DUNDAS, MISS DOROTHY (Mrs. Bert Weston). Indisposed. Many thanks to all friends. I am improving satisfactorily.

DUNMORE, TOM, The Essence of Quaintness. This week, Richmond T., a Success. Next, Empire, Middlesbro'.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN, Two Magnificent Magical and Ventriloquial Acts. Monday, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

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EILEEN and MAYNIE, SISTERS. Youthful Novel Instrumentalists, Expert Dancers. Colston Hall, Bristol.

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ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast; also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts, Vacant Feb. 5, on. Add., 30, G. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELGARS, THE, Operatic Scena and Speciality Artists. Monday, Regent, Salford.

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ELLERTON, A., Songs, &c. All Dunville's, Present Biz, Vesta Victoria, Nellie Wallace, Arthur Reece, &c. 90, Vassall-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Jan. 29, Empire, Hartlepool.

ELLISON, J. W., Comedian, This week, Palace, Derby; next week, Hippo., Wigan. BENTLEY'S Agency.

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FALLOWFIELD, MAY, Principal Girl and Title-Rôle. T. R., Bristol. First Vacancy May 21.

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FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Original Lancashire Singing Collier, 10 Weeks Panto. Jan. 29, P. G. Theatre, Folkestone.

FAWN, MISS ADA, Pavilion, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Monday next, Jan. 29, Tivoli, South Shields.

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FIMANS, THE, Vaudeville Act. Touring England, May, 1906.

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FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. Jan. 29, Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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FORD, SISTERS (CISSIE and QUEENIE). Character and Comedy Duettists. Monday, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

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FRANCISCO, Juggler, and MAY MOODIE. Piccolo soloist, Hippo., Margate; Mon., Hippo., Boscombe. Vac. May 21. PACEY.

FRASETTIS, LES, Hippo., Ipswich.

FREDRICKS, CARL, Baron and Stage Manager, CORDELIA, Fairy Godmother and Specialities, H. Barr's, Esq., "Cinderella" Co.

FRIDKIN'S TROUPE, GREAT BORIS, Grand Theatre, Birmingham, Pantomime.

FULLERS, THE (FRED and LOUIE), Touring with G. H. W. Borrough's Panto., "Sinbad the Sailor." Next week, Clacton-on-Sea.

GANNON, NELLIE, Empire, Dover. What a success on re-appearance at scene of so many triumphs. Mon. Alhambra, Sandgate.

GARVEY, J. E., Character Comedian, Clog and Top Boot Dancer, Vacant Monday. Coms., 119, Besemere-st., Grangetown, Yorks.

GATLEY, ADA, in her Up-to-date Combination Speciality. A few Vacant dates. Address, 149, Waldegrave-rd., Preston, Brighton.

GEE, FRANK, Dame, "Forty Thieves," Royal Theatre, Aldershot.

GERONDE, THREE SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. Monday next, Jan. 29, Palace, Oldbury.

GILBERT, TOM, Comedian, Great Success Aquarium, Scarborough. Next week, Bijou Empire, Hull. Vac. Feb. 5 and 12.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist "Me Hat's Off." Palace, Cork; Monday, Tivoli, Dublin.

GILMORE, ROBB, The Talented Grotesque Comedian. Big Reception nightly, "Dick Whittington," Crystal Pal.

GLENN, MARY M., The Premier Scottish Vocalist. Monday, Empire, Edinburgh.

GLOBELLA, Globe Manipulator, Juggler, &c., Assisted by MDLLE. MELIE, Success, This, Hippo., Mansfield. Vac. Mon. Wire.

GOLD, HARRY, Comedian, "Animated Sovereigns" and "Cloudland." Jan. 29, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham.

GOLD, JOE, & DOROTHY STERLING, This week, Palace, Attercliffe, Sheffield. Next week, Palace, Derby.

GOLDEN and GREY, in American Vaudeville, "The Missing Will." Liverpool Post—An excellent duo. Palace, Grimsby.

GOLDING, R. J., Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist. Perm., 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

GRAHAM, ERIC, Kind regards to Jack Charman, Esq. 16, West Wynford-st., Weaste, Manchester.

GRAHAM'S, CLIFFORD, AGENCY, 8, Campden House-road, Kensington, W. 'Phone, 2260 Western. Tele, "Cliffalla, London."

GRAHAMS (REX and LOUIE), 19, Co-operative-st., Goldthorpe, near Rotherham. 38, Queen-st., Hammersmith, W.

GRAHAM'S, DAISY, Performing Birds and Gorgeous Electric Fit-up. Only vacant dates, July 2, 9, 16. Poole's Myrio., Pier, Hastings.

GRANTLEY, C., and L. COLEMAN, Big Panto. Success. Vacant 1906-7. Grand, Newcastle; Prince's, Bradford.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Versatile Comedians, "In a Restaurant." Great success as Ugly Sisters, Flossie and Araminta

GRAY, GEORGE, Stoll-Moss Empires. Stoll-Moss Empires.

GREEN, BRUCE, Comedian, Engaged for Dame Dickory, "Bonny Boy Blue" (Spring), Vic. T., W. Stanley; next, R., Seaham H.

GREEN, MR. TOM, Offers invited for Christmas Production. 106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GREEN, MRS. TOM, (Miss Nellie Gordon), Engaged on New Cinematograph Production.

GREEN, MISS JENNIE, The Original "Our New Slavey." 106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GRENVILLE, SISTERS, Vocalists and Dancers, This Week, Theatre Royal, Leigh; Monday, Grand, Chorley.

GROSVENORS, THE (Three Sisters), Operatic Vocvalists, Second Boy, Girl, Fairy, and speciality, "Cinderella." Next, T. R., Darwen.

GUNN, WALTER (late Walter Reeves), Working under my own name now. All new songs. 17, Odgen-street, Hulme, Manchester.

GUYONS, THE, Sketch, "His One Great Sin," also VERONIQUE, Juvenile Vocalist and Dancer. Vac. Feb. 12, Court T., Bacup.

HAIG and NOVEL, just finished 2 months at the Palace Theatre, London, W. Jan. 29, E., Hull.

HALL, CLIFTON, Vocalist, Demon King and Speciality, "The Valley." Jan. 29, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

HALL, DAVE, Author, Composer, Songs, Patter, Scenas, Sketches, on hand or to order. 47, Chatham-place, Hackney, London.

HALL, EDITH, in Own Sketch, "Playing at Poverty," by Wilfred H. Benson. Address, care of "The Era."

HALLAM and STANTON, Refined Entertainers, in "A Broken Journey," Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester.

HAMILTON, BOB, Usual Success Palace, Blackpool. Next, City Varieties, Leeds. FIONI, Liverpool.

HANDEL and LEE, Refined Musical Speciality. Usual Success Palace, Halifax; next, Rochdale.

HANS and LUX, the College Chums. Just Finished Panto. Unrivalled Success. Next week, Hippo., Grimsby.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid," Palace, Plymouth.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, America, June. Vacant April 9, 23, May 7, 14, only. 16, Repton-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

HARRIS and WORTH, Brokers Men, "Cinderella." Thanks for Offers of next year. Met., Openshaw, Manchester.

HARROLD, CHARLES H., Australia's Representative Comedian. Conclude to-night, Pal., Northampton. All coms., "The Era" Office.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY, FRANK, Pocket Cinquevalli. Fast Booking up. Another Success. This, Grand, Bolton; next, Palace, Belfast.

HARTLEY WONDERS, Original Jumping Speciality. As Usual, Big Success. Jan. 29, Hippodrome, Preston.

HARVEY, CHARLEY, Comedian. Authors with Clean, Clever, Funny Songs, Please Forward. 5, West End-terrace, Southport.

HAVERLEYS, THE, American Song Illustrators, finish P., W. Hartlepool, to-night; next, P., Blackburn. 15, Albert-sq., Clapham, S.W.

HAYDEE'S Miniature Vaudeville Theatre. Jan. 29, Palace, Blackburn.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian. London Nightly. 1, Southwell-terrace, Lewis-road, Camberwell.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius. Big Success H., Hulme; Monday next, H., Bury.

HENRIS, LES, M. and MDME., Elegant Equilibrists and Gymnasts. The Original Henris. Regent, Salford.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Hippodrome, Margate.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. Metropolitan. Agent, WARNER.

HERMAN, SYD, Hebrew Comedian; LIL DRESDEN, Songstress. Success, Pier, Southport. Mon., Em., York. S. H. requires Songs.

HILL, ROWLAND, "The Man in Skirts," Jordison's "Babes" Panto., T. R., Dewsbury.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Performers, Monday, Palace, Lancaster. Liberty Feb. 12, 19.

HIND, MABEL, Versatile Comedian. This week, Newcastle-on-Tyne; next week, Empire, Edinburgh.

HINTON and WOOTON, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

HOCKING, PROF. INMAN, M.E., D.Ph., D.Sc., Electric Hypnotic Healer. C/o Sole Agent, LARDER, 22, Levington-st., Grimsby.

HOLMES, BERT, Mus. Dir., Queen's Theatre, East Grinstead. Perm. address, 8, Elmwood, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton.

HOUGHTON, G. W., the Human Torpedo. Sensational Dive in "The Redskins." Hippo., Manchester, until further notice.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and NELLIE). Empire Theatre, Newport.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. At Lib. Feb. 5, 19. Wire or write, Kennington Theatre, S.E.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Two Smart Acts. Vacant Feb. 12, 19. Monday, City Varieties, Leeds.

HUMBER, FANNIE, as Will Scarlet, "Red Riding Hood" Co. P. O. W., Salford.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Jan. 29, Empire, Liverpool.

HUXTER, THREE BROS., This, P., Leicester; next, E., Ardwick. Perm., 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE, Principal Comedian and Princess, Pardoe's "Cinderella." This week, next, T. R., W. Bromwich.

ILLUMINO STATUO, This week, Hippo., Hastings. Jan. 29, Hippo., Eastbourne.

IRIS, MAMIE, Dainty and Neat, "Cinderella," Prin. Girl, Jordisson's Panto. This, Hippo., Ashton; next, Hippo., Openshaw.

ISABELLE, SISTERS, Third Year J. A. Thomson's "Aladdin" Co. Second Boy and Girl. T. R., Worthing.

IVESON, TONY, Doing terrific with the Stonewallers at St Helens. Jan. 29, Hippo., Accrington.

JAQUES, T. C., Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, This Week, Gaiety, Oldham; Next, Empire, Burnley. Good Songs wanted. DALTON'S.

JEROME, MDLLE. POLLO, Smartest Lady Gymnast, Up-to-Date. Vacant Jan. 29, and Feb. 12. Address, Hippo., Carlisle.

JOSEPHINE, MISS, Sister to Miss Lucretia, Princess Charming in "Dick Whittington," Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. St. Margaret's Hall, Dunfermline.

KARDOC, HARRY, Handcuff King, Causing a Sensation in Greenock this week. Monday, Empire, Dundee. (See "Wants.").

KATHRENA, MISS IDA, Gaiety, Chatham, Scena, Carnival of Toys, Agent, TOM CLAXTON.

KAVADOS, Juggler, Alhambra, Sandgate. Monday, Empire, Dover. FLO MELVILLE. Big Success Panto., T. R., Worcester.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Enormous Success with Jordison's "Cinderella." Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

KEIR, DONALD, and MABEL KEMPTON, Premier Vocal Duettists. This, Palace, Glasgow; next, Hippodrome, Wigan.

KEITH and MERSON, Theatre Royal. Bury.

KELLERMANN, ANNETTE, 100th Performance at London Hippodrome.

KELSOS, THE TWO (WILL and MINNIE), as Duffey and Fan Tan, "Aladdin" Panto., R.C., Wigan; Jan. 29, T.R., St. Helens.

KELSOS, THE (TOM and EDIE), James Kiddie's "Aladdin" Co. T. R. St. Helens. Chants, Duets, and Songs Required.

KENDAL, ALEC, Four Meals a Day, Following Everything, and Doing Big. Theatre Royal, Bristol.

KENT, WAL, The Musical Mechanic, on Tour. New Act shortly. C/o "The Era."

KESSLER, MABEL, the Versatile Principal Boy, Actress, Vocalist. Cornet and Post Horn specialities. Whittington, Royal, Widnes.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, This, Hippodrome, Sheerness. Next, Bedford.

KINGSLEY, CISSIE, Distinct Success as Abdallah, Fred Granville's "Forty Thieves." Agent Wanted. 29th, T. R., Middlesbrough.

KIRA'S ROYAL CINGALESE TROUPE. Permanent, C/o E. Jago, 1, Model-bdgs., Windsor-st., Brighton.

KLOOF and RAMSAY, a Meritorious Starring Tour, with Clever Originality.—Vide Press. Monday, Empire, Paisley (first visit).

KNICK-KNACKS, THE, Including Miss MATTIE CRONIN, the Dancer, of the Original Two. 126, Lambeth-rd.

KYOTO, the Original One; MAY GERALDINE, Dancing Chic Comedienne. Mon., Jan. 29, Stoll Tour, Empire Pal., Holloway.

LAIRD, DAVID, Refined Versatile Comedian. Communications, c/o "Era."

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, Principal Boy, "Goody Two Shoes," Theatre Royal, Bury.

LAND, FRED, This Tivoli, Leeds; next, Hippo., Hull. S. Africa, March, 1906. Coms., PACEY and REEVES.

LANG, GENTLE BROS., Court Theatre, Bacup. Lithos. by D. Allen and Sons.

LAROLA and ROSE CABANI, Milton Bode's Panto., T. R., Swindon; Mon., T. R., Huddersfield. Agents, G. Barclay, Pacey, & Reeves.

LASSAH, LILLIE, Pantomime, Britannia Theatre, Hoxton.

LAVELLE BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats, a Genuine Success. Vacant Feb. 19, 26. Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

LEE, THE ORIGINAL THREE SISTERS, Acrobats. Big Success Hippo., Wigan. Sail Feb. 2 for Australia.

LEE and ARDEN, Scotch Comedy Couple. Monday, Aquarium, Scarborough.

LEECH, ERNIE, the Ventriloquial Marvel. Phenomenal Sucess, on Tour. First Vac. Feb. 19. Perm., 28, Hall O' Shaw, Crewe.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Address, Prince's Theatre, Manchester.

LE GRAHAM, THREE SISTERS, Big Success, Dandini, Second Boy and Girl, and Specialities. Theatre Royal, Darwen.

LEIGH, SISTERS, Conclude Panto To-Night, At Lib. Monday. All coms. to Marie Leigh, late 5 Delevines. FORTUNE and GRANVILLE.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, Great Success, Temperance Hall, Merthyr. Monday, Pal., Greenwich; Grimsby, Carlisle, &c, to follow.

LESLIE BROS., Australian Representative Musical Team. Jan. 29, Empire, Glasgow.

LEVAINE, HARRY, Eccentric Patter Comedian ("'Ave a bit o' sense.") This week, T. R., Aston; next, T. R., Smethwick.

LEVEY, "DEL," All Wires and Letters, Victoria Hotel, Liverpool, or c/o "The Era."

LEWIS, NELLIE, Still a Big Success as Aladdin, This Week, the Bedford; Next, Regent, Salford.

LINCOLN, MISS ADELE, Comedienne and Dancer, Big Success, Dandini, Montefiore's "Cinderella." Next, G. T., West Hartlepool.

LINTON, Acrobatic Bouncing Bounder. Good Act for Galas, Tenting, vacant April 2. This, Palace, Sunderland; next, Palace, Bristol.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, and MISS LUMLEY, The Royal Entertainers, Touring. Letters to St. George's Hall, London, W.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS, Lady Acrobats; ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer; on Tour. Mechanics' T., Dumfries, N.B.

LLOYD, FRED, and CO., "The Blind Spinster." Vacant Feb. 12. Monday, Palace, Dundee.

LORCH FAMILY, The Marvellous, Greatest Risley Act, including Three Ponies, One Donkey. Jan. 29, Hippo., Stockton-on-Tees.

LORRISONS, THE, Eccentrics, Jan. 29, Palace, Belfast. Sole agent, WALTER BENTLEY'S Variety Agency.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO, Trick Cyclists, 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LOTTO, POOLE, and FRANK WEIR Thanks J. Lotto for Contracts for Syndicate Halls. J. Lotto, or 42, King-street, Hull.

LOVELACES, THE, American Song Illustrators. Mon., Grand T., Halifax. Thank Messrs. S. L. Lee, E. Dottridge, &c.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS. EDWARD H., in "Scenes from Dickens." This week, E., Newcastle; next, E., S. Shields. FORTUNE and G.

LUCK, HARRY, Author and Composer of Humorous Songs. Jan. 29, Palace, Bradford. Write for anybody.

LUCRETIA, MISS, Principal Boy, "Dick Whittington," Highly Complimented. Mon., Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

LUMIERE'S, MDLLE., New Electrical Fairy Grotto, always successful and a draw. Address, Metropole Theatre, Openshaw.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, in American Picture Songs. Hippo., Southampton. Mon., Palace, Plymouth.

LYNN, CARL, King of Animal Mimics. This, Hippo., Carlisle; next, Palace of Varieties, Lancaster. Perm. add., 11, Market-pl., Hyde.

LYONS, HARRY, Humorist. Waterside, Londonderry.

MAC and FULLER, "Captain and the Ship." Close To-night, Enormous Success, Hippodrome, Hull. Agent, R. W. BENTLEY.

MACS, THE NEW, C. St. John Denton's "Cinderella." Monday, Jan. 29, 1906, Queen's Theatre, Leeds.

MADCAPS, THE, A. Winkler's World-famed Dancers. 20, Rusthall-avenue, Bedford Park, London, W.

MALONE and CONLEY, Next Two weeks, Her Majesty's, Walsall, Little's Forty Thieves. Still smoking Joe May's Woodbines.

MAPLES, THE, Creators of Laughter and Expert Speciality Dancers. Geo. B. Phillips's "Red Riding Hood." Pal., Newcastle.

MARCONIS, THE GREAT, Most Wonderful Electric Act on Earth; usual success Circus, Rochdale, where address, second week.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE.
Address, 10, King-street, London, W.C.
Permanent address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE, Manager and Stage Director. Mr. Mouillot's Geisha and Greek Slave Co., King's T., Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price). Disengaged.
3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. PAIGE LAWRENCE as Walter Hatherleigh, in "Driven from Home."
Feb. 5, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
Lead, "Disgrace to Her Sex."
Feb. 5, Terriss, Rotherhithe.

MR. EDWIN LEVER,
Disengaged. Heavies, Character, Old Men.
Address, 161, Cambridge-street, Pimlico, London.

MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING, Playing Pharus in A. C. Calmour's play, "The Prodigal Son." Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. GEO. ENCYL LEWIS,
Musical Director, returned from South Africa. Offers invited. Address, c/o "The Era."

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Principal Caracter Comedy, Disengaged.
51, Victoria-street, Bradford.

MR. EDWIN LING,
S. M. Allan-Wilkie Rep. Co.
Offers autumn. Kishmet, Wolsey-road, Esher.

MR. FRANK LISTER,
Napoleon, Scala Theatre. Offers Invited.
47a, Bedford-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. FRANK LISTON,
Heavies, Juveniles, Charles II., in "The Orange Girl." 5th, Palace, Glasgow.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY
"The Village Blacksmith" Co.
Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Disengaged.
28, Chelverton-road, Putney.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART,
"Sunday" Company.
Royalty Theatre, Chester.

MR. T. RENAUD LOCKWOOD,
Lord Robert Ure, "The Christian."
Feb. 5, Theatre Royal, Perth.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Disengaged.
Address, 7, Bridson-street, Liverpool.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
(Agnes St. Clair).
64, Hove-avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
Disengaged.
7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. FRANK LYNDON,
Samuel Hoggard (the Deacon), "Saints and Sinners," Lyceum, Newport. Disengaged April 30.

MR. GEORGE F. MACKARNESS,
Mr. Henry Furnival's "Lost in Paris" Co.
En route.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY.
Own Tour, "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route, or Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN
(Miss Lily C. Bandmann). Own company in "Claudian." Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM MALLALIEU,
"The Freedom of Suzanne" Co.
Grand Theatre, Fulham.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
at Liberty, Offers Invited.
18a, Hartswood-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend" Co.
Feb. 5, T. R., Belfast.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance-Manager, Mr. Cyril Maude's "Beauty and the Barge" Co. Feb. 6, B., Stratford.

MR. AUBREY MATHER, Claudius, Tybalt, Morocco, Porthos, &c. Ian Maclaren Répertoire. Feb. 5, Athenæum, Lancaster.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
Vaudeville Theatre, London.

MR. HENRY W. MAY.
All Kinds of Music Composed and Orchestrated. Pantomimes, &c. Add., C/o "The Era."

MR. QUINTON McPHERSON,
at Liberty for Character or Comedy parts.
18, Bonneville-gardens, Clapham Park, S.W.

MR. LONNEN MEADOWS,
Yellow Dwarf, and producer Grand, Birmingham. Next, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

MR. and MRS. ARTHUR MERVYN,
Juv. Lead. Arrangements complete.
Perm., The Cot, Trafalgar-road, Twickenham.

MR. BERTRAM MILLAR,
Address,
47, West 28th Street, New York, U.S. America.

MR. WILLIAM J. MILLER,
Robespierre, "The Throne of Terror."
Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

MR. DICKSON MOFFAT,
Charactor Actor (Disengaged). Entertainer.
Invites offers. C/o "The Era."

MR. G. M. MONTANINI,
Business-Manager, "A Traitor Prince," 130th week. Feb. 5, Gaiety, Dundee.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, "Napoleon the Great" Co. T. R., Consett.

MR. & MRS. KENYON MUSGRAVE,
"Romeo and Juliet" Production (Feb. 15).
Feb. 15, Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. FRED MORGAN.
All Communications to
55, Amersham-road, New Cross, S.E.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
"The Prodigal Parson" Tour.
Rehearsing, Court T., Bacup.

MR. ERNEST OWTTRIM,
Disengaged for Lead,
Address, 33, Grove-lane, Camberwell, S.E.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
Address,
Daly's Theatre, W.

MR. LEONARD PAGDEN,
With "Sunday."
Feb. 5, Royalty, Chester.

MR. F. M. PAGET,
Old Men, Character, and Heavies.
42, Craven-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. and MRS. ROBSON PAIGE
(Mabel Syringa),
Address, 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. MARK PATON
(Miss Mabel Rees), Disengaged, for Character and Comedy. 1, Stockwell-avenue, Brixton, S.W.

MR. POPE PAX,
Journalist and Dramatic Critic,
Address, 18, Trinity-road, Birmingham.

MR. DOUGLAS PAYNE,
Disengaged.
Address, 1, Elmfield-road, Bromley, Kent.

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE,
At Liberty.
63, Bedford Court-mansions, W.C.

MR. G. R. PEACH,
Address,
10, Wandle-road, Croydon.

MR. & MRS. W. KINGSFORD PEARCE
(Miss Wynne Hanley).
W. K. P., Mrs. Louis Calvert's "Duffer" Co.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE, Engaged for Monks, in "Oliver Twist," Mr. Tree's Spring Tour. Perm. Add., 65, Redcliffe-rd., S. Kensington.

MR. FRED PENLEY,
Lord Robert Ure, "The Christian" (Howard), Feb. 5 Maesteg (Glam.); Feb. 7, Treherbert (Glam.)

MR. F. PENNINGTON-GUSH,
as Charles Chester, in "The Duffer," Mr. Louis Calvert's Co. Pier, Eastbourne.

MR. FRED W. PERMAIN
Address,
118, Southampton-row, W.C.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
(Miss Gertrude Price), Leading Business.
Dis. Feb. 12. Feb. 5, Empire, Liverpool.

MR. GORDON PHILLOTT, Duke of Venice, Capulet, Player King, De Tréville, &c. Ian Maclaren Répertoire. Ath., Lancaster.

MR. HARRY PHYDORA,
Feb. 5, Palace, Attercliffe.
Perm., 88s Bedford-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. FELIX PITT,
Erasmus Grimley, "Against the Tide,"
Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. JOHN POOLE-KIRKWOOD,
"Sherlock Holmes" Co.,
Feb. 5, Carlton Theatre, Greenwich, S.E.

MR. & MRS. DONALD PRICE-EVANS
(Miss Marcella Hudson),
"The Talk of the Town" Co. T. R., Plymouth.

MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE,
Capers in "Cinderella."
Brixton Theatre. Disengaged spring.

MR. and MRS. WALTER PURVIS
(Miss Lily Brammer). "Forty Thieves" Panto. Disengaged shortly. T. R., Stockton.

MR. RULE PYOTT,
Disengaged.
49, Hyde-vale, Blackheath, S.E.

MR. F. H. DE QUINCEY, Pierre Lorance "Proof"; relinquishing engagement; offers invited for Shakespearean leads. A.A.

MR. ERNEST RAMSAY,
Disengaged.
Meadowbank, Epsom-road, Guildford.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR.
On Tour with Mr. Martin Harvey.
Feb. 5, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.

MR. and MRS. SIDNEY RENNEF,
S. R. Davy, "Sunday" Co.,
Royalty Theatre, Chester.

MR. PERCY RHODES,
Disengaged.
10, Elmstone-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
Weinstein and Stage Management, "What the Butler Saw," Camden Theatre, N.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
Panto., T. R., Manchester.
Liberty, Spring.

MR. WALTER RINGHAM,
Offers invited.
Address, 50, Curzon-street, Mayfair, W.

MR. WALTER ROBERTS,
Rudolph Laski, "Passion's Power,"
P. O. W., Mexboro'; Feb. 5, Six Nights.

MR. GORDON ROBEY and MISS ANNIE MEGSON, "Sin of Her Childhood" Co., En Route.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON,
Leading Business,
115, Grosvenor-street, All Saints, Manchester.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE,
Disengaged, Light Comedy, &c., Disengaged.
Address, 32, Kelvedon-rd., Fulham, S.W.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS.
Address all communications,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. WILTON ROSS, Lorenzo, Paris, Osric, Aramis, &c. Ian Maclaren's Répertoire. Feb. 5, Athenæum, Lancaster.

MR. HARRY ROUSBY, Comedian,
General-Manager, "Laughter Land" Co.
Feb. 5, Queen's O. H., Workington, Six Nights.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT,
Principal Comedy, "Great Awakening" Co.
County Theatre, Reading.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN,
Tommy Keston, "The Freedom of Suzanne."
Feb. 5, Grand Theatre, Fulham.

MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE, Dis. till April 16, and MISS ALICE ARDEN (Mrs. S.), Dis. 2, Jouberts-man., Jubilee-place, Chelsea.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE,
Disengaged.
Address, c/o "The Era."

MR. FRED SINCLAIR,
Monday,
Hippodrome, Wigan (dramatic).

MR. JAMES SKEA, Character Actor,
Disengaged shortly. Offers invited.
Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY,
Manager for Mr. Robt. Courtneidge,
Lyric Theatre, W.

MR. FRANK STANLEY,
Acting-Manager,
Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. E. STANTON-SHARP,
Baron Bonelli, in "The Eternal City," Feb. 5,
Pavilion, Eastbourne; 8th, O. H., Tonbridge Wells.

MR. W. R. STAVELEY,
Disengaged.
239, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. and MRS. W. S. STEVENSON
(Miss Evelyn Robson) at liberty Feb. 10, special or tour. Grand T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. ERNEST ST. JOHN,
General Gordon, "At Duty's Call."
Theatre Royal, Runcorn.

MR. HERBERT ST. JOHN,
concludes Dandini, Brixton Panto., Feb. 3.
Open "Floradora," Bath, Monday, Feb. 5.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES R. STONE,
Character, Comedy, &c. At Liberty Spring.
Offers Invited. 10, Borough-street, Brighton.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident-Manager (Twelfth Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
General-Manager, "Jack the Giant-Killer" Co. At Liberty, Feb. 12. G. T., Newcastle.

MR. P. HOWARD STURGESS,
"Among the Stars,"
London Hippodrome.

MR. EDWARD SWINTON, Count Mussant and Stage-Management, Mr. Chattell's "Revenge" Co. P. O., Dorking.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS, Dis.,
Char., Com.; Miss KATE PARRY, Light Com., Juv. Coms. only, 57, Denbigh-street, S.W.

MR. RICHARD F. SYMONS,
Business-Manager, "The Eternal City."
Monday, Feb. 5, Pier, Eastbourne.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS,
Disengaged, Leading Business, Disengaged.
Perm., 3, Springdale-road, Clissold Park, N.

MR. TAPPING.
Address,
28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. ALFRED TERRAINE,
Artist.
25, St. Alban's-avenue, Bedford Park, London, W.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE
(Louise Hampton).
New King's Theatre, Pitfield-street, Hoxton, N.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER,
The Baron, "Cinderella."
At Liberty Feb. 19, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

MR. ALLEN THOMAS,
Address,
75, Marlboro'-flats, Walton-st., Chelsea, S.W.

MR. DAN THOMAS,
Feb. 5,
Queen's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. E. W. THOMAS,
Address,
10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON,
Late with Messrs. W. S. Penley, Lionel Rignold, &c. Disengaged. Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. WALTER THORNTON
Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's Co., Feb. 5, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

MR. ALFRED C. TOONE,
Musical-Director, "Lady Madcap."
O. H., Cheltenham.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS,
Producer, Stage-Manager,
Theatre Royal, Bristol.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL,
"The Breed of the Treshams" Tour.
Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD,
Feb. 5,
R. A. T., Woolwich.

MR. A. W. TYRER
as Harry Dallas, "Walls of Jericho" Co.
Feb. 5, Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE
(Kate Hallam). Engaged by Lingford Carson, Esq. Bus.-Mgt. and Lead. Q. T., Keighley.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN.
Miss M. Lewes, Understudying Miss Julia Neilson. C. B. V., at Lib. c/o "The Era."

MR. FRED VAUGHAN,
General Business Manager,
"Life of a Showman" Co.

MR. ALBERT VERNON,
Musical-Director,
C/o C. St. J. Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, W.C.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON,
"A Royal Divorce,"
Scala Theatre, W.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR,
Lead. Disengaged Feb. 19.
Address, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS
(Miss Lucy Beaumont). D.V., "Dr. Wake's Patient." L. B. Dis. 8, Bridge-av., Hammersmith.

MR. A. N. VINCE,
Acting-Management or Advance, Disengaged.
6, Ranelagh-gardens, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR WALCOTT,
Disengaged.
Address, 10, Brunswick-square, W.C.

MR. A. E. WALKER,
Mr. Vallerton, "Lucky Durham."
This, T. R., Hanley; Next, Grand, Hull.

MR. EDWIN WALTON.
Address,
Playgoers' Club, 6, Clement's Inn, W.C.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM,
Opera House,
Weymouth.

MR. E. C. WARBURTON-GAMBLE,
Scala Theatre,
Disengaged for Spring.

MR. ALBERT WARD,
Lead,
Feb. 4, 40, Dicconson-street, Wigan.

MR. HYLTON WARDE,
Principal Comedian, Sing and Dance.
Add., 17, Doris-road, Norwich, or A. A.

MR. W. LEMMON WARDE,
Disengaged.
47, Algiers-road, Ladywell, S.E.

MR. FRANK WEATHERSBY,
Theatrical Agency, 3, Bedford-street, Strand,
'Phone, 3781 Cen. Tel., "Frivolous, London."

MR. WYN WEAVER,
Address,
10, King-street, W.C.

MR. and MRS. ALFRED WELLESLEY
(Miss Beatrice Webb), "Dr. Wake's Patient"
Co. Feb. 5, C., Kingston-on-Thames.

MR. C. A. WHITE,
Comedy and Character.
Address, Park House, Harewood-road, Merton, S.W.

MR. E. HARVEY WHITE,
Principal Comedian, Disengaged.
Add., 25, Broadway-parade, Crouch End, N.

MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS,
Granny, "Red Riding Hood."
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS,
Juvenile Lead. Offers Invited.
Burkelands, Carlisle-road, Hove, Brighton, or A.A.

MR. BREMBER WILLS,
Norman V. Norman Tour.
Feb. 5, Opera House, Dudley.

MR. DICK WINSLOW, Manager, Hardie and Von Leer's "Two Little Vagabonds" Co. (No. 1); Feb. 5, Avenue T., Kettering.

MR. FRANK WITHERS,
Disengaged, Business Management, With or Without Part. Address, A.A., 10, King-street.

MR. A. WOOD.
Address,
59, St. Mary's-road, Peckham, S.E.

MR. and MRS. GRAHAM WOODS
(Miss Marie Robson). Offers Invited.
Address, 1a. Kender-street, New Cross, S.E.

MR. STEWART D. WRIGHT, Disengaged to-day. Acting or Advertising Man. Finish of Panto. Offers to Theatre Royal, Blyth.

MR. FRED ZIETZ, Eccentric Dancing Comedian and Animal Personator.
The Coliseum, London; or Agents.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LITTLE MARIE EDMONDS, Winnie in "Bluebell," Messrs. Murray King and Clarke. Nolan Academy, 7, New Coventry-street.

MISS MAIE HOEY,
Dancer and Instrumentalist.
Seasides invited. Address, c/o "The Era."

MASTER ROY LORRAINE, Concluded Brownie King, Gaiety Theatre. Dis.; also AMY LORRAINE, 54, Gurney-st, S.E.

LITTLE DOTT MOSS, Toy Comedienne, Starring, as Hannah Spry, "Sin of Her Childhood" Co. Theatre Royal, Glossop.

SPRING TOURS.

WE ARE NOW BUSY CLEANING DRESSES FOR THE ABOVE,
but our facilities and energy are illimitable.

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TOURING MANAGERS

can have their Wardrobes Cleaned between Shows, when in or near London.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS.
The Limes, Upper Mitcham, Surrey,
Jan. 27, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,—Many thanks for skirt just to hand. I am more than delighted with it. Your process has the happy knack of turning old things into new, as it looks just the same as it did when it came home from the dressmaker's.
Faithfully Yours,
Georgie Wright (Mrs. Leclerq).

Royal Adelaide Gallery,
436, Strand, W.C.,
Jan. 31, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,—I have much pleasure in stating that the work you did for me last autumn was satisfactory in every way, and I was more than pleased, as I did not anticipate the goods would look so nice. Anything that may require cleaning or dyeing this spring from either of the places under my control I should certainly entrust to you, as I am sure that the best possible results will be obtained.
Yours faithfully,
For A. and S. Gatti, Ltd.,
C. D. Slater, Secretary.

'Phone, wire, or write to

T. HARRIS.

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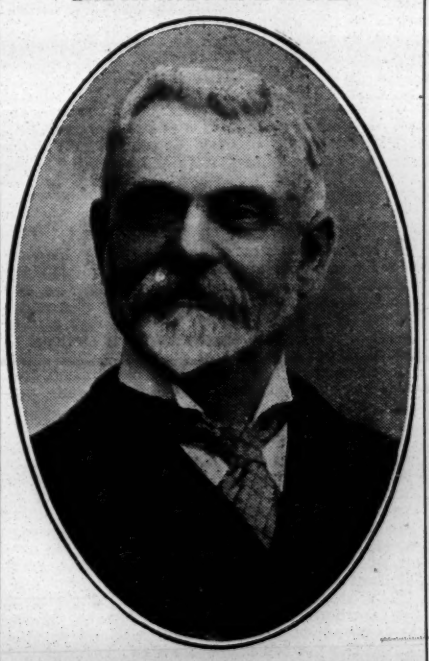

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Telephone, THREE-NINE-TWO-THREE GERRARD.

NOTICE

TO DRAMATIC ARTISTS.

Please keep your ADDRESS CARD permanently in THE ERA in the Alphabetical Arrangements of Dramatic Artists' Advertisements. Managers, Agents, and Friends are in need of this information. Engagements are frequently lost through failure to find your Address. For terms, address—

THE PUBLISHER, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

"The Era" Almanack and Annual ("Era" Office, 1s.), a copy of which lies before me, is an invaluable publication for those who wish to have stage records by them. It contains a dramatic and musical calendar, lists of new plays and important revivals produced at the London and suburban theatres during 1905, and also of plays produced in the provinces. Further, we have lists of the new plays and revivals produced at the principal Paris and Berlin theatres "The Era" Almanack has been regularly issued since 1868, when is was compiled by Edward Laman Blanchard, a comedian whose fascinating life was recorded by Clement Scott. The Almanack closes with an illustrated list of those members of the profession who died during the course of last year, headed, naturally, by Henry Irving. Amongst the other names are those of William Rignold, Frank Celli, Ada Neilson, and Minnie Mario. There is an added pathos in the deaths of those who were so long bodily before the public, and the ringing down of the last curtain seems to have added significance.—T. P.'s Weekly, Jan. 26.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Kind expressions from Authors and Managers.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT.
"I congratulate you on your 'Fifty Years of the Drama': the list must prove both interesting and useful to lovers of and workers for the stage."

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES.
"I think the new feature of *The Era* is most interesting and useful. A list of plays produced from 1850 to 1900 will certainly be of great service to a very large number of your readers."

MR. EDWARD TERRY.
"An admirable idea, and will prove a most valuable record."

MR. FRANK CURZON.
"Your list, I think, will be most useful for reference."

MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD.
"I think the list will be immensely useful."

MR. SYDNEY GRUNDY.
"Your list will be exceedingly useful. But, of course, there is no reason why old titles should not be used again. Indeed, some day we shall have to go back to them. Some of our modern titles, when they are not mere proper names with an adjective attached, display the desperation of the dramatist in too ludicrous a light. Such a title as 'The Importance of Being Earnest' amounts to a misdemeanour."

MR. ARTHUR W. PINERO.
"The list of plays produced during the last half-century is a most valuable record. The thanks of those interested in the theatre are due to *The Era* for this and many other enterprises."

MR. ALFRED SUTRO.
"The list you are compiling will be of very great benefit, and I am looking forward to the time when it shall be complete, and obtainable in pamphlet form."

MR. JUSTIN HUNTLY McCARTHY.
"I have watched with the greatest interest the progress of your alphabetical list of the plays published during the last half of the nineteenth century. It is a most useful undertaking, and when it appears in volume form, it must prove of great value to all who are concerned with the drama."

MR. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.
"The list of plays will be very interesting and useful when published in complete form. The etiquette of the profession apparently still allows of novelists' titles being used by playwrights. Thus, *The Master*, which will appear in your list as a play by somebody else, is the name of a book of mine; while the new play, *Noah's Ark*, has the same title as a shorter story of mine."

MR. ARTHUR LAW.
"The publication in *The Era* of a list of plays produced during the fifty years, 1850-1900, is an excellent idea, and will be most useful to authors who may be in doubt as to their right to a certain title. When it is issued in book form I shall be very glad to possess a copy."

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER.
"Mr. Arthur Bourchier thinks the list very useful indeed."

MR. TOM GALLON.
"Your idea seems to me to be a most excellent one. Quite apart from the fact that there is always a difficulty in knowing what titles have been used, there very often arises the question of when and where a play was actually produced—a question difficult to be answered. Actors and authors should alike be grateful to *The Era*."

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE.
"I think the idea of printing a list of plays produced during the last fifty years an excellent one. It should be of great value to authors."

MR. ARTHUR SHIRLEY.
"The list of produced plays was not merely a happy thought, for the same idea has probably occurred to many, though until *The Era* carried it out no one took the pains to collect and publish such a truly valuable record.
"Managers, dramatists, as well as would-be authors, will henceforward have a long list of titles to refer to, and there will be neither reason nor excuse for encroaching on pre-existing copyright in play titles. What a lot of trouble it should save us all!"

MR. WALTER MELVILLE.
"I think it shows great enterprise on the part of your journal, and likely to prove most useful and at the same time interesting to the general profession."

MR. ARTHUR MORRISON.
"The list you are publishing will be a most valuable work of reference to everybody taking an interest in the stage, and I have no doubt that when it is published as a book you will find its success warrant you in issuing fresh editions from time to time, with the information brought to date in each case."

MR. J. J. DILLEY.
"The idea is an excellent one, and there can be no question at all of the usefulness of such a summary. *Cousin Grace* has not been included. This is a little piece from the French, played at a matinée performance at the Gaiety Theatre, Dec. 4, 1884."

MR. COSMO HAMILTON.
"I think that your new feature is an excellent and most useful one. A list of plays produced during fifty years is interesting not only to the playgoer, but essentially so to the manager and the playwright. They will only have to consult it to be sure that a title has not been used before."

MR. CHARLES H. E. BROOKFIELD.
"My attention has been called to your list of plays produced between 1850-1900. I have no doubt it will prove interesting and useful to many."

MR. F. FRANKFORT MOORE.
"The list of plays produced during the past fifty years, now appearing in *The Era*, will, I am certain, prove, when completed, extremely valuable to everyone associated with the drama in England. I am convinced—and I have had a considerable amount of experience in this direction—that it will be especially valued by all writers upon stage matters. The advantage of being able to refer at a moment's notice to the criticisms upon the production of various plays in various newspapers must be apparent to everyone. If such a list had been in existence some years ago, I would have been saved a vast amount of worry and vexation of spirit. *The Era* has once again proved itself appreciative of the conditions under which the best interests of the drama in England are maintained."

MR. LOUIS N. PARKER.
"I think your list of plays, produced between 1850 and 1900, will, like the other contents of your paper, be invaluable."

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A member of the electrician's staff, named Ingram, while at work during the performance at His Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday afternoon, fell on the stage, and was removed to Charing Cross Hospital in an unconscious state.

The recommendation of the Theatres Committee and the Fire Brigade Committee of the L.C.C. to make the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade responsible for the inspection of the electric lighting and heating plants and other mechanical arrangements in theatres is regarded by some heads of departments as a step in the right direction, assuming that the intention is to centralise control of these matters, with a resultant uniformity in the regulations to be observed and enforced. It is proposed that the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade shall have the assistance of an electrical and mechanical engineer at a salary of £400 per annum, and an electrical engineer at a salary of £200. It is doubtful whether the Council will be able to secure a thoroughly practical electrical engineer, conversant with theatrical work and appliances, at such a salary. During the past quarter the sum expended on inspection of theatres and music-halls was £2 9s. It may therefore be assumed that the Council propose a more elaborate and systematic method of inspection. Be this as it may, there will be a considerable change for the better, if the inspections are conducted by competent men and under one authority. The present method of passing complaints and protests from one to another of the several departments has exasperated both managers and the responsible heads of the stage departments in many theatres and halls.

Mr. Walter Morris and Mr. C. Squires have made the whole of the scenery for the new play at the St. James's Theatre.

At a meeting of the Carpenters' Society on Sunday evening, Mr. A. Palmer, secretary, was nominated for election as one of the National Trustees, and Messrs. A. Jones, A. Spaul, Wm. Skinner, and J. Wilson were nominated for election to the National Committee of the N.A.T.E.

At the Committee meeting of the General Staff Branch N.A.T.E., on Wednesday evening, twenty-six applications for membership were dealt with. An application for legal assistance was received, and the Committe decided that it concerned a matter which they could not undertake. The death of a member was reported, and the claim passed for payment. The final arrangements for the annual general meeting of members to-morrow evening, in the St. George Hall, Westminster Bridge-road, at 7.30, were approved. A full list of the members nominated for election to the various offices will be supplied, as a ballot paper, to members attending the meeting.

Inquiries are again being made with reference to the balance-sheet of the Dramatic and Musical Fund, which Mr. Terry announced, in a letter which appeared in the *Era* some months ago, would be published. No further information is as yet available with reference to the £500 which it was understood the Dramatic and Musical Fund was entitled to, prior to its dissolution.

The ninth annual stage staff supper of the Grand Theatre, Fulham, took place at the Helvetia Restaurant, Putney Bridge, on Thursday, Jan. 25, fifty-six sitting down to a capital spread. Mr. R. Kinney, the popular treasurer of the theatre, occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Harry Barford, stage-manager; Mr. E. Sykes, his assistant; Mr. Whittaker, the conductor; and also by Mr. Andie Caine, Mr. Pat Redmond, and Mr. Leonard Thiel. Many thanks are due to the committee—Messrs. George Caplin, J. Robinson, A. Rudham, P. Walsh, and Jack Callaghan—for the way in which they looked after their guests. The President said some nice things about the staff, and Mr. Barford thanked one and all for making the pantomime such a success, specially mentioning the heads of departments, Mr. Glendoni, the master carpenter, Mr. Rudham, the property master, and Mr. Walsh, the electrician. The harmony was set going by Mr. Ted Dare, who sang "Ring down the curtain, I can't sing to-night," Alf Cooper sang "Fidgety Fudge," J. Robinson obliged with "Old folks at home," and amongst others who gave songs were Messrs. Spooner, Lavender, Whittaker, Bert Cooper, and Neylor. Mr. Andie Caine fairly brought down the house with a sparrow song, and for an encore gave "Stockings." Mr. E. Sykes, the assistant stage-manager, who has a good baritone voice, sang "The Yeoman's Wedding" in fine style, and for an encore gave "I'm a roamer," which was much appreciated; Mr. Pat Redmond obliged with two songs and Mr. Leonard Thiel did ditto; and, after Mr. Alf Cooper had given "What do want to talk about it for?" "Auld Lang Syne" brought the proceedings to a close. Mr. Wally Lake was an efficient accompanist.

AN APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I have been asked by a few friends of Mrs. J. H. Clinch to submit her case to your readers through your valuable columns, hoping the appeal will meet with the response which it undoubtedly deserves. Mrs. Clinch has had for a long time a serious internal trouble for which she has just undergone an operation in the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. The operation has only been partially successful, and she has been sent to the Convalescent Home, Barnhill, to recruit her strength previous to undergoing a second. She is in very poor circumstances, and her long illness, and consequent enforced idleness, makes her case one that would recommend itself to the profession which she has so long followed. Mrs. Clinch has been connected with the stage for well nigh forty years. She was seven years with Captain Morten Price, five years with Mr. John Coleman, two years with Mr. Chas. Rice, Bradford, and the Isle of Man, and in addition to many other engagements, travelled with her husband in Charles Read's *Drink*, and later in Mr. Wilson Barrett's company at The Grand, Leeds. Her last engagement was with Mr. Robert Arthur, Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, playing Biddy in the *Shaughraun* and Lady Betty Piper in *Freedom*. She has not been able to take any work since then, and is not likely, from her present condition, to do anything for some considerable time, and having exhausted her slender resources, has nothing to fall back upon in her need. Personally I have known Mrs. Clinch as a very industrious, brave, and patient lady, meeting her troubles unflinchingly, and only succumbing through sheer bodily weakness. Inquiries at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, through Mr. J. M'Govern, property master, will bear out the case which I have, I am afraid, but imperfectly put, but which I hope will bring some substantial relief to a very deserving member of the profession. Mrs. Clinch's address is 10, St. George's-street, Dundee.—Yours faithfully,

DAVID ROLLO.

3, Derby-street, Dundee.
Jan. 22.

The Sarah Bernhardt Theatre announces for Saturday night the première of M. Paul Gavault's *Le Frisson de l'Aigle*, a play in six tableaux, several of which will be of a sensational nature. The excellent cast includes Mdlle. Cormon, Mdlle. Marguerite Brésil, Mdlle. Yvonne de Rycke, and MM. André Calmettes, Henry Krauss, Paul Plan, and Georges Maury.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

CINEMATOGRAPH REGULATIONS.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported:—We have had under consideration an application for permission to use, in connection with cinématograph entertainments to be given in London music halls, a form of acetylene known as "Dissolved Acetylene." The use of acetylene gas for the purposes referred to is prohibited by the Council's regulations as to the use of acetylene gas and cinématograph lanterns in theatres and premises licensed by the Council; but we are advised that the use of "Dissolved Acetylene," which has become common in Paris, is not attended with any risk of a special or peculiar nature, provided it is contained in vessels which are satisfactory for the purpose.

On April 10, 1901, an order, made under the Explosives Act, 1875, was issued by the Secretary of State for the Home Department dealing with the use of this form of acetylene, and subject to the conditions prescribed by this order being complied with, and to precautions being taken to ensure that the gas does not come into contact with copper or copper alloys, we see no objection to its use in premises licensed for public entertainments. In order to sanction this it is necessary that certain alterations should be made in the Council's regulations with regard to the use of acetylene gas and cinématograph lanterns in licensed premises.

The Committee accordingly recommended that these alterations be made.

Replying to a question by Mr. Dolman as to whether the cinématograph apparatus which was in use in several music halls on Sundays was inspected on that day,

Mr. W. B. Yates, chairman of the Theatres Committee, said that the point had been before the Committee many times, and they had come to the conclusion that where there were fixed boxes in use, it was only necessary to have an occasional inspection. Where they were used on Sundays, they were inspected on Saturday nights. As the Council knew, the object of course was to avoid, as far as possible, Sunday labour.

The recommendation was adopted.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

The Committee reported they had considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing the proposed spacing of the pit-seating at the Holborn Empire (late Royal Music Hall), and had no objection to the arrangements as shown on the plan.

Approved.

INSPECTION.

The Committee reported that the expenditure incurred with regard to the inspection of places of public entertainment respecting the character of the performances, &c., during the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1905, was £2 9s.

PAVILION THEATRE, MILE-END.

The Committee had considered plans submitted by Messrs. Runtz and Ford, showing a proposal to place four gas radiators in the stalls and balcony at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile-end, and recommended that these gentlemen be informed that the Council had no objection to the arrangements shown on the plans, provided that certain stated conditions are complied with.

Agreed to.

ROYALTY THEATRE.

The Committee had considered a plan submitted by Messrs. Smee and Cobay, and recommended that these gentlemen be informed that the Council had no objection to the proposed conversion into dressing-rooms of some store-rooms in the basement of the Royalty Theatre, Soho, provided that certain stated conditions are complied with.

Approved.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

The Committee had considered plans submitted by Mr. W. Hunt showing how it is proposed to give effect to the suggestions made by the Council for the structural improvement of the Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, and recommended that Mr. Hunt be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the six plans submitted, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with:—

(1) That the woodwork on and above the stage be rendered fire-resisting.
(2) That the upper flies be removed.
(3) That the front of the gallery be protected so as to prevent members of the audience falling over in case of panic or rush.
(4) That plans showing the construction of the fire-resisting curtain and sprinkler to the proscenium opening be submitted to and approved by the Council.

Adopted.

NEW SCHEME OF INSPECTION.

A long report was presented by the Theatres and Music Halls and Fire Brigade Committees, with reference to the inspection of theatres and other places of public entertainment. The report pointed out that at present there are four departments of the London County Council's service concerned in the inspection of places of public entertainment, viz., the architect's department, the chief engineer's department, the fire brigade, and the public control department. It is now thought that the division of the work of inspection between so many departments tends to an increase in the number of inspections necessary to secure efficient control, and renders it difficult to avoid occasionally making requirements which may to some extent overlap, or conflict with, each other. The Theatres Committee have, therefore, considered whether the number of departments concerned in the inspection of places of public entertainment could not be reduced.

They consider that the inspection of places of public entertainment as regards the use of explosives and dangerous substances should be done by the fire brigade inspection staff, but that any case of an infringement or probable infringement of the Explosives Acts coming to the notice of the chief officer of the fire brigade should be notified to the chief officer of the public control department. This change will not necessitate any additional inspections by the inspection staff of the fire brigade, and will consequently not necessitate any increase of that staff. As regards the inspection of the electric lighting and heating arrangements in places of public entertainment, for which at present the chief engineer is responsible, the Committee think that this also should be placed under the control of the chief officer of the fire brigade, so that the number of departments concerned in the systematic inspection of licensed places of public entertainment may be reduced to two, namely, the superintending architect's department and the fire brigade. "The Committee," it is stated, "believe that there will be great advantages in such an arrangement, as it will make it possible to so co-ordinate the inspection work that a licensee can be informed at one and the same time of all matters which should be attended to at his building. This will prevent any overlapping or conflicting requirements being made, and will effectually remove any grounds for complaint that the Council's action sometimes subjects the proprietors of places of public entertainment to unnecessary inconvenience and expense." The chief engineer has suggested that the following staff would be required by the chief officer of the fire brigade for the new duties:—

One electric lighting and mechanical engineer to take charge of the section under the chief officer of the fire brigade, at a salary of about £400 a year.

One electric lighting inspector (salary £245 a year), to be transferred from the engineer's department.

One electric lighting inspector (salary £200 a year), to be newly appointed.

One heating inspector (salary £230 a year), to be transferred from the engineer's department.

In recommending the formation of this staff the Committee point out that "during the past few years there has been a great increase in the use of electric lighting in places of public entertainment, both as a means of lighting the premises and of producing stage effects. The Committee feel strongly that the responsibility of the Council for taking every reasonable precaution to ensure the safety of the public makes it imperative that the electric lighting and heating installations at all places of public entertainment should be periodically and systematically inspected, and under the existing arrangements it has not been possible to do this as fully as it should be done."

The consideration of the report was deferred.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Miss Olga Nethersole appeared in five plays during her very successful engagement of six weeks at the Herald-square Theatre, which came to an end on the 6th inst. The first two weeks were devoted to *The Labyrinth*, after which Miss Nethersole gave a fortnight to *Carmen*. Then came a revival of *Sapho*, which held the boards until the 4th inst., when a single performance of *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* wis given. *Magda* was presented on the following ing evening, and *The Labyrinth* was repeated on the last night of the engagement. Miss Nethersole will cross the continent to San Francisco, in which city she will remain for five weeks, and will appear in *Camille and Adrienne Lecouvreur*, besides the plays already mentioned.

Mr. Fred Walton, the English pantomimist, has made a big hit in *The Babes and the Baron*, a musical extravaganza recently produced by the Messrs. Shubert and Mr. John C. Fisher at the Lyric Theatre. The piece is an amusing jumble of the old familiar nursery stories, and Mr. Walton impersonates the Toy Soldier. His performance has been pronounced the cleverest thing of its kind that has been seen upon the New York stage for many a year. The dancing of La Petite Adelaide is another popular feature. This seasonable attraction is doing an excellent business.

"Madeline," a tragic little play from the pen of Mrs. William Kingdon Clifford, is now being presented as a curtain raiser to *Mary, Mary, quite Contrary*, in which Miss Henrietta Crosman is appearing at the Garrick Theatre. Madeline de Bray, a French actress, very much in love with Norman Luard, an English diplomat, is abandoned after an intimacy that has lasted for eight years. He is about to take the train for England to marry another girl, an alliance with whom will help him in his career. Madeline, when she finds him deaf to her entreaties, resolves to prevent him by force from carying out his intention. At their final meeting she locks the door, draws a pistol, and threatens to kill the young Englishman, who coolly tells her to have her own way, and asks permission to write a farewell letter. His *sang-froid* unnerves her, and she allows him to depart unharmed, the sound of a pistol shot just as the curtain falls indicating that she has committed suicide. The rôle of Madeline affords Miss Crosman an opportunity to depict the vagaries of feminine hysteria, and this she does very cleverly. Mr. Guy Standing acts the part of Norman Luard with commendable sincerity and repression. As Sir Charles Campbell, Mr. Percy Ames cleverly delineates certain ultra-English idiosyncrasies.

Mr. Louis Mann and Miss Clara Lipman are appearing at the Lew Fields Theatre in a four-act comedy called *Julie Bon-Bon*, of which Miss Lipman is the author. Julie Bon-Bon is a French milliner who becomes acquainted with John Van Brunt, a young man of good family, during a trip to America. He falls in love with her, believing her to be well connected. When he discovers his error he is still anxious to marry the milliner despite the strenuous opposition of his mother, a society leader, and the serious discouragement of finding Julie's father a drunken reprobate. The climax comes with a supper at a popular "east side" restaurant known as "Little Hungary." Julie dances on a table, and her lover leaves in disgust. On the following morning, however, they "make it up," and there is a happy ending. Miss Lipman is very successful as Julie, her vivacity and personal charm making her very popular. Mr. Mann gives a clever and amusing portrayal of the bibulous old Frenchman, Jean Poujol.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—Mr. Henri De Vries has scored such an emphatic success in *A Case of Arson* at the Madison-square Theatre that his engagement there is sure to be a very prosperous one, the house being crowded at every performance. Of nine characters, seven are portrayed by Mr. De Vries, who changes his voice and appearance in a marvellous manner. So many members of the profession are curious to see Mr. De Vries that he has arranged to give a professional matinée tomorrow afternoon. *A Case of Arson* is preceded by *The Braisley Diamond*, a farcical comedy in three acts, by W. A. Tremayne and J. L. Hall. Mrs. Braisley pawns a diamond scarfpin belonging to her husband, and puts a paste one in its place. Immediately afterwards the husband loses the substituted article under embarrassing circumstances. Husband and wife then make strenuous efforts to recover the pin, engaging in an amusing game of cross purposes. Mr. Henry Vibart and Miss Dorothy Drake appear with success as Mr. and Mrs. Braisley. Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk gives a clever impersonation of a "flash" confidence man, and Miss May Vokes is amusing as a maid-of-all-work.

"Cashel Byron's Profession," with Mr. James J. Corbett in the title-rôle, has been well received at Daly's Theatre. It is a little surprising to see the name of an ex-champion of the prize ring adorning the exterior of what was considered the most "select" theatre in New York in days gone by. This is upsetting the oft-mentioned "traditions" of Daly's Theatre with a vengeance! But traditions are upset quite frequently nowadays, and no great harm is done. The world goes on just the same. As the hero of Mr. Shaw's novel is a pugilist, it is not surprising that the dramatist, Mr. Stanisaus Stange, should have had Mr. Corbett in mind when he prepared the play, seeing that the ex-champion is no stranger to the footlights. And instead of being one of those happy ideas so promising in theory and so disappointing in practice, the plan worked out beautifully. As Cashel Byron, Mr. Corbett is not only sincere and natural; he plays the part with all the ease and authority of an experienced actor, and his success is unquestioned. In fact, it is doubtful if the play would create anything but a very mild interest without Mr. Corbett in the title-rôle, the story being undramatic. Lydia Carew, an heiress, encounters Cashel Byron at an English country-house, and falls into a misapprehension in regard to his "profession." He interests her greatly at their first meeting, and the interest grows into love. But when the truth is made known to the young lady under somewhat ludicrous circumstances, she repels him. The pugilist is persistent, however, and satisfies her that he is not the brute she supposes him to be, so their love affair ends happily. Miss Margaret Wycherly appears as Lydia Carew. There are three acts, the scenes representing a glen in Wilstoken Park, the conservatory of Mrs. Hoskyns's London house, and the kitchen of Warren Lodge.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERTILLERY. — Theatre Metropole. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, George W. Venton, Esq.; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard presented his company on Monday in *The Eternal City*. Mr. E. Stanton Sharp as Baron Bonelli was powerful and dramatic; Mr. Henry Dea was responsible for an excellent conception of David Rossi; Mr. J. Fortescue as Pope Pius XI. did well; Miss Rona Merrick's Donna Roma was pathetic and interesting; and Miss Constance Stephens's rendering of the Princess Bellini deserves special mention. Mr. Geo. Cartwright made an excellent Bruno Rocco.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company opened here in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Mr. Fred C. Somerfield submits a powerful impersonation of Will Maynard; Mr. George Mitchell sustains with fine effect the dual rôle of Cyril and Geoffrey Langdon; James receives full justice in the hands of Mr. Charles Warne; Mr. Bradford Crosby plays the part of Petre Miles in a capable manner; Mr. T. G. Vane presents a very good performance as Leonard Vimbart; Harold Kingston is excellently acted by Mr. Charles Stirling; Mr. Tom Raymond is good as Charles; Miss Marie Dagmar is responsible for some sterling acting in the trying rôle of Elinor D'Arville; Miss Marie Barrett is to be complimented for her performance of Lily Lorrimer; Miss Marie Clavering gave a smart reading of Rosini Philippi; Mrs. A. Ross Ford reflects great credit on herself for her rendering of Janet Miles; Miss Maud Grayson is good as Phœbe; and Florette de Veri is a careful performance by Miss Amy Connaughton. The scenery in this production is simply superb, undoubtedly the finest we have seen here.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—A very smart bill is submitted this week, including Jake Friedman, the one-man opera; Rosa Cass, descriptive vocalist, who is well received; Zaid, the Arabian contortionist, is very good; Wal Robbins, the black and white musical coon; two very good comedians, Alsop and Beckwith; the Gladenbecks give a very smart performance; and Tony Iveson, the tramp pianist, receives due appreciation. Some interesting pictures are shown.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. George E. Williams.—The pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, is still drawing good houses. There have been one or two local features introduced, besides topical sayings and special verses. The staging, too, is cleverly managed, and throughout the performances are successful.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Mr. George Dance's premier company is here this week with the brilliant musical play, *The Duchess of Dantzic*. The reputation of the opera had, as it were, preceded it, and largely accounted for the big audience seen at the opening performance. Miss May Glenn delights her audience not only with her sweet singing, but with her comic acting. As the washerwoman, as well as the Duchess, she is a prime favourite with her auditory. Prominent among the other leading performers is the Napoleon of Mr. Gilbert Yorke, a remarkably powerful and picturesque embodiment of the great military figure. All the necessary finish is given to Sergt. François Lefebvre by Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths. Renée de Saint Mezard is prettily enacted by Miss Maggie White, and Miss Bunena Bent makes Lisette an interesting personage.

The Empire Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Pantomime has given place at the Empire to a good all-round variety company. The Vyponds appear in their novel song scene, *The Wedding Day*, and are the recipients of hearty applause. Henry Herne and Ida Millais and Co. present a new dramatic sensation entitled *Blackmail*, which introduces a startling real water incident. The characters are very ably interpreted by Miss Ida Millais, Messrs. Henry Herne, Jno. Veston, Chas. Young, and other artists. The Avolos are remarkably clever acrobats. Eccentric songs and dances are contributed by Charles Ashdowne; new song scenes by Chris Masters; comic juggling is seen in the performances of A. J. Rebla; the Harlems are clever rifle manipulators, acrobats, and sand-dancers; and in the way of sweet-toned instrumentalism we have heard nothing comparable to the music produced by the Cavalottis.

ATTERCLIFFE. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's juvenile pantomime company opened here on Monday with *Cinderella*. The company includes Miss Marie Hardacre (Prince Charming), Miss May Bishop (Dandini), Miss Kitty Rafferty (Cinderella), Miss Kitty Chester (Dewdrop), Miss H. Deacon (Baroness); Messrs. Joe Brogan (Wizard), A. Benson (Baron), Paddy Mills (Buttons), Dan Dougherty and George Swinhoe (Clotilde and Angelina), and Joe Broom (sheriff's officer). Several specialities are introduced, and the whole show goes merrily from start to finish. Mr. W. A. Jackson is the business manager of the company.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—A varied and well-selected programme is submitted here this week, and includes Mr. Tom Lloyd, who, on his reappearance, received hearty recognition; Arthur and Ashby, variety entertainers; the Dunlops, comedy cyclists; Mr. Alfred Le Thomas, character comedian; Miss Lilian Rigby, described as "The Queen of Music and Dancing"; Mdlle Sivado, in a graceful and novel trapeze performance; Will Godwin and company in a sketch entitled *Repentance*; and an excellent selection of pictures by Mr. E. C. Clayton.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. George Edward's company opened a three nights' engagement here on Monday with a crowded house. Previous visits of this company with the *Toreador* left pleasant memories with theatre-goers here. Mr. R. Telford is excruciatingly funny as Sammy; Mr. F. Sharp makes an admirable Archie. The Dora of Miss Ladie Neville is dashing and clever; and the Rinaldo of Mr. C. W. Anson exceptionally good. As Pettifer—the dealer in wild animals—Mr. Tom May is quite at home.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Gar Kiddie's *Bo-Peep* is here this week. Messrs. J. W. Groves, Dawson, Dewich, W. H. Gatty, Harry Wren, Stern and Stern, and the Misses Susie Beavan, Morah Beverly, and Lizzie Payne are the excellent principals.

Public Hall.—Manager, Mr. G. B. Hoey.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walters's pantomime, *Cinderella*, has proved successful here this week. The title-rôle is acted with rare skill by Miss Bessie Butt; Prince Charming is well played by Miss Kitty Phelps; the Baron is ably embodied by Mr. Will Sherlock; Miss Nancy Redshaw is smart as the Baroness; the Brothers Obo make capital sisters; and the Sisters McQueen and the four dancers take high honours.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. Frank Denham-Wood's company is here this week in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The title-rôle is played by Miss Grace Henderson in quite an ideal manner, and she sings gracefully. Mr. Jack Simpson makes an eccentric Cat; Miss Millie Doris is a piquant and winning Alice Fitzwarren; and Alderman Fitzwarren has an amusing exponent in Mr. Ben Ford. Mr. Harry Albery as Martha Muggins and Mr. Will Dennis as Idle Jack are amusing characters, as is also the Captain Spanker of Mr. W. J. Rodie. Miss Winnie Anson is a nice Dolly Dimple, and specialities are given by the Yorkshire Singing Mill Girls (Miss Mona Lucy and Gladys Wells); the Verona Quartette of Dancers; the Estos, contortionists; Miss Renee Rogers, Mexican top-boot dancer; Leslie Murray, magician; Mdlle. Dora, oboe soloist; the Maros, contortionists; Miss Lucy Santley, soprano soloist; and Miss Marie Winsome, male impersonator, all of whom are pleasing.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—*An English Belle* occupies the boards here this week, and is being extremely well patronised. Miss Gertie Wasley is charming in the title-rôle; Miss Sanger is quite the typical English landlady; Miss Ada Dormies is capital as the lover, Jolly Jack; and Messrs. Fred Bendo and Albert Huntley are quaint in their respective parts.

Tivoli.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whitney.—Ted and May Hopkins, the Welsh humorists, in a comical sketch, entitled *A Welsh Courtship*, top the bill, and their show is undoubtedly of a most unique character. The Tan Kwai troupe of Manchurian Chinese do a wonderful turn on the horizontal bars, a hand-balancing act, and a clever conjuring entertainment; Harry Wenburn is a successful comedian; and Harry Taft a capital whistler and humorist. Helene and Omion give a charming and novel gymnastic show; the Ralston Brothers are very well received; and Miss Agnes Hanson is a capable dancer.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. Bannister Howard's pantomime of *Aladdin* commenced on Monday a successful run here. Mr. Daley Cooper as Abanazar works with apparently inexhaustible energy, and his success as the magician cannot be disputed. He receives much useful support from Mr. Edward Thirlby as Widow Twankey. The grotesque antics of Little Britton as Wishee Washee create endless hilarity. Two gentlemen who assist to sustain the humour are Story and Trigg, as impossible policemen, their introduced trapeze act and knockabout business being extremely smart; Mr. J. Devereux Cawdery is responsible for a difficult trap act as the Geni, for which he is justly applauded; Miss Leonora Grieve makes an ideal Aladdin, her fine stage presence and evident knowledge of what is expected of a principal boy, carrying her through with flying colours. Particular interest centres in the appearance of Miss Lily Gullick, a Bathonian, as the Princess, and the rapid strides this accomplished young actress has made in the profession of her choice proved extremely pleasing to her many local admirers. Miss Nellie Barnwell (Pekoe) and Miss Louie Sands (Petti Sing) make an attractive second boy and girl; the Gilbert Girls execute their acrobatic and speciality dances with marked agility; the glee singing of the London Quartette is always encored.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schubert.—The marvellous Frantz Family of lady and gentlemen acrobats are creating quite a furore here this week; Harry Tate's comedians are giving their screaming *Motoring* sketch with all their former success; the Seddons return to juggle cleverly, and provide plenty of humour; a young conjuror, Carl Rosine, is making a first visit, his hoop tricks being truly bewildering; the Sisters Wingrove, in their duets and dancing, gain much applause; Mark Morry, in "mirthful melancholy," is very popular; Rumbo Austin and his comical assistants secure a cordial reception; Bert Brantford, comedian, is also appearing. Raymond's Bio-tableaux unfold the doings of a "City Man's Busy Day," which is one of the best films that has been seen for some time.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty.—A return to pantomime is very acceptable. The Milton-Ray's merry production, *Beauty and the Beast*, is the attraction this week. The scenery is very good, and the dresses are attractive and picturesque. Mr. Arthur Milton plays with all his wonted quaint humour, and keeps the house in constant merriment. He is well supported by Messrs. Robert Anderson, Edwin Garth, Fred O'Malley (an active and capable comedian), Sidney Milton, and others. Miss Nellie Randall is a dashing and energetic Silver Button; Miss Edie Rivers as Beauty is lovable—a sweet singer and dainty dancer; Miss Florence Burns is accomplished and successful as the Prince; her singing is admirable. The smaller parts are carefully handled, and there is abundant evidence of good stage-management. The specialities are a feature of the pantomime, and enjoyable additions to the story are given by Wallace, a clever young juggler; Baroni and Kemp, quick-change artists; the Eldorados, an accomplished trio of dancers; and Burley and Burley, in a clever acrobatic and bending act.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company in the comic opera *Peggy Machree*. Miss Marion Cecil's pretty voice and charming manner well befits the difficult part of Peggy, and Miss Doris Kelvey makes an excellent Madame de la Cour. A sweet interpretation of the Hon. Emily Pryor is given by Miss Dorothy Garden; Miss Blanche Astley is a really captivating Molly; Mr. Ralph Lynn adds considerable good humour to the piece by his clever impersonation of Sir Lawrence Borthwick; Mr. Mac Macdermott possesses a powerful voice, which is well suited to his rôle of Captain de la Cour; Mr. Edgar Ashwin's dry humour as Michael the Scotchman contributes to the success of the play.

BELFAST. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. M'Cann.—Mr. F. R. Benson commenced on Monday the second and last week of his successful engagement here, when the talented Shakesperean actor and his company produced *Macbeth*. Mr. Benson impersonated the title rôle in an able and clever manner, his finished acting throughout gaining him deserved recalls. Mrs. F. R. Benson's acting as Lady Macbeth was exceedingly skilful, and undoubtedly this charming actress appeared to the utmost advantage, her sleep-walking scene being a complete triumph. Mr. Cyril Keightley—capital in every rôle he undertakes—impersonated Macduff with fine dramatic fervour. Mr. B. A. Pittar's Bangno was in every sense excellent, as was Mr. P. D. Owen's impersonation of Duncan. Mr. George Buchanan's Malcolm was a sound and capable performance, and other rôles were capitally sustained. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Richard III* are also on the repertory.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—The chief attraction this week is the cowboy hypnotist, Ahrensmeyer, known as the "Wizard of the Plains," whose truly remarkable feats create a marked sensation. Another sensational act is

that presented by Davis and Gledhill, in their unique bicycle performance, their feats being remarkably clever. The Boccacio Minstrels play a number of musical instruments to perfection, the mandoline performance of Signor Francia winning much admiration, and deservedly so. The Seven Wulfrunos appear to much advantage in their exhilarating sketch *Fun in a Cafe*; and Mr. Charles Dean's comic songs have been much enjoyed. Also appearing are the Lornson's Comedy Duo; and Mr. Frank Hartley, juggler. The Palace pictures are popular.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The Serenaders top the bill, and have appeared to advantage with their charming vocalism and smart dancing. The two St. Johns appear in their clever musical act, their selections being most capably rendered; and a tremendous hit has been recorded by Park's Eton Boys, whose vocal efforts are admirable. The comedy juggling act of Bonnette and Corrie is decidedly funny; and Miss Edie King is a delightful comedienne and dancer. A good act is furnished by the Tupps, eccentric acrobats; and also appearing are Miss Edie Verno, a dashing comedienne and good sand-dancer, Mr. Fred Trevor, comedian, and Mr. Chas. Adams, comedian.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Able and Welsh, the clever eccentric duo, head the bill, and have been very successful. Roars of laughter greet the Du Gros trio in their screaming gymnastic act; and the juggling feats of Mr. George Essman are undoubtedly sensational. The sweet tenor vocalism of Mr. Jack Trueman has been heard with pleasure; and the Three Zaracs present their well-known triple horizontal-bar act, which is such an acquisition to the programme. The Ladderites present a remarkable performance; and also appearing are the Two Whites, comedy artistes; Mr. Chas Beanland, a smart comedian with good songs; and Stedder and Dunbar, speciality artistes, whose clever musical act is quite a feature of the bill, and they made a big hit on Monday.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr. Harry Foxwell has brought here a company to play *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Bernice Fielding is a host in herself as Ninan; a gentle, lady-like Eleanor Dean is seen in Mrs. Harry Foxwell; Mr. W. J. Butler plays the French thief Phillipe with emphasis and vigour; Mr. Wolston Foster is effective as Captain Herbert Seaton, the hero; Sir Marmaduke Seaton is enacted in a very natural manner by Mr. G. Gormley; and a pair of good comedians are Michael Madden and Harry Harrop, who, together with Miss Ethel Vinroy, give important aid.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Haddon and Loader's pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, commenced a week's engagement here on Monday. The production is in every way an elaborate one, and well worthy of the great encore it achieves. Miss Nellie Burdette, who possesses a handsome stage presence, is an admirable Jack; Mr. Leon Simkin is a capital Dame Trotter; Mr. Jay Laurier infuses plenty of humour into the part of Silly Billy; Squire Musty is well impersonated by Mr. Dan Paulton; Miss Rosie Sylvester is a charming and vivacious Dora; Dip and Dap are amusingly portrayed by Messrs. Grant and Allen; Mr. H. A. Lonsdell is good as the Giant; the Sisters Poole as Nancy and Charley Bright are a decided acquisition; Miss Rene Rennie as the Wicked Fairy and Miss Jeannie Langlow as the Good Fairy are both unexceptionable; Mr. Dan Dunn as Betty and Mr. Archie Herbert as the Cook are most efficient; and other characters are well represented. The Alhambra Troupe of Dancers are well in evidence. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. George Jenkinson, is effective, and the whole entertainment goes with a swing from start to finish.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clark.—Dr. Walford Bodie, in his mystifying electrical entertainment is a centre of attraction. Mr. Harry Freeman, the popular comedian, has made a hit, and Miss Amy Anderson and her company are well received in some comic coster sketches. Maxwell and Frances, entertaining vaudeville artists, are renewing previous successes, and Dwight and Son (mimics and dancers), Miss Gena Mannon (soprano vocalist), and the bioscope are also included in the programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* is well repaying Mr. Graham for his labours, the public flocking to this bright and cheerful production. Miss Dixon, the clever little daughter of Mr. Josh Dixon, and the heroine of Mr. Lashwood's song, "My Best Girl," is a great pet with the public, and for her amusing and precocious "support" gains presents of flowers, fruit, &c., at every performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* is still attended by crowded houses, and Mr. Philip Rodway, who plays the rôle of acting manager with exemplary tact and urbanity, continues to exhibit the notice-board, "House Full," with gratifying regularity.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*The Sleeping Beauty* closes to-night, and on Friday, the 26th ult., Mr. Lonnon Meadows, the clever impersonator of the Yellow Dwarf and the producer of the pantomime for Mr. Elliston, was accorded a benefit, which was well patronised. Miss Maude Mortimer will be favourably remembered for her bright and clever portrayal of the Prince, and Miss Lillian Digges as Beauty, with Messrs. Jas. Chippendale, Alf. Bishop, W. J. Churchill, the Morton Trio, Les Voce, the Boris Fridkin Troupe, Alma and Abdullah, Miss Amy Tilley, Miss Maudie Vere, La Superbe, the Sisters Cora, and the Four Merry Madcaps, have left nothing to be desired on their parts. A benefit to Miss Maude Mortimer took place on Friday night.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* continues to show excellent bookings, and the house is invariably crowded by audiences delighted and astonished at the beauty and humour of this popular pantomime.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*Her Second Time on Earth* is now portrayed here by Mr. Walter Melville's company with the most unequivocal success. Miss Hilda Beverley acts the character of Dora Grey with appropriate truculence and zest, which, with her disarming grace, amounts to a genuine artistic hit. Mr. W. H. Porter acts the despicable rôle of Guy Brand with the utmost realism; Mr. Harry Hiller evokes the heartiest admiration in the lover's rôle, Jack Carlton; Miss Dorothy Hilderbrand gives a winning portrayal of the heroine, Laura Norman; Mr. George Gaisford meets with much sympathy as Captain Jasper Norman; Mr. A. Fellows Bassett makes a prominent rôle of the Italian, Beppo; and Mr. Wm. C. Reid, Mr. Charles Langton, and the Misses Margory Millbank and Polly Marsh act exceedingly well.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*His Majesty's Guests*, with Mr. Fred Karno's fine company, constitutes an irresistible attraction, to which the public here have responded in excellent numbers. Mr. Arthur Lenville endows the popular rôle of Sergeant Lightning with extremely funny features, which arouse uproarious laughter and applause; Miss L. Castelle fits the character of Lady Maude with a flashy style and a vivacity which tells admirably; Miss Dolly Royce sings and acts sweetly as Dolly; Miss Amy Rogerson gives many amusing points to the part of the New Woman; Mr. Frank Morton carries off the rôle of the swell mobsman, Lord Essam, with ease; Mr. Charles Usher portrays the dry and droll characteristics of Mr. Miffin in a most successful manner; and Mr. S. Bolton, Mr. F. Fredericks, Mr. Dick Kitchen, Mr. Tom Marnardo, and a numerous and clever company support.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Temptress* is attracting large audiences here with its exciting and engrossing story of love and treachery. Mr. W. H. Hallat as Pedro Gonzoles leads a powerful company, which includes Miss Blanche Stella, who pictures the wicked Lady Fordyce with enthralling power. Mr. Fredk. Ross is well versed in the portrayal of the villain, Lucas Denbeigh; Mr. George D. Daiper displays a fine ability for the heroic rôle, Philip Welford; Miss Mabel Scudamore acts the heroine, Marion Fordyce, in a charming manner; Mr. Allan Carruthers as Francis Fitz Fluke dispenses humour of the highest standard; and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair as Bob Tanner, Mr. Oscar Power as the Butler, and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Rhoda Brown are superlatively good.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The excellent programme this week is attracting packed houses. The bill is headed by The Courtiers, introduced by Paul Mill. Their entertainment received loud and well-deserved applause. Tom Edwards, a smart ventriloquist, pays another visit with his usual success; Dr. Carl Hermann causes plenty of laughter with the subjects who fall under his hypnotic power; Driscoll, Beattie, and company have a good comedy sketch; and Katie Marsh is seen to advantage in a potpourri act, entitled *Grave and Gay*; another good sketch, *The 100 to 1 Chance*, is well received. The Sisters Mullini render their cornet selections with effect; Herbert Lloyd, comedian, and the Three Bostonians, juvenile song and dance artists, are well applauded.

GAIETY THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Spessardy's troupe of bears and ponies are the principal item here. Their performance is remarkably clever, and receives loud applause. The Six Æolians may be considered among the smartest coon dancers of the day, and their comedy and vocal act is highly appreciated; Dora Martini is an expert gymnast. The eccentricities of the Brothers Leotard are applauded; and Oakley and James also come in for a big share of favour; Gladys Mavius is well received for her songs and dances; T. C. Callaghan, comedian, made a hit.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Ada Colley, the Australian songstress, is drawing packed houses; the Six Brothers Luck remain another week with *The Demon of the Cellar*; Fred Dunstone's parodies keep the audience amused; Mack Ollive, assisted by Daisy Baldry, has a whistling scena; Muir and Bartlett have a smart sketch, entitled *Wanted, a Wife*; Joe Cheevers is an amusing comedian. Andrews and Thompson, in a humorous vocal act; the Two Rubies, comediennes; Edna Thelma, vocalist; and Carson Hicks, an expert buck-dancer, complete the bill.

BORDESLEY PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Miss Lottie Lennox meets with an enthusiastic reception this week, her popular chorus songs winning repeated encores; and another well-known turn is Dan Conroy. The mimicry of Miss Ruth Molloy is clever and well varied; Burns and Burns add plenty of humour to their gymnastic act; Virto and Irene have a musical entertainment of a high order; *Jimson's Pets at Home* is an amusing sketch; and the Brontes add greatly to the success of the programme.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Huntley.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company is here on a second visit with the historic and romantic drama *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a powerful impersonation of Napoleon. Mr. Phil Harper, in the part of Colonel Jules Meuron, plays with much effect; Colonel Lavarennes is well embodied by Mr. Henry Earlesmere; Mr. E. Bulwer Pitt, as Paul Laczinska, is a praiseworthy exponent; Miss Maud Russell gives an effective portrayal of Mademoiselle Léonie Marbœuf; as Marcel Choupin, Miss Marie Harcourt is very good; and a capable actress is found in Miss Leslie Warner as Marie Walewska. Miss Florence Thorn is quite successful as Mère Dumont. As Pierre Pomponnet, Mr. Frank M. Thorne causes much amusement

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—A repertoire company, under the direction of Mr. Russell Rosse, with Mr. David James as the star, is paying a visit to the Royal this week. On Monday night Sydney Grundy's comedy, *A Pair of Spectacles*, was performed. Mr. David James gave a finished and artistic performance as Benjamin Goldfinch, and Mr. Norman Clarke presented an effective contrast as his rough-spoken brother, Gra' Sheffield. Miss Marion Lind was a graceful and ladylike Mrs. Goldfinch, and Miss Tessa Myers proved an attractive Lucy Lorimer. Friday night was set apart for the benefit of the popular young manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke, when Sydney Grundy's play, *A Fool's Paradise*, was presented. Many favourite local artists also appeared.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Lady Mansell and her juvenile troupe are paying a return visit; Geo. Tell gives some excellent imitations of animals and musical instruments; Mdlle. Haydee presents a capital marionette show; Sidney Dolf, the "vocal trickster," is entertaining; the Haverleys introduce songs illustrated by some admirable pictures; Paulinetti and Piguo are a pair of first-class comedy gymnasts; Mr. George D'Albert and Mr. Nat Watkins both contribute amusing songs; and Raymond's biograph exhibits some fresh pictures.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland present *The Coal King* here this week. The company is a very capable one, and several parts are in particularly good hands. Mr. Maitland as Tom Roberts scores a huge success, and fully merits the approbation he nightly receives. Mr. Robin Shiells plays the part of Sir Reginald Harford with care and discretion; Mr. Joseph Millane gives a satisfactory account of Walter Harford; Mr. Charles R. Stone is a great favourite as Jim Williams; and Mr. Wilfred Graham does exceedingly well as Dick Shirley. Miss Gertrude Valentine contributes a charming portrayal of Grace Shirley that wins all hearts, and Miss Hetta Cornwallis does good work as Araminta Green.

GRAND THEATRE. — Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—The Blackpool Lyric Operatic Society is in possession here this week with *The Geisha*, which is its initial effort. Chief honours in an exceptionally fine rendering of this popular work are due to Mr. Herbert Whittaker, the conductor, and the founder of the society, and Mr. Thornley Dodge, the well-known entertainer, who is the coach and stage manager. Special scenery has been lent by the Manchester Theatre Royal Co., and the dresses are supplied by Simmons, of Covent Garden. The O Mimosa San of Miss Decima Troughton and the Molly Seymour of Miss Doris Price stand out as being worthy of unmodified praise.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The Gordon Highlanders, under the command of Captain Bevan, top the bill here this week, and their feats of escalading bring down the house nightly. Lozelle is a capital gymnast; Kitts and Windrum appear in a clever sketch; Fred Casburn is a droll comedian; Minnie D'Aubyn is a pleasing burlesque artist; Doody and Wright are aptly described as Australian comiques; Beattie Kent is a dainty serio; and Tom Collins is a very diverting comedian. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope finds a permanent home here, and the pictures are always popular.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—Mr. J. A. Campbell, supported by a good company, has presented, for the first time here, a touching drama, entitled *The Little Bread-winner*, which has met with a hearty reception. In the hands of the author, Mr. Campbell, the part of Lord William Dorrington stands out with prominence; of the part of the adopted son, Richard Lawrence, Mr. David Gordon makes a success; Mr. Scott-Leighton acts with consummate skill the heavy part of Joseph Prior; Mr. Allan Charles wins much favour by his humorous rendition of Charles Prior; and honours are bestowed on little Emmie Thomas, who gives a highly-finished portrayal of the title-rôle.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL (LIMITED).—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—This theatre was crowded on Monday, when Mr. Elliston staged his 26th annual pantomime, entitled *Aladdin and His Lamp*. Miss Vera Marshall is charming and successful in the part of Aladdin, Miss Ada Elliston is dainty as the Princess Badroulbadour, Miss Maggie Bowman sprightly as Chee-Kee, and Miss Gertrude Lytton good as Pe-Koe. The Genii of the Ring and the Genii of the Lamp are well placed with the Misses Aubrey Ashton and Dorothy Foster; Mr. George Brooks, as the Widow Twankey, is excellent; the Emperor of China is capitally impersonated by Mr. Tom J. Morton; Messrs. Cullen and Carthy and the little Cluley are funny as Chew-Chew, Chop-Chop, and Chow-Chow; and Mr. William Fulbrook is good as Abanazar. A smart speciality turn is introduced by Charlene and Charlene, musical marvels. Another pleasing item, and much appreciated, is Miss Lottie Stone's Palace Troupe of dancers.

GRAND THEATRE (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The first item on the bill here is De Gracia's troupe of comedy baby elephants; other turns are Patty Yole, comedienne and expert dancer; Johnny Walker, eccentric character comedian and patterer; Edie Gray and her white coons, vocalists; Dave Meier and Bella Mora, speciality artistes; Bosanquet, violinist, etc.; Martin and Quigg, eccentric comedians; Louis Murray, character vocalist; Richardson Taylor, whistling ventriloquist; J. H. Kavanagh, comic and descriptive vocalist; Clown Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika, with their clever trained animals; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*The Walls of Jericho*, as presented by Mr. Bourchier's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux, opened to remarkably good business on Monday. Mr. Herbert Bunston plays Jack Frobisher in really admirable style, and is excellently supported by Miss Florence Jackson as Lady Alethea. A capital study of the Australian miner is provided by Mr. George A. Brandrum, who is also responsible for the stage-management of the piece; while Miss Norah Grenlaw cleverly sustains the character of Lady Westerby. Other good performances are given by Mr. Laurence Hanray, Mr. Sydney Hamilton, Mr. George Piercy, Miss Molly Carton, and Miss Edith Cuthbert, who was very good as Miss Mornington.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The run of *Mother Goose* here continues with unabated success, and the principal members of the company are very popular.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Dick Whittington* continues to delight large and appreciative audiences here, and there is not a dull moment from start to finish of the pantomime.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL. — Lessee, Mr. C. Carter.—Under Messrs. Lewis and Lynne's management we are having here this week a series of extracts, in the way of an entertainment, from the pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood*, which Mr. Peter Eland recently produced at the Grand Theatre, Hull. Some of the more diverting incidents are reproduced, and there are several good turns of the variety order, which include a burlesque sketch, *The Doll's Awakening*, cleverly played by the Sisters Sprightly. Mr. Lynne's efforts in the way of comedy, too, are excellent. Amongst other successful efforts are the songs by Mr. Walter Raynor, Mr. G. Royle, and Mr. Theo Jones, and dancing by the smart Lotus Troupe.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—There was an audience packed to excess on last Tuesday evening, the occasion being the anniversary performance in commemoration of the opening of the theatre, and the management presented a fine programme, a feature of which was the appearance of the accomplished soprano Mrs. Charles Law Atkinson, whose acting in a scene from *Maritana*, and whose delightful rendering of "Scenes that are brightest," secured enthusiastic applause. Selina Braatz, who gave a wonderfully clever performance as a lady juggler, was also the recipient of hearty plaudits. Mendel, the blind pianist, in his marvellous performance, won hearty marks of appreciation; the Five Bogannys, with a clever acrobatic performance, deputised for T. E. Dunville, the comedian; Bert Boothroyd's imitations of comedians were humorous; Seeley and West, the comedy musicians, reappeared with their customary success; Bicknelle did some clever modelling in clay; Mr. T. Wrathmall's orchestral selections, "Empire Echoes," were given with fine effect; Lora introduced a distinct and clever novelty in *What is It?* which puzzled the audience greatly; Ada Walker was smart and effective in a coon song; in a mix-up of singing and clever paper manipulating Tony and Flo Vernon were highly entertaining; some effective glee singing by the Airedale Musical Union won approbation; in their well-known amusing sketch *The Little Charwoman* Goldman Holles and company were as diverting as ever; Amber Austa, quaint as heretofore, delighted the audience with an excellent coon song and dance; Frank Harwood's recital and jokes were much enjoyed, and the American bioscope displayed some entertaining films.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—The Four Jumels, excellent musicians, present a bright and novel feature in their act here this week, and Anna Kenwick gives very cleverly quaint illustrations of negro life. The Three Sisters May as Dutch girls are bright; Toch and Tard are most diverting and smart Continental eccentrics; as a facial expert Mr. Ed. E. Ford is a wonder, and his humour as the Australian Sundowner causes great laughter; Renson and Waite are excellent vaudeville entertainers; Harry Luck contributes a good eccentric character comedy turn; George Leyton, who is assisted by the veteran Crimean hero, Private John Fowler, and twenty-four well-drilled youths, gives a stirring military scena, *Boys of the Chelsea School*; and some entertaining films are seen in Raymond's biotableaux.

BRIDLINGTON.—PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Kitchingman.—Arnold's variety company is performing here this week, the artists including Miss Eva Frere, in some well-rendered songs; the Sisters Parton, expert mandolinists; Sidi Ali and Madame Rianto, in cabinet illusions; Sabik, Egyptian mystifier; Mexican Mac, a wonderfully clever rifle shot. Alex Bain, the Scottish wrestler, is competing each evening with Green, of Wigan, and their show goes very well.

BRIGHTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company opened here on Monday with *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Edward A. Warburton as Jack Frobisher submitted a masterly impersonation, and Miss Amy Ravenscroft gave a very fine portrayal of Lady Alethea Frobisher. Mr. Alfred S. Barber was well suited as Hankey Bannister; Mr. Cecil Brooking acquitted himself effectively as the Marquis of Steventon; and Mr. A. A. Tryer was a capital Harry Dallas. Miss Nona Wynne made a charming Lady Lucy Derenham; Miss Helen Haye was sympathetic as Lady Westerby; Miss Jean Harkness did well as Miss Mornington; and the remaining characters were ably sustained.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, continues its merry and prosperous career here. New songs, jokes, and humorous business add to the attractiveness of the performances. Miss May Mars as Robinson Crusoe is a prime favourite; Miss Rosalie Jacobi makes a dainty and bright Polly Perkins; Mr. Walter Kooney as Will Atkins and Mr. Harry Karr as Dick Deadeye are a very mirth-provoking pair, and afford much fun by their quaint patter and amusing jokes; Mr. Allan Wye (Mrs. Crusoe) gives great assistance to the comic element; and others who merit warm praise include Miss Vesta Pine (Jack Tarre), Miss Minnie Pine (Nancy Lee), Mr. Ernest Laws (Sultan), Miss Winifred Norman (Princess), Mr. Edgar Budden (Friday), and Miss Maud Percy (principal dancer). Mr. Ernest Carpenter's bright and wholesome pantomime thoroughly deserves the great success it achieves.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. Charles Norton, mimic and impersonator, achieves complete success; Selbo, club juggler and plate thrower, wins hearty applause; the Boisset Troupe of Comic Pantomimists are highly amusing in *The Wild West*; the Great Haydas, sensational comedy acrobats and tumblers, are enthusiastically received; Arthur Boyne contributes some comic songs; Alma Gray, the little Australian dancing girl, is cordially applauded; the Cribb Comedy Trio are entertaining in *Idle Fellows with Idle Thoughts*; Alexandra Edwin is a charming soprano vocalist; and the Alhambrascope Pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is an excellent company here this week. John L. Shine and company are highly successful in the sketch, *Hogmany*; Edwin Barwick, comedian and mimic, submits an entertaining turn; the Kentucky Trio of American Jugglers are very smart; the Brothers Ashley are effective in their comedy boxing sketch, *Next, Please*; Bert Weston is a capital comedian and raconteur; Dora Barrington, a pleasing comedian, merits commendation; Sherlock and Van Dalle are well received in *The Mummy and the Undergrad*; Gus Hindell is a diverting comedian; Frances Drew is a bright burlesque actress; and the Barrascope Pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—*The Cherry Girl* closed its five weeks' run here last Saturday evening, when the leading artists were the recipients of handsome presents. On the termination of the performance Mr. Trevor Lowe, under whose direction the play had been produced, warmly thanked the company and the patrons of the theatre, and handed a well-deserved present to Mr. I. S. Dunlop, the musical director. A few words from Mr. A. D. Norman, secretary and entertainment manager, closed the proceedings. This week Mr. Arthur St. John and company are here with *Oliver Twist*, which is admirably staged. Mr. Arthur St. John gives a realistic impersonation of Fagin; Miss C. Rivers submits an excellent portrayal of Oliver Twist; Mr. Archie Grant is forcible and convincing as Bill Sikes; and Miss Ida St. John's Nancy is a clever character study.

AQUARIUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr J. J. Sallmayer; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. John Henderson.—The pantomime, *Robin Hood*, continues its prosperous run here. Miss Millie Henderson is an attractive Robin Hood; Miss Susie Rusholme makes a charming Maid Marion; and much amusement is afforded by Newham and Latimer (Baron and Baroness), Mr. Gerald Maitland (Little John), and Mr. Coningsby Brierley (Friar Tuck).

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—The pantomime *Mother Goose* shows no sign of diminishing in favour, and packed houses at each performance is the rule. The general opinion is that no previous pantomime has caught on better. The scenery throughout is artistic, the dresses are very beautiful, the staging generally comparing favourably with former productions. The artists all work well together. Mr. Wilkie Bard is full of resource in the title-rôle, well maintaining his popularity; Miss Lily Morris makes a charming principal boy; Miss Nina Wood is bright and dainty as Jill; Miss Nellie Stratton is a petite and pretty Lady Betty; the vocal abilities of Miss Kathryn Comber as the Fairy Heartsease contribute much to the success of the pantomime; and Happy Fanny Fields continues to delight, and works hard. The comedians are all energetic and successful in their efforts to amuse. Mr. G. R. Chapman, who is responsible for the music, has been this year most successful; and the excellent stage-management reflects much credit upon Mr. Henry Turner.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—The pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* has proved a big draw. Mr. Dave O'Toole is a clever comedian, his droll style as the Dame is most amusing; Miss Harriet Fawn appears with great success as Boy Blue; Miss May Fallowfield is bright and pleasing in the title-rôle; the Sisters Lunelle score as Jack and Jill, their song and dance specialities being strong features in the pantomime; and Miss Minnie Love has a pretty song and dance with electric effects. The comedians are energetic, all working well together with hearty goodwill, thus making the production go with a lively swing.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Austin Rudd, comedian, heads the programme, and obtains applause; the electrical scena, *La Prière d'une Jeune Fille*, is staged in a realistic manner, and the lady vocalist is appreciated; Roma and Romani present a high-class musical speciality, both the lady and gentleman being expert performers on various instruments; Tom Stuart, character actor, is successful in dramatic impersonations; the Brothers Redmond amuse as acrobatic comedians; the Brothers Zampah, one-legged equilibrists, perform very difficult feats with neatness and dispatch; Violet Stockelle is a pleasing comedienne; Marion Scott, comedienne, does an acceptable turn; and Frances Letty is a vivacious comedienne and dancer. The performance (two shows a night) concludes with "The Opium Smoker's Dream," projected by the Barrascope.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Five Osranis head the bill and amuse with their pantomime absurdity, *Yvette*; Miss Amy Tilley and her minstrels, eight in number, contribute an acceptable turn; Rosa Rossetti presents a refined and pleasing musical act, her tone is very pure, and she displays great skill with both violin and 'cello; Horace White, ventriloquist, does an excellent turn; Etelka Nicklas is a successful Continental singer and dancer; Laurie Wylie amuses with his mannikin impersonations of well-known music-hall artists; Alf. Davis, actor-vocalist, obtains applause; Hall and Earle, acrobatic eccentrics, are very smart in their line; Linton is exceptionally expert as a wire performer; and Vernon's animated pictures, "Father's Picnic on the Sands," "Message from the Sea," and "Tramp's Revenge," conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—The last two weeks are announced of Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama. The season has been a very successful one.

BROMLEY.—LYRIC THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. A. Carlton; Manager, Mr. H. Strong.—A very successful visit is being paid this week by Mr. Fred Jarman's company in *Under the Czar*. Mr. B. H. Ross makes a good Nicholas Yeroslaft; Mr. H. Riley gives a powerful impersonation of the tyrannical Zakhor Kovesky; Mr. Louis Weston causes much amusement as Paul Ignat, being ably assisted by Mr. Edward Millins as Alexis Petroff and Miss Linda Riley as Siomka. The character of Sonia Gregorovitch is sympathetically undertaken by Miss Kathleen Cavanagh. The minor characters, of which there are a large number, are in capable hands, and lend adequate assistance in making the performance a complete success.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Peter Thompson's comical panto., the *Babes in the Wood*, drew a very full house on Monday. The scenery by Messrs. J. R. Horrocks, Bert Venimore, and assistants is very pretty, and the colours and style of the various dresses add much to the pleasure of the performance. Miss Maud Beaumont is a dashing Robin Hood, and has some up-to-date songs, for which she is much applauded. Miss Molly Hackett sings well, and is a sprightly Maid Marion. Mr. Fred Danvers as Evalean, the nurse, keeps the house in roars with his quaint business. The Danbys are excellent as the villains. The Babes are cleverly presented by Miss Renee Grahame and little Daisy Noel. The Baron is amusing in the hands of Mr. J. Templar Ellis. The assistance given by Miss Mimie Moran (Will Scarlet), Miss Nellie Hilton (Little John), Miss Nellie Grahame (Dorothy Dimple), Miss Rosa Walmsley (Polly Primrose), Mr. Willie Barrett (Pimple), and Mr. Fred Paget (Friar Tuck) is also much appreciated. Specialities include Hector, who performs on the wire, and also cleverly manipulates some hoops; the Yankee Quartette are well-trained and expert dancers; Miss Rosa Walmsley is an exceedingly smart acrobatic dancer; Little Renee Grahame, male impersonator; the Danbys, Hungarian dancers; and Miss Nellie Grahame, a graceful dancer.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company, in *Aladdin*, is running on merrily here for the second week. Miss Maidie Scott is becoming a favourite by her captivating performance as Aladdin; Mr. Ernie Myers as Abanazar has a few extra jokes which cause much laughter; and Miss Lily Lonsdale is still the charming Princess. Miss Madge Northcote sings beautifully as Rhadiant; Williams and Brown, as Hu-go and Hi-li, cause plenty of fun; and Mr. George Cooper is an excellent Emperor. Mr. Julian Mack as Widow Twankey has several titbits of a very funny nature; and Miss Flo Collier has many admirers as Prince Hi-To-Tee. Akimoto's Royal Yedo Japanese Troupe give a splendid equilibristic and juggling act.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company, in a very good drama, *Honour Thy Father*, supply the attraction here this week. Mr. J. W. Eelyn performs with much power and earnestness as Gabriel Garth; Mr. Clavering Craig, a clever actor, is quite suited to the part of Duncan Bly; Mr. W. H. Melrose as Ned creates much amusement; Mr. Walter M. Cameron as Mike Copplestone is also an excellent comedian; Miss Maud Scott and Miss Mabel Coleman share equally the honours of the evening as Mercy Merry and Lilian Garth respectively; Mrs. Clavering Craig ably portrays Gertrude Garth; and Miss Lizzie Morley is very good as Poppy Cornleigh.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A programme of general excellence is given here this week. Narrow Brothers, in their eccentric comedy cycling, provoke uproarious laughter; Bromley and Fontein cleverly present a smart sketch, *The Mad Conductor*; Musical Silvo is an expert manipulator of musical glasses; a charming turn is that of Marie Santol and her little Japs, in *A Japanese Tea-Garden by Night*, in which several pretty melodies are well rendered; T. C. Jaques is a good actor-vocalist; Welda and Wynne are a pair of smart jugglers; Minnie Mace is a very acceptable comedienne; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete an enjoyable evening.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. John F. Preston and Miss Madge Nelson's company, with *Rogues of the Turf*, occupies the boards here this week. A realistic and vigorous portrayal is given by Mr. J. F. Preston; Mr. Ernest R. Allen is an unqualified success as the hero; rogues of the vilest type are Gerald Heathcote and Moses Salomons, cleverly impersonated by Mr. Hamilton Deane and Mr. H. Maero respectively. A natural and pleasing manner, added to capable acting, assure a cordial reception for Miss Madge Nelson (Nellie Flaxman); the unscrupulous adventuress is depicted with much intensity by Miss Mabelle F. Barlow; Mr. Harry Benson (Sam Flaxman) and Miss Lallah Stanhope (Phillis) are responsible for the humorous element. Three fine racehorses are introduced, and the play is admirably mounted.

BURY (LANCS.). — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Chas. Chard and company are here playing the comic pantomime *Goody Two Shoes*. Miss Chummie La Mara makes a dashing Roland, the hero, and is well supported by Miss Annie Casey as Goody Two Shoes. The comedians include Mr. Sidney Dean (Dame), Mr. Charles Chard (Sammy), and Wee Langton (Simple Simon). Specialities by Messrs. Keith and Merson, Mikado Troupe of dancers, Messrs. Selby and Myers, and the Sisters St. Julian (charming singers and dancers) are much appreciated.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A good bill here is headed by the Barra Troupe of Continental musicians; Mar-

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gnerite Ismay's troupe of piccaninnies are good; Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies; Hector and Paulus, equilibrists; Stylo, hoop artist; Ella Dean, vocalist; Billy Burns, vocalist; and Arthur Gill, comedian, make up a very good show.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—*Round the Clock* is being played here by a troupe of comedians, including Charles Majilton, Herbert Ashmore, Jim Bond, Fred Wilson, Miss Jenny Hughes, Ben Story, Miss Moddie and Miss Amy Majilton. Other turns include Blind Henderson, musician; Bros. Sheppard, humorists; and Little Nellie Voltair, comedienne.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. REDFERN, J.P., D.L.—A most enjoyable performance was witnessed here on Monday night, when George Dance's company gave *Lady Madcap*. Miss Vera Vere in the title-rôle was full of "go." Mr. Alex. Chentrens has a pleasing voice, and was most acceptable as Comte de St. Hubert. Mr. H. V. Surrey's Oroya Brown was very funny. Mr. Bay Russell as Bill Stratford, was excellent his dancing being a special feature, and he was well supported by Mr. Fred Payne as Posh Jenkins. Miss Peggy Primrose is a graceful dancer, and Mr. Vincent Erne worked hard and successfully as Corporal Hand.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Enthusiastic audiences have crowded to see *The Cingalee* at the Royal this week. The play is presented by one of Mr. George Dance's excellent companies. The greater share of the work falls on Mr. Johnny Osborne, who, as Chambhuddy Ram, is successful in amusing the house. Mr. Kenneth Wynne, with a capital voice, makes an excellent Harry Vereker; Mr. Helier Le Maistre does exceptionally well as Boobhamba; Mr. J. E. Williams gives an amusing delineation of Sir Peter Loftus; and as Bobby Warren Mr. Roy Sydney scores a great success. Miss Zoe Gilfillan, who has a good voice and captivating manner, submits a pleasing impersonation of Nanoya; Miss Emilie Mayhew is a particularly charming and lively Lady Patricia; and Peggy Sabine could scarcely be more ably represented than by Miss Cissie Sephton.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—*The Power of the Cross* is being capably presented here by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. Rita Lascelles is impersonated with ability by the handsome and talented Miss Cissie St. Elmo; Miss Stanley Burt is another artist who displays considerable skill in her rendition of Margaret Seaton; Mr. Fred W. Goddard as Gerald Fairfax achieves success; Mr. Horace Denton is responsible for a creditable interpretation of Dr. Fairfax; and Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby imparts quite a weird and mystic air to the character of Baron Curzola.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Ella's Lions cause great excitement and much sensation here by their exceptionally thrilling performance. The quaint comedian, Alf Gibson, goes down very well with Cardiff audiences, gaining great applause; Harding and Ah-Sid, the eccentric Americans, prove to be diverting comedians; the Selbinis give a varied and smart acrobatic and cycling turn; Lillian Lowe possesses and knows how to use a charming voice; and the Five Julians give an attractive turn. Johnny Alexander and company, in their latest comedy sketch; Dion Wade, the quaint comedian; Mdlle. Olive, the skilful lady juggler; and the bioscope, with amusing and interesting pictures, complete the list of attractions.

CARLISLE.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. S. McKim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers.—A large audience assembled here on Monday to witness the opening performance of Mr. Fredk. Melville's clever play *Between Two Women*. Mr. C. W. Standing submits a forcible and taking impersonation of Harry Millard; Mr. Jerrold Heather acts with his usual dramatic earnestness as the Rev. Philip Carton; in the heavy lead Mr. Louis Hector plays with convincing intensity and power, and thrills his audience in his many sensational scenes; Mr. George R. Montford also contributes a telling performance, and makes the most of a capital part. The heroine is cleverly and naturally portrayed by Miss Marjorie Murray, whose sympathetic rendering of the rôle is much admired. Miss Winifred Pearson as Carmen de Savereux gives frequent proof of her sterling ability as a melodramatic actress. The comedy relief is in the safe hands of Mr. Dickie Clare, who makes quite a hit by his clever fooling in the third act. He is well supported by Miss Lilian Earle, and the minor parts are adequately represented.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—The Zaro Troupe of lady and gentlemen acrobats top the bill here this week, and meet with a good reception; Spry and Monti contribute an excellent turn; Chas. Woodward scores a success as a vocal comedian; J. C. Morris is very funny; Burnetti, character musician, is undoubtedly one of the best turns on the programme; Millie Denham sings some smart songs; the Reays give a clever gymnastic display, and the Hippodrome pictures are excellent.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Here we have the first pantomime of the season, being a version of *Beauty and the Beast*. The production hails from the New Prince's Theatre, Poplar. In the title-rôle Miss May Foster plays in pleasing and unaffected manner; Miss Kitty Malone is a Prince of fetching appearance; Miss Evelyn Harding is the Fairy Prosperita, and her rendering of "Rainbow" is one of the most enjoyable of the vocal items. Miss Lottie Collins infuses plenty of "go" into the part of Smart, the Prince's valet, and succeeds in getting on excellent terms with the audience. Her efforts are creditably seconded by Miss Mavis Hope as Trixie. The comic business is chiefly in the hands of the following artists, who work untiringly, and are applauded throughout: Mr. Victor Travers (Johnny), Mr. Edward Colman (Martha), Mr. Duncan Tovey (Sandy McSteel), and the Brothers Harrison (Wiggle and Waggle). The Sisters Edwardes are a sprightly couple, who gain plenty of applause for songs, dances, and drum solos. Mr. R. Lomas's Beast is a good bit of work; the Stella Troupe are responsible for most of the dances, and score particularly well with their novel swing song; while Mdlle. Bartenelli astonishes the house with her unique contortionist display.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. G. T. Santé; Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, commenced a week's engagement here on Monday night. The pantomime is admirably staged and the various characters prettily costumed. Miss Elsie Douglas takes the part of Little Bo-Peep admirably, her songs and dances being bright and smart. As Boy Blue Miss Kathleen Garnon is excellent. Mr. Frank Wheatcroft makes a typical Baron Hardupp, and as Granny Peep Mr. H. J. Kemble excels. Messrs. Reed and Lerne, who appear as Percy and Patsy, are shining lights, their antics and jokes being most amusing. A number of entertaining "turns" are provided by the artists, including the Doreen Troupe of lady dancers; Mr. William Greene, baritone; Bendene, contortionist; Oliver Chew, sifleur; and Miss Issa Steel, vocalist. The pantomime is under the personal supervision of Mr. A. E. Smith, to whom much credit is due.

COATBRIDGE. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Mr. Milton Bode's company with the pantomime *Puss in Boots* has had an enthusiastic reception here this week. Mr. Tatten Hall is admirably cast as King Crabbus, and his clever business keeps the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Leo Sterling does justice to the part of the Baron; Mr. Tommy Nelldon's humour as Muggles is quite irresistible, and for his quaint sayings he receives much applause. Miss Gladys Warren fills the rôle of Colio with distinguished success; Miss Marie Reeve gains much favour as Prince Rudolph; Miss Grace Langley is a pleasing Phyllis; and Miss Janet H. Reynolds a graceful Princess Ivy. Specialists are numerous, and the Carlos Trio of lady dancers are responsible for a brilliant performance. Others who contribute are Leo. Sterling, in a musical speciality; Miss Gladys Warren, Miss Marie Reeve, and the Royal Welsh Glee Singers.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, MR. F. C. UPTON.—A very good house assembled on the opening night of the week to witness the sensational Muscovite drama, *The Price of Her Soul*. Mr. John B. Shinton himself assumed the rôle of the hero, Lord Rolf Mandeville, V.C., and acted with consummate skill; being ably seconded by that charming actress Miss Ada M. Ryder, who, as Countess Inez Steinmetz, proved herself a noteworthy heroine. Mr. Annesley Hely deserves special notice for his intensely dramatic study of the villainous Major Skoboloff; whilst a very effective character-study was that of Capt. Sergius Petruski, as depicted by Mr. Murray Yorke. Miss Mona Grey gave a powerful delineation of the scheming Olga Lanovitz, and Miss Ina Mervale capably represented Nadine Marcovitz. Miss Ida Thompson displayed ability as the child Vera, and Miss Tina Frank was decidedly sprightly as Polly, the maid. Mr. Will Percy infused a great amount of humour into the Irish character of Pat Murphy, and Mr. Langdon Goulding was a capital General Lanovitz.

CORK. — OPERA HOUSE. — Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The Moody-Manners company entered on their second week's engagement here on Monday night in Donizetti's famous opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The performance was excellent, the cast being well selected. Mme. de Vere as Lucy Ashton excelled herself, and gave a splendid rendering of the part; her acting was dramatic and finished, and she sang with remarkably fine effect. Miss J. McCarthy was capable as Alice; Mr. Wilson Pembroke was a capital Lord Edgar, and was loudly applauded for his singing. As Bide-the-Bent Mr. Charles McGrath was excellent, using his cultured voice with telling effect; Mr. Wm. Dever as Sir Henry Ashton was most successful, his fine baritone voice being heard to great advantage in the music allotted to him. The choruses were well sung, and the orchestra, under Signor Bellucci, was good. *Il Trovatore, The Marriage of Figaro, The Huguenots, The Puritan's Daughter, Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Carmen* are billed for the week.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The star turn here is Capt. Woodward's educated seals and sea-lions, the animals playing instruments and juggling with balls in a marvellous manner. Master Bryan O'Sullivan, boy baritone, contributes some ballads in a pleasing style; Edna, the whistling girl, wins warm applause; King and Mackay, in a one-act farce, prove very amusing; Edith Courtney, vocalist, sings some excellent songs; the Ronalds, a trio of strong men, give an exhibition of physical culture and strength; Leonard Santley gives clever dramatic impersonations; and Kurtz proves himself a skilful juggler.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company opened on Monday in *The Girl from Kay's*. Mr. George Blount as Max Hoggenheimer is as funny as ever, and is loudly applauded; Mr. Reginald Grey is highly amusing in the eccentric part of the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle; Mr. J. S. Durant is very successful as Harry Gordon; Mr. Tom Seymour is responsible for a finished rendering of the Hall Porter; Mr. H. Val Morgan does well as Pepper, a page boy; Miss Emily Taylor gives a capital impersonation of Norah Chalmers; Miss Mabel Dent soon becomes a favourite as Ellen; Miss Beatrice Poole as the Girl from Kay's acquits herself creditably; Mr. Robert Rivers is seen in the amusing part of Theodore Quench, K.C.; and Mr. Thomas Pauncefort is good as father to Norah, also acting as stage-manager.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—This week's programme includes the Dunedin troupe of acrobatic cyclists, who give some clever and sensational tricks. Another well-given turn is by Professor Wishart, an illusionist of great ability. Ernest Leicester and company present Sutton Vane's sketch, entitled *The V.C.*; Mr. Chas. Williams is a comedian and dancer of ability; Miss Elsie Roby gives a musical monologue, entitled *The Slavey's At Home;* Miss Evelyn Taylor is successful as a comedienne; the usual Hippodrome pictures concluding the programme.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. W. I. Miller and company are here with *The Throne of Terror*. Mr. William I. Miller himself takes the rôle of Robespierre, and gives an interesting and powerful representation. He is ably assisted by Miss Augusta Tullock as Victorine D'Almonte and Miss Katherine Maude Davies as Marguerite de Roquefort. The part of Captain Eugene de Lisle is in the capable hands of Mr. Roy Milton, whilst, as Comte de Roquefort, Mr. A. W. Thompson deserves special mention. Mr. Bert Ellis as Jou-Jou and Miss Russell as Peppietta look after the lighter side of the play, and very successful they are, Miss Russell giving a dainty little song. Miss Sylvia Agnew is well placed as Sister Lucette, and Mr. Renton Sax makes a good Mother Brigand. Mr. Ralph Bowman is successful as the executioner, Billot, as also is Mr. Henfield as the Accusateur Generale. We must not omit to mention Mr. Chas. Fernleigh as Fournier, Mr. Palliser Acock as Sergeant Vanton, and Mr. William Russell as the Gaoler, who all justify their selection for the parts.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—The Moore-Kennedy Pantomime Company opened here on Monday evening with *Dick Whittington*. Mdlle. Lucretia makes a handsome and dashing Dick, her singing and dancing being very effective, and Miss Vera Snowdon is captivating as Alice Fitzwarren. Miss Lily Townshend is a capital Prince Charming, and Miss M. Leonard a winsome Maid Marian. The Sisters Behan as Algy and Polly are seen to advantage, and Miss Mollie Revell and the Sisters Dudley are delightful as the fairies, their vocal efforts being received with great applause. Mr. Hyam Long as Alderman Fitzwarren is decidedly amusing, and Mr. Arthur Behan is comical as the Cook. Mr. Dan Agar as Idle Jack, Mr. Clarence Turner as Captain Bunting, and the Canadian Boys as Shuffle and Shirk keep the house thoroughly amused with their quaint antics, and Mr. Cecil Terry is imposing as the Emperor of Morocco. Mons. Pauletti is clever as the Cat. Specialities are introduced by Mr. Hyam Long, Mdlle. Lucretia, the Palais Royal Quartette, the Three Behans, Mons. Pauletti, and the Canadian Boys (Doyle and Massey).

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Davidson.—On Monday Mr. James Hare's company opened with the sensational drama, *The Golden Chance*. Mr. Charles O'Connor as Hubert Zac is all that can be desired; Mr. J. R. Lowe is a capable Stephen Clinton; Miss Irene Clifford, in the dual rôle of Mother Hawk and Viva Zac, portays two extremes very cleverly; as Shelbery Mr. E. O'Grady would be hard to beat; and Miss Violet Hammersley scores heavily as Lydia Hastings. Mr. J. A. Stimson (Sam) and Miss Alice Buckland (Susan) do exceedingly well in the comedy parts, and other characters are suitably filled. On Thursday and Friday nights the company appeared in *The Guilty Man*.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company is causing a sensation here in *Sergeant Brue (of the "C" Division)*. Mr. George Barrett enacts the rôle of Crookie Scrubbs with an unctuous humour that is most acceptable; Mr. Charles Hanbury is quite in his element as Michael Brue; Mr. Harry Soutar deserves a word of praise as Matthew Habisham; Mr. Harold Montague just touches the right note as Inspector Gorringe; Messrs. J. J. Jordan and Ivor Harvey make the most of limited material as Mr. Lambe and Erskine Murray; Mr. Hugh Oliver is efficient as Captain Bay; Mr. A. E. E. Edwards gives a capital sketch of Mr. Crank; and Mr. Percy Clifton submits an animated and amusing rendering of the title-rôle. Miss Constance Lait, who sings sweetly, is a charming Aurora Brue; Miss Constance Berkeley is a lively Daisy; and Miss Violet Dene makes an enchanting and graceful Lady Bickenhall. A *pas de deux* by Miss Mabel Weir and Mr. Ivor Harvey is encored.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—*At Break of Day* is being staged here this week by Mr. Samuel James's stock company. Mr. Henry St. Leger is excellent in the part of Richard Thornycroft; Mr. J. J. Bartlett acts with power as Arnold Fletcher; Mr. Bert Morley renders useful service as the Rev. Ernest Brand; Mr. A. Fitzmaurice is creditable as Marmaduke Manners; Mr. A. P. Kaye is very funny as Jeremiah Stubbs; Miss May Seton is praiseworthy in the rôle of Henrietta Stubbs; Miss Lily Hammersley is all that can be wished as Violet Brand; Miss Bertha Baker is commendable as Phillis Thornycroft; and Miss Katherine Clarke is well placed as Dora Thornycroft.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is here in the naval drama *The Sailors of the King*. Mr. C. Harrington plays effectively as Admiral Drake; Mr. Harry Douglas's portrayal of Lieutenant Dick Drake is worthy of great praise; Miss Sylvia Stella is successful as Felicia Phrynne; and Miss Maud Tremayne plays with good effect as Daisy Dent; Mr. Richard Cowell gives a powerful impersonation; the Rev. Orrel Drake is cleverly portrayed by Mr. F. Vernon Travers; Miss Maud Digby as housekeeper to Admiral Drake is successful; Mr. Fred Owen as a moneylender, Mr. Kenneth Black as Barnet Fair, and Miss Hero Kathaway cause considerable amusement.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake's pantomime *Cinderella* is attracting large attendances here this week. The scenery is excellent, and the songs are catchy. Miss Ivy Dawn makes a dainty Cinderella, her songs being rendered most effectively; Mdlle. Du Roche fills the rôle of Prince Perfect in dashing style; Miss M. Le Graham is pleasing as Dandini; as the two ugly sisters Mr. W. Griffin and Mr. F. Elliott cause much laughter by their ridiculous make-ups. The Brothers Lang, who are mainly responsible for the funny elements, are warmly applauded; Miss Sadie Bush as the Godmother and Mr. Clifton Hall as Demon King are both good in their respective parts. Specialities are introduced in the Palace scene by the Three Sisters Grosvenor, operatic vocalists; Marlo, a clever young juggler; Harland and Rollinson, comedy musical artists; and Leona, Dora, and Maud, trapeze performers.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, M. T. A. Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The Carl Rosa Opera company is paying a return visit here this week, much to the delight of local lovers of the lyric drama. On Monday *Faust* was the attraction. The Marguerite of Miss Elizabeth Burgess was an exceedingly graceful and tender assumption. In the name-part Mr. Edward Davies was in every way successful. As Mephistopheles Mr. Arthur Winckworth acquitted himself excellently all through. Valentine had a capable exponent in Mr. Charles Moorhouse; and very charming was the Siebel of Miss Anna Hope. The Martha of Miss Douglas Wilson was faultless, and Mr. Fredk. Clendon was efficient as Wagner. Mr. Eugene Goossens conducted with characteristic ability. On Tuesday *Fidelio* was performed, and its representation left nothing to be desired. Particularly effective was Miss Hanna Mara's beautiful depiction of Leonora, and admirable, both vocally and histrionically, was Herr Julius Walther as Florestan. As good as anything, too, was the intelligent interpretation of Rocco by Mr. Arthur Winckworth, and Mr. Charles Victor as Pizarro and Mr. F. Clendon as Fernando respectively did exceedingly well. Miss Ina Hill made an attractive Marcellina, and Mr. Arthur Hyde was entirely adequate as Jacquino. Mr. Walter van Noorden conducted with marked ability. *The Marriage of Figaro, Il Trovatore, Tannhäuser, Carmen*, and *Maritana* were billed for the remaining part of the week.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr Herbert Taylor.—The star turn is provided by the Hodgson-Lowther company in their amusing and successful absurdity entitled *Barmaids*. Walter Stanley, a clever comedian, sings his songs in a highly acceptable manner; Clarice Netta, soprano vocalist, a prime local favourite, is as successful as ever; Ulrick, the barrel king, is a man of parts whose merits are heartily recognised and appreciated; Gold and Stirling, described as "the Welsh girl and the artist," are possessed of tuneful voices which they use to advantage; Arthur Croxon, the "one-man village concert," is as diverting as he is clever, and causes much hearty laughter; J. P. Carroll, military tambourine player, is decidedly novel, and his efforts receive every encouragement. The Palace Bioscope contributes some interesting films.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's attractive pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is playing to capital business here this week. Miss Madge Daly is a stylish Robin Hood, singing her songs with plenty of dash; Miss Nancy Thornton is the Maid Marion, and is equally popular; Mr. A. Stratton, in addition to being stage-manager, plays the bold Baron with success; and Messrs. Bennett and Martell as Bill and Dick, the robbers, evoke hearty laughter. The specialities include David Poole, an original ventriloquist; Gus Balsiger, a novelty banjoist; and the Ariston Dancers, a smart quartette. Misses Jordison and Cullen are happily placed as the Babes.

HIPPODROME AND VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Weldon.—Hinton and Wooton, football cyclists, and Mill, May, and Therese, protean artists, are repeatedly recalled. Marti and Julietta, pyramidical wonders, have a difficult act; and Dan Noble is a comedian of note. Frank Stephens, actor-vocalist, achieves much success; and Ada Marjutta, the flexible wonder, is very clever. Smith and Johnson, society coons, are of good quality; and the Harriscope, worked by Mr. Harris, has a strong show of pictures.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Cingalee* was produced by Mr. Geo. Dance's No. 1 company on Monday. Mr. Frank Crimp ably accounted for the Hon. Harry Vereker, and Mr. Bertram Gates afforded him loyal support in the part of Boobhamba. Mr. Coop Edmunds's assumption of Sir Peter Loftus, commissioner, was well rendered; as Myamagh, an Indian servant, Mr. A. Wilmer was effective; the Bobby Warren of Mr. Ethelbert Edwards was capital; as were also Messrs. Edward Ramsay, C. Richards, and John Ossie, who embodied the pupils at Vereker's plantation. Mr. Lauri de Reece supplied a distinctly pleasant variety as Chambuddy Kain, a Baboo lawyer; Miss Margaret Clarke won golden opinions in the rôle of Lady Patricia Vane; and Miss Gladys Guy was winsome as Peggie Sabine. The title-rôle was embodied by Miss Winnie O'Connor, whose fleetness of foot and sweetness of voice amply justified her in undertaking a part of such prominence. Messrs. P. Herbert as Natooma, and May Owen and Nellie Gladwell, ten girls on the plantation, were smart and prim; and Miss Maggie Hagan was excellent as Miss Pinkerton. A trio of interesting young ladies represented Amy's governesses, viz., Misses Mamie Patterson, Helen O'Brien, and Bertha Frey, the cast being completed by Miss Essie Perrin, who made a most successful Angy.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—The visit of Miss Maud Hildyard and her London company in *The Great Awakening* has been looked forward to by Dover playgoers with a good deal of pleasant anticipation. Expectations were not disappointed on Monday, for the drama is excellently staged. Miss Hildyard gives a wonderful performance as Lola Selby, the grim touch of humour in her portrayal making it the more effective. Her graceful figure and lovely gowns are the talk of the town. Miss Isa Bellington is a bright and amusing Selina Worts; Molly Merton is sympathetically played by Miss Jessie Burgwitz; a powerful impersonation of Jack Merton is contributed by Mr. Bernard Copping, his acting in the mad scene being particularly realistic. Mr. Copping also enacts the part of Sir Henry Merton with considerable ability. One of the cleverest and most effective portrayals is that of James Selby by Mr. Charles Vivian; and Mr. Charles Fancourt, as Captain Harry Lambert, gives a capable rendition. The rôle of the adventurer Guy Rogan is played on decidedly original lines by Mr. Julian Hartleigh; Mr. James E. Page imparts a touch of individuality to the part of Richard Wilson; Mr. Tracey Barrow is an animated and vivacious Antoine; and Mr. Godfrey Sheldon a capital Dr. Lang. A clever character-sketch of the kindly newsboy is the work of Mr. Edwin Gordon, and Mr. Willie Scott is in excellent form, and plays with immense comic force as Billy Brass.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Manager, P. G. Wraith.—Tom Bass heads the bill this week, and causes lots of fun with his advice to married ladies; Harry Bentley contributes several quaint numbers; Bertha Norwood and Cissie Gazelli are both delightful to look upon and charming to listen to. Kavados, the cannon-ball juggler, shows wonderful neatness and skill. Owing to an accident, Clara Sefton and the Lessors were unable to appear on Monday, but competent deputies were forthcoming.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The successful pantomime *Cinderella*, which entered on its last week here on Monday night, has lost none of its popularity, large and enthusiastic audiences being delighted nightly.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The pantomime *Royal Cinderella* is now in full swing here, and drawing full houses.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Mr. E. H. Knight and George Denham's *Grip of Iron* company is paying a return visit here this week, and doing excellent business. Mr. Fred Powell again assumes the rôle of Jagon, alias Simmonet, with his accustomed ability, and Miss Mildred Cottell gives a capital rendition of his daughter Cora. Praise is due to Mr. Harry Agar Lyons for his impersonation of Alphonse de Concour, and Miss Nellie Fletcher plays with effect the part of Sophie Blanchard. Mr. Geo. Denham is capital in the rôle as Loustalot, the Smiler, and Miss Pope Royal is seen to advantage as Mdlle. Delaney. Mr. Harry Scott is well suited as Paul Blanchard, and Mr. Richard Ferris is exceedingly good as Lorentz de Ribas.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Musical-Director, Mr. H. J. Baynton.—Mr. Fred Karno's company tops the bill here this week with the laughter-provoking sketch *Jail Birds*, and causes a furore nightly. Morris and Morris's acrobatic feats on a broom-handle are well received; and Ethel Ra Leslie's character songs are a pronounced success. Mueller and Coyne, comedy artists, are a highly diverting pair, and Helen Martin is an accomplished ballad vocalist. The Three Sisters Chester are charming vocalists and dancers; the selections played by Baker and Balfe on the xylophone are warmly applauded, and the Empire pictures include some up-to-date events.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—An old favourite is here in the person of Joe O'Gorman, who receives a flattering reception. A novel and amusing trapeze act is supplied by the Clement Trio, and Minnie Dare is a chic comedienne and dancer. Helm and Cozen's comedy trifle *The Doctor and the Patient* causes no end of laughter, and the clever gymnastic act of Craig, Roze, and Craig is deservedly applauded. Gillin is an entertaining ventriloquist, and Aida Martine an attractive comedienne. Monty Walker is a humorous vocal comedian, Ray and Miles are capital comedy jugglers, and the bioscope is interesting.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Company close here to-night, after a most successful season.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr C. A. James.—Pettigrove and Sons' Marionette pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is being presented.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—Irish spectacle, *Donnybrook Fair*, is the attraction here.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*Mr. Smith*, presented by a first-class London company, is paying a first visit here. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Mr. Smith gives a distinctly clever and artistic rendering; Mr. Edwin Holloway is responsible for a polished performance as Lord Angleland, being ably assisted in all his doings by Mr. Chas. Pilling Bird as the Hon. Dudley Dysart; Mr. Russell Norrie assiduously plays the elderly part of Earl of Oxted; Mr. H. Carter Bligh deserves praise for his energetic rendering of Jack Berkeley; and Mr. Fred Darrell causes much fun as the Milwaukee brewer, Herr Diedrich Anheuser. Miss Mary Bates plays the arduous part of the Duchess of Angleland to perfection; Miss Louis Lestrange as the garrulous but loving old mother, Mrs. Smith, creates much laughter; Miss Fife Alexander is charmingly graceful as Ruth Anheuser; and Miss Rosamund Berkeley submits a delightfully refreshing rendering of Lady Mary.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Deputy Acting-Manager, Mr. Rhodes Wells.—The Three Pirmans, in a pantomime act entitled *Dans le Jardin*, are proving a great attraction this week. They are very amusing, and their performance on the triple bars is the best witnessed here for some considerable time. Ned Kennedy and company are also to the front in a sketch, *Life in a Tenement House*. Prince Kuroki, Japanese legerdemain, completely mystifies everyone with some wonderful tricks; Marguerita Chappelle ably renders a good turn described as *The Two Extremes;* Mabelle May is a capital vocalist and dancer; Harry Nation, the laughing comedian, has some new original songs that please his audience; Cyril Demane, illusionist, is good; as also is Tom Vine, vocal comedian The programme is completed by James Shingleton, the Singing Collier.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Miss Lillie Mowbray's pantomime company appeared here in *Cinderella* on Monday and two following nights. Miss May Garnet Vayne as Cinderella is charming; Miss Vesta Brownie as Dandini capably fills the part; Miss Ethel Burns as Prince Peerless plays in a creditable manner; Miss Madge Brownie and Mr. Tom Read as the Ugly Sisters are clever; and Mr. Will Wilson is droll as Peter, the Page. The Boston Twins Knipp and Knapp are exceedingly funny. Ivy Valescoe's trope of trained ponies deserve great credit, as also do Hampson's performing dogs.

DUNDALK.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, Urban Council; under the direction of Mr. Payne Seddon.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is here this week, and opened on Monday to a crowded house with Hamlet. Mr. Henry Herbert in the title-rôle called forth loud applause for his fine impersonation. Ophelia in the hands of Miss Dorothy Green was a finished performance; Mr. Arthur Fayne as Polonius was most successful; Mr. Alfred Howis as the King acted his part with dignity; and a special word is due to Mr. Lionel Bevans for his fine Horatio. The remaining parts are filled by a capable company. *The Merchant of Venice, The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The School for Scandal* are also in the bill.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Perkins. — Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is presenting *The Christian* here this week. Miss Grace Chalmers gives a most convincing portrayal as Glory Quayle; Mr. Frank Tennant as John Storm is a manly figure, and his embodiment is clear-cut and most powerful. Miss Molly Hayden as Mrs. Callander gives a clever study; as Lord Robert Ure Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is most effective; Mr. Jackson Wilcox accepts the opportunities offered in the part of Horatio Drake, and his rendering leaves nothing to be desired.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—W. J. Ashcroft, Irish comedian, meets with a most hearty reception in his farcical interlude *Jane Ann O'Hoolahan*, in which he is assisted by John M. Morton, a clever American comedian. Palleo and Cusick are well known here, and their turn is one of the most popular on the bill; Carr and Rose are a pair of vocalists of more than average ability; Sharr and Frank cause much laughter with their clever comedy work, and their juggling is of the most meritorious description; Fred Lloyd and company produce with much success a sketch entitled *The Blind Spinster*. Others who contribute to the programme include George Bernard, descriptive vocalist; Horton and Linder, on the horizontal bars; and Mona McDonald, comedienne.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The comedy drama *A Plucky Nipper* is here this week. Miss Bonwin Carlton gives a clever rendering of the part of Polly Hithard; Mr. Edward Surrey is excellent in the rôle of Bill Burgess; and a fine impersonation is given by Mr. William Heilbronn in the character of Richard Vanbrugh. Miss E. Lamonte scores in the part of Daisy Paget, the blind girl.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Kardoc, the handcuff king, is well received here; the Garden troupe of dancers meet with their customary success; Clark and Clark score as duettists; Harry Daubrey, ventriloquist, keeps the house in the best of humour; and the Canadian Animated Photo. Co. give a capital exhibition of pictures.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith and a strong company appeared here the latter part of the week in a new farce, *My Cousin Marco*, which was produced last week at Canterbury. Mr. Grossmith's company includes Miss Dido Drake, Miss Gladys Homfrey, and Mr. T. W. Lovell.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—For the first time locally, "looping the loop" is being accomplished here twice nightly, and a gentleman on a motor-cycle supplies this thrilling sensation; Miss Doris Lillian is a pleasing comedienne, and she is a clever and graceful dancer; Illumino Statuo, in a pretty stage setting, is a novel statesque song tableau; Mr. Harry Henrick works well as a comedian; Dante, Bentley, and Elton have an amusing sketch, and they dance well; Mr. J. D. Toner is a successful mimic of Harry Lauder; and Cavern and Cave, together with the pictures, complete the bill.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. J. D. Hunter and his company are again supplying the annual pantomime here, and Miss Blanche Bayley returns to again triumph as principal boy, and she is a refined and pleasing Prince. Miss Doris Dew is a pretty and captivating Cinderella; Miss Nell Raymond, as Sprightly, has a pretty figure and voice; and Miss Mabel Mavis is an acceptable Cherry. Miss Rene Ashley has plenty of gaiety and brightness as Prime Minister; Miss Cherry Wardroper is a capital Ugly Sister, and the Misses Florrie and Lily Zetina are pretty and graceful dancers. Mr. J. D. Hunter, as the other Ugly Sister, is the cause of many laughs; Mr. Dick Tubb is a funny Baron, and he possesses unlimited facial expression; and Messrs. Dale and O'Malley are a couple of sterling comedians whose work is prominent all through. The Cleveland Troupe of acrobats are smart and clever; while Little Rosie's miniature circus, and Marion Silbon as Auguste, with his trained cats, take the place of the ordinary harlequinade.

EBBW VALE. — KING'S. — Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Responsible Managers, Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Wood.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company presented *The Lady of Ostend* on the first three nights of the week. Mr. Henry Hampson as Dick Whortles gave a capital impersonation, and Joseph Carbury was well played by Mr. Rorey Marshall. Mr. Lawrence Brough as Le Baron de Longueville was excellent, and Dorothy Whortles was admirably portrayed by Miss Noyra Creegan. *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was played on Thursday and Friday.

EDINBURGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* is running with unabated vigour and most gratifying success. There is no falling-off in the crowded attendance, nor in the favour accorded to the principals engaged in the production. Miss Ruth Lytton and Miss Rhoda Gordon are deservedly popular as Ganem and Morgiana; and Mr. Tom E. Murray as Ali Ba

Montefiore possesses, if not the veritable wand of the wizard in the fairy-tale, the power of producing an excellent spectacle, satisfying alike from a dramatic and a picturesque point of view.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—This week's bill is notable for at least two novel and ingenious turns of more than ordinary interest. The Riogoku Family of Japanese jugglers and contortionists give their remarkable display of feats in balancing which are virtually unrivalled. The Seven Grigolatis in the guise of butterflies take aerial flights very gracefully, not only hovering hither and thither above the stage, but also taking flights into the auditorium, coloured lights and fanciful costumes adding to the effect of a very pretty scene. Miss Mary Glenn, an artistic soprano vocalist, sings a number of favourite songs in a cultured and charming style. Other pleasing singers are found in Miss Ruth Dorris and Miss Mabel Hind. A clever trapeze performance is given by the Rhoda Brothers; Mr. Conway (unaided by his associate, Mr. Leland, who is temporarily laid aside with an injury to his foot) provides an amusing turn; and entertaining sketches are supplied by Geoffreys and Benson and Mr. Cecil Linden and Miss Elsie Hayward, who appear respectively in *Spoofed* and *The Midnight Express*. The Urban Bioscope Company conclude the programme with some new and interesting films.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The energetic proprietor of this house has produced a new spectacle entitled *The Scalp Hunters* this week. The piece is adapted from some of the stirring incidents in the novel by the late Captain Mayne Reid, and it gives an opportunity for excellent work by the members of Mr. Cooke's staff. There are much excitement and interest in the three tableaux into which the piece is divided, and a dashing *dénouement* is reached by the introduction of the diving horses, which show the perfection of animal training. Mdlle. Yvette's miniature hippodrome is a pleasing feature and the Cedrics evoke plenty of laughter and applause in their admirable act. The remaining turns are of the meritorious nature associated with Mr. Cooke's establishment

EDMONTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Joseph L. S. Moss; Manageress, Mrs. Amelia H. B. Moss.—On Monday night Miss Winifred Maude's company, under the direction of Mr. Victor Du Cane, started its second week with Tom Craven's piece, *The Stowaway*. Miss Winifred Maude gave a charming impersonation of Althea Dale and Mr. Victor Du Cane was successful as Dicky Dials. Chucky, a London newsboy, was cleverly played by Miss Amy Corallie. Other parts were played with ease and finish by Mr. Royce Carleton (Tom Inglis), Mr. Arthur E. Pringle (Charles Etherington), Mr. James Langtrey (Paul Inglis), Mr. Norton Shields (Percy Ewart), Mr. Edward Finlay (Job Hickey), Mr. W. E. Simpson (Sandy Prowse), Mr. Felix Harris (Inspector Johnson), Mr. Ploens Cain (Detective Lynch), and Miss Marie Lyons (Florence Etherington).

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville; Acting Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company are visiting Exeter this week, and on Monday *Sapho* was presented. The title-rôle was successfully filled by Miss Ada Abbott, and Mr. E. R. Abbott gave an excellent portrayal of Jean Gaussin. Miss Sybil Leslie and Miss Marjorie Tennant did well as Lucy and Madame Hettema respectively, and Uncle Ceasire was humorously depicted by Mr. Douglas C. Phelps. Some smart musical specialities were introduced by Mr. Edward Keene. On Tuesday *Trilby* was staged with much success, Mr. E. R. Abbott as Svengali and Miss Ada Abbott in the name-part playing with skill and taste.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—A return to pantomime has been made this week, and *Sinbad the Sailor* is being presented by Mr. Fred. J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy's company. The principals are Miss Marion May (Sinbad), Miss Amy Calcott (Zorilda), Miss Flora Buxton (Princess Zaidie), Miss Ada Mand (Selim), Mr. John E. West (Mrs. Sinbad), Mr. Albert E. Mann (Captain Cook), Mr. Walter Adams (Tinbad), and Mr. Fred Dobito (Ali Loofan). The "panto." is rich in fun and frolic, the chief contributors to which are Messrs. Newcombe and Sullivan. There were many catchy songs rendered during the evening, and variety was supplied by the marvellous Westwoods, comedy cyclists; the Calcotts, dancers and banjoists; Little Tim, big boot dancer; Miss May Wyatt, solo 'cellist; and Dobito and Buxton, operatic vocalists.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, and Manager, T. Morton Powell.—Emma Litchfield and company are here this week in *A London Actress*. The characters are all in capable hands. Mr. J. C. Carlyle, as Sergt.-Major Crawford, gives an excellent performance; the Lieut. Kingstone of Mr. A. F. Dudley is also a capital representation; Mr. G. H. Doyle, as Capt. Mannering, is all that could be desired in the part; Mr. J. Hitchins is a comical Pat Maloney, and he is ably assisted by Miss Nellie Fern as Biddy Maloney. Miss E. Litchfield, as Hilda Mannering, plays the part in a natural manner, and her performance meets with well-merited applause. Miss Millie Mayward capably undertakes the part of Rosie Blythe.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company, in *Bluebell in Fairyland*, is here this week. Miss Gladys Cooper, in the title-rôle is very attractive, and renders her songs in a pleasing manner; Mr. Lawrence Emery as Dicky is bright and alert; Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart as Will and Wont, and later on as Blib and Blob, cause endless amusement; Mr. David Cruickshank makes a good Mr. Joplin; Mr. Percy Farrimond as the singing collier uses his fine voice advantageously; Mr. Stanley Crisp is an excellent Cat; Miss Connie Emerald as Mab, and Miss Marie Edmonds as Winnie, play in a praiseworthy manner; Miss Muriel Juin renders "The glow-worm" with excellent effect; Miss Minnie Blanchard scores a success with her clever dancing; and Miss Ruby Carter is an ideal Will o' the Wisp.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. A. Setter.—Cardow's Cadets opened here on Monday, and received their fair share of patronage, their songs, duets, and concerted numbers all being rendered in good style.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robert Kirk.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company appeared here for three nights last week in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Tom Payne is an excellent comedian, and as Chambhuddy Ram gained great applause; Mr. A. Wortley Drewitt sang well as Harry Vereker; Mr. F. Sutton gave a good rendering of Boobhamba; and Mr. Edwards was a pleasing Bobby Warren. Mr. Eric Fenton gave a clever performance of Sir Peter Loftus; Miss Edith Harmer was a charming Nanoya; Miss E. Hughes was amusing as Peggy Sabine; and Miss Millie Field was a good Lady Patricia.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—Messrs. Robert MacDonald and Fuller Allen (by arrangement with Mr. George Edwardes) are presenting *San Toy* here. Mr. Howard V. Crofton is a handsome Captain Bobby, his singing being much appreciated; Yen How, portrayed by Mr. Alfred Clark, is the cause of much merriment; another great laughter-creator is Mr. Alfred Beers, who plays Li, and also stage manages the production; Mr. Harry Turner is a very voluble Sir Bingo; Mr. Alf. H. Majilton is successful as Lieutenant Harvey Tucker; Mr. Scott Rae is a capable exponent of Fo Hop; and the Emperor receives full justice at the hands of Mr. G. Webster Partie. Miss Nina Osborne in the title part contributes an excellent performance, her singing being delightful; Miss Maud Lucy is a vivacious Dudley; and Miss Doris Langdon plays Poppy, and is heard to great advantage in her songs. The chorus is a capable one.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Arnold Bell and company are appearing here in *Hoodman Blind*. As Jack Yeulett, Mr. Bell, who is always a favourite with Gateshead audiences, receives an enthusiastic reception, and gives a powerful impersonation; Mr. Cuthbert Imrie is very effective as Mark Lezzard; Mr. Dan Farrough makes the most of his opportunities as Kridge; an amusing interpretation of Ben Chibbles is given by Mr. Wm. C. Reid; Mr. Bernard Mervyn makes a very powerful Tom Lattiker; and Mr. Joe Bardsley as Joe Swirrup and Mr. Frank Carlyle as Noah Quodling are both successful. Miss Frances Campbell is a great success in the dual rôle of Nance and Jess Lendon; Miss Violet Campbell looks charming in the part of Polly Chibbles; and Miss Cissie Walmer as Kit and Miss L. Vyner as Tom Tit give praiseworthy portrayals.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smith.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is doing good business here in *The Love that Women Desire*. The part of Squire Abingdon affords Mr. J. C. Stewart an opportunity of showing his undoubted ability; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford gives a powerful impersonation of Richard Abingdon; Mr. G. C. Wallace's embodiment of Frank Hardy is one of all-round excellence; and Mr. David G. Noble capably fills the rôle of Philip Carnaby. The comic element is excellently sustained by Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke, Mr. Arthur Rich as P.C. Sowerberry, and Miss Maud Stuart as Pattie Swift. Miss Lydia Donovan gives a satisfactory rendering of Sybil Thorburn, and Miss Alice N. Livesey cleverly portrays Madge Abingdon.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—*Aladdin* continues to crowd this theatre to its utmost capacity, both at matinées and evening performances, and the humorous eccentricities of Mr. Harry Lauder and his able coadjutors look like creating a record here. As Roderick McTwankey, the Scotch traveller in the Far East, Mr. Lauder has a part that suits him to a nicety, and there is not a dull moment from beginning to end of the performance. His songs, "My Scotch Bluebell," "Sound Advice," "The reason why I wear a kilt," &c., have all caught on immensely, and are sung and whistled everywhere. Mr. Dan Crawley as the Widow is another rich humorist, and in song, dance, and funny business he is responsible for many of the heartiest laughs of the night. Miss Bessie Featherstone's Aladdin is a bright and clever performance, full of animation and go, while her songs have also caught the public fancy. Miss Alice Russon is a dainty Princess, with a pretty face asd an engaging manner that have proved quick passports to favour. Miss Birdie Sutherland as the stately So-Hi, Miss Jose Collins as Saucee, Mr. Arthur Dandoe as the Vizier, and Mr. Imro Fox as the wily Magician Abanazar all ably contribute to the general success, and the scenery and dresses, as is usual at the Royal, are the theme of admiration.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Howard and Wyndham's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* continues to draw large audiences. Mr. Malcolm Scott as Dame Trot heads the list of comedians, and shows his absolute originality. His business is all new, and intensely funny. George Le Clerq as Johnny Stout helps greatly towards the general success of the show. Much assistance is given by Messrs. Arthur Rickett as the Squire, Ben Brown as Johnny Green, and Fred Grey as Simple Simon. Miss Margaret Ruby as Boy Blue and Miss Dorothy Monkman as Bo-Peep continue to charm with their graceful acting and pleasant voices. The Red Riding-Hood of little Miss Dorothy Monkman is a very pretty performance. The Eight Snowdrops sing and dance in an artistic manner.

ROYAL PRINCESS.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The laughable pantomime *Simple Simon* continues to delight the patrons of this popular house. All the principals are on excellent terms with the audience, but none more so than Miss Lillie Lingard (Robin Adair) and Miss Esta Stella (Phyllis Flounce). The parts of second boy and girl are nicely filled by the Misses Lily and Ethel Hall; the Fairies Love and Hate are gracefully represented by Miss Maud Bettison and Miss Eleanor L'Estrelle respectively; while a clever bit of character acting is seen in the Sally Ann of Miss Annie Thomas. The comic business is never allowed to flag, thanks to Mr. Lawrence Barclay as Simple Simon, Mr. Jack Lorimer as Saunders McRory, Mr. Larry Lewis, as the Mysterious Stranger, Mr. Will Poluski, jun., as Gingernut, and Mr. E. W. Avery as Amenda Evergreen.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Homer in the part of the "ugliest woman" again proves herself a capable actress, and commands much attention. Mr. Philip Darien sustains the character of Jack Merriman in a most effective manner; Mr. Leyton Cancellor does well as Hubert Gold, and is ably assisted by Miss Rita Milman as Rose Courteney; Mr. Tubby Edlin makes a highly amusing Tubby Herrick; and Miss Nellie Jackson is well suited as Aggie Brown. Mr. Frank Denis, Miss Margaret Watson, and Mr. Charles Barrett all give good representations of their respective parts.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Dandy Doctor* provides Govan playgoers with a bright and enjoyable entertainment this week. Mr. Edward Russell appears as Melchizadeck Brown, the "tinned meat" millionaire, and Jane is ably acted by Miss Norah Melton.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—The company here this week includes a novel plastic figure performance, submitted by Terley. A more popular "turn" than that given by Barton and Ashley in *Canal Boat Sal* one could not wish to see, while the efforts of Florie Gallimore in up-to-date songs are well received. The Finneys give a smart aquatic entertainment, and Barney Vox, ventriloquist, is as good as ever. Chas. Stuart's company appears in an amusing sketch, and the Hans Hansen Trio are clever acrobatic artists. The other members of the company include Greta Malcolm, vocalist, and Princess Pauline, comedienne.

ZOO HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Crowded houses assemble nightly to witness the wrestling feats of Georges Hackenschmidt; Lydia and Albino give a graceful gymnastic performance illuminated with electric light; the Sisters Neilson are lively duettists and dancers; the Coloured Meisters have well-blended voices, and sing a selection of comically harmonised compositions; the Arthur Lloyd Trio give an amusing sketch called *Twin Sisters*; the Three Amanths are acrobatic dancers who show astonishing flexibility of limb; Fraser and Mac excite hearty laughter; and Kelly and Ashby perform various amusing feats on an elastic billiard table. A good evening's entertainment opens with an overture finely rendered by the orchestra, and closes with the bioscope.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Getting; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan.—Richard Sawade's Troupe of Lions, Bears, and Tigers is the outstanding item here, a performance that thrills the audience. Other turns of note include Bros. Leslie, instrumentalists; Payne's *Little Vagabonds*, comedy sketch; Lecomte and Pender-Cudlip, vocalists; Harry Grey, comedian; Ada Alexandra and company in *The Mason*; Doran Bros., gymnasts; Viola May, soprano; and the American Bioscope.

PALACE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. R. Waldon and T. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—The Cratons occupy the premier position here with a humorous sketch, *Front and Behind*, which is responsible for much hearty laughter. The remainder of the programme is capably filled in by Wake and Dean, comedians; Henry Antony, conjurer; Herbert Maden, vocal comedian; Ford and Barris, comedians and dancers; Zeta, Grey, and company, sketch artists; Harry Reynolds's Minstrel Quintette; the Louberts, comedy acrobats; and the animatograph.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Paul Martinetti and company are this week appearing in the lively pantomime sketch entitled *The Keyhole*. The Musical Johnstons give an enjoyable selection of popular and classical music on the xylophone; Ida Gladstone, after her recent pantomime hit, receives a specially hearty welcome; Bros. Volden give an amusing acrobatic turn; a particularly clever gymnastic display is that of the Jansons; Les Rubens contribute some well-rendered operatic duets; and Bert Lytton and Ernie Williams shine as comedians. The orchestra, under the new conductor, Mr. Howard W. Galpin, shows marked improvement.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—Crowded houses twice nightly are rallying round Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*. Miss May Merry, who proved so popular at the Royalty a year ago, makes a charming Red Riding Hood, and sings and dances with considerable charm. Miss Bessie Cohen is a brisk and breezy Prince Charming. The comedians, Messrs. Harry Morgan, Howard Ward, Harry Elliston, and Teddy Gibbs, keep the fun going admirably, and, as in all Tiller productions, the dancing of the girls is a noteworthy feature.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company is here this week. On Monday evening *The Daughter of the Regiment* attracted an excellent audience. Great interest was centred in Mr. Sidney Clifford (a native of Glossop) as Sergeant Sulpice, his acting and singing being excellent. Mr. Charles Le Seur as Toni was heard to advantage, Mr. Richard Cummings as Hortensia made the most of the character, and Mr. George Ridding as Corporal was praiseworthy. Miss Winifred Knightley shone conspicuously as the Countess; and Miss Maud Esdale did excellent service as Suzette. Miss Kitty Brownless's impersonation of Marie was convincing, her acting and singing being of a high order. The band and chorus were satisfactory under the bâton of Mr. T. Lawton. *Martana, The Bohemian Girl, Lily of Killarney*, and *Faust* have also been successfully presented.

GLOUCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Miss Hettie Jeffries and company are here this week in the favourite military comedy drama, *The Curate*. In the rôle of Dick, the trumpeter, Miss Hettie Jeffries at once gains favour; Miss Isabel Norman is sympathetic as the much-wronged Mabel Verner; Miss Winifred Stuart as the Russian adventuress, Katinka Vodsky, is convincing; and Miss Agnese D'Aragon is very good as Mrs. Muggs. Mr. Arthur Mervyn as the Rev. John Audley (the Curate) is responsible for a quiet, yet forcible, rendering of his part; Gilbert Westwood has a powerful exponent in Mr. Whitmore Ledger; Mr. Frank Stuart looks and acts the blustering Sergeant Snipe; and Mr. Clifford Spencer fills the house with merriment in the part of Simon Peter Muggs.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—A large and appreciative audience gave a cordial welcome on Monday to Mr. Walter Thurleston and company in the drama *The Ring that Binds*. Gerald Hazelton finds an able exponent in Mr. W. Roberts; Mr. H. N. Grimson, as the villainous Mortimer Despard, is powerful in his assumption; Mr. T. A. Ellis gives a forcible reading of Tom Rogers; Mr. R. C. Carsdale as Colonel Beverley, and Mr. W. Thurlestone as David Rogers, submit excellent representations. Mr. A. Beaufort delights the audience with his extremely humorous portrayal of Balshazzar Pitt; Miss Florrie Hayes is a pretty and captivating Nellie Summers; Miss Ivy Alberto is to be complimented on her powerful portrayal of Mona Beverley; Miss M. Leslie Cudd plays the trying rôle of Surana with excellent effect; and Little H. Hood is highly successful as Jack Beverley.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—An excellent represenation of *The Golden Ladder* is being given here this week by Miss Mary Austin and E. Vivian Edmond's company. Mr. Harry Cullenford is natural and effective as the Rev. Frank Thornhill; Mr. J. Milne Taylor depicts with distinct success the villainous Michael Severn; Samuel Peckaby is humorously represented by Mr. Joseph Rowlands; Mr. Graham Winsford is admirable as M. Peranza; and Mr. Henry Belford is capital as Jim Dixon. Lilian Grant is sympathetically played by Miss Eva Moss; Miss Nellie Graham is very successful as Mrs. Peckaby; and Lily is prettily enacted by Miss Holly Haslewood. Other members of a long cast render adequate support.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company is delighting large audiences here this week with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Charles McLagan as the irrepressible Crookie Scrubbs is responsible for much laughter, his performance teeming with refreshing and original drolleries. Mr. Paddy Dupres in the name-part scores a big success, his versatile and humorous acting winning enthusiastic applause. The part of Michael Brue is admirably filled by Mr. E. Percy Rodgers; and Mr. Crank is smartly played by Mr. Henry Chichester. Miss Lilian Middleton is attractive in her embodiment of Aurora Brue; and Miss Eliza Earle makes a clever Daisy. Miss Midge Clark, an actress well known to local audiences, takes the part of Lady Bickenhall, and scores a complete success by her fine acting and singing. A small part, well played, is that of Inspector Gorringe by Mr. C. Griffin. The work of the chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Norman Latham, is particularly good.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Nellie Coleman, lady comedian, heads the bill here, and her performance is very good. Other members of a talented company are Keen and Waller, acrobatic comedians; Santeron, jumping expert; T. W. Royal, comedian and clog dancer; Stentora, lady baritone; Dome, clay modeller; Lade Henderson, vocalist; and the Lulaine Darrell Trio of Roman ring artists. An interesting exhibition of pictures is given by the cinematograph.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The Palace Theatre (Greenock) Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr Alfred Selwyn; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—An excellent turn is provided here by Miss Diana Hope, Monte Bayley, and company, in a drama entitled *Her Good Name*. Other good items are Charles Morritt, a clever magician; Collins and Rice, speciality artists; Zasma, society gymnast; Squire Brown, vocalist; Kate Lynd, vocalist and dancer; Charley Dixon, comedian and dancer; and Eric Graham, character comedian.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Large crowds have again attended the theatre during the second week of the run of the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The main feature of the show is the comedy, many capital burlesques of topical subjects being introduced. The prime mover in the fun is Mr. Tom Foy as Idle Jack, and he is well supported by Mr. Bert Byrne as the Dame, Mr. Jack Foy as the Skipper, and Mr. Will Musgrave as the Mate. Miss Nellie Sheffield has also contributed some very amusing business in the character of the dusky Empress. The principal boy and girl are charmingly represented by Miss Hetty Zillwood and Miss Clara Reid. Many pretty spectacles are staged, the final scene being especially worthy of note. One of the most popular items is the acrobatic performance of the Matweef Hugoston Troupe, whose feats are of a distinctly novel type.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—J. W. Hall has fairly won the approval of the Tivoli audiences this week. His songs are good, but it is his patter which has particularly pleased his hearers. The Cumberlands, whilst mounted on bicycles, accomplish most of the feats of tumbling which many performers do on the stage. One member of the troupe rides round the stage whilst supporting a comrade on his shoulders, and holding another, seated on a cycle, at arm's length. The Bouncing Dillons give an exhibition of somersaulting on a spring table, and the efforts of novices to imitate them have caused much laughter. Mike Cray, a comedy juggler, and his intelligent dog, have also been responsible for much merriment. The Sisters Kaufman's scena, *Fun in Holland*, is very popular, the dancing being greatly admired. Others appearing are the Two Romers, vocalists; Winnie Scott, vocalist and dancer; and Charlie Jerome, vocalist.

THE PALACE.—Managing Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—A very interesting miniature drama is *When Rogues Fall Out*, which has headed the programme here this week. Daring feats have been accomplished by the Belmont Troupe, who ride bicycles and motor-cycles on a miniature track. Another interesting cycle turn is given by the Electrones, who introduce a good deal of comedy. The Brothers Franch have proved smart acrobats, their feat in sliding along a narrow table being especially remarkable. Another sketch, *The Missing Will*, given by Golden and Grey, is an interesting item. Fred Erick, comedian; Lillie Currie, vocalist; and Arthur Holland, vocal comedian, are also in the bill.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Managers, Messrs. Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Baker.—The programme this week is largely of a comedy character. Walter King causes much amusement with his quaint style and sayings; and others giving laughable turns are Hans and Lux, knockabout comedians; Vere and Royal, comedy artists; Flo St. Roy, comedienne; Amy Elcock, comedienne; Ward and Wylie, who appear in a burlesque; and the Delmars, who contribute a good laughing song. The Davenports perform several puzzling illusions, and animated pictures complete the programme.

GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robt. Perkins.—On Jan. 26 the favourite society play *The Walls of Jericho* was presented by Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux's company. The piece fairly "caught on," and it was acknowledged to be the finest play that has been seen here this season. Mr. Herbert Bunston held the audience intensely interested by his excellent conception of Jack; Mr. L. Hanray submitted a clever sketch of the Marquis; Mr. George A. Brandram gave an impressive and effective delineation of Hankey; Miss Florence Jackson won the admiration of all by her fine rendering of Lady Alethea; Miss Molly Carton was engaging as Lucy; Miss Nora Greenlaw played with earnestness as Lady Westerly; and Miss Edith Cuthbert displayed artistic spirit as Miss Mornington.

GUILDFORD.—BOROUGH HALL.—Mr. John A. Thomson paid a welcome visit here on Monday and Tuesday with *Dick Whittington*, under the local direction of Mr. G. W. Bowes. Miss Ida Kessanly was a sprightly Dick; Miss E. Willmer was vivacious and dainty as Alice Fitzwarren; Mr. Ross Warren was highly successful as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Edwin Doods made a humorous Idle Jack; Mr. Harry Harcourt caused much laughter as the Cook, as did Mr. F. Anderson as Pimple. The pantomime was well mounted and dressed, and some clever specialities were introduced by Mdlle. Florence, the Morrellis, Miss Ella Rose, and the Vanetta troupe of dancers. On Wednesday Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, gave a performance of *Revenge*.

HALIFAX.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—A delightful turn is provided here this week by Miss Marie Kendall, who requires no introduction to a Halifax audience. Her songs are as pleasing and as well rendered as of old. The Andos, in their marvellous feats, evoke astonishment; Casselli and James are banjo artists of undoubted merit; Albert Whelan is a popular Australian comedian; Marie Gibson is a pleasing soprano; and Eileen Gomez, and Steve McCarthy, a typical vocalist and dancer, also appear.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Another most enjoyable vaudevillo entertainment is submitted here this week. It includes Chanti, whose remarkable conception of the dances and sports of various nationalities are artistic and unexaggerated; Zarmah, with his grotesque statuary; Arthur Kenny, in daring trick cycling feats; F. S. Hulme, refined character vocalist; Mozetto, the youthful juggler; the Vekeys, marvellous banjoists; the Lovelaces, song illustrators; Conway and Garland, premier comedy artists; and the Doran Bros., acrobatic eccentrics, are also in the bill.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—This week, Mr. Chas. Frohman is presenting here for the first time *Leah Kleschna*. The character of Leah is firmly drawn by Miss Pilas Morin, whose portrayal of the rôle is passionate and striking; Mr. Langhorne Burton is well placed as Paul Sylvanie; and Mr. Thomas Sydney is interesting as Kleschna.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—A capital house welcomed the return visit of Mr. H. Armitage and Mr. Arthur Leigh's company, in the late Wilson Barrett's clever play, *Lucky Durham*. Mr. Edmund Kennedy is seen as John Durham, and his impersonation of the character is vividly effective and truly artistic. Mr. Arthur Leigh's Hon. Reginald is a fine performance; Miss Gertrude Robins as Helen Vallerton acts with much skill and womanly feeling; Miss Louise Gourlay, as the mother of John Durham, contributes a touching and artistic rendering; Lady Mountfallon is admirably depicted by Miss Frances Wolviston; Miss Florence Dulhunty is a charming and vivacious Hon. Margaret; Mr. Benson North is well placed as Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Vallerton is capably portrayed by Mr. A. E. Walker; Mr. Arthur Walcombe does well as Campbell Goldsmid; Ben Vernstein is cleverly enacted by Mr. W. F. Clitheron; and Mr. John Hart, Mr. Sydney Bancroft, Mr. Chas. Phipps, Mr. Geo. Lake, Mr. Eric Wynne, Mr. Bert Gunter, Miss Violet Thorold, and Miss Kate Evelyn, are all seen to advantage.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The Three Merrills, in a comedy cycle act, are both amusing and clever; Marzella's birds have been admirably trained, and contribute an interesting and intelligent performance; Boswell's stage circus is very diverting; the Cadwaladr Operatic Company present a pretty sketch, in which their vocal efforts are much applauded; Raie Walters is a vivacious comedienne, who proves successful; Gallagher and Hild are seen in a capital turn; the Sisters Clive dance and sing in a capable manner; and the pictures are, as usual, excellent.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company, in *A Trip to Chinatown*, opened here on Monday for a three nights' engagement. Miss Hettie Gale was fascinating and graceful as Mrs. Guyer. On Thursday, Mr. John Gerant paid a return visit with *At Duty's Call*.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The Savonas are retained at the head of the bill for a second week, and, with a change of programme, are delighting crowded audiences. Their coon melody, "Down South," is received nightly with a perfect furore of applause. Another strong attraction on the programme is the Original Street Singer, a young woman whose voice for some days past has been heard in the Hartlepool streets, and whose contralto voice, of exceptional range and purity, is gaining for her eulogium from all. Mr. Burns intends to give her a good start, and has even gone so far as to offer a prize to the member of the audience who suggests the best stage name for her adoption. A turn that is as original as it is clever is *The Demon Chef*; or, *The Cook's Dream of Christmas*, presented by Picette and Lizette. The Bollingers, with their rag pictures, are unique; the suppleness and dexterity of Senorita Eloina, a graceful Spanish gymnast, calls for much praise; an amusing ventriloquial turn is provided by Bert Williams; Nellie Williams excels in dancing; and an interesting series of pictures is shown on the bioscope. The Savonas are also on the programme as the Six Cycling Elliotts for two nights during the week.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Brandon Thomas, supported by an excellent company, is appearing in his famous comedy, *Charley's Aunt*. The author gave a very fine performance as Colonel Sir Francis Chesney; and the idiosyncracies of the respective characters in the play were admirably presented, notably the cunningly avaricious old solicitor, Spettigue, by Mr. Walter Beaumont; the complacent Lord Fancourt Babberley, by Mr. Stanley Cooke; and the well-bred daring of the other undergrads. Jack and Charley, by Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Richard B. Mason; and the refined nonchalance of Donna Lucia, by Miss Lena MacNaughton, all combined to make a performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The amusing one-act play of *Fourchette and Co.* preceded, and was very well acted by Mr. Arthur Chesney as Count Monte, otherwise the Prince del Crillo, supported by Mr. C. B. Keston as Sergeant-Major Fletcher, Miss Ruth Suffield as Isabel, and Mr. George Ellis as Doorsman.

VESTIBULE OF THE NEW ROYALTY THEATRE, LONDON

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NEW BOND ST.
LONDON.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter. — Mr. Charles W. Poole's Royal Myriorama is delighting good audiences this week. The scenes exhibited are very effective, including Jerusalem with the Holy Sepulchre, Egypt and the Pyramids, India, and Australia. Miss Daisy Graham and Miss Kitty Woodford, with their trained dogs and pigeons, and the Avondale Quartette, whose vocal melody is very pleasing, make an agreeable addition to the pictorial part of the entertainment.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—A good company is here this week, including Mr. Sam Lee, a capital comedian; Natalie and Dianna are clever young girls on the trapeze; as a male impersonator Miss Edna Payne excels; a laughable sketch, entitled *The Ladies' School*, is introduced by the Cullane Trio; Mr. George Edney, character vocalist, is cordially received; Grey and Welford are excellent speciality dancers; an attractive comedienne is found in Miss Nell Richardson; Dick Kendal, comedian, is well appreciated; the acrobatic feats of the Pasqualia Brothers are smart and clever; and the pictures are quite new and interesting.

ST. LEONARDS KURSAAL.—Pier-Master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Val Marriott's orchestral concerts are augmented this week by the tenor vocalist, Mr. Arthur L. Edwards, and a special concert on Wednesday, in which Madame Blanche Marchesi is associated in the programme. The sacred concerts on Sunday prove an attractive feature.

HAWICK.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne Seddon; Lessees, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and Gordon Starkey.—After an absence of about two years the Mowbray company again occupies this theatre, in the highly entertaining pantomime entitled *Dick Whittington*. Miss Kathleen Emmett makes a smart and handsome Dick, and the part of Alice is delightfully played by Miss Violet Motley. Mr. Fred Ward as Idle Jack is all that could be desired, and with the help of Mr. Fred Collins as Mary Ellen keeps the audience in roars of laughter. Mr. Claude Morton as the Alderman and Mr. J. Randle Wilson as Sultan Boosican are well placed. Mr. Harry Cardoc is an agile Cat. A feature of the entertainment is a coon song and dance given by the Two Flowers. The Gaiety Troupe are also loudly applauded for their dancing.

HEBBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—Mr. John F. Preston's company, under the direction of Mr. Sidney Dench, is here with *The Rich and the Poor of London*. May Braithwaite is successfully undertaken by Miss Dora Dench; Polly Philpot is cleverly embodied by Miss Lillian Burns; and Miss Ethel Denville makes the most of Seadrift. Spider Jack is excellently rendered by Mr. Sidney Dench; Mr. Robert Hall gives a manly performance as Dr. Leonard Morton; Mr. F. Danner capably portrays the part of Earl Ravenswood; and Mr. Walter Foster is well placed as Mark Stanley. Matthew Grabbam is effectively acted by Mr. Malcolm Gascoign; while Master Bert Dench scores as Dixie, his singing being much appreciated

HORWICH. — NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Neville; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke; Secretary, Mr. Chas. E. Bradley.—*Cinderella* gives place this week to Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *A Modern Adventuress*, which is thoroughly to the taste of the audience. Miss Kate Froude's Violet Meredith (the adventuress) is an artistic rendering; Miss Alice Defoe gives a sympathetic portrayal of Vivette Delby; Miss Ivy Chandos as Sally Hodges creates roars of laughter; Leonard Aardale as Pietro Donelli, sculptor, plays the part in a masterly fashion; Frank Orchard as Steve Meredith gives a very fine impersonation; Leonard Montgomery presents Mr. Jno. Crompton in a manner thoroughly typical of a Yorkshireman, and creates great amusement; Mr. Frank Wilton plays Wm. Delby, banker, in a business-like fashion; Mr. Louis Edmonds as Harry Delby, the dupe of the adventuress, makes the most of a very intricate part; Mr. Sydney Grant as Wallace Dalton and Stanley F. Champion as Walter Beal, detective, have plenty to do, and do it well; and Messrs. Tom Avery, H. M. Victor, G. Hampton, and F. C. Sutcliffe complete a good cast.

HOYLAND. — METROPOLE THEATRE. — Owners, Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Miss Ethel Clayton's pantomime company opened on Monday night in *Babes in the Wood*. Miss Le Roy as Robin Hood and Miss Ethel Clayton as Maid Marion are excellent. Miss Lily Belle and Master Austyn as the Babes are good, and sing very nicely. The Misses Ruby Dale, Gertrude Bingham, Edith Horsley, and Jessie Lindsey, as Allan-a-Dale, Little John, Will Scarlet, and Helen respectively, with Miss Kate Travis as the Fairy Fancy and Mr. Percy Victor as the Demon Darkness are well received. The humorous element is well represented by Messrs. Carl Bernardo and Fred Fosco as Weary Willie and Tired Tim. Messrs. Will Thorne and Alf Dellas as Flip and Flop (the Baron's servants), Mr. Harry Sully as the Baron, Mr. Bert Rizoni as Berlinda, and Mr. Charles Clayton as Chirrup (the Page). The speciality acts of Mons. Vulo, chapeaugraphist; the Valmores, mace spinners and sand dancers; the Ruby Quartette of lady dancers; Bernardo and Travelli, and Percy Victor's dog orchestra all help to make an excellent show.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*, which is here for the week, is a distinctly merry, wholesome, and pretty production. Miss Maisie Ellinger looks well as Robinson; Miss Veronica Brady's dancing is a real treat to witness, and her singing matches. Miss Cassie Walmer has a fine voice, most effectively used, and her sand dance is a masterpiece of skill. The comedians are a thoroughly capable band, and while keeping the fun going, never get out of the picture. Mr. Tom Owen is to be congratulated on his Mrs. Crusoe. He has realised that well-used brains yield better results than stocking shows. Messrs. Downes and Langford as Salt and Pepper make every point tell, and their smart patter is distinctly original. Larola, who plays Friday, has a tremendous lot of work, which he goes through with a joyous energy quite refreshing; his agility is wonderful. All the latest songs are included, and with a smart chorus, gorgeous dresses, and attractive scenery complete a pantomime reflecting credit on all concerned.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson. —The chief place in the bill is filled by a selection from Act I. of Gounod's *Faust*, rendered with telling effect by Mr. Lempriere Pringle as Mephistopheles and Mr. Scott Russell as Faust. Other turns are given by Fred Wilkinson, illusionist; the Albano Troupe, a quartette of exceptionally clever musicians; the Pollos, in their grotesque and clever acrobatic show; Jimmy Shields, comedian and dancer; Miss Eily Adair, comedienne; the McConnel Trio of vocalists and comedians, in *A Musical Mistake;* Slingsby, ventriloquist, and pictures on the biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Norman Macowan's company opened here on Monday with the interesting play, *Monsieur Beaucaire*. Mr. Macowan sustains with fine effect the title-rôle, in which he scores an unqualified success, his acting, which reaches a very high degree of excellence being the principal feature of the play. Miss Violet Sterne's graceful and charming rendering of Lady Mary Carlisle is also a performance which merits great praise. Mr. Murray Hathorn ably impersonates the Duke of Winterset, and Mr. Arthur Somers as Major Molyneaux gives a very creditable representation. Mr. Leonard Laurence as the leader of fashion, Beau Nash, fills the part with considerable dignity, and Mr. G. Ramsey Forman as Captain Badger is also well cast. The dainty costumes and charming scenery are much admired. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings *A Soldier of Fortune* was given.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company is presenting here the still popular pantomimical comedy, *The Swiss Express*. The Brothers Renad, who figure as Dr. Gull's eccentric servants, display considerable ability, being exceptionally smart and funny, and provide a fund of amusement which evokes much applause. Mr. Herbert Lewis is excellent as Dr. Gull, and Miss Jessica Ford is pleasing as the bride. Mr. George Martin as Rob Rollingstone and Mr. Alec Finlayson as Dudley Green are successful, and create much merriment. The Edene Quartette of Vocalists and Dancers are clever, and add to the success of the entertainment.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Morton's, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is here this week in the thrilling drama, *In Holy (?) Russia*. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy gives a talented portrayal of Renee Rubinoff, the heroine. Mr. Cassidy does good work as Colonel Richard Forrest. In the rôle of Laurice Steragoff Mr. Carl Rovinelli acts with force and energy. Miss Ada Roscoe presents in a powerful manner the part of Catska Lavotski. Mr. Stephen Crossley ably depicts the Russian Chief of Police. Mr. T. C. Warry as Count Petrolski is also well suited, and Mr. Frank Copeland sustains the part of the British Ambassador in a sufficiently dignified manner. Mr. Joe Cuthbertson gives an amusing performance as Micky Nolan, the Irish servant.

THE PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—Staley's Novelty Transformation is an attractive turn here. Sam Redfern's funniosities create much mirth; W. H. Clemart upholds his position as one of our cleverest ventriloquists; and other turns include A-Bo-Kou (a capital juggler), Fred Elton, the Royal Six, and the Empire Comedy Four.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham. —The principal turn is Bonnie Goodwin and her Clever Piccaninnies. An admirable sketch is presented by Fred Sinclair and Grace Whiteford. Other turns include Friscari, Kempton and Murdoch, Geo. Penn, Fred Land, and Mons. Slippere.

THE BIJOU.—Lessee, Mr. T. N. Turner; Manager, Mr. Fred Thorne.—Pedlar Palmer is displaying his great boxing abilities, his opponent being Harry Cohen, the 7st. champion of Yorkshire. Baroux and Bion, Haig and Novel, Little Don, J. H. Crew, Maud Marlowe, Tom Gilbert, and Ned Graydon complete the bill.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Messrs. C. M. Polini and Austin Melford's *Silver King* company is once more entertaining large and appreciative audiences here. Mr. Herbert Bord's telling and convincing portrayal of the rôle of Wilfred Denver makes him a warm favourite, and Mr. Edward J. George as the faithful retainer, Daniel Jaikes, submits an intelligent study. As the Spider Mr. Algernon J. Hicks earns the execrations of the "gods," and his companions in villainy, Elijah Coombe and Cripps, are skilfully portrayed by Messrs. Arthur Wright and W. Thompson. Mr. James L. Power is an amusing Henry Corket. Miss Daisy Scudamore wins all hearts by her highly finished impersonation of Nellie Denver, and Miss Georgiana Wynter as Olive Skinner acts most praiseworthily.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Charles March and his company are playing *The Gamester of Metz*. Most of the work falls to Mr. March himself as Paul Baldot, and he does it in good style, his quick changes being very good. Miss Una Lane plays suitably as Lucia Baldot; and Miss Eva Lyndhurst deserves creditable mention as Countess Baldot. The rôles of General de Monparasse and Louis Badaire are well filled by Messrs. Fred Aldworth and W. G. Dudeney. Mr. Wilfred Prothero (Ferdinand du Basson). and Mr. Victor Knight (Goliath Grou) are an amusing pair. The evil genius, Captain Badaire, is represented by Mr. Edward Avinal.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Dickinson and Johnson, ornamental swimmers, and Fred Evered, lady impersonator, are retained from last week. Deller and Oxford impart pleasure as duettists and patterers; the Bransbys, comedy artists, give a praiseworthy entertainment; Alice Oxford, comedienne and dancer; Harry Conroy, descriptive vocalist; Leslie Digby, comedian; and Jim Deller, comedian and dancer, provide the remaining amusement.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—*What the Butler Saw* was played here for the first three nights of the week by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company. Mr. Rignold, an old Ipswich favourite, was well suited in the part of Pink, the inquisitive butler; Miss Blanche was also seen to great advantage as Mrs. Barrington; Jack Barrington found a capital representative in Mr. Charles Fawcett, whose breezy style was suited to the character; Mr. Reddick Anderson scored as proprietor of the Hydro; and Mr. George Ascot as the fiery General, and Mr. H. H. Rignold lent effective assistance. Miss Marie D'Altra was an admirable Grace Richardson; while other ladies deserving mention were Mesdames May Hart and Maud Evelyn.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Among the chief turns here is Les Frasettis, a pair of accomplished musicians, whose playing on various instruments evokes much applause. Nat Clifford has met with a good reception for his amusing songs; while another vocalist, Mr. Will McIvor, also scores. A pair of acrobats named Adams and Ward accomplish some clever feats; and the Three Sisters Anderson are neat and skilful equilibrists. The Paolis submit some classical poses, illustrative of physical culture; and Alice Rose, as a comedienne and dancer, gains considerable applause. A novel turn is that of Mr. de Voyse's horse "Billy," a docile and clever animal.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. G. Jefferson.—This week Mr. Edward Marris and company is here with *Dick Whittington*. Unfortunately, most of their scenery and dresses were destroyed by fire on the journey between Manchester and Jarrow; but, owing to the kindness of the managers of the North and South Shields theatres, and also Newcastle, they opened. Miss Madge Merry, in the title-rôle, is excellent, her singing being highly appreciated; Miss Winifred Preece as Alice is quite a favourite; and Mr. Walter Wade as Idle Jack causes no end of amusement. Mr. Wm. Kashma is very good as the Cat; Mr. W. H. Ball makes the most of the part of Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Walter Nugent as Julia causes much merriment; Mr. C. Kashma does full justice to the part of Captain Kettle; and Mr. George Harris is quite at home as the Emperor. Some excellent specialities are introduced by Les Sprays, Continental dancers; the Kashmas; the Thalian Glee Singers; the Sisters Vincent, coon singers and dancers; and Miss Effie White, in her fire, rainbow, and other dances.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall. —Mr. W. W. Kelly's company, in *The Royal Divorce*, is on a return visit here. The play continues to attract large audiences. Miss Lillian Dundas is an excellent exponent of Josephine; and Mr. Frederick Moyes acts in his well-known and highly-appreciated manner as Napoleon.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard's Co., Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—The sensational drama, *The 10.30. Down Express*, has been played here this week by Mr. Horace Stanley and company. Mr. George Arthur makes a sinister villain as James Inderwick; and Mr. Horace Stanley as the blithe "A. B.," Sam Wagstaffe, is very funny. Mr. Chas. Burdon is a manly Jack O'Malley; and Mr. Claud Haviland is smart as the detective, Huntley Mason. Miss Elsie Capell is very good as Bessie Leigh; and the Letitia Leigh of Miss Evelyn M. Walton is amusing.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company is here in *Robinson Crusoe*. A more dashing principal boy than Miss Marion Armitage could scarcely be wished for; Miss Nellie Moore as Polly gives good support and sings sweetly; Mr. Allan Hanbury is an excellent Dame Crusoe, and as Will Atkins Mr. Willie Black is a decided success. Messrs. Bass and Guinness are amusing as Billie and Jimmy; Miss Cissie Conyers is an acceptable Captain Taylor, and the duets with Miss Bertha St. Ruth as the Princess are worthy of special mention; Mr. Sidney T. Russell is good as Friday. Successful specialities are by the Snow Family, expert skaters; Messrs. Johnston and Russell, sand dancers; Geo. French's Troupe, comedy cyclists; and the Sidney Quartette, dancers.

LANCASTER. — ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—Mr. E. Lockwood's *Sergeant Brue* company, under the direction of Mr. Thomas McKenzie, is the attraction this week. The scenery and dresses, together with a strong all-round company, leave nothing to be desired. In the title-rôle, Mr. J. Harold Carson is very droll; Mr. Frank Wilson sings well as Michael Brue; Miss Gertie Fawcett is successful as Aurora Brue; and as Daisy Miss Amy Vivash, who is no stranger to Lancastrians, gives a clever and amusing portrayal. Miss Reydon Dallas as Lady Bickenhall appears with success, her singing being a special feature; and the part of Crookie Scrubbs is cleverly depicted by Mr. Albert James.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—At the head of the programme arranged this week are Elton and Edwin, banjoists, a smart turn; Carl Lynn is justly described as king of animal mimics; the Sisters Marion, juvenile duettists, win applause; and the Mozondos, in a jumping and tumbling act, have a great reception. Messrs. Hilton and Hilton, bar performers; T. E. Johnstone, actor vocalist; Miss Helen Charles, drawing-room entertainer; and Horace Monto, speciality artist, all have a capital reception.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The attraction this week is a return visit of the successful melodrama *The Manxman*, which is played with ability by a strong company, at whose head is that sterling interpreter of the part of Pete, Mr. Alfred B. Cross. His efforts are well seconded by Miss Minnie Watersford, who gives a powerful study of Kate Creegen. Mr. A. D. Leyland as the arch-hypocrite, Cæsar; Mr. Sydney C. Kearns, a manly Phillip Christian; and Miss Nancy Mitchell as the faithful servant all do well.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—Another week of success is to be recorded for *Babes in the Wood*. New numbers and novelties are continually added, and the show goes on increasing in popularity.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston. —*Jack and Jill* is amply fulfilling the early promise of a prosperous career. Miss Marguerite Broadfoote and Miss Lily Black continue to delight their admirers in numerous vocal successes; whilst the comedians, notably Mr. Bob Selvidge and Mr. Harry Conlin, are full of resource, and the whole show goes with that rhythm and spontaneity which is the hall-mark of all Mr. John Tiller's productions.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Mr. Peter Eland's pantomime *Cinderella* is finishing a prosperous three weeks' run here, and the popularity of the piece is in no way diminished. Miss Hilda Guiver, Miss Nora Emerald, and Miss Aimée Roberts have all endeared themselves favourites with bright and fascinating portrayals of their respective rôles; and the fun-providers, ably led by Mr. Morny Cash, the New Macs, Mr. T. Hybert, and Mr. F. Beck, have allowed no dull moments to occur.

EMPIRE.—Moss's Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. T. G. Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Miss Florence St. John is perhaps first favourite in a strong Empire bill, the presentation of her delightful sketch *My Milliner's Bill* being thoroughly enjoyed. Another popular line is the very novel musical act submitted by Vasco; and Seeley and West also shine with a clever musical comedy turn. The Three Missouris are doing their well-known acrobatic show with the usual success; Mazzetti and Mora and Alexandre and Birtie are also to the fore with much expert gymnastic business. Bert Woodward finds favour with a novel trick-cycling act; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz introduce their performing mule in an amusing speciality; and Amber Austa, with pleasing song and dance; Will Haines, comedian; and the Three Victorias find favourable acceptance.

TIVOLI. — Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—*The Orange Girl*, an enjoyable three-act sketch depicting an episode of the time of the famous Nell Gwynne, is cleverly played by Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company. An entertaining turn is that submitted by Walton and Miss Ella, who have a troupe of intelligent and well-trained performing dogs; Bliss and Bliss, comedians, are very smart with new songs and patter; and Tom Yorke, comedian, also scores a big hit. The Juggling Geraldos are warmly applauded for their expert feats; and Mabel La Blanche, a pleasing comedienne, also secures favour.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—That bright and attractive vocalist Ella Shields is the star here, and her success is unprecedented, numerous recalls following every appearance. A fine gymnastic performence by the Wilfords arouses much enthusiasm; speciality dancing by the Lannons is again an enjoyable feature; Prof. Hulbert provides a novel ventriloquial entertainment; and Bob Hamilton, comedian; Mons. de Lil, illusionist; Jack Crawley, mimic; and Cora Grey, burlesque actress, are leading features of a good programme.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater.—Mr. Walter Reynolds's new and delightful play, *Mr. Smith*, is the attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart is to be complimented on a portrayal of exceptional merit; Miss Ethel Milton is attractive and clever as Lady Mary Hildergate; Mrs. Alfred Davis is very good as Mrs. Smith; Miss Mary Relph shines as the Duchess of Angleland; and others who also give excellent portrayals are Mr. Sydney Price as the Earl of Oxted, Mr. William Dunlop as the Duke of Angleland, Miss Phyllis Relph as Ruth Anheuser, Mr. Austin Spencer as Jack Berkeley, and Mr. Herbert Graham as Herr Diedrich Anheuser.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. George M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday evening. Miss Bessie Willow, who has a good stage appearance, plays Dick to perfection, and sings her songs in dashing style. Miss Maggie Summerson is a dainty and charming Alice; Miss Florence Hilton, a male impersonator far above the average, is a vivacious Sir Algernon de Mash; Mr. Will Summerson does well as Idle Jack; Mr. Cyril Dundas is effective as Alderman Apoplectic Fitzwarren; Messrs. Clifton and Gibson as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry, and Mr. Charles Dillon as Amelia Florence, succeed in keeping the audience in the merriest of moods. Mr. W. V. Vido gives a clever impersonation of the Cat; and Mr. Archie J. Milne as the Emperor is good. Miss Isabel Taylor looks well as Captain Navycutte; Miss Florrie Crompton is capital as the Princess Mhordee Gzah. Numerous specialities are introduced, Curtis and Vanity scoring a big and well-deserved success in their cake-walk and other items; and the Saxon Trio of dancers are cordially received for their pretty fairy ballet. The Sisters Kilner give some charming dances; and Vido, the cat, also goes through some clever work. The company is under the directorship of Mr. Herbert Newton; and Mr. Forshaw Kershaw is the musical director.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—At the head of an enjoyable programme here this week is Tom Costello, a big favourite with Leicester audiences, who is meeting with his usual well-deserved success. At the other end are Morton and Elliott, harmonica players, vocalists, and remarkably clever paper manipulators, whose enjoyable turn is heartily appreciated. The Sisters Geretti are seen to great advantage in a smart and graceful trapeze performance; Paul Powell's electrical marionettes, in elaborate acts, are well worked, and delight the house hugely; the Two Bostons, the novelty showmen, score their usual success; Mdlle. Chalon gives a remarkably clever and graceful equilibristic act; Mattie Wilks, a Creole vocalist, renders her songs in good style; Phil Herman is a capital descriptive vocalist; Derenda and Green, comedy jugglers, are good. Owing to indisposition, F. V. St. Clair is unfortunately unable to appear; but the management have secured two capital deputies in Frank Darwin, characteristic vocalist; and Gertrude Bradshaw, ballad vocalist.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company entered on the second week of a record engagement here on Monday, and are making their usual big success with the sketches, *A Waif of the Sea* and *The Private Hotel*. Ainslie Burton, fresh from his triumphs as Dame Crusoe in the pantomime, is fulfilling a special engagement; Walter H. Pallister's American Bioscope continues to delight all with the usual well-selected series of pictures. Others contributing to the programme are the Sisters Desmond, duettists; Percy Hannan, the young American baritone; and Queenie May, the juvenile wonder.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's Co. is paying a welcome return visit with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey's fine physique and bearing suit the title-rôle admirably; Mr. Joseph Carter acts with considerable skill as the unscrupulous Captain Leo; Jeremiah Parkins is well sustained by Mr. T. E. Marshall; Mr. George V. Campbell makes a good impression by his representation of Billy Twigg, the village lout; Sal Parkins finds a good exponent in Mrs. T. C. Livesey; Miss Laura Hansen submits a fine and sympathetic exposition of the blacksmith's wife; Miss Cassie Edwards is decidedly interesting as Ruth Parkins; and Miss Bertha Hanbury comes in for a large share of appreciation as Harry Strong. The whistling scene in the last act keeps the excitement up to a high pitch.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—Celest heads the bill here this week, and gives a wonderful performance on the slack wire. Miss Mamie Cannon plays some nice selections on the piano; Misses Ada and Lilly, in a double riding act, are most successful; Zilvo, on the trapeze, and Rabbit, in a riding act, are well received; the comic entrées by the clowns are very good. Wednesday night was set apart for the benefit of Mr. King Ohmy.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Bucharan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Following the successful run of the pantomime comes an interesting revival of *Proof*. This thrilling play is very ably presented by one of Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren's touring companies. The leading rôles are in the hands of Mr. F. H. de Quincey, Mr. William Dexter, and Mr. Wilford Bailey, who appear to advantage as Pierre Lorance, Lazare, and Chamboran respectively, with Miss Lucie Prittie-Tydd as Adrienne and Miss May Grimshaw as Valentine, two very successful impersonations. The piece is admirably staged, and in the essential matter of costume and scenic effect lacks nothing that can be desired.

LEVEN.—TOWN HALL.—On Monday Miss Inez Howard's company appeared in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. The part of Molly Vernon, the central figure in the drama, was played with considerable power and expression by Miss Gertrude Evans. Molly's callous and cynical betrayer, Captain Caversham, had a good exponent in Mr. Herbert Pearson; Mr. Richard Fulton tendered a careful study of James Sutton, the repentant forger; Mr. Frank Etheridge as Jack England was manly, if at times a trifle stilted; Mr. Charles Coleman was a dignified and sympathetic Rev. Robert Everton; Miss Nellie Freeland as Isabella Jones, a sprightly dressmaker, and Mr. Hugh Brady as Private Dick Punch supplied excellent comedy relief. Miss Kathryn Eckart acted well as Marion Franklyn, and Miss Phyllis Vaughan made a dainty Rose Seymour.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, concludes this week its month's stay at the popular north end house. The production, which is an all-round good one, has been accorded much public support.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A return to pantomime is the order of things here this week. Mr. William Holland's company is here in the pantomime *Aladdin*. Jack and Evelyn O'Connor are answerable for most of the laughter in the show, the former's mimicry and eccentricities creating roars of laughter. The latter is a very pleasing and vivacious Cheeki, and both are excellent sand dancers. Sandy and Carl as Bo-bi and Bo-ko are laughable. Other artists worthy of mention are Fred Russell as Abanazar, Frances Haskoll as Aladdin, Geo. Reeves as Widow Twankey, R. M. Woodville as the Emperor, and Miss Florence Wood as Princess.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Mr. Herbert Hollister has opened his tour here with *The Lights o' London*, and has surrounded himself with a very efficient company. According to the support the habitués of the Star have given him during the week, the house being packed on Monday night especially, interest in this old-time drama seems almost as keen as ever. Mr. Arthur Cornell played with effect as Harold Armitage; a sleek and scheming Seth Preene was capitally given by Mr. Hollister; Miss Jeanie Burgoyne made a tender and sympathetic Bess; Mr. W. E. Passmore's Jarvis was a well-finished character study; and Miss Emilie Dawson as Mrs. Jarvis and Miss Gladys Murray in the rôle of the younger Jarvis were excellent; and Mr. Riddell Robinson held the part of Clifford Armytage with entire satisfaction.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—A return visit of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's *Wearin' o' the Green* has met with as much success as formerly. As Barney O'Hea, a finer picture of a rollicking Irishman could not be desired than that presented by Mr. Mackey; his accomplished wife made an excellent Norah McGrath; Mr. Charles Homer played and sang well as Shamus McDermott; the Conner Martin of Mr. David McFarlane proved a well finished character; the dancing and singing of Miss Nana Flensberg as Biddy McGinn were very pleasing; and other strong supporters were Mr. H. Sainsbury, Mr. Joseph McGrath, and Mr. St. John Stuart.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Fred Karno's *Moses and Son* has again held a place in the programme here; Arthur Lennard had a cordial reception for his latest songs; the humour of G. W. Hunter caused great laughter; Bijou Russell was loudly cheered for her sand dancing; Mdlle. Sylvia's vocal tableaux proved an exceedingly pleasing turn; the Corty Brothers had an amusing aerial gymnastic display; as musical grotesques the New Hulines were very amusing; a hearty greeting was accorded to Josephine Sabel for her American songs; and Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne, sang with taste.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The public never seem to tire of Ethel Arden and George Abel's *Three of a Kind*, which has headed the bill here this week. Charles Coborn has pleased everybody with his latest songs; the Waldrons, with their comedy act, *The Silly Burglar*, provoked endless merriment; the popular Martin Conway showed that he was still a favourite; some clever clog-dancing was executed by the Delomes; Miniature Marie afforded much delight as an American and French danseuse; the Brothers Hartbert-O'Relly had an elastic equilibristic novelty; and others in a long list were E. J. Wilkes and his trained dog; Kit Keen, coloured comedian; and Lowenwirth Brothers, Hebrew comedians.

NEW PARTHENON. — Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—A welcome return visit is made by the Hayes Brothers, who are exceedingly funny with their patter and smart in their dancing; some pleasing illustrated songs are provided by the Bird Arnold; Fred Douglas is a comedian and mimic, with many good points; the singing and dancing of Frances Linton are much appreciated; some unusual and picturesque illusions are provided by Marco; and W. G. Sutton sings popular songs. The Tuesday matinées here are proving exceedingly successful.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*A Lancashire Millionaire*, by Lewis Gilbert, is the dramatic attraction here this week. Mr. Percy Boucher and company presenting it. Included in the cast are Messrs. E. D. Allen, Harry Tresham, Herbert Cecil, Kyburn Dellar, Cecil Ravenswood, A. Jones, A. Rogers, and Henry Lloyd; and Misses Lena Nazeby, Beryl Ravenswood, and Isabel Marte.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Heading the bill here this week is C. Wordley Hulse's company, with the dramatic sketch, *The Fight in the Forge*; the Bernanzas have a smart acrobatic and staircase act; some clever work is done on the triple bar by the Zano Brothers; as musical speciality artists the Tysons are a good turn; Ben Jackson gives a pleasing show as prestidigitateur and banjoist; and Queenie Barnes affords much satisfaction with her American march and rag-time songs.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Mr. Percy Boucher's dramatic company is here this week with *A Wife's Dishonour;* Wyndham and Waters have a smart comedy act, entitled *The Professor and His Pupil;* an exceedingly satisfactory turn is given by Miss Beatrice and Mr. Charles Diamond, their playing of the saxophone and the harp being very pleasing; and the Alskarno trio of risley acrobats also appear.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—At the head of the bill here this week is Gus Harris, the Hebrew actor-vocalist, with his recitation, "The Massacre of the Jews in Russia"; Henry L. Osmond's company produces a tableau sketch, *Dishonoured; or a Brother's Sacrifice;* the Arizona troupe of hand and foot equilibrists are interesting; Miss Oliphant sings with taste; some good comedy work is done by Drum and Major; and Will Percival is an eccentric comedian.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Sidney Bacon and company are here this week with the sketch, *The Maniac*, the artists including Mr. Melville Bickford. The Carcassi Duo are capable musical speciality artists; Les Allesors have a neat gymnastic pot-pourri; Miss Maude Clifton is a refined vocalist and comedienne; and others who appear include Charles Milner, eccentric comedian; Sadie Earley, vocalist; and Will Bell, comedian and dancer.

OLYMPIA.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The Harmony Four are here this week with their exceedingly funny entertainment; the Uessems, two little artists who perform some astonishing equilibristic feats, were loudly applauded; Ivan Tschernoff's dogs, ponies, and pigeons show a remarkable degree of training; Elsie Claire, with a sweet voice, was heard to advantage in several numbers; the coster romance, *Me and 'Er*, given by Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey, proved very diverting; some smart songs came from Frank Seeley; the dancing and Tyrolean singing of the Sarnthaler Troupe were thoroughly enjoyed; and two other good items on the programme were supplied by Katie Butler, comedienne, and Daisy Ray, coon impersonator.

LLANELLY. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and his No. 1 company are here this week in a large répertoire of plays. On Monday evening *Othello* was given with great success, Mr. Allan Wilkie appearing in the title-rôle, Miss Ine Cameron as Desdemona is exceptionally good. Other plays billed are *The Corsican Brothers, Belphegor, The Bells*, &c.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole

Hood, Miss Sophie Harris is all that could be desired. Maid Marion is in the capable hands of Miss Lulu Evans, who portrays the part with a grace and charm of manner which at once appeal to the audience. Mr. Macmillan, as the Dame, is refined, but exceedingly funny. The Brothers Lorenzi are responsible for most of the humour as the Bold Ruffians. A great novelty is introduced in the garden scene in the shape of a clever transformation worked by the lighting effects, for which Mr. Collingwood Hope is responsible.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Arthur Gibbon's company, with the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, occupies the boards here this week. Miss Janet Lawton makes an ideal principal boy, acting throughout with remarkable dash and vivacity, and obtaining well-deserved encores for excellent renderings of her various numbers; Miss Ruby Lester is charming and winsome in the name part; and Miss Nina Terri makes a successful Maid Marion, her dancing being most graceful. Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is a comical Dame Marjory; and Mr. Charles Honey makes a good Baron. Mr. F. G. Banks causes great hilarity as Johnny Stout; and as the Fairy Queen Miss Agnes Clarge's voice is heard to advantage. The Three French Idols, Miss Nina Terri, and the Swift Trio, are the specialities.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. Ernest E. Morris's company is here with the second pantomime of the season, *Puss in Boots*, which is prettily staged and dressed. The chorus is tuneful and effective, and a capital entertainment is provided throughout. Messrs. Lauri and Ellis are quaint and amusing, and Mr. Geo. de Lara does well as Blinky Bill. Messrs. Fred Tenaur and Wm. Stevens are suitably placed, and Mr. Reuben Kitchen performs creditably as the Cat. As the demon lawyer, Mr. Dudley Hayes does full justice to the part. The Misses Kitty Courtney (Princess Pansy) and Mabel Murray (Gilbert) are happily placed; and Miss Frances Clare (the Lord Chamberlain) ably fills the rôle allotted to her. Miss Lillie Vine does well as Cupid. The Rosie-Rice quartette deserve warm praise for their admirable dancing. Several smart variety turns are introduced in the Palace scene by Messrs Lauri and Ellis, Dudley Hayes, Miss Jessie Eplett, etc.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. James Kiddie is presenting his elaborate and successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, here for six nights. As the Baron, Mr. Dick Thomas is all that can be desired; and as the two ugly sisters, Ethel and Maud, Messrs. Sidney Benson and Steve Cooke contribute largely to the success. Pimples is cleverly represented by Mr. Frank Dunlop. Cinderella is well represented by Miss Adele Roze, who, with her charming manner, wins deserved applause. The part of Prince Perfect is given to Mdlle. de Rose, who sustains it well.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. H. Galtey.—The attraction for this week is *A Woman's Past*, presented by Mr. A. Hamilton Warden. Mr. Robert Castleton as David Heath is quite successful; Mr. Oswald Gray as the villain, Uriah Craven, shows dramatic power; Mr. A. Hamilton Warden's impersonation of Clement Harper is decidedly clever; Mr. Charles V. Sandford gives a thoroughly capable portrayal of Frank Dellancy; Miss Mabel Durrant sustains the rôle of Clara Darrell with realistic intensity; Miss May Dallas submits a remarkable study of Dorothy Heath, and Miss Maisie Hanbury is a favourite as Bessie.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, The Town Clerk.—Fair business was done on Saturday last by Miss Jessie D'Alton's company with *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss D'Alton is bright as Beauty, and the strikingly contrasted parts of the two sisters are well played by Mr. Fred Park and Mr. J. V. Noble. Miss Lily Rhodes as Silver Star has a pleasing part, which she fills well; she should be congratulated on her singing, which is loudly applauded. Mr. Percy Galino is amusing as Marmaduke, and Mr. Bert Serony works well as the Alderman, both presenting interesting turns in the specialities, in which they are joined by Mons. Pizet, who is aptly described as a "twisto-logical puzzle." The two black clowns, the two Daniels, keep the house in roars of laughter.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. G. Gude.—Mr. George Baker's American photo company have a week's engagement here. A good selection of pictures is shown, Miss Queenie Brooks sings coon songs, and Bob Lord (comedian) delights everyone. Facio contributes an excellent turn in chapeaugraphy, Major Clark causes some amount of amusement as ventriloquist, and an excellent marionette show is given by Mr. Willard.

MAIDSTONE. — HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Miss May Lilian Levey is the chief turn here this week, and is very popular. Mr. Alf Chester, comedian, is well received, and is genuinely funny; Miss Gertie Gitana presents a clever song scena, *The School Girl's Holiday*; Will Vays' juveniles appear in a clever act, their singing being good; Mr. J. C. Johnson is a clever rag-time dancer and coloured comedian; Clyo and Rochelle, speciality artists, are popular; Dare and Maver, duologue artists, and the biograph complete the programme.

MANCHESTER.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—A second week of *The Spring Chicken* is to be recorded here, the piece proving a very popular attraction.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company are seen here this week in *The Still Alarm*, after a successful week at the Grand Junction Theatre. It is a capital show.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime of *Cinderella*, recently seen in Manchester for two weeks, is the current attraction at this house. Good as it was in the opening week, it has been improved in various small ways, and may now fairly lay claim to an honourable place among the best of its kind on the road. Miss Daisy Morrell and Miss Mabel Higson are principal boy and girl, and Miss Mamie Iris is Cinderella. These play admirably, and are supplemented by a bevy of smart girls in minor rôles. The comedians are in great form, perhaps the most successful being Mr. Will Letters as the Page, though Mr. Charles Russell as the Baron and Messrs. Johnny Worman and Billy Keene as the Ugly Sisters are certainly very smart and amusing. Messrs. Harris and Worth as the broker's men are comic in a line of their own. Altogether, this is a very pretty and effective pantomime.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company can be seen here this week in an attractive drama entitled *A False Wife*. The principal part is that of Lady Mansfield, a sinister character, extremely well depicted by Miss Florence E. Florence, who is especially good in a sensational sleep-walking scene. Mr. W. Howard Barlow is also excellent as the heroic George Mansfield, who figures in the weird introduction of a coffin mystery, in which his living body apparently changes to a skeleton and back again to life. Other remarkably good parts are well played by Mr. George Langham, Mr. Elton Morgan, Mr. Owen Edwin, Mr. Frank Strickland, Mr. John Cecil, Miss Ellen Armor, Miss Nita Imeson, and Miss Judith Ansell. The play is throughout very interesting, well played, and cleverly staged.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. S. Nicholas.—This week we have here a return visit of *The Anarchist Terror* and *The Sorrows of Satan*, with Mr. George Langdon and Miss Loie Esmond prominent in the cast. The plays are well staged and cleverly rendered by Messrs. Neville and Esmond's company.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Freece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—*The Little Stowaway*, excellently presented by Mr. George Abel and company, is the attraction here this week. Eva Lumley as the Stowaway is particularly good, and Leonard Russell as the Boatswain renders three songs in fine style. Walter George's Light Opera Singers are undoubtedly "Smart Set Entertainers," and their vocal pot-pourri is most enjoyable; Lux's dogs are trained to perfection, and the Tokio Troupe are wonderfully clever Japanese artists; Flo Deighton is a charming vocalist; Fred Hallam is a capital comedian and dancer; Harry Vardon does well as a ventriloquist; L. B. Athol is a good character vocalist; and, as usual, the Palace pictures are excellent.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—Morris Cronin and troupe of jugglers head the bill here this week, and do some astonishing tricks. The beautiful Diane de Fontenoy poses artistically in a series of historical characters; Francis Wylie introduces some wonderfully clever dogs; O'Gust, an excellent mimic, imitates everything, "from a chicken to a lion"; and Cook and Clinton are expert sharpshooters. Excellent turns are also those of the Huxter Brothers, acrobats and vaulters; Grace Merton, the original street singer; the Olracs, rag-time acrobats; and Baker and Lynn in a funny sketch. A sensational episode entitled "The Train Wreckers" is shown on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—*The Redskins*, which is the big attraction here this week, proves a highly exciting and interesting turn. The principal characters are in the hands of Messrs. Arthur Leigh, Herbert Vyvyan, Cecil Morton York, Cecil Compton, and Hugh Seaton, and the Misses Audrey Stafford, Maudie Ray, and Mary Allestree. The scenery is excellent, and the whole episode concludes with a sensational dive from roof to lake by Mr. G. W. Houghton, the "Human Torpedo." A most refined item is that given by the Gems, the new society entertainers, including the Misses Elsie Jones and Olive Mortimer, and Messrs. Kenna Lawson, Wallace Kennedy, Edgar Stephens, and Harold Scott. A novel turn is Solbrig's Automatus, which causes much amusement. Bell and Henry are eccentric acrobats of ability; Newhouse and Ward are capital comedy cyclists; the Ados in Olympian play show their strength to advantage; Bertha Vere is a pleasing vocalist; and the Bandurrias play some popular airs on stringed instruments. "Good-bye, sweet Marie" is sung by Mr. Tom Ince, assisted by the choir; and the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Prominent turns here this week are Lily Burnand, the popular burlesque artist, who is as lively as ever; the Metropolitan Operatic Quartette, under the direction of Mr. S. E. Arnuni, who render excerpts from grand opera in fine style; and Lily Lena, a dainty comedienne. Other very good turns are those of Verne and Verne, in a roller-skating act; Billie Burford, comedienne; Allsopp and Beckwith, comedy artists; Burke and McVoy in a sensational comedy act; Dan Kirton, character comedian and dancer; Nellie Chandos, comedienne and dancer; and Raymond's Vivagraph.

KING'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. Baynham.—Haley's Prize Juveniles head the bill here this week, including those remarkably clever duettists, Dot and Spot, and the singing and dancing are most enjoyable, the whole turn being received with deafening applause. The Five Grovinis, clever acrobats, go through a wonderful performance; Oakdene is a novel ventriloquist; Will Souls sings laughing songs in a very successful manner; the Ringting Trio, American eccentrics, are smart tumblers and stilt cake-walkers; and the Sultan Brothers are amusing acrobats and equilibrists. Other items of interest are given by Harry Morris, an amusing comedian; the Paytes, duologue artists; and the Bioscope pictures.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent turn here this week is that of Percy Honri and company in an enjoyable *mélange* of music and mirth, entitled *Concordia*. The Celtic Comedy Trio give humorous concerted musical selections; Lily Gaston is a clever top-boot dancer; Clara Walters is smart at the piano; and James is a dexterous manipulator of the "bones." Other good turns are given by the Danvels, song illustrators; Hallam and Stanton, in their sketch *A Broken Journey*; George Russell, comedian; and the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Famous Alexandroffs (nine in number) contribute some excellent dancing and singing here this week, and are well received. Harris L. Bell and Lily Pearl and company appear in their popular success, *A Bit of String*; and Winona, assisted by Colonel King, is an expert shot. Lottie De Abbey is a good singer; the Babusians are clever head and hand balancers; the Royal Temple Trio, operatic vocalists, including Louie Gilbert, sing well, and are loudly applauded; Marie Blythe, comedienne, makes a big hit; and other good items are those of Smiler Lee, comedian; the Two Neros, acrobats and contortionists; and "Jail Birds" depicted on the Bioscope.

MANSFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings.—The principal item on the bill here are Ariel and Astarte, lady and gentleman gymnasts, who give a fine exhibition on the triple-bars and trapeze. Salmon, trick cyclist, is much appreciated; Maud Garland creates a good impression with her songs; and Fred Wright, with songs and dances, is also good. Juan and M'Que submit an amusing turn as comic knockabouts; F. C. Brooks, vocal comedian, receives applause; the Musical Japs give an entertaining turn, introducing some novel musical instruments; Mr. Scott's trick horses, Miss Scott (bareback rider), and the clowns also contribute to the programme, which concludes with the biophotoscope pictures.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Fox.—Last week-end Mr. E. Lockwood's company presented *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. J. Harold Carson, in the title-rôle, was very amusing, and he was supported by an efficient company, including Miss Gertie Fawcett, Miss Amy Vivash, Miss Kathleen V. Grey, Mr. Harold Godwin, Mr. Fred Laceby, and others. This week Poole's Myriorama occupies the stage. In addition to the pictures there is a capable company of variety artists. Mr. Felix de Marce's performing ponies and dogs and baboons provide a good turn; Miss May Finch sang capital songs; and the Veronas as dancers are much applauded. Nash and Nash provide much amusement with their patter; and Mr. Felix Somers (facial expert) gives some striking impersonations. The Three Phydoras, in their knockabout musical novelty act, evoke much laughter.

MARGATE.—THE HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. F. Howell.—A first-class entertainment is provided here this week. Heading the programme are two excellent turns. First are Carlo and Maie, in their clever rope and wire act. Maie is certainly one of the cleverest wire-walkers seen here, whilst Carlo is a smart acrobat. The other leading turn is the Herald Comedy Four, humorous vocalists and dancers, who, in their new and original Indian scena, *The Shipwrecked Sailor*, create roars of laughter. Tiny Arnold is a good comedienne and dancer, her diminuitive stature helping to make her quaintness the more pronounced. Mayon and Marle, a comedy duo, are very good, and Ada Parker, coon comedienne, is a capital dancer. A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist, sings some capital songs, and considerable interest again centres in the amusing series of pictures depicted by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

MATLOCK. — VICTORIA HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. W. C. Webb.—The attraction here this week was Mr. Cecil Clayton's *Dick Whittington* pantomime company. The artists gave a pleasing and successful performance, and the variety turns by Miss Annie Rose, Clyto, the Sisters Clancy, and Albert Evremond added materially to the bill of fare. The transformation scene, Bluebell in Fairyland, drew forth hearty applause.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is this week presenting the sensational drama *The Face at the Window* to good houses. Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale is powerfully effective as the Chevalier Lucio Delgado, and as the detective Gouffet Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is admirable. Mr. Gilbert Hall is good as Lucien Corlier, and the character of Le Blanc is capitally acted by Mr. George Phythian. Comedy is well represented by Mr. C. Alan Hineson as Heler and Miss Gwynne Warren as Babette, and the part of Marie de Busson has an able exponent in Miss V. Thorn Hallam.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. —Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Bulmer is this week presenting the drama *Sentenced for Life*. Mr. Arthur Keand gives a manly interpretation of Lieut. Roy Stillwell; the Capt. Derrick of Mr. Ernest Vaughan is a very capable rendering; Mr. R. Brancepeth-Neville gives a thoughtful conception of Sir Wallace Stillwell; while the Rev. Martin Orris is cleverly portrayed by Mr. T. C. Glenville. Mr. A. Horton and Mr. Reginald Oldroyd, in the respective rôles of Bill Sharkey and Toby, are most entertaining. Miss Madge Dauglas is graceful and pleasing as Adela Gray; Miss Gladys Hawthorne cleverly impersonates Lady Stillwell, while Miss Mary Dalby displays marked ability as Kate Reand.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Charles Imeson.—The successful pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, has entered on its last week at this place of amusement. A good deal of new business is introduced, including songs, dances, and speciality acts. The imitation of the violin given by Carlos is much enjoyed; the statuary tableaux presented by Mdlle. Sara's Marblesque Trio are a distinct success; the two Eltons are warmly applauded for their clever and funny horizontal bar performance, and the pantomime act, "Mischief," as given by the Revell Troupe, gives great satisfaction.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing Director, Mr. Arthur Roberts; Manager, Mr. W. Chatto.—*The Girl from Japan* is proving a popular attraction here. Sweet singing, pretty dancing, and magnificent scenery being a great feature of the production.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Alf. Mattison; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—The Caledonian Boy's orchestra make a welcome return visit, and provide a musical treat. The antics of Cooke and Rothert create roars of laughter, as also does the drollery of Tom Dunmore. Miss Fanny Wentworth, in her smart songs, is very popular; Harry Thurston impersonates well-known artists; the Two Jagos, vocalists and dancers, find favour; and Dot Hardy, comedienne and dancer, figures in the programme.

OXFORD.—Managing Director, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. R. Griffiths.—Mr. Frank Elliston and company, in the sketch *Aunt Matilda*, create rounds of laughter, as do The Toreadors in their comedy act. Austin and Cowan are well applauded for their singing; and Flo Cecil and others provide an excellent programme.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Mr. William Greet's company is this week appearing in *The Earl and the Girl*. As Jim Cheese Mr. Alfred Donohoe is irresistibly funny; Mr. Leslie Gaze is happily placed as Dick Wargrave, his fine voice and presence being of great advantage to him in the part. The Hon. Crewe Boodle is well sustained by Mr. Thomas Kennard; Mr. A. E. Wilson as Bunker Bliss plays with a grim and diverting humour; Mr. Tom J. Edwards as Downham, Mr. Sam Lysons as Mr. Talk, and Mr. Glenville Hayes as Mr. Hazell also contribute important aid. A dainty and demure Elphin Haye is found in Miss Hylda Dugdale, her singing being frequently encored. Miss Ida Statham is a charming Daisy Fallowfield, Miss Lena Hicks an efficient Liza Shoddam, Miss Beatrice Anderson is well suited as Mrs. Shimmering Black, and Miss Winnie Plumpton is unexceptionable as Virginia Bliss. A pretty and tuneful chorus under the baton of Mr. W. Stephenson adds greatly to the charm of an altogether pleasing production.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Sutcliffe. — Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's pantomime, *Mother Goose*, goes with a refreshing swing from start to finish. The Mayor of Tapham, as played by Mr. George Formby, is as quaint a character as can be found. Another prime favourite is Mr. Ernie Mayne, to whom is entrusted the part of Jack, and he never fails to grasp a single opportunity to create laughter. An unmistakable success has been scored by Mr. Ambrose Manning as Mother Goose; and Messrs. Drew and Alders create much diversion with their funny speciality business. Miss Daisy Dormer makes a most charming and fascinating Jill. Her first number is the "Sun am shining," concluding with a neat step-dance; but the pièce de résistance is undoubtedly "My little wooden hut," of which it may be said Miss Dormer is the original singer. Miss Lena Verdi does remarkably well with somewhat scanty material as Gretchen; but her singing of "Louisa," with dance in sabots, is sufficient to prove the abilities of this delightful young lady; and Miss Cecilia Wilman as the Fairy Queen sings "Rainbow" with rare charm. Miss Lily Harold has frequently been out of the cast through indisposition, but an admirable substitute has been forthcoming in Miss Amy Lorrison, who does all that is required as Colin. The Tiller Troupe are repeatedly encored for their display of the terpsichorean art; and the stilt-walking of the Pender Troupe amuses the younger section of the audience.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—*Cinderella* bids fair to establish a record run at the Royal, as packed houses continue to be the rule at each performance. Mr. Dan Rolyat, who has made such a success as the Baron, was an absentee during the major portion of last week, but his place was creditably filled by Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne, the stage-manager, whom we heartily congratulate. Mr. Rolyat, however, has again resumed his part, and is the life and soul of the pantomime. He and Mr. John Humphries (Daisy) work exceedingly well together. Mr. Stephen Adeson has developed the part of Choddles with conspicuous success; and Mr. W. H. Powell as Dandini is as bright and as entertaining as ever. The ladies are all charming, including Miss Phyllis Dare (Cinderella), Miss Hettie Chattel (the Prince), Miss Gwennie Hasto (Princess Roxana), and Miss Luna Love and Miss Winnie Browne (the Baron's daughters). Favourable mention may also be made of Miss Dora Poole, Miss Mildred Claire, Miss Louie Lochner, and Miss Maud Mandrell, all of whom fill minor parts with success.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—*Little Red Riding Hood* opened here on Monday night for a short season before a large audience. Mr. Geo. Brydon-Phillips's company is responsible for the production, and is the same that appeared at the West London Theatre. Miss Louie Hurman quickly established herself a firm favourite as Prince Amoroso. In the title-rôle, Miss Lily Stewart makes a good impression, and is heartily encored for her song "Rainbow"; Miss Marie Beaufort is a pleasing fairy; and little Vera Saunders does exceedingly well as Cupid. The Jack and Jill of Miss Ethel Morden and Miss Amy Maple respectively are both meritorious efforts; Mr. Fred Maple is quietly humorous as the Squire; and Mr. Charles Lilburn provokes plenty of merriment as Simple Simon. Mr. Charles Gardiner is exceedingly happy in his impersonation of the dame; Mr. Henry de Solla plays the part of Lawyer Slyfox on quite original lines; and Mr. Phillip Sefton declaims in dramatic fashion as the Wolf. Specialities are introduced by the Six American Belles and the Maples, and the performance concludes with a harlequinade, entitled *In Shadowland*.

GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—A crowded house greeted the advent of Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens's company on Monday night, in the pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer*. It has been transferred here in its entirety from the Gaiety Theatre, Leith, and, judging by the hearty reception it received here at the opening performance, it should experience a successful season at the Byker Theatre. A bright and dashing principal boy has been found in Miss Mimi Fisher, who imparts much spirit and "go" into the rôle of Jack; Miss Bijou Dreus makes a most acceptable Margery Daw; and Miss Evelyn Robson is throughout conspicuous as Mephisto. The comedians work with a will, and their efforts to amuse are highly appreciated. They include Mr. W. S. Stevenson, Mr. Charles Grantley, Mr. Fred C. Imbert, Mr. Gilbert Payne, Mr. Jack Henri, and those big pantomime favourites hereabouts, Messrs. Denby and Dent, who create much laughter as the cooks. The Continental Girls and the Two Sparks are responsible for the specialities.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—A packed house assembled on Monday to witness Ahmed Madrali, the Terrible Turk, and a troupe of International wrestlers; Marie Duma, the famous soprano vocalist, sings several popular ballads; and Sinclair and Parr combine excellent vocalism with some amusing patter. The Three Sisters Hayden sing melodiously; the Fitzroys are particularly smart as society gymnasts; and Billy Hobbs is a complete success as a coon comedian and dancer. Stephens and Rennior, comedians and sand-dancers; Irving Jones, "the little black man"; and McPhee and Hill, horizontal bar performers, add to the success of the programme.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—A strong variety programme here this week includes the Martine Brothers, original acrobats and tumblers; the King's College Boys, a choir of clever youngsters who sing harmoniously together; Mr. and Mrs. Blake Adams, in a comedy duologue; Miss Flo Smithers's company in an amusing sketch, entitled *Hard Lines*; Miss Grace Taylor, comedienne; Ida Ross, Hughes and Elliott, Starr and Jerome, the Henres, and an interesting picture, entitled "A Day at the Zoo," by the Barrascope.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Sunday* is being played here this week by Mr. Louis Calvert's company. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay acts the part of Sunday delightfully, being equal to all the demands of the character. The Towzer of Mr. Wm. Lockhart is a good character study, and the Davy of Mr. Sidney Renney, the Lively of Mr. T. Norman Walter, and the Jacky of Mr. Arthur Vezin are really excellent. Mr. Ernest A. Douglas, as Tom Oxley, is sympathetic, and Miss Juliet Hardinge and Miss Rosalind Ross leave nothing to be desired as a Nun and Mrs. Naresby respectively; while Mr. Cecil Duncan, as Arthur Brinthorpe, and Mr. Leonard Pagden, as Colonel Brinthorpe, are successful.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Alexandra Dagmar heads the bill here with songs that go with a swing. Wood and Bates (comedy musicians), with good instrumental playing and funny patter, keep the house in roars. The Wagsnell family of acrobats supply a turn that is clever, and Ike Scott and son are as popular as ever. Viviana is a clever dancer, as is also Herbert La Martine, who go in for the eccentric side of the art; and the Howards provide a turn of the musical variety type that is applauded. Hays and Luits, duettists and dancers, give three commendable selections; and the bioscope shows a series of interesting films.

NEWRY.—TOWN HALL.—Owners, Newry Urban Council.—The Elster Grime company presented *Maritana* on Tuesday night before a crowded and appreciative house. Miss E. Lynham took the title-rôle, and charmed the audience with her singing and dramatic ability. Mr. Payne Clarke was successful as Don Cæsar de Bazan; Mr. Michael Kemble as Done José was excellent, his singing being quite as good as his acting. Mr. Gilbert King scored in the part of the King; and Miss Esmee de Dreux, as Lazarillo, showed marked ability as a singer. The week's programme includes *Carmen*, *La fille de Madame Angot*, *Les Cloches de Corneville*, etc.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is playing here to good houses. Mr. Bob Hutt, as Alderman Fitzwarren, is highly successful in providing plenty of genuine fun, in which he is well supported by Mr. Rolando Martin. Mr. Fred Dark is plain, but interesting, as Matilda, the cook. Lanton and Lane, as the captain and his mate, play well together; and Tom Gilmore makes a clever little Cat. Miss Elsie Morgan, as Dick Whittington, is a charming embodiment of the hero, and Miss Annie Morgan, as Alice Fitzwarren, presenting a typical pair of lovers; their duet, "Teasing," is charmingly rendered. Tommy Trot, played by Miss Blanch Marion, and his sweetheart May, acted by Miss Annie Laurie, are another loving couple. Miss Nellie Lauraine is an imposing Fatima, Empress of Morocco. Miss Evelyn Geldard, the good Fairy, renders her "Rainbow" song with excellent effect. The specialities are Elverton, the spinning marvel, and the Regent Comedy Four.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—Crowded houses have been attracted by Leoni Clarke, with his novel performance with cats, &c. The parachute descent of a sandy cat and the train cat-astrophe at the finale are the special features of a clever and highly attractive show. Les Kyasyas are good; the Australian lady athlete, Casa, is well received; Mdlle. Eldee gives a series of poses plastique in a novel and pleasing form. George Le Wist is an amusing ventriloquist; Tom Brantford, the one-man band, is applauded; the Two Zampas, vocalists and speciality dancers, are applauded; Geo. Bendon scores as a White Coon; Lillian is a lady cyclist who executes some difficult feats with grace and charm. The Palace pictures still form a great source of delight to all.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. George Dance's company with *The Orchid* is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. Harry Walsh gives a capital impersonation of Meakin, and keeps the house in a merry mood; and Mr. Sinclair Holden, as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, is clever. Mr. Vyvyan Wakeman makes quite a hit as Doctor Ronald Faussett; Mr. Charles Seymour scores heavily as Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. Albert Seaby satisfactorily sustains the rôle of Zaccary; and Mr. George Asaf is good as Comte Raoul de Cassignat. As Lady Violet Anstruther, Miss Margary Moore is admirable; Miss Phil Gumpel gives an excellent representation of Caroline Vokins; Miss Sissie Brand is smart as Zelie Humbert; Miss Maud Davies, as Countess Anstruther, wins favour; Miss Trilby Colliers is an effective Josephine Zaccary; and Miss D. West-Collins is good as Thisbe.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—Another good bill of fare is submitted here, and includes Herr Armins, in his gladiatorial display, which is loudly applauded. Swan and Vesta, with *The Captain of the Ship*, achieve distinct success; and Primavesi, in his juggling act, displays great skill. Mr. D. W. Watson, vocalist, cornet, and post-horn soloist, is cordially appreciated; and The Volbecques (character duettists), Miss Winnie Wentworth (comedienne), Messrs Stanley and Dowton (in their comedy act), and the Bio-Photoscope all meet with success.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—After an absence of many years, Mr. Charles Harrington's company, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, is paying a welcome return visit. In a company of all-round excellence special mention must be made of Mr. Leslie Beaufort as George Harris, Mr. Stanley Howard as St. Clair, Mr. J. Henry Rogers as Simon Legree, Miss Hettie Johnson as Eliza Harris, Miss Annie Watson as Topsy, and Miss Zerlina Zerbini as Cassy. The variety turns in the fourth act are exceedingly good, and the plantation hymns and melodies receive well-merited

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applause. The theatre was occupied on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company in *The Cotton Spinner*.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Mouillot's company, in the successful play *A Message from Mars*, always finds a welcome here. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee as Horace Parker meets with unstinted applause for his clever acting, and Mr. William H. Brougham is heartily appreciated as the Messenger from Mars. Mr. Bruce Lindley deserves special mention as the Tramp, and Mr. Leslie Taylor is also good as Mr. Fergusson, the solicitor. Miss May Saker as Minnie Temple, Mrs. Edward Saker as Miss Parker, and Miss Peggy E. Yeoman as Bella, are charming in their respective parts.—Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson as Arthur Dicey, and Mr. Lionel Gadsden, as the Policeman, render excellent service. The scenery and effects are well managed.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—A varied programme is presented this week, and proves attractive. Vermette and Dionne are expert gymnasts, and exhibit an astonishing performance. The Schiavonys' company of comedy acrobats are as skilful as amusing. Madame Collard's dogs show marvellous training, and are highly successful. Tom White's Arabs, including the famous Pimple, are amusing in their tricks and vocal mélange. Tom Craven and his company in their sketch *The Woman in Red* are much appreciated, and Jack Pleasants as a comedian causes endless laughter, and Wilson Blackledge proves very humorous as a Society entertainer. The Hippo Bioscope contributes much to the amusement of all. As a result of the matinée held for the benefit of the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the proprietors have forwarded to the secretary a cheque for £31 10s.

Agricultural Hall.—Mr. Hardy, the King of the High Rope, continues here with much success, and Messrs. Barker and Thurston's Carnival is well patronised.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The last week of *Humpty Dumpty* has been reached, to the regret of all. Miss Rachel Lowe puts any amount of energy into her rôle as principal boy, and Miss Georgina Middleton makes the principal girl a dainty and charming part. The dancing of the Crystals always evokes vociferous applause, and Misses Dolly Murray (Polly) and Edith Wilson (Twinkle Star) display a versatility that merits praise. Miss Nellie Lomas sings and acts in a manner which gives delight, and Miss Elsie Evelyn Hill admirably fills the part of Mrs. Tremaine. Mr. R. H. Douglas and Mr. Bob Baxter are droll, laughter coming from all parts of the house while they occupy the stage. Mr. Algernon Newark acquits himself well in his three rôles, and Bishop and Hanlin achieve success in their knockabout business. A quaint couple of Gollywogs are seen in Messrs. Wally Scott and Seth White, who also help along the fun, and the ballets owe much to Miss Rose Lupino. The stage management of Mr. Douglas has proved excellent throughout.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—In the interval between two pantomimes, that powerful drama *When Woman Hates* occupies the stage here. The company is Messrs. Ware and Anderson's, and the play is produced by Mr. Chas. East, who is to be congratulated upon an undoubted success. Miss East-Robertson is fully equal to the task of thoroughly realising the beautiful fiend. Mr. Jerrold Heather as Lieut. Rokeby makes a highly satisfactory hero, and the villain finds a competent exponent in Mr. Percy Ballard. The comedy parts are well looked after by Mr. Frank Litchfield as the Constable and Miss Emily Custance as Mrs. Sally Potts. As Sir Henry Rokeby Mr. Charles Herberte looks and acts the part of an old Colonel exceedingly well, and Mr. Frank Watson's assumption of the American millionaire is very thorough. Miss Gladys is charming in the character of Edith Rokeby, and Miss Dorothy Lupone makes an excellent child.

King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—*A Fight for Millions* has proved very attractive here, the unfolding of this sensational drama by Mr. Robert Pinder's company being watched with interest. Mr. W. H. Hargreaves brings out the strongest characteristic of Tom Manley; Mr. J. N. Cowling leaves nothing to be desired as Hudson Rivers; in portraying the rascality of Richard Dudley Mr. Archie Helsby shows himself a clever and astute actor; Mr. Robert Perris becomes a favourite as Willie Neverwork; and Mr. Karl H. Edwards aptly delineates the wily nature of Solomon Moses. Miss Elma C. Turner plays with naturalness as the deserted wife, Helen Dudley; Miss Eva Purcell creates much enthusiasm as Pearl Rivers; and capital work is also done by Miss Audrey Canning, Miss Lottie Pearce, and Messrs. R. H. Wilson and George Hodges.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—Mr. George Gray, with a specially selected company, presents his justly celebrated sketch *The Fighting Parson*, and crowded houses testify nightly to its popularity. The artistic Jap juggler, Kokin, is wonderfully smart, and his dexterity is thoroughly appreciated; Mr. Fred Poplar sings some delightfully irresponsible songs in a very quaint fashion; Miss Sadie Simpson is a comedienne of no mean ability; Kahn and Kahn are always well received, and their sleight of hand is well worth watching; as a ventriloquist Professor Dunning has few rivals; Harry Drew has a very pleasing bass voice; and Kitty Wager sings with force and precision. The programme is completed by the Sisters Moulier, a pair of graceful acrobats whose efforts are applauded.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales Theatre, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—This week Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company are paying a visit with *Her One Great Sin*. The drama, with its interesting and pathetic scenes, is received with enthusiasm. Miss St. Albans presents a telling portrayal of Grace Warhurst (the erring wife). Mr. Sam Arthur, as Reuben Warhurst, gives an excellent impersonation, the part of Arnold Thornhill, the unscrupulous spendthrift, being capably filled by Mr. J. Leicester-Jackson. Miss Maudie Lambert wins the highest praise in the part of Little Gracie. Some genuine fun is supplied by Mr. Fred Hodson as Jerry Jumble. Miss Phillis Damien is good as Charlie, and Miss Nellie Lambert as Nancy. On Friday evening *East Lynne* formed the programme, Mr. J. Leicester-Jackson appearing as Francis Levison and Miss St. Albans as Lady Isobel.

OLDBURY.—Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Prichard; Manager, Mr. R. A. Brown.—The programme provided here this week includes the Three Sisters Geronde, in a refined turn; Bandoni, the one-man band; T. W. Barrett, "the nobleman's son," a great favourite; Amy Bellwood, who goes well with her songs and dancing; James Day, the handcuff expert; Rayson, conjurer; and Frank Newberry, whistler. The Palace pictures complete a good bill.

OLDHAM.—Empire, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—Mr. William Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl* has received a most favourable reception. Mr. Wm. Stevens and Miss Dot Carey as the Earl and the Girl respectively are a great success. Mr. Percy Carr as Dick Wargrave, the real Earl; Mr. Vernon Davidson as the Hon. Crewe Beodle; Mr. Ernest Dorrence as the vengeful Uncle; Mr. Will Hindson and Mr. J. C. Graves as American and English solicitors; Mr. Fred W. Pattrick as the Host; Miss Aimée Grey as the runaway heiress; Miss Florence Imeson as Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Gladys Fontaine as Mrs. Shimmering Black; and a chorus of fifty hunters, lackeys, &c., divulge the excellence and ability in their respective parts. An "Entente Cordiale" dance is given by the Misses Hylda Davis, Enid Evesly, Beatrice Ford, Edyth Martin, Nora Manette, and Geraldine Scott.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. E. Dottridge.—Tennyson and Wallis, refined comedians, keep the audience in roars of laughter; Daisy De Roy, comedienne, is an old favourite here, and her catchy songs and captivating manner are heartily appreciated; Will Dalton, comedian, is a great success; a capable musical performance is rendered by the Dunvilles; Alice Maude is a smart male impersonator; the Spanish Goldini Trio are successful in a novel entertainment; and other good turns are submitted by A. Sterling and the bioscope.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howgate.—Mr. James Willard and company in their sketch *Did He Deserve It?* which abounds with dramatic interest and attractiveness, are heartily appreciated by very large audiences. A unique and novel juggling performance is submitted by the Max Wessely's Troupe; Conn and Conrad keep the house in roars of laughter; Rastus and Banks, coloured entertainers, are successful in their sketch *The Major and the Maid;* The Society Quartette of Refined Vocalists and Dancers are well received for a clever performance; Winnifrede Warde, male impersonater, is a great success in her character of the West End "Johnny"; and the Llewellyns (Australian Operatic Vocalists), Arthur Stacey (comedian and top-boot dancer), and Harry Tomlinson (descriptive vocalist) are well received.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—This week we are having a delightful return visit of Mr. William Greet's company in that attractive play *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Reginald Switz is funny as Jim Cheese, and works hard and with real success all through the play. Mr. Alec Fraser sings sweetly and acts with natural ease as Dick Wargrave; Mr. Starley Harrison is well suited as Crew Boodle; and Bunker Bliss, Downham, Mr. Talk, and Mr. Hazell all find excellent exponents in Messrs. H. B. Brandreth, Frank Cane, R. Rous, and Tom Redmond. Miss Mary Fraser as Elphin Haye acts and sings with a charm that quite holds the house; Miss Maude Aston plays Daisy Fallowfield with plenty of "go"; and the parts of Liza Shoddam, Mrs. Shimmering Black, and Miss Bliss are all capably played by Misses Florence Wix, Maud Adams, and Mary Morison.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is here on a return visit with the ever-popular *Two Little Vagabonds*.—Excellent portrayals of George Thornton and Capt. Darville are presented by Messrs. Henry Hare and Douglas Cecil respectively; Mr. John F. Traynor is decidedly good as Bill Mullins; Dido Bunce and the Cough Drop find capable exponents in Mr. Ernest K. Nelson and Mr. Fred Archer; and Mr. Hugh Halliman is a success as Joe Gargoyle. Miss Grace Heywood embodies Marion Thornton with dignity and charm; Miss F. Russell Spiers makes an attractive Barbara Scarth; and Miss Marie Pritchard is all that can be desired as Biddy Mullins. Dick and Wally are admirably represented by Miss Freda Ettrick and Miss Helen Grenville respectively.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*The Way of the World* is here this week. The company responsible for its representation is Mr. Montague Beaudyn and Miss Sydney Crowe's. As Adela de la Roche Miss Crowe displays exceptional ability; Miss Cissie Bellamy is a pleasing and sympathetic Kate Montague; Marian Fanshaw is excellently acted by Miss Grace Ryland; and Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly Bell contributes an extremely diverting performance. As Matthew Malyon Mr. Clarence Temple submits a capital study; Mr. Herbert Skardon gives a bright and vigorous portrayal of Cecil Montague; the villainous Captain Fred Slade is well played by Mr. Victor Gordon; Mr. Frank Stanley acts the part of Ned Montague in an effective manner; Mr. Louis Scott's impersonation of Horatio Bluff is decidedly good; Sir John Slade is given a clever interpretation by Mr. Fred Mace; Mr. Pat Quinn is praiseworthy as Silas Montague; and Mr. Dick Seddon is capital as Joe Sparrow.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—The company this week includes James Brady, eccentric joker; Gracie Logan, soubrette and dancer; J. H. White, tenor vocalist; Kloof and Ramsey, musical novelty burlesquers; Peggy Alsond, vocalist; the Cosmans, in their refined comedy act; and Cinizelli, the silent jester.

PERTH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Saville; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty* is here for another week. Several items of local interest which have been introduced are much appreciated, and the "Rugby Night," so much looked forward to, is likely to prove a record one. The principal parts are sustained throughout with unabated success.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Brown.—Messrs. Charles Carey and Alexander Loftus's pantomime company is here this week. Miss Freda Godfrey gives a charming impersonation of Cinderella, and her songs are sung in cultured style. Miss Ernestine Walters is a popular principal boy; Miss Maud Terry's Dandini is all that can be desired; the Fairy Godmother has a charming representative in Miss Hilda Blanche. As the Baron, Mr. James Grant displays a fund of dry humour; Nash and Noel keep the audience in the best of humours as McStrong and McGinger; and Mr. Norman Bowyer and Mr. W. E. Chewd are responsible for funny representations of the Ugly Sisters. Mr. Joseph B. Montague fills the rôle of Peter with a wonderful command of comedy.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Manœuvres of Jane* is being staged here this week by the local Dramatic Association.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—An attractive and interesting drama is *The Life of a Showman*, which is being produced here by an efficient company. Mr. Charles Osborne impersonates Sir Noel Hartland intelligently and well; Mr. Logan Darra's Hendrick Marais is very natural and powerful; Mr. Sante performs marvellous feats of strength; Miss Enid Trench and Miss Amy McNeil appear in the cast with great success, their efforts reaching a high standard of excellence.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. A. Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Michell.—After a record run for a local pantomime, *Cinderella* has entered on its last week. On Monday Miss Edna Cragge, who has made such a successful Prince Charming, was, on the occasion of her benefit, presented with a dressing-case from a number of friends, and a writing-case, the gift of Mr. Arthur Carlton. The Manager (Mr. W. H. Michell) made a felicitous speech in handing the presents to Miss Cragge. Later in the week Mr. Jack Cromo (the author of the pantomime and one of the principal comedians), and Miss Amy Randolph were given a joint benefit, the patronage being very liberal.

Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—An admirably selected and very entertaining programme is provided here this week. The Lyons Trio appear in a very funny and popular pantomimical act; Margaret Ashton, who tops the bill, makes a welcome reappearance, and her songs are received with hearty applause; Hanvarr and Lee are clever artists, whose comedy juggling act, *The Golfer and the Maid*, proves a most acceptable item; Miss Maggie Rimmer's smart dancing and singing are nightly encored; George Adams sings well; Charles Craston is a born comic, with a good style of his own; the American picture songs, contributed by the Lynchs, are pretty and pleasing; Geo. Davis and Co. give an amusing sketch; and Vernon's animated pictures are a treat.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. C. Trenchard.—A very strong attraction this week is Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *The Christian*. Mr. Alfred Goddard's exceptionally fine rendering of the Hon. John Storm is greatly admired; Miss Laura Walker's Glory Quayle is something to be remembered; Mr. E. Stanton Sharp acts admirably as Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Duncan Jarrow capably impersonates Horatio Drake; the "Faro" King could scarcely find a better exponent than Mr. Anthony Rawles; Mr. Jack Hames is to be congratulated for his Mr. Lorimer; Mr. Colin Johnston earns credit in the character of Archdeacon Wealthy; Miss Violet Vivian scores a distinct success as Mrs. Callander; Miss Florence Radcliffe is admirable as Polly Love; and Miss C. Oates is refreshingly lively as Liza.

PORTH.—Poole's Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—The great attraction here is the successful pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, presented by Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth. The Red Riding Hood of Miss Maud Douglass is worthy of commendation; as Simple Simon Mr. Bert Harrow is responsible for some excellent fun. Mr. Percy Shaw gives a creditable performance of the Wolf; Miss Marie Liston meets with decided approval as Boy Blue; David Phillips makes a capital dame; the Brothers Ellis, as Billy Green and Johnny Stout respectively, are an excellent pair; Mr. Frank Zara is most amusing as Sir Rotter de Rot; and Miss Edith Knight is good as Fairy Sunbeam. The specialities include the Sisters Deare, military drill experts; the Daisy Verona Quartette of Dancers; Percy Shaw, the whistler; and the Brothers Ellis, comedians and dancers.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Bell.—Mr. William Greet's capable company is finishing a fortnight's engagement here with *The Talk of the Town*, and large and demonstrative audiences have been delighted with the piece. Mr. William Cromwell plays Jerry Tripe, his droll humour and realistic rendering of his songs being excellent. He has been well backed by Miss Louie Tinsley as Geraldine Tripe. Mr. Arthur Harrold as Reggie Drummond was quietly effective; the two Dutch moneylenders, Frank and Ernest English, were capitally taken by Messrs. Graves and Gambier-Melford; Miss Gertrude Melville did well as Madame Modiste; Miss Joan Keddie was charming and natural as Elialine Sewin; and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy was excellent as the gipsy girl, June.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is appearing here with the stirring drama *The Worst Woman in London*. The cast is a strong one, including Miss Florence Dalton, who gives a powerful impersonation of Frances Vere. Ruth Milford is sustained by Miss Effie Bartlett with quiet impressiveness; Miss Florence Lovall is effective as Matilda Parker; Jack Felton is an exceedingly well-balanced performance by Mr. Wallace Campbell; Mr. Paul Barry-Sewers excellently impersonates the rascally Vincent Lyle; Mr. H. H. Barrington does good work as James Milford; Mr. H. W. Monte gives a capital study as Hugh Drayton; and Bob Goldfinch is characteristically played by Mr. Alwin Sawyer.

Empire Palace.—Secretary Mr. W. Pratt.—The Ten Loonies in an absurdity entitled *Dotty* prove themselves to be first-rate musicians, and their knockabout antics create great merriment. The Sisters Valli, dancers and banjoists, are talented, and have a warm greeting; Alix Lukos, actor-vocalist, is good, his song "Pictures in the Fire" being cleverly rendered; Wright and Elton, speciality artists, are a capable pair, and have a cordial recall; Ethel Loftus, the comedy girl, is highly diverting; Joe Humphreys sings with great point; Trevally-Harley Troupe, comedy-trampolin acrobats, are very smart, and do excellent work; and also contributing successfully to the programme are Nancy St. John (soubretto and dansuese), Blake and Granby (comedy duologue artists), and Reen and Relbert (vaudeville entertainers).

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here this week in *The Gay Parisienne*. Mr. Edward Kipling keeps the audience in a state of continuous laughter by his droll impersonation of Ebenezer Honeycomb; Miss Gwennie Harcourt is genuinely amusing in the rôle of Ruth; Mrs. Honeycomb has a pleasing representative in Madame Ilma Norina; Mr. Rudolph Kloss acquits himself well as Major Fossdyke; Miss Lucia Collins is seen to advantage as Nora, and her delightful singing merits special praise; Mr. Lester Carey in the part of Tom Everleigh also displays excellent vocal ability; Mr. Charles Seguin is a clever and mirth-provoking M. Pompier; and Miss Alice Nixon makes a fascinating Julie Bon Bon.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Jazon and Warner's company is presenting *Aladdin* here this week to large audiences. Miss Marie Braham as Aladdin makes a dashing principal boy; Miss Daisy Lane is a charming Princess Badroulbadour; Mr. Harry Carmen keeps the house convulsed with laughter as Widow Twankey; Abanazar has an excellent representative in Mr. Edwin C. Jazon; Mr. Alf Brooks creates much merriment as Gin Sling; Mr. Cyril Carle acquits himself creditably as the Emperor of China; the Three Delaries give a clever gymnastic display; and Mantell and Oral appear in a smart knockabout cycling act. Much praise is due to Salidi and Vone for their songs and dances, and the Sisters Varley also deserve great credit for their songs, which are well received.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—The chief attraction in this week's excellent programme is Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, whose songs evoke vociferous applause. Billy Richardson is a first-class stump orator; Arthur Hartley performs some wonderful jumping feats; Carl and Carmanelli with their dog provide a novel musical act; the Four Aces give a brilliant and amusing acrobatic display; the Paul Hesse Trio appear in a skilful wire pot-pourri act; and other successful turns are Fred Fred Villiers (swell comedian), Chas. Melton (character vocalist, in a military song scena), and Fred Horsfall (a smart mimic). Bioscope pictures complete the entertainment.

RADCLIFFE.—Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—The audiences this week are being entertained by Mr. H. G. Place's Alexandra Grand Opera Company. On Monday, *Il Trovatore* was successfully rendered. Miss Constance St. Bride as Leonora won applause by her fine singing; Mr. Frank Laud as Count de Luna was in excellent voice; and Mr. William Hillier as Manrico possesses a tenor voice of much richness. During the week, *Faust*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Lily of Killarney*, and *Maritana* have been given.

RAMSGATE.—Amphitheatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifford and company have this week been appearing in the stirring drama, *On Circumstantial Evidence*. Mr. Clifford, the author, appears with fine effect in the rôle of Captain Hamilton; and Mrs. Clifford (Miss Maud Camfield) is a graceful and charming Violet Ogilvy. Mr. A. M. James does admirably as Sir James Kinloch, M.P.; and Mr. M. Curtis as Jack Ogilvy, and Mr. S. Long as the Italian liberator, General Garibaldi, are excellent. Miss Rose Faith fulfils the dual part of Olga Brandoni and Mary Brandoni in capital style; and a similar compliment must be paid to Miss Ruby Dennell as Polly Smithers, and Miss Dot Beresford as Tim. On Friday night, it was announced the receipts, after payment of expenses, would be devoted to the Ramsgate General Hospital.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Chevalier Cliquot's Star Variety company opened here on Monday with a fine programme. Chevalier Cliquot describes himself as "the World's Greatest Sword Swallower," and his wonderful exhibition certainly substantiates his claim to this title—swords, sabres, bayonets, and even a watch and an electric arc lamp all disappearing down his throat in a most uncanny fashion. His display is certainly most wonderful and exceedingly interesting. Mr. Jack Royston is responsible for a capital turn, with his coon songs and dance; Miss Vinnie Loftus quickly finds favour with her graceful dancing; Alex and Jolly give a clever parallel-bar display; and the Sisters Ford are distinct successes as duettists; Mr. Bob Pearson has some humorous "gag" in his turn, in which he introduces several popular subjects; Neil and Stand are exceedingly clever in their burlesque comedy turn, keeping the house convulsed with laughter; and Miss Lily Pender, an Irish-American comedienne, submits an enjoyable interlude which includes sketches of different nationalities. The Two Shamrocks prove very popular in their delightful singing and dancing; Mr. A. Ventor is funny as a comedian; and Les Valadons are droll in their display as equilibrists and jugglers.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. Milton Bode's own company is here this week with the grand fairy pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which is staged in a very complete and satisfactory style. The Babes are very charmingly impersonated by Miss Renee Reel and Miss Daisy Connell; Prince Rupert has an attractive representative in Miss Ernestine Desborough; Miss Florence Arnold is effective as Rose, the village beauty; the Brothers Brooks as the two villains are clever comedians; Mr. Will Harman, who is an old Reading favourite, is highly amusing as Buttons; Mr. Happy Attwood as the Beadle, Mr. Ernest Sefton as Baron Blarer, Mr. Percy Dawsone as Mrs. Maria Slapp, Miss Alice Wade as Daisy, and Miss Kitty Tims as Tommy, all work hard; Miss Edith Benson is a graceful Good Fairy; and Miss Muriel Brendon is excellent as the Bad Fairy. Some first-rate specialities are introduced by the Bellong Brothers, in a very expert acrobatic and bicycle balancing act; the Cameron Glee Quartette; Cyclo, trick cyclist; and the Brothers Brooks.

Town Hall.—West's naval and military entertainment, *Our Navy and Our Army*, is being exhibited here with great success. A fine series of animated scenes are displayed, including one just arrived of the Prince of Wales's Indian Tour.

REDHILL.—Market Hall.—Proprietors, Market Hall Company; Secretary and Manager, Mr. A. Smith.—Quite a treat is offered the patrons of this house during the current week by Mr. G. W. Bowes, the local amusement caterer, in presenting Mr. John A. Thomson's charming pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The cast is a strong one throughout, the supporting chorus being exceptionally good. Miss Ida Kessanly is an ideal Dick; whilst the Alice Fitzwarren of Miss Ella Willmer is most delightful, her graceful dancing captivating everyone. Miss Annie Swires is a pleasing Fairy Goodwill, her finely-cultivated voice being heard to good effect in "Killarney" and other selections. Miss Ella Rose as Princess Charming sings and acts the part admirably. Mr. Ross Warren makes a capital Alderman and Mr. Edwin Dodds creates much amusement as Idle Jack. Mr. Hubert Davis proves a nimble Cat. Mr. Syd Morrelli is a typical Captain, whilst his First Mate, Pimple (Mr. Fred Anderson), causes roars of laughter by his really funny business. Mr. Harry Harcourt, as Fitzwarren's Cook, is also responsible for much of the amusement of the evening. In the gorgeous Palace scene the clever acrobatic dancing of the Sisters English receives deserved applause; a musical turn by Mr. Syd Morrelli is also well received; but the *pièce de résistance* of the evening is the truly marvellous work on the rolling globe by Mdlle. Florence (the heroine of the London to Brighton walk, some two years ago). Her act creates quite a *furore*. Mr. Arthur Sheldrake is the able musical director, and Mr. Frank Medhurst the manager of this company.

ROCHDALE.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Company, Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Revenge*, a stirring play, full of incident, is presented here this week by Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson and company. Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson powerfully sustains the part of the villain, Prince Orloff; Mr. Wellesley Draper acts with telling effect as Captain Loris Vanessa; Mr. Theo Balfour is well placed as the King; and Miss Grace Aimers cleverly enacts Lieutenant Maurice. Miss Violet Carlyle acts the part of the Queen with power and effect. For Friday, *Death or Glory Boys* was billed by special desire.

Circus and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—The patrons here are exceptionally well catered for this week. Soros and Miss Edna Reeve perform the well-known "vanishing lady" trick, which mystifies the audience compietely; the Brothers Romani, as strong men athletes, submit a capital display of strength combined with agility. Other good turns are contributed by Anneta, the eccentric one; Miss Violet Robson, comedienne; Handel and Lee, electric musical speciality; Imperial Song Illustrators; George Scott, vocalist; American Bio-motograph, in exclusive pictures; and Rex and Ford, comedians.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Manning's entertainers, in a comedy sketch, are creating a favourable impression here; Prince Ishmael and Mdlle. Valerie, Burmese comedy magicians and illusionists, submit a clever and amusing series of conjuring tricks. Charles Stevens, character vocalist; Frank Cumminger, sand dancer; Fred Curran, comedian; Milner Verren, vocalist; and "The Wolf-trap," by the Empire Bioscope, complete a really enjoyable programme.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—The management have been fortunate in booking Mr. George Dance's company for this week with *The Cingalee*. Mr. A. Wortley Drewitt is a smart Hon. Harry Vereker; and Mr. H. Webb gives an effective rendition of the part of Boobhamba. Mr. Eric Fenton is a peppery Sir Peter Loftus; and Mr. E. Edwards is seen to advantage as Bobby Warren. Mr. Tom Payne as Chambuddy is the life and soul of the comedy, and is ably supported by Miss E. Hughes as Peggy Sabine. Miss Millie Field is pleasing as Lady Patricia Vereker; and Miss Maud Guy scores as Angy Loftus. Miss Edith Harmer as Nanoya is deservedly applauded. The enlarged orchestra give an excellent rendition of the music.

RUGBY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is here this week with *The Days of Cromwell*. As Ironhand, the avenger, Mr. Montague Beaudyn has a part that suits him, and one to which he does ample justice by his clever and powerful acting. Mr. Robertson Foulis as Sir Marsden Mardyke is well placed and very effective; while as Matthew Mardyke Mr. Henry Lloyd is equally good. Mr. Edward Carter as Sir Wilfred Avondale and Mr. Howard Hardy as Walter Clifford are both excellent; Mr. T. R. White is amusing as Shadrack Shadwell, and is well seconded by Mr. Henry B. Momber as Toby, Mr. Jack Walker as Chaunt and Play, Mr. Arthur Mewburn as Smith and Ray, and Miss Jane Massey as Mrs. Shadwell. Miss Rene Munroe as Ruby Avondale is a charming and clever actress, and Miss Gloria Hill as Judith is very good. Miss Annie Glunn as Betsy, Maid of the Inn, causes a great deal of amusement by her vivacious rendering. Mr. Tom Robertson as Cromwell, Mr. Sidney Elsey as the Chaplain, Mr. George Ancoates and Mr. John Forsyth as the Torturers, and Mr. W. G. Shard as Martin, an Officer, all do well in their respective rôles.

RYDE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. Wm. Martin.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* was here the first three nights of the week. Miss Beatrice Wadham as Robin Hood was responsible for some good songs, all well received; Miss Edith Madelle as Little John was on very good terms with her audience; Miss Trixie Toole as Maid Marion and Miss Daisy Stone as Mavis danced effectively; and Miss Minnie Litchfield, and Miss Kathleen Cogan sustained the parts of the luckless Babes with distinct merit. Mr. James Dowers, Mr. Henry Young, and Mr. Ted Mack, with Mr. Fred Taylor, worked hard in the parts of Araminta Koffkake, the Ruffians, and Friar Tuck respectively; and were well supported by Mr. Newton Pearce as the villainous Uncle, and Mr. Carl Moneta, whose sand dancing was popular. Miss Clair Wadham displayed a pleasing voice as the Fairy Sylvania, and the chorus was an effective one.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*A Royal Revenge; or, the Gipsy Dancing Girl*, is a romantic play, which on Monday attracted a full house. Mr. J. H. Clyndes presents Estevan Alvarez and Pedro de Castro in his usual masterly manner; Inez Alvarez excites much sympathy as played by Miss Enid Edoni; Miss Aimee Grattan is charming as Cora Casilda; Mr. Reginald Foxhill as Nicholas Vargas presents a good study; Manuel Mondega, as presented by Mr. Arthur Chisholm, is a manly soldier. First as a Moor and then as Count Ulric Uzeda, Mr. Fred Rivers gives an excellent performance; the amorous King of Spain is well played by Mr. Herbert M. King; Mr. J. E. Worth as Michael Sancha and Miss Nellie Stuart as Paquita cleverly co-operate in the principal comedy business; Mr. Leslie Parker is a careful Friar Dominic; and Miss May Wyniard is very successful in her work as the Mother Superior.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The chief attraction this week is *Aladdin*, presented by Dan Thomas and company. Mr. Thomas revels in the fun he introduces as Widow Twankey, keeping the house in roars. A fine, handsome Aladdin, with a good voice, is presented by Miss Nelly Lewis; Mr. Ernest Cass as the Emperor pleases with his bass voice; Miss Sadie Seymour is a charming Princess; Mr. Bert Wallace (though handicapped with hoarseness) does well as the Vizier; Abanazar has a good representative in Mr. Fred Lake; the Brothers Daniels as Slip and Slop, Miss Daisy Yates as Pekoe, Miss Rose Conroy as Catcher, and the other members work well together. The dresses and scenery are very pretty. Several variety turns precede the pantomime. Belle Davis and her piccaninnies give an exceedingly smart exhibition of dancing, &c.; Wallace Whitney's eccentric songs go well; Bensley Evans's London sketch company in *Sally's Dilemma*, with Miss Olive Lanty as Sally, are very amusing; the Elgars are much applauded; Les Henris are a strong couple, who do some clever equilibristic work; Berthe Foster, comedienne and descriptive vocalist; and Arthur Bearle, society jester, also please.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—The entertainment provided this week is up to the usual standard. Jack Hylton is the essence of quaintness; the Four Hearns give a very good acrobatic exhibition; the Musical Palmers' *Officers at Play* is an extra good turn; a noveity is provided by Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the factory nightingales; and the other turns include the Gregson Trio, in novel sketch; Olive Veno, clog dancer; Bernard Noble, character comedian; Daisy Alma, serio and dancer; Sisters Dixon, banjo, song, and dance artists; and Bertha Stuart, with her Scotch songs.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—The pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* is here this week. Miss Lena Stanton appears as Robinson Crusoe, a rôle which she fills most capably, having a dashing style and a capital voice. A dainty and vivacious Polly Perkins is found in Miss Minnie Melbah; Miss Minnie Maxwell is a charming Captain Taylor. Prominent amongst a strong band of comedians is Little Keeno, a gifted juvenile. Dame Crusoe is excellently played by Mr. Bruce Green; Mr. Will Terry gives a laughable study of Will Atkins; Mr. George Melbah is an amusing Friday. Amongst the specialities some original feats are introduced. Little Keeno is very clever in character songs; the musical Melbah's are skilful players of quaint instruments; the Orient Troupe, four lady acrobats and dancers, are smart. Others include La Belle Esma on the silver thread; the Droflas in a clever juggling act; and Miss Nina, a speciality gymnast.

SHEERNESS.—The Hippodrome.—General Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Lovers of variety are well catered for here this week. Amongst the principal items are Ford and Hanson, an excellent musical turn; Ellis and Watts, comedians and dancers, are well received; a piano act by Miss Adey Spencer, in which song and dance are combined, meets with hearty approval; Kisbey, the Call-boy, submits an amusing comtribution of coon song and dance; Mr. Andy Higginson is popular with up-to-date songs; Miss Amy Allnutt, comedienne, and Mr. Fred Dice, eccentric comedian, also successfully contribute. The bioscope pictures are also in the bill.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—The company engaged here for this week includes the Arundel Sketch Combination, in the amusing farce, *More Trouble*

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"UND PIPPA TANZT."

Fantastic Play, in Four Acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann, Produced at the Lessing Theatre, Jan. 19, 1906.

Tagliazoni ..... HERR MEINHARD
Pippa ..... FRAULEIN ORLOFF
Glashüttendirektor ..... HERR PATRY
Huhn ..... HERR RITTNER
Michel ..... HERR GRUNWALD
Wanu ..... HERR SAUER
Wende ..... HERR RICKELT
Kellnerin ..... FRAULEIN EBERTZ
Schaedler ..... HERR FUCH
Anton ..... HERR KURTH
Waldarbeiter ..... HERR LEUBER
Zweiter Waldarbeiter ..... HERR FRIEDRICH
Dritter Waldarbeiter ..... HERR BOROWSKY
Vierter Waldarbeiter ..... HERR PAULI
Jonathan ..... HERR FOREST
Okarinaspieler ..... HERR DIETRICH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 25.—Herr Hauptmann's latest dramatic work was the signal for the usual demonstrations: a house crowded in every part—many of the seats at fancy prices—enthusiastic applause, and some expressions of discontent, which were speedily extinguished by the efforts of the majority. Our critics are, with few exceptions, "down" on Herr Hauptmann's play, many of them agreeing in calling it a conundrum in four acts, although acknowledging—as they could not well otherwise do—the beauties of its phantasy and language. The following is briefly the plot. The action passes in the Silesian mountains, not among weavers this time, but glass-workers. In the first act we see them assembled in the village tap-room. Some of them are playing at cards, and among them is the Venetian glass-blower, Tagliazoni, a thorough-paced scoundrel and a cheat. The room is full; glass-workers, manager, and woodmen are there, and Pippa—Tagliazoni's child—comes and dances to them. Every one among them is in love, more or less, with Pippa, who is the personification of youth and grace and fragile beauty, but Huhn—a veteran glass-worker—is the most amorous of all. He is a repulsive figure in his ragged dress, a giant in stature, and uncanny in his ways, reminding us unconsciously of Nickelmann with his yearning for Rautendelein. There is a sudden break in the dance. Tagliazoni has been caught at card-sharping; he is chased by his furious companions into the street, and stabbed. Pippa—who has no reason to love her father—is left alone with Huhn, who makes use of the opportunity to carry the half-fainting girl away in the darkness of the winter's night, and keep her a prisoner in his hut. Michel Hellriegel—a young artisan on the "Wanderschaft"—comes along, and finds Pippa. Youth is drawn to youth, and Michel sees the realisation of his boyish dreams in the fragile girl. It would be strange, too, were Pippa not attracted to him, for he is brightness, hope, and credulity combined; his illusions are reality to him, and he forgets all material troubles in pursuit of them. The lovers escape, and presently come to one Wanu, who is designated by the author as a "mythical person." He lives alone in the hills, a hermit devoted to occult sciences—a veritable spirit of the mountains. Even he, old as he is, falls a victim to Pippa's charm, and gives the children—for they are little more—shelter. Huhn, however, follows them, but soon—apparently by the power of the sorcerer—falls dead. He does not die alone, for the spark of his life—as he once termed Pippa—is killed too, and in a mysterious manner. Huhn holds her little hand while he casts a Venetian glass to the ground, and Pippa's soul in that same moment goes forth into the unseen world. Golden-haired Pippa is dead, and Michel becomes blind; but he takes his harmonica and wanders onwards, still believing she is dancing at his side, leading him to the "water palace" which awaits him in the south, and of which he carries the golden key. There is no other German writer alive who could give us a play of such poetic beauty as this; while as to the cavilling of the critics, he who runs may read, and the solution is not so far to seek as they would have us believe. Pippa is the embodiment of the ideals that fill the human heart, the mirage of the soul, the essence of grace and beauty, that falls a victim to gross and brutal strength, to corybantic desire. Wanu is the philosopher who has done with life, who lives alone in his mystic sciences, but even in old age finds pleasure in youthful beauty, and would save it from its fate if he could. And Michel is—to use Herr Hauptmann's own words—the symbol of that which lives on in the soul of the German people, and this *multum in parvo* surely expresses all. The author says he wished to combine the spirit of Venetian lightness and incomparable art with the sterner qualities of his own native hills; the thought took such firm hold of him that he relinquished a well-nigh completed work to write—during the months of October and November—the present play. Dr. Brahm had, as usual, arranged for a magnificent cast and admirable mounting. The snowstorms, and moonlight and sunlight effects were as real as they could well be. Fräulein Orloff—Berlin's youngest actress—gave a most sympathetic and graceful rendering of the part of Pippa; it is a rôle that suits her down to the ground. Herr Grunwald was faultless in the part of the lad Michel; and an unstinted measure of praise is due to Herr Rittner's impersonation of the uncanny Huhn. That Herr Hauptmann was "called" innumerable times it is hardly necessary to record. Altogether, the production of *Und Pippa Tanzt* was an event in our theatrical annals.

A REMARKABLY handsome theatre—judging from the plans I have been privileged to see—will be the New Schauspielhaus in Nollendorf Platz, W. The name was intended at first to be Kronprinzen Theatre; but far more significant is the one now decided upon. The building—which it is hoped will be opened in October—is to seat 1200 persons, and a concert-room will be erected on the same piece of ground close by to seat 1500. In addition to this there is to be a first-class theatre restaurant, a manager's house, and a large beer restaurant, with a garden. Altogether, the enterprise is a big one, and there could not well be a better situation. Das Neue Schauspielhaus will have a manager of judgment, taste, and experience in the person of Herr Alfred Hahn, late lessee of the Berliner, and some years back one of the most capable members of the Deutsches Theatre under Dr. Brahm.

"SCHUTZENLIESL" has reached its twenty-fifth performance at the Theatre des Westens, and is still running merrily both here and at the Berliner. Notwithstanding its popularity, Director Prasch has decided to produce the new operetta, *Der Herr der Hann*, without more delay, and this will be given to-morrow evening.

BERNARD SHAW'S five-act drama, *Cæsar und Cleopatra*, will be produced very shortly at the Neues. Herr Steinrück and Frau Eysoldt are cast for the name-parts. *Ein Sommernachtstraum* is otherwise filling the bill at the Neues to the exclusion of well-nigh all other plays.

THE second opera of the Mozart Cycle, now being given at the Royal Opera, was *Figaro's Hochzeit*. This took place on Saturday before a crowded audience, and in the presence of the Emperor, Empress, and Prince August. Dr. Richard Strauss conducted, and the performance was, for the most part, excellent. On His Majesty's birthday an opera, entitled *Der Lange Kerl*, specially written and composed by Victor Boikowsky Biedan, will be given at the gala performance in the Opera House.

SARDOU'S ever-popular comedy, *Cyprienne* (*Divorçons*) was revived at the Schiller N. last week, and met with so much success that it is being given several times this week and next. The acting was better than it has been for some time, the cast being an unusually well-rounded one. Fräulein Brock was charming in the title-rôle—I have seen more famous actresses in the part with no more success—and she was rewarded in a worthy manner. The other chief parts were given by Herren Otto, Koestlin, and Rosan.

"KINDER DER SONNE,"

Play, in Four Acts, by Maxim Gorki, German by Alexander von Huhn, Produced at the Kleines Theatre, Jan. 25, 1906.

Protassoff ..... HERR LICHO
Liesa ..... FRAULEIN NEUSTADTER
Helena ..... FRAULEIN WALDEGG
Wagin ..... HERR KUHNERT
Tschepurnoi ..... HERR ABEL
Melanie ..... FRAULEIN GRUENING
Awdesevitch ..... HERR HEINICH
Mischa ..... HERR KROENING
Jegor ..... HERR KLEIN-RHODEN
Awdotja ..... FRAULEIN ROMER
Troschin ..... HERR WALTER
Amonowna ..... FRAULEIN WERNER
Phima ..... FRAULEIN OLLY
Luscha ..... FRAULEIN WESTPHAL
Roman ..... HERR HELMER
Arzt ..... HERR DANEGGER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Feb. 1.—It may at once be stated that Gorki's new drama was disappointing. The interest here, however, in the Russian author is so great—owing to the unparalleled success of his *Nachtasyl*—that *Kinder der Sonne* will certainly prove a draw, for a while at any rate. The reception accorded was cordial, but without any enthusiasm, and many of the audience were openly bored at the over-long dissertations. Gorki was not present, as the public had been led to believe, and that was to many another source of disappointment. The play is hardly worthy of the name; it is a series of disconnected scenes that would be better placed in a novel. The chief interest lies in the absolutely Russian character of the details, the language, and the persons of the play. Gorki has retained his strong individuality in the drawing of the lower types of the Russian people—the brute beast in man; but in his portrayal of the "children of the sun"—the better classes—he is less happy, and far more stereotyped than we have yet known him. Paul Feodorovitch Protassoff is a scientific chemist, who lives in his experiments and his dreams, and neglects his pretty wife, Helena Nicolajevna. She—otherwise the best of women—feels the slight, and thus falls a prey to the attentions of Dimitri Wagin, a painter and a friend of her husband's. Protassoff's sister Liesa now claims our attention. This is one of the most remarkable characters of the play. Deeply imbued with the terror of the times and of her unhappy country, Liesa is a pessimist; she inclines to melancholy more and more as the piece proceeds, until one is not surprised when at the end her brain gives way under the pressure of circumstances. The girl is loved by Tschepurnoi, a veterinary surgeon, and though she returns his affection, she will not marry him, having lost all faith in happiness. Her lover commits suicide, which unnecessary step causes Liesa to lose her reason, and she is with difficulty deterred from taking her own life. At the end of the piece there is a powerful scene; the peasants rise in a body against the doctors and students, who they—in the senseless and brutal fury which we are told is so typically Russian—declare have brought the cholera into the country. Protassoff is wounded in the fray, but recovers. There are a number of incidental episodes, one being the amorous advances of Melanie, a widow, who tries in vain to gain the interest of Protassoff; and another is the bestial conduct of Jegor, a man of lowest type and a wife-beater. The piece has a good deal in common with Tolstoi's *Powers of Darkness*, the same lofty ideals, the same drastic contrasts, while the profound melancholy characteristic of Gorki is apparent in most of the scenes. Herr von Huhn has translated the interesting work in a masterly manner, and the cast did its utmost to convey the author's intention. Particularly good were Fräuleins Neustädter and Waldegg, and Herren Licho, Abel, and Klein-Rhoden.

THE successful farce-burlesque *Bis früh um Fünfe* has passed its 150th consecutive performance at the Thalia, and there is no sign at present of any falling off in popularity. Author, artists, and managers were subjected to ovations on the occasion of the jubilee.

THE Schiller Theatre had a genuine *première* on Wednesday last, an event to be recorded. It was the work of a new author, too, which was performed, the four-act Biblical play, *Königsglaube*, by Hermann Stodte, a resident, I believe, of Lübeck. Out of the life of King David, his heroisms and his frailties, the author has drawn a number of highly dramatic scenes. We see the King in middle and old age, the struggle of his son Adonias to obtain the crown, and David's curses upon the would-be usurper ring in our ears. We are shown many scenes that have their origin less in the Old Testament than in the author's imagination, but on the whole, though crude and faulty in parts, it is an interesting work with traces of distinctive talent. Herr Stodte was called before the curtain several times in response to cordial applause, and his play will no doubt hold its place in the bill for some time to come. The interpretation was very satisfactory, as was also the mounting.

MISS ISADORA DUNCAN, the charming American dancer who illustrates Chopin, Gluck, and others of the old masters, gave her first evening of the season on Tuesday at the Theatre des Westens. The programme was a very varied one, including selections from many composers, the numbers which pleased the audience most being "Orpheus" and "Bacchus und Ariadne." Miss Duncan danced entirely unaided for nearly two hours, and with but brief intervals. She was rewarded with storms of applause from a crowded audience. In one of the large boxes the children—some twenty in number—of the Duncan School sat and applauded their leader, and made a delightful picture in their white Greek costumes.

HERR FRANK WEDEKIND'S play *Hidalla* has reached, by hook or by crook, its 50th performance at the Kleines. This enigmatical piece was fully detailed in your columns on its production; it is one of the poorest works we have ever been called upon to witness, and one of our critics terms it an outrage upon morals and good taste. It is a matter of astonishment that any manager could keep it in the bill so long. The author again gave the chief rôle, but that fact did not contribute to the entertainment of the audience in the least. Herr Wedekind, by the way, has been engaged for several years by Herr Reinhardt, manager of the Deutsches Theatre.

AN enterprising journalist has been interviewing our principal authors with a view to learning how they do their work, and we have heard some interesting items. Herr Hauptmann is the quickest of workers, for he tells us that he usually dictates his plays to his secretary. Thus *Elga* was begun and finished in two and a half days, *College Crampton* in ten, and *Der Biberpelz* in twelve days. *Und Pippa Tanzt* took two months to write. Herr Hauptmann does not write—or dictate—every day; if he did so some fifty plays would emanate from him in a year, "and," asks the famous dramatist modestly, "who would read them all?" Herr von Wildenbruch and Herr Sudermann never dictate their works, fearing thus to mar the beauty of the German tongue. All three authors write in the morning only, and consider night work of little value.

THE LATE MISS ELIZABETH BESSLE.

Miss Elizabeth Bessle, whose death on Jan. 24 we announced last week, made her last appearance on the stage supporting her friend, Miss Constance Crawley, in a play written by the latter, and given experimentally in the suburbs. Before that her last part was Lady Harborough in *The Second in Command*, which she played for four tours, under the management of Messrs. Ben Greet and Bannister Howard, but always under the personal direction of Miss Bessle's kind friend, Miss Harriet Greet.

The portrait is from a photograph taken by Lafayette at Dublin, when she was there with the Pinero Comedy Company, and is as Ruth Rolt in *Sweet Lavender*, a favourite part, which she preferred to almost any other, except the rôles she played in Shakespeare.

Miss Bessle was buried on the 26th ult., at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, at Stratford-on-Avon. The funeral was, by her own desire, very quiet and private, only a few near personal friends accompanying Miss Bessle's sisters to Stratford on the evening of the 25th ult., where, after a short service, the coffin remained for the night, covered by a quantity of brilliantly-coloured flowers, sent by friends who knew her dislike of the melancholy effect of white blossoms on such occasions. At half-past eight on Friday morning a Requiem

THE LATE MISS ELIZABETH BESSLE.

Mass was said by her friend and director, the Rev. J. Cooney, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Wandsworth, and afterwards the Funeral Service was read by Father Cooney, assisted by the Rev. J. G. Atheron, Vicar of St. Gregory's.

MR. SUGDEN AND MRS. LANGTRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The following letters, which have appeared in several Johannesburg papers, will explain the position. I am coming home at once, and shall bring an action against Mrs. Langtry when she returns in March. I should feel obliged if you would kindly publish my letter in your paper.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES SUGDEN.

Rand Club, Johannesburg.
Jan. 7.

(Copy.)

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE STAR."

Sir,—I shall consider it a favour if you would allow me through the columns of your paper to protest against the use of my name appearing in the cast of *The Walls of Jericho* in the programmes of His Majesty's Theatre, as I have ceased to be a member of Mrs. Langtry's company. The reason of my withdrawal is fully explained in the accompanying letter, which I received from Mrs. Langtry's representative on Tuesday morning last, and which I shall be obliged if you will kindly publish.—I am, &c.,

CHARLES SUGDEN.

Jan. 4.

(Copy.)

His Majesty's Theatre, Johannesburg,
Jan. 1, 1906.

To Charles Sugden, Esq., Langham Hotel, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of Mrs. Langtry, I beg to give you notice that you have broken your contract by going in front of the house to-night without permission, and refusing to leave when asked to do so by Mr. Young, Messrs. Wheeler's manager.

I have to inform you that your services will no longer be required, and shall be obliged if you will return your part to the stage manager to-morrow morning.—Yours truly,

WM. ALBERT.
(Manager for Mrs. Langtry).

MISS KITTIE CORRIE, second girl at the Grand Theatre, Islington, was presented with a very handsome gold-mounted hand bag by Miss Kitty Beresford (first girl), for taking her part at short notice.

SHAKESPEARE'S *Taming of the Shrew* was given a few evenings ago at the Berliner with scant success. The burlesque tone was the prevailing one, as is too often here the case in Shakespeare's lighter plays, and was carried to such an unwarrantable extent that caricature was bordered upon and the fine points of the work were lost. Herr Bonn—the new manager and lessee of the Berliner—gave the part of Petruchio, and his wife, Frau Maria Bonn, that of Kate, neither rendering being good, and the latter distinctly faulty in tone and conception. Some of the other rôles were satisfactorily sustained, and the audience expressed appreciation in warm applause.

M. de Féraudy's pet pupil, M. Gaston Brou, who created such an excellent Impression at last year's Conservatoire competition, will make a very interesting début at the Odeon in *Louis XI.*, one of the most difficult rôles in the repertoire. It is a risky venture for a young beginner.

Another lady is leaving the halls for the legitimate stage. It is Mdlle. Valentine Petit, whom we applauded in her charming dances at the Folies Bergère and the Olympia, and who will soon make her appearance on one of our large theatres in a small rôle. I also hear of another choregraphic star of the opera ballet now working hard trying to correct her somewhat faulty enunciation.

"MY COUSIN MARCO."

Farce, in Three Acts, by Arthur Law, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, on Thursday, Jan. 25.

The Duke of Barncastle ..... MR. KENNETH BLACK
The Earl of Pulborough ..... MR. W. T. LOVELL
The Hon. John Fanshawe ..... MR. GEOFFREY GUISE
Marco Pescara ..... MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Bulger ..... MR. W. H. SAMS
Footman ..... MR. ARTHUR BELL
Waiter ..... MR. GEORGE ROBINSON
The Duchess of Barncastle ..... MISS ANNIE HILL
The Countess of Pulborough ..... MISS GLADYS MASON
Lady Geraldine Esdale ..... MISS DIDO DRAKE
Miss Pansy Van Brunt ..... MISS GLADYS HOMFREY
Mrs. Bulger ..... MISS JESSICA BLACK
Maid Servant ..... MISS MURIELLE LANGLEY

The *première* of this new three-act farce, written by Mr Arthur Law for Mr. Weedon Grossmith, was given at the Canterbury Theatre Royal, originally built by Mr. Sidney Cooper, R.A., for the Canterbury Cricket Week "Old Stagers." The lesseeship of the theatre has recently passed into the hands of the Répertoire Theatre Association, with Mr. Edward Michael as director. Needless to state, the clever writer of *The New Boy* and *A Country Mouse* has put into the new production some capital work, and it was played, with the exception of Mr. Geoffrey Guise and Miss Gladys Homfrey, by the same company which supported Mr. Grossmith at Terry's, at the Comedy Theatre, and on his recent tour. There was a large audience to witness the first production of *My Cousin Marco*, and its reception was distinctly flattering. The piece has a better defined plot than many of the lighter style of plays which in recent years have been so much in vogue, it is bright and amusing, the dialogue contains many witty gems, and as the characters shake down to their respective parts they may be relied upon to enhance the fun of the piece.

In Act I., which is laid in the library of Lord Pulborough's London house, we are introduced to the newly-wedded Earl and Countess of Pulborough, and the lovers, the Hon. John Fanshawe and Lady Geraldine Esdale, all of whom are anxiously awaiting news of the arrival of a very wealthy aunt from Chicago, Miss Pansy Van Brunt. To the liberality of this lady the Earl has hitherto been greatly indebted, and all the young people are anxious to shine in her good graces. Meantime there arrives on the scene Marco Pescara, an Italian waiter at the Carlton Hotel, who has been fortunate enough to find a diamond bracelet which was lost overnight at a dinner-party by Lady Geraldine, and who has great ideas as to the amount of remuneration to which he is entitled as a reward. While the Earl and Marco are arranging this little matter in the study Aunt Pansy arrives. She is a lady of imposing presence, forceful methods, and strong American accent, with hat of sage green and pink and a plaid dress. Having been cordially received by the Earl and his prospective brother-in-law, she intimates without unnecessary circumlocution her desire to discuss with the former a matter of business, reminds him that his marriage was hastily accomplished despite her request for a short delay, and reveals the fact that she has ascertained on good authority that the grandmother of his wife was a woman of colour. This in America, she explains, is looked upon as a terrible disgrace, and if it proves to be true she will find it necessary to reduce the allowance of £2,000 a year which she has hitherto made to the Earl by one-half and the promised marriage gift of £100,000 will go instead to Geraldine. The unhappy Earl is, of course, terrified by the prospect; he is full of assurances that his worthy relative is misinformed, and eventually hits upon the device of introducing Marco, who is still waiting in another apartment, as Count di Pescara, to pose as the cousin of his wife and to prove that his wife is of Italian, and not Mulatto extraction The trick succeeds, and Miss Pansy, who is really a good sort at bottom, is greatly relieved to find her terrible suspicions unfounded.

In the first scene of Act. II. the party are, four days later, assembled in a private sitting-room at the Palace Hotel, Brighton, when the reappearance of Marco strikes terror to the hearts of the Earl and his fellow conspirator, Fanshawe. The quick-witted Italian, having realised the power of his position, had ascertained their whereabouts, and determined to maintain the deception. Upon the unsuspecting ladies he has made a very good impression, and it is not long before, having discovered the wealth of Miss Pansy, he proceeds to make ardent professions of love to her, eventually extracting a promise that she will give him her answer a week hence. Subsequently the Duke of Barncastle (father of Fanshawe) arrives with the Duchess, and is struck with the similitude of Marco to a Carlton Hotel waiter, who was insolent as to the amount of his "tip" on a recent occasion. Subsequently Marco and his inamorata go for a motor drive, and the curtain falls upon the sensation caused by the intelligence that in the temporary absence of the chauffeur the motor was in some way started, and that a terrible catastrophe must have occurred. It would appear to be questionable, however, whether the unaccompanied trip was not due to the duplicity of the soi-disant Count, for in the second scene they prove to have arrived at a wood several miles distant from Brighton. Here, however, a mishap does occur; both are thrown out, and the Count somewhat considerably damaged. They are befriended by a burly tramp and his wife, and subsequently Marco takes advantage of the shattered nerves of his companion to induce her to marry him on the following day at the neighbouring township of Hockley.

Act III. finds the agitated party still sojourning at the Brighton hotel a couple of days later. Failing any news of a tragedy, they begin to fear an elopement, and their apprehensions are in no sense dispelled by the receipt of a telegram: "Quite safe, gone to London. Will write.—Pansy." Later comes a notification of her intended arrival, and shortly after Aunt Pansy, clad in festal white, introduces "the Count," to whom, it appears, she had been married that morning. They propose to have the wedding breakfast with their friends at Brighton, and then to proceed on to Paris for the honeymoon. The Duke is by this time so sure of the identity of Marco that he charges him with the imposition, but on being promised £1000 consents to remain silent. Worse trouble is, however, in store, for during the wedding breakfast the strains of an organ playing the "Wedding March" are heard from outside, and when Marco, in an unlucky moment, consents to throw some money to the woman, she recognises him as her husband. The Earl and Fanshawe are, of course, not slow to profit by the discovery, and under threats of a prosecution for bigamy Marco makes his exit, leaving the unhappy Aunt Pansy in hysterics.

The farce was remarkably well put on for a first night, and, as we have said, its reception was most gratifying. Mr. Weedon Grossmith gave a very clever imitation of the broken English and foreign accent of the Italian waiter, and his occasional lapses when figuring as the Count were extremely amusing. The melodramatic love scene in the wood, played at a time when the lover is very inelegant both in appearance and gait from the results of the motor accident, should afford scope for even additional point and development, and the wedding breakfast and final proceedings went extremely well. Miss Gladys Homfrey, who played the leading part with Mr. Grossmith in *The New Boy*, is well suited to the character of the Chicago lady, and played the part admirably. The conversion of the shrewd, matter-of-fact business woman by the glamour of the love-making of the supposed Italian nobleman was remarkably well suggested. Messrs. Lovell and Guise did excellently well as the worried conspirators, and Miss Gladys Mason and Miss Dido Drake as the Countess and Lady Geradine were deserving of all praise. The aristocratic Duke and Duchess were impersonated with becoming hauteur and distinction, and the other minor parts were in good hands. The play was produced by Mr. Percy Foster and the author, with Mr. Richard Maynard as business manager for Mr. Weedon Grossmith.

PIT AND GALLERY QUEUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have a suggestion, which I will put into a nutshell.

5.0 p.m.—The "pay-box" opens. From this time to the hour of opening playgoers arrive, buy their tickets—issued, of course, in the order of number—and go off on their individual pursuits.

7.45 p.m.—Playgoers are expected to be back at the theatre by this time (a note to that effect appearing on the tickets), and take their places in a queue, the order being indicated—as in a scheme recently put forward—by either portable stands or tablets on the wall, bearing the numbers 20, 30, 40, and so on. A commissionaire now goes along examining the tickets, to see that each person is in his or her proper place.

8.0 p.m.—The door opens, the check-taker allowing persons to pass in one by one to prevent any "rushing" of the seats: since under this scheme the latter would not be numbered. Those ticket-holders (very few, if any) who are not back at the theatre in time to take their places in the queue before opening-time, of course, have to take their chance (a note to that effect appearing on the tickets).

The above would not constitute "advance booking" of the pit and gallery (which, as a body, I think, the habitués of those parts of the house do *not* want, inasmuch as the pay-box would not open before the time at which, under the existing régime, the queue begins to form; it would simply secure for the playgoer a definite place in a fifteen-minute queue to retain which, at present, necessitates a wait of two or three hours.

As a modification the seats might of course be numbered, necessitating no queue at all.—Yours faithfully,

F. E. POTTER.

Putney, Jan. 22, 1906.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF AMUSEMENT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In reference to Mr. Poole's wise and timely remarks *re* the jokes of a partisan nature to which we are often treated at theatres and music halls, it appears such a short-sighted policy to make them that one wonders at the offenders. It requires real genius to invent a political jest which shall amuse all and offend few. What would these gentlemen say if their tobacconist started selling his cigars and tobacco wrapped up in tractlets denouncing "theatres and play-actors"? They are, perhaps, misled by the applause such efforts sometimes obtain, forgetting that to "boo" as emphatically as you may applaud would ensure the prompt attention of the attendant. The attendant may stop the "boo," but he cannot make anybody come and pay twice.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES CROZIER.

Bath, Jan. 30, 1906.

A NEW version of *Oliver Twist*, by Grahame Watson, will shortly be produced at the Grand Theatre, Forest Gate.

ALLY SLOPER'S
DIAMOND RING COMPETITION
(£100 in PRIZES)
For the Most Popular Pantomime Actress is going strong.
The first week's Ring was won by Miss ETHEL NEGRETTI ("Crown" Pantomime, Peckham).
The winner of the second week's Ring was Miss KITTY MALONE, appearing at the New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.
The winner of the third week's Ring, Miss KITTY BERESFORD, Principal Girl in the Grand (Islington) Pantomime.
The winner of the fourth week's Ring was Miss NELLIE BURDETTE, New Theatre Royal (Birkenhead) Pantomime.
Ladies should interest their friends in the scheme.
Papers containing Coupons can be ordered from any Newsagent, and Communications and Remittances addressed to THE SLOPERIES, LONDON, E.C., will receive immediate attention.
Ally Sloper's Half Holiday—1d. *every Saturday.*

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, January 29,
The Musical Comedy in two Acts, by
Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

After enjoying a successful run of five weeks the pantomime here came to a conclusion on Saturday last, and was followed on Monday by *The Catch of the Season*, which might very well be described as "Cinderella Up-to-Date." It abounds in witty lines and tuneful music, which, together with a capital company, fine scenery, and magnificent costumes, make the performance as bright and attractive as could be desired. The acting all round is excellent. Miss Maie Ash scores a decided hit as Angela, playing her part with such charm and intelligence. Her songs, too, are rendered with excellent effect, especially "Teasing." Another good performance is given by Mr. Frank Lincoln as the Duke of St. Jermyns, his clever and spirited acting greatly adding to the success. Miss Hettie Muret, as the Hon. Honoria Bedford, is seen to advantage, her fine singing being greatly appreciated. As the Hon. Sophia Belford Miss Alice Lethbridge's clever and graceful dancing is deservedly encored. The haughty Lady Crystal is successfully portrayed by Miss Belle Napier, and Mrs. A. B. Tapping gives an excellent presentation of the good-natured Lady Caterham. Mr. Laurence Caird is responsible for an excellent picture of the stuttering Lord Dundreary; Mr. Julian Cross is a capable exponent of the part of Sir John Crystal; and Miss Hilda Stewart as the Duchess of St. Jermyns and Miss Ernestine Gauthier as Miss Caw both created a favourable impression, the last-named's rendering of the song "Singing Bird" being accorded much applause. Master Grata played the part of Bucket with pronounced success, and amongst others giving good support mention may be made of Mr. Alfred Lloyd, as Higham Montague; Mr. Evelyn Wickens, as Lord Yatton; Mr. E. W. Royce—who contributes a good song—as Mr. William Gibson; Mr. Robert McGrath, as Captain Bushpool; and Mr. Cecil P. Pearce, as Almeric Montpelier.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Frederick Melville, entitled
"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."

Full of stirring situations, and bristling with cleverly-contrived incidents, this original play of Mr. Frederick Melville's has quickly found favour in Marylebone. Foremost amongst the strong dramatic company engaged is Mr. Fred D. Daviss, whose Jack Barrymore ("The Beast") stands out clear as an impersonation of singular merit. With a fine enunciation and a well defined method, Mr. Daviss quickly secures a hold on the house. As Henry Denver, otherwise known as Lord, Mr. Bernard Mervyn portrays villainy in clever fashion; Mr. Ronald Adair is grim and earnest as Ned Sampson; Mr. James Neal is resourceful as Joe Pugsley; Mr. Bernard J. Liell scores as the Earl of Loman; and Mr. Will Corrie enacts the part of Tom Chicken with plenty of life and go, causing much laughter, his efforts in this direction being ably backed up by Miss Jennie Danvers as Mimi. Miss Alice Bowes is pretty and engaging as Violet ("Beauty"), making many friends; and Miss Georgette Thierry sustains the important rôle of Delilah Vane, with a full appreciation of its possibilities. Mr. William Fraser-Brunner is the general manager for Mr. Frederick Melville, and Mr. James Sinclair looks after Mr. William Bailey's interests in front in his customary efficient and courteous way.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Play, dramatised from Charles Dickens's novel, entitled
"OLIVER TWIST."

After a prosperous run of pantomime, the cosy little Kingston playhouse returned to serious drama on Monday night, when Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened a week's engagement in *Oliver Twist*. The dramatised version of a story familiar to all aroused a keen interest amongst those who witnessed its production, and its reception, which was most cordial, was as much a tribute to the skill of the artists taking part in the play as to the genius of the great novelist. Mr. Howard himself played the part of Fagin, and with a marvellous make-up invested the part with a realism that impressed all parts of the house. Mr. William H. Kemble appeared as the burly Bill Sikes, and gave a fine impersonation of the part; Mr. Charlie Clark as the Artful Dodger and Miss Dorothy Marsdin in the title-rôle were each well selected for the parts. Miss Marie Bollini made a favourable impression as Nancy, and Miss Alice Maud as Mrs. Maylie and Miss Helen Clement as Rose Maylie acquitted themselves creditably in their respective parts. The part of Harry Maylie was ably portrayed by Mr. Cyril Cattley, and others in a strong cast deserving of particular mention were Mr. Reginald C. Hunter (Charlie Bates), Mr. Arthur Brown (Mr. Brownlow), Mr. Edward Walsh (Mr. Bumble), and Mr. W. H. Rotherham (Mr. Grimwig and Monks). The play was admirably staged, both as to scenery and costumes.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

The dramatic season at this handsome new theatre was begun on Monday with the evergreen *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which, to judge from the reception accorded here this week to Mr. John Tully's company, is still as great a favourite as ever. Mr. William Taylor is well suited as Uncle Tom, and plays the part of the faithful old retainer with a pathetic realism which was most affecting. Miss Florence Venimore skilfully doubles the rôles of Eliza Harris and the slave Cassey, and is especially successful in some of the latter character's strong scenes with Simon Legree, notably the one ending in the slave-owner's death at Cassy's hands. Legree is played with just the right touch of vengeful ferocity by Mr. Fred G. Kay, who soon earns the hearty execrations of the house. As Aunt Ophelia Miss Marie Lyndon is a veritable "model of order," and gives satisfactory expression to the good lady's horror and indignation at the various "goings on" of Topsy. The last-named character finds a vigorous representative in Miss Kitty Wood, whose good spirits and lively acting soon make her a favourite. The child Eva is cleverly impersonated by Little Marie; Mr. Charles Colwyn plays St. Clair in good style; Mr. John Tully is amusing as Fletcher, a Kentuckian pedlar; Mr. J. D. Geddes is a manly George Harris; Miss Rebecca White acts well as Aunt Chloe; and the minor parts are all well-handled. In the last act is introduced a "grand plantation festival," in which much appreciated special turns are contributed by Misses Kitty Wood, Florrie Mack, and Lilian Francis, and by Messrs. Billy Taylor, King Roy, and H. Danby.

GRAND THEATRE, FOREST GATE.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Drama, by Mark Melford, entitled
"FLYING FROM JUSTICE."

After the run of the successful pantomime, the stock company presented on Monday Mark Melford's exciting drama, *Flying from Justice*. Mr. George Harvey gave a convincing and manly rendering of the clergyman, John Lacarsy; Mr. T. W. Broadley as J. Haldane, a notorious criminal, played in a clever manner; Mr. Herbert Sibley, a great favourite, was most successful as Major Parkes; Miss Nellie Lucas filled the rôle of Mildred Parkes most artistically; Miss Eleanor Glover gave a powerful rendering of the adventuress; Mrs. Baring had a clever exponent in Miss Beatrice Wilson; Mr. Arthur Snow looked and played the part of Charles Bearing with his usual success; and Mr. John Hill and Mr. Oliver Martyn respectively as Pearley Tanner and Woodruff, completed an exceptionally strong cast. Mr. Jack White has worked hard to make this little house a popular resort.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

A second edition of *Cinderella*, which gave a new lease of life to this popular pantomime, was produced on Monday. The comedians have introduced new patter and business, which makes the performance more successful than ever. Among the new additions are "Hear the pipers calling, Jenny mine," capitally sung by Miss Lily Iris, who also gives "The Stowaway," which was redemanded. Miss Mollie McIntyre, with Miss Iris, sings a very pretty swing duet entitled "She's the daisiest daisy," in which the ladies of the chorus, garbed like that pretty flower, assist, making a very effective picture. Miss Madge Yates's reply song, "Yes, you are," is greatly popular. Mr. G. French and Mr. T. Conway are the life and soul of the pantomime, and the audience never seem to have enough of these two artists, who cause roars of laughter whenever they occupy the stage. Mr. French still gives "She's ma daisie," which is encored again and again. The pantomime, which will run for another week, is undoubtedly the most successful, both financially and artistically, ever seen at Brixton. The students from Guy's Hospital paid a visit this week and presented the principal artists with handsome bouquets and other floral tributes.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

Now that his first pantomime at the new Poplar Theatre has come to a successful termination, Mr. Clarence Sounes is endeavouring to find out in what channels the tastes of his patrons run. He has therefore prepared for them a protean list of entertainments, his season of which opened on Monday with Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *Leah Kleschna*. The attendance on the evening of our visit was most encouraging, and the audience followed the story that was being unfolded before them with keen interest. This piece will certainly serve as one indication of local likings, and high-class drama will find ready support from Poplar theatre-goers. Next week *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is to be presented, while during the following week *The Eternal City* will be staged, and the week after that the attraction will be *The Catch of the Season*, to be succeeded by *The Prodigal Son*. The company performing in *Leah Kleschna* this week is a most capable one. There is Mr. H. Cooper-Cliffe, whose acting in the rôle of Kleschna is both vigorous and subtle—vigorous and threatening when he is instructing his daughter to commit crime, and to do other things she really doesn't want to do, and subtle in the scene where he is face to face with Paul Sylvaine, and where his efforts to control his feelings meet with such little success. Mr. J. Graeme Campbell presents a fine-drawn study of Paul Sylvaine, and his encounter with Leah immediately after he has disturbed her in her burglarious act is admirably well played. Miss Haidee Wright, in the rôle of Leah Kleschna, displays pronounced ability for tragedy, and it is not too much to say that her performance of a difficult part is a highly finished piece of work. An interesting portraiture, too, is that of Mr. Cyril Harcourt, as Raoul Berton, the characterisation being just what it should be. Mr. Kenneth Rivington acts with dignity and soldierly straightforwardness as General Berton; and Mr. E. H. Brooke is praiseworthy as Schram.

CARLTON THEATRE, GREENWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 29, was presented the
Drama, in Three Acts, by C. Watson Mill, entitled
"A WRECKER OF MEN."

A large and appreciative audience assembled to witness the representation of the above drama, which made a success on its last visit here some few months ago. The part of Jim Murley was admirably acted by the author-manager, Mr. C. Watson Mill; Mr. Gilson Brooke was excellent as Railton; Mr. Milner Noble gave a picturesque impersonation of Pharosaphus; Mr. Percy Horton was very good as Guise Strange; Mr. N. Carter Slaghter gave a good account of the Hon. Reggie Verincourt; Mr. Henry Rutland must be congratulated on his excellent acting of the parts of Karnaphus and Ezekiel Isaacs; Mr. Alfred Maurice was very good as Eric Melville; and the remaining male parts were all capitally acted. Miss Rosalind Tate submitted a powerful performance of the character of Risca Mallinson; Miss Cissie Podmore made a charming Dorris Melville; and Miss Kittie Melville was very amusing as Vivasole Slopper.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Pantomime, written by Newman Maurice,
with Music by Frank Bradsell, entitled
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

The pantomime *Sinbad*, after a phenomenally successful run, terminated on Saturday night, and on Monday Mr. James's production from Croydon became the reigning attraction, an excellent audience witnessing the initial performance. *Little Red Riding Hood*, like its predecessor, is from the versatile pen of Mr. Maurice, the acting-manager here, and a very attractive version of the story is the result. Mr. Bradsell, who is responsible for the music, has utilised a large number of the usual hits of the season, together with a good deal of original music, and the score is skilfully arranged and effective. The mounting is on a very complete scale, and Mr. James deserves congratulations on the many picturesque sets that adorn the production. Miss Rita Rhylle, who plays the title-rôle, is a very young lady, albeit a very clever and dainty artist. In her hands the character is very attractive, and her singing is a feature of her performance. Miss Ethel Dove as Robin Hood is an excellent principal boy, singing and dancing with great success, and enlivening the stage whenever she is on. The Sisters Brand, as Jack and Jill, are well placed as second boy and girl, and introduce a clever series of national dances in the Palace scene. Miss Kitty Reveni as the Fairy is effective, and uses a well-trained voice with effect. Mr. Herbert Williams, an old favourite here, scores an emphatic success as Granny, his quips and gags appealing strongly to the humorous perceptions of the audience. Mr. Charles Marston as the Wolf plays the part in a requisite melodramatic vein, and displays a good voice in his song, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind." Mr. Alf. Aubyn as Lawyer Fox is quaint and amusing, and sings and dances to the evident enjoyment of the audience. A feature of this pantomime is the introduction of that old trap-door work that used to thrill the youngsters. Mr. Fred Regina, who controls this portion of the performance, gives an exhibition that is remarkably smart and clever, and well deserves the call he gains at its termination. Messrs. Condon and Preston as Pen and Ink exhibit much humour as cross-talk comedians and are of value to the production. In the Palace scene Mons. Levano, a clever acrobat, and Knoto, a contortionist, appear, and give in each case a good show, which gained deserved applause. There is a well-trained ballet, with Miss Idalia May as the principal dancer, and the first part closes with a novel and pretty Snow Ballet. The harlequinade which closes is on the old familiar lines, with Messrs. Condon and Preston as clown and pantaloon, Mr. Syd Morton as harlequin, Miss Hardingham as columbine, and Mr. E. Lidden as the policeman. Mr. Syd Morton, who has produced the pantomime, under the supervision of Mr. James, deserves a word for the smooth performance he secured on Monday, and Mr. Bradsell conducted the augmented orchestra and chorus.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 29, 1906,
the Musical Play, entitled
"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

Mr. George Dance's company is at the Pavilion this week with *A Chinese Honeymoon*, which secured a most enthusiastic reception on Monday night from a demonstrative audience, who called for all the favourite numbers again and again. The songs and dances are exceptionally good, while every praise must be given to the very fine and energetic chorus, which, together with the capital augmented orchestra under the efficient direction of Mr. H. R. Mathews, worked with conspicuous ability throughout the performance, and gave unabated enjoyment. A graceful and fascinating Soo-Soo is presented by Miss Ada Watson, who possesses a remarkably sweet voice, and who was heard to advantage in her exquisite rendering of "Egypt"; while a winsome and captivating Mrs. Pineapple was found in Miss Poppy Wilkinson, who proved herself an accomplished singer and dancer, her coon song "Maudie from Ohio" being vociferously re-demanded. Miss Edie Ross depicts the severe and masterful manner of Mrs. Brown with good effect, and Miss Dolly Bell and Miss Florence Linton are charming representatives of Sing-Sing and Yen-Yen. Mr. Foster Courtenay is highly amusing as Mr. Pineapple, and keeps the audience supplied with genuine humour, scoring a distinct success with his song "Home from home." A droll and clever performance of Hang Chow is given by Mr. St. John Hamund, who must be complimented on his admirable make-up, while his topical melody "The Ladies" was the subject of frequent encores. Mr. L. Bullock-Webster is seen as Tom Hatherton, and makes the most of his limited opportunities, and Mr. Jack Lisle deserves approbation as Hi Lung. Mr. Percy Russell is perfectly satisfactory as Chippi-Chop, and the bridesmaids are vivaciously impersonated by Miss Lillie Hildroe, Miss Mabel Thornton, Miss Madge Shaw, and Miss Isobel Vivian. Miss Minnie Leslie must be warmly congratulated on her extremely funny presentment of Fi-Fi; her facial expression, make-up, and grotesque eccentricities are irresistible in their comicality, and provide a large share of the evening's mirth, while her representations of popular personages in the second act fairly bring down the house. Miss Harriette Greene is piquant as Mi-Mi, and the scenery, dresses, and mounting are excellent. Mr. Colin Bryce is the courteous business manager for Mr. George Dance.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Jan. 29.
the Drama, in Five Acts,
by Henry Pettitt and Augustus Harris, entitled,
"HUMAN NATURE,"

The above popular military drama is attracting large audiences at Rotherhithe this week. The play is full of exciting incidents, and the scene in Act 4—Trafalgar Square, the return of the troops from the Zulu War—makes a fine picture, and is loudly applauded. Mr. Ashley Page scores a great success in the part of Captain Temple, and his manly and intelligent rendering of the character causes him to become a prime favourite with the audience. Mr. H. C. Cooper gives a fine delineation of the rascally solicitor, Matthew Hawker. Mr. Edward Lorley presents a finished rendering of the rôle of Paul de Vigne. Mr. Cyril Vernon does all that is possible with the part of the adventurer, Stephen Mardyke. Mr. H. J. Barrett is excellent as the worthy vicar, the Rev. Arthur Lulworth. Mr. Johnny Chippendale creates a good deal of fun out of the character of Horatio Sperkins. Mr. John Sargent presents a clever character sketch as Joe Lambkin. Little Minnie wins the sympathy of the house as the boy Frank. Dick's death scene is pathetically rendered by Miss Winifred Williamson. That popular leading lady, Miss Marion Denvil, is very sympathetic in the arduous rôle of the heroine, Nellie Temple. The treacherous Cora Grey is played to the life by Miss Doris Gilham. Miss Mattie Everett is humorous as Maggie Wilkins, and Miss Maggie Lindsay gives a clever sketch of the repulsive Mrs. Lambkin.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Play, by William Gillette and A. Conan Doyle, entitled
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

The return of *Sherlock Holmes* to the Dalston Theatre is evidently a popular event, judging by the applause which greets the representation. The part of the great detective is effectively played by Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, who fully realises the importance of surrounding the character with a due amount of mystery combined with enviable coolness. Sherlock Holmes's interview in his Baker-street apartments with Professor Moriarty is an exemplification of this. The Professor Moriarty of Mr. W. F. Stirling is a fine portrayal of cool villainy, varied by occasional outbursts of passion. James Larrabee is another "villain of the piece," but of a more gentlemanly type, and the part is well played by Mr. Earnest Gray. Mr. Philip Renouf makes an interesting Sidney Prince; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood is John Forman; and Mr. Edward Heanley as Dr. Watson, impresses one as being a very genial practitioner. Aristocratic colouring is imparted to the play by Mr. Henry Littlejohn as Sir Edward Leighton and Mr. Sidney Chaplin as Count Von Stahlburg. Miss Gertrude Harrison as Madge Larrabee proves an ardent assistant in her husband's villainous designs; but of course the chief interest centres in Miss Beatrice Marsdene as Alice Faulkner, whose eventful career forms the main theme of the story. Miss Armine Grace appears as Mrs. Faulkner, Miss Constance Howard is Mrs. Smeedley, and Miss Doris Digby the maid, Terese.. The cast also includes Mr. W. Maynard, Mr. W. Mansfield, Mr. E. H. Fairburn, Mr. H. Broughton, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. S. Richardson, and Master Charles Chaplin.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Jan. 29,
the Play, in Four Acts, entitled
"THE ONLY WAY."

The pantomime at the Grand has run its allotted course, and the legitimate drama reigns in its stead. The season opens worthily with a visit from Mr. Martin Harvey and his company in *The Only Way*. This excellent version of Dickens' famous novel, "A Tale of Two Cities," has lost none of its attractiveness, nor has Mr. Martin Harvey's wonderful impersonation of Sydney Carton lost a jot of its power and intensity. His study of the gifted but besotted advocate in the first act is still a veritable triumph of the actor's art. The Trial Scene affords another opportunity for a display of power in a more vigorous rôle, and this is followed in its turn by the tragic intensity of Carton's farewell to his friends in Paris, and the pathos of the final scene with Mimi in the Conciergerie. Mr. Percy Anstey gave good support as Charles Darnay, and makes an excellent lover, bearing himself with the courage of the old noblesse in the hour of trial. As Dr. Manette, both in the prologue and the play proper, Mr. Fred Wright, sen., acts very finely; while Mr. Percy Alexander adds a touch of humour and of manly sincerity as the faithful friend Lorry. Mr. Charles Glenney is a grim and sinister figure as Ernest Defarge, and makes full use of his opportunities; and Mr. Reeve Denbigh is a good representative of the respectable fraud Stryver, the successful barrister for whom Sydney Carton "devilled." Miss Coleridge acts throughout with much tenderness and feeling as Lucie Manette; Miss N. de Silva repeats her former success as the charming Mimi of the earlier scenes, rising to greater heights in the moving final scene. The other members of the company, who fill the minor parts in the Court Scene, and make up the realistically ferocious crowd, all do their work well, and add to the artistic finish of the performance. Mr. Martin Harvey is appearing also in two more of his favourite parts in *The Breed of the Treshams* and *The Cigarette-Maker's Romance*.

CORONET THEATRE.

Cinderella, in its second edition, is "going strong" at the Coronet Theatre. On Monday all Notting Hill-gate turned out agog with excitement to see the 700 boys from the Duke of York's School, whom Mr. Robert Arthur had kindly invited to see the delightful performance. Several new features are introduced in the second edition: notably a pretty duet between Prince Peerless (Miss Katie Vesey) and Cinderella (Miss Ruby Forbes), "My Lulu," and a very pretty ballad, "Two brown eyes," sung by Miss Katie Vesey with singular charm and expression. Mr. T. H. Wood, as Aconite, too, has introduced "Will o' the wisp." The two ugly sisters have improved their parts out of all knowledge; and Messrs. Jno. Brabourne and H. Herbert hold the attention of the audience throughout. The same remark applies to Mr. Ernest Shand as the page Pickles, whose drollery is more pronounced and spontaneous than ever. As Fitter and Fatter, Messrs. Alexandre and Hughes are quaintness and comicality personified, and their duet "Bom-Bombay" goes with a rare rattle. "They're not downhearted—no!" Miss Meg Hamylton, as Dandini, retains all her pristine charm, and Bert Coote's Irish-Indian maids receive a warm welcome whenever they appear, their singing and dancing being especially good. Miss Enid Errol trips on the light fantastic with her customary ability, and all is sweetness and light and genuine fun. The scenes of the Fairy's Boudoir and the Rose Fête are things of beauty and delight.

"KING WOW WOW" AT THE BRITANNIA.

(Second Notice).

This successful pantomime is still in great demand by Hoxtonians. Since its production it has been carefully revised, and new songs, "gags," and dances have been freely introduced. Miss Jessie Preston, the dashing principal boy, who has unfortunately been suffering from a severe cold, has got to work again. She is an ideal Prince, and a prime favourite. During her absence she had an able understudy in Miss Belle Spencer. Miss Lillie Lassah retains the part of Sir Bertie Boulevard. "I'm in love" and "I know it," and "The boys go marching by," are the new numbers allotted to her. This young lady's ability has already been sufficiently borne testimony to, and she has now taken her place in the list of "Brit." pantomime favourites. Miss Joan Preston (Princess Dainty) scores immensely with "Old Japan"; Mr. Jock Preston causes roars of laughter. He is now singing Wilkie Bard's successful song, "The Cowslip and the Cow." Mr. Fred Lawrence (Tommy) and Miss Marie Brian (Sallie Simple) make a decided hit with an amusing duet, "Pictures in the Frame"; Mr. James Albert (Horatio Hardface) and Mr. Edmund Edmunds (Sammy Softun) are great favourites. "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you" is well given by the Misses Blanch Albert and Winnie Evans (Reggie and Elsie); Mr. Willie Albert (Tabby) is assisted by four young ladies in an effective bell dance; new specialities are supplied by the Ten Dixie Girls, Miss Teresa Banteni showing great vocal ability with "There's nobody just like you"; the Misses May Carter, Queenie Hawke, Flo Fryer, and Maggie Taylor excel with a pretty *pas de quatre*. The Britannia pantomime would not be complete without a harlequinade. The scene is described as "a funny street in a funny place, where the fun is fast and furious," and it does not belie its description. Mr. Leo Main and Mr. Willie Albert are the clown and pantaloon, Mr. Harry Milbert (policeman), and the Misses Lizzie and Queenie May as harlequin and columbine, all working well together. All the incidental music and concerted pieces, including a pretty lantern chorus, are composed by Mr. Carl Hamlin, the resident musical-director. Mr. James McCarthy, with the able assistance of Mr. H. Sampson, looks well after the comfort of the audience. Great credit is due to Mr. W. Wauer (stage-manager), for the excellent way in which he has carried out his arduous duties. Mr. Chas. Ross works hard as assistant stage-manager.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, Jan. 29, 1905,
the Comedy, in Three Acts, by T. W. Robertson, entitled
"CASTE."

This old but evergreen comedy is delighting large audiences at the Crouch End Opera House this week. The company is a clever and painstaking combination, and every effort is brought to bear to give a successful rendering of the famous play. Mr. A. P. Kaye, who acts the rôle of the Hon. George D'Alroy, must be congratulated on a polished and highly-finished performance of the part. He must also be credited with a natural manner and good appearance, both of which assist him in giving an admirable rendering of the aristocrat, who marries the girl of his choice in the teeth of all opposition. As Captain Hawtree, Mr. Percy Maitland is well placed. His coolness and sangfroid are an excellent contrast to the go-ahead policy of George D'Alroy. Mr. T. Thorpe Tracey gives a lifelike representation of the despicable old drunkard Eccles. His audacious methods of obtaining money for the purpose of slaking his ever-present thirst, cause much merriment. Mr. E. Harvey White gives a carefully-studied performance of Sam Gerridge, whose methods of wooing are highly appreciated. As Ester Eccles, Miss Minnie Grey is charming. She possesses an attractive appearance, combined with delicacy and grace. Miss Lucy Beaumont as the volatile Polly admirably portrays the characteristics of that vivacious young lady. Miss Nell Gilmore makes a stately and imposing Marquise, and plays the courtly old dame admirably. The comedy is preceded by a comedietta, entitled *A Glass of Port*, by Lewis Coen, which is bright and amusing, and makes a very effective curtain-raiser.

Owing to sudden bereavement in the family of the Sisters Morgan, the parts of principal boy and girl were played at the matinée at the Dalston Theatre on Saturday by Miss Blanche Marion and Miss Annie Laurie. They had to play the parts at a minute's notice, and were warmly thanked by the management.

The in-patients of the Cancer Hospital, Fulham-road, were entertained on Monday evening by a company of ladies and gentlemen under the direction of Miss Cara Bennett. The programme comprised the dramatic sketches, *The Other Woman* and *Cheerful and Musical*, by Ellis Kingsley and Ina Leon Cassilis respectively, and a musical sketch entitled *Echoes of London Life*, given by Mr. Charles Turner, who won repeated encores.

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" at MANCHESTER.

(Second Notice).

Now that Mr. John Hart's pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, has had the advantage of a few weeks' run, the clarified result (though few changes appear to have been made) approaches in quality of entertainment the smoothness and coherence of a delightful musical comedy. The more boisterous fun of pantomime is, of course, in some degree prominent at times; but it does not seriously interfere with the total effect of a refined and successful show. Every member of the cast has settled down into a state of perfect ease, and seems to be enjoying the business quite as much as the audience does, which tends to increase the effect of brightness produced by the pleasing (and sometimes truly gorgeous) scenery, the brilliant dresses, and the unflagging entertainment of the book. Miss Lil Hawthorne has made herself a big favourite as the Prince. Her appearance and her singing voice are excellent, and so are her songs, the principal of which are "Buy a little dolly for the baby," "Tessie," and "Whose little girl are you?" She has also a duet, "That's why I love you," with Miss Mabel Sealby, who is a very charming Princess Beauty, and who, in addition to her acting and clever dancing, makes a hit with her singing of "My Irish Molly, O." Of other ladies in the cast, Miss Erroll Stanhope is vivacious and pleasing, especially in her whistling song; Miss Nora Brocklebank makes an attractive Fairy; and Miss Connie Glenabyn is pleasing as Rudolph. Really excellent fun is contributed by a band of comedians, headed by Mr. Neil Kenyon, a distinct acquisition to the ranks of Scottish laughter-makers. Mr. Kenyon has an irresistible style of his own, and has made a large number of friends by his quaint impersonation of the King, who is tyrannised by a robust and very masculine Queen in the person of Mr. W. H. Rawlins. These two have an amusing burlesque melodramatic episode, assisted by others, in one of the scenes, and are otherwise in perfect business accord. Separately, Mr. Neil Kenyon, in addition to some really clever opening patter, makes a hit with a song called "Tra-la-la," and gives a stump oration, from the top of a barrel, on the "Piscal Fallacy" and other matters, to a group of labour men. Mr. W. H. Rawlins sings "Riding on top of the car" with great success. Mr. George Miller plays the Nurse in a quiet and demure style, and is very amusing in a burlesque game of cards, in which he is the troublesome person who asks questions, and requires to be told every movement of the game. His song, "Beautiful bed," goes well. Mr. Albert Le Fre, page to the Prince, is invariably distinguished by his neat and clever methods, his practised elocution, his resourceful comedy, and his excellent dancing. Plenty of opportunities fall to his share, and among his particular successes are a song called "Now that the Liberals have won," some comic business with an Aladdin's lamp preceding a song and dance, and a speciality with Miss Lil Hawthorn, entitled "On the beach." In addition to these are Messrs. Sandford and Lyons, as Ping and Pong, who provide a considerable amount of comic business, and are exceptionally clever in their simultaneous dancing. A good word should be added for the Kichi-Kichi troupe of dancers, and for the very smooth conduct of the show under Mr. E. T. Steyne.

"CRUSOE'S ADVENTURES" AT MANCHESTER.

(Second Notice).

Few pantomimes could exceed the brilliance and humour exhibited in Mr. John Hart's version of *Crusoe's Adventures*, now swinging merrily along at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, apparently destined to a long and successful run. Siftings here and there have taken place, and opportunities have been cleverly elaborated; while a certain lack of comic business in the second half originally has been remedied by the introduction of the necessary balance between the two parts. From beginning to end there is a vivacity, a constant flow of fun, and an elaborate splendour of dress and scenery which have probably been seldom equalled, and could hardly be surpassed; and great credit is due to Mr. Victor Stevens, the stage manager for the pantomime, for his skilled handling of some of the more difficult scenes—the shipwreck, for example. Miss Georgina Delmar is Robinson Crusoe, and she carries the part through in dashing style. Her vocalism is good, especially in such songs as "My Japanesy Girl" and "Rainbow," the latter being very prettily presented by a rainbow chorus, and a screen in imitation of a fall of rain. As Polly Perkins, Miss Lulu Valli acts pleasingly, and has one good vocal opportunity, of which she takes full advantage, in the singing of "Molly, I love you," aided by a chorus of little middies. Moving through the nautical scenes is Miss Beryl Somerset as Captain Yarns, while dominating them supernaturally are Miss Louie Collier and Mr. Frederick Hobbs, as the Fairy and Davy Jones, both of whom contribute some excellent singing. Excellent fun is forthcoming from the comedians. Mr. Horace Mills, as Billy Crusoe, is productive of immense amusement, full of quaint antics and varied resource; his patter is always funny, and his songs go well. One of them is called "Don't you think he's mad?" another, "If I were a millionaire"; and in the case of a duet on the "Good-bye" theme, with Mr. J. F. McArdle (Will Atkins), a huge success is made. This is, in fact, an exceedingly clever and amusing burlesque of the many "Good-bye" songs in vogue. Mr. J. F. McArdle strikes a note or originality in his depiction of Will Atkins, and he may fairly be marked as one of the successes of the pantomime. Another notable comedian is Mr. Frank Danby as Mrs. Crusoe. Mr. Danby's popularity is indisputable, his patter is excellent, and among his vocal efforts "Barcelona" may be singled out as perhaps the most successful. The remainder of the cast are associated with the adventures on the island. Mr. Colin Coop is the Cannibal King. He is a very suave personage, who would seem to have been on the spot when a certain black girl sang "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you" to an enterprising stranger. Miss May Henderson also figures here as the Black Princess, but not enough opportunities are open to this clever artist. The Haytors do exceedingly well—one of them as Friday, and one as Saturday—both in relation to the book and in their usual acrobatic specialities. The Rosaire Troupe of Animals, etc., complete the cast. Of the scenery, three sets will be long remembered for their extraordinary beauty, the Realms of Coral, the Land of Orchids, and the King's Palace, in which an Eastern pageant closes the pantomime in appropriate splendour.

Presentation.—Mr. Newman Maurice, the popular acting-manager of the Grand Theatre, Islington, was on Saturday the recipient of a gold Albert and pendant from Mr. Samuel James and the other directors as a token of their appreciation of his valuable services.

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "Larola" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White at all Seasons. Invaluable for the Complexion, Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after walking, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

ELECTRIC SPARK, Prince's, Manchester, May 28, 1883.
ELECTROPHOBIA, Manchester, March 26, 1898.
ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT, Theatre Royal, Margate, Dec. 4, 1899.
ELEVENTH HOUR, Olympic, July 18, 1896.
ELFIANA, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept. 30, 1895.
ELFIE; OR, CHERRY TREE INN, Theatre Royal, Glasgow, March 10, 1871.
ELFINELLA, Princess's, Edinburgh, Oct. 15, 1875.
ELFIN TREE, Alexandra Palace, May 12, 1875.
EL FLAMBO, Britannia, Dec. 27, 1875.
ELIGIBLE BACHELOR, Strand, Dec. 9, 1871.
ELIGIBLE VILLA, Gaiety, April 19, 1869.
ELIXIR OF LIFE, Grecian, Sept. 29, 1873.
ELIXIR OF YOUTH, Vaudeville, Sept. 9, 1899.
E-LIZ-A-BETH; OR, THE DON, THE DUCK, AND THE DRAKE, Vaudeville, Nov. 17, 1870.
ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF ENGLAND, Amphitheatre, Liverpool, June 14, 1869.
ELIZABETH STOREY, Theatre Royal, Newcastle, May 4, 1868.
ELLALINE, Forester's Hall, June 3, 1890.
ELLEN; OR, LOVE'S CUNNING, Haymarket, April 14, 1879.
ELLIE BRANDON, City of London, April 13, 1868.
EL MAHDI, Theatre Royal, Great Grimsby, March 7, 1885.
ELMINE; OR, MOTHER AND SON, Theatre Royal, West Hartlepool, April 9, 1883.
ELOPEMENTS IN HIGH LIFE, Haymarket, April 7, 1853.
ELOPEMENT, Theatre Royal, Oxford, Aug. 19, 1879.
ELSA DENE, Theatre Royal, Brighton, Oct. 14, 1886.
ELSA'S HAND, Theatre Royal, Swansea, March 6, 1893.
ELSIE, Globe, Sept. 8, 1883.
ELSIE'S RIVAL, Strand, May 9, 1888.
ELVES, THE, Adelphi, Nov. 17, 1856.
EMERALD ISLE, Savoy, April 27, 1901.
EMERALD QUEEN, Britannia, July 18, 1870.
EMIGRANT'S PROGRESS, City of London, Oct. 4, 1852.
EMIGRATION, Queen's, Dublin, July 13, 1880.
EMIGREE'S DAUGHTER, Haymarket, July 18, 1850.
EMILY, Albion, April 30, 1877.
EM'LY; OR, THE ARK ON THE SANDS, Queen's, Manchester, March 10, 1884.
EMMA, Brighton, July 17, 1893.
EMPTY STOCKING, Strand, Dec. 5, 1897.
ENCHANTED BARBER, Adelphi, Dec. 22, 1877.
ENCHANTED BEANS, New Gaiety, West Hartlepool, March 22, 1875.
ENCHANTED DOVE, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1881.
ENCHANTED FOUNTAIN, St. James's, June 22, 1900.
ENCHANTED ISLAND, St. George's Hall, May 8, 1900.
ENCHANTED MAID, Theatre Royal, Sunderland, March 31, 1882.
ENCHANTED ORANGE TREE, Queen's Hall, Liverpool, May 10, 1880.
ENCHANTED PRINCE, Standard, Dec. 24, 1877.
ENCHANTED WOOD, Adelphi, May 4, 1870.
END OF A DAY, Royalty, Dec. 5, 1891.
ENDYMION, St. James's, Dec. 26, 1860.
'ENDON WAY, Imperial, Oct. 24, 1898.
ENEMIES, Prince of Wales's, Jan. 28, 1836.
ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, Haymarket, June 14, 1893.
ENEMY'S CAMP, Pavilion, March 26, 1894.
ENEMY'S COUNTRY, Crediton, Nov. 7, 1900.
ENGAGED, Haymarket, Oct. 3, 1877.
ENGAGED TO APPEAR, Trowbridge, March 21, 1879.
ENGINEERING, Park, June 22, 1878.
ENGINEER, THE, Victoria, March 23, 1863.
ENGLAND AND GLORY, Gaiety, Walsall, Oct. 11, 1888.
ENGLAND IN THE DAYS OF CHARLES II., Drury Lane, Sept. 22, 1877.
ENGLAND Ho! Marylebone, July 6, 1878.
ENGLAND, HOME, AND BEAUTY, Queen's, Manchester, Aug. 22, 1882.
ENGLAND'S FLAG, Prince of Wales's, Salford, April 15, 1895.
ENGLAND'S GLORY, Parkhurst, Aug. 20, 1894.
ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Nov. 8, 1870.
ENGLISH HEARTS, Theatre Royal, Lincoln, June 10, 1892.
ENGLISHMAN'S HOUSE IS HIS CASTLE, Princess's, May 11, 1857.
ENGLISH NELL, Prince of Wales's, Aug. 21, 1900.
ENGLISH ROSE, Adelphi, Aug. 2. 1890.
ENGLISHWOMAN, AN, Standard, Oct. 1, 1894.
ENGLISHWOMAN, THE, Opera House, Chatham, Jan. 1, 1894.
ENLISTED, Theatre Royal, Windsor, April 7, 1885.
ENOCH ARDEN, Crystal Palace, Dec. 14, 1876.
EN ROUTE, St. George's Hall, Oct. 23, 1882.
ENSNARED, Gaiety, March 8, 1883.
ENTHUSIAST, AN, Vaudeville, March 11, 1892.
ENTHUSIAST, THE, Theatre Royal, Blackburn, May 7, 1884.
ENTRANCES AND EXITS, East London, April 27, 1868.
ENTRAPPED, Britannia, July 24, 1880.
EN VOYAGE, Vaudeville, Dec. 20, 1883.
EPISODE, AN, Folkestone, May 17, 1895.
EQUALITY JACK, Ladbroke Hall, Feb. 28, 1891.
EQUALS, Alexandra, Liverpool, July 2, 1883.
ERIC'S GOOD ANGEL, Theatre Royal, Newcastle, May 23, 1894.
ERIN-GO-BRAGH, Britannia, April 18, 1870.
ERMINIE, Grand, Birmingham, Oct. 26, 1885.
ERMYNGARDE IN FAIRYLAND, Prince of Wales's Club, Feb. 23, 1894.
ERNANI; OR, THE HORN OF A DILEMMA, New Alexandra, May 20, 1865.
ERNEST MALTRAVERS, Britannia, Sept. 28, 1874.
ERO E LEANDRO, Covent Garden, July 11, 1898.
ERRATIC EVANGELINE, Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, March 10, 1884.
ERRING SISTER, Hastings, Nov. 5, 1892.
ESCAPED FROM PORTLAND, Princess's, Oct. 9, 1869.
ESCAPED; OR, THRICE MARRIED, East London, June 6, 1870.
ESCARTE, Globe, Dec. 3, 1870.
ESMERELDA, Adelphi, June 4, 1850.
ESMERALDA, Burlesque, Strand, March 2, 1867.
ESMONDES OF VIRGINIA, Royalty, May 20, 1886.
ESMOND, St. George's Hall, June 21, 1893.
ESTELLE, Covent Garden, July 3, 1880.
ESTHER SANDRAZ, Prince of Wales's, June 11, 1889.
ESTRANGED, Globe, Aug. 3, 1881.
ESTRELLA, Prince's, Manchester, May 14, 1883.
ETERNAL MASCULINE, Terry's, March 8, 1898.
ETHEL; OR, ONLY A LIFE, Adelphi, Oct. 13, 1866.
ETHEL'S TEST, Strand, March 26, 1883.
ETIQUETTE, Alexandra, Walsall, March 1, 1880.
ETON V. HARROW, St. George's Hall, June 29, 1885.
EUGENE ARAM, Lyceum, April 19, 1873.
EUGENE ONEGIN, Olympic, Oct. 17, 1892.
EUGENIE, Drury Lane, Jan. 1, 1856.
EULALIE, Forester's Hall, June 3, 1890.
EUNICE; OR, LOVE AND DUTY, Pavilion, Nov. 6, 1882.

A REMARKABLE ANNIVERSARY.

Mr. Edward Compton, to whom a public presentation will be made on the stage of Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, on Wednesday evening next, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his first performance with his own company, gave the Compton Comedy Company to the theatrical world on Feb. 7, 1881, at the Pavilion of the Winter Gardens, Southport. The quarter of a century which has elapsed since that date has seen years full of hard work, the most strenuous endeavour to maintain the highest standard of theatrical tradition and to place the plays of our older dramatists upon the stage in the most complete and perfect manner. That no small measure of success has been achieved speaks volumes for the man who has steered the dramatic ship through the changes and vicissitudes of so long a period as that with which the name of Edward Compton is so closely and honourably associated.

The names of the plays which have been placed by him on the stage form a long list, and must necessarily be headed by *Davy Garrick*, in which Mr. Compton has appeared over 1,300 times. *The School for Scandal* is another noteworthy production, Mr. Compton having recently given his 900th performance of Charles Surface. *She Stoops to Conquer, The Rivals, The Road to Ruin, New Men and Old Acres, The Heir-at-Law, Wild Oats,* and *Belphegor* also figure prominently in the record of old English plays. Shakespeare is represented among other works by *Twelfth Night, The Comedy of Errors, Romeo and Juliet,* and *Much Ado About Nothing.*

Mr. Compton has not confined himself entirely to old plays, but has encouraged modern authors as far as he has been able. In this connection we must particularly mention his production of *The American,* by Henry James; *Sidney Carton, Edmund Kean,* and *Henry Esmond,* by the late T. E. Pemberton; *The Scarlet Coat* and *A Reformed Rake,* by Walter E. Grogan; *To-Morrow,* the very successful fantastic play by two anonymous authors; *An Emperor's Romance,* by Robert Barr and Cosmo Hamilton; *The Desperate Lover,* by Henry Alexander; *True Love,* by Arthur Goodrich; and *Oliver Goldsmith, The Mayflower,* and *The Queen's Room,* all by F. Frankfort Moore.

Mr. Compton made his first appearance in London in March, 1877, as Alfred Evelyn, in the first act of *Money,* on the occasion of his famous father's "Great Compton Benefit" at Drury Lane Theatre. The cast, as will readily be seen, was one of the most remarkable in the history of the theatre:—

Alfred Evelyn	MR. EDWARD COMPTON
Sir John Vesey	MR. JOHN HARE
Mr. Graves	MR. BENJAMIN WEBSTER
Mr. Stout	MR. DAVID JAMES
Sir Frederick Blount	MR. W. H. KENDAL
Lord Glossmore	MR. HENRY NEVILLE
Mr. Sharp	MR. WILLIAM FARREN
Two Footmen	MR. (now Sir) SQUIRE BANCROFT MR. CHARLES COLLETTE
Clara Douglas	MRS. KENDAL
Georgiana Vesey	MISS ELLEN TERRY
Lady Franklin	MRS. (now Lady) BANCROFT

Mr. Compton smilingly says he was "very well supported on this occasion."

As a school of acting it would be hard to beat the long and creditable record of the Compton Comedy Company, from which have graduated some of the best known artists in the profession in London, the provinces, and in English-speaking countries across the seas. The late Lewis Ball, whose recent death caused so much and so genuine a sense of loss to all who knew him either as an actor or a friend, was associated with the company for many years. The Compton company, like Tennyson's brook, seems likely to flow on unceasingly upon the sure current of success, giving pleasure to thousands of theatre-goers, and being welcomed by them everywhere as old, tried, and valued friends.

MR. FRANK ROTHSAY'S BENEFIT.

A pleasing feature of the annual pantomime at the Stratford Borough Theatre is the benefit performance accorded to Mr. Frank Rothsay, who has been the acting-manager of this handsome suburban playhouse since its opening ten years ago. The very large audience present at the matinée on Thursday therefore bore eloquent testimony to the popularity which the *bénéficiaire* enjoys in Stratford. Chief amongst the interpolated attractions was Miss Marie Lloyd, whose appearance was the signal for vociferous applause. The charming comedienne first delighted her hearers with "In Town," wherein was pointedly told the doings of a certain coquettish damsel, and afterwards, in response to most imperative demands, gave one of those exquisite character songs which "our Marie" has made so essentially her own, "A Thing of the Past." This will probably rival anything the singer has before attempted, and it is safe to predict that Miss Lloyd will not need its successor for many a day. Another received in high favour was Mr. George Mozart, who scored very heavily with a soliloquy on "Hats" and the different moods of the wearers under varying circumstances. Mr. Austin Melford recited most tellingly "Uncle Ned's Funeral," and as an encore told a story of the turf with much dramatic power. Miss Sable Fern, who came by permission of Mr. Oswald Stoll, was in high esteem with "Can't you see I want you to be my girl?"; and Mr. Harry Paulton employed his droll methods of extracting mirth in witty anecdotes which won much appreciation. A clever young couple in Maud and Sidney Wood added to the enjoyment in song and dance; Alice Cecilia Locke's expressive violin solo was listened to with keen pleasure; and others who lent valuable aid were Horace Wager, Dick Lewis, and Kelson Trueman. In the pantomime proper, the Two McNaughtons as Bobby and Billy added to their laurels by their versatile humour, Tom creating roars of laughter by appearing in the Palace scene in excruciatingly funny burlesque of Cinderella. Mr. Kennedy Allen, in addition to his very successful work as the Baron, introduced a new scena, *An Actor at Breakfast,* which affords this resourceful comedian abundant scope, and should stand him in excellent stead; and Messrs. Alf Passmore and Gus Walker repeated their diverting performance as the Ugly Sisters with the happiest results. Miss Alice Lloyd, the daintiest of Cinderellas, was as usual a favourite with one and all; and the delightful vocalism of Miss Beatrice Edwards, the dashing Prince Charming, met with due recognition. Pretty and pert Dandini, in the person of Miss Maud Prenton, won favour on every hand; and Mrs. Emily Bennett as the Baroness and Miss Georgie de Lara as the Fairy Godmother met with every success in their respective parts. During the performance Mr. Rothsay appeared upon the stage and in a neat speech thanked Mrs. Ellis Fredericks for the use of the theatre, the members of the pantomime company, the artists who had assisted him additionally, specially mentioning Miss Marie Lloyd, and the staff at the back and front of the theatre and the orchestra, all of whom had, as on previous occasions, volunteered their services. Mr. A. D. Anderson stage-managed, and the acting-managers for the occasion were Mr. Bert Ashton, Mr. Sam Fredericks, Mr. A. E. Abrahams, Mr. A. E. Barnes, and Mr. John Locke.

"EAST LYNNE" IN COURT.

At the Nuneaton County Court, on Saturday, before his Honour Judge Wightman Wood, the Nuneaton Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd., brought an action against Herbert Barrs, theatrical manager of the Grand Theatre, Halifax, claiming £16 11s. damages for breach of contract, dated August 20, 1904, under which the defendant produced a play entitled *East Lynne* at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Nuneaton, belonging to plaintiffs. Defendant agreed to obtain all necessary licences in respect of copyright, and right of representation and performance, which he failed to do, whereby the plaintiffs had suffered damages as follows:—To amount paid to John Pitt Hardacre and Frances May Gunley, the proprietors of the copyright of *East Lynne,* including costs of civil court proceedings, £15 5s.; costs of defending proceedings, £1 6s.

Counsel for the plaintiffs, in opening the case, said defendant toured the play *East Lynne,* and after a visit to Nuneaton it was discovered that defendant had infringed the copyright, which belonged to Mr. John Pitt Hardacre. A writ was issued in the High Court by Mr. Hardacre against the Nuneaton Theatre Company, but the action was settled out of court at a cost of £16 11s. He submitted that under the agreement between plaintiffs and defendant, the latter was liable for all damages through infringement of copyright, and therefore he ought to repay the Theatre Company the amount they had to pay for such infringement.

Counsel for defendant said Mr. Pitt Hardacre performed a play called *East Lynne* in Birmingham in June of last year. Up to that point a great difficulty had existed as to how far a theatrical manager might go in producing a version of *East Lynne,* without infringing someone's copyright. There were six different dramatised versions founded on the novel. The copyright of one version had run out, but in another the copyright had not yet expired. Several companies all over the country had been playing the free-acting edition, but Mr. Pitt Hardacre claimed that when that edition had a comic policeman in it the copyright belonged to him. It appeared that Mr. Hardacre had introduced the comic policeman part in order to relieve the heavy scenes of the play, and now anybody who produced the play with a comic policeman in it was infringing his rights. The words of this comic policeman were made up of "gag," and when Mr. Barrs, after playing *East Lynne* in Nuneaton, played it again in Birmingham, Mr. Pitt Hardacre engaged shorthand writers to take a full note of it. From this "note" it was proved before Mr. Justice Riley that there had been an infringement at Birmingham, and in an action Mr. Hardacre recovered damages £14, and also obtained an injunction. This proof of infringement only referred to the dates when the play was produced in Birmingham, and not previous thereto. Mr. Hardacre, however, was not able to prove that a single line of his dialogue had been copied prior to the date *East Lynne* was played in Birmingham, and he had no proof that there had been any infringement at Nuneaton, and in other towns. Mr. Justice Riley had ruled that in such cases there must be no surmising that there had been an infringement; there must be absolute proof.

Correspondence that had taken place between plaintiffs and defendant, which was submitted to the Judge, showed that defendant had invited the Theatre Company to make the best possible terms they could with Mr. Pitt Hardacre as to damages for infringement.

His Honour, in giving a verdict for plaintiffs, said defendant had allowed them to pay the claims of Mr. Pitt Hardacre, and now he tried to turn round and say that the Nuneaton Theatre had a good defence. He (the Judge) quite agreed that if defendant had put the same argument before the Theatre Company before they paid he would have had a complete defence against the present action. As it was, he had invited the Theatre Company to make the best terms they could.

A NEW theatre for Scarborough is in contemplation, plans having been already passed by the Corporation. The building will shortly be commenced on a site in Queen-street.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."

A Play of Passions, in Four Acts,
By S. Buchanan Rogerson,
Produced at the Colosseum Theatre, Oldham, On Monday, Jan. 29.

Count Otto Steinback	MR. E. E. ASHBY
Baron Cratzlaw	MR. HORACE SINCLAIR
Lieut. Karl Ctzarteryski	MR. E. J. FARE
M. Stambuloff	MR. E. J. CLARKE
Peter Petroff, alias Count von Hoomboog	MR. FRED PRIOR
Hon. Bartle Bray	MR. TOM BYRON
M. Koska Marinevitch	MR. G. H. HURST
Georges Orloff	MR. ARTHUR BRANDHURST
Slivanovitch	MR. W. P. CARR
Alexandra Gortz	MR. GEORGE H. PAYNE
Max Mecklebach	MR. ARTHUR CUFF
Michael Lartorff	MR. W. R. SPEAKE
Manfred Speinletch	MR. GILBERT DANCE
Madame Stella Malakorff	MISS MARIE RAMUZ
Zilla Zeyelda	MISS FLORRIE HALL
Zannetta	MISS BRENDA MAY
Cora Gouldhart	MRS. MORTON POWELL
Countess Natalie Steinback	MISS LOUISA PEACH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Morton Powell can be congratulated on having produced a sound, interesting, and thoroughly human play. The dialogue is terse, effective, and often rising to heights of exceptional merit. The characters are firmly yet naturally drawn; they are beings of real flesh and blood, who are able to move us to tears and to laughter. The plot is cleverly constructed, and the situations are impressive. Mr. S. Buchanan Rogerson has indeed written a strong and effective play.

The scene of the story is laid in Balaka, the chief city of a state on the Adriatic Sea. In the gardens of the Eden Kiosk, a gambling resort, we meet the Countess Natalie Steinback, who, in the absence of her husband (Count Otto Steinback), is a constant visitor at the tables. Her passion for gambling is played upon and encouraged by Baron Cratzlaw, who, by the aid of his accomplice, Stella Malakorff, hopes to encompass the financial ruin of the Countess, so that he may pay her debts and thus win his way to the lady's affections. A despatch arrives notifying the Baron that a society of Anarchists called the Friends of Freedom are about to set a revolution on foot. Cora Gouldhart is the bearer of the plan of campaign. This document she hands to Karl Ctzarteryski, a member of the secret society, with instructions that he is to deliver it to the central committee. On Karl asking for the address of the meeting-place, he is informed that a lady will that evening hand him a slip of paper, on which will be written the place and hour of meeting. Baron Cratzlaw, overhearing this conversation, confronts Karl, accuses him of being a revolutionist and of bearing upon his person the plan of operations. He, however, offers to save Karl and also Cora, with whom Karl is in love, provided he (Karl) will induce Otto Steinback to carry the documents to the revolutionary meeting, the Baron's plan being to have Otto arrested in the midst of the Friends of Freedom with the incriminating papers upon him, thus leaving the Countess free to accept his (the Baron's) love. The Baron plays upon Karl's jealousy of Otto and Cora, who have been old sweethearts prior to Otto's marriage with Natalie, and at length Karl consents. He gives the papers to Otto, who, believing he is saving Cora, promises to deliver them, and accordingly he meets the unknown lady in the gardens, from her receives a piece of paper bearing the address and time of meeting, and which, after reading, he throws on one side. It is, however, picked up by the Countess, who is led by the Baron to believe that it is an appointment between her husband and Cora. Roused to a fury of jealousy she gambles wildly at the tables, and incurs debts she is unable to pay. The Baron comes forward and offers to cancel her notes, when Otto, entering, announces his intention of selling his estates to preserve his wife's good name.

The scene of Act II. is the Palace of the Countess Natalie, her husband being absent endeavouring to raise the money to satisfy his wife's creditors. She, still tortured by jealousy, goes to his private desk in search of letters from Cora, in place of which she discovers the revolutionary documents entrusted to Otto. The Baron tells her that her husband is to deliver these papers to Cora that evening, and that she is to convey them to the revolutionary committee, whose place of meeting he does not know. Mad with jealousy, Natalie hands the address to the Chief of Police, making a stipulation that the person arrested with the papers found on him or her is to die, believing Cora will be the one taken with the plans in her possession. She leads the police to the meeting-place, only to find she has betrayed her own husband into the hands of justice.

Otto is condemned to be shot as a rebel. Natalie pleads with the Baron for her husband's life. He offers to spare Otto if she will sacrifice her honour, and gives her one chance of winning by staking his love against her husband's life. She consents to hazard the decision on the dice-box. The Baron wins, and gains his end. This is the great scene of the drama, full of intense and enthralling interest, and it holds the audience spellbound.

In Act IV. Lieut. Karl, repenting of his share in Otto's betrayal, comes disguised as a monk to the condemned cell. He chloroforms Otto, wraps him in the monk's cloak, and has him taken out of the prison, while he (Karl), assuming the traitor's hood, which conceals his features, is led to execution.

The last scene is Natalie's boudoir. Learning that her husband has been saved, she takes poison to end her miserable existence. The Baron, entering from the bedroom, attempts to take her away with him. When Otto arrives the Baron is shot by one of the revolutionists, and Cora arrives with the Prince's pardon for Otto. Natalie, after joining their hands, dies in their arms.

The reception accorded the new play on Monday from a fully representative audience has stamped it with the success it fully deserves. The play has some effective comedy relief that was highly relished.

The Countess Natalie was ably personated by Miss Louisa Peach. In her hands every phase of the character was clearly defined, and the result was an artistic triumph. Mr. E. E. Ashby, as the hero, Count Otto Steinback, brought his ripe experience to bear upon the part, and his easy diction, fine stage presence, and thorough grasp of the character made him exceedingly popular. Mr. Horace Sinclair, as the Baron Cratzlaw, gave as fine an exposition of polished villainy as one could wish for, acting with force and intensity, yet always with artistic ease and discretion. Mr. Ernest J. Fare presented a striking impersonation of Lieut. Karl Ctzarteryski; Mr. E. J. Clarke as M. Stambuloff acted with marked dramatic ability. The humour of the play was ably sustained by Mr. T. Byron as the British Ambassador. Mr. Fred Prior as Peter Petroff also did well, and Mrs. Morton Powell as Cora Gouldhart rendered excellent service. The mounting was excellent.

ARTISTS IN INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It has been my painful task on several occasions to help distressed theatrical artists brought to this country by managers who have not hesitated to leave their companies stranded if success has not attended their efforts.

I have just succeeded in sending back to London twelve of a company of variety artists engaged to form part of an entertainment called "Olympia in India." From the first night it was a fiasco, and all expected the crash that soon came, and I was called upon to help the artists out of their difficulties.

I am thankful to say that my appeal to the public met with sympathy and support, the result being they were sent back to England and given £10 each on arriving home. My reason for writing this letter, hoping you will publish it in the columns of your valuable journal, is to try, if possible, to impress upon all who have a wish to come to India as a means of living to first make every inquiry, and leave no stone unturned to find out the position of their would-be manager before leaving England, and under no circumstances whatever to engage themselves to any but of recognised stability in the theatrical world. Thanking you in anticipation of your publishing this, and hoping that it may serve as a warning to your many readers.—Yours faithfully,

LUCIA KING,
3, Outram-street, Calcutta.
Jan. 11, 1906.

MR. F. EVANS FLORADOR, who has retired from the profession, after twenty-five years' good service, has gone into partnership with Mr. Frank W. Matthews, and started business as theatrical apparatus makers at 58, Oakley-street, Lambeth, under the name of Florador and Matthews. The locality chosen for the new enterprise is a very central one, and the long experience possessed by the principals in the firm in the making of everything appertaining to stage properties should ensure success.

THE seventeenth annual dinner of the Yorick Club will take place at the New Gaiety Restaurant, Strand, on Sunday, Feb. 11. Mr. L. Cairns James will preside.

"A MAIDEN WIDOW," a farcical comedy in one act, by Frank M. Reece, was produced for copyright purposes at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, on the 25th inst.

A Considerate Earl

"I hope it may not become necessary to impose additional duty on tobacco. The luxuries of one age are the necessities of the next."—Earl of Beaconsfield, (1874).

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's election to the office of president of the Actors' Benevolent Fund will be received by the profession with general acclamation. The eminent actor has throughout been an ardent supporter of the Fund, which owes its present prosperity largely to his exertions. Sir Charles is succeeded in the position of vice-president by Mr. George Alexander; and with Mr. Beerbohm Tree as trustee, and Mr. Harry Nicholls as treasurer, the Fund has as powerful a combination at its head as could well be desired.

The Actors' Benevolent Fund is daily being enriched by postal orders for 2s. 6d. each sent by our leading actors and actresses as autograph receipts. Mr. Lewis Waller has forwarded £2 5s. from the same source, while Mr. W. R. King has sent the sum of £2 1s. 9d., which he has collected at the Dalston Theatre by means of a small tax on free professional admission.

Mr. Arthur Collins left town for St. Moritz on Tuesday in order to rejoin his wife, who has been ordered by her doctor to that famous health resort for the winter months. Mr. Hall Caine has also temporarily taken up his residence there, and it may not be unreasonable to hope that the result of the short stay in such close proximity of the famous manager and the equally celebrated author may result in another drama from the gifted pen of the latter gentleman which may furnish the autumn attraction at Drury-lane.

Mr. George Alexander was faced by an audience more than usually distinguished at the dress rehearsal of *His House in Order*, at the St. James's on Wednesday, the occasion being quite in the nature of an evening party. The crowd of interesting literary and theatrical folk included Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mrs. Kendal, Mr. and Mrs. John Hare, Mr. Max Beerbohm, Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Hermann Vezin, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, and Miss Lena Ashwell; and other notable people present were Lord Granby, Lady Troubridge, Baron de Meyer, General Strachey, and the Duchess of Sutherland.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, in his official capacity as president of the Theatrical Managers' Association, has addressed a letter to Mr. Haldane, the Secretary for War, protesting against the Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, which was recently opened by Lord Roberts, being carried on for the accommodation of the general public as if it were a regularly licensed theatre. The theatre was built at a cost of some £8,000, and that was defrayed partly by War Office Vote, and partly by a grant from the funds of the regiment.

Mr. Tree in his letter points out that "for some years there was carried on by the officers an entertainment hall, where concerts and other entertainments were given to the soldiers and their friends of a more or less private character. The building having been recently burnt down, a complete theatre has been erected, which was opened at Christmas last with a pantomime, now being fully advertised in the town, and the manager is, I am informed, booking touring companies. It is clear that the theatre is intended to be carried on for the accommodation of the general public, as if it were a regularly licensed theatre. On one of the handbills freely circulated in the town are particulars of what appears to be a lottery for a gold watch.

"I have been advised," proceeds Mr. Tree, "of the provision in the Army Act enabling a recreation room managed or conducted under the authority of a Secretary of State to be used for public music, dancing, or entertainment, and for the public performance of stage plays without a licence, and I respectfully beg to inquire whether it is with your authority that this establishment is being managed and conducted as a general public theatre, and in the manner above referred to. And in this connection I would point out that the building, although capable of holding a very large number of people, does not comply, and is not constructed to comply, with the provisions which are laid down by the London County Council for the construction of theatres to which the general public are admitted, nor is any attempt made to comply with their regulations. The members of the association respectfully suggest that the entertainments in this building should be confined to those provided by the soldiers themselves or be of a private charcter, and that if the custom of the general public is sought, then a theatrical licence should be obtained, and compliance made with the regulations which are imposed upon every other theatre proprietor in the United Kingdom."

Mr. Arthur Bourchier has contributed the generous sum of £102 7s. 6d. to the Queen's Fund for the Unemployed. The amount represents the proceeds of the first performance at the Garrick Theatre of *Brother Officers*, which took place on the 22nd ult.

Sir Squire Bancroft proposed the health of the Bishop of London, who presided at the annual treat to London cabmen, pensioners, and shelter-men given by Miss M. Stormont-Murphy, at the Holborn Restaurant on Monday afternoon. In the course of his speech, Sir Squire told a story of a charming young damsel who came to London to visit an aunt. When the young lady was leaving in a cab for an evening party, the thrifty aunt said: "Now, mind, don't you pay him more than one shilling; it's his legal fare." Arrived at her destination, the young lady sprang out, handed cabby one shilling, and bounded up the steps of the house. "'Ere, I say, miss," called cabby, "kin I ask you a question?" "Yes, you may." "Well, are you married?" "No," she cried, indignantly, "I'm not." "Well, well, somebody's agoin' to get a treasure; for I never seen a gal as could make a bob go further or do more 'ard work nor you, miss!"

"The Beauty of Bath," the new piece by Mr. Seymour Hicks and Mr. Cosmo Hamilton, with music by Mr. H. E. Haines, and lyrics by Mr. Charles H. Taylor, will be produced at the Aldwych early in March. It is a mistake to suppose, because the story is founded upon Robertson's *David Garrick*, that the piece will have an old-fashioned flavour. On the contrary, it is entirely modern and up-to-date, the scene of the first act being laid in the Foyer of the Aldwych Theatre, and of the second in a ball-room, a feature of which is a gorgeous spectacle representing a picture ball, the portraits on the walls emerging from their frames and joining in the dance.

Mr. A. E. W. Mason, who has added to the long total of Liberal gains at this General Election by being returned for Coventry, is probably the first actor to become a Member of Parliament. He was for some years with Mr. Ben Greet's company, and his career on the stage has been an extensive one, including a part in *Arms and the Man*, Mr. Bernard Shaw's play, produced some years ago at the Avenue. Mr. Mason is also a dramatic author, having adapted his two novels, "The Courtship of Morrice Buckler" and "Miranda of the Balcony," for the stage. His latest work is *Majory Strode*, a comedy-drama intended for production both in England and America. Mr. Mason's sympathies are still with his old calling, and the theatrical profession will certainly not suffer by his presence in the House.

Mr. George Alexander will be the guest of the New Vagabond Club at the Hotel Cecil on Feb. 18, when a dinner will be given to welcome him as Vice-President in place of Sir Henry Irving. Mrs. George Alexander will also grace the festive board, at which Mr. Bram Stoker will preside, Mrs. Bram Stoker officiating as hostess. Mr. G. B. Burgin and Mr. Arthur Diosy will be the deputy-chairmen.

Mr. Edward Compton, who celebrates the silver jubilee of the Compton Comedy Company at Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, with a performance of *Money*, in which he made his first appearance in London in March, 1877, will be the recipient of a public testimonial. There is a general feeling in favour of the presentation taking the form of an oil-painting of himself in his favourite character of David Garrick, a part he has played more than any other, and no more fitting or appropriate tribute could be devised. The subscriptions are limited to one guinea, but smaller sums will be welcome, and we hope those who have not already had an intimation of this interesting event will take advantage of this one, and send their subscriptions, which should arrive, if possible, by Wednesday next, to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. B. Fitzgibbon, Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.

Mr. Cyril Maude's interesting revival of *The Heir at Law*, which will be given at matinées at the Waldorf Theatre, beginning about the middle of the present month, will be powerfully cast. Dr. Pangloss will be played by Mr. Maude, Miss Jessie Bateman will be the Cicely Homespun, and Mr. Lionel Rignold, Mr. G. M. Graham, Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Percival Stevens, Mr. Sydney Brough, Mr. E. C. Matthews, Mrs. Charles Calvert, and Miss Janet Alexander will undertake the rest of the characters.

Mr. Charles Manners, whose efforts towards the establishment of opera in English have been nothing less than heroic, has again offered to give a week of grand opera in Sheffield for the benefit of the Sheffield University Fund, beginning on Monday, Feb. 26. In November, 1904, £457 was added to the fund in this way. The programme for the week at Sheffield will consist of *Siegfried* on Feb. 26, *Carmen* on Feb. 27 (students' night), *Eugen Onegin* (Tchaikovsky) on Feb. 28; a new opera written expressly for the occasion by Nicholas Gatty, entitled *Greysteel*, and *Philemon and Baucis* at the matinée on March 1, with *The Flying Dutchman* in the evening; and *Tristan and Isolde* on March 2, the week being completed on Saturday, the 3rd, by *Figaro* in the morning and *Lohengrin* in the evening. Among those who are to take part in the performances are Mdmes. Kate Anderson, Clementine de Vere, Fanny Moody, Zelie de Lussan, Messrs. John Child, Joseph O'Mara, William Dever, W. Ludwig, Charles Magrath, and Charles Manners. Two of the Moody-Manners opera companies will be amalgamated for the week, comprising a chorus of eighty-five, twelve principal dancers, and an orchestra of sixty performers.

A handsome souvenir marked the performance on Monday of *Captain Drew on Leave*, which was originally announced for a short season, but has now reached its hundredth night. How many more centuries will be achieved by Mr. Hubert Henry Davies's clever comedy it is not easy to foretell, as Sir Charles Wyndham's performance in the title-rôle, together with those of Miss Marion Terry and Miss Mary Moore, and the clever company are attracting full houses to Wyndham's Theatre every night.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, who has returned greatly invigorated from his trip to Switzerland, will begin a spring tour on Monday, Feb. 12, at the Coronet. *The Light That Failed* will form the attraction for the first three nights, *Mice and Men* being put on for the rest of the week. Miss Gertrude Elliott will appear in both pieces.

"The Little Stranger," Mr. Michael Morton's new farce, will be produced by Mr. Frank Curzon at the Criterion on Wednesday, Feb. 14. The action of the piece is comprised within three hours, the first act being supposed to begin at three o'clock and the third at five. The full cast will consist of Messrs. John Beauchamp, Athol Stewart, Charles Allan, James Carew, Edward Garratt, Graham Browne, and Fred Volpé; and Mrs. Kemmis, Miss Audrey Ford, Miss Aldridge, Miss Betty Callish, and Miss Sydney Fairbrother.

The advance booking for *Nero* at His Majesty's is so great that Mr. Tree finds it impossible to give members of the profession an opportunity of seeing the fine production at the ordinary performances. He has, therefore, decided to give a professional matinée on Tuesday, Feb. 13, for which date seats may be obtained on application to Mr. Henry Dana.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and the Garrick Theatre Company gave a special matinée of *Brother Officers* at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on Thursday, returning to London in time for the evening performance. A similar flying visit will be made on Monday, when the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, will be favoured.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will begin their spring tour on Monday at Brighton, the most important theatres in the suburbs and the provinces being included in the itinerary. The répertoire includes *Dick Hope*, *The Housekeeper*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, *Still Waters Run Deep*, *A Scrap of Paper*, and a revival of *The Ironmaster*.

Mr. Gilbert Farquhar, who on Thursday celebrated his fifty-sixth birthday, has announced his determination of retiring from the profession. He made his first appearance on the London stage twenty-three years ago, and his long career includes engagements with most of the leading managers of his time, notably with Sir Henry Irving, Sir Charles Wyndham, and Mr. John Hare.

In consequence of the artistic success of the German season at the Great Queen-street Theatre, Director Hans Andresen has much pleasure in announcing that this will be followed by an after-season after the company's return from Manchester. Contrary to the usual custom, the company will only play on Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday matinée. We are informed by Mr. Andresen that his répertoire will include every class of dramatic literature—farce, comedy, tragedy, and drama—modern and classical. The after-season will commence on Friday evening, Feb. 16, with *Nachtasyl*, by Gorki, the famous Russian writer, who has played so big a part in the Russian Revolution. This play is already known to the English public under the title of *The Lower Depths*, and was performed under the auspices of the Stage Society. *Nachtasyl* will be followed by *Das Erbe*, by Philippi, a play that finds a place in the répertoire of every German stage. The next play to be given is *Kinder der Excellens*, by Ernst von Wolzogen, one of the cleverest and wittiest of Germany's modern writers. For the fourth week we are promised Schiller's *Maria Stuart*.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's lease of the Crystal Palace Theatre commences on Monday, and, after several alterations have been made, the theatre will be opened at the end of this month. Mr. Howard has already arranged a splendid list of No. 1 bookings for this spring.

The jury were again unable to come to an agreement over the action brought for the second time by a lady professionally known as Miss Ethel Karri, in the Court of King's Bench on Wednesday, when she sued Messrs. A. and S. Gatti, Ltd., and Mr. Charles Frohman, the lessees of the Vaudeville Theatre, to recover damages for wrongful dismissal and breach of contract. The plaintiff was engaged to take a part as a Gibson Girl in *The Catch of the Season*, and claimed that as an actress she was employed according to the custom of the profession for the run of the piece. On the other hand, defendants said that there was both an express and implied agreement that plaintiff was subject to two weeks' notice. Miss Karri had a small part in the piece, and the action turned on the question as to whether the few lines she had to speak constituted her an actress, or left her simply in the position of a member of the chorus.

Evidence on behalf of the plaintiff's contention was given by Mr. Charles Cruickshanks, Mr. Herbert Brabourne, and Mr. J. L. Shine, and such experts as Mr. Seymour Hicks and Mr. J. M. Glover maintained the contrary. After deliberating for a little over an hour, the jury declared that nothing was said about a fortnight's notice when plaintiff was engaged, that she was engaged as a Gibson Girl, but they could not agree whether a Gibson Girl was an actress or not. They assessed the damages at £50. There was no prospect of an agreement, and the parties would not take the verdict of the majority. Mr. Justice Ridley said that in his judgment there was no verdict, and the jury, as it could not agree, would be discharged.

Mr. Seymour Hicks's museum at his new theatre may lead to a pleasant fashion, though it is admitted that the most ornate theatrical rooms and vestibules in any provincial playhouse are those over which Mr. Eade Montefiore presides at the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, where the interesting trophies include many hundreds of mezzotints and engravings of the old-time actor and actress. Mr. Montefiore's artistic tastes have won warm recognition in the Scottish capital, and his charming room at the Grand is quite a fashionable centre. After the performance of his excellent pantomime *Aladdin* on the 26th ult., Mr. Montefiore entertained the Dowager Countess de la Warr and Lady Margaret Sackville, who brought a party, while Lady Dunedin, the wife of the Lord High Justice-General of Scotland, and a leader of Edinburgh society, with her friends, visited Mr. Montefiore the same evening. Sir Edward and Lady Moss, a little while ago, were also amongst those who admired the cultured taste of Mr. Montefiore.

Mr. Percy Hutchison is adding Mr. R. C. Carton's play *Public Opinion* to his already extensive répertoire, and will produce it at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on Feb. 12. Mr. George Giddens will play his original part of the young solicitor Horace Wibsey.

Mr. William Mollison's production of *As You Like It* was given for the last time at St. James's Theatre on Saturday evening, when the whole of the company met with an ovation. After the curtain had been raised half-a-dozen times on the final scene, there were loud calls for "Mollison" and "Speech," in response to which the popular actor came forward and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, from the bottom of my heart I thank you for your generous support, and more than kindly reception. It has been a great pleasure to me to have been able to present Miss Braithwaite to you as Rosalind. I hope she and all my colleagues have given you satisfaction. On the close of a brief provincial tour, which I could not easily cancel, I hope to return to London, and reproduce *As You Like It* and other Shakespearean plays, in which Miss Braithwaite, myself, and my company will once more court your generous support and approval. Again I thank you." Mr. Mollison's season at the St. James's has realised his highest hopes, so pronounced being the success that money was turned away even on Saturday afternoon.

Under the auspices of the Actors' Church Union, an address will be delivered by the Bishop of London at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton will take over the Opera House and Theatre Royal, Leicester, on Feb. 19, having purchased the freehold of the Opera House and the lease of the Theatre Royal from Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Winstanley.

Mr. G. P. Huntley is one of the latest additions to the ranks of racehorse owners. The colours of the popular comedian, who ran Thurifer in the Surrey Steeplechase at Gatwick on Monday, but did not secure a place, are claret, apple-green sleeves, and claret cap.

Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company will be at the Camden Theatre next week with *What the Butler Saw*, which enjoyed such a successful run at Wyndham's and the Savoy Theatres. Miss Blanche, who won the highest eulogy in the part of Mrs. Barrington in the first production in the provinces this week, will repeat her finished performance, and Mr. Rignold, who has taken similar honours, will again appear in the rôle of Pink the butler.

Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice are sending out in the early autumn a first-class company in *Why Woman Sins*. The production will be on a very complete scale, only a clear stage being required for its adequate presentation.

Mr. George Grossmith, jun., will address the O.P. Club on the interesting subject of "Musical Plays" at the Criterion Hotel on Sunday. Mr. Frank Richardson will occupy the chair. The anniversary night will be held in the club rooms on the following Friday, Mr. Alfred F. Robbins presiding. The club's annual dinner is fixed for Feb. 18, when Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Eva Moore, and Mr. W. Pett Ridge will respond to various toasts. Later events include a lecture by Miss E. Wynne Matthison on March 4, and one by Mr. Hayden Coffin on April 1.

Mr. Arthur Bertram, who has relinquished his engagement with Miss Nethersole, was presented by the members of the company with a solid gold watch, and with a pearl and diamond pin by Miss Nethersole. Mr. Bertram left New York on the 27th, per the Minnetonka, and will arrive in London about Feb. 5.

Mr. Harding Thomas is meeting with remarkable success in Wales with *Saints and Sinners*. Last Saturday night the Opera House, Treherbert, was packed from floor to ceiling, and the enthusiasm of the audience was so great after the famous vestry scene that they again burst into their favourite hymn, "Beth sydd i mi yn y byd?" ("What is there left in this world for me?"), to the tune of "Aberystwyth." The excitement and fervour were even greater than were witnessed on Boxing Night at the Aberdare Theatre.

"The Dean's Dilemma," the comedietta which is now played in front of *Brother Officers* at the Garrick Theatre, has won such a cordial welcome that Mr. Arthur Bourchier has placed it also in the bill at the matinées as well as the evening performances.

Miss Marie Brunton, who made her last appearance as Snowball in *The Cherry Girl*, at the West Pier, Brighton, on Saturday last, received many floral tributes at the fall of the curtain, one of the most valued being from Mr. J. L. Toole.

"The Mart," a play by Mr. Winston Churchill, was produced at the Providence Opera House, New York, on Tuesday. The piece is a satire on the hunt for English titles by American heiresses. Mr. Arthur Hare plays the principal part.

"The Younger Generation," a new one-act play by Miss Netta Syrett, will be put on this evening in front of *The Heroic Stubbs* at Terry's Theatre.

The scenery and dresses belonging to Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime *Dick Whittington* were most unfortunately destroyed by fire during the journey on Sunday between Manchester and Jarrow. By the kindness of the managers of the North and South Shields theatres, and with some assistance also from Newcastle, the company was able to open at Jarrow on Monday.

The last performances of *A Royal Divorce* at the Scala are announced, the season terminating on Saturday next. This regrettable step is necessitated by the series of contracts entered into some time ago for the appearance of Miss Edith Cole and company at the suburban theatres.

Mr. Julian Cross on Monday took up the part of Sir John Crystal in *The Catch of the Season*, which is this week being played at the Shakespeare Theatre.—Mr. Alfred Martin will this week terminate his sixth pantomime engagement with Mr. Milton Bode, and will resume his duties on Tuesday next as advance manager for Mr. Cyril Maude's *Beauty and the Barge* company.

Mr. E. S. Willard is having unusually great success on his tour of New England cities, full houses amply attesting his attractive powers. *David Garrick* is more than ever popular this season, the Saturday matinée receipts in Springfield last week being over £375.

Mr. Stewart D. Wright, the successful young manager for Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maclaren, Henry Furnival, J. Alexander, &c., conclude to-day a most comfortable pantomime engagement with Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's *Sinbad the Sailor*. He opens in the autumn as advance-manager with a big London success.

After a most successful run, the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* was withdrawn from the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on Saturday last, when a number of interesting presentations were made. During the interval the curtain was rung up, disclosing the full company on the stage. Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director, and Mrs. Davey having been called for, Mr. W. R. Robertson, the stage-manager, presented to them, on behalf of the company, a handsome silver rose-bowl, filled with roses. The bowl bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davey by the members of *Sinbad the Sailor* pantomime company.—W. R. Robertson, stage-manager."

Mr. Davey, who was loudly cheered by the audience and the company, having suitably acknowledged the gift, then asked Mr. Robertson and Mr. J. H. Russell, *chef d'orchestre*, to accept a silver card-case and pocket-book combined, as souvenirs of the pantomime. Both gentlemen were also the recipients of a smoker's accessory, subscribed for by the company, the presentations being made by the principal boy (Miss Ethel Beech) and the principal girl (Miss Eva Bevington) respectively.

The Annals of Covent Garden Theatre from 1732 to 1897 have been put into book form by Mr. Henry Saxe Wyndham, secretary of the Guildhall School of Music, and will shortly be published. The history of a house which holds such interesting and romantic memories will be welcome, a comprehensive survey of the fortunes of the great theatre being given. The author has compiled his work with great care, brief memoirs of the celebrities connected with the theatre, including Rich, the founder, John Beard, the singer, George Colman, the dramatist, the Kembles, Macready, Charles Mathews, and Madame Vestris being given, while particulars of notable events such as the two great fires, the O.P. Riots, and the first nights of famous productions are also furnished. The book, which is in two volumes, contains thirty-two illustrations.

A hundred yards sprint race was run this week by Mr. John Green and Mr. Percy Curry, who are playing in the pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford. The competition was decided at the Greenfield Grounds, Dudley Hill, Mr. Green winning by two yards, in 11 2-5 sec. Mr. Francis Laidler, the proprietor of the Prince's, also offered prizes for a ladies' race and a walking match for gentlemen, in which the results were as follow:—Ladies' 60 Yards Race (scratch).—1, F. Burns; 2, M. Palmer; 3, E. Stanton. Won by inches; close up. One-Lap Walk.—1, F. Robinson; 2, A. Clegg; 3, C. W. Walton.

Mr. H. Reeves-Smith has recently written a small volume entitled "Critics Who Have Met Me—At Home and Abroad," a collection of essays, anecdotes, and short stories dealing with theatrical affairs of London, Australia, South Africa, and America. Six chapters are devoted to dramatic criticism "as it is and as it might be." Mr. Reeves-Smith deals leniently with the fraternity as a whole, but describes one, possibly with good reason, as "unfair, incompetent, peevish, and murderous." An illustration accompanying this description shows a fencing bout between critic and actor wherein the actor is pictured as cut through the heart by his antagonist. Of the American critic, Mr. Reeves-Smith writes that he is thoroughly honest. "These critics," continues the author, "are always bright, prolific in telling phrases, and, considering the conditions under which they labour, rapid-fire writers of astonishing skill. Your Englishman writes more profoundly of the drama, but his review is not as entertaining nor is his judgment more accurate. Furthermore, he consumes hours to the American's minutes." A fine half-tone picture of the late Clement Scott adorns one of the pages of the edition de luxe.

In the Court of King's Bench, on the 26th ult., Mr. William Macalister, an accountant in the City, brought an action against Mr. Blaiberg, proprietor of the Grand Theatre, Croydon, to recover £1,000 commission for obtaining a purchaser of the theatre. Mr. Salter, K.C., who appeared for the plaintiff, said that early in 1904 the plaintaff heard that the defendant was desirous of selling the theatre, and he went to see the defendant with the view of finding a purchaser. In June, 1904, the defendant stated that he was willing to sell the theatre for £46,000, £4,000 to be paid on deposit, £30,000 to remain on mortgage, and the remaining £12,000 to be paid on the completion of the purchase, and that if the plaintiff succeeded in obtaining a purchaser within the year the defendant would pay him £1,000 as commission. The plaintiff brought the matter to the notice of the Empire Contract Company, which ultimately agreed to purchase the property on the terms stated, with a view of forming a company to carry on the theatre as a variety theatre to be called the Croydon Pavilion. Eventually, however, the defendant said he was unwilling to sell the theatre at the price mentioned, and wanted £50,000, as he had spent some £1,500 on alterations, and the theatre was going well. The result was that the negotiations with the Empire Company fell through; hence the present action. The defence substantially was that there was no such agreement as alleged by the plaintiff. His lordship came to the conclusion that the plaintiff had failed to make out his case, and he dismissed the action with costs.

Not the least interesting and amusing item at the matinée on Saturday last at the Marborough Theatre was the singing of the popular tunes in the pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* by the nine hundred invited poor little guests of the Playgoers' Club. "My Irish Molly O" was the favourite, the *chef d'orchestre* having at last to face the delighted youngsters and beat the time for them when it was repeated for their especial delectation.

Under the auspices of the Belfast branch of the British Empire Shakespearean Society, a reading of the *Merchant of Venice* was given on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 30, in the Medical Institute, College-square North, Belfast. The success of the performance was greatly aided by some of the members of Mr. F. R. Benson's company, at present appearing at the Theatre Royal, Belfast. Miss Tita Brand's reading of the part of Portia was a finished assumption; and Mr. Clarence Derwent was a realistic Shylock, his fine voice being heard to the utmost advantage. Mr. Sinclair Neill's rendering of the part of Lorenzi was clever, and the fine actor must be warmly congratulated on his conception. Mr. Cyril Keightley's Bassanio was also an admirable interpretation. During an interval, Master A. Henderson presented a handsome bouquet of flowers to Miss Tita Brand, and, on the motion of Rev. Dr. Murphy, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Benson and the members of their company for assisting at the reading.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Biene (Miss Kate Hallam) have been engaged by Mr. Carson for the business-management and lead in his *Drama of Life* company's spring tour, and re-engaged by Mr. Vivian Grantham for his autumn tour of *Held in Bondage*. Mr. Van Biene is also hard at work booking and arranging the autumn tour of *The Broken Melody*, being again commissioned for this work by his father, the celebrated actor-'cellist.

Messrs. Charles Carey and Alexander Loftus's *Cinderella* company concludes a successful six weeks' run to-night. The pantomime has met with a most cordial reception at every town it has visited. *The New Barmaid*, another of Mr. Loftus's enterprises, starts out again on Feb. 12, opening at Coatbridge. Mr. Montague will play his original part; and Miss Violet Osmund, who is away at Monte Carlo, will return to play the Lady Journalist, the rôle she enacted all last year. A forty weeks' tour has been booked for this phenomenally successful play.

Miss Sophie Harriss, principal boy in the pantomime at the Nottingham Grand Theatre, took her benefit on Friday, the 26th ult., when pleasant evidences of her popularity were forthcoming in numerous bouquets and baskets of flowers, more lasting mementos being supplied in the shape of silver trinkets, &c. Miss Harriss gave a special rendering of Cowen's "It was a dream," singing with delightful freshness and effectiveness, which quite captivated her audience. Besides having a record house, she was further honoured by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress, the Sheriff, and a number of Councillors.

At the Fancy Dress Ball at Covent Garden on Saturday morning Mr. W. Clarkson was successful in gaining second prize for "Lucky Tips," fourth for "Back at Last," and sixth for "Ideas of March." Several other awards were also secured by the eminent perruquier for "Three Jolly Sweeps," "Gold and Silver," "The Dawn of Spring," &c.

Miss Florence Walton, the very popular Cinderella at the Metropole, Devonport, was on Wednesday evening accorded a benefit, when she was the recipient of many presents (including a suitably inscribed umbrella from Mr. Arthur Carlton) and various floral tributes.

Mr. Auguste Van Biene arrived at a New York hotel the other day, and on retiring to rest was about to give the waiter his requirements for the next morning when he was politely interrupted by him with a detailed list of the same. In response to Mr. Van Biene's inquiry as to where he derived his information, he was met with the smiling reply, "From you yourself, sir, three years ago, at the hotel in Kimberley; and, sir, you gave me a seat to see the play." Mr. Van Biene took the hint, and the waiter his leave.

A pleasant surprise awaited the children who are performing in Mr. John Hart's pantomime of *Mother Goose* at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, last Tuesday night, when a large case of expensive toys, valued at £70, was distributed amongst the little ones after the fall of the curtain. Needless to say, the children were delighted with their gifts, which are generously contributed by a large Bavarian toy merchant as a mark of appreciation of the children's efforts.

The adjourned hearing of the application by Mrs. Brown Potter for discharge from her bankruptcy came before Mr. Registrar Brougham in the Court of Bankruptcy on the 26th ult. Mrs. Brown Potter had a receiving order made against her in July last. Her liabilities, she said, amounted to £4,258, arising from her unsuccessful season at the Savoy Theatre. Proofs, however, were put in for £11,587, the balance between that sum and the amount admitted by the debtor being debts incurred by one Fossick, who was said to be managing the theatre on her behalf. The debtor, however, denied this, and alleged that Fossick was managing for a syndicate after she had lost the amount she was prepared to venture, namely, £5,000, she then being employed as an actress at the theatre on a salary The question as to whether Mrs. Brown Potter or Fossick was responsible for the rejected claims came before Mr. Justice Bigham, who on Jan. 15 reversed the decision of the trustee, and admitted the proof of Messrs. Partington against the debtor's estate for advertising, that being taken as a test case, the effect of the decision being that the amount of the liabilities had been increased to £12,000. The trustee now reported these facts to the Court, together with the fact that the assets had realised £1,513 18s. 6d., and that it did not appear probable that any further amount would come into the estate. The Official Receiver, therefore, reported the offence of insufficiency of assets.

Counsel for Mrs. Brown Potter said his client had been absolutely ruined by trusting too implicitly in her late solicitor Fossick, whose conduct was a matter of common knowledge. As far as her means were concerned she started her season at the theatre with £5,000 raised upon her own property, and it was clear that when that money was gone she gave up the theatre as a tenant, and was merely paid a salary as an actress. She had realised her jewellery and furniture to do what a lady would do, namely, to pay all the salaries and wages of the people she employed. Fossick had, without her knowledge, pledged her estate to the extent of £12,000 or £13,000, and he submitted that the deficiency of assets as reported by the Official Receiver arose from circumstances for which she could not be held responsible. The Registrar said that he regarded the case as a very hard one for Mrs. Brown Potter, she having been practically ruined by the solicitor she had trusted, and who had treated her very badly. Inasmuch, however, as the offence of insufficiency of assets was clearly established, he was bound to suspend the discharge, which he proposed to do for the minimum period of two years. Counsel thereupon suggested that, instead of the course being taken, the discharge should be granted subject to the debtor signing judgment for £100. This suggestion the Registrar acquiesced in, and made the order accordingly.

MR. PINERO'S NEW PLAY.

"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Arthur W. Pinero, produced at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Hilary Jesson .....MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER
Filmer Jesson, M.P. ....MR. HERBERT WARING
Derek Jesson .....MISS IRIS HAWKINS
Sir Daniel Ridgeley .....MR. E. LYALL SWETE
Pryce Ridgeley .....MR. C. M. LOWNE
Major Maurewarde MR. DAWSON MILWARD
Dr. Dilnott .....MR. NIGEL PLAYFAIR
Harding .....MR. ROBERT HORTON
Forshaw .....MR. E. VIVIAN REYNOLDS
Servants ..... MR. ANTHONY FAWCITT, MR. GERALD JEROME
Nina .....MISS IRENE VANBRUGH
Lady Ridgeley .....MISS BELLA PATEMAN
Geraldine Ridgeley .....MISS BERYL FABER
Mdlle. Thomé .....MDLLE. MARCELLE CHEVALIER

Mr. Pinero has written another fine play, and one that completely sustains his reputation as the most gifted English dramatist of his time. For the most part he pursues in *His House in Order* the pleasant path of comedy, and treats the theme of incompatibility of temperament with a light, facile, but firm touch and a wealth of clever detail that betray the hand of genius. We are not staggered by any terrible revelations as in *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, nor are our insular notions of propriety shocked by a scene resembling the one that excited so much controversy on the production of *The Gay Lord Quex*. Yet the third act of the new piece contains a situation of such poignancy that on the first night the crowded house was hushed in painful silence which was not broken until the fall of the act-drop, when the enthusiastic attitude of the house showed that the dramatic significance of Mr. Pinero's scène à faire had sunk deeply into the hearts of the enthusiastic first-nighters, and that the triumph of the play was assured.

Twelve years before the opening of the play the master of Overbury Towers, Mr. Filmer Jesson, M.P., had been affected by a terrible bereavement, his wife having been thrown out of her carriage and killed immediately. He was deeply attached to her, and at the opening of the play we learn that in order to perpetuate her memory he is about to dedicate a park to the public for ever. He has married a second time; but "Annabel Mary's" place has not been filled by Nina, a giddy, heedless, wayward girl, who had been governess to his boy, and whose want of method and order, in the cold, correct, and conventional husband's idea, entirely unfits her for the position of hostess. Nina's duties, therefore, are relegated to Geraldine Ridgeley, the deceased wife's sister, who takes advantage of her position and does all that is possible to irritate the impulsive, unaffected creature, whose affection she might easily have won. Nina makes a confidant of Hilary Jesson, her brother-in-law, who has left his post as British Minister to the Republic of Santa Guarda, and come to England for a six weeks' holiday. She confesses to him that she is an "out-and-out failure": but "I could have learnt," she plaintively adds, "if there had been no one before: it is the perfect first wife. I did not take her into consideration." Nina has not only to suffer humiliation from Geraldine Ridgeley, but is also deeply mortified by the plainly indicated dislike of Geraldine's father and mother, Sir Daniel and Lady Ridgeley, and her brother, Pryce Ridgeley, an insufferable cad. "Isn't it worth while to make some sacrifice to conciliate these people?" asks Hilary—himself a genial, kindly, and broad-minded citizen of the world—who constitutes himself Nina's mentor. But the breach becomes wider in the second act during the family discussion concerning the uses to which Mr. Filmer Jesson's splendid gift of a public park in memory of "Annabel Mary" should be put. The fussy Mayor representing the inhabitants of the town to whom the park is dedicated has called to suggest that a band-stand should be provided at the Town Council's expense. This is much too frivolous a notion for Lady Ridgeley, who considers that a drinking-fountain would be much more appropriate—a plain, round structure with prosaic pewter cups chained up to it. Nina, in order to be conciliatory, offers to give the drinking-fountain herself, and to make it an artistic thing she proposes to have it designed by a first-rate London sculptor. In this proposition Sir Daniel Ridgeley scents impropriety, and the idea is quashed. Nina at length is so irritated by the conduct of the "irreconcilables" that her indignation gets the better of her temper, and in an outburst of uncontrollable rage she declares her intention of not being present at the opening of the park on the morrow.

At the commencement of the third act, when the whole household at Overbury Towers is preparing to attend the inaugural ceremony, we learn that Nina is still obdurate, and when she appears in a bright pink gown we know that the defiant attitude of the previous night is maintained. "I will not observe this anniversary," she says. She objects to being trotted out and exhibited as Mr. Filmer Jesson's "matrimonial blunder," who is not fit "to tie the shoe-string of Annabel Mary." Left alone, the child Derek comes to her with a small leather bag, mildewed, that he had found under a loose plank in the floor of his mother's boudoir—now his schoolroom. Nina succeeds in opening it, and discovers letters, which she immediately commences to read. She makes the startling discovery that they are from Major Maurewarde, an old friend of Filmer Jesson's, to the dead wife, and that their contents leave no doubt of the guilty intimacy that had existed between them. She acquaints Hilary of her discovery. "That stained-glass saint, Annabel Mary, was nothing more than Major Maurewarde's woman, and *Derek is his son!*" There is a gleam in the eye and a triumphant tone in the voice of Nina that betoken mischief. She is determined on making use of her knowledge. She is "upper dog" now, and will have her full measure of revenge. It is Hilary's duty to prevent such a catastrophe, and the interview between the two is one of the finest pieces of dramatic writing Mr. Pinero has given us. He points out to her the better way, and pictures to her the happiness that she may attain by renunciation. Nina not only relents, but apologises to the Ridgeleys for her unseemly outburst of the previous night, and changing her dress, accompanies her husband to the park. Hilary, to whom she has handed the letters, deals with Maurewarde, who packs up and departs. In the last act Hilary, after giving Pryce Ridgeley a piece of his mind and calling him a cad and a cur, takes his brother Filmer to task for his behaviour to Nina, who has never been treated with forbearance or approached in the proper way. He complains also of the attitude of the Ridgeleys, who use their power malevolently and uncharitably. Filmer opposes the heated invective of his brother by specious arguments, and justifies his conduct and that of his first wife's relatives. Hilary, as a last resource, hands him the incriminating letters, explaining to him at the same time the noble generosity of Nina. The rest may be easily guessed. The Ridgeleys receive their congé; and as the curtain falls Nina sits alone with her husband, and the two will commence life anew.

Mr. George Alexander has never been better fitted with a part than with that of Hilary Jesson. During the first two acts his scenes are in the lighter vein. He has a delightful dissertation on women—"God bless 'em"—in the first act, and plays the rôle of the discreet tactician and genial man of the world to perfection in the second, wherein Hilary's diplomacy—displayed in his parable of the two chefs, entirely fails to allay the rising storm. In the third act the actor powerfully emphasies the passion of the scene, and grips his audience by his intense earnestness and conviction. Miss Irene Vanbrugh has never played better than as Nina. In the first act she explains very prettily, and with considerable piquancy, Nina's inadequacy for the position she has been called upon to fill, and realises with many natural touches the author's conception of the impulsive, breezy girl. Nina's first scene with her chum and brother-in-law is most delicately handled by the clever actress. Nina's blazing indignation in the second act is very real; but her great triumph comes in the third act. "From a brow-beaten, submissive girl, I have changed into a woman," says Nina. A woman, too, who is determined on revenge, and there is a world of meaning in the tones of the actress's voice when Nina, with scorn, at first rejects the counsel of Hilary. Her enemies would make her "eat humble pie—top crust and all." Now her chance has come, and Miss Vanbrugh allows us for a moment to see the lower animal nature of the woman possessed with a spirit of revenge. The spirit of gentleness and forgiveness is sweetly displayed in the last act, in which the triumph of the actress is complete. Mr. Herbert Waring, as the cold, impassive Filmer Jesson, who makes his wife "mistress of the ice-house he calls home," plays with admirable restraint, and wins sympathy in the last act in the distracted husband's bitter sorrow. Mr. E. Lyall Swete makes a hit by his clever treatment of the part of the dour, hypocritical old humbug, Sir Daniel Ridgeley, who believes that where there are two constructions to be put upon a person's actions, it is generally safe to put the worst. Mr. C. M. Lowne's Pryce Ridgeley is another capital character sketch. Pryce is in the habit of saying nasty things; but they are generally amusing, and the actor never fails to make them tell. Specially good is Mr. Lowne in Pryce's interview with Hilary, who soundly abuses him. The part of Major Maurewarde gives little chance to the actor; but Mr. Dawson Milward acts with considerable force and intensity in the major's one important scene with Hilary Jesson. Miss Beryl Faber as Geraldine is frigid, implacable, perfectly well-bred, and logical. The actress, indeed, makes one understand how such a chilly, undemonstrative woman as Geraldine would freeze up the impulsive and affectionate nature of such a warm-hearted girl as Nina. Miss Bella Pateman is most amusing as the rigidly proper Lady Ridgeley, who thinks that much of the world's wickedness is attributable to genius. The part is played to perfection. Mdlle. Marcelle Chevalier gives a most interesting exposition of the part of the governess, Mdlle. Thomé, the mixture of broken English and French in her lines being perfectly spoken. Mr. Nigel Playfair is seen to advantage as Dr. Dilnott in the second act, being a very good specimen of the country practitioner, who interests himself in local affairs. Little Iris Hawkins plays prettily and intelligently as Derek Jesson, and in the letter-writing scene in the third act displays much cleverness. Mr. Robert Horton as Harding, and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds as Forshaw, a representative of a provincial newspaper, complete the cast quite satisfactorily. The scenery has been painted by Mr. Joseph Harker, from decorations designed by Percy Macquoid, R.I., and the interiors show all the richness and taste that one would expect to find in the country seat of a member of Parliament.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund was held on Monday afternoon on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree. There were also present Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Akerman May, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mrs. Herbert Brookes, Mrs. C. Elliot, Miss Louise Stopford, Miss Edith Blande, Miss Vane Featherston, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss Clara Jecks, Miss Carlotta Addison, Mrs. Charles Gay, Miss Garton, Mrs. Ernest Collins, Mrs. H. Beerbohm Tree, Messrs. Henry Dana, Comyns Carr, Lionel Belmore, J. H. Mole, P. de Pinto, A. S. Homewood, Henry Evill, S. Major Jones, C. M. Lowne, Aubray Smith, H. A. H. Cole, H. B. Irving, George Shelton, T. P. Haynes, Harry Paulton, and the Rev. C. E. L. Wright.

The SECRETARY (Mr. C. I. Coltson) read the notice convening the meeting, as well as the Committee's report and the auditor's report, which were as follows:—

The Committee deplore the heavy loss the Fund has sustained by the death of its loved President, Sir Henry Irving. From the year 1882, when the Fund was founded, Sir Henry Irving has been its annually elected President, and during the whole of the time he evinced in every possible manner the greatest interest in its well-doing, and was always ready to assist it by every means within his power. The Committee have difficulty in finding words which can adequately express their sorrow at the loss of so dear and valued a friend.

In submitting to the subscribers of the Fund the accounts for the past year, the Committee are glad to be able to report an improvement in the amount of the subscriptions, the total being £1136 18s. 2d., and the number of subscribers 708. The income from all sources has been £4787 7s. 3d., and the number of assisted cases 1474.

An analysis of the year's work will be found in the annexed abstract of report and statement of accounts.

The Committee very gratefully record their thanks to Mr. Edward Terry for presiding at the Fund's fifteenth annual dinner.

The Committee's thanks are cordially given to the many actors and actresses who kindly devoted to the Fund the moneys received by them in exchange for their autograph. This source of income has considerably increased during the past year.

The continued support accorded to the Fund by the Committees of the Liverpool Theatrical Gala, the Birmingham Charity Sports, the Sunderland Charity Carnival, is most cordially appreciated by the Committee, who also gratefully acknowledge the substantial help given to the Fund by the organisers of the Shakespeare Ball, and by the cricket matches at Lord's and the Surrey Oval.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT.

The following is a comparative analysis of the work of 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905:—

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Ordinary Cases	665	779	800	815	1052	1154
Emergency Cases	366	336	311	295	359	320
	1031	1115	1111	1110	1411	1474

	1900	1901	1902
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts	2086 12 0	2258 11 3	2195 6 0
Emergency Gifts	138 1 9	159 13 2	141 1 6
Ordinary Loans	549 0 0	458 2 0	619 11 6
Emergency Loans	70 8 6	77 9 0	101 12 0
	2844 2 3	2953 15 5	3057 11 0

	1903	1904	1905
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts	3329 18 9	2443 19 6	2516 16 0
Emergency Gifts	114 14 6	126 8 8	129 4 9
Ordinary Loans	522 5 0	651 18 0	675 7 0
Emergency Loans	100 2 0	128 11 6	165 14 6
	3058 0 3	3350 17 8	3487 2 3

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.
FROM JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1905.

RECEIPTS.

DR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance on hand, January 1, 1905		550 11 9
„ Subscriptions and Donations	1067 18 6	
„ Tax on Professional Admissions to Theatres	68 19 8	
		1136 18 2
„ Bequests: James Robert Anderson		100 0 0
„ Proceeds of Benefits, &c.: Hull Floral Matinée	10 10 0	
Matinée, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle	28 13 3	
Amateur performance of *Prisoner of Zenda*, per George Alexander, Esq.	5 5 0	
Studio Masquers' performance, per D. Carleton Smyth, Esq.	11 0 0	
Liverpool Theatrical Gala	45 0 0	
West Bromwich Charity Sports, per J. P. Moore, Esq.	1 1 0	
Charity Football Sports, Bristol, per J. M. Chute, Esq.	5 5 0	
Shakespeare Ball, per Lady Wilbraham and Mrs. E. Maitland	107 9 8	
Birmingham Theatrical Charity Sports	5 0 0	
Dramatic and Musical Sick Fund	160 13 9	
Sunderland Charity Carnival	5 0 0	
Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham, Charity Matinée	3 3 0	
Cricket Match at Lord's, per J. A. E. Malone, Esq.	60 0 0	
Oxford City A Football Club *v* G. Dance's *Orchid* Company	2 12 1	
Residue of amount collected in *Leah Kleschna* Company for wreath—Sir Henry Irving	8 0 6	
Dramatic Reading of *Hamlet*, per Henry Twyford, Esq.	9 0 0	
On Account of Cricket Match at Oval, per C. Aubrey Smith, Esq.	37 10 0	
		504 18 3
„ Covent Garden Theatre Fund		1169 10 0
„ Arrears on last year's Dinner		32 13 0
„ Net Proceeds to date of 15th Annual Dinner (Edward Terry, Esq., in the Chair)		884 0 0
„ Autographs of our principal Actors and Actresses		159 12 1
„ Interest on Investments: Helen Faucit Endowment	60 8 0	
Sir Charles Wyndham's Gift	70 14 8	
Other Investments	668 13 1	
		799 15 9
	£23,942 17 0	£5337 19 0

NOTE.

	£ s. d.
Investments held:	
2½ per cent. Consuls	1490 0 0
3 per cent. India Stock	3201 2 11
3½ per cent. India Stock	17,525 14 11
3½ per cent. do. B. Account	1725 19 2

PAYMENTS.

BY	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grants and Allowances (inclusive of the expenses of 16 burials)		2643 5 9
„ Loans	841 1 6	
Less repaid	89 5 6	
		751 16 0
„ Medicine Account		1 10 8
„ National Telephone		8 0 0
„ Legal Expenses		2 6 0
„ Salaries		455 10 0
„ Advertising		36 3 6
„ Printing and Stationery		38 14 6
„ Rent of Offices		90 0 0
„ Miscellaneous Expenses (including Poundage, Postages, &c.)		57 11 1
„ Housekeeper's Expenses (including Coals, &c.)		22 12 11
„ At Banker's on Deposit	500 0 0	
„ At Banker's on Current Account	713 3 11	
„ In hands of Secretary	17 4 8	
		1230 8 7
		£5337 19 0

C. I. COLTSON,
Secretary,
8, ADAM STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Audited and found correct,
WESTCOTT, MASKALL, AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.

London, January 10th, 1906.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the adoption of the reports and accounts, said: Ladies and Gentlemen, I will endeavour to make my remarks mercifully brief, for it is on business that we are mainly bent to-day. But I am sure I should fail to appreciate the sentiments of my brothers and sisters present did I not on this occasion give expression to our sense of the deep loss we have sustained in the death of our President, Sir Henry Irving, whose devotion to the cause of this Fund will be ever memorable. His loss necessarily entails the filling of the post he so long and so honourably held, and I am sure that all present will agree with me that the name submitted to you to-day is one which should meet with the unanimous approval of our profession. I shall presently call upon Mr. Edward Terry to propose, and on Mr. George Alexander to second, the nomination of our president. I am very glad to be able to say that the last year has shown a considerable strengthening of the support given to this Fund by the actors themselves, for the subscriptions show an appreciable advance over the amount received last year. There can be no doubt that the Actors' Benevolent Fund is splendidly administered, and actors can have no valid excuse from holding aloof from its support; and remember that it is a citizen's first duty, after conforming to the law of self-preservation, to turn his attention to the preservation of his fellows. And I hope that last Saturday, which was Actors' Saturday, may show that every actor has done his duty by his fellows. I am delighted to see that the Covent Garden Fund, which Sir Charles Wyndham was largely instrumental in rescuing for the purposes of this charity, has yielded to us this year the increased sum of £1,169 10s. And here I may touch upon another fund by which we are shortly likely to benefit. I mean the fund which that great and good friend of the theatre, Mr. Henry Betty, bequeathed for the benefit of the poor actor. As president of the late Dramatic and Musical Sick Fund in succession to Mr. Betby, I was approached in this matter, and I at once communicated with the Attorney-General, with a view to this bequest of £10,000 being handed over to the care of our Actors' Benevolent Fund. In this course I believe I have the approval of Mr. Edward Ledger, who was named by his friend Henry Betty as the almoner, and Mr. Ledger considered that this bequest could not be better administered than by the officers of our fund. I have every reason to believe that the Attorney-General will consider that the objects of this Fund most nearly come within the province of Mr. Betby's bequest. As you all know, our own Dramatic Sick Fund has ceased to exist, and it looks as if we were approaching the time when there will be only one great fund to administer our far-reaching charity. It is a pity that no performances were given at the theatres this year directly benefiting this fund, but there is a movement now on foot to establish an actor's day on which each theatre throughout the country should give up one performance and each actor one day's salary. This seems a somewhat Utopian scheme, but there is reason to hope that it may be accomplished. I know of one theatre where the actors and the manager are ready and anxious to fall in with this movement. At the same time I am sure that all right-thinking persons will agree that any money resulting from such a movement should be devoted exclusively to the theatrical charities. Once more I urge everyone present and everyone absent to contribute handsomely to the Actors' Saturday list in order that the reproach so frequently levelled at our calling may be a thing of the past. I beg to move the adoption of this report and accounts.

Mr. HENRY EVILL briefly seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. C. AUBREY SMITH proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their work during the past year.

The Rev. C. E. L. WRIGHT, in seconding, remarked that he took a great interest in the Fund. Seven or eight years ago he became a steward at the festival, and he hoped he should remain a steward so long as life and strength were permitted to him. He pointed out that while in 1900 there were only 1,000 cases to deal with, last year there were as many as 1,474.

Mr. MORRIS ABRAHAMS returned thanks on behalf of the committee. They had been told, he said, by their esteemed chairman that the Fund was in a better position than it had ever been in before. He was glad to see that, but though their financial position had been on the rise, their responsibilities were on a par with that rise. A few of their respected professional friends had not yet subscribed to the Fund The committee would feel greatly pleased if they would do so.

Mr. M. R. MORAND proposed, and Mr. E. H. BULL seconded, a vote of thanks to and the re-election of the hon. standing counsel, Mr. J. Safford; the hon. solicitors, Messrs. J. H. Mote and Son; the hon. auditors, Messrs. W. Westcott, Maskall and Co.; the hon. physicians, Drs. G. Stoker, F. Horton Villanueva, C. Atkin Swan, A. J. Rice Oxley, and R. P. Middlemist; and the dental surgeon, Mr. P. de Pinto.

Mr. J. H. MOTE acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the hon. solicitors, Mr. H. H. COLE on behalf of the hon. auditors, and Mr. P. DE PINTO as the dental surgeon.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY, in proposing the election of Sir Charles Wyndham as president of the Fund, said: Your chairman has referred to the loss we have sustained in the death of our late president, Sir Henry Irving, and I therefore feel it unnecessary to speak further on that subject. We have now to elect a gentleman to take the position he so kindly and so ably occupied for so very many years for the great good of this Fund. I can think of no gentleman who would more fittingly fill the post of president of this Fund than our friend, Sir Charles Wyndham. He was one of the founders of the Fund in the old days; he has given most magnificently to the Fund; and he always will, I am sure, as long as he lives, maintain the interest he has shown towards the Fund. I do not think there will be a dissentient voice when I propose that the presidentship of this Fund should be in the hands of Sir Charles Wyndham.

Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, in seconding the proposal, said: Mr. Tree says that Sir Charles Wyndham got us £1,169 10s., in addition to a gift of his own. That alone, I am sure, will suggest that he will be a worthy successor to Sir Henry Irving, and I am equally sure that all actors will be pleased to see him president of this Fund.

On the proposal being put to the meeting, it was declared carried unanimously.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY: I am rather a stickler on points of order, and now that we have elected Sir Charles Wyndham as president, I should like to be allowed to commit a breach of order on this occasion. It is to propose that our friend, Mr. George Alexander, be asked to occupy the position of vice-president of this Fund.

The CHAIRMAN: I have much pleasure in being out of order with Mr. Edward Terry, and in seconding that Mr. George Alexander be elected as vice-president.

After the proposal had been passed by the meeting,

Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER said that he heartily appreciated the honour which had been conferred upon him. His services were entirely at the disposal of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and all that he could do for it would be done.

Mr. H. B. IRVING: I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Tree as trustee of this Fund. I am sure it will be a satisfaction to all to have him in that post. Mr. Tree has been a very generous supporter of this Fund.

Mr. LOWNE, in seconding, said that he heartily endorsed Mr. Irving's sentiments.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the meeting for carrying the proposal, and expressed gratitude to Mr. Irving and Mr. Lowne for their kindly references to himself. As he had done in the past, so he would work in the future to further the interests of the Fund. He was sorry their old friend, Mr. J. L. Toole, could not be there that day. It was pleasant on such an occasion to recall that dear man. He (the speaker) had known John Toole for many years, and he had never heard him say one word of which he need be ashamed.

Mr. CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS proposed, and Mr. AKERMAN MAY seconded, the election of Mr. Harry Nicholls as hon. treasurer. Carried.

Mr. HARRY NICHOLLS said he was honoured and delighted at being appointed to such a position on the retirement of his old friend, Tom Thorne, and he should do his utmost to uphold the aims and objects of the institution.

The SECRETARY asked for three gentlemen to act as scrutineers, and Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith, Henry Evill, and Lionel Belmore, agreed to perform the duty of that office.

Mrs. CECIL RALEIGH proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree for presiding and giving the use of his theatre for the meeting, and

The CHAIRMAN'S response brought the meeting to a close.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

Once again there was a good attendance at the Covent Garden fancy dress ball which took place on the night of the 26th ult., under the most favourable conditions. The dance programme contained no fewer than twenty-two items, and an admirable selection of music was as usual provided under the experienced directorship of Mr. Dan Godfrey. In the matter of costumes there was again great variety, indeed, it is a notable feature of these carnivals that with their progress in numbers there is corresponding advancement in the rivalry which seeks for prizes. The march past of competitors was, as usual, an attractive feature, and in the contest for prizes, which included an upright grand piano and a handsome boudoir suite of furniture, Mr. W. Clarkson was again to the fore, gaining the second for "Lucky Tips," fourth for "Back to the land," sixth for "The Ides of March," and others for "Three Jolly Sweeps," "Gold and Silver," and "The Dawn of Spring." The first award went to "Teneriffe, an Island of Delight," "Queen of the Wild West" gained the third, and "Pleasant Reflections" took the fifth.

At the next ball, which will be held on St. Valentine's Day, Wednesday, Feb. 14, Messrs. Frank Rendle and Neil Forsyth will, as a souvenir of "the Saint," distribute among the visitors handsome ostrich feather fans.

"LADY INGER OF ÖSTRAT."

A Play, in Five Acts, by Henrick Ibsen, Translated by Charles Archer, Revived at the Scala Theatre on Sunday evening, Jan. 28. (Repeated on Monday afternoon, Jan. 29.)

Finn .....MR. KENELM FOSS
Biörn .....MR. W. R. STAVELEY
Elina Gyldenlöve .....MISS ALICE CRAWFORD
Lady Inger Gyldenlöve .....MISS EDITH OLIVE
Einar Huk .....MR. C. L. DELPH
A Retainer .....MR. TALBOT HOMEWOOD
Olaf Skaktavl .....MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Nils Lykke .....MR. HENRY AINLEY
Jens Bielke .....MR. CHARLES A. DORAN
Nils Stensson .....MR. HARCOURT WILLIAMS

The Stage Society, by the production of *Lady Inger of Ostrat*, have given admirers of Ibsen an opportunity of judging of his very early work as a dramatist, and of comparing it with his later plays. One could not reasonably expect the workmanship to present that finish and skilful technique which are so plainly discernible in Ibsen's dramas of recent date. Taking into account that *Lady Inger of Ostrat* was written a little more than half-a-century ago, it bears critical examination better than might have been expected. As a matter of course, the piece is old-fashioned, a term that would be applied to any play of the same age; but, regarded from the view of the ordinary theatre-goer, its weakest point is the lack of dramatic incidents in the first three acts. Owing mainly to this serious defect and a certain haziness in the working out of the plot, the charge made against this early Ibsen play that it is dreary cannot well be denied. Opinions probably will differ as to whether it was worth while to rescue this sombre play from its dusty shelf and subject to the severe test of the modern theatre the immature essay of a dramatist who is now acknowledged to be a master of his art.

The plot is based upon certain incidents in Norwegian history. The date is the year 1528, and the scene Ostrat Manor, Trondheim Fiord. Here dwells Lady Inger, and it is to her that the Norwegians look to deliver them from the Danish yoke. An important character in the development of the story is Nils Lykke, a Danish knight, who comes to Ostrat on a secret mission. He is a good-looking libertine, who possesses a peculiar fascination for the fair sex, and was the betrayer of Lady Inger's daughter Lucia, who lies buried in the vaults below. She has still one daughter living, by name Elina, and an illegitimate son whose father was a Swede who eventually became king. This youth, known as Nils Stensson, has been brought up as the son of poor peasants, and is ignorant and uneducated. Elina is acquainted with her dead sister's tragic story, but does not know the name of the man who betrayed her. Nils Lykke falls in love with Elina, who at first treats him with scorn, but eventually succumbs to his fascinating manner and the hypnotic power of his wonderful eyes. Nils Stensson has been entrusted with certain despatches to be delivered to the stranger he will meet at Ostrat. He fulfils his mission, the stranger in question being Nils Lykke, who becomes acquainted with the secret of the young man's birth. Lady Inger is led to believe that he is the legitimate son of the man who betrayed her, and by her orders he is put to death. But before this happens, Lady Inger informs her daughter that Nils Lykke was the seducer of her sister. The girl is aghast, and, declaring that she is Lykke's bride in the sight of Heaven, departs with apparently suicidal intentions. Her mother displays all the symptoms of mental disorder, impressing upon her faithful old manservant, Biörn, the importance of having the nails of the coffin of the murdered youth hammered in tightly. The white-haired retainer mutters "I can't make her out," as he glances uneasily at his demented mistress. Finally, a dismal procession enters bearing the coffin, and Lady Inger is handed a ring taken from one of the fingers of the dead. By this token she learns that the coffin contains the body of her own son. With a wailing cry she casts herself upon the coffin, and the curtain falls.

Miss Edyth Olive presented a dignified, majestic figure as Lady Inger; while her acting was consistently impressive throughout, she rose to the occasion in the last act, and showed much power and feeling in depicting the woman whose mind has become unhinged, but who is able to realise that she caused the death of her own son. Miss Alice Crawford was also very successful in her rendering of Elina, a character that required delicate handling. Mr. Henry Ainley played the part of Nils Lykke with much spirit, his services being of the utmost value in every scene in which he appeared. Mr. Alfred Brydone was a stern and rugged Olaf Skaktavl; Mr. Harcourt Williams did well as Nils Stensson, relieving in some slight measure the soberness of the picture by his embodiment of a hungry youth intent on satisfying the inner man. Subsequently he vividly depicted the terrors of one pursued by the enemy, and in fear of instant death. Mr. W. R. Staveley gave a natural impersonation of Biörn, Mr. Kenelm Ross was good as Finn, an armourer, Mr. Charles A. Doran as Jens Bielke, and Mr. Talbot Homewood as a retainer deserve favourable mention. The play was produced by Mr. Herbert Jarman, and the scenery, dresses, and appointments were as elaborate and perfect as if the play had been staged for a long run.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK"; or, "THE CROSS OF THE CHRISTIAN," a play in four acts and six tableaux, suggested by and founded on Guy Thorne's celebrated novel of the same name, by S. Buchanan Rogerson, was produced by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company for copyright purposes at the Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton, on Saturday.

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THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE FRISSON DE L'AIGLE."
Play, in Five Acts and Six Tableaux,
by M. Paul Gavault,
produced at Sarah Bernhardt's, on
Jan. 27.

M. Pasque ..... M. André Calmettes
Malet ..... M. Henry Krauss
Bautreux ..... M. G. Maury
Rovigo ..... M. Paul Plan
Rateau ..... M. André Hall
Cambacérès ..... M. Grammont
Pasquier ..... M. Walter
Abbé Lafon ..... M. G. Colin
Pauline ..... Mdlle. Nelly Cormon
Baronne Pasquier .. Mdlle. Marguerite Bresil
Mdlle. Cuisot ..... Mdlle. de Rycke
Marie-Louise ..... Mdlle. Maud Gauthier

(from our own correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday, Feb. 1.—Of all conspiracies the least known, yet the most remarkable, is that of General Malet. In the night of October 23, 1812, whilst Napoleon was vainly trying to beat the Russians, General Malet, an old Republican, and Napoleon's deadly foe, resolved to overthrow the Imperial Government. He escaped from the prison wherein he had been detained during three years, and, without money, without friends, with no other adherents than a half-mad corporal and a crazy priest, he started on his mission. Curiously enough, his first efforts were crowned with success. At five in the morning Savary, the Minister of Police, and Pasquier, the Police Prefect, were under lock and key; and Malet had taken possession of the Bank of France, the Town Hall, and the Post Office. Having spread the rumour that Napoleon had died in Russia, Malet succeeded in grouping round him a handful of followers; and Paris when it awoke in the morning was surprised to hear that a new form of government had been established. But poor Malet's victory only lasted a few hours. He was arrested, and with twelve of his accomplices thrown into prison. They paid dearly for their mad freak. Nobody had been killed, not a penny had been taken away; and a few years' imprisonment, with perhaps an occasional cold douche, would have brought these men soon to their senses. The Emperor, however, thought he had not spilt enough blood in Russia; and Malet and his thirteen companions were shot, the old General commanding the fire. This extraordinary historical incident has inspired M. Gavault, who has woven around it a plot, something à la Scribe, wherein, with a happy mixture of fiction and truth, he amuses his audience for a few hours. In the opening tableau Malet exposes his plan to Bautreux, a barrister, and to Rateau, a young soldier, who both promise to stand by him. Rateau is courting Pauline, a pretty girl, the niece of Pasque, a police spy. Malet himself plays but an insignificant rôle in the piece. Pasque is the principal personage, and it is, of course, he who first gets wind of the conspiracy, and saves the Empire. Unfortunately for him, his niece Pauline, whom he adopted, loves Rateau, and she dies from a bullet wound accidentally inflicted upon her by one of Pasque's own men, cursing her uncle. M. Gavault, an able farce-writer, should not have tried his hand at so-called historical dramas, which are altogether out of his line. Many of the situations are so improbable as to cause us to smile; and we never know whether we must shower our sympathies on General Malet, or reserve our pity for Mdlle. Pauline. A play of that sort, moreover, should be excellently mounted, which is not the case here. The soirée at the house of the Minister Cambacérès was anything but a brilliant affair; the ladies looked provincial, and the salons not particularly elegant. It was fairly well acted.

The great theatrical event this week has been the production at Antoine's of *Le Vieil Heidelberg*. After the phenomenal success it had, not only in Germany, but in England and elsewhere, it was highly interesting to watch the effect it would have on a typical Paris audience. And what could have been foreseen happened. Our public were deeply impressed with the exquisite sentiment of the piece, but the "sentimental" part therein did not appeal to them. Nor will Frenchmen ever understand the mentality of the German student, on whom they look as upon a strange animal. The beer-drinking youth will for ever remain a mystery to them. It is not probable that *Old Heidelberg* will have anything of a record run, but the play—translated by MM. Rémon and W. Bauer—was excellently received, and will be certain to remain on the Antoine répertoire for some time to come. Both acting and mounting were superb. Those who know the diminutive stage of that playhouse had reason to wonder how M. Antoine succeeded in squeezing so much effective scenery into such a small space. It was almost miraculous. As to the interpretation, it was worthy of the traditions of that house, which could not well be otherwise with such artists as Antoine, Chelles, Signoret, and Mdlle. Sylvie. The rôle of the Prince Charles-Henri had been entrusted to M. Maupré, a young man of about eighteen, whom M. Antoine has taken well in hand, and under whose guidance will be certain to succeed in his career.

It is in principle decided that we are to have a Popular Theatre. The commission formed to inquire into the matter are issuing a favourable report, and it is more than probable that the Chamber of Deputies will grant their permission to carry out the scheme. It will be a State theatre, for the benefit of those who cannot afford the high prices charged by the Paris playhouses. The scheme is an excellent one, and will be sure to receive every support. The money required will be raised by a lottery at low-priced tickets, a *modus* that always goes well with us. The only danger lies in the fear whether the managers will be sufficiently careful in the selection of the pieces they intend to produce. It requires more than ordinary tact to make the undertaking a success.

At the Palais-Royal the new *revue* will disappear from the bill next week, and be replaced by *La Grimpette*, a new farce by MM. Georges Berr and Marcel Guillemand. Apropos of this theatre it is not true that it has been sold to a well-known theatrical manager in Bordeaux.

Unheeding the hue and cry raised in the Press by several literary men who termed him a profanator, M. Busnach has finished his play *Madame Bovary*, which will be brought out at the Grand Theatre in Rouen. M. Busnach is trying to throw ridicule on his detractors, and in a measure succeeds in doing so. For all that, it can only be regretted that great works should not be safe from the hands of the adapter, who respects nothing. M. Pierre Decourcelle, not long ago, took liberties with Balzac, possibly in the belief that he could improve this author's works. To-day it is M. Busnach who wants to collaborate with Flaubert. Where will it end?

The staff of the Surrey Theatre recently had their annual supper, which proved to be a most enjoyable function. After the fall of the curtain, the stage was cleared and supper tables were set up. At 12.30 the happy assembly sat down, Mr. Chris Wordsworth acting as chairman, supported by Mr. Pete Murray, Mr. H. Cory Woodrow, and Mr. Wordsworth. After the tables had been cleared away the orchestra, under Mr. Hinkinson, gave some selections, whilst Will Driscoll and Harry Lynx entertained with songs. Dancing then became the order of the night, and it was getting on well towards daylight before the merry band dispersed. Mr. C. Craig acted as director of the ceremonies.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

"DER MILITARSTAAT,"
Comedy, in Four Acts,
by Gustav v. Moser and Thilo v. Trotha,
produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre
on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Gustav Haller ..... Willy Klein
Mathilde ..... Charlotte Kelly
Resi ..... Johanna Becker
August Nordmann ..... Richard Starnburg
Asta ..... Margarete Russ
Hans Vogel ..... Georg Baselt
Max Starke ..... Hans Stock
Döring ..... Paul Wind
Waldemar Müller ..... Ernst Reicher
Emmy ..... Helene Marschall
Rettig ..... Bruno Wiburger
Karl Lachmann ..... Karl Berger
Bertha ..... Ida Weiss
Modistin ..... Asta Eggert
Eine Magd ..... Erna Lennox
Soldat ..... Hermann Weiser

There is no lack of amusement in *Der Militärstaat*, and the audience is kept laughing from the beginning to the end of the play, which has fun enough in it to supply several comedies. Haller, a wealthy business man, wishes his daughter Resi, a rather frisky young lady, to marry Vogel, a rich chocolate proprietor. This young man is the type of the brainless masher. He would give anything to belong to the "smart set," and would like to sell his factories and set up as a country gentleman. He is expected to pay his first visit to the house, and as Haller is compelled to go out, Resi is asked to receive the young man and make him comfortable till her father's return. Vogel is delayed, and sends his manager, Starke, to offer an apology. Resi takes Starke for the expected visitor, makes him welcome over a bottle of champagne, and induces him promise to come to dinner. When Vogel appears and finds his manager an invited guest of the house he snubs him, and, giving him a pressing order, sends him away from the dinner-party. For this and many other slights inflicted on him in the presence of Resi and her pretty cousin, Asta Nordmann, a visitor from the country, Starke gets his revenge. In Germany, of course, every man has to do his duty as a soldier, and Vogel, Starke, and Karl, the butler at the Haller's, are all summoned to take part in the manœuvres. They all have to serve in the same company, Starke as lieutenant, Karl as sergeant, Vogel as private. The manœuvres bring the company to Nordmann's house, where the Hallers are on a visit. We see a German military camp depicted, Vogel treated *en camerade* by the common soldiers, ordered about by his sergeant—in common life Karl, the butler—and ultimately sent to prison by his lieutenant—his manager, Starke—for flirting with the ladies when he had to do sentry duty. Fifteen days of seclusion do him a lot of good. He comes to the conclusion that Asta is really the girl of his choice, and he leaves Resi to Starke, who had won her heart from the first. The performance of the piece was admirable. Willy Klein, Charlotte Kelly, Margarete Russ, and Hans Stock were all excellent; but special mention is due to Georg Baselt, who made the best of a splendid part, and delighted everyone by his healthy humour and discretion. Johanna Becker, whom we had only seen in small parts before, played that of Resi in a way that augurs well for her future. The camp scene was a masterpiece of stage-management.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Actors' Association held a special meeting on Friday, the 26th inst., when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Miss Kate Phillips, and Mr. Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The report of the council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, was formulated, and a draft prepared, and, after a lengthy discussion upon various points under consideration, the meeting was adjourned until the 30th inst., for the purpose of completing the draft of the report for submission to the council at their usual weekly meeting.

The adjourned meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was held on Tuesday last. There were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater, W. Devereux, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, A. Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, M. R. Morand, C. Aubrey Smith, and Hubert Willis, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The draft report of the council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, was considered, and ultimately settled.

The usual weekly meeting of the council of the Association was held on Tuesday last, when the following were present: Sir Squire Bancroft, president (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mesdames Kate Bishop, Kate Phillips, and Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Messrs. Acton Bond, C. Hayden Coffin, F. Cremlin, Will Dennis, William Devereux, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Fewlass Llewellyn, Norman McKinnel, M. R. Morand, Walter Russell, A. Morrice Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, Hubert Willis, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary).

The insurance scheme was further considered, and after some lengthy discussion as to the extent of the benefits to be derived under the agreement with the company, it was ultimately decided to leave the final settlement of details in the hands of the honorary solicitors.

The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members, and they were requested to advise others. Owing to the length of the sitting, the further consideration of the suggestions for the "Qualification and Registration of Actors" was deferred until next week.

The draft of the report of the council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, as submitted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, was considered and ultimately settled. Dr. James Wallace, 7, Elmwood-gardens, Acton Hill, W., and Dr. W. S. McGowan, 84, Rusholme-road, Manchester, were elected as hon. medical officers to the A.A. A former member was reinstated. Alec F. Thompson, Nellie Garside, Mary Mannering, Henry Armstrong, Drelincourt Odlum, and Muriel Pope were nominated for election. The secretary received instructions in connection with the holding of the fifteenth annual general meeting, at His Majesty's Theatre, on Feb. 15.

FOOTBALL.

Bristol XLCR. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs v. Music Halls A.F.C. Played on Clifton Downs on January 13. Messrs. H. Slade, J. Aubrey, E. Belding, D. O'Connor, J. Lacey, and J. Tyley (two) scored for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

Bristol XLCR.—H. Belding, goal; J. Lewis and A. Hamlin (captain), backs; J. Aubrey, T. Alway, and S. Carter, half backs; J. Aubrey, T. Alway, L. Hamlin, E. Belding, and H. Edwards, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; J. Tyley and E. Denton, backs; T. Neagle (captain), D. O'Connor, and J. Lacey, half backs; H. C. Douglas, H. Clements, R. Callen, P. Reardon, and W. Hinder, forwards.

Referee, H. Hare. Linesmen, Frank Hansford and Walter Miller. Result: Bristol XLCR., three goals; Music Halls A.F.C., four goals.

All the artistic costumes worn by Mr. Tree in *Nero*, as well as most of the others, were supplied by B. J. Simmons and Co., of King-street, Covent-garden, and they do this well-known firm great credit.

POOR CHILDREN AT THE PANTOMIME.

The Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, was crowded on Saturday afternoon last, when some three thousand poor children of the neighbourhood were the guests of the Playgoers' Club. Among the audience were nearly two hundred blind, deaf and dumb boys and girls, and one's sympathy went out very naturally to them in their affliction. At the same time, even the halt and the lame, the blind, and the dumb and the deaf, were able to, and did give signs of delight in what was taking place on the stage, and this delight was evinced to a greater extent by those members of the juvenile audience who were perfectly sound in wind and limb. Mr. Pett Ridge and Mr. Wontner Smith were chiefly responsible for arranging the performance that afternoon, and it must be said of them that they spared no effort to make their young friends feel thoroughly at ease. Cakes and oranges and buns and sweets there were in abundance, and in this connection it should be mentioned that Miss Jessie Preston gave the children one thousand bags of eatables, and the youngsters were not slow to shout their hurrahs by way of returning thanks to Miss Preston. This clever lady was the very charming and sprightly Prince Radiant in the pantomime of *King Wow-Wow*, and she fairly won the hearts of the little ones by her pleasing actions and mannerisms, and her tuneful vocalism. Especially did her youthful admirers like her expressive rendering of "There's a home in my heart for you," "Remember me to mother, dear," "Good-bye, sweet Marie," and "My Irish Molly." Miss Joan Preston was engaging, pretty, and dainty as the Princess, and she quite made herself a favourite with the kiddies. Mr. Jock Preston was an exceedingly whimsical and comical page; and Mr. George Preston brought out in diverting fashion the amusing characteristics of King Wow-Wow. Mr. Leo Main was extremely entertaining with his drolleries and quaint sayings and doings as the village schoolmistress; and Mr. Fred Lawrence was lively and laughable as Tommy; while Miss Lillie Lassah was an agreeable Sir Bertie Boulevard, her sweet singing of "Hear the pipers calling" being immensely popular with her hearers. The children felt they had a great friend in Mr. Willie Albert as the Cat, and his impersonation of a tabby was repeatedly made the object of their appreciation.

All the artists entered heartily into the business of entertaining the little people, who dwell mostly in wretched tenements in the East-end, and the children's enjoyment of what was put before them was of the keenest and most demonstrative character. Among other members of the Playgoers' Club who assisted in various ways in front of the house were Messrs. A. F. Spencer, C. E. B. Kibblewhite, and Osman Edwards.

The Playgoers' Club also entertained 1,000 children at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, on the same afternoon, Mr. H. Hart being in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Kenneth Howes and Mr. Louis Harfield officiated in a similar way over a huge party at the West London; while Mr. S. L. Bensusan and Mr. F. S. Hess did good work in connection with a crowd of youngsters who were taken to the Deptford Theatre. This afternoon the Grand Theatre, Islington, and the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, have been secured by the Club.

MISS GLADYS MARY HOWITT.

Miss Gladys Mary Howitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howitt (Miss Mary Ford), has returned to boarding-school. She will remain for two years at Beach House, Penhurst-road, East Cliff, Ramsgate; then she will go to Paris for a year to complete her education. She is a beautiful girl, and inherits her father's gifts for drawing and painting. Although but a mere child, she has sketched a very striking likeness of the late Sir Henry Irving. She is studying drawing, music, and singing under clever masters. She possesses a sweet singing voice—a clear soprano. She is very anxious to study for light opera. Her first and only appearance (as a child actress) was at His Majesty's Theatre, in Mr. Tree's first production of *The Tempest*, and, to use her own expression, she "was a Nymph, a Reaper, and a Gnome." Mr. Leonard Rayne, with whom Mr. Howitt has been associated for so many years both as actor and friend, the night before they sailed for Africa in March last, presented little Gladys with a beautiful diamond ring, adding that he hoped the ring would be her "mascot." A rather amusing incident occurred the night Miss Howitt was driving with her mother to her school, it being the night of the election. A grand procession was about to start. To the great delight of Miss Howitt she drove through streets lined on either side by crowds cheering loudly. The secret of the cheers was that the ribbons on the cabman's whip were the colours of the successful candidate for Ramsgate—Mr. Marks.

Mrs. Howitt will remain in Ramsgate to be near her daughter during Mr. Howitt's African tour. Mrs. Howitt is devoting her time to dramatic instruction, and it is a great delight to her to prepare pupils for the art she has had, through years of ill-health, to unwillingly relinquish.

We may add that Miss Howitt (on her mother's side) is the great-grandchild of the Lady Ann Hewitt, and great-grandniece of the late Rev. Peter Hewitt.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Brooks.—On Thursday, Jan. 18, at Sydenham, Kent, the wife of E. Oswald Brooks (Lessee and Manager, Grand Theatre, Swansea), Windsor House, Langland Bay, Glam., of a daughter.

Texas.—On Jan. 31, at Coatbridge, the wife of Capt. George Texas, of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

Ward—Hersee.—Jan. 20, at Kirkham, Thomas William Ward, to Margaret Hersee (Maggie Duggan).

DEATHS.

Atkinson.—Jan. 24, at Liverpool, Rosina Aytoun Atkinson (Rosina Sipple), wife of Geo. Aytoun. Aged 47. R.I.P.

Atkinson.—Rosina Aytoun Atkinson, professionally known as Miss Rosina Tipple, wife of Lord George Aytoun, agent, and sister of Miss Agnes Hazel. R.I.P.

Leggett.—Jan. 25, at his residence in London, Richard Leggett, formerly of Leggett and Allen, song and dance artists.

Morgan.—Jan. 26, 1906, Henry Morgan, father of the Sisters Elsie and Annie Morgan, died at his residence, at Cardiff.

In Memoriam.

Diey.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Captain Alfred Diey (Alexander M. Aitcheson), who died Feb. 1, 1901. Never forgotten by his widow and sons.

Rezene.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Polly (Miss Polly Cusick), wife of Charles Rezene (Rezene and Robini), died Jan. 31, 1903. Gone, but ever lives in my memory.

At the Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company appeared this week with the military drama, *The Two Hussars*. Mr. Wilson Benge as Harry Alford proved a capable artist; while Miss M. Danvers Smith gave an able rendering of the part of Alford's lover. Mr. F. J. Webb is to be commended for his skilful portrayal of Captain Paul Villiers; and Mr. Louis Nanton caused unbounded merriment as Robert Runn. Mr. G. Paradise was responsible for a capable representation of Sergeant McFinnie; Miss Lallah Price was successful as Molly Cutts; and Miss Sadie Smith pleasing as Marie.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Dolores Drummond—Saturday, Feb. 3.
Grace Murielle—Saturday, Feb. 3.
May Geraldine—Saturday, Feb. 3.
Madge Ellis—Saturday, Feb. 4.
Hilda Trevelyan—Sunday, Feb. 4.
Zena Dare—Sunday, Feb. 4.
Maggie Stewart—Sunday, Feb. 4.
May Vaudrey—Sunday, Feb. 4.
Daisy Cotton—Monday, Feb. 5.
Minnie Turner—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Alice Capel—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Essex Dane—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Eade Montefiore—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Mrs. Chas. Johnson—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Harry Bristow—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Dora Dench—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Alice Capel—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Brandon Blake—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Fanny Wentworth—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Louise A. Sydney—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Margaret Broadfoote—Tuesday, Feb. 6.
Greta Garnier—Wednesday, Feb. 7.
Millie Hylton—Wednesday, Feb. 7.
Kate Newton—Wednesday, Feb. 7.
Florence Dalton—Wednesday, Feb. 7.
J. W. Rowley—Wednesday, Feb. 7.
Alfred Bishop—Wednesday, Feb. 7.
Marion Forrester—Thursday, Feb. 8.
Anthony Hope Hawkins—Friday, Feb. 9.
David Denard—Friday, Feb. 9.

WHAT IS AN ACTOR?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Since, declining to be party to the *Abolishing of all Qualifications*, I retired from the Council and ranks of the Actors' Association I have refrained from joining in any discussions upon its failings or its virtues; but when the officer and representative of the Actors' Association affirms in a Court of Justice "that any person who speaks a line is an actor" we are surely being made a little *too "cheap,"* and it behoves everyone, whether trammelled by A.A. considerations or not, to protest against such a pronouncement.—Yours faithfully,

Feb. 2, 1906. HARRY PAULTON.

The splendid character photograph of Mr. Mark Kinghorne which we reproduce in another column is from the studio of Mr. Albert Flint, 68, Church-street, Camberwell Green.

Presentation.—On Jan. 25, Mr. Harry Conlin presented Mr. Herbert Garside (stage-manager) with a set of gold cuff-links as a mark of respect.

The old Moulin-Rougé has once more opened its doors. It will be remembered that the former management tried to impart to the place another character by turning it into a variety theatre and doing away with the large dancing hall that used to attract so many strangers. The venture was not very successful—possibly on account of the suppression of the dancing—and the new manager, M. Victor Silvestre, acted perhaps wisely in restoring the old cachet to the Moulin-Rougé by reinstating the nightly Terpsichorean display. M. Silvestre is a most enterprising man. I knew him when he managed the Grand Theatre in Lyons, and afterwards the Folies Dramatiques. He likes to do things on a very big scale, and this ambition is sometimes fraught with danger.

Mr. George Dance's company, under the management of Mr. Bertie Ralland, in *The Orchid*, paid a welcome visit to the Stroud Subscription Rooms on the 26th ult. Miss Constance Hamilton was a charming and tuneful Lady Violet, and Miss Madeline Maude an irresistible Caroline Vokins; Miss Madeline Taylor was successful as Zelie Humbert, Miss Clara Beck effective as Thisbe, and Miss Maud Jay a capital Josephine Zaccary. Mr. Tom Maxwell gave a clever impersonation of the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour; Dr. Faussett had a capital exponent in Mr. W. Garland; Mr. P. Corray ably delineated the character of Mr. Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. L. Neville, as Comte De Cassignat, and Mr. G. Asaph, as Zaccary, were both admirably suited to their respective parts. Mr. Colin Campbell caused much merriment by his droll rendering of Meakin, the gardener.

Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is at the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury, in *The Span of Life*. Mr. Sanderson Moffatt as Richard Blunt and Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Dunstan Leach prove themselves highly-trained artists in their respective portrayals. A clever rendering of Nutty Brown is given by Mr. Syd Sylvester; Mr. Edwin T. Kisby is also good as Joshua Garnett. The Stebbing Brothers, in their famous acrobatic performance, are a decided success; Miss Phyllis Hamilton charmingly acts the rôle of Kate Heathcote; as Cecil Jelf Miss Graham is all that can be desired; and as Cecil Blunt Miss May Moffatt evokes warm applause. The part of Mrs. Jelf is well played by Miss Harriet Russell.

Mr. Emile Lazern desires to contradict an advertisement which has appeared stating that Mr. Fred W. Millis, the ventriloquist, is touring India and the East with his own company. The firm is known as Millis and Lazern's London Novelty Company, in which Mr. Lazern holds a half share.

Miss Millicent Marsden's song, "In Dreamland," written by Mr. Roland Carse, and composed by Mr. Walter Slaughter, increases in popularity at the Coliseum week by week. This is Miss Marsden's first attempt on the variety stage in London, but there is hardly any other branch of the musical profession with which she has not been associated. Making her début at the old Gaiety as a tot of six, when she sang and acted with Nellie Farren and Fred Leslie, Miss Marsden cannot remember a time before she tried to sing little songs and act little parts. With a voice of remarkable register—she has taken the high soprano of Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* and the low contralto of the title-rôle in *Little Christopher Columbus* with equal success—her speciality of late years has been in the style of a part that is best described as "the American stage widow," who is artful, captivating, and the smartest of the smart. Having lived in the United States, she can assume an effective twang. Her most recent part, before her present engagement at the Coliseum, was Cora Angelique, the Queen of Comic Opera, in *The Belle of New York*.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Pat.—(1) The Man with the Single Hair *was written by Robert Ganthony, and is published at French's, Southampton-street, Strand.* (2) *The Garrick was opened on April 24, 1889, with* The Profligate. *The cast included Messrs. John Hare, Forbes Robertson, Lewis Waller, Sydney Brough, Charles Dodsworth, F. Hamilton Knight, Mrs. Gaston Murray, Miss Kate Rorke, Miss Beatrice Lamb, Miss M. Caldwell, and Miss Olga Nethersole.*

G. T.—*The Brixton Theatre foundation stone was laid by the late Sir Henry Irving on April 3, 1894.*

F. Myers.—*The Alhambra was destroyed by fire on the night of Thursday, Dec. 7, 1882.*

T. A. B.—*His Majesty's Theatre.*

Chelsea.—*George Farquhar, actor and dramatist, was born in Londonderry in 1678. In 1699, his first play,* Love and a Bottle, *was produced and well received at Drury-lane. Shortly after,* The Constant Couple *was produced, and was so successful that it ran for fifty-three nights in London. He continued to write plays, including* The Recruiting Officer, *and his last and best,* The Beaux' Stratagem, *was produced in 1707. He died April 30, 1707.*

Grateful.—*It is rather difficult to give advice on such a subject. There is always an opening at the variety theatres for first-class lady ballad vocalists, and the young lady might apply for a trial turn to Mr. A. Butt, the Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue; Mr. Frank Glenister, the London Pavilion, Piccadilly; Mr. Oswald Stoll, the Coliseum, St. Martin's-lane; or Miss Joseph Wilson, The Tivoli, Strand.*

T. H. C.—*Sue him in the County Court.*

ON THE ROAD, FEBRUARY 5.

An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
Alexandra Opera Company.—Grand T., Luton.
Are You a Mason?—Lyceum T., Crewe.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Runcorn.
At the World's Mercy.—Wedgwood T., Burslem.
Babes in the Wood (Kiddie).—Irving T., Seacombe.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Ilfracombe.
Benson, F. R. (B).—Grand T., Blackburn.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Bramley Esmond.—Town Hall, Elgin.
Breed of the Treshams.—Woolwich.
Bulmer, Mr.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Catch of the Season.—Marlboro' T., Holloway.
Charley's Aunt.—Kennington Theatre.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Barnsley.
Christian (Howard).—Maestag.
Christian, The.—O. H., Perth.
Cingalee.—Preston.
Cingalee (2).—Peckham.
Claudian.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Coal King.—T. R., Norwich.
Compton Comedy Co.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Dandy Doctor.—Century T., Motherwell.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—New T., Loughboro'.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—County T., Kingston.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Leicester.
Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Bury.
Eternal City.—Eastbourne.
Face at the Window.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Faithful Friend.—T. R., Grantham.
Female Swindler.—Aquarium, Gt. Yarmouth.
Florodora (N.).—T. R., North Shields.
Florodora (Howard) (S.).—T. R., Bath.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Grand T., Fulham.
Gay Parisienne.—Barrow.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—T. R., Castleford.
Girl from Japan.—T. R., Leamington.
Golden Ladder.—Hippodrome, New Brompton.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Miners' T., Accrington.
Great Awakening.—County T., Reading.
Her Lost Self.—T. R., York.
Her One Great Sin.—King's T., Sutton.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Her Wedding Day.—Queen's, Gateshead.
Home, Sweet Home.—T. R., W. Bromwich.
I Defy the World.—T. R., Grantham.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Croydon.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Watford.
Lady of Ostend.—T. R., Belfast.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Cheltenham.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
La Poupee (Ralland).—O. H., Coventry.
Laughter Land.—O. H., Workington.
Life of a Showman.—T. R., Merthyr Tydvil.
Life's Sweetest Sins.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
Little Bo-Peep.—T. R., Barnsley.
Little Bread Winner.—T. R., South Shields.
Little Michus (Dance).—Huddersfield.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Lyceum, Edinburgh.
London Fireman.—Mountain Ash.
Lost in Paris.—Theatre Royal, Crook.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Sunderland.
Lucky Durham.—Grand T., Hull.
Manxman.—Coliseum, Oldham.
Martin Harvey.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Midnight Mail.—Prince's T., Preston.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Stafford.
Moody Manners (A).—Opera House, Southport.
Moody Manners (B).—T. R., Barrow.
Mr. Smith.—T. R., Hanley.
Mr. Smith.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Napoleon the Great.—New T., Consett.
Oliver Twist.—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
On the Love Path.—T. R., Cardiff.
On the Stroke of Twelve.—T. R., Cambridge.
Orchid (2).—Blackburn.
Passion's Power.—Mexborough.
Path of Thorns.—T. R., Jarrow.
Peggy Machree.—New T., Cambridge.
Price of her Soul.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Prince of Pilsen.—T. R., Hull.
Prodigal Parson.—Court T., Bacup.
Prodigal Son.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
Proof.—King's T., Kirkcaldy.
Revenge.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Romany's Revenge.—Grand T., Walsall.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
Royal Revenge.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
Sailors of the King.—Star T., Liverpool.
Saints and Sinners.—Lyceum T., Newport.
See-Saw of Life.—King's, Nottingham.
Sherlock Holmes.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
Sign of the Cross.—O. H., Torquay.
Silver King.—T. R., Halifax.
Sin of Her Childhood.—T. R., Glossop.
Spring Chicken.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Wakefield.
Sunday.—Royalty T., Chester.
Swiss Express.—G. T., Middlesbrough.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Sligo.
Throne of Terror.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Toreador.—Leith.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—O. H., Burton.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Met., Hoyland.
Veronique.—Dundee.
Village Blacksmith.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—Grand T., Woolwich.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—T. R., Exeter.
Warner, Miss Grace.—O. H., Porth.
Way of the World.—Whitehaven.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
Wilkie, Allen, and Co.—New T., Aberdeen.
Worst Woman in London.—Grand T., Southampton.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Stratford.
When Woman Hates.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Woman's Past.—Prince's, Blackburn.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Colchester.

At the Gaiety Theatre, Leith, on the 26th ult., owing to the indisposition of Miss Pattie Fairley, her part of Queen Caressa, in Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens's *Jack the Giant Killer* company, was taken up at a moment's notice by Miss Marguerite Solange, who gave a very good rendering of the character.

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LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. A. WINSTANLEY, of the Royal Opera House and Theatre Royal, Leicester, who has been suffering from a severe illness, is, we are glad to hear, making good progress towards recovery.

"DICK WHITTINGTON," which has obtained a record success at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, will, as in the case of last year's pantomime, be transferred in its entirety to the Pavilion on Monday.

THE Swedish rights of *Mine Hostess*, the adapted translation by Miss Davies Webster of *La Locandiera*, have been purchased by one of the leading theatrical managers in that country, and it is expected that it will be translated and produced over there very soon.

MR. EDITOR, — Sir, — Your correspondent at Hastings last week describes us as giving "vocal selections," whereas we are instrumentalists (banjoes and harp).—Yours faithfully, THE STAVORDALE QUINTETTE.—Hippodrome, Eastbourne, Jan. 22.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Harry Carlo, who, during the run of the pantomime at the Brixton Theatre, has been acting and advertising manager, is leaving to undertake an important position at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, and was on Wednesday evening presented by Mr. Murray Heriot, on behalf of the company and staff, with a handsome silver mounted umbrella, and by the management with a substantial cheque, as a token of goodwill and esteem.

SATURDAY, Jan. 13, was Hospital Saturday at the Lyceum Theatre, Newport, and Mr. Sidney Cooper appeared at the termination of the first act of the pantomime, and said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, —May I crave your indulgence to make a brief announcement? This is Hospital Saturday at the Lyceum. No words are necessary to urge the claim of such a deserving institution, but with your kind permission I will quote a few lines from an old play called *The Stranger*, in which there is a character called Tobies. He has been lying upon a bed of sickness for many months, but thanks to the kind and gentle nursing of the good sisters who devote their lives to the alleviation of suffering, he has been rescued from death's door, so to speak, and is carried into the sunshine into the garden. The doctor pays his morning visit, and says, 'Well, how do you find yourself to-day?' Tobies replies, 'Oh, sir, I am very happy, for, believe me, he who leaves a bed of sickness and for the first time breathes the fresh, pure air is at that moment the happiest of his Maker's creatures.' Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask your assistance to-day to enable us to lift our less fortunate brethren out of the shadow of the sick room into the sunshine of life so to speak." The result of this appeal was £14. The Chairman and two of the directors of the Hospital appeared on the stage, and thanked Mr. Cooper, and called for three cheers, which was heartily responded to.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1906.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

The formation of trades and callings for mutual protection and assistance is no new thing. As far back as mediæval times the principal crafts were collected into "guilds" or representative bodies which did yeoman service in resisting the encroachments of the feudal autocracy on the rights of the trade. The modern trade union is an echo of this spirit. It is not wonderful that for a long time the Showmen of England were not united in any way for self-protection. Indeed, when we consider the wandering nature of the showmen's life and their freedom from conventionality, it is surprising that they ever became united at all, and the establishment of the Guild marks the remarkable rise which has taken place in the social status of the class.

Even before their union in the Guild there was more of the corporate feeling in the showmen than there is in many more important callings. The leading showmen were all personally known to each other; and this knowledge was powerful in maintaining a high standard of good faith. The show business is in many ways "unique" and original. It is one of the few hardy, open-air industries at which money may be made both by large and moderate capitalists. It has, to a great extent, escaped the grinding, machinery character of the age. Showmen are, as a class, notoriously hearty and kindly. The life they lead can only be endured by the physically strong; and they are isolated from other classes by the peculiarity of their way of living. There is a charm about the showman's life that, once tasted, is never forgotten; a charm that every showman realises, though few could exactly explain it. This common sympathy has always found the knights of the road knit together in feeling; and the fact that they are so little understood by "outsiders" has bound them together all the closer. In the French play *Le Chemineau* the hero confesses that the "road" is always "calling" him with the same persistency that the East cried to KIPLING'S soldier; and long after showmen have made enough to retire upon they continue to travel for the benefit of their health.

Sooner or later the show business was certain to come into contact with what we may call "cut-and-dried" stupidity and petty official interference. We must not be too hard on the officious, unimaginative people who want to inspect, and legislate, and label and docket everything in existence; and who cannot see that there is no rule or system which can be applied in all cases and to all classes alike. All will remember GEORGE SMITH'S Movable Dwellings Bill, that monument of attempted officious meddling. It would, in all probability, have become law but for the energetic efforts of the Guild. More important still is the *locus standi* which was won for the show business over the Hyde Corporation Bill. The attacks on the showman's rights are frequent and constant, and their defence has to be equally so in order to be of any use.

It is with, we trust, pardonable complacency that we look back upon the steady growth of the Guild since its origination in 1889. As every showman knows, its objects were to watch any attempt at legislation which was calculated to affect or interfere with the rights or business of showmen and van-dwellers in general, and to take such proceedings in Parliamentary and other matters as might be deemed advisable; to assist members with legal advice upon any matter at a nominal charge; and to establish a fund whereby pecuniary aid might be rendered on the death of a member of the association. The Guild was cradled in the offices of *The Era*, being the practical business idea of its manager, Mr. F. H. PEDGRIFT, and has been steadily supported and fostered by this paper with all the influence and energy at its command; and a landmark of its triumphant success was the splendid presentation to LORD GEORGE SANGER, the President, at the Agricultural Hall last week.

LORD GEORGE stands out boldly as a type of the best class of showmen. He is a conspicuous example of the "native worth" that is recognised and admired by all men; and his ability is adorned with a rare flavour of natural humour. How striking are his powers of description may be judged by the following: We once had occasion to "interview" him with reference to an adventure with some lions that had escaped under the stage of a Paris theatre. Doubtless many imagined that our account was condensed and "written-up" from the speaker's conversation. As a matter of fact, we scarcely found it necessary to alter a word or a phrase, so admirably tense and telling was the *raconteur's* style. In one way at least LORD GEORGE reminds us of the late Sir HENRY IRVING; his leadership of his profession is unchallenged. Such men are not born every day; and when they depart they leave behind them a gap that, say cynics what they may, cannot be replaced. We do not know what the Guild would have done without its beloved president or without its chaplain, the Rev. T. HORNE. What Mr. HORNE does not know about showmen, their wants, and their ways, is not worth knowing; and as Mr. SANGER hinted at the Agricultural Hall last week, Mr. HORNE is a man, every inch of him. There is no mincing, drawling affectation about Mr. HORNE; he is an eloquent speaker, and he has a fine presence; and showmen may think themselves fortunate that he is able to devote himself both to their material and moral interests. They would not "stand" for a moment any patronage or formal "palaver"; and Mr. HORNE'S straightforward, earnest way of getting to work is just what suits them. During the past twelvemonth he has attended to the business of the Guild and visited one hundred fairs, feasts, and wakes. He has corresponded with over 1,000 people, and conducted services on the fair-ground and in the show-booths. He is an ardent defender of showmen's rights, and a thorn in the side of the corporations who endeavour to inflict unjust by-laws and regulations on the show folk. And—an excellent thing in a parson—he does not shrink when he thinks his flock want a little admonition from giving it to them; witness his remarks last week about the paucity of the number of the deputation which met the London County Council anent taking vans to Hampstead Heath. Mr. HORNE has been identified with *The Era* for many years; and if there were any link needed to bind the showman interest to our paper, it would be found in this popular and thoroughly suitable Guild chaplain. Like ourselves, he is fully aware of the necessity for constant vigilance in the show interest; like ourselves, he understands and appreciates the show folk and their ways; and, like ourselves, he feels the importance of the vast and increasing interest which has grown up, so to speak, by the side of this paper, and has intertwined with it more and more as the years have gone by.

ON Wednesday afternoon between 200 and 300 of the aged inmates of Brighton Workhouse were allowed out in order to accept an invitation to witness the pantomime at the Grand Theatre.

A NEW version of *Oliver Twist*, by R. F. Edgar, was produced for copyright purposes at the Athenæum, Glasgow, on Saturday.

MR. FREDERICK HARRISON has kindly lent the Haymarket Theatre for an amateur performance of Mr. Haddon Chambers's *The Tyranny of Tears*, which is to be given on Feb. 15 in aid of the funds of the Union Jack Club. The Duchess of Albany has promised to attend.

MISS NELLIE STEWART, the famous Australian actress, supported by the company from the Princess's Theatre, of Melbourne, under the personal direction of Mr. Geo. Musgrove, manager of a number of the prominent theatres in Australia, as well as the Shaftesbury in London, is playing a season of four weeks at the Majestic Theatre, San Francisco, with *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*.

THE Playgoers' Club's annual dinner will take place on Sunday, the president, Mr. William Sparks, occupying the chair. Capt. Robert Marshall will respond to the toast of "The Drama," and that of "The Visitors" will be acknowledged by Mr. E. Marshall-Hall, K.C., and Mr. E. Mostyn Pigott.

HERR ARTHUR VOLLMER had a tremendous ovation on his reappearance at the Royal Schauspielhaus on Friday night, after an illness which has deterred him from acting for nearly a year. The popular comedian gave his well-known rôle of Schmock in Freytag's comedy, *Die Journalisten*, and the house was filled to the last place. As soon as Herr Vollmer appeared upon the stage the storm of applause broke, lasting several minutes. It was a welcome such as must have rejoiced the heart of any actor.

MISS ADA REHAN, by a recent decision in New York, is awarded one-fifth of the Augustin Daly estate, according to the express desire recorded in the manager's will. Judge Joseph Daly, brother of the deceased, has been trying for several years to "break" the will. Miss Rehan will have a share in both of the Daly theatres, the one in London and the older playhouse in New York.

MR. PINERO'S NEW PLAY.

AN IMPRESSION.

The doors of St. James's Theatre will be besieged for several months; of that the first night of Mr. Pinero's new play leaves no doubt whatever. It is a play full of pith and marrow, with a poignant theme poignantly treated; with great moments; and acted with admirable and almost perfect concord. There are, to speak accurately, two themes; first there is an indictment of that large section of English opinion which may be described and summed up in the word "Pharisaic"; the second theme is the greater claim of the living than the dead. Perhaps I might even add that there is a third theme, namely, how difficult it is sometimes for a husband who is not too clear-eyed to realise all the sweetness, all the goodness, and even all the strength there may underlie the character of the wife whom he misunderstands; and whom he places below the false ideal of another woman, who never existed save in his imagination.

I will not deal, in a necessarily short and rapid sketch, with the story in full; that is well told in another portion of this paper. Suffice it to say that Mr. Filmer Jesson, M.P., has married the second time, his second wife having been the governess of his child by the first. It is the ghost of the first wife that lies long, bleak, and freezing across the fate of the second wife. The first wife is placed on a pedestal by her family and by her husband as a saint, and almost confessor; the second wife is snubbed, persecuted, brought down to a subordinate place in her own household by these worshippers at the dead woman's shrine. The chief part of the play is devoted to the exhibition of this family—the Ridgeleys—made by a number of bold and telling strokes into a fine, consistent, striking, unforgetable portrait of a great, not to say multidudinous, group of our fellow-countrymen and country-women. The poignant note of the drama comes when the discovery is accidentally made that the saint and confessor has been the mistress of another man; that the child which is supposed to have been that of her husband is in reality the child of the lover; in short, that the saint has been nothing better than a very frail sinner.

The great struggle, and also the fine exposition of character, come when the down-trodden second wife is placed in possession of this terrible weapon against all her persecutors; against the Ridgeley family in particular, and, among the Ridgeley family, against the daughter of the house, who has been brought in to usurp the place of the second wife and as a continuation of the tradition of worship of the first. In this second wife there is the second great study of character—the impulsive, hot-headed, slatternly, but true woman, who has such strength when the moment of crisis comes; so much tenderness when the flippancy is forgotten or cast aside. It is in the revelation of this woman's character and of the struggles between her lower nature craving revenge and victory over enemies, and her higher nature bidding her be generous, that the very finest scene in the play occurs; one of the finest scenes that even Pinero has ever written. Miss Irene Vanbrugh is just the woman, Mr. Alexander just the man, for such a scene. Throughout it all—it is lengthy—there runs the high throb of real and sweeping passion. Now and then the voices of the artists sound hoarse and almost raucous from the depths of their passion. One almost shudders as Miss Vanbrugh gloats over the torture she will inflict, the triumph she will enjoy, when she is able to wield this weapon against the hated sister-in-law of her husband, who has been the chief instrument in her own torture and humiliation. And Mr. Alexander pleads, on the other hand, the higher claims of forgiveness and generosity, and finally conquering the woman by an appeal to womanhood, is equal to the very great situation.

It is these great moments that will probably count most for the audience, and that will work them up as it worked the first night's audience, into the most profound sympathy and high excitement; but it is as a picture of manners that the play will ultimately have its highest importance, and perhaps its most enduring fame. The Ridgeleys are a real new creation—at least on the stage. The great family of snobs and bigots has often been described in the novel; some of the more odious and palpable forms of the group, such as the Mawworms, have also been been found on the stage; but the purse-proud, narrow-minded, bigoted people in all their symmetry of odiousness has never before been presented with such triumphant scorn. It is true that sometimes one is tempted to regard the picture as overdrawn—as caricature rather than a portraiture; such fatuousness and such self-complacence and vulgar arrogance are perhaps impossible. But the drama has to be broad in its effects, and perhaps not too scrupulous in some of its methods. Painted with more photographic fidelity to nature the picture of this odious family would have lost some of its intense realistic power; more realistic it would perhaps have been from the stage point of view, less real.

There are now and then passages which are a dangerous concession on the part of Mr. Pinero to prejudice and superstition. As one critic remarks, there is a faint suspicion of cant in this great crusade against cant. I would like to see the play, too, again when it is taken less slowly than it necessarily is amid the excitement and the nervousness of a first night. It gives the idea of a movement that is slow in the play where, as a matter of fact, the movement is rapid, at least throughout most of the scenes. But these small things will not count. Mr. Pinero has written a very fine play; Mr. Alexander has secured a very big winner in the perilous and precarious speculation of stage production.

T. P.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24th.—*Grierson's Way*, by Henry V. Esmond, was produced at the Princess's Theatre on the 18th inst. by Mr. Henry Miller, who assumed the title-rôle, this being his first appearance as a member of the company, which he organised at the beginning of the season, and his second managerial venture at this theatre. Mr. Esmond's play was admirably acted. Mr. Miller won the sympathies of the audience as James Grierson, acting the part with sincerity and feeling; Miss Rebecca Warren, in the difficult rôle of Pamela, was natural and effective; and Mr. Guy Standing distinguished himself as Captain Murray. Phillip Keen, the crazy violinist, was well represented by Mr. Henry Woodruff. Mr. Fred Thorne was capital as the burly old sea captain, John Ball. The play was favourably received by a large audience.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

NEW MUSIC.

METZLER AND Co. send the following recent publications:—"There is a Garden in her Face," edited by Dr. Cummings from a manuscript of the time of James I., dated 1605, is quaint and lively in style, and Dr. Cummings has done his work skilfully. "Through the Orchard" is written by Mr. Rutland Barrington and set to music by Barter Johns, and has considerable merit. "Before the Dawn," words by Magdalene Proctor, music by William Ratcliffe, will please by its simplicity. There is also a violin obbligato, which is effectively written. "Nature's Lullaby," words by Clifton Bingham, music by Noel Johnson, has the graceful lines of Clifton Bingham to recommend it, and the music of Noel Johnson is worthy of that gifted composer who has written so many good songs. "Berceuse Paysanne," for violin and piano, by James Coward, is a piece which the amateur violinist will find most useful, as the compass is easy. "Creep a little closer, do," is a setting by H. Trotère of a song by Clifton Bingham, in which we learn how a lover and his lass, sitting at the extreme ends of a rustic seat, find themselves gradually drawn together to the satisfaction of both. "Traümerei," for violin and pianoforte, by F. Sewell Southgate, the accomplished pianist, proves that the composer knows exactly how to provide for the amateur violinist. "Good-morrow, Phyllis" shows Dr. Cummings as ready as usual for editing an old-fashioned ditty. He has again taken a manuscript of the period of James I. "Who'll serve the King?" is a song from *Knights of the Road*, the lively piece which Sir A. C. Mackenzie wrote for a music hall. The distinguished Principal of the Royal Academy has set Mr. H. A. Lytton's animated words to just the kind of melody suitable, and we hope this excellent musician will soon be heard again in similar works. "This Rose of Mine," written by Walter Grogan and composed by H. M. Higgs, tells how a lover made a rose the medium of a passionate declaration. "Compositions for the Organ," by J. T. Field, will be warmly welcomed by performers on the "king of instruments." Several of these pieces have great merit, and none are deficient in strength or originality. The first item is an overture in G. Minor, which has spirit and novelty of ideas. This is followed by a pastorale (a hymn of shepherds) not altogether free from echoes of older composers. A scherzo, "Joyous Life," fulfils the suggestions of the title, and a Venetian barcarolle is graceful and melodious. Other pieces are distinctly pleasing, and a "Grand Triumphal March" winds up the selection with immense spirit.

Chappell and Co. send the following songs and instrumental pieces:—"Feu Follet, by Bernard Rolt, is a waltz of a somewhat eccentric character, illustrated with a title-page of a sensational kind representing a mysterious young lady with flames coming from her head, or rather from her fashionable hat, which appears to have caught fire. The young lady is, however, quite cool if her head is hot, and the music has some claims to distinction. The introduction in E Flat is melodious, and leads up to the waltz in B Flat with considerable spirit. But we can hardly see why so many changes of key were necessary, for we come next to A Flat and then back again to E Flat, which eventually winds up this curious, but rather effective, waltz. "Aubade," by John Ansell, is a pianoforte piece which a youthful student of that instrument would find useful as a study. "The Bell," by Teresa del Riego, with organ and violin accompaniments, is a kind of hymn, in which the singer is supposed to seek protection as the twilight falls. It has a rather stately style. "Deep in My Heart," by Frank Lambert, tells its own story, when we have read the sentimental verses of Harold Simpson, which remind us of a song by Vincent Wallace, "There is a Flower that Bloometh." "Deep in My Heart" has, however, merit of its own which may lead to its becoming popular. The composer known as Guy D'Hardelot generally writes music of an extremely sentimental character, but this ditty treats of propriety and Mrs. Grundy, and as a sample of the verse, we may quote the following—

"We'll learn how to kiss from the bees, dear,
And never count it a sin;
Just to show we are one with the world, dear,
Let's be quick and begin."

This, from a young lady, is hardly strict propriety, but the sprightly music makes us forget all prudish notions.

JOHNNY FULLER, who has so thoroughly established himself in the affections of all the children visiting the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, is an animal actor of rare humour and realism. He calls himself "the great little cat," for having decided that the character of Grimalkin is the most actable, he intends to avoid the attractive possibilities of dogs or monkeys in future, giving a turn of his own in the halls when his pantomime engagement comes to an end. In this he will introduce wire-walking, eccentric dancing, and acrobatic feats—to say nothing of the character sketch of a particularly clever tabby—all in his cat make-up. Like the late Charles Lauri—the Garrick of animal mimes—Johnny Fuller believes in studying animals' movements from the life. He is short and wiry, and long practice has enabled him to jump, run, and gambol as lightly as a kitten. His tour of the halls commences at the Grand, Clapham, on Feb. 26, and he appears at the Palace Theatre in the second week of March.

MR. JOHNNY FULLER was born and bred in the show world. Grandson of the proprietor of Hannaford's Circus, his father being a musician and his mother also in the profession, he himself made a first appearance in the arena at the mellow age of four and a half, dressed as a little clown, and inventing his own comic business as he went along. About half-a-dozen years later Johnny left his grandfather's show to be taken on as "improver" with Lloyd Brothers' Circus, when he learned everything that an all-round acrobat needs to know. It was not until Mr. Harry Rogerson—who, by the way, is also in the pantomime with his old friend at the King's this year—offered him the part of a clown in his musical absurdity, *Jacko*, that Mr. Fuller went on the regular stage. He afterwards took the leading part, Jacko, a gorilla, in the same piece, and began to make his reputation as an animal actor. Wrapped up in his work, "the great little cat" believes that energy and exercise are the two things needful to keep in perfect health; he rarely takes a holiday; he has never had an accident bad enough to be remembered, and he has mastered numberless difficult feats.

THE 150th anniversary of Mozart's birthday was celebrated in Vienna on Saturday, when the city authorities arranged an elaborate programme of festivities in honour of the great Austrian composer, who was especially connected with the capital. The celebration really began the previous afternoon, when the Burgomaster, Dr. Lueger, in the presence of a great gathering, laid a wreath at the foot of Mozart's monument, immediately behind the Opera House. Saturday was observed as a holiday in all the city schools, and the children were presented with souvenirs of the occasion. A special performance of *Don Giovanni* was given at the Opera, which was largely attended. The anniversary was also celebrated at Salzburg, the birthplace of the composer, and in other towns.

THE death is announced at Weimar of Fräulein Rosa von Milde, formerly a famous operatic singer. She was the Elsa in the first performance of *Lohengrin* in Germany, on Aug. 28, 1850.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE Holborn Empire programmes will be enriched with the music of a popular song—an agreeable innovation that will no doubt be highly appreciated by the patrons of the new and magnificent house near Kingsway. The programmes are priced throughout the house at one penny, and the first musical number is "The Right Kind of Girl," words by Edgar Bateman and music by Kenneth Lyle.

MR. WALTER GIBBONS is by way of altering the name of the Ealing Empire Palace to the Ealing Hippodrome. He has decided on the change in consonance with the wish of several of the inhabitants. It was also one of the conditions to which he agreed when he applied for his licence on Thursday, and as a result all opposition has been withdrawn.

MR. HENRY RAYMOND, the London district manager for the Stoll suburban houses, has resigned his position, and terminates his contract on April 7. Mr. Raymond desires most emphatically to contradict a false report that his resignation has been prompted by any other agency than his own free will, and he thanks Mr. Stoll not only for his personally expressed goodwill, but also for his unfailing kindness and consideration during the long period of nearly eight years during which he has been under engagement to him. Mr. Raymond came to the New Cross Empire as manager, and was appointed to the post he at present holds early last year.

AMONG the visitors to the Royal on Monday evening was Mr. John Brill, a former proprietor of the Royal, who is now installed at the Forest Hotel, Chingford. A twelvemonth since he met with a serious accident, breaking his left leg. Though he still feels some weakness in the limb, he is looking the picture of health. He heartily congratulated Mr. Walter Gibbons on his splendid house, and warmly praised the beauties of the Holborn Empire.

MRS. BARRASFORD'S purchase of the Devil's Dyke at Brighton and her arrangements in connection therewith will prove to be a most interesting undertaking. On the two hundred acres of ground which have now become her property there will be erected a number of superior side-shows, other features of this open-air exhibition, if we may so term it, being a café chantant and an Italian orchestra. It is Mrs. Barrasford's intention to build bungalows, cottages, and shops all over the grounds, and those residing in the Devil's Dyke will have no need to go to Brighton for domestic or other supplies. The Devil's Dyke will be a sort of self-contained, self-supporting village, and as there is in its midst a farm, which the new proprietress is enlarging, it will be seen that the place is admirably fitted for Mrs. Barrasford's "colonisation" scheme. The grounds, which will be open to the public in Easter, will be run as a show all the year round.

A PLEASANT sequel to the Fulham v. Notts Forest football match will take place this evening at the London Pavilion, when, at the invitation of the proprietors of *Football Chat* and Mr. Frank Glenister, both teams, with the committee and directorate, will be guests at the performance. They will have an opportunity of witnessing the remarkably clever and humorous impressions of a football match by Mr. Jock Whiteford. It is the intention of Mr. Whiteford to be present at the Cup-tie match, and to introduce into his performance the notable incidents of the day's play.

A FEW months ago some slight fire occurred at the Tivoli Restaurant, and in connection with that one of the waiters and cellarmen, William Kuhrmann, was charged at Bow-street with arson. This charge was dismissed by the magistrate, and it had its sequel on Monday and Tuesday last, when William Kuhrmann brought an action against Mr. James Howell, the acting-manager of the Tivoli, for damages for malicious prosecution. The plaintiff's evidence was gone into at great length, and after a consultation between the parties judgment was given by consent for the plaintiff for £100 and costs. Mr. Hume Williams, K.C., and Mr. John O'Connor, M.P., were counsel for the plaintiff, instructed by Mr. John Othen, jun., and Mr. Walter Payne appeared for the defendant.

MESSRS. DOUGLAS YOUNG AND CO. will sell, at the Mart, on Wednesday, February 26, the Battersea Empire Music-Hall, together with freehold and possession of the fully-licensed premises known as the Royal Standard, York Road, S.W. The hall has seating accommodation for over 1,000 persons, two main entrances, lofty stage (27ft. wide), dressing-rooms, three bars, and all equipment for a place of public entertainment, suitable for the densely-populated neighbourhood.

THROUGH the sudden death of His Majesty the King of Denmark the Scala Theatre, Copenhagen, where Mr. Carl Hertz is performing, and all other places of amusement, are compelled to close for eight days. Mr. Carl Hertz had received a Royal command to give his performance at the Palace on the following Wednesday, for which great preparations had been made.

MR. MARK MELFORD, we are sorry to say, is lying in a serious condition in Walthamstow Hospital as the result of a gun accident. For some time past he has been residing in the neighbourhood of Epping Forest for the benefit of his health, and on Wednesday afternoon was out in the forest near Chingford with his daughter. He was carrying a small folding rook-rifle in his coat-pocket. The weapon suddenly fell through a hole in the pocket to the ground, muzzle upwards, and exploded, the bullet entering his left loin. Up to late on Thursday the surgeons at the hospital had not been able to ascertain whether the bullet had passed through or remained in his body, but they hoped to do so. It was learnt on Thursday night that Mr. Melford was progressing favourably, provided no complications ensue.

IN connection with the forthcoming visit of the members of the London County Council to Paris, the Councillors of that city have engaged the Paris Alhambra, which is owned by Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the lessee of the London Lyceum, for a gala performance on Feb. 9. The programme will be provided by French and English variety artists of note.

"LET me make a nation's songs" might well be the motto of the Parliamentary candidate. Parodies with a swinging chorus—led by a cornet—did an immense amount of work, says the *Globe*, at the recent election, and, unfortunately, the Radical party has been the better supplied. The Radical candidate at Bridgwater had verses specially written for him by the librettist, Mr. Fred Bowyer, and Mr. Reginald Groome, the well-known tenor, was brought down from London to sing them. The victory by the narrow majority of seventeen was probably due to this.

MR. GUS LEONARD, the Odd Magical Musician, has just arrived in England from America by the ss. Majestic to fulfil engagements with Mr. Thomas Barrasford, he having been released from his New York contracts through the kindness of Mr. William Morris, the well-known American agent. It is anticipated that Mr. Gus Leonard, who presents a novelty, will be highly appreciated by his Transatlantic cousins. His business arrangements are in the hands of Mr. Hugh Jay Didcott, Ltd.

MR. WALTER DE FRECE has secured a very fine site in the centre of Portsmouth for the erection of a new hippodrome, and the plans, which have been designed by Mr. Bertie Crewe, the well-known architect, have been passed by the authorities.

OVER one hundred men are now fully engaged on the works of the Palace-by-the-Sea at Clacton, an illustration of which recently appeared in these pages. That well-known comedian, Mr. Edgar Curtis, who will manage the great place of entertainment when it opens during the forthcoming season, is engaged to appear at the Royal Albert, commencing on Monday.

MR. JAMES E. HARDY, professionally known as the American Blondin, has scored another triumph at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Norwich. During the past three weeks Hardy's performances have been the sensation of the town and district. Hardy has established himself as a worthy successor to the late Chevalier Blondin.

IN a certain town in the Midlands not many hundred miles from Nottingham, a new variety hall has been recently erected, and is doing good business. This prosperity seems to have raised the ire of the local goody-goodies, for we hear that at a prayer-meeting held in one of the adjacent places of worship one of the brethren prayed that this "wicked place would be closed, and so the young saved from temptation"!

AFTER being closed for a fortnight, the Victoria Hall, Southend, reopened on Wednesday evening, when a crowded audience thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment given by the Gipsies, consisting of Miss Rosa Mellish, Miss Florence Croft, and Messrs. Robert Tattersall, D'Arcy Clayton, Stuart Ethall, and Alex. B. Gilbert. The Gipsies are on a return visit, and Mr. Shakespeare Stewart the promoter, and his assistant-manager, Mr. E. Cutler, are to be congratulated on the success achieved. The entertainment given is high-class, pretty, and amusing, each member of the troupe possessing a good voice and knowing how to use it, while not only are all vocalists, but each is a humourist, too, of no mean degree.

MR. SYDNEY PAXTON, the popular manager of the Grand Theatre, Southampton, for Mr. Frederick Mouillot, and district manager of the Hippodrome for Messrs. Mouillot and De Frece, has been presented by Mr. Walter De Frece with a handsome opal and diamond scarfpin in recognition of his "Valuable assistance during the Hippodrome negotiations."

MY FANCY, the well-known queen of sand dancers, produced her novel bare-footed dance at the Empire and Theatre Royal, Johannesburg, on Feb. 24, 1896. Both My Fancy and Miss Mildred de Grey, who is doing the Trilby act at the Tivoli, hail from America.

THE "Bohemian Twins," Misses Rosa and Josepha Blazek, have not, as was reported, been separated, the physicians having declared that to separate the two bodies would mean death to both.

THE Mohamed Ben Mohamed troupe of Arabs, after a successful Continental trip, open a tour of the principal theatres in England at Birmingham on March 5.—The Brewster Troupe, owing to the great success made by them at the Hippodrome, Paris, have been engaged by Signor Leguis to play on his South American tour. They sail from Valencia on March 12.

MR. CHARLES DIAMOND AND MISS BEATRICE, after their long sojourn abroad, are meeting with bigger success than ever in their bright and clever musical act. This week they are at the Park Palace, Liverpool, and have fairly taken the audiences by storm.

BARRETT AND KNOWLES, who are appearing in pantomime at the Royal, Glasgow, have an excellent gag in the refrain of the song, "Are we downhearted? No." This has become the rage of Glasgow, and was extensively used during the recent elections by both parties.

MR. BRANSBY WILLIAMS has made a big success at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool. This is the first pantomime in which he has appeared, and he received telegrams from all parts of the country on his first night. Amongst the most cherished of the messages sent was one from the veteran comedian Mr. J. L. Toole, who takes a great personal interest in the young actor.

MANY of the older music-hall frequenters will remember Mr. J. H. Woodhouse, comedian, author, and composer, who, we regret to say, passed away on New Year's Day at the Bradford (Yorks.) Hospital after a long illness from paralysis. The widow, who is left in poor circumstances, has just undergone a serious operation, and lies in a critical condition at Sandown, Isle of Wight, and the son, Mr. J. J. Woodhouse, who has not a date booked until April, appeals through our columns for help to tide over a distressful time. Those who are willing to help may send subscriptions to James Graydon (Woodhouse), 33, Osney-crescent, London, N.W.

DR. WALFORD BODIE, since he left London, has been playing to record business all along the line. At the Empire, Portsmouth, he appeared nightly to packed houses, and has been rebooked to return at the biggest salary ever paid to any artist. This week he is scoring his usual gigantic success at the Argyle, Birkenhead, and Mr. Clarke has rebooked him for another two dates at a weekly salary of £200. On Monday next the doctor opens with Mr. Stoll at the Empire, Nottingham.

MISS DOROTHY DUNDAS (Mrs. Bert Weston) is recovering satisfactorily from her recent operation, and was able to leave the private nursing home last Wednesday.

WE recorded last week the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Charlie Phoite-Pinaud, a well-known circus and variety-hall performer, whose real name was Charles Hunt. He returned from an American tour in July last, and, being nearly sixty years old, it was thought that he would retire into private life. But the old showman instinct asserted itself, and he entered into negotiations with the Blackpool Tower Company with a view to producing a new entertainment on American lines at the Palace next season. This new show was to be a novel kind of picture gallery. The late Mr. Phoite-Pinaud was a widower, and leaves one son, who is the Kempton of the well-known Kempton and Murdock combination—a couple of smart knockabout duettists, who have frequently appeared at the Blackpool Palace.

AT the funeral, which took place at the Blackpool Cemetery, only the deceased's relatives and mourning friends were present, including his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hunt; Mr. G. H. Harrop, general manager of the Tower and Palace; Mr. F. Waller, acting-manager of the Palace; and Mr. F. H. Jepson, musical director of the Palace, and others. The coffin bore the inscription: "Charles Hunt, died January 20, 1906, aged fifty-nine years." Beautiful wreaths were sent by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hunt, Mr. G. H. Harrop, Mr. Fred Waller, Mr. Richard Warner, "his old friends T. Sergenson and Fred Ash," Mr. and Mrs. Reed Pinaud, and others.

MR. RICHARD GREEN, who takes the character of Captain Aubrey Fane in *Fenella* at the Coliseum, has been re-engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll for another month, owing to the continued success of the operetta. Last Saturday, whilst Mr. Green was entertaining a party of friends at lunch at the Savage Club, Mrs. Green quite unexpectedly gave birth to a son, "Which is the third pledge of affexshing," as the older Weller would have observed, for Mr. Green to be proud of.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON, indefatigable as ever in the cause of our military veterans, has just sent Mr. Clarke, the secretary of the local branch, a cheque for £6 14s., the proceeds on the sale of his song-books during his recent successful two weeks' engagement at the Birmingham Gaiety.

AN experiment is about to be tried at the Empire by the issue of season tickets for the parterre lounge to members of London clubs. The number of tickets would probably be limited to 500. Mr. George Edwardes believes the new departure will be a success. "The principle," he remarked to an interviewer, "would not apply to the ordinary London theatres. In many provincial theatres, however, which change their bill every week, the system of yearly subscriptions might be successful." At the Palace Theatre, the system is already in operation, tickets being issued at three guineas a year for the promenade.

THE directors of the Empire have decided to produce the romantic ballet of *Coppélia*, probably at Easter next. This ballet, one of the earliest composed by Léo Delibes, is that in which Mdlle. Adeline Genée, danseuse, made her first success some ten years back at the Royal Opera House, Munich, and she will resume her original part of Swanilda. It is worthy of note also that it was in this work that Mdlle. Genée appeared before the Queen at the Opera House, Copenhagen, on which occasion Her Majesty expressed a hope that it would be given in England. At the Empire it will be played, as is usual on the Continent, in two scenes, and will be produced by Mr. Alexander Genée, the well-known director of ballet, who has himself appeared several times in it.

MR. CHARLES COLLETTE, having returned from his provincial engagements, will make his reappearance at the London Pavilion on Monday next in his clever little comedy duologue *Tea for Two*, supported by Miss Helen Perry.

AUDRAN'S well-known comic opera *La Mascotte* was chosen on Monday for Mr. Stoll's operatic experiment at the Coliseum, and, as presented by Mesdames Cora Williams and Sybil Lonsdale, and Messrs. Andre Kaya and Watty Brunton, it has been very favourably received by large audiences at the early evening performances this week. The palace scene was selected as the most suitable for representation, and the Coliseum choir gave valuable assistance as members of a novel chorus.

THE pantomime skit of *Nero*, which is being prepared for the Coliseum by Chris Davis, with lyrics by Roland Carse and music by Walter Slaughter, will be built on broad lines, and will include a slight burlesque of *The Charioteers*. The first scene will show the arrival amid the Romping Romans of S'Nero, in his triumphal chariot drawn by his three pet horses, Merrie Maggie, Stonewall Sam, and Broken-winded Polly. Fun will be made of the unblushing bragging of Nero, and of his disputes with his stepbrother, his mother, and the chief poisoner by Imperial warrant to the Court. This scene will conclude with a stampede of the Royal Lions. In the second scene Nero will be seen racing for the old Roman Pewter Cup Stakes (2.30 on the yellow card), with a distant reflection of the burning of the Imperial City. The part of S'Nero will be sustained by Mr. M. R. Morand, and he will be supported by Messrs. Keino Johnstone, William Morgan, William Watts, Witty Watty Brunton, and Charles Trevor. Messrs. Harry Gardiner, Fred Lomas, and Fred Zeitz will impersonate S'Nero's horses. The skit will be produced on Monday, Feb. 12.

MR. FRED BAUGH'S legion of friends heartily welcomed him on Monday night, when he looked in at the Holborn Empire. He is quite convalescent, but still somewhat weak, and will go away northward for a change in a short time. Mr. Baugh speaks in glowing terms of the kindness shown him during his illness, and considers that his fine constitution has been the chief factor in his recovery from the serious operation he had to undergo for appendicitis.

The Lady in Red, the successful sketch written by Mr. Frank Dix, and produced during Christmas week at the Hippodrome, Brighton, has proved a sterling success. Mr. Tom Craven, a clever dramatist as well as a humorous comedian, is playing the part of William with his customary unction, and at the conclusion of the pantomime engagement Mr. Stephen Adeson will resume his performance of Johnson.

MR. JOHN LAWSON, commonly called "Humanity John" and "Only a Jew," appears at the Hackney Empire next week. "*Humanity*," he said, "plays thirty minutes, and it has been the most successful episode ever produced since the variety theatre evolved from its free and easy stage. I spend on an average £20 a week, and in the course of a year, on an average, I destroy or wear out 30 dress suits and coats, 12 new scenes, and 6 large carpets; 810 large sheets of real mirror are destroyed, 1,400 wine glasses, 3,630 art pots, 330 dress ties, 12 pairs of boots, 50 pairs of gloves, 311 pedestals, 4,330 sheets of ordinary clear window glass, 400 champagne bottles, 1,300 fruit plates, 2,560 vases, and innumerable boxes of candles and cartridges."

THE Secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received a cheque for £20 from Mr. Fred W. Warden, as a donation from the Belfast Theatrical Charities. The president and committee are very thankful to Mr. Warden and the ladies and gentlemen who assisted for their kind efforts on behalf of the Music Hall Charity, which is in sad need of help.

MR. ROBERT GANTHONY has just finished a most successful engagement with Mr. Stoll. His style of entertainment is a welcome change in the usual variety programme.

ON the evening of Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, Harry Adams, the well-known writer for the variety stage, will be supported by a host of well-known professionals at the Horns, Kennington, the occasion being a complimentary social concert, organised in honour of the author of the late Charles Godfrey's famous "On Guard." Mr. Adams has deserved well of the profession, he having during the forty years he has been writing supplied many artists with notable successes. Miss Louie Frear's "All through the twiddly bits," and Mr. George Lashwood's "My latchkey," are examples of his workmanship.

MR. CARTER LIVESEY and Miss Lilian Rosebery have been engaged by Mr. Alfred Butt to present their successful skit, *The Would-be Actors*, at the Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue, for four weeks, commencing the 26th inst. The skit has been touring the provinces for the past six months, meeting with unprecedented success, and has secured bookings extending into 1908.

THE Terriers will give their fourth Social of the season at their headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel, on Sunday, when a host of friends, ladies and gentlemen, are invited.

SO great has been the success attending the establishment in New York of a branch of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's great business concern that Mr. Fred Day has found it necessary to remove from East 28th Street to more commodious premises at 15, West 30th Street, which is "up town," and nearer the principal theatres, and where the firm will trade as the "Anglo-American Publishing House of London and New York." The The American press have devoted much space on enconiums on the house, its methods of business, and its latest venture, a new *Orchestral Journal*. An adaptation of "Hear the pipers calling, Jenny mine"—our Transatlantic cousins have no pipers—promises soon to be the vogue in America.

WE regret to hear that Mr. E. A. Tasker, the manager of the *Encore*, passed away at his residence at Harringay on Wednesday, the immediate cause of death being pneumonia. The news has caused profound sorrow among the deceased's many friends in and out of the profession, and a promising career has been cut short at the early age of 29. The remains will be interred on Monday, at 12.30, at Southgate Cemetery.

ACTING on the instructions of the managing director of the Coliseum, a young Frenchman was arrested on Friday last on the charge of selling pirated copies of the song "Dreamland." The man admitted that he had printed the copies himself, and on his consenting to the confiscation of his printing plant and all the copies found he was permitted to go.

MESSRS. WILLIAMS AND BROWN, who are playing a successful pantomime engagement with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's *Aladdin* at the Grand, Nottingham, dissolve partnership on March 31, after being together for twelve years. Mr. Billy Brown has made arrangemnts by which he and Mr. Fred O'Malley (late of the O'Malleys) will immediately start working in double harness. The firm will, from April 2, be known as O'Malley and Brown. They have had an entirely new and original comedy sketch written for them, entitled *The Day I Came Back*, from the pen of the well-known Drury Lane and Mohawk Minstrel comedian, Mr. Johnny Danvers, and they have already been secured by several managers, both in London and the provinces.

AN application was made on Monday at the Thames Court for a licence to enable a boy to perform with his father, the head of an Arab acrobatic troupe, at the Bow Empire Music Hall. The magistrate, having questioned the boy, said he did not want to put any obstacle in the way of that sort of performance, but the law said every child should have certain education. The boy, although intelligent, was not getting that, and as the father was making money out of the son, he ought to provide him with a tutor. The application would be refused.

MR. FRED MCNAUGHTON, who is playing in pantomime with his partner Tom at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, recently met with a serious misadventure by applying some spirits of ammonia to his throat instead of menthol tincture, both liquids having unfortunately been placed in green bottles. Through the presence of mind of Mr. Tom McNaughton the sufferer, who was in great pain, was induced to vomit, and to this drastic action the doctor attributes Fred's recovery. He is now quite convalescent, and is meeting with an enthusiastic reception nightly.

THE admirable Urbanora animated picture exhibit will from Monday next take the Alhambra's patrons on a realistic excursion from Southampton Water to the Andes, by way of Uruguaya, putting before them the mighty Iguazu Falls (which far exceed Niagara), and many full and comprehensive illustrations of the two great national industries, cattle-raising and orange-growing. The Oxford and Cambridge crews will visit the Alhambra on Boat Race Night for the third year in succession.

MISS MILLIE PAYNE, on her return to town, has scored an unmistakable success, her new songs catching on at once. At Chelsea she is very welcome, and at Collins's, where she made her first appearance, audiences revel in her eccentricities.

THE Eskimo Troupe, in their production *At Home in Lapland*, have a novelty of considerable ingenuity, in which they present several effective illusions in a way that is quite out of the groove of the commonplace. We hope shortly to see these clever people in London.

MR. CARL LYNN, who is a young and exceedingly clever animal mimic, will make his first appearance in London at the Canterbury on Monday evening.—Miss Evelyn Taylor, who has been scoring heavily in her new line of business, is booked far ahead through Mr. Leo Fritz's agency.

THE Haverleys, American song illustrators, have been making a big success on the Macnaghten tour, and are now in the provinces for another four weeks before opening at all the London Macnaghten halls.

HICKS'S CLERKS will produce for the first time, on Monday next, at the Holborn Empire, a new musical absurdity entitled *A Day at the Seaside*, with special scenery, dresses, and electric effects.

MR. BOCK PYLADES, the well-known facial artist who should have performed this week at the Hippodrome, Accrington, fell and broke his leg shortly after arriving in the town last Sunday night. He now lies in the hospital at Accrington.

MR. HARRY NATION, who has had fifteen years' active experience in the variety profession at home and abroad, is about to start as an agent. His business will be known as the National Agency.

AT the meeting on Sunday of the International Artists' Lodge at the Hotel Provence, there were seventeen members and four guests present. The minutes being read and adopted, the chairman then proceeded to deal with the correspondence, among the most important communications being one from the London County Council, in answer to communications from the I.A.L. extending over several months, *re* lowering of lights in the auditorium of theatres and music halls during the performances. The County Council now disclaim any such intention, and only wish to enforce continual illumination in the corridors and over exits, etc.; the Council also stated that it would be willing to consider any further observations from the I.A.L. Reference was made to a paragraph in this week's *Programm*, drawing attention to the fact that contracts for America calling for Sunday performances are void according to law, performances on Sunday being illegal. The verdict in a recent case had made this point quite clear. It was pointed out that an article which had appeared in a contemporary had shown some misconception of the aims, objects, and nature of the Lodge. The meeting considered this unfortunate, when it was remembered that this might lead to a wide-spread misconception. It was therefore resolved to write letters to the different music hall publications asking them to kindly publish the correction of these errors.

A MEETING of the committee of the Le Brunn Testimonial Fund will be held at the Oxford on Monday next at 1.30 p.m.

MR. JOHN L. LAWSON produces his new sketch by Mr. Cecil Raleigh entitled *The King's Minister* at the Hounslow Hippodrome on Monday, the 12th inst. Artists, managers, and agents wishing to see the same will please forward their names to the Secretary, 49, Binfield Road, Stockwell, S.W.

THE late Mr. "Dick" Leggett used to tell some good anecdotes relating to his struggles in early youth. As a lad he toured Wales with his mother's concert party, who used to hire a large room in a public-house for the entertainment. The party travelled their own grand pianoforte, and, on one occasion, when the artists had assembled for the opening performance one evening, the pianist attempted to play the first bar of the overture, when, to the great consternation of all, nothing was heard but a most frightful discord. Inquiries eventually brought an old servant woman upon the scene, who proudly proclaimed the fact that, seeing a lot of dirty wires inside the piano, she thought she would be doing the actor-people a good turn by cleaning the instrument up, and she had spent the entire afternoon in burnishing each wire with a piece of sand-paper wrapped round a brick. Needless to say, there was no performance that evening.

"DICK" LEGGETT'S youngest daughter Amy (who so cleverly portrayed the title-rôle in their well-known sketch *The Maid of Athens*), only recently joined her husband, Eric Calcott, in a new act. Under the cognomen of "The Calcotts" they have already fulfilled numerous engagements in London and the provinces, and were this season specially engaged by Messrs. Little and Darcy for principal girl and speciality in their pantomime *Sinbad*. At the termination of the pantomime the clever couple are returning to the music halls, and commence an extensive tour at the Empire, Portsmouth.

LADY HALDON is busy rehearsing an original dramatic episode of real life, written for her by Mr. Arthur Shirley, entitled *Two Pictures*, which will be shortly produced at a leading variety hall. She will have the able assistance of Mr. Talbot Homewood and Mr. Irve Hayman, the popular American character actor. Mr. H. J. Didcott has the entire charge of bookings.

MR. JAMES WILLARD'S sketch *Did he Deserve It?* is enriched with a novel situation which readily appeals to popular audiences. A large mastiff defends a poor flower-girl from the advances of a young roué. The incident is so dramatically represented, and the intelligent canine plays his part so well, that the sketch invariably evokes enthusiastic cheers.

MISS BELLA BASHALL has been playing with great success the part of principal boy in the pantomime production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Prince's, Poplar, in place of Miss Lottie Collins.

MR. WALTER NORMAN has been appearing as deputy this week at the Grenville, Walham-green, for Mr. Charles Cardow, and has met with a very big success. His "England with a great big E" has proved a strong number.

MISS VICTORIA MONKS produced Messrs. Lambe and Mellor's song "Can't you hear me calling Mister Primrose Brown?" at the Holborn Empire on Monday last. It proved an instantaneous "hit," and it will be published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MR. CHARLES VALVO, society ventriloquist and humorist, was taken seriously ill twelve months since, and was advised by his doctor to take a complete rest for a year. He has now completely recovered, and desires to acknowledge with much gratitude the kindness of his friends. He commences work in a week or two, when he will present something new to his audiences.

THE Pollardy Brothers have been re-engaged by Mr. Frederick Mouillot to play the "Ugly Sisters" for the season of 1906-7. This makes the fourth season they have been engaged for these parts.

MR. ARTHUR ELVEY will produce, at the Surrey Theatre on Monday, his latest sporting act, by Albert Voyce, entitled *The Up-to-Date Tipster*, with special scenery, auxiliaries, and Raymond's Bioscope. Mr. Barrasford has secured the act for his halls through the agency of Messrs. Fortune and Granville.

HERBERT LA MARTINE will celebrate his twenty-first birthday at Newport (Mon.) to-day, when he will no doubt be the recipient of many hearty congratulations.

MDLLE. EUGENIE FOUGERE, the celebrated and charming French chanteuse, will sing her latest French successes at the Oxford on Monday, and will be seen in the newest Parisian confections. Morris Cronin, in his mysterious pantomimic juggling, and Francis Willy, with his grotesque dog circus, will also be added to the excellent programme.

"BILL BAILEY," the burlesque of a pantomime with which the Follies opened their month's season at Queen's (small) hall on Thursday, is not such a simple little production as it appears from the front. Each member of the clever little company has to make use of over thirty-five different "properties," and there are continual changes of costumes. As several of the best "gags" of Mr. H. G. Pélissier, who is the principal pierrot in the Follies, have been "lifted," he has wisely invented a new set, leaving his "good old jokes" to his sincerest flatterers.

JAMES PRESTON, fifty-one, a fruiterer, living in Rowton House, Newington Butts, was charged on Tuesday with attempting to obtain two admission tickets for the Alhambra Theatre, worth 6s., by false pretences. It was alleged that the prisoner, in the name of Pope, wrote for theatre tickets, using a newspaper shop in Kennington Park-road as his address. He was arrested by Detective-sergeants Duggan and Loader after he had left the shop, and when searched was found to have some theatre tickets in his pockets. When told the charge that would be preferred against him he said he was hard up, and tried to realise a shilling or two for food and lodging. Prisoner, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

HERBERT CLIFTON, who is only nineteen years of age, appeared at the Alhambra with remarkable success for the first time on Monday evening. According to Mr. George Scott, the manager of the Alhambra, whose "discovery" he is, Mr. Clifton had never appeared on any stage until a week or so ago. He was found by Mr. Scott at the Duchess, Balham. Mr. Scott was so struck with his wonderful mimetic powers and versatility that he promptly engaged him for a performance at the Alhambra. Mr. Clifton rehearsed his act there on Monday morning; and by Monday night his success was so assured that Mr. Scott secured him at once for a term of years. Clifton possesses an ordinary baritone voice of remarkable flexibility, and can sing soprano songs with the greatest ease; while his mimetic representations of feminine performers, including Miss Evie Greene, Miss Madge Lessing, and Miss Gertie Millar, are wonderfully true to the characters impersonated.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

A very agreeable novelty in the London Pavilion programme is found in what is called an international sketch, produced by Mr. Emlyn Jones and his quartet of ladies, who have been great favourites at the Piccadilly-circus house for some considerable period now. The nations represented as "international" are Irish, Scotch, Welsh, and English, and from the rich stores of melody emanating from the composers of each country, Mr. Jones has selected songs that will never die. When the curtain rises four ladies, dressed in the national costumes of Britannia, Gallia, Cambria, and Erin, are discovered seated "in the vicinity" of a grand piano. To them enters a courtly gentleman in the elegant and most becoming costume of *The School for Scandal* period. Proposing the toast of "Merry England, the land of the free," the quintet raise their glasses, and break into the old English melody of "Lasses and Lads," delightfully harmonised. Even more effective is the harmonised version of Balfe's setting of "Killarney," representative of the music of Erin. "Loch Lomond" reflects in its lyrics the intense love of the land of burn and loch that is a religion with the Scot, and in choosing this sweetest and most pathetic of melodies, Mr. Emlyn Jones has shown much wisdom. It is rendered with faultless intonation and admirable expression. Gallant little Wales, with its soul steeped in music, its ancient bardic ceremonies, and its Eisteddfods, is apostrophised as the land of song, and the strains of "The Bells of Aberdovey," sung in Welsh, fall sweetly on the ear. In his final selection, "The Soldiers' Chorus," from *Faust*, Mr. Emlyn Jones suggests the *Entente Cordiale*—a very real and prominent factor in any "internationalism," and this stirring number—quite an inspiration with its composer Gounod—winds up a refined and very popular interlude which appeals very forcibly to that large-hearted Imperialism which is the sentiment uppermost in the minds of most lovers of variety.

Early in the evening Mr. Maynard Dakin, a young comedian of promise, sings a capital medley, and is also heard to advantage in "I've got nothing to grumble at." Mr. James Stewart, the tramp at the piano, gives examples of the art of commencing a simple melody in one key and finishing in another; and another gentleman who amuses us at the piano is Mr. Homer B. Mason, whose raiment also betrays his association with the (stage) criminal classes. Homer plays the part of a witty and philanthropic cracksman, who, after enjoying a good deal of fun at the expense of a happy pair in a flat, leaves them on the condition that they shall become betrothed, and that their first-born (if a boy) shall be named after him. Miss Marguerite Keeler is as pretty as a picture, and acts the character of Milly with much refinement and charm. The sketch, which is called *Hooked by Crook*, fills out an entertaining half-hour. Mr. Arthur Aldridge, who is endowed with a tenor voice of excellent range, sings "Nirvana" with fervour and charm of style; Miss Florence Schuberth, looking particularly well in a boy's costume of blue, praises in song the gallant little Japs; and Mr. Frank Leon dances in perfect rhythm a Lancashire clog dance—a form of terpischorean exercise that is apparently much enjoyed by the audience.

Shawlene, who is labelled mimic and siffleur, adopts the rôle of tramp in his exhibition of whistling. Choosing first the favourite air "Alice, where art thou?" he produces pianissimo and forte effects with great skill, and afterwards chooses the overture to Balfe's *Bohemian Girl*—a morceau of considerable difficulty. He, however, comes through the ordeal triumphantly, and is warmly applauded. Shawlene should try one or two of the florid arias of Sir Henry Bishop, such as "Tell me, my heart," "Should he upbraid," or "Bid me discourse," or he might even venture—in the dress of a jester, with cap and bells—on the beautiful settings of Shakespeare's songs by Dr. Arne. This would bring his entertainment up to a higher plane and display his abilities to even greater advantage. Strongfort, America's renowned athlete, is responsible for a graceful exhibition of muscular development and some trials of strength, which include the Roman column feat and heavy dumb-bell lifting. He winds up his entertainment by allowing four men to stand on his body during the time that his head and feet only rest on supports. Strongfort is a pleasant-looking athlete, but he gives us nothing new, and his entertainment was anticipated a good many years since by Sandow and other strong men. Mr. Chris Richards, Mr. Whit Cunliffe, and Mr. George Mozart are repeating successfully the same entertainments that we heard a week or two ago; Mr. Jock Whiteford has a popular new selection in "Keep on doing it, Sandy"; and Howard and Collinson exploit a clever interlude, which is founded on the animated doll idea. The Sisters Finney, two pretty girls in their teens, are responsible for a smart display of the graceful art of swimming in the crystal tank. The elder of the two picks up with her mouth no fewer than sixty-three coins from the bottom of the tank, and the exhibition throughout is particularly refined and instructive. Mdlle. Alethea is a most graceful gymnast, and Miss Marie Wilton asserts herself agreeably as a serio and dancer.

THE SURREY.

In variety administration, if not in politics, Mr. Frank Macnaghten is an out-and-out "Liberal," for all the turns on his bills are of the best. On Monday evening the queen of coster comediennes, Kate Carney, produced a new song-scena entitled *The Sunday Promenade*, which proves an admirable vehicle for the introduction of a song with a tuneful, swinging chorus, the fascination of which lies in the fact that everyone in the audience is induced to hum the refrain, and it is safe to predict that it will soon be whistled by every gamin and heard on every street organ in London. Seated on the benches in the Park we find quaint specimens of humanity. The dude promenader comes on the scene and inquires of the Park constable if he's seen "the Belle of the Promenade." It does not need the officer's reply, "She's coming now," for the merry "toot-toot" of a motor-horn is heard, and our one and only Kate Carney's elegant automobile dashes on the stage, bringing the coster queen in view of her enthusiastic subjects. She breaks into song, and at the end of each verse of "The Sunday Promenade" an endless procession of quaint personages fill the stage, singing and dancing, and creating rollicking fun. With a series of five enthusiastic curtains and many floral tributes the audience reluctantly lets the Belle of the Promenade make her adieu. *The Sunday Promenade* fully deserves the popular favour bestowed on it.

Mr. Frederick Maxwell and his carefully-selected company are this week presenting the sketch *Bluejacket; or, a Son of the British Navy*, which long since won popular favour, is renewing its success this week at the Surrey. Mr. Frederick Maxwell assumes the title-rôle, and gives a finished performance. Miss Lois Du Cane imbues the character of Nellie Drake, the heroine, with delicacy, tenderness, and artistic resource. As the villain, Marcus Mayne, Mr. Charles Levey invests his part with a brutal cunning that makes a deep impression, and wins the hearty execrations of the audience. As Goodman Giles and Ben Rivett, the two prying fishermen, Messrs. Gerald Blake and A. Charrington make the most of their opportunities, and add not a little to the general success. The staging is perfect.

The Livronis are exceptionally good in a light, breezy, amusing vaudeville, in which the clever couple are everything in turn and nothing long. Full of quaint business, this merry mixture of acrobatic dancing and ludicrous fun gives great delight.

Their burlesque of "The Sloppy Lovers" and Romeo and Juliet keeping the house highly amused. In response to an encore they give a Highland dance that creates uncontrollable merriment. The Sisters Beatrice are a pair of smart agile dancers, who charm in their duet, "I'll be your dewdrop, Rosie." Booker and Narbis in their duologue indulge in much amusing cross-talk and snatches of popular American coon-songs. Miss Childie Stuart sings of a pair of silk stockings "That were hanging on the line all day," the chorus of which is soon picked up by the audience; "Madame Butterfly," her second effusion, is also well received. Miss Dorothy Gould, a youthful vocalist, displays the possession of a clear and flexible voice in her pretty ballad "Dreamland," and gives high promise. The Four Kweeries give a weird illusionary act which leaves the audience full of wonderment. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, with a series of amusing and interesting pictures, "Remorse; or, The Miser's Gold," "The Butterfly Chase," and "The Adventures of an Election Canvasser," form a fitting ending to a capital entertainment. The Surrey orchestra is distinctly a feature of the performance, and artists must appreciate the excellent work of Mr. Hinkinson's efficient band. Mr. Chris Wordsworth, the acting-manager, is as active as he is courteous, and keeps perfect order in the vast house. Congratulations are extended to Mr. Frederic Baugh, Mr. Macnaghten's general-manager, on his recovery from his recent severe illness.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

If continuous peals of laughter, intermingled with rounds of applause, may be accepted as the criterion of success, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay must be congratulated on having "struck ile" with his programme for the current week. It is certainly one of the most attractive bills that he has offered to his patrons for some time, and the crowded state of the house at each performance shows that a wise liberality is bound to secure the appreciative support of the paying public.

The Palace orchestra at once puts the house in good humour by a capital rendering of the tuneful overture, "Les Deux Magots," under the direction of Mr. H. Petersen. Mr. Frank Sylvo, who is no stranger here, repeats his quaint comedy juggling with great success, his tossing about of a lighted lamp, the clever trick with cigar-boxes, and that with the three hats, are accompanied by a running commentary of whimsical sayings. Miss Agnes Hazel, an exceedingly handsome comedienne, sings with all the charm of a naturally fine voice admirably trained. Herr Fritz, whose description as the "Mystifier of Mystifiers" certainly does not err on the score of extravagance, keeps his audience absolutely spellbound with a series of illusions which, not so many centuries ago, would have placed him in danger of his life as a magician closely in league with a certain nameless gentleman. The "horse and jockey" illusion, which is believed to have upset the customary equanimity of no less an august and universal genius than H.M. the German Emperor himself, must be seen to be believed. Scarcely less surprising is the feat of the flying lamp, while the articles produced from the harmless "bowler" of one of the audience—articles including a baby's complete outfit down to the feeding-bottle, a mass of millinery enough to stock a shop, and a whole flock of live pigeons—are simply amazing. Herr Fritz may be set down as one of the biggest successes the Palace has scored. That amusing couple of American Hebrew dialect comedians, Jordan and Harvey, convulse the house with their comical patter, clever singing and dancing. Another line that is responsible for no end of merriment is the appearance of Mark Melford and company in the farcical "screamer," *Non-Suited*, setting forth a breach of promise case that probably has not been equalled since Mr. W. S. Gilbert gave to the world his *Trial by Jury*. The little piece is played just in the touch-and-go manner necessary by the three clever artists comprising the cast. Few greater favourites ever visit Walthamstow than Dandy George and his inimitable "Rosie." The two comedians, human and canine, are as neat and entertaining as hitherto, and are the recipients of some of the heartiest applause of the evening. The Northern Troupe of International Dancers have a splendid reception for their really delightful dancing. Mr. Michael Nolan, singing two capital Irish songs, is at once admitted into popular favour and loudly cheered. The concluding item of the programme is an excellent dramatic sketch, entitled *Dick Turpin*. The authors, Messrs. George Roberts and Frank Gerald, have gone for their inspiration to Harrison Ainsworth's stirring romance, "Rookwood," and have produced an exceedingly compact and interesting drama in five scenes. The story is clearly told in language that is always to the point and never redundant. Mr. Frank Gerald gives a bold and picturesque rendering of the immortal highwayman, and rides bonny Black Bess with easy dash. That important and always popular character is sustained by Wiapera, a handsome creature, looking—if one may be pardoned the paradox in writing of a jet black steed—in the pink of condition. Sir Ralph Rookwood's villiany is well portrayed by Mr. Charles Aldred, and Mr. Lyndon Greenwood is a handsome and vigorous representative of the "rightful heir," Luke Bradley. Miss Evelyn Vaudray throws considerable dramatic fire into her impersonation of Eleanor Mowbray. Mr. Fred Rolls (Timothy Tittlemouse), Mr. Harry Prince (toll keeper), and Mr. Geo. Roberts (Peterson) all play well, and a word of praise is due to the imperturbable donkey Lazy Lightning. The scenery is effective, and the costumes handsome and redolent of the period. In a programme necessitating so many heavy "sets," the stage-management is a very important department, but Mr. John Grant, of the Palace, is fully equal to every call.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

A new sketch, written round the imposing personality of Miss Helen Kinnaird, figures in the programme at the Empress this week, and has well served its purpose of creating laughter. The little piece, which is called *A Poor Weak Woman*, serves to introduce to a solicitor's office a lady whose ample proportions strike dismay into the heart of the diminutive lawyer, and raise admiration in that of the equally undersized page-boy. The lady, who has a very assertive style, wishes to obtain a divorce, and produces a letter in her husband's handwriting in which a certain "Florence" is referred to in endearing terms. The reading of the letter induces a fit of hysterics on the lady's part, but when she has recovered the solicitor finds that there is some further writing on the other side of the letter which had escaped the lady's attention, and proves conclusively that the "Florence" referred to was the town in Italy, where the honeymoon of the couple was spent, and practically puts the plaintiff "out of court." Miss Kinnaird, by whom the sketch was written and produced, makes an impressive entry in a handsome dress, and carries the piece through with unfailing humour. Her aggressiveness towards the meek little lawyer is very laughable, and the lady's well-marked delivery gives all possible point to the lines. Mr. Willis Searle and Mr. J. W. Braithwaite share equally in the indignities heaped upon the crushed solicitor and his servant, the latter having literally to be sat upon in the course of the performance, which won laughter and cordial applause.

Included in the attractive bill is Little Tich, who renews his popularity at Brixton. His song as a chemist's assistant, who sings "It's very warm to-day," is highly relished, and is followed by an appearance as a member of the "Stay-at-Home Brigade," in which the little comedian cuts the most comical figure as a military officer. His mirthful devices are unbounded, and laughter, genuine and spontaneous, accompanies his turn throughout. An undeniable encore results in his return with his big boots, the process of putting them on and the dance which follows being deliciously droll. Howard and Collinson present their sketch *The Porter and the Parcel* to an admiring house, the singing and dancing of the marvellously realistic doll exercising their usual effect and calling forth a demonstration of approval.

Miss Julie Mackay's deep contralto gives thrilling effect to the refrain, "My father's as good as yours," the sentiment of which appeals powerfully to all, and the singing by the favourite vocalist of "Good-bye, my lady-love," reveals the melody of that agreeable song in the most striking way. Sentiment is also contained in the pictorial songs supplied by Martine and Son, "When you were sixteen," and "You may be old some day," being both admirably rendered by a youthful singer who has a strong and penetrating voice. The incidents of the ballads are pictorially displayed in colours on a sheet, and loud recalls testify to the success of the show.

Many droll expedients, which include the burlesque of a marvellous escape from a railway-train, are resorted to by Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in *Fun in a Railway Station*, in the course of which some admirable tumbling and contortionism are executed. Prosper and Madame Benn join harmoniously in their sketch *From Pavement to Stage*, and Miss Maud Esmond also charms in song. Mr. Walter Wallis, who dilates on the humours of a high hat, also makes a droll appearance as a policeman of the cheeriest kind, whose eccentricities are highly favoured and win loud recalls. The laughing song of Mr. Charles Penrose, in which different styles of cachinnation are cleverly imitated, wins well-deserved recognition, and his appearance as a small boy in frilled knickerbockers adds to his undoubted success. Mr. Harry Champion preserves his lightning-like style in the singing of his distinctive songs, three of which have to be supplied before the popular comedian is allowed to depart. The art of juggling is deftly practised by Raffin and Jackley, a comic complexion being put upon the turn by the latter, a young comedian who supplies a number of droll antics that cause laughter. Some very clever feats are performed by his partner, who at one time may be seen balancing a heavily-framed oil-painting on the end of a pole, the other extremity of which rests on his chin. Miss Violet Carlyle gives specimens of her vocal talent early in the evening. Lord, Murray, and Lord win hearty cheers for their boxing exhibition and ball-punching; and Ruffell's Bioscope concludes a well-selected bill.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

We were pleased to see Mr. Edward H. Dobson, the capable manager of the Shepherd's Bush Empire, when we visited that house on Wednesday evening. Mr. Dobson has been ill with bronchitis, and although still looking far from well, has pluckily stuck to his post, for, as he says, he feels that he must see that everything is going on all right at the establishment under his control. We trust he will speedily be restored to complete health and vigour. Miss Vesta Tilley has been the leading line here this week, and in view of the fact that it was announced to be her last performance previous to her departure for her fifth tour of the United States, a special interest attached to her appearance at Shepherd's Bush during the past few days. She has been billed as "Everybody's idol," and everybody's idol she has proved to be. Whether as a dandified youth who pricks up his ears at the question, "Who said girl?" or as a gay and debonnair officer of the "Royal Artilleree," or as a small boy in Eton jacket unsteadily "following in father's footsteps," Miss Tilley succeeds in bringing to the notice of the audience an amusing character. Every movement of her dainty figure is followed by admiring eyes, and it is pleasing to be able to record that she seems to possess as much vivacity as ever.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden have an entertaining sketch in their *Desperate Remedy*. A petulant young wife threatens to commit suicide, and buys some prussic acid for that purpose. Her husband, however, does not take her seriously, and a very laughable situation arises as she is about to put the deadly glass to her mouth, and finds that her husband stands unmoved all the time. There is good reason for his nonchalance, for he had previously changed the poison for whisky, and when she refuses to poison herself he snatches up the tumbler, and says he will drink the liquid himself. There is another diverting scene, as she implores him not to do anything of the kind, and, finally, all ends happily. Fyne and Hurley appear in an extremely funny little "Coster and Dude" incident, which proves greatly to the delight of the house. The Mannons, in their *Uncle Yank* act, indulge in a variety of amusing knockabout and gymnastic antics, and liveliness is the order of things while they occupy the stage. Stewart and Morgan give an agreeable rendering of duets, their songs being "Eileen Alannah" and "Come back to Erin," one of the gentlemen singing in falsetto. Mr. W. H. Downs, the coloured tenor, exhibits considerable vocal skill with his interpretation of "Remember me," into the performance of which he imparts both feeling and expression.

Uproariously comical are Amann and Hartley in their sketch, *The Naughty Professor*. The gentleman's attitude, gestures, and remarks, as he endeavours to make love to what he believes is a new pupil, in reality his own wife, are amazingly whimsical. To both of these clever artists great credit is due for the absurd manner in which they tell the story of a music teacher, who has a liking for pupils of the fair and feminine order, and who also has a rather jealous wife. The Bohemians submit an entertaining musical show, in which different instruments, including a trick cornet, a flute, and a French horn are played in capital style. The Five Bellatzer Sisters take part in a smart aerial exhibition on the flying trapeze, their various feats being executed with neatness and agility. Drawee, Frisco, and Hambo excel in the direction of comedy juggling, the different portions of the talented trio's act causing much merriment. A series of interesting and attractive bioscope pictures concludes the programme.

MR. "SIXPENNY POPS" SMITH reports great business at the branch of Messrs. Francis and Day's establishment devoted to the now famous series identified with the name of the house. In the current number of our contemporary, *Musical Opinion*, are reproduced in facsimile three recent orders from wholesale dealers—to wit, Messrs. Paxton, Messrs. Pitman, Hart, and Co., and Messrs. Murdoch—each order being for 50,000 copies, assorted—150,000 in all!

A PIANOFORTE selection of popular melodies, the orchestral arrangement of which will also be hailed with delight by leaders of string, military, and brass bands, full or otherwise, has been just placed on the market by Messrs. Francis and Day, under the title of "The Pick of the Basket." It is by Warwick Williams, and introduces the melodies of "When the boys go marching by," "On the dear old shore," "Put a little bit away for a rainy day," "Little glow-worm," "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," "In the shade of the old apple-tree," "Don't go too fast, little girlie," "Hear the pipers calling, Jennie mine," "Rainbow," "I love a lassie," "Riding on top of the car," "My Irish Molly, O," and "Come down from the big fig tree."

THE HOLBORN EMPIRE.

THE PRIVATE VIEW.

The march of improvement in the structure of variety theatres has been strikingly illustrated once more by the transformation of the old Royal into the Holborn Empire; and frequenters of the former house who availed themselves of Mr. Walter Gibbons's invitation to a private view of his new palace of pleasure on Saturday must have been agreeably astonished at the beauty, the elegance, and comfort of this latest of London's temples of amusement, and at the skill, ingenuity, and taste displayed by Mr. Frank Matcham, the distinguished theatrical architect. And here we must speak of the far-seeing enterprise of Mr. Walter Gibbons, the youngest of our music-hall magnates, who, notwithstanding the somewhat unfortunate career of the house, recognised that it might be run successfully on the two shows a night plan, and soon after acquiring it set about putting it in order, with the result that the new Empire is the leading theatre of the Gibbons' variety circuit. It worthily holds that position.

The new establishment will seat 1,600 people, and probably hold 2,000, and no less than fourteen entertainments will be given weekly, matinées being held on Thursday and Saturday. "Pilaster and architrave are set, and Doric pillar overlaid," in Holborn's latest theatre. One is moved to admiration on gazing from the stage at the graceful outlines and chaste decorations in cream and gold of the fine two-tier house, with its spacious pit, seated with tip-up chairs, its luxurious stalls, its splendid dress circle—not in this case built on the horse-shoe plan—and its comfortable and commodious gallery, with leather-covered seats and cork carpet. The prices range from fourpence in this gallery to eighteenpence in the fauteuils, and there are private boxes at five shillings, seven-and-sixpence, and half a guinea. Agreeably to the new order of things, all seats except those in the gallery can be booked in advance. As a full description of the architectural details of the new house was given in our last issue, we need only point out some of its principal features. The proscenium is one of the most beautiful of any in London. It is flanked by marble pillars, and by its magnificence proves that there has been no desire on the part of Mr. Gibbons to avoid outlay where results commensurate with it can be secured. The foyer, 40ft. in length, which is reached from the principal entrance in Holborn, and backs the dress circle, is a pleasant innovation, and it is delightfully planned. Pilasters and columns support carved beams and arches arranged in panels, and in the recesses are luxurious settees upholstered in fine green cloth richly ornamented with gold. A gold-embroidered crown forms the centre of the settee backs, which have a border to correspond and rest on a comfortable Saxony carpet.

Luxury of a similar character and a scheme of decoration to correspond are to be found in the saloon, to which entrance is obtained from the promenade at the back of the dress circle. This will become a very popular resort of the frequenters of the house, as it is directly over the entrance in Holborn, and should be a delightfully cool lounge for smokers in the summer. The saloon is on two levels, connected by three wide steps, flanked by pedestals and columns. The other saloons are equally as comfortable and elegant—that of the stalls being beautifully designed—but their position is not so advantageous. Everything that the skill and experience of the architect could suggest has been done to make the audiences comfortable and happy in their surroundings at the Holborn Empire, and Mr. Gibbons, the proprietor, is to be complimented on the great enterprise he has shown in the venture, and we may be sure that there will be a good entertainment enshrined in a beautiful house.

A large and distinguished company accepted the invitation of Mr. Gibbons on Saturday afternoon to be present, and among the visitors we noticed Messrs. Henry Tozer, the well-known director of half a score of halls; Harry Lundy, who was the managing-director of the syndicate that acquired the hall in 1901; Major Spencer Tyler, a manager during the Purkiss régime; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bawn, Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Graydon, Miss Fatmah Diard, Miss Amy Clevere; Messrs. Alec Hurley, T. Scully, Jack Edgar, Joseph Wilson (Tivoli), G. L. Wilson (Duchess, Balham), Fred McAvoy, E. W. James (Empire Palace, Ealing), J. H. Watling, Charles Beecham, J. Munro, Grimsdale, Harry Masters, Jack de Frece, R. Williams, Frank Elliot, W. Grimes, and a host of others.

Some excellent selections were played during the afternoon by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. James Sale, who has been appointed musical director. Mr. Eustace Jay, the manager, received many hearty congratulations on his appointment, and the popular Mr. Harry Bawn, the general manager of the circuit, who has apparently entirely given up comic singing, was also felicitated on the latest addition to his responsibilities.

THE OPENING.

On Monday evening the reopening was marked by excellent business in both houses; but the joyous nature of the occasion was specially signalised in the second, for which most of the stalls and dress circle had been booked. There was practically no hitch in the arrangements, for, besides his well-disciplined staff, Mr. Walter Gibbons found excellent volunteer helpers in Mr. Hales, Mr. Harry Lundy, Mr. Emanuel Warner, and other friends, and by the time "God Save the King" had been played by the orchestra, under Mr. James Sale, an eager throng—many of them evidently frequenters of the old Royal—in stalls, pit, and dress circle, had expressed admiration for the beauty of the new house, and had settled themselves down to enjoy the excellent entertainment provided. As soon as the pretty tableau curtains had been lifted behind the magnificent marble-pillared proscenium, Silent Tait, the well-known conjurer, made his appearance. Quite a cockney garden surrounds the "speechless" magician, and a peculiar specimen of horticulture is the "deciduous" shrub on which billiard balls are seen to be growing in profusion. Tait pretends to gather these, and makes them disappear in a way that is at once amusing and mysterious. He changes the colour of a handkerchief while passing it through a paper cone, from which he afterwards produces flags; and his duplication of cards is also particularly neat. Silent Tait has a decided sense of humour, as one discovers when he indulges in an odd little dance at the conclusion of each of his tricks.

Satan, the sentimental sketch of the bill, enables us once more to admire Mr. Edward Sillward's realistic impersonation of the faithful gorilla. The Simian is heroic, and saves the young wife of a settler, George Golding, from the clutches of the villain Silas, whom he throttles. The poor animal's bravery and timely help are misunderstood, and he is unfortunately shot by Golding, who imagines his wife is in danger. An incident that adds to the pathos of this pretty little sketch is that the monkey, who has been educated to count up to five—a thing that has been proved to be quite possible—is supposed to think that he has been shot because he couldn't accomplish the feat previously, and in his last moments performs the simple trick with straws. Mr. Sillward contributes a wonderful sketch of the ape. He literally and metaphorically gets into the skin of the part. The animal's rage is expressed with terrible emphasis towards the villain, and the struggle between the two is exciting in the extreme. The other parts are well played, but the cast is not given.

A lively and entertaining interlude in the programme is filled out by the romantic absurdity, entitled *A Trip to the Isle of Man*. Ever since the production of *Fun on the Bristol* and *Morocco Bound*, "trips," both on the variety and theatrical stage, have been quite too numerous to mention. There is always a welcome, however, for anything so frankly hilarious and frivolous as Mr. Arthur Breton's work. Much of it certainly revivifies footlight echoes of musical comedy; but that doesn't really matter. The jolly old boy, Joshua Bacon, a retired merchant, when he sings to his six charming daughters, reminds us of Mr. Rutland Barrington chortling to his six stage-wives in *San Toy*; and the lunatic Count—but we need not draw further comparisons. The fun is fast and furious, especially in the hotel scene, where Mr. Arthur Breton plays fantastic tricks while carving a "bird." Other incidentals in the piece—which was fully described in our columns last week—include a chic bathing costume dance by the Sisters MacGovern, and Misses Lorne and Rene, in a musical duo, "Capital and Labour," both well-appreciated numbers. Miss Kitty Terris, who sacrifices her personal appearance to the exigencies of low comedy, plays with complete success the part of Matilda Pickles—a quaint delineation that contributes much to the success. Some pierrots, among whom we recognise that veteran performer Fred Harrington, sing a stirring military song; and fun and frolic mark the progress of the whole sketch, which is well illustrated and tastefully dressed.

The Two Bees (Harry and Flora Blake), in their comedy scena, "Pictorial Post-Cards," plunge the audience into the throes of excitement by the exhibition of portraits of party leaders; but the duettists touch a more sympathetic chord when they deliver lyrical tributes to—and honour the memory of—Sir Henry Irving and Dan Leno. Some of the political portraits might be better, and it would be difficult for the friends of John Burns to recognise the stalwart of Battersea in the counterfeit presentment displayed on the Bees' pictorial easel. Though some of the applause is cheaply obtained, they score a great popular success. Hill and Hull repeat their success in the lady dummy business, the complete inertia of one of the performers being cleverly simulated; Lee and Kingston combine in some amusing nonsense, the shower of missiles on the head of the male performer who burlesques Tommy Atkins, being a bit of drollery that is well appreciated; and the Australian Lady Meister Singers make a great hit. They contribute "The Lost Chord," and, responding to a very pronounced encore, sing "Dinah Doe," an American comic catch. An attractive quartette, indeed; but why *meister* singers? Ruffell's Bioscope presents a very fine picture on the Bioscope, which may be called "The Train Wreckers," and the programme has other contributors in Fraser and Haley, Zaro and Arno, and J. W. Rickaby.

IN consequence of the great demand for *Dick Dare, M.P.*, Mr. Frederick Maxwell has had another set of scenery painted. The sketch will be played at Collins's and the Middlesex next week.

"THE THIRSTY FIRST."

Pantomimical Sketch, in Three Scenes, by Fred Karno and Harold Gatty, produced at the Star Palace, Bermondsey, on Monday, Jan. 29.

Smart, the Soldier .....Mr. Albert Darnley
Parsons, the Pensioner ....Mr. Harry Le Fre
Blobbs, the Barman .....Mr. Bob McGregor
Wilkes, the Waiter .....Mr. Jack Lloyd
Ben, the Bully.....Mr. Albert Weston
Miggs, the Match Boy.....George Welch
Tipps, the Tramp.....Mr. J. Russell
Sweet, the Swell.....Mr. J. Osborne
Raw, the Recruit .....Mr. W. Moran
Peter, the Postman .....Mr. Fredericks
Mary, the Maid.....Miss Emily Darnley
Molly, the Matron .....Mr. Reed Almonti
Flo, the Flirt.....Miss Rosie Mayville
Winnie, the Wife .....Miss Dorothy Dean

The first of a series of some eighteen original sketches, which will comprise Mr. Fred Karno's new répertoire, was successfully launched on Monday, at the Star, Bermondsey, where a packed audience gave every evidence of keen enjoyment. Hilarity is the watchword of all Mr. Karno's productions, and in his latest venture, which is brimful of bustle and excitement, there is no departure from so welcome a rule. The title of the sketch indicates some connection with Tommy Atkins's devotion to the canteen, and accordingly the opening reveals the interior of The Rifleman, a beer-house frequented by the military, wherein some very lively incidents are caused by an enthusiastic demand for drinks. A fillip to the fun is given by the arrival of a match-boy and a tramp, who cause many diversions by their comic antics. A conspicuous figure in the merry throng is Ben, a Bully, who engages in a game of dominoes with an old pensioner, and with the aid of a confederate wins all his money. The old veteran discovers the cheat, and denounces him, whereupon the bully strikes him a brutal blow, but is himself floored by a colour-sergeant who comes to enrol recruits. All the male occupants of the bar enlist; and in the second scene, the Exterior of the Barracks, the match-boy is found doing "sentry-go." The home-call is sounded, and men in uniform come rushing in from all directions, until the gate is closed, and a quartette of revellers are shut out. Their efforts to climb over the wall are made very funny, and when they eventually disappear, the sentry sinks promptly to sleep. The Encampment, with its long array of tents, is revealed in scene three, the réveille is sounded, and the men go through the processes of washing, cleaning, cooking, and drilling, including the mirth-making manœuvres of the "awkward squad." One of the characters is tossed in a blanket, the operation being executed with neatness, and supplying a most exhilarating scene, which aroused roars of laughter. Subsequently Ben the Bully has a dispute with his superior officer, and is placed under arrest. Night comes on, and the officer enters his tent, through which, by an ingenious lighting arrangement, he is seen preparing to retire. The contents of his portmanteau excite the cupidity of Ben, who has escaped from the guardroom, and with the help of the tramp he purloins the valuables. The theft is discovered, and an alarm raised, but while the officer and the bully are engaged in a terrific fight, a storm breaks over the camp, everything is blown about in disorder, and the tents are whirled into the air by the force of the gale, revealing the occupants in various stages of undress. A fearful thunderbolt completes the devastation, and upon this exciting picture the curtain descends.

With such a wealth of elaboration it was nothing less than remarkable that the fun, all performed in dumb-show, should be kept going so briskly as it was on Monday. The company, among which the names of many well-known comedians will be recognised, worked hard and indefatigably, and the laughter, which was general throughout the sketch, was well won. Mr. Albert Darnley, who appears as the colour-sergeant and also as a dandified officer, acts with admirable skill. He looks the parts to the life, and though he has no word to speak, his movements and facial play are full of meaning. The responsibilities of fun-making rest largely upon Mr. George Welch, who invests Miggs with numberless eccentricities. As the ubiquitous match-boy of the first scene and the sentry of the second, he is the cause of unceasing merriment, the comic expression he puts into his face intensifying the drollery of his actions. Quite a dramatic interlude is supplied by the domino-cheating incident in which Ben the Bully takes a prominent part. The character is played with well-marked intensity by Mr. Albert Weston, who has a most expressive countenance, and is able to work up a scowl of which no burglar need be ashamed. Mr. Harry Le Fre has the part of the old pensioner, and portrays the white-haired old veteran realistically, his make-up being especially praiseworthy. The comic exposition of the piece is aided by Mr. J. Russell, who gives a laughable performance of the tramp, and by Mr. W. Moran, whose endeavours to provoke mirth as a yokel are quite successful. Similar effect is obtained by Mr. J. Osborne as a "swell" who has to submit to many indignities, and by Mr. Reed Almonti, whose eccentricities as a lady of mature age are very pronounced. Miss Dorothy Dean gives an affecting portrayal of Winnie, the long-suffering wife of the bully. Two lively young ladies are found in Mary the Maid and Flo the Flirt, played respectively by Miss Emily Darnley and Miss Rosie Mayville, who act vivaciously, and have in the course of the action to engage in a realistic fight for the possession of a soldier lover.

The mounting of the sketch, which was produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Fred Karno, together with the author, Mr. Harold Gatty, was on a more than usually elaborate scale, the exterior of the barrack yard being admirably set, while the encampment, with its military impedimenta and long array of tents, forms a most inspiring scene. All the scenery and effects, down to the smallest detail, are supplied by Mr. Karno for all his numerous companies, and come direct from his extensive theatrical factory in Vaughan-road, Camberwell, to the resources of which there appears to be no limit. The principal scenic artists are Messrs. E. Grimani and Parr, who may be cordially complimented on their latest work. The sketch was received with uproarious laughter, and, with the added opportunities for fun which will inevitably arise, the sketch will form a successful beginning to Mr. Karno's new enterprise.

During the indisposition of Miss Maude Mortimer, the part of Prince Faithfull was taken up at a few hours' notice by Miss Ada Tilley at the Grand, Birmingham, and played so successfully that she has been highly complimented by the management.

Though the late Mr. G. W. Hunt in 1878 first used the term "Jingo" in the celebrated song "We don't want to fight, but by Jingo if we do!" which had special reference to the Eastern question, then very acute, it was the late Mr. G. J. Holyoake who first applied the term to a party. A meeting of those who favoured Lord Beaconsfield's policy was called in Hyde Park; it proved somewhat turbulent, and after the dispersal, a portion of the assembly set out for Harley-street and broke Mr. Gladstone's windows. In reference to this gathering Holyoake wrote a letter to the Press, headed "The Jingoes in the Park," and the word was added to the nomenclature of political discussion.

THE RIGHTS OF A SONG.

In the Court of King's Bench on Tuesday Miss Julie Mackay, the well-known music-hall artist, brought an action against Mr. George Edwardes to recover damages for alleged libel. In the alternative the plaintiff alleged that the defendant had improperly interfered with her engagement, and asked for an injunction restraining him from further interference. The defendant justified the alleged libel, but denied that he had interfered with Miss Mackay's engagement.

Mr. A. Powell, K.C., in opening the case for the plaintiff, said his client was a professional singer, and was well known in some of the music-halls in this country. The gist of her complaint against the defendant was that he had stopped her from singing a popular song with which she was identified and which she had a right to sing. The plaintiff, who was an American, was in New York in the autumn of 1902, and she heard several persons sing the song "Under the bamboo tree." It was a negro melody and became very popular. The song was published by Messrs. Joseph Stern and Co., New York, and in November of that year, when she was about to leave New York for this country, Mr. Stern recommended the song to her, gave her a copy of it, and said it was a "corking" song.

Mr. Justice Bigham: What kind of song?

Mr. Powell: A "corking" song. It is an Americanism. Continuing, counsel said that Miss Mackay, on her return to this country, fulfilled an engagement at the Granville Theatre of Varieties at Walham-green, and she sang the song with great success. Afterwards she sang the song at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, and at the Opera House, Northampton. In March, 1903, she began to sing the song at the Tivoli and the Oxford Music Halls, and received £15 a week for each hall. It so happened that the song was being sung in the play *The Girl from Kay's*, which Mr. Edwardes was producing at the Apollo, and when he heard that she was singing the song nightly he instructed his solicitors to write letters of complaint to the managers of the Tivoli and the Oxford and to Miss Mackay. In those letters the solicitors stated that Mr. Edwardes had acquired the performing rights in the song for Great Britain and the British Colonies, that the song was then being sung in the play *The Girl from Kay's*, and asking for an undertaking that the song would not in future be sung at the Tivoli or the Oxford. In consequence of his action Miss Mackay was prevented from continuing to sing the song. The plaintiff, replying to the letter which she received, explained that she had been singing the song at the request of Messrs. Joseph Stern and Co., the publishers, and that she intended to continue to sing it, and asked Mr. Edwardes to expunge the song from the programme of the Apollo Theatre. Of course, the plaintiff had no right to make such a demand any more than the defendant had a right to call upon the plaintiff to cease singing the song. The song had been sung in America long before it was sung here, and there could be no doubt whatever that everybody had the right to sing it in this country. Managers sometimes affected to buy a right in order that they might be able to say they had purchased it and frighten off others. Being anxious to produce the song in the play *The Girl from Kay's*, Mr. Edwardes in December, 1902, after the plaintiff had sung the song at Walham-green, sent a cablegram to Mr. Charles Frohman, a well-known theatrical manager in New York, asking him to see Mr. Stern and secure the entire rights in the song for this country. The reply the defendant received was that Mr. Stern wanted £50 for each production. The defendant thought these terms very high, and he agreed to secure the song for the play *The Girl from Kay's*, paying £50. It was clear from the cablegrams that what he secured was not the exclusive right to represent the song in this country, but the limited right to have the song sung in *The Girl from Kay's*. The defendant must have known his exact position, and that he had no such title as he professed to have, and having interfered with the plaintiff's rights without any just ground he was liable to pay her damages.

Mr. Justice Bigham: What is the libel?

Mr. Powell: The letter infers that she had no right whatever to sing the song, and that she was attempting to appropriate the song.

Mr. Justice Bigham: That may be a libel, but I do not know whether the words bear any such construction.

The plaintiff was called, and gave evidence in support of her counsel's statement. She said she had had a special costume made for the song. In consequence of the action of the defendant she was prevented from singing the song, and had to fall back on an old song, which the London public had got sick and tired of, "The little bit of orange peel." The public accepted this old song, and she guessed they sympathised with her. In 1904 she went to the Grand Theatre at Leeds, and the manager asked her to sing "Under the bamboo tree." She explained what had taken place, and the manager then said he would not let her sing it. In cross-examination, plaintiff said the song was originally written for a lady to sing in America. She had no written document from Messrs. Joseph Stern giving her the right which she alleged she had. She had a letter from that firm in April, 1903, in which they said they regretted that their arrangement with the defendant precluded the granting of further singing rights in the song. She regarded that letter as bluff, All Americans bluffed.

Mr. Gill: What is your nationality?—I am an American.

In further cross-examination the plaintiff said at the time she produced the song at the Tivoli and the Oxford she had no idea that it had been sung at the Alhambra.

Mr. Philip Yorke, Mr. Albert Gilmer, manager of the Oxford Music Hall, and Mr. David Hart, theatrical manager, gave evidence.

Miss Marie Deighton stated that she heard the plaintiff sing the song in question at the Tivoli, and that it was a great success. A good song was a valuable asset to an artist.

Mr. Gill, for the defendant, maintained that his client honestly believed that he possessed the rights which he claimed, and that there was no evidence of malice. The defendant thought that he had the exclusive right to produce the song in this country, but that he could not use the song in any production other than *The Girl from Kay's* unless he paid £50 for each other production.

Mr. Justice Bigham said he should leave the case to the jury.

The defendant was then called, and stated that he first heard the song "Under the bamboo tree" at a rehearsal in 1902. It was sung to him by a member of his company. He said that Messrs. Joseph Stern and Co., of New York, were the publishers, and he cabled to Mr. C. Frohman, of New York, asking him to secure for him the exclusive rights in the song in Great Britain. As the result of Mr. Frohman's reply he agreed to pay £50 for the right to produce the song in the play *The Girl from Kay's*. He understood that he possessed the exclusive rights to the song in Great Britain, and that if he used it in any production other than *The Girl from Kay's* he would have to pay £50 in respect of each of the other productions. In February, 1903, he heard that the Sisters Hengler were singing the song at the Alhambra, and he asserted what he thought were his rights. The fact that the plaintiff was singing the song at the Tivoli and the Oxford was brought to his knowledge by Messrs. Price and Reynolds, the agents in London for Messrs. J. Stern and Co., and he directed his solicitors to write the letters. He had no malice against plaintiff. In cross-examination the defendant said he thought he had the entire English rights in the song, and that was the reason he paid £50 for it. The ordinary amount for a song of that kind was £10.

Mr. Powell: Do you understand the meaning of the term "bluff"?—I do not know what you mean.

Have you heard the term before?—Yes.

Does it mean putting forward a right which you do not possess in the hope that it will not be challenged?—I do not see what you are driving at.

Perhaps the jury will?—If you think I was trying to bluff the plaintiff you are mistaken.

You have never tried to bluff anyone?—I do not suppose I have. I do not know what you mean.

The defendant, in further cross-examination, said he thought at the time Messrs. Stern had protected the song, and it was not until afterwards he found out that they had not done so.

In re-examination the defendant said he received a letter on April 17 from Messrs. Stern stating that no rights with regard to the song had been granted to anyone but himself.

Other evidence having been given in support of the defendant's case, the jury found that there was no malice and no libel.

Mr. Justice Bigham entered judgment for the defendant, with costs.

Mr. Powell asked for a declaration that the defendant was not entitled to interfere with the plaintiff in the singing of the song.

Mr. Justice Bigham declined to grant it. He said he was not satisfied that the defendant intended to trouble his head about the song. In his opinion the defendant would be only too glad to dismiss it from his thoughts.

THE LATE RICHARD LEGGETT.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Richard Leggett, who passed away on Thursday, the 25th ult. He was born over seventy years ago in the Admiralty Buildings, Whitehall, and his father was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy. Dick Leggett was the originator of the American song and dance on the English stage, his partner being Allen. He had been by turns comic singer, dancer, strong man, ceiling-walker, and music-hall proprietor. For some years he controlled the entertainment at the Sun Music Hall, Knightsbridge, now demolished, and here he gave an engagement to Mr. Harry Randall in the early 'eighties soon after his début on the variety stage. During the latter years of his stage life he formed the chief member of the

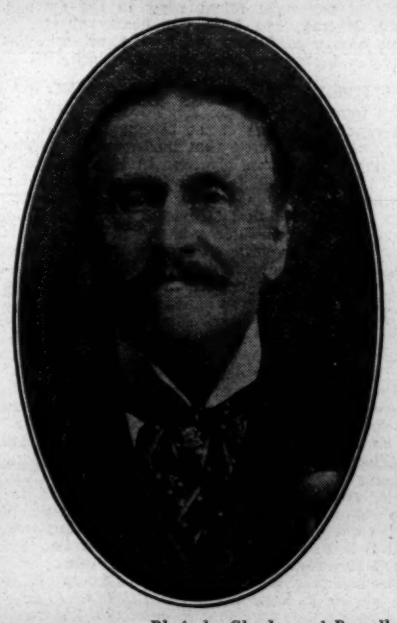


Photo by Charles and Russell.

THE LATE MR. RICHARD LEGGETT.

Leggett combination, and appeared with his family in the amusing farces *Rural Retirement* and *Maid of Athens*.

The deceased gentleman was a great favourite in Belfast, where his son, Sergeant-Major Leggett, who used to play in the above-mentioned sketches, holds a position as drill-instructor. One of his friends in that city writes: "When last in Belfast he showed me a faded programme, bearing the date March 14, 1860, relating to a compliment which he assisted in paying to the Chantrell Family at the Middlesex Music Hall, Mogul Tavern, Drury-lane. Even then he had been on the stage eighteen years. On May 23, 1903, on the occasion of Mr. Duignan's benefit at the Empire, father and son appeared on the same stage after a lapse of many years—the father in that well-known sketch *Maid of Athens*, and the son as an expert swordsman." One daughter of the late Mr. Leggett is in pantomime in Scotland, a son is in pantomime in Wales, and another son, Mr. Alfred Leggett, who was at one time musical director at the Temple, Hammersmith—now the Hammersmith Palace—is a well-known musical composer. Richard Leggett, who is in America, was a partner in the firm of the Brothers Tabra. The funeral took place at the Fulham Cemetery on Tuesday, the remains being interred in Mr. Alfred Leggett's private grave.

The feats of trick cyclists seem to become more and more daring every season, but Minting, who is giving two performances a day at the World's Fair, Agricultural Hall, holds his own. "The world's great uni-cyclist is to be congratulated to-day (Saturday) on entering his thirty-second year, and he has been riding a wheel for twenty-seven years of that time, having made his début at Bradford, when he was about four. An Englishman by birth, Mr. A. H. Minting lived long enough "down under" in the days of his boyhood to pass for an Australian; he speaks like an American, and he has travelled in fourteen different countries. The idea of riding a single-wheel up and down a spiral occurred to his father, who was a clever mechanic, and young Minting (known at that time as one of the Martini Troupe) at once consented to attempt the feat. It is fourteen years since he made a sensation with it in London, and his continuous successes have been punctuated by three accidents that would have broken the nerve of a less courageous and determined rider. The first was in London, when he was rash enough to practise before the net was in position, and fell 45ft.; the second was in Edinburgh, when the net broke, and he was sent to hospital with concussion of the brain; and the third was in America, when he broke two ribs, and was obliged to rest for a long time afterwards.

Mr. Minting has been in the United States for the last five years, his principal engagement being with Messrs. Forepaugh and Sells's big circus; but he will probably spend next summer in England, making his first appearance, in a few weeks, in the halls. He is a non-smoker, and proves that the strictest temperance is an absolute necessity for a man whose work depends, as his does, on a steady head and quick eye. Mr. Minting is accompanied in all his tours by his wife, a pretty young American, and their one little daughter.

"THE ERA" NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Subscribed to date, 908½ shillings.

	Shillings.
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Johnny Holland	21
Charles Weldon	20
Bros. Webb	10
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1
Belfast Theatrical Charities (per Fred W. Warden)	400
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Manning	25
Rozel	1
Nellie Wilson	10½

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	2½
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Givani Cristie	1	Jeane Priver	2
Geo. Vickery	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Erna Harrison	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Mina Fisher	1
Will Collins	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Dani. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydory, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Miss Peggy Fame, who has been playing the part of Alice in *Dick Whittington* on tour, was the recipient of some handsome presents on her birthday, the 26th ult. From the proprietor of the pantomime, Mr. H. Crossman, she received a massively framed photo with inscription, and a gold bracelet inlaid with turquoise and pearls; from Mr. Whiteley, a gold locket and chain; from her father a silver-mounted umbrella; from the lady principals of the company a large bouquet, and numerous other gifts.

THE INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' LODGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Will you kindly extend to me the courtesy of your columns for the purpose of pointing out to the members of the music-hall profession a few mis-statements of facts contained in the leading article in *The Stage* of Jan. 25 on the subject of the coming conference of music-hall artists' societies? As a member of the Executive Committee, chairman of many meetings, and delegate to this conference from the I.A.L., I speak with some authority.

The International Artists' Lodge is not, as was stated, "a German society," but a federation of Artists' Lodges which meet and work in all parts of the world where music-halls exist. Wherever a meeting of the members takes place that place is the home of that particular section. The English Lodge has absolute home rule, and has, distinct and apart from any other section, its own meeting-rooms, its own offices, its own bank account, its own relief and loan funds, its own executive committee, its own solicitor, counsel, and Legal Protection Committee. Should this latter body desire to carry some test case even to the House of Parliament and the total funds of the organisation suffice, there is no power in Germany or any other country to say nay, no, or *nein*.

The I.A.L. is not "Berlin-bred" further than the German section is concerned. The English section is English-bred, and is as well-bred as the wisdom of the members in England have with conscientious effort been able to make it. It is a principle of the organisation that each section shall work out its own destiny, and that, when efficient, it shall be granted home rule, though always remaining an integral part of the vast federation with every other section at its back in case of need. That "its fees seem to place it outside the reach of the rank and file" sounds ridiculous when the fee, 9d. per week, is mentioned, and it is remembered that one-third of that amount goes into an old-age pension fund. Quoting again, "Were the International Artists' Lodge, as it is called, truly international, this fact would render it unsuitable as a representative body of artists constituting the English variety profession." That the Lodge *is international* surely every music-hall artist knows. That the present and future of the order in England depend entirely on the efforts of English artists I think I have proven—to argue the English section of the I.A.L. is foreign is to argue, therefore—I must not mention names—that a good many very prominent music-hall performers who were born within the sound of Bow Bells are foreigners. That a protective organisation for members of an international calling must, to be effectual, be international I think is apparent to all—all artists at least.

And we must consider that our calling is becoming more international every year. Never were so many English turns abroad, in America, Africa, Australia, and on the Continent, as at present, and by their success they are creating an extended and profitable working field for all English artists. Would it be advisable for English artists, any of whom may at any moment be called to an engagement out of England, to form an association only for England and lose the benefit of all they had worked and paid for the moment they chanced to cross the water? And especially when they have here in England a society already formed, with a constitution which has stood the test of five years' hard wear, and under which a capital of over £6,000 has been amassed—an order which is their own at home, and can aid and advise them abroad.

When "Little Englandism" is put to a body of Englishmen whose work and play know no political boundaries—except space, I am confident that the thin, piping cry will meet the defeat that it deserves. Whatever the result, I for one am with the majority—the greatest good for the greatest number.—Yours truly,

C. C. BARTRAM.

Empire Theatre, Cardiff, Jan. 26.

We well remember an incident, told us by George Sanger himself in a recent interview, that shows the power of personal influence for good that an employer may exercise amongst his people. The circus was at the end almost of its last tour, and the tent pitched in a great London suburb. Just across the road was a small settlement of show-people. A carnival fair had been held a few days before the advent of Sanger's Circus. A great sorrow, however, had come to the little colony of shows: the bright and bonnie daughter of the lessee and chief showman had been stricken unto death, and her body was coffined in the "home on wheels."

The news of the sorrow on the fair-ground soon spread to the working staff of the circus; and now comes the first interesting point of the sad incident. Without a word of caution from its grand old chief, the whole of the staff understood what he desired (so great is the power of personal character) that the immense concern was erected in silence, out of respect for the poor showman's grief over the way. Orders were given in a whisper, and, like the Temple of olden times, the circus "rose like a giant palm-tree," without sound, "all grandly silent." But the story does not end here. Sanger's people entered into a rivalry of sympathy with their kind-hearted chief. Knowing how tired and how busy his people would be, the Grand Old Man of the road had the kindly thought to save them trouble and to forestall their wishes. He provided a memorial wreath as from himself to lay on the dear girl's grave, and then another to be sent as from the staff of the circus. This he did unknown to his people, but his secret was discovered when a third wreath was sent in, addressed as the second—"From the Staff at Sanger's Circus, with deepest sympathy." Busy as they were, the Father of the Road's influence and example were too strong in their midst for any event demanding sympathy to pass over without ready help and kindly thought.

We seize upon some extraordinary gift or peculiarity in a man's public character or career, and it may be, in our readiness to record the merit and ability of a George Sanger, we neglect the acknowledgment of the finer soul and powers of the intensely human man hidden at times beneath the cap and bells of the jester or behind the pipes and drum of the showman. In a valedictory letter written to us a little while ago, George Sanger gave utterance to this truly fine ethical sentiment—"Nothing so well becomes a man as humility and integrity of character."

There are people who regard showmen as moral vagrants, beings distinct and apart, by the nature of their work and calling, from the rest of the community. Why should not a showman deliver a homily, and, if need be, preach a sermon?

Miss Jessie Preston will take a very short rest on the conclusion of her highly successful pantomime engagement at the Britannia Theatre, opening at the Tivoli on the 19th inst. in two new songs, written and composed for her by J. F. Lambe, entitled "I've a woe bonnie cottage" and a comedy song, "Jessie, the fair maid o' Perth."

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

MRS. T. READ (widow of the late T. Read), Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Read, jun., and family, of the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, desire to express their heartfelt thanks to the numerous friends who so kindly expressed their sincere sympathy—personal and otherwise—in their sad bereavement, also for the many telegrams, letters, and floral tributes from all quarters too numerous to answer.

SHOWMEN will be somewhat amused at the point made by the daily Press of the "sermon," or, as one writer puts it, the "homily," of the President delivered at the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild last week. Even the Press of the Empire with its ready finger on the pulse of human things, fails somewhat to get at the heart of Showland—fails to realise the truth so admirably expressed by Mr. Muskerry-Tilson in his eulogy of Sanger. "I have travelled in many lands," he said, "but a better man, a cleaner or a straighter man than George Sanger I have never met." It is a man of this strong personal character that can dare to read the Riot Act, to proclaim at times unpalatable truths, and to "sermonise" in a good cause.

THE veteran showman Lord George Sanger paid a most welcome visit to the *Era* offices this week, driving into town in a very handsome equipage, drawn by piebald ponies. He thus signalised "the Days of his Leisure" by a visit to the staff of the newspaper that has persistently, in season and out of season, championed the rights and privileges of all sorts and conditions of showmen. The grand old man of the arena is in the best of health and spirits, and delighted us all by his youthful exuberance.

THE illuminated address presented to him by the showmen of the Empire has been an object of pious pilgrimage by his crowds of admirers who have visited the *Era* offices to see it. It is interesting to note that it is the work of a fellow-townsman of Sanger's, Mr. W. B. Pratt. The artist entered into the work *con amore*. "I have known George Sanger all my life," he said, when the commission was placed into his hands. "He's a Newbury man like myself. I will put my heart into it for 'Auld Lang Syne,' you may be sure." Mr. Pratt also illuminated the very beautiful testimonial presented to George Sanger by the members of his own family and a few intimate friends.

THE REV. T. HORNE and Captain Tom Payne, a Vice-President of the Guild, went to Hull this week in order to select a suitable memorial monument for the late James Dean, one of the founders of the Guild. Acting as the sub-committee appointed for that purpose, they made a selection of two appropriate designs, which will be finally decided between at the general Guild committee at King's Lynn.

VERY urgent Parliamentary defence work will come before the Lynn committee. Although the number of Bills touching the show business gets less every session of Parliament, constant vigilance and scrutiny are still necessary. The Guild executive does not relax its protective and defensive work. Private Bills must still be closely watched; and in every case of threatened danger met and fought.

THE most determined and costly fight in the past record of the Guild's work was with the powerful Corporation of Halifax. There were two elements of danger in the proposed Halifax Bill. The first was the power to increase the tolls to such a point as would have meant prohibition of the fair as a business fixture. The second was a new thing in English law—a monopoly in fairs secured to the corporation.

AFTER a three-days fight in committee the Guild obtained a fixed maximum as regards tolls—a great concession—and the "monopoly" clauses were expunged from the Bill. Thus the showmen secured the recognition of Free Trade in fairs and no corporation monopoly.

THE Corporation of Eccles, near Manchester, it will also be remembered, tried in a private Bill in 1889 to obtain additional powers of control over its local wakes. One proposal was to fix the hours during which any show or exhibition might be open. Here, again, was new law, and a proposal to interfere with trade. This was successfully opposed, and the clauses in restraint of trade struck out.

HERE were established two important precedents as affecting all branches of the amusement catering industry:—First, no monopoly by public bodies, but Free Trade in fairs; then, in the second place, all proposals in "restraint of trade" were ruled to be outside the province of private Bill legislation.

ORDINARY people might, therefore, conclude that, showmen having established these valuable principles of British jurisprudence—no monopoly and no private Bill legislation in restraint of trade—that there was an end of the matter. But it was not so. The technical complexity of Parliamentary procedure still left it possible for the corporation to ignore these precedents and to continue to load their private Bills with these oft-thrown-out and rejected proposals. This is being done, despite the fact that the Acton authorities were condemned in heavy costs, for vexatious persistence in proposals the Parliamentary Committee had so frequently thrown out.

ALL manner of variations and new readings of the old, old, and oft-condemned restrictions have been tried and have been detected, opposed, and condemned. It was reasonably conjectured that the awful example of Acton having to pay the showmen's costs would have acted as a deterrent, and of course it has in a large number of cases. Yet still we find a corporation here and there trying to obtain these vexatious and restrictive powers.

In the forthcoming session of Parliament the Guild executive will have to oppose the private Bills of Pontefract and Wallasey (New Brighton) unless these bodies agree by private arrangement to a working compromise that will safeguard the showman's interests.

THE objectionable provisions of the Pontefract Bill are as follows:—

Section 76 provides (1) that the Corporation may by licence permit the holding of fairs within the borough at such times and places for such purposes and subject to such conditions, restrictions, and limitations as they may think fit to impose, and the Corporation may in connection with any such fairs and in connection with the Statute Hiring Fair held annually in the month of November in the borough, make bye-laws for the conduct of the fairs and in particular may by such bye-laws

(a) Fix the hours during which the fairs may remain open;
(b) Provide for the preservation of order and good conduct among persons frequenting the fairs;
(c) Regulate the erection or placing on the lands on which the fairs for the time being are held, or upon any streets or other public places within the borough of any booth tents, sheds, stands, and stalls (whether fixed or movable), or vehicles for the sale or exposure of any article or thing, or any shows, exhibitions, performances, swings, roundabouts, or other erections, vans, photographic carts, or other vehicles, whether drawn or propelled by animals or mechanical power.

And the Corporation may by any such bye-laws so to be made by them impose such reasonable penalties as they think fit, not exceeding £40/- for each breach of such bye-laws, and such bye-laws shall be published in the manner following—viz., by advertisement in the local newspapers and by handbills and otherwise in such manner as they think sufficient.

(2) The Corporation may by licence permit the erection, placing, and use upon any streets or other public places within the borough during any of the days on which the Pontefract races are held, of any of the erections and things mentioned in paragraph (c) of sub-section (1) of this section, and any such licence may be granted upon such terms and conditions as the Corporation may think fit, and the Corporation may make bye-laws for regulating the erection, management and use of any such erections and things. Provided always that nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to derogate from or prejudice any other powers or rights for the time being vested in or exercisable by the Corporation.

80. Subject to the provisions of this Act if any person shall without licence of the Corporation in any part of the borough hold or permit to be held any market or fair, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20 and to a daily penalty not exceeding £5. Provided that nothing in this section or in section 13 of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, shall be held to deprive the Corporation of any right to proceed by action or otherwise which the Corporation would have had if those sections had not been enacted.

THE provisions of the New Brighton Bill place the show business and open-air traders and stallholders at the mercy of the District Council and its officials.

The clauses of peculiar danger in the Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Bill read as follows:

Section 21.—The Council may make bye-laws for the preservation of order and good conduct among persons resorting to the foreshore and seashore in the district, and to the open lands adjoining the same, and for the regulation or prohibition of the placing of stalls or stands or of hawking thereon.

Section 122 (1.)—No person shall in any street or public place or on any land adjoining or near to any street or public place use or play or cause to be used or played any steam-organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical or other means to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers.

(2) Any person who shall offend against this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

We trust that not only the local show people but also the stallholders and outdoor traders of New Brighton will unite in the effort to throw out these objectionable clauses. The open-air traders of Blackpool remember to their cost the dictatorial and unreasonable manner in which the corporation has used its powers to stop trading on the sands, and also on the private land frontage of buildings on the promenade. Are the people of New Brighton going to allow the District Council to fetter them in their business enterprises as Blackpool traders have been hindered? We hope not.

New Brighton has a special and peculiar charm, it is the people's holiday resort par excellence. Tom, Jack, and Harry, and their wives and sweethearts may enjoy themselves on the shore and the sands at the mouth of the Mersey. We have witnessed this popular holiday festival at the sea, and we say that any attempt to make it smug and ultra-respectable will destroy its great power of attraction, and make New Brighton as desolate at holiday times as many another place by the sea, spoilt for ever, as far as the people are concerned, by by-laws and restrictions made in the interests of the select few and the "unco guid."

MR. TOM GREEN'S latest sensational picture, "Night Duty," a thrilling tale of a policeman's experiences, is now on sale at Cricks and Sharp, of Great Queen-street, Kingsway, and showmen who are on the look-out for an exciting picture should lose no time in securing this excellent production.

JENNINGS'S THEATRE is now on a visit to Tiverton-road, Bournbrook, and are giving some excellent performances.

A GRAND Trades Exhibition has been held at the Public Hall, Redditch. The attractions were the Flying Lady; Mme. Montague, the well-known palmist; and Mabel Lucie Strebelle's celebrated orchestra.

No portable theatre has visited Astwood Bank for some time.

FETES, &c.

June.
27. Bazaar at Ragley Park, Alcester.

July.
4. Evesham Regatta.
4. Fête at Hewell Park, Bromsgrove.
5. Temperance Fête at Redditch.
6. Sports at Studley.
11. Sports at Bidford-on-Avon.

IT has been decided to hold a Grand Bazaar and Fête at Ragley Park, Alcester, on June 27. It has been promoted by the Marchioness of Hertford. It is to be hoped it will be a success. Excursion trains will run that day from Redditch and Birmingham. A number of attractions will be provided.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD FOR 1906.

PER H. R. HIBBERT, ESQ.

	£	s.	d.
T. Clarke, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Gooding and Priestley (Ashton-under-Lyne)	1	1	0
T. Knighton, Esq.	5	1	0

PER FRANK TURNER, ESQ.

Sir Robert Fossett	2	0	0
H. Taylor, Esq.	0	10	0
Robt. Fossett, Esq.	0	5	0
Lal. Read, Esq.	0	5	0
T. Irish, Esq.	0	5	0
W. Hussey, Esq.	0	5	0
E. Hussey, Esq.	0	5	0
G. Saunders, Esq.	0	5	0

PER REV. T. HORNE.

J. B. Whitehead, Esq. (1905-6)	1	0	0
C. Marfleet, Esq.	0	10	0
W. Steward, Esq.	0	5	0

SHOWMEN will do well to notice Mrs. M. Barrasford's new enterprise. To convert the famous Devil's Dyke into a valley of pleasure, with all the new advantages of a golden city, a perpetual fair under the glorious empyrean sky, and with the bracing breezes of Royal Brighton near by, is a fitting crown of glory for England's greatest lady manager of popular entertainments. The Devil's Dyke is an absolutely new field for showman enterprise, and we confidently anticipate that it will be widely embraced by show proprietors.

A BRITISH showman in Paris, on pleasure bent, sends us an interesting note of Montmartre Fair. It is now, he says, "in full swing, and fairly good trade is being done by a host of Parisian showmen, with various attractive novelties and side-shows, with a whole street of shooters and bazaar stalls, making altogether a capital fair." The roundabout proprietors and showmen are M. Charles Murray, with electric switchback railway; M. Eugene Dennis, with galloping piggies and rolling gondolas; M. Albert Dewella, menagerie and cinématograph annexe.

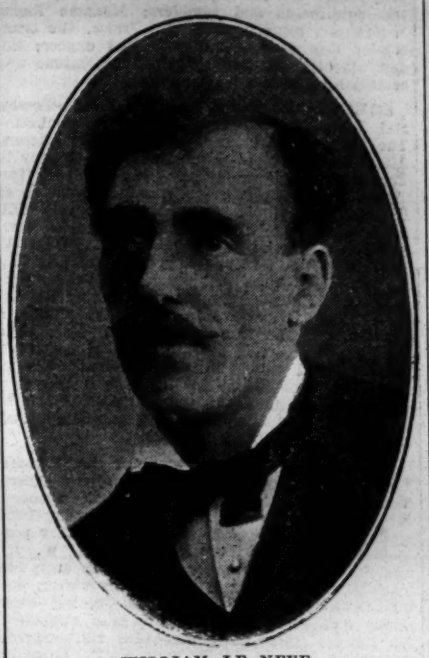
SHOWMEN OF TO-DAY.

WILLIAM LE NEVE.

Although yet young and in the vigour and prime of life, Le Neve has had unique and varied experience in the great world of shows both at home and abroad. When quite a boy he was apprenticed by his father to John Able, the trainer, to be a jockey.

At this time came the critical moment of his career. His aunt, the celebrated Fire Queen, Mme. Le Neve, took him with her to Egypt, where she had a most successful tour, making a notable appearance at the Khedival Palace at Cairo, and mystifying the wise men of the East by her marvellous power over the unquenchable fires. This gave our erstwhile jockey his first taste of show life, and a showman he determined to be.

On the finish of their tour in the East, Mme. Le Neve fulfilled a series of engagements in the homeland. Young Le Neve had made up his mind to start for himself, and he originated an entirely novel and decidedly British show—feats of strength



WILLIAM LE NEVE.

and expert athleticism. At this point in his career he met his fate—lucky man, the gods were with him—in the charming person of Norah Sullivan, then "starring" as "The Amazonian Samson and Lion-Jawed Athlete." The romance of the road ended in marriage joybells, and the world-famed Norah Sullivan in her home life became Mrs. Wm. Le Neve.

Known on every fair ground in the kingdom as "the Sandows of the Ground Booth," Le Neve and Norah Sullivan have had a most successful and prosperous career, and are a bigger draw to-day than ever. We only need to watch them work on the parade outside and to step inside and see how up-to-date and attractive is the inside show to understand the secret of their abiding success. For example, at the World's Fair, Islington, where they are now finishing a most successful ten weeks' season, the special feature of their show is the modern craze, lady wrestlers and the Japanese Jiu-Jitsu, with a real Japanese wrestler in the company

Mr. Le Neve is a life-long friend of England's greatest pugilist, the renowned champion, Jem

NORAH SULLIVAN.

Mace, the last of the Titans of the prize-ring. It is an interesting sight to see the veteran prize-fighter exhibiting his many trophies of victory at Le Neve's show.

Norah Sullivan has reduced to an exact science the art of weight-lifting by teeth power. Her unbroken record is a bodily lift of 17cwt. All branches of athleticism come within the range of her powers. She has won innumerable prizes in the open arena as strong woman, expert boxer, and wrestler.

Le Neve's show does all the big fairs, making "the grand route" every season, and with ever-increasing success and public favour. Mr. and Mrs. Le Neve are members of the Showmen's Guild, and Mr. Le Neve one of its executive officers. They are typical show-folk of the new school, yet by their genial and generous nature illustrate the important truth that in the traveller's home on wheels is constantly found those higher sanctities of the domestic life that sweeten the world and brighten the pursuit of an arduous and honourable profession. We present a photo of Norah Sullivan (Mrs. William Le Neve), and give them (this is no figure of speech) this meed of honest praise—"they two are one."

THE announcement that little Eugénie Chaffroy, a girl of ten years, would dance in the lions' den at a menagerie at Aubray on Tuesday, drew a large crowd of spectators, but the child had hardly entered the cage and begun to dance than a cry of horror broke from them. A lion had leapt on the girl, and after knocking her down with a stroke of its paw, carried her in its mouth to a corner of the cage, and attempted to tear her to pieces. The trainer, armed with red-hot irons, sprang into the cage and rescued the girl, who was terribly mauled. The proprietor of the show has been arrested.

THE MUSIC PIRACY TRIAL.

OPINIONS OF PUBLISHERS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

CHAT WITH MR. CHARLES WARREN.

Mr. Charles Warren, who started Messrs. Witmark and Company's now prosperous London branch some five years ago, has had a fairly extensive experience of theatrical affairs. He has written and composed songs himself, and has sung and acted upon the stage. As the manager for Messrs. Witmark's British and Continental business, he has exhibited wonderful enterprise and energy, and the remarkable success the undertaking has achieved this side of the Channel is mainly due to his efforts. Mr. Warren has practically resided in England for the last sixteen years, and is thoroughly *au fait* with the musical and theatrical requirements of the United Kingdom as well as in other parts of Europe.

Asked for his opinion on the subject which has loomed so largely in the public eye recently, Mr. Warren said: "We have suffered more than most of the firms, because we have been very unfortunate in having a large number of popular 'hits' pirated most religiously. Our losses alone on 'Good-bye, little girl, good-bye' would run into three or four thousand pounds. It was certainly the most successful song of last year, and yet it is the song which turned out the least results from the financial point of view. The public, of course, have no interest whatever in our business any more than we have in the commercial affairs of our grocer—what he pays for his sugar—or what our tailor pays for his cloth. The public are quite unable to discriminate between songs on which a royalty has to be paid and a song that a publisher may own outright. When we take a song of 'The Cosy Corner Girl' type there are expenses not only with the royalties, but with the cost of production, advertising, and exploitation. Then you are never certain whether the song will turn out a success or not. We ourselves may like it, but whether the public are going to share our views is a question that can only be decided by the sale of the song."

"What is the condition of music piracy in America?"

"It is practically non-existent. The last case we had was one of a man who is now serving a long term of imprisonment for counterfeiting music. He went a little further than Willetts, for he not only copied the music itself, but the whole of the title-page, together with the publishers' name. Piracy has been pretty well stamped out in the States, as well as in Canada.

"The greatest evil that we have in this country," continued Mr. Warren, "is the legitimate publishers who sell the cheap so-called sixpenny editions through the medium of the street hawker. This sort of business is exceedingly detrimental to the music trade in general. These cheap jacks print an edition of a popular number of music ostensibly at sixpence, but this price is never enforced. The hawkers have no rates or taxes or rent to pay—absolutely nothing but their beer money to provide—and yet they are the rivals in business of respectable music firms who have all the expenses of a big enterprise to maintain. I have just been going over the country, which I always do at this season of the year, and I found outside almost every theatre in the different provincial towns from half-a-dozen to a dozen ragamuffins, formerly solely engaged in selling pirated music, now retailing the sixpenny editions, and perhaps assisting at the same time to get rid of pirated songs. The consequence is that the music dealer proper is simply afraid to take any chances upon new music, and instead of stocking his shop with novelties he simply buys what is in active demand, or what is ordered by his customers. I think, however, that the result of the Old Bailey case will have a deterring effect upon the principal people concerned in it. The fact that they have been proven guilty of a criminal conspiracy will put an end to much of the dishonest tactics of the smaller fry. The verdict ought also to point out to Members of Pardliament the necessity of some measure to protect this industry. This piracy has affected people in many different trades—printers, engravers, paper-makers, &c. The publisher finds that it is no advantage to him to put a lot of publications on the market."

"But, as you know, Mr. Warren, a good many people think that the price of music is too high."

"I know that there is a certain demand for cheap music, and I know that there are people who will only purchase this class of publication. But those who wish to have this kind of thing know very well that they can get it. A popular song is a luxury, and as such it should be paid for. And, curiously enough, the greater the popularity that a song attains, the greater nuisance does it become. To imagine, however, that people can buy the latest favourite number for twopence or threepence seems to me like asking for strawberries in January at June prices."

"Probably your Association will now try to introduce a stronger measure into Parliament?"

"I consider that the Bill they framed last year was a very half-hearted affair. They were afraid to ask for what was their absolute right—protection for their property. And what they did ask for was asked in a dilettante spirit. Our only hope now, as you suggest, is for adequate legislation. This Musical Copyright Protection Association, by the way, was originally organised in my office. We tried in the first place to get the assistance of our late ambassador, Mr. Choate, thinking that as these piracies concerned so many American publishers and their representatives on this side that we would make it a matter of international interest. With that object in view, I secured an interview with Mr. Choate, and he consented to see a deputation of publishers, including Mr. David Day, Mr. Charles Sheard, Mr. Sydney Mullen, and Mr. Frank Dean, and myself. Mr. Choate received us most kindly, and, as we promised not to sing any of our songs to him, he entered into our grievances. He told us, however, that it would not be in his power to make any direct representations to the British Government to remedy the evils complained of unless he had instructions from his own Government. As our representations in that direction failed, we returned to this office, and then and there was formed the nucleus of the Musical Copyright Protection Association, I being appointed the first treasurer."

"Did not the Royal Commission prove of material or moral assistance to you?"

"Not much, I'm afraid. I thought the report of that body one of the most laughable things I ever read. Willetts appeared before the Commissioners in the rôle of the Pirate King, and he knew more on the subject of musical publications and copyrights in connection therewith than all the other witnesses put together. He had everything at his finger-tips, and displayed a really wonderful knowledge of the whole question. I regarded some of the other witnesses as extremely unsatisfactory.

"We have now," concluded Mr. Warren dolefully, "no incentive to push the sale of popular songs. The present state of affairs is an injustice to a great industry. The composer suffers as well, though in nine cases out of ten we come out worst because we take the risk of a song proving a success or not."

CHAT WITH MR. BERT FELDMAN.

"I have just come back from a country tour," said Mr. Bert Feldman, of the well-known publishing firm of that name. "I recognised piracies everywhere, so I do not see that there are any instantaneous results of the Old Bailey case. My opinion is that the verdict will probably frighten a few of the principal pirates all over the country, but we cannot hope for any great improvement until Parliament, in the shape of a definite Act, comes to our aid."

"Will you tell me, in the best of your opinion, how this piracy business is worked in the provinces?"

"It is done in different ways. There are, of course, the hawkers, who retail the sheets in the gutter and outside theatres. These people are not so difficult to deal with as the gentlemen who go from house to house, leaving from fifty to one hundred copies, and who call on the following day for their 'tuppences' and the unkept numbers. I must confess that there has been a perfect organisation at work with these pirated editions, and I very much fear that we shall have a good deal of trouble before the evil is stamped out. I was in the Market-square, Birmingham, one day, and I saw about twenty hawkers selling this pirated stuff. When I told them that the Association men were coming down, and that if they did not get out quickly they might find themselves in prison, they simply told me that they were quite prepared for any emergencies, and fully armed to deal with our people. One of the hawkers turned to me and remarked, 'If any of those fellows tackle us we will put a bit of lead into them.' Willetts seemed to have agents all over the country, and presumably he was the producer of the pirated music, the other people being practically in the position of servants."

"And the authorities in the provinces?"

"The provincial police and magistrates appreciate that it is almost a hopeless task to deal with these people. There are so many hawkers, and there is no adequate Act under which they can be prosecuted. Of course, we have won an action which creates a precedent, and the thing now is to follow that up, and not be satisfied to let the matter rest there. Mr. David Day has made strenuous endeavours to suppress piracy, and he deserves the utmost credit for his admirable efforts in that direction."

"How many of your own songs have been pirated?"

"At least twenty-seven within the last few years, and these were all successes. Among them were 'Down by the old Bull and Bush,' 'Anona,' 'Framed in Oak' (one of the first to be stolen), 'A bird in a gilded cage,' 'Could you be true to eyes of blue?' 'Whistling Rufus,' 'Good-bye, my lady love,' and 'The cowslip and the cow.' Thousands upon thousands of pounds have been lost to composers and publishers over these songs alone, and these dishonest transactions also affect the printer and the engraver. A pirate once came to us and stated that he had sold 200,000 each of 'The old Bull and Bush' and 'Anona.' It may interest you to know that during an adjournment of the recent Old Bailey case I had a conversation with a man with whom I was not at all acquainted. We were talking about Willetts, and I expressed my feelings against that worthy in none too gentle language. The man wanted to know what would be the result of the trial, and I remarked that if the jury found there had been conspiracy the prisoners might rely upon a severe sentence. He joined issue on the point, and said that the printer and publisher of these pirated editions were public benefactors inasmuch as they put cheap music in the way of people who could not afford to pay exorbitant prices. Later on, to my great surprise, the stranger told me that he himself was Willetts, whereupon I said that I should be pleased to repeat my condemnation, and I hoped he would be put away for a long period."

"In what manner would you propose that a new measure should provide against these copyright infringements?"

"I think magistrates should be empowered to deal summarily not only with the people who sell pirated editions, but with those who purchase copies of them."

"Then you assume at once that the public know what is pirated music and what is not?"

"They must know very well that it is impossible to get numbers from our principal operas for 2d. a copy. If they want cheap music they can easily get it, for there are plenty of classical compositions that can be purchased for a few coppers, and upon which no royalty has to be paid by the publisher."

"If your song 'Down at the old Bull and Bush' had not been pirated, can you give me any idea of what you ought to have been in a position to pay the author as royalty fees?"

"We ought to have been able to pay him £1,500 on such a successful song as that was. But it was the pirates who made the money over it, not us. I can assure you that many authors who have been dependent upon song-writing as a living are now practically destitute. I meet cases of this sort every day—cases of clever men, who ought to be making handsome incomes, but who are in pecuniary difficulties owing to the depredations of the pirates. I am beginning to wonder whether it is safe nowadays to handle a popular song—whether it is not better to sell the songs for which there is not so great a demand, and out of which I am sure more money would be made."

Messrs. Feldman have taken a fine block of buildings a short distance away from their present quarters in High-street, Bloomsbury, and, when ready for opening, their new house will be of a very commodious and handsome character. Mr. Bert Feldman, who has had a remarkably successful ten years' music publishing career, is looking keenly forward to the time when the property of his firm and the other similar establishments will be protected by the law, as it should be.

MESSRS. SHEARD'S VIEWS.

"There is no telling what we have lost." Thus the manager of Messrs. Charles Sheard and Company. And then followed a list of popular compositions which had been through the hands of the pirates. The songs thus dealt with included "Always," "Sleep and forget," "When the sunset turns the ocean blue to gold," "Ring down the curtain," "If you want to have a row," and "There ain't another daddy."

"No wonder music piracy is a profitable business when the pirates have nothing to pay for their songs and only grab the successful ones. Popular songs no longer return an appreciable profit. Has piracy decreased during the last week or two? We believe it has; but still infringed music sheets are being sold. We publishers all feel that we are suffering from an injustice, and we want to see this nefarious business stopped. Whether the present Government will afford us any assistance remains to be seen. We certainly think they ought to do something.

"As to the contention that music should be cheaper, in our opinion a man should charge what he likes for his goods, and if you were on this side of the counter instead of the other you would understand that the price charged for music is not excessive when all the failures and the expenses in connection with them as well as with the successes are taken into consideration. It is to be hoped that an improvement in the state of the music trade will set in shortly, and that piracy will become a thing of the past; otherwise we don't know where we shall get to."

VERY satisfactory results were obtained from the matinée performance at Cardiff Empire last week in aid of the Cardiff branch of the Saturday Lifeboat Fund. Through the courtesy of Mr. Oswald Stoll, the Empire was lent for the purpose, and the artists of the companies at Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea Empires gave their services. As a result, the originator of the performance, Mr. Petty, Consul-General for Argentina, was enabled to hand over £150 to the fund.

THE GEORGE LE BRUNN TESTIMONIAL FUND.

(Collected by Harry Tate).
Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Miss Ada Reeve	1 1 0	Harrison Brockbank	0 5 0
Mr. Max Mossel	0 10 6	Miss Fanny G. Fearnley	0 1 0
Dango	0 10 6		
Regan and Ryan	0 5 0		£2 13 0

Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

Geo. Lashwood	1 1 0	Miss Edith Fink	0 2 6
Mark Sheridan	1 1 0	J. Burnell	0 1 0
Miss Lelia Roze	0 5 0	Andy Burnell	0 1 0
Bert Burnell	0 2 6	Harry Burnell	0 1 0
Josh Dixon	0 2 6	Rocketing	0 1 0
Gus Leclercq	0 2 6	Toby	0 0 6
Miss W. Southworth	0 2 6		£3 4 0

Mr. Nelson Francis's List.

Mrs. Stoddart	5 0 0	Mr. Tony Pryde	0 2 0
Boys of the Trinity P. H.	0 2 7	Denton Co.	0 1 0
Miss Maud Esmond	0 2 6		£5 8 1

Mr. W. G. Child's List.

Mr. W. G. Child	1 5 0	Mr. G. F. Richardson	0 5 0
Mr. T. G. Morton	0 10 0		
Mr. Frank Calvert	0 5 0	Mr. J. C. Barber	0 5 0
Mr. W. Child	0 5 0	Mr. H. Care	0 5 0
			£3 0 0

Mr. Joe Elvin's Second List.

Messrs. W. Anderson and Co.	1 0 0
Mr. L. Gustave	0 10 0
	£1 10 0

Mr. Henry Sutton's List.

Mr. Percy Sutton	1 1 0
Mr. Lindsay Sutton	1 1 0
	£2 2 0

(Mr. Henry Sutton's donation announced last week should have read £5 5s. instead of £5.)

Miss Florrie Forde's List.

Miss Florrie Forde	1 1 0	Miss Childie Stuart	0 2 6
C. B., of the Rotary P.C.C.	0 2 6		£1 6 0
Miss Margaret Ashton			1 1 0

Mr. David Day's Second List.

Messrs. Leigh and Pether	1 1 0		
Messrs. Murphy and Lipton	1 1 0		
	£2 2 0		

Mr. F. V. St. Clair's List.

Mr. F. V. St. Clair	0 10 6	Mr. Derenda Green	0 2 6
Messrs. Morton and Elliott	0 2 6	Mr. Phil Hernan	0 1 0
			£0 16 6

Mr. C. W. Glassington	0 5 0
Mr. Edward Grey	0 2 6
Mr. E. J. Dexter	0 2 6
Result of Matinée at the Oxford Music Hall, Monday, Jan. 22, 1906 (per Mr. Albert Gilmer)	302 16 6

Donations to the Fund will be gratefully received and acknowledged by Mr. David Day (Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter), 142, Charing Cross-road, London. Mr. David Day also asks all those friends who have had subscription lists sent to them to kindly return them as soon as possible, so that the amount collected can be announced without any undue delay.

Members of the circus profession will learn with regret of the death of Mr. W. Donbavan, the well-known jockey act rider, who passed away on Sunday, the 28th ult., at 19, Victoria-street, Shaw Heath, Stockport. The poor fellow had to relinquish his profession owing to consumption; but in his day he was one of the finest riders that ever entered a ring. He was lately employed at the Empire, Stockport. He was son-in-law to Mr. Transfield, of circus fame. The funeral took place on Thursday, the remains being interred in Stockport Cemetery. He was followed to the grave by his widow, children, and nearest relatives, who sent wreaths. Other floral tributes came from Mr. and Mrs. Cunliff, Miss Nattie Transfield (sister-in-law), the Stockport Empire employees, Mr. W. Gilmore and management Stockport Empire, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Egerton Arms, Stockport (M.H.A.R.A.), and friends. Telegrams of condolence were sent from Transfield's Circus, Algie's Circus, and Ohmy's Circus.

Had it occurred a few hours earlier the fire which on Thursday, the 25th ult., totally destroyed the Scala Theatre, Antwerp, would have been a frightful holocaust, owing to the rapidity with which the flames spread. The Scala is the most popular theatre there, and a large crowd was present until nearly midnight at the variety performance. Great bravery was shown by a fireman named Willems, who saved the manager, his wife, and daughter, who were cut off from escape by the falling in of a staircase. They were half-suffocated, and he brought them through a window in the midst of most intense excitement. The artists, among whom several are English, succeeded in saving most of their properties owing to the direct exit from the dressing-room to the street.

"Oma Seer," described as an American comique musical extravaganza, lyrics by Joseph Tabrar, was produced at the Islington Empire on Monday evening. Oma Seer, a "mysterious millionaire," is expected, and it is proposed to entertain him at a grand fancy dress ball at which the guests shall represent all the principal plays of the period. But as it is found impossible to secure the attendance of aristocratic personages as guests, Blackley's, the famous universal providers, come to the rescue, and their staff are called in to represent the absent aristocrats, the Duke and Duchess of Houndsditch being impersonated by the porter and the charwoman. When the mysterious stranger appears he does not give his own name, but declares himself to be a certain member of the nobility. He thus learns of the trick that is being played, and eventually reveals his identity, but not before he has retaliated by appearing as a crazy vocalist and in other strange disguises effected by a quick change of dress. The part of Oma Seer was played by the gentleman who calls himself "Spot," and Mr. Fred Terris was very active and alert as Mr. Hopkinson, the manager at Blackley's; other parts being well played by Mr. Fred Dorman, Mr. Arthur Browne, and Miss Leah Reve. The piece was brightened by some effective songs with choruses by the guests.

A juggler named Blumenfeld, who had been appearing at a Basle music hall for several nights, had been in the habit of asking one of the audience on to the stage, and inviting him to fire a pistol at him point blank. On the night of the 24th ult. the pistol was duly loaded, the man fired, and, to every one's horror, the juggler fell to the stage with a shriek. The performer had forgotten to extract the bullet, which had passed through his brain.

It was at a smoking concert long ago—a "printers' auxiliary"—and George Le Brunn to oblige a charity was at the piano. A self-important amateur fussily approached the master musician, and kept the crowded room waiting while he explained to the pianist where the accompaniment was to be *pianissimo*, and how it was to be played. Le Brunn listened patiently, with a scarcely perceptible wink to friends around "in the know," and then, when the singer had mounted the platform, carefully folded the song up—it was one of his own composing—placed it on top of the instrument, and played the accompaniment from memory, in the inimitable manner which was his alone.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page 12.*)

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—Miss Amy F. Hermann's company proves a popular attraction here this week in *None but the Brave*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell gives an excellent rendering of the cheery Lal Ray; Mr. Herbert Evelyn is an earnest and conscientious Captain Frank Forrester; and Mr. Geo. Herbert is capitally fitted in the strong character part of Zeke Whittier. Mr. Eric Hudson plays with telling force the unenviable rôle of the chief villain, Emmanuel de Solis; and the same may be said of Miss Madge Devereux as La Tarantula. Miss Amy H. Hermann gives a delightful reading of the vivacious and witty April Showers; Mr. Charles E. Sutton as Major Enriquez de Vandas, and Miss Francesca Strickland as Nellie Whittier, are both satisfactory in their respective parts.

SHEFFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—Mr. George Davies's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, concludes its successful visit here this week.

Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The annual engagement of the famous Compton Comedy Company always makes an interesting break in the ordinary round of theatrical attractions, and affords great pleasure to lovers of eighteenth century humour, wit, and sentiment. There was a good house to welcome Mr. Edward Compton and his loyal supporters on Monday, when they appeared in the ever-popular play, *Davy Garrick*. On Tuesday, *She Stoops to Conquer* was acted to a delighted audience; and other old comedies billed were *To-morrow*, *New Men and Old Acres*, *The Rivals*, and the immortal *School for Scandal*. As usual, all the plays were perfectly mounted.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Cinderella* continues its successful run, thanks to the efforts of Miss Alma Obrey, the Sisters Terry, Miss Cissie Kent, Miss Townend, Miss Edie Endon, the graceful and vivacious Tivoli Quartette, Pete and Juno (the wonderful trans-Atlantic vocalists and dancers), Mr. Walter Dale, Mr. H. Pleon, Mr. Jack McKenzie, the Karno Trio, the agile Bros. Levelle, Mr. Fred Biron, and Mr. Edward Ind.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, the Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The *pièce-de-resistance* this week is a thrilling sensational sketch, entitled *The Diamond Express*, which is staged in a realistic manner, and cleverly played, by Mrs. Clement Scott's talented dramatic company. Mr. Sam Elton, the original humorist, "who made the Shah laugh," is causing great amusement; and other smart performers are Goggin and Davis, acrobatic comedians; Miss Bertha Winder, vocalist; Messrs. Flem and Broc, aërial boxers; Prof. Holden and his renowned fantoches entertainment; Mr. Harry Clifford, vocal comedian; Mr. George Ridgewell, baritone; and Prince Fee Lung, a clever Chinese conjuror. In addition to this, there is the American Bioscope, with comic and fanciful pictures.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The Pallister Biograph, with the latest events, is quite a local institution here. Miss Carlotta de Yonsen, a Sheffield theatrical favourite, appears with her company in *Lodgings to Let*; and others engaged are Mr. George Victor, vocal comedian; Mr. Harold Hughman, American mimic; Miss Minnie Dawn, serio; Phillips and Merritt, variety entertainers; and Mr. Harry Lawson, in a novel act.

Montgomery Hall.—The brilliant, refined, and humorous entertainment, known to fame as Maskelyne and Devant's illusions, is now in the sixth week of its successful season, and large audiences are still the rule. There has been a complete change of programme this week.

Wonderland.—Proprietor, Mr. Victor Sampson.—*The Babes in the Wood*, written and produced by the clever and energetic stage-manager, Mr. Herbert Lemley, is drawing good houses nightly.

SHREWSBURY. — Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and a talented répertoire company occupy the boards here this week, staging *Virginius*, *Othello*, *Richard III.*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *The Octoroon*. *Othello* was played on Tuesday, and Mr. Edmund Tearle was seen at his best in the title-rôle, which he presented with power and conspicuous ability. Mr. Richard Vane enacted with conscientious care and success the trying part of Iago; Mr. V. O. Crabtree was exceedingly good as Cassio; and other male characters were creditably filled. Miss Esther Tearle made a sweet and expressive Desdemona; Miss Mary Campbell may be complimented upon her clever and spirited acting as Emilia; and the Misses Mary Cleveland and Miss Clare Armitage merit praise.

SMETHWICK.—The Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Pantomime again kept the local audience in a good humour on Monday night, the popular story of *Jack and Jill* being presented in very acceptable form. Of fun, there is no end, with numerous knockabout scenes, and the usual complement of songs and dances. The Six Brothers Luck are responsible for the performance, and these expert comedians take care that there is nothing that will make the pantomime attractive is lacking. The Misses Mabel Thorne and Marjorie Cecil do excellent and graceful work in the name parts; Miss Flora Macdonald gives a charming interpretation to the fairy's rôle; Mr. E. Bathurst shines as King Usurpah; Mr. Harry Levaine kindles laughter continuously as Dame Migs; and the fun is completed by Mr. Ernest Luck as Herbert, Mr. Fred Luck as Henry, Mr. Phil Luck as the Chef, Mr. A. Luck as the Dude, Mr. Oscar Luck as the Dwarf, and Mr. Harry Luck as the Demon. Miss Edie Brenton gives a sprightly representation of Margery; and the Misses Maggie and Brenda Travers sing and dance in clever style. The show is well mounted, and the chorus and ballet work is of much worth. The orchestra, under the able conductorship of Mr. A. H. Cokayne, calls for special commendation.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Walter Melville's play, entitled *A Girl's Cross Roads*, is being presented here by a powerful company. In the rôle of John Meadows, the old farmer, Mr. Charles Tranmore is exceedingly good, and his characterisation merits considerable praise; Mr. Frank R. Robertson is suited as Jack Livingstone; and Dr. Watson is ably taken by Mr. Courtenay Bellenden. Cuthbert Lumley and his villainous methods are strikingly interpreted by Mr. Roy Fortescue, he being assisted by Mr. John Brooke as Luke Ramsden. Much merriment is caused by Mr. Fred Ingram as Toby Turvey and Miss Lena Delphine as Tilly Vane. Miss Elsie Saville makes a graceful and dignified Constance Cornell; Miss Nannie Mead is responsible for the part of Nellie Meadows, and gives a really clever impersonation; Miss Ada Oakley presents quite a lifelike picture in her clever impersonation of the rôle of Barbara Wade.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming. — A hearty reception was accorded Mr. George Dance's excellent company on Monday evening, when the local patrons of the theatre had an opportunity of witnessing, for the first time here, the successful musical play, *The Little Michus*, which was presented with a completeness characteristic of Mr. Dance's productions. Mr. Leslie Holland's admirable interpretation of the rôle of General Des Ifs created roars of merriment; Mr. Cecil Clayton, who lends ample support in the part of Bagnolet, was distinctly successful alike in a dramatic and vocal sense; Mr. Gerald Clifford, whose baritone voice was heard to great advantage, was a spirited and clever exponent of Garston Rigaud; Aristide Vert had an excellent all-round representative in Mr. D. FitzGibbon; Mr. T. E Conover played well as Pierre Michu; Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gracie Sinclaire, in the parts of Marie Blanche and Blanche Marie respectively, played in a charming, buoyant manner, their vocal numbers being very artistically rendered. Miss Maisie Gay presented a praiseworthy and vivacious portraiture of the French shopwoman, Madame Michu; Mdlle. Marjorie as Mdlle. St. Cyr submitted some elegant dancing, which was loudly applauded.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz. — Prominent amongst the artists engaged here this week are the Brothers Wynford, who give a novel and interesting exhibition of their skill as jumpers. The programme includes Marstro and Oretta, eccentric equilibrists and tumblers; Madame Emma Woodhouse, soprano; George Prince, the crazy comic; Ray Ford, comedienne and dancer; Sill and Sillcott, comedians; J. P. Ling, mimic and comedian; and the bio-tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—The boards are occupied this week by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Annie Saker furnishes a charming and artistic interpretation of Princess Astrea; Mr. Alfred Paumier, who skilfully handles the part of the heroic Paul Valmar, is accorded a good reception; Messrs. Frodk. W Freeman, W. S. Hardy, and Sydney Lynn capably represent the Crown Prince Leopold, Father Gerrard, and Lieutenant Eugene; Mr. Clinton Baddeley is vigorous and resourceful as the villainous Captain Rudolph Von Scarsbruck; Mr. Algie Spalding, a diverting Private Bobo, evokes much laughter; and an excellent coadjutor is seen in Miss Ada Champion as Kathie. The lighter vein is further strengthened by the characteristic efforts of Messrs. Fred Constable (Sergeant May) and Reginald Payne (Corporal Otto).

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Lucas are visiting here again, and the various characters which they portray from Dickens arouse enthusiasm. W. H. Fox, "Paddywhisky," is as popular as ever, his musical entertainment being not only clever, but intensely funny; Ella Retford, a dashing coon singer and dancer, wins enthusiastic applause; the Korries repeat their successful and original musical act; Fanny Robina, comedienne, sings in good style; the American Bioscope has again had a host of admirers. The remaining items are Cora Caselli, comedienne and dancer; Chas. Russell, in a military monologue; the Three Sisters Slater, vocalists, banjoists, and dancers; and Chas. Danton, comedian.

Tivoli.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—The Montramos, in their burlesque musical comedy *Do You Reverse?* are proving a strong attraction here; Ada Fawn, serio, an old favourite, is vociferously encored; Florrie Cooper, sentimental singer, is warmly welcomed; and Ryde and Beeman, acrobatic eccentrics, score. Other successful turns are W. H. Morgan, Billy Bint, Beattie and Blanche, and Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is being presented here this week by Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner. Miss Dorothy Desmonde makes a charming Dorothy; and Miss Norah Caromne plays with marked discrimination as Ruth. Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith is a general favourite; Mr. Arthur Verne as Silas Crump supplies a fund of rich humour. As Harold Vivian Mr. Cecil W. Parke is a distinct success; and Mr. Henry C. Ward as George Fielding portrays a typical villain. Mr. Alf Stretton as Hawkins and Mr. Frank Howard as Featherstone Haugh are seen to advantage. Miss Mabel Blake and Miss Nellie Anderson prove themselves to be accomplished dancers.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Elphinstone.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company was here for the first three nights of the week with the ever-popular musical comedy *A Country Girl*. Mr. Johnny Clegg gave a very clever and amusing impersonation of Barry; Mr. I. Marsall Stringer was a successful Geoffrey Chaloner; the Rajah of Bhang, in the capable hands of Mr. Bernard Vaughan, was a droll personage; Mr. W. O. Billington was a good Sir Joseph Verity; and Mr. George Stone as Granfer Mummery was an ideal rustic. Miss Eileen Guilbert as Marjorie is a capable actress of charming presence; Miss Vera Vizard was an effective Princess of Bhang; Miss Madge Campbell, as Sophie, was good; Miss Florence Brewster was a pleasing Mrs. St. Quinton; and Miss Florence Burdeth made a successful Nair.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Aladdin* opened here on Monday. Miss Marie Beresford in the title-rôle sings and acts well; Miss Cecilia Gold makes a charming Princess; Radia has in Miss Lena Page an effective vocalist; Miss Maud Clarke scores with her legmania dancing; Miss Emmie Milsted as Saucee, and Mr. Joe Bell as Wishee Washee are the life and soul of the piece. Abanazar has a capable exponent in Mr. Arthur Aiston; Mr. J. D. McCarthy as the Emperor does full justice to the part; Mr. Jack Waller makes a humorous Vizier; Mr. W. D. Wesley is a most amusing Dame; and as the two Pekin policemen, Mr. Will Kelso and Mr. Tom Kelso greatly distinguish themselves.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Sley, and Wilmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Miss Fanny Edwards, and Messrs. E. Arthur, Tom Griffiths, and W. R. Gordon head the bill here with the operatic sketch *Lily of Killarney*. Others in an excellent programme include Kendick and Laura, Dan Robans, the Arundels, Henri Cazman, Florence Yaymen, Maud Edwards, and Juno Salmo.

STOCKPORT. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The first visit of Mr. W. Maclaren and company in the late Wilson Barrett's play, *Claudian*, has afforded an attraction here of an exceptional character. Mr. Maclaren gives an admirable impersonation of Claudian; and as the Tetrarch, Mr. Wilson Howard acts with marked ability. Mr. Geo. R. J. Austin infuses much power and feeling into the part of Agazil; and Belos is amusingly presented by Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner. Charming and effective is Miss Lily C. Bandman as Almida; and Edessa is pleasingly portrayed by Miss Carlotta Anson.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Nellie Wallace, styled the "whirlwind of fun," heads the bill here this week, and has been highly amusing; in addition to the feats of strength performed by Atlas, Vulcana, and Gwennie Atlas, the classical poses of Miss Vulcana have provided a distinct treat; Carlin is an exceedingly clever foot equilibrist; the Musical Saxonias are very pleasing; and Belle Braham is most successful in her picture songs. G. W. Foster, comedian, is well received; and the Three Clarions, in a musical absurdity, *The Would-be Tenor*, are most mirth-provoking.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre.—Managing-Director and General-Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's successful pantomime of *Cinderella* will, so far as the Wearside town is concerned, finish its career, in the full zenith of its fame, to-night. The final week of its appearance here has been largely devoted to complimentary benefits, the most important of which was given to the popular managing-director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin, on Tuesday night, when the principal residents and officers of the borough and neighbourhood lent not only their patronage, but their attendance. The fine band of the 3rd Durham Light Infantry attended, and contributed some excellent selections. In addition to the usual performance there also appeared on behalf of the beneficiare Miss Agnes Molteno and Orpheus (by permission of Messrs. Rosen and Bliss), the marvellous Craggs (Royal Theatre), Miss Ella Redford, and the Sisters Slater (by permission of Mr. Rich. Thornton). The other benefits announced were in favour of Mr. J. F. Elliston and Mr. Fred Mulvey, the producer and business-manager of the *Cinderella* pantomime, to whom much of its success has been due.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—The mirth-making pantomimical musical absurdity *Laughter Land* holds the boards here this week, giving ample opportunity to the marvellous Craggs for their more than clever acrobatic performances. The remaining members of the company are one and all most diverting, hearty laughter filling the house. Mr. H. B. Lewis as the Professor, Mr. Harry Rousby as Dick Marlow, Mr. G. Westcott as Sir Vincent, Mr. C. Edwards as Ald Trentham, Mr. S. Basil Reynolds as Archie, and Dan Hardie as Squire Tapsom all render excellent service; whilst much of the fun is due to the performance of Mr. Cremorn Cragg in his humorous impersonation of Billy. The Sisters Glynne are a couple of smart dancers.

Palace of Varieties. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—*The Children's Party* remains from last week, and contributes an interesting as well as a unique item. Agnes Molteno, operatic and ballad vocalist, creates a most favourable impression; Grey and Welford are a couple of diverting comedians and boxers; La Danseuse is a versatile dancer; Harry Atkinson scores with his imitations of musical instruments; A-Ba-Be has some pretty picture sets; Orpheus is a clever instrumentalist; and Boyd and Gilfain, in an interesting operetta, are good, and the usual animated pictures are shown as a finale.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—*The Master Criminal*, a powerful melodrama, most capably represented by Miss Winifred Chalmers's company, is the attraction here this week. On Monday the play was well received. Telford Lestage is ably portrayed by Mr. Henry L. Osmond; Ben Beaudy, a detective, is played in meritorious manner by Mr. Elmore Frith, Miss Kate Sumerville as Mabel Manners, and Little Ivy Rochefort as Winifred Manners, do good work; as Cecile, alias Lady Travennes, Miss Winifred Chalmers scores heavily.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners; Musical Director, Mr. F. Lucas.—Heavy pantomime business was followed on Monday by the initial visit to this town of that much-talked-of play, *Sapho*, presented by the New Sapho Syndicate, Ltd., under the acting-management of Mr. Chas. M. Daly. The play is well dressed and mounted under Mr. L. Kingsley's direction. The company is headed by Miss Annie Bell, who gives a capable delineation of Fanny le Grand; and Mr. Pringle Roberts, who is seen to some advantage as Jean Gausin. They are capably supported by Mr. Lawrence Kingsley, as Paul Dechelette; Mr. Francis Serle, as Cesaire; Mr. C. M. Daly, as Father Le Grande; and Miss F. Graham, as Little Joseph.

TAMWORTH.—Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. F. Hughes.—On Thursday Mr. Cecil Clayton's company paid a flying visit here with the pantomime *Dick Whittington*, which was well staged. Miss Annie Rose made a charming Dick; Mr. Albert Evremond as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Tom Taylor as Idle Jack, provided much merriment; the Sisters Clancy were clever acrobatic dancers; Clyto, the gymnast and contortionist, was also good; Miss Edith Gough was the good Fairy; and Miss Marie Robertson made a bewitching Alice.

TON-Y-PANDY. — Royal. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. F. J. Kirke's company is here in *The Naval Detective*, a bright musical comedy. Mr. Kirke, in the title-rôle, is excellent; Mr. G. Frere is well placed as Dr. Schriener; while Mr. Mack Practice creates much laughter as Captain Hustle, introducing a novel, but highly appreciated style of dancing. The Hon. Bertie Fairlox of Mr. B. Leighton is a mirth-provoking character; the Hans Winklepump of Mr. C. H. Barnes is a capital assumption; Miss Louie Fountaine is a charming Phyllis Leslie; Susan Scrubbs is made an extremely funny personage by Miss E. Claris; and the Misses Nancy and Amy Shaw dance well. *Our Sailor Lad* was played the latter part of the week.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal and Opera House—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. A. Pearse.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer paid a very welcome return visit here on Monday, when she played the name-part in *Mary Queen of Scots* with consummate ability. In response to repeated calls, the popular actress expressed her pleasure at being again in Torquay, and meeting such an appreciative audience. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer was supported by a very capable company, which included Mr. Sydney Bland, who was very dignified and lifelike as Lord Burleigh; Mr. Montague Lane, who acted as the Royal Lover with great skill and discretion; and Mr. Matthew Boulton, whose rendering of the character of Sir Edward Mortimer was distinguished for its care and finish. As Elizabeth, Miss Katherine Herbert was good, both in bearing and delivery, and Miss Marie Dunphie was well placed as Hannah. The week's répertoire comprised *Nell Gwynn*, *Sapho*, *The School for Scandal*, *Hamlet*, and *Jane Shore*.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey.—There have been full houses this week for a welcome revisit from Mr. Norman V. Norman's excellent company in *The Adventures of Lady Ursula*, *David Garrick*, and *As You Like It*. Mr. Norman is ably supported by Miss Beatrice Wilson, and they have had a most enthusiastic reception. In the first-named piece Miss Wilson was a charming and sprightly Lady Ursula; while Mr. Norman gave a fine impersonation of Sir George Sylvester. Mr. Dennis Cleugh as the Earl of Hassenden, Mr. Francis Hope as the Chaplain, Miss Sybil Ruskin as Dorothy, and Miss Kathleen Willoughby as Mrs. Fenton, all gave admirable impersonations.

WAKEFIELD.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in the stirring drama, *At Cripple Creek*, opened here on Monday. Mr. Hilliard Vox gives a clever portrayal of Joe Mayfield; Mr. Walter Thornton does full justice to the part of Martin Mason, the terror of Cripple Creek, being ably supported by Mr. Charles D. Pitt as Manuel Alvarez. Mr. Reginald Harley West is seen to advantage as the faithful Indian; Mr. Albert Rogers is highly amusing as Ben White, a negro; and Mr. Will Hook does well as Reggie Harwood; Miss Vera Fordyce gives a forcible and effective rendering of Dynamite Ann; Miss Daisy Carlton acts with ability as Maggie Mason; Miss May Straker is good as Bell Gordon, the New York girl; and Little May Douglas deserves special mention for her delightful Little Tattoo.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—Mr. Theo. Hardeen, handcuff and trunk mystifier, heads the bill here, and gives an astounding performance; Cliff and Kean are a couple of clever dancers; Adelina, protean artist, wins applause; Tom Poole and Florrie Poole, vocalists and dancers, contribute a smart turn; Mdlle. Zelda gives a unique musical turn; Bob Stephenson is an amusing comedian; and Alma Curzon, comedienne, and the Vaudevilles, sketch artists, complete the bill.

WALLSEND. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Tony Richardson.—Messrs. Monti and Firth's *Babes in the Wood* pantomime is paying a week's visit here. Miss Florrie Bray makes a dashing hero and Miss Ada Clane is charming as Maid Marion. Miss Daisy Edney and Miss D. Cecil are excellent as Will Scarlet and Phillis respectively; Misses Lily and Maudie Cleave are deserving of notice as the Babes; Miss Lilian Player sings nicely as the Good Fairy; Mr. Arthur Allan makes the most of the part of the Baron; and Mr. Dan Idle keeps the fun rolling in his rôle of the Dame Belinda. Mr. Alf Valmore and Mr. W. Ellerslie render efficient service as Tired Tim and Willie; Mr. Fred Monti does what is required as Simple Simon; and the Misses M. Lewis (Phœbe), Flo Willmot (Mopsa), Alice Burke (Colin), Lily Miller (Lubin), and Dolly Milnthorpe (Dorothy) each add to the general success.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Joint-Management, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood. — Messrs. Little and Darcy's operatic pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, is here this week. The Sisters Silcott excel in the rôles allotted to them, and their singing and dancing are exceedingly good. Mr. George Rapley as Ali Baba and Mr. James Ferguson as Cogia Baba are most amusing; Messrs. Malone and Conley create great hilarity; and other characters are in capable hands. Specialities are introduced by the Rose Quartette, the Three Henriques, the Daunton-Shaw troupe, and the Three Sisters Silcott, speciality artists.

Grand Theatre. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Company, Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Messrs. Stillwell and Tenlon's company are occupying the boards here this week with *The Branded Woman*. Mr. James Stillwell makes an excellent Philip Maurice; Miss Zana St. George, an artist of exceptional ability, well merits the applause accorded to her portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. Edward Fryer does well as the Hunchback; and Mr. Beckett Boule makes a capital Leon Baron Hauber. Other parts are capably filled.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is here this week, and on Monday evening *Hamlet* was staged. Mr. Henry Herbert submitted a careful study of the Dane, and in the dramatic passages he displayed histrionic abilities of a very high order. Miss Dorothy Green as Ophelia was very impressive. Mr. Alfred Harris was dignity personified as Claudius, and Miss Kate Turner ably assisted as the Queen of Denmark. Mr. Ross Shore's Polonius was a polished study, and Mr. Lionel Bevans as Horatio and Mr. Bernard Limpus as Laertes were both well placed. Mr. Shore gave a clever character sketch of the First Gravedigger; Mr. James Armand as the Ghost spoke his lines with great effect. On Friday night the *Twelfth Night* was performed before another crowded house. *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Macbeth* were billed for the remaining nights of the week.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Harry Weldon heads the bill here this week. A faithful portrayal of "John Bull" is presented by Norman Mills; Onda and Artell are clever gymnasts and Fields and Lewes capital burlesque artists; Lilian Victoria scores in her scena *Aunt's Troubles* and the Hugo Troupe supplies an acceptable turn in *The Human Fountain*. Harry Dayton, comedian, and the Royal Bioscope pictures complete a capital programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—Mr. Eade Montefiore is presenting *Cinderella*, which has already been so successful this year at Edinburgh, and last year at Newcastle. It comes with a good reputation. Cinderella is charmingly played by Miss Nellie Merton, whose singing and dancing create a decidedly favourable impression. Conan and Doyle are old favourites here, and they, as Nabem and Nailem, along with Mr. Fred Lincoln as the Baron, Mr. Arthur Byron and Mr. George Antley as the Sisters, and Mr. George Rydon as Peter, keep the ball of fun rolling merrily. Dandini has a sprightly representative in Miss Adele Lincoln, who is gifted with a beautiful soprano voice; pretty Miss Vera Schlesinger is delightful as the Fairy Godmother; Miss Lizzie Lumsden is daintily chic in all she does as Pansy; Miss Georgina Leonard as the Prince possesses a rich, powerful voice; and Mr. G. W. Travener deserves praise for his rendering of the songs allotted to him as the Demon King.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Tee and Tee amuse the house immensely in their *Motoring* sketch, in which they introduce some remarkable musical novelties. A sketch, *Do You Want to Buy any Coke?* is provocative of much laughter, as played by Howard and St. Clair; some remarkable feats of juggling are done with balls of various sizes by Francis, who has a most amusing assistant in Alfred. An amusing sketch, *Binks's Blunder*, is drolly played by Harry Russell and company; and the remainder of the programme is filled in by Morimura, a Japanese conjurer; Rose Elliott, vocalist; Rae and Lea, comedy gymnasts; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

WEST STANLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here with the successful musical comedy *Florodora*. Miss Gwladys Elvey is a picturesque and graceful Dolores; Miss Kate Leicester plays the part of Lady Holyrood admirably; Miss Florence Hersee is piquant as Angela Gilfain; and the special dances of Miss Lilian Coe are a feature. Mr. Albert Bruno imparts many touches of humour to the character of Tweedlepunch, and Mr. Edward Chester is admirably suited to the part of Gilfain. Mr. Ralph Courtier-Dutton is a capital Frank Abercoed; Mr. Harold Perry handles the part of Capt. Donegal with skill and effect; and Mr. C. A. James is good as Leanpro

Victoria Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. David Williams.—Mr. F. B. Wolfe's repertory company presented *Lady Godiva* here on Monday night. The title-rôle was excellently sustained by Miss Hilda Shirley; Miss Gwen Stewart gave a capital representation of Lady Aldyth; Editha and Ulrica were successfully acted by Miss Sara Wheatman and Miss Louie Ad

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Messrs. W. H. and R. A. Maddox's company is here with the pantomime *Dick Whittington*, a creditable production, which has attracted good houses. There are eleven scenes. The staging is elaborate, and the dresses are in complete harmony. Throughout the singing is tuneful, and the popular musical numbers are quickly picked up by the "ear" of the house. Miss Mabel Kessler is a charming principal boy, and does good work as Dick. Miss Peggy Fame makes an attractive personality of Alice Fitzwarren; Miss Annie Brevitt is a pleasing Captain Dash, and it would be difficult to find a daintier Polly Perkins than Miss Linda May. The pantomime is particularly rich in its comedy. Mr. Dan Lyndon has the gift of irresistible drollery as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Harry Howe is a comical dame as Betsy; and Mr. Gus Granville fills the part of Idle Jack in a manner which tickles the house greatly. The funniosities of Messrs. Rex Kempton and Harry Pastor as McFlip and O'Flop are decidedly clever, and Mr. Harry Wright aids the fun by his interpretation of the part of the Emperor of Morocco. Mr. Fred Garratt is an excellent King Rat, while Mr. Victor Leglere handles well the part of Dick's dumb companion. A word of praise should certainly be accorded to Miss Madge Laurraine, who is the fairy Melodia. The entertaining specialities in the Palace scene are by Miss Mabel Kesslér, cornet, post-horn, and bugle soloist; Mr. Harry Wright, extempore vocalist; Miss Peggy Fame and her pug dog Peter, and the Dandies Quartette of lady dancers.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened on Monday before a well-filled house with their répertoire of operas, embracing *The Lily of Killarney, Tannhäuser, Faust, The Bohemian Girl, Carmen, La Traviata*, and *Maritana*. The pieces have been performed with all the brilliance and power which are so characteristic of this eminent combination.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—The star turn this week is that of the Jees, who present their highly comical sketch entitled *The Musical Smithy*. Bolloni gives an excellent exhibition with his performing cockatoos; Eight Lancashire Lads are a smart combination of singers and dancers; and Claver and Piccolo, equilibrists, are accorded a warm reception. A diverting ventriloquial turn is contributed by Richardson; Taylor, Kier, and Kempton give much pleasure by their delightful rendering of songs; Miss Lena Brunton submits good impersonations of leading star artists; the Falcons (acrobats), J. W. Ellison (comedian), and Little Barney are also successful.

WINDSOR.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Eglington.—An excellent pantomime—*Cinderella*—is presented this week by Mr. Cecil Clayton's company. Miss Eva Rosslyn as Cinderella is charming, her singing being much appreciated; Miss Lilian Ramsdale, who possesses a good stage appearance, makes a dashing Dandini; Miss Gertie Lovedale as the Prince is smart and captivating. Much amusement is caused by the clever impersonation of the two ugly sisters by Mr. Alf Selby and Mr. Arthur Loman; Mr. Herbert Cameron as the Baron plays admirably.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Mr. William Greet's company is appearing here this week in *The Sign of the Cross*. The company includes Mr. William J. Grant, who plays the part of Marcus Superbus in an admirable and powerful manner; Mr. J. Boyd Pearson, who gives a capital rendering as Nero; and Mr. Charles Aldred, who is excellent as Tigellinus. Miss Marie Leonhard, as Mercia, gives a charming and successful impersonation. Other artists in a numerous cast who are seen to advantage may be mentioned Mr. Frank Wood, Mr. Harry Jones, Mr. J. Wetherall, Miss Alma Bolton, Miss Nellie Bonsor, Miss Cissie Carlton, and Miss Ivy Millais. Miss Lillian Dacroy sings nicely, and the chorus is particularly good.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Charles Fisher's pocket opera company, consisting of three excellent artists, is the leading attraction this week, and their vocal and dramatic renderings from the grand operas are well received. Other items in the programme are Lillie Langtry, who is popular; Emma Don and company in *The Prodigal Son;* Lottie Siegenberg in protean sketch; Terras Bros., balancers and gymnasts; Will Cornish, hand-bell manipulator, &c.; and Arthur Slater, silfleur and mimic. Ruffel's Bioscope also shows some novel pictures.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—On Monday there was a large attendance to witness Mr. George Dance's production of *The Cingalee*. Mr. Walter Champney as Chambuddy revealed versatility and ability, causing roars of laughter as the hero; Mr. C. Comber played well and sang with effect; Mr. H. Webb was excellent as Boobhamba; Mr. W. Boso was clever as Sir Peter, several times drawing down the house; Mr. A. Foote was efficient as Bobby. Miss Mona Grey was charming as Patricia, and she sang with effect; Miss Cecile Beresford was graceful as Banoya; Miss Katie Yates sang and danced well as Peggy; and Miss Treseder was liked as Angy. The encores were frequent. Praise was accorded to the spirited chorus.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week the great attractions have been Ted Waite, eccentric vocal comedian, and Charles Santon, male soprano and vocal comedian; Earle and Melville, comedians and dancers; the Amphletts, characteristic duettists; and Miss Lillie Edgar, comedienne, are also in the bill.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Orchid* is doing a capital business this week, Mr. George Dance's company having evidently hit the popular taste. Miss Chrissie Ralland as Lady Violet comes in for a large share of favour, giving a delightfully fresh rendering of a popular rôle; Miss Mamie Stuart as Josephine does remarkably well, her rendition of Little Mary being heartily applauded; Miss Elsa Werner makes a handsome Zelie Humbert, and Thisbe has a delightful impersonator in Miss Ruby Garman; as the Countess Miss Ida Chichester looks handsome, and a cleverer character sketch than the Caroline Vokins of Miss Florence Vic could hardly be imagined. As Meakin Mr. Bertie Wright is the life of the piece, the amount of work he gets through nightly being astonishing. Mr. Wright's reception is most gratifying. Mr. Harry T. Butler is a nimble dancer, and his talents in this direction make him particularly suited to the rôle of Zacchary. Mr. C. Stone does extremely well as Ronald Faussett; Mr. Clarence Seaton is acceptable as Aubry Chesterton; Mr. Alfred Bennett is amusingly clever as Guy Scrymgeour—clever alike in song and dance; and a well-thought-out part is the Raoul de Cassignat of Mr. S. Benson

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—The Pichel troupe of acrobats are marvellously clever; the De Breams give a most acceptable Japanese entertainment; and Frank Bertram and company's sketch, *The Chaperon*, is much appreciated. The banjo-playing of the Clarkes is a pleasing item; Ivy Leman sings sweetly; and Harry Barker is a comedian whose efforts never fail to please. Eno is a first-class mimic; Syd Herman's efforts are applauded; and the Bioscope completes a creditable bill.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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	UNITED KINGDOM.	FOREIGN.
One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

The Offices of "The Era" are
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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post, FREE OF CHARGE.

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Advertisers and Subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

IN case of the non delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers, with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 12, 26, April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 19, March 19, April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 21, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
March 19, April 2, Aug. 6, 13, 20, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7, Race Week, 14, 28, June 4, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 26, March 12, 26, April 2, 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 6, 13.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, May 14, 28, June 4, Aug. 13, 20.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 9, 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Feb. 15 (3 nights), Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 7, June 11, 18, Aug. 13, 20, on.
Milton Bode and Edward Compton take over the Opera House, Leicester, and the Theatre Royal, Leicester, on Monday, Feb. 19.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1905, for two and three weeks. Please state subject, and where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
Feb. 26; March 12, 26; April 2, 9, and Easter; Feb. 15 (3 nights, Bedford only), Feb. 19 (3 nights Bedford, 3 nights Luton).
Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 15, 16, 17. Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 15 (3 nights), Bedford; Feb. 19 (3 nights Bedford, 3 nights Luton). E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime Company, Feb. 26.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Pantomime, Feb. 19, Musical Attraction, May 7. Add., HERBERT VERE

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL,
Open all the year round.
WANTED, a Strong Attraction for Easter, Vacant through transferring; also open April 30, May 14; Share or Certainty.
Address, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's T., Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, Musical and Dramatic Companies for April 23, 30, May 14 and 21, also Whit Week.
Address, LINGFORD CARSON, as above.

WANTED, First-class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 7, 14, 21, June 11, July 9, 23, 30, Sept. 10, 17.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomime, for Xmas, 1905-7. State where can be seen. Musical Attraction, April 2 (Race Week); also First-Class Companies, April 30, May 7, June, 4, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Attractions,
May 21 and 28,
June 11 and 18.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
March 5, 12, 26,
April 9.
Apply, JOHN HART,
Theatre Royal, Bradford.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, for Feb. 26, March 26, April 16 (Easter), April 23, 30, May 7, 28, June 4 (Whit), 11.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Company, for March 26, and possibly May 14.

J. H. CURRY, as above.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 12, 26, April 9, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Apply,
Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Attractions, April 9, May 21, 28, and June 4.
Address, MARK H. LINDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 19, 26, April 2, 9, and on. Big Attraction for Easter.
FRED HAMMOND.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Responsible Managers,
Messrs. DEVEREUX and WOOD.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, Vacant Feb. 19, March 1 (3 nights), 19, Easter, and on. Good Companies only entertained. This, Lawrence Brough. Note.—All coms. to above.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for March 19, April 16, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Pantomimes, Big Attractions, Feb. 26, March 12, 26, Grand, Chorley; also March 5, on, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Company, Perth Theatre, March 1, 2, 3 (three nights).
Apply, J. H. SAVILE, Paisley Theatre.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, First-Class Companies, Feb. 26 (three nights), April 30, and May 7. F. J. ROBINSON, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, Important Attraction, Feb. 26, to oblige a Manager.
Brierley, T. R., Tyldesley.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant, March 12, April 2, May 21, June 4.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 25, March 5, 19, April 2, 9.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant March 5, April 2, 9, 16, 23.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 5.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Feb. 12 (three nights), 22 (three nights), 26 (three nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 12, 26.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19 (three nights), April 9.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 5.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19, 26, April 2.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 5, April 2, 23.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE
Vacant March 19, 26, April 9, and on;
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
Vacant April 9, May 7, on;
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
Vacant Feb. 26, March 26, April 9, 16.
Address,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Comedy or Musical Play, April 23 or 30, to finish Season; certainty preferred.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
Vacant March 12 and 26; last three days only.
SPA THEATRE, WHITBY.
Wanted, Good Companies, from July to September.
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Opera House, Londonderry.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies Only,
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
March 8 (3 nights), 26, April 30, May 7, 21, June 11 to July 9.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 5 (3 nights), 12, April 9, May 7, 28, June 11, 18.
Coms., H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Now in the Height of Success.
WANTED, to oblige Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux, and Mr. Cyril Maude, owing to change of dates, First-class Companies, for Easter Week and Whit. Week, Musical Comedies preferred.
Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 19 (six nights), March 5 (three nights), March 12, and on. Change of Bill preferred. JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, Feb. 26, March 5, 26, and on. First-class Attraction wanted for reopening date, Aug. 13. Dumfries, Vacant March 5, on.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRES ROYAL, WEDNESBURY and BILSTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Wednesbury, March 5, Bilston, March 19, 26, and one week 3 nights each Theatre. Good Panto. Easter. HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
(The West-end Theatre of Hastings.)
Resident-Manager, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS.
The Company have just spent £2,000 on improving and renovating this Pavilion, including lighting and the approach thereto, and have made arrangements for carrying it on on up-to-date and vigorous lines. New Advertising Methods. Everything possible done to assist visiting Companies.
Big Attractions sure of Big Money.
WANTED, Vacant April 30, and several Dates, onwards. Early application desirable. Musical Comedies sure draw. Apply as above, or to Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly. Telephone, 6,534, Gerrard.

WANTED, High-class Summer Attractions, for Tynemouth Palace-by-the-Sea, Easter, Whit, and onwards. Address, J. H. GRAHAM, Head Offices, St. Andrew-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WIGAN.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction or Pantomime, for Feb. 26 (unexpectedly vacant through termination of Tour). Address, J. WORSWICK, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies,
Feb. 26 and March 5.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Company, Feb. 19, Week, King's Theatre, Walthamstow.
One House Nightly.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Mr. MORTON-POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 19, April 9, 16, 23, 30.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 19, 20, 21, April 2, 9, 16.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
March 26, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND,
the Home of Pantomime.

Wanted, for Above, a First-class Pantomime, commencing Feb. 5, to follow J. F. Elliston's Gigantic Success "Cinderella"; must have been produced this Xmas, at a No. 1 Theatre, and have Proved a Success.
Reliable Managers Only need apply to
CHAS. E. MACHIN,
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

GRAND THEATRE,
SWANSEA.
WANTED First-class Company, for
Three Nights,
Feb. 22, 23, and 24.
Feb. 22, 23, and 24.
Feb. 22, 23, and 24.
Apply,
E. OSWALD BROOKS.

WANTED, High-class Attractions, Three Nights each,
THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON,
April 2, 3, 4, and
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN,
April 5, 6, 7.
Two of the Best Towns in Lancashire.
Distance 11 Miles only.
Apply, STEPHEN PATTY, T. R., Preston; or, HARRY YORKE, T. R., Blackburn.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 19 (?), May 14, 28, June 4 (Yeomanry Week), June 11; also Vacant Aug. 20, on. Pantomime wanted for January, 1907. Silence polite negative. Address, FRANK KING

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, May 14, 28, June 4, 11, for High-class Attractions.
Address, WM. MORTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 19, April 2 (?),
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 12 (?), April 2 (?), April 30, May 14 and 21, June 11, and on. Communications to FRANK BATEMAN, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Bolton, First-Class Attractions, April 30, May 21, 28, and various others. Unless really first-class shows waste of stamps in communicating with J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for March 5, 26, April 2, 9, and 23.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, COLWYN BAY.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 22 (3 nights), on, with exceptions, and Autumn. CHAPLIN.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. CORTON

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Good Attraction for Feb. 12, on. Musical Comedy preferred; good shows, good business. Wire, wire, wire. PHILLIPS.

WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 8, three nights, also Feb. 12, onwards, good Pantomime required. Wire, HERBERT, Town Hall Theatre, Methil.

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

WANTED, for Palace, Boston, good Combination. Feb. 12, through obliging; also later dates. Good printing. CLIFFORD, 32, Mainridge, Boston.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 12, March 12, 19.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 5, March 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, March 5, April 2, Aug. 6.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 2, Aug. 6.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, London, W.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 16, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Feb. 26 and March 12, in or around London for the Scala production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
Scala Theatre, London, W.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.

WANTED, Week of March 12, Midlands, Lancashire, or Yorkshire preferred.
Wire, W. W. KELLY,
Scala Theatre, London, W.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, 30, May 28, June 4.
"SAILORS OF THE KING."
Feb. 26, March 19, April 2, 16, May 7, 14.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, March 26, between Swansea and Swindon, only vacant date. CHALMERS MACKEY, this, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool; Feb. 5, Lyceum, Eccles, Six Nights.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Mr. Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED, Mar. 26, April 2 and 16, Midlands. Add., RALLAND, T. Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, March 5, April 16,
No greater Success Touring.
Miss Annie Bell as Fanny Le Grande.
Wire for March 5, Wire.
JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
by
S. Buchanan Rogerson.

An Instantaneous and Sterling Success opened on Monday at the
COLOSEUM THEATRE, OLDHAM,
Scored a Success.
Receipts going up Nightly.
Receipts going up Nightly.
Refer. J. Ball, Esq.

Magnificent Scenic Production.
Brilliant Costumes.
Strong Company,
The most Startling Play on Tour.
Produced a week ago and 24 dates booked
24 dates booked by Managers who have seen or heard of its success.

. . . We have no doubt in stating that this will rank with the most successful of modern plays. The story is thrilling, realistic, and of real dramatic interest. . . . . Praise must be given to the striking scenery—a fit setting to this remarkable story of passion and jealousy.—The Oldham Standard.

. . . . The company is a strong one. . . . . The play is a most powerful one. There are several thrilling scenes, and the story is an enthralling one. . . The scenery, dresses, and uniforms are magnificent, and no expense has been spared to make the production a success.—The Chronicle.

. . . . . The stirring situation and the unfolding of a highly sensational plot. . . . . has written a drama of sterling worth. . . . It is evident there is money to be made out of the play.—The Stage.

. . . . . A most brilliant play. . . . . A distinct advance in dramatic writing. . . . Altogether the finest play staged here for years.—The Journal, Jan. 27.

Managers are respectfully invited to see this fine drama, with view to booking.

Vacant Dates.
March 19 (?), April 16 (?), April 23 (?).
June 4, June 25, July 2, August 6.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
A Fine Cast.
Seventh visit to Oldham, and played to more money than any previous visit, closing on Saturday to just on Saturday, £100, Saturday.
Vacant
March 5, 12 (?), April 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEO. KIRK'S CO.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Chas. Darrell.
Miss Mary Neil as Nellie Harborne.
Produced Jan. 1, and secured by the following Managers for Immediate Dates:—Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), Sawyer and Woodruff, G. Mudd, H. Masterman, W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Colonel Winstanley, Milton Bode, C. W. Poole, W. Morton, &c., &c.
WANTED, March 5, only Vacant Date until Aug. 20.
Address, GEO. KIRK, T. R., Darwen.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES, LTD.
WANTED, Wanted, Good Theatres, "Floredora," April 2, to precede Glasgow; "The Eternal City," Feb. 19; "Oliver Twist," Feb. 26 (Vacant through cancelling Marlborough Theatre, to oblige Mr. Purcell, North preferred), and April 2 (Midlands preferred). Only First-class Theatres need apply.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

ERNEST R. ABBOTT and STAR COMPANY, in "A WIFE'S TRIUMPH,"
Sutton Vane's Latest and Most Successful Sporting, Musical, and Domestic Drama. Original Pavilion Production carried.
WANTED, Feb. 12, between Lowestoft and Brighton. A success everywhere. Can change bill if required. Répertoire of four or five Standard Plays, each a Perfect Production. Wire for Feb. 12, to-day, to ERNEST R. ABBOTT, T. R., Exeter. Next, Marina, Lowestoft.

THE PAUMIER-HOWARD TOURS.
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
By Walter Howard.
"MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"MIDNIGHT WEDDING," ANNIE SAKER.
"MIDNIGHT WEDDING," ALFRED PAUMIER.
WANTED, Important Theatres, for this Remarkable Success.
First Vacant Date, Jan. 7. Communications, ALFRED PAUMIER, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
An Artistic Established and Popular Success.
A really Remarkable and Powerful Attraction.
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12.
J. H. CLYNDES, Alhambra T., Stourbridge.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Moneymaking Attraction, April 2, in or near London;
April 23, 30, May 7, Midlands.
Autumn fast filling. Wanted, Oct. 1, 29, Lancs.
26th Week of Present Tour.
FRANK AYRTON, Pavilion Theatre, Altrincham.

WANTED, "THE GIRL FROM JAPAN,"
The Successful Musical Comedy,
Feb. 19, onwards.

F. MARTIN MORRIS,
This week, Grand Theatre, Middlesbrough.
Next week, Theatre Royal, Leamington.

WANTED, for the Successful Musical Farce, "The Girl from Chicago." Good Theatres, Easter, and on, with exceptions. Address, HAROLD WEBB,
8, Parkhurst-road, Sutton, Surrey.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR,
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, March 12, onwards.
Address, Lister-road, Liverpool.

"THE CURATE."
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26 (?), March 19, June 4, to precede Grand, Hull;
June 25, to follow South Shields.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 23, 30, May 14, 21 (3 nights), 28.
J. W. CORDINER, New Theatre, Loughborough.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, Easter, Whit., Aug. 6.
R. CARTER LIVESEY,
Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9.
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexboro'.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9.
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexboro'.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, 26, Easter Week.
FRED BULMER, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexboro'.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 19 and March 5.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

WANTED, First-Class Theatre, "Gay Parisienne," March 26, April 2; "Mason," Feb. 19, March 19, April 2, Easter. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Theatres, only Vacant dates May 7, 14, and Whit Week, until 1907.
Managers desiring this Phenomenal Draw, communicate
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Feb. 5, March 26, also Easter; everything carried, and a cast second to none.
Address, LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Good Theatres, April 23, 30, May 7, only vacant dates until Autumn.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S
DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.
Head Offices: Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

Tours Booked. Engagements Negotiated. Plays and Sketches Written, Read, and Produced. Enquiries Solicited.

WANTED, Dates, for Various Moneymaking Attractions, as hereunder:—
"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. Reuben Payne's Company,
May 7, 14, 21, 28, Various Autumn.

"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. P. Howard Sturgess's Company,
including Miss Edith Blande,
March 12 (London District preferred), Various, onwards.

Vacant Dates for Mr. Arthur Carlton's New Play (by Sutton Vane) will shortly be announced.

A. J. tenders his sincere thanks to the large number of managers who have honoured him with requests to book their tours. At the earliest opportunity he will make a "run round," with view to completing arrangements to do so, notification of which will duly appear in this space.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this Powerful Attraction,
Feb. 12,
Feb. 12,
Wire,
also March 5, June 18, and Aug. 6;
Few later.
COLISEUM, OLDHAM, Feb. 6 (six nights).

WANTED, Dates, Xmas, 1906-7,
for
"SINBAD THE SAILOR,"
Mr. James's Islington Pantomime.
Lloyd's News, Dec. 31, said:—
One of the best pantomimes seen at Islington for some years.
Referee, Dec. 31, said:—
"Sinbad" is a funny as well as a beautiful pantomime.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
Mr. James's Crouch End Pantomime.
Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said:—
The entertainment can claim rank among the liveliest and most pleasing to be found.
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER,"
Mr. James's Croydon Pantomime.
The Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this Pantomime that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
Apply,
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S PLAYS,
"THE GUIDING STAR,"
"A LONDON ACTRESS,"
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, March 5, 19, 26, on, for
"A LONDON ACTRESS,"
"A LONDON ACTRESS,"
Easter wanted, at Good Theatre. Whit settled, at T. R., Smethwick. Aug. Bank Holiday open for "A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Add., STUART CLEVELAND, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 12,
for Arthur Carlton's Co.,
in
"SPAN OF LIFE."
Wire best terms, CARLTON Worcester.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH,"
by the late F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Theatres, March 12, 26, June 4, Aug. 6, on. Miss FRANCES DELAVAL, T. R., York.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Feb. 19, Feb. 19, Feb. 19, "A Sister's Sin," Vacant Feb. 26, Feb. 26.
Both doing bigger business than ever.
Wire,
KIMBERLEY, Theatre, Lincoln; next, Peterborough.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR.
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, for this Acknowledged Success, May 28, June 18 (?), 25 (Midlands), Aug. 6, and on, with exceptions. Always a sure draw.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"THE LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
The Drama that includes a full Hippo. performance.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for the few remaining Dates this year, which are Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 19.
Now Booking Spring, 1907.
SANTE, Grand, Plymouth; T. R., Merthyr.

WANTED, Wanted, Feb. 12,
for
"THE SHOP BOY,"
to follow Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.
New Farcical Musical Comedy.
Cast includes the Favourite London Comedian Harry Pleon, Celia Kent, Bessie Rignold, Paul Belmore, Royal Alexandra Troupe of Lady Dancers,
and Full Company. Printing all Ready.
Wire, CHARLES PRICE, Ramsgate.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, various onward, a powerful high-class Drama.
W. J. MILLER, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Theatre, for "The Midnight Mail," March 26, May 7 and 14, Aug. 6 and 20; for Miss Hildyard in "The Great Awakening," Aug. Bank Holiday, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Theatres, for
"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS,"
Vacant Feb. 12, 19, South or Midlands.
HORACE STANLEY, to-day, King's Lynn; next, T. R., Colchester.

WANTED, March 5 and on, "Under Two Flags," "Sailor's Sweetheart"; Easter, "Cripple Creek." MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

Mr. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S TOUR.
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND."
WANTED, Good Theatres. Vacant March 19, April 16. Now Booking Autumn. Everything new, everything carried, everything good.
LEWIS GILBERT, T. R., Grantham.

"DAYS OF CROMWELL."
WANTED, Feb. 19, Wanted, through transfer.
Wire, Feb. 19, wire.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, T. R., Tyldesley.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Feb. 26 (follow Alex., Sheffield), also March 26, May 14. OSMOND, Carlton Theatre, Saltley, Birmingham.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S PANTOMIMES.
"CINDERELLA." "ALADDIN."
WANTED, First-Class Theatre only, Feb. 19 and 26. Seven Specialities, full Ballet and Chorus. Everything carried. Wire, HERBERT BARRS, Theatre, Fleetwood; Feb. 5, Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Good Theatres only, April 9 and May 28, for the Great Success, "Her Wedding Day," a clear stage only practically required. Add., T. E. WARD, Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 12, March 12,
to follow third visit to Stratford.
Address,
C. M. JULIAN, T. R., Grantham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS WINIFRED MAUDE'S COMPANY.
Under the Direction of Mr. Victor Du Cane.
"THE SINS O FA CITY,"
By Nita Rae.
"THE STOWAWAY,"
By Tom Craven.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19.
WANTED, Feb. 26, March 19,
"THE SINS OF A CITY,"
"THE STOWAWAY,"
"THE CONVICT,"
By Fred Jarman.
The above three popular plays will be sent on tour in the Autumn, opening at the ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
All Scenery carried.
Magnificent Printing.
First-Class Company.

Vacant Aug. 13, 27, on,
with exceptions.
VICTOR DU CANE, Theatre Royal, Windsor.

MR. MONTEFIORE'S "CINDERELLA."
the Record Pantomime of Edinburgh and Newcastle last year, and Govan's Record this year, £709 3s. 10d. (one week).
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26.
Many thanks for offers, but terms and towns must be good.
Wire,
"Montefiore, Edinburgh."

PANTOMIME.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
WANTED, Feb. 12,
Wanted, Feb. 12,
Theatre with possibilities, to follow Palace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where above production at once achieved a Big Success, following directly on J. F. Elliston's well-known "Aladdin."
Newcastle Press and Public Unanimous in Praise. Second Visit.
Wire, BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
WANTED, March 12, 19, 26. SIDNEY DENCH, Standard Theatre, Hetton.

WANTED, Theatres, Pier Pavilions, Town Halls, &c., for First-class Variety Combinations, May 21, 28, and June 4, including Warden-Reed's Successful Duologues,
"THE RIGHT ROAD,"
"MARRIED OR PHOTOGRAPHED?"
PUEBLO and CROPP, Creole Speciality Artists and Sand Dancers, and First-class Company.
See next week's advt. For particulars, apply, F. W. REED, Pavilion Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"THE EXECUTIONER'S DAUGHTER."

WANTED, Juvenile and Heavy Gentleman, also Intense Actor for the Executioner, first-class Character Actor to play Jew, in "Stroke of Twelve." Photos. and references (imperative) to
FRED J. LITTLE,
Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

'Phone No. and all particulars next week.
WANTED, Known, C. H. Llewelyn's Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agency,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Present private add., 48, Leazes-terrace, Newcastle.

WANTED, by recognised management, for Spring, tour already booked, Romantic Drama, full Company (with exceptions), Leading Lady, first-class, young, power and pathos, required; Character Old Woman, Irish Character, refined, gentlemanly, must sing; Juvenile and Heavy; several trustworthy, efficient Actors to double important parts. Apply, quoting lowest terms, experience, references (which will be applied for), to Box 2,731, "The Era."

WANTED, several Artists to complete Company, also Baggage Man, act; open shortly. Full particulars, lowest terms. COLEMAN DAVIES, Dinorwic Cottage, Llanwrst, North Wales.

WANTED, for a First-Class Portable Theatre, Leading Lady, Gentleman, for Heavies, and Responsible Gentleman, to open at once. State age, height, lowest terms, to W. J. VICKERS, Selby.

WANTED, Ladies for Musical Comedy, Spring Tour, must be young and good appearance. Apply, F. DARRELL and Co., 415, Strand.

FRED J. KIRKE'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Rehearse Tuesday, good Gentlemanly Heavy (through releasing Mr. Frère). Age, height, reference, photos., absolutely lowest terms. KIRKE, Theatre, Llanelly.

WANTED, for Drama, commencing March, Gentleman, Heavy Lead, Juvenile Gentleman and Lady, Character Old Woman (hag), Responsible Gentleman, Character and Stage-Manager, Comedian to sing, good Carpenter. Terms and particulars. No photos. No joint engagements. DRAMATIC, 30, Cowley-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Juvenile Gentleman, to Sing for Violet, the Dancer," dress well. Photo., refs., lowest terms, THURLESTONE, New Pavilion T., Altrincham.

WANTED, Two Good Actors, for Special Week, Feb. 12, London. Letters only, terms, &c., FRED EUSTACE, 3, Evandale-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Intense Heavy Man, young, tall, and responsible Lady; must dress well. Lowest terms, photos., height, &c., Miss MAGGIE MORTON, Lydney.

WANTED, Comedian, Robust.
Address,
Box 2,747, "The Era."

WANTED, Tall, Amateur Gentlemen, First-class Tours, thorough tuition. Salary and parts when proficient. Send photo., stamped envelope for return, permanent address, &c., E. CARTER LIVESEY, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

WANTED, Actor and Wife, Permanent, to write and produce Sketches. Write, stating salary, &c., MANAGER, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Four Clever Juvenile Girls, about 14, small, good voices and dancers; also one high Soprano. Exceptional opportunities.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, a Few First-class Acrobatic and Troupe Dancers; must be young, smart, and pretty. Apply personally (or by letter, with photo.), to ASHTON'S Royal Agency, 31, 32, 33, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden.

WANTED, Smart Girls, those that can Dance and Bend a little preferred, age 15. Communications, TREBORO, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, Boys (Small), with Good Voices. Good Salary for Exceptional Soloists.
Apply, 45, Seymour-place, Portman-square, W.

WANTED, two good Humorists, for Summer Season, for Pierrot Team.
H. K., 37, Portland-road, South Norwood.

WANTED, Humorist at Piano; also Solo 'Cellist who can sing Farkoa style of songs, for Refined Concert Party. Box 2,730, "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Amy Raymond, Skirt Dancer, Concerts or Ballet.
Address, 67, Mossbury-road, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, by Experienced Chorus Trainer, Post where smart and really good Chorus Singing is required. At Liberty at Easter. Box 2,722, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman, well educated, Amateur Experience, desires Engagement with Touring Company. Salary, state length of tour. Box 2,741, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, in Minstrel or Pierrot Troupe, by Baritone Vocalist, to combine with First Violin (if required). JOSEPH POWER, Violinist, Winterton, Ferryhill, co. Durham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Several Smart Chorus and Ballet Ladies, Acrobatic Dancers, Second Boy, Fairy Queen, at Liberty. YATES, 29, Newington, Liverpool.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, S. Beltram, open to receive contracts, scenery repainted, specially engaged for a few weeks, at Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Contracts, every facility, Engagements, Renovations, anywhere; inclusive terms; twenty years' London and Provincial experience. ERNEST R. JONES, 65, Hanover-road, Willesden, London; to Oxford and O.U.D.S., thirteen years; Leamington Studios, three years; &c. Enquiries invited.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Painting, Joinery, materials of uniform excellence reasonable prices, well-filled studio. SAYER, 2, Clarendon-road Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Whyatt and Son, at Liberty to accept Contracts of every description. Christmas Productions, Lester Collingwood's "Blue Beard"; W. H. Hallatt's "Temptress." Studios, Lyceum, Crewe.

WANTED, Known, Manchester, Scenic Co. (20 years' reputation), artistic work. Lowest terms, write before ordering elsewhere. BOSTOCK, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

To Pantomime Authors.
WANTED, a Pantomime Author, to Communicate with Advertiser, with a view to write Pantomime for a Scottish City, for next Season. Address in first instance, Box 2,734, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Advertising Agent and Assistant Manager; also Good Stage Carpenter.
Address, MORRELLA, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, Immediately, Smart Single Man, as Advance and Baggage; must be able to work large and small towns. Particulars, references, CLIFFORD, 32, Mainridge, Boston.

WANTED, Billposter, Smart, Young, good Ladderman.

State wages required and full particulars to
THE CITY BILLPOSTING CO.,
Freeman-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Steady, Reliable Bill-poster. State reference and experience.
BILLPOSTING CO., Sheffield.

WANTED, Stage Carpenter, with own Tools; must be good bench hand. Permanency to suitable man. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, a First-Class Wardrobe Mistress, for Christmas, 1906.

Address,
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WANTED, by Charles Gascoigne, late twelve years manager of the People's Palace, Bristol, a Situation as Manager, thoroughly qualified from back to front of house; good refs. Apply, The Bute Hotel, Victoria-street, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, as Stage-Manager or Carpenter, in Theatre or Music Hall, own tools, 20 years' experience, age 38, good references. W. WOOD, Pavilion, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting-Manager, by Gentleman, age 28, smart appearance, London or Provinces, well known in Music-Hall business. Wire or write, Box 2,732, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Disengaged for Tour or Residential Acting or Advance-Management, thoroughly experienced, large or fit-up towns, farm on shares in fit-ups, good shows, or entertainments. Excellent refs. Box 2,724, "The Era."

WANTED, Manager's Treasurer, Secretary, or any position of trust, at Liberty Feb. 3. Good references. Address, ALFRED ROSS, 22, Apsley-place, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, by Young Man, of Smart Appearance, good business capacity, typewriting, &c., position, to assist management. Excellent references. Box 2,743, "The Era."

WANTED, Evening Employment, by Gentleman engaged in City during the day, Theatre preferred. Could attend Matinées. Box 2,725, "The Era."

WANTED, by William Benson, Advance Agent, re-engagement, late Poole's, Miss Hutchinson, W. S. Penley, Esq., Ben Greet, Esq., Moore and Burgess Minstrels, &c. Refs. 65, Coleridge-st., Hove, Sussex.

WANTED, at Once, Baggage Parts, &c.; 14 years' experience. Terminated 18 months, Garrick Theatre. ALLEN, 48, Pembridge-road, Kensington, London.

WANTED, by Billposter and Poster Writer, Situation, twenty-five years' experience, good refs. POSTER, 42, Albert-st., Islington, London, N.

WANTED, by Young Man, Situation as Billposter; 5 years' experience. Good refs. S. VERRELL, 97, Park-end, Bromley, Kent.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Immediately, First-class Conductor (Violinist). Terms and references,
STANLEY ROGERS, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM
WANTED, Conductor (Pianist), to open Feb. 12.
Lowest terms to DAVID WILLIAMS.

WANTED, First-Class Repetiteur, one able to take Leader, permanency to good, steady man. Apply, WORSWICK, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, First-Class Violinist, Soloist preferred, for Hydro, commence Feb. 12, 1906. Permanent situation. Address, W. POWITT YOUNG, Musical Director, 12, Edelston-road, Blackpool.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, for the Palace, West Hartlepool, Cornettist, to Open Feb. 19.
Lowest terms and references,
C. E. WRIGHT, M.D.

WANTED, Immediately, 'Cellist; must be Good, Reliable Man. Apply,
SHERWOOD and COMPANY, Theatre, Wakefield.

WANTED, 'Cello Player; must be well up in Variety business, steady and reliable. Age, refs., F. BRAHAM, Conductor, Regent T., Salford.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, MENSTON, nr. LEEDS.
WANTED, Oboe Player, who will be required to act as Attendant; must be able to read music at sight. Salary commences at £33 per year, increasing £2 10s. annually to £58, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.

Apply to the
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, at the Asylum.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.
WANTED, Oboist, at Once, Permanent Engagement.
Full particulars to G. R. CHAPMAN.

WANTED, immediately, for Ardwick Empire, Manchester, Oboe Player. Address, stating age, salary required, and names and addresses for reference, to OSWALD STOLL, Cranbourn-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, Pianist, capable of playing another Instrument. Age, references, lowest terms. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for One Week only, Feb. 26, at Dundee, Brilliant Pianist; must have Own Music, and be able to play from Memory. Lowest terms to ECCLESTON, Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy, N.B.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, Lady or Youth, Pianist; must Read Manuscript at Sight. Photo., age, lowest terms, to TRAVIS, Corn Exchange, Alford, Lincs.

WANTED, Pianist, combine Double Bass preferred. Lowest terms, references, first letter, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, a First-class Pianist, to Open at Once; must be steady, well up to Variety Touring. Wire, DEMPSEY, Temperance Hall, Guisborough.

WANTED, Experienced Male Pianist, travel with and train Juveniles, must be capable of arranging voice parts.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Bostock and Wombwell's Continental Menagerie, a competent Double Drummer, young man preferred, perfectly sober and attentive to business or useless. Salary 30s. Apply, FRANK BOSTOCK, Hanley, Staffs, Saturday and Monday.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Double Drummer, with effects, at once, must be First-class. C. ALGIE.

WANTED, Young Ladies playing Guitar or Banjo, for long Music Hall Tour, commencing next month. Full particulars, terms, SKRINE, 1, Grosvenor-square, Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, a Band.
Rhyl (Seaside Resort), N. Wales.
The Rhyl Urban District Council invite tenders for providing a Band, for the Promenade and Town, for the Season of 1906, from Whitsuntide until the end of September.
The Band must depend entirely on voluntary subscriptions, collections, and charges for seats by the Band-stand. The Tenders, stating number of performers, nature of instruments, and class of music, may be sent to the undersigned, not later than Feb. 23, 1906, and from whom any further information may be obtained.
ARTHUR ROWLANDS,
Clerk to the Council.
Council Offices, Rhyl, N. Wales.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.
WANTED, by the Corporation, Tenders, for the Supply of a Band for the ensuing Season (June to September, inclusive).
Particulars and conditions of tender may be obtained upon application to the undersigned.
Tenders, endorsed "Band," addressed to the Chairman of the Amusements Committee, must reach Albion House, Ramsgate, on or before Feb. 10.
The Corporation do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.
E. C. BYRNE,
Town Clerk.
Albion House,
Ramsgate,
Jan. 25, 1906.

PALACE THEATRE, CARLISLE.
Managing-Director, SIGNOR PEPI.
WANTED, Full Orchestra, open March 5, must be thoroughly competent in Variety business. Terms and references to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Box 2,745, "The Era."

WANTED, Bandsmen, for Short Ocean Passages,
Each Band to Consist of
Pianist, Violin, Flute, or Clarionet, Cornet, 'Cello, or String Bass. £7 a month. HETHERINGTON'S, "Bandmaster's Help" Office, 163A, Strand.

THE PALACE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Instrumentalists, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Season. Lowest terms and references, to F. H. JEPSON, Musical Director.

WANTED, for Continental Summer Season, starting April 1, Ladies, Violins, Flute, Clarionet, Cornet, Double Bass, Drummer. State age, references; send photo. Fine experienced players only need apply. Box 2,749, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class German Band (Artists), 6 performers, First Violin, Conductor, Soloist, Two First Violins, 'Cello Soloist, Double Bass Soloist, Piano Soloist, Engagement, Seaside preferred, or First-class Hotel. Open April 1.
FRITZ PREISICKE, Musical-Director,
Etablissement Alsterblick, Hamburg, Germany.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, including Pianist. Apply, Saturday, between 11 and 12. J. NURNBERGER, M.D., Elephant and Castle T., S.E.

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Composer of "Silver King," "Lights of London," "Golden Ladder." 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood.

WANTED, Known, Mr. S. C. Richardson, Musical Director for Mr. E. C. Hedmondt's "Queen's Jester" Comic Opera Company, at Liberty for Tour or Permanency. Press Notices, &c., from principal papers. Formerly of the Royal Carl Rosa, and the Moody-Manners Opera Companies. Address offers, 45, Shudehill, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Smart London Variety Musical Director, open to re-engagement, Violinist and Pianist, to date library. Box 2,733, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor (Violin), with own band, 5 or more, including 2 ladies, any business. 19, Mayton-street, Holloway.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. Taggart (Violin and Piano) desires engagement, conductor or leader, tour or resident. Refs.; experienced. 21, Beaconsfield-rd, Brighton.

WANTED, by Leonard Spohr Tute, acknowledged to be one of the smartest conductors and instrumentalists extant, re-engagement, theatre, vaudeville, or tour. 31, Marie Hill-parade, Cheltenham

WANTED, Known, T. Reynolds, at Liberty as Leader, Tenting Season; good Répertoire of music for Circus Business. Add., Red Lion, Coleshill.

WANTED, by Leader, Engagement, Tenting or otherwise, strictly temperate; good Répertoire of music. Can supply steady, respectable Brass Band. H. JAMES, 15, Lower Drayton-place, Croydon, Surrey.

WANTED, by First Violin and Solo Clarionet Combined, Permanent Engagement, twenty years' experience, Orchestra, Military, and Orchestral business. Apply, T. MASON, c/o Mr. Young, 97, Friars-street, Warwick.

WANTED, Engagement in Ladies' Band, Violinist and 'Cellist. Disengaged in Spring. Miss VIOLET LUND, Nutfield, Gore Park-road, Eastbourne.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin or Viola, Experienced.
A. G. HILL, 24, Cassell-road, Fishponds, Bristol.

WANTED, Situation as Violinist, any Business, sober and reliable; good references. Apply, SIM YATES, Pier Pavilion Orchestra, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin or Viola, London preferred. Deputising done. A. C., 64, Whitney-road, Leyton.

WANTED, by First or Second Violin, Engagement, any Business; experienced. Good refs. VIOLINIST, 86, Park-place, Darlington.

WANTED, by Cornet Player, Engagement; good any business; sober and attentive. Address, PILLING, c/o Mr. Buer, 13, Graham-st., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet, First or Second, at Liberty, London preferred, young, steady. CORNET, 43, Marshall-st., London-rd., S.E.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Variety or any Business. Good testimonials. ALFRED RICHARD BENZING, 3, Ridgmount-street, Ampthill-road, Bedford.

WANTED, Known, First-Class Clarionettist or Double Bass, at Liberty Feb. 19 till March 5, Opera, Concert, &c. METCALF, Pavilion, Buxton.

WANTED, Engagement, for the Summer Season, by Clarionet and Saxophone Soloist, Orchestra or Military Band. O. BIOLCATI, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Experienced, Engagement, any capacity. Apply, F. V., c/o Crockett, 8, St. John's-lane, West Smithfield, London.

WANTED, Engagement by Bassoon, for Season, &c.; good experiences and refs.
BASSOON, Queen's T., and 50, Merrion-st., Leeds.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, Military or String, Orchestra; good ref. Seaside or other. T. HOPKINS, Hall-road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham.

WANTED, by Practical Musician, Engagement, Trombone, or Euphonium, Orchestra, or Band; exceptional references. G. HEBBRON, 4, Hyacinth-street, North Strand, Dublin.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, Engagement for Summer, Seaside, by 'Cello and Viola (Violin) Player; good Soloists. Pump Room Concerts, Bath. F. WEISBACH, 16, Pulteney-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, by Experienced Lady 'Cellist, Evening Engagement in London, Sundays excepted. 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, Maida Vale.

WANTED, immediately Engagement, by Viola or Violin, first-class references. Wire or write, H. GLAISTER, 25, Dan-y-Parc, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (Age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, as Solo or Orchestral Harpist, Piano if required. Address, Miss WALTERS, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth. Reference to Mr. Dan Godfrey.

WANTED, Engagement by Experienced and Reliable Flute and Piccolo Player, Theatre, Variety, or Concert Orchestra. Last Season, Municipal Orchestra, Ramsgate. SAGINOR, 41, Settles-street, Commercial-road, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, Flautist, any business. Highest references.
BARDSLEY, 106, Peter-street, Blackpool, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Flute and 'Cello, Ladies, finished ten months London Coliseum. Apply, H., 121, Albany-street, Regent's Park.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist, Licentiate R.A.M. Highest references. Address, W. B. C., 4, Stanhope-avenue, Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Pianist and Concert Organist. Highest references. Box 2,698, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, at once, by Pianist, sober and reliable, could combine clarionet. Good references. PIANIST, 35, Devonshire-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, has had twelve years' experience in Var., Dramatic; reader; refs; steady, reliable; any bus. PIANIST, 24, Harvey-street, Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Pianist, Sight-reader; sober, gentlemanly; any business; excellent references. 55, Ellesmere-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist-Harpist, any business; good experience. References. SINCLAIR, 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, by Smart Youth, used to Variety; good reader. FRED GRIMSHAW, 23, White-st., Seedley, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer, in Good Orchestra, as Drums, Timps., &c., thoroughly experienced. 95, South-street, Rochdale.

WANTED, by First-class Double Drummer and Tympanist, good permanent Summer or Engagement. SULLIVAN, Military Band, Penzance. Reference, Conductor, Penzance.

WANTED, Season's Engagement, as Drums and Effects, thoroughly experienced and reliable; Military or Orchestra W. HAYES, 165, Breck-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, with Drums and Effects, any Business. Good refs.
BILLY PALMER, Presto House, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, to Book, Engagements for Coming Season, by Methodios Roumanian Orchestra, Successes at Brighton, Blackpool, &c. 7, John Evangelist-road, Highgate-road.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Ladies' Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet engaged Johannesburg, January to July.

WANTED, Known, a Well-known London Orchestral Band requires Summer Engagement, pier or hotel, smart uniform. HAMPTON, Parkshot, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer Season, by well-known Musical Family of five, as Orchestra and Speciality Instrumentalists, for Pier, Hotel, Gardens, &c. Could supply any number of musicians; management undertaken and Artists supplied if required. Wide experience; magnificent library. Apply in first instance, Box 2,744, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS,
LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, the very best Talent at Liberty from Feb. 12, something good and new write at once. Note.—Ohmy appeared on Wednesday last for his Benefit, and performed his Gymnastic Sensation before the greatest audience ever seen in the town. Hundreds turnd away, and everyone that was present said it was the greatest show before the public.
Address, KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, PAISLEY, N.B.
Now in full tide of Success.
WANTED, Big Novelties, Aerial Shows, any Act that can be done in an Arena, for Feb., onwards. Address, TRANSFIELD, as above. The above building to be sold or let at the end of March or April. For full particulars, TRANSFIELD.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

Ici on Parle Français, Man Spricht Deutsch.
Telephone, No. 288.
Telegraphic Address: "Zalva, Scarborough."
GEO. ZALVA'S INTERNATIONAL AGENCY.
Residential Offices: The Hippodrome, Scarborough.
Sole Appointed Agent for the
Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes.
Hengler's, Glasgow, Scarborough Hippodrome,
Gilbert's Circus, Exeter.

WANTED, First-Class Acts, of every description, immediate and future dates; now Booking for Summer Resorts. Give full Bookings and lowest Terms first letter. Westwoods wire address. Contracts waiting.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, Equestrians, Animal Acts, Specialities, &c., for immediate and future dates.
Address, C. ALGIE.
P.S.—Double Drummer, with effects, communicate.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Circus, Tenting, Ireland, commencing Easter Monday, Artists in all Lines, Novelties, Animal Acts, Singing and Talking Clowns, Lady and Gentleman Singers and Dancers, a Good Ringmaster, one that can lecture a little; also a Good Tent Master, and Stud Groom and Lampman, and a few Good Grooms and Tentmen. Only sober and reliable people need apply. Will Vora and Joe Ashby communicate immediately to HANNEFORD, Circus, 5, George-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Aërial Novelties, Big Attractions, All Kinds of Acrobatic Turns, Single and Double Acts, for F tes, June, July, and August. Apply, stating lowest terms, sample lithos., &c., to WILDER'S, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Bank Holiday, Aug. 6, 1906, for Kidderminster Weavers' Monster Fête and Picnic, First-class Aërial Performers, and other Artists. Best Talent only. Lithos., posters, and all particulars as to terms, &c., to be sent without delay to HY. GRIFFITHS, 241, Hurcott-road, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Mansfield Hippodrome, Ring and Stage Novelties, Specialities, all Branches; must be new to Mansfield. Address, MORRELLA, as above.

WANTED, Wire Acts, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Cyclists, Novelties, for Easter, Whitsun, and Gala Season. Litnos., bills, permanent address, WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, Gala Acts all Lines, the bigger the better, can book anything up to £50 per day. Communicate at once, with full list of bookings, sample memos. and lithos, SMALLEY'S Gala Agency, 11, Kennington-mansions, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Young Lady Gymnast, one Experienced in Ring and Trapeze Work preferred. Send age, height, and refs., BELLATZER SISTERS, Stoll Tour.

WANTED, Young Man, and Lad over 14 years of age, for Top Mounter, Acrobats. Send terms, F. HENRIQUES, Three Henriques, Her Majesty's T., Walsall.

WANTED, Smart Young Girl, age 14 or 15, to learn Good Wire Act with another Lady, one that can do a little on the Wire preferred. Sends particulars, with photo. Address, SISTERS BOORN, Cirque St. Sebastien, Louvain, Belgium.

WANTED, Known, Lad, Tumbler, wishes to join Acrobatic Troupe or Comedy Act. G. R. SHANKS, 339, Caledonian-rd., S.S., Glasgow.

Important.

WANTED, Top Mounter, for well-known Troupe, to join immediately. State weight, Tricks, and Salary. Address, Box 2,728, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella, greatest and best existing Lion Show of the World, Vacant May 7, onwards. Comm., week, Feb. 5, Empire Palace, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Caban, with his marvellous Act of Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, at Liberty, 12th, 19th, 26th. Wire for Monday 5th, Salary or Share. C. CABAN, Lyceum Theatre, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Known, that Miss Pinder is now making a Big Success twice daily at the Agricultural Hall, London, with her New Novel Equestrian Performance, Riding Dog and Flight of Pigeons. The only lady doing this turn on any stage. Liberty Feb. 12, with John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist. Address, Agricultural Hall, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, William Biddall is at Liberty, without own horse, for tenting, for jockey bar act, flying rings, home or abroad. Address, Tuder's Circus, Blyth, Northumberland.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Equestrians, own horse, now at Liberty; also for tenting. Add., 5, Thornley-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Funny Musical Talking Clown, with Entrées, Liberty for Tenting, Home or Abroad. 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Matthewson, Clown and Agouste, at Liberty for Summer or Tenting. Address, 9, Addison-st., off Clayton-st., Wigan.

WANTED, Known, Eleonora, Lady Gymnast, and the Beautiful Vanda, in her great Juggling Speciality on the Revolving Globe; also La Belle Tosca, Charming Wire Expert; three distinct Specialities, Vacant Feb. and March; also three or four first-class Specialities, for Galas. Always big success everywhere. Perm. address, 30, Great King-street, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Flora Steckel, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Speciality, Lib. Feb. 12, 19, 26. This week, Circus, Bury; Monday, Circus, Leigh, Lancs. STEBBINGS.

WANTED, Known, the Five Sisters Bellatzer, Lady Gymnasts, with their graceful Ring and Trapeze act, vacant March 19, onwards. Address, Stoll Tour.

WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, by Unda and Ovah, Burlesque Triple Bar Comedians. Wire, 11, Kennington-mansions, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Elton and Elma, in their great Knockabout Triple Bar Act, Liberty Monday. Wire, 301, Weelsby-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Feb. 5, 12, 19, Mayeno Trio (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Stilt Tumblers, Tub Posturers, Perm. add., Turley's Hotel, Chichester-st., Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Stebbing Bros., Acrobats, vacant one week, Feb. 12. No other vacancies until November. Wire or write, Theatre, Bilston.

WANTED, Fêtes, Galas, &c., Sisters Rizareli, Novel Revolving Trapezes Act; also The Recars, Chinese Acrobats, Two Acts. 3, Bowdon-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Mr. Bob Padley, Contortionist, and Acrobatic Speciality, Vacant Feb. 12 and 19. Monday next, Theatre Royal, Colne.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, Most Daring High-rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous Success. 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Paulotti, Leaping Staircase Acrobatic Cyclist, an Act away from others. Look out for my new trick; a startler. Big success Cat and speciality. Free March onwards, Galas. Theatre Royal, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Phinias and Aida, Revolving Equilibrists, Liberty Feb. 12, also tenting season, several acts. Ohmy's Circus, Leigh.

WANTED, by Alfonzo, Great Foot Equilibrist, Feb. 5, Tenting Feb. 26; Lib. Panto. Wire sharp, 48, Balaclava-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by boy, 16, Situation, with Trick or Comedy Cyclists. Good Comedy Rider. Address, JOE CARLISLE, 38, Annadale-street, Belfast.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for the Winter Gardens, Plymouth, Feb. 12, onwards, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Good Singers and Dancers; also male and female Bare-backed Equestrians, to ride Own Horse. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK.

SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, Feb. 10, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Good Variety Artists, also Artists with Good Specialities for London. Apply by letter, stating full particulars, terms, and where turns can be seen, F. DARRELL and Co., 415, Strand.

WANTED, Variety Artists, weeks commencing Feb. 12 and 19. State lowest terms. MANAGER, 17, Whyteville-road, Forest Gate, E.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANHOPE and Co., 63, Regent-st., W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Star Artists, Big Attractions, for Fêtes and Galas, Piers and Summer Gardens, Big Aerial and Ground Acts, June 4, onwards. Lady Speciality Artists, May 14. Variety Artists Feb. 12, onwards. Terms, &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

EDINBURGH.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Acrobats, Jugglers, Vents., and Novelties of every description. Lowest terms, with sample of litho., TOM MORTIMER, c/o Leckie and Hardie, 6, Rose-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Artists, for London, immediate dates. Write, or call, with full particulars, J. W. JOHNSON, Variety and Speciality Agent, 86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 5, 19, onwards, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Always opening for good Freak.

MURRAY, MOORE, and CO., Theatrical and Variety Agents, 6, Duke-street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 12366 Central.

WANTED, Immediately, First-class Artists, all Lines. Call, write, or telephone where working.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, MANAGER.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK. Lessee and Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Comedy Star Artists, in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for Feb. 12, 1906. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for this Season's Fêtes and Galas, &c. WILL TEMPLE, Amusement Caterer, 76, Parliament-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, hall small. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Big Animal Acts, sharing terms. Artists booked, send bill matter sharp. JOHN CLEMPERT, see Card. Wire.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for immediate dates. ANDERSON'S Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, known to me. Nothing too Big. ATLAS, Agent, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD. DR. CARL HERMANN'S COMBINATION.

WANTED, the following Artists to attend Rehearsal, 1 o'clock, Monday, Feb. 5: Dr. Carl Hermann, Three Bostonians, Mozetto, Juggler, Wild Willie and West, The Bounding Navvies, Cytoza, The Artist's Model, Bros. Lilian (silver chain experts), Fred S. Peake and Co., in "The Hypocrite," Cyrus Dare (mimic and Society entertainer), George P. Taunton, in a delightful twentieth century episode, "The Hermascope," with latest pictures.
Notice.—Through cancelling to oblige Mr. Macnaghten, Dr. C. Hermann is at liberty Feb. 19, singly or with Combination; First-class houses only.

WANTED, for Feb. 12, 19, and 26, Stars in all Lines. Stars in all Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. State Towns at Liberty for. Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks. CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Town and Country, Big Stars and Tops, for Feb. 12, onwards. Nothing too Big. Artists on my books keep me posted. FRED NEIMAN, 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted. Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that TOM CLAXTON'S English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

WANTED, Stars, Nothing too Big. Send full Bookings and Terms to FRANK LYNNE, Empire Theatre, Bradford. AYTOUN'S Agency.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., Feb. 5, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076, Royal.

WANTED, Stars, Feb. 12, 19, on; must Draw. Best Syndicates. AYTOUN, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Star Turns, Big Specialities, and Comedy Acts, for Monday, Feb. 12, and onwards; nothing small required. Please forward full vacant dates, lowest terms, and lithos. Interviews by appointment only.

WANTED, Variety Turns, for Wednesday and Saturday, 7th and 10th; pair Sisters write. BART STEWART, George Variety Theatre, Crawley.

GRAND THEATRE, DONCASTER. Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. CHAPMAN.

WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the Profession, Comedy Acts, Tops of Bills, &c. Send full particulars and bookings to LEO FRITZ'S Agency, 55, Haverstock-road, London, N.W.

WANTED, Star Acts, of every Description, for Towns and Seaside, Big Tops and Bottoms. List of bookings, terms, &c., YATES'S Agency, Church-avenue, Weaste, Manchester.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

WANTED, for Above, Big Comedy Acts, Sketches, &c., in fact, anything big, Feb. 12, onwards. All communications to JESS VERNO, 61, West Derby-st., L'pool. Silence a polite negative.

The Old Firm 23 Years, and Still Performing. Just returned from Irish Tour, Cork, Dublin, and Belfast; also Splendid Success with Booking Tour. WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, the Best of Everything; must be Refined. Address, DREW BAYLEY, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE, CORK.

WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, and onwards, Big Specialities, Novelties, Animal Shows, Jugglers, Cycle Acts, Comedians, &c., must be refined or useless. No Sketches.

Call Monday, Feb. 5:
Tan Kawi Troupe,
Squire and Leslie,
The Jansons,
The Great Vincent,
Ladderites,
Bros. Obo,
Three Sisters Geronde,
The Cranks,
The Three Zaracs.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

THE SCARBOROUGH HIPPODROME.

WANTED, First-class Shows, complete in themselves, on share or rental, proscenium opening 29ft. wide. The largest and most popular building in the town. Shall be pleased to hear from any Good Show for Easter and Whit Week. Apply, GEO. ZALVA.

WANTED, Good Combinations, Picture Shows, Minstrels, Choirs, Musical Comedies, Dramas, &c. Wire, wire, HERBERT, Town Hall Theatre, Methil, Scotland.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, for Two Weeks only, March 12 and 19, First-class Variety Novelties, Comedy Acts; must be really good, and free from vulgarity. Lowest terms to Adam Smith Hall, Kirkcaldy, N.B.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

WANTED, by the Ramsgate Amusements Committee, Offers from a First-class Comedian Concert Party, consisting of not less than Five Performers, for the use of the Cliff Band Stands, for Concert Performances for the ensuing Season, on Sharing Terms. Particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.
Offers endorsed "Concert Party," and addressed to the Chairman of the Amusements Committee, must reach Albion House on or before Feb. 10.
The Committee do not bind themselves to accept any offer.

E. C. BYRNE, Town Clerk.
Albion House, Ramsgate, Jan. 25, 1906.

WANTED, First-class Pierrot Troupe or Sketch Party, for Easter, also Season. West End Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED, Two Coloured Boys, Sing and Dance. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, not over 10st., to play Johnny, Comedy, good Trampoline Tumbler. Full particulars, Box 2,727, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, for London, a few cheap Animal Performers, used to working in a skin. Call to-day or Monday, ASHTON'S Royal Agency, 31, 32, 33, Henrietta-st., Covent Garden.

WANTED.—Agent desires meet attractive Young Lady. Photo, age, height, financial position, other confidential particulars, Box 2,740, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Bioscope for Tour; must do One Hour's Show. Open Feb. 12. State terms and where pictures can be seen. ALFRED SAKER & Co., 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, London.

WANTED, by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, Ten Operators, immediately; permanent work for good men. Apply, 12, Little Newport-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Expert Bioscope Operator, thoroughly accustomed alternating and direct currents. Give references. VERNON'S Bioscope, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Good Operator, for Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscopes. 346, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, just finished Panto., playing Title-Rôle, big success, with Peter Eland's Pantomime; also Nellie Vann, Comedy Artist and Dancer, at Liberty Mon. and Tour. Wire, B., 158, Witton-road, Aston, Birmingham. Large lithos.

WANTED, by Lizzie Leaver, Child Comedienne, handsome wardrobe, requires Monday; also Feb. 12. Wire best offer, City of Varieties, Leeds.

WANTED, Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Vocalist, Serio, and Dancer. Vacant Monday. Wire, Public Hall, Malton, Yorks.

WANTED, by Darnton Sisters, Brilliant Serio-Comic Duettists, Engagement, Feb. 5, 12. Wire, 23, Raikes-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Kardoc, the World's Greatest Handcuff King, and his Model Police Cell, with £50 challenge, free Feb. 12, and few dates, onward. For address see Card, Wire.

WANTED, by Florence and Lillian, in their Artistic Musical Act, one week, Feb. 19. Address, Feb. 5, Palace, Southampton; Feb. 12, Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Funniest Single Act before the Public. Liberty. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 5 and 19, by Will Belasco, in his Musical Speciality Act. Wire, 37, Doon-street, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Alf Shirley, Two Acts, Specialty Banjo, Song, Patter, &c.; also Song Illustrations, own Lantern, Tour. 82, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London.

WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26, by Allan Hanbury, Comedian. Next week, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Harry Vent, comedian, town or country; lithos. Wire or write, 8, Lysander-grove, Upper Holloway, N.

WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, by John E. West, Scotch Versatile Comedian and Dancer, "The Quaint Scot." Communications, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

WANTED, Monday next, 5th and 12th, Stanto, Trick Musical Act, Comedian, Sabot Dancer, Two Acts, Elaborate Electric Fit-up. Wire or write, People's Palace, Merthyr Tydfil.

WANTED, Feb. 12, Palette, Lightning Artist, and Dog Max. Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil; next, Kursaal, Harrogate. Per., 28, Amberley-st., Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Dan Leo, Handcuff King and Comedy Instrumentalist; two challenges. Vacant Feb. 12, onwards. Write, Corporation Stables, Portsmouth. Two distinct turns.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Clever and Pretty Hoop Act, requires next two weeks, through Colchester closing. 7, Clifford-st., Oxford-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 12, Prof. Arnold, Artistic Magical Act; the Provincial Representative Magician. Wire, Grand Theatre, Chorley, Lancs.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Feb. 12, March 5, April 9, by A. P. Boswell, the Comedy Furniture Shifter. Wire, 7, Market-rd., Gt. Yarmouth, Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 12, 19, Harry Gold, Clever Comedian, Song Scena, &c., Wire, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, Wire.

WANTED, at Liberty Feb. 12, 19, onwards, George Wood (the Original Dude), Unique, Eccentric Comedy Act, or part in Sketches, introducing speciality. Address, Care of SAM DALTON, 174, New Kent-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, Bob Rixby, Quaint Comedian, also Feb. 12. Enormous success, Palace, Oldbury. Offers, 348, Ladypool-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Frank Whiteley, great Success Oxford, Middlesbrough; Liberty Mon., Feb. 5; good turn. Wire, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Feb. 19, Ernie Leech, Premier Singing Ventriloquist Quartette, four distinct voices. Perm., 28, Hall O'Shaw, Crewe.

WANTED, Engagement, Feb. 5, Martinette, Boy Ventriloquist, "The Ventriloquist's Dilemma," introducing the flying and vanishing figure. Wire, 37, Titchfield-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, I, Harry Jennings, will in future be known as C. H. Fergus, in Songs, Patter, and Dancing. Signed, HARRY JENNINGS, Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, Dates, for Prof. Hocking, Electric Healer, Feb. 12, onward. Sole Agent, J. LARDER, Var. Agency, 22, Levington-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Feb. 12 W. H. West, Character Comedian. Speciality, Comical Donkey. Perm. add., 88, Hurst-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, by Raglus, indiarubber ball manipulator and concertina soloist, two acts, Feb. 12. Last week London Pavilion. London Pavilion.

WANTED, Monday next, by Charles Dawson, Great Comedian, Immense Hit of New Songs. Wire, 74, Newmarket-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, May 21, June 11, the Original Kyoto, May Geraldine, Comedienne, Stoll Tour. Success E., Holloway. Mon., Empire, New Cross. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, by Miss Belle Dinmont, Comedienne; and Alf. Hey, Vocal Comedian. Wire, 59, Great Jackson-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 19, The Moncktons, Screaming Musical Comedy Act, "A Woman's Curiosity." Refer Herbert Barrs, Esq. Next, Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 5, by Clyo and Rochelle, the Laughter Makers. Wire, to-day, Hippodrome, Maidstone.

WANTED, by The Amphletts, Harry and Lill, Comedy and Harmonising Duettists, Monday next. Wire, Empire Music Hall, Wrexham.

WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, by Lily Pender, Speciality Comedienne; Bob Pearson, Vocal Comedy Act. Wire, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, by Teddie Worth and Nellie Stuart, Comedy Artists, Hit of every Programme. Address, Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists, and Skaters, also Lilian Sivado, Lady Gymnast, Two Acts, Liberty for Galas. Blue Bell Hotel, Stockport.

WANTED, Monday, Doris Myddleton, Actress, Vocalist, and Musical Howard. Peter Eland, Esq., says: I consider Doris the best child actress I have ever seen. Wire, St. George's Hall, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Terry and Snowdon, at Liberty March 12. Offers invited. Good agent required. See Cards. Royal, Aston.

WANTED, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two distinct acts, Feb. 12, 19, and later dates. Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, Handel and Lee, Liberty Monday, Feb. 5 only, Big Success, Macnaghten Tour. Another Big Hit, Central Hall, Sheffield. Wire.

WANTED, Feb. 5 and 12, by Carl and Carr, Comedians. Thanks for Offers. Wire, Theatre Royal, Worcester. Wire quick.

WANTED, Feb. 5, onward, by Wheeler and Wilson (not singers), comedy acrobats. Wire, wire, wire, 16, Kitchener-rd., Selly Park, B'ham.

WANTED, by Doyle and Gibson, the Smart Patter Comedians, Monday first, and Feb. 12. Wire, Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Astley Bros., Refined Comedians and Patterers, Vacant Feb. 12, onwards. Big Success in Panto. Next week, T. R., Colne, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Alf Keir (late Keir and Allen), Eccentric Knockabout Comedian, at Liberty to join Troupe, Sketch, or Partner. 22, Ribble-place, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Smarte Bros., Liberty March, with new and original acrobatic act, Big Success, "Blue Beard" Panto., Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Rezene and Robini, vacant Feb. 19. Only vacancy this year. Address, 1, Fulford-mansions, Fairmead-road, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known, Austin and Austin, in their eccentric acrobatic chair act; also Footit, first-class foot equilibrist; two acts, at Liberty Feb. 17. Ohmy's Circus, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Ryde and Beeman, Eccentric Acrobats. Vacant Monday. Wire Tivoli, High Shields. After Sat., 3, Barton-st., Pendleton.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, World-renowned Musical Clowns. Vacant. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Forest and King, the two pieces of elastic.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq. Vacant Feb. 5, 12, 19. Wire, 126, Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Three Royal Temples, including Lame Gilbert. Engaged by Arthur Milton, Esq., for Panto., 1906-7.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 5 and 12, also the 26th, by the Lovelakes, American Song Illustrators. Great success this week with new song, Grand, Halifax.

WANTED, Monday next, by Sarco, Novelty Ventriloquist; and Coma, Merry Magician; two distinct acts. Wire, 1, Sackville-st., Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Monday, the Davenports, Lightning Magicians, Vacant through obliging Signor Pepi, at Barrow. Great success, this week, Hippo., Grimsby. Wire.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted. Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26, by the Albano Troupe, Albano Troupe, the Greatest Refined Musical Act of the World. 38, Macdonald-street, Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, the Cavalottis, Instrumentalists, Vacant Feb. 12 and 19. Big Success, Hippo., Ashton; next week, Hippo., Salford. Wire or write at once.

WANTED, by the Henderson and Stanley Quartette, Monday next, one of the best acts in the business. 50, Shepherd-street, Bury.

WANTED, Monday next, by Four Abadaroffs, in Great Comedy Act, "Prehistoric Peeps." Wire 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Seven Wulfrunas, Lady and Gentlemen Acrobats. Success, Palace, Belfast; Liberty Monday. Wire, after Saturday, 6, Prince's-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, March 5, 12, for Stella Harcourt, Thrilling Sketch Company, entitled "Child Witness." Offers. 8, Gilmour-st., Ardwick.

WANTED, Known, Sergt.-Major Williams, Military Dogs, for Stage or Ring. Feb. 5, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Letters to 43, Lowerhead-row, Leeds.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, for Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensational and Daring High Ladder Act. LECLAIR, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors, Managers, and Agents, to See the Latest, Brightest, and most Complete American Opera Comique Extravaganza ever put upon a Music Hall Stage. Produced Jan. 29, 1906, at Empire, Islington, and presented on a Scale of Unsurpassed Magnificence, entitled, "OMA SEER." The Mysterious Millionaire, the most Mirth-provoking Novelty possible to find. It has Magnificent Scenery, Gorgeous Dresses, the most Beautiful Music, an Orchestra too Funny for Words, Powerful Chorus of Trained Vocalists. 30 minutes of Real Fun without Vulgarity.

Monday, Feb. 5, DUCHESS PALACE, BALHAM.

After its First Performance the above Novelty was immediately Secured for Five Weeks by Walter Gibbons, Esq. First Vacant Date, March 5, and by that time it will be the Greatest Drawing Number possible to find.

Remember the title, "OMA SEER."

Proprietor, GUNING-DAVIS. Business-Manager, "SPOT." Stage-Manager, FRED TERRISS.

WANTED, Regular Employment for Magic Kettle and Handcuff Act Expert. For particulars, apply, BURGESS, Cooper's Fold, Cheadle, Hulme, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Knockabout Tumbler and Boxer wants Shop Act, Sketch or Drama. Vac. Feb. 5. SAM LEO, 5, Ely-ter., Mile End-rd., E.

WANTED, by Known Performer, join Knockabout Sketch Team or Comedy Assistant for Juggler, with bookings; can speak German. LEA, Palace, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, that the London Cinématograph Syndicate have Operators, with High-class Machines and Films, available for Animated Pictures. Reasonable terms. Address, 206, Queen's-road, Packham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Music-Hall Proprietors and Managers, up-to-date Bioscope, good show guaranteed, with gas or electric; have open Dates for Aug. and Sept. Terms moderate. J. W. RAYSON, Con. Agency, Humberstone-rd., Leicester.

WANTED, Engagements, latest machine, 20 minutes, 70s. weekly; longer shows; Illustrated Songs; join at once. OPERATOR, 57, Crystal Palace-road, East Dulwich.

WANTED, Bioscope Engagements, 20-minutes' shows, £3 per week; 40-minutes', £4; six shows, longer shows if required. Lot fine coloured Song Slides, &c., to sell cheap. MORRIS, 18, Tweed-street, Liverpool.

Wire, Wire, Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, Bioscope, Musical Act, Knockabouts, Comedians, and Novelties of every description, for town near London. Wire, Wire, Wire. W. FURNO DRAKE, 177, Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Re-engagement as First-Class Competent Bioscope Operator; good refs. Address, G. SKILLINGTON, Crown and Woolpack Hotel, Lincoln.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a Complete COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS FOR FEBRUARY, 1906. (COPYRIGHT TO THE ERA.)

Feb.	
3	Nantwich
5	Kineton
13	Beaconsfield
13	Harrogate
14	King's Lynn
14	Dorchester
27	Lichfield
27	Longton
28	Bildesden
28	Tetbury

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, wishes to publicly thank all those Clients with whom I so successfully transacted business during the Showmen's Meeting Week, at the World's Fair, also those that gave me their instructions to act for them in the future, and beg also to announce that I shall attend Lynn Mart, where I hope to meet old clients and friends and make new ones. Gentlemen, give me your instructions, and you may depend upon receiving my immediate and very best attention, for I do my own Auctioneering, &c., and believe I do it well. Ask that grand old man, the oldest, the greatest, and the best Showman in the world, Lord George Sanger. My ambition is to please you. All instructions, commissions, &c., to Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, TOM ORTON, The Showman Fire Insurance Man, Security, Security, Security. An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks. Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, TOM ORTON, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Move with the times, or get left.

WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time. Send for catalogue and testimonials, MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO., 120, York-road, King's Cross, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

WANTED, Showmen, to Know that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage paid on all orders, £2. Write for Price List, or call, LEETE'S Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Great Clearance of Slot Machines, extra cheap, genuine Tivoli, Barrel, Rotary, Billiards, Fair-Play, Electric, Blow Ball, Castle, and others. HAYDON, Church-street, Islington.

Auctioneers.

WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches. Auctioneers only supplied. Write to-day for particulars. C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Travellers, &c Send for our list. Everything for the Fair; new Throwing Games, &c. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, Known, Table Battery, 60s.; Weighing and Height Machine, 50s. Puncher, 70s.; Football Joint, 60s.; 3-joint 31ft. Striker, 70s. STACEY, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, Wire Worker, Glass Blower, any Good Palmist, for Custon's Waxworks, 15 of the best halls booked in S.W., open Feb. 12; Abertillery. Want a Good Billposter, sobriety indispensable, and must have thorough knowledge of S. Wales. Permanent address, 69, Holton-rd., Barry Dock, Glam.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, First-class Novelties, with Paintings or Posters, for two of the best shops in London. This is no bogus advertisement. I am prepared to pay any up-to-date show £10 per week, if good, or will give a share. Shops are situated in 351, North End-road, Fulham, and 129, Whitechapel-road. All communications to the MANAGER, Madame Vallus's Permanent Exhibition, 129, Whitechapel-road, London, E

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings, Walham Green and Peckham; good shops for good shows. Wire for Monday. SPINCH, 62, Rye-lane, Peckham.

WANTED, Quick-showing Novelties, Open Saturday for Two Side-shows. Liberal terms, shares. Wire or call, 188, Woolwich-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Novelties, on sharing or other terms, for the Miniature World's Fair. Admission free. Open on Sundays. Also Specialities for Novelty Booths, starting shortly. Living Wagons found. Apply, 150, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway.

WANTED, Several Auctioneers of Good Repute; must have licences, and be Extra Good Money Takers. Apply, with full particulars, to SIMONS, The Auctioneer's Caterer, 100-1-2-4, Houndsditch, London, E.C.

WANTED, Comedian, for Inside, one that can sing a comic song state age and terms, one used to show business preferred. CRIGHTON'S Cinématograph, Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, to Open Monday, First-class Marionette Show, shares or salary, good flashes and letter-cloths. Wire, BELL, 30, Pentonville-road, London.

WANTED, Two Ladies, Tank Performers, with own Tank, Glass all sides. Send full particulars, with terms, Mr. WILSON, 49, Station-road, Kingsheath, Birmingham.

WANTED, at Once, a Funny Comedian, as Planksman for Auction Mart; must have plenty of good songs, one used to the business preferred. Apply, Box 2742, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Auctioneer, Smart Money-taker. Good Commission.
DOLAN, 15, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, at Once, Respectable Auctioneer, one that understands Secondhand Jewellery preferred. Apply, LEVENE, 75, Lord-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Young Lady, about 20, smart appearance, for Illusion, Side-show, for Monday next. Wire, MANAGER, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Good Refined Marionette Show, Deptford, March 14. Write lowest immediately. HERBERT M. SINDALL, 2, Harefield-road, Brockley, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Animated Pictures, Marionettes; also Royal Punch and Judy, with Dog Toby. 101A, Penwith-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, to join Showman, with large portable Building, with good frontage, to arrange show of Performing Animals, well known, consisting of Ponies, Donkeys, Dogs, Monkeys, &c.; a sure big money-maker. Apply, with size of building, &c., to C. C., 26, Union-street, Long Eaton.

WANTED, C. Mount at Liberty, as Lecturer or Doorsman, Fluent and Grammatical Speaker, dress well. P. O., Yoxford, Suff. After Mon., 34, Millman-street, London, W.C.

To Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, &c.
Messrs. P. COLLINS, Ltd.,
Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, Known, they are now open to book Tenants for their well-known and old-established Fair Grounds, commencing Shrove-Tide, Longton, Lichfield, and Oswestry,
March run in the Black Country;
Dudley, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Brierley Hill, and Stourbridge, up to Easter.
Easter, London, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Birkenhead; then continuous run over Bromsgrove, Midsummer Fair, Worcester July Races;
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Telegraphic address, "Gondola, Walsall." Telephone, No. 80, Walsall.

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WANTED, Known, the South Shore Fair Ground is the Only Place of Outdoor Entertainment and Attraction in Blackpool. Situated at South Shore, next the Promenade. The Electric Trams run right to it. Finest Position in the Town. The land faces the sea, and has a frontage of over 500yds. The Permanent Attractions now installed include the River Caves of the World, the Maxim Flying Machine, Helter Skelter, &c. Native Village Wanted. Room for New Attractions next Season. 14, Balmoral-road.

To Showmen.—Belfast.
WANTED, to Let, within about 100yds. of Royal Avenue, the leading street in Belfast, about 2,000 square yards Vacant Ground, with frontages to Library-street and Union-street. Apply to PROPRIETORS, Belfast Evening Telegraph.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces, for First-Class Automatic Machines. Apply,
KELLER and BROOKES, 130, Fleet-street, London.

WANTED, Known; to Roundabout, Shooting Galleries, and Side-show Proprietors. All applications for Hire of Pitches on the Walton Pleasure Grounds, near Peterborough, for the Fête and Gala to be held on Whit-Monday and Whit-Tuesday, June 4 and 5 next, to be addressed to BERTRAM KNIGHT, 18, Highlever-road, North Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, to Let, Stalls, Spaces, Suit Palmist, Tattooer, Games. Low rent. Apply early to ARTHUR HILL, Maxim Flying Machine, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all Travellers, that I have Ground to Let at all my well-known and old-established Spring Fairs, commencing first Saturday in March; also at the only recognised and acknowledged Easter Fair in Manchester, Queen's-road Ground; also Wolverhampton Market-place, Top Ground; and a continuous run of Wakes and Fairs throughout the entire season. Rents Moderate to tenants. All applications for Ground to be made to
JOHN COLLINS, World's Fair, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Photographs (Stickybacks), Jewellery, and Engraving, in the original Scenic Touring Exhibition. MANAGER, "Japan" Scenic Touring Exhibition, West Calder, N.B.

WANTED, Known.—Important Notice to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, and Stallholders, that I shall commence my usual Spring Fairs the second week in March, and continue until the end of the season, including Ordsall-lane for Easter, and Knutsford, &c. Applications to be made to sole lessee, JOHN WHITING, Anchorage, Stretford.

WANTED, to Rent, Space at a Seaside or any Pleasure Resort for the Coming Season, for the following: Wax Exhibition, Set Hobby Horses, Swings, Shooter, and Stalls of all Kinds. Reply, with particulars, EDWIN SHEEN, c/o G.P.O., Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Good Shop in Seaside Town, for Season, for new Waxwork Museum.
Apply, Box 2,735, "The Era."

WANTED, to Hire, a First-class Waxwork Exhibition, suitable for Small Halls, Side-shows and Entertainment engaged. LLOYD, Drill Hall, Lincoln.

WANTED, Known, Valcon, the Youthful Hercules, ideal strong show, vacant March 5, Fêtes, Galas, &c. Stewart's Exhibition, 164, High-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, to Sell, Remarkable Novelty, part Camel, part Horse, 3 years old, splendid worker, quiet in all harness, £6 has him. Room wanted. 150, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway.

WANTED, to Sell, La Mort, a First-class Illusion, suitable for Side Shows, &c.; also open to Buy First-class Illusions. SABIK, Post Office, Bridlington.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, to Sell, owing to Death of Proprietor,
Established over 50 Years.

Particulars, and Cards to see the Premises, from, and Offers for Goodwill and Stock, before 17th inst., to
J. KNOX CRAWFORD and SON, S.S.C.,
10, George-street, Edinburgh.

To Music Hall Managers, Showmen, and Entertainers.
WANTED, to Sell, Cheap for Cash, Complete Animated Picture Show, now touring the principal towns, can be seen working. Comprising machine, stands, films, electric and lime fittings, lantern, illustrated song slides, &c., handsome fit-up, sheets, and every possible item, comprising an up-to-date and complete picture entertainment. 12,000ft. of film, including "Rover," "New Errand Boy," &c., &c. The whole almost new; or could be sold in separate lots. If sold complete, a great bargain. A sure bargain, and handsome living for anyone. Absolutely every item required for a 3-hours' show is included in this lot. Apply, Box 2,746, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Ladies' Orchestra, comprising 10 life-size musicians, and conductress, with organ, complete. Cost about £1,000; no reasonable offer refused. Can be seen at BELLATTI'S, 54, Westow-st., Upper Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, to sell, carved and gilded Double Waggon, front road, opens out to 44ft., gold and paintings in first-class condition, underworks practically new, stages, steps, and all complete. Price £150, a bargain. Address, ANDERTON'S Grand Empire, Show Ground, Swindon.

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WANTED, to Sell, Road Living Waggon, 16ft. long, 7ft. wide, with two Living Compartments, and Backing Place in Centre, and 1ft. of Backing Room on Side, Water Tank underneath seat, Traction Engine; also want two Paraders (man and wife preferred), also Operator. Can join at once. Address, COTTRELL'S Exhibition, Show Ground, West Cornforth, co. Durham.

WANTED, to Sell, Portable Engine, with Dynamo, all in first-class order, can be seen working at Willesden Green, Dudding Hill Show Ground. ALF. BALL.

WANTED, to Sell, Portable Engine and Dynamo, also quantity of Arc Lamps, Incandescent Fittings, Cable, &c., in good condition; Engine by Green, late Wadbrooks and Hippo., Porth. Cheap for cash. Apply, C. W. POOLE, Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

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WANTED, to Sell.—To Rifle Range Proprietors, &c. Electric indicating targets, latest make; Lee-Metford Service Rifles, &c. MASON, 17, Settles-st., London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, the great Original Oil Painting, "The Slave Market at Cairo," Maxime Dastague's Masterpiece; a sure fortune to a steady, careful man. Apply, POOLE, Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, to Sell, Guessing Scales, Punch Ball, and all other Novelties in Automatics. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Buy, set of Juvenile Horses, set Juvenile Swings, Shooting Gallery, Waggon, or Bottle Shooter, also Rail Living Waggon, handy striker, joints of all kinds, must be in good order and cheap for immediate cash. State lowest possible prices and full particulars, to HARRY, 38, Strafford-street, Bristol.

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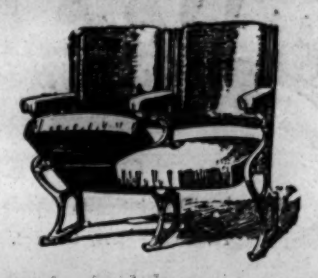

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Little Barney, Nellie Coleman, Dome, Palles and Cussick, Collins and Rice, McPhee and Hill, Sisters Slater, Uessems, Cora Caselli, Will H. Fox, Bioscope, Korries, Arthur and Griffiths.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Daybreakers," Bioscope, Riogoku Family, Baker and Lynn, Ruth Doris, Parks' Eton Boys, Madge Grey, Sylvester, Rhoda Bros., Collins and Hawley.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw, Huxter Bros., Bioscope, English and Penley, Conway and Leland, Mabel Hind, "Demon Chef," Tom White's Arabs.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Hackenschmidt, Bioscope, 5 Warwick Sisters, Bell and Henry, The Bandurrias, Macdonald Troupe, Fanny Robina, Benson and Geoffreys, Florrie St. Clair, T. C. Callaghan.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Selma Braatz, Bert Woodward, Ella Retford, Mendel, Mezzetti and Mora, Spessardy's Bears, O'Gust, Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, 3 Missouris, Seeley and West.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Madrali, George Ridgwell, Flem and Brok, Harry Clifford, Goggin and Davis, Bioscope, 3 Sisters Hayden, Prince Fee Lung, Arthur Melrose, Holden's Mannikins.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Staley's Transformation, A Bo Kou, Bioscope, Royal Six, W. H. Clemart, Frazer and Mac, Bijou Russell, Empire Comedy Four, James Fawn, Griff and Alpha.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Vasco, Alexandre and Bertie, Will Haines, Josephine Sabel, 3 Victorias, G. W. Hunter, Daisy Ray, Lux's Dogs, Amber and Austa, Elsie Clare, Marzella's Birds.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Charles Vincent, Florence St. John and Co., Virto and Daughters, Urma Sisters, Cooke and Rothert, Rauschle, Bioscope, Frank Harwood, Brontes, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Grigolatis, Lizzie Fletcher, Bioscope, Leo Stormont, Tony and Flo Vernon, Sisters Moulier, Marie Duma, Herbert La Martine, Barton and Ashley, Arthur Lennard.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Tschernoff's Dogs, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Nina Gordon, Bicknelle, Goldman-Holles Trio, D'Arc's Marionettes, Alf Gibson.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
T. E. Dunville, Driscoll and Beattie, Baker and Balfe, Bioscope, 5 Olracs, Les Ados, Terley, Ethel Ra Leslie, Sisters Chester, Mrs. Clement Scott and Co.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Sawade's Animals, Dan Conroy, Bioscope, F. Bertram and Co., 3 Merrils, Mueller and Coyne, Frobel and Ruge, Payne's Vagabonds, Helen Martin, Leslie Bros.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Mdlle. De Dio, 2 Cavaliers, 5 Delevines, 3 Renards, Warsaw Bros., Artois Bros., Sisters Anderson, Walter Munroe, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
The Kellinos, Duncan's Dogs, Esdale Bros., Howe and Ardie, Cape Girls, Sieedes Troupe, Kyoto, May Geraldine, A. C. Lilly and Co.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Chung Ling Soo, Laurie's Kindergarten, The O'Learys, Baxton Trio, Mariano Sisters, Terry and Lambert, Forrest Co., Dumond Minstrels, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
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EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Tarro Myaki, Verno and Voyce, The Picquays, Sisters Dare, Ryan and Hall, Albertus and Bartram, Wally Hoste Trio, Sybil St. Elmo, Sisters Gasch.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Dr. Bodie, Ike Scott and Son, Trapnell Family, The Howards, Alexandra Dagmar, Viviana, Wood and Bates, Hayes and Suits, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Geo. Gray and Co., Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Duncan and Godfrey, Prince Kokin, Harry Drew, Sadie Simpson.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Moses and Son," Bioscope, Ruth Molloy, Harry Brown, Sisters Geretti, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Powell's Marionettes, Morton and Elliott.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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Rehearsal at 1 for :—
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Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
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A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

I regret that this explicit statement is rendered necessary in order to emphatically contradict a false rumour now being circulated to the effect that my resignation was asked for.

The true facts are that for reasons of my own I preferred not to continue in my position as London District Manager, and I therefore notified Mr. Stoll in writing to this effect, informing him that I desired to terminate my engagement on the expiry of the three months' notice period.

I thank Mr. Stoll not only for his personally expressed goodwill and promised remembrance of my past services, but also for his unfailing kindness and consideration during the long period of nearly eight years that I have been under engagement to him.

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THE

DOUGLAS TOWN COUNCIL INVITE TENDERS

for the SEASON of 1906

(1) For the right to perform on one or more suitable positions on the Foreshore; nature of entertainment to be stated; exact position to be fixed by the Borough Surveyor.

(2) For occupancy of Band Stand on the Harris Promenade during the Forenoon and Afternoon, for Musical Entertainments. Applicants to state the nature of the entertainments.

(3) The right to perform with a suitable String Band on the Public Music Stands within the Borough, other than those on the Promenades, and to perform on the Band Stand during the Evenings.

Separate tenders may be submitted for 1 or 2 or 3, or alternative tenders may be submitted for all or any two of the rights advertised above.

Persons tendering to state the nature of the respective entertainments, number and description of performers in each class of entertainment, and all other necessary particulars.

Persons tendering must do so on the condition that any tender is subject to the conditions of letting laid down by the Council, copies of which conditions can be seen at the Town Hall, Douglas, or obtained on application to the undersigned.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender. Tenders, endorsed "Entertainments," to be forwarded to the undersigned not later than Monday, the 12th day of February, 1906.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Douglas, January, 1906.

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Dated this 18th day of January, 1906.

AUGS. WHITEHORN,
Clerk to the Council,
60, Saville Street,
North Shields.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION

The Town Council invite applications for a Lease of the following part of the above premises, for three years, at a rent of £800 a year, payable quarterly in advance :—

The Great Hall (130ft. by 65ft.), with stage, dressing-rooms, &c., well adapted for theatrical, musical, or variety entertainments; licensed for music and dancing, &c. Together with the upper promenade (revenue from charges of admission), and inside lavatories.

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The successful applicant will be required to find a surety to be approved by the council.

Applications must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, marked, "Hire of Pavilion," addressed to the Chairman, General Purposes Committee, Albion House, Ramsgate, and delivered on or before WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14, 1906.

Plan and further particulars may be obtained from the undersigned.

The council do not bind themselves to accept any application.

E. C. BYRNE,
Town Clerk.

Albion House, Ramsgate,
Jan. 13, 1906.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTS (AND THEIR AGENTS) HOLDING OR SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS AT

THE OXFORD,
OXFORD-STREET, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.30 o'clock.
Joe Elvin and Co., Alec Hurley and Co., Vesta Victoria, Will Evans, Harry Ford, Athas and Collins, Stave, T. E. Finglas, Orpheus, Mike S. Whallen, Eugenie Fougére, Morris Cronin, Willy's Dog Circus, Alice Yorke and Co., Doody and Wright, Lockhart's Elephants.
Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

THE TIVOLI,
STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
Marie Lloyd, Little Tich, Arthur Roberts and Company, Mildred De Grey, Fred Earle, Will Evans, Collins and Hart, Vesta Victoria, Mike Whallen, Brown and Navarro, Price and Revost, Pia Carozzi, Charles Mildare, Julie Mackay.
Manager, JOSEPH WILSON.

THE CANTERBURY,
WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 11 o'clock.
Fred Karno's latest Pantomimical Sketch, "The Thirsty-First." Great Scott, Lieut. Travis, Gladys Mavius, Will Evans, Daisy Davidson, Doody and Wright, Brown and Nevarro, The Three Laurels, The Four Olympian Stars, Carl Lynn, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, "The Winner," Brien McCullough and Co.
Manager, FRED MILLER.

PARAGON,
MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artists are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3 o'clock.
Joe Elvin in a Grand Revival of the Masterpiece of all his Productions, "'Appy 'Ampstead," all the Fun of the Fair, Hill and Hull, Maud Esmond, Jolly and Neilson, Datas, Three Laurels, Pat Rafferty, The Allisons, Ruffell's Pictures, The Mezettis, Chas. Pastor, New Macs, Price and Revost, in "Bumpet Bumps." Next week, the great Joe Elvin, "Toffy's Trotter."
Manager, CHARLES BEECHAM.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE,
LONDON-ROAD, S.E.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
Arthur Roberts and Co., Clark and Gold, Mdlle. Zelda, The Melroses, H. Sims, Lilian Elfreda, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.
Manager, FRANK WEEKS.

EUSTON,
EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
Little Tich, Vesta Victoria, Joe Elvin and Co., The Doreen Girls, Charles Fanning, Irene Meldon, Chas. Mildare, Fielding and Hull.
Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

THE EMPRESS,
BRIXTON-ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1 o'clock.
Special Engagement of the Great and Only Edward Sillward and Co., in "Satan," realistic Sketch, The Mackweys, Mike Whallen, Ruby Bijou, Lily Esplin, The Smart Set Entertainers, Dave McNeil, Chas. Norton, Ruffell's Pictures, Bros. Lloyd, Dandy George and Rosie, Chas. Fanning, Chris Richards.
Secretary and Manager, NELSON FRANCIS.

GRAND PALACE,
CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 2 o'clock.
Fred Karno and Co. in "The Jail Birds," Charles Whittle, Barney Stuart, Hill and Hull, Gladys Mavius, Will English, Reilly and Taylor, Imperial Bioscope, The Carlyles, J. Holland and Co., Gus Elen.
Manager, H. KETTEMAN.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE,
UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON, N.
Two Performances Nightly.
Matinées, Mondays, at 2.30.
Rehearsals on Mondays, at 1.30.
"A Trip to the Isle of Man," Silent Tait, Wee Mona, Two Bees, Brothers Bright, V. L. Granville, Imperial Bioscope, Crown Trio, Nelson and Thomas, Harry Ford.
Manager, R. L. ADKIN.

DUCHESS PALACE,
HIGH-ROAD, BALHAM.
Two Performances Nightly, 6.45 and 9.10.
Rehearsals on Mondays, at 1.30.
Telephone, 58 Balham.
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Manager, G. L. WILSON.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE,
WALTHAMSTOW.
Two Performances Nightly, at 6.30 and 9.
Band Rehearsal, which all Artists must attend, Mondays, at 3 o'clock.
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Manager, EUSTACE JAY.

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EDGWARE-ROAD, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1 o'clock.
Paul Martinetti and Co., in "A Terrible Night," Gus Elen, Tom Costello, Julie Mackay, Chas. Mildare, Lily Burnand, Avrignys, Will Godwin, Arthur Gilbert, Raies, Allisons, Kitty Marion, Ruffell's Bioscope, Leslie Race, Madge Carlyle, Nellie Wilson.
Manager, J. W. EDGAR.

THE CHELSEA PALACE,
KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
"Turpin's Ride to York," by Fred Ginnett and Company, Beautiful Horses, Sisters Caselli, Harry Freeman, Kitty Marion, Dare and Mavern, The Watsons, Reddick Anderson, S. Buckingham, and "Angling for an Heiress."
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PALACE, BRADFORD.
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Belle Braham, Lottie Lennox, Raymond's Pictures, Eileen Gomez, Will Van Allen, Renson and Waite, Harry Lawson, Mdlle. Roza, J. P. Ling.

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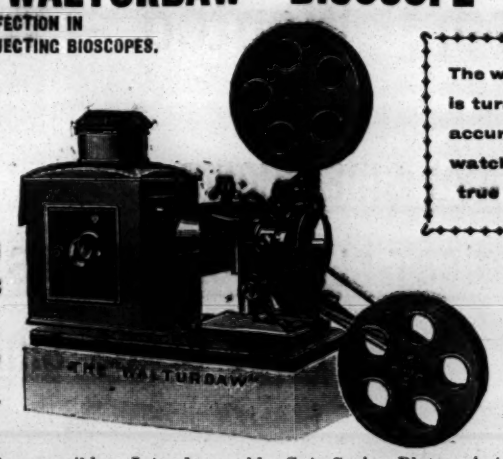

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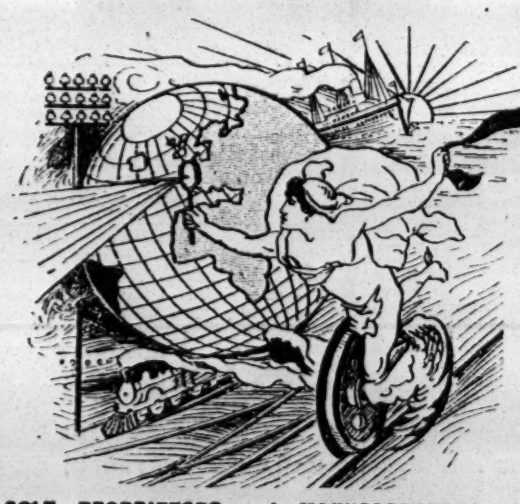

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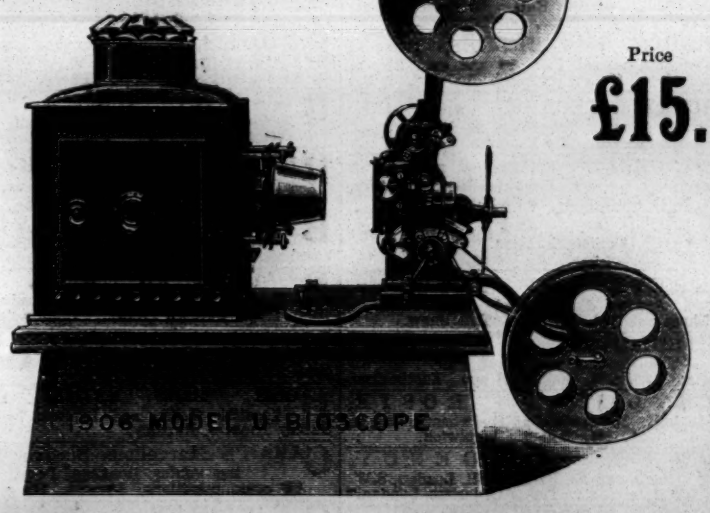

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Speciality Duettists. Feb. 5, T. R., Middlesboro', "Cinderella" Co., Two Weeks. Few Vacs '06.

BENET, MR. HARRY,
Proprietor Alhambra, Sandgate.
Artists communicate Fred Durham's Agency.

BENNETT and MARTELL,
the Original Two.
King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

BENSON, ALLY, Fun Scatterer and Whistler. Baron, J. Walter's "Cinderella."
This, R., Attercliffe; next, R., Shrewsbury.

BENSON, BESSIE,
Ragtime Vocalist, Buck and Sand Dancer.
This week, Palace, Hammersmith.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic,
CARLOTTA LUNN, Richmond Theatre.
Monday, Feb. 5, Broadhead Tour.

BENTLEY, HARRY, Surly Comedian,
Big Hit Alhambra, Sandgate.
This week, Empire, Dover.

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY,
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BERNARD, GEO., Still Unadopted.
Insist on yourself—never ape and imitate others. Mon, Palace, Sunderland. (Return).

BEST, CHAS. F.,
as MacBunker, the Mountebank.
Grand, Hanley.

BEVERLEY, NORA,
Vocalist. With Mr. Gar. Kiddie's "Bo-Peep"
Feb. 5, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

BLANCHE and DIACOFF,
World's Premier Cyclists; India, India, India. Address, C/o 86, Hornsby-rd., Bombay.

BLARNEY and KENNARD,
The Comedy Couple. Terrific Success Middlesex Monday, Barnard's, Chatham.

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Comedians.
Monday, Lyceum, London. Agents, G. & F. Peel.

BLOUNT, ARTHUR, BLOUNT,
A Comic Singer of Comic Songs.
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BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD WALFORD.
Address, The Manor House, Macduff, N.B.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL & MADGE),
Instrumentalists. This, E., Shepherd's Bush; next, E., Cardiff. George Foster.

BONITA, World's Champion Girl Rifle Shot, and CARLOS, the Human Target. Touring Australia. Per Ad., Cathedral Hotel, Melbourne.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME,
Empire, Johannesburg.
Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET,
This, G., Bolton, Terrific Success. Feb. 5, Barnard's, Woolwich and Greenwich. Add. above.

BOSTOCK, N. C., and NELLIE ELLIENE, Two Star Turns. 10, Silver-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Agents, Macdermott & Sheldon.

BOULTONS, THE, and MDLLE BARTENELLI. Panto., Theatre Royal, Chatham. No Vacancies.

BOWERY BOYS, THE (Three), in a Smart New Act, "Mixed," A Sure Hit.
Coms. to Grand Theatre, Leeds.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Walham Green and Standard. Monday, Star, Bermondsey. Address, 229 Kennington-road.

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Old Home, Red Lion, Costock,
9 miles from Notts.

BRADSHAW, MISS GERTRUDE,
Soprano Vocalist.
Stoll Tour.

BRADY, JAMES,
Palace Theatre,
Dundee.

BRAY, LOTTIE, Tremendous Hit, Gaiety, Chatham. Feb. 12, Hippo., Maidstone. Liberty Mon. through postponing Sheerness; wire.

BRETT, HARRY,
the Genial Comedian.
For dates, address, 342, Acton-lane, Acton.

BREWSTERS, THE,
Novel Speciality Act. This week, Hipp., Paris; next, Pabellón Soriano, Barcelona, Spain.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN,
Usual Success, Empire, Burnley, this week.
Feb. 5, Palace, Belfast.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), the Dainty Pair. Enormous Success second boy and girl, Prince's Th., Bradford.

BROOKLYN BOYS, THE, Eccentric Knockabout Comedians. Big Act in preparation by Harrington and Tate. Agents, Macdermott.

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Cavaliers of the Olden Time,
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Versatile Comedian. Feb. 5, Chelsea Palace.
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Big Success Panto., "Cinderella."

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Modesty is a great virtue, but a man seldom gets his salary raised on it.

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CABAN'S Marvellous Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, Dogs.
All communications, Lyceum, Long Eaton.

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"Humorous History," Francis, Day, and H.
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CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjurer. "Talent knows no Country."
Coms., Will Sley, Esq.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE),
Comedy Act, "Plough Boy and Lady Guide."
Next, Hippodrome, Grimsby. Agent, F. Higham.

CARL and CARR, Comedians, "Fun Outside the Workhouse." Terrific Success
Chinese Policemen, "Aladdin," T. R., Worcester.

CARLISLE, BOB, 4000 miles Whirling an Indian Peep-show through Britain, starts in March. Address Royal Agricultural H., London.

CARLTON, HENRY,
The Comedian.
Albert, Canning Town.

CARMEN, HARRY, DAISY LANE,
Widow Twankey and Princess Badroulbadour, in E. C. Jazon's "Aladdin," T. R., Birkenhead.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), the "Humorous Singing Duo," presenting extracts from extensive répertoire. P., Aberdeen.

CECIL, TOM, Comedian,
Scotch Concerts.
Kirkcaldy, to-night; Aberdeen, Monday.

CELLOS, THE TWO
(Alice and Van). Refined and Genuine Musical Entertainers. Hulme Hippodrome, Manchester.

CHALLIS, FLORENCE, Tremendous Success in Australia with Monologues and Songs. Returning home.

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Refined Comedy Musical Act, eight instruments,
Liberty Monday. Wire 55, Kenbury-street, S.E.

CHANT and CHANT, Comedy Vocalists and Patterers. Monday, Hippo., Coventry.
Vacant Feb. 12, 19.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE & EDIE),
Dainty and Refined. New Songs and Dresses.
This, G., Chatham; Mon., Regent T., Salford.

CHESTER and LEE'S Marionettes,
Monday, People's Palace, Hounslow.
Easter Vacant. Share or Certainty.

CHIRGWIN,
London until
July 2, Plymouth.

CLARKE, MAUDIE, and FRANK ARTE, Legmania Comedy Artists and Dancer,
Vac. March 5, 12, and 19. Next, Alexander, Hull.

CLAVER and PICCOLO, Sensational Equilibrists and Juggler. Grand Hippodrome, Wigan; vacant Feb. 5, 12, 26.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy
Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, VENIE,
Big Success as a "Baby," and other people.
This, Woolwich; next, Empire, Wolverhampton.

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Reception Nightly, and Second Week, Hippo., Wakefield; Monday, Palace, Greenock.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D.,
the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLLARD, MADAME, Boarhounds,
with big success and Return Dates. Hip., Ipswich. Out for Feb. 12, 19, also March.

COLLINS, GEO., the Quaint Comedian,
Palace, Sunderland.
Geo. Barclay and Co.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN. 18, Walcot-gardens,
Kennington.

CONWAY and GARLAND, in the Funniest of all Burlesque Absurdities, "Left in Charge." This, G., Halifax. Mon., Gaiety, Oldham.

COOKE, STEVE,
Burlesque Comedian; Maudie Shiftalot.
Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich; vacant Summer.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique
Musical Bell Act. This week, Empire, Wolverhampton; next, People's Palace, Scarborough.

COSTELLO, BROS.,
Comedy Acrobats, Patter Comedians. This, T. H., Merthyr Tydvil; next, P., Swansea.

COTTERELL, SID, and CO.,
in the Great Comedy Success, "The Substitute," Panto., T. R., Drury-lane, Fourth Season.

COUNSELL and MILLS, "Musical Playlets." Moss-Stoll Tour. E., Stratford; Monday, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.

COWPERS, THE,
"Missus' Double."
Re Dates, Coliseum, London, W.C.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG,
A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes.
c/o "The Era."

CRAY, MIKE, Eccentric Comedy
Juggler, and dog. This week, Tivoli, Grimsby.
Next week, vacant.

CRESSER, MISS ADA,
Stanley's Transformation Co.,
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CREW, J. H., and MAUD MARLOW,
Big Hit. Palace, Blackpool.
Em. M. H., Hull. Sole agent, Will Oliver, Esq.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO. See Our Great Bull Entrance and the Boxing School-Girl. Bottom of bill, Hippo., Hastings.

CULLEN and CARTHY and LITTLE CLULEY. Enormous Hit.
Theatre Royal, Bolton.

CURRAN, FRED, He of the Parodies.
Monday, Palace, Lancaster.
No vacancies. Geo. Foster.

CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack,
ADA JENNER, Captain Cable, in Francis Laidler's superb production. Prince's T., Bradford.

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In their Novelty Comedy Act, "Le Café Magique." Lib. for Galas. West Pier, Brighton.

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Another successful Return, Collins'.
Monday next, Return Middlesex.

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Acts of all kinds required.
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Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood."
Wanted, good Comedy Songs. T. R., Stockport.

DANE, WILFRID,
Comedian. Usual Success. Victor André's Royal Jamaica Pierrots. P. O., Kingston, Jamaica.

DANIELS, THE TWO, Acknowledged Clever Nigger Minstrels. Vac. Feb. 12; next, return P. O. W. Theatre, Rhymney, Wales.

DARRELL, LULAINE, TRIO, This, E., Greenock, Feb. 5 Palace, Dundee. Want Feb. 19.

DARWIN, MR. FRANK,
Descriptive Vocalist
Stoll Tour.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE. "Fill up the Bowl of Friendship," by Reuben More. This week, P., Blackpool; next, C. V., Leeds.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE,
Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel).
Feb. 5, His Majesty's, Walsall.

DAVENPORTS, THE, Lightning
Magicians and Illusionists. Great Hit, Hippodrome, Grimsby, this week. Vacant Monday.

DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and MAY), title-rôle and Dandini, Pardoe's "Cinderella." Lib. March 5. T. R., West Bromwich

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Always Vacancies for Stars. Tel., 712 Brixton.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE,
Feb. 5,
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DEACON, HILDA, Baroness and Speciality. "Cinderella" Co. Lib. May. Mus. Com. or Sketch. Attercliffe. Next, Shrewsbury.

DEARES, THE, Original Military
Speciality. 5th week Carlton and Duckworth's panto. This, Porth; next, Pontypridd.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA,
Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Cockatoos. Macnaghten Tour, London.

DELAINE, MISS JOSIE,
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DELEVINES, THE,
In new act, "The Bell Inn."
Address, The Empire, Holloway.

DENBY and DENT,
Usual Success in Pantomime, Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Free for 1906-7

DENHAM, MILLIE, the Sprightly burlesque actress. Big hit this week, Hippo., Carlisle; next, E., Paisley. Thanks Dalton.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., J. H. HAWTREY,
Principal Boy. Malicio.
J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Lyceum T., Ipswich.

DEVERENNE, the Great Mystery,
Nail Walker, and Balancer, and Fire King.
For Dates, 31, Higher Wharf-st., Ashton-u.-Lyne.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week, Barnard's, Woolwich.

DEWARS, THE, Comedians and
Acrobatic Dancers. Vacant Monday. Finished Canterbury. 15, Melbourne-sq., Brixton, S.W.

DIAMOND, HARRY, Scotch Comedian and Dancer, now in Hospital. All coms., c/o John Gunn, 155, South Wellington-st., Glasgow.

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Very nice, Palace, Greenock;
Monday, Gaiety, Oldham.

DIXONS, TWO, Expert Sand Dancers and Banjoists. Hippodrome, Birmingham.
Sole Agent, De Vere.

DOBITO and BUXTON,
Refined Vocalists, still Scoring Heavily, even in Scotland. Monday, Royal, Blyth.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF,
Feb. 5, Palace, Halifax.
Note.—Where there's a will, there's a way.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, the Factory Nightingales, Bottom of Bill. This, Hippo., Salford. 25, Paget-st., Wolverhampton.

DOM E,
The Original Comedy Clay Man.
Empire, Edinburgh.

DONNA and CLIFF,
Address, Walter Bentley, Agent.
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Principal Girl,
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DORRIS, MISS RUTH,
Usual Success, Empire, Edinburgh.
Monday, Feb. 5, Empire, Glasgow.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL,
Big success, Principal Boy.
Grand Theatre, Islington.

D'S THE TWO
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DUNCAN and MORTON,
Comedians. Huge Success as Broker's Men, Panto. Next, Opera House, Kidderminster.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of quaintness. This week, E., Middlesbrough.
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DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN,
Two Gigantic Successes on every Programme.
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DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, Griffin and Drake's Panto., "Cinderella."
T. R., Darwen; next week, G. T., Burnley.

EARLE, ELSIE,
Encored nightly Gaiety, Chatham; Next, Grand, Gravesend. P. and Reeves.

EDISON, CONNIE, the Lady Electrician, in Her Electrical Speciality. All Business by Electricity. Coon Cabin, Penton-st., N.

ELCOCK, AMY, and FLORRIE ST. ROY. Success Hippo., Grimsby. Monday, Tivoli, Manchester. Vac. Feb. 12 and March 5.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast; also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts, Vacant
Feb 12, on. Add., 30, G. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELFREDA, LILLIAN, Mimic, Terrific success Hammersmith and Metropolitan. Feb. 5
S. London, Euston, Canterbury, Walthamstow, &c.

ELLA'S, MISS,
Best existing Lion Show.
Empire, Swansea.

ELLERTON, A., Songs, &c. All Dunville's Present Biz, Vesta Victoria, Nellie Wallace, Arthur Reece, &c. 90, Vassall-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS,
Musicians, Cyclists, &c.
Feb. 5, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

ELLISON, J. W. "Seagull," by Collins and Rogers. This, Hip., Wigan.; next, Grand, Hanley. Sole agents, Walter Bentley.

ELVY, ARTHUR,
in Great Sporting Production. Next, Surrey.
Thanks to Fortune and G. Add., 224, Mile-end-road.

EMLYN-JONES and CO.,
in their New and Original International Sketch, London Pav. 34, Red Lion-square, W.C.

ENDON, EDIE,
Finish Sat. Alex., Sheffield. Feb. 5, G. T., Sheffield. Thanks to Alma Obrey for present.

EPLETT, KATIE, FRANK ZARA,
Comedienne, Dancer. Comedian, Raconteur.
Panto. Tour. Add., 44, Greenheys-lane, Manchester.

ERICK, FRED, Quaint Comedian,
This week, Palace, Grimsby; next week, Tivoli, Dublin. Agent, Stebbings, Manchester.

ESCOTT, ALBERT,
Rose and Crown, Hounslow; opposite Palace.
Always at home. Recommended by H. Leslie Bell.

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Enormous success Empire, Holloway. Next week, Empire, New Cross, London. Cadle's Agency.

ETHARDO, OTTO, Juggler, & MDLLE. PARDOE. Dancer and Contortionist.
"Aladdin," T., Consett; next, T. R., Hebburn.

EUGENE & WILLIE, Musical Clowns,
At. Lib. Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26.
All coms., 31, Balham-grove, Balham.

EUSTACE, FRED,
"Our Curate," "La Belle Parisienne," "The Amber Light," &c., &c. Fortune and Granville.

FAME, PEGGY, Continued Success in Panto. Monday, G. T., Rawtenstall. Many thanks to all for handsome birthday presents.

FANSHAW, WILL, Comedian and Dancer, concluded Liverpool, Manchester, &c.
Lib. Mon., on. 2, Jubilee-st., Liverpool.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Original Lancashire Singing Collier. Panto until Easter. Feb. 5, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

FAWN, MISS ADA,
Pavilion, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Monday next, Feb. 5, Empress, Hartlepool.

FERGUS, C. H., in Songs, Patter, and Dancing. Wants offers for Feb. 12, onwards.
Wire, Pavilion, Leicester.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park-Keepers. Keepers of Novelty in the Park of Originality.

FIMANS, THE,
Vaudeville Act.
Touring England April, 1906.

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FINGLAS, THOS. E.,
Oxford,
Nightly

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Society Gymnasts.
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Original. Stands Alone.
Alhambra, Paris.

FONTAINBLEAU'S, ALICE, Famous Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs. Rolling Globe. Vac. Dates. Red Lion Hotel, Coleshill.

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American Musical Millionaires.
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Standard,
Pimlico.

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GALE, ETHEL, HARRY CARTER, (Blind Comedienne) (Comedian)
Lib. Monday. Wire, 39, Queen-street, Long Eaton.

GANNON, NELLIE. An Ovation on her re-appearance at Alhambra, Sandgate.
Next week, same place. Harry Wright, Panto.

GANTHONY, ROBERT,
Great Success, Stoll Tour.
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The Smartest Double Trapeze Artists in Europe. Free Easter and Whitsun. Stoll Tour.

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This Week, Bijou Empire, Hull. All coms.,
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Unique Ventriloquial Humorist "Me Hat's Off." Tivoli, Dublin; next, Alhambra, Belfast.

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Grotesque Comedian. Concludes to-night, "Dick Whittington, Crystal P. Mon., return, E., Wrexham

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The Premier Scottish Vocalist, Usual Success, Empire, Edinburgh. Vacant 26th, Feb. 9, April.

GLOBELLA, Globe Manipulator, and Juggler, assisted by Mdlle. Melie. Vac. Halls, Galas, &c. Wire, Hippo., Mansfield.

GOLD, HARRY, Comedian,
"Animated Sovereigns" and "Cloudland."
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GOLDEN and GREY, in American vaudeville, "The Missing Will." Usual Success, Grimsby. Fred Pollard, Empire, Dudley.

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"History repeats itself."
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Eccentric Entertainer.
Grand, Newcastle. Vacant Feb. 12 and 19.

GRAPHO and JACKSON,
Comedians, "In a Restaurant."
Opera House, Kidderminster.

GRAY, GEORGE,
Stoll-Moss Empires.
Stoll-Moss Empires.

GREEN, MR. TOM,
His New Sensational Picture, "Night Duty."
106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GRENVILLE, SISTERS, Vocalists and Dancers. Dis. shortly. This week, Grand, Chorley; next week, Royal Court T., Warrington.

GROSVENORS, THE (Three Sisters), Operatic Vocalists, Second Boy, Girl, Fairy and Speciality. "Cinderella." Next, G., Burnley.

GROVINIS,
On Tour.
Address, care of "The Era."

GUNN, WALTER (late Walter Reeves), Vocal Comedian. All New Songs. My Latest is "Visions of Home." 17, Ogden-st., Hulme.

GUYONS, THE, Sketch, "His One Great Sin," also VERONIQUE. Vacant Feb. 12, 26, and March 5. Aquarium, Scarborough.

HAIG and NOVEL,
Feb. 5, G., Hanley.
Few Vacancies 1906-7.

HALL, CLIFTON, Vocalist,
Demon King and Speciality, "The Valley."
Feb. 5, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Disengaged till July.
19, Dunalley-parade, Cheltenham.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE,
Address, 10, King-street, London, W.C.
Per. Address, 19, Parkfield Drvie, Liscard.

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MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price). Disengaged.
3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. PAIGE LAWRENCE as Tom Norman, "Her Second Time on Earth."
Feb. 12, West London Theatre, W.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
as Jack England.
Feb. 12, Lyric, Hammersmith.

MR. EDMUND LEA,
Address,
Waldorf Theatre, W.C.

MR. CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
Lead "Her Luck in London" Co.
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Disengaged. Heavies, Character, Old Men.
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Playing Sherlock Holmes.
Next, Crown, Peckham.

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MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Principal Character Comedy. Disengaged.
1A, Pitt-street, West Bromwich.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "The White Chrysanthemum" Co.
King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

MR. EDWIN LING,
S. M. Allan Wilkie Rep. Co.
Offers autumn. Kishmet, Wolsey-road, Esher.

MR. FRANK LISTON,
Heavies, Juveniles, King Charles II., "The Orange Girl." 12th, Pavilion, Newcastle.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY
"The Village Blacksmith" Co.
Court Theatre, Warrington.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Disengaged.
28, Chelverton-road, Putney.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART,
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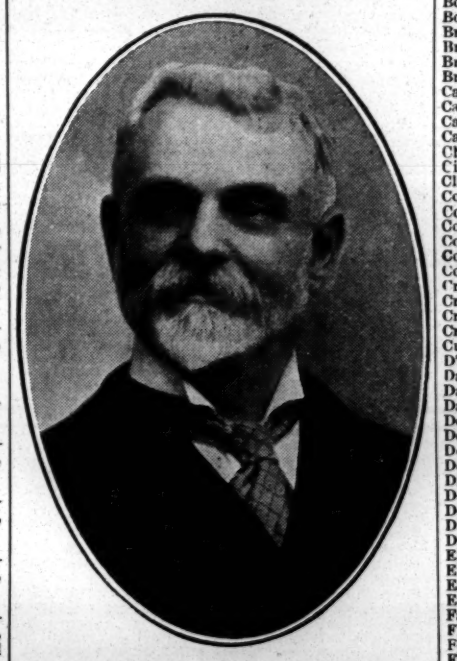

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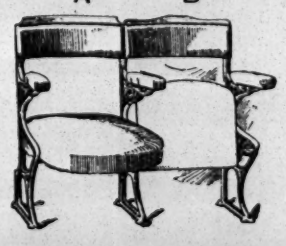

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Allan, Mr. Charles	December 2, 1905.
Arnold, the Late Mr. Chas.	May 13, 1905.
Barrasford, Mrs. M.	September 16, 1905.
Barrett, Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barry, Mr. Lennox	March 4, 1905.
Bawtree, Mr. Arthur	March 18, 1905.
Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
Berlyn, Mr. Ivan	November 4, 1905.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Billington, Late Mr John	September 16, 1904.
Booth, Mr. Junius	September 16, 1905.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	Oct. 21, 1905.
Bostock, Mr E. H.	September 30, 1905.
Brand, Miss Tita	April 1, 1905.
Bromwich, Mr. F. Dudman	March 11, 1905.
Brough, Mr Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown, Mr. Frank	May 27, 1905
Callan, Late Mr. H. J	June 17, 1905.
Carlton, Mr. Arthur	Nov. 11, 1905.
Casson, Late Mr. Walter	Nov. 11. 1905.
Castleton, Mrs. Robert	July 15, 1905.
Churchward, Mr Hedley	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1906.
Clark, Late Mr. Henri	Dec. 9, 1905.
Collette, Mr. Charles	November 4, 1905.
Collins, Mr. Cecil A.	February 11, 1905
Conquest, Mr. Fred	Dec. 9, 1905.
Cooper, Miss Florry	Nov. 11, 1905.
Coote, Mr. Bert	August 12, 1905.
Corelli, Miss Hilda	April 15, 1905.
Crane, Mr. Harry J.	Nov. 11. 1905.
Craven, Late Mr. H. T.	April 15, 1905.
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Aug. 5, 1905.
Cruikshanks, Mr. Charles	May 6, 1905.
Cullen, Mr James	October 7, 1905.
D'Alcorn, Late Mr. Henri	June 10, 1905.
Daltra, Miss Marie	July 22, 1905.
Daly, Late Miss Maria	Nov. 11, 1905.
Davis, Mr. Tom B.	June 24, 1905.
Denmeade, Mr. and Mrs.	July 1, 1905.
Denton, Mr. St. John	March 18, 1905.
De Rohan, Miss Daphne	September 2, 1905.
Dewick, Mr. Dawson	April 22, 1905.
Dixon Miss Ella	July 22, 1905.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr. James E.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Earnshaw, Mr Arthur	November 4, 1905.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Ellis, the Late Mr. Percy	July 29, 1905.
Emery, Miss Pollie	July 1, 1905
Fanchette, Miss Amy	April 15, 1905.
Flinn, Madame Kate	July 29, 1905.
Forde, Mr H. Athol	August 26, 1905.
Fordyce, Miss Vera	March 18, 1905.
Fulton, Miss Mary	March 18, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gelderd, Mr James	July 2, 1904
Giles, Mr Edwin F.	January 7, 1905.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grein, Mr J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Gunn, Miss Haidee	September 30, 1905.
Gwynne, Miss Daisy	October 14, 1905.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harcourt-Williams, Mr B.	July 9, 1904.
Harlington, Miss Grace	July 22, 1905.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Dec. 9, 1905.
Howard, Mr. Frank	April 1, 1905.
Howard, the Late Mr. W.	August 12, 1905.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jenoure, Miss Aida	June 24 1905.
Johnson, Mr. William	December 16, 1905.
Jones, Miss Marie	April 1, 1905.
Jones, Miss Gladys Rose	September 16, 1905.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Karno, Mr. Fred	August 12, 1905.
Kenney, Miss Rosa	July 1, 1905.
Kenney, Mr. Charles	September 23, 1905.
Kingsley, Mr. Cecil	September 30, 1905.
Klein, Mr. Cecil	March 18, 1905.
Kremer, Mr Theo	July 9, 1904.
Lacy, Mr Frank	January 14, 1905
Lang, Mr. Matheson	September 23, 1905.
Lathbury, Mr. Stanley	March 11, 1905.
Lawrence, Mr. Wingold	March 18, 1905.
Le Hay, Mr. John	August 26, 1905.
Leigh, Mr C. D.	January 7, 1905.
Leno, the Late Mr Dan.	November 5, 1904.
L'Estrange, Mrs. Louise	July 15, 1905.
Liddon, Miss Adele	August 26, 1905.
Loftus, Miss Kitty	January 20, 1906.
Lomath, Mr. Stuart	March 11, 1905.
Love, Miss Mabel	December 16, 1905.
Ludlow, Mr. Charles L.	April 1, 1905.
Mackinlay, Mr. Sterling	September 9, 1905.
Makeham, Miss Gladys	March 11, 1905.
Maltby, Mr. H. F.	June 10, 1905.
Marinelli, Mr. H. B.	April 15, 1905.
Mario, Miss Minnie	April 1, 1905.
Maskelyne, Mr. J. N.	May 13, 1905.
Matthison, Miss E. Wynne	May 13, 1905.
Mayer, Mr. Ernest	May 6, 1905.
Mervyn, Mr. Edward	April 15, 1905.
Miller, Miss Agnes	September 23, 1905.
Mills, Miss Kate	Dec. 9, 1905.
Montgomery, Mr. M.	April 1, 1905.
Morgan, Miss Ida C.	Aug. 5, 1905.
Moss, Sir Edward	December 16, 1905.
Nelson, Miss Florence	April 15, 1905.
Nelson, Mr. Henry	April 22, 1905.
Neville, Mr. Henry	September 2, 1905.
Newham, Late Miss Rose	April 15, 1905.
Nicholls, Miss Clara	March 18, 1905.
Pacey and Reeves, Messrs.	January 13, 1906.
Pagden, Mr. Leonard	April 22, 1905.
Pauline, Princess	June 24, 1905.
Phasey, Mr H. V.	April 29, 1905.
Phillips, Miss Ida	January 20, 1906.
Poynton Mr. Alfred	Nov. 11, 1905.
Ramsay, Mr. Ernest	June 10, 1905.
Raynor, Miss Alice	July 23, 19-5.
Raphael, Mr William	January 14, 1905.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—This week the attraction is supplied by Mr. Allan Wilkie's dramatic company in Shakespearian and other plays. On Monday night *Othello* was played. Mr. Allan Wilkie as Othello was all that could be desired. Mr. G. Lambton was very realistic in his portrayal of the callous Iago. Mr. Clifford Rean made a manly and interesting Cassio; Mr. Louis Palgrave made the most of the part of Roderigo; and the same may be said of Mr. Martin Sands as Montana. The part of Desdemona, the devoted wife, was in the excellent hands of Miss Ine Cameron, who did full justice to her rôle. Miss Lizzie Maddocks was very efficient as Emilia. The remaining parts were in the hands of Messrs. Edwin King, James Willoughby, and B. Sullivan.

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—The Compton Comedy Company, who are always welcome visitors, opened a week's engagement on Monday with *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Compton's acting in the title part was as incisive and convincing as ever, and he was admirably supported by Miss Mackenzie, who made a most graceful Violet. Mr. A. B. Imeson played very realistically as Tom Tallyhaut, and Mr. Henry Crocker put a deal of quiet power into his Alderman Gresham, while Rumbelow, Sowerberry, and Simkins were in the capable hands of Messrs. Herbert Pigot, Arnold Lucy, and G. Wallace Johnston. Miss Marie Hassell was wholly successful as Mrs. Rumbelow, and Miss Muriel Meek gave a clever portraiture of Selina Sowerberry. The other parts were, without exception, capably filled. *To-Morrow* was presented on Tuesday. *Money* followed on Wednesday. It is notable that on that night Mr. Compton celebrated his silver jubilee as a touring manager. The other plays billed for the week were *She Stoops to Conquer* (Thursday), *Old Men and New Acres* (Friday), and to-day (Saturday) a matinée performance of *The School for Scandal* was to be given, *Davy Garrick* following in the evening.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The principal attraction for many visitors this week is *The Children's Party*, which is again successfully produced, with numerous new songs and dances, by Mr. and Mrs. Will Parker. Salambos contributed a weird and highly successful turn; Mdlle. Olivette also gives a remarkable performance; Mr. Harry Grey, comedian, made a distinct hit; Mr. Luis Hardt (the Mighty Atom) goes through some striking weight-lifting feats; Maxwell and Francis are capital duettists; Carr and Rox are also highly appreciated by the audience; Mr. Fred Lloyd and company play a highly amusing sketch; Miss Lil O'Gorman dances and sings smartly; and the bioscope picture of a mining tragedy is highly realistic.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—A return visit is being paid this week by Mr. F. Jarman's company in *Under the Czar*. Miss Cathleen Cavanagh portrays Souci with capital results, and Misses Linda Riley and Lucy Murray are also well placed. Mr. Gerald Smythe as Capt. Johnson does well; Mr. B. Ross is a capable Nicholas; and Mr. W. H. Riley, Hugh Romsey, Louis Weston, and C. P. Amalia give god impersonations.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—We are favoured with a visit of Messrs. Lely and Mollison's company in the play, *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*. Mr. W. Mollison's picture of the stern, unbending kirk elder is pathetic and powerful; and what could be more winsome than the acting of Miss Evelyn McNay as Flora Campbell. Messrs. Allen Thomas and Mr. Alec. F. Thompson, as the doctor and Wee Posty, are also delightful impersonations; and one can also dwell with pleasure on the sketches of Scotch character depicted by Mr. Durward Lely, as the Rev. Jno. Carmichael, the Free Kirk minister of Drumtochty; Mr. E. R. Holloway, as the Earl of Kilspindie; Mr. Chapel, as Lord Hay; Mr. Kendal Chalmers, as Tammas; Mr. Maclaren, as Sandy Macpherson; Miss Alice Francis, as Kate Carnegie; and Miss Josephine Woodward, as Margaret Howe.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead: Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The company here includes some really good speciality artists. We have first a good turn in Brindall and Cooper, refined vocal comedians and dancing experts; George Russell is an entertaining singing comedian; the Paytes, as society entertainers and duologue artists, take a first place, and elicit from their auditors much approval; Carle and Carmanelli, musical comedians, appear in the latest sensational novelty, *The Electric Moulding Mill*, with lightning musical transformation act. A really good sketch is introduced by the Gregson Trio; the Danvils do well as song illustrators; the new farcical comedietta, *Barmaids*, brings in bold relief the varied talents for character impersonation of Miss Hulo Hodgson, Mr. Harry Lowther, and the artist who supports them. The comic singing of Jack Hylton, and the performances of the Adderleys' instrumental mimics, with the humorous depiction on the Bioscope of an "Unfortunate Policeman," make up a good "bill."

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Miss Emma Litchfield, supported by a good company, occupies the boards here this week with the stirring drama, *A London Actress*, the chief parts being creditably sustained by Mr. J. C. Carlyle, Mr. A. F. Dudley, Mr. G. H. Doyle, Mr. J. Hitchins, Miss Emma Litchfield, Miss Millie Mayward, and Miss Nellie Fern.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—A well selected programme is submitted by the management this week. Miss Reta Grey and company, in an original musical-comedy scena, *The Lancashire Lass*, are received with hearty applause; Miss Clarice Netta, soprano, sings her numbers in excellent style; Alberto gives a clever exhibition of conjuring; Wisper, the expert juggler, pays a welcome return visit; Mr. E. C. Clayton's pictures are still a leading attraction; Mr. Harry Phydora scores as a comedian; and the Sisters Russell provide an interesting comedy turn.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. Robert Perris's company is appearing here this week with the American drama *A Fight for Millions*. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves as Tom Manley plays the part of the persecuted hero with marked ability; Richard Dudley is embodied in capital style by Mr. Archie Helsby, the villainy of the character being well depicted; Mr. P. George Beresford submits a good rendering of Hudson Rivers; Mr. Robert Perris gives a clever character sketch of Willie Neverwork, and Solomon Moses finds a clever exponent in Mr. Karl H. Edwards. Miss Eva Purcell acts with much feeling as Mabel Verner, and Miss Audrey Sutherland as Little Madge gives a credible performance; the trials of Helen Dudley are sympathetically represented by Miss Elma C. Turner; Mr. Nicholas Conway as Harold Hobbs, and Miss Lottie Pearce as Mag Brady, furnish humorous studies of their respective characters.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—The Moody-Manners Opera Co. is here, and opened on Monday with *Maritana*. Mr. Albert Bowyer was a capital and spirited Don Cæsar de Bazan and Miss Ethel Cadman a winning and interesting Maritana. The Don Jose of Mr. Marshall Vincent was exceptionally well done, and Mr. George Neilson was an accomplished King of Spain. Miss Rosina Blynon sang well and acted with appropriate sympathy as Lazarillo, and the Marquis, Mr. S. Lansdale, and the Marchioness, Miss M. Gaythorpe, were effectively portrayed. Other works billed are: *Traviata*, *Faust*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Lohengrin*, and the novelty, *The Marriage of Figaro*, which has not been done here for nearly a generation.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Roulledge.—*The Gay Parisienne* is paying a welcome visit here this week. Mr. Edward Kipling is a capital Ebenezer Huneycombe; Miss Alice Nixon, as the Gay Parisienne, is delightfully chic and piquant; Mr. Rudolph Kloss plays the part of Major Forsdyke in a clever and easy manner.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi.—The Lorch Family are the top of the bill here this week; the Dunedin Troupe of trick cyclists are paying a return visit; the Sisters Maginel Millini, the lady cornetists, are well received; Miss Emilee Warren is a particularly sweet singer; the Two Whites, comedy artistes, are an amusing turn; and Primavesi is a capable juggler.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. Bannister Howard is having quite a season with his companies in Bath this winter. Last Saturday his *Aladdin* pantomime finished in a triumphant fashion before a house crowded in every part, and on Monday his *Florodora* South Company commenced their spring tour, many of the artists engaged having the week previous gained for themselves great popularity in the pantomime. Mr. Daley Cooper resumes his old character of Tweedlepunch, putting, if possible, more energy and funny business into his work than before. Miss Edith Houseley, as the knowing Lady Holyrood, is excellent, her rendering of the well-known songs, "Tact" and "Inkling," meeting with all their old-time favour. Miss Leonora Grieve looks and acts the part of Dolores well, and her vocal contributions are given with much feeling. As Angela Gilfain Miss Lillie Gullick, a young Bath actress, won an instant success, her pleasing singing, together with her clever dancing, gaining several encores. Mr. Stanley White is good as Cyrus Gilfain. Frank Abercoed and Arthur Donegal have bright representatives in Mr. R. Courtier Dutton and Mr. St. John.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—The popular comedian, George D'Albert, claims first honours this week, his latest songs, given in his cheery and effective manner, arousing great enthusiasm. Ariel and Astarte, in their gymnastic act, gain much applause. Howard and St. Clair create plenty of laughter in their interlude. A new-comer is Ed. E. Ford, the Australian sundowner, his marvellous facial expressions and burlesque political speech causing great merriment. Dorothy Gould, vocalist and dancer, has some pretty melodies that she sings with acceptance. Billy Williams, the smiling Australian comedian, and Percy Hannan, the young American baritone are on welcome return visits. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux retain their place in favour.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty.—The entertaining musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* is here this week. The company, under the direction of Mr. Thomas McKenzie, gives a good interpretation, and keeps the house in constant good humour. Mr. J. Harold Carson must be complimented on his successful work as the Sergeant; Mr. Frank Wilson is an effective Michael, his singing deserving praise; Mr. Fred Laceby does every justice to the character part of Mr. Crank; and Mr. Albert James is in all respects equal to the rôle of Scrubbs. Lady Bickenhall has an admirable exponent in Miss Reydon Dallas, Miss Gertie Fawcett is ladylike and lovable as Aurora, and Miss Amy Vivash scores in the part of Daisy. Other parts are creditably undertaken by Messrs. Harold Godwin, Cecil Strickland, George Robertson, Fred Spencer, Alex Johnstone, and Misses Kathleen V. Grey, Kate Sabine, Kitty Kerr, A. Dickens, and Nellie Burns.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by a vaudeville company and Ginnett's *Turpin's Ride to York*. The Lennox Murray Troupe meet with success in their exceedingly funny sketch, *Fun in Siberia;* and Messrs. Peakman and Walsh afford good amusement with their comedy and expert juggling. Little Miss Lily Arthur is a clever little ballad vocalist. Fred Childs and Clarnico (comedians), Witty Willie Danton (dancer), Jack Binns (actor vocalist) and Gertrude Moore (vocalist), with the Musical Dunvilles also contribute to the evening's entertainment. In the piece *Turpin's Ride to York*, Mr. J. Swallow impersonates with vigour the character of the famous highwayman, and Mr. Leslie Stanhope makes an excellent Tom King. Miss Lennox Murray is a charming Susan. The Bio-tableaux graph shows an amusing set of pictures.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—This week we are favoured with a visit from Mr. Lawrence Brough and company with *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Brough himself appeared as Le Baron de Longueville—a part he has played so many times—and needless to say he admirably sustained the rôle. Mr. Henry Hampson as Dick Whortles succeeded in creating much merriment; and the rôle of Mrs. Whortles was most capably interpreted by Miss Moyra Creegan. Mr. Percy Marshall's impersonation of Joseph Carbury was eminently satisfactory; and much praise must be accorded to Miss Edith Ormmensden for her vivacious impersonation of Millie Grace. The rôle of Dick's mother-in-law, Matilda Carbury, could scarcely have been in better hands than those of Miss Dorcas Corsbie; Mr. Harold M. McNay was a capital Toby Krockitt; and the title-rôle was well-sustained by Miss Daisy Cook. The little comedietta, *Margaret's Stratagem*, formed an attractive curtain-raiser. Last night (Friday), *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was performed, under special and distinguished patronage.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—The chief feature this week is the production of Mr. Fred Bowyer's nautical sketch, *The Little Stowaway*, under the direction of Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. Geo. Abel, Ltd. The various characters are cleverly represented by Messrs. Geo. Abel, J. K. Walton, Leonard Russell, and Miss Eva Lumley, the latter undertaking the title-rôle with conspicuous success. Mr. Joe O'Gorman, the clever Irish comedian, has been loudly encored for his racy songs and patter, and deservedly so; and Ferguson and Mac, droll comedians, have nightly been accorded an excellent reception. Bromley and Fontem, a smart comedy duo, take well; and Miss Flo Banks is an attractive and clever comedienne. Also appearing are Mr. Chas. Sloman, comedian; Miss Lilian Boanar, vocalist; and Mr. Fred Harrison, comedian. The Palace pictures are also popular.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—Kelly and Ashby head the bill, and have been most successful with their screaming act, *Bouncing Billiardists*. Miss Florrie Gallimore, the talented comedienne, has nightly been accorded an enthusiastic reception; and the Coloured Meisters delight all with their vocal items so capitally rendered. The Arthur Lloyd Trio create roars of laughter with their amusing sketch, *Little Charley; or, The Twin Sisters*, which is quite a feature of the bill. The marvellous gymnastic feats of Lydia and Albino have created quite a sensation; Mr. Billy Hobbs, a big favourite here, has gained much approval with his coon songs; and also appearing are Hans Hansen Trio, in their smart sporting act; the Three Amaranths, clever lady acrobatic dancers; and Princess Pauline, a charming comedienne.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Dayton Troupe top the bill, and these marvellous acrobats have been accorded a hearty reception nightly. Craig, Rose, and Craig appear to great advantage in their astounding gymnastic performance; and Gillin's ventriloquial act amuses the crowds. Ray and Miles, comic jugglers, are smart; and Miss Raie Walters appears to advantage in her latest success, "Fishing." Mr. R. C. Revel, a capital juggler, introduces some novel and startling feats; and Mr. Lade Henderson's vocal items have been applauded to the echo. Also here are Miss Daisy Pearl, a charming comedienne; and Mr. Monty Walker, the droll Lancashire comedian.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—*The Span of Life* has been presented here by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company, with the Stebbings Brothers forming the "human bridge." Mr. Sanderson Moffat makes a manly Richard Blunt; and the heroine, Kate Heathcote, is well sustained by Miss Phyllis Hamilton; Mr. R. S. Trelawney scores as Dunstan Leach; and praise should be awarded Miss Phyllis Graham for her Cecil Jelf; and to Miss Harriet Russell, for her Mrs. Jelf. The comedy element has a couple of good representatives in Mr. Syd Sylvester and Miss Kitty Russell, as Nutty Brown and Shrove Tuesday.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Following the prevailing fashion, pantomime continues to flourish here, this week Jazon and Warner's *Aladdin* company furnishing a very attractive entertainment. Miss Marie Braham is a sprightly and accomplished representative of the title-rôle, and is well supported by Miss Daisy Lane, who, as the Princess, wins general admiration. Widow Twankey is capitally impersonated by Mr. Harry Carmen; Mr. Edwin C. Jazon scores heavily as Abanazar; Miss Effie Morde shines with brilliancy as Pekoe; and Mr. Cyril Carle is a good Emperor. Mantell and Oval introduce some clever business as the Emperor's servants, and Mr. Peter Vone as Snow Ball and Mr. Alf Brooks as Gin Sling are most amusing. The specialities were the Delarie Troupe of Continental Gymnasts, the Sisters Varley, vocalists, and Saladi and Vone, dancers. The scenery and effects are excellent, and the production is highly creditable to all concerned.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Marie Kendall, the popular comedienne, is again a leading attraction, and achieves her customary success. A numerous and comprehensive company also includes the Corty Brothers in their comedy bar and wrestling act; Keen and Waller, eccentric comedians; Flora Lumière, in some effectively illuminated dances; Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, and deservedly favourites; Fred and Lola Lorrison, versatile variety artists; Mr. Dick Geldard, comedian, an established favourite here; Mr. Steve McCarthy, comedian; and Miss Grace Williams, vocalist and dancer. An up-to-date display by the Bioscope is also an important feature. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* is now nearing its eighth week, and its marvellous success continues to be signified nightly and at the matinées by the notice "House Full."

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* draws enthusiastic audiences nightly, and its reign is assured for weeks to come.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Beauty and the Barge* has superseded *The Sleeping Beauty*, and the utmost pleasure has been derived from the play as presented by Mr. Cyril Maude's company. Mr. Harry Ashford distinguishes himself in the rôle of the amorous bargee, Capt. Barley; Mr. Percival Knight scores continuously as Lieut. Boyne, Miss May Fairclough presents a bright and fascinating picture as Ethel, Mr. Charles Goold does clever comedy work as the mate, Tom Codd; Mr. J. Wheatman does well as John Dibbs, and Mr. Percy Marmont as Herbert Manners, Mr. Walter Pemberton as Major Smedley, Mr. Forrester Harvey as Augustus, Mr. Charles Caffrey as Porter, Mr. J. W. Braithwaite as Mrs. Porter, Miss Mary Pemberton as Lucy Dallas, and Miss Mary Griffith as Mrs. Baldwin add to the delight of the piece. *That Brute Simmons* has also given much pleasure.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* is in the full tide of success. Messrs. Hess and Lisbon, the clever grotesque specialty skaters, are new arrivals, and meet with a hearty reception. Mr. Syd Bazley, a comedian of much resource, humour, and agility, shines as Shacabac.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*Against the Tide*, a powerful drama of truly human interest, was introduced here on Monday to a crowded audience, which applauded throughout with the utmost enthusiasm. Mr. Felix Pitt showed superb acting qualities in the rôle of Erasmus Grimley, Mr. Frederick Victor displayed similar ability in the rôle of the hero, Miss Frances Ruttledge appears as the heroine to the best advantage, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor renewed his popularity in the guise of the cobbler (Robert Tempest), Mr. Wyn Weaver duly emphasised the evil traits of Herbert Grimley, Mr. Fredk. Sandy (as the clerk Ashcroft) acted finely, and the Misses Jessie Yatman, Evelyn Marrable, and Messrs. Alic Macmillan, Louis Lingard, and Hubert Humphreys gain high commendation.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Master Criminal*, capably represented by Miss Winifred Chalmers and company, is doing well here. Mr. Henry L. Osmond supplies a convincing counterfeit of the villain Telford Lestage, Mr. Albert Sember makes a popular hero of Philip Manners, Miss Kate Summerville is in full sympathy with the rôle of the wife Mabel Manners, and in the character of the wicked Lady Travennes Miss Winifred Chalmers holds her audience enthralled. Mr. Elmore Frith gives a good account of Ben Beandy (the detective), Mr. W. B. Somerville is successful as Mr. Manners, and the humour of the drama has capital exponents in Mr. J. W. Gallagher, Mr. Harry Cooke, and Miss Mabel Tremere, little Ivy Rochefort shining conspicuously as Winifred.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Dick Whittington* is fulfilling a successful week's engagement here with the Moore-Kennedy company. Mdlle Lucretia is a shapely and talented representative of the hero, Miss Vera Snowden acts with sweetness and charm as the fair Alice, and the comedians, who comprise Mr. Hyam Long as Fitzwarren, Mr. Dan Agar as Idle Jack, Mr. Clarence Turner as Captain Banting, Mr. Arthur Behan as the Cook, and Doyle and Massey as Shuffle and Shirk furnish unceasing mirth. The Palais Royal Quartette of dancers are applauded for their graceful steps, Mons. Pauletti, the agile representative of the Cat, gives a marvellous cycling performance, and numerous other clever specialities appear in the pantomime, which includes a gorgeous transformation scene.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The principal items this week are the Grigolatis; the Seven Butterflies, whose rhythmic flights are most effective; and Arthur Lennard, who has had a big reception, his songs being well applauded; while Marie Dumas and Leo Stormont are loudly encored for the songs, "Lifeboat Crew" and "Good-night, Beloved"; Barton and Ashley have a funny skit, *Canal Boat Sue;* Tony and Flo Vernon, Herberte Lamartine, Lizzie Fletcher, and the Moulier Sisters come in for a good share of applause.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Bevan's Gordon Highlanders are attracting large audiences this week; Peggy Lennie and Walter Hast have a beautiful fantasy, *The Sea Nymph;* Marguerite Ismay is seen in a charming scena, *Kick-a-poo;* the Three Sisters Andersen are expert dancers; Emma Don, with her black and white comedy quartette, is highly appreciated; other popular turns are Fred Land, Arthur Boyne, Maudie Ford, Elton and Edwin, and the Bros. Terras.

HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Austin Rudd heads the programme here this week; while Clifford Cliff, as a comedian, should certainly make a name; Mabel Le Blanch sings sweetly, the electrical scena, *The Maiden's Prayer*, being most effective; Gus Lennard, the mysterious musician, is novel; Cherry Lass, the Dixons, Roma and Romani, Oliver Conroy, Kit Keen, the Geraldos, and the Bros. Ashley are in the bill.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Tschernoff's ponies and dogs are entertaining crowded houses here; Goldman, Holles and Co. have an exceptionally smart sketch, *The Little Charwoman;* Alf. Gibson is more popular than ever, his songs making a big hit; Bicknelle, modeller in clay; Nina Gordon, Scotch mimic; Jeannie MacKay, comedienne; and D'Arc's Marionettes are most interesting.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's romantic play, *The Midnight Wedding*, drew a good audience here on Monday night. In Mr. Alfred Paumier is found an actor of rare ability, and his rendering of Paul Valmar is a performance of great distinction. Miss Annie Saker, in the dual rôle of Princess Astrea von Strelsburg and Second-Lieut. Karl Helsburg, does not fail to elicit the sympathetic appreciation of the audience; in the character of Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck, Mr. Clinton Baddeley acts with great power; whilst Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg has a capable representative in Mr. Sidney Lynn; the Crown Prince, Leopold, is well depicted by Mr. Frederick W. Freeman; as also is the part of Father Gerard, by Mr. W. S. Hardy. Miss Florence Hunt is well adapted to the rôle of Rozel, alias Satanella. Messrs. Constable, Payne, and Spalding, as Sergeant Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo respectively, comrades in war but rivals in love, cause much merriment in their endeavours to win Kathie, of the Golden Dragon, a character which is pleasingly rendered by Miss Ada Champion.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—Mr. George Dance's company is appearing here in *The Orchid*. Mr. Bertie Wright as Meakin carries off chief honours, Miss Cissie Ralland as Lady Violet also being much admired. Miss Ida Chichester is an imposing Countess, Miss Mamie Stuart does well as Josephine, Mr. Harry Butler is a very clever dancer, and Mr. Alfred Bennet excels in a similar line. Business is very good.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The Gotham Comedy Quartette give a bright and pleasing entertainment; Mdlle. Marvelle exhibits a number of highly-trained cockatoos; Henry Abdy has also an excellent show in his canine hippodrome; Queenie May is a very good little comedienne; Geo. Newburn wins much applause for his imitations; Anna Kenwick is first class both as singer and dancer; Mephisto, the Society contortionist, also goes well; Les Henris give a very good gymnastic act; Raymond's Biograph still remains a favourite.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is here again this week with *His Majesty's Guests*. The play is aptly described as a pantomimical farce, and the fun-providers are Messrs. Arthur Lenville, Frank Morton, Charles Usher, S. Bolton, F. Fredericks, H. W. Lumley, Tom Manardo, and Misses Dolly Royce, L. Castelle, and Amy Rogerson.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is paying a welcome visit here this week. *The Taming of the Shrew* was the attraction on Monday, when Miss Dorothy Green contributed a clever study of Katharina, and Mr. Henry Herbert appeared as Petruchio. Mr. Lionel Bevans was the Baptista and Mr. Bernard Limpus played Lucantio. Miss Kate Turner was successful as Bianco and Miss May de Launay made a good Curtis. On Tuesday *Romeo and Juliet* was cordially received with Mr. Bernard Limpus and Miss Dorothy Green in the principal parts. *Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The School for Scandal* have also had a place in the bill.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Los Granadas are the leading stars here this week, and give a clever and amusing performance on the aerial bars and canvas spring. Dorothy L. Clarke wins favour by her sweet singing; the Rupertos are clever equilibrists; Dolly Golden dances well; Harry Nation scores as a character comedian; Henri Bekker is a smart conjurer; Otto and Olgar give an amusing sketch; and Tiny Reiff is a dainty comedienne.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy's company is responsible for a capital production of the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*. A charming principal boy is found in Miss Marion May, who plays Sinbad, and Miss Amy Culcott as Zorilda is a great favourite; Mr. Walter Adams as Sinbad and John E. West as Mrs. Sinbad are both successful; Miss Amy Maud makes a good Selim, and the smaller parts are in adequate hands. Every praise is due to the specialties supplied by the Westwoods, comedy cyclists; Dobito and Buxton, operatic vocalists; Newcombe and Sullivan, in a laughable sketch, entitled *The Captain's Lunch;* the Culcotts, speciality artistes, dancers, and banjoists; Miss Masie Wyatt, solo 'celloist, and Little Tim, big-boot dancer.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Wilson.—Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company is paying a visit here this week with the drama *The Branded Woman*. Miss Nana St. George, a clever artist, gives a good portrayal in the title-rôle; Mr. James Stillwell in the rôles of Philip Maurice and Zarka, the hypnotist, deserves the applause accorded him; Mr. Edward Fryer and Mr. Paul E. Tuelon give a capital rendering of the respective parts of Baron Hauber and Louis Duroe; a sympathetic embodiment of Rudolph is submitted by Miss Edith Wild. Other parts are capably played by Mr. Becket Bould as Dick Brown and Miss Pollie Denville as Jacqueline.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Mother Goose* continues to attract large and delighted audiences. On last Saturday afternoon Mr. Hart, with his customary generosity, entertained the adult inmates of the Bradford Workhouse, who were highly pleased with the pantomime and the presents they received. The little inmates of the Workhouse are to be present on the afternoon of Saturday, the 10th.

THE EMPIRE (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—That wonderful instrumentalist and entertainer, Vasco, "The Mad Musician," is here again, with his bewildering assortment of instruments, which he manipulates with skill and astonishing rapidity. The Three Victorias follow with an acceptable turn as singers and dancers. "The Soldiers' Queen," Josephine Sabel, displays remarkable vivacity in a vocal turn of exceptional humour and originality. G. W. Hunter is an old-time favourite, and his quaint songs and stories are as humorous as ever. Will Haines, in an early Victorian "get-up," gives a delightful comic song with a well-known refrain, Daisy Ray's coon song and dance are excellent contributions to the programme. "The acme of animal training" is an accurate description of the performance given by Lux's French poodles. Elsie Claire is a very graceful comedienne. In her usual quaint and original style Amber Austa, coon comedienne, entertains the audience. Marzella's birds are put through a delightful and wonderful performance, and in their novel and clever trapeze performance Alexandra and Bertie win applause.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—In magnificent costumes and with well-rendered songs, Florrie Forde pleases the audiences here this week; and Harold Hughman is successful in his imitations of animals, etc. Spencer and Marks dance cleverly, and they are smart and humorous in a sketch, *The Stage-struck Waifs*. Some very wonderful jumping is done by Arthur Hartley, who holds the world's championship belt. "The Lancashire mill girl," Maggie Walsh, secures well-merited applause for her excellent vocalism. There is much novelty in the dancing, and the specialities presented by the Society Quartette. Ford Williams submits a good bass song in vigorous style. With the aid of the limelight Mdlle. Eldee presents beautifully-coloured pictures, in which she poses artistically; and there are interesting films exhibited by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company opened a week's engagement here on Monday with *Still Waters Run Deep*. Mrs. Kendal gave an artistic and convincing portrayal of Mrs. Sternhold, and Mr. Kendal was completely successful as John Mildmay. Mr. Ernest Hendrie handled the part of Mr. Potter cleverly; Mr. Bassett Roe submitted a fine enactment of Captain Hawkesley, and Miss Elise Clarens made an excellent Mrs. Mildmay. The programme for the week included *Dick Hope*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, *The Housekeeper*, and *The Ironmaster*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—Mr Ernest Carpenter's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* worthily maintains its popularity here. Mr. Walter Kooney (Will Atkins), and Mr. Harry Karr (Dick Deadeye) provide boundless fun, and are capitally supported by Mr. Allan Wye (Mrs. Crusoe). Miss May Mars sings delightfully as Robinson Crusoe, Miss Rosalie Jacobi is a graceful and winsome Polly Perkins, and the remaining characters are ably sustained.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. The Moran and Marreece Quartet achieve conspicuous success in their clever musical transformation act, Booker and Narbis are amusing in their original comedy creation *The Interviewer*, the Three Firmans are diverting acrobats and gymnasts, Martine and Son (American song illustrators) are entertaining Lily Flexmore gives a capital exhibiton of high kicking and contortion, Fred Cullane's Comedy Trio are well received in the comedietta *The Ladies' School*, Andy Higginson (swell vocal comedian) is effective, Nash and Noel are good comedians and patterers, Rose D'Alberg is a pleasing comedienne, and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. A capital company is here this week. Whit Cunliffe is warmly applauded for his amusing and topical songs; Millie Payne, "the new comedy queen," achieves much success; Harry Lamore, silent comedian on the slack wire, submits an excellent turn; Heely and Meely, American eccentrics, are mirth-provoking; Tina Clementa's loop-looping dogs and highly trained horse are wonderful performers; Mack Olive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, is highly successful in his original whistling scena; Maxford and O'Neill are smart repartee comedians, Harry Allister's character impersonations are warmly appreciated, the Brothers Herbert O'Reilly are smart elastic equilibrist novelty specialists, Will Driscoll is a pleasing comedian and dancer, Violet Stockelle (comedienne) merits praise, and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Mother Goose* is having a very successful season here. The subject, as worked out by Mr. Hickory Wood, is interesting; the staging is all that could be desired, both scenery and dresses being fully up to the high standard to which we are accustomed at the Prince's, and so diversified are the attractions that the pantomime cannot fail to please all tastes. The company, headed by Mr. Wilkie Bard, is an exceptionally good and capable one all round; the small parts are all very carefully played, thus adding considerably to the success of the production. Mr. Wilkie Bard is very popular in the title-rôle; he presents a quaint study of the Goose Farmer, but never descends to burlesque. Jack is very carefully played by Mr. Edward Lewis; he is always amusing, and though there is great scope for comicality in the part he does not overdo it. Mr. Fred Conquest is clever as the Goose who lays the golden eggs; his movements are all very natural, and there is much expression in all he does. Messrs. Rich and Rich are amusing as the O'Tooles, pleasing with their song and dance specialities. Mr. Marriott Edgar and the Brothers Griffiths also add much to the general success of the pantomime; and the Tiller "Superba" troupe of dancers are experts in their line. All the principals are now established favourites.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident

the Hon. Crewe Boodle, and Miss Mary Morrison as Miss Bliss are also worthy of mention.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The excellent programme here this week includes the Avolos; Rastus and Banks in a sketch, entitled *The Major and the Maid*; Pollo Jerome, a lady athlete; Arthur Croxon, impersonator; Will McIvor, vocalist; The Falcons, comedy acrobats; and The Original Caledonian Boys.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good bill is provided here, and includes The Five Grovinis, wonderful acrobats; Percy Honroi and Troupe in *Concordia*; Three Royal Temples, vocalists; Frank's Midgets, conjurors; Harry Thurston, impersonator; Fred Horsfall, mimic; J. C. Laurie, comedian; and Hinton and Wootten in football on bicycles.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L. — This week local playgoers are afforded the first opportunity of witnessing the delightful comic opera *Peggy Machree*. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. Charles E. Hamilton, is an exceptionally strong one. Foremost among the artists is Miss Claudia Lassell, who plays the title-rôle with charm and grace, whilst her vocal numbers are excellently rendered. Mr. Leslie Styles is a baritone of fine quality, and all his songs are vociferously applauded. Mr. Milroy Cooper realises the canny Scot well, and provides the local colour as Alexander McDougall. Miss Madge Avery and Mr. Dan Fitzgerald assist in the comic parts of Moira Cafferty and Michael. Mr. John Morley uses a good voice to advantage as Sergeant Bampton, and he has a dainty ally in Miss Blanche Astley as Molly.

CANTERBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—*The Ticket of Leave Man* has been played here this week. Arthur Burne, as Robert Brierley, won the sympathy of his audience; Mr. Austin Leigh did well as the detective, Hawkshaw; Mr. G. W. Elton embodied the Jew Melter Moss very satisfactorily; and Mr. Richard Fielding was capital as Dalton. Miss Violet Agnew successfully impersonated the poor girl who becomes Brierley's wife; Miss Emmie O'Reilly, as the garrulous landlady, caused much merriment; Miss Lilian Rogers proved a favourite in the rôle of Sam Willoughby. Other characters were ably undertaken by Mr. Claude Agnew, Mr. Dane Austin, and Miss Maude Creighton.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Bedford.—*On the Love Path* is being presented at the Royal this week by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's principal company, and the delightful comedy is attracting large audiences. Mr. Hutchinson as Arthur Taunton gives a performance that is quite up to his usual high standard. Miss Lilias Earle, in her charming portrayal of Charity Concannon, captivates everyone; Mr. George Mudie does some capital work as John Gripleigh; Miss Hilda Honiss and Miss Margaret Marshall make two pleasing representatives of Norah and Mary Concannon; while Mr. Frank Hill as Peter Concannon, Mr. Frank Elliott as Gerald Marvel, and Mr. T. W. Rawson as Denbigh Thrayle are all very faithful impersonators of their respective parts. The piece is preceded by the excellent curtain-raiser, *His Landlady*, in which Mr. George Mudie, Miss Hilda Honiss, and Mr. Frank Elliott work exceptionally well together.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—Mr. Geoffrey de Mowbray's company is here with *The Bank of England*. The important part of Sherlock Holmes is safely entrusted to Mr. Charles H. Lester; Mr. Walter Bentley as Stephen Hartley has ample opportunities for his well-known histrionic powers; Mr. Ernest Dare as Eric Dane gives a successful delineation, and Mr. Henry Compton, as the moneylender, Gordon Isaacs, proves a particularly good exponent of the part. Miss Phyllis Orme as Aminta J. Beane is the breezy American widow to the life; Mr. Chas. Goff as Tommy Sprouts, a detective in embryo, is responsible for a tremendous lot of fun.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—With Vesta Tilley at the head of the bill, the Cardiff Empire has been crammed at every performance. At the other end of the bill are Amann and Hartley in their comedy sketch *The Naughty Professor*; Stewart and Morgan in a pathetic "Leaving Ireland" episode, introduce some capital Irish melodies; W. H. Downes, coloured vocalist, contributes popular songs; the Five Bellaizers give a fine display of physical culture; and the Mammons in *Uncle Yank* prove amusing. Fyne and Hurley in a funny little "Coster and Dude" incident; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden in a bright conception, *A Desperate Remedy*; Drawee, Frisco, and Hambo, a trio of comedy jugglers; and the Bohemians, comedy musicians, are the remaining names on the programme.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. S. M'Kino; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers.—Mr. Milton Bode's production of *Puss in Boots* on Monday night was received with enthusiasm by a crowded and delighted audience. Mr J. Hickory Wood has provided a capital "book," and the staging and dressing are brilliantly effective. Mr. Tatten Hall's King Crabbus is an excellent performance, his song being cleverly rendered. Mr. Leo Sterling, an old favourite here, again delights with his musical specialities and broad humour. Mr. Tommy Nelldon also scores as Maggies. As the Dame, Mr. Harry Bickley is the principal laughter-maker, and gives a performance teeming with fun without the slightest trace of vulgarity. Miss Gladys Warren sings nicely and dances nimbly. Miss Marie Reeve made a big hit as principal boy, gaining several encores for her rendering of popular songs. The principal girl is Miss Janet H. Reynolds, whose charming appearance, bright acting, and delightful singing gain her hosts of admirers. Miss Grace Langley dances her way into favour, and Miss Addie Love, who made an ideal Fairy Queen, is heartily applauded for her pleasing vocal efforts. Mr. Barry Gilmore makes a nimble Cat, his antics causing much amusement. The Carlos Trio of lady dancers contribute a smart turn, and each number rendered by the Royal Welsh Glee Singers is encored.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—A capital programme is provided here this week. Vermette and Dione, who are the star turn, contribute a marvellous bar act, and are recalled again and again. In *The Master and Maid* Les Mounts have a delightful interlude full of wit and humour and excellent vocalism, the Maid being daintily played by Miss Hilda Corelli, and the Master by Mr. Gerald Mount. Mr. Fred Hallam is a funny comedian, and keeps his audience thoroughly amused. Kloof and Ramsey, musical novelty burlesque artists, score an emphatic success. Horace Minto tells funny stories in an inimitable style. Miss Florence Schubert, burlesque artist, sings some good songs. Smart equestrian acts are submitted by Mdlle. Leo Claire in *Scenes from Spain*," and The Ernests in a lady and gentleman jockey act. The Hippodrome pictures complete the bill.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Poole's Myriorama is paying a visit here this week, and, as usual, is drawing good houses. A lot of new pictures are being exhibited, and excellent variety turns include The Mitsutas in a wonderful feet-balancing act, Learto with his clever dog "Bobs," Takagero and Commie in a sensational ladder act in mid-air; Houston, Chinese magician, who introduces a mystifying item in the Floating Lady; and Professor Chard's troupe of leaping dogs. Mr. Fred Poole is an excellent guide and humorist.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company is paying a visit here with *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, and is meeting with a hearty reception. Elinor D'Arville is admirably sustained by Miss Dagmar, who, by her clever emotional acting, well sustains her high reputation; Mr. Somerfield is deserving of high praise for his careful study of Will Maynard; Mr. George Mitchell gives a clever reading of the double part of Geoffrey and Cyril Langdon; Messrs. Charles Stirling and Bradford Crosby are satisfactory as Harold Kingston and Peter Miles respectively; as Leonard Vimbart Mr. T. G. Vane gives a humorous impersonation and obtains the heartiest laughter and applause; Mr. Chas. E. Warne is also responsible for a good deal of merriment. Miss Maudie Grayson dances well and makes a dainty Phœbe; Miss Mollie Monaghan appears as Janet Miles, and her efforts meet with due appreciation; as Rosina Phillipi Miss Marie Clavering quite avails herself of her opportunities. Miss Marie Barrett as Lily Lorrimer makes the part acceptable; and Miss Alice Connaughton does well as Florette de Vere.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard. — The chief attraction here is the appearance of Young Colossus, aged eighteen years, weight thirty-five stone, and L'Homme Miniature, aged twenty-five years, weight 2st. 6lb., a very striking contrast which is proving attractive. Next in order come the Norman and Leonard Trio with *The Itinerant*, a scena which includes some clever musical selections. Lord, Murray, and Lord were to have appeared, but on the evening of our visit one of the partners was absent on account of indisposition; the other two gave a nimble display of ball-punching. Also appearing are: Marie Stolle, low comedienne; Blarney and Kennard, comedy artists; Tod Lowen and Harry Cotton, comic vocalists; and Davis and Davis with patter and medley; while Lacey's Erascope has fresh pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Hall and Wilson are introducing their novel cycling act; Allan and Hart are giving a capital display of dancing. Others who do their share of entertaining are A. E. Clifford, vocalist; Ida Kathrena, in her scena *The Carnival of Toys*; Walker and Lane, cross-talk comedians, and Florence Godfrey, ballad vocalist. The Edisonograph gives interesting pictures, while great praise must be awarded to Joe Boganny's Lunatic Bakers for their clever acrobatic display.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. George Dance's well-balanced company presented *Lady Madcap* for the first time on Monday evening to a crowded and enthusiastic house. Miss Vera Vere, in the title-rôle, plays with delightful abandon; Miss Peggy Primrose as Lady Betty's maid is irresistible, singing tunefully, and bewitching all by her dancing; Mr. H. V. Surrey as Oroya Brown puts a good deal of "character" into the part, which pleased everybody; Mr. Vincent Erne does very well as the comical little Corporal Ham; Mr. Bay Russell is effective in both singing and dancing as Stony Stratford; Mr. Alex. Chentrens, an old local favourite, sings as delightfully as ever as the amorous Count de St. Hubert; Miss Kathleen Ronayne does well as Gwenny Holden, Lady Betty's friend; Mr. Fred Payne is very droll as Posh Jenkins; Messrs. Lyall Grant, Fredk. C. Leister, Robert Cranny, and B. Whitelock are well placed as officers of East Anglian Hussars; Mr. Louis du Cane is good as Lord Framlingham; and Mr. Ralph Holland does his little well as his Lordship's butler.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company is here this week with the sensational drama, *A Gambler's Daughter*. The mounting is good, and special mention should be made of the realistic destruction of the drinking den in Act 3. As Desmond O'Dare Mr. Robert Ayrton shines conspicuously, Mr. Victor Millard doing excellently well in the dual rôle of John and Jack Grant. Solomon Solomons is capitally portrayed by Mr. Alfred Sanders; and Mr. C. Raymand is successful as Ralph Gillman, as is also Mr. George Vinning as Dick. Mildred and Miriam Grant (mother and daughter) are charmingly and effectively rendered by Miss Adria Hill; and Miss Harriet Loydall is good as Auntie Zeb.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Bayne.—The attraction here this week is the musical comedy drama *The Sporting Girl*, presented by Mr. J. W. Norton's company. Miss Maggie Sinclair in the title-rôle is a decided success. Mr. P. Piercy Watson gives a good portrayal of Jack Garling; Mr. Fred Hart is thoroughly amusing as Rev. John Bunyan; Mr. N. Drury looks and acts well as the Italian, Narco Castellina; Mr. James H. Stirling gives a convincing rendering of the heavy part, that of George Drewitt; Mr. Penton Hook of Chicago has a capable exponent in Mr. Harry Sinclair; Miss Nell Ascott acts and sings tunefully as Amy Beddoe; Miss Minnie Blackmore does well in the trying part of Mrs. Owen; and as Nartha, a cook, Miss Essie Murrall is very entertaining.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company is doing good business with the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* this week. Miss Marion Armitage is a capable Robinson Crusoe; Miss Nellie Moore cleverly enacts Polly Hopkins; Miss Cissie Conyers successfully enacts Captain Billie Taylor; and Miss Bertha St. Ruth scores as Princess Flumeza. Messrs. Bass and Guinness prove a clever pair of comedians as Billy Crusoe and Jimmy Crusoe respectively; Mr. Allen Hanbury shows capabilities as Mrs. Crusoe. Clever speciality turns are done by the Snow Family, expert skaters; the Sidney Quartette; Russell and Johnson, buck and sand dancers; and George French's troupe of acrobatic comedy cyclists.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—*The 10.30 Down Express* opened here on Monday night to a good house, with the proprietor of the company, Mr. Horace Stanley, in the humorous rôle of Sam Wagstaffe, A.B.; Mr. Chas. Burden is successful as Jack O'Malley, a like remark applying to Mr. Alaric Burton as the Country Squire; Mr. George Arthur is at times very powerful as the hypocritical and villainous James Inderwick; whilst the character-study of the old gamekeeper by Mr. William Matthews is a feature of the piece; Mr. Harry Day makes a capital emissary from "The Yard," and Mr. Arthur E. Francis well sustains the part of the man in possession. As the heroine Miss Elsie Capel is quite successful; and other female characters worth notice are Miss Clara Saintley as Olive Coombes, Miss Evelyn M. Walton as Letitia Leigh, and Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Pots.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company is here this week with the romantic drama *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a forcible impersonation of the rôle of Napoleon; and as Colonel Lavarennes, Mr. Henry Barlsmere is effective. Mr. Phil Harpin is very good as Colonel Julius Meuron, and as Paul Laczinska Mr. E. Bulmer Pitt is highly satisfactory. Mr. C. W. Spencer is very clever as the bluff old soldier, Sergeant Choripin, and as Pierre Pimpinnet Mr. Frank M. Thorne is really amusing. Marie Walmska is portrayed by Miss Leslie Warner, and Mademoiselle Leonie Marbeout by Miss Maud Russell. As Marcelli Choupin Miss Marie Harcourt deserves praise for her careful rendering of the part.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Wm. Greet's company opened here on Monday in *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. William Stephens as Jim Cheese proves himself a clever comedian; Mr. Percy Carr as Dick Wargrave sings the ballad "My Cosy Corner" in good style; Miss Aimee Grey as the American heiress is charming and sings artistically; Mr. Vernon Davidson as Hon. Crewe Boodle scores with his song "The Grenadier"; as Daisy Fallowfield Miss Florence Imeson acts in a dainty manner; Miss Dot Carey as Jim's sweetheart, and Miss Gladys Fountaine as Mrs. Shimmering Black are all that can be desired.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The bill of fare here includes the Yan-Kwai Troupe of Chinese acrobats and jugglers; Squire and Leslie present a comedy act; The Ladderites are skilful acrobats; Bros. Obo are capital comedians and patterers; the Great Vincent, acrobat, is well received; the Cranks, comedy cyclists, are clever; the Sisters Geronde are refined vocalists and dancers; the Jansons are clever trapeze performers, and the Three Zaraos in their triple horizontal bar performance win applause.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Wm. Bennett.—*La Poupee* is here this week. Mr. William Everard is seen to advantage as Launcelot, Mr. Walter Balfour makes a capital Father Maxime, Mr. Fred Seymour is quaintly funny as Hilarius, Miss Dot Stephens scores as Alesia, Miss Edith Hunter makes a charming Madame Hilarius, and Miss Althea Hyde's Henri is another well rendered part.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Large audiences have gathered to witness the excellent programme at this place of amusement. M. Dartigan causes a great sensation in his sensational "Looping the Loop" on a motor cycle. The Eskimos give a successful speciality entertainment, entitled *At Home in Lapland*; Ben Harris and his nippers give a speciality act, entitled *A Promising Pupil*; the Sisters Stratton are capable duettists and dancers; Lillian Victoria appears in her quick-change vocal scena; Chant and Chant are capital vocalists; and a very interesting set of animated pictures are much admired.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Morton.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is presenting the new play, *The Women Who Gambles* here this week. The principal rôle, Countess Natalie Steinback, is entrusted to Miss Louisa Peach, and a very touching and finished representation she gives; Mrs. Morton Powell enacts the part of Cora Gouldhart in a pleasing manner, her enunciation being very clear; Mr. Horatio Sinclair has the "heavy" part, and as Baron Cratzlaw, has ample opportunity for displaying his evident histrionic ability; Mr. Edward Ashby as Count Otto Steinback wins constant applause; and Mr. Ernest J. Fare as Lieut. Carl Czarteryski plays a difficult part with tact and feeling; Mr. Ernest H. Clarke is a dignified Chief of the Police, M. Stambuloff; and Mr. G. H. Hurst is effective as M. Kosta Marinovitch. The fun is in the able hands of Mr. Tom Byron as the Hon. Bertie Bray, Miss Florrie Hall as Mdlle. Zila Zeyelda, and Mr. Fred Prior as Peter Peteroff, who all three provoke roars of laughter; Miss Marie Ramuz faithfully interprets the part of Stella Melakorf; Mr. Arthur Brandhurst is well placed as Georges Bloff, and Mr. Walter P. Carr and his colleagues are responsible for the "Friends of Freedom."

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened here on Monday evening for three nights with *Are You a Mason?* Mr. Allan Pollock makes a capital George Fisher, Mr. E. H. Paterson is decidedly amusing as Amos Bloodgood, and as Frank Perry Mr. H. Langdon Bruce achieves success. Mr. Richard Purdon as John Halton causes much merriment; and Mr. Percy Bell gives an excellent portrayal of Hamilton Travers. Mr. Howard L. Tracey creditably sustains the part of Ernest Morrison. Miss Adelaide Grace acts the rôle of Mrs. Bloodgood with dignity, and Miss Mabel Younge, Miss Babs Stuart, and Miss Mabel Jowett make three charming daughters. As Lottie Miss Alice Raynor is worthy of special mention; and as Mrs. Halton Miss Rita Narcelli is good. Mr. William A. Armour's company, in *What a Woman Did*, occupies the boards for the remainder of the week.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—The boards are occupied by Mr. Frank Curzon's company in *Mr. Hopkinson*. Miss Helen Russell is a captivating Lady Tyra Egglesby; Miss Blanka Stewart deserves high compliments for her handling of the rôle of the Duchess of Braceborough; and Miss Francis Davie is smart as Eliza Dibbs. Mr. Edward Vaughan is well placed as Lord Gawthorpe; Mr. Charles Esdale is quite at his ease as the Duke of Braceborough; Mr. George Desmond thoroughly identifies himself with the rôle of the Hon. Otto Dursingham; Mr. Cecil Burt is very quaint as the Earl of Addleton; Mr. Harold is capital as Mr. Smethurst; Mr. Edward Rigby is successful in a humorous rendering of Samuel Hopkinson; and Messrs. Oliver Rogers, W. Holland, and J. G. Lowther complete the cast as Purbury, a footman, and Blisset. The curtain-raiser, *The Impossible Trio*, is noticed in another column.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—*The Indian Mutiny* is being staged here by Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company. Mr. George Steel submits a fine rendering of Lieutenant Manley; Mr. Cyril Harrison is praiseworthy as Captain Manley; Mr. John Davidson is efficient as Major Ingleby; Mr. J. McElroy is a droll Terry O'Brien; Mr. Villiers Stanley enacts the part of Nebu Singh for all it is worth; Mr. J. S. Shedden does well as Abul Khan; Mr. Ernest Keand is commendable as Ra Goonga; and Mr. Arrack Saumy is creditable as Ghaute. Miss F. Melrose Millett acts with good judgment and skill as Ghuz-nah; and adequate renderings of Mrs. Major Ingleby and Kate Ingleby are given by Misses Kate Bruce and Lillie Grey.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—*The Orchid* is here this week. Mr. Harry Walsh, as Meakin, is amusing, and able support comes from Mr. George Asaf; Mr. Sinclair Holden, as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, is effective; Mr. Charles Seymour, as Dr. Fausette, is seen to advantage; Miss Marjory Moore acts with grace, and her singing is delightful; Miss Phil Gumpe, as Caroline Vokins, is charming; Miss Sissie Brand, as the adventuress, plays well; Miss D. West-Collins, Miss Maud Davis, and Miss Trilby Collier filled their rôles with success.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley.—There is a return to pantomime here, that of *Robinson Crusoe*, from Cardiff, having been secured for this week and next. Mr. Milton Bode's company is one of all-round excellence. The title rôle is played by Miss Maisie Ellinger, who is possessed of a handsome figure, a charming personality, and a well-trained and very pleasing voice. She is a great success. Amongst her most successful songs are "Bombay" and "Do you hear the Pipers' calling," and she scores heavily in all. Miss Veronica Brady is a bright and vivacious Polly Perkins, and her rendering of "The Little Wooden Hut," with a smart and original cake walk dance—indeed, her dancing generally—is as pleasing as it is effective. Miss Cassie Walmer, the octoroon comedienne, as the Empress of Jungalow, is received with well-merited recognition. She has several taking songs, in which her powerful voice is heard to advantage; she also contributes a clever sand dance. Miss Lily Beverley is a capital Lieut. Bobs, and Miss Blanche Courtney, as Jenny Atkins, is in every way acceptable. Miss Amy Singleton figures agreeably as Rome. Downes and Langford, as Samuel Salt and Peter Pepper, are extremely amusing and have several diverting duets. Mr. Clifford Morgan, as Will Atkins, is specially successful, his fine baritone voice securing for him general commendation. Mr. Tom Owen, as Mrs. Crusoe, is all that can be desired. Larola, as Friday, is a remarkably clever acrobat and juggler, and introduces a speciality turn of considerable merit.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—The star turn is provided here this week by the Collinson Combination in their dramatic episode, *A Club Raid*. The various characters are cleverly impersonated by Messrs. Jack Collinson, Arthur Whitehead, W. Macnamara, and F. Walker, and Misses Jeannie Moss and Selina Seaforth. Hector and Lauraine, described as the Whirligigs, are clever mirth provokers, and deserve special commendation. Geo. Prince, "the crazy comic," is wonderfully entertaining, and Wallace Whitney is equally so. Beattie Foster is a charming comedienne and soon gains favour. Decona appears in an amusing musical act, and Mdlle. Sylvesto proves herself a contortionist of more than average ability. The Palace Bioscope depicts an amusing film, entitled *The Interfering Mother-in-Law*.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's No. 1 company scored another success on Monday with the Russian drama, entitled *In Holy (!) Russia*. Mr. Robert Cockcroft may be warmly congratulated upon his embodiment of the Tzar; Mr. Tom G. Warry did well as the Count Gregori Petrolski; Mr. Louis Norman played well as Michael Natolski, Captain of the Russian Guards; Mr. J. Rice Cassidy was droll as Colonel Richard Forrest; Mr. Carl Kovinelli brought passion and pathos to bear upon the rôle of Steragoff; Mr. John Chesterfield made the most of the opportunities afforded in the rôle of Ivan Overitch; Mr. Stephen Crossley did admirably in his presentation of Baron Von Pleve; and as Sir Harry Beresford, Mr. Frank Copeland was well placed.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—The patrons of this popular place of amusement are this week being treated to an excellent répertoire of Shakespearean plays by Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their well-known company. On Monday night *Henry V.* was produced, Mr. F. R. Benson appearing with his accustomed success as King Henry. Mrs. Benson gave a charming portrayal of the Princess Katherine, and Miss Tita Brand made a dignified and effective Queen Isabel. Mr. Philip Sanders displayed his abilities as the Duke of Exeter, and a capital reading of Fluellen was given by Mr. G. R. Weir, whose excellent comedy was heartily enjoyed. Messrs. Nicholson and Wilson gave a humorous conception of the parts of Nym and Bardolph, and in the character of Pistol Mr. Cyril Keightley was particularly good. Mr. Percy D. Owens did well as Charles VI. The remaining parts were in capital hands.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—*The Boom of Big Ben* is being played here this week by Mr. E. H. Knight and George Denham's company. Mr. Fred Powell efficiently portrays the rôle of Joe Galloway, and as Judith Miss Nellie Fletcher is admirable. Mr. John Brittain is amusing in the rôle of Tony Prebble, and Miss Hilda Baynton acquits herself well as Marjorie Galloway. Mr Harry Scott is capital as Gilbert Galloway, and Miss Mildred Cottell is excellent as Olive Lorette. The parts of Tom Battleby and Henry Siegenbach are ably presented by Messrs. George Denham and Richard Ferriss, and the Misses Gwynne Spencer and Dorothy as Maud de Courcy and Clara Vere are both good in their respective parts.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Musical-Director, Mr. H. J. Baynton.—The principal feature here this week is Fred Karno's comedians in their travesty, *Mumming Birds*, which causes roars of laughter. The Two St. Johns' musical act scores a triumph, and Katie Butler is a vivacious comedienne. The Tupps' knockabout act creates general mirth, and Edie King is a juvenile artist of much promise. Barney Vox, ventriloquist, is well appreciated, and Chas. Adams, comedian, merits applause. Edie Veni, comedy artist, is favourably received, and the Empire Pictures are also interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The prominent turn here this week is Troba, a clever juggler and equilibrist. Another attractive turn is Valvero's Naval Bombardment, and Poole and Poole are vocalists and dancers of no mean order. The Du Gros Trio of Gymnasts make a decided hit, and Belle Harcourt is a pleasing comedienne. The Four Mill Lads render their vocal numbers in good style, and Fred Brick is a humorous comedian. Mattie Crawford wins favour as a comedienne and dancer; Wal Robins, musical comedian, is much in demand; and the bioscope is up to date.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and company are paying a welcome first visit here this week, opening on Monday with *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*. Mr. Norman played Sir George Silvester in his usual artistic and admirable manner, ably seconded by that talented actress Miss Beatrice Wilson as Lady Ursula; and these two principals receive hearty calls at the close of each act. All the other principal parts are in good hands, the result being a performance of uniform excellence. *David Garrick* (Mr. Norman's master part), *As You Like It*, and *Nell Gwynne* are also billed.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Deputy-Acting-Manager, Mr. Rhodes Wells.—Rex Fox is causing quite a sensation here in a ventriloquial and musical act on the wire; Penstone and Yson-Ngo are exceptionally clever Chinese illusionists; the Zampas are first-rate vocalists and speciality dancers; a very quaint comedian with good songs is Fred Pollard; Jimmy James gives an enjoyable turn with the banjo and bones; Lily Simons is a charming comedienne; and some good singing is heard when the Brothers Mellor, blind vocalists, appear.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Mr. Arnold Bell's celebrated company appeared in *Ben-Ma-Chree*. Dan Mylrea was sustained by Mr. Arnold Bell in a most creditable manner; Mr Frank C. Robson was well placed as Thorkell Mylrea; Mr. Cuthbert Imrie made a capable Gilchrist Mylrea; Mr. F. C. Robson was very good as Mr. Harcourt; Miss Lillian Earle looked captivating as Mona Mylrea; Miss Henley as Nancy was very good; and Miss E. Mack as Liza Teare, Miss Vyner as Kerry, and Miss Violet Campbell as Kitty all filled their parts in a creditable manner. The piece was well staged and good houses were the rule.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sandon Perkins.—*Veronique* is the most magnificent production we have had here for a long time, and the company under the direction of Mr. George Dance is brilliant in every department. Miss Rita Leonhardt is a bewitching Veronique, and her vocal numbers are received with rapturous applause. Mr. Roland Bottomley as Florestan is a handsome and manly lover; Miss Florence Lee makes a fine appearance as Agatha; Miss Florence Aylwin as the Aunt displays a rich contralto voice, which is most effective; Miss Nesta Laurel acts and sings well as Denise; Mr. Ellis Holland scores a success in the part of Coquenard, his business being excruciatingly funny; Mr. Jack Crichton makes an excellent Roustot; and Mr. Tom Shelford as Seraphim acts, sings, and dances well.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The Motramos occupy the place of honour, and create much merriment with their comedy act entitled *Do You Reverse?* Billy Ross and company introduce a smart boxing item; a very clever juggling act is done by Frank Sylvo; Vasey and Ramsey are a couple of very smart dancers; a pleasing performance on the rings is given by the Lulaine Darrel Trio; Joe Mac is a comedian with original ideas; James Brady scores again with old favourites; Beatty and Blanche are clever song and dance artists; and a good turn is provided by Madame Stentora, a lady baritone. The pictures conclude an enjoyable evening.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—During the first half of the week Mr. J. Bannister-Howard's company is appearing here in *The Eternal City*. The exacting part of Roma Volonna is most capably filled by Miss Rona Merrick, who submits an earnest and capable performance. Miss C. Stephens satisfactorily doubles the parts of the Princess Bellini and Francesca, and Miss Mary Mannering and Miss Marie Grey give good help as Elena and Nattalina. Mr. E. Stanton Sharp is a commanding and incisive Baron Bonelli; Mr. Henry Deas a handsome and sympathetic David Rossi; and Mr. J. Fortesque a most appealing and picturesque Pope Pius. Mr. Geo. Cartwright works hard and well as Bruno Rocco; Mr. L. St. G. Lowther gives good assistance as Angelli, chief of police; and the remaining parts are in good hands. During the latter part of the week Mr. Louis Calvert's company is billed to appear in *The Duffer*.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith. — A capital bill finds a place here twice nightly. The New York Nippers provide plenty of fun, and are very expert dancers; Vernando is a clever and original ventriloquist; Miss Nell Richardson, with pretty face, voice, and dresses, gives a turn that is all too short; Zaro and Arno return again to give their clever and funny bar performance; the Kimberley Boys are a couple of original comedians; the Sisters Bartholomew are songsters and capital dancers; Mr. Fred Mason is a successful comedian and whistler; Mr. Dick Kendal a good dancing comedian; and Mr. Frank Purcell and company provide laughter in a farcical sketch.

ECCLES.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Potasch and Wardle; Manager, Mr. P. Potasch; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Ryan-Smith.—We have a welcome return visit this week of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey, in *The Wearin' o' the Green*, and Mr. Mackey is again delighting his Eccles friends with his droll Irish comicalities. Mrs. Mackey again appears in the part of Norah McGrath, which she portrays with dramatic power; Mr. Charles Homer sings well as Shamus McDermott; and Miss Nana Hensberg is bright and vivacious as Biddy McGlinn.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The favourable impression gained by the first performances of the pantomime *The Forty Thieves* is amply confirmed by repeated visits. Mr. Wyndham has given his patrons a spectacle which for playful humour and beautiful scenery is in all respects worthy of the reputation of his theatre, and that this opinion is shared by a crowd of playgoers is amply shown by the large audiences which are nightly attracted to the Royal.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is meeting with continued success in *The Little Michus* at this house. The piece owes a great deal to the humour of Mr. Eric Thorne as General des Ifs and the buoyant style of Mr. Jack Cannot in the character of Bagnolet, as well as to the charm of Miss Iris Hoey and Miss Mabel Green as the Little Michus; Mr. Leonard Mackay is so admirable in the part of Aristide Vert as to inspire regret that he has not more to do, and Mr. Arthur Royd as Gaston, and Mr. Hardley Turner as Pierre Michu are unfailingly good; the opera is indeed sustained down to the smallest character with vivacity and sprightliness.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—The concluding weeks of the *Aladdin* pantomime's long and successful run are now announced, though the interest in the production shows no symptoms of diminution. The principals continue to receive the most cordial tributes of appreciation and popularity, and the entertainment has been clearly stamped with the hall mark of public favour.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—Messrs. Edward Arthur and company take the lead in this week's bill with two scenes from the famous opera *The Lily of Killarney*, very admirably rendered; another pleasing musical turn is provided by Mr. Will H. Fox with his clever "Paddywhisky at the Piano"; and the Three Sisters Slater sing, dance, and play very agreeably; The Korries also contribute a smart musical act, while the comedy element is supplied by Little Barney, Collins and Rice, Palles and Cusick, and the versatile comedienne Miss Nellie Coleman. Bioscope pictures conclude a liberal programme.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Henry Cook.—This popular house of entertainment is now nearing the close of its present season, and the sensational Indian spectacle *The Scalp Hunters* still forms the principal item in a goodly bill; the equestrian and variety part of the programme maintains its usual high standard of excellence, including M. Hubert's dashing jockey act, Paquito's clever educated horse; a smart Continental novelty act, Mdlle. Yvette's performing dogs and ponies, and much amusing work by the clowns; the bio-photoscope adds pleasing and interesting variety to the show.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*The Walls of Jericho* is drawing large and appreciative audiences here this week, and it is being presented by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux. As Jack Frobisher Mr. Herbert Bunston's acting is both powerful and finished; Miss Florence Jackson, who is entrusted with the part of Lady Alethea Frobisher, gives an admirable portrayal; as Hankey Bannister Mr. George A. Brandram

man; Miss Rose Helene is an effective Frau Ruder; Miss Nessie Blackford as Frau Dorffell also contributes important aid; and the part of Kathie has an able exponent in Miss Irene Lavington.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — General Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—*None But the Brave* is being presented here by Miss Amy F. Hermann's Anglo-American company. Mr. Stanley Bedwell proves himself a clever comedian in the part of Lal Ray; Mr. Herbert Evelyn makes the most of his opportunities as Frank Forrester; Mr. George Herbert makes an excellent Zeke Whittier; Mr. Eric Hudson gives a clever study of the Spanish villain, Emmanuel De Solis; and Major De Vampas is capably portrayed by Mr. Charles E. Sutton. Miss Amy Hermann is seen to great advantage as April Showers; Nellie Whittier is successfully impersonated by Miss Francesa Strickland; and Miss Madge Devereux does well as La Tarantula.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Charles Pilkington's company in *Mother Goose* is the attraction here. Miss Gracie Graham plays Lubin, and thoroughly delights the audience. Miss Lily Ennis is charming as Daisy; Misses Dorothy Delamere and Cissie Duvan are successful as Peter and Colin respectively; Mr. Ted Young, a prime favourite with Gateshead ians, is quite at home as Mother Goose; Mr. Arthur Gribbin is really clever as Parchment, the wicked lawyer; the Freans as two impossible policemen give an excellent account of themselves; Mr David Fuller is seen to advantage as the Demon Avarice; and Miss Marion De Verne acts well as the Fairy. Specialities are introduced by the Freans and the Moxon Family.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smith.—We have here this week Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *Her Wedding Day*. Seth Mason is capably portrayed by Mr. Ward; Mr. S. Herbert Humber undertakes the part of Weedon Kenyon very creditably; Mr. Percy Brown gives an effective impersonation of Harold Saxby; Jordan P. Jessop, played by Morris Maud, is a very diverting person; and Sam Klink has an excellent exponent in Mr. James Barrett. Too much praise cannot be accorded Miss Ward for her excellent portrayal of Madge Conway; Miss Eva Bertram as Dora also deserves commendation; Miss Beatrice Sinclair scores as Dolly Klink; and Miss Ettie Spalding is successful as Mrs. Caccles.

GLOUCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Mr. Lingford Carson is presenting the successful play *A Modern Adventuress*. Mr. Leonard Aardale, who represents the most prominent character, plays in skilful manner; the title-rôle is powerfully enacted by Miss Kate Froude; and Mr. Sydney Grant is excellent as Wallace Dalton. Mr. Louis Edmonde is a capital representative of Harry Delby; Miss Alice Defoe, as his wife Vivette Delby, enlists sympathy by her clever acting; Mr. Stanley F. Champion, as the detective Walter Beal, renders a good account of himself; and Mr. Leonard Montgomery acts in a breezy style as John Crompton. Miss Ivy Chandos is smart as Sally Hodges; and Mr. Frank Orchard is noticeable as Steve Meredith. The cast is completed by Messrs. Frank Wilton, Tom Avery, H. M. Victor, G. Hampton, and F. C. Sutcliffe.

GRAVESEND.—Grand Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—Frank Cumminger, who claims to be the world's record sand-dancer, is particularly well received; the Lurins afford immense amusement in their *Abode of Love*; Elsie Earle does well; and Ada Vernon scores highly as a burlesque actress; Morritt, "King of Magicians," presents some clever illusions and mysteries; and Fred Neiman, with his ventriloquial minstrels, causes immense fun.

New Public Hall and Theatre.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—The always diverting Poole's Myriorama is in occupation here this week with an extremely good selection of views. There is also a variety entertainment, consisting of Miss Daisy Graham, with her highly trained collection of birds; Kitty Woodford, with her comic circus of trained dogs; Little Donetta, a bright and winning acrobatic dancer and vocalist; Harry Stewart, character singer, who effects the most rapid changes in sight of the audience; Leonard and Mac, a pair of the best mirth-provoking eccentrics; and the Avondale Quartette, who render a well-selected number of sentimental and comic ballads, and are encored nightly.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—This week's attraction here is *The Earl and the Girl*, played by Mr. William Greet's company. Mr. Alfred Donohoe in the part of Jim Cheese is very amusing, and causes much laughter by his drolleries. Mr. Leslie Gaze makes an excellent Dick Wargrave, and sings and dances well. Mr. Thomas Kennard is suited as Hon. Crewe Boodle; Mr. A. E. Wilson is energetic and convincing as A. Bunker Bliss; Mr. Tom J. Edwards does fairly well as Downham; and Mr. Sam Lysons is good as Mr. Talk. Miss Hylda Dugdale is a delightful Elphin Haye, acting, singing, and dancing charmingly. Miss Lina Hicks is a clever exponent of Lizzie Shoddam; Miss Beatrice Anderson is good as Mrs. Black; Miss Ida Stratham is a bright and attractive Daisy Fallowfield; and the part of Virginia Bliss is ably played by Miss Winnie Plumpton.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The principal turn here this week is W. J. Ashcroft, comedian, assisted by J. W. Morton, and their performance is loudly applauded. Other excellent turns are Mozondos in an eccentric jumping and tumbling act; Scottie's Waifs and Strays in their ballad, *Life in the Streets*; Ida Gladstone, Canadian contralto; Lambert and Glover in a duologue entitled *My Birthday*; Clive Watts, dancer; and Voldam Brothers, Dutch eccentric acrobats. The Cinematograph display is first class.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre (Greenock) Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Slingsby—Ford and Barras, dancers and bone soloists, head the bill here and give a very good performance. Mona MacDonald, a charming comedienne, is applauded; Tom Collins, comedian, gives a good turn; Los Dorians, gymnasts, are clever; Beattie Kent, comedienne, is applauded; Cliff and Kean do an excellent speciality act; Lidden and Hayward, speciality artists, also do a good turn; Marba and Verity, humorists and dancers, are well received; and the bioscope display is excellent.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Walter Reynolds' pretty play, *Mr. Smith*, presented by a thoroughly capable company, has quite charmed the audiences here. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart is admirable in the title-rôle, his acting meeting with universal approval. Miss Rosmond Berkeley's portrayal of Lady Mary is thoroughly in keeping with the character, while Miss Mary Bates and Mrs. Louis Lestrange, as the Duchess of Angleland and Mrs. Smith, win all hearts. Mr. E. Edwin Holloway is quite satisfactory as the libertine; Lord Angleland and his club mates, Dudley Dysart and Jack Berkeley, are capably represented by Mr. Chas. Pilling Baird and Mr. H. Carter Bligh. Mr. Fred Darrell is responsible for quiet but effective humour in the character of the rich brewer. Herr Anheuser, and Mr. Russell Norrie, as the Earl of Oxted, and Miss Fife Alexander, as Ruth Anheuser, are also deserving of mention.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Irish comedy, as presented by Horace Wheatley, proves a decidedly attractive form of entertainment, his songs and patter being equally good; Arthur Kenny accomplishes some extraordinary feats of jumping whilst mounted on a bicycle; and Ulrick's manipulation of barrels causes some sensation; Zarmo combines with a juggling performance some capital burlesque, which causes roars of laughter nightly; puzzling illusions are introduced by Prince Ishmael; and others who contribute to an excellent programme are Ventom Swift, vocalist and dancer; Doris Lillian, comedienne and dancer; Fred Elrick, who gives an entertaining act at the piano; and Tom Dunmore, comedian.

Curry's Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Arthur Saxon Trio of strong men prove a popular attraction here, entertaining large audiences nightly with their wonderful feats of strength; Jake Friedman, "the one man opera," delights his audiences with his amusing songs and patter; Rappo and Ella give a very smart equilibristic turn; the Sisters Llewellyn possess distinctly superior voices, and contribute several operatic selections with pleasing effect; Gracie Taylor proves very popular as a comedienne; the Dunvilles appear with much success in an instrumental entertainment; Stanley and Vandyke present an amusing comedy act, and Sheila McNeil, comedienne, contribute Scottish dialect songs.

The Hippodrome.—General Managers, Messrs. Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Baker.—Daisy de Roy, an old Grimsby favourite, repeats her former successes, her dainty style and elaborate costumes being the subject of much favourable comment. Marionettes, as manipulated by the Sisters Petram, prove a very interesting turn; the audiences are greatly delighted by the dancing of Melita, and the Ongars also give a popular dancing exhibition. Laughable burlesque is supplied by Felton and Manley; and other participators in the programme are the Two Leons, comedians; Ruby Norton, comedienne; Mitzi, juggler; the Camerons, in an absurdity; Bishop and Hanlon, acrobatic comedians; and Stanert and Yondi, in a musical scena.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The original Leopolds are doing good business here this week in *New Frivolity*. Mr. Watson Hume is a humorous Oliver Buckwheat, and is well supported by Mr. Barry Lupino as Sammy. Some astounding acrobatic feats are introduced by the Leopold Bros.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs. G. M. Palmi and Austin Melford's company are paying a visit this week with *The Silver King*. Nothing finer could be desired than Mr. Herbert Ford's interpretation of the heroic Wilfred Denver; while Mr. Edward J. George gives a masterly and convincing assumption of Jaikes. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks excites abhorrence in the character of the spider, and Mr. James L. Power evokes laughter as Henry Corket. Mr. Arthur Wright as Elijah Coombe is admirable, and Miss Daisy Scudamore makes the most of her opportunities as Nelly Denver.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—The star attraction here this week is George Leyton in his grand military song scena *Boys of the Chelsea School*. Mr. Leyton is adequately assisted by the gallant old Crimean veteran, Francis Curly. After a lengthy absence Leo Tell gives some very realistic imitations of animals; Chas. Ray provides plenty of fun; Mdlle. Fredrica's clever and pretty little terriers, Miss Cordite, world's champion rope spinner, Sidney Dolf, the vocal trickster, the Three Sisters May, Jolly Dutch Girls, and Rose Elliott all win appreciation.

HANLEY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Charles Howard.—*Mr. Smith* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Hamilton Stewart as Mr. Smith plays with vigour, and contributes a capital reading of the part. Lady Hildegarde is both sympathetic and natural in the capable hands of Miss Ethel Milton; Mr. Sydnev Price is distinctly successful as the Earl of Oxted; Mr. William Dunlop makes the most of his allotted part; Miss Mary Relph as the Duchess of Angleland represents the mother of Lady Hildegarde admirably; the millionaire's daughter finds a worthy exponent in Miss Phillis Relph; Mrs. Alfred Davis as the mother of Mr. Smith is well-placed; and Mr. Austin Spencer scores as Jack Berkeley.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Alfred Edwardes.—Bella and Bijou head the bill here. Newhouse and Ward are comedy cyclists of much ability; Haig and Novel in their comedy act are as funny as ever; Charles F. Best in his burlesques or strong men, &c., is most amusing; Harry Wenburn meets with success; Gracie Merton renders her songs cleverly; J. W. Ellison is a comedian of ability; and the grand pictures by Urbanora include interesting illustrations of the life of the bee.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The bill here is headed by the Mannings, who, although they have been seen here on a previous occasion in their Turkish Bath absurdity, are received with more uproarious laughter than ever. Ada Fawn obtains a flattering reception from her admirers. Another turn which is welcomed as heartily as ever is that by the Frantz family of marvellous acrobats. Olive Veno's dancing is the acme of dexterity. Songs that appeal to all are well sung by Mr. J. B. Nobel; Vesta Whelan, a young singer with a remarkably strong and clear voice; W. H. Morgan, a vocalist who is equally at home in serio or comedy; and an interesting series of pictures on the Bioscope are also on the programme.

HASTINGS. — Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr Charles E. Scull. — Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company is here this week in *Bluebell in Fairyland*. Miss Gladys Cooper enacts the rôle of the London flower-girl with much pathos and pleasing simplicity, and her champion, Dicky, is smartly played by Mr. Lawrence Emery. Mr. Percy Farramond, the singing collier, supplies a special interlude, and arouses enthusiastic applause. Mr. Fred F. Allen makes a comic policeman, and afterwards enacts the Sleepy King. Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart make merriment in their appearances as the Footmen and the Schoolboys. Mr. Stanley Crisp appears as Peter, the cat, and later as the Spiteful Sparrow. Mr. Albert Mac is the second cat, and gets later much applause as the Thrush. Miss Minnie Blanchard is a pleasing Good Fairy, and later as the Autumn Leaf gained much applause for a *pas-seul*. Miss Muriel Juin sings exceptionally well, and is much applauded. Miss Ruby Carter as Will-o'-the-Wisp dances gracefully, and Mr. Chauncey Morris makes a good burlesque king. The Yellow Dwarf is enacted by Mr. Edgar Pleon, and the benevolent Mr. Joplin has a good exponent in Mr. David Cruikshank, who also stage-managed.

HOYLAND. — Metropole Theatre. — Owner, Arthur Carlton's Theatres, Ltd.; Lessee and Manager, Geo. S. King.—On Monday, Mr. Charles Harrington presented *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr, in the rôle of the good old nigger, is greatly applauded. As Legree, Mr. J. H. Rogers makes the most of his part. Mr. J. H. Renny as Phineas Fletcher, and Mr. Walter Langford as Marks, are good; and Messrs. S. Howard, L. Beaufort, and John Gibson, as Mr. St. Clair, George Harris, and Mr. Wilson, are capable in their respective parts. Miss H. Johnson as Eliza Harris is interesting, Aunt Ophelia is well taken by Miss J. Malcolm, Miss Annie Watson causes much amusement as Topsy; and Little Minnie as Little Eva is very popular. Miss Carrie Ellis is excellent as Emmeline; and in the rôle of Cassy, Miss Zerlina Zerbini gives a very fine study. In the plantation scene, Miss May Vincent (vocalist), W. H. Nott (tenor), Ikey Jones (eccentric dancer), W. Langford (banjoist), and Shorty May appear, and are ably assisted by a large number of coloured people. The scenic effects and staging are very good.

HUDDERSFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The bright, dainty freshness of *The Little Michus* has fairly captivated local playgoers, and Mr. George Dance's company is having a cordial reception. There is excellent singing by the two bewitching little Michus, Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gracie Sinclaire; also by Mr. Gerald Clifford as Gaston. The fun perpetrated by that arch-humourist Mr. Leslie Holland as General des Ifs, loyally supported by Mr. Cecil Clayton as Bagnolet and Mr. T. E. Conover and Miss Maisie Gay as Monsieur and Madame Michu, sets the house rocking with laughter. Mr. D. FitzGibbon is good as Aristide, and there is some pretty dancing by Mdlle. Marjorie. The chorus, smart singers and well dressed, are a real help. The bright music is admirably played under the alert guidance of Mr. Victor Champion.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The Barra Troupe of Accomplished Musical Humorists are an easy first in this week's bill, which also includes Fred Villiers, comedian; Fields and Lewis, comedy sketch artists; the Hugo Troupe of Novelty Acrobats; Miss Emmie Ames, comedienne; Zasma and Louie, gymnasts; Charlie Deane, comedian; Chas. Baldwin's Pantomimists in the sketch *The Bank Clerks*; and the Hippodrome Pictures.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Prince of Pilsen*, presented by Mr. George Musgrove's company, is here this week, and is proving very popular. Mr. Edwin Adeler as Herr Wagner gives a humorous portrayal of the character; Mr. Stuart Alexander as the Prince sings and acts in a creditable manner; and Mr. G. Villiers Arnold is seen and heard to advantage in the rôle of Lieutenant Wagner.—Miss Mabel Osborn is very dainty as the brewer's daughter, and is an effective vocalist; Miss Mildred Baker is pretty and charming as Edith Adams; Miss Nellie Cozens is a handsome Mrs. Crocker, being especially acceptable as a singer; Miss Nell Emerald gives a clever study of the French maid, and is extremely popular; Mr. Alfred Selby also contributes much fun as François; Mr. Lawrence Wenley's assumption of the rôle of the Earl of Shrimpton deserves great praise.

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—After an absence of only eight weeks, *Lucky Durham*, presented by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is paying a return visit here. The company is precisely the same as on its former visit, and is headed by Mr. Edmund Kennedy, who sustains the character of John Durham with great skill, and confirms the good impression he previously made. Miss Gertrude Robins is charming and delightful as Helen Vallerton; and Miss Florence Dalhunty invests the rôle of Margaret Steighton with much interest. Mr. Benson North makes a most acceptable Lord Mountfallon; and Mr. Arthur Leigh as the Hon. Reginald deserves much praise. Miss Louise Gourlay creditably fills the rôle of Mrs. Durham; and Miss Frances Wolviston gives a dignified rendering of Lady Mountfallon. Mr. A. E. Walker is seen to advantage as Mr. Vallerton; and other parts are in capable hands.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, Mortons, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—A welcome change has been provided at this theatre by Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime company, with *Little Aladdin*, which has entered upon a fortnight's run. The pantomime, which is full of fun and frolic, is meeting with great success, and is under the personal management of the author, Mr. Joseph L. Barry, who can always be relied upon for a bright and vigorous production. Miss Marie Beresford is an excellent principal boy, and is loudly encored for her popular songs; Miss Cecilia Gold is charming and graceful as the Princess; Miss Emmie Milstead makes a good impression with her coon songs and clever dancing. Foremost amongst the comedians is Mr. Arthur Aiston, who as Abanazar immediately establishes himself a favourite; Mr. W. G. Wesley as the Widow is very amusing; and Mr. Joe Bell as Washee contributes some enjoyable business. Mr. D. J. McCarthy is seen to advantage as the Emperor; and Messrs. Will and Tom Kelso as policemen are clever and humorous.

New Empire.—Moss Empires, Ltd. Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—Ahmed Madrali, the wrestler, and troupe provide a strong attraction here. Holden's Mannikins gave a clever Marionette performance. Harry Clifford is an acceptable character vocalist, and the baritone voice of Geo. Ridgwell is much admired. Arthur Melrose is a popular whistling comedian, and the sisters Hayden sing with good effect. Other artists include Flem and Brok, Goggin and Davis, and Prince Fee Lung.

The Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Haley's Prize Juveniles in a carnival of songs and dances make a welcome first appearance in Hull. Coley Grant and Mamie Grant, in some smart American songs and dances, are popular. A hearty welcome is accorded Gus Harris in two of his latest successes. Sisters Volbecque are old favourites in Hull, and their songs gain much applause. Billy Martin Luigg, a local artist, has a good reception. An excellent programme is completed by Marie Gibson and Wake and Dean.

The Circus.—Resident Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are being presented here.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Arthur Gibbon's company is here in the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. The title-part has a very suitable representative in Miss Ruby Lester. Miss Janet Lawton as Prince Bountiful secures many admirers, and Miss Nina Terri as Maid Marion is highly successful, her dancing being both smart and graceful. Mr. J. Banks as Johnny Stout is amusing, and Mr. Chas. Ellis scores as Tommy Thin. As Dame Marjory Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is conspicuous; Mr. Chas. Honey makes a good Baron Badenough; Miss Rose Salisbury as the Wolf deserves praise; and the Three French Idols are clever dancers.

INVERNESS.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Miss Lillie Mowbray's company is here this week with *Cinderella*. Miss Ethel Burns makes a dashing Prince Elegant; Miss Fay Garnet Voyne, as Cinderella, is petite and pretty; Miss Eva Dumante, as Fairy Lightheart, acts and sings well; Miss Madge Browne and Mr. Tom Read are good as the Baron's pet daughters; Mr. Will Wilson, as Peter, the Baron's page, makes the part an outstanding one; the Baron is played by Mr. Lester Reekie, who shows undoubted ability; the Boston Twins, as Sheriff Officers, are amusing. Special variety turns include smart dancing, and tricks by cleverly trained dogs and ponies. Altogether a bright and attractive pantomime.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—The pantomime of *Cinderella* has been played here during the week by a company organised by Mr. James Kiddie. The part of Pimples, the page, is capitally played by Mr. Frank Dunlop, and the Baron has a humorous representative in Mr. Dick Thomas. Miss Adele Roze is a graceful and pretty Cinderella, her singing evoking much applause. The Ugly Sisters are personated with much cleverness by Messrs. Steve and Sidney Benson; Miss Zena Pana is a smart Dandini. Others contributing to the success of the performance are Miss Rose Pareczer, Miss Fanny Hartland, Miss Nellie Barrell, Miss Polly Kiddie, and Messrs. Houpla and Heda.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—One of the chief items in the bill here is the diverting sketch entitled *Fun at the Zoo*, given by the Donaldson Brothers and Ardel. A troupe of Continental artists, called the Schiavonys, accomplish some clever acrobatic feats; Angeline, termed the "female Cinquevalli," justifies her title by her marvellous juggling performances; Nora Emerald, soubrette and dancer, pleases the audience; and Kate Blanche, in a sketch called *Grave and Gay*, is very satisfactory; Madame Collard introduces her burlesque lions and tigers in an amusing act entitled *Robinson Crusoe and His Pets*; and a couple of vaudeville artists, Bert Oakley and Polly James, have made a decided hit; Wilson Blackledge also in vocal imitations and recitations receives deserved applause.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. G. Jefferson.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is paying a visit here with a powerful drama entitled *A Path of Thorns*. Mr. W. Frazan gives a manly portrayal of John Edmunds, and Mr. T. Gilbert Fenn is quite at home as the Rev. Frank Selby. Mr. Gordon Kay Bull does full justice to the part of Jonas Deane, Mr. Frank Gordon gives a capital embodiment of Jim Price, and Mr. H. Wright ably assists as Ratty Gabbitt; Mr. Chris Manson serves as Sam Hallett. Miss Kitty Lofting is well placed as Constance Howard, while Miss Emil Leslie's Nellie Hallett deserves praise. Miss Muriel Dean is a charming Bessie Edmunds, Miss Marion Ryder is good as Lucy, while Miss Evelyn Shaw makes the most of the part of Jane Adelaide.

KENDAL.—St. George's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. R. F. Chorley; Manager, Mr. J. W. Butler.—Mr. Ian McLaren's company opened on the 1st with *Hamlet*. Mr. McLaren submitted a careful study of the Prince, and in the dramatic passages he displays histrionic abilities of a high order; the pathetic Ophelia of Miss Gertrude Gilbert was also a very creditable effort; Miss F. G. Harris's excellent portrayal of Queen Gertrude stood out as a performance of marked ability; whilst Mr. Stanley Roberts as Horatio, Mr. Paul Lovett as Laertes, and Mr. B. Iden Payne as Polonius ably filled these important parts. Mr. Aubrey Mather gives an admirable impersonation of Claudius. On Friday, *David Garrick* was staged, when Mr. McLaren had a capital reception in the title-rôle, and was well supported by Mr. J. B. Payne as Alderman Brackson, and Miss G. Gilbert as Mabel Brackson. On Saturday evening, *The Merchant of Venice* occupied the boards.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. James P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—We have here this week an excellent pantomime entitled *Cinderella*, produced by the Midland Syndicate. Miss Evelyn Desa gives a charming impersonation of Cinderella, and her songs are sung in good style; Miss Lillie Monckton is a popular Prince Charming; Miss Josephine Freece's Dandini is all that can be wished; the Fairy Godmother has a good representative in Miss G. Every. As the Baron Mr. Cecil Fredericks is full of humour. Mr. Billy Jackson and Mr. Herbert Grapho as Flossie and Araminta, the Baron's daughters, are very funny. Messrs. Duncan and Morton keep the audience in roars of laughter as Cop'em and Grab'em.

KILKENNY. — New Theatre. — Manager, Mr. J. I. Brown.—Mr. Leigh Lovel, Miss Octavia Kenmore, and company, opened on Tuesday in Sydney Grundy's *Sowing the Wind*. Mr. Lovell, as Mr. Brabazon, is to be complimented on a fine performance; Miss Octavia Kenmore is excellent as Rosamund; other members of the company do justice to their respective parts. For the rest of the week, *In the Soup* and *The Duke of Killicrankie* were announced.

KIRKCALDY. — King's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maclaren's company is presenting *Proof* here this week. Mr. F. H. De Quincey gives a strong impersonation of the part of Pierre Lorance; and praise should also be bestowed upon Miss Lucy Prittie-Tydd as Adrienne, and Mr. William Dexter as Lazare; Miss May Grimshaw is good as Valentine; Mr. Wilford does good work and is most humorous as Chamboran; and Mr. Terence Nerrey as the Duke, Miss Dorothy White as the Duchesse, Miss Phena Powell as Madame Duprets, and Mr. G. Garnet Vane as Victor are all well suited.

LANCASTER.—Athenæum. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—This week the Ian Maclaren Shakespearean Répertoire is here with a round of plays, which includes *Hamlet*, *David Garrick*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Three Musketeers*. *Hamlet* was played on Monday evening, with Mr. Ian Maclaren in the title-rôle and Miss Gertrude Gilbert as Ophelia.

LEAMINGTON. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—After a short interval, *The Girl from Japan* paid a return visit at the beginning of the week. Mr. Ernest Spalding as the forlorn Curate, Mr. Charles L. Ludlow as the ubiquitous Bingle, and Mr. Percy Baverstock as the fierce General formed an inimitable trio of comedians; while from a musical point of view distinction was added by the songs of Mr. George Hudson in the part of Lord Allenburg, and Miss Dorothy Glenton, who made a charming Violet; the graceful dancing of Miss Josephine Ellis gained her deserved honours. For Thursday and following nights Mr. Norman Macowan and company, in *Monsieur Beaucaire* and *A Soldier of Fortune* were billed.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*Babes in the Wood* continues its highly successful course, many new additions of tuneful song and humorous interlude having been made. Mr. G. H. Elliott, the clever coon specialist, has made a big hit with new items, and continues on excellent terms with the audience; Miss Hilda Jacobsen is a bright and popular principal boy, and the principal girl of Miss Katie May is a fascinating performance; Miss Ivey Roze and Miss Kitty Lindley, with increased opportunities, continue to gain in public favour, and the very excellent vocal work of Miss Hebe Bliss as the Good Fairy is much admired; Mr. Arthur Stigant as the Dame contributes largely to the humour of the pantomime; Carlton is very successful with his card manipulation; and Mr. J. W. Rowley, The Anartos, and Mr. Frank Calvert arouse hearty laughter in their different specialties.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. John Tiller's excellent pantomime *Jack and Jill* continues to delight all comers, and there is no diminution in the hosts of pleasure seekers which throng the house at every performance. Several new songs have been added, and the comedians continue to elaborate their parts with increasing success.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's fairy pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*, played by a clever juvenile company, is here this week, and is drawing big houses. Miss Kitty Trewhitt and Miss Dolly Dodds play Prince Charming and Beauty with exceptional grace, and Miss Mona Townshend and Miss Isa Gibson are also very capable little actresses; Masters J. G. Aitken, Fred Ellis, Freddy Bently, and Tot Hunter are displaying much humour, and Miss May Gibson, the Good Fairy, is an excellent vocalist. Thursday saw a bumper benefit to Mr. Charles Bush, the indefatigable and popular acting-manager, at this cosy suburban theatre. A monster programme of good things was presented in addition to the pantomime, Mr. Bush himself playing a prominent part in an impromptu entertainment.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The chief attraction this week is Staley's Novelty Transformation, a marvellous quick-change musical act, which is much enjoyed. The Empire Comedy Four have a smart entertainment, and are deservedly popular; Clemart, the ventriloquist, introduces a very original show, and Griff is vastly amusing with a combination of expert juggling and excellent fooling; Bijou Russell is a pleasing song and dance artist; James Fawn, the favourite comedian, is again having a good time, and an excellent example of the up-to-date comedy duo appear in Fraser and Mac. The Musical Royal Six, vocalists and instrumentalists, A Bo-Kou, juggler, and the pictures finish an enjoyable programme.

Tivoli.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Managers, Mr. Charles Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—The Musical Jees head a good bill here with their mirth-provoking act *The Scarecrow*; Martin Conway is again popular with smart songs and comicalities; The Waldrons are seen in clever comedy act; King's College Boys dispense harmony to the satisfaction of all; The Henris do some expert club juggling; Hughes and Elliott and E. J. Wilks are smart vocal jokers; The Two Erralls shine as comedy acrobats; enjoyable comedy is supplied by The Louberts, and Billie Burford, vocalist. Frances and Letty, burlesque artists and specialty dancers, complete the bill.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Sole Proprietor, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater.—A most enjoyable attraction is presented here this week in a welcome return visit of Mr. George Dance's company, in the musical play, *The Duchess of Dantzic*, which was beautifully staged and dressed. Miss May Glenn has made a conspicuous success in the title-part, both her acting and singing winning the highest admiration; Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths is also to be highly complimented on his success as Sergeant Francois Lefebvre; a clever character-sketch of Napoleon is given by Mr. Gilbert Yorke, his make-up and general bearing in the part being very good. Other artists who are also to be singled out for embodiments of merit are Mr. Gilbert Childs as Papillon, Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy as Vicomte de Bethune, Miss E Derwent as the Empress Josephine, Miss Violet Blyth as the Grand Duchess of Berg, Miss Maisie Blyth as Princess Borghese, Miss Maggie White as Renee de Saint Mezard, and Miss Buena Bent as Lizette. There are an excellent chorus and orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Sydney Shaw.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—Nothing but unstinted praise can be bestowed on the artists engaged in Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, which entered on its concluding week here on Monday. Miss Bessie Willow has won the affections of all by her smart and dashing portrayal as Dick, and Miss Maggie Summerson scores a success with a dainty performance as Alice; a big hit has been made by Miss Florence Hilton as Sir Algernon de Mash, her vivacious and spirited singing of popular songs earning for this clever lady a rich reward. Laughter loud and long is evoked by Mr. Charles Dillon as Amelia Florence, Mr. Will Summerson as Idle Jack, and Messrs. Clifton and Gibson as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry. Mr. Cyril Dundas is very good as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. W. V. Vido has proved popular as the Cat. The outstanding feature of the specialities are Curtis and Vanity, who arouse enthusiastic applause for their cake walk dance. The Sisters Kilner, three charming young ladies, give some exceedingly pretty dances; the Saxon Trio of dancers are also to be highly complimented on their "show." Both Mr. Archie J. Milne as Rodento and Mdlle. Marchani as Concordi sing well.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The great attraction here this week is Mr. George Gray and company, who are presenting, with the usual big success, *The Fighting Parson*. The coster romance, *Me and 'Er*, as presented by Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey, is a delightful trifle, which affords the audience great pleasure and amusement; Professor Dunning is a ventriloquist whose clever and entertaining show is always heartily welcomed; Kokin, an artistic Japanese juggler, pleases the audience with his wonderful dexterity and smartness; Fred Poplar sings his songs in a style which arouses the merriment of all; Kahn and Kahn bewilder all with their modern necromancy. Others who entertain with much success are Kitty Wager, vocalist; Hardy Drew, bass vocalist; and Sadie Simpson, comedienne.

Pavilion Theatre. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and his sketch company entered on the third week of their record engagement and record business on Monday, and are presenting two sketches, viz., *The Poacher's Wife* and *Lashed to the Mast*, in which the chief parts are well sustained by Mr. Fred Southern, Mr. Percy Emery, Miss Florence Creagh, Miss Gipsy Alexander, Mr. Chris. Redgrave, and Charles Ashwell. It is remarkable the popularity that has been attained here by Mr. Southern's company. The Paolias, introducing gymnastics, feats of strength, posing, &c., are very smart; the Casino Girls, vocalists and brass and string instrumentalists, give an enjoyable turn; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a special feature; Harry Hale, comedian, is well received; Minnie Dawn, comedienne and dancer, also entertains.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here on a second visit with the drama *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn gives an exceedingly fine performance of Gabriel Garth; Mr. Clavering Craig acts the rôle of Sir Duncan Bly with much realism; Mr. Douglas B. Watson gives an effective study of Jack Halyard. The drolleries of the piece are safely entrusted to Mr. W. M. Cameron as Mike Copplestone and Mr. W. H. Melrose as Ned Pennycomquick. Miss Mabel Coleman contributes a charming portrayal of Lillian Garth, Miss

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—At the top of the programme here this week is the popular Harry Taft, the quaint American comedian, with latest songs. Syd Bird and Walter Arnold remain another week, delighting everyone with their illustrated songs; some remarkably smart juggling is done by Friscari; Smiler Lee has some excellent songs, dances, and stories; two Liverpool lads, Davies and Roberts, discovered by Mr. Smith playing in the streets, gave a most satisfactory turn as dancers and players on tin whistles, spoons, &c.; and the Sisters Ford (Cissie and Queenie) are a couple of accomplished character duettists. The Tuesday matinées here continue to prove popular.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The dramatic sketch this week is *London's Curse*, by E. Hoggan-Armadale. Mr. Percy Boucher, whose stock company has now enjoyed a long and successful run here, produces it, Mr. Boucher himself assuming the character of Mussels.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Included in an excellent programme here this week is the laughable absurdity, *The Captain's Daughter*, presented by Mr. W. L. Lee and company. It has created roars of laughter. Drum and Major, a smart pair of versatile artists, have a good comedy speciality act; Ella Bourne, an accomplished comedienne, pays a return visit; Leo Best, a comedian with some good points, makes a first appearance; Horace Sade executes some remarkable dancing; and Jack Harris, possessed of a capital baritone voice, sings a number of acceptable songs.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—At the top of the bill is Belle Davies with her interesting "Pick Chick Actors." The marvellous banjo playing by the Miltons is loudly applauded; Ivy Leafe is a dainty comedy artist; as vocal duettists and dancers the Campoens are a good turn; the Rolands give an interesting show in physical culture; a unique and refined naval act is provided by Captain Ralston, assisted by Miss Francis and company; and Rose Cass sings several aceptable songs.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The popular Ella Dean is here this week with her latest pieces, and has had a hearty re-welcome, being much appreciated in Liverpool. Brady and Johnston and company cause endless laughter with their absurdity, *Turning the Tables*; Yorkshire Tom shows great powers as a mimic; Akbar performs some clever work with the silver rings; Frances Lyric sings and dances neatly; and as the aristocratic ragman at the piano Tony Iveson is extremely funny.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Mongomery.—The Three Deveres are at the head of the bill here this week with their smart comedy act. E. Wordley, Hulse, and company command much attention with their sketch, *The Fight in the Forge*; Pulo is a smart young juggler; as a comedy tramp cartoonist Carl Osmond is good; Tom Brantford, a clever and witty comedian and raconteur, affords much pleasure with his "The one-man band"; Kitty Lewis sings and dances delightfully; and Bert Holmes renders several popular songs.

OLYMPIA.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—In big type here this week is the wonderful animal act by Richard Sawade's lions, dogs, bears, and tigers, which has been witnessed by highly pleased audiences. Frank Bertram and company have a lively comedy sketch, *The Chaperon*; the Bros. Leslie provoke screams of laughter with their trifle, *A Cure for Lockjaw*; the Three Merrils provide a merry episode on wheels; a neat comedy act, *Old Daddy Watchman*, is gone through by Payne's Little Vagabonds; Helen Martin sings several pleasing songs; Frobel and Ruge are a pair of droll comedians; a smart comedy turn is provided by Mueller and Coyne; and Dan Conroy as a comedian puts in some good work.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company is this week paying a welcome return visit, and is affording great enjoyment. Mr. C. W. Parke makes a manly Captain George Fielding, acting with ability; the heavy rôle of Captain Edward Dudley is in the capable hands of Mr. Henry C. Ward; Miss D. Desmond plays the part of Dorothy Montrose with plenty of dash and spirit, and renders her songs in excellent style. Both Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith, and Mr. Arthur Verne as Silas Crump are most amusing, and the Misses Mabel Blake and Nellie Anderson introduce some clever dancing.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Galby.—Messrs. Ernest Chesney, Arthur C. Sanderson, and Miss Bessie Elma's company is here with the successful drama *The Power and the Glory*. Mr. A. Fitz maurice is admirably suited to the part of Harry Goodluck, Mr. Reginald Fox is successful as Harold Hartree, Mr. Arthur Rodney as Ferdinand Crayle makes the most of his part, and as Johnnie Mr. Douglas Hutchins is capital. Miss Flo. Florence is good as Linda, the blind girl. Owing to the illness of Miss Bessie Elma, Miss Ada Salmon is entrusted with the part of Kate Goodluck, and right well does she sustain the rôle; Miss May Lovett as Lizzie Medwin is charming. Messrs. Jack Bigwood as Tommy Jinks, Henry Gilpin as Jacob Hardbake, and the Misses Lizzie Lennon as Ina Goodluck, and M. Le Ruy as Bessie Goodluck are responsible for the humorous element.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Woodward's sea-lions are causing quite a furore here this week, their tricks being very amusing. The sketch *The Registry Office* as played by Matt. Wilkinson and company, is funny; Mr. H. J. Kisbey, in *The Call-Boy*, causes great amusement; Miss Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, and Mr. Bert Marsden, comedian, are popular. Miss Elsie Roby, comedienne, is also included in the bill.

MANCHESTER.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Mr. Fred Karno's pantomime *Cinderella* is here this week after a successful run at the Gaiety, Dublin. It is well staged and a bright entertainment throughout. Miss Annie Purcell, well-known in musical comedy, is altogether delightful as Prince Alexis. She acts and sings well, and is particularly successful in the pretty songs "Shine Little Glowworm" and "Moonshine." A more pleasing Cinderella than Miss Lulu Louden would be difficult to find, and Miss Lilian Lea makes a dashing Dandini, and sings "Come on, boys," with plenty of go. The low comedy part of Sally is well done by Miss Muriel Palmer. Miss Rosa Snell is nice as the Secretary, and little Gladys Francis is a very promising juvenile. Comedians are well to the front, and cause no end of fun, perhaps the most successful being Mr. William Gourlay as Pepper, Mr. Alex. Keith as the Baron, and Messrs Fred Winn and Austin Lenton as the Ugly Sisters. Messrs. James Fletch and Fred Palmer as the broker's men are also funny, and wonderfully clever and amusing is Mr. Fred Whittaker as the Cat. The Canadian Comedy Four are sweet singers, Miss Alma Mary is a clever and graceful dancer, and Vaughan Neale's Aerial Ballet is pretty. The scenery and dresses are excellent, and the orchestra is under the energetic baton of Mr. Clement Locknam, who has composed most of the music.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Bulmer's company presented here this week what is described as "the greatest of all convict dramas," *Sentenced for Life*, by Frank Bateman. Mr. Arthur Keand is very good as Lieut. Roy Stillwell, the hero, who emerges triumphantly from the evil machinations of Capt. Paul Derrick, a character capably portrayed by Mr. Ernest Vaughan. Miss Madge Douglas makes a charming and vigorous heroine, and Miss Mary Dalby makes the most of the rôle of Kate Rennell. Two "komical" convicts are depicted by Messrs. A. Horton and Reg. Oldroyd, while Mr. Dan Taylor makes an excellent Warder Blake. Others who do well are Mr. Jas. F. Firth, Mr. T. C. Glenville, and Mr. R. Brancepeth-Nevill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent programme here this week includes Witty Watty Walton, in tales and songs, Hayde's clever Vaudeville Theatre, the Sisters Williams, accomplished Welsh duettists; Henderson, a clever blind musician; Chas. Ashdowne, the india-rubber comedian; Dwight and Son, singers, dancers, and instrumentalists; Chris Masters, character vocalist; Amy Tilley's Minstrels, in up-to-date songs and business; and Will Souls, a cheerful variety artist.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. B. Broadhead.—*The Beast and the Beauty*, by Fredk. Melville, is the attraction here this week, presented by a company under the direction of the author. Mr. Fred D. Davis and Miss Alice Bowes play heroic parts with distinction, and others who distinguish themselves in a clever cast are Mr. Bernard J. Lieil, Mr. Bernard Mervyn, Mr. Will Corrie, Mr. Harry Wimpany, Mr. Ronald Adair, Mr. Harry Soton, Miss Jessie Danvers, and Miss G Thierry. The staging is very good, and the play adds to the reputation of the author.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. S. Nicholas.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company are here this week in the attractive dramatic novelty, *Greed of Gold*, by H. R. Silva. An excellent interpretation is given, the principal exponents being Mr. Bert Fox, Miss Nelson Ramsey, and Mr. H. Carmichael.

PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The top turn here this week is Yukio Tani, the famous Japanese wrestler, who gives examples of the Ju-Jitsu style against all comers. A good turn also is that of the Four Avocas, in a new operatic scena depicting the interior of a coal-mine; excellent also is George Gilbey, the favourite comedian, in his latest successes; white capital business is contributed by Geo. Penn, comedian; Lozelle, sensational gymnast; Charles Cass, character vocalist; Cyclumina, in an electrical cycle act; Bertha Winder, smart clog dancer; Henry A. Moore, a clever mimic of popular comedians; and Jack Pleasants, a droll comedian.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—Fred Karno's latest creation, *Moses and Son*, is the big attraction here this week. The inimitable Fred Kitchen, one of our greatest comedians, as Perkins, causes roars of laughter the whole of the time he occupies the stage. The sketch from start to finish is highly amusing, and considerably above the average. Others who take prominent parts are Miss Leah Morris (who is capital as Rebecca), Mr. Herbert Landeck, and the Misses Rosa Abrahams, Kate Forster, and Janet Reeve. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas appear in scenes from Dickens, and are well received; Paul Powell's electrical marionettes are most elaborate; the Sisters Geretti do some exceedingly smart tricks on the trapeze; Morton and Elliott are wonderful paper manipulators and good singers; Ruth Molloy is a good mimic, and Harry Brown is a capital coloured comedian. The Bioscope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—*The Redskins* remains here a second week, and is attracting large audiences. The Courtiers are the latest combination of entertainers, and are very successful, their singing being very enjoyable. James Macdonald and Valeni Huntingdon are delightful duettists and triple-time dancers, Derenda and Green are exceedingly clever club manipulators, and Mattie Wicks is a pleasing vocalist. The Two Bostons, as usual, have some excellent business, Mdlle Chalon is a most graceful equilibrist, and the Vernon Quartette of lady vocalists are good singers. "The Great Jewel Robbery" is shown on the Bioscope, and Mr. Tom Grundy sings "Pal of Mine," assisted by the choristers.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Excellent and well-received turns here this week are Harry Reynolds's Minstrel Quintette in gems of American minstrelsy, and Ray and Calden in an exceedingly amusing and clever act, entitled *Peculiarities*. Other good turns are Robert Gilbert's troupe of well-trained dogs and cats; Massona, juggler; John Val, comedian and dancer; Myra Stansfield, comedienne; Florrie St. Roy, comedienne and acrobatic dancer; Minnie Dare, comedienne and dancer; and Amy Elcock, comedienne and dancer. Raymond's Vivagraph completes.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime of the *Babes in the Wood*, recently seen in Manchester, is presented here this week to delighted audiences. Miss Madge Daly, Miss Nancy Thornton, and Mr. Rowland Hill are prominent in a capable and lengthy cast.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Menotti, the "Stockholm Wonder," introduces a sensational novelty in wire-walking here this week. A single wire, upon which the performer rides a bicycle, is arranged to revolve at a rate of forty miles an hour. The Five M.P.'s give a good musical performance on various instruments, the veteran Billy Richardson shows that he is still in possession of much of his old mirth-provoking ability, Kendrick and Laura sing and dance well. Lilian Doric is a graceful trapeze artist, Lottie Abbey (a refined vocalist) meets with much success, Harry Walker tells quaint stories in an amusing way, Rice and Rudge offer a funny cycle act, Daisy Almer sings and dances satisfactorily, and a series of animated pictures complete.

HIPPODROME (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Narows, two very clever comedy trick cyclists and acrobats, head the bill here this week, and provide a smart turn. J. W. Rickaby, the comedian of "I've bought the coal" fame, is very popular, and the efforts of Bert Weston, comedian, also meet with much applause. The Marion Sisters are dainty juvenile vocalists, and are greatly appreciated; the Stoll Brothers are capital bar performers and burlesque wrestlers, Lily Gaston is a very smart top-boot dancer, and the Sultan Brothers are clever comedy acrobats. Other entertaining items are provided by the Cellos, in a novel musical act, and Bertha Stuart, a Scotch vocalist. *The Bigamist* is depicted on the Bioscope.

MANSFIELD.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Metcalf.—Good houses are again the rule at this popular playhouse, and a good programme is presented. Tom Herman's company presents *Defending the Colours*, in which seventy local children take part. Ward and Wylie give an amusing turn, introducing song, dance, and acrobatic gyrations; Miss Lily Pender, comedienne, pleases the audience with her singing; and Bob Pearson, comedy humorist, is heartily applauded. Bandoni, the concertina king, is much appreciated; and the Reays, equilibrists, do some skilful balancing. The Bio-Photoscope is still here, and give an entire change of pictures.

MARGATE.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howells.—The Three Romos, the modern gladiators, take first place on the programme this week, and their clever performance is vociferously applauded. Onda and Leon give a wonderfully smart comedy triple bar act; Rosie Lloyd is a vivacious comedienne; Guy Rider is a talented whistler; Thornbury is an old Margate favourite with some new features in his entertainment; Ruffell's Bioscope is responsible for three excellent pictures; and Ethel May, singer and dancer, also contributes.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson. *The Life of a Showman*, played by Mr. G. T. Sante and Company is here this week. Mr. Sante, who plays the title-rôle, accomplishes some clever feats with heavy weights; the Bros. Sante produce a comic interlude with much success; the parts of Dickie, as played by Master Harry Warden, and Lynette, by Miss May Warden, are greatly appreciated; Mr. Logan Darra gives a good portrayal of Hendrick Marias; and Miss Amy McNeill cleverly sustains the character of Agatha Winter.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's company in the pantomime *Cinderella* enters upon its first week at this place of amusement. Miss Lola Patey is a fascinating Cinderella, her songs greatly pleasing the audience; Miss Madoline Rees's vivacity and winsomeness are much admired; Miss Jennie Benson wins golden opinions as Phyllis; and Mdlle. D. Velen proves a charming Fairy. Messrs. Shaun Glenville and W. T. Thompson are irresistibly funny as the Baron and Buttons, their patter and amusing antics creating roars of laughter. The Wedburns prove a capital pair of comedians, and Silly Billy Elliot does well. Mr. George Goodfellow and Miss Jennie Gregson are amusing as Cinderella's sisters. The scenery is magnificent, and speciality turns are provided by King and Benson, who make a great hit.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. Chatto.—Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company in the musical comedy *The Swiss Express* appear here this week. Mr. Chas. Renad as James and Mr. Frederick Renad as John are the mainstay of the play, and their acrobatic antics are very amusing. Miss Jessica Ford proves a charming Virginia, and Miss Helen Douglas is an attractive Mrs. Squeeze. Mr. Herwood Cooper as Jack Gadabout and Mr. Jack Douglas as the Surgeon, Mr. A. Johnson, and Mr. A. E. Cooke admirably aid the fun. Mr. Herbert Lewis as Dr. Gull, Mr. George Martin, and Mr. Alec Finlayson are also very amusing. The scenery is on a lavish scale, excellent songs are introduced, and special dances are performed by the Edene Quartette.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—Excellent turns are provided here this week. Wright and Elton head the bill, and are well applauded. The Mackinnon Family and the Knick-Knacks in their speciality act both supply good items. Mr. Frank Seeley creates roars of laughter with his funny songs and sayings; Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain are successful; and Jerry Hart and Beatrice Leo and Jimson's animals also contribute valuably to the programme.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—The star turns at this place are provided by Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilean Rosebery, who are appearing with considerable success in an amusing sketch. The company also includes Aryama, a little Jap, who gives a wonderful display on a slack wire. The Bros. Ralston also prove an amusing turn, and Marie Yorke, with her catchy songs, Ethel Dunford, Dan Noble, and Bob Hamilton also contribute to the programme.

NELSON.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—The Milton Ray's pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* is here this week. Miss Edie Rivers as Beauty plays in pleasing and unaffected manner; Miss Nellie Randall infuses plenty of "go" into the part of Silver Buttons; Miss Florence Burns is a Prince of fetching appearnce, her singing being of a high order; Mr. Arthur Milton, with his quaint humour, keeps the house in constant merriment. He is ably supported by Messrs. Robert Anderson, Edwin Garth, Fred O'Mally, Sydney Wilton, and others. The Eldorados, an accomplished trio of dancers, gain plenty of applause for their songs and dances; Baron and Kemp, quick-change artists, are very smart; Burley and Burley, in their acrobatic and bending act, are funny, and create much amusement; Wallace, the boy juggler, astonishes the house with his unique performance.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Sutcliffe.—The last two weeks of the pantomime *Mother Goose* are announced, despite the fact that large houses are the rule nightly. New business and jokes have been added by the various artists, and the entire show increases in popularity.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Teale Lingham.—*Cinderella* continues its run of popularity, and the genial manager, Mr F. Teale Lingham, finds the utmost difficulty in providing seating accommodation for his patrons, so great is the demand for seats at each performance. This gratifying state of affairs is as it should be, as there is no doubt *Cinderella* is one of the finest all-round pantomimes ever produced at The Royal.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—The second and last week of Mr. George Brydon Phillips's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* was entered upon last Monday night before a large house. Miss Louie Hurman as the Prince is exceedingly popular, and her song "Remember me" is repeatedly encored; Mr. Charles Gardiner is irresistibly funny as the Dame, and the remainder of the cast all work harmoniously and successfully together.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*Jack the Giant Killer* is proving a popular attraction here, and exceedingly good business is being done. Miss Mimi Fisher makes an ideal principal Boy, and delights one and all with her numerous vocal successes. Miss Bijou Dreno acts and sings in dainty style as Margery Daw, Miss Evelyn Robson speaks her lines clearly as Mephisto, and Miss Louie Niemann presents a typical rendering of the Fairy Queen. Messrs. W. S. Stevenson, Charles Grantley, Fred C. Imbert, Gilbert Payne, Jack Henri, and Messrs. Denby and Dent are the principal fun purveyors and create the utmost merriment during their occupancy of the stage. The scenery and dresses are exceptionally pretty, and the specialities of the Two Sparks and the Continental Girls are greatly enjoyed.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—Heading a strong programme here is Selma Braatz, a lady juggler of remarkable ability, whose various feats are executed with neatness and precision; Mendel, the blind pianist, proves highly entertaining; Seeley and West are exceedingly funny as comedy musicians, and O'Gust is loudly applauded for his clever imitations. Ella Retford is heard to especial advantage in her singing of coon ditties, and is also an excellent dancer. Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, performs some astonishing tricks on the bicycle. The Three Missouris now introduce into their act an amusing burlesque wrestling match. Mezetti and Mora, parallel bar performers; Brookes, Dale, and Blitz, with their mule; and Spessardy's troupe of performing bears and ponies all win applause for their respective turns.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime company in *Little Red Riding Hood* is paying a visit here this week, and has played to good houses. Miss Bessie Cohen is a dashing Prince, and is entirely successful in her singing of several popular numbers. The title part is charmingly enacted by Miss May Merry, who, besides being a pleasing vocalist, also wins approval for her dancing. Miss Maud St. John is a sprightly Margery Daw, and Miss Edna Morgan as Tommy Tucker and Miss Florence Leonard as Goodwill contribute much to the success of the pantomime. Mr. Harry Morgan proves amusing as the Baron, Mr. Howard Ward is excruciatingly funny as the Dame, and Mr. Harry Elliston and Mr. Teddy Gibbs as Johnny Green and Johnny Stout respectively are responsible for a lot of the fun. Acceptable specialities are introduced by The Poppy Quartette, The Excelsior Troupe, and The Musical Johnsons. The programme also includes Carson Hicks, singer and buck-dancer; Edney and Wade, vocalists and dancers; and the Barrascope.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Miss Elaine Verner's company in *Saints and Sinners* is attracting good houses here this week. Mr. Harding Thomas, who is general-manager for Miss Verner, is a striking and pathetic figure in the part of Jacob Fletcher; Miss Elaine Verner plays Letty Fletcher admirably; Mr. Frank Lindon makes a demonstrative Samuel Haggard; Mr. W. Cronin Wilson plays Capt. Fanshaw with credit; and Miss Ada Clarke's portrayal of Lydia is highly successful. Mr. Benson makes an excellent man-servant, Raddles (Mr. J. Edwards) is a very clever little study, and Mr. Kent as Lot has a song that is acceptable. Other characters are well taken by Mr. J. J. Houker, Mr. J. Max Jerome, and Mr. George Jervis.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Tarro Myaki, Jap wrestler, is proving a draw here this week; Verno and Voyce give a couple of popular songs in good style; Ryan and Hall, acrobatic comedians, are responsible for a continuous ripple of laughter; and Albertus and Bartram are dexterous Indian club manipulators. A neat gymnastic turn is furnished by the Picquays, the Sisters Green do some clever arm and head balancing, and Sybil St. Elmo's excellent soprano is heard agreeably. The Wally-Hoste Trio of comedy acrobats do some amusing feats, and Leona Dare combines an exhibition of strength and musical ability.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime *Dick Whittington* concludes a successful fortnight's engagement this evening.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The Lavails are loudly applauded for their clever and novel aerial feats on an elaborate fit-up of silver arch, ladders, and bars; the George Power company provides a funny farcical sketch, entitled *Matrimonial Bliss*; Rosa Loader, musical mimic, displays rare talent as "The Happy Slavey at the Piano"; Andrew's and Thomas also give an appreciated high-class vocal act; Charles Williams, Scotch coon comedian and big-boot dancer, meets with a good reception; the Brothers Wynford, the well-known jumpers, give a capital display of their powers; Prince Kuroki is a clever "Illusioniste"; the Raymond Trio tender a refined musical act; and Ethel Loftus, "the comedy girl," gives great delight. The Palace Pictures are an important item in this popular programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Musical comedy again forms the bill of fare here this week, Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company with *Florodora* proving a strong attraction. As Anthony Tweedlepunch Mr. Albert Bruno makes a decided hit, and Mr. Edward Chester is an admirable representative of Gilfain. Mr. Henry Crossland is highly successful as Frank Abercoed; Mr. Harold Parry gives a capital impersonation of Captain Donegal; and Mr. C. A. James is clever as Leanpro. As Dolores Miss Gwladys Elvey is worthy of the highest praise, her excellent singing being greatly appreciated. Miss Kate Leicester as Lady Holyrood is a great favourite; Miss Florence Hersee gives a smart portrayal of Angela Gilfain; and the remaining parts are all in able hands.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The Martafi Troupe of Servian Acrobats top the bill here, and perform some wonderful feats. The Henderson and Stanley Quartette provide an enjoyable turn; Cinizelli, the Silent Jester, is funny; Mr. Syd Herman, Hebrew comedian, has made a great hit; Johnny and Charlie in their wrestling, poses and ring performance have created a favourable impression; and Mr. Charles Daunton (vocal comedian), Miss Grace Logan (serio and dancer), and the bio-photoscope are all well received.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's company in *The Coal King* is here this week. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland as Tom Roberts displayed manly force and ability; Mr. Joseph Millane as Walter Harford did well; Mr. Charles Stone was amusing as Jim Williams; and Mr. Robert Shiels scored as Sir Reginald Harford. Miss Gertrude Valentine elicited sympathy as Grace Shirley; Miss Mabel Rose as Mrs. Baker was very good; Miss Joan Wellman as Mad Ann and Miss Hetty Cornwallis as the parlourmaid were excellent in their respective parts.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—Lady Mansel's team of children are a genuine treat in their turn, and their singing and dancing are much appreciated; Hall and Earle are very funny in their contortions; The Harvey Boys as boxing comedians create much fun and obtain much applause; The Three Haverleys are unique in their song illustrations; Lea and Lovell are clever duettists and dancers; and the Lannons deserve the reception accorded them; The Northern Troupe are a capital turn, and their dancing is well received; Ernesto is a clever juggler, musician, and equilibrist, whilst the Hippo. Bioscope fills up an excellent programme.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The latest musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* is presented this week by Mr. Frank Curzon's company. Mr. George Barrett is singularly happy in portraying Crookie Scrubbs. Mr. Percy Clifton is not only comical as Sergeant Brue, but scores well with his singing and dancing. The singing of Miss Constance Lait deserves hearty praise, and she plays Aurora Brue with freshness and vivacity. Miss Violet Dene makes a delightful Lady Bickenhall, also dancing in a graceful and attractive manner. Mr. Charles Hanbury furnishes an acceptable interpretation of Michael Brue.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden have got together an excellent company for the production of the pantomime *Aladdin*. The principal comedian is Mr. Ernie Myers, who as Abanazar pursues his irresponsible way through the performance to the accompaniment of shrieks of laughter from the delighted audience. Miss Maidie Scott fills the title-rôle, and her charming manner and pleasant voice gain her hosts of friends. Mr. Joe Robins and Miss Flo Collier have plenty of opportunity of exhibiting their dexterity, which always meets with due reward, and Messrs. Williams and Brown are exceedingly clever eccentric and cross-talking comedians. Miss Madge Northcote's singing as the Geni of the Cave is a great treat, and Miss Lily Lonsdale as the Princess is successful. Mr. Julian Mack has a unique but thoroughly happy method of representing Widow Twankey, and Mr. George Cooper makes an excellent Emperor. Mr. Carl Muller is very smart in his speciality dancing, as also are the quartette Les Belles Américaines. Toch and Tard, two very clever acrobats, have a turn which arouses great enthusiasm.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—The company of Mr. Henry Bedford is here with *Mafeking*, *See-Saw of Life*, and *Gipsy Jack*. The last-mentioned was presented on Monday. Mr. Bedford fairly revels in the breezy character of Gipsy Jack, and Mr. G. W. Hewetson does well as Sir John Dexter. The portraits of the unscrupulous Skinners, father and son, are strongly drawn by Messrs. W. H. Domney and Alec Alexander respectively. Mr. Cecil S. Churton gives a manly interpretation of the Rev. Francis Harvey. Miss Mary Masters imparts a winsome attractiveness to her rôle as Dorothy Dexter; Miss Bessie Bedford acts charmingly as May Harvey; and the humorous relief is capitally sustained by Mr. Sid Bedford (Joe Banks), Mr. J. H. Darner (Charley Bates), and Miss Jennie Risley (Jennie Huggins).

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—Crowded houses are nightly watching and applauding Dr. Walford Bodie in his efforts to alleviate and cure his numerous patients. Miss Alexandra Dagmar must be warmly congratulated on her successful impersonations, and she also shines as a raconteuse; Miss Georgina Middleton, fresh from her pantomime triumphs at the Theatre Royal, sings with charming sweetness; the Trapnell Family submit a skilful and artistic acrobatic performance; Hays and Suits prove themselves expert dancers; the Howards are a grotesque couple; abundance of laughter is evoked by the comical musical item of Wood and Bates; Ike Scott and Son add greatly to the mirth; and the dancing of Viviana meets with full appreciation. The American Bioscope supplies several capital films.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Pantomime is the order of the day here. Pardoe's company with *Cinderella* commenced a week's engagement on Monday. In the title-rôle Miss Dolly Wright is exceedingly charming; Miss Lottie Holland is a capital Prince Charming; Miss May Daventry is a vivacious Dandini; Miss Nelly Rose as the Princess finds favour, and Miss Annie de Brice the Fairy Godmother. Messrs. Bert Gordon and Jess Boxer are funny as Eva and Maud; The Baron finds an excellent exponent in Mr. Tom Hulme; and Mr. Tom Griffitt is conspicuous as Father Time. On Thursday evening Mr. Cross (Managing Director) took his fifth annual benefit.

OLDBURY.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Richard; Manager, Mr. R. A. Brown.—The chief item of this week's programme is supplied by Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the Singing Mill Hands, in harmonious vocal items, which are encored; Charles Bayman, negro comedian, creates a great impression with "Old King Cole"; George Scott, descriptive vocalist, is well received; Gertrude Moore is a favourite, introducing Dutch, Italian, and big-boot and coon dancing; Charlie Drew scores with his comical mannerisms; Blancho White is a clever exponent of sand dancing and coon songs; and G. Robyson, comedian, and the Palace pictures make up a good programme.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is paying us their customary annual visit this week, and never before has their welcome been more cordial. Practically all the seats had been booked for the week before the company arrived, notwithstanding that prices were raised for all parts, and even on the opening night (Monday) extra rows of stalls had to be added. *Carmen* was the opening opera, and a more delightful performance has never been given here. Miss Doris Woodall, in the title-rôle, singing so beautifully and acting with such abandon and go as to completely captivate all hearts. She was admirably supported by Miss Ina Hill and Miss Anna Hope, as Frasquita and Mercedes; and Miss Grace Nicoll was also highly successful as Micaela. Herr Julius Walther had a big reception on appearing, and played José with the artistic finish that always marks his impersonations, while his singing was a great artistic treat; Mr. Frank Arthur was admirably suited as Escamillo; Mr. Alec Richord was a capital Zuniga; Morales and Lillas Pastia found admirable exponents in Messrs. R. Cliffe and A. Felton; and the same can be said of the Doncairo and Remandado of Messrs. F. Clendon and A. Hyde. The dances were beautifully executed, the choruses rendered with precision and effect, while the Rosa orchestra, under the skilful baton of Mr. Walter van Noorden, did full justice to the music. The week's programme includes *Rigoletto*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Lohengrin*, *Fidelio*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Faust*.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. Cecil Clayton's company is occupying these boards with the pantomime *Cinderella*. Mr. Herbert Colley is full of life and vigour as Baron Loweralotte; and Mr. E. Clarke, as his page Pimples, does well. Gertie is played with considerable verve by Mr. Alf. Selby; and Lily has a capable exponent in Mr. Arthur Loman. Miss Eva Rosslyn is well suited as Prince Charming; and Miss Lilian Ramsdale is attractive as Dandini. Miss Gertrude Gray sings well as Fairy Sunshine; and Cinderella is daintily portrayed by Miss Gertie Lovedale.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—The popular musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* has been presented here by Mr. E. Lockwood's company under the managership of Mr. P. McLeod Foster. Mr. Paddy Dupres is the irrepressible Sergeant Brue, and his amusing business has much to do with the success of the performance. Mr. Charles McLagan plays Crookie Scrubbs with well-sustained comedy and no little originality. Miss Midge Clark as Lady Bickenhall is first-class; she has a pleasing voice which she uses to advantage; and the same may be said of Miss Lilian Middleton, whose rendering of the part of Aurora Brue is noteworthy. Mr. E. Percy Rogers is admirable as Michael Brue, his singing giving great enjoyment; to Mr. Henry Chichester belongs much credit for his carefully studied portraiture of Mr. Crank; and Mr. Arthur Stroud displays excellent qualities in his impersonation of Gerald Treherne. Capital are the assumptions submitted by Mr. Charles Sims as Matthew Habisham, Mr. Clarence Napier as Inspector Corringe, Mr. Arnold Webster as Mr. Lamb, and Mr. J. F. Leighton as Captain Bay. Miss Eliza Earle earns distinction as Daisy, acting in an amusingly eccentric manner; and others acquitting themselves well are Miss Aileen Macdonald (Mabel Widget), Miss Violet Ward (Vivienne Russell), Miss Preda Vaughan (Louise Claire), and Mi

Bosco, R. F. Stacey, and Greeve Taylor. Miss Irma Farington gives an impressive and stirring impersonation of Lady Isabel; whilst Miss Myrtle Woodward as Barbara Hare and Miss Kathleen Saunders as Little Willie are seen to advantage.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Michell.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company are appearing here in *The Face at the Window*, a strong and interesting drama from the pen of Mr. F. Brooke Warren. A very capable company do full justice to the piece, and the mounting is exceptionally good. Mr. E. H. Armadale presents a powerful study of the villain, Chevalier Delgardo; Mr. G. Hall is strong and emotional as the hero; and Miss N. Hallam is telling and charming as the heroine.

Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—The programme is excellent. A pantomime show by the Five Osranis catches on splendidly, and is both clever and funny; Horace White's ventriloquial entertainment is full of good qualities; the Labakans supply an amusing and skilful acrobatic performance; Alf. Davis is a popular comedian; Lee and Arden are up-to-date artists; Norman French dances in eccentric fashion; Linton's tight-wire performance is novel and smart; and Alice May is a brilliant quick-change artist.

PORTH.—Poole's Opera House.—Mr. George Gordon and company are here this week in *The Scarlet Clue*, opening on Monday evening to a good house. Mr. George Gordon gives a powerful and masterly rendering of Michael Stanton; Mr. Reginald Brown in the double part of Jack Esmond and Harry Esmond, is well received; Mr. Horace Roseley makes a capital Edward Croker; Mr. J. E. Tomlinson earns great applause as Crazy Jim; Miss Grace Jones gives an effective rendering of Elsie Dane; Miss Ellen Beverley capably portrays Miss Tabitha Esmond; Mr. V. T. Raymond makes a hit as Billy; Little Polly has an excellent representative in Little Edith Rutland, who receives loud applause for her singing; Miss Kathleen Cranston is satisfactory as Mother Scrooge; and Miss Grace Warner is responsible for some excellent acting as Scarlet Sal.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager. Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Martin Harvey and his company are appearing here in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. Harvey's embodiment of the royestering cavalier, Lieut. Reresby, surnamed "The Rat," is a most striking and powerful one; Viscount Dorsington is ably presented by Mr. Charles J. Cameron; the arch-traitor, Col. Hungerford, is depicted with great judgment by Mr. Charles Glenney; Mr. Percy Anstey, in the rôle of Cornet Francis Tresham, acts with intelligence and spirit. Miss Coleridge makes a charming Margaret Hungerford, her womanly tenderness being delightful; Mrs. Bagshaw and Helena Pierrepoint are effectively portrayed by Miss Francis Ivor and Miss Bessie Elder; the boy, Batty, is acted by Miss N. de Silva with energy and success.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*The Price of Her Soul* is being played here this week by Messrs. John B. Shinton and Alexander Greenwood's company. The part of Lord Rolf Mandeville, V.C., is played by Mr. Shinton in a forcible and manly fashion; Mr. Annesley Hely depicts the villain, Major Ivan Skoboloff, in a powerful manner; Mr. Edwin Coates and Mr. Will Percy, as the Hon. Algy Fraser and Pat Murphy, are responsible for some effective work; Miss Mona Gray, as the scheming and relentless Olga Sanovitz, plays a difficult part with commendable success; Miss Ida M. Ryder, as the Countess Inez Steinmitz, acts carefully; and Miss Ina Arnott is excellent as Vera.

Empire Palace. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—An excellent programme is offered to the patrons of this house for the week, Max Gruber, with his performing elephant and horse, is the principal attraction, the intelligence of the animals arousing great astonishment; Rosie Archer, lady mimic, gives a very pleasing turn that is highly appreciated; Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene and Co., in *His Birthday*, artistically played and mounted, are received with acclamation; Mountford and Walsh, society entertainers, give satisfaction in their capital show; Amy Anderson and Co., are really smart with their scenes of London coster life, and meet with a flattering reception; Simosa San is a clever lady juggler; the Bros. Phillipi's comedy acrobatic act, "Shunting," is intenseiy amusing; and also contributing successfully to the bill are Rumbo Austin, eccentric comedian; Sisters Selwyn, duettists and dancers; and Chas. Ridgwell, character comedian.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company is here this week in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Frank Crimp acts and sings commendably as Harry Vereker; Mr. Bertrand Gates effectively depicts Boobhamba, and his topical numbers are popular; Sir Peter Loftos has a capital representative in Mr. Coop Edmunds; Mr. Ethelbert Edwards acquits himself creditably as Bobby Warren; Mr. Laurie de Freece, who impersonates Chambuddy Ram, is an exceptionally clever and amusing comedian; Miss Marjorie Clarke is a charming Lady Patricia Vane, and her vocalism is deservedly appreciated; Miss Gladys Guy makes a captivating Peggy Sabine. Praise is due to Miss Essie Perrin for her graceful dancing as Angy; and Nanoya finds an attractive exponent in Miss Winifred O'Connor, who gains a hearty encore for her rendering of "The Cinnamon Tree."

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is appearing here this week in *The Midnight Mail*, which has met with a cordial reception. Mr. George Harvard gives a powerful impersonation of Harry Steyne; Mr. Fred G. Evison creates much merriment and also shows great dramatic ability as Billy Brewer; much praise is due to Miss Grace Lester for her portrayal of Mary Steyne; the part of Lady Phyllis Eustace is ably sustained by Miss Hilda Merriles; Leonard Royle has an excellent representative in Austin Mortimer; Miss Lydia Hart is seen to advantage as Nancy Brewer; Mr. Dobell Lyle acquits himself well as Donald Craig; and Mr. Harry Emmerson and Mr. C. P. Wentworth also capably sustain their parts.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—Henry Hallam and Joseph Stanton provide the chief attraction here this week in a musical comedy sketch which is genuinely diverting. The Three Clements give a daring display on the flying trapeze; the mimetic ability of Harry Morris evokes loud applause; Harris L. Bell, Lily Pearl, and company appear in a mirth-provoking sketch, *A Bit of String*. Mabel Holt and Marie Blythe are successful comediennes; and a capital turn is that of Harry Weldon, comedian. A. J. Rebla combines astonishing skill with really funny "business" in his juggling act. Bioscope pictures conclude the entertainment.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here in the romantic historical drama *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. Frederick Moyes plays the part of Napoleon with great credit, and Mr. H. Gray Dolly as Talleyrand is good; Mr. Henry Ludlow scores as the Marquis de Beaumont, and Mr. T. W. Ford as Marshal Murat and Mr. C. Lionel Brocknor as General Augereau both deserve a word of praise; and Mr. Dennis Bryan is a laughable Grimaud. Miss Lilian Dundas shows power as the Empress Josephine and Miss Gertrude Entwistle is a *chic* Stephanie, while Miss Muriel Thompson is masterly as Marie Louise.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre. — Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller. — Messrs. W. H. and R. A. Maddox's company opened here on Monday with *Dick Whittington*, and made an excellent impression. Miss Mabel Kessler—a fine Dick Whittington—imparts considerable dash into her rendering of the part; Miss Peggy Fame as Alice is also a clever actress, and makes a charming principal girl, dancing and singing delightfully. Mr. Dan Lyndon as Fitzwarren causes great amusement; as also does Mr. Gus Granville as Idle Jack. Messrs. Rex Kempton and Harry Pastor as McFlip and O'Flop are clever knockabouts. Mr. Harry Howe is also a capable "dame," Betsy, and is responsible for some clever comedy. Miss Annie Brevett as Captain Dash, Miss Linda May as Polly Perkins, and Miss Lilian Bates as the Lieutenant are all good in their respective parts; as also are Miss Louie Yates (Miladi Loo), Mr. Harry Wright as Muley Ben Whac, and Miss Jessie Lauraine. The songs and music are sprightly and catchy, and the dances are very enjoyable, the chorus being a thoroughly capable one. The specialities include Miss Mabel Kessler, lady cornetist, Mr. Harry Wright, extempore vocalist, Miss Peggy Fame, the Dandies' Quartette of dancers, and the Schallers, grotesque gymnasts.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor. — Miss Maud Hildyard and an excellent company are here this week in the new drama *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard scores a great success in the part of Lola Selby; Miss Jessie Burgwitz acts charmingly as Molly Merton; Miss Isa Bellington is highly amusing as Selina Worts; Mr. Charles Vivian plays effectively as James Selby; Mr. Bernard Copping acts very ably in the dual rôles of Sir Henry and Jack Merton; Mr. Julian Hartleigh plays most creditably as Guy Rogan. Mr. C. Fancourt as Captain Harry Lambert, Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass, Mr. James E. Page as Richard Wilson, Mr. Tracy Barrow as Antoine, Mr. Godfrey Sheldon as Doctor Lang, and Mr. E. Gordon as the newsboy, all sustain their parts well.

ROCHDALE.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd; Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—Mr. Chas. Chard's pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* is proving a strong attraction here this week. Miss Annie Casey as Goody Two Shoes sings with power and scores a distinct success; Miss Chummie La Mara as the principal boy invests the part of Roland with dash and vivacity; Wee Langton is well placed as Simple Simon; Mr. Sydney Dean makes up exceptionally well as Dame Freckles, and Mr. Charles Chard as Sammy Sops has a style of his own which creates great amusement. As Phil and Tom Messrs. Keith and Merson are irresistibly funny, and keep the audience in roars of laughter; the Misses Lily and Gladys St. Julian are two bright and winsome artists as Dolly Dimple and Peter Piper; Mr. Edwin Ramsdale does well as Baron Grab, and Messrs. Selby and Myers deserve praise as Smirk and Smile. The Immortals Benevolentia and Mephisto have two capital exponents in Miss Hawthorne Thwaites, whose vocalism was thoroughly appreciated, and Miss Julie Fuller; and specialities are submitted by the Mikado troupe of lady dancers, Messrs. Selby and Myers, Miss Annette Aseiky, Messrs. Keith and Merson, Sisters St. Julian, and Cyrus and Maud, with their performing donkey.

Circus of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—A strong and attractive programme is presented here this week. Kavados, juggler and equilibrist, performs some clever tricks and feats with a cannon ball; the Four Aces, in a comedy acrobatic display, deserve their well-earned plaudits; Edna, the Whistling Girl, Flo Melville, comedienne, &c., The Coopers, in comedy and music, Royal Best, impersonator of celebrities, Vernon's Bioscope Clarke's Nippers, in a variety of exercises requiring skill, and Geo. H. Keith, vocal comedian, complete the list.

Empire Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—"Whirling the Whirl" is proving an immense and sensational attraction here this week, the performance of three cyclists on motor-cycles in mid air is daringly executed; Molly Doon sings daintily some pretty songs; Agnes McKeller is a welcome visitor with some finely rendered and refined songs; J. P. Boston, variety entertainer, Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists, Helm and Cozens, in the "Doctor and the Patient," and the Empire Bioscope complete a capital programme.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Miss Mary Austin and company are paying a very welcome return visit with *The Cotton Spinner* under the management of Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. Mr. John E. Haydon as John Prescott is life-like; and Mr. F. Edwin Fisher is seen to advantage as Lord Northbury; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is very smart as Arthur Northbury; and Mr. Ernest C. Edwards scores as Major Stratton; Miss Enid Ross is pleasing as Constance Harrington; and Miss Mary Austin acts dramatically in the difficult rôle of Mary Prescott. The mounting and scenery are excellent.

RUGBY.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross.—This week Messrs. Monti and Firth are presenting their pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. As the Babes, Miss Lily Cleave and Miss Maudie Cleave are very successful, acting, singing, and dancing well. Miss Florrie Bray is a picturesque and pretty Robin Hood; Miss Ada Clare as Maid Marion is excellent; and Miss Lilian Player as Sylvania proves herself to be a vocalist of high order. Miss Daisy Edney is good as Will Scarlett, and as Phyllis Miss Daisy Cecil is excellent. Mr. Fred Monti as Simple Simon displays great ability and much humour, and is ably seconded by Mr. Dan Idle, whose impersonation of Belinda, the governess, is worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Arthur Allan as Baron Graball has a part that suits him; Messrs. Alf Valmore and Will Ellerslie as Tired Tim and Weary Willie work hard and cause much amusement. The Sisters Godfrey give a clever exhibition of acrobatic dancing, and the Ascotts in their bâton swinging and side-drum playing score a success; and Professor E. Needham proves himself to be a ventriloquist of exceptional excellence. The Izons are also good in their scena *The Captain and the Mate*.

RUNCORN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—*At Duty's Call*, as played by Mr. John Gerant's company, is having a good reception here. Mr. Ernest St. John submits a very impressive embodiment of the hero, General Gordon; Mr. John Gerant makes the most of the part of Harold Allison; Mr. Frank V. Fern is seen to great advantage as Captain George Allison. In the humorous business Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry O'Hallaron, Mr. Gwyn Richardson as Jack Spencer, and Miss Harlington excel. A pleasing feature is the acting of Miss Marie Menzies as Dora Drummond; while the work of Miss Georgina Hamilton is of a finished and forceful nature.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Lights o' London* is the attraction this week, presented by Mr. Herbert Hollister's Company. Harold Armitage is well played by Mr. Arthur Cornell and Miss Jeannie Burgoyne scores as Bess. Mr. R. Robinson as Clifford Armytage and Miss Eily O'Dempsey as Hetty Preene are suitably placed. Mr. Herbert Hollister is excellent as Seth Preene. Some good comedy business is contributed by Mr. W. E. Passmore as Jarvis, Miss V. Temple as Mrs. Jarvis, Miss G. Murray as Shakespere Jarvis, and Mr. Geo. Wallace as Philosopher Jack. Several other good character studies, including little Ida Murray as Joey, a street Arab, are well received.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Signor Pepi, quick-change artist, appears in the comic sketch *Love Always Victorious*. Ella Shields is well received for her clever singing. Sam Redfern's funniosities deserve mention. Hesketh Meade, basso, is a favourite. Hector and Paulus (comedy specialty artists), Sisters Charnley (charming duettists and dancers), Dante Bentley and Elton in their novelty *Always Moving*, the Bodino Trio in their musical specialities, Mamie Cannon (drawing-room entertainer), and George Bendon (the white coon), also gave attractive turns.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—An excellent entertainment is headed by the Alexandroffs, who delight with their singing and dancing. Winona, assisted by Col. King, gives an exhibition of expertness with firearms. An amusing sketch, *A Manager's Lunch*, is given by the Ringling Trio of American eccentrics. Other acceptable turns include Nellie Voltair (quaint juvenile comedienne), Marconis (electric wonders), Carlotta Lunn (American comedienne), Cavalottis (instrumentalists), Chas. Melton (character vocalist), Harry Bent (with his smart patter), and Grogie (vocal comedian).

SALISBURY.—County Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—A full house welcomed the re-visit of Mr. John A. Thomson's company in the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Minnie Litchfield and Miss Kathleen Cogan gave a creditable impersonation of the Babes; Miss Beatrice Wadham as Robin Hood, and Miss Trixy Toole as Maid Marion played excellently; Miss Clair Wadham as the Fairy sang sweetly. Mr. Tom G. Warren as the Schoolmistress kept the audience in roars of laughter, Mr. Newton Pearce was particularly good as the Wicked Uncle, and was well supported by Messrs. Ted Mack and Henry Young as the villains. Some clever dancing was given by the Butterfly Troupe of Dancers, and some excellent variety turns were also introduced.

SHEERNESS.—The Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—An attractive bill of fare is submitted here for this week. The Bros. Gilbert secure loud applause for their smart and clever performance on the tight-rope; the Illumino Statuo reveals a pretty floral stage scena, from which a lady sings with pleasing effect; Miss Jessie Albini, comedienne, is very popular; Mr. Geo. Edney, descriptive vocalist, is well received; Miss Ida Brophy wins admiration both in song and dance; and Mr. Pain Lee, eccentric comedian, also contributes. Ruffle's Bioscope pictures are as popular as ever.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—An entertaining programme here comprises: The Arundel Sketch Co. in the farcical act *A Broken Promise*; and other turns meeting with favour are the Sisters Bathurst, duettists and dancers; Mr. Gus Daniels, descriptive vocalist; Miss Amy Hurst, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Charlie Howard, comedian; Miss Annie Lacey, comedienne; and the Dennisons, comedy sketch artists.

SHEFFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter-King.—Pantomime still exercises its potent and beneficial sway here, for *The Babes*, which finished here on Saturday, was succeeded on Monday by *The Forty Thieves*, transferred "lock, stock, and barrel," from the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington. Mr. Ben Albert, who made a hit here three years ago as Simple Simon, was a quaint and laughter-provoking Ali Baba, and his patter, as usual of the dryly-humorous style, kept the audience in a continual roar. Mr. Will Johnson was a droll and indefatigable representative of Mrs. Baba. Mr. Espinoza made a weird Avarice, and his clever pirouette dance fairly brought down the house. The New York Comedy Four were very successful. Mr. Powis Pinder acted dramatically as Cassim, and his mad scene *à la* Gaspard was loudly applauded. Miss Jennie Armstrong was a handsome and shapely Abdallah; and Miss Fanny Wright made a pretty and delightful Ganem, and her song "Don't cry, little girl," was twice encored. In Miss Ruby Verdi was found a graceful and tuneful Morgiana; Miss May Gurnay sang two songs in a cultured manner; and the Four Papillons did several dances in an agile and elegant style. The pantomime is perfectly stage-managed.

Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here in *The Spring Chicken*. Mr. George Gregory as Mr. Gridle was very funny, and in song, dance, and repartee he proved the main support of the piece, from the humorous point of view. That old favourite, Miss Irene Verona, quite in her element as Mrs. Gridle, caused great merriment. Miss Gertrude Glyn as Rosalie was the incarnation of girlish grace, delicious naivete, and feminine charm. Miss Rita Everard proved to be a fascinating Ducie; and Miss Gertrude Gilliam made a prepossessing Baroness. The fun was kept briskly going by the able assistance of Miss Nellie Lonnen, Mr. Harris, Mr. E. Ronald, Mr. Nelson Keys, and Mr. C. D. Cleveland.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Cinderella* finished a successful run on Saturday, and on Monday the regular season commenced with the engagement of Mr. Harry Pleon and his company in the laughable musical comedy *The Shop Boy*, a dramatic episode called *The Club Raid*, and an amusing burlesque on *Nero*. Thursday was the great night with the loyal patrons of the Alexandra, when Mr. Ramsay took his second annual benefit.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, the Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Miss Florence St. John has often appeared before local comic opera lovers, but it was a novelty with Sheffielders to see her on a music-hall stage, and when the curtain went up on Monday on *A Milliner's Bill* the Empire was packed with an expectant and enthusiastic audience. Miss St. John acted in the little comedy with all her old charm, keen sense of humour, and delicacy of touch, and she was well supported. Mr. Ranschle gives some clever impersonations of well-known men; and a funny act by the clever duo Cooke and Rothert, is a good item in this week's programme. Virto and his performing girls do a refined musical show; Mr. Tom Edwards and his quaint wooden-headed friend Curly cause roars of laughter; and other talented and popular performers are the pretty Urma Sisters, the vivacious Brontes, and Mr. Frank Harwood. In addition there is the American Biograph (which now seems a fixture here) with up-to-date pictures.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Miss Carlotta de Yonsen, supported by Mr. C. A. Carlile's dramatic company, is appearing in a thrilling sketch this week. Other contributors to the gaiety of Grand patrons are Mr. Harry Luck, comedian and burlesque artist; Mr. Frank Coyle, the old original Westbar favourite; Rayne and Hope; and Mr. C. H. Fergus. Pallister's popular local and topical Bioscope pictures continue "firm."

SLIGO.—Town Hall.—Proprietors, Sligo Corporation.—Mr. C. Macdona's company in *Three Little Maids* was presented by Mr. W. Payne Seddon on Monday before a crowded house. The piece was well staged and dressed in a gorgeous manner, and the chorus, under the direction of Mr. J. Lennoi, was well balanced. As the Three Little Maids, Miss Doris Lind as Ada Branscombe, Miss Cora Lingard as Hilda, and Miss M. West as Edna were charming, and acted in a commendable manner; Miss K. Graham Beck made an effective Lady St. Mallory, Miss Laura Wright was very good as Gretchen, Miss G. Hardy as Lady Rosmary had a part well suited to her, Miss G. Bruce as Venician Grafton was excellent, Miss Mabel Sarl successfully impersonated Lady Margory, and Miss Phillis Castleton cleverly acted the part of Miss Price. Mr. F. Henderson made a capital Lord Cheyne, Mr. Garnet Wilson was an effective Bryan Molyneaux, the Rev. Mr. Branscombe was in the hands of Mr. W. P. Morgan, Mr. Ewart Drake as Cupid gave a really fine impersonation, and Mr. Wilfred Heath, in the part of M. de L'Orme could hardly be excelled.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Mr. Frank Bateman's company gave an excellent performance of a new domestic drama, entitled *No Wedding Bells for Her*, at the above house on Monday. In the principal rôle, that of an actress, Miss Lizzie Montague excels; and she is ably supported by Messrs. George C. Doughty as a detective, Stuart Lomath, a clergyman, Louis Garton, the actress's husband, and Walter S. Clifford, a city wastrel. Other parts are in good hands. The Bioscope pictures still prove a great attraction.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—The attraction here is Mr. Walter Melville's sensational drama, *The Worst Woman in London*. The play is well mounted and capably acted, Miss Florence Dalton in the title-rôle playing very effectively.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—The pièce de résistance at this popular variety temple is the pantomimic sketch, *The* Bricklayers, which is presented amidst uproarious laughter by the Boisset Troupe. Florence and Lilian give a refined and artistic musical turn which is well appreciated; and Miss Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, dances admirably; the Sisters Wingrove, dainty dancers, score; and others who do well are Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian; Mark Merry, comedian; and Blake and Granby, in a successful duologue. Mr. W. Trussell is welcoming huge crowds this week.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Freece; District Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. C. Aldin.—Arthur Reece is a big favourite, and well applauded for his capital songs; the Athos Troupe of acrobats submit a wonderful performance; and the McConnell Trio score with a musical act. Alice Hollander sings artistically; and May Moodie excels as a piccolo soloist. Francesco, equilibrist; Amy Sullivan, comedienne; and Eily Adair, also successfully appear.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. G. H. W. Burrough's pantomime entitled *Sinbad the Sailor* is the attraction this week. Mr. George Sinclair's Excelsior Quartette of Dancers contribute largely to the success of the pantomime, their exceptionally clever turn being rapturously re-demanded. Master Sydney is heard to every advantage in his songs, and Fred and Louie Fuller's cakewalk is applauded. Sinbad is ably impersonated by Miss Louie Fuller, and the Misses Florence Barnes and Winifred Hamilton play well the rôles of Princess Yazora and Captain Selim respectively. Tinbad finds in Mr. Chas. J. Langton a clever interpreter, and with Messrs. Jack MacMahon and Fred Fuller as Bizbad and Quizbad cause much merriment. Mr. H. G. Brandon is satisfying in every way in his portrayal of Mrs. Mary Ann Sinbad.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—General Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—The annual visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company is regarded in local theatrical circles as the "red-letter" week of the season; and seldom has the Opera House presented a more animated appearance than on Monday evening, when a large and representative audience greeted this famous combination of high-class artists. Bizet's beautiful opera *Carmen* was the selection for the opening night, and the anticipations of the patrons were fully realised by a brilliant performance. The title-rôle was undertaken by Mdlle. Zelie de Lussan, who delighted the audience with a realistic conception of the fascinating and impassioned Southern Gipsy Girl, which she depicted with irresistible abandon and charm, alike in a vocal and dramatic sense; Miss Kate Anderson in the part of Michaela played and sang in a charming manner, her rendering of the appeal, "Jose, to seek thee I come," being beautifully executed; Don Jose had an excellent representative in Mr. Wilson Pembroke, whose fine tenor voice was greatly admired; Mr. William Dever as the bull fighter, Escamillo, gave a splendid rendering of the exhilarating Toreador song, which was loudly encored; Mr. W. Bailey and Mr. C. Moppett as Il Remendado and Il Dancairo respectively lent ample assistance; as did also Miss Rigby and Miss J. McCarthy in the parts of the cigarette girls Frasquita and Mercedes. The orchestra was largely augmented, and under the conductorship of Signor Joilio Nini-Bellucci the music was superbly rendered. The week's bill includes *Il Trovatore*, *Maritana*, *The Huguenots*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Lohengrin*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—The successful domestic drama entitled *The Little Bread Winner* is being staged here by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company. Little Miss Emmie Thomas cleverly and characteristically portrays the title-rôle; Mr. Scott Leighton is a forcible villain as Joseph Prior; Mr. J. A. Campbell appears with his wonted success as the Quaker, Lord Dorrington; Mr. David Gordon well accounts for the heroic Richard Lawrence; a pleasing and pathetic rendering of Margaret Daventry is contributed by Miss Catherine Parry; Mr. Allen Charles evokes roars of laughter as Charles Prior, and able assistance is submitted by Miss Jennie Bostock as the Irish housekeeper.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The bill here includes Zarmah's African forest-breelions, bears, and boarhounds; a pantomimic absurdity, *Swimming the Channel*, by the Folkstones; Les Gittis have a wonderfully trained dog, whose gymnastic business creates a lot of fun; decidedly funny songs are rendered by Frank Lynne; the duets of Sinclair and Parr are favourably received, and the Fitzroys submit a good gymnastic act. Stephens and Rennior, comedy artists, Irving Jones, the funny little black man, and the American Bioscope complete an excellent programme.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—On the first four nights of this week *A Guilty Man* occupied the boards here. Mr. James Hare and company are responsible for the presentation. Mr. Hare appeared successfully as James Redman; and Miss Irene Clifford displayed considerable histrionic abilities as Nell Radford. Mr. Chas. O'Connor succeeded in giving a manly rendering of George Seymour. Miss Violet Hammersley was sweet and winsome as Audrey Priestley. As the Jew, Esau Hebron, Mr. Edmond O'Grady acquitted himself with credit. Mr. John A. Stimson supplied plenty of rare comedy as Bob Sparrow; and Miss Alice Buckland, a young but promising artist, was exceedingly piquant as Susie Barton.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone. — Mr. Norman Macowan's company opened here on Monday with the pretty costume play, *Monsieur Beaucaire*. The title-rôle is sustained by Mr. Macowan, who gives a polished and highly-finished performance of the part. In the hands of Miss Marguerite Cellier every phase of the character of Lady Mary Carlisle is defined, the result being an artistic triumph. Mr. Murray Hathorn is a capable Duke of Winterset; Mr. Leonard Laurence is a dignified Beau Nash; and Captain Badger is ably sustained by Mr. P. Ramsey Forman.

ST. HELENS. — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and Company opened here on Monday in *Virginius*. Mr. Tearle gave a fine impersonation of the Roman father, ably supported by Miss Esther Tearle as Virginia, Mr. Richard Vane as Appius Claudius, Mr. Spencer Geach, Mr. V. O. Crabtree as Julius, Mr. James Skea as Munitorius, and Mr. T. W. Benson as Dentatus. *Othello*, *Jeanie Deans*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Hamlet*, *and Richard III.* are also in the Co.'s repertoire.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The Six Brothers Luck opened here on Monday with their pantomime *Jack and Jill*. In addition to the Six Brothers Luck the company includes:—Misses Mabel Thorne, Marjorie Cecil, Evelyn Beresford, Flora Macdonald, the Sisters Brenton, the Sisters Travers, Mr. P. Bathurst, and Mr. Harry Levaine.

STOCKPORT. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Pantomime once again forms the attraction here, the *Babes in the Wood*, which abounds with entertaining items, being presented by Mr. Peter Thompson's company with a marked degree of success. Miss Maude Beaumont is a dashing Robin Hood; and Miss Molly Hackett is a charming Maid Marian; as the babes, Bertie and Cissie, little Renee Graham and little Daisy Noel are exceedingly pleasing and clever; The Danbys as Tim Tired and Willie Wearied are genuinely amusing, in addition to being expert dancers; and Mr. Fred Danvers is mirth-provoking as the Dame. Chief among the numerous specialities is N. T. Kioto, a Japanese equilibrist, whose feats are of a wonderful character.

Empire, Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Pantomime also reigns at this establishment, Mr. Wm. Holland's company appearing here in *Aladdin*. Frances Haskoll makes an excellent Aladdin; Florence Wood as the Princess also sings delightfully; and Jack and Evelyn as Wishee Washee and Cheeki are highly amusing; as also are Sandy and Carl as the policemen Bo Bi and Bo Ko; George Reeves is a capital Widow Twankey; and Fred Russell is genuinely funny as Abanazar; Glanmore Jones as Ping Pong acts well, and displays vocal ability; and R. K. Woodville is a most satisfactory Emperor. The Three Florodora Girls and the Colonial Vocal Four are among the specialities that command much appreciation.

STOURBRIDGE. — Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—This week we are receiving a special attraction with the engagement of Mr. J. H. Clyndes' company with the drama *A Royal Revenge*. In the dual rôles of Estevan Alverez and Pedro de Castro Mr. Clyndes displayed his customary clever and effective style; Mr. Reginald Foxhill scored heavily as Nicholas Vargas; Mr. Fred Rivers as Azan Bon Musid and Count Ulric Uzeda was versatile. Miss Enid Eloni as Inez Alvarez gave a capable representation, and Miss Annie Grattan as Cora Casilda submitted another piece of winsome character-acting. Miss May Wynard gained distinction as Mother Maria Teresa, and Mr. Herbert King as the King of Spain gave a dignified reading of the character. The lighter element of the drama was in the able hands of Mr. J. E. Worth as Michael Sancha, and Miss Nellie Stuart as Paquita.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre.—Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Another of Mr. J. F. Elliston's successful pantomimes is appearing here this week, *The Sleeping Beauty Beauty* having been transferred in its entirety from Birmingham to the Northern borough. Miss Maude Mortimer, who is a great favourite with the "Wearsiders," is a dashing Prince Faithful, and on Monday night received quite an ovation on making her first appearance. Miss Lilian Digges is charming as Beauty Allfair, singing her allotted numbers in a most pleasing way. Les Voces as Silver Star and Mother Baneful act and sing with effectiveness. Mr. Lorimer Meadows does exceedingly well in the arduous rôle of the Yellow Dwarf. Mr. W. J. Churchill is excellent as Count Incognito; Mr. Alf Bishop and Mr. James Chippendale create amusement in the respective parts of King and Queen Half-a-Crown; Miss Ada Lilley scores as the Grand Chief; the Sisters Cora deserve mention as Bon-Bon and Bonnie Bouche respectively; as also does Little Vera in the character of Petit Maitre. The Morton Trio as the Woodcutters are entertaining.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—Mr. Carlton Wallace's company opened here on Monday in the pleasing romantic drama *The Love that Women Desire* Mr. J. O. Stewart plays the part of Squire Abingdon with considerable power and ability; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford is effective as Richard Abingdon; Mr. G. Carlton Wallace is commendable as Frank Hardy; Mr. David G. Noble is sufficient as Phillip Carnaby; Mr. John Hignett scores with his portrayal of the character of Dennis O'Rourke; Miss Lydia Donavan admirably depicts the rôle of Sybil Thorburn; Miss Alice Livesey as Madge Abingdon plays skilfully; Miss Maude Stuart is good as Pattie Swift; Miss Violet Haye does well as Molly; and Miss Clarissa Bamford cleverly enacts the rôle of the Indian maiden, Mariquinka.

Palace of Varieties.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—The bill here is headed by Madame Ada Colley, who secures the usual flattering reception. Other attractions are the Venola Bros., comedy gymnasts; Allan McAskell, versatile conjuror; Rita and Roma, vaudeville artists; George Collins, comedian; Burnette, character musician; George Bernard, actor-vocalist; Alsopp and Beckwith, vocalists and dancers; and Verona's animated pictures.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Another of Mr. Milton Bode's pantomimes is do

tertainment. The overture of the week is Ch. Richards' "La Fée de Potsdam," finely played by the orchestra under the direction of Mr. H. Peterson.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—This week Mr. A. G. Smith's company is here in *Little Bo-Peep*. Miss Elsie Douglas is a charming Bo Peep, and a dashing Boy Blue is seen in Miss Kathleen Garnon; Miss Hilda Dayton is good as Colin; and Miss Ena Martin well placed as Maisie; Mr. Fred Maitland scores as Baron Hardupp; and Messrs. Reed and Lerne as Percy and Patsy cause much mirth with their clever knockabout business; Mr. William Greene, the possessor of a rich baritone voice, is nightly encored for his songs, and Miss Issa Steel charms all by her portrayal of the Queen of the Fairies and delightful singing. The specialities include the Doreen Troupe of Lady Dancers, Bindene, contortionist, Oliva Chew, sifleur.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. Fred J. Willmot.—The Sladinbacks in the gymnastic potpourri turn astonishes with a really wonderful entertainment; Letty Lind charms all with her soprano voice; and Tom E. Johnstone and Little Don are clever comedians; sketches are played by the Arundels (*The New Office Boy*), Carney and Armstrong (*The Pro. and the Baggage Man*), and The Delmes (*The Phantom Clogs*). The Bioscope pictures are very interesting.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's powerful company in the sensational drama *An Abandoned Woman* is here this week. Captain Herbert Seaton is admirably portrayed by Mr. Walston Foster, and an able rendering of Sir Marmaduke Seaton is presented by Mr. George Gormley. Mr. Harry Foxwell as Robert Saunders proves himself a highly skilled artist, and as Philip Malvoisin, Mr. W. J. Butler is a decided success. Mr. Michael Madden evokes loud applause in his humorous interpretation of Paddy Bayle; Miss Bernice Fielding plays Ninan Malvoisin in an effective manner; a capital study of Eleanor Dean is supplied by Mrs. Henry Foxwell; and Miss Lily Addison is warmly appreciated in the rôle of La Celeste.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Mr. Frank Lindo is here this week with his London company in the domestic drama entitled *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. F. Lindo is remarkably good in the character of Stephen Armitage; a clever bit of character acting is given by Mr. J. W. Henson as David Armitage; the Lucas Lyle of Mr. Wilson Coleman is well portrayed; Mr. George Overs displays great talent in the part of Dick Redmayne; Captain Gerald Gambier is all that one could desire as the Duke of Ancaster; Miss Daisy Rochefort acquits herself cleverly as Dora; and Miss Marion Wakeford gives a strong impersonation of the part of Joan.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—*Cinderella*, Mr. Eade Montefiore's successful pantomime, has been well received during this (its second) week's stay here. Miss Georgina Leonard has become a popular favourite in her songs; Miss Nellie Merton retains her charming style as Cinderella; the fun is kept going fast and furious by Mr. George Rydon, Mr. Fred Lincoln, and those favourite variety artists Conan and Doyle. Amusement was also the result of the efforts of Mr. Arthur Byron and Mr. George Antley. Miss Adele Lincoln's graceful dancing is an attraction, as is also the sweet singing of Miss Vera Schlesinger and the baritone of Mr. G. W. Traverner.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The principal attraction this week is undoubtedly the clever mimicry and comicalities by J. P. Ling. The musical eccentricities of Will Van Allen are humorous and decidedly clever. Belle Braham is here again, and adding greatly to the eulogiums already gained by her. Lottie Lennox, "chorus vocalist," is well received. Others who provide acceptable numbers are Phillips and Merrett, Mdlle. Rosa's Canine Hipodrome, Harry Lawson, and Renson and Waite.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is here. Miss Madge Merry appears as Dick Whittington with much success; and Mr. William Kashma as the Cat is very good. Miss Winifred Preece is a winsome Alice Fitzwarren; Mr. W. H. Ball does well as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Walter Nugent has made a decided hit as Julia, the cook; Mr. Walter Wade is excellent as Idle Jack; and Mr. C. Kashma is a success as Captain Kettel; Lieut. Hatchway and Lieut. Mainbrace are in the capable hands of Miss Lottie Vincent and Miss Elvira Vincent. The character of Muley Ben Whac, Emperor of Morocco, is well played by Mr. Geo. Harris; Miss Poppie Howard as Princess Dainty is very charming. Specialities are introduced by Les Sprays, the Rashmas (knockabouts), the Italian Glee Singers, the Sisters Vincent (coon singers and dancers), and Miss Effie White, whose dancing elicits applause.

WEXFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan.—Mr. J. W. Whitbread's Co. is here this week in a round of Irish dramas, and are meeting with much success. *The Irish Dragoon* was produced on Monday night. Mr. R. Faulkner made a dashing Charles O'Malley, and Mr. Ion Ireland was excellent as Sir George Dashwood. Mr. H. R. Leigh depicted the treacherous Major Hammersley in a realistic manner. Mr. James O'Brien, an old favourite, extracted all the fun possible out of the part of Micky Free, and his efforts were ably seconded by Miss Monica Kelly as Susie Dogherty. Mr. T. Bayley made a capital Dr. Quill, and Mr. Dane Clark gave an excellent character sketch of Napoleon. Miss Cecilia Dare, as Lucy Dashwood, did full justice to the rôle, and Miss May Axon was well placed in the part of Donna Inez. Mrs. E. F. Brady was highly amusing as Annette.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Crowe's company is appearing here in the melodrama *The Way of the World*. Mr. Herbert Skardon submits a manly performance as Cecil Montague, and Mr. Clarence Temple is good as Matthew Magon. Humour is well represented by Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff, Mr. Dick Seddon as Joe Sparrow, and Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly, whilst villainy has a capable exponent in Mr. Victor Gordon as Captain Slade. Miss Cissy Bellamy acts and looks well as Kate Montague, and Miss Sidney Crowe acts powerfully in the character of Adela de la Roche.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—A solid attraction is provided at this popular house this week by Mr. John F. Preston's company in *Rogues on the Turf*, and a good house assembled on Monday evening, the progress of the piece being followed with the keenest interest. Mr. John F. Preston gives a finished study of the part of Joe Flaxman, the old trainer, making a dee pimpression; Mr. Ernest R. Allen is a manly hero as Arthur Somerton; and Mr. Hamilton Deane plays the heavy part of Captain Dudley Clifton on original and acceptable lines. Mr. H. Macro is an excellent and amusing Moses Solomons. Mr. Harry Benson's playing of Sam Flaxman is humorous, his dancing being decidedly good; Mr. Alfred Wade makes a good Steve Burton; Miss Mabelle F. Barlow is quite at home in the part of Marion Heathcote, an adventuress of considerable refinement; the Nellie Flaxman of Miss Madge-Nelson is charming; and Miss Lalla Stanhope is no less winning as Phyllis Murzel.

DRILL HALL.—An attraction of unusual merit is to be found here in the Australian Bioscope Company's animated pictures, some good sentimental and humorous films being exhibited. Pleasing interludes are created by Mr. Stanley Green, humorist and drawing-room entertainer; and Mr. Charles Boulton, baritone vocalist.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. Frederick Melville's drama *Her Forbidden Marriage* has been presented during the week. Mr. Albert Ward gives an excellent representation of George Maddison, and Mr. Lionel d'Aragon's Charles Devereux is an interesting study. Mr. Holland Day is distinctly good as Geoffrey Broughton; and Mr. Fred De Vere is capital as Timothy Tuttut. Miss Eugenie Magnus capably assumes the rôle of Lady Lucretia Lancaster, and Miss Isla Garnet Vayne is pathetic as Lucy. Miss Sybil Hammersley gives an ideal impersonation of Pattie Lovejoy, and Miss Barbara Gott is admirable as Mother Superior. Little Alice also gives an acceptable performance as Little Lucy.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—A first-class entertainment is provided here this week. The Julians, a clever troupe of acrobats, are loudly applauded; Bernar, the King of Marionettes, also receives hearty plaudits; Mdlle. Yetta is exceptionally good as a wire performer; and Sinclair and Whiteford appear in an amusing comedy, entitled *Getting Even*. Other pleasing turns are given by Bessie Travis, lady pianist-ventriloquist; Spry and Monti; Selbo, club juggler; Bert Bowden, comedian; Eric Graham, comedian; and Alice Maud, child impersonator. Some interesting pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—This week *Claudian* is being produced here by Mr. Wm. Maclaren and an excellent company. The arduous and exacting part of Claudian is powerfully and effectively played by Mr. William Maclaren, whose characterisation is admirable; he is well supported by Miss Lily C. Bandmann, who greatly contributes towards the success of the play by her excellent impersonation of the part of Almida; Mr. Wilson Howards is capital as Thariogalus; Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner is good as Belos; Mr. George R. J. Austin is successful as Agazil; and Miss Carlotta Anson was praiseworthy as Edessa. The play is splendidly staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A good all-round company, including Kate Carney, is engaged here this week.

WORKINGTON. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes. — Craggs' *Laughter Land* attracted a capital house on Monday night, when the acrobatic performance was cheered to the echo. Mr. H. B. Lewis was enjoyable as the professor; Mr. H. Rousby was good in the part of Dick. Amusing and humorous as Sir Vincent, Mr. G. Westacott secured applause. Miss L. Millward as Clothilde acted well, and Miss Amy Hastings was satisfactory as Clarissa. The Sisters Glynne danced gracefully.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Her Lost Self* (Miss Frances Delaval's company) is the attraction here this week. Miss Delaval as Phillipine Marcel again demonstrated her power as a finished actress; Mr. Charles Linney was admirably subdued as Paul Kimberly, playing with much praiseworthy skill; George Lyttleton as Wilfried Daventry was well placed; and Miss Dora Hammersley in a dual rôle was most commendable; as Bridget Mahone Miss Nellie V. Varden caused much amusement; and Mr. Chas. Kean as Norman Desmond gave an excellent rendition. A special word of praise is due to little Carrie Johnson, who sings a song in first-rate style.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Kitts and Windram figure prominently in a strong company, their sketch *The Entracte*, is very funny, and the Zerbini Troupe are able musicians with a refined show; the Boccaccio Minstrels give an artistic and neat turn, which is well received; the Manello and Marnity Troupe are well worthy of the applause which greets them; Fredo's illusory act is fair; Seely and Dowton are clever; and success is gained by Fraser and Haley, who sing in good style.

AMUSEMENTS IN GLASGOW.

ROYALTY, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is now in its third week here, and is still delighting large audiences with *Lady Madcap*, Miss Marie Studholme being charming as the merry Lady Betty. The part of Trooper Smith, who "butles" so amusingly throughout the later scenes, is laughably played by Mr. Arthur Longley. Fine soldierly figures are those of Mr. W. E. Richardson as the Colonel, Mr. B. H. Eustace as the Major, Mr. J. Edward Fraser as the Captain, and Mr. Harold Parkes as the Lieutenant; while Mr. E. Statham Staples as the little Corporal is highly diverting. Mr. Ernest Mahar as the Count de St. Hubert acts and sings the part to satisfaction. A bevy of ladies who act pleasingly are Miss Nina Sevening as Gwennie Holden, Miss Mabel Russell as Susan, and Miss Ethel Griffies as Mrs. Layton. Mr. J. Robert Hale as Bill Stratford plays the artful schemer effectively, while Mr. Oliver J. Round is equally good as his confederate Posh Jenkins.

KING'S THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—This week sees the close of the bright and enjoyable pantomime *Red Riding Hood*, which has proved most successful during its run of over nine weeks. Miss Phyllis Monkman as Red Riding Hood, Miss Margaret Ruby as Boy Blue, and Miss Dorothy Monkman as Bo-Peep make a popular trio of principals; and the clever patter of Mr. Malcolm Scott as Dame Trot, and his versatility in song, dance, and funny business have combined to make his performance the outstanding feature of the pantomime. Messrs. Brown and Le Clerq added considerably to the enjoyment of the audience, and the acrobatic feats of Messrs Grell and Grey were likewise highly popular. Misses Ruth Argent and Florence Somers formed an attractive couple as second boy and girl; Mr. Arthur Ricketts as the Baron displayed a fund of dry humour; Miss Lola Templeton as the Fairy Etherea and Mr. Frank A. Wood as the Demon rendered valuable aid in the singing; and Messrs. Will Cutler as Peter Piper and Steve Asher as the Wolf ably completed a good cast. The dancing of the Eight Snowdrops and the other Tiller dancers proved one of the best items in popular estimation, and the pantomime as a whole was worthy of our handsome west-end theatre. On Friday a complimentary benefit was given to Messrs. Brown and Le Clerq, at which Mr. Harry Lauder, Dan Crawley, and other favourite artists from the various theatres assisted.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—On Wednesday of last week the management here gave the second of their elaborate productions by arrangement with Mr. Richard Flanagan, of the Queen's, Manchester, the play being *The Prodigal Son; or, the Judgment of Pharaoh*, by C. Caimour. This play was originally produced in Manchester on Oct. 30, under the more distinctive title of *Jevan, the Prodigal Son*. The new work tells a simple and touching story in poetic language, and is sufficiently interesting to attract regular playgoers, while its religious aspect will undoubtedly serve to make it palatable to many who hold aloof from ordinary theatrical fare. The production has the advantage of being under the direction of Mr. Richard Dalton, who stage-managed it at Manchester, and several members of the original cast reappear here, notably Miss Frances Wetherall, who as Mione, the Egyptian concubine, gives a particularly clever performance of a difficult part. Mr. John M. Troughton again plays the Hebrew patriarch Neziah, and acts well in the scene of parting with his son Jevan, and also in the final scene representing the return of the prodigal. Mr. Frederick Sargent as Jevan gives a fine performance, his dreamy abstraction when listening to the glowing description by Mione of the wonders of the Egyptian cities, his indignant refusal to bow the knee to the calf of gold in the Temple of Osiris, and his poignant grief when thrown out on the desert to perish among the lions being given with excellent effect. This scene was specially well put on the stage, the cloth representing a night view of the Sphinx of the Pyramids, while the pathetic figure of Jevan was lying bound and helpless on the sandy desert. A realistic touch was given when in the dim light two cleverly made-up "lions" prowled across the stage. Miss Olive Noble acts well as the good-hearted Hebrew maiden Miriam, to whom Jevan is betrothed. The scheming Egyptian prince, Pharus, had a striking representative in Mr. D. Lewin Mannering. Mr. Cecil A. Melton was a duly dignified and impressive Pharaoh, and the prayers and incantations of the High Priest were sonorously given by Mr. Ernest Griffen. Jethro, the elder brother, who, as in the parable, resents the welcome accorded the prodigal on his return, was cleverly played by Mr. A. Cecil. Simeon, the servant of Neziah, is in the hands of the original representative, Mr. Edgar C. White, and Miss Minnie Webb capably fills the part of Rachael. Mr. T. S. Cooke, Mr. J. Detliv, and Mr. H. Gomer May ably act three officials in the household of Pharus, and Misses Frances May, Elaine Vanburgh, and Rosie Dunstan as the attendants of Mione contribute several dances. The play is beautifully staged, the three principal set scenes—the Home of Neziah in the Valley of Rephaim, the Palace of Pharus, and the Temple of Osiris—being striking examples of stagecraft. The music incidental to the play is well rendered by a special choir. At the conclusion of the first performance a hearty call was given to Mr. R. C. Buchanan and to Mr. Richard Dalton, and both gentleman had to respond to the imperative calls for a speech.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—The production staged here this week is Fred Melville's stirring drama *Between Two Women*, which attracted a large audience on the opening night. The company is altogether a strong one, and includes several able artists, notably Mr. Arthur B. Murray, who is seen to great advantage as Henry, Earl of Millard; Miss Marjorie Murray and Miss Winifred Pearson as Violet and Carmen respectively do exceedingly well.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—This week the Govan playgoers have capital entertainment provided for them in Mr. T. H. Savile's pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty*, written by Fred Locke. Miss Marie Adair fills the part of Princess Beauty with complete success, her cultivated singing being a special feature of the performance; for the hero Prince Perfect an exceedingly graceful exponent is found in Miss Ethel Wilson, who also sings with more than average ability; Miss Ettie Cinders (Ladida) and Miss Annie Wright (Pipette) make a very acceptable second boy and girl, while the good and wicked Fairies are attractively represented by Miss Kitty Jones and Miss Florence Lister; King Henpeckina is played by Mr. Dan O'Connor, who sings several ballads in good style; the part of the Queen being suitably filled by Miss Alma Evelyn; Mr. Willie Garvey's Nurse Butterscotch is an excellent example of the familiar pantomime dame, and in all the funny business he has a valuable ally in Mr. George Hestor, whose Crankiwitz is a highly amusing personage; Mr. Peter D. Bermingham is provided with a very good Scotch part in Taki M'Craw; and Mr. Arthur Ferris is likewise well suited as Prince Tommy. Mr. Bert W. Stephens acts as musical director, and Mr. Frank Sutherland is responsible for the stage management.

EMPIRE (Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.).—District Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—Heading the list of performers is Madge Gray, a very clever mimic of children; an exceptionally clever turn is given by the Riogoku family of Japanese acrobats; and Park's Eton Boys render songs and glees in a most acceptable manner. Other attractions include smart dancing by Collins and Hawley; head and hand-balancing by the Rhodes Bros.; Messrs. Baker and Lynn, in a humorous sketch, *The Electric Boy*; Wal Pink's Co. in *The Day Breakers*; Ruth Dorris, a dainty comedienne; Sylvesta, a smart conjurer; and a fine series of pictures on "The Urban Bioscope."

ZOO-HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—De Gracia's elephants provide a revelation in animal training, their cricket match being heartily enjoyed; Tom White's Arabs, a well-known combination, gave a humorous sketch of schoolboy life; Frank Darwen, actor-vocalist, has a gratifying reception for his acceptable singing; the Huxter Bros. are a clever combination of youthful acrobats; Picitt and Lizette provide a wonderful series of mysterious tricks; and English and Penley provide amusement in their humorous sketch, *A Fishmonger's Romance*. Other attractive turns are given by Conway and Leland; Mabel Hind, a smart coon singer; and Gertrude Bradshaw, a vocalist of merit; a good series of pictures brings an enjoyable programme to an end.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. McKelvie.—The Two Kays open well in a pretty vocal duologue, and their concerted singing is warmly received; the Donovans, in similar business, chiefly operatic, are warmly recalled; Bonnie Goodwin, her piccaninnies, and the entertainment they contribute, is too well-known to require any special comment; the coster singing of Tom Yorke is appreciated; Mr. Henry Cooke's contributions find considerable favour; and in Montague Bigge we have a clever female impersonator. The chief item is, however, *The Orange Girl*, in which Miss Dolly Elsworthy and Co. score a pronounced triumph.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The chief attraction here is Jordan and Harvey, American-Hebrew dialect comedians, who meet with a great reception; a good sketch is provided by Bob Hanlon and Co., entitled *Jinks in a Jungle;* and the songs of H. O. Wills win much appreciation. The Swift Trio get through some daring tricks as bicycle entertainers; and Miss Ida Ross justifies her reputation as a tyrolean vocalist; Starr and Jerome, sketch artistes; Rose Waller, burlesque artiste; Essman, juggler; Mdlle. Theresa and Mill May, in a pot-pourri act; and that favourite actor-vocalist, Leo Dryden, in his latest song-scenas are also big attractions.

COLISEUM. — Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. S. MacLachlan.—Hackenschmidt crossed the river this week, and is wrestling to crowded houses here; Fanny Robina had a flattering reception for a charming turn; Bell and Hendry created great merriment; and the international dances of the Macdonald Troupe were admirable; T. C. Callaghan was again very popular; Florrie St. Clair, comedienne, was very well received; the Bandurrias give a pleasing musical turn; a pretty cycling display is given by the Sisters Warwick; Geoffreys and Benson appear in an amusing sketch, *Spoofed;* and the Bioscope completes an excellent programme.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—There was a large audience at this house when Dan Thomas and his company presented *Aladdin*. The company is a thoroughly capable one. Mr. Dan Thomas filled the part of Widow Twanky with credit, and he was ably supported by Mr. Fred Lake as Abanazar; Mr. Ernest Cass was successful as the Emperor; as was Mr. Bert Wallace as the Grand Vizier; Miss Nellie Lewis as Aladdin did that character every justice; and the part of Princess Badroulbadour was neatly rendered by Miss Sadie Seymour.

POLYTECHNIC "OPEN NIGHT" RECITALS.

The students of the Polytechnic School of Elocution held their open night recital on Tuesday evening in the Grand Hall of this popular institution, before a large, critical, and appreciative audience, who gave marked encouragement to new aspirants for dramatic honours and enthusiastic approval to those whose elocutionary powers have already received recognition. As usual on these occasions, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Hasluck had selected some fifteen of their students of both sexes to provide the entertainment. There can be nothing but praise for Miss Rita Gallally and Mr. W. Bloye Higgs for their scene from Sheridan Knowles's *The Hunchback*. Mr. Frank Burrows, in Trowbridge's *Roger and I*, gave a careful character study, full of clever points. Mr. Ernest Welbeloved gave due expression to Chevalier's "The Veteran" and "'E can't take a roise out of Oi," the latter by far the best. Mr. W. J. Douglas contributed a fine sterling piece of work with Barrie's "My Brother Henry." Mr. Archie Terrill scored unmistakably in Bret Harte's admirable trifle, "Jim." Misses Violet Parry and R. Smith both showed emotional force, feeling, and artistic resource, the former with "David Copperfield and the Waiter," and the latter in "Bob Cratchitt's Christmas Dinner." Miss Richards, in Tennyson's strong domestic story, "Dora," portrayed deep feeling and expressive sweetness. Mrs. Sweasey got all the humour that can be got out of "The Jackdaw of Rheims." Miss Lillian Church, in Pemberton's merry little study, "I and my Father-in-law," was conspicuously good, and without any uncertainty displayed in turn pathos, indignation, and vivaciousness. Others who showed ability were Mr. A. C. Rickatson, in "The Last Test Match"; Mr. Walter Acourt in a neat speech, "Is Marriage a Failure?"; Miss Florence House, "The Relief of Lucknow"; and Mr. C. Walters in "Mad."

DURING the temporary retirement through a severe accident of Miss May Glenn from the cast of *The Duchess of Dantzic*, the title-rôle has been ably sustained by Miss Blanche Lynd, whose delineation of "Sans Gêne"—one of the most exacting parts in comic opera—is a painstaking and praiseworthy performance.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

Jan. 1. *Captain Drew on Leave*, comedy, in three acts, transferred to—Wyndham's.
" 1. *Noah's Ark*, fairy play, in two acts, by Percy French and Brenden Stewart, music by Houston Collisson and J. St. A. Johnson—Waldorf.
" 2. *The Jury of Fate*, play, in seven tableaux, by C. M. S. McLellan—Shaftesbury.
" 3. *The Harlequin King*, a masquerade, in four acts, by Rudolph Lothar, adapted by Louis N. Parker and Selwyn Brinton—Imperial.
" 4. *La Souris*, comedy, in three acts, by Edouard Pailleron (Mme. Réjane)—Opening of the New Royalty as the Théâtre Français in London by M. Gaston Mayer.
" 7. *A Sense of Humour*, play, in three acts, by Beryl and Cosmo Hamilton—Comedy.
" 8. *Décoré*, comedy, in three acts, by Henri Meilhac (Mme. Réjane)—New Royalty.
" 8. *The Interlude of Youth*, old morality play (English Drama Society)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
" 8. *Two Naughty Boys*, musical fairy play, in two acts, by George Grossmith, jun., composed by Constance Tippett, lyrics by Percy Greenbank, with additional numbers by C. H. Bovill and Philip Braham—Gaiety.
" 10. *Heureuse*, comedy (Paris Vaudeville, 1903), in three acts, by Maurice Hennequin and Paul Bilhaud (Mme. Réjane)—New Royalty.
" 10. *Philomir; or, Love's Victory*. Christmas fantasy, in three acts, dramatised by Alicia A. Leith from the prose of Mrs. Henry Pott—Royal Albert Hall Theatre.
" 12. *La Rafale*, piece, in three acts, by Henri Bernstein (Paris Gymnase, Oct. 20, 1905) (Mme. Réjane)—New Royalty.
" 13. *The Little Cherub*, musical play, in three acts, book by Owen Hall, music by Ivan Caryll, and lyrics by Adrian Ross—Prince of Wales's.
" 15. *Le Paon*, comedy in verse (Comédie-Française, July 9, 1904), in three acts, by Francis de Croisset (M. de Féraudy and Mme. Marie Leconte)—New Royalty.
" 15. *Lights Out*, English version of Franz Adam Beyerlein's play, transferred from Waldorf Theatre to—Savoy.
" 16. *Electra* of Euripides, translated into rhyming verse by Gilbert Murray—Court.
" 17. *Cabotins*, play, in four acts, by Edouard Pailleron (M. de Féraudy and Mdlle. Marie Leconte)—New Royalty.
" 17. *The Superior Miss Pellender*, comedy, in three acts, by Sidney Bowkett (Mr. Cyril Maude's season)—Waldorf.
" 17. *The Partikler Pet*, piece, in one act, taken by Edward Knoblauch from Max Maurey's *L'Asile de Nuit* (originally produced at Theatre Royal, Brighton, Dec. 18, 1905)—Waldorf.
" 19. *Les Affaires sont les Affaires*, comedy, in three acts, by Octave Mirbeau (original of *Business is Business*, His Majesty's, May 13, 1905) (M. de Féraudy and Mdlle. Lara)—New Royalty.
" 19. *Liselott*, comedy, in four acts, by Heinrich Stobitzer (German plays)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
" 21. *Brother Officers*, revised version of comedy, in three acts, by Leo Trevor (originally produced at Garrick Theatre, Oct. 20, 1898)—Garrick.
" 22. *Brichanteau*, play, in four acts, adapted by M. de Féraudy from the novel by Jules Claretie—New Royalty.
" 23. *King Jonathan*, musical fantasy, written and adapted to popular melodies by A. M. Lee—Bijou, Bayswater.
" 24. *The Heroic Stubbs*, comedy of a man with an ideal, in four acts, by Henry Arthur Jones (Mr. James Welch's season)—Terry's.
" 25. *Nero*, drama, in four acts, in verse, by Stephen Phillips—His Majesty's.
" 25. *Le Père Lebonnard*, comedy, in four acts, by Jean Aicard (M. and Mme. Sylvain and M. Fenoux)—New Royalty.
" 25. *The Dean's Dilemma*, comedietta, by Albert J. Dearden—Garrick.
" 27. *Der Militarstaat*, comedy, by G. von Moser and T. von Trotha (German Theatre)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
" 29. *Lady Inger of Östrät*, play, in five acts, by Henrik Ibsen, translated by Charles Archer—La Scala.
" 30. *Louis XI.*, tragedy, in five acts, by Casimir Delavigne—New Royalty.
" 31. *A Slight Misunderstanding*, playlet, by Leonard C. White—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
" 31. *The Fairy Godfather*, playlet, by Leonard C. White—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.

REVIVALS.

Jan. 9. *As You Like It*, Shakespeare's pastoral comedy (Mr. W. Mollison's season)—St. James's.
" 13. *A Royal Divorce*, drama, in five acts, by W. G. Wills, last act rewritten by George Gervase Callingham (originally produced at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, May 1, 1891; Olympic Theatre, Sept. 10, 1891)—La Scala.
" 18. *An Enemy of the People*, play, by Ibsen—His Majesty's.
Jan. 18. *The Man Who Was*, play, in one act, by F. Kinsey Peile—His Majesty's.
" 31. *Le Misanthrope*, Molière's comedy—New Royalty.

PROVINCES.

Jan. 1. *The Hands of Sin*, drama, in four acts, by S. Lewis-Ransom and H. A. Salmsbury—Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.
" 1. *Her Luck in London*, drama, in four acts, by Charles Darrell—Theatre Royal, Castleford.
" 13. *Cymbeline*, Shakespeare's play, revived by Richard Flanagan—Queen's Theatre, Manchester.
" 25. *When It Was Dark*, play, in four acts, and six tableaux, by S. Buchanan Rogerson, suggested by and founded on the novel of the same name by Guy Thorne (copyright performance)—Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.
" 26. *My Cousin Marco*, farce, in three acts, by Arthur Law—Theatre Royal, Canterbury.
" 27. *A Maiden Widow*, farce, by Frank M. Reece (copyright performance)—Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford.
" 29. *The Woman Who Gambles*, drama, in four acts, by S. Buchanan Rogerson—Colosseum, Oldham.

PARIS.

Jan. 6. *La Bonne Affaire*, comedy bouffe, three acts, by Henry Gréjois—Trianon.
" 7. *Le Gardien du Square*, comedy, two acts, by Emile Guiraud—Théâtre Royal.
" 7. *Le Péril Jaune*, one-act comedy, by Caro lus Brie—Théâtre Royal.
" 7. *La Zingara*, lyric pantomime, one act, by E. Mathé—Théâtre Royal.
" 10. *Le Coup d'Aile*, play three acts, by Francois de Curel—Antoine.
" 10. *L' Employé du gaz ou la Bonne Conduite*, two-act comedy, by Robert Dieudonné—Antoine.
" 11. *Blé de Lune*, play, three acts and five tableaux, by Georges Maldague—Molière.
" 19. *La Petite Madame Dubois*, farcical play, three acts, by Paul Gavault and Jean Kahaix—Nouveautés.

BERLIN.

Jan. 6. *Die Wetterfahne*, three-act comedy, by H. Beer—Trianon
" 13. *Der Neilige Brunnen*, one-act play, by J. M. Synge—Deutsches.
" 13. *Eine Florentinische Tragödie*, one-act play, by Oscar Wilde—Deutsches.
" 13. *Der Corregidor*, opera, in four acts, by Hugo Wolf—Komische Oper.
" 19. *Und Pippa Tanzt*, four-act play, by Gerhart Hauptmann—Lessing.
" 24. *Königsglaube*, play, in four acts, by H. Stodte—Schiller N.
" 25. *Kinder der Sonne*, drama, in four acts, by Maxim Gorki, German by Alexander von Huhn—Kleines.
" 29. *Der Lange Kerl*, two-act comic opera, by Victor Von Wolkowsky-Biedau—Royal Opera.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

Cinderella attained such success at the Brixton that its run had to be extended, and, although it is now in its seventh and last week, the house is crowded both at matinée and evening performances. Mr. Tom Conway as the Baroness is inimitable, the manner in which the lady exercises her superiority over her poor diminutive husband being very funny. What a humorous portrait of the impecunious, downtrodden husband is presented by Mr. George French, and it would be a difficult matter to find a more original and quaint impersonation than that provided by Mr. French. Mr. Wm. Pringle as Capers is very much to the fore, and his scenes with Cinderella are carried out with a thoroughness which shows him to be a real artist. Mr. Jack Linnol has succeeded to the part of Dandini, and plays with a genial swagger which suits the rôle exactly. Miss Lily Iris makes a charming Prince, and a better selection could not have been made. Perfect in form and feature, she carries all before her and is admired by all. Miss Molly McIntyre is an ideal Cinderella, bewitching yet demure. That this young lady has won her way to the hearts of her admirers is shown by the floral favours which fall to her share at each performance. Miss Adelaide Gracey as Araminta, one of the daughters who frequently breaks into poetry, is good, and is to be commended for her rendering of a very uncongenial character. Miss Madge Yates as Elvina, the other daughter, is soon on good terms with her audience, especially in her song, "Yes, you are," which is taken up by the gallery with a fervour which is unmistakable. Miss Ellaline Thorne is very graceful as the Duke of Whistbridge, and excels herself in song and dance, notably in the song "My Irish Molly."

PRESENTATION.—On Thursday, the 1st inst., at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, Mr. Fred Mulvey, the stage-manager and producer of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime *Cinderella* was given a benefit, on which occasion he was presented with a handsome gold keyless watch of massive design from Mr. Elliston, bearing the inscription "From Mr. J. F. Elliston to his esteemed Manager, Mr. Fred Mulvey, Feb., 1905." In addition there was a double gold albert, subscribed for by the principals, and a very fine pendant locket from the chorus, to match.

ALLY SLOPER'S
DIAMOND RING COMPETITION
(£100 in PRIZES)

For the Most Popular Pantomime Actress is going strong.

The first week's Ring was won by Miss ETHEL NEGRETTI ("Crown" Pantomime, Peckham).

The winner of the second week's Ring was Miss KITTY MALONE, appearing at the New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.

The winner of the third week's Ring, Miss KITTY BERESFORD, Principal Girl in the Grand (Islington) Pantomime.

The winner of the fourth week's Ring was Miss NELLIE BURDETTE, New Theatre Royal (Birkenhead) Pantomime.

The winner of the fifth week's Ring is Miss CLAIRE ROMAINE, Principal Boy at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End.

Ladies should interest their friends in the scheme.

Papers containing Coupons can be ordered from any Newsagent, and Communications and Remittances addressed to THE SLOPERIES, LONDON, E.C., will receive immediate attention.

Ally Sloper's Half Holiday—1d. *every Saturday.*

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Japanese Opera, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

That *The Geisha* has lost none of its charm for light opera lovers was quite clearly manifested when it paid a return visit to the King's on Monday evening, this popular musical play taking the place of the pantomime. The house was well filled, and the audience enthusiastically applauded the songs that were so much in demand in the heyday of the opera's original run, and laughed consumedly at the antics of Wun Hi, and the grim humour of the Marquis Imari. There is evidently a long career yet in store for *The Geisha*. Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company is mainly composed of the clever band of artists who appeared on the former visit, and it seems hardly necessary to add that they work whole-heartedly together for the good of the opera. Miss Bessie Alleyn makes a sweet and tuneful O Mimosa San, winning praise for each of her songs, and acting in a most refreshing manner. The Molly Seymour of Miss Florrie Saunders is delightful, her spirited acting and singing being of the utmost assistance. Miss Aubrey Ashton is a handsome and charming Lady Constance Wynn; and Miss Violet Kenyon is vivacious as the French interpreter, O Juliette Diamante. The four Geishas, in the persons of Miss Lydia Blande, Miss Daisy Browne, Miss Irvine, and Miss Violet Lloyd, are very pleasing, and quite calculated to win the hearts of the impressionable naval officers. Ethel Hurst, Marie Worthington, and Mabel Grant, the guests of Lady Constance, are brightly impersonated by Miss Latham, Miss Marie Gilbert, and Miss G. Brocklebank. Mr. Cyril Thompson plays Reginald Fairfax with the necessary dash and abandon, and sings with much distinction. His fellow officers, Dick Cunningham, Arthur Cuddy, George Grindstone, and Tom Stanley, are capitally rendered by Mr. George Weller, Mr. S. Hoare, Mr. Stephen Hall, and Miss Blanche Browne. Mr. R. Seaton sings exceedingly well as Captain Kitana, and Mr. H. Phillips acts capably the part of Takemine. Mr. Edward Carlton repeats his clever realisation of Wun Hi, the Chinese proprietor of the tea-house. While he is on the stage the laughter is loud and long, and his success is unquestioned. The Marquis Imari of Mr. Lionel Braham remains a distinctly able and humorous characterisation. The chorus is admirable, and the orchestra fulfils its duties under the capable guidance of Mr. Francis G. Knowles. The scenery and dresses, being exact reproductions of those used at Daly's Theatre, are, of course, perfect.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

The pantomime season at the Marlborough Theatre came to a conclusion on Saturday evening, when the successful pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* was played for the last time to a crowded house. There was not lacking evidence that the majority of the audience had already witnessed the Christmas piece, and had come on this occasion in order to bid farewell to the leading artists, who have made themselves exceedingly popular with the patrons of Mr. Purcell's handsome house. The choruses of all the favourite songs were sung with great gusto by the audience, and considerable enthusiasm was displayed in the course of the evening.

The piece selected for the opening of the dramatic season was the lively musical play which for two years has attracted delighted audiences to the Vaudeville Theatre, and a more judicious choice on the part of Mr. Purcell could scarcely have been made. This modern version of the ancient story of "Cinderella" is done full justice to by a particularly strong company toured by Mr. Charles Frohman, under the acting management of Mr. W. A. Seymour. An exceedingly bright, winsome, and graceful representative of Angela is seen in Miss Maie Ash, who fortunately has many opportunities of showing her ability as actress, singer, and dancer. She renders in a charming manner "I'll be a good little girl," "Molly O'Halloran," and, best of all, "Teasing," in which she has the assistance of the young fellows who are Angela's devoted admirers. Mr. Frank Lincoln's sprightly acting, capital singing, and smart dancing combine to make his representation of the Duke of St. Jermyns an excellent piece of work. His most successful numbers are "The Quaint Old Bird," "The Church Parade," and the duet with Miss Maie Ash called "I don't know." As the stuttering Lord Dun Dreary Mr. Laurence Caird gives a neat character sketch and achieves a distinct success. Messrs. Alfred Lloyd and Evelyn Wickens may be credited with capital readings of their respective rôles as Higham Montague and Lord Yatton. Mr. Julian Cross deserves praise for his careful and effective embodiment of Sir John Crystal, though it gives him but few opportunities for gaining distinction. Nor has Mr. E. W. Royce much to do in the part of Mr. William Gibson, the father of the charming Gibson Girls. Master Grata, who appears as Bucket, the love-sick page, is a clever little comedian, whose comic courtship of the modern Cinderella causes much merriment. Miss Ida Mann imbues the character of Lady Crystal with the requisite amount of aristocratic hauteur and disdain; Miss Hilda Stewart gives a dignified embodiment of Lady St. Jermyn; and the Misses Alice Lethbridge and Hettie Muret are well placed as the supercilious step-sisters of Angela, Miss Muret scoring with her song "Cigarette." Miss Ernestine Gauthier, who represents Miss Caw, is a pleasing and artistic vocalist, and gives a delightful rendering of two songs, "My little singing-bird" and "For You." Miss Belle Napier plays the part of Lady Caterham with charming vivacity and verve. Other parts receive careful treatment from Miss Jessie Raymore, Mr. Rudolph Lewis, and Mr. Hubert Gordon (as the footmen at the Duchess's house), Mr. Robert McGrath and Mr. Cecil P. Pearce. The Gibson Girls and the Lucille Girls are represented by a bevy of attractive ladies who take an active part in some of the principal scenes. The powerful chorus renders valuable assistance, and the dressing and mounting leave nothing to be desired. Mr. Ernest Vousden, musical director for Mr. Chas. Frohman, is conducting the efficient Marlborough orchestra this week.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Comedy, in Four Acts, by W. Gayer Mackay and Robert Ord, entitled
"DR. WAKE'S PATIENT."

This charming comedy was played at Kingston on Monday under the happiest auspices, and by a strong company under the direction of Mr. Louis Calvert. A full house gave it a most cordial reception, and appeared to enjoy thoroughly the story and the humour with which it abounds. Mr. Douglas Vigors made an excellent Dr. Wake, both in his acting and in his personal attributes, which were all in his favour, and as the bright and impulsive Lady Gerania, his patient, a very favourable impression indeed was created by Miss Olive Terry, whose impersonation of the part was most natural. Mr. Herbert Rose was a tower of strength to the company in the part of Duff Wynterden, which he invested with an irresistible drollery that was almost infectious in its effect upon the onlookers. A capital Earl of St. Olbyn was exhibited by Mr. Arthur Willoughby; and equally successful also were the efforts of Mr. Alfred Phillips as the Bishop of Selby, and of Mr. Alfred Wellesley as the warm-hearted countryman, Mr. Wake, sen. A pretty piece of acting was that of Miss Ina Pelly, who played the Countess of St. Olbyn; whilst a creditable appearance was made by Miss Beatrice Webb as Harriet Bronson. The play was admirably staged in the matter both of dresses and scenery.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
Balfe's Opera, entitled
"THE BOHEMIAN GIRL."

Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company, with a répertoire of popular operas, including *The Bohemian Girl*, *Il Trovatore*, *Faust*, *Maritana*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and *The Waterman*, are meeting with great success at this theatre. *The Bohemian Girl* was chosen for the opening night, and a well-filled house followed the performance with keen interest. Miss Alice Boaden appeared as Arline, and was in excellent voice, her rendering of the song, "I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls" being enthusiastically encored. Thaddeus was admirably embodied by Mr. F. J. Hargrave, who was heard to the best advantage, especially in "When other lips," which gained a well-merited recall. Mr. Harry Thornton made a good impression in the rôle of Count Arnheim, and sang with much expression. He was loudly applauded for his rendering of "The heart bowed down." A capital character study of Devilshoof was given by Mr. Sidney Clifford, and his acting and singing were throughout worthy of much praise. Mr. Charles Le Sueur is to be congratulated on a really good performance as Florestine; and Miss Maud Esdale was satisfactory as Buda. Miss Marie Burnett acted with marked ability as the Gipsy Queen, and her fine singing was greatly appreciated. The chorus are exceedingly well trained, and the whole performance was thoroughly enjoyable.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Play, by Alfred Sutro, entitled
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

Mr. Clarence Sounes, in securing Mr. Arthur Bourchier's *Walls of Jericho* company, has this week provided his patrons with a real dramatic treat. The merits of the play are of course well known, and the company, which is the one that appeared before the Queen-Mother of the Netherlands, is of all-round excellence. Jack Frobisher finds an ideal representative in Mr. Edward A Warburton, whose quiet, easy style is admirably indicative of the strong, self-restrained character of the man who, for his wife's sake, obeys the behests of a society that he hates. Mr. Warburton's great chance comes in the third act, when he gives Frobisher's magnificent outburst with a force and eloquence which call forth round upon round of applause. Miss Amy Ravenscroft is well suited as Lady Alethea Frobisher, her acting throughout being consistent and natural. Her most successful scenes were perhaps that with Harry Dallas, and the touching reconciliation scene in the last act. Lady Lucy is charmingly played by Miss Nora Wynne, who is an adept at the delivery of the airy persiflage with which her part abounds. As Lady Westerby, Miss Helen Haye acts with distinction and feeling. Mr. Alfred S. Barber infuses a breath of breezy self-depreciation into the part of Hankey Bannister, which makes his characterisation of the rough, good-hearted millionaire very acceptable. Mr. Cecil Brooking plays the Marquis of Steventon with a good deal of originality, his portrayal of this by no means pleasant specimen of the aristocracy causing considerable amusement. Mr. A. W. Tyrer submits a carefully studied representation of the somewhat thankless part of Harry Dallas, the love-scene with Lady Alethea being notably successful. Miss Mornington finds a capable representative in Miss Jean Harkness; Mr. W. L. Brisco Owen makes the most of Lord Drayton; and the smaller parts are in thoroughly efficient hands.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Drama, Adapted by W. H. Cecil Pierpont from Mrs. Beecher Stowe's Novel, entitled
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

The current attraction at Mr. Clarence Sounes's handsome theatre is provided by Mr. John Tully's company with the ever-popular *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and a well-filled house on Monday evening testified by hearty applause its appreciation of the play. Mr. J. D. Geddes gives a careful and well-delivered reading of George Harris, and creates a strong impression by his forcible acting. Mr. James Palmer is well placed as the slave-owner, Selby, and makes the most of his opportunities. A sympathetic portrayal of Uncle Tom is forthcoming from Mr. William Taylor; and he is ably supported in his various scenes by Little Marie, who cleverly undertakes the part of Eva. Mr. John Tully gives an excellent rendering of Phineas Fletcher; the rascally Simon Legree is strikingly played by Mr. Fred G. Kay; his companion in crime, Dan Haley, is in the safe hands of Mr. E. Kellen Taylor; Mr. St. Vincent Beechey is amusing as the lawyer, Marks, his eccentricities causing roars of laughter; Miss Florence Venimore doubles the characters of Eliza and Cassy with commendable success; an animated portrayal of Topsy is given by Miss Kitty Wood, who keeps the audience in the best of humour throughout. Other parts are sustained by Miss Marie Lyndon, the Aunt Ophelia; Mr. C. Colwyn, St. Clair; and Mr. F. Martin, Skeggs. Mr. Herbert Leonard is the business-manager for Mr. Sounes, and the orchestra is under the efficient direction of Mr. Stephen E. Blythe.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled
"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

Perennial popularity has been won by the stock seasons at the Elephant and Castle, Mr. Ernest E. Norris's long experience and ripe judgment enabling him to select the best and worthiest specimens of dramatic workmanship which have already attained a name. The season has begun this week with the revival of *Driven from Home*, a melodrama in which sentiment and humour are combined in equal parts with episodes of the most exciting kind, one scene revealing the interior of a saw-mills with machinery in motion. Each member of the popular company received a hearty greeting as he or she appeared, a specially cordial reception awaiting Mr. Norris and Mrs. Bennett, who are again associated in leading parts. That of Willie, the outcast, which is played by Mr. Norris, is a complex character, the difficulties of which are many and varied, but the favourite actor surmounted them easily. The part is that of a poor man whose brain is weakened by adversity, and a scene of the utmost pathos is reached outside the Foundling Hospital when the outcast, himself in a state of abject poverty, takes an infant from the arms of its dying mother and vows to be its protector. Mr. Norris plays throughout with distinction, his fine declamatory powers drawing forth frequent cheers for the vigorous lines which he has to deliver. The tribulations of Laura Raybrook, the young wife who is turned ruthlessly from the parental roof, are borne with becoming fortitude by Mrs. Bennett, who has recently been giving practical proof of her versatility by her original rendering of the Baroness in the Stratford pantomime. She obtains in a constantly-increasing degree the deepest sympathies of all, being especially affecting in the poignant scene in the snow-laden street, and in every phase of the part the actress's dramatic gifts are fully apparent. Mr. Paige Lawrence has a part admirably suited to his powers as Walter Hatherleigh, Laura's unfortunate husband, who is shot for poaching. Well set-up, manly, and confident, Mr. Lawrence makes Walter a favourite throughout his career, which is brought prematurely to a close. Anthony Raybrook, the inflexible father, is strikingly depicted by Mr. Edwin Bennett, who puts the cast-iron nature of the man realistically before the audience, and supplies a finished piece of dramatic workmanship. A neat sketch of Barbara Ashdown, Raybrook's servant, who afterwards becomes his wife, is given by Miss Georgie De Lara, who has a special talent for portraying feminine vindictiveness. Mrs. Raybrook matches her husband in heartlessness, and Miss De Lara never languishes in the strength of her hatred, rousing the audience to a high degree of resentment. Mr. Alfred Harding as Geoffrey Waring, the rascally nephew, again takes up the rôle of villainy, of which there is a liberal allowance in the piece. He lays the colours on deeply, and by his expressive delivery and varied action gives full value to the part. An impressive performance of an old man is supplied by Mr. J. Monkhouse, a young actor who gives ample evidence of hereditary talent. His rendering of Jabez Thomas, the faithful old servitor, is remarkable both in voice and gesture, the character of the part being preserved throughout. Comedy relief is supplied in profusion by Mr. Howard Templeton, who makes a blithe and cheery personage of the stable-boy John Anderson, and Miss Eva Dare ably assists the fun as his comely sweetheart Margaret. Humour is also furnished by Mr. Walter Melville, who as Tom Mortlake makes the utmost of the scene in which the bell-ringer and his mates, played by Mr. W. Stevens and Mr. H. Croucher, cause a drunken diversion, and doubles the part with that of Dick Saunders, a "bad sample of the British workman." Mr. Harold Wagner, as the solicitor, Adam Marley, gains applause for his delivery of many effective lines; Miss Olive Duncan gives a characteristic rendering of a well-disposed slavey; Miss Clara Moore is a natural and winning exponent of the part of the boy Walter Hatherleigh; Miss Gladys King has the rôle of a good-hearted Irishwoman, and the other parts in a long cast are satisfactorily sustained. Mr. David Collins, now happily restored to health, continues with credit in his post of assistant-manager.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled
"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

Marylebone turned up in full force to welcome Mr. Walter Melville's clever company to the West London, Mr. Bailey's commodious theatre being packed from floor to ceiling. As Jack Livingstone, Mr. Frank R. Robertson plays in convincing fashion, getting a good grip of the character; and Mr. Roy Fortescue enacts Cuthbert Lumley in an easy and polished way, quite in keeping with the part. As Toby Turvey, Mr. Fred Ingram is a pronounced favourite, his efforts to amuse meeting with much deserved encouragement. Mr. Courtney Bellenden is interesting as Dr. Weston; and Mr. Charles Franmore's impersonation of the old farmer, John Meadows, is conspicuous, no more delightful piece of character acting having been seen in Marylebone for a long time. Miss Lena Delphine is cheery and bright as Tilly Vane; Miss Elsie Saville plays carefully as Constance Cornell; Miss Nannie Mead as Nellie Meadows sustains the part with distinction; and the trying rôle of Barbara Wade is quite safe in the capable hands of Miss Ada Oakley, whose success was most pronounced. The rest of the long cast all did well.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Play, in Five Acts, by C. M. S. McLellan, entitled
"LEAH KLESCHNA."

The pantomime having been brought to a successful conclusion on Saturday last, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett opened the dramatic season this week with a visit from Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *Leah Kleschna*. The piece is admirably mounted, and no less admirably acted, as is testified to by the enthusiastic calls awarded to the players at the fall of the curtain on each act. The presence of Mr. Robert Pateman in the cast is of immense value to the production, and his performance of Kleschna is not the least clever of the many clever things this powerful actor has given to the stage. As Kleschna's daughter, Miss Haidee Wright is no less successful, and this difficult and complex character is handled by Miss Wright with consummate tact and skill. Mr. J. Graeme Campbell, in Paul Sylvane, has a part to play to which he does full justice, and his performance is marked by a pleasing earnestness and commendable lack of exaggeration. A most telling and striking performance of the faithful Schram comes from Mr. E. H. Brooke; and Mr. Cyril Harcourt, though hardly suggesting in his appearance the caddish and depraved nature of Raoul Berton, nevertheless plays the part with complete success. Mr. Kenneth Rivington gives a sound and finished performance of General Berton; and Misses Ethel Marryat and Haidee Hemsley appear as the General's wife and daughter respectively. The minor parts are filled by Messrs. Roland Daniel, William Wilson, George Fairburn, M. M. Loomis, and John Harding, and Misses Dorothy Sidney, Cecile Leith, and Alice Davis.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Pantomime entitled
"DICK WHITTINGTON."

Last year's pantomime has been revived for a week here, and has attracted large audiences. All the principals were warmly welcomed on Monday, especially Miss Carlotta Levey, who made a great success in the title-rôle in the original production here. Mr. Johnny Fuller is as good as ever as the Cat. Mr. Harry Kilburn is a capital Alderman Fitzwarren. He is admirably assisted by Mr. Harry Rogerson, who causes much amusement as Idle Jack. Mr. Fred Spencer is genuinely funny as Martha Mixit; and Messrs. Forman and Fannan are very popular as Taffrail and Bobstay. Miss Maude Noel sings "Rainbow" in pleasing style; and Miss Carlotta Levey contributes "Put a little bit away," "Back to Baltimore," and "Hear the pipers calling," in a manner that evokes loud applause. Miss Winnie Channing as Fairy Bluebell wins all hearts; and the remaining parts are well looked after. Kelly and Gillette are prominent throughout the piece.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Military Drama, entitled
"ONE OF THE BEST."

The military drama, *One of the Best*, is a decided stage favourite. Dalston audiences appreciate something rousing, and they have it in this play, which is vigorously acted by Miss Elsie Roberts's company. Miss Elsie Roberts appears as Mary Penrose, who literally works out her own salvation in the course of the play. Miss Roberts's style is convincing and effective, and her consistent air of resignation in this particular character secures general sympathy and admiration. Mr. Frank Fenton is dramatic and energetic as the much-wronged Dudley Keppel, and the audience grow positively enthusiastic in witnessing, towards the close of the piece, his restitution to honours and prospective happiness. Mr. Escott Robson as Philip Ellsworth, and Mr. Lionel West as M. Jules de Cruchy, represent the concentrated villainy of the drama, and they play their parts well. Mr. Cyril Melton as Lieut.-General Coventry, and Mr. Edward S. Earle as Sir Archibald McGregor, excellently embody prominent officers. In striking contrast to these militant personages must be mentioned the peaceful Dr. Penrose (Rector of Market Ditton), admirably impersonated by Mr. George Child. Mr. Harry Edward Ray, as Private Jupp, keeps the audience well amused; and Miss Dorrie Roberts is sprightly as Kitty Spencer, his sweetheart. Mr. A. J. Vincent is in real earnest as Sergeant Hennessy. Miss Margaret Davies Webster is both dignified and zealous as Esther Coventry, the General's daughter. Others in the cast include Miss Ethel Sarjient, and Messrs. A. J. Murray, T. Carruthers, K. Egerton, G. Croydon, J. Sinclair, E. Rayne, F. Riddell, and C. B. Vaughan.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by George R. Sims and Robert Buchanan, entitled
"THE TRUMPET CALL."

That the Shoreditch playgoers appreciate a strong drama was proved on Monday, when a full house showed its appreciation of the good work done by the excellent company engaged at the Standard in *The Trumpet Call*. The popular favourites, Miss Marion Denvil and Mr. Ashley Page, have been employed to give representation to two of the principal rôles, and the success of the production is greatly due to the hard work and exceptional ability clearly shown in their respective efforts. As Astrea, Miss Marion Denvil is powerful and impressive. Her name is usually associated with that of the heroine, but in the heavy part she is equally good, and proves herself to be an actress of much resource. Every praise is due to Mr. Ashley Page for the fine picture he supplies of Cuthbert Cuthbertson. He plays with an earnestness and sincerity which quickly reach the hearts of his many admirers in front. Mr. Edward Sorley is sufficiently repulsive as Richard Featherstone. Acting under the cloak of friendship to Cuthbertson's wife, he skilfully contrasts the two sides of his nature—the good and the bad. Mr. Henry J. Barrett is a satisfactory Sir William Barton; and Mr. Alfred Billings is all that can be desired as Colonel Engleheart. Mr. S. Major Jones is well placed as Sergeant-Major Milligan; whilst Mr. John Sargent plays with power and skill as James Redruth. Considerable humour is caused by Mr. Johnny Chippendale as Professor Ginnifer; and the fun is greatly added to by Mr. Eric Garnet Vayne as Tommy Dutton and Miss Mattie Everitt as Lavinia. Miss Maggie Lindsay is a suitable Mrs. Wilton; Miss Kathleen Russell plays with pathos and feeling as Constance, and is a decided success; whilst Little Florrie Green as Little Cuthbert proves herself to be a clever child actress.

CARLTON THEATRE, GREENWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Drama, entitled
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."

This interesting drama is the attraction here this week. Sherlock Holmes is impersonated with truthfulness and care by Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton; Mr. Edward Heanley as Doctor Watson is well placed; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood is excellent as John Forman; Mr. W. F. Stirling supplies a fine piece of character acting as Professor Moriarty; Mr. Ernest Grey is a sufficiently unscrupulous James Larrabee; Mr. Philip Renouf is a careful and consistent Sidney Prince; and Master Charles Chaplin a highly popular Billy. The remaining male parts are all well acted. Miss Beatrice Marsdene is a charming and sympathetic Alice Faulkner; Miss Gertrude Harrison acts powerfully as Madge Larrabee; Miss Doris Digby is good as Terese; and Mrs. Smedly is well acted by Miss Constance Howard. Miss Armine Grace does all that is possible with the character of Mrs. Faulkner.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Comedy, in Three Acts,
by Cosmo Gordon Lennox, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

Mr. Arthur is giving his patrons at Fulham a full measure of good things. Following on the successful visit of Mr. Martin Harvey, one of the excellent companies organised by Miss E. Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison is playing this week in *The Freedom of Suzanne*. The chief parts are in capable hands, and the whole company play well together. The highest praise must be given to Miss Beatrice Lindley as Suzanne. From beginning to end, whether in her most audacious moods or in her tender moments, she was entirely in command of the sympathies of her audience. Miss Lindley is evidently one of those gifted actresses who can run the whole gamut of human emotions. One moment she can convulse the house with laughter at a piquant grimace or a daring remark; the next moment she charms us with a little piece of comedy or clever by-play, and then again she brings us to the verge of tears with a touch of pathos—and all is done with delightful ease and naturalness. The part of her husband, Charles Trevor, was played by Mr. Herbert Bentley, whose manly and sincere style created a most favourable impression as he warmed to his work. Mr. F. G. Thurstans was very amusing as the gay bachelor uncle, Fitzroy Harding; and another old man's part, Lord Datchet, was capably rendered by Mr. Townsend Whitling. Mr. William Mallalieu was a good representative of the urbane and polished lawyer, Sir Horace Hatton. Mr. Archie Selwyn was entertaining as the foolish Tommy Keston, and Mr. Edward Bonfield showed considerable restrained power as Captain Cecil. Miss Emily Patterson made the most of the part of the very disagreeable mother-in-law, Lady Charlotte, and the Fanny Minching of Miss Charlotte Mead was another good study. Miss Violet Ley acted charmingly as Lady Isabel, and Mrs. Mallalieu repeated her original success as the charwoman, Mrs. Puiman. Miss Annie Stalman was satisfactory as Mrs. Tustail, and Mr. Frank Lee as Mason made an excellent butler.

The Freedom of Suzanne was preceded by a bright and clever little piece by Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, called *Two in a Trap*, wherein Mr. Ed. Bonfield as Jim and Miss Violet Ley as Kit acted very pleasingly, and showed how two lovers are reconciled by the process of being locked in a room together for a quarter of an hour.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Comedy, in Three Acts, by Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

The career of *Charley's Aunt* is being pursued with unabated vigour at the Kennington Theatre, where the dramatic season is this week started with Mr. Brandon Thomas's amusing piece. *Charley's Aunt* is looked upon in the light of a dear relation, whose presence always brings a glow of pleasure into the family circle, and the playgoers of Kennington, who have mustered in strong force, have paid the usual tribute of mirth, which in many cases have turned into screams of laughter. The play is taken in smart and buoyant time by a company headed by the author, who plays his original part of Colonel Chesney. His stalwart figure and commanding bearing make him an ideal representative of the veteran soldier-baronet, and his finished impersonation of the part is greatly admired. Mr. Stanley Cooke has the rôle of Lord Fancourt Babberley, and his antics in the black silk gown of the weird old lady from Brazil cause laughter throughout the evening. His gestures and grimaces are particularly droll, and his performance generally of the part, though quiet and unobtrusive, secures a hilarious effect. The fun is added to largely by Mr. Walter Beaumont, who makes up admirably as Stephen Spettigue, his vocal inflections being comically varied. The spectacle of the pompous elderly solicitor chasing the old lady round the garden, and pressing his suit with all the ardour of youth, is irresistible, and Mr. Beaumont's share of the laughter is a large and well-earned one. Jack Chesney is played with remarkable spirit by Mr. Hastings Lynn, who looks the volatile undergraduate to the life. His enunciation is well-nigh perfect, and he is high in estimation. The 'Varsity accent is well caught by Richard B. Mason, who may be warned against a little indistinctness, which serves somewhat to mar an otherwise clever rendering. Mr. Sydney Compton is dry in delivery and droll in style as the college scout Brassett, whose every speech adds a fillip to the mirth. Brightness is given to the performance by Miss Marian Ripley and Miss Dorothy Deacon, who, as Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue respectively, act and speak with elegance and grace. Miss Gladys Storey is a sweet and gentle Ela Delahay; and the splendid presence and commanding physique of Miss Lena MacNaughtan as the real Donna Lucia give added point to the eccentricities of the false. The piece is preceded by the one-act play, *Fourchette and Co.*, by the same author, which was produced at the Comedy in the December of last year, and the odd and amusing situations are well interpreted by Mr. Arthur Chesney, who affects a foreign accent realistically as the Italian Prince; by Miss Ruth Suffield as the wife, and by Mr. C. B. Keston, who makes a soldierly and well-spoken representative of Sergt.-Major Fletcher of the Colonial Horse. Scenery and dresses of *Charley's Aunt* are on an elaborate scale, the costumes of the ladies in the drawing-room scene supplying an elegant study in shade and design.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 5, the Pantomime, entitled
"DICK WHITTINGTON."

To the strains of Elgar's "Coronation March" the curtain fell on Monday evening at the Pavilion, where Mile End gave, with no uncertain voice, unanimous approval to the excellent pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, which the enterprising management have transferred in its entirety from the Crown. The book is exceedingly well written by Mr. Fred Bowyer, who has adhered closely to the thread of the story, at the same time introducing a sufficient element of fun to make it a decided success. The music has been well arranged, and is light and sparkling, being admirably rendered by the well-selected and augmented orchestra, which for this engagement is under the bâton of Mr. W. Devin. The scenery is excessively good, and reflects great credit on Mr. Alfred Terraine, the sets Old Cheapside and Guildhall en Fête evoking hearty applause. The magnificent dresses are beautiful and choice, and the dances and processions have been well arranged, while the whole has been produced under the experienced direction of Mr. John M. East, who has been ably assisted by Mr. Harry Bristow. Miss Claire Romaine, in the title-rôle, plays the part with an amount of chic and dash which gave entire satisfaction to the crowded audience, while her singing and dancing were portrayed with such happy effect as to be loudly redemanded. Miss Ethel Negretti gives an admirable performance of Princess Amourette, and being the possessor of a very sweet voice, her songs, particularly "Bombay," fairly bring down the house. A charming exponent of Alice is found in Miss Gurney Delaporte, who gives a delightful rendering of "Rainbow." Mr. Fred Eastman is exceptionally droll, and invests the character of Eliza with much quaint humour; while Idle Jack is acted by Mr. Edwin Boyde in wonderfully funny style; his make-up and clever "business" create great merriment, and deserve the highest encomiums. Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells, remembered here in previous pantomimes, are capital as Captain Quid and the Bo'sun, and introduce some excellent comic interludes; and Mr. George Bellamy is well placed as Alderman Fitzwarren. Consisteutly made up, Mr. Charles F. Cooke presents as the Emperor of Morocco a faithful portrait of an Eastern potentate, and a masterly little study in Orientalism is given by Mr. Harry Bristow, who cleverly depicts Zama. Special praise must be given to the Bros. Conquest, jun., for their representations of the Cat and Rat respectively; and Miss Ella Rudall and Miss Ethel Denny are pleasing as the Apprentices, while Miss Alston is good as the Fairy. The Crown Girls contribute some graceful dances, and the popular acting-manager, Mr. Fred Brown, is unfailing in his efforts to give attention and provide comfort to the patrons. Owing to future arrangements the pantomime cannot be played after the 17th inst.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE CINGALEE."

At this popular South London house, after several weeks of successful pantomime, we find ourselves on the shores of sunny Ceylon, and live for a while in an atmosphere of tea plantations and moonlit lakes, beneath an azure sky. The music is light and tuneful, and the novel stage setting imparts to the play an additional charm. Mr. George Dance's company give an excellent rendering of the piece. Mr. Kenneth Wynne makes a handsome lover as the Hon. Harry Vereker, and uses his fine baritone voice to advantage in the ballads allotted to the part. Mr. Helier Le Maistre is an appropriately pompous Boobhamba, and his clever topical song in the second act is encored. In the hands of Mr. Johnny Osborne the Baboo lawyer, Chambhuddy Ram, is a most diverting personage, and his clever dances are applauded to the echo. Sir Peter Loftus is well played by Mr. G. J. Williams, and his drunken scene in the second act is skilfully rendered. Mr. Roy Sydney plays neatly as Bobby Warren; Miss Zoe Gilfillian presents a romantic figure as the Cingalese Girl, and renders her song, "The Cinnamon Tree," in admirable style, some beautiful lighting effects being also introduced. Miss Cissy Sephton is clever and vivacious as Peggy Sabine, and her dances with Mr. Osborne are loudly redemanded. Miss Emily Mayhew makes a stately Lady Patricia Vane, and sings nicely; while as Angy Loftus Miss Vi Holmes executes a couple of graceful dances. There is an excellent orchestra under the skilful bâton of Mr. Edward Whitehall, and the chorus work hard and successfully. The two sets—the Tea Plantation and the Palace by the Lake of Kandy—are charming.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Play, in Three Acts, by Charles Hannan, entitled
"A CIGARETTE MAKER'S ROMANCE."

This delightful little play is occupying the boards of the Crouch End Opera House during the present week, and has obtained a very favourable reception from large and interested audiences. Mr. Frank Stone ably enacts the rôle of Count Skariatine, and throughout the play he wins golden opinions by his powerful performance. Mr. Fred Morgan, as Auton Skariatine, cousin of the unfortunate Count, makes an admirable villain. As Dumnoff, Mr. Bert Marley is well placed, and fully deserves the encomiums which he receives for his rendering of the character. Mr. A. P. Kaye provides the comic relief as Christian, and causes much merriment by his earnest desire to have his name painted on the shop in larger letters. Miss Ida Phillips, as Viera, the Count's betrothed, acts with great feeling and charm, and soon establishes herself as a favourite. Miss Marie de Roos, as Akulina, mistress of the cigarette factory, is excellent; and the same remark applies to Mr. Thorpe Tracey as Schmidt. The minor parts are all in capable hands, and the production is admirably staged.

THE PLAYGOERS' CLUB.

The twenty-second annual dinner of the Playgoers' Club was held on Sunday evening at the Hotel Cecil, Mr. William Sparks, President, occupying the chair. Amongst those present were Captain Robert Marshall, Mr. John Hare, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. J. T. Grein, Mr. E. J. Bevan, Mr. Philip Carr, Mr. Pett Ridge, Mr. W. Clarkson, Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Chas. B. Kibblewhite, and Mr. S. L. Bensusan (Vice-President). The toasts of "The King" and "The Playgoers' Club" having been duly honoured,

Mr. William Sparks, in proposing "The Drama," said that to him the most remarkable feature of the last twenty years lay in the fact that the public attitude towards the theatres had altogether changed. Very few people "disapproved of the play" now. The Playgoers' Club ranged itself, generally speaking, on the side of healthy plays. They recognised the indispensable limitations of the theatre, entertained no fads, and wanted no fallacies.

Captain Robert Marshall, in response, said: Whenever it falls to my lot to make a speech I feel myself in an extremely false position, for all my life I have strongly disapproved of after-dinner speaking. If there must be speeches, I think they should be delivered before dinner, and if that idea were adopted, I will venture to say that 95 per cent. of the diners would arrive at the moment when the last speaker was in the last throes of his peroration. However, it seems that when large numbers of Englishmen have dined together on the same food and wines, though not necessarily in the same quantities, they must also think together, and so a number of hitherto inoffensive individuals are lured on to their legs to beguile the post-prandial lethargy of the comfortably gorged diners. I do not know which party suffers most, the speakers or the spoken to. I know that I am suffering now, and can only hope that you are my companions in affliction. I will confess that in accepting your extremely kind invitation for to-night I did so with a certain amount of trepidation, and that trepidation became more acute as the 4th of February approached. Various trifles added to my alarm. Some three weeks ago one of your members told me that he was very glad I had accepted, and then, fixing a mesmeric eye on me, he added: "We can stand about five-and-twenty minutes of a speech." Gentlemen, let me at once allay the very natural anxiety I see in your faces. I see that my friend has libelled you, and I promise to be well within his time-limit. A week later another of your members told me you were a very critical audience to speak to. This, of course, I understood. Individual playgoers are critical enough. What, then, must be their attitude when congested into an organised body? I began to wonder if I should have any appetite for dinner to-night. One of the last blows at my courage was delivered on Friday by your energetic secretary. It came in a letter, and took the form of a request for nine copies of the speech I intended to deliver to-night. This was at once flattering and terrifying. I felt much as Nanki Poo must have felt when told what a magnificent ceremonial was to be made out of his funeral. Well, gentlemen, I have to respond for the drama—a difficult task for one who himself writes plays. At the moment the drama is racked in controversy. Many points are under discussion. Is it alive or dead? Should we have a National Theatre? What constitutes an actor? and so on. Last week a jury of our countrymen failed to settle the latter grave question. It seems that if a gentleman has a few lines to deliver he is an actor. But is he? We all of us have known cases—rare, it is true—of gentlemen who have had many lines to utter who yet did not convey the impression that they were actors. I am glad to say I do not see any of these present to-night. That the drama is slowly being recognised as an educational force is at last evident. Mr. Hall Caine recently gave a matinée of *The Prodigal Son* to clergymen. One would have thought that they were already sufficiently familiar with the parable; still, the healthy desire to educate was evinced in the invitation, and the readiness to be educated in the large, though neutral-tinted, audience. Frankly, I think we are sometimes too pessimistic about the theatre. There will always be, to the end of time, the barren years and the years of fruit. This year, at all events, has opened auspiciously with that vivid and brilliant play, *His House in Order*. I believe that the public will support whatever is good, and I think we ought to remember that the theatre exists pre-eminently for recreation and for amusement. Let us have strong and moving plays by all means; but let us also realise that all of us know the tragedies and problems of life at first hand, and better than any stage can teach them. And so I would plead for the encouragement of a little more idealism, a little more of imagination, a little less of photographic realism, a little less of what is morbid. For the bulk of playgoers are those who have spent their day in toil, and I believe that they are grateful for a sketch of life idealised beyond their own domestic experience. Then, provided the play does not outrage the intelligence, it becomes a tonic after a day of work. I am sure, gentlemen, that, despite the spirit of advertisement that hovers eternally round the precincts of the theatre, you will believe me when I say that I would much rather not speak of any play of my own. But there is amongst us to-night, as one of your guests, my friend, Mr. John Hare, and I feel that I cannot let the occasion pass without saying how delighted and proud I am to be associated with him in the production of a new play. You know as well as I do that in Mr. Hare are to be found the utmost gifts of art, of delicacy, of finesse, of subtlety; gifts that have won for him a position on the contemporary stage that is second to no other.

Mr. J. T. Grein proposed "The Visitors."

Mr. Hare, in reply, said he was deeply grateful for the more than kind and generous welcome they had accorded him, and also for the kind words of Mr. Grein in reference to himself. He had not the least idea he should be called upon to speak that evening, but he felt very deeply the generous expression of their good will. Indeed, it would be affectation not to admit, he added, that the greatest incense which could be offered an old actor was the assurance that he still lived in the respect and regard of the men by whom he was surrounded. All he himself could comment was that he hoped he might not outstay his welcome, and that the time would never come when he might rise without the kindly greeting he had had that night.

Mr. Mostyn Pigott and Mr. Marshall Hall also responded.

The following ladies and gentlemen assisted in the musical programme:—Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Tom Clare, Mr. Randell Jackson, Mr. Antonio Medcalf, and Mr. Ambrose Thorne. Mr. C. E. Johnson acted as accompanist.

On Saturday last, with the permission of the Guardians, the children of the workhouse visited the Lyceum Theatre, Crewe, at the invitation of Mr. Henry Taylor, the lessee and manager, to witness a day performance of Messrs. Kennedy and Moore's *Dick Whittington* pantomime. During their visit the children were regaled with fruit and chocolates by Mrs. Taylor, the respected wife of the lessee.

Mr. John Armstrong, musical director of the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, has just been appointed bandmaster of the South Notts Hussars, whose headquarters are in Nottingham.

NELLIE STODDARD'S RECITAL.

At Steinway Hall, on Thursday evening, Feb. 8, Miss Stoddard gave a vocal recital of much interest in the presence of a large audience. The young vocalist has a very pure and pleasing soprano voice, which was heard to great advantage in two pretty songs, "Passion Flower" and "Speedwell," by L. Lehmann, and in Mozart's "Batti Batti," from *Don Giovanni*, the latter song being encored, Miss Stoddard responded with "O Divine Redeemer," by Gounod. Later on in the programme the young artist was heard in "Allerseelen," by Lassen, and Bohm's fine song "Still wie die Nacht." Miss Stoddard was assisted by Mr. Andrew Betts and Mr. Rohan Clensy. Miss Gwynne Sizer was to have appeared, but an apology was made on her behalf, and Mr. Betts supplied her place. Mr. Andrew Betts possesses a fine baritone voice, which he made good use of in Wagner's Air "Blick ich umher" (*Tannhäuser*), being also very successful in Mephistopheles' air "The Calf of Gold," from *Faust*, and being encored, sang "Ich grolle nicht" in a most expressive manner. Mr. Betts also gave Elgar's song, "The Pipes of Pan." Some very able and effective violin solos were given by Mr. Rohan Clensy, who had to respond to a most hearty

MISS NELLIE STODDARD.

encore after his performance of Zarzychic's "Mazurek." Mr. Clensy was also heard in Hubay's "Scènes de la Csárda." Miss Stoddard may be congratulated on the success of her concert.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 5,
the Comedy, in Three Acts, by
Edward F. Parry and Frederick Mouillot, entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

The pantomime was withdrawn last Saturday after a successful run, and the dramatic season opened on Monday evening, when Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche appeared with their company in the amusing farcical play, *What the Butler Saw*. Produced at Wyndham's Theatre on August 2 last, the piece met with a favourable reception by reason of its bright dialogue, brisk movement, and exceptionally good last act. The scene, it will be remembered, is laid in a hydropathic establishment, at the head of which is Sir Charles Foden, an impecunious baronet. Amongst the visitors is Jack Barrington, an Irishman, who is quite a hero with the ladies who are staying at the hydro. They are not aware that he is a married man, and when his wife Kitty arrives quite unexpectedly on the scene, he prevails upon her to pretend that she is his sister-in-law. His deception brings its own punishment. Sir Charles and the male visitors pay court to the supposed widow, and the husband is compelled to look on without being in a position to offer a protest. Comic complications follow in the wake of Barrington's entrance by mistake into the bedroom of Sir Charles's elderly aunt, Miss Foden, and in the dark getting a nasty bite on the hand from the lady's parrot; but the misunderstandings are eventually cleared up to the satisfaction of everybody.

Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company started a tour with this farcical play at the Camden Theatre on Monday, and had an excellent reception. As Pink, the butler, Mr. Lionel Rignold is intensely amusing. His energy and resource are unbounded, and his genuinely humorous portrayal of the observant servant is greatly appreciated. Mr. Charles Fawcett is capital as Jack Barrington, and plays in a natural and easy manner. Mr. George Ascott gets a good deal of fun out of the part of the peppery old General; and Mr. Harry H. Rignold is extremely diverting as the "fine old English gentleman," Abraham Weinstein. Mr. Roy Byford causes considerable amusement as the ponderous Professor Shale, and the Sir Charles Foden of Mr. Reddick Anderson is a neat and effective study. Mr. Alec Alves meets with success in the rôle of the Shakespeare-quoting Vere de Bogyns. As Mrs. Barrington, the supposed widow, Miss Ada Blanche is seen at her best, and her clever co-operation in the scheme of amusement is of the utmost value. It is not in the least surprising that such a fascinating "widow" should turn the heads of the male visitors at the "hydro," and Miss Blanche does not miss a single point in her extremely clever embodiment. The eccentricities of Miss Foden are skilfully depicted by Miss Marie Daltra, who deserves every praise for a smart piece of acting. Miss May Hart is very good as Sophonisba Hake. Miss Edith Blanche has but few opportunities as the socially-ambitious Mrs. Fleming Smith, but makes the best use of them; and Nora is prettily played by Miss Grace Richardson. Among others deserving mention are Misses Maud Evelyn and Minnie Willett, and Messrs. Beale and Elton. The play is well staged, the one scene used throughout being a charming interior.

Presentation.—At the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, on Saturday afternoon, the genial and popular lessee and manager (Mr. C. F. Williams) was the recipient of a valuable birthday gift from the whole of the staff of the Royal and the staff of the Grand Theatre, Stonehouse, of which he is also the lessee and manager. The present took the form of a fine engraving of Seymour Lucas's celebrated historic picture, depicting Drake and his captains playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe at the time the Armada was sighted. The presentation was made by Mr. J. Langdon Lee, the energetic acting-manager of the Royal, whose remarks were most felicitous. Mr. Williams accepted with pleasure the token of goodwill and fellowship, and spoke of the harmonious relationship between the staffs and himself.

THEATRICAL EMPLOYEES' MEETING.

The fourteenth annual general meeting of the General Staff Branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees was held on Sunday evening last in the St. George's Hall, Westminster Bridge-road. There was a fair attendance of members. Mr. Charles Thorogood, the branch president, presided. The chairman, having briefly addressed the members, Messrs. G. W. Farrell, W. J. Hindley, and A. Jones were elected scrutineers.

The secretary then read his annual report, in the course of which he announced that the committee had held twenty-four ordinary meetings and two special meetings, the attendance at which had exceeded, on the average, eleven out of a possible fourteen; 191 applications for membership had been received during the past year, and 43 since Jan. 1. Of this number, six had been rejected, or deferred for various reasons. The secretary pointed out that those members who permitted their membership to lapse, and then applied to rejoin, could not qualify for the substantial benefits of the sick, funeral, and benevolent funds; and he urged all members to consider the serious loss such negligence inflicted upon them and their dependents. Only one case of importance had occurred during the year, when recourse to legal proceedings was rendered necessary, and in that case compensation was secured for the member with all costs. A number of members had been granted legal advice on various questions. No dispute had occurred during the year, although it was feared that friction would arise on several occasions with the management at several theatres and music halls. The committee, however, were glad to be able to say that the questions at issue had been amicably settled without injury to the interests of the members involved. Reference was also made to a conference with the Musicians' Society on the conditions of employment at a new house of entertainment in the West Central district.

The dissoution of the Dramatic and Musical Fund was referred to at some length. A number of the members of that fund who were connected with the working staff had been accepted as members, and placed in full benefit of the various funds from the date of transfer.

The death of Sir Henry Irving was referred to. The working staff had had no more generous or considerate employer. The members were to be congratulated on having presented a testimonial to him, and thus given proof that they do not lack appreciation for one who always treated his staff as workmen ought to be treated—with courtesy and consideration.

The social work of the committee, in regard to sports and concert, was dealt with at length. This work accomplished a double purpose: it helped to raise funds for benevolent purposes, and it created a better understanding among the members of the working staffs, and those with whom they came into contact. The efforts made in this direction had more than justified anticipations, and all members were urged to co-operate as actively as possible in this work, when even better results would be gained.

The report dealt with a number of other questions—the recent libel action in which Mr. Johnson was the defendant; the state of the law, and its probable amendment with regard to Trades Union funds; and the general conditions of employment. The report was unanimously adopted.

The auditors' report and financial statement was then submitted. The secretary dealt with various items contained therein. The gross balance had increased by some £260, and the balances of the various funds were in a very satisfactory condition. Mr. C. Thorogood moved, and Mr. F. Wilson (trustee) seconded the adoption of the financial statement, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. On the motion of Mr. King, seconded by Mr. G. Loftus, the following officers were re-elected without opposition:—President, Mr. C. Thorogood; vice-president, Mr. John Cunningham; treasurer, Mr. Ed. Stow; trustees, Mr. J. H. Tillett, Mr. F. Wilson, and Mr. A. George; auditors, Mr. J. Finnigan and Mr. H. J. Kemp; secretary, Mr. Wm. Johnson.

The members of the committee were elected by ballot, and Messrs. G. Lofton and J. Warner were appointed to act with the chairman and the secretary to count the votes. The result was as

MR. C. THOROGOOD
(President London No. 1 Branch. Trustee National Committee).

follows:—Elected: Messrs. H. Bowmer, John Phelps, H. T. Wood, H. Porter, W. J. Hindley, W. Bevington, J. N. Hunt, P. Thomas, F. G. Farrell, and G. Pickering. There are five members who were members of the last committee and five new members. The candidates who were not elected were Messrs. J. Atterton, A. J. Mason, Ed. Keating, and J. Lineham. These will join the committee in the order named when any vacancy occurs.

Messrs. G. Montgomery and J. H. Radford were nominated as candidates from this branch for election as general treasurer. Mr. J. H. Radford secured the majority of votes. The following nominations for the National Committee were agreed to:—President, Mr. James Cullen; vice-president, Mr. G. H. Dyball; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Radford; general-secretary, Mr. W. Johnson; trustee, C. Thorogood; committee, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. C. T. Cory, Mr. Ed. Stow, Mr. P. Thomas, and Mr. G. Montgomery. The following nominations of the Carpenters' branch were also endorsed: Mr. A. Palmer for trustee; for committee, Messrs. A. Spaull, A. Jones, W. Skinner, and J. Wilson.

The resolution to affiliate with the Labour Representation Committee led to a most interesting discussion. It was proposed by Mr. Gray, and seconded by Mr. Weaver, that the branch affiliate, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

A vote of thanks to the chairman and the retiring officers and members of the committee brought the proceedings to a close.

Mr. C. Thorogood has had over thirty years' experience of stage work, and possesses a silver pencil case presented to him many years ago by Miss Kate Phillips at the Vaudeville Theatre. Mr. Thorogood is one of the officials of the General Operatives' Sick and Benevolent Society. He is popular, and enjoys the confidence of those who know him.

"The Era" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

CHAT WITH MR. MARK KINGHORNE.

(By Our Own Commissioner.)

One looked at the window and thought that here at least was something to redeem the cold dreariness of the outer world, for a Christmas tree blossomed forth in all its gaudy splendour. It was easy to forget one's benumbed condition; easy, too, to forget the depressing aspect of the grey, dismal mist, the disagreeable looks on the "starved" faces of the passengers in the omnibus, and the huddled-up forms of pedestrians flitting along like so many unsettled phantoms anxious to make a speedy exit from an unsympathetic icy region. The Christmas tree was an inspiration in itself. It forced to the mind a world of joyful retrospects. Was it not associated with the greatest comedians of the age? You'll admit that no one is more successful in the making of merriment than your children. It's the privilege of their years; and it's the privilege of your years to be, perhaps, something more than a welcomed, interested onlooker. Of course, the privilege may have cost you a bit; but in the room hallowed by the presence of a Christmas tree you mustn't think of such trifles as frocks and knickerbockers and brown powders. And, then, you will never re-

Photo by A Flint.
MR. MARK KINGHORNE AS TOUCHSTONE.

pay what you owe to the little physicians for making you younger, and teaching you how to live.

Your gardener will say that a Christmas tree can't blossom. He's wrong; it can, and if he requires a lesson in cultivating this useful species of plant, let him seek out Mr. Mark Kinghorne, the well-known actor. It was Mr. Kinghorne who, when we visited him, was making the Christmas tree blossom forth in most wondrous fashion. Never had a tree borne fruit so rapidly as this.

"How do you like your new rôle, Father Christmas?"

"Father Christmas" shook hands in a manner that spoke of hearty goodwill. "Immensely!" he said.

We went upstairs, and in a little workroom were further evidences of the interest this kindly comedian takes in the "kiddies." There were, for instance, small electric motors which Mr. Kinghorne has made himself, and new photos he has taken for magic-lantern slides.

But those hobbies do not altogether account for Mr. Kinghorne's existence. To what he has done in the past upon the stage we shall refer later. For the moment, he has a few remarks to make upon the subject of the teaching of people who think they ought to be actors and actresses.

"My contention is," said he, "that acting cannot be taught. I can teach a man to paint his face like a clown; I can teach him to say, 'Hullo! here we are again'; but I cannot teach him to steal a leg of mutton in such a way as to keep his audience screaming with laughter all the time he does it. The ordinary amateur approaches his task with the settled conviction that it is easier to act than to invent wireless telegraphy or colour photography. No preparation or education is considered necessary. All one has to do is to walk upon the stage and do it, and lo! it is done. Such trifles as deportment, elocution, and repose do not enter into the amateur's calculations for a moment. To them he pays respectful inattention. The average amateur goes to, say, the St. James's, where he meets George Alexander; the Waldorf, where he meets Cyril Maude; Wyndham's, where he meets John Hare. He imagines he detects a strong resemblance between himself and one of these shining lights. This illusion his friends are careful to nurture and keep warm.

Mr. Kinghorne was born in 1860 of Scottish parents. His first appearance was made at the old Strand Theatre in 1867, under the management of Mrs. Swanborough. Provincial stock companies occupied his time until 1873, when he returned to London to the Surrey Theatre. In 1875 he went to America with the Alice Oates Opera Company, and for six years afterwards was associated with Mr. Edward Terry in various parts. In 1884 he went to India and Australasia with Miss Marie de Grey, playing in old comedy; and two years later he joined Miss Kate Vaughan at the Haymarket, afterwards touring with the Vaughan-Conway Company. In 1887 he played Antoine in *Loyal Love* at the Gaiety with Mrs. Brown-Potter, and two years subsequently was seen as Touchstone in *As You Like It* at Bristol. He was entrusted with the principal bass part in M. Jakobowski's opera, *Paola*, and later parts were Mowle, in *The Judge*; John Canty, in *Prince and Pauper*; Catchpole, in *The County Councillor*; Macpherson, in *The Chili Widow*; Reddie, in *The Queen's Proctor*; the Duke, in *Donna Diana*; Snecky Hobart, in *The Little Minister*; John Hatton, in *Are You a Mason?* MacTodd, in *Captain Kettle*; Munkittrick, in *Billy's Little Love Affair*; MacSherry, in *Madame Sherry*; his last part being that of Sir Gavin Mackenzie, in *The Garden of Lies* at the St. James's.

Presentation.—On Monday night Mr. Steward D. Wright, the courteous advance representative for Messrs. Little and D'Arcy, was presented by the management and staff of the Theatre Royal, Blyth, with a silver-mounted briar pipe and case as a token of the esteem in which he is held.

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THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"LOULOU."

Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Soulié and De Gorffe, German by B. Jacobson,
Produced at the Trianon Theatre, Feb. 1, 1906.

Vicomte de Prunier	Herr Junkermann
Loulou	Fraulein Kuhnert
Herbelot	Herr Senius
Frau Herbelot	Fraulein von Ruttersheim
Merival	Herr Sachs
Madame Morillon	Fraulein Darnot
Virginie	Fraulein Zademack
Camus	Herr Laurence
Planquette	Fraulein Carlsen
Machu	Herr Roberts
Lisette	Fraulein von Pommer
De la Motte	Herr Victoria
Champfleury	Herr Mender
Bourdonneau	Herr Enrich
Madame Charbon	Fraulein Krause
Madame Dupuis	Fraulein Joerling
Jerome	Herr Senius
Camille	Herr Werner
Julie	Fraulein Stenier

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 8.—This is one of the wildest, most confusing, and most improbable of pieces—even for a French farce. The translation is awkwardly done, and the farce suffers in consequence, but the reception was cordial, and one of the authors, M. Soulié—who was present—was "called," and much applauded. To tell the adventures of Loulou, the frivolous little heroine, would be superfluous, as the piece has already probably been detailed in your columns. It is only necessary, therefore, to mention the interpretation. A charming young actress, who is coming a good deal to the front lately, Fräulein von Ruttersheim, made a decided hit in the part of Madame Herbelot, and Herr Junkermann was equally good as the Vicomte Prunier. The remainder of the cast, with few exceptions, was not up to the average.

A remarkable work was produced at the Royal Opera recently, the occasion of its production being the gala performance on the Emperor's birthday. It is a "singspiel" or comic opera in two acts, by Victor von Woikowsky-Biedan, and the title is *Der lange Kerl*. The composer has apparently "a friend at Court," or his work would certainly never have found a place upon the Royal stage. The music is crude and amateurish in the extreme, such as few thoughtful and intelligent musical students would perpetrate, while the spun-out scenes and inartistic arrangement of them again betray the dilettante. An incident in the reign of Frederick the Great forms the theme. The King, in the kindness of his heart, aided one of his soldiers to wed his sweetheart, from whom adverse fate was parting him. His Majesty's order, however, nearly got into the wrong hands, and an old woman was all but wedded to the tall grenadier in place of the girl of his heart. The hero of the piece is serving at the present time in the Potsdam Guards; he was exhibited some years ago in a Berlin variety theatre under the name of "Long Joseph"; he was then sixteen, and considerably over seven feet high. This young giant was fetched from the barracks to play the part of "der lange Kerl" at the Royal Opera, the only words allotted to him being "Zu befehl!"—which he had to repeat a good many times, and which he spoke creditably enough. The effect of the superior height of "Long Joseph" above all the Opera artists was a comical one, Fräulein Destinn, who gave the rôle of Dörte, the soldier's sweetheart, looking like a small child in comparison. Our sympathies were with such artists as Frau Scheele-Müller, Fräulein Destinn, Herren Hofmann, Knüpfer, Berger, and others who were "commanded" to sing such trashy music, and after a few performances—to satisfy public curiosity—*Der lange Kerl* will disappear for ever from the bill.

At the Deutsches, Herr von Hofmansthal's new drama, *Oedipus und die Sphinx*, was produced last week with much success. The Viennese author is one of the most realistic dramatists of modern times; he loves to turn his attention to ancient classics and adapt them for the present-day stage. His *Electra* was one of the most successful of plays of this kind, and *Oedipus und die Sphinx* bids fair to rival it. The interpretation was excellent, Frau Agnes Sorma, Frau Eysoldt, and Herr Kayssler (Oedipus) being specially good.

Ibsen's magnificent drama *Rosmersholm* was revived at the Lessing Theatre on Wednesday. It was one of the faultless representations to which we have grown accustomed at this house—the Ibsen theatre *par excellence*; and the impression produced upon the crowded audience was most profound. Fräulein Triesch, as Rebecca West, and Herr Reicher, as Rosmer, gave superb renderings, and Herr Bassermann enacted the part of Breudel in his customary admirable manner. The rôles of Mortensgard and Kroll were given by Herren Forest and Marr, each being carefully studied and characteristically acted. Many of our critics declare that Fräulein Triesch has never been seen to such advantage as in the difficult rôle of Rebecca, which she gave for the first time.

The first novelty of any importance this season at the Royal Opera will be Tschaikowsky's *Pique Dame*, which is billed for the middle of March. Other well-known operas are in process of rehearsal, while others, which have been neglected of late, are, so to say, being renovated. His Excellency von Hülsen is the best Intendant General we have ever had as regards mounting and polishing-off familiar works, although he holds himself very reserved in the matter of new ones. *Lohengrin* and *Die Meistersinger* are to be given shortly with as much pains as was recently spent upon the performance of *Tannhäuser*. Lortzing's pretty little opera *Der Waffenschmied* will be revived soon, and on the Kaiser's silver wedding-day the gala opera performance is to be Gluck's *Orpheus und Euridice*.

It is much the same case with the Royal Schauspielhaus—little or nothing in the way of novelties, which are all brought out by less "aristocratic" but far more enterprising and artistic stages. An excellent performance of *Wilhelm Tell* took place at the Schauspielhaus on Wednesday, with Herr Matkowsky in the title-rôle. This theatre excels in classical plays, and Schiller's pieces are its speciality. It is said that Felix Philippi's four-act play *Der Helfer*—about which such excellent things are reported—will be given at the Royal Schauspielhaus before the close of the season, but at present nothing definite is announced. The piece was produced for the first time on any stage at the Hamburg Schauspielhaus last week with enormous success, the author being treated to overwhelming applause after each act. Baron Berger had arranged an admirable cast, and caused the work to be very finely mounted. At Cologne, where *Der Helfer* was given at the Stadt Theatre a few nights later, the reception was almost equally enthusiastic.

The company of the Moscow Artistic Theatre will commence its season at the Berliner on the 23rd, the opening performance being Tolstoi's historical drama *Czar Feodor Ivanovitch*. In the répertory are Gorki's *Nachtasyl*—in the original Moscow arrangement—and Ibsen's *Enemy of the People* (with the famous actor Stanislawski as Dr. Stockmann). Not only will the visit be interesting to Berlin audiences, but it should prove to the management a big financial success, this city being crowded at the present moment with Russian refugees, who will assuredly support their compatriots to the utmost.

"Die Nachtkritik," a new three-act comedy, by Rudolf Presber, has been acquired for first production by the lessee of the Lustspielhaus, Dr. Zickel.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM AND MISS MARY MOORE, supported by their London company, have arranged to play a special matinée of *Captain Drew on Leave* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Monday, Feb. 19, returning in the evening in time for the usual performance in London. The advance booking for the matinée at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, on Monday next is very big, almost all the reserved seats having been already sold. These flying matinées will in no way interfere with the performances at Wyndham's Theatre, where *Captain Drew on Leave* is still playing to crowded houses.

SIR CHARLES has also determined upon another flying visit to a place much nearer home, but one which is fraught with more than usual importance to the dwellers in the immediate neighbourhood. The distinguished actor's latest trip will be to the Crystal Palace Theatre, recently taken over by Mr. J. Bannister Howard, which will be re-opened at a matinée on Monday, Feb. 25, when Sir Charles and his company will be seen in *Captain Drew on Leave*. Mr. Howard is to be congratulated on having secured so potent an attraction for his inaugural performance, and the highest hopes may be entertained that after such an auspicious send-off the old dramatic prosperity of the famous glass edifice at Sydenham may be renewed. It is Mr. Howard's intention to arrange for matinées to be given by other London companies during the spring.

THE anniversary of the birth of the late Sir Henry Irving was reverently marked on Wednesday, when a number of wreaths were placed over his grave in Westminster Abbey. One of them bore a card on which was written, "In affectionate and ever-loving remembrance of his birthday from his old and sorrowing friend, J. L. Toole." Another wreath was sent by "Six Old Lyceum Pittites," and a third of laurel leaves bore the inscription:

"I shall remember while the light lives,
And in the darkness I shall not forget."

MR. J. L. TOOLE was presented on Wednesday at his house at Brighton with the watch-chain, seal, and combined sovereign purse and match-box which the late Sir Henry Irving was wearing when he died. The sovereign purse and match-box were given by Mr. Toole to his old friend as a birthday present on Feb. 6, 1894, and the contents remain as they were on the night Sir Henry passed away. The presentation on Wednesday last was made by Mr. Laurence Irving on behalf of himself and his brother, Mr. H. B. Irving.

THE sad news came to Whimsical Walker, just as he was appearing on the stage at Thursday's matinée at Drury-lane Theatre that his eldest son had died that morning. Frank Walker, who was twenty-nine, was born in New York City, and was a comedian from his birth. He performed when only four years of age with his father at Hengler's Circus, London, and was regarded as one of the most comical clowns in the equestrian profession. He married the eldest daughter of King Ohmy, but there were no children. A very peculiar coincidence once occurred. While Whimsical Walker was performing at Covent Garden Theatre, and just as he was about to enter the ring, a "wire" was put into his hand stating that his wife, and mother to the deceased, had died that morning. But he performed that night before the Prince and Princess of Wales, now our King and Queen.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER is sending out two companies into the provinces with Mr. Pinero's play *His House in Order*. The play will be given by these companies in all towns not personally visited by Mr. Alexander.

THE Messrs. Shubert announce that Mr. Cyril Maude, in accordance with his plan of giving a series of old comedies, will revive *She Stoops to Conquer* at the Waldorf Theatre next Saturday evening. Mr. Maude will impersonate Hardcastle, Miss Winifred Emery will be seen as Miss Hardcastle, and Mr. Sydney Brough will play Tony Lumpkin, a part in which his famous father has appeared with such distinction. The cast will be completed by Messrs. Percival Stevens, Paul Arthur, G. M. Graham, E. C. Matthews, William Calvert, Frederick Jacques, Dempsey, Jack Hampton, G. Macintosh, A. MacKie, and King Fordham; and Mrs. Charles Calvert, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, and Miss Madge Titheradge.

A WELL-QUALIFIED exponent of the title-rôle in *The Little Stranger*, which is to be produced at the Criterion on Wednesday, has been found in Master Edward Garratt, a lad who is only three feet in height. The part is that of a baby of tender years into whose infantile body the spirit of his father has passed. Master Garratt is said to be a finished comedian, and his diminutive stature fits him admirably for the part.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY has accepted for production in London in the spring, after a provincial tour, a new play by Messrs. R. M. Dix and E. G. Sutherland, entitled *The Rapparee Trooper*. The play is of a highly romantic description, but Mr. Harvey's character—that of an Irishman—is one that will display his abilities as a light comedian. Mr. Harvey intends also to revive *The Corsican Brothers*, with the chief parts of which he is already familiar.

THIS evening will mark the return of Mr. Nat Goodwin to London, the reappearance of the popular actor being made at the Shaftesbury in *A Gilded Fool*, the comedy which has already achieved a lengthy run in America. Mr. Goodwin will head the cast, which includes Miss Jessie Bateman, and the rest of the characters will be impersonated by Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe, Mr. A. Hylton Allen, Mr. J. L. Mackay, Mr. Neil O'Brien, Mr. Asheton Tonge, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Isabel Grey, Miss Agnes Thomas, and Miss Evelyn Martheze.

MR. FORBES-ROBERTSON will begin his tour on Monday at the Coronet Theatre, with Miss Gertrude Elliott, in *The Light that Failed*, for the first three nights, *Mice and Men* being put on for the remainder of the week. As *The Light that Failed* plays more closely now after its long and successful run, arrangements have been made with Miss Clara Alexander, a clever American entertainer, to give her "Songs and Stories from Dixie-land" instead of a curtain-raiser on the first three evenings of the week at the Coronet. After his welcome visit to Notting-hill, where the advance booking is very heavy, Mr. Forbes-Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott will spend successive weeks at the Kennington and Camden Theatres, and three nights each and a matinée at Folkestone and Hastings, continuing what will assuredly prove a very successful tour at Fulham, Bristol, Nottingham, and Liverpool in the order given.

MR. OTHO STUART will again go to Shakespeare for his next production at the Adelphi, the work he has selected for revival at Easter being *Measure for Measure*, a piece which will come as a novelty to most of the younger generation. Old playgoers will recall with pleasure the production of the comedy at the Haymarket in 1876, when Miss Adelaide Neilson played Isabella. The heroine of the Adelphi production will be Miss Lily Brayton, Mr. Oscar Asche appearing as Angelo, and the cast will include Messrs. Harcourt Williams, Ian Penney, Walter Hampden, Alfred Brydone, Charles Rock, and Henry Kitts, and Miss Frances Dillon, who will play Mariana.

MR. LEWIS WALLER has been fitted with a congenial character by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who has written a play in four acts on the subject of his famous hero, the Brigadier Gérard, which will in due course follow *The Harlequin King* at the Imperial. The author has not drawn upon any of his short stories already published, but has invented an entirely new plot, the action of which takes place immediately before the departure to Elba of the First Napoleon, who is a prominent figure in the piece, and will be played by Mr. A. E. George. Miss Evelyn Millard will impersonate the heroine, a charming countess.

"MEASURE FOR MEASURE," by the way, will be the annual play of the O.U.D.S., and will be produced for a series of performances commencing Feb. 21. It is exactly a quarter of a century since the Club was first started by such well-known men as Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Mr. W. L. Courtney. From time to time it has sent many valuable recruits to the stage (to mention only a few—Messrs. H. B. Irving, James Hearn, Holman Clarke, Nigel Playfair), and other names connected with the Club include Mr. Max Beerbohm and those indispensable leaders of musical comedy, Mr. Paul Rubens and Mr. Lionel Monckton.

FOR various cogent reasons, several of the leading members of the Club have been unable to take part, but Mr. G. R. Foss has undertaken the production, which ensures success. The Club has reason to congratulate itself on the fact that Miss Maud Hoffman has consented to assist. Her rendering of any part is always most acceptable, and Oxford has been lucky to see her so often. Others who have kindly given their services include Miss Edith Coleman, Miss Alice Leigh, and Miss Walker, none of whom Oxonians have yet had the pleasure of seeing.

THE incidental music has been written throughout by Mr. Robert Cox, of St. John's, who is getting together a first-class orchestra. It is satisfactory that there is again in the 'Varsity an undergraduate capable of undertaking such work, which, since Lord Hershell and Mr. Monck's day, has had to be done by those who are not members of the Club (with, of course, the great exception of Sir Hubert Parry).

"THE ALABASTER STAIRCASE" is the title chosen for the new comedy by Captain Robert Marshall in which Mr. John Hare will make his welcome reappearance at a West-End theatre in the part of a Prime Minister of England. Messrs Arthur Chudleigh and Charles Frohman have arranged for the production of the play on February 20 at the Comedy, from which *The Mountain Climber* will be withdrawn this evening.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM has in contemplation the revival of *The Candidate*, with which his earlier successes are closely associated. The piece, it may be recalled, was originally produced at the Criterion on November 22, 1884, and a certain revision will necessarily have to be made in order to secure the connection of its diverting situations with present-day politics.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER puts the case for the "répétition generale," or, as he prefers to call it, the "final rehearsal," tersely and convincingly. "It seems to me," he says, "that something of the kind is absolutely necessary for the dramatic critics of those papers which, in order to circulate in vast numbers all over the country by breakfast time, have to go to press at a comparatively early hour. How can a dramatic critic do justice to the public, to his paper, or to the theatre if he has to dash off the notice of the play at high speed while the printing presses are fretting for his copy?"

MISS EDNA MAY is to figure once more as the belle of a London season, the new musical play by Captain Basil Hood and Charles Brookfield, in which the captivating Americaine will appear at the Vaudeville, being entitled *The Belle of Mayfair*. The comedy, which will be produced about the end of March, is written on the subject of *Romeo and Juliet*, and Mr. Leslie Stuart has supplied the music. Mr. Arthur Williams has been engaged by Messrs. Gatti to play the part of the heroine's father.

"AN ADAMLESS EDEN" would appropriately describe the appearance of the auditorium of Terry's Theatre on Thursday, the occasion of the Shop Girls' Matinée given by Mr. James Welch. The adventurous male was met with the stentorian cry from the box-office opening of "No gentlemen allowed," and the fair sex were again complete mistresses of the situation. The theatre was filled by shop-girls from all parts of London—stylish young ladies from well-known Regent-street firms, elegantly attired maidens from the suburbs, and more homely vested girls from the shop counters of the highways and bye-ways of the Metropolis. The fair critics were in a lenient mood, and the line "What is the use of being virtuous in a shop?" which had aroused the indignation of a certain few, passed almost unnoticed.

TEA was served during the entr'actes, and at the end of the performance, which was followed throughout with unconcealed delight, a speech was demanded from Mr. Welch, who said, with admirable gallantry—"Ladies, I want to ask you to sit perfectly still while a photograph is taken of the beautiful bouquet I see before me." A flashlight photograph was then taken, and the audience, unique in the annals of the theatre, afterwards dispersed, full of gratitude towards their hospitable host. Mr. Welch, it may be added, has offered prizes for the best criticisms of the play sent in by shop-girls—the first a "Paris model" costume, the second a pair of the best possible boots obtainable.

MISS DOROTHY COURT, a young graduate of the Royal College of Music, who gave a recital at the Æolian Hall on Wednesday, possesses the first qualifications for success in a well-trained soprano of pure quality and good compass. She used it with infinite skill in the air, "Ah! fors' è lui," of Verdi, the difficulties of which would try the abilities of a much more experienced artist. A group of songs by Charles Widor, including the graceful "Nuit d'Etoiles" and the melodious "Enfant de Catane" was sung with rare charm and refinement, and a most agreeable rendering of Fritz Volbach's "Nacht am Springbrünnen" and two songs by Liszt won enthusiastic admiration.

AMONG the large audience at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon to witness *A Question of Age* were Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. Laurence B. Irving, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Mr. Cosmo Gordon-Lennox, and Mr. W. Lestocq. The last-named gentleman showed no anxiety to secure the American rights of Mr. Vernon Harcourt's piece for Mr. Charles Frohman for the American stage.

ALL seats were disposed of early in the week for the professional matinée of *Nero* which Mr. Beerbohm Tree is giving at His Majesty's next Tuesday, and hundreds of applicants have had most regretfully to be informed that they could not be accommodated.

"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL" registers its 350th performance on Thursday next, and, to judge from the magnitude and enthusiasm of the audiences, it is unlikely to need a successor for some time. Miss Julia Neilson as the fascinating Lady Blakeney, and Mr. Fred Terry as her charming and elusive husband, play congenial parts, and play them exceedingly well.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the Compton Comedy Company was fittingly celebrated at Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, when the event was marked by the presentation of a public testimonial to Mr. Edward Compton, to whose initiative the famous combination is due. Lord Lytton's comedy of *Money* was the piece chosen for the occasion, Mr. Compton repeating his polished performance of Alfred Evelyn and Miss Mackenzie, his daughter, playing Clara Douglas. Mr. Compton was seen at his very best, and the audience, which crowded every part of the theatre, cheered him enthusiastically at the end of each act. The presentation—the subscribers to which included Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and other eminent actors—was made at the final fall of the curtain by Mr. J. H. Savile, the first business-manager of the Compton Comedy Company, who is now proprietor and manager of the Paisley Theatre and lessee of the Perth Theatre. He asked Mr. Compton's acceptance of a handsome cheque with which to purchase an oil-painting, executed by the very best artist obtainable, of "Edward Compton as David Garrick."

MR. COMPTON, who was the object of another demonstration on coming forward to reply, said, in the course of an interesting speech:—"I have the satisfaction of feeling that the stage is none the worse for my twenty-five years' traffic in it, that I have given honest, healthy, and beneficial employment to hundreds during that time, and that I have placed before my audience nothing but pure, wholesome, and worthy entertainment." After paying a tribute to the loyalty of his company, Mr. Compton continued: "I don't think I ought to leave this part of my speech without publicly acknowledging the precious help I have ever received from the only partner I have ever had in the Compton Comedy Company—I mean my wife. She has been, and is still, my guide, philosopher, and friend, and it should be, and I am sure it will be, a delightful memory to our daughter, Miss Mackenzie, to look back upon to-night's ceremony with pride and pleasure, because of the honour done to her parents.

"AND now," added Mr. Compton, "let me simply, but sincerely, thank the committee and every subscriber for this great goodness, and especially let me thank Mr. Fitzgibbon, who I know has worked so hard to bring about this magnificent result. And let me assure you that nothing could please me more than the shape the presentation is to take. More than silver, more than gold or precious stones shall I value the painting that is to be the outcome of your kindness. It will be something for my wife and I to treasure, and to take a pride and delight in as it hangs by 'our ain fireside,' and when our race is run it will, I know, be the most cherished possession of our children and our children's children." Mr. Compton concluded with an apt quotation from *David Garrick*, and as he finished speaking the orchestra struck up "For he's a jolly good fellow," the audience rising and joining in the song with great heartiness. Mr. Compton afterwards entertained the members of his company to supper in the Royal Athenæum.

THE report having gained currency that the Grand Theatre, Islington, was to be sold at auction next month, Messrs. Chapman and Holland, the company's solicitors, desire to contradict the statement. Their clients' debenture interest of 8 per cent. per annum, they say, has always been paid on the day it has become due. The ordinary shares promise a heavy dividend in March. None are for sale, and only a few of the debentures remain to be taken up. What is to be sold is simply the freehold ground rent by the ground landlord.

MISS MARGARET DAMER will create the part of Gertrude Hunt in Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's production of *When It Was Dark* at Kingston Theatre on Monday next. Miss Damer is a young actress, who has done much excellent work under the Charles Frohman management, and her artistic methods should have great scope in Guy Thorne's strongly-drawn character.

A STRIKING illustration of the smartness of the Great Western Railway train services is afforded by the visit to Prince's Theatre, Bristol, of Mr. Bourchier's *Brother Officers* company for a matinée performance on Monday afternoon last. The company travelled to Bristol in the morning by the 9 a.m train from Paddington, and returned to town by the express, which leaves Bristol at 4.45 p.m., running to Paddington without a stop, and performing the journey of 117½ miles in 125 minutes. Conveyances were in readiness at each end to take the company to and from the theatres, the whole of the arrangements being most successfully organised.

THE New Prince's Theatre, Blackburn, re-opened on Monday evening after a recess, during which the theatre has been almost entirely rebuilt. The roof has been raised 10ft., and the front walls extended 14ft. nearer the street. The auditorium has been gutted and thoroughly remodelled, and the theatre now provides accommodation for over 3000 persons. New dressing-rooms have been provided, and furnished with every modern appliance. Mr. James Bertwistle is the architect, and the whole of the alterations have been carried out under the personal supervision of Mr. E. H. Page, who was highly complimented by the Licensing Committee for having provided one of the safest and best-appointed theatres in East Lancashire. The opening piece was *A Woman's Past*, supported by a capable company under the direction of Mr. Hamilton Warden. Crowded houses each evening have testified their appreciation of the new theatre.

"THE YOUNGEST OF THREE," a romantic costume play of the Georgian period, which met with such extraordinary success at its production on July 28 last at the Jersey Opera House, goes on tour this spring, opening at Worthing on March 8. The company, headed by the author, Mr. H. F. Maltby, is an exceptionally strong one; and the scenery, costumes, and printing are entirely new. Mr. Wyn Weaver has booked an excellent fifteen weeks' tour, including Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Southend, Ramsgate, Tunbridge Wells, Jersey, Swansea, and Dover.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY, who concluded last Saturday as manager for *The Forty Thieves* pantomime at the Marlborough Theatre, has been engaged by Mr. Frank Curzon to manage *The White Chrysanthemum* tour, opening at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday.

MR. JOHN CUTLER, K.C., has just completed a monologue called *Ninette* for Miss Vane Featherstone. It is a little romance from a French village, and is a modern version of the main idea embodied in a well-known old ballad.

SOME misunderstanding seems to have arisen in England as to the identity of the lessees of some of the theatres in Sydney and Melbourne, and it may therefore be well to state that Mr. J. C. Williamson holds the lease of the Theatre Royal, Sydney, as well as of Her Majesty's Theatre. The Lyceum Theatre, having been condemned by the authorities some time ago, is no longer used as a place of amusement. The misunderstanding may have occurred from the fact that another manager had a sub-tenancy of the Theatre Royal, Sydney, from Mr. Williamson, but this expired two years ago, and the theatre has ever since been under the latter gentleman's sole control.

THE latest Romeo will be Mr. Milton Rosmer, who will play the hero in the production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, on Thursday, Feb. 15. He was privileged to play Hamlet, Mark Antony, Orlando, and many other leading Shakespearean parts, all at the age of nineteen—something of a record for so young a man. Mr. Rosmer will also come from Birmingham to play the leading part in a new one-act play by Miss A. E. Brown, awarded first prize in a competition by the Dramatic Debaters, and arranged for production at the Royalty Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 25.

"THE PRODIGAL PARSON," rewritten and equipped with entirely new scenery, dresses, and effects, will be revived by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod at the Court Theatre, Bacup, on Monday.

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE has just undergone a very nasty operation at his home in Bedford-street. As soon as the doctors will allow of his removal he will go into the country to recuperate.

MR. HOWARD FINNEY, acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, is the happy recipient of a handsome silver champagne cup from the members of an amateur company which gave a charity matinée of *Brother Officers* at the theatre. The presentation was made by Captain Jeffcock, as a slight recognition of Mr. Finney's help and advice in the production.

MISS MEG HAMYLTON, who has captured all hearts by her dashing performance of Dandini in the Coronet Theatre pantomime, has been engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur for a further period of three pantomime seasons.

MISS BLANCHE ST. ALBANS AND MR. J. LEICESTER-JACKSON have secured the sole rights of Charles Whitlock's latest play, *Secrets of London Society*, and are sending it on tour in the autumn, with a setting complete to the minutest detail. Miss St. Albans has a special part in the new play, in which she will impersonate La Belle Blonde. On the occasion of Miss St. Albans' birthday at Nuneaton recently the members of *Her One Great Sin* company presented her with a massive gold curb bangle and handsome bouquet.

MR. HORTON COOPER has been playing Frère Gregoire and Samuel Midgham during the latter part of this week in *The Little Father of the Wilderness* and *The Mountain Climber* at the Comedy Theatre. Mr. Cooper has also been engaged by Mr. Arthur Chudleigh for Captain Marshall's forthcoming new play at the same theatre.

MISS ADA BLANCHE, who made such a hit as Biddy, the Irish girl, in Mr. Robert Courtneidge's pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, was on the last night of the season the recipient of many floral tributes. Mr. Henderson, the musical director, and the gentlemen of his orchestra presented Miss Blanche with a handsome silver-mounted morocco writing-case, and the stage hands and local stage-manager gave her a silver-mounted crocodile lady's bag containing purse, card-case, and scent-bottle. From the stage hands came a huge basket of flowers, and from the local girls engaged in the pantomime a lovely bouquet of tiger-lilies. *What the Butler Saw*, which Miss Blanche is touring in conjunction with Mr. Lionel Rignold, was received with the greatest enthusiasm at Ipswich last week, the curtain having to be raised three or four times after each act in response to loud and prolonged cheering. Last Monday they made their first appearance in London at the Camden Theatre.

MR. GEORGE MUSGROVE'S *Prince of Pilsen* company, enhanced by sumptuous new dresses, novel scenic effects, and several interpolated numbers of an attractive nature, embarked upon its third tour at the Theatre Royal, Hull, this week, where "Huse Full" boards nightly have delighted the managerial eye. The personnel of the cast is as strong as ever, Mr. Charles Wenman being again stage-manager, Mr. Hugh Fleming advance director, and Mr. Charles Thorburn the alert general manager. The arrangements for the second company, which will be an exact replica of the present one, are being rapidly made by Mr. Thorburn.

MR. HUGH FLEMING, after a seven weeks' season as acting-manager with Mr. Eade Montefiore's brilliantly successful pantomime of *The Babes and Robin Hood* at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, has resumed office again as advance director for Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company, which has been appearing at the Theatre Royal, Hull, this week with such gratifying results.

MISS ADELE LIDDON, after playing Mrs. McDermott in *The Wearing o' the Green* on Tuesday evening, had the misfortune to fall and break her arm. Surgical aid was at once secured, and Miss Liddon has pluckily resumed her part, with the injured limb in splints.

MR. MAURICE FARUOA is, through ill-health, temporarily out of the cast of *The Little Cherub* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and his part will be taken up from to-day's matinée by Mr. Louis Bradfield.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN gave a special matinée of *As You Like It* last week at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, with Miss Beatrice Wilson as Rosalind. The house was full in every part, the performance being largely attended by the various schools in the neighbourhood.

PHENOMENAL business was done last week at the Empire Theatre, Oldham, by Mr. William Greet's principal company in *The Earl and the Girl*, many hundreds having to be turned away nightly. By Wednesday there was not a seat to be booked for the remainder of the week, and on Saturday as early as 4 o'clock in the afternoon the queues were several hundred yards long at each entrance, the theatre being opened at half-past five, and packed by six o'clock.

MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON will produce at a matinée at a West-End theatre, early in March, a one-act tragedy in verse, entitled *Paris and Œnone*, by Laurence Binyon, in which she will play the heroine. A comedy, entitled *The Friend in the Garden*, by E. F. Benson, the leading rôle in which will be sustained by Miss Edith Wynne Matthison, will also be in the programme.

"FROM SCOTLAND YARD," a melodrama that has attained great popularity, will shortly be revived by Mr. Frank Bateman at the King's Theatre, Cardiff. He proposes to produce the piece on a very elaborate scale, and appear in his own original creation of Jack Dale, the detective of many disguises.

A CHARMING picture in water-colours of Miss Beatrice Wilson as Lady Ursula Barrington in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, has just been painted by the rising young artist Mr. Strickland Brown, and will shortly be on view in one of the London galleries. Miss Wilson has made a great success in Mr. Norman V. Norman's production of this play on tour.

THE Dramatic Debaters are going in for play producing, and on Sunday, Feb. 25, will produce at the Royalty Theatre, under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck, the following one-act plays: *Miss Vere D'Arsay*, by F. M. Meyor; *The Death of a Soul*, by Robert Kelso, and *Treasure Trove*, by Edith A. Browne.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD had an exciting experience on Thursday evening. He had just returned from King's Lynn, and went into his office at 11.15 at night. Hearing a noise, he went up into the rehearsal room at the top, and found a burglar concealed beneath some of his wardrobe.

FRAULEIN THERESE WALBAN, of Dresden, the oldest dancer in Europe, has this week completed her ninety-eighth year in perfect health and spirits. She commenced dancing at the age of nine, and remained a leading artist till she was fifty-seven. She still recalls Napoleon's entry into Dresden in 1813.

MISS EMMA MILLSTEAD met with a curious and regrettable accident on Tuesday evening. She was playing the part of Saucee in *Little Aladdin* at the Alexandra Theatre, Hull, and while dancing she suddenly fell, and severely injured the lower part of her spine. A local doctor was called in, and after attending Miss Millstead advised her removal to her apartments in King Street.

MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH'S admirers may dismiss from their minds the impression that he is about to bid good-bye to the stage. The announcement of his farewell at Hampstead on Thursday evening last means no more than that the gifted humorist is bringing to an end the two-hour recitals with which his name has been so long and worthily associated. Thursday's performance finished up the provincial tour, but Mr. Grossmith will give his speciality at least twice more in London.

"I SHALL never formally retire," says Mr. Grossmith. "You will understand that, after forty years' hard work, entailing long journeys and the strain of giving a two-hours' entertainment entirely unaided, I wish to enjoy what leisure may be allowed me, and which I may fairly claim to have earned. I shall never 'farewell,'" continues Mr. Grossmith. "I shall drop quietly and silently out of the running after, I hope, many appearances as one in a programme when I have done with my own particular show. I have been, as you will remember, the only singer of comic songs to find a place at a Ballad Concert in London, and I hope I may do so again. But I shall drop out silently, and then people will say, 'What has become of that nice old gentleman who wore *pince-nez*, and who used to do funny things at the piano?'"

THE histrions of Hildenborough, the remote little village in Kent, have again distinguished themselves by producing a drama at the Drill Hall on Monday, in which the piece, the players, and the properties were all of home manufacture. The play, which is by Mr. Dagney Major, and is entitled *The Pilgrim's Rest*, deals with two brothers who love the same maiden and quarrel over her. One of the combatants is apparently killed, and the other obtains sanctuary in a Benedictine monastery, where he joins the community and become known as Brother Ambrose. Thus disguised he is able to save his brother—still alive and well—from the machinations of a villain, and to preserve the old homestead from ruin. The play was performed wholly by local workmen engaged in no more soul-inspiring trades than those of cricket-ball makers and cycle manufacturers, who gave a very creditable account of themselves.

MR. AND MRS. EDWIN FIRTH have been engaged by Harry Starr, Esq., to play heavy and juvenile lead in *Otto the Outcast* and *Carl the Clockmaker*.

MISS MAY CHEVALIER, having returned from Australia about a year ago and determined to make her home in London, hopes to continue her stage career very shortly. The hard work and big successes of her three years' touring "down under" justified this clever young actress in taking a long rest, but she is now looking forward to returning to harness. Partly French—her stage name belongs to her mother's family, and she is not related to Mr. Albert Chevalier—she possesses vivacity and charm, and these qualities have far more to do with her singularly felicitous career than the luck in which she professes to believe. Educated in Clifton, Miss Chevalier obtained her first engagement from Mr. Henry C. Arnold, whom she interviewed when he visited the Prince's Theatre, Bristol. This was followed by all sorts of parts in all sorts of plays, until the opportunity to create Esther in *Ben Hur* tempted her to try her fortune in Australia, where she was accompanied by her husband, Mr. Hamilton Stewart.

EVERYBODY connected with theatrical life will remember that the run of *Ben Hur* in Sydney was stopped by the disastrous fire which destroyed the principal theatre in the city and bereft the members of the company of nearly all their possessions. On that exciting occasion Miss Chevalier's luck did not desert her. She was at breakfast in her hotel when the news of the fire reached her, and, hardly crediting the report, she took a cab at once to the scene of the disaster. There was a huge crowd collected round the ruins, and Miss Chevalier saw, against one of the charred window-frames, her big travelling basket, unspoilt by fire or water. Few of her comrades met with such good fortune.

MISS EDITH COLE, who has for so many years—now running into the eighth—been the star of *A Royal Divorce*, is so associated with the character of the unhappy Empress Josephine that it is hard to realise the fact that she is just as good in comedy as she is in pathos. Born in London, of Welsh and Italian descent, and married to an American—Mr. W. W. Kelly—Miss Cole is devoted to a quiet, simple life, taking her stage work very seriously, but always glad to escape from the theatre into the highways and byways of the country. Dogs are her favourite pets—her present possessions being a fox-terrier, a whippet hound, and a miniature collie—and she makes a point of rising early all the year round, taking plenty of exercise, and living in the fresh air. Mr. Kelly's season at the Scala Theatre ends to-night (Saturday), the suburban tour of *A Royal Divorce* starting at Stratford.

MISS ETHEL HARPER is one of the many actresses whose success as an amateur induced her to go on the stage. A prominent member of the Bencroft and other dramatic clubs, she proved her talent as a comedienne long before she could obtain the consent of her people to "really act on a real stage." But once obtained, an introduction to Mr. Tree from Mr. Richard Temple—with whom she had studied—was the means of giving her a good start. A Shakespearean company from His Majesty's was about to go on tour, and Miss Harper was offered and accepted the capital part of Mrs. Quickley in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She has been a professional for three years, and has not "rested," except by her own desire, all that time.

THERE is quite a budget of good things this week at the Richmond Theatre. The comedy sketch, entitled *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, is really cleverly done, and Lew Lake and company are to be complimented. Johnson, who rejoices in the *nom de théâtre* of the Black Diamond, is very amusing, and wins hearty approval. Then there is Mr. John E. Coyle, drollest of comedians, whose waggeries greatly amuse the audience. Rex King does well in his varied programme; and a good word is due to Miss Lily Esplin. Others who win the approbation of the audience are the Sisters Melba and George Lister. The Bioscope pictures are excellent.

PINERO'S LATEST PLAY.

IS IT ARTISTIC?

It is a proof of the power and interest of Mr. Pinero's plays that for months after one of them has been produced they are discussed in every newspaper; still more in every conversation amongst those who are interested in dramatic events. The utter reality of his men and women is best shown by the eagerness with which they are dissected; they are far more living than most of the living beings we see around us; and that is a position which could only be attained by one who was able truly to create character and personality. The debate over *His House in Order* is proceeding on the usual lines. The vast majority of the critics are loud and unstinted in their praise. Mr. Walkley, cautious and rarely enthusiastic, Mr. Archer, always measured, are as ardent in eulogy as Mr. Courtney in the *Daily Telegraph*. There is, however, as there nearly always has been, a minority who refuse to fall in with the general chorus and find much to criticise where the rest find nothing that does not demand encomium.

The Chorus of Praise.

In order to give some idea of how great this diversity of opinion is, let me quote from a few of the criticisms that have appeared. Here is the verdict of the *Daily Telegraph*:—

"Last night, to the joy of everyone in the theatre, it was roses, roses all the way. To watch a good craftsman at work affords a keen and exquisite pleasure. That is the first impression which the performance last night of Mr. Pinero's new play suggests to the mind. The piece was a great success from beginning to end; it could hardly fail to be. The theme, though simple, makes a strong appeal, the plot carries one along from act to act without any break in the continuity of interest, and the leading parts in a small cast are excellently played."

"Mr. Pinero has come into his own again," writes the critic of the *Standard*. "He has written a play which in its art, in its finish, could have been written by no other English dramatist." "It is," he says finally, "a veritable bit of nature, as untheatrical as it is truly dramatic." Mr. Walkley will not be found—no one could expect it from one of his temperament—as warm as these writers, but he is warm for him. "When Mr. Pinero," he says, in his article in the *Times*, "is at his best, we reckon ourselves as close upon the high-water mark of theatrical enjoyment. In *His House in Order* he is at his very best." "A scene of genuine enthusiasm greeted the fall of the curtain," writes the critic of the *Daily Mail*. "Pinero has come to his own with the finest, noblest play that stands to the record of even so brilliant a dramatist." "Will the new play," asks Mr. Archer in his more guarded manner, "rank with *The Profligate*, *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, and *Iris* as a milestone in the path of progress?" And then he thus answers his own question:—"I think it will. It has all the power of its predecessors, with a greater ease, a higher finish, a more inevitable artistic mastery. Once again Mr. Pinero carries criticism off its feet in a great sweep of emotion; but this time, when the emotion has subsided, it is only to make way for a calm and critical admiration, which has its limits, no doubt, but is almost unqualified so far as it goes." The play, in Mr. Archer's final summing-up, "moves from strength to strength, and is always defeating our expectations only to outdo them. This is great drama. To other authors we may turn for brilliant pamphlets or exquisite fairy-tales, but for great drama we have still to go to Mr. Pinero."

The Voice of Dissent.

If we turn to the *Daily Chronicle*, we find the first faint note of a stinted praise. "It is, indeed, a play in order," says the critic; and then he goes on:—"Whether or no it is to be called great depends entirely upon how one looks at it. Most indubitably, however, it is a Pinero play of the finest and most typical quality. It is not a soul-satisfying play on the one hand; it is not a mere piece of mechanical trickery on the other. It is just a masterpiece of open dramatic sleight-of-hand, perfectly balanced, dexterous, neat, genuine, and ingenious—a simple thing evolved with the most elaborate and subtle care."

Mr. Findon, the critic of the *Morning Advertiser*, is also in the same doubtful mood. He admits that the new play has "brilliancy," "power," and "mastery." "But," he goes on to ask, "is it a great play in the sense that it holds the mirror up to nature, gives a true picture of modern society, and deals in a convincing manner with certain phases of domestic life?" And his answer is in the negative. "I am afraid," he goes on to say, "that, after serious reflection, I cannot award it that position. It is essentially a theatrical play, a play which owes its success to a well-knit plot, to the intimate knowledge the dramatist has of what is and can be made effective on the stage. I do not deny the probability of the story. Things happen in real life which, if put in fiction, are declared improbable. But I doubt, given the same premises, if the various personages in *His House in Order* would have behaved as they behave in Mr. Pinero's comedy. The domestic drama would not have been so highly coloured; there would have been none of those *coups de théâtre*, those oratorical outbursts, to which Mr. Pinero so freely treats us. And it is because I am conscious that the dramatist is deliberately and cleverly playing on the feelings that he does not touch my heart deeply. For the moment he scores, we succumb to his art, but second thoughts go against him. He has not shot the bird, he has only winged it."

A Loud Protest.

And when I come to the *Daily News*, I find the note of dissent even louder. Mr. Baughan has, as will be seen, a brilliant and a biting pen. Here is his impression of the play:—"Dancing dolls pirouetting in effective situations; realism rouged to comedy, and comedy eclipsed by smartness; sad-eyed tragedy blinking through the grinning mask of farce; psychology made obedient to theatrical carpentry; modern domestic life depicted by an artist of the hoardings; false sentiment larded on ugly realism—these are my impressions of Mr. Pinero's new play."

Which is Right?

What is the explanation of verdicts so utterly irreconcilable on the same play? The first point of attack in the adverse criticisms is the family of the Ridgeleys. Here you have, not for the first time, an indictment of that great middle class which makes most of the dominant sentiment of England on many of the vexed questions of life; on religion, on morals, on the great sexual drama, on the attitude of rich to poor, of poor to rich. The Ridgeleys consist, as those who have seen the play know, of four persons—the father, Sir Joseph Ridgeley, the mother, Lady Ridgeley, and their daughter and son. They speak the language of exaggerated cant and undiluted Pharisaism. It is proposed to erect a bandstand in a park; the Ridgeleys declare that open-air music is un-English. Then there is substituted the proposition that an artistic fountain should be placed there; it is again denounced as Continental if it depart from the bare stone and the metal cups which are the cheerful features of that ornament in most of our thoroughfares. Somebody mentions genius; Lady Ridgeley declares that most of the evil of the times comes from men who are supposed to possess genius. All this is of course exaggerated. There could never be people who would put their narrow ideas so crudely and so obviously. And therefore the Ridgeleys are described as inartistic caricature. They are caricature certainly; I am not sure that they are inartistic. Mr. Baughan declares that Mr. Pinero has given us the art of the hoarding, which means that Mr. Pinero has sought out for striking effects by using crude colouring. But it is hypercritical to expect from the stage the absolute nicety and adjustment of touch which you can afford in the novel. The drama has to take hold of an audience on the spot; it has only two hours to work its miracle of transforming into reality the spectral creations of the brain. And there is scarcely a dramatist who ever lived that can stand the test when they are making a satire of such severity as Mr. Baughan applies. Molière cannot, Sheridan cannot; yet Molière and Sheridan are among the Immortals.

The Ridgeleys.

We must take the Ridgeleys as we find them in Mr. Pinero's play. The question, as it appears to me, is, Has the dramatist given a consistent, telling, life-like impression of a certain type of opinion and class? Do you carry away with you a strong, enduring recollection of these people, and do they inspire you with a sense of being like a large body of the men and women you meet daily in our social life? I do not think anybody could answer these questions in the negative. The chuckles with which the audience listened to these creatures as they unfolded their gospel of narrowness, intolerance, and cant which is so powerful in England, showed that the satire told. It is exaggerated satire, no doubt; to present these people truly and as a whole one would have to suggest other sides to their character. No one is all hypocrite; even the Pharisee has something to say for himself. He has ideals which are better than himself; it is the manner in which he seeks to enforce his ideals that is objectionable. And I have no doubt that even these odious Ridgeleys did their best after their fashion to live up to their ideals. But I cannot expect Mr. Pinero, in the brief, hurried, broad effects of the stage, to give us that side of the characters and ideas he satires. You might as well expect me to make a eulogy of a political opponent the chief subject of one of my electioneering speeches.

Is the Play True Art?

Let the Ridgeleys, then, pass; they are too telling to be seriously found fault with. The second criticism is that Mr. Pinero, having a fine theme, spoiled it by descending to stage trickery, and dragging in a series of melodramatic incidents that were irrelevant to the main issue. The fine theme which Mr. Pinero is supposed to have spoiled is the greater rights of the living than of the dead—of the wife that is living instead of the wife who is dead. And the critics of Mr. Pinero declare that he ought to have stood to that theme, and have shown us the gradual evolution of character and of event by which the second Mrs. Jesson grew to her full stature, and in that way earned the love and respect of her husband by opening his eyes. It is quite true that Mr. Pinero might have adopted that other line, and in that way have made an effective play too. But surely in life's infinite variety we can easily understand how such a combination of events might have happened as to have shown that the first worshipped saint was no saint at all, and that the second, was not the inferior, but really the superior woman of the two. It has often happened that a woman who passed for a saint was not a saint in the least; it has happened that she has deceived everybody to her last dying hour as to her real character. Don't we all revise our estimates of character as the character displays itself under different lights—according to different moods in ourselves, or under the stress of some crisis that brings out either undreamt-of strength or weakness? And it was quite possible that a sainted first wife might prove to be not the angel she was supposed, but a very weak and passionate woman, swept away on passion's tide. It is equally possible that fate might place in the hands of the second wife, whom her ghost disturbs, the weapons that will destroy the adoration of the one wife and substitute the understanding of the other. I never find fault with anything in a play because it is merely improbable. Life is too full of the improbable and the apparently impossible to make criticism of that kind really sound.

The Great Scene in the Play.

The third line of attack on Mr. Pinero's play is, I think, more formidable. The great scene of the play is when the misunderstood wife tells the brother of her husband that she has found these incriminating letters; and when she revels in the contemplation of how she will make her enemies writhe under the exposure of their saint. No one who saw Miss Irene Vanbrugh as she cries out at last, when her hour was come, her words of hot hatred and diabolically triumphant revenge, can ever forget the scene. Here are the words; they are, I think, the best words in the play; the second Mrs. Jesson is talking first of Geraldine Ridgeley, her sister-in-law, who has usurped her place in the household of her husband:—

"She shall crawl to me—Geraldine shall—as I've crawled to her; and you're right—she shall make them all crawl. Hilary—Mr. Jesson—often and often I've cried myself to sleep, after being tormented by Geraldine almost beyond endurance; cried half through the night. Now it's her turn, if she has a tear in her. *She* shall be meek and grovelling now, to *me*—consulting *my* wishes, *my* tastes, in everything; taking orders from me and carrying them out like a paid servant. . . . I've *got* her! I've got her, and she shan't leave me till I choose to dismiss her. Oh, she has tortured me—tortured me—she and her tribe; and from to-day—! You watch! You watch!"

A Jarring Note.

The scene that follows, in which the man of the world succeeds in persuading this woman to rise to her better self, and to abandon her project of revenge, is very fine, except for one passage. That is the passage which lays down the doctrine of special Providential intervention which I do not care to hear preached in the pulpit, and that is even more repulsive on the stage. The first wife has been killed in a carriage accident just as she contemplates leaving her husband and going off with the man who is the father of her child; and Filmer Jesson, the brother-in-law, who is fighting for his brother's peace of mind and for the soul of his brother's wife, actually uses the argument that Providence has stepped in to kill the erring woman in order that she may be prevented from eloping! The best reply to that argument—if so it can be called—is that of the second Mrs. Jesson—that it was Providence also who had sent her these letters. The one thing is just as reasonable or just as absurd as the other. I would like to see this unworthy passage expunged from the play.

What Becomes of the Child?

And I would like to have seen these letters burnt there and then. They have led to one fine scene; they cannot lead to another without anti-climax. But they are used a second time. When Filmer Jesson finds the eyes of his brother obstinately closed to the faults of the dead wife and the virtues of the living, he hands these letters to his brother, and thus opens his eyes. Would any brother act thus? Would any friend? To destroy the faith in a loved woman who is dead is a terrible thing; and to destroy it at the cost of the child she has left behind is more terrible still. For Derek Jesson, the little boy—played so admirably by Iris Hawkins—whom Jesson has adored, is proved by these letters not to be his son, but that of his first wife's lover. What is to become of this child, everybody instinctively asks, after such a revelation? What, above all, is to become of him if the second Mrs. Jesson ever becomes a mother herself, and there is a legitimate child to fight for the love of the household against the illegitimate child—the hated offspring of adultery and deception? This, to my mind, is the weak point of the play; and it is there that the critics of Mr. Pinero are on solid ground.

But, after all, criticism of such a play is more or less futile. The public is the final judge. It has given its verdict. A more real question than the future of the fictitious Derek Jesson is the future of the admirable little lady who enacts his part with something like genius. One critic says subtly that probably the play will run so long that Miss Iris Hawkins will be a young woman before the end, and somebody else will have to take the place she now fills so well. Which I hope may be the case.

T. P.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

"DIE STUTZEN DER GESELLSCHAFT,"
Drama, in Four Acts, by Henrik Ibsen,
Produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Konsul Bernick	RICHARD STARNBURG
Betty	CHARLOTTE KELLY
Olaf	GRETE HAHN
Fräulein Bernick	IDA WEISS
Johann Tönnesen	HANS STOCK
Fräulein Hessel	ELSE GADEMANN
Hilfsprediger Rohland	DR. INGO KRAUSS
Kaufmann Rummel	BRUNO WIBURGER
Frau Rummel	JOHANNA BECKER
Fräulein Rummel	ERNA LENNOX
Kaufmann Wiegeland	PAUL WIND
Kaufmann Altstedt	ERNST REICHERT
Dina Dorf	MARGARETE RUSS
Hilma Tönnesen	GEORG BASELT
Procurist Krapp	OTTOMAR BLOSS
Schiffsbauer Auler	HANS ANDRESEN
Frau Dr. Lingen	HELENE MARSCHALL
Frau Postmeister Holt	ASTA EGGERT
Fräulein Holt	B. VON RAALTE

Ibsen's *Pillars of Society* is but little known here, though a production of the play on an English stage would seem to be sure of success. Consul Bernick, who is looked upon as a pillar of society by reason of his wealth and philanthropy, had some years ago deceived an actress, who died in poverty after giving birth to a child. Bernick, with pretended magnanimity, adopts the child, and puts the guilt of her birth on to the shoulders of Johann Tönnesen, his brother-in-law, who had emigrated to America in order that some shady speculations which threaten the honour of the house, but of which he is innocent, may be attributed to him. When Bernick is in the midst of great financial operations Johann turns up with Lona Hessel, his step-sister, who had followed him into exile. Lona tries to prevail upon Bernick to clear Johann's reputation by a straightforward confession. Bernick would deny everything but for two letters in Johann's possession, in which he had thanked him for his great sacrifice. Johann has meanwhile fallen in love with Dina, Bernick's illegitimate daughter, who decides to accompany him back to America. But when Johann announces his engagement before a gathering of relatives and friends, Rohland accuses him of theft, and declares he is Dina's father. Johann keeps silent for the time being, and determines to go to America to settle his affairs, but threatens that if on his return—two months hence—Bernick has not set him right he will show him up.

Auler, Bernick's foreman, has been to say that the Gazelle, an American vessel, could not be repaired in the time fixed for this work, but Bernick says that either the Gazelle is ready to sail within two days or Auler will be dismissed. Johann decides to go by the Gazelle, and on hearing this Bernick resolves the ship is to start in spite of many warnings and an approaching storm. When Johann is about to leave the house he is joined by Dina, who has been informed of the true state of things. In a scene with Bernick Lona tells him that Johann has left with Diana, that he will never return, and in proof of this she tears up Bernick's two letters. Bernick now wants to stop the Gazelle, but he is told she had left already, and to his horror he hears that Olaf, his only son, had hidden on board the doomed vessel, while Johann had taken Dina on in a Norwegian steamer leaving at the same time. As a matter of fact, Auler has kept the Gazelle back at the last moment, and Olaf is restored to his parents. A procession comes to Bernick's house to serenade him as the benefactor of his town. But the events of the last few hours have brought a great change over Bernick, who receives the deputation, and in response to their eulogic address makes a clean confession of his guilt. The play is most dramatic and effective, but we do not consider Bernick's confession compatible with his character, and doubt whether the ending would have been a happy one had Ibsen written the play twenty years later.

Richard Starnburg gave a splendid study of Bernick, and was ably supported by Charlotte Kelly as Mrs. Bernick. Grete Hahn's Olaf was a clever performance; and Margarete Russ made her usual hit as Dina Dorf. Ida Weiss made an excellent Martha Bernick, being very pathetic in her scenes with Johann and Lona. Hans Stock gave a fine rendering of Johann Tönnesen. The curate Rohland was very well represented by Dr. Ingo Krauss; and Georg Baselt gave a further proof of his great ability in the difficult part of Hilma Tönnesen. To show the importance of the smaller rôles also, Hans Andresen played Auler. How he played it need not be said, the loud applause which his performance evoked being ample proof of the excellence of the impersonation. Willy Klein, who staged the play, deserves special praise. The ensemble on the first act especially shows what clever stage-management can do.

"BAD TIMES FOR THEATRES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Has it occurred to the thirty-odd "London" managers, firstly, to brush aside the inflated salaries of the "London actor" and give London a good sample of the "actor touring the provinces"? London would then have the opportunity of appreciating much talent that is now denied them. Secondly, let these thirty-odd "London" managers agree not to pay more than a fixed rental for any London theatre, the price to be fixed according to holding capacity only. Thirdly, refuse to pay authors more than a fixed fee.

Good actresses there are in abundance without doubt. It is good independent *producers* that are few and far between. A good play, produced with judgment, played by actors and actresses, has never failed yet to please the paying public.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY TWEEDIE.

45, Cresswell-road, Twickenham, Feb. 8, 1906.

THE news brought by a contemporary that Madame Céline Chaumont had accepted a leading part in M. Georges Feydeau's next piece at the Vaudeville, Paris, is not true. Mme. Chaumont has no desire to return to the stage, and is quietly basking in the sun at Monte Carlo.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES HANNETONS,"
Comedy, in Three Acts by M. Brieux,
Produced at the Rénaissance on Feb. 2.

Pierre	M. L. GUITRY
Un Monsieur	M. GUY
Brochot	M. ARQUILLIERE
Le Sauveteur	M. DELORME
Le Père Langlois	M. BERTHIER
Charlotte	MDLLE. POLAIRE
Isabelle	MDLLE. J. HELLER
Phrasie	MDLLE. CLAUDIA
Mme. Langlois	MME. J. CASTEL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Feb. 8.—This has been a rather disappointing week. Two important theatres brought out new plays, neither of which came up to our expectations, although they bore the signatures of well-known authors. The principal fault we find in M. Brieux's comedy is the monotony of the three acts, the incessant bickerings between the two prominent characters, and the lack of sufficient plot to cover these three acts. As a study of a girl's power over a man, it is effective; but we get a too frequent repetition of the same trifling details that are the cause of the constant disputes. As to the title of the piece, it is easily explained. "Hanneton" is the French for cockchafer, and, according to M. Brieux, this insect symbolises man tied by a string to a woman who makes him suffer. In this instance the man who suffers is Pierre, a professor of natural history, who for the last three years has had a liaison with Charlotte. Pierre is forty, and his mistress twenty. If their life is one incessant quarrel, it certainly is not Pierre's fault. Charlotte is unbearable. She shrieks when she wants a thing, and shrieks when she gets it. Whimsical, flighty, frivolous, she is so irritating that it required all the author's skill not to render her almost objectionable. And then we assist at a curious scene. Pierre wants to call on his friend Brochot, and Charlotte, feeling "cussed," locks the door of their room, and throws the key out of the window. The key has dropped on the head of a gentleman living in the house, who calls on Pierre to complain of the damage done to his hat. The interview between the two men is typical, for when the gentleman expresses his surprise that Pierre puts up with Charlotte's temper, he forgets that, for the last twenty years, he himself has been maltreated by a mistress ten times worse than Charlotte. But Charlotte is not even faithful to Pierre, and gives herself to Brochot, a "funny man," whose talent for imitation won the foolish girl's heart. It is the gentleman who received the key on his hat who apprises Pierre of his misfortune. At first the latter will not believe it; but no doubt being possible, he gladly seizes this opportunity to break off with his mistress. Charlotte tries to coax and wheedle him, but in vain; she has to go, and Pierre, for the first time since many years, knows what it is to be free. He can go where he likes, do what he likes, eat what he likes, without hindrance. If only people would leave him alone, and not mention the name of Charlotte to him! But, no. The first to speak of her is Brochot. Somewhat to Pierre's surprise, he tries to induce him to forgive the girl; and after him comes Isabelle, who informs Pierre that Charlotte contemplates suicide. A little while after Charlotte is carried in, her clothes drenched. She has thrown herself into the water—probably not in a very deep spot—and has been rescued. Her rescuer, a bargeman, also comes upon the scene, and poor Pierre is compelled to give the man a banknote—the greater part of his savings. What is Pierre to do? Forgive he must, and as the curtain goes down we know that he has once more tied to his leg the string that holds him prisoner. Mdlle. Polaire was not a satisfactory Charlotte. It is difficult to imagine that such a dislocated little being, full of antics, could have any fascination for a man like Pierre. She was only exasperating. Mdlle. Polaire gave promise, when we last saw her at the Théâtre Royal, of becoming an interesting actress; but she has relapsed into her old style, which has a comic note, but is not adapted to every situation. M. Guitry as Pierre was splendid; and the minor rôles, too, were in excellent hands.

The piece was preceded by *Au Petit Bonheur*, a one-act play by M. Anatole France. It is a well-written but uninteresting story of the love of two men for one woman, of whom one is serious and the other a butterfly. The woman prefers the butterfly; and we cannot blame her in this instance, as M. France has made his serious lover a decided bore. Few women could listen with any pleasure to a man describing his feelings in such a long-winded manner.

"LE PERIL JAUNE," a three-act play by MM. Alexandre Bisson and A. de Saint-Albin, is one of the poorest productions we have seen for a long time. Dull, lifeless, without a shadow of wit, we can hardly realise that it emanates from the pen of two such experienced authors. The story is as follows: Pivert, manager of the refreshment bar at Serquigny Station, marries Denise. On the way to the church Denise sees among the crowd Jacques de Castel-Guyon, her former lover. Denise, who has already been legally married before the Mayor, manages to give her husband the slip, and to elope with Jacques. In the next act five years have elapsed, and Jacques has been nominated Minister Plenipotentiary at Lisbon. But the Government, who know of his liaison with Denise, request him to marry her; and it therefore is necessary that Pivert should first divorce her. The latter, who now keeps an hotel in Fontainebleau, consents to give Denise her freedom on condition that she spends four-and-twenty hours with him, a condition which Denise accepts. But the affair for Pivert ends in a fiasco. He only gets his ears boxed by Denise, and, not wanting any more trouble, he promises to divorce his wife at once. Denise will become Comtesse of Castel-Guyon; and Pivert marries Annette, having received a couple of thousand pounds from Jacques to console him for the loss of his first wife. I could not help pitying the actors, artists like Lérand, Dubosc, and Joffro having to interpret a work of that description. It was positively painful.

"LA GRIMPETTE."
Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Georges Berr and M. Guillemand, Produced at the Palais Royal, on Feb. 7.

Le Commandant Chabrison	M. HURTEAUX
César Bardillac	M. TREVILLE
Bouchette	M. HAMILTON
Bobin	M. BELLUCCI
D'Estourguenette	M. JULLIEN
Delphine Bouchette	MLLE. AIMEE SAMUEL
Mme. Ledru	MME. BERTHE LEGRAND
Simone Bardillac	MLLE. SUZANNE DEMAY
Finette	MLLE. NOBERT

The new play brought out at the Palais Royal is a farce of a rather heavy kind, constructed on the old lines, and somewhat lacking in "go." But it was brightly played, and met with a very cordial reception. The plot is as follows: La Grimpette is the name of a villa in Tours, owned by old Duponchet, César Bardillac's uncle. Duponchet is not only rich, he is a man of principles, and does not hold with divorce; and his nephew and heir carefully concealed from him that two years ago he divorced his wife Delphine to marry Simone. Why did he divorce her? Because he found her one day in an amorous *tête-à-tête* with his friend Bouchette, whose wife she has now become. César has been called upon to do his twenty-eight days' military drill in Tours, and by a curious chance Bouchette is also asked to join his regiment quartered there. But, whilst César has left his wife at home, Bouchette has taken Delphine with him. This, of course, puts César in a very awkward position, for if the old uncle sees Delphine, and hears that she is no longer married to his nephew, the latter will not inherit a penny. César then takes a heroic resolve. He calls on Delphine, and begs of her to pass herself off as his wife before his uncle, an arrangement to which she agrees, as, after all, it was she who was the cause of their divorce. As to Bouchette, he is at first very much opposed to the plan; but he gives his consent for reasons of his own. These reasons are that Chabrison, the colonel of the regiment, is a terrible man where ladies are concerned; and as César is lieutenant whilst he (Bouchette) is only a full private, he expects that the dangerous colonel will show more respect for an officer's wife than for a common soldier's. In the second act we find César at the "Grimpettes" with Delphine as his supposed wife; whilst poor Bouchette, also quartered there as César's orderly, tries to keep a watchful eye on his flighty spouse. At one time things look a bit threatening, for Delphine has taken a sudden liking to her ex-husband, and the latter too is on the point of falling a victim to her charms. Something serious would have occurred if at that moment Simone, César's second wife, had not suddenly come upon the scene. Her arrival puts everything right. The old uncle forgives his nephew, and will not disinherit him, because he has fallen in love with Simone's mother, and wants to marry her. It was spiritedly played by the Palais Royal company—the best we have had there for many years.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday last. There were present Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Henry W. Mote (solicitor), J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, C. Hayden Coffin, Thalberg Corbett, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Douglas Gordon, Laurence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Ernest Legh, Norman McKinnel, Walter Russell, A. Morrice Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, Brandon Thomas, Hubert Willis, Miss Kate Phillips, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

An accident policy has been arranged whereby the members of the association, after payment of their current year's subscription, are insured for £500 in case of death, with proportionate payments in the event of loss of limb, and a weekly payment of £2 10s. up to ten weeks for disablement from following their profession as the result of any accident sustained while travelling on or by any passenger train, tramcar, public omnibus, passenger steamer, licensed cab, brougham, or private omnibus, driven by a competent driver other than the insured, in which the member is travelling as ticket bearer or paying passenger. Every member who has paid his subscription for this year is now actually entitled to participate in these benefits without further application or formality. The coupons, with full memorandum, will be forwarded in due course.

The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members. Chas. V. Sandford and Coningsby Brierley were nominated for election. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore was elected as a member of the Special Committee. A dispute having arisen as to the terms of a contract, the matter was discussed, and ultimately the further consideration of the question at issue was adjourned until the next meeting. The scheme suggested by Miss Vera Leslie was considered, and ultimately it was agreed that a register be kept containing the names of children and wards of members of the association (such children and wards being between the ages of ten and fourteen), for the purposes of the agency. A case of alleged insanitation was considered, and the secretary instructed to obtain, if possible, further particulars of complaint.

The further consideration of the scheme in connection with the "Qualification and Registration of Actors" was adjourned until the next meeting. Malcolm Morris, Esq., F.R.C.S.E., a founder of the hon. consulting staff of physicians and surgeons of the Actors' Association, and a member of that body until his retirement from practice, having resigned his position as an hon. medical officer, he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the association.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last. There were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater, Arthur Holmes-Gore, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The agenda for the fifteenth annual general meeting, to be held at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday, the 15th inst., was provisionally settled, and the secretary received instructions in connection with the carrying-out of the details of the meeting. After the discussion of several matters, the committee decided that their next meeting should be held on Monday, the 12th inst., at 4 p.m.

The following ladies and gentlemen have already been nominated for election to the fourteen seats on the Council, which will become vacant at the time of the annual general meeting. The list is not yet closed:—Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Kate Phillips, and Lucy Sibley; Messrs. Blake Adams, Fred Annerley, Cecil Barth, John Cabourn, C. Hayden Coffin, Burton Cooke, Lawrence Grant, Ernest Legh, Quinton McPherson, M. R. Morand, A. Morrice Seaton, Herbert Shelley, Algernon Syms, Brandon Thomas, Spencer Trevor, Frank Vernon, and Huntley Wright.

WHAT IS AN ACTOR?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The letter of Mr. Harry Paulton in your issue of Feb. 3, having been brought to the notice of the Council of the Actors' Association at their meeting to-day, the Council desire to point out that the election of members is, by the articles of association, vested in the Council, and that no applicant is admitted without a careful consideration of their claims, and a record of work done, to entitle him to class himself as an actor.

The opinions expressed by Mr. Charles Cruikshanks were definitely prefaced before he gave his evidence in the case Mr. Paulton alludes to by the declaration that he was desired by the association to state that he gave evidence only in his private capacity as actor, and not as representative of the Actors' Association.

We may add that it is out of the power of the Council to prohibit the appearance of a witness summoned on subpœna, whether their servant or not.

Signed, on behalf of the Council,
A. E. DRINKWATER, Deputy-Chairman.

The Actors' Association, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.—Feb. 6, 1906.

SIR,—Assuming that every person seen and heard on the stage of a theatre is, more or less, an actor or an actress, that every manager is capable of judging their relative merits and utilising them accordingly, and that every member of our profession knows the difference between a principal and an auxiliary and the various degrees of both, I presume all that is necessary is to establish some rules for legal purposes.

How would the following serve? (1) All persons who perform speaking or pantomimic parts, sing, dance, or do any special business, distinct from auxiliaries (as set forth in Rule 2), to be legally recognised as principals. (2) All persons who act, speak, sing, or dance in groups, simultaneously or in unison, to be legally recognised as auxiliaries.

I do not think we are making ourselves "a little too cheap" by acknowledging that the "utility" ladies and gentlemen are actors and actresses in a minor degree.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES R. STONE.

Theatre Royal, Norwich, Feb. 7, 1906.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Eustache, Surrey, Jan. 30, 1854.
Evangeline, Royal Court, Liverpool, June 11, 1883.
Eva's Inheritance, Liverpool, April 6, 1870.
Eva, St. George's Hall, Jan. 30, 1896.
Eve, Adelphi, May 31, 1869.
Evening Shadows, Aquarium, Aug. 17, 1878.
Eveleen, the Rose of the Vale, Reading, Oct. 21, 1869.
Eventide, Theatre Royal, Middlesbro', Aug. 5, 1895.
Eve of Marriage, Elephant and Castle, July 31, 1899.
Ever Faithful, Holborn, Jan. 4, 1886.
Evergreen, Haymarket, Aug. 9, 1884.
Eversleigh House, Britannia, March 17, 1879.
Eve's Temptation, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Nov. 22, 1888.
Everybody's Friend, Haymarket, April 2, 1859.
Every Man for Himself, Aquarium, Yarmouth, June 22, 1885.
Eviction, The, Princess's, Glasgow, Jan. 24, 1880.
Evil Eye, Theatre Royal, Leicester, April 21, 1876.
Evil Genius, Haymarket, March 8, 1856.
Evil Hands and Honest Hearts, Britannia, March 7, 1864.
Evil Life, Smethwick, Sept. 19, 1898.
Excelsior, Her Majesty's, May 22, 1885.
Excursion Train, Opéra Comique, April 6, 1885.
Executioner's Daughter, Hastings, April 6, 1896.
Exiled, Keighley, Feb. 12, 1891.
Exiled; or, The Forced Marriage, Prince of Wales's, Birkenhead, Feb. 12, 1877.
Exiles of Erin, Olympic, May 7, 1881.
Exile, The, Elephant and Castle, Aug. 9, 1878.
Experience Teaches,
Expiation, Britannia, June 5, 1876.
Express, The, St. George's Hall, Feb. 14, 1868.
Extraordinary Behaviour of Mrs. Jallowby, Novelty, Dec. 18, 1896.
Extreme Penalty, Theatre Royal, Doncaster, Dec. 6, 1886.
Extremes, Lyceum, Aug. 26, 1858.
Extremes Meet, St. James's, March 12, 1877.
Eyes in the Dark, Effingham, Dec. 3, 1866.
Eye to Business, Prince of Wales's, Southampton, Aug. 31, 1883.
Face at the Window, Blackburn, June 17, 1897.
Facing the Music, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, May 22, 1899.
Face in the Moonlight, Amphitheatre, Leeds, Oct. 30, 1871.
Faces in the Fire, St. James's, Feb. 26, 1865.
Face to Face; or, My Aunt's Luggage, Varieties, Chiswick, Sept. 6, 1869.
Face to Face, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, March 29, 1869.
Faddimir, Vaudeville, April 29, 1889.
Faded Flowers, Haymarket, April 6, 1872.
Fadette, Court, Liverpool, Jan. 18, 1886.
Fadette, the Golden Gadfly, Prince of Wales's, Rochdale, Oct. 9, 1871.
Fadorougha and the Black Prophet, Liverpool, July 4, 1898.
Faigale, Standard, Aug. 13, 1898.
Faint Heart Which Did Win Fair Lady, Strand, Feb. 9, 1863.
Fair and Square, Theatre Royal, Barnsley, Sept. 7, 1888.
Fair Bargain, Whaley Bridge, Sept. 7, 1894.
Fair Bigamist, Royalty, Sept. 20, 1888.
Fair Circassian, Britannia, Nov. 25, 1872.
Fair Conquest, Prince of Wales's, Great Grimsby, July 18, 1887.
Fair Deceivers, Eastbourne, Sept. 23, 1893.
Fair Equestrienne, Prince's, Bristol, March 14, 1890.
Fair Exchange, Olympic, Aug. 27, 1860.
Fair Fame, Theatre Royal, Longton, Aug. 8, 1884.
Fair France, Queen's, April 18, 1874.
Fairleigh's Birthright, Britannia, Aug. 26, 1878.
Fairly Caught, Parkhurst, May 23, 1892.
Fairly Foiled, Grecian, May 29, 1871.
Fairly Puzzled, St. George's Hall, May 19, 1884.
Fair Maid of Clifton, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, March 30, 1872.
Fair One with the Golden Locks, Surrey, Dec. 26, 1891.
Fair Play, Prince's, Bradford, May 6, 1889.
Fair Pretender, Prince of Wales's, May 10, 1865.
Fair Princess, Gaiety, Walsall, Dec. 20, 1886.
Fair Rosamond, Sanger's, March 3, 1873.
Fair Rosamund, Wimbledon, July 20, 1886.
Fair Sinner, Gaiety, March 4, 1885.
Fair Sinners, Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton, May 2, 1881.
Fair Women and Brave Men, Barnstaple, Sept. 23, 1897.
Fair Words and Foul Deeds, East London, July 6, 1868.
Fairy Circle, Adelphi, July 5, 1857.
Fairy Glen, St. George's Hall, April 22, 1884.
Fairy's Post Bag, Court, May 21, 1885.
Fairy Madge, Battersea, Nov. 28, 1891.
Fairy Ring, Theatre Royal, Bristol, March 29, 1869.

"VIOLET THE DANCER."

A Romantic Musical Drama, in Five Acts, by Walter Thurlstone, founded on Dion Boucicault's Drama, "The Life of an Actress," Produced at the Theatre Royal, Goole, on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Grimaldi .....Mr. W. Thurlestone
Lord Shafton .....Mr. T. A. Ellis
Lieut. Maltravers .....Mr. H. Naylor Grimson
Selwyn Dawdle .....Mr. W. Roberts
Wopshot .....Mr. A. Beaufort
Hopkins .....Mr. R. C. Carsdale
Caretaker .....Mr. R. A. Mears
Waiter .....Mr. H. Magen
Call Boy .....Little Hazel Hood
Mrs. Hopkins .....
Julia .....Miss Florrie Hayes
Violet .....Miss Ivy Alberto

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Full of exciting incidents, pathos, and humour, this new version of Boucicault's old play scored a success on its production. Violet, a beggar girl, is adopted by Grimaldi, an old actor, who trains her for the stage. Julia, a celebrated actress, is jealous of Violet, and conspires with Lieut. Maltravers to compromise her. Act III. shows the interior of the Nottingham Theatre, where the final rehearsal for Violet's début is taking place. Violet is kidnapped in the moment of her triumph by Lieut. Maltravers, who takes her to an old manor house. Here he forces his unwelcome attentions upon her, and a fearful struggle takes place, at the end of which Violet becomes insensible owing to the effects of a narcotic which Maltravers has caused to be placed in a cup of tea she has drunk. At this moment Violet is saved by the timely arrival of Grimaldi and his old friend Wopshot, and the play reaches a felicitous ending. Miss Ivy Alberto is worthy of special praise for her charming portrayal of Violet, the dances which she introduces being loudly encored. Mr. W. Thurlstone enlists the sympathy of the house as Grimaldi; the despicable Lieut. Maltravers is played by Mr. H. Naylor Grimson in the approved manner. Comic relief is afforded by Mr. A. Beaufort, Miss Florrie Hayes, and Mr. W. Roberts, the descriptive song "At the Bar" being a great success. Mr. T. A. Ellis is a fine manly Lord Shafton, who is in love with Violet; Mr. W. Roberts is a capital Selwyn Dawdle; Mr. R. C. Carsdale is well placed as Hopkins; Miss Maude Leslie-Cudd plays the difficult rôle of Julia with force and power; and Little Hazel Hood is a lively call-boy. The scenery and effects are quite a feature of the performance.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 5, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled "A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."

The above popular drama is here this week attracting large audiences. It is fully up to the average of Mr. Walter Melville's other plays, and gives plenty of opportunity for the scenic artists. Miss Marie McAulay, who has so often sustained the leading rôle in the Melvilles' dramas, plays the chief character, with her accustomed ability, and gives a very vivid delineation of an arduous rôle. Jack Dawes is a manly young lover as represented by Mr. Wingold Lawrence; Mr. G. H. Asquin as Barnaby Mugg enlivens his part with many quaint quips and gags, and his appearance with his canine favourites is always productive of laughter. His better half is humorously impersonated by Miss Daisy Maynard; Mabel Valley is excellently played by Miss Maude Stewart Drewry; and Miss Ada Marius is very sympathetic, and makes a good impression as Mildred Carrington. As the rascally Jules Delarnet, Mr. Frank Adair invests his part with considerable humour, and gives a very clever character sketch; Mr. Eugene Santley makes the most of his opportunities as David Carrington; Mr. Thomas Holding is a gentlemanly Arnold Travers, and his love scenes with Mabel Valley are excellently rendered. Mr. Fred Carson is a smart detective Dexter. The scenery and effects are excellent; and it is not surprising that good houses are still giving delight to the popular manager, Mr. Will T. Taylor.

"THE IMPOSSIBLE TRIO."

A Farce, in One Act, by Austin Hurgon, Produced at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, Monday, Feb. 5.

Muriel Redford Smith .....Miss Helen Russell
Joan Redford Smith .....Miss Evelyn Tyser
Parker .....Miss Frances Davie
Charles Redford Smith .....Mr. George Desmond

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The scene is laid in the drawing-room of Mr. Redford Smith's town house. Joan Redford Smith is being dressed by her maid, Parker, for a ball and entertainment, to be given at a friend's house. When she is almost ready, a note arrives, intimating that her friend is in trouble, as the Red Rover Troupe of entertainers are unable to fulfil their engagement. The letter begs for Joan's assistance, and she sends word that she will undertake to provide the desired entertainment. She enlists the assistance of her brother and sister, Charles and Muriel, and they rehearse the items which they will present at the party later on. Joan submits an exquisite violin solo, rendered with true artistic skill; and Charles gives a whimsical recital of "Excelsior." The absence of fancy costumes is their next trouble, but this is got over by Joan removing her dress, and disclosing a pretty silk underskirt; the drapery from the chairs supplies her with a scarf, and she is transformed into a picturesque Spanish dancer. Charles, with the aid of a fur rug and feather ornaments, makes a capital Indian chief, and with a whoop of delight they leave the house for the party, disguised as "The Impossible Trio" of variety artists. Miss Evelyn Tyser is full of life and spirits as Joan, Miss Helen Russell is a charming Muriel, Miss Frances Davie is a neat Parker, and Mr. George Desmond makes the most of the part of Charles.

At the next Covent Garden Ball, to be held on Wednesday (St. Valentine's Day), which is usually one of the most crowded of the season, Messrs. Frank Rendle and Neil Forsyth have arranged for a handsome souvenir in the shape of an ostrich-feather fan, to be given to each lady present. In addition to the numerous prizes, two first prizes will again be awarded—one for the best dancing fancy dress and the other for the most original costume.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who has just concluded his pantomime engagement at the Kennington Theatre, opens on Monday next at Southampton, and Boscombe to follow, with his own skit. He then returns to the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, after which he sails for America to fulfil a short season in New York previous to his engagement with Mr. George Edwardes.

AMATEUR PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

High up on the topmost floor of a mansion in Victoria-street, providentially reached by a lift, is an institute evidently devoted to the purposes of a ladies' club, where physical culture is not neglected, for among the accoutrements figure such athletic implements as dumbbells, single-sticks, and a Sandow developer. It is the headquarters of the Amateur Players' Association, and on a miniature stage in its bijou hall was given on Wednesday an entertainment which included three items that were produced for the first time. One man only figured in the evening's performance, and he was made to do duty in two songs, a duet, a musical sketch, and a dance. The first new item was a monologue, by Bertha Graham, entitled *Jimes*, manifestly made to fit the quaint personality of Miss Rose Cazalet, whose heroines of homely life have won cordial recognition. It tells the story of two rival costermongers, who quarrel over their sweetheart. Jimes, the most favoured of the swains, disappears for a year, and on his return declares he has been in America, and entertains the family with exciting stories of travel. His rival, however, finds out that he has been no further than Liverpool, upon which there is another row, and Jimes again disappears, this time for ever, and the young lady consoles herself with the lover who stays behind. The monologue is humorously written, and Miss Cazalet's rendering of it was well appreciated. The same authoress was responsible for a duologue, entitled

"OUR PICNIC."

Miss Fulham .....Miss Dolly Medley
Olive Fulham .....Miss Aimée Fowler

A point of real dramatic strength is reached in this meritorious little piece, which reproduces a dispute between two sisters as to who shall be invited to a picnic which they are arranging. The elder sister is a slave to convention, and will not defer to the wishes of the younger, an advocate of woman's rights, who would like to include a young Socialist friend of hers in the company. The elder sister so disparages the young man that at length Olive is moved to confess that she is married to him. The grief of her sister is intense until she learns that the young husband is nephew to a baronet, when she dries her tears and preparations for the picnic proceed. The duologue is admirably adapted for amateurs, especially if it is as well delivered as it was by Miss Dolly Medley and Miss Aimée Fowler, who both acted admirably. A third novelty was furnished in a sketch by an anonymous author, entitled

"TOUCHEE."

Jack Temple .....Mr. Basil Mercer
Teresa .....La Zingara

Little importance is to be attached to this little piece beyond the opportunity that it gives for some clever skirt-dancing, introduced by a Spanish girl who has won the love of an artist to whom she poses as a model. After the young girl has danced a pas seul, she asks the artist to sing a song, and he obliges with a French chanson, his sweetheart giving in return a Spanish dance, in which the artist joins. He offers to make the girl his wife, but she replies that only the man who can touch her heart with some heroic action shall win her. Fencing foils are produced, and a bout in which the lady proves an expert swordswoman is indulged in, with the result that the young man's sword reaches her breast, and the young lady's exclamation, "Touché," indicates that he has won the prize. La Zingara acted vivaciously and danced skilfully, especially when the limited space is considered, and Mr. Basil Mercer supported her very well as the artist, who might well be relieved of at least one action which savours of indelicacy. The entertainment was given under the direction of Miss Bertha N. Graham, and several other songs and sketches were included in the programme.

THE ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In the letter from Mr. Beerbohm Tree, president of the Theatrical Managers' Association, to the Secretary of State for War, published in your issue of Feb. 3, the following statement is made:—"I would point out that the building, although capable of holding a very large number of people, does not comply, and is not constructed to comply, with the provisions which are laid down by the London County Council for the construction of theatres to which the general public are admitted, nor is any attempt made to comply with their regulations."

As this statement is calculated to do the Royal Artillery Theatre harm by leading the public to believe that it is not a safe building in case of fire or panic, I shall be glad of your permission to state that Mr. Tree has been misinformed on this point. The name of the architect, Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, who has designed about twenty theatres within the area controlled by the London County Council, apart from the many other theatres erected by him in the provinces, is a guarantee that this particular theatre in every way fulfils the most modern requirements, and I have his authority to say that, although this building is not under the control of the London County Council, it is planned in all the most essential points in accordance with the regulations framed by them, including fireproof construction of the auditorium, number of exits, fireproof curtains, and the many usual appliances in connection with first-class modern theatres. Moreover, the theatre is practically isolated, and is provided with exits on four sides of the building, and it is estimated that the auditorium can be entirely cleared in less than two minutes.

There are other inaccuracies in Mr. Tree's statement of the case against the Royal Artillery Theatre, but, as these touch the general question, I do not propose to comment on them.

Yours faithfully,
BARTLE GRANT, General Manager.
Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, Feb. 6.

On Thursday, William Brown, 23, stock dealer, of Moneyer-street, Hoxton, was charged before Mr. Kennedy with attempting to steal a sapphire and diamond pin, value £12, from Mr. John N. Mitchell, metal merchant, of 2, Crescent-grove, Clapham-common, while at His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket. Mr. Mitchell said on Wednesday afternoon he was watching the play *Nero* from the gallery of His Majesty's Theatre. He was looking over the shoulder of a gentleman in front, and noticed the prisoner had one hand on that gentleman's shoulder and was moving it about. Suddenly he felt a knock underneath his chin, saw the prisoner's hand move away, and his (witness's) pin, value £12, hanging from his tie. He immediately called an attendant and sent him for a constable. Pending his arrival accused asked the prosecutor to allow him to explain. Prisoner, who denied the charge, said he was dumbfounded when the policeman was sent for. The crowd in the gallery necessitated people leaning on each other, and the prosecutor had made a mistake.—Sergeant Tupper said prisoner was not known at the address he gave, and there had been complaints of many robberies of watches and pins from His Majesty's Theatre.—Mr. Kennedy remanded Brown for inquiries.

On Tuesday evening, owing to the indisposition of Miss Alice Lethbridge, her part was played in *The Catch of the Season* at the Marlborough, Holloway, by Miss Florence Brandon.

THE ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART.

To Mr. Tree belongs the credit of having, in the spring of 1904, founded the Academy of Dramatic Art, as it at present exists. The object was to provide a thorough general training for the English stage, in the hope that, if success attended the scheme, the Academy might eventually become one of the national institutions of Great Britain.

It is encouraging to be able to state that the number of students who have attended the Academy has been remarkable, and that the usefulness of the institution has been widely recognised. Many of these students have already won positions upon the professional stage, a result largely due to the public performance given by the Academy at His Majesty's Theatre in February, 1905. This performance was pronounced by the Press, and by others of experience and authority who witnessed it, to be highly creditable in itself, and full of promise for the future.

Up to the present time Mr. Tree has borne all the pecuniary risk connected with the Academy; but it is considered by some that, in an undertaking which is designed to benefit the English stage as a whole, the burden of responsibility should not rest upon one person, however willing and anxious he may be to continue to bear it. It has therefore been suggested to Mr. Tree that a corporate body, embracing many of the principal members of the dramatic profession, should be formed, to share with him the responsibility which he has hitherto so cheerfully undertaken, and, at the same time, to establish a wider system of control, and so extend the scope of usefulness of the institution. This suggestion Mr. Tree has cordially expressed himself willing to agree to. It is therefore proposed that the work of the Academy of Dramatic Art shall, from the commencement of the term, beginning at the end of April next, be continued under the direct superintendence of an executive council, consisting of Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. John Hare, Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Pinero, and Mr. J. M. Barrie. Sir Squire Bancroft has been elected the president of the Council.

Though the Council are desirous that the Academy shall be self-supporting, it will be conducted as heretofore—not for the purpose of profit.

Recognising the excellent tuition hitherto given by Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mr. Fisher White, Mrs. Crowe, Miss Filippi, Mdme. Cavallazzi, Mr. Louis Hervey d'Egville, and M. Bertrand, the Council wish to express the hope that they may be able to retain the valuable services of these ladies and gentlemen; and it is, moreover, the intention of the Council themselves to visit the school regularly, and to conduct the work of the more advanced students. They propose, in addition, to invite the co-operation of distinguished actors and actresses, other than those already upon the staff of the Academy.

Mr. George P. Bancroft, who, since the opening of the institution, has been responsible on Mr. Tree's behalf for its management, has been asked by the Council to retain that position, and will, they are glad to say, continue to do so.

Further details concerning the Easter term will be announced shortly, and, meanwhile, all communications should be addressed to Mr. George P. Bancroft, the Academy of Dramatic Art, 62, Gower-street, W.C.

MISS DOROTHY COURT'S CONCERT.

On Wednesday afternoon, at the Æolian Hall, Miss Dorothy Court gave a vocal recital under distinguished patronage, the concert hall being well filled. The young vocalist, who has been trained at the Royal College of Music, and also under the celebrated teacher, Signor Visetti, possesses a pure and brilliant soprano voice of ample compass and good quality, and sings with great intelligence, seemed equally at home with songs in French, Italian, and German. Miss Court was first heard in three songs by Widor, "Nuit d'étoiles," "Je ne veux pas autre chose," and "Enfant de Catane," all of which were rendered with refinement and no little charm. Miss Court also gave Verdi's "Ah! fors è lui," but perhaps her most successful effort was in Volbach's "Nacht am Springbrünnen," which was given with notable refinement and expression, and two songs by Liszt, "Love's Marvel" and "Questions and Answers." Other songs given by the promising young vocalists were "Depuis le jour," by Charpentier; "Two eyes of grey," Daisy McGeogh; "I wish I were a tiny bird," Löhr; and "I think," Guy d'Hardelot. Miss Court also had the assistance of Mr. Herbert Simmons, who displayed a fine baritone voice in Handel's "Si tra i Ceppi," and Henschel's ballad, "Young Dietrich." Some violin solos, admirably given by Mr. Haydon Wood, were included in the programme. These were Andante from "Symphonie Espagnole" (Lalo), Hungarian Dance, No. 2 (Brahms-Joachim), Loure and Gavotte, unaccompanied (Bach), and "Variations on a Theme of Paganini," written by Mr. Haydon Wood.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The chamber concert given at the Royal College on Wednesday evening commenced with a careful and intelligent performance of Beethoven's Quartet for Strings, in E flat, the executants being Miss May Harrison, Mr. Enoch Parsons, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Ivor James. In the Sonata for Violin and Piano, by Beethoven, Mr. Thomas Peatfield was associated with Miss Grace de Rozario, although in the opening movement the attack was somewhat uncertain, the young students speedily recovered and gave the second movement with its charming variations, and the spirited Rondo (which concludes this delightful work) in a finished and brilliant manner, being recalled several times to the platform. The other instrumental portions of the concert were a Quintet for Piano and Strings in A minor, by Dvorák, played with marked ability by Miss Lucy Polgreen, Miss Florence Jennings, Mr. William Armstrong, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans; and an Organ Solo, Dithyramb, by B. Harwood, Mr. Herbert Smith being the executant. Two vocal items were included, Mr. Ben Ivor Davies being very successful in his song "To an Æolian Harp" (Hugo Wolf), and Miss Maggie Kirkbride displaying a fine voice and cultivated style in three songs by R. Strauss—"Heimliche Aufforderung," "Morgen," and "Zueignung." The accompanist was Mr. Harold Samuel. There was a very large audience present.

Miss Julia Neilson will occupy the chair at the meeting of the Playgoers' Club on Sunday, Feb. 18, when Professor W. H. Hudson (Professor of English Literature at Stanford University, California) will lecture on "Romance and Realism in the Theatre." Mr. S. L. Bensusan, the vice-president of the club, will lecture on "The Ballet—Then and Now," on Sunday, Feb. 25, when Mme. Malvina Cavalazzi-Mapleson will take the chair, and Mdlle. Adeline Genée will give examples of speech by gesture, and execute a dance for which the music will be specially written by Mr. Percy Pitt. On Monday, Feb. 19, in the Club Rooms, Mr. Douglas Crichton will open a discussion on Mr. Stephen Phillips's play *Nero*. The club are still carrying on their good work for the little ones, and will on Feb. 14 and 17 take some 6000 poor children to see the pantomime *Dick Whittington* at the Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel, making the total number that the club has provided for this season considerably over 20,000.

ON THE ROAD, FEBRUARY 12.

After the Ball.—Bedford.
Alexandra Opera Company.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Are You a Mason?—O. H., Southport.
At Duty's Call.—King's T., Cardiff.
Babes in the Wood (Kiddie).—Grand T., Blackpool.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Beauty and the Barge.—Stratford.
Benson, F. R. (B).—T. R., Birkenhead.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Bournemouth.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—Victoria, W. Stanley.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Gloucester.
Bulmer, Mr.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Wolverhampton.
Catch of the Season.—Brixton Theatre.
Charley's Aunt.—King's T., Glasgow.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Chesterfield.
Christian (Howard).—Lyceum T., Newport.
Christian, The.—Paisley Theatre, Paisley.
Cingalee.—Dewsbury.
Cingalee (2).—Oldham.
Claudian.—T. R., Nottingham.
Coal King.—T. R., Aston.
Compton Comedy Co.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Cotton Spinner.—Bishop Auckland.
Country Girl.—Boston and Scunthorpe.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Queen's T., Swindon.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Grand T., Woolwich.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Halifax.
Duke of Killicrankie.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Rochdale.
Eternal City.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Face at the Window.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Fatal Past.—Kilmarnock.
Female Swindler.—Marina, Lowestoft.
Florodora (N.).—O. H., St. Helens.
Florodora (Howard) (S.).—O. H., Harrogate.
Freedom of Suzanne.—T. R., Exeter.
Frivolity.—Miner's T., Ashington.
Gay Parisienne.—W. Bromwich.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife (?).—Q. T., Farnworth.
Girl from Japan.—P. O. W., Great Grimsby.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Southampton.
Golden Ladder.—Empire Southend.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Queen's T., Gateshead.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Merthyr Tydfil.
Her One Great Sin.—Burslem.
Her Second Time on Earth.—West London Theatre.
Home, Sweet Home.—T. R., Kidderminster.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Croydon.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Wellingborough.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Cardiff.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—Royalty T., Glasgow
La Poupee (Ralland).—T. R., Worcester.
Laughter Land.—Whitehaven.
Life of a Showman.—O. H., Porth.
Life's Sweetest Sins.—Grand T., Halifax.
Little Bo-Peep (Kiddie).—Prince's T., Accrington.
Little Bread Winner.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Little Michus (Dance).—Bolton.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Lyceum, Edinburgh.
London Fireman.—Carlton, Greenwich.
Lost in Paris.—Theatre Royal, Tyldesley.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Sunderland.
Lucky Durham.—Star T., Liverpool.
Man's Enemy.—Grand T., Bolton.
Manxman.—T. R., Edmonton.
Martin Harvey.—Kennington Theatre.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., Leigh.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Lyceum, Ipswich.
Moody Manners (A).—Opera House, Burnley.
Moody Manners (B).—T. R., Preston.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Alexandra, Stoke Newington.
Mr. Smith.—T. R., Colne.
Mr. Smith.—South Shields.
Napoleon the Great.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Norman V. Norman.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Oliver Twist.—New T., Chatham.
On the Love Path.—T. R., Bath.
Orchid (2).—Keighley.
Passion's Power.—New T., Stanley.
Path of Thorns.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Peggy Machree.—O. H., Northampton.
Price of Her Soul.—T. R., Dover.
Prince of Pilsen.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Prodigal Parson.—Court T., Bacup.
Prodigal Son.—Ebbw Vale.
Proof.—Falkirk and Clydebank.
Revenge.—T. R., Blackburn.
Romany's Revenge.—T. R., Loughboro'.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Chorley.
Royal Revenge.—Queen's T., Dublin.
Sailors of the King.—Alexandra, Widnes.
Saints and Sinners.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
See-Saw of Life.—T. R., Windsor.
Sherlock Holmes.—Crown T., Peckham.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Plymouth.
Silver King.—T. R., Bury.
Sin of Her Childhood.—T. R., Attercliffe.
Spring Chicken.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Sunday.—Court T., Wigan.
Swiss Express.—Kirkcaldy.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Cork.
Toreador.—Dumfries.
Traitor Prince.—St. James's T., Manchester.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—T. R., Norwich.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—King's, Gateshead.
Under Two Flags.—Prince's, Portsmouth.
Veronique.—Middlesbrough.
Village Blacksmith.—Court T., Warrington.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—Grand T., Fulham.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—O. H., Torquay.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Abertillery.
Way of the World.—T. R., Castleford.
Wearin' o' the Green.—P. O. W., Salford.
When It Was Dark.—Kingston.
When Woman Hates.—Grand T., Luton.
White Chrysanthemum.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Wilkie, Allen, and Co.—Aberdare and Aberavon.
Woman's Past.—Muncaster T., Bootle.
Worst Woman in London.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Wrecker of Men.—Globe T., Deal.

On Sunday, at the annual dinner of the Playgoers' Club, which took place at the Hotel Cecil, Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., in responding to the toast of "The Visitors," said that during the past week he had been trying to discover when an actress was not an actress. A good many people would like to know when a judge was not a judge. Some would answer, "When he is awake." They were rather at a disadvantage last week, because the case had been tried already by the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Humour, and he had extracted from it every morsel of new joke that could be made out of it. During the case some gentleman wrote to tell him a story about Grimaldi. His informant said that when Grimaldi wanted a pension from the Actors' Fund he was told he could not have it because he was not an actor. He had never spoken a line. Kemble took him up, and coached him for a character, in which he had one line, "pulled them asunder." Grimaldi threw so much into this line that he was allowed to be an actor, and got his pension. Surely, if one line made Grimaldi an actor, a lady ought to be an actress if she could go through a musical comedy and say a line in it. Was that line, Mr. Marshall Hall asked, necessary to the plot of that musical comedy? Since musical comedy seemed to have no plot at all, he did not think it much mattered.

Presentation.—At the conclusion on Saturday last of the Britannia's successful pantomime, *King Wow-Wow*, Carl Hamlin, the resident-conductor (who composed and arranged the music) was presented by Miss Jessie Preston with an ivory and silver mounted bâton. A very handsome silver timepiece also came from Joanna, Bella, Jock, and George Preston.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. D. V.—*The chance of either of your plays being accepted is very remote, and we cannot advise you to submit them. The popular taste is not in favour of tragedy at the present moment.*

PSYCHIC.—(1) *Such information is only to be obtained from Mr. George Edwardes, or the manager of the company.* (2) *It must obviously depend upon whether the lady is fulfilling a London or a provincial engagement.*

D. MCLARTY.—*We are not so intimate with the private affairs of members of the profession as to be able to inform you the amount of the salaries they receive.*

W. B.—*Francesca, a Dream of Venice, a drama in five acts, by Edmund Falconer, was first performed at the Lyceum Theatre on March 31, 1859, with Mrs. Charles Young as the heroine.*

NELLY.—*Miss Louie Freear made her American début at the New York Theatre, New York, on April 24, 1899, in* The Man in the Moon.

D. J.—(1) *At the King's Theatre, Hammersmith.* (2) *Refer to our provincial news.*

S. L.—*As far as we know the title has not been used.*

H. SAIDES.—*It is against our rule to give the age of members of the profession.*

C. E. T.—(1) *Miss Kitty Loftus and Miss Cecilia Loftus are not related.* (2) *Born in Glasgow, of Irish parents.*

J. W. BROWNE.—*Mr. Charles Coborn.*

C. E. LEMAN.—*Miss Marie Lloyd made her first professional appearance at the Grecian Assembly Rooms in 1885. The other questions we are unable to answer, unless you can supply us with the dates of the respective productions.*

H. ALLAN.—*We can find no record of a play with the title you mention being produced at the Comedy Theatre. Possibly you mean* What became of Mrs. Racket? *produced at the Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, on June 22, 1903. We do not know where a copy can be procured.*

DICK.—*Yes, he did; in the autumn of the year 1894*

C. D. WILLIAMS.—*Your communication arrived too late for insertion of birthday announcement.*

S. BURTON.—*Your question was answered in "The Era" of Jan. 20. Produced at the Princess's Theatre on Nov. 16, 1882.*

D. G. T.—*We do not know his present address. A letter addressed to him, c/o "The Era," might possibly reach him.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

ASTLEY.—On Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Withington, Manchester, Freda Tudor, wife of C. H. Astley (of Astley Bros.), of a son.

LAUREL.—Feb. 7, at 124, Brixton-road, London, Mrs. Sidney Laurel (the Three Laurels), a fine boy. Mother and son both doing well.

ROHDA.—Feb. 2, at 57, Elmhurst-mansions, Vernon-road, Clapham, Florence the Mimic (wife of Harry Rohda), of a son. Both doing well.

STEBBING.—On Saturday, Feb. 3, at 3, Waverly-road, Walthamstow, May Isabelle (dancer), the wife of Edwin F. Stebbing (Stebbing Bros., acrobats), of a son. Both doing well.

DEATHS.

MULLETT.—Feb. 5, after a short illness at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, Ann Mullett, aged 77.

MULLETT.—Feb. 5, at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, Ann Mullett, aged 77.

REEFERN.—In memory of H. H. Pierce (solicitor, Liverpool and Birkenhead, brother to Captain John Pierce, Southampton; also Dr. Wm. Pierce, Birkenhead), beloved husband of Clarice Reefern. Not forgetting her dear sister Violet, who died suddenly during rehearsals.—CLARRIE, F. J. Little, Eso.'s, "Robinson Crusoe."

WALKER.—Feb. 8, at Carlisle, Robert Francis Whittier Walker, eldest son of Whimsical Walker, aged 29. R.I.P.

WOODHOUSE.—Feb. 1, J. H. Woodhouse, author and comedian.

IN MEMORIAM.

COLVERD.—In loving memory of our dear father, Joseph Edward Colverd, who departed this life Feb. 7, 1903.—AGNES and EDWARD COLVERD.

COLVERD.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Mr. J. J. Colverd, who passed away Feb. 7, 1903. Never forgotten by his loving wife and family. R.I.P.

NELSON.—In loving memory of Harold Broughton Nelson, who died Feb. 15, 1901. The dearly-loved brother of Harry Adair Nelson and William E. Ashcroft.

SIMPSON.—In loving memory of my darling mother, Annie Simpson, known as Mrs. Fred Carlos, who departed this life Feb. 11, 1900. Gone, but never forgotten by her youngest daughter, May Simpson, known as May Daventry.

TISSOT.—In loving memory of my dear father, Jules Tissot, who died Feb. 6, 1900. Never forgotten by his ever-loving daughter, Marie Tissot (Mrs. W. Rosaire).

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Ivan Berlyn—Saturday, Feb. 10.
Sybil Carlisle—Saturday, Feb. 10.
Amy Rayner, Saturday, Feb. 10.
Amy Farrell—Saturday, Feb. 10.
Percy Lincoln—Saturday, Feb. 10.
Edith E. Carr—Saturday, Feb. 10.
Nellie V. Warden—Saturday, Feb. 10.
Lydia Flopp—Sunday, Feb. 11.
(Miss) Sidney Crowe—Sunday, Feb. 11.
Frank Hudspeth—Sunday, Feb. 11.
Arthur Webb—Sunday, Feb. 11.
Will Onda—Sunday, Feb. 11.
Chas. F. Meadows, Sunday, Feb. 11.
Frank Lyndon—Sunday, Feb. 11.
Jessie Browning—Sunday, Feb. 11.
Marie Lloyd—Monday, Feb. 12.
Joe Maynall—Monday, Feb. 12.
Katie Barry—Monday, Feb. 12.
Georges Jacobi—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Carrie Ellis—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Jack Hamer—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Beatrice Townsend—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Alice Fontain—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Lillie Woods—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Alice de Roy—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Kathleen Russell—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Wm. P. Vane—Tuesday, Feb. 13.
Olive Loftus Leyton—Wednesday, Feb. 14.
Hettie Hamer—Wednesday, Feb. 14.
H. J. Hitchens—Thursday, Feb. 15.
Bessie Frank—Thursday, Feb. 15.
Olive Loftus Leyton—Thursday, Feb. 15.
Winnie Stanhope—Friday, Feb. 16.
Irene Meldon—Friday, Feb. 16.
Will Ellerslie—Friday, Feb. 16.

MR. JOHN MALONE, the historian of the Players' Club of New York, and one of the oldest actors in America, was stricken with apoplexy whilst he was on his way to the Club, and died in a hospital on the 15th inst. He was seventy-eight years old, and supported all the notable actors of a past generation. For a long period he was associated with Edwin Booth and Lawrence Barrett. He had appeared on the stage but seldom of late, devoting his time to magazine work.

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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Abel, Mr. George
Adams, Miss Nelly
Aida, Miss B.
Allerton, Mr. H.
Allison, Mr. Wm.
Anson, Miss L.
Austin, Miss Louie
Barlow, Miss Billie
Barrett, Mr. Frank
Barrie, Mr. Gus
Bayley, Mr. Chas.
Bockley, Miss
Bertram, Mr. Eugene
Birchmore, Mr. T.
Blount, Mr. W.
Boise, Mr. Harry
Bon Bon, Mr. Harry
Bowyer, Mr. Fred
Boyne, Mr. Clifton
Brierley, Mr. C.
Broton, Mr. Fritz
Brown, Mr. Wm.
Brough, Miss F.
Burdell, Miss Marie
Burgess, Messrs.
Burnett, Mr. Clarance
Callan, Mr. John
Cardow, Mr. Chas.
Carey, Mr. Pat
Carling, Mr. Tom
Carlyle, Miss Edith
Cawthorne, Mr. Alf.
Caygill, Mr. O. H.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul
Clency, Mr. Cyril
Collins, Miss B.
Collins, Mr. W.
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Comstock, Mr. M.
Conningham, Mr. Fred
Cordwell, Mr. Levey
Craston, Mr. C.
Creighton, Miss Maud
Cunningham, Mr. James
Curre, Mr. Carno
Curtis, Mr. Milton
Dale, Miss Kitty
Dardinis, The
Davis, Mr. A.
Davis, Miss Belle
Dawson, Mr. Percy
Day, Miss Hanna,
Dearlove, Mr. Mark
De Laporte, Miss Nana
Delomes, The Two
Dempsey, Mr. Hugh
Denbigh, Mr. M.
De Orval, Miss F.
Duncan, Mr. A.
Dyson, Mr. Joshua
Elkin, Mr. Bernard
Elmore, Miss Belle
Evans, Mrs. Bensley
Fair, Mr. W. B.
Fairchild, Miss M.
Fawcett, Miss M.
Felix, Miss F.
Fentross, Mr Burt
Flexmore, Miss M.
Florador, Mrs. Fred
Foldi, Miss F.
Fontaine, Mr. Victor
Frank and Austin
Freeland, Mr. Frank
Fysher, Mr. Edwin
Gaertner and Weston
George, Miss Marie
Glennies, Marionettes
Grais, Herr
Grange, Mr. Bob L.
Grant and Grant
Gregory, Mr. W. L.
Grey, Mrs. Fred
Grimshaw, Mrs. L.
Haddon, Miss B
Hamilton, Mr. Henry
Harcourte, Miss M.
Hare, Mr. John
Harley, Mr. Dan
Haviland, Mr. Wm.
Hayter, Mr. Edie
Haywood, Miss D.
Hearn, Mr. J.
Hedmondt, Mr. E. C.
Hiatt, Mr. F. H.
Hind, Mr. Sid
Hobson, Miss Maud
Holden, Mr. James
Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Hope, Mr. R.
Horne, Mr. Chris
Howard and Harris
Howard, Mr. Walter
Howes, Miss Millie
Hughes, Miss Annie
Ipswich, Mr. Francis
Jacquinot, Mr. Claude
Jolly, Mr. Laffan B.
Kelly, Mr. Edward H.
Kirwan, Miss Kitty
Kramer, Mr. Paul
Lee, Mr. John
Lennox, Mrs. Gordon
Leon, Mr. Frank
Levey, Mr. and Mrs.
Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
Lonsdale, Miss S.
Lovering, Mr. Harry
MacEwen, Mr.
Manderville, Miss Flo
Marlow, Mr. W. F.
Maude, Miss Lillian
Maxwell, Mr. W.
Michell, Miss M.
Mineta, Mr. Harry
Moneata, Mr. H.
Money, Mr. A.
Montefiore, Mr. Ernest
Moore, Miss M.
Moore, Mr. N. T
Morriss, Mr. G.
Mortenette, Mr. and Mrs
Myra
Nat & Doris
New York Comedy Four
Nicholls, Mr. Harry
Odlin, Mr. T.
Olive, Miss Kitty
O'Neill, Mr. Ed.
Orme, Miss Hilda
Osborne, Mr. Fred
Pacey, Miss S. J.
Paulis, Mr. Edmond
Paull, Miss Ethel G.
Paull, Mrs. Wm.
Payne, Mr. H. M.
Peake, Mrs. F. S.
Pennington-Gush, Mr. F.
Phillips, Mr. E.
Picquay, Mrs. G.
Powel, Mr. G.
Powell & Connor, Messrs
Power, Miss Eugenie
Price, Mr. Sydney
Prince, Mr. George
Purdey, Mr. Percy J.
Ramier, Mr. Ed.
Read and Wright
Reco, Mr. E.
Renaud, Miss
Richardson, Mr. J. F.
Richmond, Miss Josie
Ripley, Miss Blanch
Ross and Lewis, Messrs.
Röthig, Mr. Yackley
Rudd, Mr. Arthur
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Scarth, Mrs.
Scott, Mr. George
Selby, Mr. Alf
Seymour, Mr. G.
Sheridan, Mr. R. B.
Simpson, Mr. Herbert
Sivado, Miss P.
Spessardy, Mons., C.
Squires, Mr. S. R.
Starr, Mr. Harry
Sterling, Mr. J. G.
Steward, Mr. Harry
Swan and Stanley
Sydmon, Mr. N.
Tavner, Mrs. E.
Temple, Mr. Fred
Theodora, Miss Stella
Travis, Miss Bessie
Trevoir, Miss F.
Turner, Miss Lilly
"Valcon"
Van Noorden, Mr. W.
Vetter, Mr. Oscar
Vincent, Miss C.
Virginia, Miss
Volpe, Mr. Fred
Volp and Cleveland
Wardle, Mr. Harry
Watson, Mr. S.
Weighill, Mr. R.
Wilton, Mr. G. W.
Woods, Mr. Alfred
Woodville, Mr. R.
Woodville, Mr. E.
Wykeham, Mr. R.
Zerbinis, Mr. V.

THE splendid character photograph of Mr. Mark Kinghorne which we reproduce in another column is from the studio of Mr. Albert Flint, 68, Church-street, Camberwell Green

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your report in this week's issue of the *Cinderella* pantomime, at the Metropole, Openshaw, Manchester, you state that Miss Mabel Higson is principal girl. I beg to inform you that I play Cinderella, the principal girl, Miss Higson being second girl.—Yours faithfully, MAMIE IRIS, Queen's Theatre, Keighley, Feb. 3, '06.

On Saturday evening last the Central Hall had a large and appreciative audience to enjoy the performance of Handel's *Judas Maccabæus*, by the Alexandra Palace Choral and Orchestral Society, under the experienced conductorship of Mr. Allen Gill, with Mr. G. D. Cunningham officiating at the organ, and Mr. George Wilby as principal violin There are few more difficult oratorios than the one chosen, and it says much for the efficiency of this well-trained choir, and the equally efficient orchestral arrangements, that the rendering was so good. The artists were Madame Emily Squire, Miss Lucy Johnstone, Mr. Samuel Masters, and Mr. Robert Radford. Madame Emily Squire gained great applause for her skilful interpretation of the various numbers allotted to her; Miss Lucie Johnstone was quite equal to the rendering of the airs and recitatives; Mr. Samuel Masters, who was in excellent voice, was the recipient of well-earned applause; and Mr. Robert Radford gained golden opinions for his singing.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your second notice of *Crusoe's Adventures* at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, you say, "Great credit is due to Mr. Victor Stevens, the stage-manager for the pantomime, for his skilled handling of some of the more difficult scenes—the Shipwreck, for example." Mr. Stevens is the producer. I am stage-manager, and have worked all the scenes myself from the opening night.—Yours faithfully, WALTER L. RIGNOLD.

MR. M. D. WAXMAN'S Yiddish Operatic and Dramatic Company will open for a season at the Standard Theatre on April 9.

IN last Saturday's issue it was stated that Miss Florence *Walton*, the popular Cinderella at Devonport, had been accorded a benefit. This should have been Miss Florence *Watson*.

IN our notice last week we inadvertently stated that the part of Fagin in *Oliver Twist*, presented at the County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, was played by Mr. J. Bannister Howard. The part was filled by Mr. Stanley Drewitt.

AT the Luisen Theatre, Raimund's fairy-play *Der Verschwender*, with the pleasing music of Kreutzers, has been revived, making—despite its respectable age—a very good impression. It was well acted all round.

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LITTLE	Every Evening	MICHUS
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LITTLE	Matinée every Saturday	MICHUS
LITTLE	at 2.30.	MICHUS
LITTLE		MICHUS

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1906.

NERO AS AN ARTIST.

Everyone has been "talking NERO" of late; and a not unamusing chat may be had about the Roman Emperor's ways and customs as an actor and entrepreneur. The common idea of NERO as a monster with a lust for carnage is entirely inaccurate. The bestial love of bloodshed was a Roman not a Greek quality; and NERO was more a Greek by instinct than a Roman by birth. His tendencies were to the picturesque rather than to the cruel. The butchery of the arena appealed to him far less than did the "sensational effects" and novel achievements of elaborate stage-management. It is curious how many inventions now familiar to us were made by the Emperor. He even dared to anticipate the Hippodrome, covering the floor of a luxurious amphitheatre with sea-water in which marine animals and fishes disported themselves, and a sea-fight of Athenians and Persians was represented. Then the water drained away, and the gladiators appeared, among them being, at the Emperor's "special desire," many senators and knights. It scandalised the plebeian spectators to see scions of the noblest Roman families in such company. There were, amongst other things, military tournaments, and in some of these combats it seized NERO's fancy to have weapons made only of amber, vast quantities of which were fetched from Germany for the purpose. It must be owned that he "ran" his shows "regardless of expense"; but then it is to be remembered that his 'backers" were the taxpayers of the civilised world, so that he had no dread of bankruptcy.

So far from being naturally cruel, NERO was not half bloodthirsty enough for his subjects. The average Roman had great contempt for theatrical and musical performances; and when the Emperor assumed the rôle of an aristocratic amateur the Roman aristocracy waxed mightily indignant. A few thousand gladiators massacred in the arena pleased them more than any "entertainment of the stage," however delicate and artistic. NERO, however, was self-willed; and, having absolute power, followed his own bent. At some new games instituted in honour of the first cutting of the Emperor's beard an entertainment was given in his private gardens near the Tiber. NERO himself appeared on the rustic stage of the garden theatre, surrounded by his musicians, and, tuning his guitar comfortably, sang to the company.

His poetry, music, and acting were, it seems, very fair amateur work. Had he lived in the present day he would have emulated the achievements of the KAISER. With an eagerness which was born of apprehension, the Senate offered him prizes for song and eloquence before the performances began. NERO, however, would not swallow this, and wished to compete on equal terms with his rivals. He was always nervous and anxious on these occasions, although the award could hardly ever have been in doubt. Like Mr. PINERO, he wanted plenty of praise; but he also wished it to be given with every appearance of independence. But how could there be any genuineness in the applause when the life of each member of the audience depended on the Emperor's will. He was an epicure in approbation, and insisted on having the clapping regular and sustained. So the management posted soldiers in various places amongst the audience to regulate their plaudits. The visitors from the country towns and provinces, amazed by the sight of the Emperor on the boards, and not aware of the rules of the claque, received many hard knocks from these careful and solicitous regulators. Absence from performances at which the Emperor appeared was regarded as *lèse-majesté*; and leaving the theatre was an offence of the same kind. The artful Greeks among the audience used to feign death, and thus get themselves carried out. Some loyal persons, it is stated, sat day and night until they perished of *ennui*. To fall to sleep during one of these performances was to run the danger of being put instantly to death.

NERO often appeared in female parts, wearing masks to imitate the character represented. It is curious how freely topical illusions were permitted under his reign. A variety artist named DATUS made a great hit with a popular song in which the words "Good-bye, father, good-bye, mother," occurred. NERO's father-in-law had been poisoned by his mother, whom NERO afterwards had murdered; and the "business" introduced by DATUS represented the old man drinking and the lady swimming away—as she actually did—in the attempt to escape her fate.

NERO's Grecian tour was a great success. He started with his minister TIGELLINUS, and his wife, and a faithful wardrobe-mistress called CALVIA CRISPINILLA, and "travelled" in Greece for nearly a year. Various rivals competed with him, but his winning was, of course, a "certainty." The Emperor, however, took his art very seriously. We are told that "in the acting of a tragedy, when he had quickly taken up his staff again, which he happened to let fall, being much dismayed and in great fear lest for the delinquency he should be put from the stage, by no means took he heart again until an under-actor or prompter standing by swore an oath that it was not espied and marked by the people beneath."

That a love of the stage and of acting is not incompatible with government and generalship is proved, not only by the example of the German Emperor above quoted, but by that of NAPOLEON, who, though he never actually appeared on the stage, was deeply interested in plays and acting, a strong patron of the drama, and fond of amateur theatricals. But no one has more resembled NERO in amateurism than the KAISER, who, however, retains his popularity with his people and preserves their admiration and respect in spite of his versatility. It was NERO's misfortune to be the artistic ruler of a materialistic people; and he committed the error—as an Emperor—of making Art his pursuit instead of his plaything.

THE Actors' Association, we may remind our readers, will hold its fifteenth annual general meeting at His Majesty's Theatre, on Thursday next, the 15th inst., at 3.0 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Sir Squire Bancroft, the president. The business will include the presentation of the report and financial statement for 1905, and the election of officers and committee. Members of the profession, who are not enrolled in the Association, will be admitted on presentation of their cards, but only fully paid-up members are entitled to vote.

THE Council preface their report, which will be presented at the meeting, by an expression of their sense of the grievous loss suffered, not only by the Actors' Association but by the theatrical profession at large, in the death of their late President, Sir Henry Irving, whose worth found for his remains a fitting resting-place in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. An ardent worker for the dignity of the actor's calling, he devoted particular interest to the affairs of this Association, and it was ever a source of pride to him that he was elected its first President; that the honour was theirs will be the feeling of every member, and they acknowledge with grateful pride the debt they owe to him for his devotion to the profession and to the Association, which continued to the very day of his death, when he sent the Congress at Manchester the following telegram:—"My heart's desire will ever be for the interests and honour of our Association. The Actors' Association can only be supported by the enthusiasm of all actors.—Henry Irving. Oct. 13, 1905."

THE Association is congratulated on Sir Squire Bancroft's acceptance of the post of President, to which he was elected by the unanimous vote of the Council. The report goes on to state that during the year various committees have been formed to deal with matters affecting the scope of the Association; amongst others—to establish the actor's copyright in his own photograph; to arrange a basis of equitable payment for rehearsals extending beyond a reasonable period; and the foundation of "Actors' Day," which it is hoped will, for all time, place the theatrical funds beyond the need of charitable appeal to the public. The Council find satisfaction in the fact that members have availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the Association for Arbitration, thereby saving considerable expense and avoiding the publication of professional disputes in the Press. The Council are also glad to report they have received fewer cases of alleged insanitation during the year.

SHAKESPEARE is in great demand this week at Berlin, no fewer than five of his plays being given in different Berlin theatres. They are *King Henry IV.* (part 1), *Richard II.*, *The Winter's Tale*, *King Lear*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; while the opera, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, is being given, and *The Mikado* and *The Geisha* are also to be found in the week's programmes.

"A QUESTION OF AGE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Robert Vernon Harcourt, produced at the Court Theatre, on Tuesday Afternoon, Feb. 6.

Lieut.-Col. Mark Langley, C.B. — MR. FREDERICK KERR
Henry Bernard — MR. C. M. HALLARD
Hon. Bertie Graham — MR. KENNETH DOUGLAS
Baron von Berolstein — MR. STRATTON RODNEY
Mr. Ferguson — MR. FREDERIC TOPHAM
Johnson — MR. C. L. DELPH
Footman — MR. FREDERICK LLOYD
Mrs. Beddoes — MISS FANNY BROUGH
Olive Vane — MISS MABEL HACKNEY
Countess of Clare — MISS AGNES KNIGHTS
Lady Elsie Ireland — MISS IERNE FITZGERALD
Baroness von Berolstein — MISS DARRAGH
Shopwoman — MISS M. DANIELL
A Customer — MRS. CHARLES MALTBY

The bewildered and puzzled audience that sat out Mr. Vernon Harcourt's comedy at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon must have felt considerable regret that a young writer of such promise should have been responsible for such an inept piece of stage work as *A Question of Age*. Wanting in action, tedious in its trivial detail, and nebulous in its plot, the comedy dragged its weary length along for two hours and a half, and thoroughly bored a patient and critical audience notwithstanding the occasional brilliancy of its lines.

The story, as far as one can understand it, mostly concerns the ambitious dreams of a young Government clerk, Henry Bernard, who aspires to become a "force in politics." That he cannot attain the dearest wish of his heart by marrying pretty Olive Vane, who has shown her independence by preferring to take service in a fashionable hat shop rather than accept the "patronage" of her aristocratic relatives, both he and she readily admit. There is, however, an alternative. He can seek an alliance with Mrs. Beddoes, the middle-aged widow of an African multi-millionaire, who is bored to death by the possession of so much money, and is longing to dispose of it. Olive and Bernard are quite sensible, up-to-date young people, and agree at the end of the first act that it would be extremely foolish for them to marry. The way is, therefore, cleared for a union with Mrs. Beddoes, but though there seems to be some understanding between that lady and Bernard, the nature of it is not quite clear. Later in the play we are puzzled to hear Mrs. Beddoes exclaim, "Is there nothing but marriage for a woman?" and discover that she thinks Bernard wants her to be his mistress and to give him her millions on those terms. And the most astounding thing of all is that apparently she is ready to grant his wish, and to see him take the power her money will give him, and lay it at Olive's feet as soon as he has tired of her. Mrs. Beddoes had commissioned her lawyer, Ferguson, to get rid of her wealth. He has not done so, however, but has simply reinvested it. Not knowing this, she is much perturbed in her mind as to the means she will employ in order to raise a million for Henry to start a South African railway, which he imagines will add much to our Imperial prestige. She determines to speculate in some extraordinary way, but is saved from acting foolishly in more ways than one by a sensible offer of marriage on the part of Lieut.-Col. Mark Langley, who will appreciate her excellent qualities far better than the rather mean-spirited young politician who has been courting her millions. Miss Fanny Brough's acting as Mrs. Beddoes was the redeeming feature of the representation, and she breathed the spirit of tenderness into her impersonation, making us feel some compassion for the perplexed and disappointed widow in the last act. Mr. C. M. Hallard seemed rather inclined to underplay the by no means easy part of Henry Bernard, but was very fine indeed in the last act in Bernard's interview with Olive Vane, his success being shared by pretty Miss Mabel Hackney in that character. Mr. Fred Kerr was easy, polished, and natural as Lieut.-Col. Mark Langley; Mr. Stratton Rodney was responsible for an amusing sketch of the German Baron von Berolstein; Miss Darragh made the most of her chances as the Baroness von Berolstein; and to the shadowy parts of the Countess of Clare and Lady Elsie Ireland Miss Agnes Knights and Miss Ierne Fitzgerald did full justice. Mr. Frederick Topham presented a consistent portrait of the solicitor Ferguson. *A Question of Age* was followed by Mr. Frederick Fenn's play in one act, entitled

"THE CONVICT ON THE HEARTH."

George Midden — MR. EDMUND GWENN
Thomas Midden — MR. EDMUND GURNEY
Mrs. Midden — MISS MARY BROUGH
Jenny Midden — MISS EILY MALYON
Maud Midden — MERRIE OMAR
Percy Kitchener Midden — SIDNEY GRATA
Joseph Peterson — MR. STRATTON RODNEY
Amy Watersmith — MISS CLARE GREET
Jim Watersmith — MR. NORMAN PAGE
Miss Harcourt — MISS MADGE MCINTOSH
Rev. Cartwright Dade — MR. C. V. FRANCE

The success of Mr. Fenn's piece was never in doubt, and few writers for the stage can depict with such perfect art, such complete dramatic grip, and such simple directness the simple annals of the poor. We are taken to the humble dwelling-room of the Midden family in Corporation-buildings, Kennington-butts. George, the eldest, has had his bit of trouble, and done his bit of time, and it is the day of his release. The family are awaiting the return of the "prodigy," as his mother—good, kind, easy, helpful soul—calls him. The parson of the district, the Rev. Cartwright Dade—a fine exemplar of practical Christianity—has been instrumental in arranging for the welcome home of the young convict, and when George arrives the family are about to sit down to a hearty meal. He is a surly and ungracious brute, and the letter from his "gal," Amy Watersmith, in which he learns—to use his own vernacular—that she has "given him the chuck," does not improve his temper. His sister, Jenny, suffers a similar fate. Her young man, who is assistant at the hairdresser's, evidently does not think an alliance with a member of a convict's family desirable. But matters are smoothed out by the parson, who finds work for the young convict, the curtain falling on a festive scene and the prospect of a couple of marriages. Miss Mary Brough was delightfully comic as the warm-hearted mother, Mrs. Midden; and Mr. Edmund Gurney's sketch of Thomas Midden, the father, was a remarkable realisation of the rough navvy father. Mr. Edmund Gwenn, who was really admirable as the returned convict, advanced his reputation as a character actor. Miss Madge McIntosh presented a clever study of the tactless district visitor who considers Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies" the sort of reading suitable for a returned convict. Mr. C. V. France, as the breezy, broad-minded clergyman, won a complete triumph by his embodiment, which breathed the spirit of manliness and self-reliance. Miss Eily Malyon and Miss Clare Greet were seen to advantage in the characters of Jenny Midden and Amy Watersmith; Mr. Norman Page was well placed as Jim Watersmith; and Mr. Stratton Rodney was effective in the unnecessary character of Joseph Peterson. *The Convict on the Hearth* should speedily find its way into the evening bill of a West-End theatre. It is the best one-act piece that has been seen for some time.

"THE YOUNGER GENERATION."

A Play, in One Act, by Netta Syrett, Played, for the First Time, at Terry's Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Mrs. Carruthers — MISS IRENE ROOKE
Mollie — MISS ESTELLE WINWOOD
Mrs. Burleigh — MISS DEVEREUX
Mrs. Beale — MISS PAULINE POTTER
Mr. Beale — MR. JOHN W. DEVERELL
Mr. Fairfax — MR. L. PROFFIT
Captain Withers — MR. C. DENTON
Major Blake — MR. G. F. TULLY

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's amusing comedy of a man with an ideal, *The Heroic Stubbs*, was on Saturday evening preceded by a new curtain-raiser, by Miss Netta Syrett, entitled *The Younger Generation*. Miss Syrett has before contributed at least one very creditable piece, *The Finding of Nancy*, to the stage, and her latest effort proved an entertaining little play, that greatly pleased the early-comers. The action takes place in the drawing-room of a fascinating widow, Mrs. Carruthers. She is surrounded by many friends, all of whom apparently have a great admiration for her. Decidedly in the background is her daughter, Mollie, a girl of eighteen, for whom the mother professes a deal more affection than she shows. Mollie has been absent from home for some considerable time on a country visit, and we gather from the conversation that a certain Major Blake, an old admirer of Mrs. Carruthers, who has been abroad for some years, has been staying at the same house. Mollie herself is very reticent about the major, but we guess that something more than a friendship exists between the two, and when the guests have all departed, and the Major is announced, Mollie at once retires. After a few complimentary remarks, the Major soon gets to business, and asks Mrs. Carruthers for the hand of her daughter. This proposal is quite unexpected by the mother, who, we imagine, fondly hoped the Major had come to make her an offer. She, however, bravely tries to smile away her disappointment, and gives her consent, asking him if he will mind going into an adjoining room for a few minutes, as the thought of losing Mollie, whom she has looked upon as only a "baby," has somewhat upset her. When he has gone, Mollie comes in, and in a passionate—if somewhat justified—outburst of indignation, expresses her determination of going away at once, as her mother treats her like a child, only wants her to pour out the tea, and generally stands in her way. Without waiting for any explanation, Mollie then retires, but soon returns, apparently a trifle ashamed of herself. The mother, after telling her daughter the reason of the Major's visit, retires gracefully, and realises at last that she must be getting old, and that she will have to take to wearing caps. The part of the widow had a charming and in every way satisfactory representative in Miss Irene Rooke, her acting being especially commendable in the proposal episode. Miss Estelle Winwood made the most of her one opportunity as Mollie, and expressed with dramatic power the indignation of the daughter at the supposed selfishness of her mother. Major Blake was creditably enacted by Mr. G. F. Tully.

FRENCH PLAYS AT THE ROYALTY.

The revival of Casimir Delavigne's old play, *Louis XI.*, on the 30th ult., introduced M. Silvain in the title-rôle, a part which afforded this accomplished actor opportunities of which he availed himself to the utmost. Madame Silvain played artistically as the Dauphin; Mdlle. Barjac, as Marie, was extremely good; the peasants of Mdlle. Henriette Dickson and M. Varny were clever and humorous impersonations; and the cast was further strengthened by M. Fenoux as Nemours, M. Castelli as Coitier, the King's physician, M. Baissac as Commines, and M. Bonvallet as Olivier.

A "classical matinée" was given on the 31st ult., when an address on "The Art of Speaking Verse" was delivered by M. Silvain, who divided his lecture into several sections, the first dealing with "accent," the second with the "e" mute, third, "inflexion," "expression," and so on, examples and anecdotes, artistic and amusing, from and concerning Voltaire, Alfred de Musset, Gambetta, and many others being given. The lecture was followed by Molière's *Le Misanthrope*, in which the rôle of Alceste revealed M. Silvain's elocutionary talents to the full. Madame Silvain was the Célimène, and Arsinoé and Philinte were played by Mdlle. Marbeau and M. Fenoux respectively.

Alfred Capus' *La Petite Fonctionnaire* formed the attraction on the 1st inst., and gave Londoners an opportunity of seeing a delightful young comedienne in the person of Mdlle. Thomassin, who acted Suzanne, a country postmistress who plays havoc with the hearts of the youth of the locality, with delicious charm and ingenuousness. M. Galipaux acted with rare humour as a Vicomte who succeeds in winning the village beauty's affections; M. Paulet submitted a clever sketch of the postmistress's elder admirer; and the remaining parts were excellently cast.

Farce held the boards on Monday last, on which occasion was produced *Un Conseil Judiciaire*, the witty piece by MM. Jules Moinaux and Alexandre Bisson, in which a hen-pecked husband is led into all sorts of misadventures by a young lady of whom he has been appointed legal guardian. M. Galipaux was deliciously droll as the down-trodden Benedick, and Pauline, the ward of the Civil Court, was charmingly delineated by Mdlle. Thomassin.

A SPECIAL meeting of Swansea County Council was held on the 31st ult., under the presidency of the Mayor (Mr. Gwilym Morgan), for the purpose of considering an application by Mr. E. Oswald Brooks, manager of the Grand Theatre, for a licence for the performance of stage plays. The Town Clerk read the notice of an order of the High Court, dated Dec. 20, directing the Council to hear and determine the application. The Mayor reminded those present that they were sitting as a judicial authority, and he hoped they would refrain from making any remarks with reference to the licence or comparing it with any other.

ALDERMAN PROTHEROE moved that an unrestricted licence be granted, and Dr. Latimer seconded. Mr. Tutton moved an amendment that a restricted licence be granted, and Mr. Devonald seconded. Upon a vote being taken, 14 voted for Mr. Tutton's amendment and 14 against. The Mayor gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment, which means that the theatre has only a restricted licence.

THE Corporation's treatment of Mr. Brooks and the Grand Theatre is regarded by the Swansea townfolk as a specimen of tyranny and folly deserving the contempt of everybody. No fault has been found with the conduct of the house, and the objectors to the licence are not the temperance party as a whole, but a few extremists who, probably, never visit a theatre more than once in a blue moon.

"HER WILD OATS," a novel by John Bickerdyke, has been dramatised by the author and Mr. W. Gavazzi King, and is to be performed at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford, on Wednesday, the 21st inst. The author is taking a leading part in the play, and is supported by Mrs. William Greet, Miss Muriel Goodwin, and several amateurs. The performance will begin at six o'clock.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Marie Lloyd will celebrate her birthday on Monday at Granville Lodge, South Hampstead, and hundreds of our readers will be wishing the popular queen of comediennes many happy returns of the day. An immense amount of curiosity is displayed by the public concerning Marie's age. All we have to say on the question is that she is looking wonderfully young, and that she was never more fascinating personally or more artistically attractive than at the present moment. With a thousand others we send her our heartiest good wishes.

Miss Ada Reeve and Mr. John E. Coyle (who has just finished a successful engagement in pantomime at the Camden Theatre) are to be the stars at the opening of the new variety theatre at Johannesburg. This new and magnificent house will take the place in the "Hyman circuit" of the old Empire, the lease of which expires shortly.

A strong contingent of "Ye Brethren of the Eccentric Club" and a host of friends paid a visit to the Brixton Theatre on Thursday evening. In immaculate evening dress, and wearing the Club's colours, "scarlet and white" in flowers, the Eccentrics paid due homage to the talents of all the principals, with hooter, bell, and cheer. To Miss Kitty Dale, Miss Lily Gris, Miss Molly McIntyre, Miss Ellaline Thorne, and others they presented beautiful floral tributes, while in the final scene every member of the company smilingly acknowledged the shower of flowers, chocolates, and toys that were thrown on the stage.

Among the many present, we recognised Messrs. R. Warner, G. Manners, J. Frier, C. Wyatt, S. Clifford, W. H. White, W. Smith, C. Fyrer, S. Spira, G. Moore, R. Cleave, C. Boyle, F. Callaghan, J. Cohn, T. Jackson, Lionel Brough, Cubitt Cooke, C. Lacell, A. Mackay, E. Lockwood, M. Cohen, A. Cleave, S. Leftwich, and Commander Newman, R.N.

The Battersea Empire is announced for sale on Feb. 26. The house was originally built as the Washington in 1886 by "Pony" Moore, then part proprietor of the Moore and Burgess Minstrels. Since those days the auditorium has been much altered and improved. The house has recently been run on the two houses a night plan.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. William Holland, widow of the famous people's caterer, Bill Holland, a former proprietor of the Royal Music Hall, the Canterbury, the Surrey Theatre, and North Woolwich Gardens. Mrs. Holland died at Blackpool, where her late husband was for ten years the manager of the Winter Gardens. Mr. Louis Holland, who was for some time manager at the Morecambe Winter Gardens, is the deceased lady's son.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Alhambra Company, Ltd., was held at the Alhambra Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 1, the chairman of the company presiding, when the directors' report and balance-sheet and a dividend of 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. per share, were unanimously approved and adopted.

At the Alhambra (where *Parisiana*, full of delightful measures, and bearing every petal of its first-night popularity, more than sustains the prestige of the Home of Ballet) an important new turn will be listed on Monday next. Signor Urbini and his youthful son will perform a new series of amazing acrobatic and equilibristic feats, which will even add fresh features to the achievements deemed possible to agile man. During months of assiduous training on the Continent, the Urbinis have developed many startling exploits—the boy being especially remarkable for his abnormal flexibility and agility. On the same evening, the Five Whiteleys will return to the Alhambra and the narrow path of the tight wire.

Mr. Arthur Conquest, the popular Drury-lane cat, makes a tour of the auditorium every day and evening on the ledge of the grand circle tier and comes back to the stage very often with money and sweets rattling inside his mask. These are shared among the juveniles of the theatre. Always at some part of this journey he makes a feint of falling off the ledge into the grand circle, and one night by the merest chance escaped crushing a silk hat that was resting on the floor at the point where he pretended to fall. He first practised the feat of climbing round the circle at his father's theatre, the Surrey, seven years ago, and fell there on two occasions. At Drury-lane the children in the audience make it a warm job by patting his head and back and pulling his paws and tail, and the ladies are sometimes as demonstrative as the children, calling him all sorts of endearing names.

The Committee of the George Le Brunn Testimonial Fund met at the Oxford on Monday, and, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Albert Gilmer, voted Miss Marie Lloyd to the chair. Mr. Blyth Pratt reported as to the money taken at the door at the matinée on Jan. 22, and sales of programmes, &c., showing, after deduction of all unavoidable expenses, a surplus of £302 16s. 6d. This handsome result, added to subscriptions to the fund, brings about a grand total of nearly £700. £200 of this it was decided to set aside for the mother of the deceased, the balance to be allotted to the widow. Two trustees—Miss Marie Lloyd and Mr. David Day—were appointed to pay out all moneys, as they in their discretion judged best. Votes of thanks to all helpers in the good cause were unanimously passed, including special ones to the directors of the Oxford and to the Editor of *The Era*.

Arrangements have now been completed by Mr. Philip Yorke for the visit to London of the famous band of the Garde Républicaine of Paris. Many obstacles had to be overcome before the necessary arrangements could be made to obtain from the Minister of Foreign Affairs the permission to allow these celebrated musicians to leave Paris, as their services are constantly in demand, and thanks are due to Earl de Grey and the French Ambassador in London for the assistance they rendered in obtaining the grant. The twenty promenade concerts, originally fixed for Feb. 10, but postponed on account of the death of the King of Denmark, will commence on Saturday evening, Feb. 17, and will be given at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. The net proceeds will be devoted to the Queen's Fund for the Unemployed, the French charities in London, and the Hilda Disaster Fund.

The Stavordale Quintette will appear at the New Bedford next week through the kindness of Mr. G. Adney Payne.

Jem Mace and company are appearing this week at the Walthamstow Palace in the sketch entitled *Past and Present*. The scene is a gymnasium, and the veteran fighter, his breast covered with medals, enters to the tune of "See, the conquering hero comes." The next arrival is Tony Wilson (who defeated J. L. Sullivan in America), and three scientific rounds in the old style were given, to the great delight of the audience. The instructor (Jem Mace's son) then introduces two of his pupils, Harry Chamberlain and George Moore, who give a rattling display of the present style of boxing, at the conclusion of which a beautiful plush curtain is suddenly drawn aside, and some of Jem's most valuable trophies are revealed and illuminated by the electric and lime lights, the whole surmounted by the picture of Mace's challenge to Sayers and Heenan.

Mr. Fred. W. Warden asks us to explain that while the Palace Theatre, Belfast, is now being booked in arrangement with Mr. Walter de Frece, and in conjunction with the Palace, Manchester, and other halls, it is still being run by Warden, Ltd., who are, as heretofore, entirely responsible, financially and otherwise.

By some of the Dublin and cross-Channel newspapers the disturbance at the Belfast Palace on Friday night, the 2nd inst., has been exaggerated into a complete "wrecking" of the theatre. This was only in keeping with the traditional methods of tinting Belfast happenings for Dublin and cross-Channel consumption. The rowdyism of a few drunken youths was represented as a "characteristic Belfast riot"; by some of the journals it was invested with a political significance—an aftermath of the election. The interior of the Palace was described as "completely wrecked," "reduced to ruin," and so on.

As a fact the large audience at Saturday's matinée had to look carefully around in order to detect any trace of this "wrecking," or of the demolition which was said to have marked the wild charge of the galleryites on to the stage. It was only the top row of electric lamps which had been smashed by the rowdy "gods," and we are informed, on the authority of Mr. Leslie, the manager, that £10 or £15 would cover the entire damage.

There was no repetition at either the matinée or evening performance on Saturday of the disorderly conduct, and there was never at any time a feeling against the management of the Palace. Ahrensmeyer, the cowboy hypnotist, had a good reception at both performances, the houses were the largest of the week, and everything went smoothly and pleasantly. The whole trouble was caused by the presence in the gallery on Friday night of a few young blackguards, more or less intoxicated. It is bad enough that disturbance should have occurred, but it is worse to find the incident so unwarrantably exaggerated.

At the sailing of the R.M.S. Ivernia from the Liverpool landing-stage on Saturday, a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen of the variety stage gathered together to give a hearty send-off and wish God-speed to the Harmony Four, who are sailing by the above liner to Boston to fulfil an eight weeks' engagement on Keith's Circuit. Among the large number present were:—Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Miss Maud C. Dupre (Seymour and Dupre), Mr. Sam Potter, Miss Ethel Ra Leslie, Miss Lilian Leslie, Frobel and Rouge, Jack May, Caron and Herbert, the Five Olracs, Mr. G. Ray Moesley, the Three Merrills, Bert High, James Brady (Brady and Johnson), Mr. G. Humphries, and Harry Graham.

We regret to record the death, at the age of seventy-seven, of Miss Ann Mullett, which occurred at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, early on Monday morning, after a short illness. The deceased lady, who was well-known in Margate, was a sister of the late Mrs. William Sanger, and aunt of Mr. James Mullett (of the Amphitheatre, Ramsgate) and of Mr. E. Mullett (of the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate). Her generous and kindly nature endeared her to all with whom she came into contact, and her end will be mourned by the many who, through her demise, have lost a faithful friend. The funeral took place on Friday afternoon at the Margate Cemetery.

It has been erroneously stated in the newspapers that the late Mr. Stanley Spencer made the trip in the Barton airship from the Alexandra Palace grounds on Saturday, July 22, 1905. It was his youngest brother, Henry Spencer, whose sister, by the way, Auguste Gaudron married. It was correctly stated in our issue of July 29, 1905.

In consequence of the great attraction of Leoni Clarke's cat show at the Palace of Varieties, Northampton, last week, the proprietor and manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson, gave a matinée performance last Saturday, when the house was packed from floor to ceiling.

At the Hippodrome, Maidstone, on Tuesday, while Kisbey, the "call boy," was doing his turn, one of Captain Woodward's sea lions escaped from its cage and waddled on to the stage. The performer mentioned, in the course of his entertainment, has to say: "The first turn has not arrived." Observing that the adventurous "phocian" was making "tracks" towards him he immediately added: "I beg your pardon; here is the *first turn*; better late than never." Kisbey then offered to fit a pair of red trousers on the animal, which was speedily secured by one of the attendants.

Mr. Wal Croft was presented, at the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, on Wednesday night, with a handsome solid silver cigar and cigarette box by Mr. Montefiore on behalf of the directors of the theatre. Amongst numerous other presents he values very highly a beautiful silver-mounted stick from the "boys" of the company.

Mr. Harry Nation has appointed as his Lancashire representative Mr. J. Ritson, whom he has known for many years. By a singular coincidence Mr. Nation's first client was Miss Hettie Lee, to whom he is engaged. On Monday, through the unexpected closing of the Bijou, Hull, she was secured for the Palace, Blackpool.

During the excavations for laying the foundations of the new Palace-by-the-Sea at Clacton, some excellent specimens of Roman pottery have been found. An artistically moulded vase has been dug out intact and in a perfect state of preservation. It contained a few small bones. Another vase, somewhat larger, and also containing bones, crumbled to dust on being exposed to the air.

The Hippodrome, Mansfield, which Mr. J. Morrella has recently had built, has now been endowed with a full dramatic licence. The proprietor has been highly complimented by the local council on the completeness and elegance of the new building.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Rosina Aytoun Atkinson, wife of Mr. George Aytoun, the well-known agent, who passed away at Liverpool on the 24th ult. The deceased lady, who was well known in professional circles as Miss Rosina Sipple, was a sister of Miss Agnes Hazel, the popular burlesque artist.

Some months ago Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, the lessee of the Derby Palace of Varieties and proprietor of the Derby Grand Theatre, was awarded £60 damages against the well-known and popular music-hall artist, Mr. Tom Leamore, for breach of contract. Since that time the defendant had filed his petition, but afterwards Mr. R. S. Clifford (Mr. Edwardes's solicitor) had served a subpœna upon him, with 25s. conduct money, to answer certain questions in the Derby County Court, and he should have appeared there a fortnight ago. This he failed to do, and Mr. Clifford asked his Honour to fine him. His Honour accordingly fined him 40s. for contempt of Court, which sum was to be paid within 14 days. Mr. Clifford now informed the learned judge that the money had not been paid, nor had defendant put in any appearance. He now asked the judge to commit him to prison. His Honour accordingly committed Mr. Leamore to prison for ten days in default of payment of the 40s. fine for contempt of Court.

Our readers will learn with sincere regret that Miss Peggy Pryde, who was to have appeared at New Cross Empire next week, is laid up with appendicitis.

Miss Millie Legarde will make her appearance at the Palace on Monday in a new song, entitled "Won't you come and spoon by me?" It is of the "Sammy" order, and in its rendering the popular actress will have the assistance of a fascinating chorus of girls. Mr. Alfred Butt has secured the London rights of the song, which should be a great success. Mr. Butt announces that a new musical pot-pourri is being prepared on an elaborate scale for production at the Palace Theatre in the course of a few weeks.

Miss Lottie Collins writes to say that she played at every performance of the pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, except at a matinée and evening representation one Thursday, when she was unable to appear in consequence of temporary loss of voice.

Miss Margaret Ashton has this week completed her provincial tour, which has proved in every way a great success for the charming American soprano, who will enjoy a week's rest after the somewhat exhausting strain which a winter provincial tour necessarily entails upon those even most accustomed to the vagaries of the British climate. Miss Ashton will begin her engagement at the Metropolitan the week after next.

Mr. Horace Marriott has received the sum of £3 8s., collected by Miss Jessie Preston at the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, for the Music Hall Benevolent Fund. The sums subscribed are as follows:—Jessie Preston, £1 1s.; E. Edmunds, £1 1s.; Three Prestons, 10s. 6d.; J. Carlin, 5s. 6d.; Blanch Albert, 2s. 6d.; Lillie Lassah, 2s. 6d.; Vinnie Edmunds, 2s. 6d.; and J. Flood, 2s. 6d. The president and committee of the fund beg to thank the ladies and gentlemen who have contributed.

The *Jewish Chronicle* announces that the naturalisation as a British subject of Mr. Eugen Sandow, the celebrated athlete and author, has been registered in the Home Office.

Lady Mansel, who is touring successfully with her juveniles in *A Concert Rehearsal*, is Ada Alice, widow of the tenth baronet, Sir Richard Mansel, who died in 1892. For some years she has interested herself in the training of children for the stage, and of her former pupils several hold prominent positions in the profession. In her earlier career on the variety stage Lady Mansel was known as Lily Ernest.

Mrs. M. Barrasford is emphasising her contention that there are a large number of clever artists in the provinces who have not yet had an opportunity of obtaining due notice from London audiences. The programme next week at the Lyceum contains the name of three "turns" which are quite new to the metropolis. The Three Arcadians will give a new singing and dancing entertainment, and Hereb, quite a new magician, will submit a conjuring item. Another "turn" that is new to London is the J. Reynolds Minstrel Quartette, and Dusty Rhodes, a comedian with new methods and a good tenor voice, is also included in the programme. Miss Dinah Morris and company will present an entirely new serio comedietta, entitled *The Lost Coon*. This sketch will contain a tabloid story of coon life intermingled with some brightly written songs and pretty dances.

The refined and amusing sketch written by Mr. Frank Dix, entitled *The Lady in Red*, and played by Mr. Tom Craven and company, has been well received at the Empire, Bristol, this week. The plot is neatly worked out, and the farce is brightly humorous throughout. There are only four characters—those of William Johnson, his wife, his sister-in-law, and his servant. The last-mentioned part is comically played by Mr. Tom Craven; Mr. P. Roxborough is droll as the suspected husband; Miss Rosetta McLaren scores as the indignant wife; and Miss Marie Shields, as Cora, the lady in red, plays the part with excellent effect. The sketch has no trace of vulgarity or suggestiveness, and wins instant favour by reason of its genuine freshness and originality.

Mr. Hugh Astley presided on Thursday at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the London Pavilion. The report recommended a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The Chairman looked forward to the opening of the tube railway station opposite the Pavilion on March 1 in the hope that a great many people would come to their entertainment by it and go home by it. The London Pavilion did not stand alone in being affected by the depression which had existed, and which, he was told, was wearing off. The building was in first-rate order, and it was now worth a good deal more money than it was twenty years ago. Mr. Turner moved the adjournment of the meeting for a month, but withdrew his motion, and the report was adopted.

Oakdene, a new ventriloquist, makes his first appearance in London on Monday at the Camberwell Palace with an act that he has very appropriately named *The Stowaways*. The scene represents a ship lying in dock with portholes, through which various figures appear, and work in conjunction with other figures in front. Comedy is in the ascendant throughout the act, which winds up with a patriotic finale.

Mr. Fred Karno's latest sketch, *The Thirsty First*, which we noticed on its production at the Star, Bermondsey, is the leading item in the Canterbury programme this week. Opening with a scene in a public-house, the new production is full of rollicking business and excellent fooling, that elicit loud and appreciative applause from Canterburyites. The comedians, although they have not a single word to utter, work very hard, and are rewarded by undeniable success.

Muir and Bartlett, who were unexpectedly vacant on Jan. 22, through the Royal, Holborn, not being completed, were immediately secured by Mr. Frank Allen for the Richmond Theatre, and also by Mr. Wilkes for the Manchester Tivoli. This week (to oblige Mr. Barrasford) they, as late as Monday last, agreed to postpone their Leeds booking and take a holiday. Fate, in the persons of Messrs. Rosen and Bliss, intervened, however, and on Monday they will be seen in their tabloid comedy *The Collar Stud* at the Palace, Sunderland.

The new sketch at the Chelsea Palace, *Angling for an Heiress*, has proved a decided "hit." Written by F. Faby, and well played by Messrs. Gus Danby, Harry Barford, and Miss Nellie Welling, it deals in most laughable fashion with the wiles of a rascally attorney's clerk to obtain the hand of a romantic coster girl, who, all unknown to herself, is a fortunate legatee.

Mr. Fred Earle, who has achieved the most phenominal hit of recent years as a comic singer, has established a record for Francis, Day, and Hunter, no less than 13,150 copies of the now famous "Seaweed" song having been sold in four days, notwithstanding the fact that "The Pirates" had the song in print six hours after publication. This, by the way, is another, if less pleasant, record. Francis and Day have also secured Mr. Earle's latest successes, "A Saucy Maid," "I never saw a saw, like that saw, saws!" and "I looked out of the window."

The directors of the Palace Theatre, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., payable on the 20th inst.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Jennie Benson (the mother of the late Marguerite Fish, of Fish and Warren), the well-known American clog dancer, who passed away on Thursday, the 1st inst. The remains of the deceased lady were interred, in accordance with her dying wish, in Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting, on Monday, in the private grave in which her daughter lies. The funeral was conducted by Mr. Theophilus Dunkley.

"The Punch and Judy Girl," the scena by Newman Harding, will go into the bill at the Tivoli and the Canterbury on Monday. Mr. C. St. John Denton and George Rowland have booked most of the principal halls in consequence of the success of a trial show given at the Canterbury last July.

Those two fine vocalists, Brown and Robinson, are to be congratulated inasmuch as they have, we believe, established a record in having booked two consecutive tours with Mr. Oswald Stoll. On finishing at Manchester on Jan. 27, Mr. Stoll immediately re-engaged them to start the tour again the following week at Hackney with their new act, *The Two Cavaliers*.

Miss Elsa Joel, having terminated a successful two weeks at the Metropolitan, has been re-engaged by Mr. Walter Gibbons for his various halls during 1905-7.

The report of the Metropolitan directors, to be submitted to the shareholders at the seventh annual meeting to be held at the registered offices of the company, 1, Durham House-street, Strand (adjoining the Tivoli), on Tuesday next, at half-past two p.m., states that the net profit earned for the twelve months ended Dec. 31, 1905, after providing for interest on the mortgage debentures, amounts, with the balance brought forward, to the sum of £5,100 9s. 5d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of £6 per cent. for the year, and that the sum of £2,400 1s. be carried to the current year's accounts. The general reserve fund amounts, it should be stated, to £12,000, partly invested in Consols and in freehold property adjoining the Metropolitan. Mr. G. Adney Payne is the retiring director, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Mr. Will Murray, manager of the Palace Theatre, Blackburn, is shortly expected back to business. He was ordered away through his recent accident at Blackpool, whilst playing in a comedy football match for some charitable institution.

The report for Moss' Empires for the past year states that the balance at credit of profit and loss account, including the amount brought forward, was £59,275. The directors recommend a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, making 5 per cent. for the year, against 10 per cent. for 1904, and leaving £8,904 to be carried forward. The profits from theatres, rents, &c., for the year amounted to £108,766, against £101,365 in 1904. That trade was improving was shown, the report states, by the fact that improvement on the previous year's accounts took place mainly in the last quarter of the year. The business at the Liverpool Olympia and the Glasgow Coliseum, opened respectively in April and December last, was, it is stated, highly satisfactory. From the interest acquired in the Scottish Zoo and Hippodrome the directors anticipate good results.

With the view of placing the capital account upon a permanent and more satisfactory footing they intend as soon as practicable to issue debentures, and out of the proceeds to pay off a large overdraft from the bankers. While expressing regret that the dividend for the year should be the lowest the company has ever paid the directors state that they regard the future of the company with every confidence.

Miss Nellie Burdette was the recipient of the magnificent diamond ring, the fourth of a series of rings presented by *Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*, won by her in open competition as one of the most popular pantomime artists in the United Kingdom. The presentation was made on the stage of the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, on the 2nd inst., before a crowded audience, during the performance of the pantomime, by "Ally Sloper, F.O.M., Fleet-street, London," in person. These agreeable functions are becoming more and more popular in the theatres where pantomimes are being played, the announcement that the genial humourist will appear on the stage always attracting overflowing houses.

The usual monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held on Wednesday next at the York Hotel, Lambeth, at 2 p.m., when the Secretary will be in a position to report a further increase in the membership of the society.

Mlle. Mauricia de Thiers, the "Circle of Death" motor-car rider, from the Folies-Bergère, Paris, met with a terrible accident while performing in the Coliseum Circus at Lisbon on Tuesday. The circus was crowded with 4,000 spectators. The Duke of Oporto was among them, and a large proportion of the audience consisted of women. As Mlle. Mauricia prepared to make her descent there was breathless silence. Then the car made its terrific swoop towards the circle, and as it rose to loop the intervening space left the track, and fell with a crash into the arena. It is stated that almost every bone in the woman's body is broken, and that there is no hope of her recovery.

The Secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £1 2s. from Mr. Alex. Galley, acting manager of the Empire Palace, Leeds, collected by him in his pence box during the last month. The president and committee offer him their best thanks for his kind efforts on behalf of the fund, which is in great need.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, 1½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; Empire (10s. paid), 1½; London Pavilion Ord., 4½; ditto Pref., 5; London Coliseum, 2; Lyceum Ord., 9d.; Lyceum Pref., 1s.; Metropolitan, 3; Moss Empire, 4; ditto Pref., 3½; Oxford, 6¾; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5; and Variety Consolidated Theatres, 13s.

Under a receiving order made against Humphrey Ellis Brammall, music hall and theatrical manager, of Anerley Park, Anerley, the first meeting of creditors was held on Tuesday. Debtor had a contract to run the pantomime *Dick Whittington* at the Crystal Palace for six weeks from about Dec. 23 last, the terms being that he should receive the first £500 of the takings weekly and 25 per cent. of anything beyond, the company guaranteeing that his share should not fall below £250 a week. After Jan. 23, however, the pantomime was run by the Crystal Palace Company, he (the debtor) being engaged as manager. The chairman reported that the statement of affairs had not yet been lodged, but the debtor estimated his liabilities at under £1,000. The assets appeared to consist chiefly of the contract with the Crystal Palace Company, on which some balance might be due to the debtor's estate. He had also had a contract with the Southend Kursaal (Limited) to produce certain variety entertainments at Whitsuntide. The matter remained in the hands of the Official Receiver as trustee.

The meeting of the International Artists' Lodge took place at the Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, on Sunday. The chairman being elected, the meeting opened at 6 p.m. There were seventeen members and four guests present. The letter sent to the English music-hall papers was read and approved of by the meeting. One of the paper's comments on this letter still contained some misstatements, and the meeting agreed to the sending of a short note pointing out the errors. The list of applications to the lodge was then read, and members were reminded that if they had any objections to the admittance of any applicant to the lodge they should give reasons for their objection in writing to the executive committee, and not merely by word of mouth or to private members.

A brother brought up the subject of artists playing in finales, and wished to point out to artists that this meant sometimes almost another performance. It was pointed out to the brother that this clause with reference to the finale was a legacy from the theatres, and had somehow slipped into music-hall agreements. If the artists signed a contract with such a clause the manager had the right to enforce its fulfilment.

A guest was granted permission to speak. He doubted whether the lodge would be able to make any impression or correct the prevalent abuses. The chairman told him that if he had a more intimate knowledge of what had actually been done he would not be in any doubt, and gave a few well-known instances of good effected by the lodge. The guest quoted the failure of the White Rats of America as indicating the impossibility of any permanent results. By dint of questioning carefully all the Americans present, the real reasons for the failure of the society mentioned was elicited. The White Rats had succeeded in as far as their demands were legitimate. The managers of America had combined and formed the Association of Vaudeville Managers. They had made unjust demands on the artists. The latter combined against these demands and won. But proper judgment had not been exercised, and in their turn the White Rats made unjust demands on the managers. Then they failed, and were broken. The White Rats had, in their fear of breaking, called in smaller acts without sufficient guarantee, and without making them pay an entrance fee. These, having risked nothing, held the association lightly, and were no support.

The chairman pointed out that these were the dangers that the I.A.L. had to avoid. They had to remember to be just in their demands, and never to tyrannise in their turn. He thought that having such lessons before them they would not commit these mistakes. A brother again brought up the question of lowering the salary limit which is demanded by the lodge. The meeting was in agreement with the brother over this question. But he also advocated the lowering of the entrance fee, and this was thoroughly opposed by some members. The chairman pointed out that artists cannot expect to enter into all the advantages of a capital of £6000 for nothing, and that what people gained cheaply they would hold cheaply. There were very few artists that could not afford 25s. entrance fee.

Mr. Walter Adams's services have been again secured by Messrs. Little and Darcy for next season. After a week's rest he returns to the halls, opening at Middlesbrough on Feb. 19.

Dr. Walford Bodie makes an offer in a Liverpool journal to endow in London a hospital for so-called incurables with £1000, and to give his services gratis for six months every year as a specialist. The doctor does not think it would be difficult to obtain the services of properly-qualified medical men, with whose functions he would not interfere. It would require probably £100,000 for the whole work.

Miss Lillie Monckton (of the Monckton), who is playing principal boy in *Cinderella* pantomime, has been kindly released by Mr. Herbert Barrs in consequence of having to fulfil previous contracts with her own successful musical comedy acts on the principal variety halls.

The Steinway Quartette, who are making their first appearance at the Alhambra this week, have met with a most cordial reception, their excellent singing and high-class comedy winning for these smart artists general praise.

Miss Esta Stella, who is playing the part of principal girl in the pantomime at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, was on Monday evening the recipient of a handsome turquoise and pearl bracelet.

Mr. Harry Carmen, the Widow Twankey and stage-manager, and Miss Daisy Lane (Mrs. Carmen), the principal girl, of Mr. E. C. Jazon's record *Aladdin* company, playing at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, were the recipients on Wednesday of a magnificent marble clock as a mark of respect from Mr. E. C. Jazon and the members of the company, it being the sixth anniversary of their wedding.

Miss Daisy Dormer, the daintiest of coon singers, now playing principal girl at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, will shortly open at the Palace Theatre, London. Miss Dormer, who is the original singer of "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," had a pretty compliment paid her last Saturday night after her rendering of the above song. The conductor handed a floral tribute across the footlights to her, in the shape of a "wooden hut" surrounded by beautiful flowers, from a few admirers.

Mr. Harry Burns, the well-known agent, has purchased two big pantomime productions, which he will tour next year, and will also produce a pantomime twice nightly for the halls.

Mr. Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford have been engaged by Mr. Barrasford for the Lyceum, London, with their smart comedy duologue *Getting Even*.

Mr. J. F. Lambe has been commissioned by Miss Jessie Preston to write a song-scena, having for its subject the life of the poet Robbie Burns. Miss Preston will appear as the Scottish Bard, and the scena will be produced with special scenery and effects at a leading West-End hall in the near future.

Mr. W. J. Williams (Williams and Brown) will shortly after Easter work in conjunction with a new partner, namely, Mr. T. W. Warner, an Irish-American comedian and dancer of merit. They will appear in London in a smart comedy act.

Mr. Bob White, professionally known as Bob Merrie, a member of Harry Reynolds's Minstrel Quintet, is a native of Glasgow, and while resident there held the sculling championship of the River Clyde for five years. He is also the proud possessor of the Royal Humane Society's parchment and medal for saving life from drowning in the River Severn at the Quarry, Shrewsbury. Recently, on his first appearance in his native city after an absence of twelve years, Mr. White was presented at the Palace, Glasgow, with a silver-mounted walking-stick, beautifully decorated, and bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Bob White, laughing comedian, as a token of esteem and respect by his old Glasgow College chums."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE TIVOLI.

The genuine attractions of the Tivoli programme have been much increased during the last week by the clever musical turn of an Italian lady, Signorina Pia Corozzi, who is termed "la chanteuse à la harpe." A handsome brunette, with a superb figure, she plays the beautiful instrument with a command of technique and a depth of expression that enthral the Tivolians, who are always appreciative of musical ability. For her vocal selection la belle Corozzi chooses "The Angels' Serenade," the violin obbligato being played by a clever member of the orchestra. Unfortunately, on the evening of our visit harp and fiddle were not quite in accord, and the effect was not altogether as harmonious as it might have been. A very welcome return is made by Mr. Bart Shepard, who now accompanies himself at the piano, and tells stories—chestnuts for the most part, and shrivelled at that. Bart, however, has quite a way with him, and with just a few smart stories—American if he so wishes—he should do well. Mr. Will Evans is less funny than usual in his pantomime skit of *Robinson Crusoe*, which will probably become more whimsical with repetition. Miss Vesta Victoria repeats her success with her disappointed bride ditty, the chorus of which is eagerly caught up by the "gods." Mr. Charles Mildare has a capital reception in his entertaining series of imitations of the "feathered songsters of the grove," and Miss Maud Esmond gives plaintive expression to the popular song "Remember me to mother dear," which was the last composition that was written by the lamented George Le Brunn.

Price and Revost are labelled American eccentrics. Both of them are probably fine acrobats, but one only gives extraordinary proof of his ability in this respect in a series of flip-flaps and twisting somersaults. The other could probably do as much, but he prefers to get mixed up with the furniture, and keeps us laughing consumedly at his amusing awkwardness The show throughout is excellent, and has come to stay. Miss Julie Mackay's deep notes give dramatic effect to a "good-bye" song which will probably be more popular in a week or two, and Miss Mildred de Grey's exhibition of her pretty feet and ankles (bare) makes her terpsichorean essay interesting. The heartiest laughter is the reward of Mr. Arthur Roberts's exceedingly funny delineation of Fitzawful Smith in Mr. Harry Pleon's farcical intrigue *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife*, and an excellent sketch of character in the same amusing trifle is contributed by Miss Frances Kapstowne. Miss Ruby Celeste again scores by her impersonation of Kitty Blue, a burlesque actress, and Mr. George P. Polson and Miss Maud Marrjott fill their respective parts with great credit to themselves. Mr. Pleon's merry concoction goes with a roar, and well bears revival. Miss Marie Lloyd's turn, we need hardly state, is awaited with eagerness. With a merry twinkle in her eye she sings of the difference in the behaviour of a "village girl" in country and in town. Until we heard Miss Lloyd we had no idea that the atmosphere of Piccadilly had such an exhilarating effect upon a bucolic nature. "It's a thing of the past, old dear," is still Miss Lloyd's strongest card, and she is immensely popular in the clever character sketch. Little Tich has been at the Tivoli for several months, and his popularity seems to be as great as ever. His big boot dance is a remarkable speciality, which audiences at the Tivoli invariably demand, and see that they get it. Mr. Mike Whallen has the raciness and esprit which seem to be part and parcel of the Irish nature, and his anecdotes have a flavour and a freshness that are immensely enjoyed. Mr. Whallen has recently returned from his native America, and brings with him a budget—grave and gay—that completely sustains his reputation as an entertainer. Brown and Nevarro, American protean artists, complete the excellent entertainment that Mr. Joseph Wilson, the popular manager, presents. Mr. James Howell, the acting manager, and Mr. Louis de Reeder, musical director, are well placed.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

At this recently re-opened place of amusement has been produced this week a new musical sketch, entitled *A Day at the Seaside*, played by Hicks' Clerks. The people who are spending a few hours at a favourite seaside resort, the name of which is not mentioned, include a curate, a couple of damsels in short skirts, two young men, and some lads. The curate is a merry soul, who joins in the frolics of his juniors with much zest and energy. Two of the boys have a game of cricket, quarrel over it, and are about to settle the dispute by a fistic encounter when they are separated by one of their seniors who, having got rid of the quarrelsome youths, takes advantage of the opportunity to sing a robust ballad, which has a distinctly patriotic flavour. The happy party having taking their seats at a table, the curate proceeds to unpack a bag containing various eatables. On his cutting open a meat-pie the company are horrified by the appearance of a weird-looking creature, which quickly vanishes underneath the table; and there is more consternation when a huge spider makes its appearance, and the curate boldly shoots the creature with a pop-gun. Mention should also be made of a comical quadruped that takes part in the festive proceedings, and is a near relative of the famous Blondin donkey. This animal, in addition to other eccentric proceedings, indulges in a dance. One of the lads sings "There's another one coming along"; and the sketch is brightened with other songs and dances. Towards the end the stage is darkened, and the pretty scene is effectively illuminated by electric lights.

Later in the programme the new pantomime absurdity, entitled *Moving In*, is played by Mr. Herbert Darnley and company. This is a lively, bustling piece, in which the ways and customs of furniture removers are comically burlesqued. Those with vivid recollections of the personal inconvenience and annoyances attendant upon the removal of one's household goods are able to laugh, perhaps, more heartily than anybody else at the destructive work of the men who arrive with the pantechnican van, and who literally throw the goods into the house. Complications are introduced by the presence of a couple of cheeky children, who add considerably to the confusion and disorder which prevail. Finally the search for an escape of gas with a lighted candle leads to an explosion and the wreck of the house, an effective finale to an exceedingly lively production.

Amongst the single turns is Cruikshanks, the musical clown and entertainer, whose patter is highly amusing. He can also strike the pathetic note, for he sings a ballad in excellent style. Percival distinguishes himself as a pianist, giving some clever imitations on that instrument. He plays it seated with his back to the keyboard; and his execution of the music of Mr. Chirgwin's well-known song, "The Blind Boy," is a brilliant piece of work. The Leonards (Bob and Jenny), in their duets and dances, display all their usual vivacity and spirit. Mr. Will English, appearing as a deputy on Monday evening, gave imitations of various kinds of walks; Miss Millie Howell scores as a vocalist; and the Four Balsamos do well with their comedy bar act. The New York Quartette of vocalists and dancers are amongst the artists engaged, the list also including Bert Lytton, swell comique; Charles Norton, mimic; and Charles Austin, a favourite comedian. The story of the wonderful hen that laid the golden eggs is graphically told by a series of Imperial Bioscope pictures. Mr. Eustace Jay is the manager here, and Mr. Claude E. Marner the acting-manager.

At Thursday's matinée Miss Grace Hawthorne and company appeared in a scena from *La Dame aux Camélias*.

THE MIDDLESEX.

From the popular favour which is given to comedy juggling, it might almost seem that the old-fashioned style of legitimate juggling had become, as Miss Marie Lloyd would say, "a thing of the past, old dear." Welda and Wynne have been voted extremely funny at the Middlesex this week. One of the gentlemen makes his appearance in as quaint a make-up as one could imagine. He assumes a ludicrously sorrowful countenance, looks "washed out," and, as if to give colour to his mournful aspect, a few geraniums are tied to his frontal locks. His partner juggles with an umbrella as well as with wooden bottles and other articles; while the other indulges in a variety of amusing antics. The turn is a very smart one. Miss Mabelle May, who is described as a terpsichorean expert, appears in a pretty, brown-tinted dress, and dances in spirited fashion. The Four Figaros submit an admirable little act, entitled *Ten Minutes on the Continent*, in which one gets an idea of the singing and dancing of different nationalities. Mr. George Victor is heard to advantage in serious songs "Tell me the way to London" is the theme of a few verses he renders in most pathetic strain. A boy in the country hears that his father is dying in London, and he determines to walk to the great city. Asking the way, someone who learns his story advances him the money for his railway fare. The Sivronis make and get merriment with their clever burlesque act. The gentleman is an exceedingly comical individual, and his sayings, movements, and gestures are fruitful in the creation of merriment. His lady companion joins him in the sport, and, in addition, sings snatches of popular songs. The Sisters Thurban distinguish themselves as instrumentalists, their drum and cornet playing affording evidence of considerable skill. Their vocalism, too, is good, as is also that of Dale and Vale, duettists and capable pedestal dancers.

Uproariously laughable are the doings of Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls and their company, in the sketch, *The Battle of the Belles*. There is a slight story, and there is dramatic interest in that story. One woman is jealous of another who gains the love of the man No. 1 considered her own sweetheart. It is not necessary to follow the whole course of events, but there is quite an exciting finish, although diverting incidents abound. The piece is capitally played from beginning to end. Two dainty ladies come along in the persons of the Sisters Albert, whose singing is as pretty as their dancing. Delightfully tuneful is their rendering of "My rainbow." Their second ditty is of the character business order. It concerns "John James Brown," and is sung in lively strain. Pueblo and Black, a lady and gentleman, the latter with a black face, appear to advantage in a speciality turn, consisting of neat patter and entertaining songs. Miss Ray Royal is a charming and engaging comedienne, her singing and dancing being greatly admired. Francis and Alfred excel in a juggling exhibition, in which one witnesses daring feats, the more serious side of which is relieved by the sense of humour possessed by Francis and Alfred. A particularly venturesome individual is the gentleman who styles himself "Great Scott," otherwise known as the "Ladder King." Certainly he is a king of the ladder, for what other man would care to mount a ladder which was not resting against a wall, or against anything else, but had to be kept in a perpendicular position solely by his balancing powers? Yet this is done with singular success by Great Scott, and, what is more, he engages in a juggling act while resting on the top rung of the ladder.

Walter Wallis is a whimsical policeman, and it is in such a character that he introduces himself to the audience. "Give me your name and address" is the burden of his song, and the demand is appropriate enough to the class of official he is supposed to represent. There are some telling points in the verses he sings so divertingly. Worshippers at the shrine of feminine physical culture will find plenty to interest them in the doings of Atlas and Vulcana, two young ladies of the "strong woman" type, who perform all manner of exercises with heavy bar-bells. Miss Vulcana's poses are remarkable for their classical effect and gracefulness. If there are any ladies who imagine that Woman's Suffrage is an impossibility, let them go to the Middlesex and see Vulcana and Atlas, and emulate the example of these two artists. An attractive set of pictures is that presented by the New Bioscope, the scenes depicting the capture of a truant, the "great jewel robbery," and the divorce case being so clearly explanatory as to require no words to assist in describing the various incidents. Mr. Frederick Maxwell and company appear in the sensational sketch, *Dick Dare, M.P.* Mr. Maxwell presents an admirable study of the frank, manly, and vigorous Dick Dare, and he speaks his lines with expression and forcefulness. Mr. Sam Harcourt, as Lord Savage, capitally plays the part of an irascible English aristocrat. With subtlety and all the skill of an accomplished tragedienne, Miss Lois du Cane enacts the double rôle of the twin daughters of Sir Edward Evelyn. Mr. Charles Levey is sufficiently objectionable as the scheming and villainous Rafael Vallois; while Mr. Gerald Blake portrays with naturalness and pathos the character of the gamin organ-grinder, Antonio.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Mr. J. C. Coe, the enterprising proprietor of the popular Hammersmith Palace, is to be heartily congratulated on the latest improvement to his already palatial and now thoroughly-equipped variety theatre. On Monday evening was opened for the first time to the public the new and handsome entrance to the fauteuils and higher-priced parts of the house, and much admiration was expressed at the tastefully-decorated and spacious vestibule and corridor by which the élite may now get to their seats without the inconvenience formerly encountered. At the end of the passage is a luxuriously-appointed saloon and lounge for the patrons of the stalls and fauteuils—a retreat that was much needed, and is sure to be greatly appreciated. The carpets, curtains, &c., here and also in the corridor are, like the decorations throughout, in the best of taste. The cost of these important structural alterations—which are, of course, on the eastern side, and have necessitated the taking-in of adjoining premises—must have been considerable; but there can be little doubt that it is money well invested.

Although the patrons of the cheaper parts of the house had to be content with a glimpse at the improvements, they were able to share to the full the festival programme provided by Mr. Coe; and their welcome to the "star" of the evening, Miss Marie Lloyd, must have been very gratifying to her, accustomed as she is to hearty greetings. The inimitable comedienne's first selection was "The rustic little maiden," a ditty in which she amusingly describes the difference in the behaviour of a knowing young damsel when in town and in the country. For her next song Miss Lloyd chose "A thing of the past, old dear," a character impersonation in which she most effectually conceals her charming personality. Her portrait of the faded, gin-drinking female is but little, if at all, exaggerated, and the amusing dialogue compels shrieks of laughter from the audience, who recognise the truth of the character and the cleverness of the artist. So enthusiastic were they at the conclusion that Miss Lloyd obliged with a further selection, "She didn't want to tell him what she wanted," in which she sings of a certain absurdly prudish maiden who doesn't even like to ask the butcher for a leg of mutton. The gifted comedienne wore a couple of lovely gowns that were the envy of the ladies present, and at the conclusion of her most enjoyable turn was the recipient of a beautiful bouquet, handed her over the footlights.

Merriment was in the ascendant whilst Mr. Fred Russell and his funny little figure "Coster Joe" occupied the stage, the business over the photograph, and Joe's interruption during the recital by the ventriloquist of "The Last Waltz," being very laughter-provoking. Athas and Collins, a popular and clever duo, have an amusing trifle in *Four Bob*, in which Mr. Athas impersonated a professor of acting and his assistant, and his fair partner an aspirant for histrionic fame. Miss Collins sang pleasingly "I want to be in high society," and Mr. Athas contributed one of those neat and finished dances in which he excels, and the pair were loudly acclaimed for their joint efforts as laughter-providers. Mr. Herbert Shelley, the popular actor-vocalist, interested greatly with his well-rendered songs, "At the workhouse gate" and "The old sunny window," both numbers which appeal to a popular audience, and both of which were admirably rendered. The Phantos evoked laughter by their antics in *The Phantom Ship*, many ingenious devices being employed, and some smart acrobatism being introduced; and Mr. John E. Coyle was responsible for unrestrained hilarity during his renderings of "Wet Paint" and "Why didn't you come before?"—hilarity created more by the eccentricities of the singer than by any humour the numbers contained. His patter also was most laughable.

Miss Nancy St. John, a dainty and refined comedienne, warbled pleasingly "Does anyone want a girl?" the plaint of a lonely maiden who is anxious for a lover, be he prince or peasant. The J'Alvans, a couple of darkey jugglers, were responsible for a neat and skilful exhibition. The male of the duo is exceptionally clever in a pipe-balancing feat; and numerous other difficult acts were accomplished with apparent ease. The American Comedy Four harmonised agreeably and amused greatly, and flattering in the extreme was the reception accorded Miss Ray Wallace, an accomplished mimic who accompanies herself at the piano. In her gallery of celebrities perhaps her truest imitation was that of Miss Vesta Tilley singing "Following in father's footsteps"; but very life-like also was her reproduction of the vocalism of Miss Kate Carney, Miss Vesta Victoria, and Miss Victoria Monks, and her impressions of Miss Marie Lloyd, and Miss Connie Ediss in "Class," from *The Silver Slipper*, were also clever, and loudly applauded. An attractive interlude of song and dance was given by Mr. Walter George and his smart set of comedy entertainers, one of the ladies giving a much-appreciated rendering of "Go away, Mr. Crocodile"; and other successful items in the exceptionally strong programme were supplied by Miss Bessie Benson; the Karno Trio, in *The Travellers' Rest*; Mr. Alex Lukos; Mr. Harry Tate's *Motoring* company; and the Edisonograph, in all the latest pictures.

THE NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

Drummed Out has not yet been drummed out of the halls; in fact, this stirring military episode seems to gain in favour as it gains in years. This week, Mr. A. C. Lilly and his company are presenting the capital little drama at the New Cross Empire, and every incident in the piece is watched with keen appreciation by the audiences that have been assembling in their thousands at Mr. Stoll's south-eastern establishment. The attributes which combine to maintain the public interest in this sketch are several. Barrack life is correctly represented, and soldierly discipline is exhibited by those who, for the time being, don military uniforms. The story is too well known to require elaboration from the newspaper point of view at this time. Mr. Lilly is seen in his old part of the jealous, unscrupulous, and mean-spirited troop-sergeant-major who is kicked out of His Majesty's Army, and, as usual, he plays the part with all his old skill and dramatic ability. Mr. N. Watts-Phillips portrays the better qualities of Trooper Roberts with a fine sense of the requirements of the character; and Miss Louise Marlow wins one's sympathy for the very charming and pathetic study of Ethel Roberts. Miss Kitty Kirwan brings broad comedy to the fore in the rôle of Mrs. O'Flannagan; and little Miss Iva Howard acts the part of the Colonel's son with sweet childish sincerity. Admirably realistic, too, is Mr. W. G. Blunt's interpretation of the rôle of the commanding officer.

An effective spectacle is that which the Kellinos introduce to our notice. The act bears the title of *A Fête in Venice*, and the scene in the midst of which they perform is of quite a gorgeous order. They excel in the direction of somersaulting, jumping, and springing, and in many respects their acrobatics are of an astonishingly daring and novel kind. The younger members of the troupe, after executing somersaults in the air, are jerked backwards and forwards with wonderful precision upon the upturned feet of some of the other performers. It is a remarkable exhibition of smartness and agility. Highly commendable likewise is the turn of the Esdale Brothers, who, as comedians and speciality artists, have a stock of entertaining things to offer. They are indeed a lively couple, and their extraction of melodies from four ordinary glasses is a particularly praiseworthy effort. *Where's the Ghost?* is the name given to the act of the Sleedes, and the mysterious doings of these artists, as seen from a darkened background, are extremely interesting. There is much that is original and attractive in this act, which is cleverly worked throughout. Miss May Geraldine, a chic and dainty comedienne, delights the house with her coon singing and dancing, and it is not too much to say that she has made a decided hit this week at New Cross. She has an engaging style, which is simply irresistible, and her vocalism and movements are pleasing to a degree.

An agreeable diversion is caused by the Cape Girls. Upon their first appearance they tell us they are "Deutsche girls," and the song they sing in such exquisite fashion concerns the demoiselles who own allegiance to His Imperial Majesty, the German Emperor. Then they come on in sackcloth coverings and with a new complexion, the latter the result of the application of brown make-up. Flitting about the stage like ghostly visitants to this mundane sphere, they chant in mysterious, awestruck tones, "Hush! you coons." The melody is a very pretty one, and the ladies do full justice to it. The concluding feature of their performance is an amusing dance in long boots, of the most approved Little Tich size and description. Duncan's Scotch collies are amazingly intelligent creatures, and show to what wondrous heights patience and kindness can train the lower animals. The fire-extinguishing portion of their exhibition is an outstanding feature of the act. Kyoto creates a feeling of mysticism with his Japanese box, which contains a battalion of smaller boxes; but the mysticism is relieved by the quality of comedy which he imparts into his doings. His acrobatics are most praiseworthy.

CHELSEA PALACE.

Mr. Henri Gros's programme at the popular and palatial variety theatre in the King's-road, Chelsea, is of the usual excellent and well-varied description, no dull or second-rate turn finding a place therein. A prominent item is the romantic equestrian sketch *Turpin's Ride to York*, with, of course, the death of Bonnie Black Bess, for the representation of which Mr. Fred Ginnett and company and a number of well-trained equines are responsible. Indeed, in this admirably presented playlet the human actors take second place, the "pet" of the audience being undoubtedly the wonderfully intelligent and beautiful mare who impersonates the faithful Bess, her death scene being particularly impressive, and her "acting" throughout being simply perfection. The names of the human performers are not given in the programme, but all are admirable; and the representative of the bulky Westminster beadle and his equally "plump" son are responsible for the comedy relief of the sketch, Sammy being especially mirth-moving in his efforts to ride a bucking pony. The first scene, the John Falstaff at Kilburn, is a particularly animated and well-managed one; and the entire production is to be highly commended.

Early in the evening Mr. Steve Buckingham, a vocal comedian of decided promise, scored with an impersonation of a young sport who has had a good day at the races, his irresponsible mood being the outcome of "having backed a winner." The "patter" is humorous, and the laughing chorus naturally rendered by Mr. Buckingham, who should be gratified at the warmth of his reception. Bob Dare and Molly Mavern submitted a humorous duologue, *May and December*, in which a young wife who has married her aged partner for money gives the frivolous old gentleman a particularly warm five minutes because she suspects he has been flirting with some other damsel. Happiness is restored at the conclusion, and the couple join in a neat step-dance, which is loudly applauded. Miss Kitty Marion had the audience entirely with her in her rendering of "Same girl on Sunday, same girl on Monday," a catchy chorus song in which she tells of a jolly Jack Tar who, unlike the proverbial sailor who has a sweetheart at every port, is true to the little girl at home. "Poverty parts good company," Miss Marion's other selection, also pleased her auditors. Yet another comedy playlet was supplied by Fred Faby's company in *Angling for an Heiress*, in which a coster and his "donah" are almost on the point of "parting company" owing to the machinations of a smart young lawyer's clerk, who learns that the lady is an heiress and makes violent love to her. For a time she feels flattered at being courted by one of the "haristocracy"; but the honest affection for Bill prevails in the end, and the "swell" receives his congé and a good hiding into the bargain. The trio representing this humorous trifle worked very well together, and it was very favourably received.

A tuneful coon song and dance, "Letty," was contributed by Mr. Reddick Anderson, who had the assistance of a lady in his most attractive and enjoyable scena; and the Watsons submitted a popular vocal interlude, humour being supplied by the gentleman who impersonated the Jew, and the snatches of song of the trio being admirably rendered. Mr. Harry Freeman, a comedian who is able to extract laughter from his auditors without the aid of grotesque make-up or extravagant gestures and movements, was accorded a reception reserved for old favourites, and evoked approval for his two songs—"That's him!" and "Good job too"; and the wonderfully clean high-kicking and acrobatic dancing of the Sisters Casselli, two ladies who excel in their particular line of business, were accorded some of the loudest expressions of approval heard during the evening. Mr. Edward Swanborough is the genial and experienced manager here; and the accomplished Mr. Angelo Asher conducts the excellent orchestra.

THE GRANVILLE.

The Granville, Walham Green way, now intimately connected with the Moss Empires, Ltd., is flourishing under the auspices of the general-manager and Mr. Robert W. Duce, the genial acting-manager. This week Chirgwin may be singled out as the "star" turn, by reason of the fact that he is so well known as a sure and certain attraction, whose wit and humour, of the spontaneous kind, "age cannot wither nor custom stale." He is in just as good form as ever, and his little ballads of "London town" and "My fiddle," as well as his up-to-date wheezes, his violin playing, and his clog dance executed with "churchwardens" on a tea-tray, are as irresistibly droll and attractive as ever. Numerous sketches fill out the programme, and *Prince Arthur; or, the Days of King John*, is a more ambitious item than usually figures on the programme of a music hall, and is Shakespearean, as its title would imply, treating of the unsuccessful effort of the staunch Hubert de Burgh to put out the eyes of the young Prince, who stands between King John and his "borrowed majesty." The conflicting emotions which tear the breast of the loyal chamberlain are graphically portrayed by Mr. Albert Wyndham, and very good is the young Prince Arthur of a young lady whose name is not given on the programme. It is evidence of the spirit of the times in reference to the change in music-hall audiences that this item was remarkably well received. The Smythsons appear in the comedy sketch *A Tea-house Flirtation*, which tells the story of a manager of a tea-house, who was engaged to be married to one Kitty, who, with the aid of a tea-girl, Dolly, gives him a rare fright when he essays to flirt with a French dancer who is "all the rage." He invites his "flame" to supper; but the letter falling into Kitty's hands, she leaves a note to say that she has discovered his perfidy, and drowned herself in the County Council water tank in his tea-shop! Consequently, when Kitty enters disguised as the French dancer, the bun-shop proprietor is quite distraught, till he finds out the real state of affairs, and that what he had mistaken for her dead body was really only a gollywog, feet upwards. The Two D's give what is really a sketch, entitled *A Glass of Port*. Two husbands have taken advantage of their wives' absence at Margate to go on the razzle-dazzle, but the ladies returning earlier than they were expected, hear them boasting of how they rule their wives, and the happy thought strikes one of them to pretend that "a glass of port" which the stout man drinks was poison. The sylph-like proportions of this "hubby," and his writhing in imaginary agony, cause the audience to roar with laughter. *Who is Guilty?* is the other sketch, by Mr. Theo. Bouwmeester, the Dutch protean character actor, who portrays seven parts just as Henri de Vries did in *A Case of Arson; or, the Village Fire*. Mr. Charles Whittle is a prime favourite with his song of "The proud papa," and his always popular "Billy Muggins," and makes one of the hits of the evening. The Clarion Trio cause roars of laughter in their musical absurdity, in which are concerned the professor of music, the master, Adolphus de Huss, and the servant, Seraphina. Mr. Gilbert Girard is a capital mimic, and his imitations cover a wide range, from musical instruments to animal life, &c. An Æolian harp and a jew's harp, mosquitoes, roosters far and near, different kinds of dogs, a dog fight, a sawing steam plane, uncorking a bottle and pouring out its contents, and adding something from a syphon, "Ye tragedie of ye catte, ye dogge, and ye bootejack," are among his clever contributions. Barton and Franklin are a most versatile pair of musicians, and musical glasses, bamboo bells, and the concertina are among their most successful items. Mr. Charles Pastor, the laughing comedian, proves how infectious laughter is in his droll impersonation of a gay young spark returning home after a convivial evening. Miss Dora Martini is a most graceful, charming, and accomplished trapeze artist, and her ladder act is especially wonderful. The Brothers Redmond are capital acrobatic comedians, and the animated pictures of Vernon's Bioscope show, the hardships and vicissitudes which encompass the bold explorers in Polar regions, and give a vivid representation of the bull-fight before His Majesty in Madrid.

"CONCORDIA."

A new Musical Sketch, by Percy Honri, Produced at the Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester, on Monday, Jan. 29.

Patrons of the Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester, on Monday, Jan. 29, were treated to one of the most entertaining and picturesque musical sketches seen for a long time on the halls. The well-known abilities of Mr. Percy Honri, the author of *Concordia*, and one of the most accomplished concertina players before the public, have been brought to bear in a variety of ways upon the elaboration of the theme, which is based upon a sentimental idea, well suited to the richness and refinement of the staging, and at the same time in accordance with a tragi-operatic orchestral accompaniment that gives Mr. Honri splendid opportunities with the concertina from time to time. The scene is an elaborate interior, showing Mr. Honri in evening dress before the fire, with a concertina on his knees; he is in a dreaming mood, tired of the newspaper columns about elections and absconding wives; and he talks briefly, but sentimentally, with his wife upon the latter subject, accepting contentedly her assurance that she would never be found in that category of delinquents. Two footmen and two maids-in-waiting complete the stage picture. His wife retires as he falls asleep; and the action changes to that of a dream on which he is supposed to enter. His wife is seen to elope with another man, an actor, leaving a note behind her. Dreaming that he is awake, the while the *Tannhäuser* overture is being softly played by the orchestra, his concertina joins in upon the solo "O Star of Eve" with telling effect. After this he finds the note left by his wife, which he handles with appropriate dramatic emotion. Here is the opportunity for the singing of a pretty ballad by Mr. Honri, "Take as a parting gift these flowers," of which he is author and composer, and, after this, assured that his wife has really gone with an actor, he accepts the suggestion of his footmen, quite in the eccentric mood of a dream, that to win her back he also should become an actor. A quick-change process immediately reveals him in the costume of a jester. As such he tries a passage from Shakespeare, and is moved in various directions of light entertainment. His footmen and maids, who also are possessed by eccentricities, provide him with a soundless concertina, which opens two yards in length, in place of which he resorts to a dainty miniature one, concealed within his necktie. Considerable bustle and humour fill a brief interlude between this Thespian passage and Mr. Honri's reappearance as a coster—an impersonation which in itself is a complete and satisfactory turn. His song, "Have a bit on concertina" (also written and composed by Mr. Honri), is smart and typical; and the accompanying patter is exceptionally good. Mr. Honri, telling of his friends at a coster gathering, illustrates on his concertina the playing of a female neighbour on a harmonium, her only tune being a very lugubrious (but beautifully fingered) rendering of the chorus of "Bluebell." Another illustrated musical item, and a very comic one, is a rather clerical version of "Stop your tickling, Jock," to the tune of "The Lost Chord." Even the good things in this phase of the dream are supplemented by the quartette of assistants, who give a clever and vivacious depiction of two coster couples determined to enjoy themselves. Preceding the next phase a large bouquet is handed up, from which, upon the firing of a pistol concealed among the flowers, a large cinematographic sheet is extracted, and fixed to the centre of the stage. A cinematograph moon-face, with changing expressions, is thrown upon it, and, incidentally, the supplementary quartette, after a change of costume, endeavour to sing an appropriate song in questionable harmony. Mr. Honri's appearance as a coon improves the situation, and he sings a third original song, entitled "There's a good man in the moon," the moon on the screen meanwhile taking to itself a dancing body and a little top hat. A delighted audience might reasonably feel more than satisfied with quality and quantity so far; but an impersonation of Mephistopheles provides further entertaining business. In response to a frequent desire of one of his factotums that he should play "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut," Mr. Honri gives that popular melody in fine style, afterwards improvising upon it, preliminary to his falling in once more with the orchestral rendering of selected portions of the *Tannhäuser* overture, to which his concertina adds considerable volume and effect. Finally, the opening scene is reproduced, in which he wakes up by the fire, and finds his wife apparently returned, much to his surprise and subsequent delight. Altogether, Mr. Honri plays for different effects on five concertinas, and makes quick changes as indicated in the action, the feature of his changes being a quick manipulation of tights and shoes. It is not easy to convey an idea in words of the rich and dramatic lighting of the piece; it is almost as pleasing to the eye as Mr. Honri's playing is to the ear. The dresses also are most elaborate and picturesque. There can be no doubt that this busy and romantic musical sketch will delight the audience wherever it is seen.

MISS MARIE BENN, who was somewhat injured by a lion in Herr Prinz's cage during his performance at the Canterbury on the evening of Friday, the 2nd inst., was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital on Sunday, suffering from septic poisoning. On making inquiries at the Canterbury on Friday evening we heard the reassuring news that the sufferer's condition had considerably improved, and that she was progressing steadily.

HERR WILHELM BLUMENFELD, who was accidentally killed on the 24th ult. at a Basle music hall, left England about six months ago. In this country he was professionally known as "The Great Hermann," illusionist and juggler, and he had appeared at the Canterbury, the Crystal Palace, the Alhambra, Brighton, and in various parts of England and Wales. At one time Hermann possessed unusual strength, and is said by his son to have beaten Sandow on one occasion at weight-lifting. In his younger days he weighed 19 stone, but this was later on reduced to 14 stone. The Great Hermann, whose real name was Blumenfeld, was also at one time a clever acrobat. The news of his sad death did not reach his family in London until after the funeral.

ON Tuesday evening, whilst a lady was descending from her cab outside the Lyceum, she slipped and fell; on being helped into the house it was found that she had severely sprained her ankle. The case was immediately taken in hand by the trained nurses who are always on duty at the Lyceum, and after the injury was attended to the sufferer insisted on proceeding to her box and witnessing the performance. The nursing service was instituted at the Lyceum when Mrs. Barrasford opened the house. There are two trained nurses on the premises, and both wear a medal gained in the St. John Ambulance Corps.

MISS MEG HAMYLTON, whose vivacity and "go" as Dandini in Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime of *Cinderella* at the Coronet Theatre was a feature of the entertainment, and secured her offers innumerable, has signed with Mr. Arthur for three more pantomime seasons. Miss Hamylton, who has returned this week to her former part of Jimmie, the Bell Boy, with Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company, will be seen shortly in this, her favourite part, at the principal suburban theatres.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—*The Clansman*, a four-act play, by the Rev. Thomas Dixon, jun., was brought to the Liberty Theatre on the 8th inst., after being heralded for many weeks as "a play with a mission," and effectively advertised by "attacks" and newspaper discussions. The author was well known in this vicinity some years ago as a preacher of the sensational sort before he migrated to the South, and interested himself in the "negro question." He wrote two novels, entitled "The Clansman" and "The Leopard's Spots," but subsequently discovered, according to his own announcements, that the drama is a more powerful form of expression than the novel, and resolved to attempt dramatic authorship. By working sixteen hours a day for three months he solved "the problems involved in the translation of the ideas of two volumes of narrative into a single unified swift action on the stage within the limits of three hours," which means that he took the aforesaid novels and made them into a play. The principal idea that the preacher wishes to convey is that the white man and the black man, in the Southern States of America particularly, are not harmonious, and that something must be done, and done quickly, to make them so. The time of the play is the troublous Reconstruction period, which followed the close of the Civil War, when a certain class of white people deemed it necessary to terrorise the newly-freed negroes by the summary methods of the secret society known as the Ku-Klux-Klan, in order to counteract the influence of the political adventurers from the North—known as "Carpet-baggers"—through whose instrumentality the negroes gained a temporary ascendency over the South. A Northern Abolitionist controls a secret society of the blacks; an election occurs, and a negro is made Lieutenant-Governor of South Carolina. This man wishes to wed a white girl, the daughter of the Abolitionist, but she is engaged to a white man. In the second act there is an auction, and the scheming negro is discomfited in his endeavour to buy the ancestral home of his rival. In Act III. there is intimation of danger to a young white girl, and at a trial held in a cavern by the Ku-Klux-Klan it is disclosed that a negro has attacked her and caused her to hurl herself over a precipice into the river. This information is elicited from the miscreant negro by means of mesmerism. During the progess of the play there is a good deal of talk about marriage between the whites and the blacks, the custom of lynching the latter for certain offences being emphatically upheld. Then there is the old familiar story of the love of a Northern woman for a Southern soldier, and some interludes of comedy in which the audience is introduced to its old friends, the faithful negro servant and the "ole black mammy," these serving to alleviate to some extent the effects of the more rabid scenes. Although every expression of sentiment adverse to the negroes was greeted with demonstrative approval by a crowded house, the play is not likely to fulfil its "mission" as far as New York is concerned, the newspapers having ridiculed and condemned it. The cast includes Mr. Holbrook Blinn, Mr. Sidney Ayres, and Miss Jeffreys Lewis. Trouble being feared by the authorities, an extra force of police was stationed at the theatre on the opening night, but there was no disturbance. A pamphlet distributed at the door contained an open letter from a coloured University man to the author of the play, expressing "the attitude and feeling of ten millions of your fellow citizens towards the evil propaganda of race animosity to which you have lent your literary powers."

Miss Fay Templeton is maintaining her popularity in a play called *Forty-five Minutes from Broadway*, which ran for three months in Chicago, and has made a big hit at Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger's New Amsterdam Theatre. Mr. George M. Cohan is the author of the piece, the title of which refers to the suburban town of New Rochelle. Miss Templeton impersonates a soft-hearted "slavey" named Mary Jane Jenkins, a character entirely different from the rôles with which she is wont to be identified. The pivot of the plot is a missing will. After the death of a miserly old man in whose household Mary has been employed as housemaid, the will cannot be found, and a young fellow named Tom Bennett gets the fortune. The document turns up later, and Mary is named as the legatee. Mr. Victor Moore, of the vaudeville "team" of Moore and Littlefield, has scored a conspicuous success in this play as "Kid" Burns, a sporty young fellow whose speech is so largely made up of city slang that it proves an unknown tongue to the simple-minded folk who live only forty-five minutes from Broadway, but are represented as being very rural and unsophisticated.

Edward Cranston, having recovered from his recent severe illness, will make his reappearance next week at the Walthamstow Palace in his racing sketch, *Terry; or, True to His Trust*.

Mr. Fred Karno was successful in an action brought against him at the Dublin City Sessions on Saturday, when Messrs. Lucas, a local firm of hairdressers, &c., sued him for the recovery of £4 for the hire of wigs, and also for the dressing of wigs which were used by Mr. Karno's company in the Dublin Gaiety pantomime. Mr. Karno lodged in Court the sum of £1 10s., and pleaded that that amount was sufficient for the work done.

The manager for the plaintiffs said three wigs had been hired, and he dressed sixteen children's wigs, and also the wigs of the London Ballet Ladies, on Christmas Eve. For the defence it was stated that no wigs were hired by the authority of the management; in fact, they had a surplusage of wigs, and as to the altering of the wigs it was only the work of one man for five hours. The Recorder said he believed the defendant's side of the case, and he dismissed the action with costs against the plaintiffs.

It is so long since Délibes's charming ballet, *Coppelia*, which the directors of the Empire have decided to produce at Easter, has been seen in England, that a few notes as to the story may be acceptable. Essentially a romantic play, it deals with the love and jealousy of a village maiden, Swanilda, impersonated by Mdlle. Genée, who imagines that her sweetheart is unfaithful to her. The action takes place in Galicia, a country which lends itself to picturesque costumes and accessories. It will be played in two scenes: the first a market-place or square, where the lovers' misunderstanding originates; the second, the interior of the doll-maker's house, in which, by the ingenuity of the heroine, the course of true love is made smooth. Of the charm of the composer's music there is no need to speak. Its reputation is world-wide, the ballet having been given with success in every opera-house in Europe. But one or two numbers deserve special mention—notably a divertissement in the first act, the theme of which is a mazurka, and a ballabile founded on a Sclavonic melody. This latter is entitled "An ear of corn," and choreographically describes the desire of the maiden to know whether "He loves me, he loves me not." The finale to the first part, a Hungarian dance, is said to be a strictly accurate rendering of the national Czardas. The work was originally produced at the Paris Opera House in 1870.

Herr Fritz, who is at present playing the syndicate halls with great success, will shortly produce his new show, which will include some novel illusions, many of them being his own inventions. They are fully protected for England and the Continent.

DEVIL'S DYKE, BRIGHTON.

CHAT WITH MRS. BARRASFORD.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Now that Mrs. Barrasford has acquired the large piece of ground just outside Brighton known as the Devil's Dyke, considerable curiosity is evinced by the local public and others as to what her plan of campaign will be. With a view of learning a little more than the slight details which have already been published in different newspapers, our interviewer had a five-minutes' conversation with the lady at the Lyceum.

"The Devil's Dyke was not for sale nor was it to let," remarked Mrs. Barrasford after an inquiry had been made as to how she came into possession of the property. "I knew the owners of it, and as I thought that something better might be done with the land, which had been so neglected in the past, negotiations opened up between them and myself. It was suggested that I should take the Dyke for a certain period, but after some persuasion I got them to let me purchase it outright."

"And how are your bungalows and side-shows being taken?"

"I have been inundated with requests for both. The bungalows, I may mention, will be quite away from the side-shows. There will be the 'West-End' for the better-class residents. I have received applications from people who wish to live there all the year round. All the residents of Brighton are taking a great interest in this undertaking. I have a good following in that town, and the inhabitants have a bit of confidence in my ideas. They think there must be something in the scheme, and I have promises of support from all quarters. Some of the best local people were among the first to ask for bungalows. I have been looking day and night at plans for these cottages and for the shops. Of the latter I shall have a whole street in time, but of course I do not expect to put up a colony by Easter."

Mrs. Barrasford will take possession on March 15 and will open at Easter with the side-shows. She will also have some café-chantants to begin with, and golf-links are being laid out at

[*Photo by Kent and Lucey*

MRS. BARRASFORD.

the present moment. She will run the shops herself, every possible household requirement being sold on the ground, so that residents in the bungalows will have no need to send into town for supplies. Their papers and letters will be brought from the post-office to them, and they will have at their disposal telephone call offices.

"What do you intend charging for admission to the ground, Mrs. Barrasford?"

"I intend running it free for the present, although of course all private shows will have to be paid for."

"Are you making arrangements to erect an enclosure round the Devil's Dyke?"

"That will be done by degrees—probably next year the work will be accomplished. Then I shall have my own policemen, firemen, and watchmen."

"You will probably run a theatre there some time?"

"I have no such intention at this moment. I have decided to content myself with café-chantants to begin with. At present there is hardly anything to go to Brighton for, but with the opening of the Devil's Dyke the public will be able to enjoy all sorts of outdoor attractions. Next year, if not this year, I shall make arrangements for dancing, with a big orchestra in an enclosure. There is really no proper winter in Brighton, so that the show-ground can be kept open during every season. I believe one reason that the Dyke will be well visited is on account of the golf-links. For the convenience of other visitors I am building a music room to the hotel, which will be extended from time to time."

Motorists will be pleased to hear that Mrs. Barrasford has not overlooked their requirements in her general arrangements. She intends to improve the road leading from Brighton to the Devil's Dyke, and a large garage will be erected in a convenient portion of the ground for the use of automobilists. Attention is also being paid to the farm. The colony will be self-supplying. Mrs. Barrasford's own cows will furnish the milk necessary for the whole place, while sheep, pigs, and poultry will be, so to put it, "bred on the premises." Butter will be churned on the farm, and fruit of all kind, in addition to vegetables, will be grown there, too. There is plenty of ground space for any amount of experiments in this and other directions.

"The scene, as viewed from the top of the steep gradient railway," said Mrs. Barrasford, "will be a very pretty one. You will see picturesque detached bungalows, standing in the midst of delightful gardens, and nestling among the hills; on other sides you will gaze upon well-kept tennis courts, golf-links, avenues, and walks, while the cattle seen grazing on the farm will give the ground a very rural aspect.

"How am I going to manage the Devil's Dyke as well as the Lyceum Theatre? Well, the Lyceum is not very troublesome to me now, as I have got my staff into disciplined, orderly ways. Of course, the house is so huge that we do not expect to be crowded every night, but we are making money, and that is something.

"Many people have asked me," concluded Mrs. Barrasford, "why I relinquished stage-work. Well, I served an apprenticeship to the stage, and have had quite enough of it. I prefer commercial life; others can have all the honour and the glory of appearing before an audience."

Many of our readers will doubtless recollect Mrs. Barrasford as a performer in the music-halls. She was then known as Maud D'Almaine, but she made her final exit from the sphere of theatrical work ten years ago.

"THE ERA" NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

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Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108		
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannering	25		
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Lydia Dudley	1		
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Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
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Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
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J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

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Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin	1
Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	2½
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs. Jeane Priver	2
Givani Cristie	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Geo. Vickery	1	Erna Harrison	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Mina Fisher	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1
Will Collins	1		

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Danl. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	3	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydory, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	½
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlyn	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CHAT WITH MDLLE. LOUISE RAFFIN.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER).

Miss Louise Raffin is the young lady whose trained monkey act has proved such an attractive feature of the programme at the Empire Theatre, Leicester-square. Probably there is no animal so well fitted by nature to imitate a man. Miss Raffin, who has run a monkey show for five years, thoroughly understands these curious creatures, and evidence of her knowledge is not wanting in the demonstration her little troupe give upon the stage. In engaging in this business Miss Raffin may be said to be following hereditary instincts. Her father, Mr. Reuben Raffin, trained monkeys for a quarter of a century. That gentleman is hale and hearty at three score years, and he has been connected with the profession since he could walk. He was an acrobat before he took out performing animals, and his first success in the latter direction was an "educated" pig, which he exhibited at Charles Hengler's establishment. Before this, however, he was an acrobat, and only entered another department of the business when he could no longer perform his gymnastic feats.

The act which Miss Raffin is now presenting to variety habitués at the Empire Theatre is, in many respects, an extremely interesting one. One monkey is seen walking along a horizontal pole, much in the same way that a man walks on the tight wire. A few seconds later, the same animal is progressing in mid-air, his hands gripping the pole, and his body upside-down. Another monkey, attired in a gorgeous red frock, speedily mounts a staff held in a perpendicular direction on a table by a different monkey, made up to represent a Chinaman. This member of the troupe seems to recognise his superiority over his companions, his pigtail and yellow and black satin costume conferring on him a dignity of which he is obviously proud. Two of the monkeys then dance a waltz together, and execute it with greater freedom and grace than one would imagine them capable of displaying. Very laughable is the barrel act. Four empty barrels are placed in a line, and one of the monkeys, in a manner most comical to behold, jumps in and out of them one

[*Photo by Hana.*

MDLLE. LOUISE RAFFIN.

after the other. Another monkey is blindfolded by means of a sack thrown over his head, and, after the barrels have been laid on platforms raised above one another, the animal jumps up and down into the receptacles, and out again, with unerring precision. Much amusement is caused, especially to the feminine portion of the audience, as one monkey, in a very stylish pink dress, and wearing a fanciful hat, climbs up a hanging rope, and disrobes itself as it nearly reaches the flies, throwing each garment to the ground as it is removed.

This disrobing act has never, we are informed by Miss Raffin, been done before, and it affords a striking example of the agility and nerve of the animal. The barrel-jumping act is Miss Raffin's own idea, and it is certainly successfully carried out.

"No one knows how much attention and care have to be given to monkeys," says Miss Raffin. "You must not neglect them, if you wish to keep them alive. A monkey is like a child—it is so very delicate. When they fall ill we have to doctor them ourselves, because my experience has been that the veterinary surgeons know nothing of monkeys. They generally die from consumption? How long do they live? Well, my father has purchased monkeys that have only lived a month after they have come into his possession, and he has bought others that have outlasted fifteen years.

"The monkeys best suited for stage-work are the Rhesus species; but one may see a lot of these before a satisfactory one is found. Then it takes eight months' patient hard work before they can be trained to do even a simple act."

Miss Raffin's engagement at the Empire is for six weeks, after which she goes to Chatham. In the summer she will be touring Germany. She is a clever linguist, as is also her father, and is an extremely interesting conversationalist when she talks about the countries she has visited and the people she has met.

M.H.B.F.—CHAIRMAN'S APPEAL

To Brother Managers and Musical Directors.

Dear Sir,—As chairman of the committee of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, I write to ask for your kind co-operation and sympathy in the charitable work we are engaged in.

I find by experience that matinées in aid of the fund are difficult to organise, and the results doubtful.

For the past two years I have had a collecting-box at the South London Palace, and every one who wants a free pass I ask to put in a penny, or more if able. I make this a strict rule, with the result that I have collected over £50 last year and over £50 this year. I have not found any difficulty in doing this, as the demand does not press heavily on anyone.

My musical director makes it a rule to collect from the individual members of his orchestra one penny each per week. I am sure that the proverbial good-heartedness of musicians will readily fall in with the idea if asked to do so.

Will you help the fund in this direction, and (if you do not already possess one) allow me to send you a collecting-box?

The president and committee will be very grateful for your aid, and you will also be placing me, as chairman of the fund, under a great obligation to you, in addition to obtaining the thanks of the poor professionals.

Very faithfully yours,

South London Palace. Frank Weeks.

NEW HIPPODROME SENSATION.

An interesting novelty was added on Monday evening to the diverse and attractive entertainment at the London Hippodrome, under the title of the "Human Bullet." The announcement of the turn is made by Mr. Hal Forde, the master of the ceremonies at the Minervan Court in *Among the Stars*. Immediately afterwards, Signor Cassini, an Italian, dressed in crimson satin, trips into the arena, and then mounts to the safety net which is spread under the line of fire of the immense cannon fixed in the dress circle. This latest specimen of stage artillery is about 21ft. in length, and has a muzzle-opening of 2ft. diameter, through which Cassini disappears, feet first. As soon as he is ready, the signal is given to fire. A loud detonation is followed by the hurling of Cassini on to a trapeze in mid-air. The distance is exceedingly well judged, and how the "human bullet" is "ejected" with such accuracy, and without any injury, is Cassini's secret. We are told that attached to the cannon is a patent electric motor, controlling a pneumatic pump. The "Human Bullet" is projected by means of compressed air at the rate of fourteen miles a minute, and the velocity of this "bullet" is as great as that attained by one from a nine-pounder. Yet, extraordinary as it may seem, all element of danger is impossible. This is the more remarkable, because the gun is so powerful that it can project a weight equal to the "Human Bullet" further than from the Hippodrome to Ludgate Circus. As a precaution, Sir Edward Moss and Mr. Frank Parker have had to invent a new safety net, so that, should the "Human Bullet" miss its mark, the public may be assured that there will be no danger. Mr. Oswald Stoll, the managing-director, has been very careful indeed to assure himself that the tremendous recoil of the gun shall not in any way interfere with the comfort and due security of the public. Altogether, the production of this sensation has meant an expenditure of £3,201.

The performer quickly descends from the trapeze to which he has been hurled, and, beyond a little pallor and breathlessness, seems none the worse for his thrilling experience. He is received with a hurricane of applause. Many of our readers will remember a similar sensation, produced by Farini at the now defunct Aquarium, in the Seventies. Zazel was then shot from a cannon into the air, and fell into a net. The performance was repeated daily for nearly two years, and it formed at the time the subject of a joke in a Gaiety burlesque. Mr. Edward Terry placed the late Miss Farren in a property cannon, and asked the question, "Are you Farr-enough in—are you Nelly (nearly) Farr-enough in?"

New additions to the programme include the Russian Imperial Troupe of dancers. These nine performers put the true Sclavonic spirit into their movements, and the male members of the crowd are responsible for some wonderful pirouetting. The ladies look exceedingly pretty in the gay colours of their becoming national costumes, and the turn is most enthusiastically received. Mr. Herbert Lloyd, another newcomer, is an American humorist, who exploits some quaint ideas in the way of costume, which is indescribable. His entry is made in a remarkable specimen of a vehicle, and he is plentifully endowed with "front," for he throws off something like twenty "dickies." Ostensibly Lloyd is a juggler; but his real line of business does not matter, as his doings always evoke laughter, and he is a decided acquisition to the Hippodrome programme, which also includes those famous athletes, the Brothers Andreassen. The rest of the turns we have recently noticed. The Bioscope furnishes an exciting series of pictures that may be called "The Train-Wreckers," in which the heroic act of a girl supplies the *clou* of a most interesting and melodramatic story.

Mr. Marcellus Raymond Morand has very properly been cast for the part of S'Nero in Mr. Oswald Stoll's production of Mr. Chris Davis's skit of that name, at the Coliseum on Monday. In the West End clubs Mr. Morand is commonly known as "Jack." It was in 1880 that he caught the amateur theatrical fever. Miss Jennie Lee, of "Jo" fame, saw him and offered him the stage management of her touring company. In 1894, Mr. Morand joined the D'Oyly Carte company at the Savoy, and during the next two years played in all the successes there. Then he went to Manchester, and during a performance of a melodrama, entitled *A Mother's Sin*, at the Queen's Theatre, an unlucky galleryite showed so deep an interest in the sensational proceedings below him that he toppled over the side rails of the gallery and fell at the feet of Mr. Morand. The actor had his second escape from death, or at least, from serious and permanent injury, while playing in *The Brigands* in Dublin with the late Miss Wadman, who shot him in the face with an accidentally loaded revolver. With a bad wound, dangerously close to the eye, turned away from the audience, Mr. Morand played to the end of the piece, postponing his fainting-until after the fall of the curtain.

Mr. Morand's escape from a watery grave (iced) was alarming while it lasted, but comical to look back upon. It was five o'clock in the evening upon a day in January, and "Marcellus Raymund," finding himself with some time to spare, in a certain part of Scotland joined a number of ladies and gentlemen who were seated on a tramcar, bound, according to a bill posted on its side, for a famous loch. Somewhat sooner than he expected, his fellow-passengers descended from the tramcar and walked in the direction of some lights glimmering faintly in the distance. In search of a smooth piece of ice for private practice in the art of "8" cutting, Mr. Morand darted away from the madding crowd and found what he wanted. A few 8's had been cautiously engraved on the glassy surface by Mr. Morand's blades, when suddenly the ice cracked beneath him, and a foot went in. A frenzied movement forward, and in went the other foot. By a superhuman effort he extricated himself from his perilous position, and shuffled carefully in the direction of the bank. Here he found a party of girls removing their skates, and one of these, observing that he was in a state of collapse, asked him if anything was the matter. Mr. Morand, as soon as he had regained his breath, related to them the sensational story of his escape. When he had finished with his harrowing details, they quietly informed him that the loch was not a loch at all, *but a field flooded a foot deep.*

Mr. Arthur Balcombe finished his engagement as leader and sub-conductor at the Kursaal, St. Leonards, on Sunday last. He had presented to him on Saturday a solid silver cigarette case, suitably inscribed, as a souvenir of a very pleasant engagement.

Presentation.—On the 2nd inst., at the Kennington Theatre, after the performance of *Dick Whittington*, Mr. Henry Wright, the producer and stage manager, was the recipient of some handsome presents: From the company a gold-mounted umbrella; from Miss Hetty King a dressing-case; from Miss Isabella Dillon a silver flask; and from Mr. Phil Howley a box of cigars.

Mr. George Gray has resigned his position as delegate of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association to the Conference now in progress.

With reference to an answer to a correspondent last week, Mr. Robert Ganthony writes pointing out that "The Man with One Hair" is published in "Bunkum Entertainments" (Upcott Gill); and is a recitation to music by Reynolds and Co., Berners-street.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

AT a meeting of the Monmouth Town Council, on Monday, tenders were considered for the letting of the field in the town for the next pleasure fair, to be held in May, that of Mr. Jacob Studt, the well-known roundabout proprietor and amusement caterer, being accepted. In his letter to the Council Mr. Studt offered to repeat his customary hospital benefit.

PLYMOUTH WINTER GARDENS, thanks to the enterprise of the proprietors, Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock, are drawing large crowds nightly. The artists this week include Mme. Rozell, who walks the tight-rope; Robert Velding, who accomplishes daring feats of horsemanship; and Miss Belle Stewart, a capital comedienne. Living pictures and amusing competitions are also included in the programme.

BEFORE an audience of 4,863, amongst which were many select Parisians and Americans, also several of the leading amusement directors and managers of Europe and America, Dompteur Gaillard, the celebrated French animal trainer, made his début on Feb. 2 at Bostock's Hippodrome, Paris, with the huge African lions formerly worked by Capt. Bonavita. Perhaps never in the annals of the French capital was a greater success scored. His appearance before commencing was the signal for much enthusiasm, but after he had handled and controlled these treacherous animals, putting them through their complete exhibition and finishing by the Jungle scene at night, the enthusiasm knew no bounds.

WE certainly congratulate Director Bostock on the selection he has made in this courageous trainer. Baltimore, the notorious lion, was as unruly as ever, but Gaillard seemed to have his measure to a nicety. We must all admire the immense courage of any individual who accepts such a position; to handle a score of lions whose ferocity was often displayed towards their late trainer, Capitaine Bonavita, is no easy task, and we believe forms a new record in daring.

THE famous Lynn Mart, on the quainty-named Tuesday Market Place, in the Royal Borough of King's Lynn, will be opened next week by proclamation. There is a curious commingling of ancient ceremonies and most modern up-to-date mechanical and show novelties at Lynn Fair. The Mayor and Corporation, with all the pomp and ceremony and ancient regalia of a charter town, will open the fair. As soon as the proclamation is finished, all the very best and latest novelties in riding machines will be set in motion. Showmen from all parts of the kingdom will journey to Lynn Mart in order to see the latest fashion in roundabouts.

AT this late moment we are telling no "trade secret" if we put into words the current gossip about the latest invention in machine contrivances. That it is a good and business-like venture may be gathered from the fact that two such experts in roundabouts as John Collins, of Liverpool, and Thomas Hurst, of Manchester, are concerned in it. The germ idea of the invention is quite original, and if we have gathered rightly, what it means is to give the most perfect mechanical realisation of a bird in flight, or, to put it another way, a dirigible flying motor-car. The machine gives two distinctly different motions—the motion of a balloon circling round a fixed axis, and the rising and falling motion of a bird when changing its course, dipping or rising on extended wings. The second motion, rising and falling, is entirely at the control of the engineer directing the machine.

THE patent rights, both at home and abroad, are fully secured by the co-inventors, Messrs. Hurst and J. Collins. We confidently anticipate that the new machine will be the star attraction of the fair grounds of the coming season, and the first of its kind, built by Messrs. Savage, Ltd., will be exhibited at the coming Mart.

WE have been prevented by the crowded state of our showman page from giving a trade review of last year's enterprise and showman industry. We feel that we may, now that the great trade meetings of Manchester and London are over, review with interest and profit some of the events of 1905.

THERE were two remarkable developments, and both epoch-marking—one in the exhibition line proper, and the second in the equally important branch of the show business, riding machines. The great change in the show business was mainly brought about by the introduction of Messrs. Marenghi et Cie. (of Paris) of beautiful and immense organs, a revolution in organs alone.

THE introduction of organs with exquisitely beautiful fronts, making a free exhibition of perfect artistry, and sounding forth really beautiful music, as different as light from darkness when compared with the blaring music of the out-of-date trumpet organ, necessitated a revolution in show fronts.

A VISIT to the Royal Agricultural Hall and the inspection of Marenghi's masterpiece on the Southern round, the organ on the front of Wm. Taylor's Coliseum of Varieties and Cinématograph will demonstrate the reality of this revolution in show fronts. Such an organ is a show front in itself, and this has been recognised by all our progressive show proprietors.

THE old order changeth, giving place to the new, and the centre entrance and the high platform with the run-up steps is doomed to rapid extinction; the beautiful organ, with its sweet music, its revolving figures, and countless electric lights, becomes the centre of the show front, with entrances to the show booth on either side of the instrument. This revolution in the show front has brought with it a rapid development in the electric lighting and portable electric plant, creating a rapidly-developing electrical industry entirely concerned with the fair grounds of the country.

THE showman has been as quick to realise the value of a blaze of light as an advertising medium as any other trader in the settled industries of city or town. It is no common thing now to see a dozen immense arc lamps on the front of an up-to-date show.

PROBABLY 1905 will be regarded as the year of the great motor-car boom, the adaptation, we believe, of a Yorkshire roundabout proprietor—J. W. Waddington, of Leeds. Whilst other men were hesitating, some no doubt staggered by the costly nature of the experiment, Mr. Waddington skilfully adapted the ordinary switchback, or gondola, frame to the running of motor-cars. This invention, we believe, is secured by patent, also another motor-car novelty capable of being adapted by the old-fashioned jumping-horse roundabout frame; in this case the motors, suspended by rods from the revolving roof of the frame, swing out and round the machine.

THE motor-car proper was an instantaneous success, and when the people could not get motoring on rails they took to motoring in the air. From a business point of view the craze of the people for motoring was a very bad thing for the roundabout proprietors, who only had gondolas, galloping horses, or racing birds to offer them; and whilst the people were waiting in a long queue to take a turn for twopence on a live motor, galloping horses stood at ease, flying ostriches folded their wings, and gondolas ceased to ply, for all the ready pennies went to the motor track.

WE confidently anticipate, from the enormous enterprise shown during the autumn of last year, and this winter, that every fair ground next season will have a majority of motor-cars and a minority of the old-fashioned machines. We have spoken at length upon these two phases of showman enterprise, but there has been a great development along many other lines.

WE remember being very much delighted with the absolutely modern arrangements of Mr. Jacob Studt's portable Coliseum; the stage was most elaborately fitted with both properties and scenery, and the single turns of the variety artists were done with all the accessories of an up-to-date permanent theatre. The auditorium was replete with every comfort, plush velvet tip-up chairs, roomy and comfortable, fixed upon a low-wheeled platform capable of being packed up and taken by road or rail; the inside lining and curtains, the electric light fittings, and embellishments made it difficult for one to realise that the whole concern could be packed up and on the wing in a few hours' time.

ON a much smaller scale, but equally complete, modern, and artistic, was the ground booth of Messrs. Relph and Pedley, which we saw at Holbeck Feast. The entertainment was "Experiments in black and white magic," and it is one of the side shows invented and controlled by those expert showmen Relph and Pedley, of cinématograph fame.

ALTHOUGH only a ground booth, the front was a perfect example of artistic completeness and attractive power; the inside was fitted from end to end with dark velvet-covered seats, arranged with a rake of considerable altitude towards the back of the booth, sloping down towards the stage. The interior was entirely draped in dark velvet, the colour scheme en suite, with a rich drapery of the proscenium, the whole forming a new departure as marked in its way as that we have already referred to with regard to Jacob Studt's larger show.

ON the whole, then, we have every reason to say, both with regard to shows and roundabouts, 1905 marks an epoch in the showman world.

THE well-known friends of the travelling showmen, Messrs. R. and T. Tidman and Mr. H. Whiting, of Norwich, have sent the following cuttings from the local Press with regard to the proposed abolition of an old-time fair:—

SHIPDHAM FAIR.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Shipdham Fair, to be or not, on June 25, 1906. From a paragraph in your paper of Saturday last I see some people are endeavouring to do away with the fair. Their excuse is that it is a nuisance. I cannot see where the nuisance comes in. The travellers who attend the fair don't take all the money away with them. They have to live, their horses to feed, and sundry repairs to make, so that some people get a benefit. It is to be hoped that the gentlemen who championed the cause a few years back will do their level best again. I am given to understand that the donor of the ground left it for a fair and children's playground for ever. Why should a council try to deprive the children of their annual treat?

I have attended the fair for the last four or five years, and am always pleased to see their happy faces.

Swaffham, Jan. 29. UNCLE TOBY.

SHIPDHAM FAIR.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I have attended Shipdham Fair for fifty years, and there has never been to my knowledge disturbances of any kind caused by the travellers, or by the public attending for amusement. It is the only day in the year that the people in that district can enjoy any cheap, harmless amusement. It is not a fair that is an annual gathering for drinking or fighting bouts, as some of the country fairs used to be in olden times. The green in the centre of the parish is well adapted to hold a pleasure fair on, and during the fifty years I have attended the fair as a caterer of public amusements I have never seen an intoxicated person on the fair ground. And I do not see why it should be abolished.—Yours truly,

C. F. BARNES.

Circus Proprietor, Great Ryburgh.

THE following is the official notice by the Home Secretary, intimating that the question will come before him on the 22nd of this month:—

The Secretary of State for the Home Department hereby gives notice that a representation has been duly made to him by the Rural District Council of Mitford and Launditch to the effect that a fair has been annually held at Shipdham, in the County of Norfolk, on the last Monday in June, and that it would be for the convenience and advantage of the public that the said fair should be abolished. On the 22nd day of February, 1906, the Secretary of State will take such representation into consideration, and any person who may desire to object to the abolition of the fair should intimate his objections to the Secretary of State before that day.

The Guild Secretary will be glad to receive from showmen taking this fair on their round any helpful information, with a view to being represented on the day of the enquiry.

GUILD subscriptions—Messrs. P. and T. Fitzpatrick, Liverpool, £1 10s.; W. Canty, Cleethorpes, 5s.; T. Creber, Esq., £1 1s.

AN extremely well attended meeting of London showmen, presided over by the Rev. T. Horne, took place at the Royal Agricultural Hall, on Wednesday evening last, in a room kindly lent by the lessee of the World's Fair, Mr. T. E. Read. Matters of great urgency and affecting the Metropolitan district were brought under the discussion of the gathering. Amongst other matters the Guild Secretary was instructed—(1) to write to the authorities at Mitcham with reference to the holding of the annual Charter Fair. (2) To write to the London County Council asking that a deputation of showmen be received by the Open-spaces Committee.

DYKE'S New Ensign Animated Picture and Variety company has been visiting Studley and Feckenham, giving some first-class entertainments.

COMING events include a flower show and sports at Bideford-on-Avon; a flower show at Mappleborough Green, Studley; a flower show at New End, near Astwood Bank—all on Aug. 7; and a temperance fête at Astwood Bank on Aug. 8.

STOURBRIDGE, a rising market town in Worcestershire, with iron and glass and earthenware works, holds its pleasure fair on March 31. Bewdley Fair, Worcestershire, is fixed for April 23. Bewdley is a pleasant town on the River Severn in Worcestershire, with a station on the Great Western Railway, and is about four miles from Kidderminster. Tenbury, a very pleasant town in Worcestershire, on the joint Great Western and London and North-Western Railways, holds its pleasure fair on May 1. Ludlow, a municipal borough in Shropshire, about seven miles from Tenbury, is in the centre of an important agricultural district, and has a pleasure fair on May 1. Feckenham Wakes or Pleasure Fair takes place on July 2. Feckenham is in Worcestershire, fourteen miles from Worcester, and showmen can easily get from Bromsgrove Great Fair to Feckenham, and then go on to Worcester summer races. There is no railway there

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

By the Rev. T. HORNE, Hon. Chaplain, Showman's Guild.

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"HER SAD PAST."

Bennion's American Bioscope and Empire Theatre of Varieties was well known on the fair grounds of the Midland circuit and in the West of England. Bennion's rise in the show world was typical of the way in which enterprise and talent allied to industry and sobriety will enable a man to succeed in an industry that never fails to reward perseverance and progressive ideas. His people (he was born on the road) were originally in the pannum stall business, and Bennion himself, as a start in life, set up a coker sheet—that was in the days of his youth. From the coker shy to swings, and then, in the flush-tide of their success, a steam roundabout, which was followed by starting (in the very first flight) with a cinematograph show. He passed through all the rapid changes of the cinematograph as a show to the present ideal of the portable theatre of varieties, with pictures as the great draw, and varieties to give turns inside and to parade on the front. In all these phases of his rise and progress as a showman, his charming and clever wife was in truth his "right-hand man." Theirs was the unity of life and work that most fully expresses the highest qualities of life and love.

As regards their circumstances, there was little to choose between them when they first met; they were both poor—he was minding his father's stall at Walsall Fair; she was an attendant at a shooting gallery. He fell in love with her, she returned his affection; the end was marriage, and as we have already seen, the beginning on their own with a small concern, "the coker sheet."

Like many a man before him, Bennion was so full of the realisation of the present joy of life that he sought not to know the story of his wife's past life. He saw her young, beautiful, with the bloom of health upon her cheek, the love-light in her eyes; he cared not to ask her history. She was to him the ideal woman, and, to his honour be it said, even when the trial of his faith fell upon him he still remained loyal to his ideal.

So much, then, for the prologue. Now we ring up the curtain, and the drama begins.

Bennion's Bioscope was taking a short winter season at Falmouth, "in the West Countree," and for winter-time business had been good. The good people of Falmouth were delighted with the up-to-date films, and the change of variety talent and short dramatic sketches Bennion provided.

"Cast up by the sea," three poor seamen were brought into the harbour, and became at once the object of public sympathy and open-handed charity. They were found more dead than alive, lashed to floating wreckage, and were brought by their rescuers into the first port at hand—Falmouth. Amongst others to give practical proof of sympathy were the show people, and a benefit performance was organised and a goodly sum of money realised.

One of the three men in question was utterly indifferent and openly ungrateful for all that was done for them; he was morose, sullen, and reticent even unto incivility. He refused point-blank to give a definite statement as to his past life or friends, and but for the better mind of his companions in misfortune the disgust the misanthrope inspired would have closed the springs of charity.

Bennion, with the broader charity his wandering life inspired him with, tried hard to make friends with the surly man, who gave his name as Rob Belton. With great tact and perseverance the showman broke down the hard wall of bitterness that separated the sailor from his kind. At last, in a moment of confidence, he told Bennion somewhat of his life and the cause of its bitterness.

"Oh, you don't know, and pray Heaven you may never know, the hell on earth that my life has been for ten years past. Like the lost soul in the Bible story, I have been seeking rest, and I find it not."

The showman knew how to listen, how by a mere clasp of the hand more can be expressed than a thousand words can voice, so he let the bursting soul of the man utter itself in the wild torrents of long pent-up passions.

"My God! my God, how I loved her! Aye, and my love was returned, fervour for fervour, joy for joy. Well, it was a paradise, until in one of my mad passions of drink I struck her. That was the end. I was mad, I was a brute beast, I know all that; but she tricked me and bested me, as I had never been bested before. She had the biggest spirit and the finest courage I have ever met in a woman."

"Well, then," said Bennion, "you must be a queer sort of man if at the end of ten years you still bear her animosity."

"Oh, I know I am all devil," was the fierce retort, "and I know that I gloried in trying to drag her down to my own level, and I know that the mere passion of conquest that led me to ruin her was supplanted, when she turned upon me and told me the cur that I was, by the one and only genuine love that came into my life, bad and black as it is."

"Look here," said the showman. "I have come across some strange men in my time, and I don't mind you telling me your trouble; but I want you to know, once and for all, that our acquaintance must end unless you promise me you will try to banish from your mind all hatred for the woman who has fortunately passed out of your life, and that you cease the pursuit of your revenge."

Jumping to his feet, Belton, under the mastery of uncontrollable passion, hissed these words: "No, no; neither man nor devil shall stay my hand! I'll swing for her! I'll swing for her!" and with that he rushed from the show booth in which the exciting conversation had taken place.

Bennion stood for a moment or two in mute astonishment at the tragedy of the man's passion. Then, with an effort, dismissing Belton from his mind, he entered his living-van, and there he found himself confronted by an alarming sight. He saw full prone upon the floor his poor wife in a dead faint. To raise her from the ground and to apply restoratives was the work of a moment; with a great sigh she came to herself again, and for a terrible instant looked him full in the face—an agony of mental suffering was concentrated in that searching gaze.

"Oh, my husband! my husband!" she cried, "your great and sheltering love gave me a blessed forgetfulness of a horror of darkness and sin which shadowed my life before we met." Throwing her arms around his neck, burying her face in his bosom, she seemed for a blessed while to cry her heart out.

Bennion, terribly alarmed and mystified by his wife's paroxysm of grief, could only press her closer to his breast, and assure her that whatever the trouble might be, it would be his honour and glory to share it. When her passion of grief had worn itself out, and still clinging to him as though her very life depended upon the strength of his body pressed against hers, she told him the story of her sad past.

"Brought up in a country village in Shropshire, away from the glamour of great towns, when I reached the age of sixteen, through the death of my parents, I was thrown upon the charity of a widowed aunt. My relative kept a small commercial hotel in the neighbourhood of Victoria Station, Manchester, and amongst our regular visitors was a man called Ralph Burdan, the son of a cotton-spinner.

"Oh! my dear Will, my dear Will, in the light of your pure love and unceasing care for me, it humiliates me to the ground to confess the passion which then burnt and seared my very soul; but it was so. He persuaded me, and I was willing enough to go away with him, and for three months in great London town we lived a life of unrestrained desire."

A sudden agonising thought came into Bennion's mind, and, thrusting her from him, holding her at arm's length, he cried, "Alice, Alice! do you mean to tell me that there is a connection between this story of yours and the story of the vengeful sailor I parted with in anger a little while ago in the booth?"

Meeting his gaze fully, she answered, "Yes, yes; my Ralph Burdan and your Rob Belton, cast up by the sea, is one and the same; but, oh, listen, listen! before you pass judgment."

Great indeed was the agony of conflicting emotions passing in the showman's mind as his wife continued her story.

"Whilst you were talking to him you both raised your voices, and that excited my curiosity. I was on the way down the wagon steps with the intention of inviting the sailor to take tea with us, when the tone of his voice, like a sword, pierced the heart of dark hidden memories, and I was back again in the miserable garret in Bloomsbury, and saw the tragedy of my dark past, when I cast him out of my life for ever."

"Brave little woman," and again he clasped her to his breast, as between her sobs she continued her story.

"I heard him tell you his determination to kill the woman who had left him. How I got back into the van I do not know. When I awoke, it was to find myself in your sheltering arms."

Her husband replied as such a true man was bound to answer so true a woman's appeal. He pressed her still closer to his bosom, and kissed away her tears. Then, after a while, he said, "It was in a dark and bitter past; you were more sinned against than sinning. Let us leave Ralph Burdan to the torture and darkness of his sinful passions, and let us live our life in the same sunshine that has hitherto blessed and prospered it."

* * * * *

Whilst the tragedy and emotional pathos of a true life drama was being evolved in the showman's living-van, a still more bitter tragedy was being enacted on the steps outside. Ralph Burdan or Rob Belton had scarcely left the show five minutes before he became subject to a tremendous revulsion of feeling; so great and overmastering was this compelling wave of thought, that he stood for several moments as though changed into a block of stone. Then he said to himself, "The showman is right. I am a cur and a coward to harbour murderous thoughts against the woman who was the helpless victim of my youthful passions.

"It's a hard thing to do; but I'll do it. I'll return to the show, and tell him that his brave words have touched me deeply, and that I have changed my mind."

Returning to the show under the impulse of his great conversion, he sprang up the van steps. Placing his hand upon the latch, he found the door several inches ajar, and his ingress was suddenly arrested by the sound of Mrs. Bennion's voice at that part of her sad recital where she mentioned him by name.

Men of great passions have confessed that after years of unbridled licence it is an agony, a veritable crucifixion of the old and bad life, to determine and to carry out real reform.

Such a crucifixion of "the old man," and such a birth of "the new man," was the tragedy of life behind the scenes that accompanied the tragedy between man and wife inside the van.

To Burdan's honour, be it said, he determined not merely to slink away under the whips and scorpions of awakened conscience, but he also determined to make what little reparation he could.

Tearing a leaf from his pocket-book, he pencilled these words:—"Ralph Burdan, known here as Rob Belton, passes for ever out of your life. To the showman he says that he has met a true man, with a lion heart to denounce wrong, and a spirit strong to forgive. To the showman's wife he says, in your great happiness forget the dark sin that once knit his life with hers; and to both he says, may God ever bless you!"

On the morning of the following day Bennion found the letter, and read it to his wife, and many tears were shed over it, but mostly tears of joy.

Never again did Ralph Burdan cross their path, and never again was mentioned her dead past.

MR. HAROLD T. BIRKETT, the manager of Bostock and Wombwell's Royal No. 1 Menagerie at the Agricultural Hall, was presented on Monday evening at the World's Fair with a handsome silver-mounted dressing-companion by Mr. T. E. Read, the lessee, as a mark of appreciation of the services of Mr. Birkett for many years.

THE Middlesex County Council Bill now before the Private Bills Committee of the Houses of Parliament, seeks power to abolish the ancient fair of Brentford.

THIS fair has been held under a charter of Edward I. for 600 years, and it seems to us a great pity that an enlightened County Council like the Middlesex authority should seek to curtail the all too restricted holidays and open-air amusements of the people.

IN a newspaper cutting before us, a local reason given is that the noise of the merry-go-rounds and shooting galleries disturbs the placidity and repose of the magistrates sitting in the Court House hard by. We trust that we are not lacking in reverence for the magistracy when we venture to suggest that it would be better, during the fair days, if their worships would indulge in a friendly visit to the fair, and even enjoy the wild delights of a merry-go-round and the ping-pong of the shooting gallery.

CONGRATULATIONS on their golden wedding to Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien, of circus celebrity. This interesting domestic festival was kept at their home at Castle Donnington on Feb. 4.

MR. AND MRS. O'BRIEN are the parents of Miss Jenny O'Brien (Mrs. George Gilbert), of the Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes, and of the late John O'Brien, of Barnum and Bailey fame.

UNDER the title of "Clothes and Their Care," the Dartry Dye Works, of Upper Rathmines, Dublin, have issued a neat booklet, which contains a number of valuable hints on the art of dressing well and economically. From this little publication we learn that the Dartry Dye Works have their business separated into several departments. There are, for instance, the cleaning and dyeing of ladies' and gent.'s and children's clothing, two separate processes, though when necessary they are used in conjunction. They also do an extensive business in cleaning household draperies, carpets, &c., and re-dyeing the same. The booklet goes carefully into the whole of the details, and gives all essential particulars. We may also point out as an important fact that where the Dartry Dye Works are situated in Dublin the water and the character of the air are specially suited to ensure good results in the business in which they are engaged. The firm has won a reputation not only for the promptitude with which the work is carried out, but for the extreme care that is taken to prevent customers' goods from any risk of damage. The hints on the art of dressing well contained in this booklet are likely to be specially useful to members of the theatrical profession of both sexes, to whom it is of the first importance that they should look their best both on and off the stage.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A NUMBER of anonymous letters have been sent to us relating to conditions of employment at various theatres and music halls. No notice can be taken of such communications until they are submitted over the name and address of the writer. It does not follow that the name of any correspondent would be published, but this condition must be observed as a guarantee of good faith on the part of our correspondents. Any communication properly authenticated would have consideration on its merits. Those who are anxious to have publicity given to reasonable complaints should have the courage to sign their name.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Financial statement for the year ending December 31, 1905:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Entrance Fees	2	5	6
Contributions to Sick and General Fund	53	10	4
Contributions and honorary members' subscriptions £5 14 0			
Share of the sum received from the Dramatic and Musical Fund 100 0 0			
	105	14	0
Good Friday concert, share of balance	2	19	3
Share of sports' balance, 1904	2	18	0
Share of joint concert balance, Opera House	20	10	9
Annual dinner receipts, by sale of tickets, donation, and refunds	40	9	0
	228	14	10
Balance carried forward from 1901	107	19	4½
	£336	14	2½

Payments.	£	s.	d.
Rent of office and clerk's salary	26	2	6
Honorarium to W. Johnson, hon. sec.	7	10	0
Printing, stationary, postage, etc.	4	9	2
Central, National, Fund dues	1	10	0
Telephone	3	7	8
Bank charges and sundry items	0	19	1
	43	18	5
Annual dinner	41	9	0
Benevolent grants to members	10	12	6
Loss on sports, 1905	0	7	8
	96	7	7
Balance, December 31, 1905	240	6	7½
	£336	14	2½

The balance of the various funds is as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
General Fund	12	16	4½
Sick Fund	66	5	8
Benevolent Fund	161	4	7
	£240	6	7½

Audited and found correct.
(Signed)
E. EARNSHAW and PHILIP SHERIDAN, *Auditors.*
WM. JOHNSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

MR. CHARLES THOROGOOD, who has been re-elected President of the General Staff Branch, has enjoyed that distinction at each annual meeting during the past eleven years. He is one of the founders of the branch, and has loyally supported it in good and bad days—the bad ones occurred in its infancy. He presided at the first meeting in 1890 (he was then employed at the Adelphi Theatre) and was elected secretary at the meeting. His house was used for a time as the office of the society, and he acted as hon. secretary until its success enabled other arrangements to be made.

To mark their appreciation of his services, the members have on two occasions made him a testimonial, the first being in the form of a silver coffee service, suitably inscribed, and the second a handsome marble clock and framed address.

UNDER the genial presidency of Mr. Cecil King, the popular stage-manager, the members of the electrical departments connected with His Majesty's Theatre held their first annual dinner at the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court-road, on Sunday evening last. Including the guests, the company numbered fully sixty, amongst those immediately supporting the chairman being Mr. Lewis Mercanton (assistant stage-manager), Mr. H. Bolton (chief electrician), Mr. William Lewin (property-master), Mr. J. Patterson (head flyman), Mr. A. Searle (stage department), and Mr. T. A. Boulton (fireman).

A formal toast list had been dispensed with for the occasion, but at the conclusion of the dinner itself the chairman, who met with a very hearty reception on rising, made a short explanatory speech, in the course of which he congratulated the electricians of the theatre on having that evening inaugurated an annual dinner. The movement, he might say, had from the first received the most hearty support from Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who, in recognition of the occasion, had, with characteristic forethought and generosity, addressed to him the following letter:—

"Dear Mr. King,—With best wishes to all present I am sending on some cigars, so that the lights may not be out. I hope you will have a merry evening, and that plenty of electricity may be stored.—Yours very truly, H. BEERBOHM TREE."

Continuing his speech, the chairman said he felt that nothing was more calculated to promote good fellowship amongst themselves, and at the same time to secure the harmonious working of departments, than such a gathering as the one at which they were now present, and he could only hope in all sincerity that it would prove to be the forerunner of many another friendly reunion.

At the conclusion of the chairman's speech, a capital programme of music, interspersed with recitations, and a conjuring display by Professor Regollo, pleasantly beguiled the time for the remainder of the evening, among the contributors to a highly-successful and well-sustained entertainment being Messrs. H. Bolton, J. Williams, Harry Paulton, jun., Frank Stanmore, Kerswell, A. Belcher, H. Ainsworth, Bellew, Freeman, Ben Millet, Minter, Livingstone, T. A. E. Boulton, Fordham, and T. Davies. Mr. Stock made an efficient accompanist. At the close of the programme, when the hands of the clock indicated a perilously near approach to "closing time," Mr. Kerswell, in a speech that was a model of brevity, proposed the health of the chairman. Needless to say, the toast was enthusiastically received, and drunk with musical honours.

Mr. Cecil King, in modestly acknowledging the compliment, congratulated the company on the success that had crowned the proceedings of the evening. He added that it should not be forgotten that the success of the gathering was mainly due to the stewards, who had worked throughout with a zeal and persistency worthy of the highest praise. After the chairman had resumed his seat, the company, upstanding, gave three hearty and spontaneous cheers for the entertainers and *Nero*, and a night of genuine pleasure, that will long remain impressed on the memories of those who were present, came to an appropriate close with the singing of "Auld lang syne" and the National Anthem. It may be mentioned, by way of conclusion, that the committee who so admirably carried out the arrangements consisted of Messrs. H. Bolton, T. Bolton, and H. Herepath, who were thoroughly deserving of the congratulations they received from one and all.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 12, 26, April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
March 19, April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 21, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
April 2, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7. Race Week, 14, 28, June 4, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
March 26, April 2, 16, May 7, 14,
Aug. 6, 13.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, May 14, June 4, Aug. 13, 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 9, 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Feb. 15 (3 nights), Feb. 26, March 5, 19, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 7, June 11, 18, Aug. 13, 20, on.
Milton Bode and Edward Compton take over the Opera House, Leicester, and the Theatre Royal, Leicester, on Monday, Feb. 19.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1905, for two and three weeks. Please state subject, and where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 7, 14, 21, June 11, July 23, 30, Aug 6, Sept. 17.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams: "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
Feb. 26, March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16 (Luton, certainty only), 23, 30.
Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 26.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Companies, for May 28 and Whit Week, also vacant Aug. 6, 13, on, with exceptions.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Companies, April 16 (Easter), 23, and May 7, share or certainty.
Address, LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, 21, 28, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 23 and 30.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 16 (Spring Holiday week), and 23.
Address, RICH WALDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 12 and April 2.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 26 and March 5. Last week, "Home, Sweet Home" (return visit); this, Mr. A. E. Smith's Pantomime (return visit); next, Mr. Reynolds' "Mr. Smith." Address, GERALD HARDING.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomime, for Feb. 4, 1907 (two weeks), state where can be seen; Musical Attraction, April 2 (Race Week); also First-Class Companies, April 30, June 4, and onwards, with exceptions. Add., T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Strong Attractions,
March 12, 19, 26.
MONTEFIORE,
Edinburgh.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, HALIFAX.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 2, 30, and May 7.
Only Leading Attractions can be Entertained.
Address,
OTTO C. CULLING, T. R., Bury.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, Feb. 26, March 5, 26, and on. First-class Attraction wanted for reopening date, Aug. 13. Dumfries, Vacant March 5, on.

WANTED, for the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, High-class Musical Attractions, for April 9, 16, 23.
Apply,
HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

LOWESTOFT MARINA THEATRE CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Attractions, March 19 and 26. Address, E. A. SMITH.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for March 19, April 16, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

THEATRE ROYAL, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 26, March 5, and onwards. No panto. in yet. Add., CADDICK.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attractions, April 9.
Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, Pantomimes, Big Attractions, Feb. 26, March 12 Grand, Chorley; also March 5, 19, 26, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, Feb. 26 (3), March 5, May 7.
F. J. ROBINSON, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.
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Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant April 2, March 5, May 21, June 4.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 5, 19.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 5, 15 (3 nights only).

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Feb. 12 (3 nights), Feb. 22 (3 nights), March 8 (3 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 5.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 28.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Feb. 12, 26, March 12, 26.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19 (3 nights), 26, April 9.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19, 26, April 2.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant Feb. 26, April 2, 23.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant March 19 (?), April 9, April 23 (?), April 30, May 14, on, with exceptions.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 7, 14, and 28.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4 Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, June 4 (Whit Week), 11, June 25 (Newcastle Race Week).
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

NEW HIPPODROME THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, Pantomime, Feb. 19 or 26, Musical Attraction, also First-class Companies, March and onwards, the above having now been licensed for Stage Plays. It's a newly-built stone building, finest out of London, lighted by electricity inside and out; full Band twelve performers. Staff inside and out in uniform; everything of latest and up-to-date.
First-Class Attractions only Communicate.
J. MORRELLA and T. JENNINGS.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 26, April 9; these are the only two dates open this Spring. Open to book only First-class Companies, August Bank Holiday and onward.
Apply, Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 2, and few later dates. ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD, First-class Attraction, April 2. This theatre is going strong. For dates, write, WILL SMITHSON, Merthyr.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
WANTED, a Really First-Class Attraction, for Easter, to open Saturday, April 14. Forward full particulars and lowest terms to PRITT.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Attractions, Feb. 19, 26, April 2, 9, and on, Big Attraction for Easter.
FRED HAMMOND.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT, and THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, for Production next Christmas, two First-Class Pantomimes, Vacant April 30, May 21, and June 4, for First-Class Dramatic Companies. Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

GAIETY THEATRE, BURNLEY.
WANTED, Big Dramatic Companies, March 12 and April 9, unexpectedly vacant. Address, J. E. CULLEN, Cattle Market Hotel, Burnley.

NEW PAVILION,
EASTBOURNE PIER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 12, April 2, 23, May 28, June 11 (?), and various dates onwards. Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Bolton, First-Class Attractions, April 30, May 21, 28, and various others. Unless really first-class shows waste of stamps in communicating with J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3, 4, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit. Week. Apply WILLIAM PEACOCK.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Good Attractions, May 14, 28, June 11, Aug. 20, on; Pantomime wanted for Jan., 1907; Xmas vacant for First-class Attraction.
Address, FRANK KING.

GAIETY THEATRE, DUNDEE (twice nightly).
WANTED, really First-class Drama or Musical Comedy, for April 16, and on, Share or Certainty (latter preferred). Address, R. A. P. WILLIAMS, Sole Lessee and Manager.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Panto., Musical Comedy, and First-Class Drama, March 12, 26, April 2, and on.
E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Companies, Feb. 19, March 5, various, onwards.
King's Theatre, Walthamstow.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, Companies for Scotland's Provincial Theatres.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 1 (3 nights), March 5, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, and on.
First-class Attractions can have Five or Six Weeks' Tour.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE,
March 26, April 9, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
April 9, May 14, and on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 26, May 21, on.
Address
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies, GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 5 (3 nights), April 9, Easter (musical comedy preferred), May 7 (?), 28, June 11, 18.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
March 8 (3 nights), May 7, 21, June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9.
Coms., ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, High-class Company, March 5. Hastings (three nights), March 8, Folkestone (three nights). Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE, LONDON.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, for the Autumn.
N.B.—The theatre will open, under Mr. Howard's Management, on Monday, Feb. 26, when Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Marion Terry, and Miss Mary Moore will appear in a Special Matinée, of "Captain Drew on Leave."
April 2 will possibly fall vacant.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 12, 26,
April 2, 9.
Required, Sound Attraction, for Easter, Musical preferred.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Attractions, March 12, 19, 26, Easter, Easter, Easter,
April 23, 30, May 14, Sept. 3, on;
now fast booking Autumn, 1906.
Good terms given to the right Attractions.
Printing required 400 sheets, walls, 350 lithos.
Bookings include "Silver King," "Coal King," "Eternal City," "Fatal Wedding," &c., &c.
Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS.

THEATRES ROYAL, WEDNESBURY, AND BILSTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Bilston, March 19, April 23, 30; Wednesbury, March 5, April 16, 30; also week, March 26, three nights each theatre. HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

GAIETY THEATRE, DUNDEE (twice nightly).
WANTED, really First-class Drama or Musical Comedy, for April 16 and on, Share or Certainty (latter preferred). Address, R. A. P. WILLIAMS, Sole Lessee and Manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-Class Musical Companies and Pantomimes, Feb. 26, and on; best turn of the year. Good Dramas March 19, on. Wire.
ALBANY WARD.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 19 (6 nights), March 5 (3 nights), 12, and on, Change of Bill preferred. JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
(The West End Theatre of Hastings.)
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 30, onwards, with exceptions. Apply, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS, as above; or Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly. Telephone, 6,534 Gerrard.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Pier Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea. Owners, the Corporation. Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless. The Premier Place of Entertainment. Residential Population about 50,000. First Vacant Date, April 3, 1905. Wanted, First-class Companies, complete in themselves, musical preferred. Last season's engagements included Miss Marie Hall and Party, Band of H.M. 1st Life Guards, Arthur Roberts and Party, Band of H.M. Scots Guards, Norman V. Norman and Co., the famous Besses-o'-th'-Barn Band, Madam Ella Russell and Party, Band of the 1st West India Regiment, Charles Coborn and Company, Madam H. E. Angless's Pompadour Band, Miss Madge Lessing, Miss Ethel Cadman, the Hebburn Prize Band, the Scarlet Mr. E's, the Celebrated Red Band, Mr. Harold Montague's Party, the Anglo-Swiss Ladies' Band, "Dare Devil Dorothy" Co., Harry Reynolds's Minstrels, the Burgon Opera Recital Co., Mr. Chas. March and Co., the Dagonets, &c., &c., &c. All coms. to Mr. STANLEY E. ANGLESS. Seven days' silence a polite negative.

WANTED, for Theatre, Heywood, Good Pantomime or Musical Show, March 12 (week), also March 22 (3 nights). ALBERT JONES, Oxford-chambers, Manchester.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED, Good Attractions, Dramas, Musical Comedies, &c., Good Pantomime would do well, Feb. 19, onwards. HERBERT, Town Hall Theatre, Methil.

WANTED, Good Combinations, Choirs, Dramas. Musical Comedies, &c., Feb. 19, onwards, must have good printing. HERBERT, Town Hall Theatre, Methil.

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 12, May 28.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 16, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31. and Spring, 1907.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 2, 23, 30.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, London, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for "THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
Scored a brilliant success last week at the COLOSEUM THEATRE, OLDHAM,
In spite of the strongest possible opposition, viz., first visit of
"THE EARL AND THE GIRL,"
Which had been boomed for weeks.
In spite of
Two Powerful Variety Companies,
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES"
Played a splendid week's business.
The Receipts went up Nightly.
Saturday,
Crammed from floor to ceiling.
Mostly all early door.
This is no catch advertisement,
But a plain statement of facts.
Managers
REFER, PLEASE, REFER
To Joseph Ball, Esq.,
Coloseum Theatre, Oldham.

Press cuttings:—
. . . A sound, interesting and thoroughly human play. The dialogue is terse and effective and often rising to heights of exceptional merit. The characters are firmly, yet naturally drawn; they are beings of real flesh and blood, who are able to move us to tears and laughter. The plot is cleverly constructed, and the situations are impressive. S. Buchanan Rogerson has indeed written a strong and effective play. . . . This is the great scene of the drama, full of intense and enthralling interest, and it holds the audience spellbound . . . has stamped it with the success it fully deserves.—The Era.
. . . has written a drama of sterling worth. . . . It is evident there is money to be made out of the play.—The Stage.
. . . Will rank with the most successful of modern plays.—The Standard.
. . . The story is an enthralling one.—"The Chronicle."
. . . A most brilliant play . . . a distinct advance in dramatic writing.
Vacant dates.
March 19 (north), through change of route (Thanks Mr. J. P. Moore for transferring the date), April 9 16, 30, May 21, June 4, August 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for a New and Powerful Play,
Powerful Play,
suggested by, and founded on, Mr. Guy Thorne's celebrated Novel,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
The Play is adapted and written by that brilliant young Author,
S. BUCHANAN ROGERSON.
Is Fully Licensed,
Registered and Protected.

The most Powerful Company out of London.

First Vacant Dates,
April 9, 16 (?), May 14, June 4, 18.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, Easter, May 14, 21, 28.
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

GRANVILLE and THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Sound Attraction, April 30, May 7, 14 (?), 21, 28, and June 4.
Apply, FRED GRANVILLE,
Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
The New, Novel, and Original Circus Drama.
Now Making a Hit at Merthyr,
Refer W. Smithson, Esq.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, first-class theatres only. Now booking Spring, '07. SANTE, T. R., Merthyr; O. H., Porth.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Mr. Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED, Mar. 26, April 2 and 16, Midlands.
Add., RALLAND, T. Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN and SIDNEY CROWE'S CO., "THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Jan. 26, March 5, May 28, on. Strong Co., including Miss Sidney Crowe. Two Thoroughbred Racehorses travelled. HERBERT SKARDON, Gen.-Manager, Feb. 12, T. R., Castleford.

WANTED, for "On Circumstantial Evidence," April 2, 9, Easter and Summer, played by a Company of Experienced Artists. Comedy goes with screams of laughter; heroic speeches heartily applauded. The public is begging for interesting plays, with plenty of comedy. Give the public what it wants. Resident-Managers.—We have the Company, we have the Play, but we want the Theatres too. CHAS. CLIFFORD, O. H., Weymouth.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS.
WANTED, April 9, 16, 30, on, for important revival of the musical "Life," and an original musical version of "East Lynne" (fully protected and licensed by the Lord Chamberlain), First-class Company, including Mr. Herbert Barrs and Miss Dorothy Oswald. Working agent and finest plant of reserved pictorials extant. Address, SECRETARY, Midland Syndicate, Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 26, March 12, and onwards.
Address,
Lister-road, Liverpool.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH,"
by the late F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Theatres, March 12, 26, May 7, June 4, Aug. 6, Dec. 24, 31. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, T. R., York; next week, Victoria, W. Stanley.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Moneymaking Attraction, April 2, in or near London;
April 23, 30, May 7, Midlands.
Autumn fast filling. Wanted, Oct. 1, 29, Lancs.
26th Week of Present Tour.
FRANK AYRTON, Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR.
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, for this acknowledged Strong Attraction, May 28, June 18, 25, July 2, and onwards, with exceptions; sound Cast; Russian Uniforms a Speciality.
Thanks Messrs. A. F. Cross, E. Graham-Falcon, and E. Oswald Brooks for Contracts. Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 19, 26, April 2 (?), 9 (?), March 19, 26, April 2, 9.
Another Success Scored at Walsall.
Refer W. H. Westwood, Esq.
Wire, E. A'DELL, New T. R., Loughborough.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, for this Brilliant Attraction, March 5,
between Sheffield and Portsmouth.
HARRY FOXWELL, Aquarium, Yarmouth.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, for this High-class Drama, March 5, 19, various, onward.
W. J. MILLER, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9.
FRED BULMER, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, March 19, 26, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9.
FRED BULMER, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Feb. 19, Feb. 19, Feb. 19.
"A SISTER'S SIN,"
vacant Feb. 26, Feb. 26, Feb. 26.
Both plays bigger business than ever. Wire KIMBERLEY, Theatre, Peterboro'; next, Met., Manchester

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, weeks of Feb. 26 and March 26, in or around London, for the Scala Production.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
Scala Theatre, London, W.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.
WANTED, week of March 12, Midlands, Lancashire, or Yorkshire preferred.
Wire, W. W. KELLY,
Scala Theatre, London, W.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, 30, May 28, June 4, on.
"SAILORS OF THE KING."
April 2, 16, May 7, 14, 28, Aug. 6, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, April 23, between Scarboro' and Manchester, only vacant date.
CHALMERS MACKEY, this, Lyceum, Eccles; Feb. 12, P. O. W. Theatre, Salford, Six Nights.

WANTED, Dates, Xmas, 1906-7, for
"SINBAD THE SAILOR."
Mr. James's Islington Pantomime.
Lloyd's News, Dec. 31, said:—
One of the best pantomimes seen at Islington for some years.
Referee, Dec. 31, said:—
"Sinbad" is a funny as well as a beautiful pantomime.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,"
Mr. James's Crouch End Pantomime.
Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said:—
The entertainment can claim rank among the liveliest and most pleasing to be found.
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER,"
Mr. James's Croydon Pantomime.
The Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this Pantomime that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
Apply,
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 23, 30, May 14, 21 (3 nights), 28.
J. W. CORDINER, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

WANTED, Good Theatres, South Coast preferred, from June 18 to Aug. 13, 1906, for Tour of
"A BUNCH OF VIOLETS,"
from the Haymarket Theatre, London.
Mr. Norman E. Partridge as Sir Philip Marchmont.

For dates apply,
GEORGE E. MUDD,
Business Manager,
GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.

MESSRS. MURRAY AND STAFFORD'S CO.
WANTED, Several Spring Dates, for the Powerful Drama of Moral Import,
"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."
Specially Selected Company.
New and Elaborate Scenery and Effects.
Splendid Special Pictorials.
Managers desirous of Booking a Strong Attraction and Sure Success, communicate immediately,
39, Evans-square, Beetonsville, Hull.

Miss MARY NEIL and Mr. GEO. KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON," by Chas. Darrell.
Miss MARY NEIL as NELLIE HARBORNE.
Produced Jan. 1, and secured by the following Managers for Immediate Dates:—Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Milton Bode, C. W. Poole, W. Morton, &c., &c.
WANTED, March 5, only Vacant Date until Aug. 20. Add., GEO. KIRK, Alex., Sheffield.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
By Walter Howard.
Biggest Dramatic Success in the Country.
Annie Saker,
Alfred Paumier.
WANTED, Important Theatres, for 1907-8.
Booked up for this Year.
ALFRED PAUMIER, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool, Feb. 12, Six Nights.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
WANTED, Feb. 12, 19,
South or Midlands.
HORACE STANLEY,
45, Fairfax-road, Colchester.

MR. EADE MONTEFIORE'S
"CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Feb. 26 (North), Wire,
MONTEFIORE, Edinburgh.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"OLIVER TWIST," Vacant Feb. 22 (3 nights), Feb. 26, March 26, and April 2.
"FLORODORA," Vacant April 2.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.
Telegrams, "Playgoing, London."

WANTED, March 5 19, on, for "A London Actress."
STUART CLEVELAND, Theatre Royal, Goole.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 26,
Feb. 26,
Feb. 26,
G. DENHAM,
This, Queen's, Dublin; next, Dalston, N.E.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Feb. 26, follow Alex., Sheffield, also March 26, April 2. HENRY L. OSMOND, Saltley; next, Opera House, Harrogate.

Messrs. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
All Spring Dates Booked.
WANTED, Big Theatre, for Aug. 6.
All communications to
JOHN B. SHINTON, T. R., Dover.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 26 and March 5. Address, to-day, Ilfracombe; Mon., Lyceum T., Crewe.

HADDON and LOADER'S
"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK."
Owing to Enormous Success of above Pantomime, the present Tour will be Prolonged, if suitable Dates can be obtained.
WANTED, Feb. 26, and onwards. Dates also Wanted for next year.

"WOMAN AND HER MASTER."
The above New Drama will shortly be Toured by Mr. Jack Haddon. Everything will be on the same Standard of Excellence as his previous Productions.
WANTED, Known, Several Vacant Dates, Spring and Autumn.
Wire, Opera House, Harrogate.
Monday, OPERA HOUSE, COVENTRY.

"THE CURATE."
WANTED, Theatres, for Feb. 19, March 26,
Easter.
WHITMORE LEDGER, T. R., Rugby.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN,"
The Successful Musical Comedy,
March 5,
onwards.
Wire,
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
King's Theatre, Gainsborough; next week, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Gt. Grimsby.

"WHEN A MAN HATES."
WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, March 5, for this Strong Attraction. Wire for Feb. 19. TRAVIS GREEN, Victoria T., West Stanley; next, T. R., Consett.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for production, 1906, 1907, for Charles Chard's Great Pantomimes: "Cinderella," from the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield; also "Goody Two Shoes," now at Theatre Royal, Rochdale, next week, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Mexboro'.

Managers wanting a First-Class Funny Pantomime apply at once to

CHAS. CHARD, Prince of Wales's, Mexboro'.

THEATRES WANTED.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, April 23, 30, May 7 and Whit Week.

Address, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Feb. 26, March 26, and Easter only, only vacant dates till Autumn.
Address, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, May 7, 14, and Whit Week.
Managers desiring a Sure Draw, communicate, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.
Head Offices: Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Tours Booked. Engagements Negotiated. Plays and Sketches Written, Read, and Produced. Enquiries solicited.
WANTED, Dates, for Various Moneymaking Attractions, as hereunder:—
"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. Reuben Payne's Company,
May 7, 14, 21, 28, Various Autumn,
"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. P. Howard Sturgess's Company, including Miss Edith Blande,
March 12 (London District preferred), Various, onwards.
"SAINTS AND SINNERS," and "MIDDLEMAN,"
Mr. Harding Thomas's Company,
Sept. 10, 17, various onwards (North).
Vacant Dates for Mr. Arthur Carlton's New Play (by Sutton Vane) will shortly be announced.
A. J. tenders his sincere thanks to the large number of managers who have honoured him with requests to book their tours. At the earliest opportunity he will make a "run round," with view to completing arrangements to do so, notification of which will duly appear in this space.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22 (3 nights), March 5, June 18, and Aug. 6, also few later.
Bookings include:— Oldham, S. Shields, Sunderland, R., Cardiff, G., Swansea, Newport, Chester, Middlesbrough, Ipswich, Newcastle, Greenock, Glasgow, Stratford, Leicester, G., Birmingham, R., Hull, P., Bradford, &c. Address, Coliseum T., Oldham, to-day; T. R., Edmonton, Feb. 12.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
Miss Dora Price as the Woman.
WANTED, March 12 (between S. Wales and Seacombe), March 26 (follow Seacombe), April 2, 9 (precede Ton-y-Pandy, Easter), April 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
Whit. Week Vacant.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
To-day, Lyceum, Crewe; next, T. R., Shrewsbury

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
Bad times for theatres. What are the causes? Dearth of good plays.—Daily Mail.
Managers please note:—"A Royal Revenge" is a good, sound, wholesome, sterling play, with not a bad woman in it, and is the theme of universal admiration.
WANTED, March 12, 19, 26, onwards, with exceptions, Easter and Whitsun, for this really Remarkable Holiday Attraction.
CLYNDES, Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

Mr. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S TOUR.
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Vacant April 16 and 23. Now Booking Autumn. Everything new, everything carried, everything good.
LEWIS GILBERT, T. R., Croydon.

WANTED, for "The Deserter," the finest Military and Domestic Comedy Drama on the Road, April 2, 9, onwards. Look out for "The Deserter," and mind you catch him. CHARLES CLIFFORD, O. H., Weymouth.

PETER THOMPSON'S
"BABES IN THE WOOD" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Feb. 19, for this Genuine Success, owing to extension.
Wire, CHILDS, this, T. R., Stockport; next, Queen's Opera House, Workington.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, a young, smart, experienced Lady, for Character and other Parts, in Comic Sketch; a good Engagement to a competent Artist. Apply, with full particulars, Box 127, Camberwell-road, S.E.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Engagements waiting, CHAS. H. HOUGHTON and Co., Dramatic and Musical Agents, 253, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Artists various Lines, Special Week, Feb. 26, Sketches, Rehearse London. Terms, &c. ROY COCHRANE, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

WANTED, First-Class Heavy Lady, Tall, Good Appearance, Dress Well; also Young Lady to understudy Principals. Photos (stamped envelope), fullest particulars, A. HAMILTON WARDEN, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

WANTED, a Lady, for Juveniles, good study. Age, height, photo., references, and lowest terms, to HENRY BEDFORD, 15, Temple-rd., Windsor.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Good Irish Comedian, also Smart Young Chambermaid, latter to rehearse Tuesday. Photo., terms, HARRY FOXWELL, Aquarium, Yarmouth.

WANTED, for Mr. Allan Wilkie's Tour, Responsible Gentleman, for parts in Shakespearean and Modern Répertoire. Also Amateur Lady and Gent. to walk on and understudy. H. F. MALTBY, New T., Aberdare.

WANTED, Gentlemen (two), as Responsibles, rehearse at once, for short stock sketch season, open Monday. Apply, MANAGER, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, to Join at Once, Good Responsible Lady and Gent., for long tour, capable of line. Lowest terms, refs., age, height, photos., &c., STUART CUNNINGHAM, Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, Immediately, for West-end Production, really smart ladies; must be young, and particularly attractive, voice not so essential as appearance. Also, for musical comedies, in the autumn, Artists, in all Lines. Apply, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Known.—An Opening will shortly occur with First-class Dramatic Manager for Young Lady and Young Gentleman Amateurs. Thorough tuition. Premium. Salary in accordance. Apply, first instance, Box 2,784, "The Era."

WANTED, Clever Amateur Lady and Gentleman, for Tour, must dress well. Premium £10. Full particulars in first instance. Box 2,780, "The Era."

WANTED, Ballet Mistress, to Rehearse in London, for Troupe of Ladies, Singers and Dancers; thorough knowledge of every kind of dancing essential. Offers, with best terms, may be sent to Box 2,750, "The Era."

WANTED, for Pantomime Burlesque, Artists, in all Lines, to rehearse immediately. Lowest terms, or useless. ERNO AGUZZI, Garrick Theatre, Hereford.

WANTED, Known, Beginners and Amateurs desiring to Star in the Dramatic or Variety Profession, facilities are offered by LISLE, Q. T., East Grinstead.

WANTED, young, very pretty and respectable Girls, good Dancing and Singing required, medium figure, for First-class Singing and Dancing Troupe. Good conditions, 3 years' engagements. Address full particulars, &c., to Box 2,751, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Girls, those that can Dance and Bend a little preferred, age 15. Communications, TREMONO, Palace, Bristol.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Lady Entertainer, Vocal or Instrumental, by experienced Agent; youth, beauty, and talent indispensable. Box 2,770, "The Era."

WANTED, Boys, small, good voices; good salary for exceptional soloists. Apply, 45, Seymour-place, Portman-square. Vivian Galbraith send address.

WANTED, Good Elocutionist, also Lanternist, and an Assistant Secretary, musical preferred, good address. R. EVANS, Armoury Library, Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Experienced Chorus Trainer, Post where smart and really good Chorus Singing is required. At Liberty at Easter. Box 2,722, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, C. Young Fixott, late Pompier in "Gay Parisienne," Gilfain in "Florodora," at Liberty through disappointment. Add., 170, Lambeth-road. London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, F. E. Foster wishes to join Company, to play part and assist Stage. Dis. Feb. 19.
Prince's Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26, by Lead and Lead, Characteristic Comedy Duettists, Patterers, Duologue Artists, Singles. Write, Post Office, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, Henry Wright, Comedian and S.M., Producer and S.M. of the "Dick Whittington," Kennington Theatre. Feb. 11.
Marina, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Summer Engagements, for Dancers, Vocalists, Chorus Ladies, Juveniles, &c., Liberty Feb. and March. DIRECTRESS, 43, St. James'-street, Leeds.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Scenery Contractors or Storage Warehouse, extensive premises, to Let, Low Rent, Murphy-street, Westminster Bridge-road. R., 33, Graces-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Painting, Joinery, materials of uniform excellence, at reasonable prices, large Studio and Workshop. Address, CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers of Gardens, Piers, Pavilions, to know I have good open air Scenic Novelties, also can make and paint anything required either for inside or outside. Address,
TURNER, Scenic Artist, 50, Vernon-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Whyatt and Son, at Liberty to accept Contracts of every description. Christmas Productions, Lester Collingwood's "Blue Beard"; W. H. Hallatt's "Temptress." Studios, Lyceum, Crewe.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement, or Contract, town or provinces. Refs. Add., 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Contracts. Every facility. Renovations, inclusive terms, anywhere. 20 years' London and Provincial experience. ERNEST R. JONES, 65, Hanover-rd., Willesden, London. To Oxford and O.U.D.S., 13 years; Leamington Studios, 3 years. Enquiries invited.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Touring Representative, by old-established Provincial Variety Agency, must be prepared to invest small amount of money as security. Box 2,756, "The Era."

WANTED, by well-known and established Variety Agency, smart representative, liberal commission to a good energetic worker, must pay own expenses, can work London or Provinces. This is a chance of a lifetime for the right man. Address Box 2,782, "The Era."

WANTED, a Man, to look after Stage and do Billposting; also Wife, to clean Theatre. Lowest terms and references to WILLIAMS, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Young Lady, to Train as Assistant to a Society Character Reader; must be refined, and well educated; one speaking German, able to type preferred. No premium; immediate work. Box 2,767, "The Era."

WANTED, a Wardrobe Keeper, able to use needle well, for tenting. Apply, with lowest terms, to D. TAYLOR, c/o De Frece, 12, Cecil-court, Charing Cross, London.

WANTED, Position as Assistant Manager, Treasurer, Box-Office, or other capacity, Theatre or Music Hall, London or Provinces, by married man, excellent theatrical references. BURNS, 12, Bradiston-road, St. Peter's Park, London, N.W.

WANTED, by Charles Gascoigne, late twelve years manager of the People's Palace, Bristol, a Situation as Manager, thoroughly qualified from back to front of house; good refs. Address, The Bute Hotel, Victoria-street, Bristol.

WANTED, Evening Employment, by Gentleman engaged in City during the day, Theatre preferred. Could attend Matinées. Box 2,725, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by C. H. Reed, Circus Agent and Manager, Advertising and Outdoor Manager, Assistant Hippodrome Manager; experienced, reliable. Address, REED, The Stores, Leigh-road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

WANTED, by Competent Gentleman, Engagement as Assistant Acting-Manager, London or Provinces, Music Hall preferred, thoroughly experienced; substantial security if required. Box 2,761, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, T. W. Johnson, Liberty for Summer, produce and management only; good refs.; four years' Catlin's, Scarboro'; offers. Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, E. Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty, can join at once. Experienced. References. Wire or write, Post Office, Bromley, Kent.

WANTED, Good Experienced Advance Agent, for a tenting show; also to Hire, a Good Turpin Mare, for tenting season. Address, CROCKETT, 3, Manor-parade, High-street, Sutton, Surrey.

WANTED, by a well-known London Agent, to negotiate with Ladies and Gentlemen in all Lines, desirous of public or private Engagements. Box 2,771, "The Era."

WANTED, Desk-room in West End Music Shop, by Agent with Royal and Aristocratic Patrons. Box 2,773, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Agent wishes meet Attractive Young Lady. State height, age, financial position, confidential particulars. Box 2,768, "The Era."

WANTED, by Manager and Wife, now travelling Panto., entire Management of Hotel or Theatre Bars; experienced. Box 2,783, "The Era."

WANTED, a Good Driver for Motor Track. No others than those used to the business and sober need apply. Also Manager to take charge of same. Also 3 or 4 Good Frame Men. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WEST'S "OUR NAVY."
WANTED, Leader for Above, Open Feb. 26.
R. A. LAIDLAW, M.D.,
Guild Hall, Cambridge.

WANTED, Experienced Lady Violinist (Leader), for hotel quartette, commencing Feb. 23. Write, CLARICE EARLE, 13, Marine-parade, Clacton-on-Sea.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Good Second Cornet, to Open 19th inst.
Apply, stating references and salary, to R. THORNTON.

WANTED, Competent Solo Cornet, commence Feb. 16. Age and references to FRANK FISHBURN, Musical-Director, Ohmy's Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

WANTED, for Theatre, Heywood, Cornet and Violin, for one week, Feb. 19. Absolute lowest terms, ALBERT JONES, Oxford-chambers, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Clarionettist (permanency); also Violin, 'Cello, Flute, Oboe, and Bassoon, for fortnight commencing March 5. Refs. and Salary required to WILLIAM HARTLEY, Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, First-class Bassoonist, for Summer Season. Apply, VICTOR HALL, c/o W. Hemmings, Old White Swan Hotel, Goodramgate, York.

WANTED, for a Circus, Tenting Season, String Bass, to combine Bombardon, for parades, commence Feb. 24. Apply, AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus. Dir., c/o THOMPSON, 6, Spittal-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Flautist, for Week commencing Monday, Feb. 19. Address, with lowest terms and references, to THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, a Flautist, to Open at Once. Terms and references to
J. F. ELLISTON,
Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, for Feb. 19, Flute, Second Violin, Viola, Cornet, all must be good.
Apply, JOSEPH SAINTON, Crystal Palace T., London.

WANTED Pianist, to Open at Once, Lady or a Youth, for long concert tour; must read manuscript at sight. State lowest terms, age, and all particulars, to TRAVIS, Oddfellows' Hall, Barton-on-Humber, Lincs.; after Sunday. Assembly Rooms, Beverley, Yorkshire.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, PAISLEY, N.B.
WANTED, to join at once, First-Class Double Drummer, with all effects; also Double Bass.
Address, TRANSFIELD, as above.

WANTED, to Train with Band of the 3rd Lincoln Regiment, from May 28 to June 23, 1906, with one week's previous practice, commencing on the morning of May 21.
Applicants should apply to
BANDMASTER, 3rd Lincoln Regiment, Lincoln.

1 Oboe, 1 Flute and Piccolo,
First Bassoon, 3 First Clarionets (B flat),
3 Second Clarionets (B flat), 3 First Cornets (B flat),
2 Trombones, 2 Horns (Tenor, E flat).

WANTED, Smart, Steady, Young Musicians, Pianists, Violinists, and 'Cellists, thoroughly experienced in orchestral work, for South American Trips, from Liverpool. Permanent employment, comfortable quarters, and musical duties only. State age and references.
Rehearsals required in Liverpool.
C. W. BLACK,
19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, also Pianist. Apply between 11 o'clock and 3 o'clock; only first-class Musicians need apply. J. NURNBERGER, M.D., Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, First-Class Ladies' Orchestra, for Season, commencing June 4. Particulars and lowest terms. Box 2,790, "The Era."

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C., "Re Advertisement
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

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WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, disengaged shortly, terminating most pleasant engagement with Eade Montefiore. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood.

WANTED, Known, Mr. S. C. Richardson, Musical Director for Mr. E. C. Hedmondt's "Queen's Jester" Comic Opera Company, at Liberty for Tour or Permanency. Press Notices, &c., from principal papers. Formerly of the Royal Carl Rosa, and the Moody-Manners Opera Companies. Address offers, 45, Shudehill, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Smart London Variety Musical Director, open to re-engagement, Violinist and Pianist, to date library. Box 2,733, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Ellis, Acting-Manager, Musical Director (Violin), at Liberty after 9 years, Pavilion Theatre, Edinburgh. 6, Gardner's-crescent, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Thos. Reynolds, at Liberty as Leader, tenting, good répertoire of music. Address, Red Lion Hotel, Coleshill, near Birmingham.

WANTED, by Leader (or as First Violin), Engagement, thoroughly experienced any business, at Liberty Feb. 17. Box 2,778, "The Era."

WANTED, by Leonard Spohr Tute, Re-engagement as Conductor, Leader, or Pianist, Smart, Sober, Satisfactory. Permanent address, 31, Marlehill-parade, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. Taggart, Conductor (Violin and Piano) desires Re-engagement Good refs., experienced, modern library. 21 Beaconsfield-road, Brighton.

WANTED, by First Violin and Solo Clarionet Combined, Permanent Engagement, twenty years' experience. T. MASON, c/o Young, 97, Friars-street, Warwick.

WANTED, Situation as Violinist, any Business, sober and reliable; good references. Apply, SIM YATES, Pier Pavilion Orchestra, Southport.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, Violin or Viola. Good References. Wire or write. H. GLAISTER, 25, Dan-y-Parc, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, by First Violin (Leader), Engagement, young; salary moderate. FOSTER, 79, Kirkewhite-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Re-engagement, First or Second Violinist, experienced, good refs. VIOLINIST, 6, High Mill-road, South Town, Great Yarmouth.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Violinist, any business, would deputise, London only, at Liberty Feb. 26, through closing. LEADER, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, Known, Dorothea Augusta Vincent, Solo Violinist and 'Cellist, Disengaged, Solo or Orchestral Work. Apply, 28, Marjorie-grove, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Good Engagement, Violin, Clarionet, Cornet, together or separate, thoroughly experienced. Highest refs. DEGAN, c/o Kirkwood, 35, Dalry-road, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Violinist, as Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Concert Orchestra; any distance. ARTHUR BASSON, 57, Barmouth-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Cornet, disengaged, any business, steady, experienced. Moderate terms. Wire, W. MORDANT, 2, Granville-street, Kettering, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, by Clarionet, regular Engagement, or Deputising. Highest credentials. London or suburbs. E. B., 7, Stanger-road, S. Norwood.

WANTED, Season Engagement, Solo B flat Clarionet, or E flat, best of references, experienced and reliable. G. HARRISON, Clarionet, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, Military or String, Orchestra; good ref. Seaside or other. T. HOPKINS, Hall-road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Occasional Engagements, for Orchestral Work, with Bassoon, London district. BASSOON, 15, Warwick-road, Hampton Wick.

WANTED, by good Double Bass, combine Euphonium, Engagement, any business. J. WOOD, 7, York-terrace, Oak-lane Twickenham.

WANTED, by First-class Double Bass, Summer Engagement, last two seasons Weymouth Municipal Band, references, reliable, sober. HORNSEY, Abington-avenue, Northampton.

WANTED, Engagement, as E flat Bass, in work's band, good references, experience, brass and military. L., 69, Walton-street, Hull.

WANTED, by Bassoon, at Once, Engagement; thoroughly experienced Military and Orchestral. 17 years' excellent refs. WHITE, P., 36, Eccleston-place, Buckingham Palace-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoonist, Military and String, 21 years' experience, excellent refs. Dis. March 1. Signor KERR, 9, York-terrace, Magpie Hall-road, Chatham.

WANTED, Engagement by Double Bass; steady, reliable, experienced any business; age 23; good references. Box 2,753, "The Era."

WANTED, by Double Bass Player, experienced, refs., Engagement on board ship.
Box 2,755, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer or Permanent Engagement, by Trombone, experienced in Military Band and Orchestra; abstainer. Apply, TROMBONIST, 189, Clarendon-place, Dover.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone, any business, well up in variety work, excellent refs., 5 years' Palace, Southampton. METCALFE.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, Engagement for Summer, Seaside, by 'Cello and Viola (Violin) Player; good Soloists. Pump Room Concerts, Bath. F. WEISBACH, 16, Pulteney-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, by Viola Player, thoroughly experienced and reliable, Engagement in good permanent London Orchestra. First-Class references as to ability and character. Replies to Box 2,774, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Viola, Seaside, or Travelling Quartette as Pianist and Viola, free July 23 to Sept. 8; only first-class work desired. Box 2,754, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Oboeist, Engagement, any Business, would Tour. Good testimonials. Also Offers for Summer. OBOE, 2, Church-street, Cambridge.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool

WANTED, Engagement by Experienced and Reliable Flute and Piccolo Player, Theatre, Variety, or Concert Orchestra. Last Season, Municipal Orchestra, Ramsgate. SAGINOR, 41, Settles-street, Commercial-road, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Flute and Piccolo Player, any business. E. BROWN, 6, Talgarth-rd., West Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, by Experienced Flautist, out of shop, Situation, Theatre or Variety. Can supply references. DANCER, Oxford-st., Newtown, Wednesbury.

WANTED, Known, a Brilliant Solo Pianist and Accompanist (Gentleman), who has fulfilled Two Seasons at Leading Pier, desires similar Engagement, in similar Capacity, or with high-class Concert Party (costume or otherwise). Disengaged July. PIANIST, 31, Villia-road, Brixton.

WANTED, by Young Lady, of Smart Appearance, Re-engagement. Good Pianiste, can Play and Write Manuscript Music, Handwriting Clear and Rapid, Shorthand and Typewriting. Moderate salary. Apply, Box 2,758, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist-Harpist, any business; good experience. References. SINCLAIR, 30, Empire-road, Shefield.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist, Licentiate R.A.M. Highest references. Address, W. B. C., 4, Stanhope-avenue, Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Violinist (combined), able to take on Musical Directorship, at First-class Hotel or Theatre. References, &c. Box 2,766, "The Era."

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, for coming season, Engagement with select Concert Party; good accompanist and sight reader. ROSALIE CARTER, Hazeldene, 57, Jerningham-road, New Cross.

WANTED, Engagements, Youth, Brilliant Pianist, quick reader, transposer; experienced any business, self or orchestra; references. BARNARD, 58, Ham Park-road, Stratford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, late of Harry Lauder's Concert Party, well up in variety business. J. N. ALEXANDER, 170, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagements for Concerts, &c., by Young Lady, A.T.C.L. (Associate Trinity College, London), Solo Pianiste, good accompanist. Box 2,759, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Smart, Young, Experienced Pianist, at Liberty to Book Summer Seaside Engagement. Apply, with terms, &c., to SYDNEY R. AXFORD, 9, Church-road, Croydon.

WANTED, by Gentleman Pianist, Summer Seaside Re-engagement, with First-class Orchestra, Concert Party, Dancing. Apply, Mulgrave House, Saltwell-rd., Gateshead-Tyne.

WANTED, by First-class Double Drummer and Tympanist, good permanent or Summer Engagement. SULLIVAN, Military Band, Penzance. Reference, Conductor, Penzance.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Double Drummer, in any business; good refs. LOCKTON, 15, Boroham-street, Bethnal Green-rd., S.E.

WANTED, by First-Class Professional Military Band, 18 to 30 performers, requires Summer Season Engagement; splendid library. SMEDLEY, 76, Parliament-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Orchestre Lyrique Italien, eleven in number (four ladies), Vocal and Instrumental Selections, Liberty Easter. First-class Offers only. Particulars, Box 2,787, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Ladies' Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet engaged Johannesburg, January to July.

WANTED, Engagement, to provide Large or Small Orchestra, by Licentiate, R.A.M. Highest possible recommendations. Address, L. E Cremona. Mountfield-rd, Finchley, London, N.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Lucie Strebelle's Orchestra is Engaged in the New Provincial Exhibition. Assembly Rooms, Yeovil, Feb. 17.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, Feb. 19, and onwards, Startling Sensations and Big Star Turns in all Lines. A few Good Riders write at Once, and Useful Turns in all Lines wire for Feb. 19.
Address,
KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, PAISLEY, N.B.
WANTED, the Biggest of Acts for this now popular and successful Circus, Aërial Shows, Refined Variety, Animal Shows, in fact any Act that can perform in a Circus Arena, either on Salary or Shares, but must be new to the town. Full particulars Transfield, as above. The above building is without doubt one of the best of its kind ever erected in Scotland; so says Mr. John Henry Cooke, Mr. Albert Hengler, also Mr. Algie, and others, who have seen it. Brilliantly lighted, very warm. Will be to sell end of March or April. Books may be seen with satisfactory results. Reasons for selling other business on hand, or would take on Partner, who would be willing to take the entire management. Address as above.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Equestrians and Specialities, for immediate and future Dates. Will Wallace Menzies communicate. Add., C. ALGIE. Call, Mon., 1 o'clock sharp: Toch and Tard, Mitezi, Leslie Race, Rita and Roma, Melitia, The Ernests, Joe Gill, Two Leons, Leo Claire, The Prinellas, Smith and Johnson, Payne's Bioscope.

BOSCO'S TENTING CIRCUS, IRELAND.
WANTED, Male and Female Riders, Clowns, Comedians, Vocalists, Ground and Aërial Acts of every possible Description. Full Band, Hustling Agent, and Billposter. All to commence Easter Monday, Long Tour. Address, with fullest particulars, IRVING BOSCO, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, for a Short Season, commencing Easter, onwards, in the North, a good sound practical Circus-Manager; must have had previous experience, and not afraid of work; one capable of taking position as Ringmaster preferred. Salary and liberal commission for suitable party. Apply, stating age, recent references, salary expected, to S. T., Box 2,757, "The Era."

JOHN SCOTT'S ROYAL BRITISH CIRCUS.
General-Manager, GEO. SCOTT.
WANTED, for Tenting, few Good Acts, those doing Double Numbers preferred.
State lowest in first letter. Address,
Crow's Yard, Snowdon-rd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.

WANTED, for Two Days' Gala, June 4, 5, Shemeid, and throughout the Summer Season, Aërial, Ground, Sensational Acts, Animals, Novelties. Plenty of work for the right people. Send lithos., memos., list of bookings, terms, permanent address, GEO. BURTON'S Agency, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

WANTED, for Lloyd's Circus, the Conquering Tour, Big Attractions, Novelties, and Sensational Acts of all Descriptions that can be done in the Ring; Riders, Clowns, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Leapers, &c. Also respectable Musicians may write. Post Office, Waterford.

WANTED, by the Carmarthen Attractions Committee, for the Bank Holidays, Big and Showy Performances, suitable for Outdoor Acts at Sports and Galas. Will agents also write in? PORTNELL, Carmarthen.

WANTED, Troupe of Acrobats, for "Span of Life," Singing Acrobats may also write.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

WANTED, a Sober, Steady Young Man, with Knowledge of Acrobating and Tumbling, age between 19 and 24, height not less than 5ft. 9in., weight not exceeding 9st.
Apply,
Photos., or personally, to PANTZER BROS., 21, Wardour-street, Leicester-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, Smart Acrobat, Tumbler, or Posturer, for comedy act, good salary to smart man. Letters, L. and F., Alhambra, Brighton.

Important.
WANTED, Top Mounter, for well-known Troupe, to join immediately. State weight, Tricks, and Salary. Address, Box 2,728, "The Era."

WANTED, Triple Bar Performer, at once. State age, height, tricks, and terms.
Box 2,794, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Lad, over fourteen years, Acrobatic Business.
Address, Box 2,762, "The Era."

WANTED, Boy fourteen, Tumbler and little Juggling, &c. Address, ARIZONA TROUPE, Barnard's Varieties, Greenwich.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Miss Pinder, Novel Equestrienne, with her Performing Horse Riding Dog and Flight of Pigeons. This Turn is quite new and novel, as Miss Pinder is the only lady doing this Turn on any Stage. Will be at Liberty Feb. 19, with John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist. Finish to-night (second engagement) at Fossett's Circus, the Agricultural Hall, London.
Address,
144, High-street, Deptford, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella, greatest and best existing Lion Show of the World, Vacant May 7, onwards.
Comm., week, Feb. 12,
Empire Palace, Newport.

WANTED, Known, Caban's Marvellous Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, Lib. Feb. 12, 25; also open dates for Galas and Fêtes. Public Hall, Scunthorpe.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominoes, Clown and Donkey, just finished fourteenth week, J. H. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh; open, T. Transfield's, Monday, Paisley. Vacant, 12th and 19th.

WANTED, Known, Bob Carlisle, Veteran Pedestrian and Circus Clown, starts 4,000 miles, with Indian Peepshow, through Britain, March, from London.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Agouste, now concluding most Comfortable Engagement, four months, with J. H. Cooke, Esq. At Liberty 19th, tenting.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 19, Bouncing Dillons, Great Comedy Gymnasts, Graceful Hilda, Bouncing Willie, Funny, Sensational. See Cards. Wire.

WANTED, Known, the Five Sisters Bellstzer, Lady Gymnasts, with their graceful Ring and Trapeze act, vacant March 19, onwards. Address, Stoll Tour.

WANTED, Monday next, also 19th, by Lillie Le Breton, Gymnast. This, Kursaal, Harrogate; after Sat., 49, Dorset-st., Hulme, M'chester.

WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, 26, Mayeno Trio (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers. Turley's Hotel, Chichester-st., Belfast.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Fêtes, Galas, &c., Sisters Rizarelli, Novel Revolving Trapeze Act; also The Recars, Chinese Acrobats, Two Acts. 3, Bowdon-street, Stockport.

WANTED, by Zedoras, Original Stage Flying Trapeze, March 5, North. 90, Victoria-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, by Clement Trio, Stage Comedy, Flying Trapeze Act, doing four different kinds of Double, Feb. 19, 26. Address, Ohmy's Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Lillian, and Clown Agouste, Contortionists, Feb. 19, 26; also Tenting Engagement. Offers to Empire, Dover.

WANTED, Known, The Cedrics, Olga and Edouard, Continental Refined Pattering Comedy Equilibristic Artists, different to any other Comedy Act, just concluded big success (two weeks) Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Vacant Feb. 19, 26, and March 3; also for Tour. Mon., Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, the Reays, Modern Equilibrists, free Monday. Wire, Hippo., Mansfield. Thanks Martino, for contracts.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists, and Skaters, also Lilian Sivado, Lady Gymnast, Two Acts, Liberty for Galas. Blue Bell Hotel, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Paulette, Novelty Acrobatic Leaping Cyclist; big success everywhere. Free for Tenting, Galas; two good Acts. Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

WANTED, Feb. 12, 19, and 26, by Billo, Trick and Somersault Cyclist. Wire, Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, Monday next, also 19th, by Swift Trio, Funny Cycle Act. Wire, Pavilion, Glasgow; after Sat., 37, Aber-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Valcon, the Youthful Hercules, ideal strong show, vacant March 5, Fêtes, Galas, &c. Stewart's Exhibition, 164, High-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, First-class Bearer and Catcher, at Liberty to join Troupe, Straight or Comedy. Address, Bearer, Post Office, Plymouth.

WANTED, by Two Young Men, Tumbler and Posturer, good Knockabouts, Engagement with Comedy or Speciality Act. Box 2,781, "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement, Stud Groom and Breaker, Home or Abroad. 2 years with Mr. Cooke. F. Ameson, Cook's Circus, Edinburgh.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. Stanhope and Co., 63, Regent-st., W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, Feb. 19, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to Morgan, Aquarium.

WANTED, for Hancock's Circus, Plymouth, Feb. 19, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines, male and female, Barebacked Equestrians, to ride our horses; no fancy prices, but money sure

WANTED. Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Artists in all Lines,
First-Class Artists in all Lines,
for immediate and future Dates.

Wanted, Wanted,
Sensational
New and Novel Acts.
of every description, for every
Seaside Town of note;
also,
Strong, Substantial, and Useful Gala Artists
invited to communicate.
with fullest particulars, sample printing, &c., &c.

Ergotti and King Luis communicate.

James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

EMPIRE,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. Skivington.

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Comedy Star Artists, in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, Manager.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for Feb. 19, 1906. Reymond, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double, 2 weeks, March 5, 19, April 2, always opening for good freaks and novelties. Chas. A. James, Waxwork Exhibition, Henry-st., Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, hall small. Address, Manager.

WANTED, Lady Artists, Sing and Dance, open Monday, near Durham. Terms must be low. Howard, 19, Valley-street, Darlington.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, except lead and heavy gent. Terms, photos., refs., Lewis Gilbert, Theatre Royal, Croydon.

WANTED Artists, all Lines, for Earlestown, Lancashire, Feb. 15, 16, 17, Leigh to follow (journey short). Terms first instance, with sample litho., Lancashire Lads, Town Hall, Earlestown.

EMPIRE, WIGAN.
Manager, Chas Simpson; Acting-Man., Mr. Denman.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Feb. 19, onwards. Remember Hall small. All coms., Henson and Co., Agents, G.P.O., Bury.

WANTED, Star Artists, all Lines, Towns and Seaside, immediate and future dates, list of bookings, permanent address, terms, photo, &c., Yates' Agency, 20, Church-avenue, Weaste, Manchester.

WANTED, Star Artists, Feb. 19, 26, for Best Syndicates, with drawing power. Geo. Aytoun, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London. Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Manager, S. L. Lee.

WANTED, Known, Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Hesse Trio, Musical Palmers, Daisy Almer, Edith St. Clare, Bros. Leotard, Flo Chevalier, Vernon's Bioscope, Chant and Chant.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, Coventry Hippodrome Co., Ltd.

WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that, from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contract will be recognised unless Signed by the Secretary and Manager.
T. M. Sylvester, Manager.
G. E. Wright, Secretary.

WANTED, Artists, to Note Address.—C. H. Llewelyn, Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent, Albion Chambers, Leazes Park-rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Nat. 'Phone, 1684. Office hours, 10 to 4.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PALACE, DERBY, PALACE, GRIMSBY, PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, and HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

WANTED, Artists to Know that the Clause relative to appearing within 10 miles of above Theatres before Opening will be Strictly Enforced. A Breach of any one Contract will probably entail Legal Proceedings, and the Cancelling of Contracts for the whole Circuit.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
DR. CARD HERMANN'S COLOSSAL COMBINATION.

WANTED, Known, Rehearsal, usual time:—Dr. Hermann, Frederick's Dogs, Reynolds's Pictures, The Little Colonel, Two Neros, Des Henres, The Three Bostonians, Mozzetto.

WANTED, for Feb. 19, 26, and March 5,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Stars, Nothing too Big. Send full Bookings and Terms to Frank Lynne, Empire Theatre, Glasgow. Aytoun's Agency.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 35, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., Feb. 12, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c., I can place you. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, a Few First-class Turns, to Complete my Book before Touring. Artists who expect me to obtain more money than other agents and who don't pay their commission kindly save their stamps. Shall be glad if my own clients will send full lists to date. Paul Vandy's Agency, Barnes, London, S.W. 'Phone 222, Putney. Wires, "Vandyking, London." Please Note.—I do not work for artists unknown to me, or turns earning less than £8 weekly. The bigger the Act, the better I can book you.

WANTED, Star Turns, Big Specialities, and Comedy Acts, for Monday, Feb. 12, and onwards; nothing small required. Please forward full vacant dates, lowest terms, and lithos. Interviews by appointment only. Brown and Co., 58, Chicksand-street, N.E.

WANTED, for George Theatre, Crawley, Sussex, turns for Feb. 14, 17, 24, 28, small hall, terms low, but guaranteed. B. Stewart, 'Phone 9, Crawley.

Notice.
WANTED, Known, by the National Variety Agency, Harry Nation
is prepared to represent a few reliable Acts of every description. Artists that are not exclusively represented send first vacancies and full list of dates, with their lowest actual terms for London and Provinces, enclosing photo or litho. if possible in strict confidence.
Harry Nation will not submit any Act unless personally seen and approved; will always travel any reasonable distance to see first-class Acts.

Address, En route, Palace, Blackpool.
Artists that leave Agents through not paying their just dues save stamps. See other advertisement.

TYNEMOUTH PALACE BY THE SEA.

WANTED, Varieties, Novelties, Musical Comedy Companies, for high-class audiences, Easter week, then Whit, onwards. Manager, Lindon Travers. Address letters to, J. H. Graham, Head Offices, 1, St. Andrew-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Acts, for Immediate Dates, Bar Act Wanted,
March 5, North.
Full particulars and lowest terms,
Dalton's Agency,
5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

WANTED, Music Hall Talent, all Branches, present and future dates, nothing too big, good sketches. Address, James Morrella, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Grimsby, Feb. 19, onward, big acts, share or salary. Strong combinations may write. Larder, Levington-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, I can place the Biggest Acts Atlas, Agent, 17, Waterford-rd., Fulham. Address, next week, Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns,
Easter,
Whit Week,
July 2, onwards,
Big Specialities,
Comedy Acts,
Bar Performers,
Comedy Musical Acts,
Novelty Jugglers,
Sensational Cycle Acts,
Acrobatic Acts,
in fact,
anything that is
New and Novel.

Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Good Speciality, to join well-known Illusionist, for Tour of Theatres. Terms, Shares. Write, Illusionist, 170, Tachbrook-street, Pimlico.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, August, Best of Specialities, for Fêtes, and other Acts. Lithos., T. R. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Novelties of every description.
Harry Burns's Agency,
(established 1895),
London Hartlepool, and Manchester,
Sole Proprietor, Harry Burns.

Head Office,
EMPRESS THEATRE, HARTLEPOOL.
Telephone, 0231 Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress, Hartlepool."

WANTED, Big Novelties, for numerous Fêtes, Whit Monday and Tuesday, onwards. Lowest terms per day (fares paid), lithos., bills, vacant dates, and permanent address, Sylvester, Agent, 271, Clapham-road, London. Barrel jumpers write.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

CLEMPERT'S HIPPODROME, H. BROUGHTON, MANCHESTER.

WANTED, Strong Combinations, to follow Caban, 26th, and upwards. Wire, Clempert. Send lithographs.

WANTED, for Two Days' Gala, June 4, 5, Sheffield, and throughout the Summer, Aërial and Ground Acts of Every Description, Sensational Novelties, Animal Acts. Plenty of work for the right people. Send lithos., memos., list of bookings, terms, permanent address, Geo. Burton's Agency, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. Will Avis, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, 19th, 26th, Good Doubles, Specialities, &c. Lowest, Sterling, People's Theatre, Taunton.

WANTED, Troupe (Style of the Follies), for drawing-room engagements, by agent, with high-class connection.
Box 2,772, "The Era."

WANTED, Vent. and Lady Character Reader. Write, stating terms; long engagements if suitable. Bounds, 93, High-street, Merthyr.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PENZANCE AL FRESCO ENTERTAINMENTS.

WANTED, Known, the Penzance Chamber of Commerce are desirous of receiving Applications for the Sole Right of Providing Al Fresco Entertainments in Penzance during this Season. A Site in the Alexander Grounds, opposite the Promenade on the Sea Front, together with Stage and 150 Chairs, will be provided.
Applications (with Specimen Programme), giving full particulars, and stating rent offered for sixteen weeks,
should be sent immediately to
Secretaries, Entertainments Committee, Penzance.

LESLIE VARIETY AGENCY.
Now Booking Soubrettes, Comedians, Novelties, Touring Companies, &c.,
Summer Season, 1906.
Blackpool Tower, Rusholme Pavilion,
St. Anne's Pier Pavilion.

WANTED, Comedy Quartette, for the Tower, April 12 to April 21. Address, Leslie Agency, Manchester, S.E.
Mr. Harry Leslie will be in London on Wednesday next, and can be seen from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 29, Rowan-road, Hammersmith-road, W.

WANTED, Serios, Sisters, Single and Double Turns, also Clever Children, Boys and Girls. Write particulars, Travis, Assembly Rooms, Beverley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Lady, to Assist, Speciality, and to do distinct single turn. Reply, with full particulars, photo., &c., Sauteron, 50, Shepherd-st., Bury.

WANTED, Young Girl Singer, Good Voice and Appearance, long tour, live in, photo.; also beginners. Clunn Lewis, Marionettes, Sundridge, Sevenoaks.

WANTED, a Young Man, used to Comedy Talking, one able to do Trampoline Tumbling. Box 2,780, "The Era."

WANTED, Expert Bioscope Operator, thoroughly accustomed alternating and direct currents. Give references. Vernon's Bioscope, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Immediately, Competent Bioscope Operators. None but experienced, reliable, and painstaking men need apply. Tetlow, Philharmonic Hall, Cardiff.

WANTED, Good Bioscope Operator, Open Monday, tour if suitable. Wire, Will Onda, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Gertrude Malyon, Descriptive Vocalist, wants Monday next. Big success in her latest songs, "Boy Convict," "Home, Sweet Home." 8, Gilmour-st., Ardwick.

WANTED, Known, in La Tosca, Artist's Model, you get the original statue art, beauty, grace, figure. Starring Kidderminster, Oldbury, London, &c See Card.

WANTED, by Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Songstress, Vocalist, and Dancer, Monday, and Feb 19 and 26. Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, Wishart, Banjoist, Elocutionist, Illusionist, Clown, Conjurer. Now booking Piers. Speciality, the Giant Bottle, Handcuff, and Double Box Trick. 10 min. to 3 hours' programme. 46, Tenison-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 19, March 5, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Comedian, with great Hebrew scena; also Lil Dresden. Central, North Shields.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, Refined, Original, and away from all others. Wire, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, £1,000 Challenge to the World, Vac. Feb. 19, onwards, Jas. Day, Postman, Handcuff King, with his Latest Original Novelty, "Escaping from a Post-Office Letter Box," a Great Draw. Perm., 354, Victoria-road, Aston Manor.

WANTED, by Herr Fritz, through obliging Adney Payne, Esq., Feb. 19, also April 30. This week, Emp., Ealing; next, Emp., Islington.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist, Feb. 26, on. This week, Alhambra, Sandgate, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Ernie Leech, Singing Ventriloquist, at Liberty Feb. 19. Perm., 161, Nantwich-rd., Crewe. Thanks Verno for contracts. Still they come.

WANTED, Monday next, by Gilroy and Boston, Ventriloquist and Bioscope. Wire for Monday next, Gilroy, 55, Effingham-st., Rotherham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, also Ventriloquist. Wire, Post Office, Pateley Bridge, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Wonderful and Pretty Hoop Tricks, Vacant next week. Wire, 7, Clifford-street, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 26, by Robb Gilmore, grotesque comedian, novel burlesque song scena, concluding to-night starring return engagement, Empire, Wrexham; Monday, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, by Fred Casburn, comedian. Success, Hippo., Dewsbury. Wire, after Sat., 14, Dudley-st., Valley-rd., Shipley, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Martinengo, Baritone and 'Cello Soloist Scena, "One of the Unemployed," Vacant Feb. 19 and 26. Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, in Minstrel or Pierrot Troupe, by Baritone, to combine with First Violin (if required). Power, Winterton, Ferryhill, co. Durham.

WANTED, Dates, for Prof. Hocking, Electric Healer, Feb. 19, onward. Sole agent, Larder, Manager, Bennett's Variety Agency, Levington-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Forest and King, the Two Pieces of Elastic (Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq.), Feb. 19, 26, March 5, Vacant. Moss and Stoll (twice), De Freece Tours, and Syndicate Halls to follow.
Write or Wire,
Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Demi (Arthur) and Semi (Maggie), Comedy Musical Act. Patter and Dancing, Monday. Wire, Hippo., Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Feb. 19, Sterling and Cashen (Frank, Minnie), instrumentalists, vocalists, patterers, dancers. Wire, People's T., Taunton.

WANTED, by Walter Gurney, Comedian; also Lily Mason, Comedienne and Dancer; Feb. 19, 26. Address, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Feb. 26, by Ryder Davis, Smart Comedian; also Eva Ward, Refined Burlesque Artist; to break journey North. Letters, 46, Hanover-gardens, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 19, 26, by Teddie Worth and Nellie Stuart, comedy artists. Hit of every programme. Perm., Bernard Cottage, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 19, Sardou's Illusionists, Mirth and Mystery; also Marie Riviers, Balladist. Wire, 25, Ellison-street, Gateshead. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, Monday, Palace, Bordesley. Vacant Feb. 19, onwards. P. A., 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, by Unda and Ovah, Great Burlesque Triple Bar Act.
Wire, 11, Kennington-mansions, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Renowned Turle and Turle, rattling, rollicking, comedy gymnasts, two distinct acts, Liberty galas, circus, pictures, &c. Wire, 14, Wood-st. East, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, by the Lashmars, Refined Comedy Artists, Feb. 19 and 26. Wire, 13, Lower Buckingham-street, Dublin.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 19, by Mac and Hill, Comedians, Patterers, and Dancers. Offers, 10, Vine-street, Aldershot.

WANTED, by Brindall and Cooper, refined vocal comedians and dancing experts, Feb. 12, 19. Wire immediate, Hippodrome, Ashton.

WANTED, by Clarke and Artie, Dancers, Legmania, and Comedy Artists, an Act not to be equalled, March 5, onwards. Address, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 12, and March 5, by Doyle and Gibson, the up-to-date comedians. Wire, 4, Harvey-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Brothers Panlo, Comedy Acrobatic Act, "A Scotchman's Dilemma in Hyde Park," Liberty 12th, 19th. Address, 22, Osborne-terrace, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Chant and Chant, Refined Comedy Vocalists, cheered to the echo, Hippodrome, Coventry. Managers in want of a Clean, Laughing, and Entertaining Hit, Feb. 19, 26, on, should take the opportunity to Book this Act. Monday, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, the Palace, Blackpool. The bill this week is topped by a great turn, "Los Granadas," electrifying bounders, who can only be described as "marvellous," for their tricks are so clever and original, whilst the performance is spiced with genuine fun, making the turn most popular.—Gazette News.
Permanent address,
238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, also 19th, The Dunville's Great Comedy Musical Act, "Les Domestiques de la Maison," gorgeous spectacular fit-up. Sure Success. Wire to-day, Tivoli, Grimsby.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 26, March 5, the Guyons, sketch artists; and Veronique, juvenile vocalist and dancer. Wire, Aquarium, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Monday next, also Feb. 19, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. Starring Palace, Dundee. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Paul Rundle's Troupe of Jolly Dogs is taking the audiences by storm in this country. For vacancies, T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, Known, Seven Wulfrunas, Lady and Gentlemen Comedy Acrobats, "Fun in a Café." Lib. Feb. 12. Add., 6, Prince's-row, B'ham.

WANTED, March 5, 12, for Stella Harcourt and Company, in her thrilling Sketch, entitled "Child Witness." Offers invited. 8, Gilmour-st., Ardwick.

WANTED, Dates for the Three Mayes, in their Successful Sketch, "An Extra Turn," introducing the clever Midget Soprano, Little Elsie May, who will create the star part. Managers invited to hear her before booking. Next week, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, for Scottie's "Waifs and Strays." Entire scenery carried, Big Draw. Refer Skivington. Wire, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Feb. 19, through obliging Brixton, "The Winner," everything carried, most successful Sketch before public. Brien McCullough, Paragon, Mile End.

WANTED, Gardens, Pavilions, Kursaals, &c., Easter Monday, onwards, "The Highwaymen" (7 artists), high-class concert party and society entertainers, bright, refined, and up to date. No stage waits. First-class company of recognised artists. Magnificent costumes and accessories. Dates and terms, address, Burgoyne, Empire Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagements for Piers, Gardens, Pavilions, for Professor Retené's Entertainments, Conjuring and Punch and Judy. Address, 56, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted. Wanted,
Feb. 19 and 26,
by the
Albano Troupe,
The Greatest Refined Musical Act of the World. The Hippodrome, Huddersfield. The Examiner says:—Many Huddersfield people will recognise former fellow-citizens in the Albano Troupe. They will also enjoy the music provided by them. Solos on the concertina by Mr. Albano, and concerted pieces on mandolines, banjoes, concertinas, the harp, and bells, are all excellently given. The final number, in which a very true imitation of singing birds is introduced, was greatly appreciated, and the quartette will have no cause to be disappointed with their reception on re-visiting Huddersfield.
Wire, Wire, Wire, Wire,
The Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah's Zoological Statuary of Wonderfully Trained Wild Animals, consisting of African Forest-bred Lions, Bears, and Boarhounds. A thrilling, daring, and clever act Topping the bill, and great success, this week, Empire, South Shields. Vacant Feb. 12, and a few dates, onwards. Wire.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, for Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensational and Daring High Ladder Act. Leclair, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, Known, Comedian wants to join Musical Comedy; good voice and good appearance; eight years' experience. L. T., 6a, Orchard-street, Westminster.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Amateur Banjoist, good turn. Address, G. S. J., 16, Palmer-street, Doncaster.

MALCOLM'S ANGLO-AMERICAN BIOSCOPE.

WANTED, Engagements for the Finest Animated Pictures obtainable, all the latest subjects, any length show, 15 to 150 minutes; every class of audience catered for. Reduced terms for single show, week or tour.
Can Book and Show any Picture required.
Malcolm, 62, Calverley-grove, Hornsey Rise, London.

WANTED, Known, that the London Cinématograph Syndicate have Operators, with High-class Machines and Films, available for Animated Pictures. Reasonable terms.
Address, 206, Queen's-road, Packham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope, Lime or Electric, 20 minutes or 2 hours, everything up to date. J. Bainton, Post Office, Derby.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLER'S PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, Lord George Sanger.

WANTED, Known, the Annual Meeting at King's Lynn will take place in the Town Hall, on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 11.30 a.m. The Mayor of Lynn, Aldermen Dunn Savage, T. Buston, with other local gentlemen, are expected to take part in the proceedings. The Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, and T. Watson Wright, Esq., will speak. Urgent Parliamentary Work will come before the Committee at Lynn.
T. Hurst, Hon. Secretary.

WANTED, Known, that the next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be held at King's Lynn, on Thursday, Feb. 15, when all members are requested to attend.—Signed, T. Hurst, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Tom Orton,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual appears once more in its familiar binding, a compendium of information and amusement for all who are interested in theatrical affairs. In the calendar will be found an array of anniversary dates, some recent, some recalling memories of old times and actors and actresses long passed away. The summary of new plays produced during the past year is admirably done, its value being increased by the alphabetical list which is appended. Well-known actors and actresses contribute stories in accordance with a custom justified by its success.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 18, 1906.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual again makes its welcome appearance. I say welcome because, as a work of theatrical reference, it is always handy to have in the house—or office. In this connection I am glad to note that the lists of play-productions for the past year are given in better type and altogether in a much clearer manner. As of yore, there are sundry stories in prose and verse. The best of these include "Stage Superstitions," by Charles Warner; "Boy Bob at Sea," a poem by Louie Freear; "The Last Muster," a weird tragic military story, by Mr. Joseph Wilson, who has been a soldier himself; and "Nellie Bligh's Notices," a capital theatrical story, by Mr. Frank Desprez.—Referee, Jan. 28, 1906.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
The thirty-ninth issue of "The Era" Annual has just appeared, and once more it supplies a useful record of the theatrical year. An editorial note reminds us that among the contributors to the first number, that of 1868, were E. L. Blanchard (its editor), Charles Mathews, T. W. Robertson, Andrew Halliday, H. J. Byron, Watts Phillips, and Dion Boucicault—a brilliant band indeed. The contributors to the present isue are almost exclusively actors rather than literary men, but upon the whole they make a very fair show; while the lists of plays produced in London and the provinces, and in Paris and Berlin during the twelve months under review are distinctly useful. There are a number of photographs including an exceedingly fine one of the late Sir Henry Irving.—Pall Mall Gazette, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual, 1906, is welcome as containing carefully compiled lists of the pieces produced during the past year in London, the suburbs, and the provinces, in Paris, and in Berlin. The rest of it is curious and entertaining reading. There is the almanack with its "memorabilia of theatrical events occurrences, &c." There are besides a score of stories and other articles contributed by theatricals, a very good one being Miss Louie Freear's set of verses, "'Boy Bob' at Sea," which has humour, feeling, and swing. The book contains many theatrical portraits. As a book of reference the Annual is of great use and value, and while some of its contents doubtless appeal more keenly to the professional than to the outsider, any thoughtful person may derive from its study much amusement and no little insight into the conditions, the magnitude, and the complexity of the English theatre of to-day.—Morning Post, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual for 1906, 1s. 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. This useful little work, which brings nearly up to date the calendar of dramatic events which is so excellent a feature, is, as usual, full of stories over the signature of prominent stage lights. To those interested in the business of the theatre the work has become a necessity by reason of its valuable record of the progress of the drama.—Financial Times, Jan. 22, '06.

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"The Era" Annual (1s.) is, of course, issued by our premier theatrical journal, which, under the literary supervision of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, has recently improved an already strong position. The Annual is better than ever, and includes, besides details of all plays produced in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin, lists of all theatres and music halls in the United Kingdom, &c., many stories and sketches by and portraits of actors and actresses. It is a remarkable shillingsworth; useful and interesting to all playgoers and members of the profession alike.—Sunday Sun, Jan. 21, '06.

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"The Era" Annual for 1906, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, combines utility and entertainment. Its former aspect is exemplified by the record of the plays produced last year in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin; it also includes an obituary for the year, and lists of the United Kingdom's theatres and music halls. The attractive side of the Annual comprises numerous stories by stage celebrities, whose portraits illustrate the text. It is a delightful budget of good things. Mr. T. P. O'Connor's appreciation of the late Sir Henry Irving is brief, but tender and impressive.—Financier, Jan. 23, '06.

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Rehearsal at 12 for :—
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ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Andy Higginson, Andos Japs, Boccaccios, Bioscope, Sisters Slater, Frank Lynne, Gracie Moore, Harry Brown, McPhee and Hill, Five Olracs.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Moses and Son," The Korries, Cora Caselli, Collins and Rice, Bioscope, Palles and Cussick, Leo Stormont, Addie Dorina.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Uessems, Florrie St. Clair, Frazer and Mac, Bioscope, Royal Six, T. C. Callaghan, A Bo Kou, Three Victorias, Griff and Alpha, W. H. Clemart, Empire Comedy Four.

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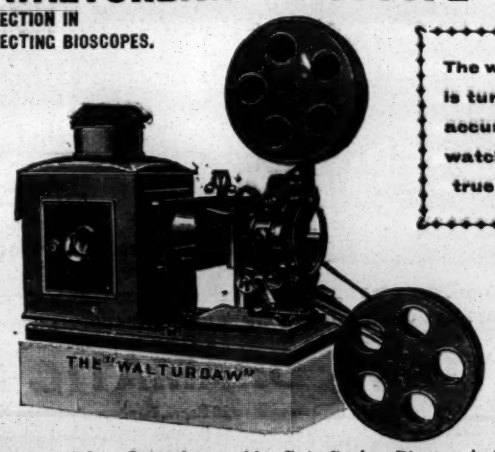

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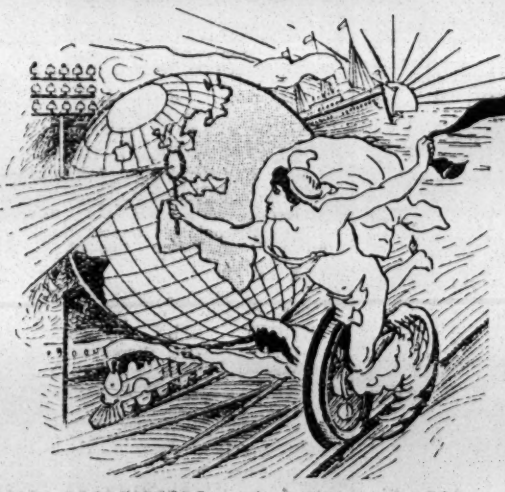

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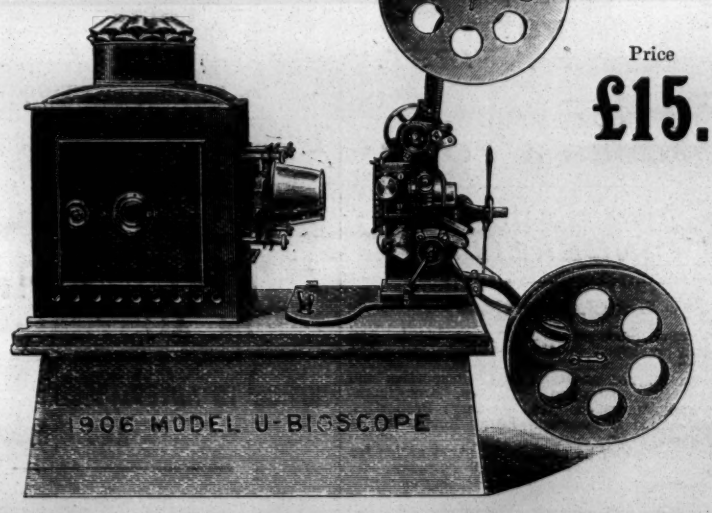

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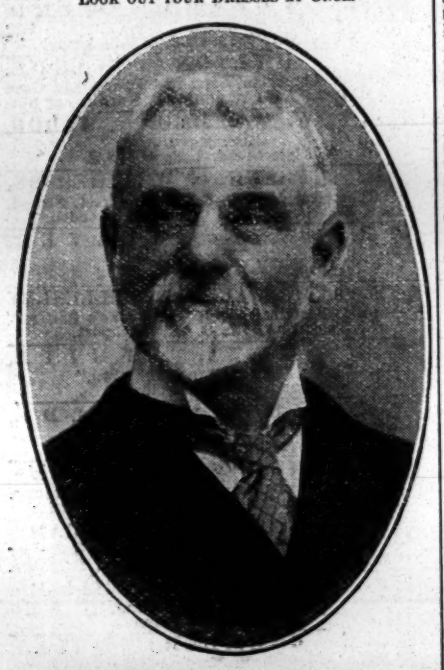

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—*Esmeralda* was presented on Monday by the members of the Aberdeen Amateur Opera Company. The performance on the whole was excellent. Miss Nellie Kitchie sang well in the title-part; and Mr. A. C. Kidd as Frollo and Mr. F. H. Homan as Quasimodo played very capably. *Maritana* was staged on Tuesday.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—*The Children's Party* continues as popular as when first produced, and Tom and Marie Motramo play cleverly in a smart musical act *Do You Reverse?* Mr. Victor Travers, comedian, provides a capital turn, while Beatty and Blanche dance very smartly. Mr. Frank Sylvo, comedy juggler, and Mme. Stentora, baritone vocalist, are also very favourably received; and a remarkable exhibition is given by the Lulaine Darrell Trio of "Roman King Artists." Mr. James Brady, an old favourite, is warmly applauded; as are also Haigh and Nevel in an acrobatic comedy act, and Lambert and Glover in a farcical musical duologue. A highly interesting new series of pictures illustrative of a day in the life of a busy city man is shown by Vernon's bioscope.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—The pantomime *Cinderella*, bright and well written, with quite a host of cleverly introduced and executed features, is being played here. Miss M. Sadie gives a clever portrayal of Prince Charming, and her songs are redemanded; Miss Cissy Wade is a charming impersonator of the name-rôle, and her singing is very effective; Messrs. Mayer and Boden are talented comedians, and their parts of Hurry and Rush are well played; Messrs. King and Delane are amusing as the Ugly Sisters, a clever make-up aiding materially; Mr. Fowler Thatcher's Baron is good; Miss Nellie Bowen gives a praiseworthy performance as the Prince's Dancer, and Miss Ella Vincent's Prince's Herald is cleverly rendered. Misses Louie Denison (Sprightly), Cissy Hilton (Cherry), and Jennie Lynwood (Lord Veriwise) are worthy of mention; and Misses Kathleen Birkbeck and Marion also do well.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—On Monday, Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company commenced a week's engagement with a revival in a revised form of *The Prodigal Parson*, a full account of which appears in another column.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* is here. Prince Charming is appropriately embodied by Miss Kitty Trewhitt, and Miss Mona Townshend is a dashing Will Scarlett. Miss Dolly Dodds makes a charming and interesting Beauty, and Miss Isa Gibson a winning Maid Marion. Master Will Kay is an amusing Baron Mumps, and Dressalinda and Marigolda are well played by J. G. Aitkin and Fed Ellis respectively. There are various specialities, and the harlequinade is a pleasant feature.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and company are here with *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*. The great interest centres in the Sir George Sylvester of Mr. Norman V. Norman, and the Lady Ursula of Miss Beatrice Wilson. They are both exceedingly artistic and interesting creations, and the other parts are well filled.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Entertaining here are the Three Laurels in an amusing turn; Winnie Scott, a pleasing comedienne; Lidden and Hayward, in their musical absurdity, *The Midnight Express*; Walker and May, clever coloured comedians and dancers; Matt Wilkinson's laughter makers, in a farcical absurdity, *The Registration Office*; George Formby, comedian; and Mdlle. Roza's canine hippodrome, which is quite an interesting success.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—An early visit of the modern comedy, *On the Love Path*, is proving very acceptable, an admirable representation of the piece being given by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. Hutchison himself appears in the principal character of Arthur Taunton, and never has this clever young actor had a part in which he shone to greater advantage; an excellent character-sketch of the adventurer Denbigh Thrayle is presented by Mr. T. W. Rawson; Mr. George Mudie brings his ripe experience to bear upon the rôle of John Gripleigh; Mr. Frank Hill is humorous as Peter Concannon; Gerald Marvel is lightly hit off by Mr. Frank Elliott; Miss Lilias Earle adds another to her long list of successes under this management by her handling of Charity Concannon; Miss Margaret Marshall as the athletic Mary Concannon, and Miss Hilda Horriss are both capital. Mr. George Mudie's familiar one-act farce, *His Landlady*, is the curtain-raiser, with the author in his amusing impersonation of Mr. Howfield.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—A big attraction this week is G. M. Schilling, the world walker, who describes his experiences with graphic effect; May Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch Girl, is always welcome; Les Henris create enthusiasm by their equilibristic feats; Rose Elliott is as firmly established in popular favour as ever; Morimura, Oriental magician, does many bewildering tricks with never-failing dexterity; Agnese and Arthur Lynch score as song illustrators; Sidney Dolf has something new to offer, his songs interspersed with juggling being well received; Nat Watkins, comedian and eccentric dancer, is a favourite; Raymond's Bio-tableaux are showing a pantomime series, "Puss in Boots," with acceptance.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—*A Modern Adventuress*, a play full of sensational episodes, is being well presented here by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. The title-rôle is played with sang-froid by Miss Kate Froude; Miss Alice Defoe gives an admirable interpretation of Vivette; Miss Ivy Chandos is a humorous and vivacious comedienne; Mr. Louis Edmonde does well as Harry Delby; Mr. Leonard Aardale is powerful and effective as the vengeful Italian; Mr. Leonard Montgomery does justice to his part; Mr. Frank Orchard is a good exponent of the dissolute Steve Meredith; and Mr. Stanley F. Champion gives a neat, crisp study of a detective.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company inaugurated a week's season here on Monday, when a crowded house witnessed a very able and perfect representation of *Hamlet*. Mr. Henry Herbert presented a scholarly and effective interpretation of the moody Dane, receiving admirable support from Miss Dorothy Green, who played Ophelia with much finish and success. Mr. Alfred A. Harris displayed considerable ability as Claudius; Mr. Lionel Bevans was well suited as Horatio, a clever performance meeting with general recognition. Miss Kate Turner displayed power as the Queen, and remaining characters are in thoroughly able hands. On subsequent evenings *Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Merchant of Venice*, *The School for Scandal*, *As You Like It*, and *Richard III.* have been presented. All the plays have been irreproachably staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—The Virginians, a quartette of coloured children styled "Koons Kutting Kapers," give a clever and interesting entertainment; Mr. F. V. St. Clair, the popular topical vocalist and song writer, is appearing with the most gratifying success, and The Garganis, a troupe of gentlemen acrobatic comedians, are a leading feature. Mr. Gerald Mount is an excellent descriptive vocalist, and goes well; Miss Marie Blythe is a talented vocalist and a great favourite; and Mr. Harry Wenburn (comedian), Mr. Jack Pleasants (comedian), Miss Gracie Bard (juvenile comedian and dancer), and the Bioscope complete the programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* remains a colossal success, and Miss Ada Reeve, in her delightful impersonation of the title rôle, is the idol of all. Mr. Harry Tate, as Abanazar, continues motoring and golfing as only he can, and the public grow more than ever enthusiastic and hilarious. Messrs. Regan and Ryan contribute cleverly to the fun of the fair as two comic policemen; Mr. Harrison Brockbank makes a melodious and dignified Emperor, and Mr. Harry Brayne, the widow; Miss Fanny Dango, as the Princess; Miss Rose Harvey as Pekoe; Miss Lilian Pollard as Chee-ki, and the others share in this notable success.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—A flying matinée performance of *Captain Drew on Leave* preceded the evening production of *Cinderella* here on Monday, when a monster audience "rose" at the fine performance of Sir Charles Wyndham in the title rôle. Miss Marion Terry as Mrs. Moxon, and Miss Mary Moore as Miss Mills, gave perfection to their rôles, and delight to the audience; and Messrs. A. Vane Tempest, Yorke Stephens, and Edmund Maurice complete a fine picture. *Cinderella* continues to thrive. This week the members of the local Rocket Club arranged to patronise the pantomime in a body.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Romeo and Juliet* was announced for production on Thursday this week, with Miss Edith Turner, daughter of the proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner, as Juliet, and Mr. Milton Rosmer as Romeo.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* has its own supporters, who flock to its attractions again and again. Miss Minnie Jeffs in her rôle of Selim continues to introduce new songs, and otherwise charms the audience; Miss Lilian Stanley sings melodiously and acts in a fascinating manner as Fatima; Mr. F. A. Marston, as Blue Beard, acts and sings in a good-humoured style that wins him much popularity; and Messrs. F. W. Graham, Bert Atherton, Syd Bayley, Joey Florador, the Smarte Brothers, the Three Rubies, Hess, and Lisbon, with the Misses Bertha Cousins, Millie Warde, Lizzie Jacobs, Dorothy Warde, Daisy Clifford, and Mary Brammer (who impersonates the Demon King) are all popular.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*In a Woman's Grip*, presented by a strong company, is scoring a great success. Mr. Fredk. Victor enacts the heroic part, Frank Haydon, with first-class ability; Mr. Felix Pitt, as Maurice Stanton acquits himself in fine style; Mr. Edward Worth is commendable as Ephraim Lambert; Mr. Alec Macmillan gives an interesting study of Ralph, the old sailor; Mr. Fredk. Sandy contributes a lucid and forcible picture of the mad doctor; Miss Frances Ruttledge looks delightful and acts with much ability as the heroine, Lilian Fairley; Miss Florence Nelson shines vividly as Mary Langley; and Mr. Andrew Emm disports to much purpose as Joe Butters.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Shop Boy* is presented here by Mr. Harry Pleon and company with excellent success, Mr. Pleon making much mirth in the rôle of Sarsaparilla Smith. Other characters are played by Mr. Jack McKenzie, Mr. Harold Weston, Mr. Paul Belmore, Mr. Eddie Ray, Mr. Chas. Gladwell, Miss May Mackenzie, Miss Bessie Rignold, and Miss Celia Kent. A travesty on the classic drama, entitled *Nero, the Naughty*, is introduced, and *The Club Raid*, with Mr. Harry Pleon as "Lord" Monti, is also presented with much success.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Coal King* looms largely here, with Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's company. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland is to be credited with an excellent rendering of Tom Roberts, a rôle in which he has gained much popularity; Mr. Joseph Millane, as Walter Harford, the villain, exploits the part to its fullest possibilities; Mr. Robin Shiells is successful in the title rôle; Miss Gertrude Valentine touches many sympathetic chords as Grace Shirley; Mr. Wilfred Graham does well as Dick Shirley; and Messrs. Archie Bradshaw, Harry Bellian, and Harry Nelson do good work as the three miners; Mr. Chas. R. Stone, as Jim Williams, and Miss Joan Wellman as Araminta Green, provide pleasant comedy scenes, and the play is well staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Gertrude Glen and company, including the Bros. Passmore, are responsible for roars of laughter in their amusing sketch *Larks in the Park*. Helen Martin and Josephine Sabel are applauded for their songs; the Bros. Esdale and the Bros. Leslie add largely to the mirth; Terley, the human plastic figure, gives a novel entertainment; Albertus and Bartrum are expert in their Indian club display; Lux's White French Poodles are most interesting; and Hatcham and Humphries are seen in a military duologue, which is well played.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Kate Carney, the popular coster comedienne, is always sure of a big reception here. This week she has produced a new musical burlesque, *Our Laundry*, which goes with a swing. The Eight Yiulians are seen in a daring risley acrobatic act; Sibb and Sibb are equally clever on the trapeze; Fred and Maud Vypond have a delightful sketch, *The Honeymoon*; and Gena Manor, Dot Hardy, and Minnie Berker are applauded for their songs. Henry A. Moore gives some clever impersonations of popular actors.

HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Comedians reign supreme here this week. George Mozart makes a big hit with his amusing songs and patter, as also does John E. Coyle. Some smart dances are given by the San Remo Girls. The Bros. Hartbert O'Relly are seen in a fine equilibristic act; the Bros. Martine are excellent somersaultists; Alma Gray dances herself into favour; the Athlones, Sandow's lecture models, give a fine athletic display; and Sherlock and Van Dalle, in *The Mummy and the Undergrad*, and Ailsa Douglas, vocalist, are much appreciated.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster. The excellent programme this week is headed by G. W. Hunter, whose droll patter wins loud applause; the Mannons have a smart knockabout sketch, *Uncle Yank*; Amber Austa is popular; Marzella's Parrots show remarkable training; the Bros. Webb are applauded in their musical speciality; Elsie Clair is a pleasing vocalist; and as a comedian, Will Haines came in for a good share of applause.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's company appears this week in the military drama *Revenge*. Mr. Mitchelson gives a powerful rendering of the villainous Prince Orloff; Mr. Wellesley Draper as Captain Louis Vanessa appears to advantage; Mr. Theo Balfour is a dignified representative of the King; and the comedy department, in the hands of Mr. Russell Boque and Mr. Edward Lowrie, is well sustained. Miss Violet Carlyle acts gracefully as the Queen; Miss Rosabel Dodd is an efficient Draga Vanessa; and the refined style of Miss Alice Barber is well suited to the character of Cora Brook.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Ersser.—An efficient company under the direction of Mr. Frank Denman Wood presents the pantomime *Dick Whittington* this week. Miss Grace Henderson is a handsome Dick, and the Alice of Miss Millie Doris is bright and pleasing. Mr. Arthur Abberry as Martha and Mr. Will Dennis as Idle Jack prove themselves capable comedians. The specialities include the Maros, excellent triple bar performers; the Estos, contortionists; Marie Winsome, male impersonator; Leslie Murray, Court magician; Renee Rogers top-boot dancer; and a very excellent Juvenile Ballet Troupe. Business is good.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Cordite, assisted by Wild Buffalo, gives a unique performance of rope spinning; Percy Hannan has a pleasing baritone voice; Frank and Albert Boisset appear in an amusing sketch; another well-rendered dramatic sketch is provided by Bayne and Hope; Rae and Lea are excellent comedy gymnasts; Mark Merry has a quaint style; Mr. Will Vane Allen is much apreciated as the Musical Tramp; and Raymond's Bioscope exhibits some fresh pictures.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime company is here this week with *The Babes in the Wood*. A dashing Robin Hood is found in Miss May Engleheart, and Miss Adeline Yohie is a charming Maid Marian; Miss Maud Western (Will Scarlett), Miss Nellie Dyson (Merrie Maris), and Miss Jenny Clare (Hairlock Combs) likewise do very creditable work. The comic element predominates, and is supplied by Mr. James Kurry as the Wicked Uncle, Mr. James Salter as Soft Sammy, and Mr. Cuddy as Sammy's Pal. Specialty turns are introduced by the Lohrenz Troupe of acrobatic dancers and the Lizette Troupe of lady dancers.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergeuson.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's Répertoire Company is here this week. *The Duke of Killicrankie*, *In the Soup*, and *Sowing the Wind* have all been most creditably acted during the week, Miss Octavia Kenmore, Miss Naomi Neilson, Mr. Guy Carey, and Mr. Lovel taking the principal parts.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Julius Thorne, the burlesque juggler, tops the bill here this week, whilst other attractive turns are supplied by Will Cornish, Beatrice May, The Ladderites, the Three Zaracs, The Lavails, Kitty Beresford, Hetty Lee, Fred Elton, Forest and King, and Vernon's Bioscope.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—Mr. George Dance's London company opened here on Monday with their initial visit to Bolton of *The Little Michus*—a delightful comic opera, well staged and dressed, and played by a good company. Mr. Leslie Holland capably and with much humour enacts the part of General des Ifs; Mr. Gerald Clifford makes an attractive aide-de-camp as Gaston Rigaud; Mr. T. E. Conover is very droll as Pierre Michu, and Miss Maisie Gay is smart as Madame Michu. "The little Michus" (Blanche Marie and Marie Blanche) are cleverly played by Miss Alice Coverick and Miss Gracie Sinclaire. Some clever dances are given in Act II. by Mlle. Marjorie, who appears as Mlle. St. Cyr, famous dancer of the period.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon. The boards here are this week occupied with Mr. J. F. Elliston's *Dick Whittington* pantomime, which was so successful last year at the Theatre Royal, Bolton. Nearly all the characters are undertaken by the same artists as before, and judging by their reception nightly they have lost none of their popularity.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—The visit of Mr. F. R. Benson, who is a great favourite in Bournemouth, is always anticipated with pleasure. *Hamlet* was played on Monday night, when the theatre was packed with an enthusiastic audience, who thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Benson's masterly reading of the title-rôle. As Ophelia Mrs. Benson was excellent, and Miss Tita Brand made all that was possible out of her part. Mr. Cyril Keightley was a really good Laertes, and the Polonius of Mr. H. O. Nicholson stood out well; while great praise is due to Mr. G. Buchanan for his rendering of Horatio. The week's programme includes *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry the Fifth*, *The School for Scandal*, and *Macbeth*.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Mother Goose* is as popular as ever, and Mr. Hart's charming production is destined to enjoy a long and prosperous run, for the house is filled nightly with enthusiastic and delighted audiences.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The success attending Mr. Laidler's excellent pantomime *Dick Whittington* has led to a second edition being produced, and this takes the shape of new funny "business" by the comedians, fresh dances by the Monte Carlo Girls, and new songs by the principal artists. A notable contribution in the latter direction is "Good-bye, Sweet Marie," by the popular principal boy, Miss Esmé Gordon. Miss Edith Ager, the principal girl, introduces very effectively the tuneful song "Lazy Moon." In her new song, "In the shade of the old apple tree," Miss Lottie Coleman, the Good Fairy, scores a success, and the Sisters Brookland, second boy and girl, infuse a lot of "go" into their duet, "Walking home with Angelina." An acrobatic skipping-rope dance by Miss Ada Tyrrel is another excellent contribution. In his humorous parody on "Pilgrims of the Night" Mr. Gilbert Rodgers, the Alderman, is highly successful. In consequence of the continued unfortunate indisposition of Mr. T. B. Fayne, a change has been made in the cast. Mr. Frank Robinson takes the part of Idle Jim, in which he proved a worthy successor to Mr. Fayne, and Mr. L. Ackroyd admirably fills Mr. Robinson's place as the Grand Vizier.

THE EMPIRE (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—In their "Scenes from Dickens," with excellent scenic effects, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas act with distinct dramatic power and effect, and they are warmly applauded. Charmingly dressed, Miss Ethel Ra Leslie scores a success with her courtly bearing and dainty song. The Corty Brothers go through a clever bar performance, and do some funny burlesque wrestling. Cass, Andrew, and Miss Ada are here again with the remarkable Staley Transformation act, which is a bit of wonderful stagecraft, with novel musical effects. A welcome return visit is being paid by Baker and Balfe, the expert xylophone players. Madge Gray renders her dialect song cleverly, and her delightful imitations of children elicit roars of laughter. Great applause greets the accomplished vocalism of Sybil St. Elmo. In the exceedingly clever musical entertainment submitted by Virto and his accomplished daughters Irene and Verita there is the charm of novelty and refinement. Frank Bertram and company in their funny sketch *The Chaperon* are diverting, and a dramatic film, "The Train Wreckers," shown by the American Bioscope, is an interesting finale to a good evening's amusement.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Dr. Carl Hermann is performing some wonderful operations and electrical experiments here this week, and creating much excitement with manifestations, which are brightened with laughable mesmeric exhibitions. The Three Bostonians with dancing and other features furnish an enjoyable turn; Mlle. Frederica's wonderfully trained terriers are put through a very entertaining performance; a pretty little dramatic episode of the South African war, *The Little Colonel*, is well represented by Ernest Montefiore and company; vocalism, dancing, and whistling by Phillips and Meritt form a neat and attractive turn; a charming performance is gone through by Aladina's cleverly trained cockatoos; with brass and string instruments the Casino Girls win applause deservedly; a bright and clever turn by the Neros, who are good comedy acrobats and contortionists, finds favour; De Henan manipulates brushes with his toes in a wonderful manner, painting rapidly a beautiful landscape, and doing other remarkable things; and there are some interesting films shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith and company are here this week with *My Cousin Marco*. Mr. Weedon Grossmith gives a clever character sketch as the waiter, Marco Pescard; Miss Gladys Homfrey acquits herself admirably as Miss Pansy Van Brunt; Miss Dido Drake makes a vivacious Lady Geraldine Esdale; Miss Gladys Mason is a graceful Countess of Pulborough; Mr. W. T. Lovell's Earl of Pulborough is capitally played; and Mr. Geoffrey Guise achieves much success as the Hon. John Fanshawe. The piece is preceded by *What an Escape*, in which the characters are well sustained by Miss Murielle Langley, Miss Annie Hill, and Mr. Geoffrey Guise.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* still runs here with great success. On Thursday evening, at Mr. Ernest Carpenter's complimentary benefit performance, there was a crowded and enthusiastic audience. In addition to the performance of the entire pantomime the programme was supplemented by turns given by artists from the Brighton Alhambra and Hippodrome; Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkinson played a short sketch entitled *Caught by a Fly*; Miss Florence Ogilvy sang "Men"; and new songs were introduced by Miss May Mars and Mr. Ernest Laws.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. Theo. Hardeen, handcuff and trunk manipulator, submits a very interesting turn; Chris. Richards is a very eccentric comedian and dancer; Florence and Lillian are warmly applauded for their drawing-room musical act; Atlas, Miss Vulcana, and Gwennie Atlas display great feats of strength, and Miss Vulcana also appears in classic poses; Jack Mansfield, comedian, is well received; Gus W. Blake and Maude Granby are very amusing in their excellent sketch, *The Man in Possession*; Jessie Burnett is a pleasing comedienne; Carlo and Male are skilful and entertaining in their comedy acrobatic and wire act; Almon is a clever hand balancer; and the Alhambrascope pictures are up to date and interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A varied and attractive programme is sustained here this week. The Ameen Abou Hamad troupe of Arab acrobats give a novel and marvellous performance; the King's College Boys are highly successful with their songs and choruses; Gus Lennard evokes many a laugh by his eccentric conjuring tricks; Walton and Ella, with their wonderfully-trained dogs, are well received; Davis and Davis are capital vaudeville artists; Estic and Lemby are admirable eccentrics; Bliss and Bliss are pleasing comedians; Joe Cheevers, comedian, is mirth-provoking; Herbert Cyril, comedian, gives a good turn; and the Barrascope pictures are attractive.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. W. Norman.—The "Smart Set Entertainers" are here this week under the direction of Mr. Walter George (gold medallist, L.A.M.), and sustain programmes comprising humorous and musical selections and dances. Miss Georgie Martin, comedienne, from the London Hippodrome, is a capital dancer and singer; Miss Hilda Light displays charming vocalisation; and Mr. Charles F. Howard, an excellent bass, also sings admirably. The entertainments are supplemented by selections by the West Pier orchestra, under the direction of Mr. I. S. Dunlop.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. J. Sallmayer; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. John Henderson.—The Aquariograph animated pictures furnish the chief attractions at the afternoon and evening entertainments here.

BRIGHTON GREEN ROOM CLUB.—The members of this club gave a matinée performance of *The Duke of Killicrankie* at the Brighton Alhambra on Tuesday.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*Mother Goose* appears to be the most successful pantomime produced at this theatre for many years, seats have to be booked a week or more in advance, the popular parts of the house are, as a rule, packed at each performance, and there are no end of large excursions to see the Bristol pantomime on nearly every day in the week. The staging is on a most extensive and liberal scale, the company (taking it all round) is perhaps the best seen here, and the whole production works with exceptional smoothness. Mr. Wilkie Bard is a host in himself, his Mother Goose being a quaint study, worked out with the utmost care and skill; Happy Fanny Fields is an especial favourite, her sterling ability, both as an actress and dancer, combined with her immense vitality, makes her Gretchen, "one of the family," most entertaining; Miss Lily Morris is both pleasing and lively as Jack, the principal boy, her songs being all well received; Miss Nina Wood is a clever and dainty Jill, her style is engaging and natural, she acts her part in a pretty, simple way, and her song and dance specialities are always well received.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Goody Two Shoes* continues to be very successful, the attendance is large at each performance, the pantomime is admitted on all sides to be one of the best produced here, and the artists are all very competent in their respective parts. The scenery and dresses are on a liberal scale, the last scene in particular being very imposing. Miss Harriet Fawn and Miss May Fallowfield, principal boy and girl, are popular—they play their parts well, and score in specialities; Miss Minnie Love is pleasing as the gipsy girl Zorah, and is successful in song and dance; Mr. Dave O'Toole makes a capital Dame Durden, obtaining good support from the other comedians, who all work hard with their respective parts.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Tina Clementa presents a pretty and interesting turn with her trained dogs and horse; Whit Cunliffe, comedian, obtains considerable applause; Kit Keen, coloured comedian, is appreciated; Dorothy Gould, comedienne, is successful; Lilly Flexmore scores heavily as an acrobatic dancer and contortionist; V. L. Granville, actor mimic, presents dramatic incidents with considerable skill; Arthur Reece, vocal comedian, is popular; Heely and Meely, American eccentrics, are good in their line; Harry Allister is successful in character impersonations; and Musical Silvo manipulates his instruments in a clever and tuneful style. The performance concludes with a good display of pictures by the Barrascope.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Madame Ada Colley heads the programme; she sings delightfully, her range being quite phenomenal; the Labakans, acrobatic grotesques, do a smart turn, assisted by their wonderful dog. "Polly"; Rhoda Bromhill is a successful transformation dancer; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, amuses; Harry Russell and company have an entertaining sketch, *Binks's Blunder*; George Collins, comedian, obtains applause; Lee and Arden (Phil and Milly) score in a comedy duo, "The Scotchman in London"; Leighton and Mona please with a musical comedy act; and the performance concludes with a good display of Vernon's animated pictures. On Wednesday evening, the thirteenth anniversary of the opening of the Palace, there was a very large attendance, numerous special attractions being billed.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Another welcome attraction, under the personal direction of Mr. J. F. Elliston, is provided this week in *Aladdin and His Lamp*, as told by J. Hickory Wood. Miss Vera Marshall is an excellent principal boy, and is much encored for her popular songs; Miss Ada Elliston is charming and graceful as the Princess; as Abanazar Mr. William Fulbrook is excellent, his sketches, *How to Play Golf* and *How to Drive a Motor-car*, being excruciatingly funny; Cullen and Carthy, with Little Cluley, as Chew Chew, Chop Chop, and Chow Chow, fill in an amazing amount of comic business; Mr. George Brooks does a lot of successful work as Widow Twankey; Miss Maggie Bowman as Chee-Kee sings and dances well; and Miss Gertrude Lytton makes a good Pe-Koe. Mr. Tom J. Morton as the Grand Vizier and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as the Emperor are very droll. Charlene and Charlene give a unique entertainment in juggling and musical instrument playing. Some very pretty ballets are introduced, and the dresses and scenery add much to the success. Mr. Henry Lawrence ably directs the chorus and orchestra, and Mr. J. Lloyd Mackenzie is an expert stage-manager.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is here this week. On Monday *The Puritan's Daughter* was given. The principals included Madame Fanny Moody, Messrs. John Child, Wm. Dever, Chas. Magrath, and Chas. Manners. The other operas in the week's bill are *Faust*, *Maritana*, *Carmen*, *The Huguenots*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—An American drama, *A Fight for Millions*, is being presented here by Mr. Robert Perris's company. A clever performance is that of Mr. Percy Belard as Richard Dudley; Mr. Robert Perris is humorous as Willie Neverwork, and Mr. Karl H. Edwards is very good as Solomon Moses. Mr. W. H. Hargreaves shows much ability as Tom Manley, Miss Lottie Pearce as Betty is acceptable, and Miss Elma C. Turner is an effective exponent of Helen Dudley.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A strong bill of fare is presented here this week, including Emil Solbrig's Automatus,

juggler; Phil Herman, comedian; Bros. Obo, comedians; Fred Wilkinson, illusionist; Evelyn Taylor, vocalist; and the Max Trevally Harley troupe of acrobats.

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The place of honour is held by Amy Tilley's Minstrels in up-to-date songs; the Gregson Trio in a sketch; Will Walton, comedian; Lily Gaston, dancer; Volp and Volp, musical specialists; Lilian Dorie, trapeze artist; Kendrick and Laura, singers and dancers; and Ben Jackson, banjoist, are also in the bill.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Lawrence Brough with a most excellent company is here on a return visit with *The Lady of Ostend*. On Monday night the company were placed in an awkward position, for at the time the curtain ought to have gone up not a single article of the luggage had arrived. Mr. Redfern and Mr. Brough had a consultation, and it was agreed to take the opinion of the audience whether the company should play or no, and, on Mr. Brough coming before the curtain and explaining the matter, the audience decided the play should be given, with the assurance from Mr. Brough that everything should be done possible under the circumstances. The Baron de Lonqueville of Mr. Brough created the customary good impression; Miss Moyra Creegan as Dorothy Whodles looked and acted the part to perfection; Mr. Percy Marshall was successful as Joseph Carbury, and was well seconded by Miss Dorcas Crosbie; Mr. Harry Hampson gave a clever rendering of Dick Whodles; Mr. Harold McKay was good as Toby Crockett; Miss Daisy Cook and Miss Edith Ormmensden deserve special praise; and other parts were well taken by Mr. Chas. Groves, jun., Mr. H. Douglas, Mr. Hinson Elliott, and Miss Vera George.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Lady Madcap* is proving a powerful draw at this house, the audiences being large and enthusiastic all through the week. The piece is presented by Mr. George Dance's chief company, and is elaborately costumed and staged. Mr. H. V. Surrey in the character of Oroya Brown displays genuine comedy powers, his quiet, effective manner keeping the house in constant laughter. Miss Vera Vere revels in the part of Lady Betty, and gives a bright and original impersonation. Mr. Bay Russell's imposing style and smart dancing as Bill Stratford enlivens his scenes, and Mr. Fred Payne as Posh Jenkins gives admirable support. Mr. Vincent Erne is amusing as the diminutive Corporal Ham, and Mr. Alex. Chentrens as the lively Count de St. Hubert brings down the house with his excellent voice. Miss Peggy Primrose is a bewitchingly attractive Susan, and a charming Gwenny Holden is found in Miss Kathleen Ronayne.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—After a long absence Mr. John Gerant and company are appearing here in *At Duty's Call*, a drama always sure of a hearty welcome. Mr. Gerant repeats his former success as Harold Allison, whilst George Allison has an able representative in Mr. Frank V. Fenn. Mr. Ernest St. John is a faithful exponent of General Gordon. Mr. Harry Ugar is extremely droll as Terry, and, in conjunction with Mr. Gwyn Richardson as Jack Spencer, is responsible for much merriment. Miss Georgina Hamilton is a handsome Salema, and a powerful and refined rendition of Dora is given by Miss Marie Menzies.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The attractive sketch *Drummed Out* is once more here, and seems to be in greater popularity than ever. Arthur Lennard, with a trio of excellent songs, is in brilliant form; the Marlow and Dunham Trio on the horizontal bars quite amaze everyone by their clever performance; the Silvas execute some sensational feats on a skilfully balanced ladder: and Madame Alice Simmons, the Australian operatic prima donna, sings a couple of songs in a cultured manner. Included in the programme are Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne; Terry and Bentley in a comedy sketch; the Sisters Aindow, clever instrumentalists; and an entertaining series of pictures on the Bioscope.

CARLISLE. — ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—Toch and Tard are the chief feature here this week, and score an emphatic success; the Prinellas in *The Cornfield* have a very pretty song-scena with which they make a decided hit; Rita and Roma, high-class entertainers, have some smart duets and funny business which is much appreciated; Smith and Johnson, a coloured duo, met with a gratifying reception; Melitia submits some dancing extraordinary; and Mitzi, Japanese juggler, is very smart. Other turns include Joe Gill (funny comedian), the Two Leons (duettists), Leslie Race (vocal comedian), Mlle. Leo. Claire and Mons. Ernest in a double act on horseback, and Walter Payne's Biophotoscope with new films.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *Oliver Twist* company occupies the boards this week. Miss Dorothy Marsdin, in a very acceptable interpretation of the title-part; Miss Edith Anton Lang makes a natural Nancy, and makes the most of her opportunities; Mr. W. H. Rotherham successfully presents the characters of Mr. Grimwig and Monks, both in appearance and manner; Mr. W. H. Kemble makes an ideal Bill Sikes; Mr. Cyril Cattley is a popular Harry Maylie, and officiates as stage-director; Mr. Charlie Clark proves a lively Artful Dodger; while every praise should be given to Mr. Stanley Drewitt for his powerful acting throughout in the arduous rôle of Fagin.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Barnard's list of attractions includes Winnie Travers, comedienne; the Wilfords, equilibrists; Ben Harris and his Nippers in their sporting speciality *A Promising Pupil*; Dick Kendall, comedian; the Sivronis, in *Opera Gone Mad*; Harley and Melton, comedy duettists; and animated pictures by Lacey's Erascope; while the most interesting turn is Charles Morritt, who mystifies the audience with some smartly-worked illusions, and introduces his blind "memory marvel."

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Here we have J. Beeson, vocalist; Mabelle May, a sprightly dancer; the Lurins, in their laughable travesty, *The Abode of Love*; Frank Cumminger, clever sand dancer; Miss Janet H. Reynolds, who makes quite a hit with her excellent rendering of songs; musical and vocal selections by the original Caledonian Boys form a pleasing item; the Edisonograph has some new pictures; while unstinted applause is gained by Miss Arabella Allen in clever studies from Dickens's works.

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holberg Hardy. — Mr. George Dance's No. 1 company is here this week with *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr. Foster Courtenay, by his admirable comedy acting as Mr. Pineapple, and Miss Vera Vere by her quaint and vivacious impersonation of Fi-Fi, are the life and soul of the play; Miss Vere's songs are all redemanded, and her dancing is extremely neat; Mr. Percy Russell's Chippi Chop is a breezy piece of acting; and a clever sketch of Hi Lung is given by Mr. Jack Lisle. Mr. L. B. Webster is quite at home in the part of Tom Atherton; and the Hang Chow of Mr. J. Hamund is excellent. Miss Ada Watson acts Soo-Soo with distinction; Miss Poppy Wilkinson as Mrs. Pineapple is sprightly and engaging; Miss Edie Ross as the official mother-in-law, Mrs. Brown, acts with quiet humour; and the four bridesmaids play their parts in intelligent fashion.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—An exceptionally large house assembled here on Monday evening, the attraction being the return visit of Mr. W. W. Kelly's *Royal Divorce* company. Mr. Frederick Moyes undertakes Napoleon, and a decidedly successful and clever rendering is the result; Miss Lilian Dundas gives a charming and artistic interpretation of the Empress Josephine, Talleyrand is cleverly depicted by Mr. H. Gray Dolby, and Mr. Henry Ludlow is good as Marquis de Beaumont. Mr. C. Lionel Brocknor as General Angereau, and Mr. T. W. Ford as Marshal Murat are also effective. Miss Muriel Thompson capitally portrays Marie Louise, Miss Gertrude Entwistle vivaciously presenting Stephanie de Beauharnais. The drama is well staged, and the tableaux at the end of Act IV. are decidedly good.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Bayne.—For the first three nights of the week the attraction here was *The Toreador*, played by Mr. George Edwardes's company under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone. Mr. J. Colclough Fagan is fairly successful as Carragola, Mr. Richard Telford is funny as Sammy Gigg, Mr. Tom May scores as Pettifer, and as the Governor of Villaya Mr. Henry Arthur is well placed. Mr. Charles W. Anson is passable as Rinaldo, Mr. T. Hulme Sharp is a dignified Sir Archie Slackitt, Mr. Charles N. Heslop acts and dances well as Augustus Quill, Miss Leah Howard as Susan, Miss Sadie Neville as Dora Selby, Miss Ethel Netherton as Nancy Staunton, and Miss Grace Desmond as Mrs. Hopper all add to the success. The chorus and orchestra are ably directed by Mr. Herbert Linwood. On Thursday and Friday Mr. Wm. MacLaren's No. 1 company appeared in the drama *Proof*.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. James Kiddie, whose pantomime *Cinderella* is here this week, must be heartily congratulated upon the all-round excellence displayed by the company under his direction. A large and enthusiastic audience witnessed the performance on Monday evening. The chorus was powerful, both in numbers and as regards its vocal capacity, and the dancing was wonderfully smart. Miss Adele Roye was a most efficient Cinderella; and Miss Rose Pareeyer (a charming soprano) an ideal Fairy Godmother. Possessing a strong contralto voice and an admirable presence, Mdlle. de Ross made a capital Prince Perfect; being ably seconded by her valet, Miss Zena Pana. Mr. Dick Thomas worthily represented the Baron; and Messrs. Sidney Benson and Steve Cooke the Ugly Sisters; but undoubtedly the most popular of the male performers was Mr. Frank Dunlop, who as Pimples displayed a rare fund of humour.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Macdona's company, in the musical comedy *Three Little Maids* occupies the boards here this week. As the three little maids, Miss Vera Dallis, Miss Cora Lingard, and Miss Edith Colley are excellent; Mr. W. Stephenson in the part of Lord Cheyne is capital; Mr. E. Drake is a clever Cupid; Mr. W. Heath as M. De L'Orme, and Mr. G. Wilson as Brian Molyneaux are both satisfactory.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—There is an excellent entertainment here this week. The Dayton Troupe are clever in a Risley and pedestal act; Hector, the wire prince, contributes an interesting turn; N. C. Bostock, comedian, is very good; the twin Brothers Deane introduce a pretty American dance and whistling duet; Helene and Emilon are capital gymnasts; Stidder and Dunbar, in their musical act, please very much; the Sisters Williams, operatic duettists, sing with great taste; and Mattie Crawford, comedienne and skipping-rope dancer, also pleases.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. William Bennett.—Messrs. Haddon and Loader are presenting here this week a pantomime entitled *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Nellie Burdette scores a big success as Jack, Miss Rose Sylvester doing full justice to the part of Dora Musty. The Sisters Poole are seen to advantage as Nancy and Charley Bright; Miss Rene Rennie is a most imposing Wicked Fairy; Miss Jeanne Langlois is the Good Fairy; Mr. Ha Lonsdell is responsible for the part of Brumbles the Giant, and succeeds admirably; and Mr. Jan Laurier, Mr. Leon Simkin, and Mr. Dan Paulton are responsible for the merriment as Silly Billy, Dame Trotter, and Squire Musty respectively. Specialities are introduced by Grant and Allen, the Sisters Poole, the Sisters Florence, Ha Lonsdell, and the Alhambra Trio of Dancers.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's company is paying a return visit here this week. *Sapho* was played on Monday night, and unstinted praise is due to Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, in the title-rôle, for her skilful rendering of a difficult part. Mr. Sydney Bland was seen to advantage as Jean Gaussin; and Mr. George Munro, as Cæsar Gaussin, was well received. Mr. Matthew Boulton was excellent as Dechellette. Mr. Robert Pittard as Cadoual, Mr. K. Fenton as Lacœur, and Mr. Leonard Lorraine as De Potter ably sustained their respective parts. Miss Katherine Herbert gave a creditable interpretation of the country aunt, Divonne Gaussin, and Miss Agnes Gunn was a graceful Eugenie. Miss A. Barker as Nanette, Miss More Dunphie as Rosa Sanchez, Miss Adelaide Cecil as Suzanne, and Miss Ida Chapman as Madame Hettema, each deserves a word of praise. The répertoire for the week includes *The School for Scandal*, *East Lynne*, *Nell Gwynn*, and *Jane Shore*.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Davidson.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is playing to large houses here in the stirring domestic drama *Her Forbidden Marriage*. In the principal rôles of George Maddison and Lucy (Sir George's ward), Mr. Albert Ward and Miss Isla Garnet Vayne prove themselves to be very capable artists. Mr. Lionel D'Aragon, as Charles Devereux, scores heavily; Miss Eugenie Magnus does well as Lady Lucretia; as Patty and Timothy, Miss Sybil Hammersley and Mr. Fred de Vere are amusing; and as Little Lucy, Little Alice is interesting.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—The attraction here is Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Public Opinion* and *The Stratagem*. In the first-named, Mr. George Giddens's quiet, easy humour admirably fits the rôle of Horace Wibsey; Mr. William Hargreaves is amusing as the Hon. Mr. Justice Mulley; Mr. George Mallett acts with a droll dignity, which is very pleasant, as Sir Babington Mulley; a capital rendering of Spencer Traughton, which would be hard to improve upon, is given by Mr. Ernest Ruston; Mr. Harold West is quite in his element as Viscount Poffley; Mr. Templer Powell is capital as Lord Percy Kilgon; Mr. C. J. Barber deserves a word of praise as Smeeton; Mr. Ernest Cox is adequate as Finchett; and Mr. J. E. Watson excellent in the part of Jowers. Miss Emma Hutchison makes a charming and natural Lady Diana Caldershaw; Miss Marie Mallalieu is enchanting as Phyllis Dagenham; Miss Ida Laurie is smart as Charlotte; and Miss Lilian Hallows plays the rôle of Pansy Bligh with all the skill of an accomplished actress. The play was received throughout with marked approval. *The Stratagem* is noticed elsewhere.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Julian Malver's company occupies the boards with *I Defy the World*. Mr. Lewis Gilbert renders sterling services as Leon Darville; Mr. Horace Booth is commendable as Count de Beaulieu; Mr. Alfred Denning acts with care as General Delaporte; Mr. Charles Conway is satisfactory as Laroche; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt is successful in the rôle of Andre; and Mr. Charles M. Julian makes an amusing Samuel Wozzle. Miss Trixie St. Albans's Pauline Delaporte would be difficult to improve upon; Miss Maud Malvern has closely studied the rôle of Blanche Darville; and Miss G. Coats is good as Fanchette.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Eade Montefiore's company is here with the successful pantomime *Cinderella*, which is being played to packed houses. Miss Georgina Leonard fills the part of Prince Peerless with great success, her singing highly pleasing the audience; Miss Nellie Merton is a fascinating Cinderella; Miss Vera Schlesinger, who plays the Fairy, and Mr. Traverner, who appears as the Demon King, are very fine in their duets. The comedy parts are well presented by Messrs. Conan and Doyle as Nabem and Nallom; Mr. Fred Lincoln as the Baron sings with great power; Mr. George Rydon as Peter the page is very funny; and Messrs. Arthur Byron and Mr. George Antley as the Ugly Sisters cause roars of laughter. Mr. Morrice Holmes must be complimented on his stage-management, and a great attraction of the pantomime is supplied by the Four Fiori Del Montes, in their clever dancing.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—The Ian Maclaren Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire company is appearing here this week. On Monday evening *Hamlet* was staged. Mr. Ian Maclaren in the title-rôle gave one of the best renderings seen in this theatre for some time. Mr. B. Iden Payne was excellent as Polonius, Mr. Paul Lovett made a capital Laertes, and Mr. Stanley Roberts did well as Horatio. Mr. Aubrey Mathew played the King of Denmark satisfactorily, whilst the lines of the Ghost were well spoken by Mr. Rathmel Wilson. Miss F. Glossop Harris was successful as the Queen of Denmark. Miss Gertrude Gilbert was sweet and pleasing as Ophelia. *David Garrick* was staged on Tuesday evening, and *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Corsican Brothers*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *The Three Musketeers* are in the week's programme.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley.—*Robinson Crusoe* is running its second week's course right merrily here. Miss Maisie Ellinger has become quite a favourite for her dashing impersonation of the title-rôle; Miss Veronica Brady as Polly Perkins and Miss Cassie Walmer as the Empress of Jungalow also continue to please. Messrs. Tom Owen, Frank Couch, Clifford Morgan, and Larola maintain the comedy and specialty element with undiminished vigour and eclat. What can be described as a capital all-round production will be withdrawn at the end of the week.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—The great attraction here this week is T. E. Dunville, the well-known comedian. Needless to say he is received with enthusiasm. Rezene and Robin, clever knockabout comedians, are successful; Emmie Ames, a pleasing comedienne, is praiseworthy; Wisper, a smart juggler, is clever and diverting; Roxel is a sensational gymnast, and his feats are distinctly daring and original; Frank Boyce, character comedian, is popular; the Two Rubies, comediennes and singers, are worthy of special mention; and the Palace Bioscope pictures are very interesting.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Mr. George Dance's principal company in *The Cingalee* is proving a right royal sucess here. Mr. Lauri de Frece, in the exhilarating rôle of Chambhuddy Rham, displays talent; Mr. Frank Crimp as Harry Vereker has a good presence; Mr. Bertrand Gates makes the most of Boobhamba; and Mr. Coop Edmunds as Sir Peter is well placed. Mr. E. Edwards as Bobby Warren, with Miss M. Clarke as Lady Patricia, are excellent; and Miss Gladys Guy as Peggy has a charming style. Miss Winnie O'Connor is the Nonoya, the rôle being filled with much distinction.

HIPPODROME AND VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Weldon.—This week sees the return of Gillin, a deservedly popular ventriloquist; Andrews and Thompson, high-class singers of good songs, are capital; and the Three Darrells, in a musical act, are clever. Grogie, Walter Guerney, and Robb Gillmore, are comedians of excellent humour; and J. H. Dundas, actor vocalist, has much to recommend him. The Alexandre Trio are gymnasts of a high order.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Quite a gloom was cast over the performance on Monday evening, and the most sincere sympathy was expressed in the great bereavement sustained by the urbane and courteous managing-director in the sudden death of Mrs. Chapman, which took place at their residence in Scarborough that morning. It was all the more distressing because Mrs. Chapman was at the theatre here not more than a fortnight ago. The funeral took place at Scarborough on Wednesday, the employés and the theatre staff forwarding a beautiful floral tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased lady, who was deservedly held in the highest esteem, and whose pleasing personality endeared her to everybody with whom she came in contact. Mrs. Chapman was forty-six years of age.

THE THEATRE.—The ever-verdant and amusing pantomime *Cinderella* was received here on Monday with undisguised popularity, and afforded a pleasing variety to its immediate predecessors. Prince Perfect was capably dealt with by Miss Daisy Morall and Miss Madge Allen was in sympathy as Dandini. The Fairy Godmother was easily and happily negotiated by Miss Lilian Deane, whose graceful deportment added considerably to the effectiveness of the rôle. Miss Mamie Iris was a charming Cinderella, gesture, footwork, and song being far from exhausting her ample répertoire. The Baron Bunker of Mr. Charles Russell was well-conceived, humorous, and trenchant. Mr. Johnny Norman and Mr. Billy Keene simulated with much acceptance the respective characters of the Hon. Clorinda Bunker and the Hon. Miranda Bunker. General Defect found spirit, grit, and piquancy in the hands of Mr. Sid Aubrey, evidences, imperceptible to himself, being frequent of acrobatic prowess. Miss Lily Mayfield was pretty in Lord Thingummy: Miss Ethel Duncker was distinctly successful as Earl of What's This? and the Buttons of Mr. Will Letters accounted for a great deal of pungent humour and clever patter.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr Fred. C. Dew.—Mr. John B. Shinton and Mr Alexander Greenwood's company opened here on Monday with the Russian drama *The Price of Her Soul*. A convincing impersonation of the Countess Inez Steinmetz is given by Miss Ada M. Ryder, a charming young actress; Miss Mona Grey's hand some presence and fine elocution add considerably to the effectiveness of her portrayal of Olga Lanovitz; Miss Ada Arnott plays the part of Lady Jemina Fraser on broad comedy lines; and Miss Tina Frank is a piquant Polly Perkins. Miss Ina Mervale is a pathetic Nadine; and Little Ida Thompson, one of the cleverest child actresses seen in Dover for some time, portrays the rôle of Vera with intelligence and charm. The gallant English hero, Lord Rolf Mandeville, could not have a more competent exponent than Mr. John B. Shinton; Mr. Annersley Hely gives a capital rendering of Major Ivan Skoboloff, and is undobtedly assisted by the excellent acting of Mr. Murray Yorke as Captain Sergius Petruski, with whom some of his most powerful scenes are enacted. Mr. Fred White gives prominence to the small part of Zouroff; a welcome touch of light comedy, given by the clever depiction of the character of the Hon. Algy Fraser by Mr. Edwin Coates, meets with general appreciation; a typical Irishman is found in Mr. Will Percy as Pat Murphy; Mr. Maurine Le Sage makes the most of his brief opportunities as Alphonse Didot; and the same remark applies to the Captain Jack Lawton of Mr. Sydney Ross. Mr. Langdon Goulding is a competent General Demetrius Lanovitz, and Mr. Archie Geas as Popoff is also worthy of mention.

THE EMPIRE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. P. G. Wraith: Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield.—Mahatma is the principal star here this week, and gives a wonderful and interesting turn; Mons. Savaro, the human bird, is warmly applauded for his excellent performance; and Dan Cooper is a clever comedian. A capital act is given by Lillian and Augoste, the lady and the clown; Miss Kitty Gresham is a smart society girl; and Will Farrell, a versatile humorist, is responsible for roars of laughter. A graceful and effective turn is the work of the Sisters Perita, gymnaste; and Ellis and Watts receive well-earned encores for their well-rendered songs.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—A large audience greeted Mr. George Edwardes's company here on Monday in *The Spring Chicken*. Mr. George Gregory's impersonation of Mr. Girdle is highly amusing, and Miss Ida Verona displays considerable ability as Mrs. Girdle. The part of Gustave Babori is successfully played by Mr. L. W. Harris, and Miss Gertrude Gilliam gives a careful study of the rôle of Baroness Papouche. Mr. Edgar Ronalds is acceptable as Boniface, and Miss Gertrude Glynn makes an efficient Rosalie. The part of Stephen Henry is ably played by Mr. Nelson Keys, and Miss Rita Everard does well as Dulcie Babori. Mr. C. D. Cleveland interprets the part of Felix in capital style, and Miss Nelly Lonnen as Emmy Low is excellent.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—*Royal Cinderella* entered on its last week here on Monday night. The house was well filled, as has been the case from its first production here, and the several new songs and jokes introduced by the artistes were highly appreciated.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Mr. J. H. Clyndes and company, with *A Royal Revenge*, are drawing good houses here this week. Mr. J. H. Clyndes fills the part of Estevan Alveran in an excellent manner, and Miss Enid Edoni is particularly good as Inez. The rôle of Michael Sancha is ably sustained by Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon, and Miss Annie Grattan is admirable as Cora Casilda. Mr. Arthur Chisholm makes the most of the part of Manuel Mondega, and Miss Celestine Brandon acquits herself well as Paquita Marcella. Azen Ben Musid is capitally played by Mr. Fred Rivers, and Miss Eve Derwent is successful as the Mother Superior.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Marsh.—Foremost on this week's bill are Kelly and Ashby, "bounding billiardists," who are encored nightly; Miss Florrie Gallimore is a bright specimen of the lively songstress; and the Arthur Lloyd Trio meet with a cordial reception. The Three Amaranths, acrobatic dancers, score a success, and Princess Pauline, comedienne, has many admirers; Hans Hansen Trio's sporting act is very amusing; Billy Hobbs, coon comedian, wins favour; Lydia and Albino are clever gymnasts; and the Empire pictures are, as usual, interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—J. S. Benyon and the Whitworth Girls top the bill here, and are most successful in their cycling act; the two Dixons, banjoists and dancers, appear to much advantage; Winona and King are a capital pair of speciality artistes; the Three Rolands submit a clever equilibristic and hand-balancing turn; and Lade Henderson is a good character vocalist; Bishop and Hanlon, comedy artists, are well received; the Raie Walthers' speciality act, *Fishing*, meets with appreciation; and Dan Filmer, comedian and dancer; Cristo, illusionist; J. C. Revel, juggler; and the Bioscope complete the programme.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The Lashmars score here as duettists and dancers; Syd Mountford is a clever conjurer; George Nixon, comedian and dancer, does well; and Flo Carberry, serio and dancer, also contributes to the programme.

SAMUELS'S EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—Charles Warburton is an amusing comedian; Walter Gordon gains favour as a character comedian; Miss Violet Kingsley is a soprano vocalist of merit; and Kimball, musician, and the Ross's, international dancers, are also successful.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. James Kiddie is producing *Dick Whittington*, a pantomime of exceptional merit, this week. The company is a strong one, and includes Miss Bessie Willow, who plays the hero in bold style; Miss Maggie Summerson, who makes a captivating Alice; and Miss Florence Hilton (a Dudley girl), who takes the house by storm as Sir Algernon De Mash. The comedy element is well to the fore with Mr. Cyril Dundas as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Will Summerson as Idle Jack, Mr. Charles Dillon as the cook, and Messrs. Clifton and Gibson as Fitzwarren's idle apprentices. The specialities include Curtis and Vanity, who bring down the house with their clever dancing. The Three Sisters Kilner are a trio of dancers possessing marvellous acrobatic powers.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Deputy-Acting-Manager Mr. Rhodes Wells.—The Dunedin Troupe are heading the bill here this week in a wonderful cycling turn. The Jackley Trio are also proving a great attraction in a drawing-room entertainment of a clever and amusing type; the Raymond Troupe are well received in a refined musical act; George Anthill is well described as the Star of Many Eccentricities; Arthur Slater, the whistler in white, has had a good reception; and Ena Richards (comedienne and dancer) and Jack Binns (actor-vocalist) are also included in a very enjoyable programme. The Empire Bioscope Pictures are much appreciated.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Edward Compton is with us once again, and opened on Monday with the ever-popular *Davy Garrick*, to a house completely crammed from floor to ceiling with an enthusiastic and delighted assemblage. Mr. Compton, on making his first entrance, had to acknowledge a spontaneous outburst of cheering, and enthralled his admirers with his polished interpretation of Davy Garrick. Miss Mackenzie made a sweetly sympathetic Violet Gresham, her elocution being fine and her deportment graceful. Mr. Henry Crocker as Alderman Gresham was the bigoted city magnate to the life; Mr. A. B. Imeson made a splendid appearance as the devil-may-care Hon. Tom Tallyhaut; Miss Marie Hassal and Miss Muriel Meek, as Mrs. Rumbelow and Selina, were entertaining in their respective parts; Messrs. Herbert Pigot, Arnold Lucy, and G. Wallace Johnston ably undertook the rôles of Rumbelow, Sowerberry, and Simpkins respectively. A one-act comedy, entitled *The Desperate Lover*, was given with much success. At the conclusion, Mr. Compton made a pleasing and graceful speech, thanking the audience for their enthusiastic welcome.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The Salambos pay a return visit with their wonderful electric performance; Grell and Gray cause the greatest hilarity with their cleverly-worked comedy act; Luis Hardt gives a wonderful exhibition of muscular strength; John Holland and company are old favourites, and score with their amusing sketch *The Millionaire*; Maxwell and Frances display tuneful voices, and introduce some quaint dialogue; Olivette gives a wonderful second-sight act; and Alex. Thorne makes a good appearance as a Scotch comedian. Mons. Slippere proves himself to be a skilled musician, and Lil O'Gorman is a clever dancer.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The Albano Troupe top the bill here with their clever musical act, which is most enthusiastically received. A very smart and laughable burlesque on hypnotism, entitled *Codology*, is given by the Great Hughes, who makes his subjects go through the usual droll business. Vesta Fay is a very fine male impersonator, and is the possessor of a most excellent voice. Mark Lane creates much amusement with his comedy songs; and Anna Hannah is a very pleasing comedienne. Harry Glynn's combination produce a laughable sketch, and a most excellent programme is concluded by the Cedrics in a cleverly-arranged speciality act.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mr. R. A. P. Williams's successful pantomime *Cinderella* is staged here this week. Miss Ethel Burns is a dashing Prince, and her excellent voice is heard to advantage in some favourite songs; Miss Vesta Brownie as Dandini makes a fine appearance, and excels in song and dance; Miss Fay Vayne is a pretty Cinderella, and contributes a very graceful dance in the first act; Miss Madge Brownie is undoubtedly a born comedienne, and as the Ugly Sister creates the utmost merriment; Mr. Will Wilson as Peter the page has a large share in the general merriment; the Boston Twins are a couple of lively comedians; and Mr. Tom Reid is good as one of the Ugly Sisters. Valesco's circus act is a very fine show; and a clever grotesque turn is that given by Hampson.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—On Monday evening here Mrs. Russ Whytal made her first appearance as the Lady Elizabeth in Tom Taylor's historical romance *'Twixt Axe and Crown*. Mrs. Russ Whytal's company is a very strong one, and even the small parts—and there are many—are played with noticeable ability. As the Lady Elizabeth, Mrs. Russ Whytal is a complete success. The strong dramatic vein which the part demands is always present, and her expression of conflicting emotions shows an intense power, which places her well up on the list of emotional actresses. A more queenly manner and stately figure could hardly be imagined than those of Miss Geraldine Cliffe, and she is a very fine Mary Tudor. Miss Mabel Knowles is a bright and piquant Isabel Markham; and Miss Molly Tearle is a commendable Duchess of Norfolk. Mr. Charles Combe as Bishop Gardiner plays with keen judgment throughout, and he is a powerful and impressive actor. Mr. Godfrey Tearle is a handsome, picturesque, and romantic Edward Courtenay, and natural and physical attractions are backed up by fine histrionic ability. Another part admirably played is that of Simon Renard, undertaken by Mr. J. J. Bartlett, who attains capital effects in an easy and polished manner. Mr. Alfred Fisher is a quiet but efficient Sir Thomas Wyatt; Mr. Leslie Palmer is a buoyant and pleasing Sir John Harrington; and Mr. Edward Beecher is a commendable Sir John Brydges. The scenery and dresses are on a lavish scale of magnificence.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Miss Elsie Roberts and her capital company are appearing here in *One of the Best*. The drama is well mounted and well played. Miss Elsie Roberts is as dainty and pretty a Mary Penrose as one could wish to see; Miss Margaret D. Webster attains considerable success as Esther Coventry; Miss Dorrie Roberts is a pert and lively Kitty Spencer; and Miss Ethel Sarjient is a pleasing Mrs. Spencer. The part of the hero, Dudley Kennel, finds a capital representative in Mr. Frank Fenton, and his acting is finished and impressive; Mr. Cyril Melton capably fills the rôle of Lieut.-General Coventry; Mr. Edward S. Earle is a very efficient Sir Archibald; and Mr. G. Child is a gentle and sympathetic Vicar. The villainies of Philip Ellsworth and De Gruchy are carried out satisfactorily by Messrs. E. Robson and L. West; while Mr. Harry E. Ray is a really able comedian and his work as Private Jupp is fully appreciated, and obtains many laughs.

TOWN HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Kennard.—During the latter part of the week Miss Elizabeth Ressle's company is billed to appear here in Shakespearean costume recitals, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Comedy of Errors*, with the stage effects of the Elizabethan period.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Smith.—At the top of the bill are the Pasqualis Brothers, a couple of smart, clever, and agile acrobats; a turn which quite captures the audience is that given by Mr. Mack Olive, a wonderfully clever whistler, who has some very effective business, in which he is assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry; the Brothers Gilbert are daring and adept bounding tightrope walkers; Mr. Walter Stanley causes many laughs as a comedian; Natalia and Dianna are expert performers on the trapeze; Miss Minnie Mace soon establishes herself a favourite as a charming comedienne and dancer; Mr. Fred Dice succeeds as a comedian; and the Brothers Grey share success in the same line; Miss Amy Allnutt returns to score as a smart and pleasing comedienne.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Responsible-Managers, Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Wood.—*The Prodigal Son*, presented during the week by Mr. Alfred H. Hook's company, is attracting good houses. The piece is admirably staged, and the cast is of exceptional merit. Mr. Ellerslee Payne does well as Jack Fanshaw, and Mr. W. H. Buckstone, an old favourite at the King's, is well placed as Captain Harry Fanshaw. Mr. John S. Chamberlain as Larry M'Gehan provides genuine fun. Bill Burke is entrusted to Mr. Hal Lowe, who is quite equal to the task entrusted to him. Miss Beatrice Western as Margaret Marsden and Miss Nellie Hook as Dick are also successful.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The closing nights of the pantomime *The Forty Thieves* are announced. Mr. Tom E. Murray has added to his laurels by his droll impersonation of Ali Baba;

Appointment; and the Fitzroys contribute a clever exhibition of trapeze feats, executed in unique and graceful style.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—Large audiences have attended the closing nights of the circus season, and a good programme has been provided for their entertainment, including a return visit of Miss Cooke, with her clever cake-walking horse, "Kentucky Beau"; a smart gymnastic display by Craig, Rose, and Craig; comic juggling by Ray and Miles; dancing by the MacNeill Family, and other attractions; followed by the thrilling Indian sensation, *The Scalp Hunters*, with the wonderful diving horses. This spectacular production has achieved considerable popularity. A bumper house on Friday evening marked the occasion of Mr. Cooke's annual benefit.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week in the charming comedy, *The Freedom of Suzanne*. Miss Beatrice Lindley as Suzanne Trevor is most attractive. Mr. Herbert J. Bentley submits a capital impersonation of Charley Trevor; Mr. F. G. Thurstans portrays Fitzroy Harding in good style; Lord Dachet, Captain Cecil, and Tommy Keston find excellent exponents in Messrs. Townsend Whitling, Edward Bonfield, and Archie Selwyn; and Sir Horace Hatton is well taken by Mr. William Mallalieu. Lady Charlotte Trevor is done full justice to by Miss Emily Patterson; Miss Violet Ley is attractive as Lady Isabel. A typical character sketch is Mrs. Mallalieu's Mrs. Putman. Miss Charlotte Meade does well as Fanny Minching, and Miss Annie Stalman is most creditable as Mrs. Tustail. The piece is preceded by a pretty little curtain-raiser, *Two in a Trap*, in which Mr. Edward Bonfield and Miss Violet Ley both play admirably.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—This week Miss Marie Dagmar and company are presenting *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Miss Dagmar capably undertakes the part of Elinor D'Arville, her performance throughout being marked by forcible acting; Miss Maudie Grayson as Phœbe contributes neat dancing; the Mrs. Vimbart of Miss Marie Clavering is a capital piece of character-acting; Miss Mollie Monaghan as Janet Miles is to be congratulated on a pathetic performance; and other parts are well played by Miss Marie Barrett as Lily Lorrimer and Miss Alice Connaughton as Floretto De Vere. Mr. Fred Somerfield as Will Maynard is all that can be desired in a part which requires careful handling; Mr. George Mitchell in the dual rôle of Geoffrey and Cyril Langdon plays capitally; Mr. T. G. Vane as Leonard Vimbart causes plenty of laughter; Mr. Charles Stirling capably impersonates Harold Kingston; and Mr. Bradford Crosby is also successful as Peter Miles.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—Mr. Charles March opened here on Monday in the French drama, entitled *The Gamester of Metz*. Mr. Charles March, in the rôle of Sergeant Paul Baldot, acted with marked ability, his quick change act in the third scene being warmly applauded; Mr. Fred Aldworth was an imposing General De Monporasse; whilst Mr. E. Avinal was successful as Captain Bodair, as was also Mr. W. G. Dudeney as Louis Badaire. The Ferdinand Du Basson of Mr. Wilfred Prothero was a clever piece of character acting; and the part of Goliath Gavin was made very amusing by Mr. Victor Knight. Miss Una Lane was a sympathetic Lucia Baldot; and Miss Eva Lyndhurst acted with much pathos in the part of Countess Baldot.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Mouillot's company in *The Geisha* is the attraction here this week. Miss Bessie Allayne as O Mimosa San plays in a pleasing manner, her songs being delightfully rendered; Miss Violet Kenyon is a vivacious O Julietta Diamant; Miss Florrie Saunders acts and sings in dainty style as Molly Seymour; Miss Aubrey Ashton as Lady Constance is successful. Mr. Cyril Thompson is an excellent Reginald Fairfax; Mr. Edgar Ward is seen to advantage as Captain Katana; Mr. Edward Carlton scores a success as Wun Hi, and is responsible for some capital dancing, and Mr. Lionel Braham is wonderfully clever and amusing as Marquis Imari. *A Greek Slave* was played on Friday.

Town Hall.—Lessee, Mr. E. J. Chadwick.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's company in *Cinderella* opened here on Thursday, and was accorded a cordial reception.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, the Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robert Kirk.—Last week *The Girl from Japan* appeared here for three nights. The comedy element in this amusing piece was well to the fore in the parts of Bingle, the Curate, and the General, amusingly played by Messrs. Chas. L. Ludlow, E. Spalding, and Percy Baverstock. Mr. George Hudson sang well as Lord Allenbury, and Miss Dorothy Glenton was a charming exponent of the title-rôle. Miss Josephine Elles contributed some graveful dances, and the chorus was well balanced. On Monday Mr. Chas. Harrington's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Co. opened to a good house. Mr. J. Carr is a good Uncle Tom; Mr. J. H. Rogers makes the most of the villainous Legree; and Miss Zerlina Zerbini is a powerful Cassie. Miss May Vincent, Mr. Walter Langford, Ikey Jones, W. H. Nott. Shorty May, &c., introduced some clever negro specialities in the plantation scene.

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—The successful pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is here this week. Miss Madge Merry makes a dashing Dick; Miss Winifred Preece is highly successful as Alice; the Sisters Vincent as Lieuts. Hatchway and Mainbrace are charming, their singing and dancing being loudly applauded; Mr. Wm. Kashma is one of the most amusing cats we have seen; the part of Idle Jack provides Mr. Walter Wade with many opportunities, of which he avails himself. Other fun-makers are Mr. W. H. Ball as Fitzwarren, and Walter Nugent as Julia; Mr. C. Kashma as Captain Kettle is both a clever comedian and a finished acrobat. The specialities introduced by the following artists are well received:—The Sprays, in novelty dances; the Kashmas, in an acrobatic act; the Thalian Glee Singers; the Sisters Vincent, coon singers and dancers; and Miss Effie White, in her famous Rainbow and Fire dances.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—The American-Indian actress, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk is drawing big audiences here with the drama *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. Go-Won-Go-Mohawk plays Wep-ton-no-Mah, and elicits much applause; Colonel Stockton is faithfully portrayed by Mr. C. W. Charles; Mr. Edward Leroy looks and acts the part of Spanish Joe well; Mr. Ike Shawcross is aptly placed as Captain Franklin, the Spaniard's villainous partner; Messrs. Guy Hackney and Dan Ryan, as Sam White and Garry Cullen respectively, cause much amusement; Miss Minnie Goepel makes a charming Nellie Stockton; and Miss Dora Pass is successful as Matilda Shiffles. Two beautiful and intelligent ponies, trained by Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, are the objects of much admiration.

GLASGOW.—King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—To follow the pantomime here no better engagement could have been made than *Charley's Aunt*, and a crowded house welcomed Mr. Brandon Thomas and his clever company on Monday. Mr. Stanley Cooke is again the representative of the eccentric old lady from Brazil, and played the part with all his well-known humour and zest. Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney and Mr. Richard B. Mason as Charley Wykeham proved able co-operators in the fun-making, and their respective sweethearts were charmingly played by Misses Marian Ripley and Dorothy Deacon. Miss Lena McNaughten was stately and dignified as the real Donna Lucia, and Miss Gladys Storey made an attractive Ela Delahay. Mr. Brandon Thomas played Colonel Chesney with martial gruffness and bearing, and Mr. Walter Beaumont was an amusing Spettigue. Mr. Sydney Compton was particularly good as the college scout, Brassett. Mr. Brandon Thomas's one-act play *A Highland Legacy* was given in front, with the author as Tammy Tamson.

Prince's.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Simple Simon* still continues to provide mirthful attraction to large houses. Mr. Jack Lorimer is exceedingly entertaining as Saunders M'Rory, and Mr. Lawrence Barclay repeats his performance as Simple Simon. Good work is done by Mr. Larry Lewis as the Mysterious Stranger; Mr. Will Poluski, jun., raises many laughs as Jeremiah; Miss Lily Lingard as Robin Adair is very handsome, and she and Miss Esta Stella as Phyllis continue their successes, and are great favourites. The Sisters Hall sustain their characters with credit, and their harmonised songs were heartily applauded. Miss Madge Locke, daughter of the author, as Billy Buttercup and Miss Marie Le Frayne as Polly Primrose are fresh and natural in style. Their new duet, "There is only one girl," seldom misses an encore, and they receive many floral compliments. Miss Maud Bettison is an attractive Fairy, and Miss Eleanor L'Estrelle appears successfully as Kate.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—Mr. Alfred C. Calmour's impressive spectacular play, *The Prodigal Son; or, The Judgment of Pharaoh*, continues to hold the boards here, and the management deserve high commendation for their enterprise in bringing another of Mr. Flanagan's elaborate productions to Glasgow. Some members of the present company took part in the original production at Manchester, notably Mr. John M. Troughton, who gives a striking representation of the patriarchal Neziah, and Miss Frances Wetherall, whose acting of the part of Mione is strongly dramatic. The love interest is admirably sustained by Mr. Frederick Sargent as Jevan and Miss Olive Noble as Miriam. As the schemer, Pharus, Mr. D. Lewin Mannering acts with capital effect. Other impersonations of outstanding merit are the Pharaoh of Mr. Cecil A. Melton and the Priest of Mr. Ernest Griffin.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne's company is here with *The Orphan Heiress*, an exciting play, of which the managing-director of the theatre is the author. Large audiences attend nightly, and are unstinted in their applause. Miss Edith Halford as Olive Kingston powerfully portrays the character of an utterly unscrupulous woman, ably seconded by Mr. Charles Boult as Douglas Kingston, the villain of the drama, and Mr. Walter Fergus as a rascally money-lender. Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle as Laurence Gordon makes a fine manly hero, and Miss Rosalie Heath as Mabel Ainsley a pleasing heroine. The parts of Lady Ainsley by Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh and of Edith Mowbray by Miss Constance Medwyn are finely rendered. Mr. George Handel as the Vicar of Woodlands is fittingly quiet and kindly, and Mr. Henry Willis is equally natural as a blind old gentleman, Lord Warwick Ainsley. Mr. T. H. Solly as Ginger and Miss Cora Duncan as Betsy give an abundant supply of humour.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Between Two Women*, which proved so successful at the Metropole last week, is equally so at the Govan house, where they opened on Monday.

Empire (Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.).—District Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager. Mr. Charles Nussett.—Selma Braatz proves herself a juggler of special neatness and dexterity; Howard and St. Clair in their new sketch create considerable amusement; Bijou Russell's sand-dancing and vocal eccentricities make her a prime favourite; Cardow's Cadets provide a novel singing, dancing, and acting sketch; Frank A. Wood, fresh from his pantomime successes at the King's, gives a good operatic scena; the Vernon Quartette of Lady Vocalists are particularly good; A-Ba-Be in her picture post-card poses takes extremely well; Buns and Buns give an amusing sketch; and the biograph completes a varied programme.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—At this house the marvellous Andos Japanese troupe perform amazing feats, and are well received; the Three Sisters Slater do a fine skipping-rope turn and a banjo selection; Harry Brown, a coloured comedian of able parts, amuse with quaint patter and eccentric dancing; a charming musical and pictorial turn, *In Dreamland*, is well received, and the singing of Miss Gracie Moore adds delight to the enjoyment of fantastic sketches by John Hassall shown in illustrations; the Five Olracs are clever acrobats and gymnasts, and to rag-time melodies they add a spice of agreeable humour; Signor Francia heads the Boccaccio Minstrels, and is rapturously received for an artistic display on the mandoline, and the others combine musical talent with clever comedy touches, and high-class selections such as they give are very much enjoyed; Frank Lynne, a smart comedian, and Andy Higginson, swell comedian, both appear to advantage; and the bar act of McPhee and Hill, with the bioscope, which closes the performance, go to complete a particularly fine night's amusement.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. C. Maclachlan.—This huge building is being literally besieged this week by crowds eager to see Fred Karno's latest sketch, *Moses and Son*. In this Fred Kitchen again keeps the audience in roars of laughter by his drolleries, and Leah Morris, Kate Forster, Ben Rosenthal, H. Landeck, and other favourites ably second his efforts. Addie Dorina gives her clever quick-change scena; Palles and Cussick again prove themselves comedians of much originality and humour; Leo Stormont, the popular actor-vocalist, gives a first-rate turn; Collins and Rice are a clever pair; and the Karries provide another excellent turn.

Palace.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—A good company occupies the bill here this week. The outstanding turn is J. L. Shine and Co. in the amusing sketch *Hogmanay*. The other items on the programme include La Prière d'Une Jeune Fille in an electrical scena; Carson Hicks, comedian and buck dancer; Edney and Wade, vocalists and dancers; Kitty Glover and Co. in farcical comedy; Roma and Romani, clever musical experts; Frances Letty, comedienne and dancer; Warden-Reed and Glenny, sketch artists; Harold Alberto, Australian magician; and the animatograph.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Ada Fawn is starring here this week with great success. The Mozondos give an interesting comedy, barrel, and tumbling act; Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies are a smart young combination of rag-time dancers; Otta and Olga are two clever musical comedy artists; George Barron sings a couple of humorous songs with success; and other turns are given by John Callan, comedian and sand-dancer, and Blanche Gerrard, burlesque actress.

Queen's.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—A first-class company is billed here this week, the chief attraction being the well-known comedian, Frank Seeley. W. J. Ashcroft, the original "Solid Man," is as lively as ever, and he is ably assisted by John W. Morton, American comedian, as partner; Ferguson and Mack create a sensation in their absurdity, *The Dimple Sisters*; the Bastow Bros. are clever comedy acrobats; Mona Macdonald is a pleasing comedian; a good "turn" is submitted by Joe Mack, comedian; Kessanly's Dogs show to what perfection animal-training can be brought; while the efforts of Dave Johnson, vocalist, and the Theresas in a Continental act are highly appreciated.

GLOUCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company is here in the romantic drama *The Breed of the Treshams*, which achieved success on its initial performance here on Monday. Mr. Henry Belding as Lieut. Reresby is to be warmly congratulated on a clever rendition of the character, and the Hon. Francis Tresham is capitally sustained by Mr. Cecil Klein. Mr. G. Moreton-Williams depicts the cowardly Colonel Hungerford in a skilful manner. Miss Florence Tressilian acts with grace and charm as the Hon. Margaret Hungerford, and Mr. Oswald Lingard makes a dignified Viscount Dorsington. Mr. George Traill as Colonel Sir Henry Curwen plays in bluff, hearty style. Miss Celestine Bertram is an excellent Batty. Colonel Bagshaw is a noticeably well-played part by Mr. Charles T. Doe, who is also responsible for the stage management. Mr. M. Wetherell gives a good performance of Captain Stanhope, and Mrs. Bagshaw is quietly acted by Miss Kathleen Morgan. Miss Belle Donaldson renders able assistance as Helena Pierrepont.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Harry Foxwell and company occupy the boards this week with the interesting drama *An Abandoned Woman*. Mr. Wolsten Foster is a natural, manly Capt. Seaton, and Sir Marmaduke is excellently acted by Mr. George Gormley. Mr. Nelson Ford ably portrays the artist, Robert Saunders. Mr. J. Butler is effective as Phillippe Malvoisin, and Mr. Harry Foxwell depicts to the life the Irishman, Paddy Boyle. Miss Bernice Fielding gives an admirable rendition of the rôle of Ninian Malvoisin; Mrs. Harry Foxwell is sympathetic as Eleanor Dean; La Celeste is capitally played by Miss Lily Addison; and Miss Ethel Vinroy is amusing as Sally Sloper.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—This week's attraction here is *The Dandy Doctor*, played by Mr. Edward Marris's company. Mr. Edmond Russell in the part of Melchisadech Brown is very amusing; Mr. James Danvers makes a really excellent Colonel Pendred; Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is well suited as Arthur Vandyke; and Mr. Leslie Martin is a diverting "locum." Miss May Yates is charming as Ivy Pendred; and Miss Norah Melton scores a decided success by her humorous acting as Jane. Specialities introduced by Mr. James Danvers and Miss Marie Gerrard are appreciated; and Mr. Ben Rowe and Miss Holden are clever cake walkers. A feature of the performance is the dainty dancing of the Dandy Belles.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Mr. Skivington has provided excellent entertainment at the above theatre this week. Tom White's Arabs head the bill, and their comedy and vocal entertainment is clever and amusing; Primavesi is an exceptionally skilful juggler; Mademoiselle Yvette and her miniature hippodrome give an excellent turn; the Lorrisons are amusing comedy artists, and the same may be said of the Two Whites; Fred Hallam, comedian, is applauded; and the Four Herberts, in an act entitled *Novel Farm Funnisities*, are well received. A good cinematograph display completes the entertainment.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—The new musical comedy, *The Girl from Japan*, has appeared here this week. The piece is very prettily staged and dressed, and there is an exceptionally strong comedy element. Miss Dorothy Glenton sings charmingly in the part of Violet Meadows, and as her companion, Polly Perkins, Miss Mabel Kerridge is pleasingly vivacious. Mr. Charles L. Ludlow is equally funny when representing the entire staff of an hotel or impersonating a Nabob. Mr. Percy Baverstock is responsible for excellent character acting as the severe military man, General Baugh, and Mr. Ernest Spalding extracts quiet but effective humour out of the part of the Rev. John Smith. Mr. George Hudson as Lord Allenbury, Mr. Charles Lupton as Sir Mulberry Flippington, Mr. W. H. Moore as Horatio Binks, and Miss Jennie Holmes as Lady Flippington, also contribute to the success of the comedy.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—A sketch, *Front and Behind*, representing a humorous incident on the stage of a music hall, has amused the Palace audiences this week. It was performed by the Cratons. Miss Helen Charles' vocal imitations and dialect songs have also given much pleasure; Zasma has accomplished gymnastic feats quite out of the ordinary, and another acrobatic performance of a novel character was given by Fred Gilbert, who appeared on an unsupported ladder; Arthur Croxon's imitation of a village concert was smartly presented; and Jack Crawley's vocal impersonations were also clever; Lilian Rigby, comedienne, has contributed pretty dancing; and comedy was provided by Harry Phydora.

Curry's Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—Fanny Wentworth's tales of child life, and other anecdotes, have proved very interesting, and she was no less successful as a vocalist. A capital miniature drama, *Did He Deserve It?* was staged by a sketch party under the direction of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard. The characters, without exception, were admirably portrayed. Droll pantomimic work was introduced by Burk and McVoy, their turn also including smart tumbling. The Wynford Brothers displayed extraordinary jumping powers, leaping in and out of barrels and over long rows of chairs. J. P. Carroll, an old soldier, manipulated tambourines in a decidedly original manner. Others appearing were Minnie Dare, a pleasing dancer; Clys and Rochelle, in a comedy act; George and Edwards, patter and dance artists; and Lafan B. Jolly, comedian.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Grimsby and Cleethorpes Circus Company, Ltd.—Professor Inman Hocking has given an exhibition of electrical experiments, and also an hypnotic display. The remainder of the programme contained a strong comedy element, turns of this character including Will Onda's company in a motoring burlesque; Nellie Vann, comedienne and dancer; Sam Shipley, comedian and dancer; and the Bros. Onda, acrobatic comedians. Violi, a lady instrumentalist; Atroy, a clever juggler; Beattie Worth, balladist; and Baby Lloyd, coon vocalist, also appeared.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Manager, Mr. D. Winks.—*Life's Sweetest Sins* is the fare provided here this week by Mr. T. Arthur Jones' specially selected company, who give a very realistic interpretation of the play. The cast includes that accomplished actress, Miss Marie Daventry, who presents a forcible delineation of the chief feminine rôle. The scenic effects are exceptionally good.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. George Dance's talented company is drawing crowded houses here this week with *The Duchess of Dantzic*. Miss May Glenn is the mainstay of the cast as Sans Gêne, her assumption of that character being delightfully artistic. Miss Maggie White gives a meritorious portrayal of the Royal Ward, and sings most agreeably; Mr. Gilbert Yorke makes a typical Napoleon, his make-up being life-like. The singing all round is excellent, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Sidney Shaw, discourses the beautiful music in fine style.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—George D'Albert is seen at his best here this week in some really clever and stylishly-conceived songs, which are enthusiastically approved; George Newburn, "London's Premier Mimic," on more than occasions justifies his claim to the title; Miss Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, sings delightfully, and is accorded hearty plaudits. The Sisters Wingrove, duettists and dancers; Lilian, in a novelty cycle act; Luba de Sarema, in sports from the Far East; the Hartlye Wonders, world-famed barrel jumpers; and Edward Ford, the Australian sundowner, complete a strong programme.

HANLEY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. Tree's company in *Oliver Twist* begins a spring tour here this week, under the management of Mr. Alfred Wareing. A remarkably clever combination of actors and actresses has been gathered, and the representation is perfect. Mr. William Mackintosh as Fagin contributes a wonderfully artistic portrayal; Miss Hutin Britton's Nancy is also one of those admirable performances but rarely seen; as Bill Sykes Mr. Cecil A. Collins is well placed, and the character part could not be in better hands; Mr. Tom Macfarlane as the Artful Dodger plays admirably; Mr. Edgar J. Coyne is all that could be desired as Charlie Bates; Miss Gertrude Lang in the title-rôle is distinctly successful; Betsy finds a worthy exponent in Miss Edith King; Miss Christmas Grose, Messrs. Max Montesole, Ben Lewin, Clifford Bown, Ashton Pearce, Harvey Braban, E. C. Buffum, Somers Bellamy, Miller Davis, Horace Adams, C. Dawson, Horace Hubert, and H. Penky, and Miss Elsie Carero, Miss Hilda Dick, Miss Helen Boucher, Miss Betty Maid, and Miss Hilda Laine are all seen to advantage. Capital business is being done.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Two capital houses on Monday night witnessed a first-class programme. The Barra troupe of instrumentalists contribute a turn of much excellence; the Selkirk Family introduce their spectacle *Bonnie Scotland*, in which one hundred local children take part, and give evidence of admirable teaching; Griffin and Judge are seen in a smart gymnastic display; Alix Lukos is an actor-vocalist of extraordinary ability, and his turn is thoroughly praiseworthy; Miss Nancy St. John and Miss Maud Ford are both highly capable comediennes and dancers; and Miss Lillie Langtry is distinctly successful in her contributions. The Grand pictures are excellent.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—A strong item on the programme this week is Frank Majilton's company of comedians in a briskly-played absurdity *The Trippers*; another turn that is proving a strong attraction is Marie Santoi and her merry little Japs, who, in a pretty scene depicting "A Japanese Tea-garden by Night," introduce some capital singing and dancing; Dan Merrett's drum manipulations, James Lowry's singing, and Louis Kerno's coon songs, are all familiar features here, and another selection of pictures is shown on the Bioscope.

Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—The historic and romantic drama *Napoleon the Great*, as presented by Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company, is meeting with approval from all parts of the house. Undoubtedly the strongest feature in the performance is the masterly conception of the character of Napoleon by Mr. Hugh Montgomery—it is realism itself; Mr. Henry Earlesmere does creditable work in the character of Lavarennes, as does also Mr. Phil Harper in that of Jules Menron; the heavy work in connection with the character of Paul Laczinska is ably discharged by Mr. E. Bulmer Pitt; whilst the lighter element is safe in the experienced hands of Mr. Frank M. Thorne; and of the ladies praise is due to Miss Leslie Warner, Miss Maud Russell, Miss Marie Harcourt, and Miss Florence Thorne.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The Borghetti troupe of head acrobats go through some difficult feats cleverly, for which they are loudly applauded; the pose plastique exhibition of Mdlle. Eldee is a pretty one, and as novel as it is artistic; Frank Ellison and company in a comedy sketch *Aunt Matilda* are received with much merriment; and other numbers which are enjoyed are provided by Harold Hughman, mimic; the Society Quartette of clever dancers; Chas. Ray, comedian; Tray and Rich, speciality artists; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Mouillot's company opened a week's visit here on Monday with the romantic comedy *Old Heidelberg*. Mr. Robert Minster filled the rôle of the orphaned Prince Karl Heinrich, and successfully delineated its varying phases as the story developed. Miss Irene Lavington played Kathie very charmingly; Mr. J. Nelson Ramsay acted cleverly as the pedantic Dr. Jutner; Mr. Eric Phillips did well as the Staatsmaster, as also did Mr. P. Wells as the Hofsmarschall. The unbending hauteur of Lutz was ably portrayed by Mr. Lionel Gadsden; good and characteristic representatives of the Students were supplied by Messrs. Wallace, G. Court, and Martin Pedler; and Mr. Willis Searle as the Kellerman was entertaining.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—A good programme is opened by the attractive comedienne, Miss Mabel Carlton; a very original electric comedian is seen in Mr. Cliff Harley; Vere and Royal are remarkably good comedy artists; the eccentric Kimberley Boys cause great laughter; Miss Kathleen Grey scores as a burlesque actress; Vernando, the novelty ventriloquist, is very smart; the Sisters Bartholomew are expert, both in dancing and singing; a successful turn is given by the one-legged dancer, Mr. Jimmy Shields; an amusing comedy act is introduced by the smart comedians, Spry and Monti; and Ruffell's Bioscope exhibit some entertaining pictures.

HEREFORD.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Whitby Smith.—Mr. Erno Aguzzie's pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* is here this week. The company is a capable one, and the dresses are pretty. Messrs. Kerr and Koe, and Mr. Erno Aguzzie as Sinbad are the leading fun-makers. Miss Marie Gerrard plays Sinbad with a commendable dash and vivacity which makes her a charming principal boy; Mr. William Owen is exceedingly droll as Mrs. Sinbad, and Miss Ethel Mais as Haidee Pretty deserves mention.

HOYLAND.—Metropole Theatre.—Owner, Arthur Carlton's Theatres, Ltd.; Lessee and Manager, Mr. George S. King.—Miss Lena Stanton's *Robinson Crusoe* company, under the direction of Mr. Harry Josephs, opened to a crowded house on Monday. Miss Stanton is a dashing principal boy, and Miss Minnie Melbah is a dainty Polly Perkins. Misses Milly Maxwell, Ethel Errol, and Cecile Delaine as Captain Taylor, Lieutenant Tom Bowline, and Gertie Goodenough, are excellent. Miss Dolly Richardson is a dainty Princess Pree-Tree-Fair, and Misses Lily Richards and Carrie Herbert are good as the Princess's attendants. Mr. Dennis Lyndon as King Kopp Em, and Mr. G. Melbah as Friday are excellent. The humorous element is well supplied by Messrs. Will Terry and Bruce Green as Will Atkins and Dame Crusoe, ably assisted by Messrs. Bignell and Smythe as Spiff and Spoof, and Messrs. Sears and Somers as McCross and McBones, Atkins's assistants. Special mention should be made of Little Keeno, who as Sunny Jim Crusoe is the cause of much hilarity, and is heartily applauded for his singing and dancing. Mr. Bob Beirne as Davy Jones, and Miss Marie Grove as Britannia are capital. The specialities include I and Ginger, in their ventriloquial scena; the Musical Melbahs; La Belle Esma, on the silver thread; the Orient Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers; the Droflas, jugglers; and Miss Nina, lady gymnast.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's pantomime *The Forty Thieves* is here for a week. The Three Sisters Silcott play the leading parts of Abdallah, Ganem, and Morgiana, with considerable ability; Mr. Geo. Rapley as Ali Baba and Mr. James Ferguson as Cogia are responsible for much of the fun; a humorous contribution is supplied by Mr. W. Michael as the donkey; Mr. Ted Wootton as Cassim sings with good effect; as specialities the Three Henriques appear in their acrobatic act; the Daunton-Shaw troupe of cyclists are clever, the chief of them being one of the most absolutely fearless and accomplished trick cyclists ever seen on these boards, his mastery over machines is superb.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—A good bill is provided this week. It includes Max Wesseley's clever troupe of jugglers; George Bernard, comedian; Miss Adey Spencer, comedienne; Kisbey, the call boy, in a novel turn; Valvero, lightning sketch artist; the Celtic Comedy Trio of vocal comedians in a clever musical interlude; the Philippi Brothers, a couple of remarkably skilled equilibrists; Harrison Brothers, comedians of real humour; and the pictures on the Biograph.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company is presenting *Leah Kleschna* here this week. Mr. George Ingleton gives a powerful and consistent representation of the part of Kleschna; Miss Haidee Wright's conception of Leah Kleschna is an artistic triumph, her realistic interpretation of such a difficult rôle winning the highest praise. Mr. Langhorne Burton as Paul Sylvaine plays with distinction; and Mr. Pat Newall gives a skilful and effective performance as Raoul Berton. Mr. Cyril Rawdon submits an admirable characterisation of the devoted servant Schram, and a good piece of acting is that of Mr. Leslie Lees, who plays General Berton. Mr. Gissing Walters gives a carefully studied performance as Valentine Favre; and Miss Pearla Gardner is a very attractive and graceful Sophie.

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*Miss Lancashire, Limited*, is being presented here this week by a capable company. Owing to the indisposition of Miss Florence Baines, the rôle of the Lancashire lass is being undertaken by Miss Anena Walton, who proves herself a very able substitute, her impersonation of the character being highly successful. Mr. Payne Fletcher as William Henry Thompson, a burly Lancashire farmer, enacts the part in a thoroughly realistic manner. Mr. David Donaldson is seen to advantage as John Higgins, and Mr. Patrick Evans as his son makes a satisfactory lover. Mr. Allan M. Servington gives a capital representation of a Jew money-lender; and Mr. Horace Pollock makes all that is possible out of the part of the butler. Miss Jennie Hallworth is a pleasing and vivacious Eva Lancashire; and Miss Pattie Groves does well as Bridget Thompson.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, Mortons, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Aladdin*, now in its second week, is proving amost agreeable and successful attraction. Mr. Arthur Aiston as Abanazar continues to provoke roars of laughter; Miss Marie Beresford makes a dashing Aladdin and has become very popular; Miss Cecilia Gold as the Princess also secures many admirers, and sings in a charming manner; Miss Lena Page as the Fairy is pretty and dainty, and possesses an excellent voice; Miss Maude Clarke deserves great praise for her clever dancing, which is much appreciated; the Caenville Troupe of lady dancers are decidedly smart, and contribute much to the success of the performance.

The Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett.—Cooke and Miss Rothert present a novel entertainment, in which eccentric dancing is a prominent feature; the Urma Sisters, on the trapeze, give proof of much ability; a good reception is accorded Mabel Hind, who sings and dances with much effect; Jas. Fawn is an old favourite in Hull; Charles Vincent has some excellent songs; Frank Harwood well deserves the title of actor-vocalist; and Tschernoff (animal trainer) and Rauchle (impersonator), complete an excellent programme.

The Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham.—Charles Deane appears here in some of his big successes; Flora Lumiere's electrical fairy grotto is a very pretty item. Other items include Starr and Jerome, Tom Parker, Gus Harris, Ida Ross, and a sketch *The Would-be Actors*, presented by Carter and Roseberry.

The Circus.—Resident Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are still a successful feature here.

HYDE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole leeseo, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. R. Elder.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is being performed here this week by Messrs. Lazon and Warner's company. The mounting is elaborate, and everything goes with a swing. As Aladdin, Miss Marie Braham is a thoroughly lively and pleasing boy, speaking well and artistically rendering her songs, for which she is nightly encored; Miss Daisy Lane makes a handsome and charming Princess, and acts with graceful refinement, whilst her vocalism leaves nothing to be desired; Miss Effie Maude plays with dash as Pekoe, and Miss Florrie White as Caramel is responsible for some dainty dancing. The Emperor is impersonated with dignity by Mr. Cyril Carle, who also scores as a vocalist; a distinctly original and diverting embodiment of Abanazar is that given by Mr. Edwin C. Jazon; the patter and eccentricities of Mr. Harry Carman as the Widow Twankey are most mirth provoking; Messrs. Mantell and Oval as Ping and Pong are smart knockabouts, and are responsible for some excellent fooling; and Mr. Alf Brooks as Gin Sling (the Grand Vizier) adds materially to the hilarity. The Sisters Varley are nightly encored for their charming vocalisation; the clever gymnastic display by the Three Delaries is watched with breathless interest; and the coon songs and dances by Salidi and Vone are vociferously applauded.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—Mr. Norman Macowan's *Monsieur Beauca

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Managers, Mr. Charles Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mr. John Tiller's productions are always assured of a warm welcome here, and the *Red Riding Hood* extravaganza, put on this week, is filling the house nightly. Miss Bessie Cohen, Miss May Merry, Miss Edna Morgan, Mr. Harry Morgan, and Mr. Howard Ward are very prominent with fine work throughout the whole of the eight scenes, and the show goes with commendable briskness and spontaneity. The rest of the programme is in the able care of the Musical Johnstons, xylophone specialists, the Poppy Quartette of singers and dancers, and Muir and Bartlett, in a clever comedietta, and all are very enjoyable entertainers.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A screamingly funny acrobatic sketch, *The Bank Clerks*, by Charles Baldwin and Co., is a big feature of this week's bill, and keeps the audience in a merry mood; Barton and Franklin are doing their excellent musical turn with good success; that clever artist, Bertha Winder, makes a welcome re-appearance, and has a big reception; and Ethel Loftus is a comedienne of more than average ability; Austin and Cowan are as usual exceedingly popular with accomplished vocal work; Morny Cash adds to his reputation as a favourite comedian; whilst Bert Holmes (eccentric) and Allsop and Bekwith (burlesque artists) are other shining lights.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater.—To the great regret of the amusement lovers of Leicester, Colonel Winstanley will this week bring to a close his theatrical career in this town. The attraction provided for the week is the popular musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, presented in capital style by Mr. Frank Curzon's principal company. The various parts are in good hands, and, combined with the pretty dresses and scenery, excellent chorus, and augmented orchestra, a most enjoyable performance is the result. Mr. George Barrett repeats his big success in the part of Crookie Scrubbs, his performance being an extremely droll and clever one; in the name-part Mr. Percy Clifton is also to be complimented on a most amusing portrayal; Miss Constance Lait is a charming Aurora Brue; and Miss Violet Dene an attractive and graceful Lady Bickenhall. Mr. A. E. E. Edwards does well as Mr. Crank; and Miss Constance Berkeley is vivacious as Daisy. Mr. Charles Hanbury is capital as Michael Brue. The *pas de deux* by Miss Mabel Weir and Mr. Ivor Harvey is heartily encored.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company, in the new domestic play, *The Drama of Life*, is the popular attraction here this week. Prominent parts are well played by Mr. George M. Newall (Harry Beech), Mr. Edward M. Hamilton (Walter Beech), Miss Nellie Birchenough (Betty Black), and Miss Kate Hallam (Sylvia Beech). The play is staged in very good style.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The premier attraction here is Dr. Walford Bodie, the famous scientist and hypnotist, who has effected some remarkable cures during the week. The doctor, who has a splendid stage equipment and appearance, astounds his audience with his skill as a healer; he also creates roars of laughter with the humorous part of his "show." At the other end of the bill is Alexandra Dagmar, a versatile comedienne, who delights the house with her clever impersonations. Wood and Bates, comedy musicians, create much hearty laughter; the Trapnell Family go through a smart acrobatic performance in a finished and artistic manner; Hays and Suits are excellent duettists and exponents of American dancing; Viviana, the dancing girl, is seen to advantage; Ike Scott and Son create great merriment; Herbert La Martine scores as a baton manipulator; the American Bioscope is projecting "The Train Wreckers," a sensational picture.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company are still the leading attraction here, and entered on their fourth week with the presentation, in a most elaborate manner, of the spectacular sketch, *The Reign of Terror*, in which Mr. Percy Emery as Pierre Delaroche scores a big success, the other chief characters being filled in a most commendable manner by Miss Florence Creagh (Pauline), Miss Gipsy Alexander (Ninette), Mr. Charles Ashwell (Antoine Duval), Mr. Chris Redgrave (Lieut. Dugarde), and Mr. Fred Southern (Coco). A most amusing musical comedy duologue, entitled *Four a Shilling, Fine Mackerel*, is being presented by Geo. English and Flo Penley; Frank Coyle, the continuous comedian, gets his usual warm welcome; Walter H. Pallister is displaying on the bioscope a film taken on Saturday of the International Football Match, England v. Ireland. Miss Lillian (deputy for Miss Eileen Gomez) gives a clever display of trick cycling; and Ruby Bijou delights all with her dainty display of dancing.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is occupying the boards here this week with the domestic drama, *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. George Harvard efficiently sustains the part of Harry Steyne; Mr. Austen Mortimer gives a finished representation of Leonard Royle; Mr. Fred G. Evison scores by his performance of Billy Brewer; Donald Craig is capably handled by Mr. Dobell Lyle; Mary Steyne is played with pathos and delicacy by Miss Grace Lester; Miss Hilda Merriles makes an excellent Lady Phyllis Eustace; and Mary Brewer is well sustained by Miss Lydia Hart.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—A good all-round programme is provided here this week. Viscott, juggler, is much appreciated; Wheeler and Wilson give a clever performance on the rings; the Clement Trio, in their flying trapeze act, cause much amusement; Messrs. Zeno and Nero contribute a smart gymnastic performance; Messrs. Claude and Lilly, in a two-horse act, create much applause; Messrs. August and September, the comedy pair, again score a huge success; the Brothers Austin do some smart tumbling tricks; and the spectacular sketch, *The Robbers of the Snow Hills*, is greatly appreciated.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlisoff.—A play of absorbing interest by Mr. Frederick Melville, entitled *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, is presented this week at the above theatre. The piece is effectively acted by a good company. Mr. Philip Darien and Mr. Layton Chancellor appear to advantage in the leading rôles of the hero and the villain; while Miss Beatrice Homer proves herself fully able to sustain the arduous efforts demanded by the name-part. Miss Rita Milman is exceedingly successful in her acting as the villain's accomplice; and the rest of the cast give a good account of themselves in their allotted work.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—For the first time in this city *The Midnight Wedding* has been played here. Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's able company presenting it. Mr. Paumier holds the rôle of Paul Valmar, a capital figure of a soldier, and one which finds much favour; Miss Annie Saker, an actress of more than average ability, undertakes with success the parts of Lieut. Helsberg and the Princess Astrea, playing with great charm; the villainous characters of Captain Rudolf and Lieut. Eugene are well placed with Messrs. Clinton Baddeley and Sidney Lynn; Mr. F. W. Freeman is a dignified Crown Prince; Messrs. Fred Constable, Reginald Payne, and Algie Spalding, as the Red Hussars, and Miss Ada Champion, as Kate, are exceedingly diverting; and Mr. W. S. Hardy is effective as Father Gerard.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Leo Dryden, who heads a very entertaining and highly interesting programme, maintains his popularity as an actor-vocalist. The Five Pichels are remarkably clever acrobats, besides being comedians of no mean order; Bromley and Fontein are loudly applauded for their vocal items, as are Grant and Grant; Charles Stewart's company in the sketch, *The Water Cure*, cause roars of laughter, and are deservedly applauded; Tony Iveson is very good as the tramp pianist; as a mimic Tom Johnstone scores; and Decona is an entertaining comedian and instrumentalist.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Finoberg.—The visit here of *Lucky Durham* has resulted in good business. The company, which includes members of the original combination, is controlled by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh, and is certainly well selected. Mr. Edmund Kennedy handled the part of John Durham with great discrimination; Miss Gertrude Robins was graceful and sweet as Helen Vallerton; a Lord Mountfallon, acceptable in every respect, came from Mr. Benson North; the spendthrift son, Reginald, was well presented by Mr. Arthur Leigh; Mr. A. E. Walker's Vallerton proved successful; Miss Frances Wolviston made an admirable Lady Mountfallon; and Miss Louise Gourlay handled the rôle of Mrs. Durham with discretion and good taste.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—The first production in Liverpool of *No Wedding Bells for Her* has been well received here by large audiences. The company presenting this newcomer, which is finely staged, is that of Mr. Frank Bateman, and is a good all-round one. With a dramatic intensity, which is pleasing to witness, Miss Lizzie Montague holds the part of Lola Delaspierre, the disappointed actress, her work being followed with the closest attention; Mr. George C. Doughty submits a fine type of detective, and proves one of the pillars of strength in the play; a robust clergyman, who delivers his lines with telling effect, is portrayed by Mr. Stuart Lomath; Mr. Louis Garton leaves nothing to be further desired as Montague Blair; a finished picture of a city wastrel is offered by Mr. Walter T. Clifford as Abney Stone;; Mr. Edward E. Louis proves a manly Harold Trevelyn; a complete figure of the old actor, Horatio Fane, is submitted by Mr. A. Balfour Mackay; Miss Ida Mackay makes a neat Doris Fane; and Mr. Will Skelton is a humorous Simkins.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Six Bros. Luck are retained here for another week with their laughable *Demon of the Cellar*; Austin Rudd proves exceedingly popular with his up-to-date humorous songs and parodies; the Bros. Ashley are responsible for much merriment with their comedy boxing sketch *Next, Please*; some smart juggling and Indian club manipulation are provided by the Henres; Hughes and Elliott are capable vocalists and dancers; Belle Davis, with her pick-chick actors, is a good turn; much applause follows the comedy and leaping act of the Two Erolls; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the factory nightingales, sing sweetly; the duets of the Donovans are loudly applauded; and Frances Lyric sings and dances with neatness.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—At the head of the bill here this week are Ray and Calder (Harry and Lillie), a couple of smart comedy artists, whose clever act *Peculiarities*, introducing singing, patter, and acrobatic dancing, is very entertaining; some marvellous juggling is done by the boy Pulo; the Two Perkins make a first appearance here with neat singing and dancing; the Liverpool Lads, Davies and Roberts, discovered by Mr. Smith, put in a second week; Carl Osmond, the tramp cartoonist, is especially funny; Charles Russell has some catchy songs; and the Bros. Mellet are a pair of able vocal duettists.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Percy Boucher's dramatic stock company is this week presenting *Partners in Crime*, from the pen of Louis Gilbert, a sketch in nine tableaux. The bioscope shows a number of up-to-date pictures.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—A special line on the bill here this week is W. L. Lee and company with the six tableaux sketch, *The Royal Mail*, which has been very much appreciated. The Brothers Franch, eccentric acrobats, go through some smart work; and Arthur Holland sings a number of catchy songs.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Charles Bignell, a comedian of ability, heads the bill here this week; Brady and Johnston and company, with their comedy sketch, *Turning the Tables*, create great laughter; Fields and Lewis present an acceptable trifle of singing, dancing, and comedy; some smart conjuring is performed by Loudin Cameron; Maud Roma shows herself to be a dainty comedienne; Edie Endon is an acroabtic dancer of ability; a neat vaudeville entertainment is presented by Renson and Waite and the Hugo Troupe. The Human Fountain also appears. On Thursday a Jiu-Jitsu wrestling contest between Will Bingham and C. Collins took place.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Percy Boucher's dramatic company are here with the five tableaux sketch *Mysteries of London*. Included in the variety portion of the programme are the Wilsonia Cycle Racing Treadle, introducing Master James H. Wilson, described as the world's champion roller rider; the Campions, vocal duettists and dancers; an able ventriloquist, named Bert Williams; and Ivy Leafe, comedienne.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Mongomery.—A very acceptable engagement in big type here this week is *The Cockney Sportsman; or, the Mounts that got Rejected*, a clever equestrian comedy, presented by Messrs. Claude Ginnett and company. The trifle has afforded every satisfaction, the stud of trained horses being a special feature. Included among the artists are Mr. Claude Ginnett, Claude Ginnett, jun, Miss Ginnett, and Mr. Alf Jephson. Great laughter has been provoked by Harry Tate, a comedian of ability; the Bros. Hannaway provide an excellent turn as comedians, cross talkers, and dancers; the novel magical scena, *The Demon Chef; or, the Cook's Dream of Xmas*, presented by Picitt and Lizette, was extremely diverting; some acceptable illustrated songs were given by the Lovelaces; and others in the programme were Marie Dane, a smart comedienne; and Rose Finette, top-boot dancer.

OLYMPIA.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The first appearance in Liverpool of the Fishing Cormorants has proved a strong attraction, and large audiences have enjoyed this latest novelty with much zest. Richard Sawade's lions, tigers, bears, and dogs are still kept in the bill, which, this week, is a particularly strong one. The Folkestones have a screamingly absurd trifle, *Swimming the Channel*; a rich musical act is provided by the Bandurrias; somewhat smart comedy juggling is executed by Derenda and Green; the Two St. Johns sing and dance in pleasing style; Lora, the girl with the wonderful memory, is an attraction; Gertrude Bradshaw renders a number of excellent songs; and also in the bill are Edie King, in a dainty vocal and dancing scena, *Cinderella*, and Frank Darwin, descriptive vocalist.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—The attraction this week is *The Romany's Revenge*, played by Messrs. E. A'Dell and Fred Chabot's powerful company. The drama is full of most sensational incidents, and is well staged. Miss Ethel Ashleigh deserves praise for an excellent impersonation of Zamet, the gipsy boy, and credit is also due to Mr. Evelyn A'Dell who as John Hope gives a finished performance. Miss Eva Elwes is successful both as Lillian Hope and as Elspie. Mr. Morley Carrol is also good as the villainous David Renard; and Miss Fannie Wallace (Polly Pluck), together with Mr. David Hamilton (Bobbie Bloom), are responsible for the comic element.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company in *A False Wife*, recently noticed as being at one of the local theatres, are repeating this sensational attraction here with marked success. The sleep-walking scene and the coffin mystery are especially thrilling, but the whole performance is clever, the cast being headed by Miss Florence E. Florence; while the staging also is worthy of high praise.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An old favourite, *Two Little Drummer Boys*, by Walter Howard, is presented here this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's No. 1 Company. Prominent parts are cleverly rendered by Miss Lottie Addison (Mrs. F. G. Kimberley), Mr. F. G. Kimberley, Mr. Horace Custins, Miss Edie Maclin, and, in the title-rôles, Misses May Smart and Eva Norman. The play is elaborately put on, and is brightened by the introduction of new scenery and uniforms. Between Acts I. and II. Elsie May, a child soprano, is heard to great advantage.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead. Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon present here this week *The Branded Woman*, a clever and sensational drama. Mr. James Stillwell does excellent in the dual rôle of Zarka and Philip Maurice, and Miss Zena St. George powerfully presents the branded woman, Genevieve Laroche. Villainy finds adequate exponents in Messrs. Edward Fryer and Paul E. Teulon, while Mr. Becket Bould contributes humorous relief, and other notable performances are given by Miss Katherine Barnett, Miss Edith Wild, Miss Cissy Haighton, and Mr. Atherden Edwards. The staging is elaborate and satisfactory.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. S. Nicholas.—A pleasant evening's entertainment is provided here this week by a performance of *A Beautiful Fiend*, a play well known to local audiences. The company includes Miss Nita Langford and Mr. G. Montanini in prominent rôles, while Mr. G. Selwood has opportunities in a humorous part.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—It speaks much for the original excellence of Mr. Flanagan's production of *Cymbeline* a month ago that, after all the interim performances, no comparative sense of improvement in the playing is to be noted on a second visit. Apparently it was the high-water mark that was touched on the first sight, and certainly nothing better in any respect could be desired than this mellow and elaborate presentment of Shakespeare's play as a whole. A slight change has occurred in the cast, the part of Arviragus now being in the hands of Mr. Alfred Hilliard, its original exponent, Mr. Richard Hatteras, having met with an accident. Otherwise, everything is the same; a sequence of scenic splendours and story-telling dialogue, with the same recurring moments of intense dramatic interest and revelation of character, all neatly and coherently dovetailed within reasonable time limits, and with due regard to artistic effect. All this implies great praise of the cast; and, in fact, great praise is due, especially to those in whom the most important parts are vested—namely, Miss Nora Lancaster as Imogen, Mr. H. A. Saintsbury as Jachimo, Mr. Arthur Grenville as Cloten, Mr. Eric Blind as Posthumus, Miss Mary Raby as the Queen, and Miss Ella Thornton, who makes a neat and distinctive Helen, though the part is small. Others who should be noted also are Mr. E. Story Gofton, Mr. Henry Marston Clifford, Mr. Halliwell Hobbes, Mr. A. C. Hardie, Mr. Leonard Robson, Mr. George Fitzgerald, and Mr. A. Hornby Warburton. The great success of the production should be gratifying alike to Mr. Flanagan and to his adaptor and stage manager, Mr. Richard Dalton.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter De Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Fred Karno's inimitable speechless comedians head the bill here this week in their well-known absurdity *Jail Birds*, and laughter reigns supreme. A refined and altogether excellent performance is given by Leoni Clarke and his 200 highly trained animals and birds; Los Rupertus are exceedingly clever equilibrists; Guy Rider whistles in a pleasing style; and Will English is one of the best coon comedians and dancers on the stage. Other good turns are those of the Arundels, comedy artists; Gus Hindell in a new song-scena *Toyland*; Elsie Earle, vocal comedienne; and Charles Sloman, comedian. The Palace Pictures, as usual, are good.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Collins.—Will H. Fox, known as "Paddywhiski" at the piano, gives a successful top-of-the-bill performance here this week, and De Gracia's Assam Elephants share the honours for a comic and unusual show. Prominent also is Fred Poplar, a comedian, who is very well received; Kahn and Kahn give exhibitions in modern necromancy; the Moulier Sisters are seen in a graceful gymnastic act; Alice Lorette and her Statue Dog are a very pleasing turn; Kitty Wager, comedienne, sings well; Professor Dunning provides some entertaining ventriloquism; Harry Drey, basso, is deservedly applauded; and the programme is nicely completed by a series of pictures, "The Last Witch," on the bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—For a third week *The Redskins* are the chief attraction. Seeley and West are excellent comedy musicians, and are highly amusing; Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey are seen to advantage in a coster incident, *Me and 'Er*; Victor Newman, "the Irving of the variety theatres," gives several first-rate impersonations; the Cole De Losse Duo and the Goltz Trio are extremely clever on the slack wire; Sadie Simpson is a neat dancer and comedienne; Jap Kokin is an artistic juggler and balancer; and the bioscope pictures are very amusing. "When we were two little boys" is nicely rendered by Miss Bell Campbell, with the assistance of the choir, who also render Pinsuti's "Spring Song." Altogether, the programme is excellent.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Miss Camilla Dalberg tops the bill here this week in that successful mimodrame *La Main*, which is followed with great interest. She has the able assistance of Messrs. Akerman May and Philipp Lesing, and her own performance is skilful in the extreme. Alice Hollander, the renowned Australian contralto, sings two songs most artistically, and is greatly appreciated; Les Frasettis give a delightful musical turn; Lottie Siegenberg, a versatile artist, scores with her quick-change musical sketch *The Lazy Slavey*; and the Two Harc are wonderfully clever gymnasts and equilibrists. Other good turns are given by Charles Denton, eccentric comedian; Frank Stephens, character comedian; George Hall, whistling comedian; and Kathleen Marie, coon comedienne and dancer. Raymond's Vivagraph Pictures are good.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Phelps.—Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton are here this week in a most entertaining musical comedy sketch entitled *A Broken Journey*, and are much appreciated. J. W. Rickaby, a capital comedian, is vastly amusing; Harris L. Bell, Lily Pearl, and company cause considerable laughter with their popular success *A Bit of String*; Dwight and Son give an entertaining turn; the Marion Sisters are excellent juvenile vocalists; and Franko Midgets are interesting conjurers. Henderson, the blind musician; the Brothers Sheppherd, smart comedians; and Fred Horsfall, mimic, provide enjoyable items; and "My Pal, Curley," is depicted on the bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A pretty and clever entertainment is offered here this week by Haley's Prize Juveniles, and their efforts, particularly those of Dot and Spot, are received with much appreciation. That able and amusing juggler, A. J. Rebla, is also well received; the Ringling Trio give a good stilt-walking act; Carle and Carmanelli contribute a novel musical act; Bert Weston, comedian, sings well; Drum and Major give a bâton swinging and miscellaneous turn; and enjoyable items are also those of Thurston (a clever mimic), Carlotta Lunn (comedienne), Harry Bent (patter comedian), and the bioscope pictures.

HIPPODROME (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Four Geraldos are the top attraction here this week in a clever and highly finished exhibition of club and hoop manipulation. Considerable merriment is caused by the Brontes in their sketch *The New Slavey*; Billy Richardson, the great stump orator, is amusing as ever; a novel and startling turn is given by the Great Marconis, who play with fire and electricity in a most astonishing fashion; Jack Hylton and Harry Morris are both entertaining comedians, and are deservedly well received; Haydee's Miniature Vaudeville Theatre is ingenious, novel, and amusing; and acceptable items are also provided by La Petite Voltaire (a juvenile comedienne full of promise), Mabel La Blanche (ballad vocalist), and the bioscope pictures.

MARGATE.—THE HIPPODROME.—Sole proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—This week's programme includes the Sisters Webb, duettists and dancers; Ned Graydon, comedy instrumentalist; Wat Tyler, character vocalist; and the droll R. W. Bentley, the quaint comedian, in some of his latest London successes. Mastro and Mdlle. Oretta, eccentric equilibrists and tumblers, give a novel performance. Whilst Mdlle Oretta balances a full-sized French billiard table, Mastro balances himself on his hands on two billiard balls placed upon two cues on the table, and the feat is vociferously applauded. Owing to the indisposition of Dora Lyric, comedienne, who was billed to appear, her place has been filled by Ida Brophy, who sings and dances charmingly. "Grandpa and the Butterfly," and other interesting pictures are shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—*The Great Awakening*, played by Miss Maud Hildyard, is receiving a cordial welcome here this week. As Lola Selby Miss Maud Hildyard is seen at her best, portraying the scheming adventuress to the life; Mr. Bernard Copping submits an excellent reading of Jack Merton; Mr. Julian Hartleigh plays well as Guy Logan; Mr. Willie Scott is very funny as Billy Brass; Miss Jessie Burgwitz is natural and pleasing as Molly Merton; and Miss Isa Bellingham makes a vivacious Selina Worts.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Chas. Chard's Pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* is here this week. Miss Annie Casey scores a success in the title-rôle, and sings capitally; Miss Chummie La Mara is a dashing Roland; Mr. Sydney Dean is an amusing Dame Freckles; Mr. Chas. Chard invests the character of Sammy Sops with rollicking humour; as Simple Simon, Wee Langton is decidedly good. Miss Julie Fuller cleverly fills the rôle of Mephisto; while the good fairy is in the excellent hands of Miss Hawthorn Thwaites. The specialities are first-class, and include the Mikado Troupe of Lady Dancers, Messrs. Selby and Myers, Miss Annette Aseiky, Messrs. Keith and Merson, Sisters St. Julian, Messrs. Cyrus and Ward, and their performing donkey, and the Royal Karnos.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. C. Imeson.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's capital pantomime *Cinderella* closes a most successful engagement here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Lola Patey has deservedly established herself a favourite on Teesside, and Miss Madoline Rees as principal boy has also made a great impression in the capital of Cleveland. The comedians continue to provide any amount of fun, and the singing is thoroughly enjoyed.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Large and appreciative audiences nightly patronise Mr. Geo. Dance's company appearing here in *Veronique*. Miss Rita Leonhardt is responsible for the principal character, in which she acquits herself thoroughly well. Mr. Roland Bottomley as Florestan is successful; Mr. Ellis Holland in the part of Monsieur Coquenaurd is amusing; Mr. Jack Crichton is a good Monsieur Loustat; Miss Florence Lee is a charming Agantha; and Miss Florence Aylin as Esmerance is pleasing.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alf. Mattison; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—An excellent bill is this week presented here. Ernest Shand, who is on his first visit to the Empire, has made a great hit. Spring and Spring, barrel jumpers, accomplish some clever feats; Charles Morton, mimic, has had a popular reception; a good musical turn is provided by the Royal Zerbinis Troupe; the Five Bon Bons are amusing sketch artists; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn delights the audience with her songs; and other good turns are furnished by Miss Ruth Doris, comedienne, and Andel and Artel, gymnasts. The management has an additional attraction in the bio films of the Middlesbrough v. Brighton Cup-tie at Sheffield.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—Bella and Bijou are here this week, and their popularity is greater than ever. The bill includes Sydney Herman, comedian; Martin and Quigg, comedians; Cora Grey, vocalist; and others.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Sutcliffe.—After having enjoyed a run of seven weeks, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's pantomime of *Mother Goose* comes to a close this (Saturday) evening.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robert Arthur.—The pantomime of *Cinderella* has been brought up to date by the introduction of new business and songs, which prove most acceptable. Charming Miss Phyllis Dare (Cinderella) is responsible for a most haunting melody entitled "The Silent Sweetheart," a song that is sure to become popular. Miss Hettie Chattel (the Prince) maintains the reputation she has created here, and sings a new number "Crusoe's Isle." One of the prettiest items in the whole show is "Nola" as sung by Miss Gwennie Hasto and chorus, together with dance assisted by Mr. Dan Rolyat. Mr. W. H. Powell is thoroughly diverting as Dandini, and is repeatedly encored for his song "Girls." Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. John Humphries, and Mr. Stephen Adison and the remainder of the caste all continue to justify the favourable opinion we formed about them at the opening performance.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—The dramatic season was again resumed here on Monday night, when Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer presented their successful drama entitled *A Path of Thorns*. Mr. William Fazan was exceedingly good as John Edmonds, and Mr. F. Gilbert Fenn realised the character of the Rev. Frank Selby to a nicety; Mr. Gordon K. Bull interpreted the villainy of Jonas Deane with praiseworthy success, and Mr. Frank Gordon as Jim Price and Mr. Harry Wright as Ratty Gabbitt acted these characters to the satisfaction of all. Mr. David Garside was prominent by a faithful portrayal of the organ-grinder, and acceptable comedy emanated from Mr. Chris Mason as Sam Hallett and Miss E. Shaw as Jane. Miss Kitty Lofting proved a capable exponent of Constance Howard, and a similar remark may be applied to Miss Emil Leslie as Nellie Hallett. Miss Muriel Dean played the part of Bessie Edmonds with much skill and discretion.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*At the World's Mercy* is the title of an acceptable musical comedy-drama presented at the Byker Theatre this week by a company under the direction of Mr. Carr Loates. The production is well played, and the various musical items introduced throughout the evening are highly appreciated. The leading rôle is undertaken by Miss Turner-Elliott with conspicuous success, and the comedy part of the street vendor allows Miss Cissie Milford sufficient scope for the display of her talent.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conray.—Topping an attractive programme here are the Empire Comedy Four, whose excellent vocalism, interspersed with the most ludicrous humour, is as acceptable as ever; a remarkable act is that provided by The Uessems, two youthful equilibristic wonders; and the comedy juggling act by Griff, assisted by Alpha, is always an entertaining item on any programme. Florrie St. Clair, comedienne, meets with a cordial reception, and Frazer and Mac win applause for their specialty act; the Royal Six contribute a clever turn; W. H. Clemart excels as a ventriloquist; the Three Victorias are pleasing singers and dancers; A-Bo-Kou is a juggler of merit; T. C. Callaghan, comedian, is successful, and the American Bioscope displays some interesting animated pictures.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—A playlet entitled *The Orange Girl*, performed by Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company, constitutes the leading item in this week's bill, and has been favourably received. Harry Lamore,

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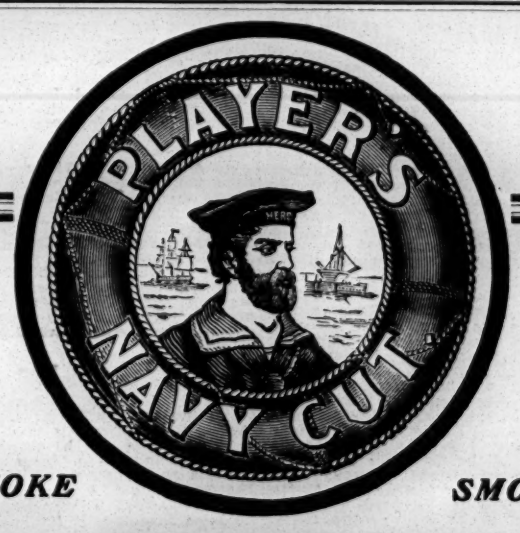

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the comedian on the slack wire, is paying a return visit, and scores a well-deserved success. The Musical Jees, musicians, are warmly recalled, and the efforts of H. O. Wills, the quaint comedian, are greatly enjoyed. The Louverts in a comedy act, E. J. Wilkes (comedian), the Carina Sisters (musicians), Miniature Marie (comedienne) complete an excellent all-round programme.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, in *The Christian*, opened a week's engagement here on Monday evening, and met with an enthusiastic reception. Mr. Alfred Goddard, in the part of Hon. John Storm, displays fervour and restrained power, and Miss Laura Walker as Glory Quayle is graceful and charming. Mr. Duncan Yarrow makes an earnest Horatio Drake, Mr. F. Penley gave a polished portrayal of Lord Robert Ure, and as Archdeacon Wealthy Mr. Percy Twyman provides a realistic picture of the pompous and worldly cleric. Miss Florence Radcliffe's Polly Love is a capital assumption, Miss Violet Vivian's Mrs. Challender is good-natured and kindly, and Mr. Harry Colbeck's Father Lamplugh is dignified and sympathetic. The Faro King of Mr. Anthony Rawles is capitally played, and other minor parts are in good hands.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—A clever and thrilling performance is given here by Ella's Lions, the way in which the daring trainer puts her "pets" through their facings being marvellous. Animal sagacity is also agreeably evident in the turn supplied by Herr Grais' baboons; the Selbinis, in their acrobatic pot-pourri act, are accorded warm applause; and Johnny Alexander and Co. perform a very amusing sketch. Harding and Ah-Sid, the American eccentricities, raise hearty laughter. A sweet vocalist is Lilian Lowe, Mdlle. Olive is a clever juggler, the Five Julians dance in excellent style, and the Bioscope displays a set of humorous pictures.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—*Peggy Machree*, presented by Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company, has met with a good reception here. Miss Marion Cecil in the title-rôle is the very ideal of the light-hearted, merry Irish colleen. Miss Doris Kelvey as Mme. de la Cour and Miss Dorothy Garden as the Hon. Emily Pryor are good; Miss Madge Avery is excellent as the widow Moira Cafferty; Miss Blanche Astley as Molly is a charming little Irish girl, and introduces some pleasing dancing; Mr. Leslie Stiles is well fitted for the part of Barry Trevor; Mr. John Morley as Sergeant Bampton is very good, vocally and dramatically; Mr. Milroy Cooper is capital as Alexander McDougall, and Mr. Dan Fitzgerald is excellent as Michael; and Mr. Ralph Lynn as Sir Lawrence Borthwick and Mr. Marc McDermott as Captain de la Cour make the most of their opportunities.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—Cavern and Cave are here again with their pleasing comedietta, *An Early Morning Dip*; the Sisters Tinsley are duettists and expert dancers; J. P. Ling tenders a mixture of mimicry and song; Bert Raynor and Cissie Reece give a humorous singing and dancing act; Rose D. Alberg is a pleasing comedienne; Great Scott on the balancing ladder, Gill and Gilbey as the Rival Bill Posters, and the Mannings (entertainers) in a sketch, *A Huge Joke*, all work hard as fun-producers; and the Palace Pictures are also interesting.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Arthur Pilkington's company, with the pantomime *Mother Goose*, has been heartily greeted here this week. As Lubin, Miss Gracie Grahame gives a capital rendering of the part, and Miss Lily Ennis is much appreciated as Daisy; Miss Dorothy Delemere is very pleasing as Peter, Miss Cissie Duvan makes the most of Colin, and Miss Marion De Verne is good as the Fairy Queen. Mr. Ted Young, as Mother Goose, is responsible for much hearty laughter; Mr. Arthur Gribbin is clever as Parchment, Mr. Allan Wright is well received as Avarice, and The Freans, as two policemen, put in some good work. Specialities are successfully introduced by The Two Freans and the Moxon Family.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The bill here is headed by the Dahomeyans, American coloured quartette of vocalists, comedians, and dancers, who have had a very hearty reception; Messrs. Elton and Elma, in their knockabout triple bar act, are very clever; and the Rushforths, song illustrators, are as popular as ever. Messrs. Shavo and Frank comedy jugglers, are smart, and Messrs. Vasey and Ramsay, eccentric comedians; Miss Marie Yorke, burlesque actress; Mr. Dan Noble, versatile comedian; and the Bio-Photoscope are all favourably received.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's famous company in *The Temptress* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Hallatt himself is favourably received as Pedro Gonzoles, and Mr. Frederick Ross as Lucas Desbergh acts well. Mr. Allan Carruthers as Francis Fitz Fluke is very humorous, and Mr. Oscar Powers as the Butler and Mr. Rob Wilton and Mr. C. J. Ashworth are successful in their respective parts. Miss Mabel Scudamore as Marion is charming, Miss Florence Palmer as Madge is very good, Miss Lizzie Chambers does well as Rhoda Brown, Miss Blanch Stella as Lady Fordyce acts with much power and ability; and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair as Bob Tanner is also a success.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—Barton and Ashley, in their comedy sketch, *Canal Boat Sal*, are immensely funny, and win much applause; the Manards give a skilful exhibition of rifle shooting; Bessie Travis, "the female Valentine Vox," is a clever ventriloquist, and introduces some novel tricks in her performance; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payte score in *A Drawing-room Rehearsal*; and Sydney Lee as a magician does some clever card tricks. Frank Cass is a good comedian, and Miss Ismay and her Piccaninnies exhibit some unique dancing. Bert Oakley and Polly James, vaudeville artists, get much applause, and similar commendation is given to Katie Marsh in her pot-pourri of drama and song, entitled *Grave and Gay*. The Hippo-Bio exhibits specially interesting films. For Friday the Manards announced an open shooting competition, in which members of the audience were invited to compete.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—A warm reception was accorded Mr. Wm. Maclaren's company on Monday last, when *Claudian* was presented. Mr. Maclaren embodies Claudian with a dramatic force that is thoroughly convincing, and his performance is impressive throughout. The Almida of Miss Lily C. Bandmann enlists the sympathy of the audience by its delicate emotional expression and artistic conception. Mr. Wilson Howard fully realises the capricious character of the Tetrarch; Mr. C. T. Chaloner makes an acceptable and humorous Belos, and praise is also merited by Mr. Geo. R. Austin (Agazil) and Mr. Weston Hubbard (Alcares). Miss Carlotta Anson works hard as the merry Edissa, and Miss Rose Webster gives expression and feeling to the part of Serena; Miss Beatrice Frank Harvey earns distinction as Galene, and the Hera of Miss Marie Florence is prettily enacted. Mr. A. G. Carr plays with ease and emphasis as the Holy Clement, and Miss Dora Frank Harvey pleases by her enjoyable singing.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—The visit of Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Aladdin* closes this week. Miss Maidie Scott has won all hearts by her dainty impersonation of Aladdin, and Miss Lily Lonsdale's sprightliness as the Princess has carried all before it. The fun-makers included Messrs. Ernie Myers, Julian Mack, Geo. Cooper, and Joe Robins, who have kept the merriment running, and a word of praise has also been well earned by Misses Rose Tilley and Flo Collier. Torch and Tard, Robins and Collier, Williams and Brown, and Carl Muller have been responsible for some clever business in specialties.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—Pantomime again holds sway here, and the company of Messrs. Monti and Firth is presenting *Babes in the Wood* in a thoroughly efficient manner. Robin Hood poses as the hero, and this character is played for all it is worth by Miss Florrie Bray, who also vocalises with spirit. Miss Ada Clare invests Maid Marian with a daintiness that gains warm eulogies, and sings in capital style; Miss May Edney (Will Scarlett) and Miss Daisy Cecil (Phyllis) make a bright and animated pair, Misses Lily and Maude Cleave contribute a humorous picture as the Two Babes, and their Good Fairy is impersonated by Miss Lilian Player. The comedians are well represented by the Brothers Luxmore, who prove excellent mirth-provokers, Mr. Dan Idle, as a nursery governess, whose exuberant humour is highly relished, Mr. Fred Monti making fun out of the simplicity of Simon, and Mr. Arthur Allen with an amusing part as Baron Graball. Specialties are provided by the Four Sisters Godfrey (acrobatic dancers), the Two Ascots (batôn swingers), and the Izons in a scena *The Captain and the Mate*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—Enormous houses are attracted by the visit of Madrali, who is accompanied by several well-known wrestlers, and the various bouts are watched with keen interest. The dainty style of Victoria Monks and her delightful rendering of songs rouse the greatest enthusiasm, and the inevitable encore is always graciously accorded. The Sisters Gasch compel admiration by their wonderful and agile athletic feats, and the droll acrobatic and juggling turn of the Wally-Hoste Trio is given to the accompaniment of hearty laughter. Another neat acrobatic item is supplied by the Picquays, and Leona Dare shows her skill in a trapeze act; Dion Wade helps along the fun in a quaint song, and the whimsicalities of Dare M'Neil are duly rewarded. Verno and Voyce gain tremendous applause by their song scena *The Butcher and the Baker*, and the American Bioscope displays some humorous pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Brigan.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is here on a return visit with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale gives a capital study of Lucio Delgado, Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is distinctly successful as Paul Gauffett; Mr. C. Allan Hineson is an exceedingly droll Peter Pottleberry; Miss N. Thorne Hallam interprets Marie de Brisson with much grace and earnestness; while as Babetti Miss Gwynne Warren is highly pleasing, and Miss Elaine Grant scores as La Pinau. Deserving favourable mention are Mr. Gilbert Hall as Lucien Cortier, and Mr. Alfred Warner as Henry de Brisson.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—Mr. William Greet's company is paying a welcome visit this week with his excellent company in *The Talk of the Town*. Mr. William Cromwell is a most diverting and droll representative of Jerry Snipe; Reggie Drummond and the Duke of Topford find smart exponents in Messrs. A. Harrold and E. Arundel; Mr. Leslie Owen is a capital Captain Hambleton; Mr. G. Alsop and Mr. A. T. Hendon make the most of 'Arry Biff and Private Bebzey; and as Ernest and Frank English Mr. Tom Graves and Mr. A. G. Melford act with a quaint humour and dance with a vigour that delights everyone. Miss Joan Kiddie is a sweet and attractive Ellaline Lewin; Miss Evelyn D'Alroy makes a most attractive Julie; Miss Gertrude Melville is excellently suited as Madame Modiste; and Lady Nightingale and her two daughters find charming representatives in the Misses Katherine Harrington, Helen Jordan, and Jessie Winter. A large well-trained and most attractive chorus adds to the pleasure of the play.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. Arthur Gibbon's company is here with the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. As Baron Badenough Mr. Charles Honey is excellently suited, and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is well up to his work as Dame Marjory. Mr. T. J. Banks is successfully funny as Johnny Stout, and Mr. Chas. Ellis does well as Tommy Thin. Miss Janet Lawton infuses considerable life and vigour into Prince Bountiful, and Miss Nina Terri as Maid Marion dances with grace and style. Miss Eva Beechy is good as Jack Horner, and Miss Marie Lawrence is captivating as Dolly Mayflower. Miss Rose Salusbury faithfully enacts the Wolf, and Miss Ruby Lester is all that could be desired as Red Riding Hood. The Three French Idols contribute some good acrobatic dancing.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*The Christian*, supported by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, is once more drawing crowded and well pleased audiences here. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. Frank Brandon, is a notably strong one, and the drama receives excellent treatment. Mr. Frank Tennant is well suited as the Hon. John Storm, the impersonation being a sound and effective one. Warm praise must be bestowed on Miss Grace Chalmers for the delicacy and charm which characterise her Glory Quayle. Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood earns much distinction by an able rendering of Lord Robert Ure; Horatio Drake is acted with considerable skill by Mr. Jackson Wilcox; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe furnishes a strong and convincing portrayal of Father Lamplugh; Archdeacon Wealthy is carefully and intelligently played by Mr. Charles E. Dering; Mr. Charles Hill gives a good performance of Parson Quayle; and Mr. Wilfred Blumberg as Brother Paul submits an excellent interpretation. Miss Vashti Wellborne very creditably assumes the character of Polly Love; Miss Molly Hayden displays unmistakable ability in the rôle of Mrs. Callander; and Miss May Weir as Aggie Jones appears to advantage. Remaining parts are ably filled by Mr. Bert Conway as the "Faro" King, Mr. Oswald Marshall as Mr. Lorimer, Miss Bella Moody (Betty), Miss Dorothy Clifton (Netty), Miss Edith Huntley (Letty), and Miss Lottie Chesterman (Liza).

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—Forming the company here this week are Horton and Linder, in their original burlesque gymnastic act; Mlle. Roseltha, international and coon skipping rope dancer; T. W. Royal, refined comedian and clog dancer; J. H. Cassels, Scotch comedian; Millie Denham, burlesque actress and descriptive vocalist; Jack Hannah, comedian; and Elliott and Elliott, dandy coloured coons.

PENTRE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident Manager, Mr. J. Roberts Jones.—Miss Ada Wallis's company are appearing here in the musical absurdity *The Major*. In the title-rôle Mr. T. C. McQuire is very amusing; Mr. Victor Silverine, who gives some well-rendered songs, makes a capital George Goodman; Mr. Harry Vernon convulses the house with merriment by his quaint impersonation of Jeremiah Stoney. Miss E. Tooney claims a large share of praise as Mrs. Emma Campney; Miss M. Vere is pleasing in the rôle of Grace Campney, her songs and dances being cordially received. Miss Minnie Vince seconds her efforts as Hilda Marston; Miss Ada Wallis spares no pains in her portrayal of Angelina Touchemup, the loud applause of an appreciative audience being her reward.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. William Greet's company in the musical comedy *The Earl and the Girl* is drawing big houses here this week. Mr. Alfred Donohoe is all that can be desired in his amusing impersonation of Jim Cheese; Mr. Leslie Gaze proves a great success as Dick Wargrave; Messrs. Thomas Lennard, A. E. Wilson, Percy Bronson, Sam Lysons, and Greville Hayes are seen to considerable advantage in the important parts of the Hon. Crewe Boodle, A. Bunker Bliss, Downham, Mr. Talk, and Mr. Hazell respectively; Messrs. Bernard Leslie, Fred Locking, and H. S. McDowell ably sustaining the parts of Dudley Cranbourne, George Bellamy, and Hugh Wallender. Miss Hylda Dugdale in the rôle of Elphin Haye is a prime favourite from the moment she appears; Miss Eda Stratham and Miss Lina Hicks are both received warmly for their delightful portrayal of Daisy Fallowfield and Liza Shoddam; Miss Beatrice Anderson and Miss Winnie Plumpton are successful exponents of Mrs. Shimmering Slack and Miss Virginia Bliss; while the Misses Glen, Florence Cameron, Ruby Louis, Maud Grey, and Mabel Danby are suitably placed in the parts of Flora, Ladies Gussie, Violet, Gwendolen, and Muriel respectively.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Considerable interest is being aroused this week by the visit of Mr. George Dance's company in *The Orchid*. Miss Constance Hamilton's impersonation of Lady Violet is full of charm and vivacity; Miss Maude Jay is delightful in her treatment of the part of Josephine Zaccary. Mr. W. Garland is successful as Dr. Ronald Faussett, and Mr. R. Corray is seen to advantage as Mr. Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. Tom Maxwell sings and acts with considerable ability as The Hon. Guy Scrymgrour. Miss Madeline Maude does well in the part of Caroline, and Miss Beck makes a charming Thisbe. As the irrepressible Meakin Mr. Colin Campbell is in his element, his capital make-up, comic business, and smart singing and dancing causing him to become an immediate favourite.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Time does not seem to stale the attractions which *The Sign of the Cross* has for the play-going public. It is being much appreciated here this week by large houses, and certainly Mr. W. Greet's company is presenting it in clever fashion. Besides a judicious selection of artists, the scenery and other accessories are up-to-date. A fine and noble conception of Marcus is presented by Mr. W. F. Grant, who acts with dignity and reserve and great distinction. The rôle of Mercia is one that displays Miss Marie Leonnard's undoubted talents to advantage; it is a finished and artistic portrayal. Miss Alma Bolton is commendably free from exaggeration as Berenice, a part she invests with much interest. Mr. J. Boyd Pearson as Nero and Mr. J. Wetherall as Licinius are highly competent, their efforts calling for the highest praise. The remainder of the caste are able exponents of their art.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—*The Sorrows of Satan* is being admirably staged here by Mr. Charles H. Lester and company. Mr. Lester himself appears as Prince Lucio, his performance doing much to secure the general success scored; Mr. Gordon McLeod as Geoffrey Tempest gives an excellent study; Mr. George Beverley as the Earl, Mr. R. F. Stacey as Lord Lynton, Mr. R. Bosco as Amiel, and Mr. C. Barry Olive as Bentham create good impressions. Miss Myrtle Woodward is to be complimented on her fine work as Lady Sybil; Miss Irma Farington, Miss Lily Prescott, and Miss Edith Dean are also very effective; whilst Mr. Greene Taylor and Miss Elsie Mesnerd cleverly provide the humorous interludes.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Michell.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is appearing here in *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. C. Franmore contributes a fine sketch of Meadows, the farmer; Miss Nannie Meade impersonates with much ability the character of the daughter; Mr. F. R. Robertson makes a popular and convincing hero; Miss Ada Oakley acts with force and realism as the wife; and Miss Elsie Saville is a charming actress who scores well as a schoolmistress.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—A liberal and judiciously selected programme here this week includes Mr. Albert Wyndham and company in *Frivolous Sincerity*, a powerful sketch which catches on well because it is well acted and well staged. Bright and to the point are the amusing songs of Tom Lloyd; Lee and Kingston are a funny pair who appear in *Practical Joking*; wonderful balancing and acrobatic tricks are contributed by the Four Abadaroffs; comedy juggling by McAskell delights everybody; the Hudson Powell Troupe evoke much laughter in *The Young Recruits*; the Kents are clever musicians; and Miss Gertrude Moore is a skilful dancer.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Miss Elaine Verner's company in *Saints and Sinners* is this week receiving a most enthusiastic welcome. Mr. Harding Thomas as Jacob Fletcher excites unqualified admiration; Miss Elaine Verner supplies a striking impersonation of Letty Fletcher; Mr. Frank Lyndon as Samuel Hoggard displays genuine ability; Mr. J. Max Jerome is good as Prabble; Mr. Edgar Kent's impersonation of Lot Burden is admirable; Miss Ada Clarke's assumption of Lydia could scarcely be improved; Mr. W. Cronie-Wilson is seen to great advantage as Captain Eustace Fanshaw; George Kingsmill is made the most of by Mr. John J. Hooker; and Mr. George Jervis scores as Peter Greenacre.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—This week we are favoured with a visit by Mr. Geo. Testo Sante, the actor-athlete, and company in *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Sante meets with a capital reception as Brien Leader; the Brothers Sante are successful in their comic interlude; Mr. Logan Dana gives a capital portrayal of Hendrick Marais; Sir Noel Hartland has an able exponent in Mr. Charles Osborne. Miss Enid Trench gives a careful and effective rendition of Lena Hartland; Miss Amy McNeill deserves compliment for her acting as Agatha Winter; Master Harry Warden as Dickie and Miss May Warden as Lynette deserve special mention.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's successful comedy *The Duffer* is here for the week, being presented by Mr. Louis Calvert's company. Mr. E. H. Wynne in the name-part is decidedly good; Paul Martin is played by Mr. Pennington Gush with all the wild excitability suited to the part; Mr. Whitford Kane's embodiment of Charles Chester is an able one; the picture dealer, James Benth, and Richard Stamp, R.A., are cleverly portrayed by Messrs. Percy Robinson and Kingsford Pearce. Miss Mabel Taylor is an interesting and pleasing Mary Hillier; Lady Amelia Farington is brightly played by Miss Margaret Montrose; Miss Bide and Miss Phillis Wade are made the most of by Miss Nelly Griffen and Miss Florence Adale.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here paying a return visit with *Under Two Flags*, and judging from the full houses the stirring and sensational drama has lost none of its attraction. Miss Emelie Polini as the warm-hearted, impulsive, and revengeful vivandière Cigarette, gives a powerful impersonation; Mr. Mark Blow has a part in Bertie Cecil Royallieu that suits him admirably; Lord Rockingham has a capable exponent in Mr. Walter Thornton; the part of the valet Rake is ably filled by Mr. Will Hook; Mr. Charles D. Pitt is an imposing and successful Colonel Chateauroy. Miss Dorothea Graeme gives a charming portrayal as Princess Venetia Corena; Miss Joan Stean and Miss Lucy Carr also do good work as Countess Olga and Lady Beatrice Guinevere. The amusing farce *Aunt Rebecca* precedes.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—An excellent all-round programme is provided this week by the management here. Mr. Joe Peterman's company, including Miss Jessie Wilton, with the musical comedy extravaganza *The Belle of the Orient*, is the principal turn, and a very attractive and amusing turn it is. Lilian Travellie, American soubrette, has a pleasing style that wins approval; Francisco, equilibrist, does some extraordinary and clever tricks; Little Cliff, boy artist and grotesque dancer, is exceedingly good; Carlile and Walker, vaudeville entertainers, are decidedly smart; Sam Dalton, character comedian, has a capital voice and appearance, and does good work; R. H. Douglas, monologue artist, has had a rousing reception for his highly artistic efforts to muse. Contributing to the success of the bill are also the Sisters Edwards, duettists, dancers, and drummers; the Three Seymours, jugglers; May Moodie, piccolo soloist.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is fulfilling its annual engagement here this week, an event which always affords much enjoyment to local playgoers. On Monday evening *Carmen* was presented. Mr. Albert Bowyer as Don Jose rendered his numbers with pleasing expression; Mr. Marshall Vincent's impersonation of Escamillo was marked by dramatic fervour, the Toreador's song gaining hearty applause. Il Remendado had a capital representative in Mr. R. Brookes. Miss Ethel Cadman was a charming exponent of Michaela, and Miss Rose Beynon displayed exceptional vocal and histrionic ability in the title-rôle. The chorus and orchestra acquitted themselves admirably. The week's répertoire also includes *La Traviata*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Lohengrin*, and *Maritana*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—*Cinderella*, produced by Messrs. Griffin and Drake's company, is the attraction here this week. Miss Ivy Dawn makes a pleasing Cinderella, and the Prince Perfect of Mlle. Du Roche leaves nothing to be desired. Messrs. Chas. Benett as the Baron, Walter Griffin and Freddie Elliott as Gingerett and Chlorinda, respectively, keep the house in a good humour. Mr. Jim Topping as Choddles is excellent, and the efforts of the Bros. Long (Flip and Flop) are vociferously applauded. The Sisters Silza are well received in their clever trapeze act. Marlow is a clever juggler, and the songs of the Grosvenors are very pleasing. The Sisters Le Graham are smart dancers. The eccentric musical act of Harland and Rollinson is very clever.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—At the head of the bill here this week is Percy Honri in his new musical extravaganza, entitled *Concordia*, which greatly pleases the audience; Ormonde Penstone and Tsaou-Ngo are clever conjurers and smoke artists; Carney and Armstrong provide a clever turn, including excellent singing, humorous recitations, and whistling; the Alexandroffs appear in a capital vocal and dancing act; Ara, Zebra, and Vora give a novel display of Indian pastimes; Will Souls is a popular "laughing" comedian; the Three Royal Temples are pleasing operatic vocalists; Chas. Ashdowne, "india-rubber" comedian, creates much amusement; the Narows score a success in a remarkable knockabout act; and the Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—The attractive pantomime, *Aladdin*, has been put on here with signal success during the past week by Mr. John A. Thompson's company. It is full of good things; the music is bright and catchy, the scenery appropriate, the artists well up to their work. Miss Beatrice Varley is a dashing principal boy; and Miss Louie Rooney a charming Princess Badroulbadour; Mr. Albert Williams is decidedly funny as Widow Twankey; and the Misses Isabelle are admirable as Pekoe and Nicey; Abanazar finds an able representative in Mr. Charles Wood, of "twenty-faces-under-one-hat" fame; and the other ladies and gentlemen comprising the company perform their allotted parts in highly creditable fashion. Among the *specialité* stars is Abex, a youth of nineteen, who gives a wonderful exhibition of physical strength. Capital work is also done by Messrs. Dale and D'Argan, and Mr. Ernest Douri.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Miss Ethel Clayton's *Babes in the Wood* company is here this week, and the performance is thoroughly enjoyable. Miss Jessie Lindsay as Robin Hood is a captivating principal boy, and charms with her songs and dances; and Maid Marian (Miss Lizzie Levaine) is equally fascinating and clever. Messrs. Fred Fosco and Dave Anderson as Weary Willie and Tired Tim are most amusing comedians; and Mr. Carl Bernards as MacBlob keeps the house convulsed with laughter whilst he is on the stage. Little Lily Belle and wee Madge Bingham as the Babes are everything desirable, and the former contributes a sweetly-sung ballad. Miss Kate Travers makes an excellent Fairy Fancy, and Misses Florry Anderson and Gertrude Bingham as Allan-a-Dale and Helen are quite up to the high standard of the company. The specialites include Mr. Percy Victor's wonderful dog orchestra, a really fine turn; Bernardo and Travelli, also excellent; The Valmores, in their clever songs, dances, and mace-spinning; Mons. Vulo, chapeaugraphist, and the Ruby Quartette of Lady Dancers, who are skilful exponents of the art.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is a big attraction here this week. Miss Elsie Morgan is a dashing Dick; and Miss Annie Morgan successfully fills the rôle of Alice Fitzwarren; Miss Blanche Marion is seen to advantage as Tommy Trot; Miss Annie Laurie, as May, and Miss Nellie Lauraine, as Fatima, are excellent; Miss Evelyn Geldard is charming as the Fairy, Claribel. Mr. Bob Hutt, as Alderman Fitzwarren, scores heavily; as Idle Jack Mr. Rolando Martin works hard; and Mr. Fred Dark causes much hilarity as Matilda, the cook; Lanton and Lane are mirth-provoking as Captain Scupper and Bill Oakum; Mr. Tom Gilmore is an agile Cat. Specialities are provided by Elverton, the spinning marvel, and the Regent Comedy Four.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Earl and the Girl* is paying a welcome visit here this week, the cast being almost the same as when here before, nearly twelve months ago. Mr. Reginald Switz is a host in himself, his portrayal of Jim Cheese convulsing the audience with laughter; Mr. Alec Fraser submits a spirited interpretation of Dick Wargrave; Mr. Stanley Harrison is well placed as the Hon. Crew Boodle; Mr. H. B. Brandreth, as the fiery uncle, A. Bunker Bliss, is excellent; Mr. Frank Cane, as the American solicitor, Downham, is very prominent with a really clever portrayal; Miss Mary Fraser is delightfully piquant as Elphin Haye; Miss Florence Wix makes a capital Liza Shoddam; Miss Maud Adams, as Mrs. Shimmering Black, and Miss Maud Aston, as Daisy Fallowfield, are both in excellent hands; and Miss Mary Morrison makes a stately and graceful Miss Virginia Bliss.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—The programme submitted here this week is one of all round excellence. The Four M.P.'s, the Musical Palmers, contribute a pleasing and diversified musical turn; the Brothers Leotard, comical clowns, &c., give a clever exhibition of hand balancing and hat-throwing; the Paul Hessie Trio are daring and clever performers on the wire. Other successful turns are given by Edith St. Clare (descriptive and burlesque actress), Chant and Chant (comedy vocalists and patterers), Daisy Almer (serio and dancer), Flo. Chevalier (vocalist and comedienne), and Vernon's Bioscope in new pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Messrs. Ethel Arden and Geo. Abel's company in *Three of a Kind*, provides endless amusement with a cleverly acted performance of this amusing farce; the Falcons, hand balancers, are among the best we have seen here; Alice Maude (child male impersonator), Rose Waller (burlesque artist), Fox and Melville (song illustrators), Captain Ralston, assisted by Miss Frances and Co., in a refined naval act, George W. Foster (comedian), and the Empire Bioscope, complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company is here this week, with the pretty pantomime of *Bo-Peep*, and receiving record patronage. Mr. Walter Hague Gatty sings admirably as the Demon Wolf; and Miss Nora Beverley is very pleasing as Fairy Moonbeam; Miss Lizzie Payne, in the title-rôle, quickly becomes a prime favourite; and Miss Susie Beven is a smart Boy Blue, singing with telling effect; Mr. Dawson Dewick is an excellent Baron Hardup; and Mr. J. W. Groves is most amusing as Granny Brown; Miss Bessie Frank is vivacious as Margery Daw; and Miss Melinda May is seen to advantage as Lord de Rhino; Mr. Harry Wren acts capitally as the simpleton, Tommy Long; and Messrs Stern and Stern create much fun as Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green. Specialities are introduced by the Solon Trio, who give an extraordinary statue turn; the Pemm Quartette, with coon songs and dances; and the Hammersley Ballet Troupe of lady dancers, who receive well-deserved applause.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross.—Miss Hettie Jeffries's company is this week presenting the comedy drama *The Curate*. Mr. Whitmore Ledger as Gilbert Westwood, a Russian spy, proves himself an actor of ability; Mr. Arthur Mervyn as the Rev. John Audley gives a clever and refined rendering; and as Simon Peter Muggs Mr. C. Spencer is amusing. Mr. Charles Coventy as Gregory Verner is good, and Mr. F. Stuart as Sergeant Snipe is well worthy of praise. Miss Hettie Jeffries as Dick the Trumpeter has a part in which her undoubted talents are shown to the utmost advantage; and Miss I. Norman secures the sympathy of the audience by her clever and pathetic rendering of Mabel Verner. Miss W. Stuart as Katinka Vodsky is also very good, and as Mrs. Muggs Miss Agnese d'Aragon makes the most of her opportunities.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. Wm. Martin.—The comedy *Merely Mary Ann* was staged here on Tuesday and Wednesday by Messrs. Addison and Bright's company with conspicuous success. The part of Lancelot was taken with considerable credit by Mr. Harold Standing; Miss Margaret Fareleigh gave a finished portrayal of the character of Mary Ann; Peter was cleverly delineated by Mr. J. Cranstoune Nevill; and Mrs. Leadebatter was capitally presented by Miss Ruth Hazelwood.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company is paying a visit this week with *The Wearin' o' the Green*, a large audience on Monday giving every evidence of thorough enjoyment. As Barney O'Hea, Mr. Mackey keeps the house in roars of laughter, and is cleverly assisted by Miss Nana Flensburg as Biddy McGinn; Mr. Charles Homer makes a fine Shamus, singing some good old songs in excellent voice; Mrs. Chalmers Mackey is a charming Norah McGrath; and Miss A. Liddon successfully presents Mrs. McDermott. As the villainous Michael Kenny, Mr. H. Macaulay is seen to advantage; Connor Martin is a fine study in the hands of Mr. David McFarlane; and Miss N. Moore as Edith Anstruther, and Miss M. Russell as Gladys Anstruther, also deserve special mention. The staging is very good.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—This week's entertainment is given twice nightly by the Six Brothers Luck with their comic pantomime *Jack and Jill*, written by Mr. J. Hewson. The title rôles are pleasingly sustained by Miss Mabel Thorne and Miss Marjorie Cecil; the Brothers Luck work well together, provoking roars of laughter; Mr. Harry Levaine, as Dame Miggs, is very funny. The scenery is good and some pretty ballets are introduced.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—William Holland's pantomime *Aladdin

Dancers; the Three Behans in music hall scena; Minnie Leonard in a sabot skipping rope dance; the Canadian Boys (Doyle and Massey) in humorous boxing act; and Hyam Long, musical eccentric.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—Mr. George Dance's company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Hart, an old Southamptonian, is this week paying a return visit with *The Girl from Kay's*. Many newcomers are included in the cast, Mr. George Blunt being first favourite as Hoggenheimer; Miss Beatrice Poole is a vivacious Winnie; and Miss Emily Taylor and Mr. J. S. Durant do well as the young couple. *The Bamboo Tree* is still one of the prettiest and most successful numbers in the piece. PALACE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—The Lyons Trio, in a sparkling little sketch, are first favourites; and Coram, the new ventriloquist, submits a very novel and successful turn, and receives liberal applause; the Four Jumels are clever instrumentalists; and Keen and Walker excel as eccentrics. Others who please are Rumbo Austin and his comical navvies; Violet Stockelle, comedienne; Queenie May, juvenile vocalist; and Nelson and Thomas, sketch artists.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; District Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. C. Aldin.—The Herald Comedy Four are prime favourites, their singing being extra good; the Ten Dixie Girls dance divinely; and the Seven Wulfrunas score as acrobats. Alf. Lester, with his novel scena, *The Scene Shifter's Lament* prospers well; Rosie Lloyd and Minnie Cunningham are a couple of comely comediennes; Saxo, instrumentalist, and F. Neiman, ventriloqust, also successfully appear. *The Train Wreckers* is admirably depicted on Ruffell's Bioscope.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Wilson Barrett's play, entitled *The Golden Ladder*, is the attraction this week, and is presented by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. Mr. Harry Cullenford does well in the rôle of the Rev. Frank Thornhill, the character being portrayed with skill and ability; Michael Severn and Mr. Pearanza are prominent in the able hands of Messrs. J. Milne Taylor and Graham Winsford, who are supported by Mr. Harry Selford as Jim Dixon. Mr. Frank Martin is good as Captain Jackson, and Mr. Stephen Prince is well suited as the Rev. W. Stanley; Samuel Peckaby is entrusted to Mr. Joseph Rowlands, who is supported by Miss Nellie Graham as Mrs. Peckaby; Miss Eva Moss gives a very pleasing and clever impersonation of Lillian Grant; the Misses Molly Haslewood and Jessie Gillette are excellent as Lily and Victoria Alexandra respectively.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—This popular winter garden is being patronised very largely each day, the most fascinating pastime of roller skating being immensely enjoyed. An entirely new set of pictures is shown on the American Bioscope each week by Mons. Le Clair, and the celebrated Red Band are excellent in their selections, and gain well merited applause.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the farcical comedy *Are You a Mason?* is here on a return visit. Mr. E. H. Paterson submits a capital comedy character sketch in the part of Amos Bloodgood, and is ably assisted by Mr. H. Langdon Bruce, who is very successful as Frank Perry; the humorous element is well sustained by Mr. Allan Pollock, who is warmly applauded for his clever impersonation of George Fisher; Mr. Howard L. Tracy in the rôle of the genuine Mason, Ernest Morrison, acts with commendable skill; Miss Adelaide Grace plays the virago, Mrs. Catherine Bloodgood, with sufficient asperity and force; whilst her three daughters have graceful and charming exponents in Miss Mabel Younge, Miss Rita Ward, and Miss Mabel Jowett respectively. The play is preceded each evening by the curtain-raiser entitled *A Bad Penny*.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—Nellie Wallace heads the bill here this week, and a crowded house greeted the reappearance of this popular comedienne, who convulsed the audience by her quaint mannerisms and whimsical versatility. Another excellent turn is provided by Vay's Juveniles, who present an interesting and clever scena entitled *Life in the Slums*. The programme also includes Frank Hartley, the pocket Cinquevalli; the Zano Brothers in a gymnastic act; Dot Stanley, vocalist and dancer; Bert Bowden, quaint comedian; Ardle and Ardle, comedy bar act; and the bio-tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—*Mr. Smith*, a new play by Walter Reynolds, is here this week. The cast includes Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, who figures prominently in the title-rôle, his acting being strong and vigorous. Miss Rosamond Rokeby enacts with point and charm the part of Lady Mary; Miss Kate Osborne is a capable Duchess of Angleland; the garrulous Mrs. Smith is amusingly depicted by Mrs. Louis L'Estrange; and Miss Fyfe Alexander is clever as the vivacious Ruth Anheuser. Mr. Fred Darrell capitally portrays Herr Deidrich Anheuser. Other praiseworthy performances are given by Messrs. Russell Norrie, E. Edwyn Holloway, C. Pilling Baird, and H. Carter Bligh in their respective parts of the Earl of Oxted, Duke of Angleland, Hon. Dudley Dysart, and Jack Berkely.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—A capital bill is headed by the Cotton Blossom Quartette of nigger coon vocalists, comedians, and dancers. O'Gerst, Continental mimic, is a warm favourite here; Bert Woodward submits a decidedly clever bicycle act; a good comedy sketch is provided by the Three Missouris; Mezzetti and Mora are applauded in a smart horizontal bar performance; and the remaining successful turns are furnished by Brooks, Dale, and Blitz with their mule, Chas. Beanland (comedian), Marie Neilson (comedienne and dancer), and the bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—Los Angelos, refined operatic vocalists, had a warm reception here on Monday night; Handel and Lee in a clever musical act find favour; Juan and McQue, funny comedians and patterers, cause hearty laughter; George Martinengo in his original scena *One of the Unemployed* is well received; and the bill also includes Claremont and Victor (handbalancing act), Cade Burnett (descriptive vocalist), and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. H. G. Place's Alexandra Grand Opera Company opened here on Monday to a full house. The company, though but recently formed, shows great promise of rapidly winning the favour of the public, and Mr. Place deserves great praise on his selection of artists. The principals include Miss Constance St. Bride, Miss K. Maccabe, Miss Madeline Humphreys, Mr. W. Hillier, Mr. Fred Wade, Mr. Frank Land, Mr. Kneale Campbell, and Mr. H. C. Place. The orchestra is under the conductorship of Mr. Otto V. Egerer, and the management in the hands of Mr. Stuart Bolton. A capital performance of *Maritana* was given on Monday.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, under the management of Mr. Wilfred Esmond, is here this week with *Florodora*. Mr. Daley Cooper's Tweedlepunch is an undoubted success, and he keeps the fun going at a merry pace. Miss Leonora Grieve makes a charming Dolores. Mr. R. Courtier Dutton sings well as Abercoed; Mr. Stanley White scores as Gilfain, as also does Mr. St. John as Captain Donegal. Miss Edith Houseley gives an excellent representation of Lady Holyrood, and Miss Lily Gullick as Angela Gilfain is very good. The augmented orchestra and chorus, under the direction of Mr. Bert Paterson, are excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Parnell.—Miss Nellie Coleman heads an excellent bill here, her songs and style causing much merriment. Mr. Martin Conway repeats his former successes; and other good turns are contributed by Dorme, clay modeller; Miss Fatimah Diard, vocalist; Yorkshire Tom, mimic; the Clarkes, banjo duettists; Little Don, comedian; and Tennyson and Wallis, comedians.

STOCKPORT.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—With such an exceptional attraction as the visit of Mr. Wm. Mollison and company in *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, it was quite in the order of things to have crowded audiences. Mr. Wm. Mollison's impersonation of Lachlan Campbell was a powerful and realistic performance, and the acting of Mr. Allen Thomas as William Maclure was admirable. Mr. Alec. F. Thompson as "Posty" was genuinely clever and amusing, and Mr. Kendal Chalmers was really funny as Tammas Mitchell. Mr. Archie W. Chappell acted ably as Lord Hay, and the Earl of Kilspindie and the Rev. John Carmichael had excellent representatives in Mr. F. M. Paget and Mr. Durward Lely. Flora Campbell was most charmingly played by Miss Evelyn McKay, and Annie, a dairymaid, was in the very able hands of Miss Edith Blair-Staples. Miss Alice Frances as Kate Carnegie and Miss Josephine Woodward as Margaret were both highly satisfactory. The scenery and staging were a special feature, being perfect in every detail.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Black.—A pleasing and clever entertainment is given by Boswell's stage circus, comprising educated ponies, dogs, and donkeys, and a popular favourite, May Lilian Levey, is greeted with the usual enthusiasm. Friscari is an expert hat manipulator and juggler, and the Brothers Lavelle are amusing acrobats. Souplessi is truly an anatomical wonder, and John Briston and partner are successful as comedy acrobats and cyclists, whilst Joe Humphreys, comedian, and Lottie de Abbey, vocalist, meet with satisfactory appreciation.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—*Cinderella*, presented here by Mr. Herbert Barr's company, is attracting good audiences. The title part is undertaken in an able manner by Miss Evelyn Dess, while the character of Prince Charming is in the safe care of Miss Lallah Davies, who sings several excellent songs in addition to a capital portrayal of the part. Mr. Carl Fredericks as Baron Stonio proved in excellent trim, and Flossie and Araminta are ably impersonated by Messrs. Billy Jackson and Herbert Grapho. The last-named artists deserve a special word for their character sketch *The Waiter*. Mr. Alf Widdowson is a prime favourite as Buttons. Messrs. Duncan and Morton as the broker's men Cop'em and Grab'em are exceedingly droll.

SUNDERLAND.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—Miss Annie Bell is appearing at this house this week in *Sapho*. Miss Bell gives a refined and pathetic rendering of Fanny le Grande (Sapho); Jean Gausin finds an apt exponent in Mr. Pringle Roberts, who proves himself to be an artist of considerable ability; Mr. Francis Serle is a capital Cesaire le Fenat; Mr. Walter Wilson makes the most of his opportunities as Caoudal; Mr. Chas. M. Daly is a droll Father le Grande; and the remaining parts are all in able hands.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—Mr. Charles Coborn is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and on Monday night was accorded a flattering reception. Muir and Bartlett's company contributes an excellent sketch entitled *The Collar Stud*; Silent Tait is as popular as ever; and Massona (juggler), Carr and Rose in an up-to-date sketch, Flo Cecil (comedienne), Wright and Elton (speciality artists), Casselli and James (exponents of banjo playing), and Vernon's Animated Pictures complete the programme.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Under the general and stage management of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, Mr. Henry Swinerd's *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company is this week paying another visit to this town, opening on Monday to a crowded audience. Miss Daisy Desmonde proves herself a bright and hearty Dorothy Montrose, and as Ruth a pleasing exponent is found in Miss N. Caronne. Mr. Cecil W. Park is a good Captain George Fielding, and the part of Captain Edw. Dudley is effectively undertaken by Mr. Henry C. Ward. Mr. Arthur Verne deserves the highest praise for his quaintness as Silas Crump, and with the support of Miss Nellie Harcourt, a capital Judith, he keeps the fun of the piece going merrily. The numerous variety turns introduced, especially in the circus scene, are most enthusiastically received.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—This week Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's No. 1 company, *In Holy Russia* is here. As Col. Forrest, Mr. Cassidy provides a copious flow of humour; the Count Gregori Petrolski of Mr. Tom Warry is admirably acted; Mr. Louis Norman scores heavily as Michel Notolski; the part of Laurice Stenagoff is well placed in the hands of Mr. Carl Rovinelli; Mr. Frank Copeland makes a manly Sir Harry Beresford; the Mickey Nolan of Mr. Joe Cuthbertson is much appreciated; Mr. Stephen Crossley, as Baron Von Pleve, submits a capable representation; Miss Ada Roscoe is seen to advantage as Calska Lavotski. Perhaps the most attractive assumption is that of Renée Rubinoff by Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy.

TORQUAY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Managing Director, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Fearse.—Crowded houses witnessed *The Walls of Jericho*, as played by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company this week, under the management of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. B. Leveaux. The play was exceedingly well rendered. Mr. Herbert Bunston, as Jack Frobisher, was exceedingly good; Lady Alethea Frobisher was admirably portrayed by Miss Florence Jackson; Mr. George A. Brandram proved to be very clever as Hankey Bannister; and the Marquis of Steventon, by Mr. Lawrence Hanray, was rendered in an acceptable manner.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Fred Granville's company is here this week in the pantomime of *The Forty Thieves*. Miss Madge Western makes a dashing Ganem, Miss Pattie Transfield as Morgiana delights with her singing and acting. Miss Cissie Kingsley makes a handsome Abdallah and sings in good style. Miss Lay Loftus is successful as Zorilda, and Miss Edna Thurley is fascinating as Fizzali. Mr. Walter Purvis does well as Ali Baba; and the comedians, Fred L. Conynghame, Leo Trainor, Forsyth Bruce, and Arthur Revell work hard to keep the fun going. Specialities are introduced by the Revell Troupe in a smart acrobatic turn; Ionia, rifle expert; Carlo, a talented violinist; the De Garvilles, in a clever gymnastic act.

HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—The programme this week includes the Waldrons, in a funny sketch entitled *A Silly Burglar*; Tom Collins, comedian, a capable vocalist; Harley and Hardow, amusing patterers and knockabouts; Alec Aubrey, herculean gymnast; Beattie Keat, a pleasing comedienne; Mdlle. De Vene, in a unique act, *Juggling on the Lawn*; and Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe, in a novelty comedy duologue act.

WALLSEND. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Angus; Manager, Mr. Tony Richardson.—Mr. Gus Levaine's pantomime *Aladdin* is here this week, and on Monday night the vast auditorium was filled to its utmost capacity. Miss Marie Harding is a dashing Aladdin, and a bright and winsome Princess is found in Miss Florrie Gibson. As the Fairy Miss Florence Burnett is well placed, and her vocal efforts are heartily appreciated. Mr. Richard Teesdale is responsible for most of the fun as Widow Twankey, and Mr. R. Williams is well placed as Abanazar. Some exceptionally good specialities are introduced, including the Baden Troupe of dancers, Leon and Leoni (musical experts), Mdlle. Alberto on the telephone wire, and Mdlle. Dardoe, dancer.

WALTHAMSTOW. — PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—The longest, and, in some senses, the heaviest line in Mr. Barclay's programme this week is the sensational sketch, called *The Vultures*, interpreted by Mr. George Marriott and his company. This production is of a sensational character. *The Vultures* are a gang of desperadoes who revel in murder and robbery. The chief vulture is Tony Craggs, who adds to his other crimes that of wholesale "receiving," coupled with a mortal dread of retributive vengeance, as exemplified by the minions of Scotland Yard. This character is cleverly played by Mr. Geo. M. Marriott, who indicates the combined greed and fear of the man. Mr. Fred Conyers is good as Frank Maxwell, and Mr. E. Eardley Howard, in various disguises, plays well as the detective, Warren. "Nippy" Binks is acted in lively fashion by Mr. Walter Rousby, and Mr. J. Russell is an elephantine "Baby." Miss Edith Finlay looks charming, plays discreetly, and sings brilliantly as Madge Oakley; and Miss Nelly May has all the slang of Kitty, the flower-girl, at the tip of her tongue. By far the loudest laughter of the evening is evoked by the Mackneys, who, in their wire act, are exceedingly funny. Prof. McCann introduces his trained dogs, to the great delight of the audience; Mr. Walter Wallis sings a couple of songs, that of the policeman, "Give me your name and address," being received with cheers and laughter. *Jerry; or, True to His Trust*, is a neat little sketch, with an Irish flavour, and is capitally played by E. Cranston and company. *The Phantom Ship* is a weirdly comical act, played by three artists who perform sundry feats with skulls, skeletons, and revolvers. Miss Maud Esmond is one of the daintiest comediennes we have had for some time. Looking bewitching in a "page's" costume of ruby velvet and white satin, Miss Esmond sings artistically about her Bamboo Bungalow" and a pretty song, "Remember me to all the folks at home." Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays many pictures, the greatest laughter following *Father's Half-Holiday*. Mr. Geo. F. Slatter is indefatigable in seeing to the comfort of the crowded audiences.

KING'S THEATRE.—Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company, under the direction of Mr. Sydney N. Hallows, is here this week, appearing in a drama, *A Great Sensation*, the "sensation" being the rising of a cleverly-managed air-ship from the gardens at Hurlingham. Miss Isaacson plays with great power as Eva Vale; Miss Grace Baring is the wicked Sidonie. A good account of the hero is given by Mr. Sydney N. Hallows as Jack Dawes, and Mr. Roland Hope as Henry Escombe is a villain of whom no right-minded heroine need have much fear. Bunko Bates, millionaire, is safe in the hands of Mr. H. Firman, and Mr. Alfred Richards is manly and sincere as Robin Dale. The minor parts are capably played, and the piece is lavishly staged.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here this week in the stirring drama *The Village Blacksmith*. As John Strong Mr. Sam Livesey is a typical specimen of the sturdy smith with "large and sinewy hands"; Miss Laura Hanson acts pathetically as Kate Strong; Miss Bertha Hanbury as the child Harry Strong proves herself a really clever juvenile; Mr. Joseph Carter as Captain Leo speedily earns the opprobrium of the audience; Mr. Edwin Maydew is well placed as Lucas Marler; and the lighter element is ably sustained by Mr. George V. Campbell as Billy Twig and Miss Edith Giddins as Martha Mopps.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. Fred J. Willmot.—The Gotham Comedy Quartette head the bill here this week, and their delightful singing has quite captivated the habitués of this house. The Brothers Hayes are an exceptional pair of clever comedians; the Sisters Melba score well with several duets charmingly sung; the Harlem Brothers are expert rifle manipulators; Thirza Hirst is an original male impersonator; and the Alskarno Trio (Risley performers), Johnny Walker (comedian), and the Royal Bioscope Pictures complete a capital programme.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore. — Mr. Charles Macdona's chief company is presenting the musical comedy, *The Gay Parisienne*, which is proving a great attraction here. As Ebenezer Honeycombe, Mr. Tom Conway would be hard to beat; he causes roars of laughter. Miss Alice Nixon sustains the title-rôle in a charming manner, and gains much aplause for her singing and graceful dancing. Madame Ilma Norina plays Mrs. Honeycombe with becoming dignity and grace; a very charming Nora is portrayed by Miss Lucia Collins, whose every movement is characteristic of talent. Miss Gwennie Harcourt presents a careful and clever study of the character of Ruth; Mr. Rudolph Kloss plays the pompous Major Forsdyke with great skill; Mr. Charles Seguin smartly represents M. Pompier, introducing some pleasing songs and eccentric dancing; Mr. Lester Carey sings well, and makes a good Tom Everleigh. The singing by the Imperial Glee Singers is nightly encored.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—TOWN HALL.—The entertainment by Mr. W. F. Cockrill's concert party has been looked forward to in eager anticipation for some time, and by no means were the audience disappointed. The programme submitted was one that included the names of some exceptionally talented artists. A great attraction was Miss Grace Shorrock, whose sweet flute-like soprano notes charmed all in Gounod's "Serenade," but it was in her encore number, "Cavalleria Rusticana," where she excelled. Mr. Richardson Taylor, a wonderfuly clever mimic, astounded the audience at the realism of his imitations of birds, and held them convulsed with laughter at his representation of a brass band concert. Mr. G. Webber, a splendid heavy baritone, was very successful in his song "A Hundred Fathoms Deep," and was fully deserving of the encore awarded him. That Miss Backsheen Wood is an accomplished violinist was evidenced by the enthusiastic reception which she had for her solos "Gipsy Melodies" and "The Witches' Dance." Much amusement was caused by Mr. Arthur S. Tomlin's delineation of "Peculiarities" of various people and his description of "A Twenty-first Birthday." And some good work was done by the Excelsior male voice choir, under the conductorship of Mr. R. R. Greenwell.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—The Craggs are here this week in their musical pantomimical absurdity, *Laughter Land*. Mr. H. Rouchy is amusing as Dick Marlow, and Mr. H. B. Lewis funny as the Professor. Mr. C. Edwards is good as Ald. Trentham, and Mr. S. B. Reynolds works hard as Archie. Miss Amy Hastings is pleasing as Clarisse, and Miss Louise Millward is well cast as Clothilda. In the second act the Craggs give their clever acrobatic performance.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Sunday* is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay gives, as usual, a charming impersonation of Sunday. Miss Rosalind Ross as Mrs. Naresby is well suited, and that of the Nun, taken by Miss Juliet Hardinge, leaves nothing to be desired. Tozer is in the capable hands of Mr. William Lockhart. The Lively of Mr. T Norman Walter is a good character study, and the part of Davy by Mr. Sydney Rennef, together with that of Jacky by Mr. Arthur Vezin are well impersonated. Mr. Cecil Duncan as Arthur Brinthorpe and Mr. Leonard Pagden as Colonel Brinthorpe deserve full recognition for the manner in which they performed their respective rôles.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—The programme here includes Charles Unthan, the armless wonder; Harry Gray, Australian comedian; Newhouse and Ward, trick cyclists; the Violas, who are as mystifying as ever; The Zaras, male and female acrobats; J. H. McCann, comedian and skate dancer; J. P. Boston, variety entertainer; Shang Hai, Chinese magician; F. S. Hulme, vocalist; Sam Morrison, vocalist; and Madeline Rossiter, comedienne and dancer.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—A great treat is afforded to local playgoers this week by the appearance here of the Carl Rosa Opera Company. On Monday night was given a fine production of *Tannhäuser*, in which Herr Julius Walther appeared as Tannhäuser, his acting being excellent and his singing magnificent. Miss Hanna Mara gave an admirable impersonation, and was heard to great advantage as Elizabeth; and Mr. Charles Victor was most successful as Wolfram. On Tuesday *The Marriage of Figaro* was performed by Miss Grace Nicoll, Mr. Arthur Winckworth, and Miss Elizabeth Burgess; and on Wednesday Gounod's *Faust* was presented. *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Fidelio*, and *The Bohemian Girl* were also included in the week's programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The Norman and Leonard Trio head this week's bill, and are seen to advantage in a sketch entitled *The Itinerant*. Other artists are Theo Bowmeester, a Dutch protean character actor of much merit; the Two Wiltons, vocalists and dancers; the Three Sisters Anderson, equilibrists; Chas. R. Whittle, an entertaining comedian; and Donald Keir and Mabel Kempton, vocalists.

WORCESTER.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's *La Poupée* company is doing good business here this week. Mr. Fred Seymour is a capital Hilarius, whose eccentricities are thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Dot Stephens is a dainty and artistic Alesia. Possessed of a good voice and pleasing stage presence she quickly makes herself popular. As Launcelot, Mr. Wm. Everard is well suited; and Mr. Walter Balfour's Father Maxime leaves nothing to be desired. Other parts are excellently filled by Miss Edith Hunter (Madame Hilarius), Mr. Fuller Allen (the Baron), Mr. Arthur Dennis (Loremois), and Miss Doris Dickens (Henri). The chorus is large, and maintains an excellent balance of tone under the direction of Mr. H. H. Shaw.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. John A. Thomson's company is here this week, presenting *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Beatrice Walham, who has a fine presence, enacts excellently the part of Robin Hood; Miss Trixey Toole is winsome as Maid Marian, and sings well. As Little John and Mavis, Miss Edith Madelle and Miss Daisy Stone are highly capable; and Miss Minnie Litchfield and Miss Kathleen Cogan, as the Babes, are deserving of high praise, their singing and dancing being greatly admired. Mr. Newton Pearce is good as Sir Brokah de Paun; as Dumpling, Mr. Carl Moneta is quaint, his dancing being one of the great attractions; Mr. Fred Taylor is extremely funny as Friar Tuck; Mr. Ted Mack and Mr. Henry Young are thoroughly successful as Burglar Bill and Gentle Georgie; and Mr. Tom G. Warren greatly augments the fun as Araminta Koffkake. Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's principal company opened on Thursday with *Merely Mary Ann*.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Lights o' London*, always a popular item here, is being well played this week by Mr. Herbert Hollister and his company, who give a thoroughly capable rendering, and are cordially received. Mr. Arthur Cornell gives a vividly natural impersonation of Harold Armytage, and in conjunction with Miss Jeanne Burgoyne as Bess fully arouses the sympathy of the audience. Mr. Hollister himself makes a rugged and picturesque Seth Preene, his declamatory powers having full scope. Mr. W. E. Passmore as the genial Jarvis is a great favourite, and is well backed up by Miss Violet Temple as Mrs. Jarvis and Miss Gladys Murry as Shakespeare. Great fun is also caused by Mr. George Wallace as Philosopher Jack and Mr. G. Petit as Percy De Vere. Mr. Riddell Robinson does well as Clifford Armytage, and Miss Lily O'Dempsey is a handsome Betty Preene, acting with much grace and power.

"BRIDGE."

An Episode of Modern Society, by Graham Hill, produced for the first time on any stage at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury.

Lorna Temperley .....MISS M. CREIGHTON
Gerald Powys .....MR. ARTHUR BURNE
Pembroke Gore .....MR. A. AUSTIN-LEIGH

Mr. Graham Hill's new one-act play was produced for the first time on Tuesday evening at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, and has been used throughout the week as a *lever de rideau* to *The Passport*. It is a cleverly-written trifle, with a sufficient spice of drama to make it interesting. Mrs. Temperley is found, on the rise of the curtain, in the act of taking leave of her bridge-party guests, the stragglers being Powys and Gore. The former is an old lover of their charming hostess, and during his recent stay on the West Coast of Africa has lived upon the memory and the anticipations of his love. He is a man of ideals, and, chatting with Gore, he roundly denounces the card-playing and similar practices of society, and especially deplores that women should take a part in them. Mrs. Temperley, by the way, has had a run of excessively bad luck during the evening, and is obviously ill at ease in consequence. Powys has an opportunity for confidential discussion with his *innamorata* during the momentary absence of Gore, and pleads for a further opportunity of declaring his love.

It is agreed that he shall leave and return later when Gore may be expected to have gone. Powys departs, but Gore shows little inclination to follow suit. Instead, he discusses her ill-luck with the pretty widow, makes love to her, and offers from his ample means to help her out of the straits in which her losses have placed her. Mrs. Temperley reminds him of his obligations as a married man, and for a time holds out against his advances, but is at length induced to resort to the arbitrament of the cards as to whether she shall, or shall not, accept his assistance. They are in the act of adopting this test when Powys returns, and at Mrs. Temperley's request he acts for her in cutting the cards, and wins. Gore assures the lady that he is happy to have been the humble means of changing her run of bad luck, and, before leaving, intimates that the notes (for £600) shall be sent to her the first thing in the morning. Powys, of course, knew nothing of the stakes for which the cards were cut, but his suspicions have been aroused, and when he and the lady are together he jealously questions her as to what has happened. Her replies give him an inkling of the truth, and, after an indignant denunciation, he leaves her in contempt to return to West Africa. Thus the piece concludes.

As before observed, the play is certainly not without merit, but it will need a more satisfactory termination if it is to prove a success. Its presentation, which on the opening night left something to be desired, has since been improved upon. Miss Maude Creighton takes the part of the gambling little widow very creditably, and Mr. Austin Leigh gives a good impersonation of the sarcastic, calculating man of the world. As the indignant lover Mr. Arthur Burne is also very successful, particularly in the denunciatory scene.

MR. HEMMING DEFENDS THE STAGE.

After the extreme pleasure one must feel on reading the Bishop of London's lecture at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, last Sunday, it is a pity that almost immediately we find there are still a few uncharitable, narrow-minded people about who look upon the stage as something very terrible. How is the following for an example? Each letter will explain itself.

(COPY.)

My Dear Mabel,—Will you join us this evening from 6.30 to 10.30? We shall have dancing and games.—Yours very affectionately,

Reply sent by telephone by myself.

(COPY.)

Mabel thanks you very much. Delighted; but sorry cannot get before 8.15, as she is playing the Child Arline with Moody-Manners to-night in *Bohemian Girl*. Good-bye."

(COPY.)

Dear Mr. Hemming,—I am sorry to say that so long as Mabel is a pupil of ——, Miss —— and I must ask you not to let her appear on the public stage. We are quite sure that many of the parents of our other pupils would strongly object to such an arrangement, and feel that it would be better—if Mabel is to be about the stage—for you to select another school for her. We are extremely sorry to have to say this, as Mabel is such a bright and promising pupil. With kind regards.—Yours sincerely,

My Reply.

(COPY.)

Opera House, Southport.
Feb. 11, 1906.

Dear Madam,—Your letter of Saturday was simply astounding. I can allow no one to dictate as to what I shall do or not do with my own child, although in this instance the attack is not against her directly, she being universally loved for her sweet disposition, her truthful, honest nature, and her intellect, a pupil any school in the kingdom might be proud of; and yet Mabel has to suffer the future jeers and insinuations of any jealous companion—to be ostracised from her little school friends—because through her is the only way of casting insults and slurs on an honourable profession by a few narrow-minded hypocrites whose own calling in life would bear no comparison with the stage they seek to vilify.

How dare they "strongly object" and compel you to turn her out of the school, even if she were appearing regularly, which of course she is not.

A profession which has been so honoured by the late Queen and our present King, a profession which has given us such intellect and nobleness in men like Sir Henry Irving, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Charles Wyndham, Beerbohm Tree, and a hundred others. Surely there is more honour and dignity attached to such a calling than to that of a factory-owner, a brewer, a shopkeeper, a publican, *when* that person dares to cast a slur on a community of ladies and gentlemen with whom in intellect, education, and Christian charity he has not the slightest chance of comparison.

You have a perfect right to conduct your establishment as you choose, but at the same time I protest most strongly against insults being offered to my profession, and if the "parents who so strongly object" would meet me on a public platform or in the columns of the Press I might explain to them that their children lose nothing in the shape of acquiring the principles of truth and honesty and sweetness, and all that belongs to a little lady, by being associated with a child whose parents are connected with the stage. If this is the sort of doctrine and bigotry that is to be taught at ——, the sooner Mabel is clear of it the better. I would sooner see her taken from me than to think such narrow-minded hypocrisy should be inculcated in her little brain at the outset of her life.—Yours in all sincerity,

ALFRED HEMMING.

Southport, Feb. 13, 1906.

MISS CLAIRE ROMAINE, who takes the title-rôle in the *Dick Whittington* pantomime at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, was on the 8th inst. publicly presented with a diamond ring, as the winner of the Popularity Competition for pantomime artists, organised by the proprietors of *Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*. Miss Kitty Malone, who played the Prince in *Beauty and the Beast*, was the winner of the competition at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar. The presentation was made with fitting ceremony at the Theatre Royal, Chatham, on Saturday.

IN the Edinburgh County Session on Feb. 8, Lord Johnston disposed of a note for C. F. Whigham, C.A., Edinburgh, official liquidator of the Edinburgh Pavilion Theatre, Ltd., for authority to sell the fittings in the theatre, and to consent to the sale of the theatre in Grove-street. The theatre and the two front shops were bonded for £900, and the bondholders sold them at Dowell's for £1,000, to Leckie and Hardie, Rose-street, Edinburgh. The liquidator has arranged with the purchasers to sell to them the fittings, consisting of stage scenery and machinery, seats, electric fittings, and fire extinguishing appliances, for the sum of £55. The Court granted the prayer of the note, sanctioning this sale, and also sanctioning the liquidator being a consenter to the disposition of the theatre to the purchasers.

AT the conclusion of the run of *Sinbad the Sailor*, at the Grand Theatre, Islington, Mr. W. T. Glidon, the musical director, was presented with a silver cigar-case by Mr. Samuel James and the other directors, as a mark of esteem.

ALLY SLOPER'S
DIAMOND RING COMPETITION
(£100 in PRIZES)

For the Most Popular Pantomime Actress is going strong.

Closing Day for Voting for Winner of the

£50 RING will be announced shortly.

The Weekly Rings have been won by Miss ETHEL NEGRETTI ("Crown" Pantomime, Peckham), Miss KITTY MALONE (New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.), Miss KITTY BERESFORD (Principal Girl in the Grand, Islington, Pantomime), Miss NELLIE BURDETTE (New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, Pantomime), Miss CLAIRE ROMAINE (Principal Boy at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End), and Miss ETHEL DOVE (Grand Theatre, Islington). Ladies should interest their friends in the scheme.

Papers containing Coupons can be ordered from any Newsagent, and Communications and Remittances addressed to THE SLOPERIES, LONDON, E.C., will receive immediate attention.

Ally Sloper's Half Holiday—1d. every Saturday.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Lyrical Comedy, by Leedham Bantock and Arthur Anderson and Howard Talbot, entitled

"THE WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM."

How attractive musical comedy is to the modern theatrical playgoer was again emphasised on Monday evening, when the King's was crowded with an enthusiastic audience to witness the first performance of Mr. Frank Curzon's principal touring company in *The White Chrysanthemum*. There is no doubt but that this musical comedy will have a prosperous career on its travels, which it well deserves, for there is a plot—slight, but intelligible—the dialogue is smart and amusing, and the music is sufficiently catching and melodious to win innumerable encores for the singers. In addition the artists have been judiciously selected, with the result that the audiences are kept in a pleased state of mind during the entire performance. In the part of Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage, C.B., Mr. John Clulow is happily placed. He acts and sings correctly and with good effect. His son Lieut. Reginald Armitage is capitally rendered by Mr. F. Pope-Stamper, who possesses a pleasant voice and dashing style. Mr. J. Davy Burnaby creates an abundance of amusement by his droll acting as Lieut. Chippendale Belmont. Sin Chong, a Chinese cook, provides Mr. O. E. Lennon with numerous opportunities for some irresistibly comical acting, of which he never fails to take the most advantage, and the audience is kept in roars of laughter. A clever and humorous impersonation is that of Private Perks, undertaken by Mr. Harry Paulton, jun. Sybil Cunningham ("the White Chrysanthemum") is delightful in the hands of Miss Ruth Lincoln. Her singing is beyond reproach, and the encores demanded for her songs are well earned. Miss Maud Harvey is a vivacious Betty Kenyon. Very smartly played is the character of Cornelia Vanderdecken, by Miss Isabel Dillon, a young actress of unusual attractiveness. The numerous Japanese strolling players and Japanese maids are impersonated by a very handsome chorus, whose sprightly movements win hearty applause and reflect great credit on the stage-management of Mr. Austen Hurgon, the producer. Under the able direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey the orchestra responds admirably. Mr. George W. Lindsay, the business-manager, is energetic, tactful, and courteous. The scenery and costumes are feasts of colour.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Pantomime of "DICK WHITTINGTON."

Dick Whittington, transferred in its entirety from the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, where it was one of the acknowledged successes of the season, has unquestionably added to its renown at the beautiful Holloway house. The story of Dick Whittington and his wonderful cat, illustrated as it is in this instance by particularly pretty and tasteful scenery, has been thoroughly enjoyed by crowded and enthusiastic audiences throughout the week. All the artists are to be congratulated on the satisfactory work they accomplish, the dancers, chorus, and all the sundry extras help to make a very brave show all through. Miss Carlotta Levey is a tall, handsome principal boy as Dick Whittington, and a capital Alice Fitzwarren is seen in the person of Miss Maude Noel, a pretty and graceful heroine. Miss Levey plays the part of Dick with marked refinement of style, sings well, and from first to last infuses that "go" which is so very essential to success. Her songs are well chosen, her principal successes being "Put a little bit away for a rainy day," "Back to Baltimore," and "Hear the pipers calling, Jenny mine." Miss Maude Noel looks bewitchingly fair in her handsome dresses, and acts and sings engagingly as Alice Fitzwarren, and her musical numbers are much appreciated, especially her rendering of "Rainbow" and "My Little Diary." Some genuine fun is contributed by Mr. Harry Kilburn as Alderman Fitzwarren, and he proves himself a clever comedian, and quickly becomes a favourite with the house. Messrs. Foreman and Fannan provide considerable amusement as Capt. Taffrail and Ben Bobstay, and no doubt a great deal of the success of the pantomime is owing to their untiring and very amusing efforts. The agility of Mr. Johnny Fuller as the Cat almost beggars description, and we can honestly say it is as lifelike a representation of a member of the feline race as the most critical could wish for. Mr. Harry Rogerson causes some fun in his representation of Idle Jack, and Mr. Fred Spencer as Martha Mixit simply revels in the part and is one of the best Dames we have seen. Mr. Spencer, with his antics, songs, and witticisms, creates roars of laughter. Others who lend genuine aid to the general success are Miss Ruby Wentworth (Tommy Tucker), Miss Winnie Channing (Fairy Queen), Miss Ruby Ray (Princess), Mr. Wm. Clarke (Emperor of Morocco), and Mr. P. Stuart as the Vizier. *The Billiard Room* comedy sketch by Messrs. Kelly and Gillette, so well known in the "variety" world, has been highly appreciated throughout the week, although they were unable to appear on Monday owing to the indisposition of Mr. Gillette. Mention should be made of Tiller's Eight Champion Dancers, whose work is generally very commendable, and also of the theatre's excellent orchestra, whose performances are always satisfactory.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, entitled "THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

After an exceptionally successful season of pantomime at the Brixton Theatre, the usual dramatic season was resumed on Monday with a visit of Charles Frohman's company in the successful musical comedy, *The Catch of the Season*, which is done full justice to by a strong company under the direction of Mr. W. A. Seymour. The music goes with a swing from start to finish, the dresses are gorgeous, and the scenery leaves nothing to be desired. A charming and dainty Angela is presented by Miss Maie Ash, who has many opportunities for displaying her talents in song and dance, notably in the songs "I'll be a good little girl," "Molly O'Halloran," and "Teasing," in which she is assisted by a number of young gentlemen who have just proposed to her. Mr. Frank Lincoln is an excellent Duke of St. Jermyns, and is the life and soul of the piece, causing many a laugh with his quaint sayings. His most successful numbers are "The Church Parade," "The Quaint Old Bird," and a duet with Miss Ash, "I don't know." As the stuttering Lord Dundreary, Mr. Laurence Cairn gives a capital character study; Mr. Julian Cross makes the most of his opportunities, which are few, as Sir John Crystal, and Mr. E. W. Ryce deserves great credit for his performance of Mr. Wm. Gibson, the father of the Gibson Girls, but these two well-known artists' talents are wasted on such insignificant characters. Miss Hilda Stewart is sufficiently dignified as she becomes the Duchess of St. Jermyns. The cold and haughty Lady Crystal is well played by Miss Ida Mann. Miss Alice Lethbridge and Miss Hettie Muret are well placed as Angela's two step-sisters. Miss Lethbridge deserves praise for two well-executed dances, and Miss Muret was encored for her singing of "Cigarette." Miss Ernestine Gauthier, who plays Miss Caw, gives a delightful rendering of two very pretty songs, "My little singing bird" and "For you." The fairy godmother, in the form of Lady Caterham, is smartly played by Miss Belle Napier. Master Greta shows great promise as a comedian in the part of Bucket, but should be advised to modulate his voice a little. The bevy of smart Gibson Girls are rendered by Misses Florence Brandon, Gertrude Towles, Florence Hunter, Maud Linden, Ethel Mash, Violet Vasillo, Grace St. Clair, and Amy Ellis. A powerful chorus and augmented orchestra were under the capable direction of Mr. Ernest Vousden.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Comedy, by W. Gayer-Mackay and Robert Ord, entitled "Dr WAKE'S PATIENT,"

The attraction here this week has been Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Dr. Wake's Patient*. Special care has evidently been taking in casting this play, with the result that every member of the company seems to be provided with a part that fits like the proverbial glove. Lady Gerania Wyn-Charteret found a charming representative in Miss Olive Terry, who acted with a fund of high spirits, and was perhaps at her best in the scene in which Gerania determines to take her lover's advice and return to her parents. Miss Amy Fanchette gave a sympathetic rendering of Mrs. Wake, Miss Beatrice Webb made a delightfully light-hearted Harriett Bronson, Miss Ina Pelly was sufficiently aristocratic and indifferent as the Countess of St. Olbyn, and Miss Amy Townsend made a decided impression in the small part of the Gipsy. Mr. Douglas Vigors played Dr. Forrester Wake with a severe self-repression, which, combined with his occasional outbursts of eloquence, made his impersonation particularly life-like. As Duff Wynterden, Mr. Herbert Ross was provided with a part which suited him admirably, his rendering of the self-complacent, but thoroughly good-hearted, younger son making him a general favourite. Mr. Arthur Wellesley submitted an excellent character-study of Andrew Wake, his speech in the third act and his affecting scene with Lord St. Olbyn securing hearty applause. Mr. Arthur Willoughby, as the Earl of St. Olbyn, gave a good if somewhat conventional, sketch of a British nobleman, Mr. Alfred Phillips caused some amusement as the Bishop of Selby, and Mr. Henry Marton was comical as Anthony.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Farce, in Three Acts, by R. C. Carton, entitled "MR. HOPKINSON."

On Monday was presented for the first time to Stoke Newington playgoers Mr. R. C. Carton's clever and entertaining farce *Mr. Hopkinson*. The vagaries of the vulgar little parvenu were received with hearty and continuous laughter, and the play was evidently altogether to the liking of the patrons of the Alexandra. Mr. Edward Rigby, in the title-rôle, is to be credited with the lion's share of the success achieved; his study of the newly-rich stores' clerk is marked with many clever and subtle touches, and is throughout a consistent and clever character-study. Another striking performance is the Duchess of Braceborough of Miss Blanka Stewart, who lends dignity and importance to a not very strongly defined part. Mr. Cecil Burt gives a highly amusing sketch of the hypochondriacal Earl of Addleton, and although he does not make his appearance till late in the play, he nevertheless scores heavily. A very pert and engaging Eliza Dibbs is found in Miss Frances Davie, and it is easy for one to understand Mr. Hopkinson's early infatuation. Mr. Charles Esdale plays the Duke of Braceborough in a particularly pleasing, breezy, and natural style; and Messrs. Edward Vaughan and George Desmond successfully appear as Lord Gawthorpe and the Hon. Otto Densingham respectively. Miss Helen Russell is quite equal to all she is called upon to do as the Lady Tyra Egglesby; and minor parts which contribute to the general success are neatly played by Miss Oliver Rogers, W. Holland, J. G. Lowther, and Harold Johnson. The longer farce is preceded by a shorter one, in one act, by Mr. Austin Hurgon, entitled *The Impossible Trio*, which is best described by the middle word of its title.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled "HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."

This popular drama by Mr. Walter Melville is always a rare draw in Marylebone, so that we were not surprised to find a packed house on the night of our visit. Mr. George Gaisford is more than ever at home as Captain Jasper Norman, a part which he handles with skill and dexterity. As Jack Carlton, Mr. Harry Hiller was all that was necessary; Mr. Paige Lawrence, as the delightfully boyish Tom Norman, was pleasing indeed; Mr. John Nolan was staid and dignified as Dr. Ridley; Mr. W. H. Porter was cool and resourceful as the rascally Guy Brand; and Mr. A. Fellows Bassett scored a complete success as the Italian organ-grinder Beppo, his make-up being excellent, and his whole deportment in keeping with the character. As Teddy Butterfly, Mr. William C. Reid made the fun fast and furious, his versatility being most marked; whilst Miss Marjory Millbank, as Kitty Rosebud, backed up his efforts in a bright and lively way. Miss Dorothy Hilderbrand was pretty and sympathetic as Laura Norman; Miss Polly Marsh excelled more than ever in her clever conception of Elizabeth Burke; and that old West London favourite, Miss Hilda Beverley, as Dora Gray (her original part) made, of course, the hit of the evening, her different moods and passions being portrayed in that masterly fashion that familiarity has made well-nigh perfect. The mounting and staging of the piece were well up to the usual Melville standard of excellence.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Adaptation, by Freeman Wills, of Charles Dickens's story, "A Tale of Two Cities," entitled "THE ONLY WAY."

Followers of Mr. Martin Harvey are loyally supporting him at Kennington, where he is playing a week of répertoire, the attendance, despite the inclemency of the weather, being overflowing each night. The week was begun by *The Only Way*, the play which retains, in an added degree, the high position in favour which it obtained during its production at the Lyceum just seven years ago. To attempt any further praise of Mr. Harvey's embodiment of the heroic Sidney Carton would be superfluous; all that is needed is to record the fact that breathless attention, enthusiastic cheers, and innumerable "curtains" testified to the power of his performance. From the time that the first glimpse of the wan features of the heroic Sidney were caught in the attitude of repose till the last tragic tableau on the scaffold, the audience were absorbed in the contemplation of one of Mr. Harvey's finest impersonations, marking the humour of the part by appreciative laughter, and permitting themselves to be thrilled by every powerful line, notably in the exacting scene in the court-house when the actor's voice is heard ringing clear and strong above the tumult. Miss N. De Silva has, if possible, improved upon her original rendering of Mimi. The pathos of the part is preserved throughout, and the audience shares in the poignant sorrows of the faithful girl, so artistically are they depicted by Miss De Silva. A sound performance of Dr. Manette is supplied by Mr. Fred Wright, sen., who makes a truly venerable figure of the victim of the Bastille, acting with an amount of emotion in the trial scene that is deeply affecting. Mr. Charles Glenney depicts Ernest Defarge with relentless fidelity, looking the bloodthirsty and revengeful ruffian to the life. His appearance is sufficient to fill the spectator with horror, and his passionate delivery and ferocious intensity add a finish to the artistic assumption. Mr. P. Anstey is noble in bearing and graceful in utterance as Charles Darnay, whose sweetheart, Lucie Manette, is sympathetically played by Miss Coleridge, her prettiness and refinement being invaluable in the part. An effective study of Mr. Lorry is given by Mr. P. Alexander, who manages his voice skilfully as the benevolent banker, and Mr. Stryver is made duly excitable and assetrive in the hands of Mr. Reeve Denbigh. Mr. L. Craske is an elegant Marquis, and cleverly relieves with his grim humour the last sad scene, in which Mr. E. Wellesley as M. De Maury and Mr. A. E. Rayner as the Comte De Fauchet also do well. The "Vengeance" is characteristically played by Miss Frances Ivor, who acts vigorously; and Miss Bessie Elder as a Citizeness is also conspicuous. The President of the Court and the Public Prosecutor are dramatically done by Mr. Charles Cameron and Mr. George Cooke, and Mr. Percy Anstey as the Marquis de St. Evremond of the prologue, Mr. J. E. Fraser as the Vicomte, and Mr. A. Mansfield as Jean Defarge are among others in the long cast to whom praise should be rendered. The eighth anniversary of *The Only Way* was celebrated yesterday (Friday) by the presentation of a handsome souvenir. *After All* was revived on Wednesday, and for Thursday and Friday *The Breed of the Treshams* furnished the bill, *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* being announced for this afternoon.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled "THE PRODIGAL SON."

On Monday evening *The Prodigal Son* was produced here, for the first time in the suburbs, and is likely to be as great a success as it was at Drury Lane. Mr. Arthur Collins has selected a first-class company, which does full justice to the play, added to which the original effects are used, so that the production is on the most complete scale. The play met with an enthusiastic reception from an audience which evinced great interest in the story. Chief among the cast is undoubtedly Miss Lily Hall Caine, who undertakes the rôles of Thora and Elise. Miss Caine has a fine grip of both characters, in which her talents are fully displayed. Mr. Henry Renouf gives a forcible rendering of Magnus; and Oscar is admirably handled by Mr. Norman Partriege, whose rendering of the character is a finished and polished one. Helga is capitally embodied by Miss Cecil Cromwell, who plays with much force. Mr. Henry George makes a distinguished figure as Stephen Magnusson, being very dignified throughout. Mr. Frank Collins deserves high praise for his rendering of Oscar Neilsen, and he is also responsible for the stage-management—no light task in this case. As Anna, Miss Alma Murray is seen to great advantage, acting with much charm and sincerity. Miss Mima Renouf is amusing as the old aunt, Margaret Neilsen. Mr. Howard Russell, a well-known actor of the old school, appears with success as Doctor Olssen. Mr. Herbert Hewetson is exceedingly good as Neils Finsen; and Mr. P. Gromier's clever sketch of Eric Arnasson attracts great attention. The various other characters are capably filled, and the whole production is on the most complete and elaborate scale. Mr. Harry Templeton is the manager of the company.

"CINDERELLA" AT GREENWICH.

A pantomime that especially appeals to children, performed by a company largely composed of children, is the attraction at Mr. Arthur Carlton's popular playhouse at Greenwich this week. The company presenting *Cinderella; or, Harlequin Prince Charming, the Little Glass Slipper, and the Good Fairy of the Enchanted Wood*, is that of Mr. and Mrs. John Walters; and the forty admirably-trained and clever juveniles who support the "grown-up" artists, who impersonate many of the principal parts, certainly contribute very considerably to the success of the pantomime. Prettily staged and costumed, and well provided with popular songs and attractive dances, *Cinderella* certainly proved to the liking of the youngsters and the elders who accompanied them on the night of our visit, and the laughter that so frequently resounded throughout the house testified unmistakably to the mirth-provoking abilities of the comedians, who are untiring in their efforts to amuse. A dainty and altogether charming representative of the heroine is Miss Kitty Rafferty, the clever little lady acting with much intelligence and ease. In the Kitchen Scene she was heard with pleasure in a pretty number, "Nobody to dance with Cinderella," and her impersonation throughout is to be greatly commended. Prince Charming was admirably enacted by Miss Mary Hardacre, a lady with a good appearance and style. Amongst her vocal numbers especially successful was a spirited hunting song and chorus, for which she was loudly applauded. The important part of the Baroness was undertaken by Miss H. Deacon, a lady who certainly succeeded in extracting much fun from the part. Particularly mirth-provoking was her acting in the Forest Scene, where the principals all indulge in a picnic of a somewhat rough-and-tumble nature; and she scored one of the hits of the evening with her song, "How would you like to spoon with me?" in which she finds admirers in plenty amongst the audience, one especially ardent lover not being satisfied until he had lifted her from the stage into a private box. The impecunious Baron Wheresmecash was humorously enacted by Mr. A. Benson, who won lavish applause on his first entrance with a well-rendered song, "The Whistling Girl," and was responsible for mirth also with his funny telephone business and numerous other quaint bits of business. Clotilda and Angelina, the daughters of the Baroness, had ludicrous representatives in Mr. Dan Dougherty and Mr. George Swinhoe, and whether indulging in cross-talk or eccentric dance, worrying poor little Cinderella, or preparing for the ball, always managed to excite mirth. In conjunction with the Baron and Baroness they sang a funny quartet, "As we were out walking one morning in May," and their share in the success of the pantomime was considerable. Mr. Paddy Miles also helped along the fun of the production as Buttons, the Baron's page, especially humorous being the scene in which he hides in a dress-basket and frightens Clotilde and Angelina; and a dapper and in every way satisfactory exponent of Dandini was Miss May Bishop, the lady securing approbation and applause for her singing of the popular and tuneful "Mollie, I love you." Numerous other parts were all satisfactorily undertaken. A coon song and dance by a smart quintette of young ladies was an outstanding feature of the first half of the pantomime, which concluded with some much-admired fairy revels and the departure of Cinderella for the ball in her carriage and pair. Altogether a very dainty and entertaining pantomime, reflecting great credit on Mr. and Mrs. Walters and their hard-working and clever company.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Comedy entitled "WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

After seven weeks of pantomime the regular dramatic season opened here on Monday with Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company in *What the Butler Saw*. Despite the paucity of plot, this piece goes with a swing from start to finish, the strangely-assorted visitors at Foden Wells Hydro causing much laughter by their curious ways and the variety of types presented. Mr. Charles Fawcett as Barrington, the ladies' pet, makes abundant use of his many opportunities, and his breezy style as the genial Irishman is very effective. Mr. Reddick Anderson gives a polished portrayal of Sir Charles Foden, and also looks the part admirably. Miss Ada Blanche adds greatly to the success of the performance, and her presentment of the vivacious Mrs. Barrington is delightful to witness. Mr. Lionel Rignold finds abundant scope for his peculiarly droll humour as Pink, the butler, and at the finish of the second act he fairly brings down the house. Nothing could be better than Mr. Harry H. Rignold's performance of Abraham Weinstein, although we seldom see such a Jew in real life; while Mr. Alec Alves is equally clever in the character of Vere de Bogyns. What could be more laughable, either, than Mr. Roy Byford's study of Professor Shale or Mr. George Ascott's peppery General Dunlop? Miss Marie Daltra is excellent as Miss Foden, playing the somewhat difficult part firmly and withal pleasantly. The irrepressible Sophonisba is well played by Miss May Hart, and her Japanese dress in the third act is very effective. The rest of the company work well together under the stage direction of Mr. H. H. Rignold. Mr. Leo St. Clair is the courteous acting manager for Mr. Rignold and Miss Blanche.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Play entitled "THE LIGHT THAT FAILED."

Theatre-lovers in Notting Hill Gate and its vicinity are having a genuine treat this week in the visit of Mr. Forbes-Robertson with George Fleming's admirable adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's deeply-pathetic story, *The Light That Failed*, and from Thursday onwards Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley's charming serio-comedy *Mice and Men* varied the programme. Crowded houses have testified to the esteem and admiration in which Mr. Forbes-Robertson and his charming wife are held. The part of Dick Heldar is finely rendered by Mr. Forbes-Robertson, all the light and shade of this complex character, the strength and weakness of his nature, and the pitiful plight in which he is placed when he falls a victim to blindness, are depicted with graphically powerful and convincing realism. The part of the wayward Maisie is so gently and sweetly played by Miss Gertrude Elliott that it is difficult to think hardly of her even when she is most heartless and selfish in her demeanour. Mr. Ian Robertson does well in the attractive part of the single-minded, generous, and unselfish Gilbert Belling Torpenhow, and he paints the portrait in glowing colours. Mr. Charles Weir earns commendation as the bright, breezy, right-hearted "Nilghai," and as Leone Cassavetti Mr. Herbert Dansey strikes just the right note of impulsive enthusiasm. Miss Gertrude Bibby is exceedingly good in the part of the Red-haired Girl, and her disinterested and tender regard for the stricken Heldar is very touchingly and beautifully portrayed. Miss Auriol Lee does not spare herself in the disagreeable part of the thankless hussy Bessie Broke, and it is a compliment to her acting that few among the audience are grieved when Dick Heldar shows her the door. Miss Minnie Griffin is good as the garrulous old housekeeper Mrs. Haines, and Mr. J. H. Ryley is very droll as the equally loquacious Beeton. Mr. Vernon Steel as Vickery, Mr. Frank Bickley as Deenes, Mr. J. H. Beaumont as Vincent, Mr. Wm. Pilling as Raynor, and Mr. Ernest Barton as a young man, are well in the picture as more or less convivial war correspondents. Nor must we forget the French *bonne* of Miss Esme Hubbard or the model of Miss Dorothy Paget. To-day *Mice and Men* will be given both at the *matinée* and in the evening with Mr. Forbes-Robertson as Mark Embury, scholar, scientist, and philanthropist, and Miss Gertrude Elliott as "Little Britain."

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled "THE ETERNAL CITY."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened here on Monday evening with *The Eternal City*, and a good house greeted the production enthusiastically. The company is excellent. Mr. Henry Deas contributes a capital embodiment of David Rossi, acting throughout with purpose and conviction, and reaching a high level of merit. Mr. E. Stanton Sharp is happily cast as Bonelli, and gives a careful reading of the part; Mr. Percy is a dignified and impressive Father Pifferi; and the character of Felice is effectively handled by Mr. E. Stillwell. In the keeping of Mr. Geo. Cartwright Bruno Rocco becomes an interesting character, his lines in the third act being delivered with the proper savageness and brutish ferocity. Mr. L. St. G. Lowther is consistently good as the Chief of Police, Angelellé, and a duly severe portrayal of General Morra is forthcoming from Mr. Court. The spy, Minghelli, receives a well-thought-out reading from Mr. Herbert Legerton, and Mr. J. Fortesque is an acceptable Pope Pius XI. Miss Rona Merrick is charming as Donna Roma, a part in which she appears to much advantage. Other characters are in the hands of Miss C. Stokes, Miss Marie Grey, Miss Mary Mannering, and Miss Constance Stephens. The scenery and effects are beautiful. Mr. Stephen E. Blythe exercises able control over his orchestra, which is heard to advantage in the intervals.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Drama, by Arthur Shirley, entitled "THE GRIP OF IRON."

Messrs. E. H. Knight and George Denham's company is appearing this week at the Dalston Theatre in the drama entitled *The Grip of Iron*. Although this piece has been presented at the Dalston several times, its popularity does not appear to be in the slightest degree on the wane. A good deal of the interest in the representation centres in the fact of Mr. Fred Powell having appeared over 5,000 times as Jagon (alias Simmonet), the strangler, a character which he sustains with remarkable freshness and power. Mr. George Denham's enactment of the convict Loustalot, otherwise known as "the Smiler," is a feature of the performance; and, in the matter of affording amusement, Mr. Harry Agar Lyons and Mr. John Brittain, as detectives representing the old and the new school, are distinctive. Mr. Richard Ferriss is effective as a Spanish adventurer; Mr. Harry Scott has an arduous part in that of Paul Blanchard; Miss Mildred Cottell as Jagon's daughter, and Miss Nellie Fletcher as Sophie Blanchard, act effectively; and other ladies in the cast are Miss Hilda Baynton, Miss Cissie Hayes, and Miss Pope Royal.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Drama entitled "SHERLOCK HOLMES."

Sherlock Holmes has for a long time past been a favourite figure with British audiences since his first appearance at the Lyceum Theatre some years ago, and it is therefore not surprising that crowded audiences at the popular Peckham house nightly testify to his continued popularity. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton gives a clear-cut and picturesque portrayal of the well-known detective, whose various hair-breadth escapes are followed with much interest. The scene with Moriarty in the second act is admirably rendered. The heroine, Alice Faulkner, has been afforded small opportunity by the author, but the part is sweetly and sympathetically played by Miss Beatrice Marsdene. Mr. W. F. Stirling gives a fine study of complex criminality as the scoundrelly old Professor Moriarty. Mr. Philip Renouf skilfully imparts an element of humour as the cockney thief, Sidney Prince. The boy Billy is smartly played by Master Charles Chaplin; Mr. Ernest Gray makes a powerful James Larrabee; and the difficult rôle of Madge Larrabee is well rendered by Miss Gertrude Harrison. The prosaic Dr. Watson is played to the life by Mr. Edward Heanley; Miss Doris Digby gives a clever sketch as the French maid Therese; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood is a most impressive John Forman; while Moriarty's rascally confederates are adequately played by Messrs. Walter Maynard, William Mansfield, Edward H. Fairburn, and Harold Broughton.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Play, in Five Acts, by C. M. S. McLellan, entitled "LEAH KLESCHNA."

Clapham playgoers are enjoying a rare dramatic treat this week at the Shakespeare Theatre, where Mr. Charles Frohman is presenting the successful play, *Leah Kleschna*, which obtained such a success at the New Theatre. An excellent company has been engaged, and their interpretation of the piece is in every way so successful that the audience are roused to the greatest enthusiasm, prolonged applause awaiting the fall of the curtain. Miss Claudia Lasell is a great success in the title-rôle, her acting reaching a high plane of excellence in the scene where she finally breaks away from her father and his nefarious enterprises. Mr. Robert Pateman brings out the main characteristics of the burglar Kleschna with convincing force, faithfully portraying, with consummate skill, the varying emotions of the part. Another good performance is that of Mr. J. Graeme Campbell in the rôle of Paul Sylvaine. An actor of marked ability, Mr. Campbell is to be congratulated on a very powerful delineation. Mr. Cyril Harcourt's impersonation of the dissipated Raoul Berton is eminently satisfactory; and the part of Schram, Kleschna's confederate, is excellently enacted by Mr. E. H. Brooke. A dignified General Berton is found in Mr. Kenneth Rivington; and Mr. Roland Daniel makes the most of the excitable journalist, Valentin Favre. Miss Ethel Marryat as Madame Berton and Miss Haidee Hemsley as Claire Berton are thoroughly efficient in their respective rôles; and commendation is also due to Miss Dorothy Sidney for a good performance of Sophie Chaponniere. The remaining parts are adequately sustained by Miss Cecile Leith, Miss Alice Davis, Mr. William Wilson, Mr. Geo. Fairburn, Mr. H. H. Loomis, and Mr. John Harding.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Drama, in Four Acts, by George R. Sims and Robert Buchanan, entitled "THE TRUMPET CALL."

The attraction here this week is the above popular drama. The piece is full of clever situations and exciting incidents, and is attracting large audiences. Mr. Ashley Page, the well-known actor, gives a fine representation of the hero, Cuthbert Cuthbertson. He plays with much power and earnestness, and soon gains the sympathy of the audience. Miss Marion Denvil gives a very fine reading of the picturesque part of the adventuress, Astrea, and is particularly striking in her scene in the doss-house in the third act. Mr. Johnny Chippendale makes a comic and quaint Professor Ginnifer; Mr. Eric Garnet Vayne is a smart young recruit as Tommy Dutton; Mr. Alfred Billings is excellent as Sergt.-Major Milligan, and looks the part to the life. The reckless James Redruth, whose life is ruined by Astrea, is well played by Mr. John Sargent. Mr. Edward Sorley is an able representative of Richard Fetherstone. Mr. G. Villiers gives a clever character sketch of the contemptible Flash Bob. Miss Kathleen Russell is a sweet and pathetic heroine, Constance Cuthbertson. Miss Mattie Everitt is amusing as Lavinia, the music hall star. Altogether the stock company at this theatre must be congratulated on an excellent all-round performance. The scenery is very effective, especially the view of the Thames in the winter.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 12, Balfe's Opera, in Four Acts, entitled "SATANELLA."

Very apparent appreciation was shown by the music-lovers in this district when Mr. J. W. Turner and his excellent English Opera company opened here for a season on Monday with a performance of *Satanella*. A finer interpretation of this opera than that supplied by this company can scarcely be imagined, for the principals are all carefully chosen artists, and the chorus is extremely powerful, performing each piece of music which falls to its share with vigour and skill. Very keen delight was displayed when Mr Turner set foot upon the stage. Although many years have passed since his first appearance here, his age makes no noticeable advance, and his voice still retains that richness which his admirers so much appreciate. As Count Rupert his singing is of the highest order of excellence, and he carries his scenes through in a manner deserving of the highest praise. The part of Arimanes is well supported by Mr. Sidney Clifford. His music is tastefully rendered, and gains for him some well-deserved applause. Mr. George Ridding sings well, and appears to distinct advantage as Brocacio; whilst Mr. Richard Cummings assumes the rôle of Hortensio with his accustomed drollery, and submits a very finished performance of the old man with many peculiarities. Mr. Charles Le Sueur is all that could be desired as Karl, and Mr. Sidney Appleby is well placed as the Vizier. Miss Constance Bellamy plays with distinction as Lelia, and contributes a performance of high worth. As Stella Miss Jessie Dennis is well to the fore both as regards her singing and her acting, and Miss Maud Esdale is a suitable Bertha. As Satanella Miss Kitty Brownless is a decided attraction. Her voice is rich and powerful in the extreme, and enables her to sing the music with fine effect. The chorus and augmented orchestra are well controlled by Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas included in this week's programme are *Il Trovatore*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Fra Diavolo*, and *Maritana*.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Play, in Four Acts, by Alfred Sutro, entitled "THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

The playgoer at Fulham is again highly favoured this week. Mr. Arthur Bourchier's principal company, fresh from its triumphs on the Continent, is playing in the highly successful piece by our newest playwright, Mr. Alfred Sutro, *The Walls of Jericho*. The part of Jack Frobisher is taken by Mr. Edward A. Warburton, who is most successful in his portrayal of the strong silent man, so out of his element among the mannikins of society. His acting is characterised by splendid dignity and restraint, and in the great outburst in the third act he showed rare power. Mr. Alfred S. Barber contributes a careful study of Frobisher's unpolished but genuine friend, Hankey Bannister. Mr. Cecil Barking is very amusing as the representative of that ignoble peer Lord Steventon, and his work is full of clever touches. Mr. A. W. Tyrer acts capitally in the somewhat thankless part of Harry Dallas, while Mr. Briscoe Owen as Lord Drayton, Mr. Willox Cadogan as Bertram Hannaford, Mr. J. Herbert as Wilfred Renton, and Mr. Wilfred S. Lane as Lord Marchment all filled in these less prominent parts with great care and thoroughness. As Lady Alethea Frobisher Miss Amy Ravenscroft is to be congratulated on a performance of sterling merit, full of clever acting, with much power and tenderness. Miss Nona Wynne was excellent as Lady Lucy, and conveyed quite the right impression of youthful irresponsibility and studied levity; while Miss Helen Haye as Lady Westerby, with a fine air of seriousness and quiet dignity, afforded an excellent contrast to the superficiality of the ladies of the "Smart Set," who were ably represented by Miss Jean Harkness as Miss Mornington and Miss May Brooke as Lady Parchester. Miss Mary Weigall also gave an amusing sketch of the type of the society gambler, who means to make money out of it.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."

A play in a prologue and four acts, adapted by the Rev. Forbes Phillips from Guy Thorne's novel of the same name, produced at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on Monday, Feb. 12.

Lord Caistor .....MR. DOUGLAS WEST
Sir Robert Llewellyn ....MR. H. ATHOL FORDE
Rev. Ambrose Byars .....MR. FRANK MELROSE
Rev. Basil Gortre .....MR. RUPERT LISTER
Constantine Schuabe .....MR. LESLIE CARTER
Mr. Hamilton Hill.....MR. HERBERT CHOWN
Ionides .....MR. STANLEY LATHBURY
Rabbi .....MR. WENTWORTH GRAHAM
Dragoman .....MR. FRANK DALE
An Arab .....MR. GEORGE RONALD
First Workman .....MR. GEOFFREY HILL
Second Workman .....MR. T. BROOKLYN
First Turkish Soldier .....MR. D. DYER
Second Turkish Soldier ....MR. R. J. WHYARD
Helena Byars .....MISS HOPE MAYNE
Miss Katherine Moberly..
MISS HILDA FORBES PHILLIPS
Margaret .....MISS IDA DAW
Anna .....MISS FLORENCE READ
Gertrude Hunt .....MISS MARGARET DAMER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Rev. Forbes Phillips's new play saw the light at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on Monday night. The play possesses an intense interest, and many of the situations are powerful, the closing scene being the most dramatically effective of all. The prologue introduces "The Valley of the Shadow," with Satan chained to a rock, bemoaning his fate and his impotence against christianity. The Evil One suddenly conceives an idea that shall have the effect of dividing and ultimately destroying the churches, and in a paroxysm of enthusiasm he casts this idea forth through space, amid thunder and lightning, into the mind of a mortal, there to germinate and work out its evil purpose. The play proper opens in the Vicarage at Walktown, in England. The vicar, the Rev. Ambrose Byars, has an only daughter, Helena, who is happy in the love of a young clergyman named Basil Gortre. Basil brings his betrothed the news that his father, who has just died, has left him a fortune of £50,000, and the young couple decide to get married on Easter morning At this auspicious moment, Constantine Schuabe, the evil genius of the play, makes his appearance on the scene, and, finding the girl alone, presses his own suit. He is indignantly repulsed. Maddened with rage, Schuabe resolves to purchase an area of houses situated in the young clergyman's parish in the East End of London, and turn it into a plague spot of vice, but he is thwarted by Gortre, who redeems the property by spending the whole of his fortune upon it. It is at this moment that Schuabe conceives the idea foreshadowed in the prologue, the thought entering his brain amid the rattling of thunder and flashes of lightning.

An instrument for his fell purpose is found in Sir Robert Llewellyn, an eminent archæologist, and the president of the Jerusalem Excavation Society. Sir Robert is deeply in his debt, and Schuabe suggests to him that he shall proceed to Jerusalem, pretend that the tomb of the Saviour has been discovered there, and that in it was found evidence to prove that the body was stolen. Sir Robert at first recoils from the blasphemous idea, but finally yields.

The scene is changed to the Mount of Olives, where workmen are busily employed in excavations. Llewellyn is superintending operations, disguised in the native costume and with an artificial beard. To this place also comes Gertrude Hunt, who had been the mistress of Sir Robert, seeking for rest after the gay life she had been leading. She is now a different woman, in consequence of a visit to young Gortre's church when he preached a powerful sermon against the vice in which she had been immersed. She meets Llewellyn, but fails to recognise in the bearded stranger the eminent archæologist. A tomb of the first century is eventually discovered, but before it is opened Llewellyn, by drilling a hole in the stone, manages to drop a roll of papyrus into it, and when the Rabbi is brought and invited to enter the tomb, he brings forth this precious document, supposed to have been there for eighteen centuries. It is found to contain these words:—"I, Joseph of Arimathea, took away and buried in this tomb him that was crucified by Pontius Pilate. He did not rise from the dead, nor appear to us again after death." The authenticity of the document is vouched for by the Rabbi, and the immediate result of it is to fling the Holy Land into a state of anarchy.

Christendom in Great Britain is anxiously waiting the arrival of Sir Robert Llewellyn, who is supposed to have been in Norway, in order that they may hear from the lips of such an eminent authority whether or not the papyrus is a genuine first-century document. When he arrives at the offices of the Excavation Society he examines the document, and declares his belief that it is genuine, and the woeful tidings is communicated to the world. Gertrude Hunt, who still bears an affection for Sir Robert, remains with him, and he asks her to bring him a phial of medicine from one of his bags. In this bag she accidentally comes upon part of the costume she had seen upon the stranger she met in Jerusalem. He presses her to remain with him, and Gertrude consents on the condition that he tells her the truth, which he accordingly does. Oppressed by the sin of her former life, Gertrude feels that this secret she must disclose to the world, and so she hurries to Gortre's chambers and tells him.

In the last act Gortre is in his church on Easter morning along with his betrothed and her father. Schuabe obtains sanctuary there from an infuriated mob, who finally force their way into the sacred building. Gertrude Hunt also staggers into the place, in time to see her lover, the hapless Llewellyn, pursued by the mob, seek safety on the steps of the altar. The horrible sin that he had committed has brought him to death's door, but before he dies, in the arms of the woman he risked it all for, he acknowledges the enormity of his crime, whilst Schuabe, the author of it all, manages to escape.

The play was presented by a capable company under the direction of Mr. Walter Maxwell. Miss Margaret Damar played the part of Gertrude Hunt with consummate ability, enlisting the sympathies of all from the moment she first felt the ennobling influences of a better life. In the scene in which her ill-fated lover confessed his crime to her she acted most impressively, and her dramatic ability was further displayed when she carried the secret to the young clergyman who had saved her from a degraded life. As Sir Robert Llewellyn, Mr. H. Athol Forde gave a fine picture of the man of superior intellect oppressed by the reflection of a terrible crime, his easy-going disposition before his compact with Schuabe and his remorse afterwards being assumed in an equally convincing style. Mr. Leslie Carter was well placed as the revengeful Schuabe. Passionate and impulsive in his wrongdoing, and determined to obtain his end even if humanity should suffer, such a character requires strong treatment, and Mr. Carter managed to fulfil this condition in an eminent degree. In pleasant contrast was the Basil Gortre of Mr. Rupert Lister. The enthusiasm of the young man in the cause of christianity awoke an echo amongst the audience, and they listened to his sermons with much attention. A pleasing and natural impersonation of Helena Byars was given by Miss Hope Mayne, and Mr. Frank Melrose made a creditable appearance as the aged vicar of Walktown, the Rev. Ambrose Byars. Mr. Douglas West was appropriately officious in his demeanour as Lord Caistor, the Prime Minister's private secretary. Amongst the less important parts, favourable mention may be made of Mr. Herbert Chown, as Mr. Hamilton Hill, Sir Robert Llewellyn's private secretary; and of Mr. Wentworth Graham, who filled the part of the Jewish Rabbi satisfactorily. Mr. Stanley Lathbury, as Ionides, the Eastern accomplice of Sir Robert Llewellyn, was also very good; and Mr. Frank Dale, as a dragoman, made the most of his opportunity of introducing the only touch of comedy that the play afforded. All the other parts, including that of Miss Katherine Moberly, a typist, which was filled by Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips, were judiciously cast, and careful rehearsal was evidenced by the smoothness with which the play went from first to last.

The close of each act was greeted with applause, and at the end the Rev. Forbes Phillips responded to loud calls, and bowed his acknowledgments. The play was produced for Mr. Maxwell by Mr. Frank Vernon, who received invaluable assistance from Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director of the theatre, the scenery was painted by Mr. George Miller, the clever young artist attached to the theatre, and the incidental music was specially composed by Mr. Norman O'Neill.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, February 12,
The Play in Four Acts, by Sydney Grundy, entitled
"A BUNCH OF VIOLETS."

This delightful little play, which is performed by Mr. Samuel James's stock company, is being received with every mark of favour at Crouch End this week. As Sir Philip Marchant, Mr. Fred Morgan admirably enacts the gambling financier who is not above using tricky methods of adding to his ill-gotten gains under a cloak of religious hypocrisy. Throughout the play Mr. Morgan acts forcibly, yet with ease and feeling. Mr. J. E. Manning, as Lord Mount Sorrel, presents a fine picture of the aristocrat of the old school, bearing himself with courtly grace and dignity. Mr. E. Thorpe Tracey gives a sound representation of Mark Murgatroyd, a Yorkshireman, and brings out the marked characteristics of this particular type. Mr. Fred Morley, as the Honble. Harold Inglis, makes a manly lover, and acquits himself well of his responsibilities. As Jacob Schwartz, the leader of "The Sons of Toil," Mr. Frank Stone gives a clever character sketch; and Mr. A. P. Kaye, as Parker, the sly secretary to Sir Philip, is well placed. Miss Kate Wingfield plays Lady Marchant with considerable tenderness and undoubted power, her acting in the scene where she discovers her husband's previous connection with Mrs. Murgatroyd being intensely dramatic. Mrs. Murgatroyd, the adventuress, is capitally played by Miss Marie de Roos, who gives a finished performance of the character. Miss Janet Le Gros, as Violet, the bearer of the daily offering of flowers to Sir Philip, is sweetly sympathetic, and speedily gains the favour of the audience. Mr. Fred Castleman makes an admirable butler. The incidental music is in the safe hands of Mr. Frank Bradsell, who carries out his duties as musical director in an able manner; and Mr. R. Eldred looks after Mr. James's interests in front with his usual courtesy.

LIEUT. COL. J. A. WINSTANLEY.

Owing to continued indisposition, Lieut.-Colonel Winstanley decided, with regret, to retire from an active managerial career last autumn, and, in consequence, arranged to transfer his Royal Opera

Photo. by Burton.
LIEUT. COLONEL WINSTANLEY.

House and his lease of the Theatre Royal, at Leicester, to Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, who will enter into possession on Monday next. The Colonel intends retiring to a country residence in Lancashire, where his family for generations past have been located. His family archives go back to the time of Edward III. Colonel Winstanley's retirement will cause wide-felt regret among his many theatrical friends. He has been an ardent sportsman since boyhood, both with gun and rod, and his departure from Leicester will leave vacant a place in the affections of his many friends, which will be indeed difficult to fill. Although the Colonel declined to take any part in the municipal affairs of the town, he has frequently been pressed to do so.

Colonel Winstanley took the Opera House over from Mr. Eliot Galer in 1888, and commenced his management with a production of *Dorothy*. His first pantomime was *Dick Whittington*, in which Miss Grace Huntley sustained the title-rôle. Miss Agnes Huntingdon and the London company visited with the production of *Paul Jones*. Colonel Winstanley's pantomime in 1891 was *Blue Beard*, and in the following year *Aladdin*, with Miss Kitty Clayton in the title-rôle. His next Christmas production was *Cinderella*, and in the following year *Robinson Crusoe*. *Genevieve de Brabant* was produced under his management, and *The Babes in the Wood* was another of his Christmas productions. A second production of *Dick Whittington*, and another version of *Robinson Crusoe*, may be chronicled among his many pantomime successes; but perhaps the most successful pantomime produced under his management was *The Forty Thieves*. For many of these productions Mrs. Winstanley superintended the designing of the costumes, and two very beautiful productions of *Cinderella* and *Aladdin*, in 1901 and 1902, will be long remembered in Leicester.

Among the many star performers who have visited the Opera House may be numbered the late Sir Henry Irving, the late Wilson Barrett, the late Osmond Tearle, Mr. J. L. Toole, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. W. S. Penley, Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. Seymour Hicks, and Miss Ellen Terry. Those well-known comedians, Malcolm Scott and Phil Ray, appeared in pantomime; and also the late Charles Lauri, the celebrated animal impersonator. It would occupy too much space to fully chronicle the many important attractions which have been presented at the Opera House under Colonel Winstanley's management.

The gallant gentleman has been for many years president of the Leicester Amateur Music and Dramatic Society, and was president of the Agricultural Society of Garstang, Lancashire, where, for some time, he resided on the estate of Bowerswood, where he has a shooting-box.

The best interests of the theatrical profession have always been studied by Colonel Winstanley, who has educated the Leicester public to expect the highest class of productions, and doubtless his successors in management (Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton) will maintain the high traditions of the Royal Opera House. The presence of Colonel Winstanley and his accomplished

Photo. by Ramsden.
MRS. WINSTANLEY.

wife will be greatly missed by their many friends in the theatrical profession. Lieut.-Colonel Winstanley was for some time a director of the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, in which house he still retains considerable interest.

He received his commission in the Army in 1875, as a subaltern in the 4th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Derbyshire Regiment), and retired Lieut.-Colonel after twenty-two years service, in the spring of 1897. This regiment suffered most severely in the South African War, sustaining serious losses.

The entire staff are greatly attached to Colonel Winstanley, this being proved by the length of their service with him, many of them having been in his employ over eighteen years.

Under the régime of the gallant Colonel, it has ever been a pleasure for travelling managements to include a visit to either of his excellently conducted theatres upon their tour list, and they never failed to leave his hospitable roof without signs of marked respect.

On the occasion of his retirement from theatrical management in Leicester Colonel Winstanley was presented with a handsome illuminated testimonial address (executed by Mr. Stevens, a well-known Leicester artist), accompanied by several costly pieces of silver plate, as a token of appreciation and regard from the most prominent citizens of Leicester and his employees at the Opera House and Theatre Royal. Mr. Geo. M. Slater, the general manager for Colonel Winstanley, made the presentation on behalf of the subscribers.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Referring to comments that have recently appeared in the Press with reference to the above, and in particular the letter addressed by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree as president of the Theatrical Managers' Association, to the Secretary of State for War, whilst not wishing to enter into any controversy, I shall be glad of an opportunity of contradicting certain inaccuracies that might tend to give an erroneous impression to the public, whether as playgoers or as interested in the safety of our soldiers. Mr. Tree says: "And in this connection I would point out that the building, although capable of holding a very large number of people, does not comply, and is not constructed to comply, with the provisions which are laid down by the London County Council for construction of theatres to which the general public are admitted, nor is any attempt made to comply with their regulations." The Royal Artillery Theatre does not come within the control of the London County Council, and is not affected by their special requirements; but this fact has in no way altered the conditions of the planning, the most essential points of their requirements, and the conditions imposed by the leading authorities throughout the United Kingdom, having been fully embodied in the construction and arrangements of the building. I have designed and built upwards of thirty-five theatres in England, over twenty of which have been approved by the London County Council, and I can say at once that I should not have planned this theatre differently had it been necessary to obtain their approval.

Personally, I very strongly advocate the majority of the regulations laid down by the Council in regard to theatres, and I had these before me in dealing with this particular building, which I can say, without hesitation, compares "as regards the safety of the public" with any of the most modern places of entertainments in London or elsewhere.

The auditorium is built entirely of concrete and steel, and has two exits to every section, the width of the exits being even in excess of what is required for the number of persons seated.

The stage is separated from the auditorium by a fireproof curtain of asbestos and steel, and both the stage and auditorium are dominated by hydrants in the most approved positions.

A further important factor existing with few of the principal theatres is that this one stands almost isolated, having exits on four sides, whilst the total seating accommodation is under 900 persons.—Yours faithfully,

W. G. R. SPRAGUE.

Criterion Chambers, Jermyn-street,
Piccadilly, Feb. 10.

THE great popularity of Whitbread's Bottled Beers is undoubtedly obtained by their method of maturing in bottle, without resorting to carbonating or other artificial process. Messrs. Whitbread never allow a bottle of either ale or stout to leave their depôts until the natural process of maturing has been fully arrived at, so that the public at large can always rely on having a thoroughly pure and wholesome beverage when the bottle bears the label of "Whitbread," who proudly claim the title of the largest beer-bottlers in the world. The excellence of their bottled beers met a deserved acknowledgment in the award of the gold medal of the Grocers' Exhibition at Newcastle two years running, viz., 1904 and 1905.

A RISING DRAMATIST.

CHAT WITH MR. FRITZ ZORN.

Mr. Fritz Zorn, novelist and playwright, though well on the right side of forty, "has in his time played many parts," and played them to considerable purpose. He is an instance of the somewhat rare combination of the successful artist and the successful business man. It is with the literary side of Mr. Zorn's work that the present article has to deal, and it was in his study, busily employed, that our representative found him. The author of *The Designers* is somewhat below the middle height, slightly built, and what our Transatlantic cousins would term "nervy." His dark hair, pallid complexion, and vivacious manner are all indications of mixed race. Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the man is the air of keen alertness entering into every glance and every word, and betokening the close observer of men and things. Though on his father's side the descendant of an old Bavarian family, Mr. Zorn comes of an English mother, and is by birth a cockney. Although a strenuous worker, he pleads guilty to being also an inveterate talker, and our representative had very little difficulty in inducing him to push aside his work for a quiet smoke and chat.

"How did I begin my literary career? Why, as a novelist, I suppose. At least, the first work that made me known to the public was my book 'Bunce, the Bobby, and the Broads,' though before the publication of that I had written a good many monologue sketches and humorous recitations. 'Bunce' came into being oddly enough. I was spending a short autumn holiday on the Norfolk Broads—a favourite haunt of mine—and one morning, at the old Horseshoes Inn, at Wroxham, I met a policeman who was there fishing, exactly as described in the book. I have always been an eager student of human nature, and that policeman was a distinct 'character,' who interested and amused me intensely. I spent more than a week in his company, and my first book was the result."

"You illustrated that book yourself, did you not?"

"Why, yes, I did; and I have sometimes thought since that it was rather a bit of 'cheek' to do so. Of course, the illustrations are only pen-and-ink sketches—caricatures—but I fear that the artistic anatomy of some of them is calculated to make a careful draughtsman shudder. However, the illustrations proved to be one of the principal attractions of the book, and largely helped to make it a success. Another case of 'where angels fear to tread,' eh?"

"When did you take to dramatic writing?"

"Why, as I have told you, I had done a good deal of monologue sketch work before I tried my hand at the novelist's art. I did not at that time contemplate becoming a dramatist, but it was valuable experience. I am of opinion that the writing (and rendering) of monologue sketches and recitations is an admirable apprenticeship for the would-be playwright. You see, in work of that description one has no assistance from accessories—there is no scenery, no 'make-up,' no fellow-actors. One has to grasp and retain the attention of the audience from start to finish by the sheer 'grip' of the piece itself. It teaches the young author two most vital things—the value of correct sequence in the unfolding of a story, and the inevitable limitations of the stage. Look into many plays which, while possessing distinct merit, fail to 'catch on,' and you will generally find that they contain these two faults—wrong sequence, and disregard of stage limitations. In theatrical matters, even more than elsewhere, it is true that

[*Photo by F. L. Brooker and Co.*
MR. FRITZ ZORN.

the greatest art is to conceal art. The playwright has to bring about certain effects, and he often has to go a very funny way round to do it. Of course, nothing but practical experience will give the knowledge of stagecraft which is an essential part of the equipment of a sound dramatist. When my farcical comedy *The Designers* was produced last spring, a good many of the newspaper critics commented on the remarkable amount of stagecraft it contained for the work of a new author. I think the explanation is to be found in my monologue sketch experience, and the fact that in years gone by I had done a lot of stage-management for amateur dramatic clubs."

"The Press notices on *The Designers* were decidedly favourable, were they not?"

"Yes; the newspapers were most kind to me. Even the *Daily Mail* gave the piece a good notice."

"Do you work upon any special method, Mr. Zorn—have you any pet theories?"

"Well, I think I can sum up my method and my theories in one word—characterisation. I make this the basis of all my work, for I believe it to be the one and only way in which good plays can be written. Of course, plot, construction, technique, all will do much, but if characterisation be faulty the play falls short of being convincing, and will not 'hold' an audience, though very likely the audience itself may not be able to tell you what is wrong. Two great exponents of characterisation at the present day—J. M. Barrie and George Bernard Shaw—afford proof of the way in which the public is fascinated by this method."

"You think that playwrights should study all their characters at first hand?"

"Undoubtedly; and, mind, I consider this is possible in all classes of plays, even the lightest and most farcical. I am putting my theory to a fairly severe test, as I have in rehearsal at the present moment a little farcical sketch intended for the 'halls,' in which the very plot may be said to be based on the characterisation. Of course, there are lots of comical situations, and plenty of funny 'business,' but the different characters are as marked and individual as if they were figuring in a four-act comedy instead of a twenty-minute sketch."

"How do you get it all into the time?"

"Why, it is all in 'tabloid' form, so to speak. I can see you don't think it sounds very possible; but the sketch in question is to be produced at Collins's on Monday evening next, and then you can judge for yourself. It's title? *In the Cupboard*. It is a playlet for five characters."

"I believe you are a prominent member of the Playgoers' Club, Mr. Zorn?"

"Well, I can hardly go so far as to say that; but I have frequently had the pleasure of speaking at their debates, which I regard as most useful and interesting functions. Amongst the Playgoers are to be found not only ready and eloquent speakers, but sound and experienced critics, and for anyone interested in dramatic art the discussions held under the Club's auspices have a great attraction. I may instance the lecture delivered by Mr. Philip Carr a few weeks ago at the Hotel Cecil on 'Stage Scenery.' Mr. Carr's paper was most interesting, and full of food for thought."

"What about your plans for the future, Mr. Zorn. Anything besides the tabloid music-hall sketch?"

"Rather; I have a three-act modern comedy, dealing with the more serious side of life, well under weigh, and several one-act pieces, besides another novel."

"Then you are fully employed, and I must not keep you longer. When will your comedy be produced?"

"Ah! that I can't tell you as yet. You know, man proposes, but the actor-manager disposes."

WALDORF THEATRE PAYMENTS.

In the Court of Chancery, on the 9th inst., Mr. Rose-Innes applied, on behalf of Mr. E. G. Saunders, for an injunction to restrain the Waldorf Theatre Syndicate from making further payments to Messrs. Waring and Gillow pending arbitration.

Mr. Rose-Innes said that Mr. Saunders, who rented from the Duke of Bedford a site in Aldwych, entered into an agreement with Mr. John Waring, of the firm of Waring and Gillow, whereby Mr. Waring agreed to find £15,000 towards the cost of the construction of the Waldorf Theatre. He also undertook that his firm's charges for buildings should be as low as possible. Mr. Saunders had an equitable right to 8,993 shares, which he had given as security for a debt. He was also a director of the syndicate, which had already paid Waring and Gillow £71,364, which was about £20,000 too much. Three of Mr. Saunders's co-directors were in the employment of Waring and Gillow. If the Court refused to restrain the syndicate from making further payments, Waring and Gillow would present a bill, grossly in excess of what it ought to be, and on the following day the three directors who were in their employment would approve of it. Mr. Saunders was originally chairman of the board of directors, but his position became untenable because of the other three directors. Plaintiff desired an arbitration to decide the amount really due to the firm. In the meantime no payments should be made.

Mr. Maugham, for the Waldorf Theatre Syndicate, said that Waring and Gillow's account was subject to certain deductions. Mr. Saunders had no right to make the application, as he was not, and never had been, a shareholder. Mr. John Waring, in his private capacity, was the largest shareholder, and it was to his interest that the sum paid to Waring and Gillow should be as low as possible.

His lordship, declining to grant an injunction, said that Mr. Saunders was not a shareholder. Until he became a shareholder he had no right to interfere. It was said that he was a director. If he was, he was a member of the board that must deal with the matter. If he was in the minority on that board he would have to submit to the decision of the majority. The motion must therefore be refused.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice of *Aladdin* at the Alexandra Theatre, Hull, last week, you say, "Miss Milsted makes a good impression with her coon songs and clever dancing." The praise should have been given to—Yours truly, EDIE KELSO (of the Two Kelsos—Alexandra Theatre, Hull, Feb. 13.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM, Miss Mary Moore, and the entire company paid a flying visit with *Captain Drew on Leave* to Birmingham on Monday, and the town fully appreciated the honour, the Prince of Wales's Theatre being filled to its utmost limits. At the end of the performance such a crowd waited outside the theatre to see Sir Charles and Miss Moore depart that the police had to regulate the traffic. The enthusiasm extended to the railway station, where a large mob assembled to see the departure, and the gratifying cry "Come again soon" sped the popular actor-manager and his company on their homeward way, Wyndham's Theatre being reached in good time for the evening performance. Sir Charles could find no sign of theatrical depression in the great Midland town, and expressed intense satisfaction at the splendid enthusiasm displayed. "If I only had the time, and the geography of England were more amenable," he declared, "I would give a matinée at a different town daily."

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT was a guest at the banquet given by the City Conservatives at the Merchant Taylors' Hall on Monday, when Mr. Balfour was among the speakers. Sir Squire, whose social activities seem to be boundless, has also intimated his intention of being present, with Lady Bancroft, at the private view of the International Society of Sculptors, Painters, and Gravers, which is to be opened by the American Ambassador on Thursday.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P., has been in communication with Mr. Herbert Gladstone, the Home Secretary, both during and since the General Election, in reference to the question of musical copyright. In the multiplicity of other business, the Home Secretary has not been able to go into the question, but he is known to be in thorough sympathy with the musical profession for the protection of their rights, and there is reason to hope that the matter will receive his early and valuable attention. In case the Government do not introduce a Bill of their own on the question, Mr. O'Connor will introduce one himself.

MR. HAYDEN COFFIN will return to his old love at Easter, when he will appear at one of the Frank Curzon's theatres in a new musical comedy by Messrs. Leedham Bantock and Howard Talbot—the joint author and composer of *The White Chrysanthemum*. In the new production Mr. Hayden Coffin will play a character similar to those of his best musical comedy successes. Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Lawrence Grossmith, Miss Marie Dainton, and Miss Millie Legarde have already been engaged for the piece.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE was the object of a rare demonstration at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday, when he gave a professional matinée of *Nero*. The crowded house keenly appreciated every detail of the magnificent production, and realised to the full the beauties of the play, the acting, and the mounting. The audience of actors and actresses was a representative one, among those present being Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, and Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes Robertson, Miss Mary Moore, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Miss Marion Terry, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Mr. and Mrs. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. Fred Terry, Miss Julia Neilson, Mr. George R. Sims, and Mr. Arthur Roberts.

THE Shakespeare Festival Week given by Mr. Beerbohm Tree at His Majesty's, lasting from April 23 to 28, will this year consist of *The Tempest*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Hamlet*, with scenery in the evening, and without scenery at a matinée, *Twelfth Night*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Henry IV.*, Part I., for one night and one afternoon performance. The brilliant career of *Nero*, thus interrupted, will be resumed on April 30. A souvenir of Mr. Stephen Phillips's drama, containing coloured sketches by Mr. Charles Buchel of the principal characters and of the most important scenes, is in preparation, and will be presented to every member of the audience on the occasion of the fiftieth performance, on Friday, March 9.

MISS JESSIE MILLWARD, who shared for so many years the triumphs at the Adelphi of the late William Terriss, at whose tragic end she went to America, will make a new departure on her more than welcome return to the London stage. Those who remember Miss Millward only as the emotional heroine of melodrama will find it a little difficult to associate her with comedy, but it is in that form of play that the popular actress will begin a season at the Scala Theatre on March 3. The piece with which she will start operations is entitled *The School for Husbands*, written by Mr. Stanislaus Stange, the American playwright, whose name is nevertheless well known in this country. Miss Millward will act the rôle of Lady Belinda Manners, a model wife, who brings a spendthrift husband to book, and Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Clarence Blakiston, Miss Ethel Matthews, and Miss Dolores Drummond will also be in the cast.

SIR FRANCIS BURNAND, who has sat for so long and with such distinction in the editorial chair of *Punch*, has retired after nearly half-a-century's association with our premier comic journal. Sir Francis is in his seventieth year, and besides editing *Punch* for twenty-six years, has written nearly a hundred and fifty plays, chiefly burlesques and light comedies, his latest contribution to the stage being a share in the present pantomime at Drury-lane. One of his most notable pieces was a burlesque of *Black-Eyed Susan*, which ran for eight hundred nights at the Royalty Theatre. Sir Francis received the honour of knighthood four years ago.

"THE BEAUTY OF BATH," the musical play by Cosmo Hamilton and Seymour Hicks, with music by H. E. Haines, and lyrics by C. H. Taylor, will be presented by Charles Frohman at the Aldwych Theatre on March 19. Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss will be associated in the chief parts, and the cast will also include Messrs. William Lugg, Laurence Caird, Stanley Brett, Murray King, Cecil Kennard, Bert Sinden, Reginald Kenneth, and E. W. Royce; Master Valchera; and Misses Rosina Filippi, Barbara Deane, Maudi Darrell, Sydney Fairbrother, Mollie Lowell, Clarita Vidal, and Topsy Sinden.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER will go down to Eton College on Thursday next, at five o'clock, at the invitation of the Head Master, and deliver a lecture, entitled "Ars Loquendi: A Few Words on the Gentle Art of Speaking Distinctly," in the Drill Hall.

"THE HEROIC STUBBS" will yield place at the end of his career at Terry's to a piece by Mr. Brandon Thomas, tentatively called *A Judge's Memory*. The author of *Charley's Aunt* has supplied Mr. James Welch with the part of a Scotchman, whose native sagacity has been sharpened by a long residence in London, to say nothing of a lengthy term of imprisonment, sustained chiefly through the fault of a brother. The new play is in three acts, the first being laid in a solicitor's office; the second in the drawing-room of a country house, the curtain descending in the middle of the act to indicate the lapse of a few hours; and the third in a Judge's ancestral home at Invermuichty. A remarkably interesting cast will include Miss Wallis, Miss Beatrice Terry, Mr. Sam Sothern, Mr. E. Dagnall, Mr. Leopold Profeit, and Mrs. E. H. Brooke.

MR. FORBES-ROBERTSON is the subject of a pen-portrait by "P. B." in this week's *M.A.P.*, a glowing eulogy of the eminent actor in both his professional and private capacity being given. Mr. Robertson, whose week at the Coronet Theatre has resulted in the biggest bookings since the visit of Sarah Bernhardt last June, goes next week to the Kennington Theatre, where he will appear with Miss Gertrude Elliott in *The Light that Failed* on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Thursday matinée and evening, and on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Saturday afternoon and evening *Mice and Men*.

"MR. POPPLE OF IPPLETON will reach its hundredth representation at the Apollo next Wednesday, when the occasion will be marked by the introduction of new songs and dances.

MISS BEATRICE TERRY has been playing the part of Peter Pan in Mr. Barrie's amusing piece at the Duke of York's during the absence through illness of Miss Cecilia Loftus, who has now resumed the character. Miss Terry played the rôle with infinite charm, winning warm commendation from all, and a special compliment from the author.

THE Drury-lane pantomime is to be transferred in its entirety to Paris, where it will be presented at the Porte St. Martin early in September, under the joint direction of Mr. Arthur Collins and M. Paul Cleves, the manager of the Paris theatre, to whom the possibilities of the enterprise were first suggested by the success of Mr. Harry Fragson at Drury-lane. *Cinderella* will be cast by French artists.

MISS JULIA NEILSON was unable, on account of indisposition, to appear at the New Theatre on Thursday. The part of Lady Blakeney in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* was played by Miss Miriam Lewes. From inquiries made yesterday afternoon, there is every likelihood of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* continuing its successful career into Easter, after which the new play on the subject of Dorothy Vernon will be produced, rehearsals having already taken place.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY and his company, who have been doing excellent business this week at Kennington, are to appear next week at the Camden Theatre. On Monday, on Saturday, and at the Thursday matinée *The Only Way* will be played, *The Breed of the Treshams* holding the bill on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, whilst a special performance of *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* will be given on Friday.

MISS MARIE TEMPEST, who will create the heroine in the new comedy, by Ernest Denny, entitled *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, will make her reappearance in London at the Duke of York's Theatre early next month. The lady with the startling cognomen is an impetuous young person who falls impulsively in love. The brother of the object of her affections discourages the match, but in the process himself succumbs to Peggy's fascinations, and eventually the pair are married. The first and second lover will be played respectively by Mr. Eric Lewis and Mr. Allan Aynesworth, and other characters have been allotted to Miss Florence Wood and Mr. Alfred Bishop.

PANTOMIMISTS at Manchester engaged in a friendly game at golf on Tuesday, when *The Sleeping Beauty* scored a victory over *Robinson Crusoe* by nine holes to four. Mr. W. H. Rawlins was pitted against Mr. Frank Danby and won by three up; Mr. George Lee scored six over Mr. Horace Mills; Mr. Frederick Hobbs finished his contest with Mr. Albert Le Fre with three to the good; and Mr. Walter Rignold was successful by one hole in his encounter with Mr. E. T. Steyne.

MR. FRANK CURZON'S company in *The White Chrysanthemum* commenced a suburban and provincial tour before a representative audience at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, many people well known in artistic, literary, and theatrical circles being present. Encores were numerous, the curtain having to be rung up five or six times after each of the three acts, and at the close of the performance the whole of the company were found grouped on the stage, the centre being occupied by a huge basket of roses, 4ft. in height. Entirely new scenery for this production has been built and painted by the well-known scenic artist, Mr. Hann. Beautiful new and costly dresses have been provided, and to judge by the applause and enthusiasm which prevailed, the success of the tour is assured.

MISS FLORENCE WARDEN will produce at a matinée at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Tuesday, March 6, a comedy by herself, entitled *Parlez-vous Français?* Miss Warden expresses the hope that all "who are interested in the stage, and who appreciate the difficulties of a playwright outside a certain small circle in getting a hearing," will grant their support.

"PAN AND THE YOUNG SHEPHERD," a pastoral play in two acts, with music by H. W. Hewlett, will be produced at the Court Theatre on the afternoon of Feb. 27. In the cast will be Mr. Edmund Gurney, Mr. Henry Ainley, Miss Ray Rockman, Mr. Norman Page, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Mr. Stratton Rodney, Miss Suzanne Sheldon, Miss Grace Lane, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Ethel Warwick, Miss Hazel Thompson, Miss Gwladys Wynne, Miss Mabel Hackney, Miss Alice Crawford, and Mr. Norman McKinnel. A new play by the same author, entitled *The Youngest of the Angels*, will also be produced, and will employ the talents of Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, and Mrs. Theodore Wright.

MISS N. DE SILVA, who is sharing Mr. Martin Harvey's successes at the Kennington Theatre this week, has acquired the new one-act play entitled *Bridge*, by V. Langbridge, in which she hopes to appear shortly. The piece had its initial production at Canterbury on Monday.

THE awards in the shop-girls' competition for criticisms of *The Heroic Stubbs* at Terry's Theatre have been published. The first prize was won by a Mrs. Semark, the winner of the second being Miss E. M. Goult, of Messrs. D. H. Evans and Co., Oxford-street.

"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON" makes its first appearance in Western London at the beautiful King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, where its reputation has evidently preceded it, for the advance booking has justified the announcement of an extra matinée on the Saturday in addition to the usual one on Thursday. The piece will be presented by Mr. Frohman's chief company, which numbers nearly seventy persons, and the scenery, costumes, and effects will be identical with those used now at the Vaudeville Theatre, where the play has been the success of two seasons, and is still running. The already fine local orchestra will be largely augmented, and Mr. Mulholland anticipates one of the most successful weeks of the season.

THE final scenes in the "dramatic episode" between Mr. Bannister Howard and the burglar who forced an entry into his Bedford-street premises last week were enacted at Bow-street Police Court yesterday morning. A long list of previous convictions were proved against the burglar, and he was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

MR. HENRY A. LYTTON will be seen in the cast of *The Little Michus* at Daly's Theatre on and from this afternoon. He will play the part of Aristide Vert in place of Mr. Gordon Cleather.

MR. H. B. IRVING delivered a thoughtful and exhaustive lecture at the Royal Institution on Thursday afternoon on the history of the English Stage in the Eighteenth Century. That period, Mr. Irving maintained, was in theatrical history the century of the actor. He and not the dramatist was the dominating figure. Most of the plays that attracted audiences in the eighteenth century were dead things. Goldsmith and Sheridan alone had given to posterity imperishable works of genius. Never as an artist had the actor in this country enjoyed such chances of distinction. The opportunity given to the eighteenth century actors of exhibiting their skill was rendered glorious by the proudest feature in the history of the Georgian theatre—the return of Shakespeare to the stage.

MR. IRVING had a word to say for the much-tried actor-manager, who, he declared, came in for a great deal of unsympathetic criticism. By some he was even represented as the great bane of theatrical art in this country. But history showed conclusively that, so far, it was to the actor-manager that were owing all the most worthy achievements of the theatre, the preservation from decay and disorder of all that was highest in theatrical art. In the absence of a State theatre, it had fallen to the task of individual actors to uphold the finer traditions of the stage, and history proved that, in face of difficulties, which had increased rather than diminished, actors have not failed in their duty. Whether it had brought them profit or loss, prosperity or ruin, they had successively devoted themselves to an enterprise which in almost every other country had been deemed not unworthy of the assistance of the State. Mr. Irving, who referred in the course of his lecture to the careers of Robert, Wilks, Barton Booth, Mrs. Oldfield, Colley Cibber, and Quin, will continue the lecture next Thursday at the same institution.

THERE has been quite a rush for seats for the opening of the Crystal Palace on Monday week under Mr. Bannister Howard's management, and practically the whole of the accommodation has already been sold.

"CINDERELLA'S" successful seven weeks' run at Brixton Theatre had a triumphal finish on Saturday last, after a gala week of visits from local clubs and a "field night" with the Eccentric Club. At the finale floral trophies, bouquets, and designs, decorated bottles of wine, boxes of cigars, and cigarettes were simply showered on all the principals, the author and producer, Mr. Stanley Rogers, and a presentation was made by Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens to Mr. Murray Herriot, Mr. Stevens' general-manager at Brixton.

"THE OTHER MAN'S BUSINESS," a farce written by G. W. Elton, will shortly be sent on tour for a trial trip by Mr. Frank Gran with Mr. G. W. Anson, Lillian Hubbard, and a strong cast. Mr. Eugene Bertram is booking the tour.

MR. CHARLES HERMANN, who has been ill at Harrogate, has been removed to Roker in order to reap the benefit of the sea air.

MR. R. COWLEY-POLHILL, business-manager of the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, all will regret to hear, has undergone a prolonged and serious illness since the termination of the tour last November, when he suffered a complete collapse. Improvement set in three weeks since, but after a short stay at Southport a relapse unfortunately took place, and he went back home to North Staffordshire worse than ever. If any of his friends have time to drop him a line from the "outer world" it will be very welcome to Mr. Polhill, to whom everyone will wish a speedy recovery.

MR. EDWARD MICHAEL has taken over from Mr. McKnight the Theatre Royal, Margate, which he will at once commence to renovate, and by the time the season comes round he hopes to have it in perfect order. He is booking high-class attractions for the summer season, reserving the rest of the year for operating his stock company between Margate and Canterbury. Mr. Haddon Chambers recently visited Canterbury to see the work of the stock company, and was so well satisfied that he has arranged in the near future to give Mr. Michael a play to produce.

MR. BRYDON PHILLIPS has just terminated at Newcastle-on-Tyne another pantomime season with Mr. Victor Stevens's version of *Little Red Riding Hood*, now in its fourteenth year. It will be remembered this annual was launched on Boxing Day at the West London Theatre, and immediately caught the public fancy. Mr. Phillips is desirous of arranging a good theatre for next Yuletide, and judging by past experiences, the enterprise of any manager would be well repaid.

MISS NELLY COZENS, who plays Mrs. Madison Crocker in Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company, has just concluded a long engagement as Nan in *A Country Girl*, prior to which she played Mrs. Bright with Mr. George Edwardes's *Kitty Grey* company, Mrs. Ralli Carr in *Gentleman Jo*, and Gwendolin Lovell, with Arthur Roberts, in *H.M.S. Irresponsible*.

MR. SYD MORTON has been engaged by Mr. Samuel James to stage-manage the pantomime next Christmas at the Grand Theatre, Islington.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART, who was playing at Chester last week, was returning from the theatre on the night of the recent storm, when his cap was literally torn from his head and carried high into the air. The next morning it was picked up in the grounds of Eaton Hall some two miles away, and as Mr. Lockhart's name was discovered in the inside, and the finder had witnessed his performance only the night before, the cap was returned undamaged.

MR. LOUIS KARPE has been engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur as acting-manager at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee. Mr. Karpe concluded three years as manager last Christmas, first at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and afterwards at the Theatre Royal, Worcester, a very satisfactory testimonial benefit being accorded him at Worcester before leaving.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN'S revival of *Claudian* is meeting with great success in every town visited. This week at Nottingham business has been excellent, and the enthusiasm of the audience has resulted in numerous calls at the end of each act. This must be doubly gratifying coming from the playgoers of Nottingham, with whom the late Wilson Barrett was so great a favourite.

MR. E. T. DE BANZIE will have the novel experience of being represented in Glasgow next week in the two distinct capacities of author of the drama *Her Wedding Day* at the Metropole Theatre and composer of *The Babes and Robin Hood* at the Lyceum, where he will figure as conductor.

MR. BERT COOTE'S children's specialities have proved an enormous draw in Mr. Arthur's various suburban pantomimes. "The Irish Indian Maids" at the Coronet created quite a furore on Saturday night, some lovely bouquets being showered upon them at the close of the pantomime. Mr. Coote has received several tempting offers for his ingenious productions. All the business in "Cariboo" and "My Irish Indians," it may be noted, is fully protected.

FOR the second time within a very few months, an English company has been stranded in Calcutta, owing to the failure of the parties with whom the engagements were made. Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann, to whom we are indebted for the report of the case, writes that the number of destitute artists at present in India is appalling, and he again warns all contemplating a visit to the East to ensure that the contract is made with a responsible management known to them, or to have their return fares secured in their own name before leaving England. The case to which we now refer is that of "Olympia in India," Limited, against whom Messrs. Leslie and Hinds, on behalf of Hurdut Roy Chamaria, obtained leave in the High Court of Calcutta in December last to file a plaint for the recovery of Rs. 18,000 and interest.

THE plaintiff's petition stated that the property of the defendant company was mortgaged to him. The money due for the electric light plant and the energy used had not been paid, and in consequence all the lights at the company's premises were cut off, and the whole place remained in darkness. In addition to a considerable sum due for furniture supplied in the house occupied by the company's artists, various amounts were owing for printing, and suits were threatened all round. The company was hopelessly insolvent, and several suits had been filed against them. There was no actual property belonging to the defendants, they having nothing but a tent, chairs, and movables of that kind. The unfortunate artists had regarded their position as practically assured for a few months, and to suddenly find themselves penniless, without any means of returning home, must have been a bitter experience. Mr. Bandmann's warning has been given many times before, and its value cannot be too greatly emphasised.

MR. E. R. BEAUMONT, for many years producer and stage-manager for Mr. Milton Bode, has been appointed manager of the Theatre Royal, Leicester.

ON Monday night at the Waldorf Theatre, during the second act of *The Superior Miss Pellender*, a limelight man named Arthur Wright, of Chapel-street, Islington, fell from the flies to the stage. He was picked up, and conveyed to Charing Cross Hospital, where his injuries were found to be of a serious character.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK," a drama in four acts and six tableaux, founded by S. Buchan Rogerson on Guy Thorne's novel of the same name, was produced on the 9th inst. at the Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath. The part of Sir Robert Llewellyn was taken by Mr. Morton Powell and that of Gertrude Hunt by Miss Louisa Peach. The play met with an enthusiastic reception from a crowded house, the mounting being greatly admired.

MR. H. F. MALTBY, who, since the conclusion of his *The Shadow on the Wall* tour, has been acting as business-manager for Mr. Allan Wilkie, concludes his engagement to-night, and returns to town, in order to put the finishing touches to his coming production of *The Youngest of Three*.

MR. SIDNEY YOUNG is engaged by Mr. Peter Davey for the tour of *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*; also for Dame in pantomime.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD, who has just concluded a special engagement in Mr. Frank Bertram's *The Breed of the Treshams* company, playing Mr. Martin Harvey's part, will very probably be seen under Mr. Bertram's management again a little later on.

"THE VOYSEY INHERITANCE," the play, in five acts, by Mr. Granville Barker, which was produced at a matinée at the Court on Nov. 7, was put into the evening bill at the same theatre on Monday, when Mr. Barker took up the part of Edward Voysey. The rôle of Voysey, senior, falls to Mr. Fred Kerr, Mr. Charles Fulton is again the inane Major Booth Voysey, and Miss Mabel Hackney repeats her fine performance as Alice Maitland and Miss Florence Haydon that of the deaf old mother.

MR. HENRY TWEEDIE has been engaged by Mr. Charles Frohman for the tour of *The Mountain Climber*, with Mr. Huntley Wright and London company.

MISS MAUDE STEWART DREWRY, who has just concluded a very successful engagement at the Standard Theatre with Mr. Walter Melville, has been secured by Mr. Leonard Rayne for eight months with his répertoire company. She sails accordingly for South Africa on Feb. 24, returning to England in November.

MR. WILLIAM DEVER, the principal baritone of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, is shortly going with Mr. Manners to Australia, and a large number of friends in Dublin, of which city Mr. Dever is a native, are organising a benefit concert in his honour, to be given in the Round Room, Rotunda, Dublin, on Wednesday next. An attractive programme has been drawn up for this compliment to Mr. Dever, who will be most recently remembered by Londoners for his excellent work during the Moody-Manners season of opera at Covent Garden.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE," with Miss Edith Cole as the Empress Josephine, and the entire company, scenery, dresses, and production *en bloc* from the Scala Theatre, will be transferred on Monday to the Borough, Stratford, for six nights and the usual Wednesday matinée. Other theatres to be visited include the King's, Hammersmith, the Marlborough, Holloway, Kennington, Fulham, Camden, the Broadway, New Cross, New Prince's, Poplar, Grand, Woolwich, Croydon, &c.

"A GILDED FOOL" has by some means failed to make the mark at the Shaftesbury Theatre that it did in America, and is to be withdrawn forthwith. Mr. Thos. Ryley's next production will be a revival of Madeline Lucette Ryley's comedy, *An American Citizen*, which will be brought out on Thursday, with Mr. Nat Goodwin, Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe, Mr. J. L. McKay, Mr. Lionel Belmore, Mr. Hylton Allen, Mr. Neil O'Brien, Mr. Asheton Tonge, Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Aimee de Burgh, Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Lily Lorrell, Miss Evelyn Marthèze, and Master Tonge in the cast.

DR. HANS RICHTER will conduct two complete cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* during the forthcoming opera season at Drury Lane. The first cycle will commence with *Das Rheingold*, at 8.30 p.m., on May 4; and on the following day, the first act of *Die Walküre* will begin at five o'clock. On Monday, May 7, *Siegfried* will commence at the same hour; and on May 9, *Götterdämmerung* is timed to commence at 4.30. The times for the second cycle are the same, and the performances will take place on May 12, 14, 16, and 18. The work will be presented without "cuts," as in 1903 and 1905, and both cycles will be included in the regular opera season, which commences on May 3.

ONE of the greatest charms of an actress—or actor either, for that matter—is a good set of teeth, and, should nature have been unkind in this matter, then, fortunately for us, art can be employed to supply the deficiency. Foremost amongst the clever surgeon-dentists of the present day, whose valuable aid can be invoked, Mr. Riddle Stower, of 80, Shaftesbury-avenue, deserves mention, more especially as this gentleman is always prepared to make special arrangements for members of the profession.

THE Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Actors' Association held a meeting on Monday last. There were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), William Devereux, A. E. Drinkwater, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Miss Kate Phillips, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The secretary received general instructions in connection with the holding of the fifteenth annual general meeting at His Majesty's Theatre. The secretary reported that twenty candidates had been nominated for the fourteen vacancies on the council. The "Special" Committee held a meeting on Monday last, when Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (chairman), Acton Bond, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary) were present. The details of a scheme for payment for rehearsals were settled, such scheme to be submitted to the council at the first possible date.

THE usual weekly meeting of the council was held on Tuesday last, when Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Acton Bond, Thalberg Corbett, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, C. Aubrey Smith, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary) were present. The secretary reported that the next bi-monthly meeting of the members would be held in the saloon at the Actors' Association on Thursday, the 8th prox., at 2.30 p.m. The further consideration of the scheme for the qualification and registration of actors was postponed until the next meeting. The secretary reported that the insurance scheme was now completed, and coupons would shortly be issued to the members. A case of alleged bogus management was reported, and the secretary was directed to file the particulars. Jack Hames, Reginald Wykeham, and Daisy Gwynne were nominated for election. The hon. solicitors reported various matters. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received.

WE regret to announce the sudden death early on Monday morning of the wife of Mr. J. W. Chapman, of 5, Belvedere-road, Scarborough, managing-director of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Doncaster. Mrs. Chapman was forty-eight years of age, and was a native of Hooton Roberts, near Rotherham. She had been married nearly twenty-four years, and had resided with Mr. Chapman in Doncaster up to nine years ago, when they took up their residence at Scarborough.

THE Borough Coroner (Mr. G. Taylor) held an enquiry at the Court House, Castle-road, on Monday evening, into the circumstances attending the deceased lady's death. The deceased, it was stated, retired to bed at the usual time on Sunday night, to all appearances in her usual health, but on waking on Monday morning Mr. Chapman found that she was dead beside him. Deceased had suffered from heart trouble and asthma, but lately had been somewhat better. She had been attended by Dr. Godfrey, but not since last spring. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was due to a dilated heart, resulting from chronic asthma. The Coroner said he was sure he was only voicing the general feeling of the jury in tendering to Mr. Chapman and the family their sympathy in the sad bereavement they had sustained.

"MIZPAH," the poetic play written by Luscombe Searelle in collaboration with Ella Wheeler Wilcox, was produced at the New National Theatre, Washington, on Jan. 29, and created an impression quite equal to that of its former performances in the United States, the local Press joining in a chorus of praise. The drama is founded on the Biblical story of Esther, and in the writing of it Mr. Searelle has revealed a capacity for blank verse composition of a high order, the impressive music which embellishes the piece being also from his pen. The scenes of the piece are admittedly dramatic, and the admirable performance and sumptuous mounting have made it one of the season's successes.

"PUBLIC OPINION," with Mr. George Giddens in his original part, started a long tour on Monday last at the Grand Theatre, Croydon. The tour, which will last for eighteen weeks, visiting all the large provincial cities and many of the principal suburban theatres, is under the direction of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison.

MR. ALFRED MANNERS, the popular proprietor and manager of the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, has again added substantially to the funds of the local Victoria Hospital. During the intervals of Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which was the attraction at the Queen's Theatre last week, Miss Renee Reel and Miss Daisy Connell, the pleasing exponents of the Babes, took collecting boxes among the large audiences, and by this means nearly £10 was raised for the deserving institution named.

THE members of Mr. Allan Wilkie's répertoire company on Friday, the 9th inst., his birthday, presented him with a handsomely-mounted ebony stick to use as Shylock. Mr. H. F. Maltby, the courteous business manager, formally made the presentation, on behalf of the members of the company, before the curtain rose on the evening performance, which happened to be *The Merchant of Venice*. So pleased has Mr. Andrews been with Mr. Wilkie's enormous success at Llanelly and Aberdare that he has rebooked him for next October.

THE annual Fancy Dress Ball, under the auspices of the Theatre Royal Orchestra, took place on the 8th inst. at the Town Hall, Dover. A large number of handsome prizes were offered, and over four hundred dancers were in the body of the hall, while the gallery, which was reserved for onlookers, held nearly 600. Some excellent effects were obtained by the use of the coloured limes of Mr. J. G. Whorwell, and the music was rendered in excellent style by the orchestra, under the able conductorship of Mr. J. Cartmell. Mr. Fred C. Dew, managing-director of the theatre, kindly awarded the prizes, adding a few appropriate and witty remarks, which were much appreciated. Among the large number of striking costumes, that of a peacock was perhaps the most noticeable, while Nelson, represented by a lady in a magnificent dress painted in panels with the Victory as a head-dress, carried off second prize.

"FACING THE MUSIC" will start a spring tour on Easter Monday under the management of Miss Dorothey Cacey and Mr. Charles Windermere, who will take the chief parts. The cast will also include Miss Clare Mansfield, Mr. J. Knox Orde, and Mr. Harry Averell. Mr. J. Herman Dickson, of D'Oyley Carte's Opera company, has been engaged for advance management.

IN the Court of Chancery, on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Warrington, application was made for an interim injunction to restrain the Rotary Photographic Company, Ltd., and Mr. Chandler, a photographer, of Exeter, from publishing or selling certain portraits of Miss Florence Smithson, at present playing the principal part in *The Blue Moon* at the Lyric Theatre. It was stated by counsel that she had concluded an arrangement with Messrs. Bassano and Co., Ltd., under which they acquired the right to take and publish her portraits. On Feb. 9 Miss Florence Smithson discovered that the defendants were publishing pictorial postcards, being reproductions of portraits of her which had been taken for her about two years ago by Mr. Chandler. She objected to the publication on the ground that she had paid for these photographs, and that they were her property. His lordship gave leave to serve notice of motion on Feb. 23.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The thirteenth annual general meeting of this Association was held at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday afternoon. Sir Squire Bancroft (President) occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mr. H. Nicholls, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Hubert Shelley, Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, Mr. Cecil Barth, Mr. Warburton (counsel), Mr. H. W. Mote (solicitor), Mr. H. A. H. Cole (auditor), and Mr. Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary).

The report of the Council for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, together with the accounts, were taken as read.

The Council stated that, before proceeding to the Annual Report, they desired "to express their sense of the grievous loss suffered, not only by the Actors' Association but by the Theatrical profession at large, in the death of our late President, Sir Henry Irving, whose worth found for his remains a fitting resting-place in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. An ardent worker for the dignity of the actors' calling, he devoted particular interest to the affairs of this Association, and it was ever a source of pride to him that he was elected its first President; that the honour was ours will be the feeling of every member, and we acknowledge with grateful pride the debt we owe to him for his devotion to the profession and to the Association, which continued to the very day of his death, when he sent the Congress at Manchester the following telegram: 'My heart's desire will ever be for the interests and honour of our Association. The Actors' Association can only be supported by the enthusiasm of all actors.—Henry Irving. Oct. 13, '05.' The Association is to be congratulated on Sir Squire Bancroft's acceptance of the post of President, to which he was elected by the unanimous vote of the Council."

The Annual Report for 1905 was as follows:—

During the year various committees have been formed to deal with matters affecting the scope of the Association; amongst others—to establish the actor's copyright in his own photograph; to arrange a basis of equitable payment for rehearsals extending beyond a reasonable period; and the foundation of "Actors' Day," which it is hoped will, for all time, place the theatrical funds beyond the need of charitable appeal to the public. Valuable work has been done by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which has held forty-two meetings during the year. The Council are glad to report that members have availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the Association for arbitration, thereby saving considerable expense and avoiding the publication of professional disputes in the Press. Although we have made more engagements than last year through the agency, there is a decrease in the amount of fees received. This is mainly due to the larger number of foreign and Colonial engagements made in 1904. A copy of the Year-Book is now given to each member with the receipt for his subscription. During the year the list of honorary medical officers has again been increased, and the thanks of all the members are due to those gentlemen who so kindly and generously placed their services at the disposal of the Association, the value of those services being incalculable.

There are now on the roll: Hon. Consulting Staff of Physicians and Surgeons, 6; Hon. Medical Officer of Health, 1; Optician, 1; Hon. Medical Officers in London, 66; Hon. Medical Officers in the provinces, 161; 127 towns being represented in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, and the Island of Jersey. The Council wish to record their sense of gratitude to Mr. Malcolm Morris, F.R.C.S.E., the founder of the Hon. Consulting Staff of Physicians and Surgeons, whose services have been at the disposal of the members up to the period of his retirement from practice this year. During the year 1905 the honorary solicitors have rendered valuable services to the members of the Association by advising them on points submitted and in prosecuting claims on their behalf, and the best thanks are due to them and the Honorary Standing Counsel for their unremitting attention. The Council are glad to report they have received fewer cases of alleged insanitation during the year. We have this year had largely increased legal and other expenses, *e.g.*, the Manchester Congress; and the decrease in our balance compared with last year is mainly due to the great extension of our work on behalf of our members.

The financial statement showed that the members' subscriptions amounted to £1,012, the total receipts amounting to £1,490 8s. 4d. The principal items in the list of payments were—Rent of office, £239 16s.; salaries, £563 14s. 7d. The balance at the bankers on current account and in secretary's hands amounted to £43 0s. 3d.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said: I am sure that what is present in all your minds is the great loss the Association—the great loss our calling—has sustained since the last annual meeting. On that sad subject, it seems to me, no thought has been left unuttered, no word left unspoken, no eulogy left unwritten. With mournful pride we think of our late President at rest in that place so eloquently described by a great American as "the grandest of all mausoleums, where the proudest of nations cherishes and garners the memories of her honoured children." With regard to myself, ladies and gentlemen, you must not expect me to replace him you have lost; I must be content to simply take Sir Henry's place. I am reminded of the delightful appeal made by Hilary Jesson in Mr. Pinero's brilliant play on behalf of "Mrs. Nina" for "a little encouragement." If the members of the Association will grant me a little encouragement, I dare say we shall get on very well together. Of one thing you may be assured, I am proud to be connected with the earnestness of purpose and the devotion to work in the best interests of the actor's calling, which has been impressed upon me by my attendance at the Council meetings of the Association.

Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM said: The pleasing duty has been assigned to me of seconding the proposition to adopt the report, which I do accordingly. I think we may fairly congratulate ourselves on the good work done by the Association in the past, and on the fact that it has thereby justified its existence and its right to the continued support from those who are members and a liberal accession of recruits from those who are not. For the merit and advantages of this Association are very great, and cannot be too widely published amongst our colleagues. On a certain occasion, when commencing an investigation into the affairs of the Covent Garden Fund, we were described as a band of theatrical Socialists. The term was not meant to be complimentary, but you may remember that I at once accepted and hailed it as such, and it is well that it should be generally known amongst our colleagues how socialistic this Association is, based as it is on equality and mutual assistance. But socialism of any sort has a long and a hard road to travel, and we take the flattering unction to our soul that we are always wandering bravely on. But if you will allow me, I will follow up this congratulatory exordium with a gentle exhortation, and perhaps with a little note of warning. The nature of the exhortation I am sure you have already divined. It is not to fold our hands with complacency and mutual admiration, but to keep on pressing forward, and regard each position captured as only another avenue to the next. Many years ago, when Marshal McMahon was reviewing the French Army, a negro soldier, the only one of pure breed in all the ranks, was brought up and presented. The Army was very proud of its solitary black, but was not more proud than the worthy negro was of his exceptional position. So, on saluting, the negro, with much pomp and ceremony, announced himself, "My General, I am *the* nigger." The Marshal gave an approving smile, and hardly knew what to answer. It was obvious that he was a nigger, and therefore alike unnecessary to confirm and idle to controvert his statement. So the Marshal, under the circumstances, could think of nothing more illuminating to say than, "Good, always remain the nigger." And the soldier, as far as history records, did always remain the nigger without in the least adding to or detracting from the uncompromising ebony of his complexion. So do I hope that we shall do much more than always remain the nigger. I hope that year by year we shall be more nigger than ever, increasing in numbers and (what is much more important) in efficiency till the day arrives when our Association will embrace the bulk of our fraternity, and become truly and really the representative of the general body of actors in the sense that the General Medical Council, the Bar Association—to take these two good examples—represent the members of their respective professions. And here may I be permitted to utter with deference my little note of warning? I fancy I have noticed from time to time a tendency on the part of some members to suggest schemes and ideas which, however worthy in conception, do not at present come strictly within the scope of our aims. Those aims are simply practical: to defend the claims and interests of the actors as a body from hostile movements from without, and promote good fellowship and fair play between classes and individuals within. These are the practical aims which will appeal to our brethren not yet enrolled amongst us, and any departure from this, any indulgence and theories, fads or fancies, will only alarm, and alienate sympathy and support. Of course, as actors we live in the atmosphere of imagination, but as members of the Association we are, or ought to be, men of business. By all means let our "Young men dream dreams, and our old men prophesy," but in the work of administration I suggest that the immediate scope of our activity should be confined within the prosaic limits of practibility. Happily, we may feel tolerably secure about this when we remember who our President is. A man who, though representative of all that is highest in our professional ideals, is nevertheless the very embodiment of practicality, a master of facts, an authority on all points theatrical, social, and chronological. I must not take the bread out of Tree's mouth, to whom later on is assigned a charming duty; I must not forestall Bourchier, though he incautiously let out to me last night at the club what he would like to say of Bancroft, if he can only conquer for the occasion his native reserve; I will simply confine myself to saying that you, I, and all concerned in the success of our Association can look with serene confidence towards the chair, tenanted as it is to-day.

Mr. TOPHAM asked what was the number of members on the books at the present time as compared with this time last year?

Mr. ACTON BOND replied that since the beginning of they year they had received 526 subscriptions, as against 469 the previous year, an increase of 53.

Mr. TOPHAM said he wanted to ascertain whether the number of members was increasing or decreasing

Mr. BOND said that a number of new members were joining. The number of subscriptions paid to date was quite a fair average, as compared with previous years.

A member in the auditorium asked if the secretary accepted theatrical engagements?

Mr. CRUIKSHANKS: Yes, I do.

The MEMBER: With the permission of the Council?

The SECRETARY: Yes; I have the permission of the Council. You are the gentleman who proposed at one of the meetings that there should be no secretary at all.

The MEMBER: Then I should censure the Council first, and you (the secretary) next

Mr. ACTON BOND did not think it was in very good taste to bring this old question up at a public meeting.

The MEMBER: Am I to understand that I, as a member of the Association, am to stand tamely by and have the food taken out of my mouth by my paid servant?

Mr. TERRY suggested that the agenda should be gone through first, and then any other question could be properly raised.

The motion was then carried unanimously.

The SECRETARY then read the names and addresses of those nominated for the fourteen vacant seats on the Council and the names of their proposers and seconders. There being a greater number of candidates than there were vacancies to be filled, voting papers were issued, and after such papers had been filled in and signed by those present who were eligible to vote, four scrutineers, appointed by the chairman, received and examined them.

At a later stage of the meeting it was announced that the poll had resulted in the election of the following ladies and gentlemen:—Miss Kate Phillips, Miss Carlotta Addison, Messrs. Cecil Barth, Lawrence Grant, Brandon Thomas, M. R. Morand, Blake Adams, C. Haydon Coffin, Huntley Wright, Quinton McPherson, Burton Cooke, Algernon Lyons, Spencer Trevor, and Frank Vernon. The unsuccessful candidates were Messrs. John Cabourn, Fredk. Annerley, C. F. Collins, Ernest Legh, Herbert Shelley, and Miss Lucy Sibley.

Mr. HERBERT SHELLEY, in the absence of Mr. H. V. Esmond, proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the Council for services rendered during the past year.

Mr. HARRY NICHOLLS seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY, in reply, said he simply rose in order to introduce Mr. Drinkwater, who had done loyal service as a member of the Council, giving much more time to the work than he had been able to give. But that he (Mr. Terry) took the greatest possible interest in the Association and the work of the Council all who knew him would admit. Sir Charles Wyndham in the course of his admirable remarks had suggested that they should not be too ambitious. It was true that some of the younger members of the Council had ambitious schemes, but they hoped to make them practicable ones. Their ambition should not overleap itself if they could help it. But they would like to see the Association converted into one of the grandest organisations that ever existed for the benefit of their profession. In his youthful mind he pictured a magnificent building in which all their various societies could meet under one roof. He might not live to see the day, but he hoped that this would eventually be brought about, and that the Association would be self-supporting. He deplored the conduct of those actors who talked against the society, and made sneering, flippant remarks about it, and who always found excuses for stopping outside and grumbling, instead of joining and ascertaining for themselves how it was worked. The members of the Association, more particularly the Council, were proud of the great work it had done in the past, and which they hoped would be continued in the future.

Mr. A. E. DRINKWATER also replied. He said: First of all, I should like, on behalf of the Council—and, I may say, of all previous Councils—to add an expression of the deep sense of loss which came to us all with the death of our late President. Only those, perhaps, who came into contact with Sir Henry Irving in connection with the work of our Association know with what complete sympathy, with what keen and untiring interest, he watched our progress and our work. I will give you one simple instance, no unusual one, of the kindly way in which he always responded when we asked him for guidance and advice. A very few weeks before his death I had occasion, in connection with one of the committees of the Council on which I was serving, to write to him. Sir Henry was at the time at Brighton, snatching a brief interval of rest, of which, I fear, for years he allowed himself too little. A note dictated to a secretary would have answered my letter, and given me the information I wanted. In reply, I received a letter from him, naming the first day on which he would be back in London, and asking if I could manage to spare the time to go and see him, and talk the matter over. I need hardly say I did spare the time. I found him deeply interested in what we were doing; and, with his endless work and countless engagements, he gave me nearly two hours, in which he discussed the matter from every point of view, giving us gladly and to the full the advantage of his own deep insight and vast experience, and this is only an ordinary, common instance of his goodness. Of his last telegram I need not speak. It has become a page of history. It was because of constant acts of kindness such as these that every actor, and in particular our Association, has lost the best counsellor and the most helpful friend that we have ever had. But, ladies and gentlemen, and under the circumstances, it is no little thing to say we have had the good fortune to find a successor to the office of President who will, I am sure, keep up its best traditions. I heartily congratulate the Association on Sir Squire Bancroft's acceptance of the office. The appointment has been cordially welcomed by all concerned. We have already put him to the test of making large demands upon his time. And I am happy to say Sir Squire takes nothing on trust; he gives no perfunctory acquiescence to anything he is asked to do. He puts shrewd and leading questions, and he is not content till he is able from full knowledge to form his own opinions. He is in complete sympathy with our work, and always ready with sound practical advice. Mr. Drinkwater then proceeded to give details of the year's work. He said they had had under consideration several far-reaching schemes; amongst others, the difficult problem of some form of remuneration for excessive rehearsals, the establishment of Actors' Day for their charities, and a system of official registration of actors, which, when completed, would not only bestow substantial benefits on those who were already actors, but would also check and regulate the constant flow of recruits to their already swollen ranks. He need only add that gratifying progress was being made in them all. These were only some of the projects which he was convinced would become facts, and tend in many ways to improved conditions under which the actor would do his work. If to some the Council seemed to move a little slowly, he should like them to remember that these were big problems to deal with, and that it was only by very careful progress that they could ever hope to achieve their ends. He hoped that in all these matters they would be strictly practical and bear in mind Sir Charles Wyndham's timely warning. Mr. Drinkwater gave details concerning the routine work of the Council, pointing out that there had been, in addition to fifty-four meetings of the Council, eighty meetings of various committees, which had been uniformly well attended.

A motion that the President and Vice-Presidents of the Association be re-elected having been carried.

Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER proposed the re-election of Mr. Henry Warburton as the standing counsel of the Association, also the re-election of Messrs. John H. Mote and Son as hon. solicitors to the Association, and that votes of thanks be tendered them for services rendered during the past year. Mr. Alexander said that his old friend Mr. Warburton had recently gone outside his own profession and become a dramatic critic. They all knew what good work Mr. Warburton and Mr. Mote had done for the Association.

Mr. ACTON BOND seconded the resolution, which was put and carried.

Mr. WARBURTON, in reply, first referred to the death of Sir Henry Irving and the loss the profession had thereby sustained. With regard to his own services, he did not think there had been any litigation during the past year. It did strike him as a most astonishing thing that the members of what was a very precarious profession did not in much larger numbers join the Association. It was indeed a painful fact that some of his actor friends who were non-members were not only lukewarm in their feelings towards the Association, but actually adopted a hostile attitude.

Mr. MOTE said if the members were satisfied with his services, then he was well repaid, and he thanked them for his re-election.

Mr. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE proposed the re-election of the hon. staff of physicians, surgeons, and doctors; the re-election of Dr. A. E. Harris, the hon. medical officer of health; the re-election of Messrs. Westcott, Maskell, and Co., the hon. auditors of the Association; and the re-election of Mr. Ernest A. E. Woodrow, the hon. consulting architect to the Association; and that votes of thanks be tendered them for services during the past year. Mr. Holmes-Gore pointed out that every member of the Association had the advantage of being able to obtain gratuitous advice from distinguished members of the medical profession, and these services were not to be regarded as a charity. They could also obtain the valuable advice of specialists in the treatment of various maladies, including even obesity.

Mr. C. HAYDEN COFFIN seconded the motion, and said that they could best express their thanks to these gentlemen by their re-election.

A member who occupied a seat in the dress circle said he understood there was some recognition of the services rendered by the hon. staff of medical men by granting them complimentary admission to the theatres, though he had heard that these admissions were sometimes refused. He supposed it depended on the state of the business.

Mr. H. A. H. COLE, responding on behalf of the hon. auditor, said that a resolution, which began with Gore and ended with Coffin, seemed likely to meet with some misfortune. He could testify that the way in which the accounts had been prepared reflected the greatest credit upon the secretary and his staff.

Dr. DOLAN, of Halifax, replied on behalf of the medical staff.

Mr. C. AUBREY SMITH proposed: "That acting-managers, transacting business for a company in which they have no proprietary interest, shall be eligible for election as members of the Actors' Association, subject to a record as to past work, similar to that supplied by actor applicants, being satisfactory to the Council." Mr. Smith said they had availed themselves of the columns of *The Era* and the *Stage* in bringing the proposal forward, but he had seen no replies, so he was tempted to hope that the proposition would find favour. He contended that the acting-manager led a similar life to the actor, and was subject to the same vicissitudes. Why should not he, therefore, be admitted as a member of the Association? It would also be the means of increasing the number of members. The present position was absurd, because an actor who became an acting-manager was not disqualified as a member of the Association; and he believed there would be no need to alter the articles of the society.

Mr. A. E. DRINKWATER seconded the motion, as he believed that the admission of acting-managers would be of advantage to the Association.

Mr. EDWARD TERRY said he was sorry to differ from friends on the Council, but he regarded this proposal as dangerous, and one that required serious consideration. It was an actors' association, and the acting-manager's interests were divided. He moved, as an amendment, that the question be referred to the Council for consideration.

Mr. AUBREY SMITH said, in reply to Mr. Terry, that the stage-manager was in the same position as the acting-manager.

Mr. HOLMES-GORE said that this was a question on which the Council desired that the members generally should express their opinion.

Mr. MOTE, in reply to a question, said he thought that the Council had the power to elect an acting-manager.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

Mr. CECIL BARTH next proposed that a monthly magazine should be established in connection with the Association. This, he considered, would enable the Council to keep in touch with touring members of the Association. All the news they now obtained was by the courtesy of the editors of *The Era* and the *Stage*, and it was of necessity very scanty. Some years ago a weekly journal was started, but the result was not successful, and the company was wound up. Mr. Barth then went into figures showing how the journal could be made self-supporting, and suggested, amidst laughter, that it should be under the control of a committee of twenty members of the Association.

Mr. BARTH consented to accept a proposition that the matter should be referred to the Council for consideration.

The next business on the agenda was—"Miss Vera Leslie will submit the following propositions:—'(1) That all present members of the A.A. introducing a new member for the year 1907 shall be entitled to have their subscription reduced from 15s. to 10s. on and after Jan. 1, 1907. Any new member thus introduced to be admitted at the reduced rate of 10s., and to pay no entrance fee. (2) No reduction in subscription to be guaranteed to present members, except on the condition as above. (3) A joint subscription for husband and wife to be: for members now paying 15s. each, joint 25s. (4) All members of the A.A. between the ages of fourteen to eighteen to be admitted at a subscription of 5s.'"

The CHAIRMAN announced that Miss Leslie had withdrawn her propositions.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER said he might consider himself the spoilt child of the Association, because every time he attended one of its meetings his lines fell in pleasant places. One meeting he presided over was described in the papers next day as an hilarious one, and he had supplied some of the comic relief. His lines had fallen in a still happier place on this occasion, because he had to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Tree for his generosity in granting the use of his theatre. Mr. Tree was quite the busiest man in their profession, as indeed he was before he became a manager. He recollected travelling with him some years ago from Oxford, to which city Mr. Tree had gone to play the part of Iago, from which character he changed in the train to that of the German Baron in *Jim the Penman*, then being played at the Haymarket Theatre. His great anxiety was not whether his being late would worry the public whom he was keeping waiting, but whether it would worry his fellow actors. His first thought had indeed always been for his fellow actors; as was evidenced by what he had done for the Association.

Mr. HARRY NICHOLLS seconded the motion.

Mr. TREE, in reply, said he was much obliged to Mr. Bourchier for the biographical details with which he had enriched the literature of the country. He had pleasure in announcing that he had received a letter from the Treasury Solicitor, which was to the effect that the sum of £10,000, which was left by the late Mr. Henry Betty, would shortly be handed over for the benefit of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, of which Sir Charles Wyndham was the President. The letter had been sent to him because he succeeded the late Mr. Betty as President of the defunct Dramatic and Musical Sick Fund. He had much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Squire Bancroft for presiding over the meeting. They were all agreed that there was no one belonging to their calling who was so well suited for the honourable position he held. No one had so much leisure, no one had greater administrative powers, and no one possessed greater enthusiasm for the well-being of his profession.

Mr. TERRY, in seconding the proposal, said their thanks were due to Sir Squire Bancroft for accepting the position of President of the Association. He trusted that Sir Squire would preside over their meetings for many years to come.

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks, and the meeting then separated.

A NATIONAL DRAMATIC REVIVAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

DEAR SIR,—Those who regard the drama, not as a mere amusement for a vacant hour, but as a vital element in the culture of our people, appear to be increasing in number and in courage. May I appeal to all such, through your columns, to assist me with their knowledge and experience in forming a society with the following objects:—

1. (a) To facilitate and encourage amateur dramatic representations of plays in country villages by the villagers themselves.
   (b) In schools, by the scholars, for the purposes of education and recreation.
   (c) Putting its members into communication with suitable professional artists, whenever their assistance might be desired.
   (d) Acquiring a stock of scenery, dresses, and play-books, which it would let out on hire at a small fee to individual members and affiliated societies requiring same.

By some such means as outlined above, it is hoped

   (a) To provide instructive and intellectual recreation for rural districts.
   (b) To popularise among the English people the dramatic masterpieces of all times and countries.
   (c) To assist in the revival and production of mysterie, moralitie, lyrical and poetical plays.

2. To form a central association in connection with the above, that should be able to assist, where requested, all amateur dramatic societies throughout the kingdom, by

   (a) Keeping records of all amateur dramatic societies and the performers.
   (b) Collecting for its members information as to plays, acting versions, casts, scenery, dresses, music, &c.
   (c) To encourage dramatic experiments of untried authors.

In all probability the subscription necessary to defray the expenses of such an association would be, at the outside, a guinea a year, possibly considerably less, from each individual, or society.

I should be much obliged if any of your readers who are interested in the scheme would communicate with me on the subject.—I am, yours truly,

F. R. BENSON.

11, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MESSRS. LUSH AND COOK, LTD., the well-known theatrical cleaners, have now removed from Mount-street to their magnificent new premises at 29, Charing Cross-road, adjoining the Alhambra. By opening these offices in such close proximity to every West-End theatre Messrs. Lush and Cook, Ltd., are supplying a long-felt want, and their enterprise will result, no doubt, in a largely-increased business. The success attained in recent years has been almost remarkable, and the excellence of Messrs. Lush and Cook's processes of chemical cleaning and dyeing is no doubt the reason that they have been forced to seek larger and more centrally-situated premises.

"PUBLIC OPINION" ON TOUR.

A new enterprise was begun by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on Monday, when *Public Opinion* was started auspiciously on its tour amid unceasing laughter and cheers constantly renewed. Mr. R. C. Carton is in his happiest vein in his clever farce, in which a fountain of wit and humour is constantly flowing. Fun in its most acceptable form is provided throughout the three acts by the efforts of eminent members of society to preserve their reputations by the recovery of love-letters which they have sent to the plaintiff in a breach of promise case. The inclusion in the company of Mr. George Giddens, who created the chief character on the production of the play at Wyndham's Theatre last autumn is of inestimable advantage. Mr. Giddens invests the rôle of Horace Wibsey with the ripe and racy drollery which has always commanded such admiration. The effect of the impersonation rests largely upon the natural methods which Mr. Giddens, as the solicitor in embryo, employs, and the essence of drollery is utilised in a way that is powerfully productive of mirth. Miss Emma Hutchison also lends distinction to the company by taking up the rôle of Lady Diana Caldershaw, one of those society ladies whose presence in a play gives it such brightness and charm. Miss Hutchison is fertile in resource as the kind-hearted Lady Diana, acting with unforced effect. She has many smart things to say, and she delivers them with such fluency and point that each line draws forth an appreciative laugh. The Hon. Justice Mulley is in the hands of Mr. William Hargreaves, a mellow comedian who does everything with infinite skill. In make-up, speech, and action he is the exact representation of the voluble judge whose intelligence is affected by approaching age, and Mr. Hargreaves' performance is throughout a delight to the audience. Miss Lilian Hallows makes a fascinating appearance in the handsome and artistic costumes of Miss Pansy Bligh, the redoubtable "evening star," who holds in her possession the incriminating letters. Refinement and grace are agreeably apparent in the attitude of the music-hall serio towards her distinguished visitors, but the bursts of temper in which she indulges are none the less faithfully portrayed. Mr. George Mallett is admirable as Sir Babbington Mulley, smart and dapper in appearance, sharp in utterance, and in every way acting as befits a society physician. The feather-brained Viscount Pomfey is invested by Mr. Harold West with all the characteristics of his class. The inane appearance of the young man, his gurgling laugh, and his skittish proclivities are all cleverly assumed—so cleverly, indeed, that Mr. West was more than once the object of special commendation. Mr. Ernest Ruston storms and raves realistically as the splenetic and assertive Spencer Traughton, his bursts of rage being admirably done throughout, and adding effectively to the humour of the piece. Mr. Templer Powell gives a buoyant exposition of the part of Lord Percy Kilgou, and Mr. C. J. Barber presents the solicitor's head clerk in a way that helps considerably towards the general success. A prepossessing Phyllis Dagenham is found in Miss Marie Mallalieu, whose gentleness and charm are aided by a voice of undeniable sweetness; and a clever caricature is supplied by Miss Ida Laurie as the maid of Pansy Bligh. Mr. J. E. Watson makes the small part of Traughton's manservant stand out conspicuously, and Mr. Ernest Cox deals adequately with the rôle of the youthful clerk. The mounting of the play is particularly fine, no expense having apparently been spared in scenery, dressing, or appointments. The whole production is one which reflects the highest credit on the management, who may rely with certainty on achieving success in all the towns reached by *Public Opinion* in its itinerary.

The evening was begun by a one-act comedietta adapted by F. Kinsey Peile from the German of Emil Pohl, produced for the first time, entitled

"THE STRATAGEM."

Angela Goring ..... MISS LILIAN HALLOWS
Lord Bernard ..... MR. HAROLD WEST
Mr. Rennell Paton ..... MR. TEMPLER POWELL
Adams ..... MR. C. J. BARBER
Brown ..... MR. E. H. G. COX

Comedy and sentiment are agreeably combined in this new curtain-raiser, the interest of which would possibly be greater if the secret of the identity of the chief personage could be more effectually kept. Lord Bernard, who is expecting a visit from a circus-rider called Aurora, receives a telegram calling him to the house of Angela Goring, an American heiress, to whom, from mercenary motives, he has become engaged. In order to give excuse for Aurora's visit, it has been arranged that her motor-car shall be upset outside the door and the young lady brought in for assistance. The accident duly takes place, but the car is that belonging to Angela Goring, who is received by Lord Bernard's friend, Rennell Paton. That gentleman has been commissioned to entertain Aurora in his lordship's absence, and is naturally under the impression that the circus-rider has arrived. In the course of conversation the fact that Lord Bernard's affection for Lady Angela is a sordid one comes to light; and when Lord Bernard returns he meets with a cold reception, while Paton, who has declared his love for Angela under the impression that she is the circus-rider is asked to accompany the heiress home. The little piece was capably acted, the most notable performance being that of an old butler who grasps the situation, a part played with genuine humour by Mr. C. J. Barber. Mr. Harold West gave a rendering of the young lord quite in keeping with the character, and as his friend Mr. Templer Powell supplied the sentiment of the piece neatly. Miss Lilian Hallows adopted a pretty American twang in the part of the heiress, and gave a bright exposition of the character.

MISS RANSOM TAYLOR'S RECITAL.

At Steinway Hall on Wednesday night, in the presence of a large audience, Miss Ransom Taylor gave a most successful dramatic recital. Miss Taylor proved a most able reciter, bringing to her task clear ennunciation with good dramatic action, being equally at home in comedy and tragedy. The first recitations were in the lighter vein, and consisted of a charming little work by Weatherley, with the title "Ever so Far Away," "The Mission of a Rose" by Clifton Bingham, and a quaint idea, entitled "Angels' Toys." Miss Taylor also gave a most impressive delivery of Nesbit's "The Ballad of Splendid Silence," and she was associated with Mr. Arthur Wellesley in scenes from *The Hunchback* (in costume), where her acting of Helen had quite the right comedy touch, Mr. Wellesley being equally successful as Modus. Other most able examples of Miss Taylor's ability were in Kipling's "My Rival," an amusing one by Burnley called "A Fig for Proverbs," and "A Pin," by Ella Wheeler. She also recited "Women's Rights" and "The Quarrel of the Rooks." Miss Taylor was assisted by Miss Gladys Clark, who gave some skilfully-executed violin solos of Schumann's "Träumerei," Sarasate's "Zapateado," and Chopin's "Nocturne." Mr. John Bardsley also did remarkably well in his songs, "Stars," by Joseph Adams, and "I hid my love," by Guy D'Hardelot, and, later in the programme, Schubert's "Serenade." Two songs of Liza Lehmann's, "A Passion Flower" and "Speedwell," were given by Miss Verena Fancourt, who also sang Tosti's "Good-bye"; and Miss Warwara Irmanoff gained a most hearty encore for her violoncello solo, "Czardás," by Fischer. At the piano, Dr. E. Markham Lee did good service as accompanist.

"EVERY INCH A MAN."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Edward Thane, Produced at the King's Theatre, Hoxton, on Monday, Feb. 12.

Alderman Barnet .....Mr. J. G. Forster
Dick Barnet .....Mr. Beresford Whitcombe
Daniel Barnet .....Mr. Edward Thane
Ben Brown .....Mr. J. P. Kennedy
Marmaduke Poole Martin ....Mr. Bert Lloyd
Teddy Edwardes .....Mr. Victor Rowland
Bill White.....Mr. Charles Hetherington
Warder Bates .....Mr. Major Mason
Major O'Donovan .....Mr. Bert Lloyd
Vera Maxwell .....Miss Louise Hampton
Mrs. Edwardes .....Miss Winnie Whyte
Martha .....Miss Gertie Reid

The destinies of the drama at Hoxton have for some time past been confided to Mr. J. Fenton, who accomplishes the formidable task of presenting a four-act drama whole and entire twice in one evening. This week has been signalised by the production of a new drama—new, that is, in so much that the title has not been used before, but many an incident comes up in the light of an old friend. Again are we presented with the hero of strict integrity who is robbed of his father's esteem by the machinations of an unscrupulous cousin, and once more do we see the heroine in dire distress rescued at the psychological moment. The play is moulded on lighter methods than most of its class, and the comedy it contains is real and unforced. The audience at Hoxton derived every satisfaction from following the fortunes of Dick Barnet, the son of Alderman Barnet, a famous architect. Dick, who is engaged in his father's office, has grown tired of the prosaic business of making houses, and longs to build up the Empire. His instincts are opposed by his father, who, on learning that Dick has determined to join the Army, ruthlessly disowns him, sending him a cheque for £50 as the residue of his salary. Daniel Barnet, the Alderman's nephew, substitutes a forged cheque for £125, and when the fraud is discovered Dick is sent to penal servitude. Ere his imprisonment Dick has succeeded in saving from a bicycle accident the prepossessing Vera Maxwell, with whom he falls in love. Vera had been engaged to Daniel, who under the name of Dick had robbed her of a large sum of money, and when the young lady goes to inform the Alderman of his nephew's iniquity, the old man refuses to believe her, but is induced to hide behind a curtain and witness an interview between her and Daniel, with the result that the latter's perfidy is revealed. The Alderman orders the villain from the house, but is shot by Daniel, and Dick, who has escaped from prison and comes to visit his father, is charged with the crime. The old man is not mortally wounded, and speedily recovers, and in the last act Daniel is brought to justice, not, however, before he has lured Vera out to sea in a boat and set fire to it—a position from which she is rescued by Dick.

A capable band of performers give an effective rendering of the piece. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb realises the description of the title-rôle in appearance, in action, and in speech, declaiming the vigorous lines allotted to him with fine power and earnestness. Miss Louise Hampton, who is a great favourite at Hoxton, gives a refreshing performance of Vera Maxwell, playing the character in agreeable light-comedy style, and giving occasion for no little merriment in her bantering of the villainous Daniel. The pathetic moments are nevertheless made very affecting, and Miss Hampton secures the utmost sympathy. A sound rendition of an old soldier was given by Mr. J. P. Kennedy, whose fine voice resounded admirably in the thrilling lines he had to deliver, calling forth hearty cheers, which were in every case well deserved. A character of the utmost value to the fun of the piece is provided by Teddy Edwardes, a boy fresh from school, who becomes articled to Alderman Barnet. The pranks he plays are genuinely humorous, and laughter was never absent while Mr. Victor Rowland, who cleverly impersonated the part, was present. Mr. J. G. Forster gave a dramatic rendering of Alderman Barnet, his attitude as the inflexible father being realistically adopted, and Mr. Edward Thane made the despicable Daniel as unpleasant as possible. Mr. Bert Lloyd, who stage-managed the production, cleverly doubled the parts of an old fop and an Irish Major, in which characters he caused plentiful mirth, to which Miss Gertie Reid, as a deaf maid-servant, added in a large degree. A "goey" widow is found in Mrs. Edwardes, the mother of the terrible Teddy, and Miss Winnie Whyte in the part revealed a depth of humour that was highly appreciated. Mr. Fenton, who has been at Hoxton for some four months, has put the house to philanthropic purposes, providing a free dinner to about 400 children a week.

Mr. R. C. Carton's pretty comedy, *The Ninth Waltz*, was presented at Wellington Hall, Belfast, on Friday evening, the 9th inst., with every element of success. Miss Mina F. Murphy was a delightful Florence, speaking her lines with much effect; and that clever actor, Mr. Sinclair Neill in the rôle of Rolland, had a part that fitted him like the proverbial glove.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—With reference to your correspondent's report in to-day's *Era*, of the Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne, we beg to state that we are not first turn, but have been sixth turn all the week.—Yours faithfully, Brindall and Cooper. Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne, Feb. 10, '06.

Ernie Myers, after a run of four and a half years without a break, is taking a well-earned rest by his doctor's orders. He finishes to-night as principal comedian with Dottridge and Longden's *Aladdin* pantomime, and will go on the Continent for a few weeks. Miss Lily Lonsdale (Mrs. Myers) will commence a tour in the provinces on Monday next.

Nash and Noel, who played the two Brokers' Men so successfully last year in Mr. Charles Carey and Mr. Alexander Loftus's *Cinderella* pantomime, have been re-engaged by the gentlemen for next year.

The forty-second meeting of the committee of the Scenic Artists' Association was held at their offices, Robert-street, Adelphi-terrace, on Monday. The chair was taken by Mr. Walter Hann, and there were also present Messrs. E. G. Banks, C. J. Hirst, G. R. Hemsley, W. T. Hemsley, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, G. Herbert Wallis, H. Woolls, and H. Lawrence Harris (Hon. Sec.). The Chairman reported that Mr. James Carr had resigned his membership of the Association. Letters were read from Messrs. Richard Douglass and H. Warner (regretting their inability to attend the committee meeting), T. Locket-Clarke, Arthur B. Hayward, and Francis H. Bull. The committee discussed at length the practicability of passing a rule to restrain master scene-painters (who are members of the Association) from employing assistants who are not members, and also for fixing a minimum salary for assistants. It was suggested to ask members of the Association to an informal meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Adelphi Hotel, to confer on the above matters and others of immediate interest to scene-painters, and it was resolved to have a social dinner, limited to scene-painters, at 7 o'clock. Tickets for the dinner may be obtained on application to Mr. Harris, Hon. Sec.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—*Re* report of the Hippodrome, Ipswich, in last week's *Era*, you mention Kate Blanche in *Grave and Gay*; it should have been yours truly, Katie Marsh.

ROYALTY THEATRE.

MM. Bison and Mars' farcical comedy, *Les Surprises du Divorce*, brought out on the 9th inst., revived pleasant memories of *Mama*, the version by Sydney Grundy which was produced at the Court Theatre nearly twenty years ago, with Mr. John Hare, Mrs. John Wood, and Mr. Arthur Cecil in the cast. The piece has before been seen here in the original tongue, M. Coquelin having long since appeared in it in London. In the hands of M. Galipaux and his competent company it created great amusement on its latest presentation in this city.

On Monday, Feb. 12,
the Play in Five Acts and a Prologue,
by Henry Bataille, from Tolstoi's novel, entitled
"RESURRECTION."

The production of an English adaptation of Tolstoi's remarkable novel "Resurrection" by Mr. Tree at His Majesty's Theatre must be fresh in the recollection of playgoers. It was on Feb. 17, 1903, almost three years ago to the day, that *Resurrection* was staged at Mr. Tree's theatre, and the performance was made memorable by the popular actor-manager's acting as Prince Nehludof and Miss Lena Ashwell's striking embodiment of Katusha. If only for purposes of comparison, the performance on Monday evening was interesting; and it was satisfactory to learn that the English production, from all points of view, was not inferior to the French. Indeed, in some important respects it was better. The French version is in a prologue and five acts, and the long interval after each fall of the curtain produced a sense of weariness. The prologue is devoted almost entirely to the unpleasant incident of the seduction of the innocent country girl, La Maslowa, and the first act represents the jury room of the Court in the Government town. Ten years have elapsed since the fall of La Maslowa, and in that time she has sunk lower and lower. She has been tried on a false charge of murder by poisoning, and the jury debate on their verdict. This is a rather dreary business but for the outbursts of a comical old juryman, who bluntly and explosively expresses his opinions. The accused, in spite of the forcible protests of Nehludof, who is one of the jury, is found guilty of murder with extenuating circumstances, and is condemned to exile in Siberia. The Prince, feeling that he is the prime cause of all the woman's misfortunes, resolves to obtain her pardon, and visits her in the prison. Here we see the women prisoners herded together and treated like dogs by the brutal officials. La Maslowa is amongst them; and when Nehludof comes to see her he finds that she has become degraded by vice, and seeks to forget her miserable condition by drinking vodki. However, she is given employment in the prison hospital, where she is subjected to the amorous overtures of a brutal assistant, who, being repulsed, brings a false charge against her, from which she is unable to clear herself in the eyes of the Prince. In the last act, the scene of which is in Siberia, we learn that La Maslowa has won the love of an honest fanatic named Simonson, who offers her marriage. Finally the Prince fulfils his promise by obtaining a pardon for the woman who has resolved to lead a better life.

As in the English version of the novel, the central figure is the womn whose downfall dates from the day that she yields to the solicitations of Prince Nehludof, and this leading part was played by Mdlle. Berthe Bady with powerful effect. The contrast between the shy, timid girl of the prologue and the desperate inmate of the prison was very vividly shown, and the passionate outburst, inspired by vodki, was an admirable piece of acting that aroused the enthusiastic applause of the house. M. Maurice Luguet deserves every credit for his excellent impersonation of the Prince, coming out particularly well in the jury scene. M. Armand Bour also scored as Simonson, and Mdlle. Fériel did well as the Princess Kortchaguine. There are a great many other characters in the cast, but they are of little importance. M. Gabriel Frère appeared as the President of the Jury, M. Maret as Nowodoroff, M. Bessy was good as Le Marchand, and other parts were capably filled.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Arthur Shirley—Saturday, Feb. 17.
J. Farren Soutar—Saturday, Feb. 17.
Henry Marston Clifford—Saturday, Feb. 17.
David G. Noble—Saturday, Feb. 17.
S. Isaacs—Saturday, Feb. 17.
Edward German—Saturday, Feb. 17.
Eddie Harvey—Saturday, Feb. 17.
Mrs. G. W. Moore—Saturday, Feb. 17.
Walter Gay—Sunday, Feb. 18.
Charles Rezene—Sunday, Feb. 18.
Emmie Ames—Sunday, Feb. 18.
Ernest Dare—Monday, Feb. 19.
Lydia Thompson—Monday, Feb. 19.
Mme. Adelina Patti—Monday, Feb. 19.
Dot Sealby—Tuesday, Feb. 20.
Errol Stanhope—Tuesday, Feb. 20.
Josie Bickford—Tuesday, Feb. 20.
Pascoe Biolette—Tuesday, Feb. 20.
May Fortescue—Wednesday, Feb. 21.
Horace Butler—Wednesday, Feb. 21.
Max Copland—Wednesday, Feb. 21.
G. W. Moore—Thursday, Feb. 22.
Phyllis Desmond—Thursday, Feb. 22.
Fred A. Douglas—Thursday, Feb. 22.
Mrs. Fred Benton—Thursday, Feb. 22.
E. J. Hilliary—Thursday, Feb. 22.
(Miss) A. Harrison-Tate—Thursday, Feb. 22.
Jenny Fenton—Thursday, Feb. 22.
Frank Haytor—Thursday, Feb. 22.
W. H. Chatiell—Thursday, Feb. 22.
Will Oliver—Friday, Feb. 23.
Florence B. Sennett—Friday, Feb. 23.
Frank Graham—Friday, Feb. 23.

Mr. Walter Scott, the musical director of the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, entertained the members of the orchestra and a few personal friends to a substantial repast at the Oddfellows' Arms Hotel between the matinée and evening performances of *Dick Whittington* on Tuesday.

Mr. E. James Woollen is the managing-director of the Expert Advertising Company, Sheffield. He makes a speciality of the advertising rights on theatre curtains and programmes. Mr. Woollen found, when he came into this business, that there were a great many complaints about the common class of curtain which was being supplied. This he immediately remedied by supplying really artistic curtains. Mr. Woollen is prepared to pay rents in advance and supply the smartest curtains in the country. Two of his advertising curtains have been fixed at the Marlborough Theatre and Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington. The Expert Advertising Company also buy the rights on programmes. The chairman of the company is Alderman J. R. Wheatley, J.P., original proprietor of the well-known beverage "Wheatley's Hop Bitters." He was recently Lord Mayor of Sheffield.

Owing to heavy pressure on our space, our usual instalment of "Fifty Years of the Drama has this week to be held over.

RIDDLE STOWER'S
ENGLISH and AMERICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION
80, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, LONDON, W.
Late of 202, Regent-st., W. Established over 25 Years.
American Gold and Porcelain Crowns and Filling, &c
Absolutely Painless Extractions, 2/6.
Special terms to the Profession.
Ici on parle Francais. Man Spricht Deutsch.
Qui si parla Italiano.

"THE PRODIGAL PARSON."

Revised Version of the Drama in Four Acts, by Fred L. Coanynghame and C. A. Clarke, produced at the Court Theatre, Bacup, on Monday, Feb. 12.

The revival of *The Prodigal Parson* on Monday at the New Court Theatre, Bacup, was received with genuine enthusiasm by a large house, and there is little doubt that a long and prosperous tour is in store. The play has undergone judicious revision, and does not contain a single superfluous line. Messrs. Northway and Garrod are to be heartily congratulated on the excellence of their production, the company they have got together being a thoroughly good one. The scenery is particularly elaborate for a travelling company, and bears evidence of a considerable expenditure of both taste and money. The churchyard scene in Act II., with its ivy-covered porch and lychgate, is a beautiful rustic set; and in marked contrast is the elaborate Bier Garten, with its striking lighting effects. The barber's shop scene is remarkable for its attention to detail, all the characteristics of a hairdresser's establishment being faithfully reproduced. Great effect is lent to the church scene by an organ played "off," and a peal of church bells. There is no need to recount the story here, suffice it to say that the vicissitudes of the parson and his faithful wife were followed with rapt attention, and the comedy scenes proved irresistibly funny. Mr. Garrod plays the title-rôle with deep feeling, bringing out at the same times the many sides of the character. It is a far reach from the light-hearted village pastor of the first act to the drink-sodden outcast in the Bier Garten, and the tax upon the actor's ability is a great one. As the hypocritical churchwarden, Enoch Jaggins, Mr. Northway contributes a clever performance, his suave exterior concealing the deep villainy of the character, and giving plausibility to the part. As the conscience-stricken brother Ben, Mr. Frank Dallas is remarkably good, causing many a thrill by his graphic depiction of the agony and remorse of the guilty wretch. As his criminal confederate, Ned Kettlepin, Mr. Walter Vincent gives a sound performance, tinged with dry humour. Mr. Clarmont Gaskell gives a really droll rendition of Phil Drive. He is a naturally funny comedian, and keeps his audience in a roar without ever descending to buffoonery. Miss Bertha Kingston submits an admirable rendering of the parson's wife, playing the several trying scenes with deep pathos. Her parting from home and husband in Act II. left few dry eyes in the house, and in the Bier Garten, where, to save her husband's life, she is forced to deny him, Miss Kingston acted with rare fire and intensity. Miss May Grayce is delightful as the German girl Gretchen, speaking the broken English very cleverly, and being bright and vivacious throughout. As the child Myrtle, Miss Gladys Conover is quite natural, and wins all hearts by her sweet and child-like manner. Miss Amy Shaw is attractive as the maid Pomeroy, and the numerous small parts are all excellently played. The carnival is appropriately opened with a vaudeville entertainment, to which the Radium Girls contributed an attractive turn, which secured a well-deserved encore. Mr. Clarmont Gaskell gives a very amusing song, and Miss Kingston's rendering of "The Carnival" fairly brought the house down. In the last act her singing of "Good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye," to her own pianoforte accompaniment, also found much favour. The dresses and uniforms are all very striking. Miss Kingston in particular wearing some beautiful frocks.

AMATEURS AT WOOLWICH.

There was a large and friendly audience at the Freemasons' Hall, Woolwich, when the Charlton Park Cricket Club gave a performance of *The Prude's Progress*, by Jerome K. Jerome and Eden Phillpotts. The club is fortunate in the possession among its members and friends of a very fair amount of dramatic talent, and the performance was, on the whole, a creditable one. Miss Ethel Disselhorst, when she had conquered some initial nervousness, gave a sympathetic rendering of Nelly Morris, and showed considerable insight into the character of this self-sacrificing, warm-hearted girl. Mrs. Ben Dixon found an amusing representative in Miss Nina Collins, who successfully sustained the accent and mannerisms of the former "favourite of the halls." Mrs. J. R. J. Johnston made a charming Primrose Deane, and acted a pretty little love scene particularly well. As the tearful Mrs. Wheedles, Miss Mabel Raynes wept with frequency and effect. The most successful impersonation of the evening was undoubtedly Mr. J. R. J. Johnston's characterization of Ben Dixon, played with a force and earnestness rare among amateurs. Another good interpretation of a character part was submitted by Mr. H. P. Gibberd, whose Adam Cherry was a commendably natural, finished performance. Mr. C. T. Turpin acted easily and unaffectedly as Ted Morris, and was at his best in a short love scene. Mr. A. J. Falkner had evidently made a careful study of Theodore Travers, and Mr. C. M. Bernays did well as Jack Medbury. The orchestra, under the able leadership of Mr. J. Purchase, acquitted itself creditably, and the thanks of the club and their friends are due to Mr. H. C. Sargent for his excellent stage-management.

Mr. Edward Compton, who celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Compton Comedy Company on Wednesday of last week, was on the following Friday entertained to supper by the Aberdeen Pen-and-Pencil Club at the Imperial Hotel in that city. A large and distinguished company assembled to do honour to Mr. Compton, the chair being occupied by Mr. G. W. W. Barclay, the president of the club, who was supported by over seventy gentlemen, including Lord Provost Lyon and Bishop Chisholm. The frontispiece of the menu consisted of an illustration of Mr. Compton as Charles Surface, the background being filled in with the names of the plays in his répertoire, and a card circulated among the company bore the following lines:—

EDWARD COMPTON.

E dward! a *Royal* name we love to hear;
D ear to all British folk, and to us dear.
W e too an Edward honour here this night,
A nd welcome him amongst us with delight.
R oyal he too among his actor-peers,
D early beloved, his very presence cheers!

C ountless the throngs that listen to his voice,
O r honour him with their discretion's choice.
M erry and gay, an actor sound and pure,
P roviding honest fare that will endure.
T o thee we raise our glass and drink thy health!
O nward! to greater fame and greater wealth,
'N eath cloudless skies, another twenty-five be thine!

The Chairman proposed the toast of "The health of Mr. Compton," to whom he referred as a man who was known in every corner of Great Britain and Ireland, an actor of the first rank, and one who was to many friends a good fellow of the first water. Mr. Compton, in the course of a witty speech, said he was very proud and honoured to be their guest. It was an honour that he never dreamt of; but it was an honour which he appreciated and enjoyed, and he was very grateful to the members of the Pen-and-Pencil Club for having mustered in such large numbers that night to congratulate him upon what was certainly a unique event in theatrical life—the twenty-fifth anniversary of one company playing one class of plays. Mr. Compton also mentioned that the last guest honoured by the club was the late Sir Henry Irving, and he paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the late distinguished actor.

ON THE ROAD, FEBRUARY 19.

After the Ball.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
Alexandra Opera Company.—T. R., Colne.
Are You a Mason?—Llandudno.
At Duty's Call.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Babes in the Wood (Kiddie).—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Pier Pav., Eastbourne.
Beauty and the Barge.—Marlborough T., Holloway.
Benson, F. R. (B.).—T. R., Lincoln.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush.—T. R., Belfast.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Blue Bell in Fairyland.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Bramley Esmond.—Opera House, Perth.
Breed of the Treshams.—Queen's T., Swindon.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Bilston.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Catch of the Season.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Accrington.
Christian (Howard).—Leith and Tredegar.
Christian, The.—Alexander T., Greenock.
Cingalee.—Bury.
Cingalee (2).—Aberdeen.
Claudian.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Coal King.—T. R., Smethwick.
Compton Comedy Co.—Paisley Theatre, Paisley.
Cotton Spinner.—T. R., South Shields.
Country Girl.—Rushden.
Country Girl (Dance).—O. H., Coventry.
Dandy Doctor.—Kirkcaldy.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Dover.
Days of Cromwell.—T. R., Darwen.
D'Oyly Carte.—O. H., Pretoria.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—O. H., Southport.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Blackburn.
Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Bolton.
Eternal City.—Ryde and Weymouth.
Face at the Window.—Metropole T., Hoyland.
Faithful Friend.—Lyric, Hammersmith.
False Wife.—T. R., Jarrow.
Her Fatal Past.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Fight for Millions.—T. R., Stratford.
Female Swindler.—T. R., Colchester.
Florodora (N.).—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Florodora (Howard) (S.).—O. H., York.
Freedom of Suzanne.—T. R., Plymouth.
Frivolity.—T. R., W. Stanley.
Girl from Japan.—Bedford and Luton.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Aldershot.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Grand T., Southampton.
Golden Ladder.—West London Theatre.
Go-Won-Go- Mohawk.—T. R., Blyth.
Great Awakening.—King's T., Cardiff.
Her Lost Self.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Her Luck in London.—O. H., Gloucester.
Her One Great Sin.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Her Wedding Day.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Home, Sweet Home.—T. R., Rugby.
Honour Thy Father.—Queen's T., Gateshead.
Indian Mutiny.—Woolwich.
Kitty Grey.—County, Kingston.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Cardiff.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Melton Mowbray.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Hanley.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—Grand T., Hull.
Lady of Ostend.—T. R., Hull.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Laughter Land.—Prince's T., Preston.
Leah Kleschna.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Life's Sweetest Sins.—O. H., Doncaster.
Little Bo-Peep (Kiddie).—T. R., Rotherham.
Little Bread Winner.—T. R., Attercliffe.
Little Michus (Dance).—Stockport.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Gaiety T., Dublin.
London Fireman.—Carlton, Greenwich.
Love that Women Desire.—Camb. T., Spennymoor.
Lucky Durham.—T. R., Halifax.
Manxman.—T. R., Glossop.
Martin Harvey.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Master Criminal.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Message from Mars.—O. H., Northampton.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., Hyde.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Aston.
Modern Adventuress.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Money Makes the Man.—Macclesfield.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Tunbridge Wells.
Moody Manners (A).—Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Moody Manners (B).—Winter Gardens, Blackpool.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Mr. Smith.—Nottingham.
Mr. Smith.—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
Napoleon the Great.—Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
Norman V. Norman.—O. H., Harrogate.
No Wedding Bell for Her.—Coliseum, Oldham.
Oliver Twist.—Cambridge and King's Lynn.
On the Love Path.—Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.
Orchid (2).—Chester.
Orchid (Dance).—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Orphan Heiress.—King's T., Kilmarnock.
Passion's Power.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
Peggy Machree.—Grand Theatre, Croydon.
Poor Must Live.—Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
Power and the Glory.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Power of Gold.—Hippodrome, Brompton.
Price of Her Soul.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Prince of Pilsen.—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
Prodigal Parson.—Grand Theatre, Corley.
Prodigal Son.—Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.
Prodigal Son.—Grand T., Woolwich.
Proof.—Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Revenge.—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
Rogues of the Turf.—Grand T., Stalybridge.
Royal Divorce.—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
Royal Divorce (N.).—O. H. Dudley.
Royal Revenge.—Colwyn Bay.
Sailors of the King.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
Saints and Sinners.—Theatre Royal, Tonypandy.
See-Saw of Life.—King's T., Walthamstow.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Bilston.
Sergeant Brue (Lockwood).—T. R., Darlington.
Sherlock Holmes.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Exeter.
Silver King.—T. R., Rochdale.
Sin of Her Childhood.—Rawtenstall.
Sins of a City.—O. H., Porth.
Spring Chicken.—King's T., Glasgow.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Castleford.
Sunday.—Court Theatre, Warrington.
Swiss Express.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Talk of the Town.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Aberdare.
Temptress, The.—Aquarium, Gt. Yarmouth.
Toreador.—Barrow.
Traitor Prince.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Two Hussars.—Pier Pavilion, Hastings.
Ugliest Woman on Earth.—Century T., Motherwell.
Under the Czar.—Amphitheatre, Ramsate.
Veronique (Dance).—Grand Theatre, Derby.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—Lyceum T., Newport.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Way of the World.—P. O. W., Salford.
Wearin' o' the Green.—T. R., Merthyr.
What a Woman Did.—Treherbert.
What the Butler Saw.—Coronet Theatre, W.
When a Man Hates.—O. H., Harrogate.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Croydon.
White Chrysanthemum.—Alexandra Theatre, N.
Wilkie, Allen and Co.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Willard, E. S.—Academy, Baltimore.
Woman's Past.—Opera House, Radcliffe.
Worst Woman in London.—Court T., Wigan.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Windsor.
10.30 Down Express.—Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.

During the performance of *The Superior Miss Pellender* at the Waldorf Theatre on Monday a limelight operator named Arthur Wright fell from the flies to the stage, a distance of between 20ft. and 30ft. His fall was broken by a motor-bicycle, which was being utilised for the purposes of the piece. When picked up he was found to be seriously hurt, and was conveyed to Charing Cross Hospital, where he died the following day.

The Original Cocoa,
and a Speciality.
EPPS'S
Distinguished from all others by its invigorating nutritious qualities and delicious flavour. It contains all the substance of the choicest Nibs, and maintains its leading position as
COCOA
the best form of Cocoa for every-day use.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. S.—*Miss Victoria Monk's latest song is "Can't you hear me calling, Mr. Primrose Brown?"*

J. Carter.—*No.*

M. D.—*1.* Babil and Bijou *was originally produced at Covent Garden Theatre, August 29, 1872. 2.* The Black Crook *was produced at the Alhambra, December 23, 1872.*

R. J.—An Artist's Model *was produced at Daly's, Feb. 2, 1895. It was transferred to the Lyric on May 28, and was reproduced at Daly's in a "second edition" on September 28 of the same year.*

Yum Yum.—*The original Yum Yum was Miss Leonora Braham. Miss Geraldine Ullmar played the part in the revival in June, 1888.*

H. X.—*No.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Abadaroff.—On Feb. 13, at 76, Union-street, Plymouth, the wife of Tom Abadaroff, of a beautiful daughter. Both doing extra.

Evans.—Feb. 13, the wife of Fred Evans (late Fred Karno's company), of a son.

Pardoe.—On Feb. 14, at 15, William Edward-street, Violet Rivers, wife of J. Pardoe, of the Marvellous Pardoes, of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

Bell—Wilson.—On the 10th ult., at Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland, Ethel, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson, of Derwent House, Derwent-street, to Henry Pinkney, third son of the late W. W. Bell, of General Gordon-terrace, and nephew of Ald. Fairless, J.P. The service, which was fully choral was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Randall, D.D. J. Priestman, Esq., J.P., kindly officiated at the organ.

Colley—Dryden.—At Lavender Hill, Feb. 14, Miss Ada Colley to Leo Dryden.

Letters—Battersby.—On Friday, Feb. 2, Will Letters (page, Mr. Jordison's "Cinderella" Co.) to Kitty Battersby (Les Belles Américaines), by special licence at All Saints' Registry, Manchester. Mrs. Cissy Sutcliffe and Mr. Fred Eplett (musical composer), stood as sponsors.

DEATHS.

Abrahams.—Feb. 8, after an operation for appendicitis, Elizabeth, the wife of Michael Abrahams, formerly of the Queen's, Poplar.

Carlton.—On Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Bury, Lizzie, the dearly beloved wife of Charles Carlton. Interred at Gorton, near Manchester, Feb. 10. My best friend gone. Rest in Peace.

Chapman.—Feb. 12, at 5, Belvedere-road, Scarborough, from asthma, Martha, the wife of J. W. Chapman, managing-director of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Doncaster, aged 48.

Lee.—Feb. 12, S. L. Lee, business-manager and part proprietor of the Circus of Varieties, Rochdale. Aged 49.

Lester.—At Liverpool, Feb. 6, 1906, Annie Lester, dearly beloved wife of Leo Lester, after five years' suffering.

Mercer.—Feb. 8, at Leeds, after a long illness, from consumption, Ben J. Mercer, coloured comedian (of the Jetneys), aged 28.

Musgrove.—Jan. 22, Captain Forbes Musgrove (late Middlesex Regiment, Imperial Yeomanry), father of Mary Musgrove, professionally known as Mary Brougham. R.I.P.

Rogerson.—Feb. 11, 1906, Whit Rogerson died, at 66, Loughborough-park, Brixton, S.W., aged 63 years.

Simpson.—Passed away, Feb. 14, age 35 years, Clifford Simpson (The Brontes), after long and painful illness, 4, Park-crescent, Park-street, Hull. Rest, dear heart, until we meet again. Your broken-hearted wife, Millie.

In Memoriam.

Chapman—In loving memory of Harriet Ethel Chapman, who passed away Feb. 21, 1904. Gone, but not forgotten by her loving husband, C. E. Chapman, and son, Gilbert.

Jones.—In loving memory of E. H. Jones, who died Feb. 13, 1905. Sadly missed by his sorrowing wife and family.

Leeson.—In loving memory of Dan Leeson. Gone, but not forgotten; rest in peace.—Jennie.

For Sympathy.

Lester.—Mr. Leo Lester begs to thank all kind friends for the wreaths and kind expressions of sympathy on the death of his beloved wife Annie.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—In your report last week for the Palace, Chelsea, you say: "A tuneful coon song and dance, 'Letty,' was contributed by Mr. Reddick Anderson, who had the assistance of a lady in his most attractive and enjoyable scena." I beg to state that I was deputising for Mr. Anderson, and that "Letty" is my sole property.—Yours faithfully, Charlie Jerome.

Presentation.—Miss Mabel Kessler, who has scored such a success as Principal Boy in Messrs. Maddox's *Dick Whittington* pantomime, was last week presented by Mr. B. Crossman, proprietor, with a handsome panel portrait of herself, in Palace costume, in an oak frame 3ft. in height; also a gold curb bracelet. A diamond ring and floral tributes came from the company.

Bovril, the virtues of which are manifest to none more than those engaged in the actor's calling, is gaining more and more in popular estimation. At the ninth annual general meeting of Bovril, Limited, held recently at River Plate House, Finsbury-circus, E.C., the chairman, Viscount Duncannon, C.V.O., C.B., said it was a very great pleasure to meet the shareholders with a report of record sales in the home trade, and of a larger profit on the year's business. The net profit was £152,530, being an increase of £5,970 on the previous year. If the accounts were passed the company would be enabled to pay the six months' dividends on the 5½ per cent. Preference shares and on the 7 per cent. Ordinary shares, and a year's dividend at 4 per cent. on the Deferred shares, adding £20,000 to the reserve (making it £165,000), and carrying forward £14,021. They still possessed Vimbos and its formulæ, its bottles, and labels, and advertisements, and the "Ox in the Teacup" poster; but held them in reserve in case it was ever desirable to push a cheaper article than Bovril. With regard to Virol, Limited, the Board have realised that it would take some years of extensive advertising before the specific could become thoroughly known and appreciated by the public. They had, therefore, formed a separate company in January, 1900, for its development. The sales of Virol for 1902 were 31 per cent. increase upon those of 1901; those for 1903 were 35 per cent. increase upon those of 1902, 1904 50 per cent. over 1903, last year 18 per cent. over 1904, and for the last month of the present financial year 46 per cent. increase upon the same month of the previous financial year. Virol was an entirely different article from Bovril. It was a food combination unlike anything upon the market. It was as near perfection as possible as a children's food and as an invalid's diet in consumption, anæmia, and all wasting conditions.

Presentation.—The members of Mr. G. Brydon Phillips' company on the last night of his pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, presented Mr. Henry de Solla, who produced, stage managed, and played in same, with a very handsome silver cigarette case.

SORE THROAT OR HOARSENESS
CURED IN A FEW HOURS.
Sir Morell Mackenzie, M.D., the Eminent Throat Specialist, constantly recommended Condy's Remedial Fluid to be diluted and used as a Gargle for speedily curing Sore Throat or Hoarseness.
Dr. Walford Harris, in his book entitled "The Throat and its Treatment," says: "I have found the 'Condy' and cold water gargle excellent, many cases being cured immediately."
The late Mr. Sims Reeves, the world-famed Tenor Vocalist, wrote: "'Condy' used as a Gargle clears the voice and braces up the uvula."
Condy's Remedial Fluid, sold by all Chemists at 1s. 1½d. Caution.—Insist on having "Condy's."

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Abel, Mr. George
Adams, Miss Nelly
Aida, Miss B.
Allerton, Mr. H.
Anson, Miss C.
Anson, Miss L.
Atherton, Mr.
Barlow, Miss Billie
Barrett, Mr. Frank
Barrie, Mr. Gus
Bayley, Mr. Chas.
Beckley, Miss
Bertram, Mr. Eugene
Birchmore, Mr. T.
Bon Bon, Mr. Harry
Bowyer, Mr. Fred
Bracewell, Miss Ethel
Broton, Mr. Fritz
Brough, Miss F.
Bunce, Mr. H.
Burdell, Miss Marie
Burgess, Messrs.
Burn, Mr. Andy
Callan, Mr. John
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Hoey, Miss Male
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Howard, Mr. Walter
Howes, Miss Millie
Hughes, Miss Annie
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Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
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Lindsay, Madame
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Manderville, Miss Flo
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Payne, Mr. H. M.
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Ramier, Mr. Ed.
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Reco, Mr. E.
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Seymour, Mr. G.
Shaw, Mr. Will
Shine, Mr. W.
Sivado, Miss P.
Spessardy, Mons., C.
Starr, Mr. Harry
Sterling, Mr. J. G.
Steward, Mr. Harry
Sydmon, Mr. N.
Tayner, Mrs. E.
Tearle, Mr. Godfrey
Temple, Mr. Fred
Tennyson and Wallis
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Trevoir, Miss F.
Trevor, Mr. Theadore
Van Noorden, Mr. W.
Vetter, Mr. Oscar
Vincent, Miss C.
Vine, Mr. Tom
Virginia, Miss
Walmer, Miss C.
Wardle, Mr. Harry
Wardroper, Mr. Henry
Warren, Mr. Arthur
Warsaw, Mr. Dave
Warwick, Mrs. B.
Waterfield, Mr. Chas.
Watson, Mr. S.
Weighill, Mr. R.
Whyte, Mr. Karl
Willoughby, Mr. George
Wilton, Mr. G. W.
Wingard, Prof.
Woodville, Mr. R.
Woodville, Mr. E.
Wynne, Mr. John
Yeamans, Miss Lydia
Yoricks, The

ACTORS AT PLAY.

The Theatrical and Ali Baba Sports and Street Fancy Dress Parade, in Edinburgh, took place on Tuesday under bitterly cold, yet not unpleasant, conditions. The chief brunt of the organising fell to the lot of Mr. William Whitehead (Theatre Royal), who acted as secretary. He was well supported by Mr. George T. Minshull (Royal Lyceum Theatre), Mr. C. J. Cawood (Empire Palace Theatre), Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke (Cooke's Royal Circus), Mr. Tom E. Murray (the popular Ali Baba of the Theatre Royal pantomime), Mr. Richard Johnston, S.S.C., Mr. F. A. Lumley, Mr. Harry Stuart (Empire Palace Theatre), and many others. The various members of the companies at present in Edinburgh worked with a will, and all in the cause of charity. The citizens, too, helped heartily, and scores of useful presents, and also some substantial cheques, were forthcoming.

The proceedings opened in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, where the processionists and street-collectors assembled prior to the parade, and all along the long route traversed, thousands of spectators lined the streets, enjoying the comic antics of the numerous funny men from the pantomimes and other spheres of amusement. Mr. Tom E. Murray, the instigator of the gala, led the procession in a motor-car, which ultimately found its way to Powderhall Grounds, where an excellent programme of sports was gone through before a crowd numbering close on 6,000. Despite the cold, general hilarity prevailed, and the collection boxes were busy.

The chief prize-winners were :—120 Yards Scratch Race, for Staff.—Final Heat : Torrance, 1; Hume, 2; Macdonald, 3. 120 Yards Scratch, for Artists.—Final Heat : Ryder, 1; Gee Gee, 2; Cooke, 3 (substitute). Managers' Race.—T. Edlin (New Gaiety), 1; Ernest Wright (Lyceum), 2; Joseph Ellis (Operetta House), 3. Human Wheelbarrow Race.—Rough and Torrance, 1; MacNaughton and Stewart, 2; Duff and Hamilton, 3. Sack Race.—Final : Almero, 1; D. Stewart, 2. Animal Race.—Royston, 1; Donaldson, 2. Tug-of-War.—Final : Lyceum pulled Empire, 50 Yards Children's Race.—Ina Goodsir, 1; D. Moneen, 2; K. Broadbridge, 3. 70 Yards Egg-and-Spoon Race.—Miss Rutherford, 1; Miss Leon, 2; Miss Fleming, 3.

A five-a-side football match was played, in which members of four local teams took part. The St. Bernards beat the Heart of Midlothian by one point to nothing. The judging was in the hands of Mr. F. A. Lumley and Mr. Robert Wilson, and their task was not a very difficult one.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—It was Ada Maud, and not Amy Maud, who played Selim in *Sinbad the Sailor*, at the Theatre Royal, Blyth.—Yours truly, ADA MAUD, 4, St. John's-square, Wolverhampton, Feb. 12.

PRESENTATIONS.—At the close of Mr. A. E. Smith's company's engagement in the pantomime *Little Bo-Peep* at the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, Mr. C. M. James, musical conductor, was presented with a writing-case, Miss Dora Freeman with a bouquet and gloves, and Miss Fanny Douglas with a bouquet and two handsome boxes of chocolates.

MR. ROBERT A. JAMES concludes his sixth consecutive pantomime engagement on Saturday next with Mr. John Hart.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
The thirty-ninth issue of "The Era" Annual has just appeared, and once more it supplies a useful record of the theatrical year. An editorial note reminds us that among the contributors to the first number, that of 1868, were E. L. Blanchard (its editor), Charles Mathews, T. W. Robertson, Andrew Halliday, H. J. Byron, Watts Phillips, and Dion Boucicault—a brilliant band indeed. The contributors to the present isue are almost exclusively actors rather than literary men, but upon the whole they make a very fair show; while the lists of plays produced in London and the provinces, and in Paris and Berlin during the twelve months under review are distinctly useful. There are a number of photographs including an exceedingly fine one of the late Sir Henry Irving.—Pall Mall Gazette, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual again makes its welcome appearance. I say welcome because, as a work of theatrical reference, it is always handy to have in the house—or office. In this connection I am glad to note that the lists of play-productions for the past year are given in better type and altogether in a much clearer manner. As of yore, there are sundry stories in prose and verse. The best of these include "Stage Superstitions," by Charles Warner; "Boy Bob at Sea," a poem by Louie Freear; "The Last Muster," a weird tragic military story, by Mr. Joseph Wilson, who has been a soldier himself; and "Nellie Bligh's Notices," a capital theatrical story, by Mr. Frank Desprez.—Referee, Jan. 28, 1906.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1906.

THEATRICAL "BAD TIMES."

It is somewhat startling to be told on such excellent authority as that of Mr. GEORGE EDWARDES that there is "little or no money now to be made in London theatres." We should be inclined to regard such a statement, coming from any other person than the great Pioneer of the Musical Play, as one of those periodic grumblings which are heard from farmers and managers alike; but Mr. EDWARDES knows his own business most thoroughly, and what he cannot tell us about it is not worth knowing. The condition of things is, indeed, easily accounted for.

The manager who invents a new form of amusement is somewhat in the same position as the poetically-recorded eagle, who was killed by an arrow fledged with a feather from his wing. He creates popular artists, who, when once popular, demand higher, and yet higher, salaries. At the same time, the entertainment itself has a tendency to get "watered down," to become more and more an article of manufacture. It is then, as an old musical-play "hand" put it to us the other day, "chiefly a question of artists." The *dramatically* musical portions of the entertainment incline to be subordinate; and the success is assured by the semi-detached songs, and by the personal popularity of the people who sing them. Competition comes in; and other managers rush into the field with new composers and new librettists. Unfortunately for the managers, "popular" artists cannot be improvised as easily as authors and musicians can be found; so actors and vocalists of really strong attraction can practically demand their own terms. At the same time, more and more elaborate dressing and mounting are demanded. *A Gaiety Girl* cost little to mount and dress; and *An Artist's Model* was not a very expensive production. Finally, a point is reached at which the manager's profits, in London, are reduced to comparatively small proportions.

The "country companies," however, continue to pay; and the manager calls on the provinces to redress the balance of the Metropolis. In these companies, the salaries are moderate, and the mounting, though almost equally effective, not quite so costly. The London public reaps the benefit of the situation. As it is the arbiter of taste, as it sets the stamp of success upon a theatrical enterprise, it gets its amusement at less than it is worth. This is the state of things described by Mr. EDWARDES; and, as long as money is to be made by exploiting the country as a whole, musical plays will continue to be produced and artists will demand higher salaries. It will be a long time, we fancy, before a successor will be found to a form of amusement which so exactly suits a large majority of pleasure-seekers.

But what evidence have we that there is any epidemic of "theatrical insolvency" in existence amongst our actor-managers? What leading London manager has announced his approaching bankruptcy, or complained of the "ups-and-downs" of business? The discussion seems to have originated in a mere journalistic *canard*, and to have no other foundation than "coffee-house gossip." Of course the opponents of the actor-manager system have eagerly seized upon such an excellent text for their sermons as is supplied by these sensational rumours; and Mr. WILLIAM ARCHER has preached on it in the *Tribune*. But what can Mr. ARCHER, or anyone else, know of the real facts of the case? His evidence, like that produced by the journal which started the discussion, is hearsay evidence and worthless. An actor-manager whose affairs are suffering from temporary depression meets a journalist in the street, and makes pessimistic statements concerning the drama. By simply "begging the question," and assuming a general state of impending theatrical insolvency, the journalist is able to open a "panicky" discussion, which is joined in by everyone who thinks he has a *panacea* for all the ills from which the modern drama is supposed to suffer. A short time ago, when there was such a noisy outcry about "bad business" in the provinces, plenty of practical people were found to deny that this really existed. At any rate, things seem to have settled themselves in that quarter; and we hear no more complaints. As to this latest report, we confess ourselves entirely unconvinced. There are always a certain number of theatres producing failures, and the average of ill-luck at present does not seem to be greater than usual. Who can possibly know the truth in this matter? Are the leading London managers likely to submit their private affairs to an inquisition of journalists for the sake of disproving reports having their origin in a lively imagination and an eager desire for "copy"? What can Mr. ARCHER, who accuses our managers of living too luxuriously, know of the expenditure of these gentlemen, or of its relation to their incomes? The following sentence from his article strikes us as little less than an impertinence: "The managers themselves live at a rate which forbids them to consolidate their financial position by letting any considerable part of their profits (when they make any) go to their capital account." With all possible consideration for Mr. ARCHER, we submit that he is talking about what he does not understand. He evidently knows nothing of the way in which theatres are financed, or of the private possessions of our leading London managers. He begs the question of insolvency, and he begs the question of managerial thrift. We could tell Mr. ARCHER one or two things in this relation which would both enlighten and surprise him. But, until we have some more reliable evidence than that at present before us, we decline to believe that "the English theatre is insolvent." The affairs of the leading London managers are their own business, and nobody else's; and as long as they neither file petitions in bankruptcy nor retire from business we may safely postpone both consideration and condolence. One thing is certain—our actor-managers manage to keep their heads above water. We see the same great names, season after season, at the heads of our advertisements. There has not been for many years a collapse like that of the late F. B. CHATTERTON. Into the private finances of these gentlemen it would be impertinent to pry; and the machinery of "backers" and syndicates must ever be "wrop in myst'ry." But does it really matter? The actor-manager's claim on consideration, his great gratification, is not riches, but what used to be called in the early Victorian tongue Fame. Would Sir HENRY IRVING'S memory be more revered now if he had died worth a "plum"? Who cares if Mr. BEERBOHM TREE, Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, and Mr. JOHN HARE are, or are not, demi-millionaires? The great thing is that they keep in harness, that they continue to produce plays and act in them. It matters not to the London public whether the losses on London quasi-failures are recouped by provincial tours or American expeditions, as long as the London managers who produce fine plays manage to keep their flags flying.

We need not fear for astute financiers like Mr. GEORGE EDWARDES, Mr. ARTHUR COLLINS, and Mr. CHARLES FROHMAN. Their ventures are so sagaciously, so shrewdly, planned that success is, with them, only a question of degree. But when we think of the never-ceasing, SISYPHUS-toil of the London actor-manager, when we realise how he has to be play-selector, rehearser, producer, and leading actor, besides giving "an eye to the box-office," and an occasional hour to society and speech-making, we feel what an arduous existence is his, and how dull a place London would be without him and his enterprises. Surely it is enough that, with all the fluctuations of theatrical business, these bold adventurers are not driven from the field.

A PERFORMANCE of *The Tyranny of Tears* was given at the Haymarket Theatre on Thursday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Union Jack Club, the Duchess of Albany, Prince Alexander of Teck, Lord Roberts, and many other distinguished persons being present. Miss Whitting gave an admirable rendering of Mrs. Parbury, and Miss Marshall-West, a near relative of Miss Maude Millett, who created the part seven years ago, was charming as the lady secretary. All the gentlemen of the cast were military officers, and an excellent representation was the result.

AN action to recover damages for alleged breach of contract was brought on Tuesday at Manchester Assizes by Mr. H. J. Snelson, manager of the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, against Mr. H. P. Patterson, owner of the Prince's Theatre, Horwich. The case was heard and the finding of the jury delivered, but the parties came to terms whereby judgment was entered for the plaintiff for £75, including costs.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"A GILDED FOOL."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Henry Guy Carleton, Produced at the Shaftesbury Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Chauncey Short ..... MR. NAT C. GOODWIN
Matthew Ruthven ..... MR. J. H. BARNES
Bannister Strange ..... MR. H. COOPER CLIFFE
Jack Duval ..... MR. A. HYLTON ALLEN
Rev. Jacob Howell ..... MR. J. L. MACKAY
Perkins ..... MR. NEIL O'BRIEN
Morgan ..... MR. H. ASHETON TONGE
Margaret Ruthven .. MISS ALEXANDRA CARLISLE
Sophia Ruthven ..... MISS ISABEL GREY
Jessica Rood ..... MISS AGNES THOMAS
Bruce ..... MISS EVELYN MARTHEZE
Nell Ruthven ..... MISS JESSIE BATEMAN

The heartiest of welcomes awaited Mr. Nat C. Goodwin at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Saturday evening, and America's representative comedian scored a personal triumph in a piece that can scarcely be regarded as a felicitous choice for English audiences, who would certainly prefer to see so clever an actor in a production more typically American. *A Gilded Fool* is not quite American, nor quite English. It is neither farce, comedy, nor melodrama. It is, however, hopelessly old-fashioned, and it carries us back to the days of H. J. Byron, at the Strand Theatre, thirty years ago. It is all so artless, so simple, so obvious; the characters are familiar theatrical types for the most part; the structure of the piece is wanting in dramatic strength; and the action is slow.

The "gilded fool" of the title is Chauncey Short, an American, who by a turn of fortune's wheel has inherited the immense wealth of an uncle. At the opening of the play, in Short's apartments, we learn that he has had a night of it, and his valet has a difficulty in rousing the sleeping reveller, who apparently has no other occupation but to eat, drink, and be merry. He might easily go to the devil but that he has fallen deeply in love with Margaret Ruthven, who is to be his good angel. Margaret, though not altogether indifferent to the attentions of the good-natured plutocrat, treats him with dignified and chilling reserve, which gives way to a warmer interest in his career when she learns that he is resolved to work and make a name for himself; and in a very pretty love-scene she gives him a red rose as a talisman of hope. Short has determined to become a partner in the financial firm of Ruthven and Strange, of which Margaret's father is the head, being persuaded thereto by Bannister Strange, the junior partner. Short, who is quite a neophyte in commercial matters, is trustful as a child, and listens with open-mouthed astonishment to the glowing prospects of development and progress held out to him by Strange, who, villain that he is, only wants the gilded fool's money to prop up the firm that is tottering to bankruptcy. Strange is eventually recognised as a swindler, wanted in New York, by a detective, who, throughout the play, has been disguising himself as a "shepherd" with a mission to the heathen; and Short, who is looked upon as a ruined man, has developed astonishing financial ability, and "operates" so successfully that his fortune at the conclusion of the play is larger than ever. His alleged poverty has brought to his side his beloved Margaret, and so the curtain falls on the customary happy ending.

All the best things in the comedy are to be found in Chauncey Short's lines, and no one who visits the Shaftesbury would have it otherwise; for Mr. Nat Goodwin as the good-natured plutocrat—plain in speech and frankly unconventional—plays in an easy, unaffected style. While he reaches the springs of laughter, he touches our hearts. He is pathetic, indeed, in the recital of Chauncey's early struggles, and in his avowal of filial devotion to a mother, whose life might have been prolonged by the possession of a little of the wealth that afterwards came to him in such profusion. Mr. Goodwin invested the love scenes with a vein of pretty sentiment, and whenever he was on the stage, put life into a comedy that was all too dull. The talents of that fine actor, Mr. J. H. Barnes, had no chance in the shadowy part of Matthew Ruthven; but Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe, as a villain of the Captain Hawksley type, was both polished and insinuating, and played with admirable restraint. Mr. A. Hylton Allen's chance of distinguishing himself came in the third act, wherein Jack Duval has to announce the insolvency of the firm of Ruthven, Strange, and Co., with whom he holds the position of confidential clerk, and herein he played with sincerity and conviction. Miss Alexandra Carlisle put no little tenderness into her love-scenes as Margaret Ruthven, and played with unaffected charm in the second act. There are few of our younger actresses who can treat an emotional scene so well, and there is a *délicatesse*, a sensibility, about her style that promises well. We shall watch Miss Carlisle's progress with much interest. Miss Isabel Grey was motherly and affectionate as Mrs. Ruthven; and Miss Agnes Thomas made the most of the humours of the elderly, gushing spinster, Jessica Rood. "I love old things," says Jessica. "An instance of self-respect," replies Chauncey Short. As the mysterious "shepherd" of the heathen, the Rev. Jacob Howell, who afterwards turns out to be a Pinkerton detective of New York, Mr. J. L. Mackay acted on broadly conventional lines, and was quite effective. Miss Jessie Bateman made a pretty ingenue of Nell Ruthven, and was as bright and engaging as she knows how to be.

THE theatrical trust is making headway in Italy, and it is stated that all the theatres in Milan, where its operations began, have been captured. The Authors' Society has decided to boycott all those theatres which belong to the trust, and after Easter plays written by members will be refused to theatres connected with the combination.

THERE are few little ladies on the stage who have proved themselves so versatile as Miss Irene Ross, with her quick, expressive face, sweet voice, and dainty physique. A pupil of Mrs. Crowe, who has always taken a keen interest in her career, she made her début as a professional actress in Mr. Ben Greet's *Sign of the Cross* company, and played Stephanus for a year and a half. Naturally nervous and anxious, Miss Ross looks back on her rehearsals of that young Christian martyr's screams with mingled feelings of amusement and misery. It was not an easy matter to scream to order, but once accomplished it became as heartrending and easy as "the tears in the voice" that added so much to her performance of Stephanus. After the *Sign*, as it is always called, she appeared in a succession of boys' parts, including Micah Dow in *The Little Minister*, Wallie in *Two Little Vagabonds*, the Urchin in *One Summer's Day*, Tom Yorke in *Two Little Sailor Boys*, and—last, but not least—the inevitable Willie Carlyle in *East Lynne*

MR. WALTER STEPHENS, of 12, Haymarket, whose name has been associated with a scheme for the establishment of a theatre, to be called the Irving Répertoire Theatre, has been in communication with the London County Council valuer on the subject of the Aldwych site. Mr. Stephens concludes the correspondence with a note to Mr. Andrew Young, in which he acknowledges a copy of the Council's building conditions, and adds:—"I desire to say in reply that, as your committee are not prepared to recommend the terms I have suggested, so that a building could be erected without any of the onerous and unfair restrictions your Council seek to impose, I beg to state that I do not propose, on behalf of myself and others, to go any further in the matter, so that there will be no necessity for me or my solicitors to inspect the form of lease which you have so kindly suggested."

"THE LITTLE STRANGER."

Farce, in Three Acts, by Michael Morton, produced at the Criterion Theatre, on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

General Allenby ..... MR. JOHN BEAUCHAMP
Captain Dick Allenby .... MR. ATHOL STEWART
Sir George Peacock ..... MR. CHARLES ALLAN
The Hon. Alec Howard .... MR. JAMES CAREW
Tom Pennyman ..... MASTER EDWARD GARRATT
Paul Veronsky ..... MR. GRAHAM BROWNE
Eames ..... MR. FREDERICK VOLPE
Mrs. Allenby ..... MRS. KEMMIS
Mrs. Dick Allenby ..... MISS AUDREY FORD
Lady Peacock ..... MISS MABEL ALDRIDGE
Effie Peacock ..... MISS BETTY CALLISH
Servant ..... MISS JOAN PENROSE
Nurse ..... MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER

Laughter, continuous and hearty, resounded through the Criterion Theatre on Wednesday evening, when was produced for the first time in London Mr. Michael Morton's farce, in three acts, entitled *The Little Stranger*. The idea which forms the *clou* of the farce may have suggested itself to the author after reading "Vice Versa," by F. Anstey, in which we have the humorous notion of the soul of the boy Bultitude entering his father's body. In the farce under notice it is the father's soul that is supposed to animate the body of a year-old baby. This psychical phenomenon does not really happen; it is only a child-freak—admirably equipped for the purpose—who acts as if it had. "The little stranger" is the first-born of Captain Dick Allenby and his pretty girl-wife. When the curtain rises on the first act, the family are celebrating baby's birthday, and the little darling is carried about the room chortling with joy and smiling a heavenly smile at the number of toys given to him. Mamma, however, is given to restless yearnings after the occult. She is a soul-hunter and a disciple of Paul Veronsky, a rank spiritualistic humbug, who plays nocturnes at the piano as accompaniments to communings with departed souls, and preaches the doctrines of Pythagoras. Dick Allenby finds the whole thing unendurable, and indirectly threatens Veronsky with dire vengeance. He is counselled to adopt milder measures by his chum, the Hon. Alec Howard, who as a disillusionist has won quite a reputation. "Why not disappear for a few hours, and let it be given out that you have sought the bosom of the Thames as a refuge from trouble?" suggests Howard to Dick "and let the baby also be hidden. You might then return and frighten the medium Veronsky with your own skeleton and inform him that your soul will haunt the house." Howard also suggests that a manikin named Tom Pennyman, employed by him in his illusory entertainment, should take the place of the real baby, and pretend that his father's soul has become reincarnated in the infant. The apparition of Dick dressed in skeleton dress duly frightens Veronsky, and in sepulchral tones tells him that the quest of the soul-hunters is successful, and that his wraith will haunt the house. But the fun of the whole thing becomes fast and furious as soon as the child-freak impersonates the baby. His conduct is unintelligible in an infant of a year old. He scoffs at feeding-bottles and asks for roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, his supposed father's favourite dinner; he pulls his nurse's nose; he drinks whisky, smokes cigarettes, squares up to the butler, frightens his grandfather, and completely terrorises his panic-stricken mother. In fact, he is a true *enfant terrible*. When the exposure of the humbug Veronsky is complete, "baby" takes off his baby clothes, puts on shirt, trousers, and waistcoat *coram populo;* and ends the topsy-turvydom that has answered its purpose so admirably. The humour arises from the situations. Funny dialogue is not a necessity, nor has it been supplied by the author, who was rapturously called for on Wednesday evening, and answered the call.

The success of *The Little Stranger* is almost wholly due to the acting of Master Edward Garratt as Tom Pennyman, the manikin. The youngster, who is some fifteen or sixteen years of age, represented the child in the performance at Covent Garden of the opera of *Madama Butterfly*, but he is now playing his first speaking part. He has a decided sense of fun, and quite realises the humour of the diverting episodes in which "baby" shows that he is long past the "popsy-wopsy" stage. He makes a most engaging infant, and in his immaculate get-up as a Piccadilly lounger he is quite a modern D'Orsay in miniature. The remaining members of the company have but little chance. Miss Sydney Fairbrother gives droll expression to the comic terror of the nurse; Miss Audrey Ford imparts sincerity and conviction to the part of the distraught mother; Miss Betty Callish makes the most of Effie Peacock's love-scene with the Hon. Alec Howard, in which the couple are pelted with playing cards by the "little stranger." Mr. James Carew makes a blithe and genial Alec Howard; and Mr. Athol Stewart's Captain Dick Allenby has the qualities of breeziness and buoyancy. Mr. Frederick Volpé's butler is a highly respectable edition of the upper manservant; Mr. John Beauchamp's General Allenby is alternately splenetic and amiable; and Mrs. Kemmis is well placed as "grandma." Mr. Graham Browne presents a clever sketch of the spiritualistic humbug Paul Veronsky, and makes one easily understand how such a plausible rascal could find converts among a parcel of silly women. *The Little Stranger* is just one of those after-dinner entertainments exactly suited both to the leisured "upper ten" or the toil-worn "lower five," and should enjoy a run.

LAST autumn Miss Irene Ross toured with Mr. Allen Wilkie's company, playing Sam in *The Ticket-o'-Leave Man*, and several seasons of pastorals, principally under the management of Miss Telleck, have taught her to appreciate—as only pastoral players can—the delightful uncertainty of English summer weather. It was Miss Edith Wynne-Mathison, by the way, who once played Hermia in a mackintosh, while Helena on the same occasion appeared in a heavy golf cape and goloshes. Among Miss Ross's humorous experiences on the stage, she recalls a certain night when she was asked to play one of the women's parts instead of Stephanus in the *Sign*. Determined to make as great an alteration in her appearance as possible, she put on very high heels and "lifters," but unfortunately, being unaccustomed to such dignity, tripped as she went up a flight of steps, and fell flat on her face in the centre of the stage. Miss Ross has one brother, Mr. Clive Ross, in the profession. He is now a member of one of Mr. Frohman's companies. No paragraph about this clever little actress would be complete without mentioning her travelling companion and great pet, a small black dog called Nelson.

MISS IRENE ROOKE, who makes so much of the chief part in *The Younger Generation*, the new first piece at Terry's Theatre, made her name in America as a beautiful Mercia in *The Sign of the Cross*. She is, however, an English actress, and gave up her work as one of the most popular leading ladies in the United States to return to the stage in this country. Her many regular engagements have been punctuated by interesting appearances with the Stage Society, at special matinées and in the productions of new plays. She is engaged for Miss Gertrude Kingston's matinées in March, and will play for the Sunday Debating Society in three new plays at the Royalty Theatre at the end of this month. Miss Rooke, who is married to Mr. Greppo, formerly Mr. E. H. Sothern's stage manager, has a pretty house in Chelsea, and makes her work her chief hobby.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., has been in communication with Mr. Herbert Gladstone, the Home Secretary, both during and since the General Election, in reference to the question of musical copyright. In the multiplicity of other business, the Home Secretary has not been able to go into the question, but he is known to be in thorough sympathy with the musical profession for the protection of their rights, and there is reason to hope that the matter will receive his early and valuable attention. In case the Government do not introduce a Bill of their own on the question, Mr. O'Connor will introduce one himself.

Miss Marie Lloyd gave on Sunday, at her charming house, Granville Lodge, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, a large dinner-party in celebration of her birthday, and as a farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Tom McNaughton and Mr. and Mrs. Fred McNaughton, who are sailing to-day for South Africa. Besides the immediate members of the popular comedienne's family and the guests of the evening, there were present Mr. and Mrs. Donald Munro (Miss Daisy Wood), Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Romaine (Miss Claire Romaine), Mr. and Mrs. Bond Sayers (Miss Dolly Morrell), Miss Rose Hamilton, Mr. Harry Tich, Mr. Hugh J. Didcott, Mrs. Ellis Fredericks and Mr. F. Fredericks of Stratford, Mr. Leon Zeitlin, and Mr. Alec Hurley.

We are sorry to hear at the moment of going to Press that Miss Marie Lloyd is confined to her room through a severe cold, and that her sister, Miss Alice Lloyd, who starts for South Africa this morning with her husband, Mr. Tom McNaughton, is suffering from tonsilitis.

By the way, Mr. Tom McNaughton will play the title-rôle Mother Goose in the Crown Theatre, Peckham, pantomime, Christmas, 1906-07. His partner Fred will be seen in the second comedy rôle, and Miss Alice Lloyd will give a fascinating portrait of Jill.

Mr. James Howell, the popular acting-manager of the Tivoli, Strand, by permission of the directorate, will take a complimentary benefit at that house on the afternoon of Monday, March 26. Mr. Howell has been connected with public entertainments for thirty years—he was at the old Polytechnic in 1876—and this is the first time he has had the privilege of a benefit. He has already received offers of assistance from prominent artists both of the theatrical and variety professions. We prophesy an enormous success for the matinée.

Mr. George Womack, the stage-manager of the Oxford, has returned to his duties after nearly a year's absence. He speaks in glowing terms of the open-air treatment at Wokingham, which has restored him to health, and desires through our columns to convey his heartfelt thanks to the many friends who have shown such kindness and such interest in his welfare.

Mr. Mark Melford is rapidly recovering from his gun-shot wound, and will make his first appearance on Monday next at the Middlesex and Granville. Although the bullet has not been extracted it gives no inconvenience, so, notwithstanding his severe illness and the great shock, which at one time looked very serious, the public will find that there is "mettle in him yet." For the numerous letters of sympathy and kind inquiries, Mr. Melford desires us to say, to both known and unknown correspondents, he is most kindly and heartily grateful.

Mr. Oswald Stoll, impressed by the qualities of the best Paris revues, has brought over from that city M. Victor de Cottens, author of revues at the Châtelet Theatre and the Folies Bergères, who, helped by special artists, has been studying the characteristics of London. The character of the piece that he is now completing for the Coliseum is the humorous side of London life, but spectacle on a grand scale, opera, ballet, pantomime, and musical comedy all enter into its scheme. Mr. Tom B. Murray will play the chief part. M. Cottens will be asisted by Mr. Arthur Shirley.

Mr. Frank Elton, in his refined entertainment, "On an Ocean Liner," after a long tour, will be in town for a short stay from Monday. Doubtless our London managers will be keen in securing his services. He has been re-engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll for six months—another of Will Oliver's spots.

Miss Katie Marsh, the talented young artist whom we recently noticed on her appearance at the Alhambra, has been secured by Mr. G. A. Payne for the Syndicate Halls, and her bookings are rapidly being filled by her agent, Will Oliver.

Miss Millie Payne has this week added very materially to the rapid progress she has undoubtedly made. She has scored heavily at Hammersmith and the Metropolitan.

The many friends of Miss Agnes Hazel will be glad to know that she has quite recovered from her recent attack of influenza, an dwill resume work on Monday next at the Metropolitan.

Mr. Tony Iverson, the Aristocratic Ragman at the piano, who is so well known in the provinces, opens on Monday at the Granville, Walham Green. His act is full of comedy and clever vocal imitations.

Spencer and Mares, speciality comedians, are returning to London, and open at the Standard, Pimlico, on Feb. 26, after a most successful three months' tour in the provinces.

The Oxford announces for Monday the special engagement for two weeks only of the incomparable Marie Lloyd.

Dunning and Kahn and Kahn finish to-night the Stoll tour, and on Monday return to town for a brief stay, opening at the Metropolitan and Collins's.

"In the Cupboard" has been written by Fritz Zorn, author of *The Designers*, and will be produced at Collins's on Monday, and played nightly for the remainder of the week. Miss Mary Thorne, who is playing Rose in the cast, has just finished a pantomime engagement as principal boy at the Grand, Woolwich. Mr. Frank Lester will appear as Gulper and Miss Ina Rozant as Mrs. Gulper. Mr. Fred Dobell will take the part of Bill.

Miss Mabel Sinclair, the talented lady ventriloquist, has been engaged for 1906 and 1907 by Mr. Frank Glenister for the London Pavilion, where she will shortly appear.

At the Canterbury on Monday "The Players" present the playlet, *Her Last Chance*, by M. A. Curtois, which met with such instantaneous success on its initial production at the South London Palace. The cast includes Miss Violet Ellicott, Miss Rose Temple (by kind permission of Mr. James Welch), Mr. George Unwin, and Mr. Fred Conyers.

Miss Cissie Curlette, the clever miniature vocalist, has just returned from a very successful trip to South Africa, where her charming personality, good voice, and clever mimicry have rendered her a prime favourite. She made her first appearance before a music hall audience at the Pier Pavilion, Southport, at the beginning of 1905, and has not had a week out since. She is now booked for sixty-four weeks (three tours) by Mr. Oswald Stoll, and will appear on Monday next at the Palace Theatre.

The annual general meeting of Moss' Empires, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Edinburgh, Sir Edward Moss being in the chair. Mr. Oswald Stoll was also present. There was a crowded attendance. Mr. Stoll, in moving the adoption of the report, which recommended 5 per cent. against 7½ per cent. last year and 10 per cent. for the previous year, said that the extraordinary fine summer and autumn largely accounted for the failure to reach the standard which they had anticipated. The trade of the country was increasing. They had opened two new houses at Liverpool and Glasgow which were doing well, and they expected to make a great saving in expenditure this year.

A large number of shareholders made observations on the report. Mr. Hugh Mayberry, Glasgow, demanded that no more halls be built. The directors, he thought, had gone far enough, and what they wanted was two strong financial men on the board. Answering a shareholder, Sir Edward Moss denied that he had sold his shares in the London Hippodrome, and undertook that no more halls should be erected for the present, and that another director should be added to the board. The report was adopted.

The Coventry Hippodrome Co. has purchased a large site for the erection of what will be a handsome building. Already the property upon the site is being demolished, and the plan for the new building was passed at Tuesday's meeting of the City Council. It is understood that negotiations are being made for the conversion of an existing building into a theatre, and also the conversion of another building into a large music hall. The Council on Tuesday decided to lease a piece of public ground to the "Sites" Co., Ltd., for the erection of an Empire music hall, which it is expected will be built this year.

A somewhat extraordinary state of affairs occurred on Saturday evening last in the Palace Theatre, Greenock. One of the artists appearing there announced from the stage that owing to financial difficulties there was no money in the hands of the company to pay the salaries of the artists for their week's work, and that a sacred concert would be held in the Empire Theatre on Sunday evening, at which a collection would be taken for the benefit of the artists. It was, however, found unnecessary to hold the concert, as ex-Bailie McMillan, who is connected with the company, paid all the artists their week's salary in full. There was no performance on Monday night, and it is not known whether the theatre will be re-opened or not.

Mr. A. W. Matcham, the widely-known and highly-respected acting-manager of the Birmingham Empire, was, on the occasion of his recent birthday, presented by the members of his staff with a silver egg-stand with appurtenances, a silver cake-basket, and a handsome muffin-dish. The terms of the presentation, which came as a pleasant surprise, revealed a highly desirable state of relations existing 'twixt staff and chief, and may be pointed to as only one phase of the happy manner in which the Birmingham Empire is managed. Upon Mr. Wells, assistant acting-manager, devolved the pleasant duty of making the presentation.

By the way, Mr. A. W. Matcham presided over the first general meeting of the Birmingham Theatrical Charity Sports Committee at the Woolpack Hotel, Moor-street, on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Harry Calver, the hon. sec., announced that the sports would be held on Whit Tuesday, June 5, at Villa-park, and that sacred concerts in aid of the fund had been arranged by the managers of the Empire, Gaiety, Hippodrome, and Bordesley halls; also, that matinées or sacred concerts would take place at the Theatre Royal and Alexandra Theatre. It was decided that a committee be formed to deal with and to assist in collecting the £1,000 necessary for the Theatrical Charity Sports Bed at the Children's Hospital.

Our Carlisle correspondent, in referring to the death of the late Mr. Frank Walker, son of Whimsical Walker, of Drury-lane Theatre, whose passing away was announced in these columns last week, writes:—"During his two seasons' engagement at the Carlisle Hippodrome his genial nature and unfailing courtesy gained him hosts of friends who received the news of his sudden death with sympathetic consternation. The funeral took place at the Carlisle Cemetery on Sunday last, and was attended by Messrs. C. Algie, Ohmy, Fred Poole, Professor Chard, C. Powell, the representative of *The Era*, and numerous other professional and private friends. Beautiful wreaths were sent from Mrs. F. Walker (widow), Whimsical Walker (father), Ohmy (father-in-law), H. and F. Poole and Company, Hengler's, Mrs. P. E. Veitch, and a magnificent floral horseshoe from Mr. C. Algie and the Hippodrome staff. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. C. Algie and C. Powell."

The eighteenth annual Liverpool Theatrical Gala will be held at Goodison Park grounds on Tuesday next, when numbers of the pantomime artists engaged in that city, along with many of the variety world, will give their services.

Some months ago *The Era* gave particulars of the new Tivoli Theatre which is being erected in Lime-street, Liverpool, on the site of old St. James's Hall, where for thirty years Sam Hague's Minstrels had their home. The former edifice has now disappeared, and the foundations for the new one are being rapidly constructed. It is expected that the hall will be ready for occupation on August Bank Holiday next. The company which has been floated in support of the venture, which is proposed to be a variety palace, is entitled the Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd., of which Mr. Walter de Frece is managing director. The Paddington and Park Palaces are included in the prospectus.

Mr. Dottridge has found a very fine turn in Mr. John Ross, of Oldham Many managers who happened to be at the Royal, Oldham, matinée on Tuesday immediately secured him for several dates. He has a double voice—falsetto and tenor—both being very clear. No doubt is entertained that he will be in great demand as soon as he is better known.

Mr. Wm. Morton has sent a cheque value £3 3s. (being part proceeds of the recent floral matinée at the Theatre Royal, Hull) as a subscription to the funds of the Music Hall Home. The floral matinée is held annually in aid of the local medical charities, the entertainment being contributed to by all the artists appearing at the theatres and music halls in Hull.

Miss Marion Hood, comedienne, has been obliged to postpone dates owing to serious illness, but hopes to appear again in April at Mr. Walter Gibbons's halls.

Mr. Alfred Manners, the energetic proprietor and manager of the Queen's Theatre at Swindon, has made a successful application for the licence of the New Empire Theatre of Varieties in that town, and building operations will commence immediately. The most interesting feature of the application was a letter from the Rev. Canon Estcourt, Vicar, and Rural Dean, signed by all the Church of England clergy of the district, to the effect that, while being opposed to the licence for intoxicants, they favoured the erection of such a place of entertainment, being of opinion that, placed under proper supervision, it might have a beneficial influence. Mr. Manners hopes to have the new hall complete by Christmas next.

Miss Peggy Pryde has been very ill for the last three weeks, but we are glad to hear she has not had appendicitis, as was reported. Her illness was the result of a severe chill, which turned to acute internal inflammation. She is much better, and leaves for Brighton to-day for a brief holiday. She resumes work in a week's time.

Mr. R. G. Knowles has just taken his farewell of Cape Town. The inimitable R. G. took his listeners through the maze of funny stories of his childhood, while his song, "Philosophy," was a great hit. But best of all were his "Love, Marriage, and Divorce" and "Girlie, Girlie," both of which well-known renderings brought forth thunderous applause. After Mrs. Knowles had given some tasty selections on the banjo, R. G. heartily thanked the Cape Town public for the support they had always given him. Mr. and Mrs. Knowles are now on their way to Australia.

The following members of the Hyman company are sailing per the Kenilworth Castle from Southampton to-day, to fulfil engagements at the Empire Palace, Johannesburg, and Tivoli, Cape Town:—The Macnaughtons, Miss Alice Lloyd, Pierce and Maizie, in an American singing and dancing act, and Mooney and Holbein, American comedy duo. Amongst the Hyman company arriving home from South Africa on the same day are:—Melot Hermann, Valmore and Horton, Harry Calvo, and Miss Maud Courtney.

Arthur Prince returns to the Palace on Monday next, the 26th inst., after an extraordinarily successful tour in the United States, and on the same night Mr. Butt will introduce a sketch entitled *Would-be Actors*, which has met with such success in the provinces. Owing to this having been booked some time since, the Palace management is reluctantly unable to prolong the engagement of the Mason Keeler company, who have been delighting every part of the house with their clever sketch.

The next Empire *revue* is due at that fine house in about a month's time. It will be written by Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and at present its title is "Venus, 1906." The chief characters will be played by Miss Sybil Arundale, Mr. Harry Grattan, and Mr. W. H. Berry.

Diabutsu, a Ji-Jitsu wrestler who has just arrived in this country, will make his first appearance on the stage of the Lyceum on Monday. Diabutsu claims to have beaten Tani and Myaki, and now offers £1,000 to any living wrestler who defeats him in the Ju-Jitsu style. He is most anxious for a match.

It will be remembered that the Rev. Forbes Phillips, author of the play *When it was Dark*, desired to address the audience on the night of the production, at the County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, but the management deemed it an unfit occasion. On learning these facts, Mrs. Barrasford immediately tendered the use of the Lyceum on any Sunday evening that could be arranged. The Vicar of Gorleston accepted the offer, but refused the tendered fee of £50 on the condition that any profit resulting should be handed to a charity. Arrangements have now been made to hold the lecture on Sunday evening, February 25. After deducting necessary expenses, the balance will be divided between the Frsh-Air Fund and the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund.

Mr. Neil Kenyon concludes to-night an eight weeks' special engagement as the King in *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester. The popular Scotch comedian's pawky humour has been one of the chief factors in securing the success of the pantomime; and he has won immense popularity amongst the playgoing public of the Midland city. Mr. Kenyon made his first appearance at the Metropolitan variety halls at the London Pavilion. He also scored a hit in pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington.

Among the innumerable congratulatory and birthday cards received by Miss Marie Lloyd on the 12th inst. were the following original lines from J. Francis Lambe:—

To Miss Marie Lloyd.
Feb. 12, 1906.

M any happy returns of the day,
A nd long with us may you stay.
R ing out bells to greet our "choice,"
I n the *Wood*lands hearts rejoice,
E v'ryone sings with *one* voice,
Sweet Marie ——

L ooking younger ev'ry day,
L ike the flowers that come in May.
O ther blossoms lose their light,
Y ou are ever fresh and bright.
D rink to you, I will this night,
Sweet Marie ——

Mr. Paul Cinquevalli has received the sum of £201 from the Corporation of Birkenhead in settlement of his claim in respect of the accident to his motor-car, which fell from the Liverpool landing-stage into the Mersey when he was embarking on the steamer Claughton on Oct. 22 of last year.

Mr. Walton, of Walton and Lester (now at the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh), who have long been famous as the "World's Worst Wizards," has been ill; but his friends will be glad to hear that he is recovering, and hopes to be quite well in a few days.

Mr. P. A. Lennon is vacating the position of manager for Mr. George Dance at the Richmond Theatre, and on Saturday, at the conclusion of the second performance, he was specially honoured by presentations. On behalf of the orchestra, Mr. Norfolk Megone gave the departing manager a silver-mounted umbrella; and on behalf of the staff in the front and back of the house, Mr. T. Fricker presented Mr. Lennon with a handsome silver and Davenport china tea service.

Mr. Edward Lang, the founder of the original Gothams, will arrive in England shortly with his wife, bringing with him some novel sketches, unlike anything hitherto produced in this country. During his three years absence from England he has toured America, Manila, China, Japan, and Australia, and has produced the Weber and Field comedies and musical burlesques, in which he has played with much success the principal Hebrew parts.

Mr. Bock Pylades, who is in hospital in Accrington with a broken leg, is getting along very well; but the nature of his injury will keep him there some weeks longer. He therefore, through us, desires to say that he would be pleased to receive letters from any friends or brother Masons who may care to write to him.

The Calcotts (Amy Leggett and Eric Calcott) have been re-engaged for the next two years by Messrs. Little and Darcy for principal girl and musical director in pantomime.

Mr. Fred Ramsdale, who has made a hit this season as Widow Twankey in Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime *Aladdin*, will produce for a trial show a new farcical sketch, entitled *The Squire's Daughter*, at the Regent, Salford, at a matinée on Tuesday next.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Ben J. Mercer, coloured comedian, late of the Jetneys, who passed away on the 8th inst. after seventeen weeks' illness, from consumption, at the early age of twenty-eight. He was buried on Sunday at Burnham Tofts Cemetery, Leeds.

Mr. George Robey's success in the title part of *The Queen of Hearts* pantomime at the Liverpool Royal Court Theatre has been tremendous, yet even greater interest in the work of that clever comedian has been aroused this week by the management offering two prizes for the best original black and white sketch of Mrs. Simkins (a mythical lady like unto Dickens's Mrs. Harris), to whom Mr. Robey makes frequent allusion on the stage. The sketches are to be submitted by Monday next, and will be exhibited in the crush-room of the theatre during the week for visitors to vote on. The first prize is two guineas, and the second one guinea.

Primarily with the object of assisting charity, Mr. George Robey on Wednesday organised a football team, and played against the famous Everton contingent at Goodison Park. Mr. Robey is well-known in football circles, and has had some considerable experience as a player. On Wednesday he got together ten internationals, and although a certain amount of intentional loose play, to add fun to the proceedings, was permitted, there was some fine and earnest work shown. Some 12,000 spectators put in an appearance, which number would have been increased fourfold had Mr. Robey been able to absent himself from his matinée engagement and play the match on Saturday afternoon. Result—Robey's XI., five goals; Everton, two goals.

The ground on which is to be erected the new East Ham music hall is now cleared, and the builders commence operations shortly. The proprietors are the Variety Theatres Consolidated, of which Mr. G. Adney Payne is the managing director. The site, situate in the main street, at the corner of Burgess-road, and next to the station, is a prominent and commanding one, and the venture promises success.

Miss Ada Colley, the Australian prima-donna, and Mr. Leo Dryden, actor-vocalist, were married at Lavender Hill on Wednesday. By the request of the bride the ceremony was very quiet, and the subsequent wedding feast was attended by a small number of family friends. Many telegrams of congratulation were received. The happy pair started their "matrimonial tour" on a very auspicious day—the feast of St. Valentine.

According to an announcement made in New York on Wednesday by Mr. Frederick Thompson, a member of the firm of Thompson and Dundy, London is to have another house of entertainment. Mr. Thompson says he has secured the option on a site in Oxford-street, on which he will build a theatre to be run on the lines of the Hippodrome.

The defendant's appeal in the case of Lorette v. Collins came on for hearing before the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ridley, and Mr. Justice Darling, in the Divisional Court on Monday, when the judgment of his Honour Judge Woodfall at the Westminster County Court in the plaintiff's favour was upheld.

The Lord Chief Justice, in delivering judgment, said that he was of opinion that the judgment of his Honour Judge Woodfall was correct, and that the words could only be construed to mean the actual closing of the theatre and discontinuance of performance.

The case is of considerable importance, as in another action against the same defendant heard at the Liverpool County Court on the previous day, the learned Judge of that court held that the hall was closed, and gave judgment for the defendant. The plaintiff's appeal in this case was therefore allowed with costs.

"Menetekel," said to be "an inexplicable mystery," is coming to the Hippodrome on Monday. Many acts produced on the variety stage savour of the mysterious; but the latest creation in this connection is alleged to be operated by some influence which the public has yet to understand. It is called "Menetekel," and is engineered by a Mr. and Mrs. Konorah.

Roma and Romani, the classical musical artists, boast of nearly two years' solid bookings. They left London in November with only one week booked, and have never been idle since. They have been secured by Messrs. Hyman for Africa, and re-engaged for six months by Messrs. Oswald Stoll, T. Barrasford, and others.

The Native Choir from Jamaica, consisting of six coloured gentlemen, have been specially brought over by Sir Alfred L. Jones to sing at the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition at St. George's Hall, Liverpool. Their programme consists of Jamaica songs, duets, choruses, dances, Plantation and Jubilee choruses, &c. The entertainment is quite unique, and has delighted crowded audiences at the St. George's Hall.

During last week several presentations were made on the stage of the Empire, Dundee. One of the staff, on his departure for South Africa, was presented by Mr. Percival, the manager, on behalf of the staff and himself, with a dressing-case. Thereafter, Mr. Chas. Howitt, manager of the *Dick Whittington* company, presented Mr. Fred Pearce with a solid silver pen and pencil; and Mr. Randle Wilson with a pocket-book, as a token of esteem from a society known as "The Gaiety Chums."

Sanford and Lyons finish to-night in pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, where they have made an enormous success. Mr. John Hart has engaged them for next season. They return to all the West-End halls on April 2.

Mr. Frank Lynne sails for America on Wednesday next, the 21st inst., per s.s. Teutonic (White Star Line) from Liverpool. He opens at Proctor's theatres on March 5.

Conway and Garland, comedy duo, are coming to London with their act, *Left in Charge*, which has been a great success in the provinces.

An interim dividend on the ordinary shares of the Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire, for the half-year to Dec. 31, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, is payable on the 19th inst.

Miss Cecile E. Anson is resting by her doctor's orders at Bournemouth, but hopes to resume work very soon with her successful comedy episode *Nellie*, which is being well booked up by those smart agents, Messrs. Fortune and Granville.

The Sisters Terry, who have just finished a highly successful pantomime engagement at the Alexander Theatre, Sheffield, were on the last night the recipients of some valuable gifts, which included two ladies' companions, a box of Goss, boxes of chocolates, flowers, &c. The popular sisters will commence their tour on Monday at the Tivoli, South Shields

Mr. Alec Hurley has presented Mr. W. Skinner, stage manager at the Empress, Brixton, with a handsome diamond pin in recognition of the able manner in which he has produced his sketches.

Mr. Harry Brett, variety comedian and author, has been engaged by Mr. Albert Chevalier for his forthcoming spring tour to play an important part in a new farcical sketch.

Mr. Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford, owing to their tremendous reception at the Lyceum, London, with their comedy duologue, *Getting Even*, have been retained by Mrs. Barrasford for another week.

Mr. Alec Hurley has specially commissioned Messrs. John P. Harrington and James W. Tate to write and compose a new sketch for him of intensely human interest. Apropos, Mr. Hurley has achieved a notable success with the first-named writer's comedy coster sketch, *The Coster's Beano*, which terminates a highly-successful run of eight weeks to-night at the Oxford, and opens on Monday at the Chelsea Palace.

The beloved wife of Mr. Michael Abrahams, late of the Queen's, Poplar, died at Brighton on Monday last. The deceased was taken ill on Thursday, Feb. 8, and it was found necessary to operate for appendicitis. The operation was performed on Saturday, and, unhappily, the patient never rallied, but gradually sank, and passed away on Monday afternoon. The funeral took place on Wednesday. The deceased lady was followed to the grave by her ten children. There was a large number of wreaths sent by sympathising friends.

The Alhambra is bringing back to town on Monday next the droll Sam Elton ("the man that made the Shah laugh"), whose impersonation of a returning roysterer unconsciously wrecking the family kitchen whilst seeking only to appease a crapulous craving for cold Christmas puddings is as humorous as it is inoffensive. Another new turn, and one which makes its first appearance in England, is the "Zoological Revue" of Miss Alice Dianda's trained monkeys, dogs, and cockatoos.

The new "Urbanora" pictures, "Britain's Latest Defenders," showing the launch by His Majesty the King of the mighty Dreadnought, as well as the taking to the water of the new-type cruiser Natal at Barrow, profit greatly by the special facilities granted by the Lords of the Admiralty to Mr. Urban as the Alhambra's representative, and by virtue of which the camera occupied the most privileged positions. Two additional "Urbanora" subjects will be "The Moth and the Butterfly," a realistic revelation of one of Nature's wonders; and "The Story of Sherlock Holmes," in which Sir A. Conan Doyle's great romance is re-told in living pictures.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who has this week been enjoying a well-earned rest in her pleasant home at Hampstead, begins her series of London engagements next week, when she is appearing both at the Palace, Chelsea, and at the Metropolitan, at both of which houses she is a very great favourite. The charming American soprano will shortly fulfil a three months' engagement at the Oxford and Tivoli.

The following letter has been sent to the Chairman of the M.H.A.R.A. by Mr. Robert Dunning (of Dunning and Kahn), who writes from the Ardwick Empire, Manchester, under date Feb. 12:—"Dear Sir,—As a member of the above society, and as one who voted solid for the present Committee, and influenced over 100 other members to do likewise, I should like to know what has become of Mr. George Gray's scheme. I got cards, others got them and posted them back. I have read all the reports of the meetings, but such reports are very meagre, and say nothing of this scheme, which was dangled before us as one of the things that would come to pass.

"'Mr. George Gray has deposited £1,000,' so said the Press; now we hear nothing of the scheme or of the £1,000. Certainly we get plenty of Mr. George Gray; but we want something definite, and it is the duty of the Committee, whom we put there, to let us know how things are going on.

"The Society has emerged, thanks to you, gentlemen, into a very strong and splendid organisation. You have all laboured hard, hence I cannot, nor can others I have conferred with, understand this long pause. Why meddle and dabble with foreign societies, who only want to use us to push their own interests? Let our own house be put in order and kept so. If these societies want any advice give it them, but don't forget our own reforms and our thousands of members, who believed, and still believes, in you."

Dr. Walford Bodie created a profound sensation last week at the Empire, Nottingham, where he performed nightly to packed houses. During the week he treated over 700 patients. This week he is repeating his usual success at the Palace, Leicester, the Press and public being unanimous in their praise. He returns on Monday to Liverpool, after an absence of only six weeks, opening at the Lyric Theatre.

Many of *The Era* readers will hear with sincere regret of the death of Mr. S. L. Lee, the business manager and part-proprietor of the Circus of Varieties, Rochdale, which took place at his residence early on Monday morning. Mr. Lee had been in indifferent health for some time, and about a fortnight ago had a sudden seizure, which confined him to his bed, and from which he never rallied. He was in his fiftieth year, and is survived by a widow, two sons, and three daughters. The interment took place on Thursday morning at Heywood Cemetery, the circus being closed the same evening as a mark of respect and esteem.

Mr. Lee had been one of the proprietors of the Rochdale Circus of Varieties for over twenty-three years, and since the death of Mr. Smith, and the withdrawal of Mr. Hargreaves about three years ago, he had had the management of this popular place of amusement, catering for its numerous patrons most excellently; Mr. Lee was also the popular and genial licensee of the Roebuck Hotel, recognised at the meeting-house of the music-hall profession, and one of the best established in the town. His kindly disposition and willingness to help in charitable efforts had won for the deceased gentleman a host of genuine admirers, who will deeply feel his loss.

One of the most strikingly-successful songs of the present time is Lawrence and Mellor's delightful number, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you," which is not only being nightly sung by many leading music-hall artists, but is also being "featured" in C. St. John Denton's *Kitty Grey*, and W. H. Kirby's musical comedy *Somebody's Sweetheart*. The song is published by the enterprising Monte Carlo Publishing Company, of Berners-street.

Special performances were given at the People's Palace, Bristol, on Wednesday evening in celebration of the thirteenth anniversary of this popular house of entertainment. The ordinary programme is always extended on these occasions, and as the anniversary invariably occurs during the pantomime season, the management seize the opportunity of securing the services of some of the best known of the artists at the Prince's Theatre and the Theatre Royal. With such favourites as Happy Fanny Fields, Dave O'Toole, and the Sisters Lunelle announced, in addition to the capable company already appearing, large audiences were a certainty.

In the course of the second performance Mr. Horace Livermore, the resident-manager, appeared before the curtain and, on behalf of his brother and the directors, thanked the audience for the generous support they had accorded the Palace under the same management for the past thirteen years, and said he hoped they would continue to deserve that support in the future. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Chute and Mr. Carpenter for allowing their artists to come to the Palace that evening, and his best thanks to the artists themselves.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

Several novelties were introduced on Monday by Mr. Alfred Butt into the Palace programme at the Palace, where Miss Millie Legarde, an actress of considerable distinction and cleverness, is singing a new song that belongs to the same genus as "Sammy." It is of American brand, and is entitled "How'd you like to come and spoon with me?" The question is addressed to boxes, stalls, and gallery. On the night to which we are now alluding, an occupant of a prompt side box evidently appreciated Miss Legarde's invitation, and gallantly assured her by eloquent pantomime of the conquest she had made. A stallite, on the contrary, took immediate flight—to the stage-door perhaps; and one of the "gods" exclaimed with immense gusto, "Rather!" The actress looks very winsome and charming, and is beautifully gowned. She is also well supported by the Eight Palace Girls, who form quite a galaxy of beauty. Miss Legarde has greater chances of an artistic triumph in an accompanied recitation, "Hints," by Howard Talbot. Miss Marie Dainton's new imitations include Miss Ethel Irving in *Mr. Popple*, Miss Mary Moore in *Captain Drew on Leave*, Miss Gertie Millar in *The Spring Chicken*, Miss Evie Green singing the song "Experience" in *The Little Cherub*, and Miss Connie Ediss; and that they are both accurate and amusing is testified to by the laughter and applause of Palace audiences. Miss Dainton also sings "Honeymoon Hall," where the rent is nothing at all, and which is "crowded both in springtime and in fall," and is altogether a delightful turn.

A sketch that comes from the London Pavilion, where it was produced early last year, is entitled *Hooked by Crook*. It contains three characters—viz., Millicent Raybridge, played by pretty Miss Margaret Keeler; Oliver Herkomer, acted by Mr. Henry Travers; and Bill, a burglar, impersonated by Mr. Homer B. Mason. The sketch was originally presented in America, and though the plot is slight, it gives quite sufficient for humorous business and good acting. Bill, dressed as a desperate cracksman, whose courage ever and anon oozes out of his boots, is seated at the piano, and gives really a clever little recital, in which he burlesques the average drawing-room soloist, and also combines as a duet between bass and treble the airs of "Yankee Doodle" and the "Sailor's Hornpipe," an encouraging recognition of the Transatlantic *entente cordiale*. Then in the subsequent business Mr. Mason acts so well as to remind one of Charles Brookfield in his clever impersonation in *The Burglar and the Judge*. At least, he would do if he were more deliberate in his speech.

The Bogannys, the lunatic bakers, not long since completed an engagement at the Alhambra. They are heartily welcome at the Palace. Their tumbling and acrobatic work are marked by much quaint originality and finish. The youthful member of the tronpe, besides being a fine acrobat, is a humorist. He continues to read a sensational novel, no matter in what position his mentor places him. Whether standing on his head, lying on his back, or making a "bridge" with head and toes, he has all the appearance of being genuinely engrossed in his book. The new bioscope pictures show the launch of the Dreadnought, and also a party of adventurous athletes, who are first seen skating attired in bathing costumes, and then break the ice and plunge into the water.

A turn at the Palace that should on no account be missed is that presented by Conn and Conrad, who are simply described as eccentric comedians. They introduce their act on the movable spar by some droll business as a couple of cracksmen burgling a safe, from which they are supposed to release the chief portion of their apparatus. The Jacques Strop of the pair is terrorised by the appearance of an uncanny illuminated head, which gazes at him from a table, and has also some uncomfortable experiences through a revolver which moves round on a pivot, and covers him in whatever position he takes up on the stage. The incidents described are merely the droll preliminaries to an act as daring as it is original and exciting. The spar is balanced across a loftily-placed flying trapeze, and comedy and intrepidity mark the whole show from beginning to end. Conn and Conrad are a great success, and add much to the gaiety of the Palace programme. Chirgwin, a perennial favourite in Shaftesbury-avenue, introduces with great success his new Japanese fiddle with a funnel attachment, which not only deepens and mellows the tone, but makes the instrument more powerful. The white-eyed one, on the night of our call, gave a delightful rendering of "She wore a wreath of roses," and his success was greater than ever. Miss Lillian, who appears with Miss Vera and Major Charles in the early portion of the programme, is a charming girl in her teens. She is also an expert shot, and is able to fire a small bullet through the neck of a bottle. Another effective feat of hers is the shooting away of the fastening of a cloak worn by her lady companion. Major Charles and Miss Vera also accomplish clever feats with rifle and shot gun. Leipzig, the card and coin manipulator, is still puzzling and amusing audiences with his wonderful palming, which is illustrated on the screen. The Jacobi Troupe of four men and three women give a smart exhibition of ground and lofty tumbling; the melodramatic absurdity *Hero and Heroine* is causing hearty laughter as played by Mr. Arthur Playfair and Miss Kate Cutler; and the Palace Girls are as bright and attractive as ever. The Four Kweeries are responsible for a clever illusion, in which the place of a man strapped down to a bench in a curtained cabinet is immediately usurped by a lovely woman, a trick that is followed by even more mysterious manifestations. Gladys Archbutt is also on the bill. Mr. Herman Finck's fine orchestra is always worth listening to.

THE COLISEUM.

Burlesques not too pretentious, not too long, and containing good wholesome, honest fun and provocatives to mirth, we take it, will always be welcome, as they always have been, notwithstanding that they treat with irreverence matters which, with the eyes of those "strange fellows" of whom Shakespeare speaks, and who never laugh, are regarded as sacred. Much irreverence is shown to Mr. Stephen Phillips's play of *Nero* at His Majesty's, and still more to Mr. Tree, its producer and protagonist, by Mr. Chris Davis, whose skit *S'Nero; or, A Roman Bank Holiday*, was produced at the Coliseum on Monday. Mr. Davis has not troubled to seize upon weak points in the play—if such there be—but has rather presented us with a comic stage history in dialogue of the Roman Emperor. There are two scenes, the first and principal being laid outside Sir Georgius Sangerius's Hippodrome, Rome, where a motley throng of "Bethnal Green" Romans are awaiting the arrival of "S'Nero," the "world's worst violinist." He comes from winning a chariot race, his triumphal car being drawn by pantomime horses. To his sympathising mother Agrippina, a woman who sets a value upon herself, he gives his confidences, and is much perturbed when Brittaini-cuo, his fraternal relative, usurps the throne. He longs to be active as a life-destroyer, and his continual cry, "Give 'em a dose," keeps busy the lady in black raiment who is appointed chief poisoner by Imperial warrant, and cavorts round with a bucket. Mr. Davis makes a point of introducing a travesty of Christian martyrdom by letting loose a number of property lions, who find the quaint old maidens scarcely to their taste, and sniff round in disdain. He is on surer ground when the pertinacious and piquant Poppæa comes on the scene to enliven the proceedings with a song, "Pretty Poppæa." He relies for his fun mostly on the buffoonery of the comedians, and the broad drollery of the production, which will no doubt improve with each representation, caused considerable laughter on Monday. In the second scene is an exciting chariot-race between representatives of the Vanguard, Arrow, and General companies. Mr. M. R. Morand, who played Nero, is a capital burlesque actor, and his travesty of Mr. Tree is decidedly laughable, both voice and mannerisms being but slightly exaggerated. Miss Millie Hylton at present attempts no burlesque of Miss Constance Collier, but that may come later. She is, however, bright and entertaining, and on Monday worked loyally for the success. Signora Galimberti Vittorina, the première danseuse, introduces a very pretty pas seul; and Messrs. Keino Johnstone, Charles Trevor, William Morgan, Arthur Watts, Watty Brunton, Scrope-Quentin, Gardner, Lomas, and Zeitz lend efficient aid.

My Milliner's Bill, which finds a place in the current programme, brings back to London that delightful actress and singer Miss Florence St. John, who follows Mrs. John Wood and Miss Lottie Venne in the part of the retired burlesque actress, who suffers such tortures of anxiety concerning the large amount that—unbeknown to an indulgent husband—she owes to her costumier. It will be remembered he plays a trick upon her by getting himself up as a broker's man and persuading her to sing a song to him as she did in the halcyon days of the theatre, when he was an humble frequenter of the gallery. Miss St. John exerts all her old charm of manner, and sings, to her own accompaniment, with the sweetness and culture that we first admired at the old Strand in *Madame Favart*. She is well supported by Mr. Charles B. Bedells.

In the early part of the evening the Gems give a refined entertainment of song and dance. The combination consists of four gentlemen (one at the piano) and two ladies. They have a capital item in "The butler, housemaid, and the cook," and exploit a lively little motor-car skit, their final selection being a sweetly-harmonised and admirably-rendered "Good-night." They are very heartily received. Miss Clarissa Talbot, as a "dusky maiden," sings "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," which is staged very prettily as a scena, with the hut in the background and a coon chorus. The business is thoroughly worked up, and the production is picturesque, quaint, and attractive. Mr. Eugene Stratton is reviving "The coon drum-major"—a characteristic selection by Mr. Leslie Stuart—and the scena goes with a rare swing. A very amusing interlude is that supplied by the Ten Loonies, a combination that works the "music mad" idea on the most diverting lines. We are introduced to the interior of a lunatic asylum, in which some at least of the "crotchets" of the patients are written on the wall. The demented gentlemen will have "tune," and indulge occasionally in a wild fanfaronnade, but for the most part play sweetly in accord. There is a wild topsy-turvy pianist, a trombonist of "set purpose," and a drummer whose persistent "tom-tom" is the despair of the keeper, whose nice, soft, persuasive manner is assisted on occasion by a pavior's hammer. There are comic properties, and the fun runs fast and furious while the Loonies occupy the stage. *Aladdin's Lamp* still runs its merry course, and other turns include Miss Ella Shields, the De Lucca Troupe, and the successful romantic operetta *Fenella*.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Crowded houses are being attracted here by *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, the sensational absurdity which has previously won popularity here. Mr. Lew Lake, in conjunction with Mr. Bob Morris, create roars of laughter with their antics as the enterprising window-cleaners. Mr. Ernest Webb proves himself a capable actor, assuming the airs of the "Flunkey" to perfection. Miss Kitty Wilmore is seen as the fickle jade, Edith Arlington, a part which suits her admirably. The scenery and effects are of the same elaborate kind as before, a high pitch of excitement being reached during the sensational struggle on the roof. Miss Dinah Morris and her troupe of Southern Belles occupy a star position with their pretty musical extravaganza *The Lost Coon*. Black Michel, the terror of Lucanna, determined to wreak his revenge on his half-brother for an old offence, swears to kidnap and take the life of a child of the plantation. On the child being missed, Dinah, "the pride of Lucanna," organises a search party. The captain of the "Dixie" Brigade, Dinah's lover, in order to secure the affections of Dinah, is most diligent, and is ultimately successful, both in finding the Lost Coon and also in obtaining the hand of the girl of his heart. A better exponent of coon impersonators than Miss Dinah Morris would be difficult to find, her sweet singing and pretty dancing winning for her hearty appreciation. As the Captain of the Dixie Brigade, Miss Bessie Morris, an expert dancer, wins high honours. Mr. Doddy Morris has a heavy part as Black Michel, and proves himself quite equal to it. The Lost Coon is cleverly portrayed by Master Sidney Morris, who is also a master of the terpsichorean art. The play is embellished with pretty music and effects; several curtain calls demonstrated its complete success.

A novel and interesting item is that presented by Astarte, who, while suspended in mid-air, does a series of classical poses, her only support being a pole, Bacchus, Fame, and Peace being among the ladies' selections, which are admirably done. Mr. Harry Champion, the quick and quaint comedian, scores immensely with the "Old Brown Hat" and "Any old thing will do," "Keep on" being given as an encore. Wake and Lake are a smart pair of comedians and dancers, their parody on "The little wooden hut" being well received. Jay Noble, eccentric conjurer, performs some clever illusions. As a deputy for Francis Drew, the management have secured the services of Bernard and Weston, a pair of amusing comedians and patterers, whose humorous antics keep the house continuously amused. The Sisters Desmond, duettists, are deservedly highly popular; Harry Cotton is an intensely funny comedian, and is well received. Raymond's Bioscope shows some excellent pictures, including the "Butterfly Chase." The selections of the Britannia Orchestra are becoming quite a feature of the programme. The "Arian March" is capitally rendered under the able conductorship of Mr. Carl Hamlin. The front of the house has the attention of Mr. James McCarthy, ably assisted by Mr. H. Sampson.

BOW PALACE.

This week at the Bow Palace we have Miss Grace Merton, who is described as "the genuine street singer." This young lady has not appeared in public too soon, for her vocal attainments are of a high order. She comes on the stage in a plain, neat, and most becoming blue costume. There is nothing theatrical or gaudy about her attire, and the personal aspect is thereby rendered all the more agreeable to the eye of an audience, and is well in keeping with what the spectators know as to her origin. Her manner, too, is quietly dignified. Possibly Miss Merton realises that the songs she sings are of a serious character, and decides that her behaviour on the stage shall be a fitting accompaniment. It is a very enchanting rendering that we get from her of "I am waiting for thee," while in her second number, "Sing me to sleep," she reaches some very high notes. She was made the object of a popular ovation as she finally disappeared through the wings on the night of our visit.

The Sisters Redfern are banjoists, vocalists, and dancers of no small merit. Their work with the instrument is performed with considerable skill and good effect. The singing of "If I'm to be your Cherokee," accompanied by their own banjo-playing, is a particularly commendable effort. Bonetti and Corru are indeed a merry couple. There is real humour in their juggling, and their various tricks are most neatly executed. Comedy juggling is now quite a feature of variety programmes; and, needless to say, the excellence of such acts as that of Bonetti and Corru has made it a welcome feature. The three Willmars excel in the direction of comedy acrobatics. Their railway station scene is crowded with amusing pantomimic motions and movements, and the turn is remarkable for its liveliness and laughter-making. Miss Dorothy Veld proves herself to be an accomplished vocalist and dancer, her coon business being highly appreciated. Thursby and Alexander submit an extremely funny sketch, entitled *A Terrible Mistake*. An unscrupulous manservant, who steals his master's clothes, and mistakes over the arrival of a baby and a parcel give Thursby and Alexander fine opportunities for their capital low comedy acting.

As something out of the ordinary we have Mr. Arthur Elvey, the "up-to-date tipster." First we see some exceptionally clear and well-defined animated pictures showing a race, the scenes being thrown on the screen by Lacey's Erascope. Then up goes the white sheet, and Mr. Elvey stands before us in the character of a bookmaker. "Gentlemen," he cries, "that makes six winners in two days!" And then we get a lot of turf language applied to kings and conquerors in different walks of life. Thus: "Of all the Royal runners, King Edward is the best." As a bookie Mr. Elvey's business name is "Spot 'Em," and before he quits the stage a telegram is handed to him containing a tip for the next day's principal event, the information emanating from Mr. Robert S. Sievier. The turn seems to be well liked by the audience. Miss Dora Martini, a pretty young lady tastefully attired in a black athletic suit, gracefully performs a number of gymnastic feats on the trapeze. Her revolving movements in mid-air are especially praiseworthy, while she displays extreme agility, strength, and skilfulness in her exhibition on the suspended rope. The Sisters Vallie give a pleasant entertainment with their banjo-playing and long-boot dancing, and the King's Dramatic Company, under the direction of Miss Ina Clifford, present an interesting story in *A Rolling Stone*, Miss Clifford appearing in her successful impersonation of Spot. Mr. Charles Harvey, the capable manager, keeps a diligent eye upon the requirements of the house and the comfort of his patrons.

THE STANDARD.

Considerable excitement has been created at the Standard this week by the appearance, about midway in the programme, of the Young Colossus and L'Homme Miniature. As one would expect from his name, the youthful Colossus is simply tremendous. Born in Hungary some eighteen years since, he now turns the scale at 36 stone, and is evidently very proud of his plump proportions. His tiny companion, the Miniature Man, is twenty-five years old, and weighs but 2st. 4lb. After a few introductory remarks by the manager on Monday, in which it was stated that both young gentlemen are single, the ludicrously contrasted couple made their way to the body of the hall, and shook hands with many amongst the audience, a proceeding which appeared to give them great satisfaction. Another unique turn is that supplied by the Deer Family of North American Indians in a series of episodes illustrating the life of Indians in the past. We are shown the Redskins' camp fire and a war dance, and native pastimes are indulged in. In another scene we see the settler's cabin, which is fired by the Indians, who carry off his wife and daughter. They are, of course, eventually rescued, and a thrilling knife-duel between two of the tribe concludes this interesting turn. The management state on the programme that the performers are real Indians; and also that they have a guarantee to be taken back to their settlements at the conclusion of the tour.

An exceedingly entertaining interlude in the excellent programme is *For Four Bob*, for which Athas and Collins are responsible. Mr. Athas cuts a droll figure as a professor of acting and his boy, and his charming partner admirably assists him as an ambitious damsel who is anxious to outshine Ellen Terry as a tragic actress. An attractive and smart dance is introduced by this happily-associated couple, who are accorded a hearty greeting. Much laughter is evoked by the absurdities of *House Full*, a comedy sketch, given by the Dammerell-Rutland company, all of whom work hard and successfully in the cause of mirth; and F. Moulo and Ed. Nicholls's company also compel merriment in *The Battle of the Belles*. Early in the evening Mr. Dick Grahame wins approval for a couple of descriptive songs; and Miss Minnie Wren scores unmistakably in "The boy who looks after his mother" the sentiment of which receives the approval of the entire audience. The lady also has a pleasing number in "What is it makes you follow the band?" in which she describes the fascinations a band has for old and young alike—for the errand-boy and the staid business-man.

Comedy jugglers are conspicuous in most programmes now, and a decidedly promising couple are Weeda and Wynn, who are meeting with the success they merit at the Pimlico hall this week. One of them has a ludicrous make-up, and many really funny devices for arousing mirth, the majority of which are original. Both are expert and neat jugglers, especially attractive being their smart exchanges with tennis racquets. Miss Grace Merton, "the genuine street-singer," has the attention of the house with her whilst she is singing "Dear Heart" and "Sing me to sleep," two admirably-rendered numbers, for which she is loudly acclaimed; and Frazer and Haley are heard with pleasure in "Buy a rose" and the popular number, "Teasing," a neatly-executed dance concluding their turn. Miss Cissie Heath is a clever high-kicker and accomplished dancer, and interests in her contribution, "Back to Baltimore"; Mr. Fred Keeton, a comedian with a grotesque style that excites hilarity, has a couple of funny numbers in "I'm not supposed to know what I'm about" and "The New Boy," some atrocious puns adding to the humour of the latter ditty; and Mr. Johnny Dwyer secures a flattering reception for his impersonation of an "'orny-'anded son of toil," who prefers home and fireside to the public-house, also contributing another excellent song. A new series of animated pictures, shown by the Edisonograph, concludes the evening's entertainment. The affable and astute Mr. Maurice Volny is Mr. Dickie's assistant-manager; and Mr. Frederick Allwood controls the capable band.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

"Variety in ventriloquism" seems to be the motto upon which Oakdene, who is appearing this week at the Camberwell Palace, has built up an exceedingly interesting act. A capital representation of a ship's side forms a kind of background to the turn. Heads peer out of portholes, and although they are nothing more than dummies, it appears that they possess to a wonderful degree the power of speaking. Then we have a large coloured portrait of Nelson brought on the stage, the mouth opens, and an order is given to a subordinate officer. To sing in ten different voices in the space of a few minutes is indeed a ventriloquial feat of no mean order. Oakdene, however, does it, and does it well. Cartoons are exhibited representing a curate, a soldier, a navvy, an old man, a girl, a "Johnny," and an old woman, and Oakdene sings in tones of voice characteristic of each. Mr. Fred Land indulges in some lively sayings with a song about a certain "Tom," and his gestures and expressions are irresistibly funny. Martine and Son present a delightful series of pictures illustrative of the songs sung in fine style by "the junior partner." The verses are of the serious, sentimental strain, and concern "An old-fashioned picture" and a moral on the subject of respect for old age. Les Debreans contribute a juggling and shadowgraphy act which is both novel and entertaining; and the Brothers Redmond, the well-known comedians, are, as usual, comical in the extreme with their special business.

Miss Dorothy Clark calls forth one's admiration for her delightful vocalism as applied to "My Firefly," and "The captain is my sweetheart"; and Miss Kittie Bell is also pleasing with her dainty ditty about "A pretty little silk sunshade." Upon her second entrance Miss Bell is attired in kilts and smartly executes a Scottish dance. Dale and Vale take part in a neat and graceful exhibition of pedestal dancing; and Miss Fifi Gordon, a charming and engaging comedienne, distinguishes herself in her own particular line. Les Kyasyas, a lady and gentleman, are a particularly venturesome couple. The gentleman supports a 56lb. weight with his teeth, and the lady fastens a similar weight to her hair and swings it round. Then, as if not content with that, the man lifts the girl, seated securely in a seat, likewise by means of his teeth, and in a similar way he raises a piano from the ground. His fair companion elevates a mass of solid iron, weighing 203lbs., as well as a 340lb. gun through the medium of her hirsute adornments. The whole performance is surprising, daring, and even sensational. Miss Esther Phillips and company are seen to advantage in their extremely interesting "episode" of the French Revolution, entitled *A City of Shadows*, an attractive romance capably acted. Mr. J. G. Taylor distinguishes himself in the comedy line; and a couple of highly diverting eccentrics come along in the persons of Tee and Tee.

Maskelyne and Devant's mysterious "Burmese Gong" is one of the features of the programme. A lot of wonderful things are enacted before a gorgeous curtain bearing the name of the famous firm. One witnesses a single handkerchief being multiplied into five or six, and one sees, too, white silk handkerchiefs change their colour in amazing fashion. Then there are magical boxes and pedestals in which and from which different people appear and disappear in an uncanny manner; and lastly, the kettle which will supply you with any kind of drink you fancy. Speedwell, the lightning painter, displays his talents in the direction of rapid cartooning. Thus, we have an adequate picture of General Booth completed in two and a half minutes, others that follow being Mr. Jesse Sparrow, the popular manager of the Camberwell Palace, the late Dan Leno, Sir Henry Irving, and King Edward. Nelson's Newsboys' Quintette are a merry little party, and a very happy rendering we get from them of "I'll be your dewdrop, Rosie," while their sand-dancing commands strong appreciation. Vernon's Bioscope shows a capital series of pictures.

LATENT TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—From time to time I see in your estimable paper eulogistic paragraphs of turns who themselves secure all the "beer and skittles," and I, as "the man behind the desk who does the work," obtain no recognition.

Just recently I have noticed quite a dozen or more turns praised warmly in *The Era*, that I have absolutely placed there. It is very easy for an artist to practically represent himself, or for other agencies to represent him after he has been "found," and I lay claim to having "found" more new turns while an agent than any other person in my line of business has done in the same space of time.

In your "Gossip" last week you mention Oakdene. I am not averse to giving this artist an advertisement, as I have done all his hard work, and, what is more, the idea of his new show is mine, and was given by me to him. While talking about ventriloquists, Mr. Tom Edwards will be the first to acknowledge that I made the running for him, and in a lesser degree I advertised and pushed Coram, who I am delighted to see is doing well.

It is also humorous to notice under agency advertisements the names of several of my turns, meaning to convey that the agencies who are advertising have booked the halls that are enumerated in the different artists' advertisements under the one grand heading of the agency.

I have now a new turn, on their second visit to England, absolutely introduced by me, namely, the Narow Bros.

Regarding the paragraph in *The Era* that "Mrs. M. Barrasford is emphasising her contention that there are a large number of clever artists in the provinces who have not yet had an opportunity of obtaining due notice from London audiences," Mrs. Barrasford is quite right, and it is a pleasure to me to note that a good many turns that I have run round the provinces during my seven years' experience as an agent, have since gone to London and done well; but I have a good many who have only played one week, or, at the most, a fortnight (at the Palace, Camberwell, and Walham Green), and I refer you to Mr. Sparrow, who was the only London manager, as far as I was concerned, who would fall in with this idea of Mrs. Barrasford's, of giving new turns to London a chance.

If there is any London proprietor or manager that will give me the opportunity of booking a couple of dozen special turns, which I have in my mind's eye, I guarantee them the satisfaction of saying they have unearthed some smart new artists, which I think are required in preference to the old stuff keep going round.—Yours faithfully,

WILL DALTON.
(Dalton's Agency).

5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury,
Manchester, Feb. 10.

THE Alexandra, Sheffield, was crowded in every part on the evening of Feb. 8, when Mr. C. W. Ramsay took his second annual benefit. During his five years' sojourn in Sheffield the popular acting-manager of the Alexandra has made many warm friends, and he is liked and respected by all. The performance was under the patronage of the Lord Mayor, the Master Cutler, the Duke of Portland, Lord Wharncliffe, the Earl and Countess Fitzwilliam, Sir Howard Vincent, the Hon. J. Ramsay, Sir John Leng, and other influential people.

IN addition to scenes from *The Shop-Boy*, special turns were contributed by Mr. Harry Phydora, Mr. Harry Pleon, Messrs. McKenzie and Urquehart, Rayne and Hope, Mr. W. McCulloch, Mr. A. Marples, Pete and Juno, the Tivoli Quartette, Mr. Victor Samson, Mr. Frank Harwood, Mr. Curly Jackson, The Four Papillons, Miss Cissie Kent, and Miss Edie Endon. One of the most pleasing events of the night was the appearance of Mr. Ramsay on the stage to say a few words of thanks. After this came presents from Mr. W. D. Forsdike, Mr. Fred Forsdike, Mr. W. A. Pope, and others.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

"THE KING'S MINISTER."

A Play in One Act, by Cecil Raleigh, produced at the Hounslow Hippodrome, on Feb. 12, 1906.

Lord Draconsmere .....MR. JOHN LAWSON
Lady Muriel Delisea.....MISS CISSIE LAWSON
Lord Arthur Lincoln ....MR. CHARLES OMMANNEY
Hon. Mrs. St. Ozler .....MISS ETHEL PAULL
Milano .....MR. ARTHUR ROYSTON
Inspector of Police .....MR. CHARLES HARTLEY

It is a densely foggy night—so thick is it without that identity is completely disguised. Thus safeguarded, the opening scene reveals Lord Draconsmere engaged in a *tête-à-tête* with the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozler at Milano's Restaurant, Soho. Although somewhat nervous of his reputation, the noble lord has risked much for this meeting with an old admirer. His daughter, Muriel, appears at some time to have involved herself with a worthless creature—a music-master—named Auberon Tremaine. She had, in her girlish infatuation written certain letters—undated—and now, hearing of matters in connection with Muriel, blackmail loomed in the distance. To obtain possession of these letters was in the power of the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozler (Kitty), whose connection with Auberon Tremaine was well known. She had stolen the compromising documents from Aubrey, and, after some discussion, she hands them over to her visitor, Lord Draconsmere. Having obtained possession of the incriminating documents, the King's Minister proceeds to administer quite a pretty little lecture to his *vis-à-vis* on the horrors of gambling, for Kitty is a victim to the mania of the hour. She admits she is indebted to the tune of £3,000 for bridge; and, with a chivalry peculiar to his caste, the King's Minister hands her the money, only exacting as payment a promise not to again tempt fortune at cards, and takes his leave. It at this juncture that M. Milano appears. He admits times are atrociously bad, and that he is a member of one of the secret societies having their rendezvous at his hotel. But M. Milano has not been asleep. He has noted, while in the room, that Kitty has received a number of notes from Lord Draconsmere, and, recognising the fact that matters could not be more desperately bad, he threatens the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozler with violence; but Kitty is a lady of resource, and, snatching a champagne bottle from the table, she manages to tame the fierceness of M. le Propriétaire. Having vanquished her—for she generously throws him a £5 note and calls for her cloak. M. Milano hands her the garment; and, under the feint of assisting her, he promptly strangles her with a table-napkin, and she falls dead. The police arrive, and M. Milano informs them that a mysterious visitor had dined with the lady and left earlier in the evening.

The second scene brings us to the residence of the Prime Minister at Carlton House-terrace. Here Muriel is first seen, and is chafing under the fact that her father, Lord Draconsmere, still delayed the publication of her engagement with Lord Arthur Lincoln; but there is a rift in the cloud. Her father explains how, with the assistance of Mrs. Kitty St. Ozler, he has obtained possession of the compromising documents, and these Lady Muriel promptly destroys. At this point Lord Draconsmere hears of the death of Mrs. Kitty St. Ozler, and he hastens off to make further inquiries. A moment later he returns, to be confronted with M. Milano. This gentleman now admits he is allied to a gang of secret societies, and that he can, if he will, prove that the Prime Minister was the last person to leave Kitty St. Ozler, and that, in point of fact, he had murdered her. The Prime Minister, amazed and horrified at the audacity of the denunciation, and anxious not to stain an honourable name, inquires the price of Milano's silence. The *restaurateur* is quite modest. He pines only for the Prime Minister's Secret Code, as, with this in his possession, his secret revolutionary society can set Europe in a flame. There is a fine scene here, in which the dignity of the Prime Minister's office is admirably portrayed; but Milano has not come to bandy words. At the pistol's point he demands the Secret Code. Still thinking of his daughter's honour, the Prime Minister makes a show of surrender, and by a clever ruse obtains possession of Milano's revolver. Having, as he states, cleared his daughter's honour and sure of his own innocence, he shoots himself and falls dead.

The little play met with a particularly favourable reception. Mr. Cecil Raleigh administers a castigation to the Smart Set; he does not hesitate to denounce the gamblers of society, and bears testimony to the integrity of the Semitic race. The play sparkles with epigrams, and it may be said *The King's Minister* has started on a successful career.

Mr. John Lawson was excellent as the Prime Minister, and in Scene II. evoked a furore of applause. Mr. Arthur Royston was admirable as M. Milano in accent, gesture, and tone. As Kitty Miss Ethel Paull made the most of her opportunities; her scene with M. Milano was superb. Miss Cissie Lawson prettily enacted the rôle of Lady Muriel, and Mr. Charles Ommanney was a dignified Lord Arthur. The play was splendidly mounted.

In the variety show which preceded the play Mr. Tod Mayon was highly amusing; and Flo and Tony Vernon's ghost sketch convulsed the house; their "paper-tearing" feats were no less clever. Miss Nora Prendergast sang charmingly "A little boy named Taps," and Eric Grahame touched the hearts of his auditors with a song of a child's love. Ray Phillips danced and sang prettily, and Mr. J. L. Barrie proves a courteous and hard-working manager.

MR. TOM EDWARDS, the well-known ventriloquist, is proud of the great progress made by his sister and pupil, Miss Maude Edwards. Although she has only been before the public since June last, she has "caught on" immensely, and bids fair to make a big name for herself. Miss Edwards is booked well into 1907, and anticipates visiting America this coming autumn.

THE secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £7 7s. from Mr. William Morton as a donation, being the part proceeds of the floral matinée at the Theatre Royal, Hull. He has also received the sum of £1 14s. 9d., collected by Mr. R. J. Adkin in his pence-box at the Islington Empire. Mr. Harry Kilburn has also collected the following amounts:—Forman and Gorman, 5s.; Harry Kilburn, 2s. 6d.; Fred Spenser, 2s. 6d.; Harry Rogerson, 2s. 6d.; W. P. Kallsy, 2s. 6d.; H. H. Gillett, 2s. 6d.; Johnny Fuller, 2s.; and Charles Leverton, 1s. The president and committee offer their best thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly subscribed to the fund.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Company are to be congratulated on the fact that no less than ten of their "Sixpenny Successes" publications will be exploited in South Africa by different members of the company of English artists leaving England to-day; notably by Miss Alice Lloyd, who will sing "I've bought a bamboo bungalow for you," "Any old place where the sun shines," and Miss Marie Lloyd's creation, "You're a thing of the past, old dear"; while Miss Georgina Preston will delight Johannesburg and other towns with "Remember me to mother dear."

THE directors of the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires recommend that a dividend be paid for the half-year to Dec. 31 at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, that £3,000 be placed to reserve, and that the balance of £2,681 be carried forward.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The great event of this week is King's Lynn Fair, better known as Lynn Mart. Throughout East Anglia the annual pleasure fairs are called marts, the very name indicating their connection with the glorious historic past. Lynn Mart is held under a charter of King John, and the great treasure of the ancient free borough is the sword of state presented to the Mayor and Freemen by King John after the signing of Magna Charta. A very great friend of the showmen, Alderman Dunn, is Mayor of Lynn this year, and this fact lends additional interest to the quaint ceremonial—the Proclamation of the Mart

But, after all, the fair's the thing that people throng the Mart for. And what a glroious fair it is! Every inch of available space fully occupied with the pick of the best concerns on the road. This year, at last, the Corporation wisely let the principal show and roundabout positions *en bloc* to the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union. This gave the Union power to do what no Corporation, without expert knowledge, can accomplish—that is, to prevent a plethora of one kind of show or amusement. For example, there are no two sets of roundabouts alike, and the shows are selected with due regard to variety. There is no crowding and no unhealthy competition. The primary object of this move on the part of the allied proprietors was to stop the cut-throat competition between tenant and tenant, and by a just consideration of rival claims for ground at the fair to make provision for all interests on business and equitable lines.

We congratulate the energetic and ubiquitous Mr. Hurst on the order and high-class nature of the fair, and we couple with this a word of well-won praise for Mr. W. H. Wright, the esteemed toll-collector, who has put himself heartily into the work, and has rendered all official help in the planning and ordering of the fair.

In beautifully fine weather the civic procession of the Borough Council of Lynn made its way from the Town Hall to the Tuesday Market, the historic site of Lynn Mart, and at the place formerly marked by a market cross. The Mart was opened by the Mayor (Alderman Dunn). There was a great crowd of sightseers, and the Mayor was supported in the quaint ceremonial by the Town Clerk, Mr. J. W. Woolstencroft, Mr. H. Barrett, Deputy Town Clerk, and other officials of the Corporation, Alderman Carpenter (ex-Mayor), Alderman Patrick, G. Y. Battynoon, J.P., and Councillors T. Taylor, Geo. Gammell, W. S. E. Miles, W. H. L. Brown, and Burlingham, the four mace-bearers, the sword-bearer (Mr. Terrington), Mr. W. Lake, the Mayor's beadle, and Mr. W. H. Wright, town crier and collector of market tolls.

The Mayor in well-chosen words addressed not only his fellow-townsmen, but also the strangers within their gates for the time being. He referred to the travelling showmen—gathered on the Mart once more. First of all it was an occasion to the people of Lynn of some historic moment once again under their old charter privileges to hold their annual fair. It was a link with the past of great value to them as townsmen and Freemen of King's Lynn. Then to the showmen he extended in the name of the Borough Council and the men and women of Lynn a hearty welcome and the cordial assurance of their best endeavour to help them in every possible way.

Further than that, he told them that their day and Sunday schools would be free and open to the showman's child, and the churches and chapels would welcome them at their Sabbath-day services. Strangers they might be, but he ventured to hope that in thus showing them open-hearted welcome—as traders and as fellow-citizens—they would be best fulfilling that charity which makes for brotherhood. Good order and good health would be well looked after by their energetic officers charged with these necessary duties. He heartily wished them bright weather and good trade.

He concluded by calling upon the Town Crier (Mr. W. H. Wright) to read the ancient proclamation. The Town Crier then, in stentorian tones, read the words of proclamation, this being the twenty-third year of Mr. Wright's exercise of this office: "Oyez—oyez—oyez! Whereas, by Royal Charter and Prescription, the Corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of King's Lynn, and their successors, are empowered to have and hold in perpetuity within the said borough one Mart or Fair yearly, on the 14th day of February, and for six days thenceforth next and immediately following, with all the accustomed liberties and privileges thereto belonging and appertaining: Now the said Borough Corporate, acting by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen of the said borough, do hereby by Proclamation of their Common Crier, publish and make known that the said Mart or Fair, to be holden this year, doth begin on the present 14th day of February at 12 o'clock noon, and shall continue for the space of six days, from henceforth next following, with all the ancient and accustomed liberties and privileges so far as the same will now apply. And that all persons do forbear to show forth wares on the Lord's Day. And, further, that all such persons as may be justly suspected of evil behaviour do avoid this Borough and the Liberties thereof.—God Save the King! Oyez—oyez—oyez!" After the ancient ceremony the Mayor, with several officials and friends, made a friendly inspection of the fair ground, and noted with the greatest satisfaction the model condition of the Fair.

Now for the show. The central position is occupied by that progressive showman, Mr. G. H. Kemp, better known as "President" Kemp, the Anglo-American entrepeneur of cinématographe and up-to-date varieties. We referred last week in a short review of 1905 to the revolution in show-fronts. President Kemp has been among the foremost to recognise this. He opened at Lynn with the most complefe equipment, outside and in, on the newest lines we have yet seen.

This is notable, because we remember that, to do this Mr. Kemp has cast aside, as being out of date, a show that four years ago was acclaimed—and justly so—as the best and most up-to-date on the road. We were present at the first house of that show, and gave the first coin, "a lucky penny," to Mrs. Kemp at the pay-box; and, by a singular coincidence, we witnessed the last show on the opening day of the new show at Lynn.

How shall we say that the travelling showman is not up to date when, at the end of four seasons, he readily sacrifices a costly concern because it is no longer in line with the best models of the day, and sinks a second fortune freely in order to keep his well-won position in the profession he has adorned with both ability, integrity, and enterprise?

The magnificent front has for its centre the last thing in beautiful organs, from the studio of Marenchi et Cie. of Paris, London, and Manchester. The exquisitely perfect work of art, lit up by hundreds of electric parti-coloured lamps, sounds forth delightful music. The organ itself is 24ft. wide. The show-front stretches 40ft. in all, thus giving at either side of the organ 8ft. for entrance to the interior of the theatre. The outside is a blaze of electric arc-lamps, and alongside the show is the powerful traction engine used to give power to the immense dynamo plant.

Inside, the booth is most tastefully and luxuriously furnished, the whole interior being lined with heavy cloth, and velvet curtains and linings *en suite*. Comfortable stalls, cushioned, divide the auditorium into two sections, the whole of the standing-room being raised at an altitude to give every patron an uninterrupted view of the stage.

We hope to be able in a future issue to give our readers a photo. view of this, the very last thing in shows, and heartily congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Kemp on their enterprise, and wish them every success.

Enoch Farren's Coliseum of Varieties and Animated Photography (another example, and an earlier one of the new departure) adjoins Kemp's. First-class in every particular, and well able to hold its own with the very best on the road.

The other picture show is John Proctor's well-known concern, and a great and deserved favourite in King's Lynn. It is up to date, and the clever proprietor is evidently determined to be in line with the best traditions and enterprise of the showman world.

That extraordinary and original man of many mysteries, Prince Samouda, the esoteric expert, has his celebrated temple of magic and Eastern mystery at the Mart. There is only one Samouda, and he the prince of his line of business.

Harry Hughes, fresh from his triumphant season at the World's Fair, London, is delighting crowded audiences with his truly British show, the fistiana ring and the military tournament—a capital combination of athletes.

Here again we mark the rapid advance in the shows of the Empire. Good boxing by well-known experts is not enough now; there must be a varied programme of kindred sport, such as wrestling, spear, sword, and lance exercises, on foot and on horseback. All these varieties are now given at Harry Hughes's pavilion of British pluck and skill. There are two ground booths, each good of its class—Mrs. Harry Hughes's fine art gallery and Ling's portable Academy Royal.

The great mechanical novelty is Relph and Pedley's whirling the whirl, a combination of motions that must prove particularly attractive. Aspland's motor track (managers B. Howden and Son) occupies its old position so long associated with Venetian gondolas; and close by is the composite set of Messrs. P. Collins, Ltd.—the racing birds, motors, and revolving carriages.

F. W. Wallington's twin ships in the air, and Wilson's big wheel, follow in order. Barker and Thurston's superb gondola set occupies the central position in the machine line. The miniature and baby sets of horses, cars, and ponies include those of Messrs. G. Holmes, C. Abbott, and G. Hearn; and the park swings and highflier are provided by Messrs. Cheeseman and Thompson.

The avenues of shooting galleries, bottle and egg batteries, are by Messrs. H. Westrop, Cooper, R. Holmes, Cheeseman, A. Westrop, Hearn, G. Holmes, and Carter; the cokers, throwing games, dolly frames, stick and goldfish stalls are by Messrs. Hart, H. Hart, Wm. Westrop, Robt. Holmes, jun., W. Clark, J. Holmes, Sherratt, Carter, Cheeseman, Cooper, Brown, and others.

Toy bazaars, variety stalls, pannum stalls, &c., &c., in great variety, by Messrs. Suett, Thompson, R. Bond, Bell, Brown, and local traders and shopkeepers.

The excellently fitted-up refreshment tent of the Adult Friends' Temperance Society, a feature of note at Lynn Mart, was again busy at its good work.

Considerable correspondence has passed between the Parliamentary agents of the Showmen's Guild and the agents acting for the Corporation of Pontefract and the District Council of Wallasey, with reference to their proposals to restrict the show business in private Bills now before Parliament. We very much fear that showmen as a body do not realise the constant labour which has to be undertaken by the Guild officials in this work of trade defence. The utmost vigilance has to be exercised, and the most expert knowledge brought to bear, in negotiating with the officials and Parliamentary agents of public bodies. We urge the necessity of quick and hearty co-operation whenever an individual showman is appealed to by the Guild, either for local information or practical help.

We do not intend at the present moment to mention individuals who fail to grasp their responsibility in this matter, but we cannot help expressing our strong disappointment that any showman with local knowledge and influence should refuse to render assistance in a matter that affects the irterests of the whole body. For many years past we have been engaged in the strenuous enterprise of educating public opinion in reference to the importance of the show business and its allied industries. A secondary work, and one that ought to have been of the lightest possible nature, has given us from time to time considerable labour and anxiety—we refer to the work of educating the showman to a right conception of his own importance, and the part that he is called upon to play as a trader and craftsman in the Commonwealth.

It is not enough for a showman to say—this matter does not concern me or my round. He is in honour bound to take a wider view, and consider how it may affect other people engaged in the same line of business. The organisation of trade defence, and the combination of showmen and fair ground traders for mutual benefit and advancement, can only be secured by the immediate and hearty response and co-operation of all the interests and individuals concerned.

Amongst the matters on the agenda for the committee meeting at Lynn will be the Pontefract and the Wallasey Bills. It would greatly facilitate the work of the committee if the local showmen from both of these threatened districts would send in their names and reasons against the proposals embodied in these Bills, so that the petitions against them may be drafted with local knowledge, and signed by representative local showmen.

The "Showmen's Year Book" for 1906 will be issued within a few days. It will be supplied post free to members who have paid their 1906 subscriptions, and will be sent to new subscribers free. This year's edition, amongst other new features, will contain an appreciation of Lord George Sanger, with portrait, and portraits with short biographies of the following well-known showmen: Messrs. T. Hurst, T. Payne, T. Norman, T. Hartshorn, and R. Mackley. There are also new articles of showmen interest, by the Rev. T. Horne, additional fair lists, bylaw regulations, and important trade information, exclusively compiled for this work, with additional portraits of showman world notabilities. A very limited number of copies at 1s. each will be on sale at *The Era* Office.

Broadway, Worcestershire, six miles from Evesham, with a station on the Great Western Railway, holds its wake on Whit. Wednesday, on the village green.

At Astwood Bank, Temple and Beckett's cinématograph and variety company have given some excellent entertainments.

VAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of members in the Assembly Rooms of the Town Hall, King's Lynn, on Thursday, the Mayor (Alderman E. Dunn) presided, and among those present were Rev. R. Gordon Roe, Messrs. F. J. Savage, W. Savage, and C. E. Ward (High Chief Ranger, Ancient Order Foresters), of Lynn; Rev. T. Horne, Mr. Watson Wright, Mr. T. Hurst, and some 150 showmen.

The Mayor said some of the showmen seemed to be a little annoyed about a report appearing in a local newspaper. This Mart was held by virtue of a very old and interesting charter, and if anyone in Lynn wanted to get rid of the Mart, which he did not think they would, they would have to get an Act of Parliament for the purpose.

Mr. Watson Wright said the Association had had great difficulties to contend with since 1900, in which session there were numbers of proposals from county and borough councils made in Bills, which, if passed, would have been distinctly disastrous to members of this Association. Previous to this they had to fight county councils and borough councils, who frequently wanted to make by-laws which were mischievous, and going beyond the constitutional law of England. These by-laws, whenever the Association heard of them, were fought and contested, and successfully too, for although there were by-laws which still operated partially and were against the interests of showmen, they were passed previous to 1889, when this body came into being. Since that date the Association claims that it has opposed all by-laws that were contrary to its members' interests. The ten or twelve Bills which he referred to as being brought in in 1900 all contained clauses entirely against the principles of law of jurisprudence and the common law of England. They, and all similar ones since that date, had been opposed. The executive committee instructed Mr. Millar, the Parliamentary agent, to scrutinise every private Bill and to find out whether in any way they affected showmen. This he did, and the faulty Bills were dealt with. Some of the promoting bodies withdrew the objectionable clauses; but others proceeded with their Bills, and were therefore met in the Parliamentary Committee Room. Whenever the Association had opposed them it had successfully maintained its opposition, and had had all the clauses which were unconstitutional and against the common law eliminated and struck out. That not only justified the existence of the Association, but satisfied the showmen that, but for the action of the executive committee, there would have been no travellers able to carry on their business as they were doing to-day. This would have been distinctly a disaster, not only to the borough of Lynn, but to the whole community. Among the clauses objected to were proposals that powers should be vested in county and borough councils to regulate the fairs and state the hours at which they should close. If this had been passed it would have been within the right of the councils to say that 4 o'clock should be the closing time. Further, they endeavoured to say that showmen should not move about the country—indeed, that was in Bills this year. Also, that they were not to stand with their vans within a hundred yards of a highway or a dwelling-house. Of course, it would be almost impossible to find a place where they could comply with that condition and carry on their business. A law was passed before the society came into existence which prevented the travellers having a show at all at Kingston-on-Thames, and if it had not been for the Association's work others would have been passed, and their business lost altogether. Since 1900 they had contested eight or ten every year and defeated them, but had they not fought the first batch there would probably have been not less than fifty every year. To-day there were only three Bills which they took serious objection to. Last year they were successful in getting all the objectionable clauses withdrawn except some in the Colne Bill. He and others of the executive waited upon the Mayor and Corporation of that place, and when they found how reasonable the Association was they withdrew all the clauses to which objection was raised. Old fairs were held either under charter from the Crown, by Act of Parliament, or by prescription; and for a little local body to endeavour to supersede the rights of the Crown was ridiculous. There was already sufficient law in these charters to regulate the fairs, so why give more law? The Association's work could not be carried on without the necessary funds. If it had not been for the Rev. T. Horne's work the Association might have gone down, and that would have been a very serious thing for all showmen. They might rely that the executive would contest the three Bills he had mentioned, unless the authorities withdrew them; and he thought the Association would win, because the clauses were all of the same nature as others that had been defeated. In the showmen's trade there was a vast amount of capital, which had a right to be protected. They must hold together so as to get that protection, and refuse to be harassed by county or borough councils while providing, as they had done for many years, for the amusement of the British public.

Rev. T. Horne said Mr. Wright had referred to the Association's need for money. The executive had never paused to pledge the Association's credit, even when they had not got its ready money. They had never stopped any important work even if they had not got any money, because they were certain that when they met the members and told them straight the position of affairs that the money would be forthcoming. He did not think that outside the executive it was realised how important it was to have a considerable reserve of money to meet all possible emergencies. He asked them all to subscribe generously, because it is a very expensive work at the cheapest to undertake Parliamentary work. The two sessions of Parliament in 1904 and 1905 involved the Association in a cost, for Parliamentary expenses alone, of £415 11s. 11d., and they did not even get the 11d. returned to them. He had repeatedly emphasised in the Press—and the committee had endorsed his statements— that the Association ought to always have a reserve of £300, in order that the Parliamentary business might be carried on successfully and with the least possible anxiety to the people concerned. It was a matter of anxiety to him that men like Mr. Wright and Mr. Millar, after they had done their work, were in the position of being the Association's creditors. While the Association was perfectly willing in the end to meet all its liabilities, it would be better still if they were always in a position to meet them as they were incurred. Last year, through the generous response of the showmen at London and Manchester and Lord George Sanger's munificent bequest of £400, they were able to see their way round an awkward corner, and he thought they would now be able to keep going without any difficulty. He had to supplement what the Mayor said about the piffle in a local paper. He was a piffler himself, and enjoyed reading it. It was only fun, and he believed the man who wrote it would make an excellent clown. Against it he would place hard facts. In 1898 £45, in 1899 £54, in 1900 £61, in 1901 and '02 (when there was a War Fund) over £100, in 1903 £56, in 1904 £51, and in 1905 £37, making a grand total of over £400, was given by the showmen to local charities. As regards the educational and religious side of the Association's work, even to him it had been a year of great surprises. The astounding progress of the Guild's educational and religious work, and the possibilities of that work, had surprised and staggered him. He had received kinds words of inquiry and Christian brotherly encouragement from bishops, canons, and rural deans. They wished to know more and more about the work of the Guild, and were glad to find there was a trade society modelled on the old Church lines of not only looking after the bodies of its members, but also caring for them mentally and spiritually. There was at the heart of this good old country of ours such an overwhelming sense of the right thing that right and justice would be done whichever great political party or group of parties was at the helm. He believed the showmen would receive the hearty sympathy and support of that new party, the Labour Party, for, if there was one lesson which had forced itself on the public mind, it was the truth that the organised democracy had claimed what the democracy always ought to have had. The showmen of the Empire stood as a body of organised traders. It was an outrage on justice, an insult to the common sense of this country, that little pettifogging local authorities should arrogate and assume to themselves the prerogative of the Crown, and that they should dare to lay unholy hands on the very constitution and personal and communal liberties of the people. He was hoping with all his heart and soul to fulfil a long-deferred ambition of his this coming summer. He was hoping to be able to resign his fixed clerical work, that anchored him down every Sunday to a particular spot. He was hoping, with the authority and permission of the Bishop, to come on to the fair grounds of the country as the itinerant missionary of the showmen, so that he could give them some of the other side of him—the side which some of them knew and appreciated. Mr. Horne concluded by saying: "We want money. At the end of this meeting you must all line up and potter out."

The Rev. R. Gordon Roe, Vicar of St. Margaret's, Lynn, also spoke, paying a high tribute to the work of Mr. Watson Wright and the Rev. T. Horne, and the character of the shows at the Mart.

On the proposition of Mr. Hurst, seconded by Mr. Pedley, votes of thanks were accorded the Mayor and other speakers.

Coming events include a club fête at Radford, Worcester, on May 3; a fête at Bishampton, Pershore, on May 14; a fête at Inkberrow, Worcester, on July 2; and a flower show at Henley-in-Arden, on Aug. 8.

While a fair was in progress at Tarbes recently, a wild boar dashed suddenly into the midst of the people, knocking them over, and upsetting stalls wholesale. He plunged into the adjacent river, and eventually a crowd, armed with pitchforks and revolvers, gave chase, and succeeded in killing the animal.

Oldham Market Ground, Lancashire, is pretty well full just now with travellers, amongst whom are Charles Marshall's Venetian gondolas, Thomas Holden's twin-screw steamers, Isaac Platt's flying gondolas and Gem swings, Sidney Brayham's bird exhibition, Jim Norman's Eventascope of electric novelties, James Fern's emmas and novelty stalls, and other stalls by Messrs. Hancock, Dearden, Ormrod, Harrington, and White.

At Ashton-under-Lyne, on the Market Ground, there are William Mitchell's Gordon-Bennett motors, Harrison's slipping the slip, Tom Mitchell's skyscrapers, Captain Thomas Payne's electric bioscope of passing events and local views, Thwaite's juvenile ponies and motor-cars, Thomas's Universal bazaar of Continental novelties, White's Star shooting saloon, Harry Hibbert's popular pastimes for outdoor exercise, Booth's goal-kickers, and the strength-testers. Fair business is reported

Bidford-on-Avon is a rapidly-growing inland holiday resort, twenty-four miles from Birmingham, twelve from Redditch, seven from Stratford-on-Avon, seven from Evesham, and about thirteen from Worcester. Hundreds of holiday-makers from Birmingham flock to it every year, and of late the Great Central Railway have run day trips from London. It is a very get-atable place for showmen, the roads all round being good. Fair-ground is cheap (apply to Mr. Cowper or Geo. Winnett), and showmen are welcome; there is also excellent accommodation for fit-ups (apply to Mr. Butler, Assembly Rooms). Principal fair days for Bidford are Trinity Monday, Oct. 11, and the day following August Bank Holiday (Bidford Flower Show day).

At Todmorden, Pedley's cinématograph occupies the market ground this week, and is meeting with great success. The animated pictures shown are excellent, and the enterprise of the proprietors of this up-to-date show is further shown by the magnificent orchestrion, which is illuminated each evening with all the colours of the rainbow by means of tiny electric lamps, forming a splendid show-front.

Plymouth Winter Gardens, of which Messrs. Hancock Bros. are the proprietors, have an attractive bill of fare this week, including Mme. Coates, wire-walker and juggler; Robert Yelding, equestrian; Belle Stewart, comedienne; Squah, and living pictures.

Captain Fred Wombwell, lion-tamer, of Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie, was presented on Thursday night at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, with a handsome diamond and gold medal by his many admirers and friends as a token of their esteem and regard.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the York Hotel. Mr. Henry Weeks, as one of the vice-presidents, occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. W. J. Waimatta (vice-president), Frank Heath (hon. treasurer), Harry Mountford, William West, J. Mulcaster, and Tom Carney. Mr. Douglas White (trustee) was unable to attend the meeting in consequence of illness. The secretary (Mr. R. T. Baines) reported that five new members had joined since the last meeting. Mr. Harry Mountford pointed out the advantages offered to members of the variety profession by joining the society, as for a payment of only 6d. per week they received when laid aside by sickness £1 per week, or if they paid 9d. per week £1 10s.; while at death a grant of £10 was made to the nearest relative. In proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman at the close of the meeting Mr. Mountford called attention to the fact that this was the first time that a manager had attended a meeting of the society, and it was an event which augured well for the future prospects of the Fund, which deserved the support of every member of the profession.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and James W. Tate have just equipped Miss Marie Lloyd with three new songs, viz., "The German Frau," "Cockney Gals in Paree," and "Dolly Dollars." These are all character "studies," specially written and composed for the queen of comediennes.

"The Would-be Actors" is due to appear at The Palace on February 26. The act is new to London, and from all accounts we are to be treated to one long laugh from the rise to the fall of the curtain. Genuine mirth in our variety programme is always welcome, and *The Would-be Actors* will no doubt be eagerly sought after by those managers who like to see their audiences enjoying wholesome humour. The skit will be performed by Carter Livesey, Lilian Rosebery, and company.

The wife of Mr. Fred Evans-Florador (Miss Beattie Trixie) has just presented her husband with a fine boy. Mr. Evans-Florador has just entered into partnership with Mr. Matthews, and the two descendants of famous clowns are carrying on business as theatrical apparatus makers and manufacturers of mechanical stage properties.

EALING HIPPODROME.

The main attraction at Ealing this week is "the ever-popular and romantic equestrian spectacle" entitled *Turpin's Ride to York*, introducing Mr. Ginnett's wonderfully trained mare Black Bess and numerous other horses. The opening scene in the Inn at Westminster is effective, and a chorus, "The King's Highway," most melodious. Turpin's friend, Tom King, joins the revellers, and royally pays the drink score of the gang. Turpin enters, mounted on Black Bess, and soon the inn is invaded by the Westminster Beadle and his posse. The identity of Tom is betrayed by his sweetheart, and, struggling helplessly in the hands of his captors, he calls upon Turpin, who kills his own friend. Turpin's identity is discovered, but as the constables rush to seize him he mounts Black Bess, parts the crowd and, with a leap, clears the inn windows and starts upon his famous ride to York. Most of the episodes are shown on the Bioscope, but at the last a beautiful scene, for which Mr. F. E. Bardon is responsible, reveals the towers of York Minster at a mile or so from the old city. Ridden to death, poor Black Bess succumbs, and is carried to her last resting-place shoulder high by a gipsy crowd. The spectacle is well received, and the incidental music finely rendered by the band, under the direction of Mr. W. Neale.

Sydney Carden and Lulu Zesch, society entertainers, give a good rendition of the prison scene from *Il Trovatore*. Miss May Middleton delivers two songs in good style. Her second number, "Killarney," is well received, the old melody being greatly to the taste of many among the audience. Counsell and Mills, in their comedy incident, *On the Stage*, are very much appreciated, the incidents surrounding the engagement of an actress proving most amusing. Miss Venie Clements, an excellent comedienne and dancer, gives some very creditable imitations, that of the little girl and her dad being life-like. The old favourite Mr. Tom Costello was billed to appear, but failed to do so on Monday, when Mr. Phil Ray took his place in the programme. Mr. Ray proved an acceptable substitute, and, with his confidential smile, soon got on good terms with the people in front, who received his quips and jokes with continuous laughter. Cline and Clark, "black and white comedy artists," are well received, and, as sand-dancers, acquit themselves remarkably well. Gilbert Ginard, "the human harp" and animal and instrument mimic, proves extremely popular. Some of his mimicry is marvellously life-like, the cats' concert being particularly real. The Brothers Bright, a couple of clever gymnasts, give a display which includes many new tricks; all the feats in this clever turn are taken very deliberately, and show immense muscular power. The Brothers score a success, and fully deserve the good reception accorded them. With seven horses upon its stage, the Ealing house may now well justify its title of "Hippodrome," and Mr. Walter Gibbons may be assured of the continued support of the best people of the district. The able manager is Mr. E. W. James, whose long experience in a similar capacity at other suburban halls fits him admirably for the post.

The *Napoleon* sketch, which was recently successfully produced at Shepherd's Bush Empire, may again be seen in London next week, at Hammersmith Palace. Mr. Arthur Chesney has been secured by the author-managers for the title-rôle. Mr. Chesney was at Terry's Theatre with Mr. Brandon Thomas until a few weeks ago, and he has cancelled his tour with that manager to take up the part of Napoleon.

The directors of the Leicester Palace recommend that the balance of £91 6s. 5d. at the credit of profit and loss account be carried forward to the current year's account.

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"SWAN" FOUNTAIN PEN

You are satisfied. Your purchase is a good one. It will last for years, do good work, rapid work, and do it comfortably.

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HAIR RESTORER

Destroys all Scurf, Dandruff, and Germs, and rapidly stimulates a vigorous new growth of hair. A truly marvellous tonic for those whose hair is either thinning, falling out, or turning grey. Quite harmless, and contains no dyes. Free packet of delicious JAVOL SHAMPOO POWDER free with each Flask. Javol, 3/- per Flask. Javol Shampoo Powder, 1/- per Box of 8. Order through your local Chemist or direct from

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Advertisers and Subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 12, 26, April 9, 30, May 7, 21, 28, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
March 19, April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 21, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7 (Race Week), 14, 28, June 11, 18, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
March 26, April 2, 16, May 7, 14,
Aug. 6, 13, 27, Sept. 3, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, June 4, Aug. 13, 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Feb. 25, March 5, 19, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 7, June 11, 18, Aug. 13, 20, Sept. 10, on.
Milton Bode and Edward Compton take over the Opera House, Leicester, and the Theatre Royal, Leicester, on Monday, Feb. 19.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for two and three weeks. Please state subject, and where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Reading, March 19, April 2, 19, 16; Leamington, Feb. 26, March 5, 19, 26.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 23,
30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 6,
onwards, with exceptions.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, March 12.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, 21, 28, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. ERNEST STEVENS,
General Manager, J. MURRAY HERRIOT.
WANTED, through Transferring, First-Class Attraction,
March 26.
March 26.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 30, through disappointment.
Wire, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, a First-class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also June 4 (Whit Week).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
WANTED, a Really First-Class Attraction, for Easter, to open Saturday, April 14. Forward full particulars and lowest terms to PRITT.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Musical Comedy, Operas, and Good Dramas, March 26 (?), April 2 (?), 9, 16, and onwards. E. H. PAGE, Proprietor, highly complimented by the Licensing Committee on having provided one of the safest and best-appointed theatres in East Lancashire.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions (Musical preferred), Easter Week and Whit. Week, 1906. Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
WANTED, Powerful Attraction, March 26, April 9, 23. ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, for the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, High-class Musical Attractions, for April 9, 16, 23.
Apply,
HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3, 4, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit. Week. Apply WILLIAM PEACOCK.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Good Attractions, May 14, 28, June 11, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 10, 17, Nov. 15 (3 nights), Dec. 24. Pantomime wanted, Jan., '07. Silence polite negative. Address, FRANK KING.

WANTED, Big Attractions, March 5, 19, 26, Grand, Radcliffe; also Musical Attractions, March 12, April 9. G., Chorley. SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Companies, March 5 and 12. Address, CADDICK.

P. O. W., NUNEATON.
WANTED, Companies, April 30, May 14, Aug. 13, 27 (County Agricultural Show Week), Sept. 17, 24, and various Spring, 1907.
A. F. CROSS.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

T. R., RUGBY.
WANTED, Companies, March 5 (?), April 23, May 7, 14, Whit, and August Bank Holiday.
A. F. CROSS, P. O. W., Nuneaton.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, March 12. First in after Pantomime.
Wire, "MONTEFIORE, Edinburgh."

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-class Pantos., and Big Musical Attractions, Monday next, March 19 (through disappointment). Feb. 26, March 6 and 12; Big Dramatic Attractions, March 19, and on. Easter Vacant. ALBANY WARD.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for April 16, Easter week, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant April 2, May 21, June 4, 18.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 19, April 2.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant March 12, April 2, 9, 23.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 8 (three nights), 12.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Feb. 22 (three nights), March 8 (three nights), 12.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant March 26, April 23, 30, May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 12, 26, April 9.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19 (three nights), 26, April 9.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant Feb 26, April 2, 23, 30.

Wanted, dates Xmas, 1906-7, for "Aladdin," Mr. Carlton's greatest success, from the London Hippodrome.
Also for "Cinderella," the beautiful production which has just run six weeks at Devonport, the last week being bigger than the first.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.

LORD GEORGE SANGER, Sole Proprietor.
Manager, HENRY BOWMAN.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Season Dates. Bookings and pencillings include "The Blue Moon," "Earl and the Girl," "Freedom of Suzanne," "The White Chrysanthemum," George Dance's Co.'s, Chas. Macdona's Co.'s, and all the Leading Touring Attractions.

Address, HENRY BOWMAN, as above.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE,
PONTYPRIDD.
Owners and Proprietors,
Mrs. TRENCHARD and Miss LILY JONES.
Manager, Mr. CHARLES TRENCHARD.
No expense will be spared to make the above Theatre one of the most Comfortable and Money-making Theatres in Wales.
WANTED, Big Attraction for April 2, 30, and onwards. For dates, apply, Manager, Mr. CHARLES TRENCHARD; or to Mr. SMITHSON, Royal Theatre, Merthyr.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
NEW THEATRE, MANSFIELD.

Now in course of erection; modern brick and stone building; will open August.

Stage 60ft. by 40ft. The only Stage in the Town that can take Full-sized Scenery.

Situate in very centre of Town.

Bookings include best Companies on Tour.

Applications to EDWARD GRAY,
King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, for Feb. 4, 1907 (two weeks), state where can be seen; also First-class Companies, April 30, June 4, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATH. Lessee and Manager, Mr. EGBERT LEWIS. The following Dates are Vacant for First-class Attractions only.
WANTED, Companies, March 12, 19, 26, April 23, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Silence a polite negative.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, for March 26, April 23, 30, May 14, Sept. 3, on.
Fast Booking Autumn.
Booked by the best Dramas on the Road.
Good terms given to the right Shows.
Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT, and
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, for Production next Christmas, two First-Class Pantomimes, Vacant April 30, May 21, and June 4, for First-Class Dramatic Companies. Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 5 and 12, also April 2. Enormous Success of "Mr. Smith" this week; next week, Alexandra Grand Opera Co. Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, First-class Companies, March 5 and May 7.
F. J. ROBINSON, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, Comedy and Musical Plays, for Theatre Royal, Inverness. Season opens Sept. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

LYCEUM THEATRE, LONG EATON.
WANTED, Company, Feb. 22 (3 nights), also Feb. 26 (week). Wire, or ring up, 0199, National. P. A. MEAKIN.

WANTED, Companies, March 1, 2, 3, three nights only, for Perth; and March 26 (six nights), for Paisley.
Apply, J. H. SAVILE, Paisley Theatre.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Attractions for
QUEEN'S T., FARNWORTH, BOLTON,
April 9, 16, 23, 30.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 19, 20, 21, April 2, 9, 16.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
April 9, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers:
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
Under the personal direction of the Lessees. The most modernly-equipped Theatre in the country. Lighted throughout by electricity and gas. Ventilated by electricity; warmed by the most up-to-date system of hot water pipes. A modern up-to-date 2-tier Theatre. Population of town and district over 100,000. Theatre holds 1,200.
WANTED, Companies, Aug. 6, onwards, with exceptions. First-class Musical Companies new to the town can rely on an excellent week's business. Good terms given to good companies. Under no consideration will we guarantee railway fares or printing bills. The only theatre in the town under the personal direction of the Lessees. An excellent Permanent Orchestra.
Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE,
His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE, Vacant March 26 (Musical Attraction preferred), April 9, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
April 9, May 14, 21, 28.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
March 26, April 9. Also a few Autumn Dates vacant at each Theatre.
Address, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant April 23, April 30,
May 14, May 21.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 7, 14, and 28.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, Dramatic and Musical Companies, for the following Dates:
Vacant May 14, 21, June 4.
Apply,
LINGFORD CARSON, as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, April 16 (Easter), 23, and May 7, Strong Dramas only,
Share or Certainty.
Apply,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 26, April 2 and 9,
Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
April 9, Easter Week (musical comedy preferred), April 23 (?), May 7, 28, June 11, 18, July 16.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE,
FOLKESTONE,
April 30, May 7, 21, June 11, 18, 25,
July 2, 9, 23 (3 nights).
Coms., ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Good Companies, for Crystal Palace Theatre; New Royal, King's Lynn; and T. R., Ryde. (See Special Company Advt., also Centre Page Advt.)
N.B.—Good Panto. wanted, King's Lynn, March 5 and 12 (only second in).
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 12,
April 2 and 9.
Required, Big Attraction, for April 16 (Easter), Musical preferred.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
(The West-end Theatre of Hastings.)
Resident-Manager, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS.
The Company have just spent £2,000 on improving and renovating this Pavilion, including lighting and the approach thereto, and have made arrangements for carrying it on on up-to-date and vigorous lines New Advertising Methods. Everything possible done to assist visiting Companies.
Big Attractions sure of Big Money.
WANTED, Vacant April 30, and several Dates, onwards. Early application desirable. Musical Comedies sure draw. Apply as above, or to Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly. Telephone, 6534 Gerrard.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 26, April 9; these are the only two dates open this Spring. Open to book only First-class Companies, August Bank Holiday and onward.
Apply, Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.

WANTED, Good Attractions for Theatres Royal, Aston, and Smethwick, May 14, 21; Theatre Royal, Chatham, vacant April 30; Big Attraction please write at once. BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Easter, Eight Nights and Two Matinées. First Pantomime here for Two Years. CHARLES ELDERTON, Prospect Hotel, Douglas.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON.
Managing-Director, JAS. W. HAWORTH.
Acting-Manager, J. FRED WATSON.
WANTED, Pantomime, for March 19, also Strong Attractions for March 26, April 23, May 21 and 28, June 11, onward, with exceptions. All must be Strong Shows.

HIPPODROME THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD,
Just newly built and Licensed for Stage Plays. Magnificent Stone Building, lighted by electricity inside and out. Full band of 12. Staff in uniform. Everything up-to-date.
WANTED, March 5 and Onwards, Pantomime, Musical Comedy, or Good Sensational Drama. First-class Attractions only.
Communications, J. MORRELLA and S. JENNINGS.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE,
DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, Feb. 26, March 5, 26, and on. First-class Attraction wanted for reopening date, Aug. 13. Dumfries, Vacant March 5, on.

NEW PAVILION,
EASTBOURNE PIER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 2, 23, June 4 (Whit. Week), June 18, 25, and various dates, onwards. Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
WANTED, Companies, Easter, July 16 and 23, Sept. 3 and 10, three nights each; all other dates filled.

HAWICK, Vacant March 12 (last three days).
DERRY, April 23 (Comedy or Variety Co.).
W. PAYNE SEDDON, New Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

WANTED, Good Fit-up Pantomime Company, 2 nights Boston, 2 nights Louth, 2 nights Spalding. No Panto. this Season. Send particulars, CLIFFORD, 32, Main Ridge, Boston.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, COLWYN BAY.
PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 5, onwards, Easter, and few Good Autumn Dates. CHAS. CHAPLIN, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, Good Attraction for March 5, on, with exceptions. Wire, wire, wire,
PHILLIPS, New Coliseum, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Good Companies, Dramas, Musical Comedies, Choirs, Minstrels, &c., Feb. 22, three nights, onwards. Wire, HERBERT, Town Hall Theatre, Methil.

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W.

COMPANIES WANTED.

THEATRE ROYAL, GRANTHAM.
WANTED, First-class Dramas, last Three Nights of Weeks commencing March 12, 19, 26, also Easter. Bookings include Moody-Manners B Co., "The Orchid," "The Cingalee," "Sergeant Brue," "Florodora," "Kitty Grey," "Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace," "The Dandy Doctor," "Somebody's Sweetheart," Osmond Tearle Co., "The Christian," &c., &c.

Electric Light throughout.

EDWARD MARRIS,
Proprietor.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL,
SEAHAM HARBOUR.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 9, May 7, 14, 21, and 28; also Aug. 6, for Musical Show.
A. C. HARRISON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 12, May 28.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatre, March 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 15, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 16, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 2, 23, 30, Aug. 6.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Empire Theatre, Southend-on-Sea.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Feb. 26 and May 7, in or around London, for the Scala Production.
Wire, to-day, KELLY,
Scala Theatre, London, W.;
next week, Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.
WANTED, Week of March 12, Midlands (Lancashire or Yorkshire preferred). Wire, to-day, KELLY, Scala Theatre, London, W.; next week, Borough Theatre, Stratford.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 30, May 28, June 4, on.
"SAILORS OF THE KING."
April 2, 16, Aug. 6, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
New Theatre Royal, Leigh.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, April 23, between Scarboro' and Manchester, only vacant date.
CHALMERS MACKEY, this, P. O. W. Theatre, Salford; Feb. 19, Theatre Royal, Merthyr, Six Nights.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANIES.
"WHAT A WOMAN DID!"
WANTED, March 12 (3 nights), between South Wales and Lancs., March 26 (follow Seacombe),
April 2, 9 (precede Ton-y-Pandy, Easter),
April 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
Vacant Aug. 6 (precede Burnley),
Aug. 20, 27, and onwards, with exceptions.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR;
to-day, T. R., Shrewsbury;
next, O. H., Porth.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 30, May 14, 21 (3 nights).
J. W. CORDINER, Theatre Royal, Dover.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

WANTED, Good Theatres, South Coast preferred, from June 18 to Aug. 13, 1906, for Own Tour of
"A BUNCH OF VIOLETS,"
from the Haymarket Theatre, London.
Mr. Norman E. Partridge as Sir Philip Marchand.

For dates apply,
GEORGE E. MUDD,
Resident Business-Manager,
Grand Theatre, Nelson.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 25, March 12, and onwards.
Wire, Lister-road, Liverpool.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for "Oliver Twist," "Florodora," and "The Eternal City."
(See Companies Advt., also Centre Page Advt.)
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

WANTED, "Private Secretary," Open Dates, Aug. 20, Sept. 10, 17, and 24, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 24, onwards.
Apply, EUGENE C. STAFFORD, c/o FRENCH, LTD., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MESSRS. MURRAY AND STAFFORD'S CO.
WANTED, Several Spring Dates, for the Powerful Drama of Moral Import,
"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."
Specially Selected Company.
New and Elaborate Scenery and Effects.
Splendid Special Pictorials.
Managers desirous of Booking a Strong Attraction and Sure Success, communicate immediately, 39, Evans-square, Beetonsville, Hull.

"A WOMAN'S REDEMPTION."
From the Pavilion Theatre, London.
WANTED, June 11, 18, 25, July 9, for above Beautiful Play. JAMES HARE,
1, Abercorn-place, Ladypit-lane, Leeds.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Mr. Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED, Mar. 26, April 2 and 16, Midlands. Add., RALLAND, T. Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, May 14, 21, June 11,
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
Osborne Theatre, Manchester, third visit.

"A DESTROYER OF MEN,"
by Sydney Spenser and Clarence Burnette.
WANTED, Aug. 13, Big Theatre Only. No Finer Production Touring. JAMES HARE, 1, Abercorn-place, Ladypit-lane, Leeds.

WANTED, for the magnificent revival "Her Wedding Day." April 9, certainty only; also good Theatres for the enormous success, "Her Fatal Past." Oct. 15, Nov. 12. Address, T. E. WARD, Metropolitan, Glasgow.

WANTED, April 30, "Facing the Music." Miss Dorothy Casey's Company, under the direction of Charles Windermere. 15, Catherine-st., Strand.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, April 2, 9.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, March 12, North.
EDWARD MARRIS, Grand, Newcastle.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
A Startling Play,
A Startling Play,
by
S. Buchanan Rogerson,
Suggested by, and Adapted from
Mr. Guy Thorne's
Celebrated Novel,
"When it was Dark,"
"When it was Dark,"
Produced with Enormous Success.
Held a House Packed in all Parts
Breathless from Start to Finish.
But One Opinion,
A Great Play.

Notice.
The Version is Protected.
It does not Contain
One Sentence
(of say twelve words),
From the Novel.

The Dialogue is Original,
New Characters Have been Introduced,
New Situations Invented,
Sparkling Comedy Added.

The Character of Lucifer
is not in the Novel;
but is in this Play.
The Great Dream Scene
is not in the Novel;
but is in this Play.
The Sensational Tableaux
are not in the Novel.
The Dialogue used, and many of the Characters in the Play
are not in the Novel.
But are the
Exclusive Property of S. Buchanan Rogerson.
The Right of Representation
is held by
Mr. MORTON POWELL,
who has instructed his solicitors,
Messrs. Gush, Hare, and Co., Gray's Inn, London,
to take Immediate Action
against anyone
Infringing His Rights.
Managers
are Respectfully Informed
that S. Buchanan Rogerson's Play,
adapted from, and suggested by,
Mr. Guy Thorne's Novel,
"When It was Dark,"
does not
Infringe
Rights Held by Anyone.
The Play
Starts on Tour
at once.
Is Booked at Many No. 1 Theatres.
The Finest Plant of Printing Ever Displayed.
One of the Strongest Casts ever Toured.
Vacant
April 9 (?), 16 (?), 23, May 7, June 25.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISE.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
Another brilliant success
Scored last week at Cradley Heath.
Theatre packed.
Refer Managers Refer
J. H. Morton, Esq.

Enthusiastic Reception on Monday at
GRAND, WALSALL.
Write
Manager, Westwood,
For his opinion.

Along the line the verdict runs—
Along the line the verdict runs—
Success!
Success!
Financial and Artistic.
Vacant, March 19 (?); April 9, 16; May 21 (?).
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.'S.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Easter Week. Playing to Crowded Business, at Met., Manchester. Refer.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Wanted, March 26. Easter Week.
Splendid Cast, including Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley.
Dates fast filling.
Wire,
KIMBERLEY, Metropole, Manchester;
next, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
The Successful Musical Comedy,
March 5,
onwards.
Wire,
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Great Grimsby;
next week, Bedford and Luton (three nights each).

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, April 2, in or near London, April 2. 27th Week of Present Tour.
April 23, 30 (?), May 7, Midlands.
Bookings and re-bookings extend into March, '07. Sept. 3, 10, and 17 Open, South.
FRANK AYRTON, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS,
"LIFE" and "EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, April 9, 16 (precede T. R., West Bromwich), 30, on. This version of "East Lynne" contains no policeman, is fully protected, and local managers need have no fear of any infringement trouble. Powerful company engaged. Agent, and enormous plant of reserved pictorials.
Address,
General-Manager,
Mr. HERBERT BARRS, Empire, Cradley Heath.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, March 19, through transfer to oblige, also April 30, May 7, 14 (?), 21, 28, and June 4. Apply, FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING," Miss MAUD HILDYARD, supported by Powerful Company.
WANTED, Big Theatre, Easter Week, April 23, August Bank Holiday, onwards, with exceptions. Re Dates, Mr. ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire T., Oldham; others, Miss MAUD HILDYARD, King's T., Cardiff.

"THE OTHER MAN'S BUSINESS."
WANTED, April 16, and a few weeks onward (prior to a West End Production), for above Farce. Special printing is now in hand, and the entire production will be carried, together with a strong cast, including Mr. G. W. Anson, Hornby Warburton, G. W. Elton, Ellis J. Preston, Frank E. Petley, and Miss Lillian Hubbard. Several Engagements are in negotiation to further strengthen this already strong cast. Address, EUGENE BERTRAM, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and various, onwards. Mr. Nobbs, Weymouth:—More than satisfied with your splendid show. Everything new. Artists selected from the Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's, Carson and Granville, and Hill-Mitchelson's Companies. Look out for "The Deserter." Summer Dates Wanted. CHARLES CLIFFORD, Weston-super-Mare (3), Ferndale (3).

WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Theatres, April 16 and on (with exceptions) for the powerful Drama, "Man's Enemy" (by arrangement with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden). Cast includes: Mr. Augustine Knight as Harry Stanton (his original part), Mr. John Power as Tom, Miss Daisy Halling as Sarah Drake, supported by strong company. JOHN P. BEARDMORE, c/o DAVID ALLEN and SONS, Belfast.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "Toreador." March 5; "Mason," March 19, Easter; "Gay Parisienne." March 26, April 2: all North. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOUR.
WANTED, for Comedy Répertoire, Feb. 26 (6), March 5 (3), March 12, and onwards. RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, for this Brilliant Attraction, March 5,
to precede Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.
To-day, HARRY FOXWELL, Aquarium, Yarmouth; Feb. 19, Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge.

THEATRES WANTED.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Dates, for Various Attractions, as hereunder:

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,
Mr. Reuben W. Payne's Company,
Aug. B. H., various onwards.

"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company,
April 2 (South), various onwards.

"SAINTS AND SINNERS," and "MIDDLEMAN,"
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 9, various on. (North).

Vacant dates for Mr. Arthur Carlton's new play (by Sutton Vane) will shortly be announced.

"HOME FROM THE HONEYMOON."
A new farcical comedy sketch in two scenes, by A. J., produced on Friday night at the Metropole, Glasgow, by the members of the Orphan Heiress Company (by courtesy of Reuben W. Payne, Esq.).

A. J. thanks W. B. Redfern, Esq., for enquiry re attractions for Cambridge (full term time).

"THE WORLD'S VERDICT."
With special cast, and beautifully mounted, will resume tour shortly.

Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

Please note: Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

"SINBAD THE SAILOR."
Entire Production from Grand Theatre, Islington.
Lloyd's News, Dec. 31, said:—One of the best pantomimes seen at Islington for some years.
Referee, Dec. 31, said:—"Sinbad" is a funny as well as a beautiful pantomime.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Jan. 14 and 21, 1907.
Large stage absolutely essential.
Apply,
Samuel James,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."
The Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this pantomime that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Jan. 14 and 21, 1907.
Large stage absolutely essential.
Apply,
Samuel James,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEO. KIRK'S CO.,
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Chas. Darrell.
Produced January 1, and secured by the following Managers for immediate dates: Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Milton Bode, C. W. Poole, W. Morton, &c., &c.
WANTED, March 5, only vacant date until August 20. Address, Geo. Kirk.
To-day, Alex., Sheffield;
next, T. R., GLOUCESTER.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, June 18, only vacant Spring date; also August 6, 13, and few later. Magnificently advertised, splendidly acted, beautiful new special scenery and effects; fifth year of Tour, and success continued.
ALFRED B. CROSS as PETE (over 1,500 times);
MINNIE WATERSFORD as KATE (over 900 times).
T. R., GLOSSOP, Feb. 19.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
A Huge and Gigantic Success this week at the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin.
Splendidly Staged, Beautifully Dressed, and Strongly Acted; is still the theme of Universal Admiration.
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, Easter, and Whitsun, for this really Remarkable and Powerful Holiday Attraction.
Clyndes,
Public Hall, Colwyn Bay.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, April 23, 30, May 7, on, with exceptions.
Apply, Lingford Carson,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Good Theatres.
Vacant March 26, April 9,
and Easter Week. Everything carried.
Strong Cast of Recognised Artists.
Apply, Lingford Carson,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR.
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, for this Strong Attraction, May 28, June 25 (?), July 2 (Midlands), Aug. 6, and on, with exceptions. Striking Pictorials. Correct Uniforms. Thanks Messrs. Frank King and T. Allen Edwardes for Contracts.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH,"
By the late F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Theatres, March 26, May 7, June 4, Aug. 6, 27, Oct. 15, Nov. 5, 26, Dec. 24, 31. Wire, Frances Delaval, to-day, Victoria, W. Stanley; next, Grand, W. Hartlepool.

"HOME, SWEET HOME,"
the Great Domestic Drama, by Frank Lindo.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Vacant April 2 and April 30.
Address,
Frank Lindo, T. R., Rugby.

"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Theatres, with Holding Capacity, for next season. Both productions from Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool. See "Whittington," Feb. 19 week, Grand, Newcastle. Edward Marris.

Pantomime,
Pantomime,
Pantomime,
Christmas, 1906-7.
Christmas, 1906-7.
WANTED, Known, Mr. Brydon Phillips will be pleased to negotiate Good Theatre for "Little Red Riding Hood," fourteenth season of this Mascotte Version, written by Victor Stevens.
A safe Booking.
Address, in first instance,
Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 26, for "Span of Life."
Wire, Carlton, Worcester.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE (?)"
WANTED, First-Class Juvenile Leading Gentleman, Breezy, capable of Aristocratic Heavy (dual rôle), tall, must have good appearance, voice, and delivery, first-class Character, heavy, powerful, and intense; Juvenile Lady, for small part, powerful; also first-class Irish Comedian, about 5ft. 6in. In all cases photos., refs., and lowest terms. Rehearse Feb. 26, Salford.
Fred C. Somerfield, Prince's T., Blackburn.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," "Sailor's Sweetheart," Heavy, Juvenile Gentlemen, Comedian, Chambermaid, Juvenile Lady, Acting-Manager (play part), Agent; rehearse March 1. State terms, refs., height, no photos. Mark Blow, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

WANTED, Lady Amateur, for Small Parts, in First-Class Touring Company, Easter to Whitsun; no premium; no salary. Address, Box 2,804, "The Era."

"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW" CO.
WANTED, Good Chambermaid, to rehearse next week. Photos and full Particulars to Messrs. Armadale and Warren, Metropole Theatre, Hayland, Yorks.

ARTISTS WANTED.

MILTON RAY'S COMPANIES.
Spring Tour, March 5, 1906.
"A HOT NIGHT."
WANTED, Juvenile Leading Gentleman (Vocalist), for Frank Frith; Character-Actor and Vocalist (tall), for the Professor; Robust Character-Actor, for Captain Drake; Leading Juvenile Lady, for Polly (Good Vocalist); Robust Character-Actress, for Mrs. Fatterwig (tall).

Address,
Arthur Milton,
45, Broadgate, Preston.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
Startling Play, Founded on, and Suggested by, Guy Thorne's Novel,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Full Company, including Star Leading Lady, for Gertrude Hunt; must be powerful, pathetic, and intense actress. Star Leading Actor, for Schaube and Lucifer; acknowledged Leading Juvenile, for Basil Gortre; Intense Character, for Sir Robert Llewellyn; Strong, Passionate Juvenile Man, for Harold Spence; Light Comedienne Lady, for Light Comedy; Lady, for Lady Llewellyn; Responsible, Experienced Artists, for other parts. All must be of acknowledged ability. Rehearse Feb. 26. Open March 5. Terms, refs., last three engagements, height, full particulars, Morton Powell, 53, Sarsfeld-rd., Balham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Open at Once, Good Stock Comedian; also Lady, for juveniles; must be used to portable business, young, dress well on and off. All particulars to
Will Haggar, jun.,
Public Hall, Abercynon, till Monday;
after, Market Hall, Aberdare.

"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME" TOUR.
WANTED, to Complete Company, Sound Character Old Man, Juvenile Lady and Gentleman, Strong Heavy Leading Gentleman, Smart Rough Chambermaid (à la Louie Freear), to Sing and Dance, Reliable Man for Carpenter and Baggage, capable of keeping Scenery in repair. Rehearse March 5. Full particulars, terms, photos, and last two references, Murray and Stafford, 39, Evans-square, Beetonsville, Hull.

WANTED, for Early Autumn Tours, Smart, Attractive Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, good appearance and good voices absolutely essential. Apply, personally and immediately, Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Tall Character Man, to Double for "Napoleon the Great."
Full particulars. Rehearse Feb. 20.
F. M. Thorne,
Grand, West Hartlepool; next, A. T., Hull.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
WANTED, Character Actor for Seth Coombes, Young, capable of a Struggle.
Photos., lowest terms, and references to
Horace Stanley, 44, Albion-road, Yarmouth.

WANTED, for Répertoire, Smart Juvenile Man, also Comedian (state if sing and dance); Artists in other lines write. Age, height, photo, references, lowest terms, to Roy Jackson, T. R., Kendal.

WANTED, Two Smart Young Gentlemen, for Stock. Apply, Mr. Williams, c/o Borough Arms Hotel, Congleton, Cheshire.

WANTED, Strong Character Actor, Capable Intense or Comedy, to sing preferred. Full particulars, Harry Starr, Metropole, Devonport.

WANTED, Comedian and Robust Irish Chambermaid, both sing, dance, dress parts well. Frances Delaval, Grand Theatre, W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known.—An Opening will shortly occur with First-class Dramatic Manager for Young Lady and Young Gentleman Amateurs. Thorough tuition. Premium. Salary in accordance. Apply, first instance, Box 2,784, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Proprietor of First-class Drama by recognised Popular Author has Opening for Lady or Gentleman Amateur to play part and understudy Leading part. Magnificent plant of scenery by known artist, costumes, &c., everything carried. Third share, £150. Tour fully booked up. Production can be seen at Popular Theatre. Address, Box 2,802, "The Era."

WANTED, for Tour, Musical Comedy, two Amateur Ladies and Gentlemen, good salary, travelling expenses paid. Stamp. Box 2,825, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman (Novices), Musical Play; fee for instruction; salaried Engagement. Write, interview, Wellesley, Musical Club, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.

WANTED, Smart Gent., for Well-known Sketch Co., to open March 5, 3 weeks, if suitable long engt., March 6. Lowest terms to Comedian, 8, Cleveland-house, Hackford-rd., S.W. Letters only.

WANTED, Young Ladies, with Excellent Voices, used to quartette, immediately, for concerts. 56, Richmond-road, near Shepherd's Bush Tube. Call Monday.

WANTED, a Good Baritone and Basso, for quartet; both good readers, and young. Apply, Monday (12), 19, Kennington Park-rd., S.E.

WANTED, Young Basso, for Established Male Quartette; must be reader. Refs., if possible. Apply, Box 2,827, "The Era."

WANTED, at Once, First-class Counter-Tenor Soloist, one familiar with Quartette Work preferred. Long Engagement. Address, Fred McClellan, 38, Park-hill-road, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, immediately. Call song. Write terms (low), photo., Tower, 34, Stokenchurch-street, Fulham.

WANTED, Competent Acrobatic Dancers, immediate and future Engagements; must be Young, Pretty, and Clever. Call, with practice dress, Sinclair's Agency, 12, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Experienced Chorus Trainer, Post where smart and really good Chorus Singing is required. At Liberty at Easter. Box 2,722, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Pupils trained in Singing, Dancing, and Elocution. Ten Ladies and Ten Gentlemen wanted for good Bonâ-fide Engagement. Contracts given immediately. Apply, Box 2,832, "The Era."

WANTED, by Bass Baritone, High-class Refs., pupil of Sig. Randegger, dates, concert tours, at homes, &c. Hughes, 19, George-st., Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Bert Rush and Ethel Balfour, vacant, Musical Comedy Sketches, Dramas, &c. Coms. to 86, Disraeli-rd., Putney, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Alto and Baritone, at Lib. Feb. 19, for Comedy or Straight Quartette, Minstrels, &c., varied experience, expert dancers, late of well-known Professional Quartette. Box 2,800, "The Era."

THE I.D.K. MINSTRELS.
WANTED, Known, Bijou Troupes of this High-Class London Combination may be engaged for Piers, Spa, and Seaside Concert Halls, also Al Fresco Fêtes, Public or Private; Smart Show, Good Vocalists, Funny Comedians, Clever Instrumentalists. Next week, return engagement, Royal Victoria Hall, Southend. Agents please note. Perm. add., Manager, 185, Upland-rd., E. Dulwich.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, 1906-7. Send last two references, age, height, lowest salary, Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester. Mark envelopes "Pantomime."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Pantomimist Comedians,
Spring Season,
Paris,
April 11
to
June 30,
and
Continental
Tour,
commencing
August
or
September.
Apply
by
letter,
stating
experience,
age,
salary,
&c.,
John Tiller,
15, Lime-grove,
Oxford-road,
Manchester.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, immediately, as a Permanency, a First-class Scenic Artist. State lowest terms, highest references, and where their work can be seen. It is only wasting time for anyone but First-class Artists to apply. Address, Moody-Manners Opera Co. Opera House, Middlesbrough.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Painting, Joinery, materials of uniform excellence, at reasonable prices, large Studio and Workshop. Address, Charles Sayer, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts. Every facility. Renovations, inclusive terms, anywhere. 20 years' London and Provincial experience. Ernest R. Jones, 65, Hanover-rd., Willesden, London. To Oxford and O.U.D.S., 13 years; Leamington Studios, 3 years. Enquiries invited.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers of Gardens, Piers, Pavilions, to know I have good open air Scenic Novelties, also can make and paint anything required either for inside or outside. Address,
Turner, Scenic Artist, 50, Vernon-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement, or Contract, town or provinces. Refs. Add., 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Known, for Bright, Effective, Cheap Scenery, for Sketch or Drama, Roberts and Co., Scenic Artists, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, at Liberty for Contract or Engagement. Address, 20, Park-street, Middlesbrough.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, immediately, Gentleman to Finance Three-act Farce. Short cast; one set throughout. Box 2,796, "The Era."

WANTED, by Agent, Refined Young Lady. Send photo., age, height, confidential particulars, position, &c. Eliot Fisher, 42, Mayola-road, Clapton.

WANTED, First-class Electrician, Practical Man essential.
Apply, with terms and references,
Milton Bode, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, for Season on the Continent, Practical Man, with previous experience, to Superintend E'ectric Installation and Boats, for Naval Combat. Write, Box 2,828, "The Era."

WANTED, at Once, thoroughly Experienced Master Carpenter, own tools, capable productions. State age, references, and salary. Arthur Jefferson, Metropole, Glasgow.

WANTED, Carpenter, one who can touch Scenery up well, to play part. Fullest particulars J. Leicester-Jackson, Gaiety, Burnley.

WANTED, Bill Inspector, for Tottenham and Hounslow; those in district preferred, must be smart man, and not afraid to use brush if required; one who can get good window shows, and to be useful on stage of evening; sobriety, and last two references, which will be strictly inquired into, essential. Write, Billposter, Secretary, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Bill-Poster, must be a practical man and sober: constant employment.
Apply with references, to
De Rees, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, a Woman with thorough experience in Cutting and Making Theatrical Costumes and to assist in Show-room. Salary, £1 per week. Write full particulars to Box 2,815, "The Era."

WANTED, Four Commissionaires, to distribute Bills, Cards, house-to-house, and wear uniform and act as Attendants, for Hounslow and Tottenham. Those in district preferred; must have Army character, disciplinarian, and abstainer. Write,
Commissionaire, Sec., 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, by Competent Gentleman, Engagement as Assistant Acting-Manager, London or Provinces, Music Hall preferred, thoroughly experienced; substantial security if required. Box 2,761, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, P. A. Lennon, at Liberty. Just concluded 18 months as Manager, Richmond Theatre for George Dance.
Late 10 years with Moss' Empires, Ltd.
Address,
10, Hotham-road, Putney, S.W.

WANTED, Position, as Assistant, Advertising, or Stage-Manager, varieties or theatre, provinces or London. Wire or write, Expert, 125, Eleanor-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, T. W. Johnson, Vacant Summer, Al Fresco, Management, and Produce. Refs., Catlin, Scarboro', 4 years. Coms., Hippo., Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Gentleman, age 25, height 5ft. 11in., smart appearance, liberty re-engagement, business, acting or stage-management, resident or tour, character actor, clever and original advertiser. Communications, Box 2,826, "The Era."

WANTED, position as Secretary, good Theatre, Hall, or Tour by Young Gentleman, age 20, expert shorthand clerk, typist, books, box office experience; late Secretary and Cashier, Grand Theatre, Colchester. Clarence V. Davies, 15, Kendall-road, Colchester.

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Circus Agent, Great Britain and Ireland, at Liberty, for tenting. Address, John Henry Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Reliable, Steady Man, Baggage and Parts, immediate offers; abstainer. A. Allen, 48, Pembridge-rd., Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Mr. J. Thomas, Property Master, just concluding fourth season with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, Re-engaged Xmas, 1906-1907. Address, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour, late with "Duke of Killicrankie" Co. Good references. Address, 42, Walcot-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, a Resident or Good Touring Engagement, by sound, practical Carpenter and Scenic Artist. Address, Carpenter, 35, Cavour-street, Kennington Park, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Carpenter, Practical, own tools; Wardrobe Mistress, own machine, cut, make, alter; resident or tour, joint or separate. Empire, Theatre, Bursley.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known, G. E. Liddle, Carpenter, at Lib., play parts, 20 years' experience, own tools, total abstainer, good references. Coms., King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

WANTED, Situation, Smart Man, Billing, Attendant, Check-taking, or Pay-box, London preferred. Excellent references. J. B. L., 71, Hartismere-road, Fulham.

WANTED, by Youth, aged 20, Evening Employment, Secretarial or similar duties preferred. Good references. Box 2,801, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, with Literary Ability, desires Engagement as Secretary to Professional Lady. No objection to travel. Apply, Box 2,799, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Wardrobe Mistress experienced, good refs., travel Own Machine. Would go abroad. L. A., 54, Villa-street, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwell, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, shortly at Liberty. Good refs. Address, 51, High Riggs, Edinburgh.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

CLACTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
WANTED, for the months of June, July, Aug., and Sept. next,
Conductor for Orchestral Band of Sixteen, to be engaged for Council's Band Stand.

Applications, which must be made on prescribed form, to be obtained from the undersigned, stating terms, &c., to be sent in not later than noon on Wednesday, Feb. 28 next.
Geo. T. Lewis,
Clerk to the above Council.
Town Hall,
Clacton-on-Sea.
Feb. 12, 1906.

WANTED, to Open at Once (Long Tour booked), Musical Director (Piano), Operator (who understands Electricity), Baritone Vocalist (to announce Pictures), Two Good Billmen (not afraid of work), Effects Worker and Baggage Man. Lowest terms, references, full particulars (letters only), W. W. H., c/o Saward, Faker and Co., Advertising Contractors, 188, Strand.

TYNEMOUTH PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.
WANTED, Musical Director, to Open June 2.
J. H. Graham, 1, St. Andrew-st., Newcastle.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.
WANTED, Good Leader, accustomed to Variety Business. Apply, with terms and references, to J. Howard Shackleton, Musical-Director.

WANTED, B flat Cornet and Clarionet (Players), for Pitching. Terms, shares. Secretary, Promenade Band, The Dripping Well, Cambridge-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Cornet, Horn, Trombone, Bombardon, Drums, Tenting. Sobriety indispensable. Leader, 102, Dennett-road, West Croydon.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Circus, Tenting, Ireland, commencing Easter Monday, good, steady, and reliable First Cornet, Second Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium, Bombardon, Drums. Address, H. B. Metcalfe, Leader, 39, Whitehouse-street, Walsall.

WANTED, First-class Cornettist, Open Monday next, permanency to good, steady man, used to variety business. Apply, Worswick, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Cornet, to Open Feb. 19; must be good. Terms, 30s.; permanency. Wire, G. Mitchell, M.D., Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, First-class Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, and First Viclin, for the Ilfracombe Town Band; must be thoroughly experienced, reliable, and gentlemanly, open at once. Address, lowest te ms, Musicus, 8, Hight-st., Ilfracombe.

WANTED, for a London Volunteer Band, First and Second B flat Clarionet Players. Apply, S. Welch, 62, New-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, commencing Feb. 24, Double Bass (combine Bombardon), Flute and Piccolo. Apply, Augustine Denton, Mus Dir., 86, Victoria-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Flautist, for Monday next, for Musical Comedy. Wire lowest terms,
Thos. Swinton, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Pianist, one who can sing preferred; also Funny Planksman, with plenty of songs, steady and reliable. Box 2,821, "The Era."

WANTED, Pianist, to combine Organ; used to Show Business. Address, E. Lawrence, Fair Ground, South Normanton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Pianist, for Picture, Concert Company, do turn at piano, open 26th, long tour. Herbert Cole, 121, St. George's-road, S.E.

WANTED, Bandsmen, Good Musicians, from March 12 to June 9.
For particulars,
apply early to
Bandmaster,
The Barracks, Grantham.

WANTED, for Continental Summer Season, starting April 1, Ladies, Violins, Flute, Clarionet, Cornet, Double Bass, Drummer. State age, references; send photo. Fine experienced players only need apply. A. 1469, Musical Director, 56, Rowfant-road, Balham.

WANTED, Brass and Reed Players, for Small Military (Ilkley Council) Season open June 25. Terms, refs., Bellerby, Mus. Dir., Ilkley.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, must be experienced Orchestral Players. Write at once, Conductress, 10, German-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Disengaged March 5, Composer, Arranger, Violinist. Address, 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist-Conductor, Composer, &c., 15 years' experience, Resident or Tour. Also Wardrobe Mistress, at Liberty. 83, Vine-grove, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Conductor (Violinist), own Band (five upwards, including two Ladies); extensive répertoire. 19, Mayton-street, Holloway, N.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mr. S. C. Richardson, Musical Director for Mr. E. C. Hedmondt's "Queen's Jester" Comic Opera Company, at Liberty for Tour or Permanency. Press Notices, &c., from principal papers. Formerly of the Royal Carl Rosa, and the Moody-Manners Opera Companies. Address offers, 45, Shudehill, Manchester.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, deputising or permanent. London offers preferred. A. Parisi, 38, Crawford-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Violinist, as Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Concert Orchestra; any distance. Arthur Basson, 57, Barmouth-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, by First Violin (Leader), Re-engagement; refs. first-class. Wire or write, Violinist, 10, Wilford-grove, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Violinist, Permanent Re-engagement, through Theatre closing, late Leader King's Theatre, Gateshead. J. Morris, 187, Cavendish-terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement for Summer Season, as Violinist, to combine Clarionet. Refs. Violinist, 92, Cumberland-street, Darlington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Experienced, refs., any business. Apply, Violinist, 59, Clarendon-road, Walthamstow, E.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by the Principal, Second Violinist, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co. Perm. add., Lewis, St. Croix, Waterlooville, Hants.

WANTED, by Violinist, Combine Piano, Summer Engagement, first class references, as leader and piano accompanist. Mills, 100, Oval-rd., Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Violinist wishes for Ocean Passage, with experienced band, £1 given to whoever takes advertiser first trip. Age 26. Write, 10, Wolfa-street, Derby.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Cornet and Double Bass, experienced, reliable musicians. King, 6, Victor-villas, Nelson-road, Hounslow.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, in Theatre or Variety, as Clarionet, good experience, sober (Lanarkshire, N.B., preferred). C. Wilson, 81, Beckford-street, Hamilton, Scotland.

WANTED, by Clarionettist, Engagement, temporary or permanent. W. Salmon, Glebe-road, Staines.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, String or Military, deputy or otherwise, experienced, disengaged. To Clarionet, 35, Kelmscott-rd., Wandsworth Common, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, Permanent or Season, Theatre Experience and refs., Queen's Theatre, and 50, Merrion-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady (D. Bass), Gent. (Flute and Piccolo); both well experienced in dramatic, variety, or orchestral business. Box 2,819, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, £2 bonus given for Yachting Cruise, by First-Class B flat slide Trombone. Box 2,814, "The Era."

WANTED, by a First-class Trombonist, Summer Engagement; sober. Good refs. Gowings, 19, Walgrave-street, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone or 'Cello, late Marine Band. Good refs. H. B., 38, Methley-street, Kennington Cross.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. Casselle, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, by capable and experienced 'Cellist, Engagement or Deputising; also First class Clariopettist. Apply, 'Cellist, 29, Oakley-crescent, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, an Engagement, by experienced 'Cello, any business; good references. Allen, 2, Strath-terrace, St. John's Hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, Evening Engagement in London (Sundays excepted). 'Cellist, 118, Elgin-avenue, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, by Viola Player, thoroughly experienced and reliable, Engagement in good permanent London Orchestra. First-Class references. Replies to Box 2,774, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Viola, Variety or Theatre; thoroughly experienced. A. C., 64, Whitney-road, Leyton.

WANTED, by experienced Oboeist, Engagement, any Business, would Tour. Good testimonials. Also Offers for Summer. Oboe, 2, Church-street, Cambridge.

WANTED, by First-Class Oboist, Engagement, any business; thoroughly reliable; excellent refs. F. Boone, 15, Cooke-st., Leigh, Lancashire.

WANTED, Engagement, Oboe, any Business, experienced and reliable.
Address, Box 2,795, "The Era."

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool

WANTED, Summer Engagement, as Solo or Orchestral Harpist, piano if required. Add., Miss Wolters, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth. Reference to Mr. Dan Godfrey.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo; thoroughly experienced and reliable. Address, H. Judge, c/o Howard, Grand, Bolton, Lancashire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Piccolo and Flute, and First Cornet, good. Address, C. Edwards, 97, Brookmill-road, St. Johns, S.E.

WANTED, Known, a Brilliant Solo Pianist and Accompanist (Gentleman), who has fulfilled Two Seasons at Leading Pier, desires similar Engagement, in similar Capacity, or with high-class Concert Party (costume or otherwise). Disengaged July. Pianist, 31, Villia-road, Brixton.

WANTED, by Gentleman Pianist, Summer Seaside Re-engagement, with First-class Orchestra, Concert Party, Dancing. Apply, Mulgrave House, Saltwell-rd., Gateshead-Tyne.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, excellent accompanist and sight reader, work in or near London, day or evening. Box 2,811, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Lady, Evening Engagements, as Accompanist at Smoking Concerts, &c. B., 2, Coleherne-terrace, Earl's Court-rd., S.W.

WANTED, by a Pianist (25), trained Royal College of Music, immediate engagement in high class concert touring company, or in orchestra. Good references. Would consider any kind of business. Apply, Box 2,823, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by William Corner, Bass-Guitar Player, perfect, and good sight reader. 81, Blomfield-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Known, Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, at Liberty for Piers, Exhibitions, &c. For vacant dates apply, Conductress, Volthurst, Boundary-road, Newbury.

Managers of Hotels, Restaurants, and Piers.
WANTED, Known, if you want a big attraction for your establishment, engage at once the celebrated Gardenia Orchestra (four to thirty performers). All Artists and Soloists. Great Success at a well-known Pier last season, and tremendous Success on the Continent. To secure this fine band write at once. Box 2,808, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Ladies' Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet engaged Johannesburg, January to July.

WANTED, Engagement, to provide Large or Small Orchestra, by Licentiate, R.A.M. Highest possible recommendations. Address, L. E. Cremona, Mountfield-rd, Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Professional Military Band, Smart Uniform: splendid Répertoire. Highest testimonials. Bandmaster, 123, Drew-road, Silvertown, E.

WANTED, by Well-known London Orchestra, Summer Engagement, Seaside preferred; smart uniform. Refs., &c., E. Hampton, Parkshot, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, by First-Class Professional Military Band, 18 to 30 performers. Summer Season Engagement; splendid library. Shedley, 76, Parliament-street, Nottingham.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Easter Week or Ten Days, by First-Class Permanent Orchestra of Seven, for Variety, Theatre, or Concert, &c.; excellent up-to-date Library. CRABTREE, Pier, Southport.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS,
LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, for this Successful Circus, all the Great Stars of the Day, Startling Sensations and Big Novelties in all Lines. Write at Once for Present and Future Dates. Two Good Circus Grooms that are up to Ring Business write at once.
Address, KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh, Lancashire

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Specialities, of every description. Cheap Speciality wire for Monday. N.B.—Bill matter must be sent in two clear weeks before opening. Artists please Note.—All contracts are stamped. Good knockabout agouste may write; also song scenas. Address, C. ALGIE.

JOHN SCOTT'S ROYAL BRITISH CIRCUS.
General-Manager, GEO. SCOTT.
WANTED, for Tenting, Good Horizontal Bar Performer. State lowest terms, and full particulars, in first letter, and where can be seen. Address, Crow's Yard, Snowdon-rd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Equestrian and Variety, for Summer Season, commencing July, 1907. Apply, stating lowest terms, to F. J. CONNOR, Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road, London.

WANTED, Sensational and Startling Attractions, First-class Aerial Acts, Troupe of Acrobats, Triple Bar Act, Cyclists, Wire Act, and anything suitable for Large Halls.
Various Dates, commencing Feb. 26, to Xmas.
State fully in first communication, lowest terms, vacant dates.
If lithos., forward specimen.
Letters only. JURY'S Imperial Bioscopes, 142, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Tenting Ireland, Male and Female Equestrians, also Male and Female Gymnasts. Address, DUFFY'S Star Theatre, Dee-street, Newtownards-road, Belfast.

WANTED, for Continent, Swimmers, High Divers, Specialities, and First-Class Novelties, suitable for a Water Show; also good Knockabout Combination and First-Class Acrobatic Dancers. Apply, Box 2,829, "The Era."

LIVERPOOL THEATRICAL GALA,
Tuesday, Feb. 20.
WANTED, Acrobats, Cyclists, &c., to communicate with
F. WILLMOT, 186, Islington.

WANTED, a Sober, Steady Young Man, with Knowledge of Acrobating and Tumbling, age between 19 and 24, height not less than 5ft. 9in., weight not exceeding 9st. Apply, photos. or personally, to PANTZER BROS., 21, Wardour-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

Important.
WANTED, Top Mounter, for well-known Troupe, to join immediately. State weight, Tricks, and Salary. Address, Box 2,728, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, for First-Class Act, a First-Class Tumbler, of Elegant Appearance, preferably not tall; only First-Class Tumblers of Good Character need apply. Offers to SPRINGER, Das Program, London.

WANTED, Tumbler or Posturer (Comic). State terms and height. 3, Winslow-road, Withington, Manchester. Harry Cardoe write.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Caban's Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, Liberty Feb. 26, March 5. Open Dates for Galas and Fêtes. Address, Hippo., Higher Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominoes, Clown and Talking Donkey, most comfortable season with J. H. Cook, Edinburgh, also with Transfield, Paisley. This, F. and C. Poole's Myriorama, Carlisle; Monday, Penrith.

WANTED, Known, Hugh McCusker, Ireland's Singing, Dancing, and Talking Clown, Vacant for Tenting Season, Monday, Hippodrome, Dewsbury, Yorks.

WANTED, Flora Steckel, Gymnastic Pot Pourri Speciality; last week big hit King Ohmy's Circus, Leigh, and re-engaged one week longer. Lib. Feb. 26, onwards. Monday, Circus, Hippodrome, Rochdale. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, the Five Sisters Bellatzer, Lady Gymnasts, with their graceful Ring and Trapeze act, vacant March 19, onwards. Address, Stoll Tour.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Classical Gymnastic Act, March 5, 12.
Monday, Hippo., Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, Comedy Triple Bars Act, Vacant Feb. 26, one week. Address, Hippodrome, Stockton.

WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5, between Manchester and Coatbridge, by the Mayeno Trio, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, 3 distinct numbers. Address, Hippo., Higher Broughton.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Perita, Graceful Trapeze and Lady Hand-balancers, at Lib. for Tenting Season; big success this E., Dover.

WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5 and 12, Electrifying Bounders, Los Granadas, Summer Dates for Galas, Sports. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Carlo Bianchi, Foot Equilibrist, March 5.
Address, 8, Commercial-crescent, Huddersfield.

WANTED, through Barring Clause, Feb. 26, March 5, by the Kyasas, novel teeth and hair speciality. Great success, this week, Palace, Camberwell, 8.15. Wire, after Sat., 233 Katherine-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, in a Marvellous Cycling Act, jumping a high flight of steps through space, and down on to stage again. In preparation, turning a complete double somersault in the air from a bicycle. Tremendous success, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Free March, onwards, tenting, galas. Theatre Royal, Longton.

WANTED, by Young Man, with Fair Knowledge of Juggling, assistant to juggler, or would like to join troupe. Address, Box 2,824, "The Era."

WANTED, by Comedy Gymnast and Pantomimic Grotesque, join ring act, or any dumb speciality. knowledge of bars reliable. Box 2,810. "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement, as Wild Animal Performer or Head Keeper, with Travelling or Resident Menageries; wife used to bringing up young animals; six years with Lord George Sanger, Zoological Gardens, Margate. CAPT. SADLER (known as Curlass), 114, Milton-road, Margate.

WANTED, Engagement (home or abroad), as Stud Groom and Trainer; the only breaker of Cake Walk Horses in Great Britain.
F. AMEZO, 151, Lauriston-place, Edinburgh.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Variety Artists, All Kinds,
RICHARD CASS'S Agency,
RICHARD CASS'S Agency,
RICHARD CASS'S Agency,
RICHARD CASS'S Agency,
RICHARD CASS'S Agency,
Send Full List of Bookings, and Terms at each Hall.
30, Maiden-lane, Strand. Telephone, 6704 Central.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANHOPE and Co., 63, Regent-st., W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

TYNEMOUTH PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.
WANTED, Variety Artists, for First-class Audiences, June onwards. J. H. GRAHAM, St. Andrew-street, Newcastle.

SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, Feb. 26, and onwards. Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines, for Altringham, March 5 (3 nights). Lowest terms to G. PLUMMER, 7, Providence-street, Heaton Norris, Stockport.

DR. WALFORD BODIE'S
ROYAL MAGNETS
AND MERRYMAKERS.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, Specialities, and Big Sensational Novelties, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9. Apply, stating absolute lowest terms (letters only, no interviews) to Dr. WALFORD BODIE, Lyric Theatre, Liverpool.

THE ORIGINAL SCARBOROUGH AND LONDON PIERROTS, 12th Season, 1906.
WANTED, Clever, Experienced Artists, for High-class Al Fresco Concerts, in private enclosure, Tenor, Bass, and Two Refined Comedians (with specialities, and used to Musical Comedies preferred). Address by letter, age, experience, répertoire, references, and lowest terms, enclosing photo., with stamp for return, TOM CARRICK, 84, Archway-road, Upper Holloway, N.

EMPIRE,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Comedy Star Artists, in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, JARROW.
Opening under entirely new management.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Feb. 26, on.
L. F. SANDERSON, General Manager.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Feb. 26, onwards, Big Gala Acts, Ground, and Aërial Acts, June 4, onwards. Terms, lithos., bookings, &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, Two Weeks, March 5, 19, April 2, 16, Good Novelty can Open at Once. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now on.
Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists for Perry's Minstrels, Llandudno, for coming season; also Musicians. Artists must have six Band Parts. Pleased to hear from old friends. Apply, WILLIAM PERRY, 1, Stephen-street, Llandudno.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Legitimate Artists, by the Legitimate Agent, W. FURNO DRAKE, Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Star Artistes known to me to keep me posted weekly. Funny acts wanted.
W. VANDY'S Agency, Barnes, London, S.W.
'Phone 222 Putney. Wires, "Vandyking, London."

WANTED, Artists, for London, immediate dates. Write or call, with full particulars, J. W. JOHNSON, Variety and Speciality Agent, 26, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for Feb. 26, 1906. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Clever and Experienced Juvenile Artists, in all Lines, over 14, small for age. BOB KING, Bedford Music Hall.

THE ORIGINAL URMSTON PIERROTS.
Proprietors, THE URMSTON PIERROT CO
General-Manager, JOHN MATHEWS.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, suitable for high-class Pierrot show, one show daily, refinement imperative, Season opens Sat., April 14. Photos., particulars, lowest terms first letter, J. MATHEWS, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Frantz Family, York, Mac, and York, Will McIvor, Happy Attwood, Vernon's Bioscope, Flora Steckel, Dunvilles, Hinton and Wooton.

WANTED, Known, I can place the Biggest Acts. ATLAS Agency, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham; next week, 102, Ashley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Star Acts of every description, Feb. 26, onward. DAY'S Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand.

DR. CARL HERMANN'S COMBINATION,
GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, Known.—Will the following Artsits attend rehearsal at usual time, Monday, Feb. 19: Dr. C. Hermann, Three Bostonians, Ruby Bijou, Society Quartette, Pallister's Bioscope, "The King of Criminals."

Ici on Parle Français, Man spricht Deutsch.
Geo. Zalva's Agency,
The Hippodrome, Scarborough.
Telephone 288. Telegraphic Address, "Zalva."

Sole appointed Agent for the Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodrome; Hengler's, Glasgow; Gilbert's, Exeter.

WANTED, Big Acts, of Every Description, for March 5, April 16, and on. Now booking for summer season. Principal towns in the Kingdom.
Give full list of bookings
and permanent address—this is most important.
Avolo's wire address. Contracts waiting.

WANTED, Big Acts for America. All particulars to FRANK LYNNE, 121, West 42nd-street, New York City, U.S.A.

WANTED, Turns of all Kinds, for the North, Turns of all Kinds, for the North.
Good Bar Act Wanted,
March 5, North.
DALTON'S Agency,
5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

WANTED, Turns, for George Theatre, Crawley, Sussex, Feb. 28, March 3, and Wednesdays and Saturdays, on. STEWART.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Novelties of every description.
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
(established 1895),
London Hartlepool, and Manchester,
Sole Proprietor, HARRY BURNS.

Head Office,
EMPRESS THEATRE, HARTLEPOOL.
Telephone, 0231 Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress, Hartlepool."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns,
Easter,
Whit Week,
July 2, onwards,
Big Specialities,
Comedy Acts,
Bar Performers,
Comedy Musical Acts,
Novelty Jugglers,
Sensational Cycle Acts,
Acrobatic Acts,
in fact,
anything that is
New and Novel.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.
WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5, and onwards,
Big Specialities,
Animal Shows,
Jugglers,
Comedians,
Ballad Vocalists,
Acrobats,
Dancers. Must be refined, or useless.
Call, Monday, Feb. 19:
Capt. Gruber's Elephant, Horse, and Pony,
Prof. McCann's Irish Terriers,
Harry Wenburn,
Poole and Poole,
Flo Banks,
De Cona,
The Marvellous Avolos,
Sisters Andrews,
Five Sisters Warwick.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Big Stars, Comedy Acts, Novelties, &c., Feb. 19 and 26, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Feb. 26, March 5 and 12,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

GRAND HIPPODROME, WIGAN.
One Performance Nightly.
WANTED, a Good Star Turn, Comedy preferred, for Feb. 26, to oblige a Panto. Manager. Address, J. WORSWICK.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 35, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester. Rinaldos communicate.

WANTED, Two Good Specialities, for Aug. 6, 7, 8, twice daily, Northampton. Address, McASKELL, Palace Theatre, Bristol.

WANTED, Tops of Bills, Singing Numbers, Monday next, onward. Send full list of Bookings, terms, litho., &c., to DAY'S Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, London. Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London." Telephones, 6915 Gerrard, 1500 Central.

WANTED, Big Sensational Tops (Theatres), Easter (Midlands), Whit (S. Wales). Share, salary. Cinématograph, capable turn, Specialities, Serios, Comedians. 8, Millhill-road, Acton.

WANTED, First-class Combinations, Minstrels, &c., for Palace, Boston, Feb. 26, onwards, to follow New York Nipper Combination. Good Business to Good Show. Must have printing. CLIFFORD, 32, Main-ridge, Boston.

WANTED, Comic Ballets and Variety Artists to send lowest Summer Terms for Easter and onwards. Address, ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER, Tower, New Brighton.

PALACE, BOSTON (LINCS.).
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
First-Class Variety Companies, Choirs, &c., for Feb. 19 and onwards; rent or Share.
Large Stage, and Seating Accommodation for 700.
Apply,
MANAGER,
Palace Theatre of Varieties, Boston (Lincs.).

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
Owners, Messrs. CARLTON and DUCKWORTH.
WANTED, Big Attraction for Easter Week, Choir or Cinématograph Show would do well. This is one of the Big Holiday Dates of Wales. Apply, SAM DUCKWORTH, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, a Pair of Midgets, with own Turnout, for August Bank Holiday week and other dates; also Gala Artists. Full particulars and lowest, lithos., &c., GEO. AYTOUN, Agent, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Four Lady Dancers, to introduce into Sketch at Hounslow, Hippodrome, for Bal Masque Scene.
Wire, THEATREBAU, London.

WANTED, Soubrette, Dance and Sing, for Duologue in Halls, height 5ft. 5in. Refs., age, &c., TOM TINDALL, 91, Lavender-sweep, Clapham Junction, S.W.

WANTED, Young Lady, Singer and Dancer, for small part, in musical sketch. Write, stating experience, to Madame PRINCE, 14, Broadway, Deptford, S.E.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Star Comedians, Comediennes, &c, for Feb. 26 and later; best Syndicates; also pair of Midgets, for August Bank Holiday week and other dates, with own turnout. GEO. AYTOUN, Variety Agent, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, for the Elysian Grove, Aberystwyth, Summer Seasons, 1906-7-8, and on, Funny Negro Comedians, Good Baritone (Descriptive), also Leader, Violinist, Cornet, Bass Flute, &c. Address, with full particulars and lowest terms, HARRY COLLINS, Rhyl.

WANTED, First-Class Versatile Comedian, Ventriloquist, Baritone, able to accompany, Gentlemanly and Refined, by Mr. Albert Durand, just returned from Tour of the West Indies with own Concert Party, "The Merry Madcaps." Write, 16, Montpelier-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Comedian. Call at Wellington Hotel, next Lyceum, between 2 and 3, today. W. G. Walford also call. Ask for FANT ABBOTT.

WANTED, Knockabout Comedians. Letters only, stating experience, age, height, refs., PINK, 84, Stockwell Park-road, S.W.

WANTED, for One Week only, Feb. 26, at Dundee, Smart Conjurer, or Scotch Comedian. Artists in Scotland preferred. Lowest terms to MANAGER, Eragraph, Union-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, two Young Girls, as Apprentices, for Music, Singing, Dancing Act, two years' Engagement. State all particulars, with photos. MARTINEU, Poste Restante, Lisbon, Portugal.

WANTED, Expert Bioscope Operator, thoroughly accustomed alternating and direct currents. Give references. VERNON'S Bioscope, Palace, Blackpool.

ANIMATED PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHER.
WANTED, Experienced Operator, to take Pictures, and has been used to Dark Room work. State Salary and Experience to H., care of MARLES, stationer, 484, Caledonian-road, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Young Operator for Cinématograph, experienced Electrician, with good references, Employment. M. R., 72, Hallam-street, Gt. Portland-street, W.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Notice.
WANTED, Known, Rose Newport wishes it to be known to Proprietors, Managers, and Agents that all Contracts must come through her Sole Agent, TOM CLAXTON, Nelson House, Charing Cross-road.

WANTED, Known, Gertrude Malyon, Descriptive Vocalist, wants Monday. Wire, 176, Burgess-street, Grimsby. Big Success in her latest Songs, "Boy Convict," "Only a Tune."

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Musical Act, Mon. next, also 26th. Wire or write, 53, Lower Chatham-street, All Saints, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors and Managers, that on and after Feb. 19 Flo Banks will be known as Miss Florence Luck. All bookings by HARRY GOODSON. Monday next, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Songstress, Vocalist, and Dancer, Vacant Monday next. Wire, Farrell's Coliseum, Mold.

WANTED, by Lizzie Leaver, Child Comedienne, handsome wardrobe, requires Monday; also Feb. 12. Wire best offer, City of Varieties, Leeds.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Sylvesto, to thank Edwards, Esq., Palace, Derby, for paying full salary; also Barnard, Esq., Wolverhampton, for transferring date.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, the funniest single musical act before the public, Liberty 19th. Wire, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, by T. C. Jaques, Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, Mon., Feb. 19, through Hall Closing. Wire, Hippodrome, Paisley. Carlisle to follow.

WANTED, by Allan Hanbury, Patter Comedian, Feb. 26, March 5. Next week, Aquarium, Scarboro'.

WANTED, March 5, to follow Westminster, Liverpool; also March 12, to precede Hippodrome, Wigan, by Arthur Royce, "Comedian at the Piano." Splendid lithos. Mon., Tiv., Manchester.

WANTED, April 23 or May 7, near Glasgow, by Thornbury, the Great Lightning Sand and Smoke Painter, and Society Entertainer. Also Ethel May, Vocalist and Dancer. Send best offers to THORNBURY, Empire, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by Percy Stanhope, Society Entertainer, Concerts, Dinners, &c., Town or Country, immediate dates. 48, Alexandra-road, South Woodford, Essex.

WANTED, by Balsiger, Vocal Comedian and Trick Musician, Hippodrome, Ashton; next week, Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester; Liberty March 5 and 12, to follow Panto.

WANTED, Feb. 26, through obliging, for Kardoc, Jail Breaker, Big Sensational Top. Lithos., Prison Cell Sensation. See Card. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey and Ventriloquist. Two Acts. Wire, Theatre, Middleton, Lancs.

WANTED, by Ted Waite, Eccentric Comedian, Monday. Wire,
Empire, Wigan. Agent, E. STEBBINGS.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist, Feb. 26, &c., to follow Empire, Dover.

WANTED, 19th and 26th, Gillin, Ventriloquist, "Mc Hat's Off," and Edison Bioscope.
Wire for Monday, Hip., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, Mozzetto, a clever and artistic young Juggler, vacant Monday, through cancelling to oblige. Only vacant date till July 16. Wire immediate'y, Palace, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Hesketh Meade, Basso, Ballad Vocalist, at Liberty Monday. Big Success at Barrow. Herald says:—A basso, and a good one. His two songs were rendered in an exceedingly able manner, and he had to respond to several recalls. Wire, Tivoli, Barrow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Herbert Rogers, Comedian, Elecutionist, and Sketch Artist, Choir or Concert Party Tour; any distance. 66, Church-road, Upper Norwood.

WANTED, 26th inst., onwards, concluding Canadian Tour, Ian Maclaren, Versatile Scotch Tenor, in Kilts, Double Medallist. Entertainment comprises Scotch Ballads, Original Humorous and Dramatic Scenas. Encored everywhere. Address meantime, 24, Greame-street, Manchester. First-class Agent wanted.

STUART and WORTH (NELLIE and TEDDIE).
WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5, 12. Hit of every Programme. Few vacancies this year. Complimented everywhere. Permanent,
Bernard Cottage, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Feb. 26, by Lily Pender, Great Speciality Comedienne. Also Bob Pearson, Vocal Comedy Act. Wires, 15, Stamford-street, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Known, The Coopers, at Liberty Monday, introducing Songs, Patter, Cornets, Horns, Bugles, Gun Drill. T. H., Earlestown; after Sat., 377, Attercliffe-common, Sheffield.

WANTED, 19th and 26th, Atoras, England's Symmetrical 8st. Champion Lady Athlete, and America's Funniest Funny Man. A Clean, Clever Act, with Heavy Weights and Barbells. Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Maddison Bros., Quaint American Knockabout Comedians and Original Burlesque Boxers. Wire, People's Palace, Portsmouth

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Grimaldis, Feb. 19, onwards. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, March 5 and 12, by Golden and Grey, in American vaudeville, "The Missing Will" or "Sweethearts and Wives." Attercliffe; Monday, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, March 12, onwards, by Canadian Boys, Knockabouts, Terrific Success, Shuffle and Shirk, More Kennedy Panto. This, T. R., Smethwick; next, T. R., Longton.

WANTED, Feb. 19 and 26, by Lead and Lead, Characteristic Comedy Duettists, Patterers, and Duologue Artists. Write Post Office, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Harland and Rollison, Open in America June, only vacancies March 19, April 23, May 7, 14, 21. Address, Theatre, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Monday next, through obliging, Harley and Melton, the World's Laughter-makers. A strong number on any programme. Wire, Barnard's, Chatham.

WANTED, Known, Terry and Snowdon at Liberty March 5. Offers invited. See Cards. Q. T., Longton.

WANTED, Monday next, also 26, by Walter Gurney, Star Comedian; also Lily Mason, Comedienne and Dancer. Wire, Hippo., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, by Denby and Dent, in a Refined Comedy Act,
Wire, Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5 and 12, Onda and Artell, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri, Empire, Middlesbro'; next week, Hippo., Dewsbury.

WANTED, by Cosgrove and Burns, Feb. 26, March 5 or 12, just concluding panto. with R. A. P. Williams, as Principal Boy and Demon King. 1, Albert-bridge, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, and 26th, by The Monckions, in Successful Screamingly Funny Musical Comedy Acts. Wire, 27, Rectory-road, Burnley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Seven Wulfrunas (Lady and Gentleman Comedy Acrobats), "Fun in a Café." Specially engaged this week, Hippo., Southampton; next, Hippo., Boscombe. Lib. Feb. 26 and on.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 5, by the Hudson Powell Troupe of Pantomimists, own Trick Scenery. Wire, Palace, Plymouth, or BENTLEY'S Agency.

WANTED, Known, the Harmonic Entertainers, Costume Comedy Party, including two Specialities, vacant Easter, &c; specimen Programmes. 65, Fortess-road, N.W.

WANTED, Monday next, between Grimsby and Kettering, by Gilroy and Boston, Ventriloquist and Bioscope. Everything up-to-date. Wire at once, GILROY, Hippo., Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Lee and Arden's "The Scotchman in London," greeted with thunders of applause this week, Palace, Bristol. Vacant Feb. 26 and March 5. Monday, Palace, Attercliffe.

WANTED, unexpectedly, Weeks Feb. 26 and March 5, and some later dates. Share or salary, whole or part of programme, Liston and Lumley's "Merry Moments," St. George's Hall, W.

WANTED, Feb. 26, in or near London, for
THE THIRTY MIDGET MIMES,
THE THIRTY MIDGET MIMES,
THE THIRTY MIDGET MIMES,
in screaming Speciality Act,
"CASEY'S COURT."
"CASEY'S COURT."
"CASEY'S COURT."
A Street Urchin's idea of producing up-to-date Variety Show.
Enormous Success.
Enormous Success.
Barnard's, Woolwich.
Greatest Novelty of the Day.
Not only a twenty-five minutes' scream of laughter but a musical "hit." Beautiful harmony.
Special scenery. Stage full ingenious props.
Monday next, BEDFORD, CAMDEN TOWN.
Feb. 26 wanted.
Apply, BOB KING, as above.
or CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Dates (Seaside preferred), Birkinhead's Royal Empire Troupe of Juveniles, Comedians, Coons, Descriptive and Alto Vocalists, Eight Performers, including Master Frank Birkinhead (England's Youngest Comedian), and Miss Gertie Williams (the Clever Girl Comedienne). Write, BIRKINHEAD, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, for Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensational and Daring High Ladder Act. LECLAIR, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Roza's Canine Hippodrome, Feb. 19 to March 12, North; also 3 weeks, April, Midlands. Coms., 24, Preston-street, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah and his Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals, Liberty Feb. 19, 26. Permanent address, 25, Horsedge-st., Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant Feb. 26, March 5 and 12. Wire, Tivoli, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, P. Rundle's Great Troupe of Dogs at Liberty March 5, sure draw everywhere. Good printing. Address, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

WANTED, Engagement, with First-class Juggler or Troupe, capable of Smart Business, can work Comedy and Club Juggling. Apply, PAUL COLE, 14, Boyne-road, Lewisham.

WANTED, Known, Hypnotist, Lightning Worker, Subjects from Audience, Screams of Laughter, requires Engagements, booth or shop. BURGESS, 19, Angle-street, Burnley.

MALCOLM'S ANGLO-AMERICAN BIOSCOPE.
WANTED, Managers who require the finest Pictures, to send for terms; a good show means big business; all new Pictures; changed every week. MALCOLM, 62, Calverley-grove, Hornsey Rise, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope, Lime or Electric, 20 minutes or 2 hours, everything up to date. J. BAINTON, Post Office, Hanley, Staffs.

Patti on the Halls.
WANTED, Engagements for her approved Operaphone, absolutely lifelike reproductions guaranteed. Offers. DE LUXE, 76, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope, First-Class Operators, well up in Alternation and Lime-light. 346, Brixton-road, S.W.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
TOM ORTON,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire;
Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.

Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, TOM ORTON, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Move with the times, or get left.
WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time. Send for catalogue and testimonials,
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
120, York-road, King's Cross,
London.

The Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-road, King's Cross, London.
WANTED, to thank the many Customers who have placed their Orders for the Ball-punching and other Automatic Machines for Spring Delivery, and would respectfully ask those who contemplate ordering to do so as quickly as possible, to prevent risk of disappointment.
Members of the Showmen's Protection Association.

Patent No. 252,351, 1905.
WANTED, Known, by Every Roundabout Proprietor, that
SAVAGE AND CO.
have taken Stanley Works, New North-road, London, N.,
the same Works formerly carried on by
Alf. Bedford, Carver and Gilder,
where they are manufacturing motor cars for switchbacks and every kind of roundabouts at reasonable, and not exorbitant, prices.
Remember, we are the Descendants of the Original Inventor.
F. Savage, late of King's Lynn,
Repairs of Every Description Connected with the Trade.
Note our only Address,
Oxford-road, New North-road, London, N.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

WANTED, Showmen, to Know that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage paid on all orders, £2. Write for Price List, or call, LEETE'S Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for particulars.
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Professor Retené supplies Shooting Galleries, Side-shows, and Novelties for Gardens, Piers, and Pavilions. Latest Novelty, the "Willow Pattern Plate" Shooting Gallery, right up-to-date, a good Money-taker (duly registered). Spaces wanted in good places. Address, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Pier Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea, Third Grand Trades Exhibition, March 28 to April 7. Novelties of all kinds, good Side-Shows, Working Exhibits, &c. Apply to STANLEY E. ANGLESS, Acting-Manager.

WANTED, Novelties, with Good Flash, for Prof. Elba's Variety Exhibition. 19, Bath-street, Ilkeston. Shares. Wire for Mon.

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings. A Good Show can Open Monday, four weeks certain. Harry Lucas write. 62, Rye-lane, Peckham.

WANTED, Novelties for large Double Fronted Shop, Porth, Mountain Ash, and Merthyr, Wire, EAGLE DAVIS, 20, Leslie-terrace, Llwyncelyn, Porth, Wales.

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WREXHAM PLEASURE FAIR, 1906.
Important Alteration.

WANTED, Known.—Notice is hereby given that it has been found necessary to change the Date of the above Pleasure Fair, so as to commence on THURSDAY, MARCH 29, instead of April 5. It will end on Thursday, April 12.
By order,
J. KERRISON JONES,
Guildhall, Wrexham. Borough Collector,
February, 1906.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanac and Annual for 1906, is not only a valuable collection of information and a history of the dramatic and musical year. It is also a very amusing and entertaining shillingsworth It contains contributions from many well-known actors and actresses. Mr. Frank Desprez, the editor, contributes a delightful story about an actress who sold her collection of Press notices in order to help a colleague in distress. There are numerous portraits. The lists of English, French, and German plays produced during the year are very useful. Altogether, "The Era" Almanack is indispensable to all interested in the stage.—The Star, Jan. 24, 1906.

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Daily Telegraph, Feb. 6, 1906.—"The Thirsty First," which is the leading item in the Canterbury programme this week. . . . proves very good fooling.

Entr'acte, Feb. 10, 1906.—The name Karno has become quite a Hall mark of excellence in connection with Music Hall Burlesques. There are plenty of laughs in the new production, which is of the pantomimic order—not a word being spoken throughout the three scenes. The idea is a burlesque upon Tommy Atkins—the Tommy Atkins of the comic papers. The fun is kept going by an efficient company, and should be another "screamer."

South London Mail, Feb. 9, 1906.—"The Thirsty First" will bear favourable comparison with any of this "fun" merchant's previous efforts. . . . . For sheer merriment this production will long remain the funniest sketch seen on the variety stage.

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As funny a King as ever appeared in pantomime.—Guardian, Jan. 31, 1906.

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THE KING,

in "The Sleeping Beauty,"
AT THE
PRINCE'S THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

A FEW PRESS OPINIONS.

THE GUARDIAN.

Of the humorists engaged in this pantomime one is a very prince of funny fellows, although that is placing him lower than his pantomime rank. For the heartiest laughter that is enjoyed at this pantomime everybody has to thank the King, Mr. Neil Kenyon. His quaint Scotticisms, his infectious "cackle," and his irresistably droll stare of vacancy make excellent pantomime fooling. Once only at last night's performansce did the audience really make the theatre vibrate with laughter—it was when the spare figure of the King was doing a quaint little march to and fro across the stage. People laughed merrily at the words he sang, but they laughed far louder when he merely cut a caper and stared blankly across the footlights.

THE UMPIRE.

But above all stands Neil Kenyon, the quaint, dry Scotsman. He has been, without doubt, the mainstay of the piece. Scarcely ever off the stage, he keeps the whole audience gently chuckling. Then he lifts his lips to disclose his teeth, twinkles his eye, and there is a shriek.

THE COURIER.

There has never been a pantomime containing such a strong humorous element. Many of the "gags," doubtless, will soon be in everybody's mouth, to use a somewhat violent metaphor. "Stand back," says the Queen to the King (Mr. Neil Kenyon), and the way he obeys the order is irresistibly funny. Then there is Mr. Kenyon's lecture on the Catscatski Mountains and the "Piscal Fallacy." Mr. Kenyon, indeed, scores all through, and in every act proves himself to be a fine comedian of the droll Scotch type. His song "Tra-la" is cleverly sung, and on Saturday night was enthusiastically encored. There is no doubt he will rapidly make himself a great favourite amongst Manchester pantomime-lovers.

THE NEWS.

The King is Mr. Neil Kenyon, who is favourably known in Manchester pantomimes, and is on the high road to eminence in his profession. He is Scotch, with a Scotsman's pawky humour, and he has the great gift of getting on good terms with the audience immediately. In his hands the King is a quite humorous old gentleman, with a capacity for making all his points easily and perfectly. Mr. Kenyon sings a good song too, and will become a great favourite, even if he has not already achieved that distinction.

THE NEWS (Second Notice).

We have seen few more entertaining kings of pantomime than that portrayed for us by Mr. Neil Kenyon. The monarch of that bit of fairy-land is obviously Scotch—very Scotch. His dry humour occasionally melts into a beaming smile, in the making of which he takes his audience into his confidence, and it is altogether irresistible. No better work of the peculiar sort can be imagined. The fun of the character is so well and consistently kept up that it approaches genuine comedy, an element too seldom met with in the pantomime of to-day, though pleasantly familiar in the far-off days when John Knowles produced, Tom Chambers wrote, and a famous stock company acted the Christmas pantomimes of the old times at the Royal when there wasn't a Prince's Theatre.

DISPATCH (Secular View).

. . . whilst Mr. Neil Kenyon is a legitimate successor to Mr. Huntley and Mr. Graves, who neither sang nor danced, but were inimitably droll. Mr. Kenyon is always within the picture, unlike a famous comedian, not this year in Manchester, who is generally magnificently out of it. His little step between the verses of "Tra-la-la-" almost attains the proportions of an idea.

THE DISPATCH.

Mr. Neil Kenyon is an established favourite in Manchester. He is cast for the King, and surely never was there a merrier monarch since the time of King Cole. His Majesty is Scotch, though it is improbable that he is connected with either Bruce, or Wallace, or Malcolm. His mock acting scene where he fights a terrific combat with an enemy while Mr. Rawlins marks the game and provides the "alarums and excursions" is excruciatingly comic, and he has a funny soldier song and a topical ditty which will undoubtedly "catch on."

CITY NEWS.

Mr. Neil Kenyon, a young actor who appeared in a small part in a Manchester pantomime a few years ago, and made it promiment and amusing—playgoers will remember his timid "Oh 'elp"—is the most original and best of them all. Here he is supposed to be an Ally Sloper sort of a King, a little frightened man who is terribly afraid of his big Queen, and as a well-thought-out and highly diverting character study we have not seen its equal for many years on the pantomime stage. His Scots tongue and his queer vacant stare make the part more amusing, and Mr. Kenyon is also fortunate in his "Tra-la-la" song.

SUNDAY CHRONICLE.

Mr. Kenyon has struck a line that will raise him to the pinnacle of fame.

Thanks Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, R. C. Buchanan, Fred Karno, F. W. Purcell, Rich Waldon, J. Bannister Howard, Arthur Hart for Offers for 1906-7. Settled with Messrs. Robert Courtneidge and Arthur Hart to play WIDOW TWANKEY at Royal, Newcastle.

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1906.

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"Among the Stars," Les Ados, Vasco, Alexandra and Bertie, Brothers Andreassen, Genaro and Theol, Lux's Dogs, Herbert Lloyd, Galiando, Russian Imperials, Hardinis, Novellos, Lavater Lee, Pissiutis, Monteeckel, Frank Anderson, The Cannon Jump, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Fred Storey and Co., in "Rip Van Winkle," Bert Woodward, Three Missouris, T. C. Callaghan, Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, O'Gust, Florrie St. Clair, James Fawn, Mezzetti and Mora, "Dreamland," Seeley and West.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
The Uessems, Irving Jones, Bijou Russell, Spessardy's Bears, Bioscope, Sinclair and Parr, Les Gittis, Arthur Melrose, Arthur Sutcliffe, "The Belle of India."

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Aurora Troupe, Bioscope, Jeannie Mackay, "Codology," D'Arc's Marionettes, Morton and Rowman, Florence Smithers and Co., Phil Hermann, Delbosq Bros., Motramos.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Moses and Son," Bioscope, Alexandre and Hughes, Harry Drew, Fitzroys, Florence Esdaile, Stephens and Rennior.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Grigolatis, Harry Clifford, Holden's Marionettes, Prince Fee Lung, Daisy Dormer, Pictures, Goggin and Davis, George Ridgwell, E. Arthurs and Co., Flem and Brok.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Cole De Losse Duo, Fanny Robina, Morton and Elliott, Ella Retford, The Folkestones, Nina Gordon, Helene and Emilion, Mattie Wilks, Pete and Juno, The Lukushima Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tschernoff's Dogs, Chas. Vincent, Ranschle, Knick Knacks, Cooke and Rothert, Sybil St. Elmo, Virto and Daughters, Urma Sisters, Bioscope, Mendel.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Tom Edwards, Three Sisters Chester, Four Ramlos, Edie King, Frobel and Ruge, The Serenaders, The Tups, Two Bostons, Two St. Johns, Bros. Leslie.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Madrali, Will Haines, Alice Lorette, Three Victorias, Terley, Fred E. Terry, Albert Whelan, Helen Martin, Amber Austa, Rinaldos.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Sawade's Animals, Mueller and Coyne, Ethel Ra Leslie, Sisters Hayden, Bioscope, La Tostis, Harry Grey, Derenda and Green, Bell and Henry, Frank Bertram and Co.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Poplar, Bioscope, Frank Harwood, Bandurrias, Huxter Bros., Kitty Wager, Baker and Lynn, Chas. Adams.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Staley's Transformation, Bioscope, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Coloured Meisters, Kelly and Ashby, Billy Hobbs, W. B. Vox, Reed Oetzman Troupe, Lydia and Albino, Princess Pauline, "The Daybreakers."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Village Wedding," Bioscope, Robert Ganthony, Nelson's Newsboys, Hans Hansen Troupe, Boccaccios, Florrie Gallimore, Harry Brown, The Mannons, "The Cormorants."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Hetty King, R. H. Douglass, Marie Collins, Manning's Entertainers, Marzella's Birds, Mora and Lola, Lady Fauntleroy, Burt Shepard, Mason and Bart, Selma Braatz.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Cruikshank, Ten Genis, Eugen Joly, La Berat, Alf Chester, "Moving In," Helen Ford, Wolkowsky Troupe, Bioscope

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
John Lawson and Co., Arthur Gill, Ian Colquhoun, Haydas Troupe, Alf Barker, Dainez Circus, Sarnthaler Troupe, Abel and Welsh, Marie Weston, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Two Cavaliers, The Delevines, Three Renards, Warsaw Bros., Artois Bros., Sisters Anderson, Walter Munroe, Volta Electrical Act, Bioscope, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Bella and Bijou, Kellino Family, Duncan's Dogs, Esdale Bros., Payne's Vagabonds, Howe and Ardie, Cape Girls, Sleedes Troupe, Bioscope, Katie Trail.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Chung Lung Soo, Laurie's Kindergarten, The O'Learys, Paxton Trio, Mariano Sisters, Terry and Lambert, Forrest Co., Dumond Minstrels, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
A. C. Lilly and Co., Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Alice Simmons, Marlo and Dunham Trio, Sisters Aindow, The Silvas, Terry and Bentley, Bioscope

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
The Bohemians, Sisters Bellatzer, Fyne and Hurley, The Findens, Drawee, W. H. Downs, Amann and Hartley, Stewart and Morgan, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
The Selbinis, Alf Gibson, J. Alexander and Co., Herr Grais, Lilian Lowe, Five Julians, Five Olracs, Harding and Ah Sid, Mdlle. Olive, Madge Grey.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Victoria Monks, Verno and Voyce, The Piequays, Sisters Dare, Ryan and Hall, Albertus and Bartram, Wally Hoste Trio, Sisters Gasch, Dion Wade, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Neil Kenyon, Viviana, Stelling and Revell, Josephine Sabel, Violet Elliott, Herbert La Martine, The Howards, Will Onda, Bioscope, The Cratons.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Redskins," Trapnell Family, Hayes and Suits, Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Ike Scott and Son, Little Ganty, Madge May, Wood and Bates, Lil Hawthorne.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Programme for 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock Performances :—
"S'Nero," "Aladdin's Lamp," Ella Shields, De Lucca Troupe, Eugene Stratton, The Gems, The Ten Loonies, Madge Temple and Richard Green in "Fenella," "In Dreamland," Florence St. John and Company in "My Milliner's Bill," "Little Wooden Hut," Millie Hylton.

Programme for 6 o'clock Performance :—
Mrs. Brown Potter and Co., "La Mascotte," Mabel Love in "Bells and Motley," Bioscope, "Arabian Nightmare," Sable Fern, Orla, Powell's Marionettes, Rainbow Song, The Dandies, Ted and May Hopkins.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Riogoku Family, Marie Neilson, Geoffreys and Benson, Rhoda Bros., Dan Conroy, Pictures, Dave McNeil, Edouin and Edwards.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Cotton Blossom Quartette, Cora Caselli, Collins and Rice, Three Sisters Slater, Golz Trio, Katie Butler, Driscoll and Beattie Co., The Korries, Will H. Fox.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Empire Comedy Four, Baby Lloyd, Palles and Cussick, Pictures, Griff and Alpha, Frank Whiteley, A Bo Kou, Sisters Hula, Park's Eton Boys.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Courtiers, Chas. Cardow, Leighton and Mona, Arthur Aldridge, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Edith Evelyn and Co., Pictures, Paul Mill.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Ella's Lions, Corty Bros, Bioscope, Baker and Balfe, Viola May, F. H. Dundas, May Geraldine, Kyoto.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Frank Leslie, Tony Iveson, Drum Elverton, Harry Bedford, Fred Land, J. G Taylor, Jessica Grace, The Clydes, Nellie Randall, Winnie Moore, Hanvaar and Lee, Lennie and Hast, Kioto, Gilroy and Gros, Mason and Keeler Co., Bioscope, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Mark Melford and Co.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Chas. Johnson, Reuben and Hill, Will Sergeant, Harry Freeman, Ray Wallace, Gladys Archbutt, San Remo Girls, Chummie la Mara, "Lady Julia," Blake and Granby, Lannons, Desmonti and Mora, The Smythsons, Osranis, Baroux and Bion, Pictures, Lilieth Leyton and Co.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.

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Tenders, on specified forms, should be forwarded to me not later than 12th March, 1906. The highest, or any tender, will not necessarily be accepted.

Dated this 6th day of February, 1906
D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk.

BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.

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SEASON 1906.

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Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,
Hartlepool.
Feb. 13, 1906.

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OXFORD-STREET, W.
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Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

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Manager, JOSEPH WILSON.

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Manager, FRED MILLER.

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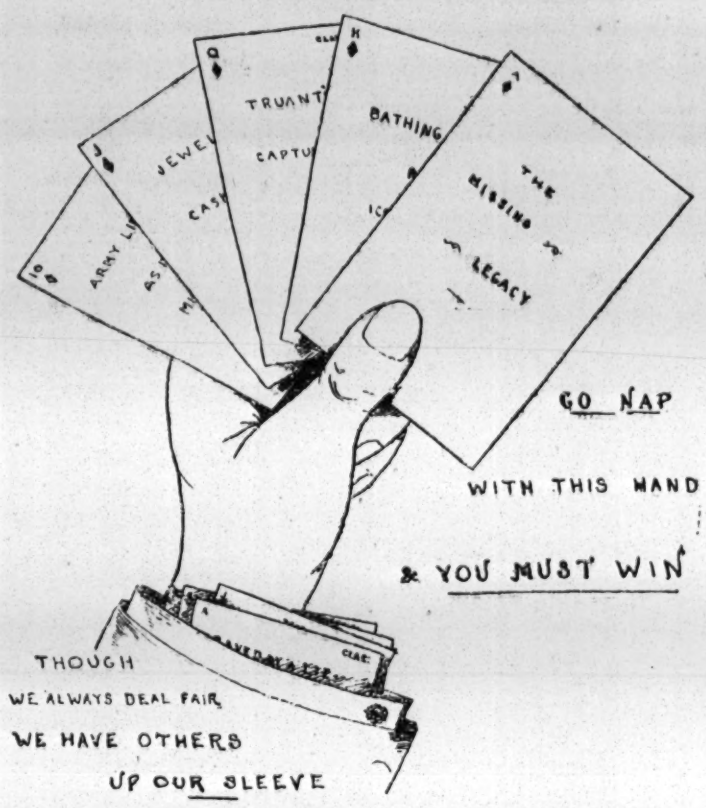

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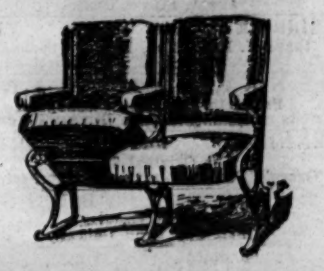

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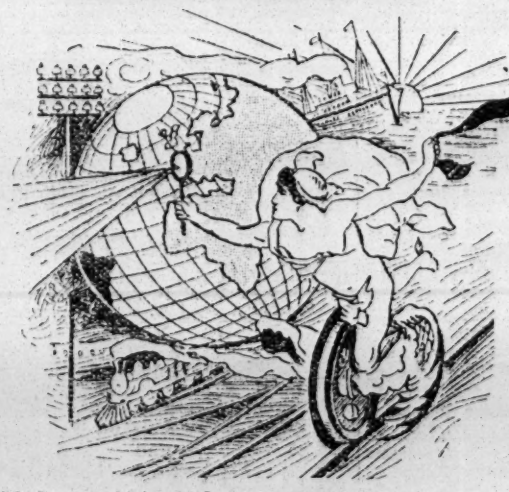

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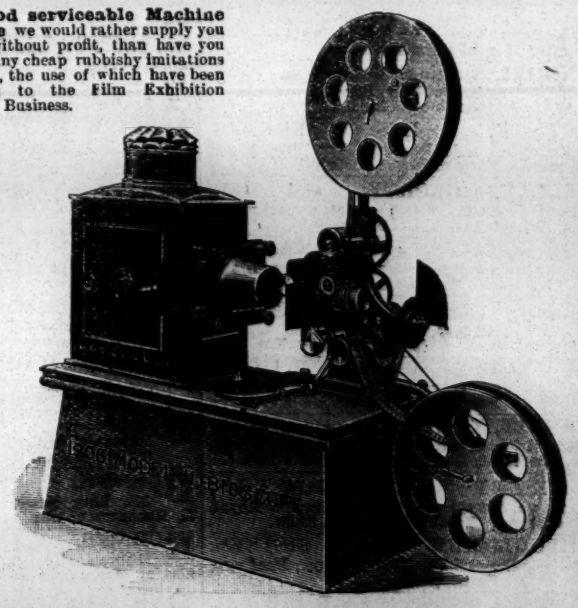

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CASEY, GEORGE, Continued Success as Dame, Gar Kiddies' "Babes in the Wood" Co. Theatre, Bishop Auckland (Kirkland).

CHALLIS, FLORENCE, Tremendous Success in Australia with Monologues and Songs. Returning home.

CHANDOS, THE TWO, First-class Comedy Musical Act. Great Success. Vac. 19, onwards. Wire, 55, Kenbury-st., Camberwell, S.E.

CHANT and CHANT, Refined Comedy Vocalists. Circus, Rochdale. Monday, return Empress, Hartlepool. Vacant, March 5, 12, North.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE & EDIE), A Dainty and Clever Pair of Duettists and Dancers, Hip., Sheerness; Mon., Hip., Hastings.

CHESTER and LEE'S Marionettes, People's Palace, Portsmouth, Second Week. Easter Vacant, share or certainty.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, LIMITED,
13, Oxford-street, Manchester. 'Phone 08904. Wires, "Amusements, Manchester."

CHIRGWIN,
London until July 2, Plymouth.

CLAVER and PICCOLO, Sensational and Equilibrist Jugglers. Feb. 19, Stockton-on-Tees Hippo. Vac. Feb. 26.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, VENIE,
as a Baby and other people. Ealing and Hammersmith. Monday next, Hippo., Coventry.

CLIFF and KEAN, Success, Palace, Greenock. This Week, Bottom of Bill, Oxford, Middlesborough. Next, Palace, Sunderland.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D.,
the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLLINS, GEO., the Quaint Comedian, Duchess and Cambridge, London. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN. 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, London.

CONROY, OLIVER,
New Hippodrome, Mansfield, Top of Bill. Vacant Feb. 26, 1906, one week.

CONWAY and GARLAND,
Vacant Mar. 12, on (with exceptions), for their famous, "Left in Charge," Feb. 19, Em., York.

COOKE, STEVE,
Refined Burlesque Comedian. Vacant summer. Dame, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, Success, Pal., Blackpool; next, Empire, Dudley.

COSTELLO BROS., Comedy Acrobats, and Legmania and Patter Comedians. This, Vic. T., Tredegar; next, P. T., Taunton. c/o "Era."

COUNSELL and MILLS, Musical Playlets. Empire, Shepherd's Bush; Mon., Hippodrome, Ealing. Somers and Warner.

COVENTRY, HETTY, Acrobatic Dancer. Concluded eight weeks, Grand, Islington. Dis. 19th. 37a, Church-st, S. Newington, N.

COWPERS, THE,
"Missus' Double." Re Dates, Coliseum, London, W.C.

CRESSER, MISS ADA,
Staley's Transformation Co., Feb. 19, Empire, Liverpool.

CRISPS, THE TWO (FRANK and MINNIE), in "The Admiral's Niece." Vacant March 26, April 2, 9. Frank Crisp, P., Greenwich.

CROSS, JOLLY CRISS,
the Popular Girl, on Tour. Perm. Add., 62, Edward-street, Birmingham.

CULLANE'S, FRED, COMEDY TRIO,
See the Original Boxing Schoolgirl. Top, Hip., Sheerness. Last Week, A., Brighton.

CULLEN and CARTHY and LITTLE CLULEY. Con. enor. hit. J. F. Elliston's "Aladdin," V., Broughton. 1, Wasnidge-st., Hulme.

CURRAN, FRED,
A Singer of Popular Songs, with funny words. Monday, Hippodrome, Margate.

CURRIE, MISS LILY,
Vocalist, at Liberty March 5. Write, Alhambra, Attercliffe.

CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack; ADA JENNER, Captain Cable, in Francis Laidler's superb production. Prince's T., Bradford.

CUSTANCES, THE, in their Bright and Sparkling Comedy Duologue, "A Game for Two." Coms., re Dates, 104, Salisbury-st., Bedford.

DACE, G. B., Comedian, &c., and SYBIL PAGE, Low Comedy Artist. This, Success, Palace, Oldbury. Wants 19th and 26th.

DALE and D'ARGAN,
in their Novelty Comedy Act. Vacant March 19. Lyric Theatre, Bromley.

DALE and VALE,
Seventh return Camberwell, and bigger success than ever. Next week, Palace, Bow.

DALTON'S AGENCY,
Artists please keep me posted. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

D'AMYEL, JEANNE,
Contralto Vocalist, wants Monday. This Success, Emp., Wigan. Agent, Stebbings, Manchester.

DANBYS, THE,
Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood." Good Com. songs wanted. Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

DANIELS, THE TWO, Famous High Stilt Comicalities and Plantation Pastimes. Vacant Feb. 26. Wire, 21, Trinity-st., Salisbury.

DARRELL, LULAINE TRIO,
Always Successful. This, Pal., Aberdeen. Feb. 19, Scotch Concerts.

DARWIN, MR. FRANK,
Descriptive Vocalist. Stoll Tour. This, Olympia, Liverpool; next, Em., Stratford.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE. "Fill up the Bowl of Friendship," by Reuben More. This, E., Middlesbro'; next, Lyric, Liverpool.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE,
Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). Feb. 19, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

DAVENPORTS, THE, Lightning Magicians and Illusionists. Great success Pal., Lancaster; Next week, Tiv., Barrow-Furness.

DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and MAY), Harmonising Duettists. This week, T. R., Glossop. Liberty March 5.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE,
Feb. 19, Tivoli, Dublin.

DEARES, THE, Military Speciality Act. Carlton and Duckworkth's Panto. Vac. 26th, March 5. Mon., Garrison Var., Colchester.

DE DIO, MDLLE.,
The Originator of the Fire Dance. Continental Tour. Ronacher's, Vienna. Mang., P. H. Boggis

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA,
Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Cockatoos. Palace, West Hartlepool.

DELEVINES, THE,
In New Act, "The Bell Inn." Empire Theatre, Stratford, E.

DENBY and DENT,
Thanks Stanley Rogers, Esq., for return offer in Panto. Vac. Mon. Grand, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

DENT, BERT, Manager,
Barnard's Palace Greenwich, S.E. Palace Buffet open on Sundays.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., J. H. HAWTREY,
Principal Boy. Malicio.
J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," T. R., Norwich.

DEVERENNE, the Great Mystery, Nail Walker, and Balancer, wants future Dates. 31, Higher Wharf-st., Ashton-under-Lyne.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

DEWICK, DAWSON, Comedian, Baron, J. Gar. Kiddie's "Bo-Peep." Address, Feb. 19, Queen's, Keighley.

DIAMOND, HARRY, Scotch Comedian, seriously ill. All com. to John Gunn, 143 So. Wellington-street, Glasgow.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND,
Monday, Return, Hippo., Norwich.

DOBITO and BUXTON,
Refined Vocalists, Hit of Programme Scarboro. 26th, Queen's Park, Manchester.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF,
Feb. 19, Empire, Bristol. My enemies are such by their own doings.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, the Factory Nightingales, Originality and Ability. Monday, Hippo., Birmingham.

DOME,
The Original Comedy Clay Modeller, Hippodrome, Wigan.

DORMER, DAISY,
Principal Girl, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH,
The Dainty Comedienne. Concludes to-night, Empire, Middlesbrough.

DOVE, ETHEL, Big Success, Principal Boy, Grand, Islington.

DUCKETT, BERTHA,
Charming Young Comedienne and Graceful Dancer. Next week, Tivoli, Manchester.

DUNCAN and MORTON,
Going stronger than ever as Broker's Men. Re-engaged for 1906-7. Empire, Cradley Heath.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN,
Finish to-night Stoll Tour, return 1906 and '07. Monday, Metropolitan and Collins's.

DURHAM'S, FRED,
Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, Griffin and Drake's Panto., "Cinderella," Next week, Feb. 19, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

ELCOCK, AMY, and FLORRIE ST. ROY. Success everywhere. Monday, Palace, Belfast. Vacant March 5th, four weeks.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast; also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts, Vacant Feb. 26, on. Address, 30, G. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELLA'S, MISS,
Best existing Lion Show. Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

ELLERTON, A., Songs, &c. All Dunville's Present Biz, Vesta Victoria, Nellie Wallace, Arthur Reece, &c. 90, Vassall-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTT, MISS ROSE,
the Singer of Sensible Songs. Palace, Lincoln, Feb. 19.

ELLIOTT, SILLY BILLY, Panto., Av. Sunderland, until March 3. Would join good performer in double act. Address above.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS,
Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Feb. 19, Empire, Rochdale.

ELLISON, J. W., the Popular Light Comedian. Next, Regent, Salford. All coms., Bentley's Agency, 169, Stamford-street.

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne, Woolwich and Greenwich, return; Feb. 19, Palace, Northampton, return. Communications, Day's.

ELTON and ELMA, Triple Bar Comedians, Tremendous Success, Palace, North Shields; Monday, Albert Hall, Jarrow.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Bars; MARBLESQUE TRIO, Statuary Tableaux. Lib. wee konly. Feb. 19. O. H., Wakefield.

EMLYN - JONES and CO.,
in their New and Original International Sketch, London Pav. 34, Red Lion-square, W.C.

EPLETT, KATIE, FRANK ZARA,
Comedienne, Dancer. Comedian, Raconteur. 26, Temple-street, St. George's-road, S.E.

ERNESTINE TROUPE of Acrobatic and Speciality Dancers and Vocalists. Kursaal, Lausanne, Switzerland.

ESCOTT, ALBERT,
Rose and Crown, Hounslow; opposite Palace. Always at home. Recommended by H. Leslie Bell.

ESDALE BROS., Novelty Comedians, This week, Empire, Birmingham; next week, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, London.

EUSTACE, FRED,
"Our Curate," "La Belle Parisienne," "The Amber Light," &c., &c. Fortune and Granville.

FAME, PEGGY, Monday, Carlton, Saltley. Still Scoring Big as Alice. Peter performing prettily. Proprietors come and see me.

FANSHAW, WILL, Comedian, Sketch Artist and Dancer. This, Gaiety, Dundee; 19th, Coliseum, Glasgow. Liberty, Feb. 26 onwards.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Original Lancashire Singing Collier. Panto. until Easter. Feb. 19, T. R., Portsmouth.

FERGUS, C. H. (late Harry Jennings), Comedian, in Songs, Patter, and Dancing. Vac. Mon., on. Wire, 56, Buccleuch-st., Glasgow.

FIELDING, ANNIE, & BERT HULL,
"An Officer's Flirtation." Monday, Palace, Northampton.

FIMANS, THE,
Vaudeville Act. Fast Booking 1906.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS. HAROLD,
The Empire, Newport.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS,
Society Gymnasts. Feb. 19, Coliseum, Glasgow.

FLORADORA GIRLS, Enormous Success. Hippo., Salford; Mon., Hippo., St. Helens. "Aladdin" Panto. Bookings for 1907.

FLORIZELL,
Original. Stands Alone. Alhambra, Paris.

FONTAINBLEAU, ALICE, and Famous Troupe of Trick Dogs. Next, T. H., Wirksworth. Dates, Red Yion, Coleshill, Birmingham.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company. Usual success Empire, Shepherd's Bush. Monday, Empire, Cardiff.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE,
Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FOX and MELVILLE,
Premier Song Illustrators, Grand, Bolton. New Songs by F. V. St. Clair.

FRANCISCO, Equilibrist, and MAY MOODIE, piccolo soloist, E., Portsmouth; Monday, Empire, Dudley. Packy and Reeves.

FRANKS, WILL, Vocal Comedian, at Liberty Seaside, June 4 to Sept. 8. 1, Rosamond-place, Upper Crook-st., Manchester.

FRASETTIS, LES,
Hippodrome, Ealing.

FREDRICKS, CARL, Baron and Stage-Manager, Cordelia, Fairy Godmother, and specialities, "Cinderella." T. R., Cradley Heath.

GANNON, NELLIE, London Nightly. Fast Booking 1907. For Vacant Dates, apply, Harry Wright, Carlton T., Saltley, Birmingham.

GANTHONY, ROBERT,
Great Success, Stoll Tour. Address, Poplars, Richmond, Surrey.

GARVEY, JAS. E., Character Vocalist, Clog and Top-boot Dancer. Vacant Monday. Offers invited. Address, Grangetown, Yorks.

GATLEY, ADA, in her Up-to-date Combination Speciality. A few Vacant dates. Address, 149, Waldegrave-rd., Preston, Brighton.

GEE, FRANK,
Metropolitan. Metropolitan.

GERETTI SISTERS,
Double Trapeze Wonders. Free Whitsun and Easter. Add., 3, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, S.W.

GERONDE, THREE SISTERS,
Vocalists and Expert Dancers, Palace, Belfast; Feb. 19, City Varieties, Leeds.

GERRARD, MISS MARIE, Principal Boy with Erno Aguzzi's "Sinbad" Co. (Re-engaged next Panto.). Alhambra, Dudley Port.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist, "Me Hats Off," Hippo., Dewsbury; Mon., Gillin, Ventriloquist, Rotherham

GILMORE, ROBB,
The talented Grotesque Comedian. Palace, Oldbury (return).

GLENN, MARY M.,
The Premier Scottish Vocalist. Perm., 170, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

GOLD, HARRY, Comedian, "Animated Sovereigns" and "Cloudland." 2, Jessamine-villas, Percy-rd, Ramsgate.

GOLD, JOE, & DOROTHY STERLING,
This Week, Palace, Lancaster. Next Week, Hippodrome, Southampton.

GOLDEN and GREY, in American Vaudeville. "The Missing Will." "An Interesting Item," shortly. Tivoli, Manchester.

GOLDING, R. J.,
Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist. Empire, Dover, Feb. 19.

GRAHAM, ERIC,
Author-Composer. 93, Stainforth-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.

GRAHAM'S, CLIFFORD, AGENCY,
8, Campden House-road, Kensington, W. 'Phone, 2260 Western. Tele., "Cliffalla, London."

GRAHAM'S, DAISY, Performing Birds, Gorgeous Electric fit up. Lib. June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16. Poole's, Vic. Pav., Ramsgate.

GRANADAS, LOS,
Electrifying Bounders. Perm. add., 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANTLEY, CHAS., Eccentric Entertainer. Vacant, Monday, also 26th. 15, Berwick-street, All Saints, Manchester.

GRAPHO and JACKSON,
Comedians Par Excellence. Ninth week as "Ugly Sisters," &c., Empire, Cradley Heath.

GRAY, GEORGE,
Stoll-Moss Empires. Stoll-Moss Empires.

GRAYDON, NED, Instrumentalist, This Week, Hippodrome, Margate. Next Week, Hippodrome, Southampton.

GREEN, MR. TOM,
Still producing Big Cinématograph Pictures. 106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GROSVENORS, THE (Three Sisters), Operatic Vocalists, Second Boy, Girl, Fairy and Speciality. Next, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne

GROVINIS,
On Tour. Address, care of "The Era."

GUNN, WALTER,
Vocal and Swell Comedian. All coms. to 6, Swayfield-av., Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

HAIG and NOVEL,
Big Success, P., Aberdeen. Feb. 19, P., Dundee.

HALL, CLIFTON, Vocalist, Liberty April 9, onwards. Coms., Theatre Royal, Ashton-u.-Lyne.

HALL, DAVE, Author, Composer, Songs, Patter, Scenas, Sketches, on hand or to order. 47, Chatham-place, Hackney.

HALL, EDITH, in Own Sketch, "Playing at Poverty," by Wilfred H. Benson. Address, care of "The Era."

HANDEL and LEE,
Expert Saxophonists. Enormous success S. Shields; Next, Central P., N. Shields.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE,
"The Golfer and the Maid." Granville, Walham Green.

HARCOURT, STELLA, and Powerful Company requires March 5, 12, for Sketch, "A Child Witness." 8, Gilmour-street, Ardwick.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, Comedy Musicians, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne. Only vacancies, March 19, April 23, May 7, 14, 21.

HARRIS and WORTH,
Opera House, Burnley.

HART and CO.,
Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY, FRANK, the Juggling Schoolboy. A Pocket Cinquevalli. Pier, Southport; next week, People's Palace, Tottenham.

HARTLEY WONDERS,
Original Jumping Speciality. As Usual, Big Success. Feb. 19, Empress, Hartlepool.

HASTINGS, MISS CLARE, Descriptive Vocalist and Sketch Artist, Seventh Week, Palace, Swansea. Immediate Offers Invited.

HAYDEE'S
Miniature Vaudeville Theatre. Feb. 19th, Empire, Stockport.

MR. CECIL DU GUE,
Starring in "The Still Alarm."
Theatre Royal, Chester.

MR. ALBERT C. DUNCAN,
See Page 2.

MR. T. W. DUNSCOMBE,
(Miss Marie Tennant),
Feb. 26, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST
Dis. March 10. Thanks G. Willoughby, re Australia. 17, Adie-road, Hammersmith.

MR. & MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS
(Miss Bella Power), Maj. Stretton and Lady Charlotte, "The Cotton Spinner," T. R., Hull.

MR. HUGH EVANS,
Juvenile and Military parts, at Lib. March 5.
Care of "The Era."

MR. PATRICK EVANS,
On Tour. Feb. 26, Gaiety, Manchester.
March 5, Queen's, Leeds.

MR. EDWARD FENTON,
Disengaged. Char. or Light Comedy.
13, Claverton-street, S.W., or A. A.

MR. and MRS. EDWIN FIRTH,
Heavy and Juvenile Lead (Hy. Starr's Co.).
Address, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

MR. HUGH FLEMING,
Advance Director, George Musgrove's "Prince of Pilsen" Co., King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT FORSYTH
(Mariette Hyde). Disengaged.
107, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

MR. G. D. FOX,
Conductor and Composer, thanks the Sisters Silcott for handsome presentation.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE.
Address,
6, Radnor-street, Southsea.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS
As Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph."
Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Title-rôle "The Prodigal Parson,"
Victoria Theatre, Broughton.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones),
Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, Three Weeks.

MR. FRED GAYTIE,
Principal Comedy and Character. Dis.
Address, 21, Afghan-rd, S.W.

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
Mr. Arthur Collins's "Prodigal Son" Co.
Feb. 26, Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Leading Man and Producing Plays for J. C. Williamson, Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Lead. Disengaged Autumn.
Address, 10 King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Disengaged.
Address, 10, King-street, W.C.

MR. and MRS. A. CARLAW GRAND
(Miss Rollo Deas) Disengaged, Light Comedy.
Joint or Single. 4, Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey.

MR. HERBERT GREVILLE,
Address,
10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. FRED GROVE,
and MISS EMILY GROVE, "Prodigal Son" tour. Coronet, Notting Hill, W.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE,
at Lib. March 4, for Juv. and L. Comedy parts.
First-class offers invited. Vic. T., Broughton.

MR. CLARENCE HAGUE,
Disengaged.
Address, 78, St. George's-road, S.E.

MR. CHARLES HALLING Thanks
A. B. Cross, Esq., for Eng't. Re-engaged by Northway and Garrod. V. T., Broughton.

MR. AUGUSTUS HAMMOND,
Stage-Management and Parts. At Liberty.
341, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

MR. HUBERT HARBEN,
Hugh Voysey, in "The Voysey Inheritance."
Court Theatre. Disengaged March 24.

MR. A. C. HARDIE,
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.
Disengaged end of run of "Cymbeline."

MR. FRANK HARDING.
Address, all Coms., 21, Argyll-mansions, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W. T. No. 2077, Ken.

MR. W. S. HARDY,
Father Gerard and Business Manager,
"The Midnight Wedding."

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
Disengaged.
13, Western-road, Ealing, W.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
Business Manager, "The Earl and the Girl."
Feb 26, Opera House, Wakefield.

MR. T. P. HAYNES,
Specially engaged by W. W. Kelly, Esq.
Letters, care of "The Era."

MR. JERROLD HEATHER,
Starring as Lieut. Fred Rokeby, R.N.,
"When Woman Hates" Co., Coatbridge.

MR. GRAHAME HERINGTON,
Disengaged Spring. Principal Comedian.
Stage Manager, 36, Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. HENRY HERNE, Rev. Robert
Everton, "The Girl who Lost Her Character."
Feb. 26, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

MR. A. T. HILTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES,
Guiderius in "Cymbeline." At Lib. Easter.
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD,
Disengaged.
Address, 86, The Drive, Fulham Park-gardens, S.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK,
Touring, "The Prodigal Son."
Feb. 26, T. R., Edmonton.

MR. JOHN J. HOOKER,
"Saints and Sinners,"
Star Theatre, Swansea.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD
(Miss Carlotta Anson),
"Claudian" Co., New Theatre Royal, Worcester.

MR. JAMES P. E. HUSSEY, Engaged
by J. W. Worley, Esq., Augustus Sylvester, "A Faithful Friend." Langton, Worthing.

MR. J. A. HYBERT, 22nd Year Own
Companies. Open to Run Solid Attractions.
Address, c/o CREBER, Plymouth.

MR. A. B. IMESON,
Leading Business, 3rd year, Compton Comedy Co., Young Marlow, &c. Feb. 26, Lyceum, Edinbro'.

MR. ROBERT A. INNES,
Sixth Year with Mr. John Hart.
Address all communications to Grand T., Leeds.

MR. and MRS. F. JACQUES (Miss M.
Rayner), offers invited, Spring and onwards.
Soubrette (con.), and Char. 52, Crowndale-road.

MR. MAX JEROME,
"Saints and Sinners" Tour.
134, Castellain Mansions, Maida Vale, W.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON,
Backbite, Hastings, Capt. Smooth, &c.
Compton Comedy Co., Lyceum T., Edinburgh.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring the Success, "Life's Sweetest Sins."
Address, 26, Wightman-road, Finsbury-park, N.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES,
Scarsi, "Life of Pleasure."
Terriss Theatre, S.E.

MR. and MRS. THEODORE JONES
(Ada Mansfield). Touring own sketch, "Jack Sheppard." Feb. 26, Hippo., Hounslow.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Paul Martin in "The Duffer."
Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

MR. LOUIS KARPE,
Acting Manager.
H.M.T., Dundee.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. CHAS. H. KENNEY, Comedian,
Concludes Panto. Dis. for Theatres or Halls, Songs, &c. 163, Elmhurst-mansions, Clapham.

MR. and MRS. EDGAR KENT (Miss
Ada Clarke), "Saints and Sinners," on Tour. Permanent, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Returns to England, March 3 Disengaged.
Letters, 16, Pembury-road, Clapton, N.E.

MR. J. POOLE KIRKWOOD,
Disengaged March 5. Char., Com., Heavies.
"Sherlock Holmes" Co. T. R., Rochdale.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Disengaged.
19, Dunalley-parade, Cheltenham.

MR. FRED KNIGHT,
Disengaged. Address until
March 3, 181, Fentiman-road, S.W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE,
Address, 10, King-street, London, W.C.
Perm. add., 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE, Manager
and Stage Dir. Mr. Mouillot's "Geisha" and "Greek Slave" Co. G. T., Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price). Disengaged March 5. C. L., Pavilion Theatre. 3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. PAIGE LAWRENCE as Tom Nor-
man in "Her Second Time on Earth."
Feb. 26, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

MR. EDMUND LEA,
in "She Stoops to Conquer."
Waldorf Theatre.

MR. GEORGE LE CLERQ
Will commence work,
Empire, Glasgow, March 5.

MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING, Play-
ing Pharus A. C. Calmour's play, "The Prodigal Son." Grand T., Glasgow. Dis. March 4.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON,
as Sherlock Holmes, 150th Performance. Disengaged Shortly for Leading Juvenile Business.

MR. FRANK LILLIPUT,
Short Comedian. At Liberty.
23, Dorothy-road, Clapham Junction.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Re-engaged by Mr. H. V. Neilson.
51, Victoria-street, Bradford.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "The White Chrysanthemum" Co.
Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

MR. EDWIN LING,
S. M., Allan Wilkie Rep. Co.
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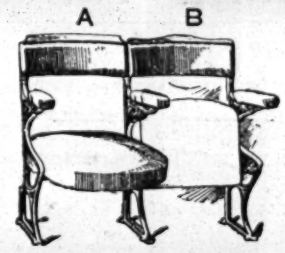

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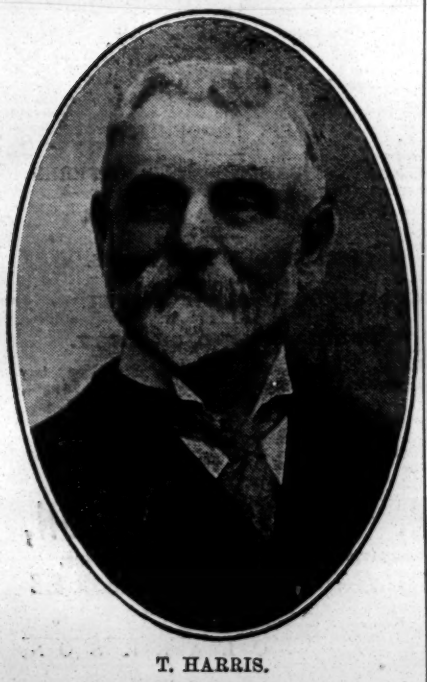

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:
Royal Adelaide Gallery,
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Jan. 31, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,—I have much pleasure in stating that the work you did for me last autumn was satisfactory in every way, and I was more than pleased, as I did not anticipate the goods would look so nice. Anything that may require cleaning or dyeing this spring from either of the places under my control I should certainly entrust to you, as I am sure that the best possible results will be obtained.

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THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held at the County Hall, Spring-gardens, on Tuesday.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music Halls' Committee recommended that Messrs. Romaine-Walker and Besant be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted with regard to the provision of additional exits from the orchestra and supers' dressing-rooms under the pit at His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, provided the following conditions be complied with—(1) That the door from the supers' dressing-room to the stalls saloon be self-closing and of fire-resisting construction, and that it be provided with an illuminated "exit" notice and be fastened only by means of automatic bolts; (2) that the gates proposed to be provided from the orchestra be made self-closing.

Agreed to.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

The Committee recommended that Messrs. F. Matcham and Co be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan, submitted with regard to the proposed erection of gates across the open passage-way from the Holborn Empire, Holborn, into Whetstone-park, provided the gates be fitted with automatic fastenings only.

Approved.

THE COLISEUM LICENCE.

The Committee reported that on Nov. 24, 1903, the Council granted a restricted licence for music and dancing to Mr. O. Stoll in respect of the London Coliseum, St. Martin's-lane. Mr. Stoll has since obtain a stage-play licence from the Lord Chamberlain, and in accordance with one of the conditions thereof has surrendered the licence granted to him by the Council.

In reply to Mr. Lewen Sharpe, Mr. Yates (chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls' Committee) stated that under the Lord Chamberlain's licence the licensee of the Coliseum would be entitled to sell intoxicating drink at bars throughout the house; but, on the other hand, the entertainments must be confined to stage plays pure and simple. If any variety business were introduced it would then be open for the Council to take steps. So far, he understood that the managers under the new licence had confined themselves to stage plays.

THE WOOLWICH THEATRE.

In answer to questions, Mr. Yates said that he believed that the Woolwich Theatre, which was supposed to be intended for the garrison alone, was now open to the public at large. The licence was not granted by the London County Council, but the Committee intended to consult their solicitor as to whether they possessed any authority in the matter.

THE DRAMATIC REVIVAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Since you were kind enough to publish my letter appealing to your readers for assistance in forming a national central organisation for the promotion of a popular revival of the drama, especially in villages and in schools, I have received an immense number of letters from all parts of the country. As it is physically impossible for me to reply to all those friendly correspondents, will you permit me to inform them through your columns that the reception of my proposal has been more favourable than I ventured to hope. I am overwhelmed with applications for information as to the organisation of the Dramatic Revival Society, whose objects I outlined in my first letter.

Before the method of organisation can be profitably approached, the first thing is to collect information as to what material there is to be organised. I am collecting that material, and I shall be glad if any who sympathise with this object will assist me in ascertaining how far, where, and by whom, and in what direction practical efforts have been made to perform (a) village plays, (b) school plays, (c) mystery and historical plays, (d) dramatic experiments and untried plays, (e) cantatas and musical dramas, &c.

I should be glad if correspondents would undertake to collect all such information for their own district, and send it to me, together with the names and addresses of the persons and societies in their neighbourhood who would be most likely to assist.

When this information is collected and digested, steps will be taken to draw up the organisation of the society, which would be quite simple. I presume there would be a central general committee, which would naturally be divided into sub-committees, each dealing with one of the half-dozen branches of the subject. This with a corresponding secretary and local committee in each county would probably suffice.

"In the theatres," said Wagner, "there lies the spiritual seed and kernel of all national poetic and national ethical culture. No other art branch can ever truly flourish, or ever aid in cultivating the folk, until the theatre's all-powerful assistance has been completely recognised and guaranteed."

At the present moment, the prospect of securing a wide popular national recognition of this truth seems brighter than it has been for some time. The idea is everywhere in the air, and I am glad to hear that a very successful effort along the same lines has been made by Miss Mouillot, of the Amateur Players' Association, to associate the Amateur Dramatic Societies of London. That is a reason for acting promptly, but it is also a reason for proceeding carefully, so as to avoid ignoring or overlooking any of the agencies or personal forces which might be linked together for the achievement of the desired end.—I am, Yours faithfully, F. R. BENSON.

11, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C.
Feb. 19, 1906.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I have so great an esteem for Mr. Benson and for the work he is doing in connection with our classical drama that it is with some reluctance that I venture to criticise his new scheme. Personally, I very much doubt whether the results he has in view can be obtained in the way he suggests. I have just returned from a visit to Germany, where I have been studying the playhouses, and during my six weeks' sojourn in that country I do not once recollect coming across a playbill announcing an amateur dramatic performance. The Germans have been educated to love their Shakespeare and their Schiller too well to care to see these master poets' works interpreted by any other than trained and skilled actors. I fail to see how our villagers are to obtain instructive and intellectual recreation by acting classical dramas when it is quite possible they may be as unfitted by nature to act in a play as they doubtless would be to paint a picture. Again, can I persuade myself that performances of our dramatic masterpieces, given by unskilled actors, would encourage a liking for those plays? On the contrary, I cannot conceive anything more likely to drive an audience into the music hall than having to sit out *Romeo and Juliet* when it was acted by incompetent and untrained performers. And then as regards Mr. Benson's third aim: What inducement is there for dramatists to write poetical plays, if they are to be produced by the inefficient? Are the plays likely to be appreciated or even understood? Mr. Benson seems to have in his mind a revival of the trade-gilds performances at Chester and Coventry, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, but he has forgotten, or failed to realise, that this was precisely the period when dramatic art was in its crudest and least artistic form. The Chester and Coventry mysteries cannot be classed as literature, or even as drama, although they are of interest to the student as the beginnings of the drama. If *Everyman* had fallen into the hands of these trade-gilds, the actors would so far have tampered with the poet's work as to take from it all its beauty and religious feeling. They would have made Death a comic devil, and the Confessor a red-nosed Friar Tuck. It was not until a century later, when the professional player came into vogue, and wore the nobleman's badge, and received his pay, that the plays became dramatic literature, and the actor's calling began to be an art.

What would be thought of the President of the Royal Academy if he were to write to all our villages asking the blacksmith and the lamplighter to paint pictures in order to encourage a national revival of painting? Was the genius of Michael Angelo and Raphael the outcome of an epidemic of amateur sculpturing and painting? I rather think it was due to the love of the people for seeing what was beautiful and true in nature reproduced by the expert in stone or on canvas, while the patronage of the rich man fostered the master-hand, and paid for his labour.

Let me disclaim any desire to think or speak disrespectfully of my fellow creatures. I am a democrat in politics, but I know that Greece, in the best days of her democracy, brought the villagers to the amphitheatre to see the tragedies of their great poets performed, under the best conditions obtainable, by skilled and trained artists. She did not send the play to the village in the beief that a production of it by artisans would provide the country people with "instructive and intellectual recreation."

The experiment may be worth trying, and may afford some amusement to those who indulge in it, but I think the scheme would do real harm if it is supposed that it will solve the problem of how to find good plays, and to get them well acted.—Yours faithfully,

WM. POEL.

5, Amersham-road, Putney, S.W.
Feb. 22, 1906.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for The Era by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters:—

20,928.—Staging. Patentee, W. Clark, 30, Pitfour-street, Dundee, Scotland. An adjustable support or platform for a ladder. Consists of a base clamped to a rung of a supporting ladder, and resting on a cross-bar, adjustable on supports, also clamped to the ladder. The main ladder is clamped to uprights, and is held at the foot by a cross-bar.

952.—Martin Molloy, 18, Elmwood-grove, Bolton, Lancs. An improvement in window blinds, theatre curtains, awnings, or the like.

857.—William Thomas Wilson Slater, 10, St. George's-crescent, Liverpool. An improved system of admitting the public to theatres and other public places, and means therefor.

688.—Charles Herman Jaeger, 65, Chancery-lane, London. Amusement device or illusion apparatus.

HOCKEY.

"The Ugliest Woman on Earth" v. "Between Two Women."

A match was played between two of Mr. Fredk. Melville's companies on Tuesday, and resulted in a win for the "Uglies" by 14 goals to 3. The scorers were T. Edlin 9, F. Cross 3, A. Davenport 1, and Jack Edwards 1. For "Between Two Women," Montford 1, Graham 2, scored.

FOOTBALL.

The "Uglies" and Metropole, Glasgow, played Mr. George Edwardes's *Lady Madcap* company at football at Ibrox Park, and beat them by 7 goals to 5, McCann scoring 3 goals and Edlin 4.

Miss Rose Moncrieff will start a short spring tour of *Fun on the Bristol* at the Lyric Theatre, Bromley, on Easter Monday.

Presentation.—Mr. H. P. Howell, lately assistant-manager at the Margate Hippodrome, who has been transferred to the London office of Messrs. Mouillot and De Frece, was presented by the Hippodrome staff with a solid silver cigarette case and a silver-mounted cigarette cabinet, as a mark of the appreciation in which he was held, for his always courteous and kindly conduct. The gifts, which were quite unexpected, were suitably acknowledged.

"The Lady Forger," a new one-act play, was produced on Saturday by the Junior Philatelic Society at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater. A certain Miss Emmelina Stobinki is the proud possessor of an old Irish Republican stamp, of which there is no duplicate. Intent on procuring this precious postage stamp, all and sundry in the philatelic world come to Walworth, first to offer money, and then matrimony to the fair Emmelina; but when, by the substitution of a "forged" stamp, she essays to test their love, all desert her but a cranky curate, who stays out of mere idle curiosity, and the faithful Billy, and she is fain to solace herself with his humble devotion. The piece teems with allusions and jokes of the technical order, which were hugely appreciated by the stamp collectors present.

The tenth fancy dress ball of the season arranged by Mr. Frank Rendle and Mr. Neil Forsyth was held at Covent Garden Theatre on the evening of the 12st inst., in celebration of St. Valentine's Day. The prizes were, as usual, very attractive, one of the most noticeable being a silver James I. teaset, which was offered for the most original costume. There were at least a dozen costumes which were well in the running for the first prize, and each had points of artistic and original merit. Few of the onlookers, however, could find fault with the selection of "A Study in Old English Art" as the best fancy costume, and "Hail Columbia" as the most original. Both were indeed works of art, and among the others that took valuable prizes were "All the Little Ducks Went," "Ups and Downs of Life," "A China Valentine," "In the Land of the Midnight Sun," "Penny Novelties," "The Magic Month of May," "The Peacock," "Oranges and Lemons," "A Mascotte Moth," "Forget-me-Nots," and "A Circle Girl."

An inquiry into the death of Edwin Arthur Hart, aged forty-one, who died in Charing Cross Hospital, following a fall at the Waldorf Theatre, Aldwych, was held on the 16th inst. The evidence showed that the deceased was employed at the Waldorf Theatre as a limelight operator. About ten o'clock on the previous Monday, just as the second act of *The Superior Miss Pellender* had started, the deceased was seen to reel and fall from the bridge on which he was standing on to the stage below, a distance of about 30ft. He was picked up unconscious and conveyed to the hospital, where he died without having recovered consciousness. The post-mortem examination showed that in the fall deceased had sustained fracture of four ribs. There was severe hemorrhage on the brain, and this caused death. It was not thought the fall had anything to do with death, but followed a seizure brought on by the hemorrhage. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—The amusing musical play, *The Cingalee*, draws large audiences this week. Mr. Johnny Osborne makes a very clever Chambhuddy Ram, and Miss Nellie Wigley plays Nanoya with much charm. Miss Emilie Mayhew shows well, both in song and duet, as Lady Patricia Vane; and Miss Cissie Septon also materially aids the success of the piece. Mr. Kenneth Wynne uses his fine voice to good purpose, and Mr. Roy Warren fits his place admirably as Bobby Warren. Mr. Helier Les Maistre as the nobleman of Kandy, and Mr. G. J. Williams as Sir Peter Loftus also contribute considerably to the general amusement; and a word of praise is likewise due to Miss Vi Holmes for her remarkable dancing feats. Mr. Edward Whitehall makes a most admirable conductor. There is to be a matinée performance to-day (Saturday).

Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—There is an excellent company at the Palace this week. Grell and Grey provide a capital entertainment, and Mr. Frank Seely, comedian, is also most successful. The Five Zerbinis appear in a very ingenious and attractive scena, *In Fairyland;* and Cassli and James make a decided hit with their banjo playing. The Two Whites play piquantly, and Mr. Alexander Thorne shows himself to be a good comedian of the Scottish variety. Mons. Slippere, who is assisted by Miss Ramsay, makes a fine appearance; and among the other enjoyable turns are those of Mr. Tom Parker, comedian, and Miss Winifred Ward, a dashing male impersonator. Vernon's Bioscope pictures are, as usual, up to date.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventoin.—The boards are occupied here this week by Mr. Alfred H. Hook's No. 1 company in the military melodrama *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. John S. Chamberlain as Larry M'Gehan keeps the house in good humour, and is ably seconded by Miss Rosie Kearns as Mary, the housemaid. Miss Beatrice Western is good as Margaret Marsden; Miss Nora Bedford as Nelly Burke is very pathetic; Miss Nellie Hook plays Dick admirably. Amongst the male members of the company may be mentioned Mr. T. P. Grisdale as Sir John Fanshaw, Mr. W. A. Buckstone as Capt. Harry Fanshaw, Mr. Ellerslie Pyne in the title-rôle, Mr. Hal Lowe as Bill Burke, Mr. W. Edwards as Corbett, and Mr. John Bryce as Ralph Marsden, everyone being well suited to their respective parts.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—The popularity of *The Girl from Kay's* does not wane here, a good reception being again given to Mr. Geo. Dance's company, which is practically the same one that was here before, the only noticeable alteration being Mr H. C. Barry as Hoggenheimer, and he is a worthy successor to Mr. Geo. Rydon, and latterly to Mr Blunt.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—The pantomime of *Cinderella*, played by Griffin and Drake's company, is the attraction here. Miss Ivy Dawn, winsome and graceful, invests the character of Cinders with a charm peculiar to herself; Mlle. Du Roche as Prince Perfect is excellent, and she sings in good style; Miss Marie Le Graham as Dandini, the Prince's valet, is a lively second to the Prince himself; while the characters assumed by Misses Pauline and Minnie Grosvenor and Misses Ada and Louie Le Graham leave nothing to be desired in grace and rich dressing. The fairy element in the pantomime is well represented in the attractive personality of the Fairy Godmother, Miss Sadie Bush, and her attendants, the Misses Florrie Grosvenor, Lily Beaumont, Maude Drake, and Lilian Esdale. Mr. Clifton Hall makes himself sufficiently demoniacal as Demon Discord. Drollery is introduced by Mr. Chas. Bennet as Baron Hardup; as Gingerett and Chlorinder, Mr. Walter Griffin and Little Freddie Elliot monopolise a good deal of attention with their quips and cranks. Mr. Jim Topping is extremely funny as the Baron's page, and the Bros. Lang as Flip and Flop are two comical sportsmen. There are some attractive specialities introduced by the Bros. Lang, the Three Sisters Le Graham, the Six Little Mignets, Little Freddie Elliot, the Sisters Silza, Marlow, and Harland and Robinson.

The Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—A strong programme presented here this week includes the Alexandroffs, a really artistic and clever combination of national singers and dancers; Josephine Stanton and Henry Hallam, who create much fun in a musical sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey;* Percy Honri, who heads a troupe of novelty artists in a new vaudeville extravaganza, called *Concordia;* the Five M.P.'s (the Musical Palmers) are expert musical instrumentalists, assisted by Miss Daisy Palmer as an imitation Sousa; Miss Olive Poole is a sweet singer and expert heel and toe artist, Bernard Noble is a pleasing comedian, and Daisy Almer a charming specimen of the vocal commedienne. Pictures of "Modern Life" in varied phases are depicted on the Bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaughten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Mr. J. A. Campbell is this week presenting *The Little Bread Winner*, a drama full of pathos and interest, in which Mr. J. A. Campbell has in Lord William Dorrington a congenial rôle, which exactly suits him; as Richard Lawrence, Mr. David Gordon is very good; villainy finds an excellent exponent in Mr. Scott Leighton as Joseph Prior; a pleasing rendition of the part of Dr. Chadwick is given by Mr. Walle Spinner; judiciously placed comedy is sustained in good style by Mr. Allen Charles as Charles Prior, and Miss Maud Buchanan as Kate Cherry; Miss Katherine Parry sustains the part of Margaret Daventry with due regard to its requirements; Miss Emmie Litchfield is excellent as Ruth Cherry; and so also is Miss Jenny Bostock as Bridget O'Flanagan. A special word of praise is well deserved by Little Emmie Thomas, who as Megg (the Little Bread Winner) plays in a natural manner.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—This week's excellent programme is headed by the Lavails, who give a performance on the "silver arch-chain ladders and breakaway bars" which is both novel and sensational; Lee and Arden, Scotch comedy duo, find much favour; Lily Currie has some good songs, which are rendered in capital style; a smart show is given by the Doldam Bros., Dutch eccentric acrobats; excellent pictures by the Palace-Attergraph, under the direction of Mr. E. C. Clayton, are well received; Fred Gilbert goes through an interesting performance on the high, unsupported ladder; Fred Erick is a taking comedian; and Mark Leslie, swell coon singer and dancer, gains much applause.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—An enthusiastic reception by a large audience was given to Miss Florence Baines's company in the new farce, entitled *Miss Lancashire, Limited*. Miss Florence Baines as Mary Ellen Thompson keeps the fun going, and her songs are much enjoyed. Miss Jennie Hallworth is a captivating Eva Lancashire, and Miss Mabelle Clinton is pleasing as Bertha. Mr. R. C. Hicks wins hearty applause by his humorous portrayal of Herbert Fox; Mr. David Donaldson handles the part of John Higgins with skill and effect; Mr. Patrick Evans, as Harry makes the most of the character; Mr. Payne Fletcher as William Henry Thompson gives a natural and unforced yet quite powerful rendering of the part, and is ably assisted by Miss Hattie Groves who, as Bridget Thompson gives a life-like representation; Mr. Allan M. Servington is exceedingly droll as Moses Goldberg; and Mr. Horace Pollock as Grant, the butler, is well placed.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—*Mr. Smith*, a successful new play, is being presented this week. The titular rôle is forcibly and intellectually enacted by Mr. Stephen T. Ewart; Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway shows ability as the Duke of Angle; the Earl of Oxted has a good exponent in Mr. Russell Norrie; Mr. Fred Darrell is well placed as Herr Diedrich Anheuser; of the part of Dudley Dysart the most is made by Mr. Chas. Pilling Baird; Miss Rosamund Rokeby is a charming Lady Mary; and the Duchess of Angle is an excellent impersonation by Miss Elspeth Dudgeon.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Langford Carson's *The Power of the Cross* company is here. The Baron Woulfe Curzola is powerfully played by Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby, and Mr. Horace Denton is a good Dr. Leslie Fairfax; Gerald Fairfax is capably played by Mr. Fred W. Goddard, and the Timothy O'Dowd of Mr. Richard E. Nugent is amusingly done; the Benjamin Hawke of Edgar L. Hocking and the David Kingsley of Mr. Chas. E. Johnson are most commendable; and the Blanche Kingsley of Miss Lilian Ross is quite winning. Miss Cissie St. Elmo plays the adventuress Rita Lascelles with much power; Miss Stanley Burt makes a good deal of Margaret Seaton; and Miss Etta Turner is a success as Dolly Gray.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge. Charles Macdona's company in *The Toreador* is here. The title-rôle is played by Mr. J. Colclough Fagan, who to a fine voice adds dash and vigour. Mr. Richard Teeford, as Sammy Gigg, is quite a host in himself, and extremely humorous; and Mr. Tom May does well as Pettifer; Miss Gracie Desmond is good as Mrs. Malton Hoppings, as also are Miss Leah Howard as Susan and Miss Sadie Neville as Dora Selba.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting. Messrs. Carter, Livesey, and Albert Mason, and Miss Lilian Rosebery give a successful skit, *The Would-be Actors;* the Brothers Webb submit a good all-round musical entertainment; and the Davenports are a pair of clever illusionists; the Rupertos, equilibrists, and Gena Mason also do well; Fred Hallam, a smart comedian, and Gus Hindell are well received.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The musical comedy *After the Ball* is here this week. Mr. Charles Carey, whose company it is, includes Mr. Victor Widdicombe, who works hard to keep the fun going as Col. Joseph Menit. His nephew, Halliwell Menit, is ably undertaken by Mr. Walter Ringham; Mr. Buckstone Clair is well placed as the manservant Martin; Mr. Gus Danby cleverly represents the character of Dick Seymour, and scores as a dancer; Miss Nellie Groves puts plenty of brightness into her impersonation of Nellie Mather, and sings with acceptance; Miss Nellie Florance appears as Ruth Gray. So severe a cold had Miss Irene Moncrieffe on Monday that she could not do herself justice in the humorous rôle of Nancy; Miss Nellie James's dancing as Kitty was well applauded.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—A strong array of talent is provided for the current week, in which Mlle. Luba de Sarema, with her varied performing animals, supplies a long and highly-entertaining turn. Leo Tell's marvellous gifts as an imitator of musical instruments and animal sounds secures for himself a deserved ovation; the Four Jumels are on a welcome return visit, their musical act proving as much to the liking of the audience as heretofore; Anna Kenwick, a clever coon songstress and dancer, is cordially received; Chas. Whittle, comedian, with his quiet way of delivering his songs, is in great favour; a youthful comedienne is Lily Esplin, who can more than hold her own with many of her seniors; Lidden and Hayward are once again seen here in their comedy and pianoforte interlude *The Midnight Express;* Fred Bronte, actor-vocalist, gains applause; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux include "Two Little Waifs" and "When the Wife's Away"—two capital subjects.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's pantomime *Aladdin*, which is being played here this week, is bright, brisk, and breezy. The company work splendidly, the costumes are attractive, and the singing is well above the average of touring pantomime. Miss Marie Braham not only plays Aladdin with energy and dash, but supplies vocalisation of a high order; Miss Daisy Lane is a charming princess, and sings excellently; Miss Effie Morde does well as Pekoe, and Miss Florrie White is a dainty dancer. Mr. Cyril Carle plays the Emperor; Mr. Edwin C. Jazon gives an unconventionally humorous portrayal of Abanazar; and Mr. Harry Carmen makes Widow Twankey a highly-diverting and laughable character. The specialities add materially to the success of the pantomime and include the Three Delaines, clever aerial gymnasts; Saladi and Vone, coon vocalists and smart simultaneous dancers; the Sisters Varley, sweet singers of sentimental duets; and Mantell and Oval, comedy knockabouts. The ballet, trained by Miss Florrie White, is a graceful and pleasing performance.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—For the first three nights of this week the boards were occupied by the musical comedy *The Girl from Japan*, under the direction of Mr. Martin Morris. Mr. George Hudson's fine voice is well suited to the rôle of Lord Allenbury; Mr. Charles Lupton makes an excellent Sir Mulberry Flippington; Mr. Percy Baverstock cleverly impersonates General Baugh; and Mr. Ernest Spalding causes amusement by his portrayal of the Rev. John Smith. Mr. W. H. Moore forcibly acts the character of Horatio Binks, and humour is added to the play by Mr. Charles F. Ludlow as Bingle. A delightful representative of Violet, the girl from Japan, is found in Miss Dorothy Glenton.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison's company opened here on Monday with *Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush*, which met with a capital reception. Mr. William Mollison appears as the elder, Lachlan Campbell, and furnishes one of the finest pieces of acting seen here for many a long day. His powerful and finished impersonation created a great impression, and this fine actor was deservedly and enthusiastically accorded an ovation. Much praise is due to that talented actress, Miss Evelyn McNay, whose pathetic interpretation of Flora Campbell is all that could possibly be desired. Mr. Allen Thomas's impersonation of Mr. Maclure (a doctor of the old school) is decidedly realistic; and Mr. Durward Lely is the Rev. John Carmichael to the life. Mr. Alec F. Thompson as Wee Posty, a mail carrier, furnishes a decidedly clever rendering; and other parts are brilliantly sustained by Miss Martha Stewart, Miss J. Fitzgerald, Miss Josephine Woodward (a capital Margaret Howe), and Messrs. Kendal Chalmers, F. M. Paget, S. P. Church, &c. An attractive little comedietta, *A Happy Pair*, in which Miss Alice Frances and Mr. Durward Lely appear to much advantage, forms a capital curtain raiser. It should be added that at the close of the performance on Monday Mr. Mollison was compelled to make a speech, in which he thanked the audience for their kind appreciation.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—Mr. Low Luke and his comedy company head the bill, and present with every success the farcical absurdity, *The Bloomsbury Burglars;* Mr. Leoni Clarke introduces with great effect his marvellous troupe of performing cats, monkeys, rabbits, &c., their feats creating a positive sensation; W. Claude Ginnett and company appear in their side-splitting sketch, *Rejected Remounts*, the fun being fast and furious; and the feats of strength by Mr. Luis Hardt are certainly wonderful. Also appearing are Miss Amy Elcock, a charming comedienne and dancer; Mr. Joe Mac, comedian; Miss Florie St. Roy, and the Palace Pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The chief attraction here this week is provided by the Cotton Blossom Quartette, whose coon vocalism and smart dancing have been enthusiastically received; a capital reception has been extended to Mr. Will H. Fox (the original "Paddywhisky"), whose marvellous performance at the piano is certainly incomparable; the Korries appear to much advantage in their clever musical act; and the Goltz Trio perform their sensational equilibristic act on rolling globes. Roars of laughter greet Driscoll Beattie and Co. in their side-splitting sketch, *Two Noble Rogues;* and the Three Sisters Slater gain deserved applause for their talented performance. Collins and Rice, comedy artistes; Miss Corn Cassell, one of the most notable dancers before the public; and Miss Katie Butler, comedienne, also appear.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. Jock White-

ford, the droll Scotch comedian, tops the bill, and his funny songs and patter have nightly been accorded an ovation; the Zaros appear in their remarkably clever acrobatic performance, their tricks being simply marvellous; and Fancourt and Rubie create much amusement with their comedy sketch, *Out of Barracks*. Winona and King introduce with effect their thrilling rifle performance, their feats being quite astounding; and the Two Dixons, sand dancers and banjoists, are deservedly encored; Bishop and Hanlon are clever knockabout performers; and success is also secured by the McKays, Miss Pattie Crawford, comedienne, and Mr. Dan Filmer, comedian.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is repeating previous successes here with a capital rendering of the interesting play, *The Village Blacksmith*. The performance of Mr. Sam Livesey as the brawny blacksmith John Strong is again received with sympathetic and complimentary recognition, and the vicissitudes and troubles of his wife, Kate Strong, are powerfully and skilfully represented by Miss Laura Hansen, an emotional actress of exceptional merit. Captain Leo, the evil genius of the piece, is in the able hands of Mr. Joseph Carter, who exhibits considerable power. Mr. Edwin Maydew makes the most of his opportunities as Lucas Marlow, and as Jeremiah Parkins Mr. Thos. E. Marshall works hard and with success. Mr. George V. Campbell as Billy Twigg is highly popular. Mrs. T. C. Livesey is realistic as Sal Parkins. Miss Cassie Edwards is most efficient as Ruth Parkins; and Miss Edith Giddens is a delightful Martha Moppa. A word of special commendation is due to Miss Bertha Hanbury, who displays really remarkable intelligence as the blacksmith's child; and the remaining characters are all well placed. The scenic effects are on a liberal scale.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Carl Hertz, in conjunction with Mdlle. D'Alton, head a capital show, and appear in their bewildering illusionary entertainment with immense success. Mr. G. W. Hunter, the popular comedian and raconteur, is renewing previous triumphs; and Booker and Narbis are prominent in an amusing sketch. The Ladderites, in a clever balancing turn, are well received; and the Three Zaracs in a comic horizontal bar act; Mr. Walter Stanley, comedian; Clive Watts, dancer and vocalist; Carr and Rose, in a humorous singing duo; Miss Edna Thelma, vocalist; and Mr. Percy Harrison, American baritone, complete an excellent company. Mr. Ernest Denny is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin*, which is now nine weeks old, continues to show the notice-boards "House full," than which no better proof of its success could be desired or adduced.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* is also in its ninth week, with no falling off whatever in its attendances, neither does the fun of the fare pall on repeated visits. The visit of the Rocket Club on Friday last week was most successful and enjoyable, Mr. Bert Browne heading a contingent some three hundred and fifty strong, who gave *eclat* to the performance and presents galore to the performers, including the Misses Lelia Roze, Edith Fink, Agnes Tandy, the Eight of Hearts, little Florrie Dixon (a life-size doll for her prowess in dancing with Mr. Geo. Lashwood), Messrs. Mark Sheridan, George Lashwood, Joseph Dixon, Gus Le Clerq, the Four Burnells, and the Lyric Quartette. Mr. J. F. Graham was presented with a case of carvers, Mr. Henry Johnston with a silver cruet, likewise Mr. Thos. Barry, stage manager, while Mr. Southworth, the musical director, received a silver dish. The presentations were much cheered by the audience, who appeared to enjoy the spectacle immensely. Mr. Mark Sheridan's presents, a shaving case and a skye terrier, were productive of his usual ready wit, for quoth he, "Where's the license?" at which remark the house laughed heartily.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Romeo and Juliet* was produced here on the Thursday of last week with a perfection of colour, perspective, and detail that won general admiration. An augmented orchestra and a chorus support the players, who give an adequate and indeed a fine representation of Shakespeare's supreme love tragedy, while the scenery is always rich and appropriate. Miss Edith Turner in essaying the rôle of Juliet reveals a sympathetic voice and a winning presence, and marks the growth of the grande passion in quite a talented manner, which holds the audience fascinated with its charm. The balcony scene, the scene in Juliet's chamber, and the brief scene within the tomb were occasions when Miss Turner reached the summit of her part. Mr. Milton Rosmer's study of Romeo is a brilliant essay which promises to develop into an inspiration. Mr. Rosmer submits a good conception of the rôle, his acting is thoroughly sound, and his bearing noble and lover-like. Mr. Vincent Clive is highly approved of in the character of Mercutio, Mr. Thomas Holding takes the part of Tybalt in an admirable manner, Mr. James Taylor is well-fitted as Benvolio, Mr. Kenyon Musgrave is a properly dignified Friar Laurence, and Mr. Frederick Harker as Paris, Mr. Sydney Arnold (the producer) as Montague, and Mr. Pascoe Bioletti as Capulet fulfil all demands. Miss Lilian Revell is successful as Lady Capulet, and Mrs. William Lowe submits a highly creditable enactment of the nurse. Mr. Quinton McPherson doubles the rôles of Peter and the Apothecary successfully. The tableau at the end, giving the solemn requiem and reconciliation of the houses of Montague and Capulet instead of the spoken lines, is depicted with much reverence and beauty.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* continues its triumphant course, and will doubtless be in it at the finish. This, its ninth week, has been one of the most successful periods of the pantomime, which continues to go with unflagging vitality.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*Monte Cristo* is staged here in a most attractive manner by the resident company, amongst which that master of many rôles, Mr. Felix Pitt, adds largely to his local fame with his striking impersonation of the central rôle. Mr. Fredk. Sandy is speedily recognisable for his fine acting as Baron Douglas; Mr. Louis Lingard is to be commended for his study of Fernand Mondego, Mr. Harry Cornwall does exceedingly well as M. Novitier, Mr. Henry Heller assumes the character of M. Villefort with the utmost success, Mr. Alick Macmillan shines as Albert de Morcerf, and Mr. Andrew Emm (Melville) acts in a clever serio-comic style as Caderouse. Miss Florence Nelson invests the rôle of La Carconte with rare charm, and Miss Frances Rattledge appears successfully as Mercedes

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Dick Whittington* is established here with Messrs. W. H. and R. A. Maddox's company, who present a really clever and entertaining version of the story. Miss Mabel Kesler, in addition to filling the rôle of Dick with vivacity, performs as a cornet soloist with much distinction; Miss Peggy Fame is charming and melodious as Alice, and introduces her canine champion, Peter; and Messrs. Dan Lyndon, Harry Howe, Gus Granville, Harry Wright, and Rex Lempton and Harry Pastor supply the comic parts in a droll manner. The Dandies contribute some clever dances, the Schallers vouchsafe a comic gymnast act, Mr. Victor Le Clere is popular as the Cat, and Miss Annie Brevitt, Miss Linda May, and others assist the production cleverly.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. R. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Midnight Wedding*, which affords Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company fine opportunities for displaying their histrionic skill, is creating quite a furore here. Mr. Alfred Paumier delivers a fine exposition of the hero's character, that of Paul Valmar; Mr. Clinton Baddely's well-built form and fine voice give distinction to the part of Capt. Rudolph. Mr. Fredk. W. Freeman gives much effect to the rôle of the Crown Prince; Miss Annie Saker as the Princess Astre Von Strelsburg sways the house with her telling and powerful depiction of passion and pathos; and Miss Florence Hunt as Rozel leaves her mark. Messrs. Fred Constable, Reginald Payne, and Algie Spalding as the rivals in love display some clever humour, and Miss Ada Champion is successful likewise as Kathie.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime entitled *The Babes in the Wood* is here. Mr. James Kerry as Sir Broka De Pawn is most successful; as Araminta Koffkaki Mr. George Casey is very good; Mr. James Salter is most amusing in the part of Soft Sammy; Miss N. Engleheart is very smart as Robin Hood, as is also Miss Adeline Yohle as Maid Marian. A word of praise is also due to Miss N. Western as Will Scarlet. The Sisters Gaye are seen to advantage as Harold and Lucy.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—Another of Mr. George Dance's companies occupies the boards this week, *The Duchess of Dantzig* being the attraction. Miss May Glenn, in the title-rôle, gives a very artistic performance; Mr. Gilbert Yorke is an excellent Napoleon; Mr. Gilbert Childs is very amusing as Papillon; and Miss Maggie White, an accomplished vocalist, is well suited as Renée de St. Mezard. The mounting is all that can be desired.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Ersser.—Miss Marie Dagmar is paying a return visit, on this occasion presenting her new drama, *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Miss Dagmar gives a powerful rendering of the principal part, Eleanor D'Arville; Mr. George Mitchell is in the dual part of Geoffrey and Cyril Langdon; Miss Marie Clavering is first-class as Mrs. Vimbart; and Mr. Fred Somerfield as Will Maynard is a powerful help to the cast. Much amusement is caused by Mr. T. G. Vane as Leonard Vimbart. Mr. Harold Crosby and Mr. Charles Stirling also deserve praise.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Miss Kate Carney is the principal star this week, and is well received in her coster entertainment; the Borghettis are a fine troupe of acrobats; Mr. Frank Coyle is a topical vocalist who always pleases; Hettie Lee is a capital dancer; the Neros are two skilful acrobats; the Casino Girls give a good musical show; Keir and Kenyon are tuneful vocalists; and Raymond's Biograph remains in favour.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Local playgoers are enjoying an unusually fine treat here this week, provided by the Moody-Manners Opera company. On Monday night Carmen was the attraction, with Miss Rosina Beynon in the title-rôle and Mr. Charles Carter as Don José. Both artists are the happy possessors of fine voices, which they use with artistic effect. Mrs. Arthur Rousby won praise as Michaela and Mr. Marshall Vincent was particularly good as Escamillo. *Tannhäuser* was played on Tuesday with Mr. Albert Bowyer in the title-rôle. *Faust*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Bohemian Girl* have also been played during the week. Mr. Harrison Frewin is the capable musical director.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are paying another visit here this week. *Othello*, *Virginius*, *Richard III.*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Jeanie Deans*, and *The Octoroon* comprise the programme.

PALACE. — General-Manager, Mr. G. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The company here includes Starr and Leslie, comedians; the Llewlyns, operatic artists; T. W. Barrett, comedian; Marba and Verita, acrobatic dancers; Rita and Roma, vaudeville entertainers; Gracie Bard, coon artist; Fred Percy, negro impersonator; Max Merlin, contortionist; the Soldini Trio, carpet spinners; and Violet Carlyle, comedienne. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope enjoys a permanent home here, and its popularity is unquestionable.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—After an absence of some years, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, the American Indian actress, is here again in *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. In the title-rôle she gives a spirited and clever performance; Mr. C. W. Charles as Colonel Stockton submits a forcible performance; Mr. Edward Leroy does excellent work as Manuel Lopery; Mr. Ike Strawcross as Captain Franklin makes a good impression; and Mr. Theo Alker as Chief Ga-Ne-Gua is satisfactory; the Sam White of Mr. Guy and Hackney is humorous.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston. — A welcome return visit by Mr. William Greet's company with the charming musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, has this week drawn large audiences. Mr. Reginald Switz again appears as Jim Cheese, the dog-trainer, and is very humorous in his impersonation of the Earl of Stoke; Mr. Alex Fraser also plays his old part of Dick Wargrave, and his song, "My Cosy Corner Girl," gained a well-earned encore. Mr. Stanley Harrison is good as the Hon. Crewe Boodle, as also is Mr. H. B. Brandreth as A. Bunker Bliss; Mr. Frank Cane is smart as the American lawyer, Downham; Mr. Robert Rous is amusing as the English solicitor, Mr. Talk. Miss Mary Fraser charms everyone with her impersonation of Elphin Haye; Miss Florence Wix plays with artless humour the part of Liza Shoddam; Miss Maud Adams, Miss Maud Aston, and Miss Mary Morison again appear in their respective parts of Mrs. Shimmering Black, Daisy Fallowfield, and Miss Virginia Bliss.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A strong turn here is Tom Foy and the Ernestine Trio, in the funny absurdity, *Yorkshire Lad in London*. Other turns in a good programme are Fox and Melville, song illustrators; Miss Nancy St. John, comedienne and dancer; Loudoun Cameron, conjurer; Alix Lukos, character vocalist; Phillipi Bros., hand balancers and acrobats; Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas, in "Scenes from Dickens"; the Five Bon Bons, in their pantomime trap scene, *A Hot Time for One*; Miss Evelyn Taylor, comedienne; Charles Penrose, comedian; the Imperial Bioscope, and W. Selkirk's juvenile spectacle, *All Scotch*.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Wilson.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's high-class repertoire company opened here on Monday with *Hamlet*. Mr. Ian Maclaren gives a fine reading of the melancholy Prince; Miss Gertrude Gilbert's Ophelia is marked by graceful deportment and beauty of expression; Mr. Aubrey Mather gives a dignified rendering of Claudius; and Mr. Stanley Roberts is an excellent Horatio. Mr. Rathmel Wilson, as the Ghost, delivers his lines with fitting solemnity. On Tuesday *David Garrick* was presented, on Wednesday *Romeo and Juliet*, on Thursday *The Corsican Brothers*, and on Friday *The Merchant of Venice*.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Mother Goose* continues her merry course here with undiminished success, although the end is in sight. On Wednesday Mr. Hart gave a special pantomime floral matinée for the benefit of the local charities, and turns were presented by Miss Katie May, Carlton, the card manipulator, Roze and Calvert, Miss Hilda Jacobson, from the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and G. H. Elliott, "the chocolate-coloured coon."

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The second edition of Mr. Laidler's merry pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, has proved an unqualified success, and the run promises to turn out a record, for the audiences are as large and appreciative as ever.

THE EMPIRE (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Those clever instrumentalists and funny comedians, the Bros. Leslie, with their eccentric and drastic "cure for lockjaw," head the programme here, and elicit great applause; the Sisters Chester are an attractive trio, and their dance with banjo accompaniment is excellent; the "Novelty Showmen," the Two Bostons, are as humorous as ever in their burlesque feats of strength; Tom Edwards, with his wonderful little figure "the Paper Boy," gives a delightful ventriloquial sketch; on a pole fixed to the high trapeze, Frobel and Ruge do some clever work; the Two St. Johns with xylophone, handbells, and dancing are entertaining; an excellent vocal entertainment is submitted by "The Serenaders," a quartette of masked singers; in her pretty scena *Cinderella*, Edie King dances charmingly; the Tups are a pair of smart and eccentric acrobats, and the whirling comedians, the Four Ramlos, perform on the triple bars cleverly.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Hackenschmidt is a big attraction; Charles Ray is humorous; a marvellous exhibition of rope spinning is given by Miss Cordite, who is assisted by Wild Buffalo; in a humorous style Billy Williams submits songs which please the audience greatly; quaintness and novelty mark the acrobatic work of Keen and Waller; in her singing and dancing, Gertie Moore is humorous; the Paolias do some clever feats of strength gracefully; Bayne and Hope act with power and skill *An Emperor's Divorce*; and there are some fine films shown by Raymond's Bio-tableau. A matinée performance was given on Monday in aid of the Bradford charities.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week with *Public Opinion*. Mr. George Giddens gives a clever and humorous portrayal of Horace Wibsey, and Miss Emma Hutchison makes a charming Lady Diana Caldershaw. Mr. William Hargreaves submits a delightful impersonation of the Hon. Mr. Justice Mulley; Mr. Ernest Ruston plays well as the peppery Spencer Traughton; Mr. George Mallett is capitally suited as Sir Babington Mulley; Mr. Harold West as Viscount Pefley and Mr. Templer Powell as Lord Percy Kilgour are amusing; Miss Lilian Hallows is a graceful and pleasing Pansy Bligh; and Miss Mary Mallalieu is an attractive Phyllis Dagenham. *Public Opinion* is preceded by *The Strategem*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* entered upon its last week here on Monday. On Tuesday evening the performance was set apart for the benefit of Miss May Mars (Robinson Crusoe), who was presented with a handsome handkerchief case worked by Mrs. Ernest Carpenter. The presentation was made on behalf of Mr. Carpenter by his daughter, Miss Marjorie Carpenter. Yesterday evening (Friday) the popular comedians, Mr. Walter Kooney (Will Atkins) and Mr. Harry Karr (Dick Deadeye) took their benefit.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. The pantomime *Aladdin* is performed by an excellent company under the direction of Mr. Dan Thomas, especial praise being due to Miss Nellie Lewis (Aladdin), Mr. Dan Thomas (Widow Twankey), Miss Sadie Seymour (Princess), and Mr. Ernest Cass (Emperor). The Lyons Trio, pantomimists and dancers, submit a good turn; the Ferraris dance themselves into great favour; the Ten Dixie Girls are delightful in their scena *The Silver Coon*; J. C. Morris, comedian, is heard in his latest successes; Dot Hardy is a charming comedienne; and the Alhambrascope pictures are very attractive.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is an excellent company here this week. Under the direction of Ethel Arden and Geo. Abel, Ltd., the realistic nautical sketch *The Little Stowaway* is given with marked success, Miss Eva Lumley as the Little Stowaway, Mr. J. K. Walton as Captain Worley, and Mr. Leonard Russell as the Boatswain being especially effective. Florrie Forde, burlesque actress, wins hearty applause for her songs; Alma Grey is a charming comedienne and clever dancer; the Passports, American dancing duo, are well received; Kit Green, coloured comedian, is very successful with his cake-walk dances and bone solos; the Athlones, Sandow's lecture models, are excellent in classical poses; the Bros. Martine are grotesque acrobats, one being a very smart somersault performer; Dorothy Gould is a pleasing comedienne; the Sisters Redfern are premier banjoists, vocalists, and banjo dancers; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company opened here on Monday with *Sapho*. Miss Ada Abbott gave an artistic impersonation of Sapho; Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's Jean Gaussin was a clever character study; Mr. Douglas C. Phelps made a humorous Uncle Cesaire; Miss Marjorie Tennant was effective as Madame Hettema; and able support was given by Mr. W. H. Garbois, Mr. C. Douglas, Mr. John Lester, Miss Sybil Leslie, Miss Louise Gilmore, and Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown. In the Soirée scene Mr. Edward Keene submitted his musical and humorous specialities. The programme for the week also included *Trilby*.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. J. Sallmayer.—Beauté, the fasting man, opened his three weeks' engagement here last Saturday, and proves attractive. The afternoon and evening cinematograph entertainments are excellent.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Macready Chute.—The last four weeks of *Mother Goose* are announced. The pantomime could have run much longer, but fixed engagements for the spring season preclude this. Popular opinion proclaims *Mother Goose* to be the best pantomime produced here for many years.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—The popularity of *Goody Two Shoes* has not waned, but touring companies, booked far ahead, necessitate the announcement of its last two weeks.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Six Brothers Luck head the programme with their amusing sketch *The Demon of the Cellar*. Jennie Johns, soubrette, presents a pleasing turn; Millie Payne, comedienne, has a quaint make-up and style, and her songs go well; George Penn, comedian and raconteur, does an excellent turn; Annie Laurie, comedienne and dancer, is pleasing; Wat Tyler has a good character vocal scena in *The Poacher's Son*; Frances Lyric is a capable vocalist and dancer; Little Queenie May, a juvenile vocalist and dancer, is clever, and she obtains much applause; Sidney Dolf, described as a vocal trickster, is appreciated; Lowenwirth Brothers, Hebrew comedians, are capable in their line; and the Hartbert O'Rellys are exceptionally smart in their equilibristic act. The performance concludes with a capital display of animated pictures.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Original Caledonian Boys' Orchestra heads the bill. The boys play remarkably well and some of them display considerable vocal ability. Lee and Kingston (Haidee and Wallace) amuse with their comic sketch *Practical Joking*. Susie and Protti are exceptionally graceful and expert speciality dancers; the Two Wiltons (Harry and Lucy) please as duettists and dancers; Zeta Grey and company have a good sketch, *The Lancashire Lass*, the lady being a very pleasing vocalist; the Kents amuse with their musical comedy absurdity; George French, comedian, has some good songs; McAskell, comic talking conjuror, obtains applause; and the performance concludes with a fine set of animated pictures, "The Hen with the Golden Eggs," projected by Vernon's Bioscope.

BROMLEY. — LYRIC THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. A. Carlton; Manager, Mr. H. Strong.—The latter part of last week Mr. Cecil Clayton's company in *Dick Whittington* played a successful three nights' engagement. The attraction for this week has been Mr. J. A. Thompson's company in the pantomime *Aladdin*, which is certainly the best entertainment that has visited here for some considerable time. Miss Beatrice Varley is an attractive Aladdin, winning all hearts by her singing and dancing; Miss Louie Rooney is a captivating Princess Badroulbadour, and acts with grace and refinement; Pekoe and Nicey are played by the Sisters Isabelle with a dash and go that are irresistible; Mr. Albert Williams as the Widow Twankey is most mirth-provoking, and a quaint and original impersonation of Abanazar is provided by Mr. Chas. Wood, who also introduces his "Twenty faces under one hat"; Mr. Will L'Argan and Ernest Douri as the Vizier and Chin Chin are the cause of incessant laughter, and an eccentric Emperor is that of Mr. Will Dale, who adds materially to the hilarity. Miss Nora Harris and Miss Gertrude Ward, as the Geni of the Lamp and Ring, are nightly encored for their artistic rendering of the songs allotted to them. Amongst the specialities introduced, special mention must be made of Abex, a youth of nineteen, who gives an exhibition of weight-lifting by the aid of his teeth; Messrs. Dale and D'Argan, in their scena *La Café Magique*, and the Verona Geisha Girls for some clever dancing.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. John Gerant's company opened on Monday in the military drama *At Duty's Call*. Harold Hallison, the evil genius, is well played by Mr. John Gerant. Mr. Ernest St. John makes up well as General Gordon. Miss Georgina Hamilton cleverly sustains the slave Sale. Mr. Frank V. Fenn as Captain George Allison, and Miss Marlo Menzies as Dora Drummond are very successful as the hero and heroine. Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry O'Hallaron, Mr. Gwyn Richardson as Jack Spencer, Mr. Ivan Mavis as Joey Trot, and Miss Harlington as Mary cause endless amusement.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's company in *Cinderella* is the attraction here this week. Miss Mamie Iris is a charming and pretty Cinderella; Miss Daisy Morrell as Prince Perfect finds a good number of admirers; and Miss Madge Allen is captivating as Dandini. Mr. Will Letters causes continuous laughter by his drolleries as Buttons, and is ably seconded by Messrs. Harris and Worth, whose smart patter is very acceptable. Mr. Charles Russell is good as the Baron, and Messrs. Worman and Keene are funny as the Ugly Sisters.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culcen; General-Manager, Mr. Jas. E. Culcen.—The fare here this week is Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company in the drama *Her One Great Sin*. Mr. J. Leicester Jackson gives a careful embodiment of Arnold Thornhill; Mr. Sam Arthurs scores as Reuben Warhurst; and Mr. Fred Hodson submits a humorous representation of Jerry Jumble. Miss Phyllis Damien does justice to the part of Bet Hindle, and Miss Blanche St. Albans pleases by her clever acting as Grace Warhurst.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Marzella and Millay, who perform some clever tricks on the horizontal bar, also create roars of laughter with their burlesque wrestling. Miss Frederica's performing terriers are a most acceptable and diverting turn, and Primavesi is an exceptionally clever juggler. Grant and Grant in *A Georgia Flirtation* are much appreciated; Du Calion is smart on the balancing ladder; Lilian Rigby is a pleasing comedienne; Harry Martell, vocalist and dancer, is good; and Sadie Simpson, comedienne, finds much favour.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—*The Hands of Sin*, which is played by Arthur Whittaker and Gifford Stacey's company is the attraction here this week. Mr. Cyril W. Mackay as Captain Bruce Glenister plays with marked dramatic skill; Mr. Elliott Ball (Stephen) invests his villainy with much realism; the Irish doctor is cleverly played by Mr. Arthur Willerby; Mr. Clive Ross is a decided success as the General; a crisp comedy sketch of the amateur lady detective is given by Miss Lilyan Lait, an artist of exceptional merit; Miss Daisy Snowdon as Sylvia plays with quiet simplicity and pathos; and Mr. E. H. Dobell (Kumar) and Miss Ethyle Murray (Zephan) depict with graphic power the vindictive Hindoo brother and sister.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*The Cingalee* is being played here this week by Mr. George Dance's company. Miss Winnie O'Connor is a charming Manoya; Miss Gladys Guy is a capital Peggy, and is deservedly encored for her excellent acting with Champhuddy, a part played by Mr. Lauri de Frece, who is, no doubt, in the first class of comedians; Miss Marjorie Clarke sings well as Lady Patricia; as Vereker, Mr. Frank Crump is very good, his songs being thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Bertrand Gates is well placed as Boobhamba.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling. A good entertainment is provided here this week. Donaldson Bros. and Ardel are good in a novel sketch, entitled *A Zoological Comedy*; the Westwoods, cyclists; the Great Vincent, acrobat; Alice Maude, a clever male impersonator; Madame Angeline, a juggler; Nora Emerald, comedienne and dancer; and Charles Harvey, humorist, are all good artists.

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadheads; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—The Marconis, electric wonders; Harris N. Bell and Lily Pearl, in a sketch, *A Bit of String*; Penstone and Tsavi-Ugo, mystifiers; the Ringling Trio, comedy dancers; Harry Bent, impersonator; Edna, whistling girl; Carlotta Lunn, comedienne; and Ara, Zebra, and Vora, in a novelty, entitled *Indian Pastimes*.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—ATHENÆUM HALL.—Manager, Mr. E. Arnold Crack.—Mr. George Dance's company was here the first two nights of the week with *The Cingalee*. Mr. A. Wortley Drewitt plays Harry Vereker in masterly style; Mr. H. Webb is fully equal to the correct portrayal of the arrogant Boobhamba; Mr. E. Edwards is a frank and manly Bobby Warren; Mr. Eric Fenton is well suited as the irascible Sir Peter Loftus; and the antics of Chambuddy Ram, as depicted by Mr. Tom Payne, prove irresistibly funny. Miss E. Harmer as Nanoya acts delightfully and sings charmingly; Miss E. Hughes as Peggy Sabine scores heavily, her clever dancing, especially in the "Gollywog" duet, fairly bringing down the house; Miss Nellie Field is a charming Lady Patricia Vereker; Miss Phyllis Herbert makes a saucy Naitsoma; and Miss Maud Guy, as Angy Loftus, is responsible for some graceful dancing.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company appeared here on Monday in *Oliver Twist*. The play to a very large extent is dominated by the personality of Fagin, and a most remarkable impersonation was given by Mr. Stanley Drewitt. The devilish old Jew was most realistic. Another excellent character was that of Bill Sikes by Mr. William H. Kimble, his appearance and acting being quite in unison with the part. Miss Edith Anton Laing entirely enlisted the sympathies of the audience as Nancy; Mr. Brownlow was well played by Mr. Fred Penley; the dual characters of Mr. Grimwig and Monks were cleverly represented by Mr. W. H. Rotherham; Miss Dorothy Marsam was well fitted as Oliver Twist; while Mr. Charles Clark as The Artful Dodger, Mr. Reginald C. Hunter as Charlie Bates, Mr. Cyril Cattley as Harry Maylie, Mrs. Dorothea Black as Mrs. Maylie, and Miss Alice Maud as Rose Maylie were all most satisfactory.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Robert Redford.—During the first part of this week the Royal was occupied by Cardiff amateurs, in performances of *The Mikado*. On Thursday and Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company appeared in *Dick Hope*, *The Housekeeper*, and *The Ironmaster*.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—*The Great Awakening* is the drama here this week, capably presented by Miss Maud Hildyard's company. The trying part of Lola Selby is interpreted by Miss Maud Hildyard in a manner that reflects much credit upon her; Mr. Charles Fancourt does well as the heroic Captain Lambert; Mr. Charles Vivian in the character of James Selby presents a capital piece of work; Mr. Bernard Copping in a dual rôle does credit to the trust placed in him; and Mr. Julian Hartleigh leaves very little to be desired in his performance of Guy Rogan. A particularly attractive heroine is found in Miss Nina Blake Adams. Comedy is exceptionally well represented by Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worts and Mr. Willy Scott as Billy Brass.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Chung Ling Soo is the attraction here, and, with his marvellous conjuring performance, proves a great draw; Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, with their clever singing and dancing, are just as attractive as ever; the Dumond Minstrels are an amusing trio, with delightful comic minstrelsy; Terry and Lambert excel in the creation of humorous characters; and the Edgar Forrest Combination prove very diverting in a smart sketch. Gymnastic performances are given by the Mariano Sisters, the Boxton Trio, and the O'Learys, all marked by skill and dexterity. The bioscope completes the programme.

CARLISLE.—TOWN THEATRE.—Lessees, the Trustees of R. S. McKim; Manager, W. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—*The Babes in the Wood*, a really smart pantomime, brimful of fun from beginning to end, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Peter Thompson, who is responsible for the production, has brought an excellent company, and the scenery, dresses, and general effect are pleasing. Miss Maude Beaumont impersonated Robin Hood with abundant spirit, and sang effectively. As principal girl Miss Molly Haskett is quite a success, her delightful rendering of "My little wooden hut" was one of the hits of the evening. The Misses Renee Graham and Daisy Noel were sprightly Babes, who soon sang and danced their way into favour. Miss Rose Walmsley was a charming Polly Primrose, and was very graceful and clever as *première danseuse*. The eccentric humour of Mr. Fred Danvers as the Dame caused roars of laughter. Mr. J. Templar Ellis is a Baron very much above the ordinary, his burlesque business is throughout distinctly clever and amusing. The Danbys contribute a knockabout performance of much merit. The specialities include N. T. Kioto, the daring Japanese equilibrist; the Yankee Quartet of dancers; and Miss Nellie Graham, a graceful dancer.

ALGIE HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—Barris and Ford, who head the list here, arouse enthusiasm with the novelty of their act; Jean Privery's Royal Six meet with a flattering reception; Helm and Cozens cause much laughter with their duologue; Vasey and Ramsey are a pair of smart dancers; Gilbert's dogs and cats are an intelligent lot of animals; Fred Horsfall scores a success with his mimicry; T. W. Johnson, the dusky dandy, is much appreciated; and the Hippodrome pictures complete the bill.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Playgoers here have again an opportunity of witnessing *The Still Alarm*, as played by Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville, Fred Osmond, and company. As Jack Bird, Mr. Cecil du Gue gives an able performance; Jack Manley is carefully played by Mr. M. H. Glenville; as Elinore Fordham, Miss Maud Warburton, with her graceful style and finished acting, is seen to advantage; Mr. Tom Beasley gives a capital reading of Willie Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond's portrayal of Doctor Wilber is a decidedly clever one; Miss Eva Reed dances well, and causes much amusement as Carie Wilber; the rôle of Mrs. Manley is undertaken in a creditable manner by Miss Mabel Veriton; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman is seen to advantage as Franklyn Fordham.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr. Charles Frohman is presenting *Leah Kleschna* for the first time at this house. In a cast of all-round excellence the following are deserving of special mention: Mr. Robert Pateman as Kleschna, Miss Haidee Wright in the title-rôle, and Mr. J. Graeme Campbell as Paul Sylvaine. The play is staged with Mr. Frohman's customary completeness.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.

responsible for Lord Anchester and Lord Grassmere; Miss Nancy Rossiter as Marjory Joy is repeatedly encored for her songs; Miss Maisie Gay leaves nothing to be desired as Nan; Miss Daisy Davis makes an imposing Princess Melanah; Miss Addie Leonard is entrusted successfully as Madame Sophie.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, T. M. Sylvester.—The company here includes Mr. Tom Lloyd, a favourite comedian; Dale and O'Malley, who give a comedy sketch, some of their songs being much appreciated; and Judd, Rudd, and Budd, who appear in a military absurdity; Will Musgrove is successful as a comedian; Cline and Clark (black and white/ are appreciated, their dancing being clever; Miss Venie Clements is a successful comedienne; Miss Lottie Bray gives some capital songs and dances. The usual animated pictures conclude the programme.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Herbert Barrs' company is here with *Cinderella*, a pantomime well written and well put on. Miss Evelyn Dene takes the title-rôle in a charming manner; Miss Lallah Davies makes a capital Prince, with several excellent songs; Mr. Carl Fredericks is in fine form as the Baron; and the two Sisters, Flossie and Araminta, are ably impersonated by Messrs. Billy Jackson and Herbert Grapho, who also give a good character-sketch *The Waiter*. Buttons is well hit off by Mr. Alf Middowson, and Messrs. Duncan and Morton are very funny as Cop'em and Grab'em.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—This week, Mr. Harry Yorke's company presents the interesting and popular play *Sherlock Holmes*. The part of the great detective is portrayed with exceptional ability and cleverness by Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton; Mr. Edward Heanley is an effective Dr. Watson; and Mr. W. F. Stirling as the villainous Professor Moriarty is excellent. Mr. Ernest Gray is quite capable as the unscrupulous villain, James Larrabee; Mr Philip Renouf is good as Sidney Prince; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood as John Forman is well placed; and Master Charles Chaplin as the boy Billy is worthy of note. Mr. Henry Littlejohn as Sir Edward Leighton, Mr. Sidney Chaplin as Count von Stahlburg, Mr. Walter Maynard as Alfred Bassick, and Mr. William Mansfield as Jim Cragin acquit themselves creditably. Miss Beatrice Marsdene is charming as Alice Faulkner, and makes the most of the part; Miss Gertrude Harrison is a powerful Madge Larrabee, and proves a capable assistant to her husband in his villainous schemes; Miss Doris Digby as Terese, Miss Armine Grace as Mrs. Faulkner, and Miss Constance Howard as Mrs. Smeedly are all satisfactory.

CROOK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Davidson. — An Anglo-American drama, entitled *None but the Brave*, played by Miss A. F. Hermann's company, opened here on Monday night. As Lal Ray Mr. Stanley Bedwell is a manly hero, and Miss Amy F. Hermann submits a dainty representation of the character of April Showers. Mr. H. Evelyn's Captain Frank Forrester is smart, and as Zeke Whittier Mr. Geo. Herbert is admirable. Miss Francesca Strickland is a lively Nellie. As Vampas Mr. C. E. Sutton deserves special mention.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Most enjoyable is the visit here this week of Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company in *Peggy Machree*. Miss Claudia Lasell is a tasteful and charming Lady Maragret O'Driscoll; Miss Doris Kelvey makes an aristocratic Madame de la Cour; Miss Madge Avery is quite satisfactory as Moira Caffety; Miss Dorothy Garden is a graceful Hon. Emily Pryor; Miss Marion Cecil is praiseworthy as Aline, and Miss Blanche Astley captivates all with her spirited rendering of Molly. Mr. Leslie Stiles is seen and heard to advantage in the rôle of Barry Trevor; Mr. Ralph Lynn is righly placed as Sir Lawrence Borthwick; Mr. Marc Macdermott acts well as Captain de la Cour; Mr. Milroy Cooper is highly appreciated as Alexander McDougall; Mr. Dan Fitzgerald's Michael is a quaint personage; Mr. John Morley sings creditably as Sergeant Rampton, and Mr. J. Heribert Willis completes the caste as Lawyer Keene. Special mention must be made of the pretty dresses, admirable chorus, and fresh scenery.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Miss Nettie Ware and Mr. Millar Anderson's company is drawing good houses with *When Woman Hates*. Mr. Charles Herbrante scores in the rôle of General Sir Henry Rokeby; Mr. Jerrold Heather is effective as Lieutenant Fred Rokeby; Mr. George Stone makes the most of the part of Godfrey Lawton; Mr. Frank Litchfield is a diverting Patrick O'Brien; Mr. Herbert Charles is consistent as Colonel Hiram K. Vancusto; and Mr. Charles H. Hughes is funny as Alphonso Picolet. Miss Violet Crauford gives a womanly rendering of Marie Rokeby; Miss Dorothy Lupone is clever as Nellie Rokeby; Miss Gladys Lloyd is first-rate as Edith Rokeby; Miss Emily Custance shows ability as Mrs. Sally Potto; Miss Helen Richmond is good as Miss Sally Potto, and Miss Mabel Mannering acts with force as Cora Daintry.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company in *Sergeant Brue* is playing to packed houses. The dresses and staging are excellent. Mr. Paddy Duprey in the rôle of the Sergeant is exhilarating; Mr. Charles McLagen gives a clever rendering of Crookie Scrubbs; Mr. Percy Rogers is a capital Michael Brue; Mr. Henry Chichester as the Magistrate causes much merriment; Miss Midge Clark in the part of Lady Bickenhall is very captivating, and Miss Lilian Middleton's Aurora Brue is a graceful portrayal.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Dick Whittington* has achieved a great success here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Bessie Willow is seen to advantage; Miss Maggie Summerson is a charming Alice, and her numerous songs are tastefully rendered; Miss F. Hilton as Sir Algernon is a decided success as a male impersonator. The funny element is the great feature of the show, Baron Fitzwarren (Mr. Charles Dillon), Idle Jack (Mr. Will Summerson), and Messrs. Clifton and Gibson all contributing largely to the success. The Saxon Trio of dancers are very good, and Messrs. Curtis and Vanity in their great cake walk scena deserve special mention.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—A hearty welcome is being accorded Mr. George Dance's principal company, in *Veronique*. Mr. Ellis Holland, as Coquenard, is funny, and keeps the house in a ripple of merriment all through; Mr. Ivan Berlyn is exceptionally good as Mons. Loustot, the Baron, and contributes substantially to the genuine comedy of the piece by his delightfully humorous presentation. In the name part, Miss Rita Leonhardt plays charmingly, and sings very acceptably; as Florestan, Mr. Roland Bottomley is highly successful; Miss Florence Lee is admirable as Agatha (Madame Coquenard), and Miss Florence Aylwin, as Emerance, Countess de Champ d'Azur, is to be warmly commended; Mr. Tom Shelford, as Seraphim, a groom, is in every way praiseworthy. The part of Denise is daintily filled by Miss Neste Laurel; and Miss Pattie O'Hanlon satisfactorily sustains that of the deaf aunt. The orchestra, which is augmented for the occasion, and is under the direction of Mr. Leonard Leslie, adds largely to the success of the performance.

PALACE.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—Lillie Langtry is the principal attraction here this week. Her songs are all smartly rendered, and her reception on Monday night was very cordial. The Sisters Russell figure to advantage in refined burlesque and low comedy, and are very amusing; Les de Breans submit an interesting Japanese entertainment, and conclude with some funny shadowgraphy; F. S. Hulme is a successful actor-vocalist; Stanley and Vandyke cause much merriment in their comedy creations; Venton Swift, the Piccadilly coon and dancer, is entertaining; Harry Phydora is a clever comedian; and the Palace Bioscope is responsible for several interesting films.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Ascuith.—Mr. Chas. Frohman presents here this week that successful drama, *Leah Kleschna*, the visit being enormously successful. In the rôle of Kleschna Mr. George Ingleton is a decided success; Mr. Langhorne Burton as Paul Sylvaine gives a capital enunciation; as Schram Mr. Cyril Rawdon is very good; and Mr. Pat Newall as Raoul Berton can hard'y be improved upon. Miss Pearla Gardner's Leah is above the ordinary.

HIPPODROME AND VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Weldon.—The Arthur Saxon Trio, champion athletes, again make a great hit with their astounding feats of strength. Another turn which is endowed with much cleverness is supplied by Rappo and Ella, acrobats and equilibrists; Billy Richardson is a king of stump orators; and Onda and Artell, trapeze performers, have a smart act. Other turns are Herbert Lodge, silleur; Maud Clifton, comedienne; Percy Johnson, patter comedian; Hugh McCusker, Irish comedian; and the Harriscope, with an extended show of films.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Once more Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is here in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Miss Dorothy Desmonde is now playing the title-rôle, and a very bright, and engaging little Dorothy she makes; Miss Nellie Harcourt's smart and clever dancing, as Judith, has won her a host of admirers; Miss Mabel Blake and Miss Nellie Anderson give some graceful acrobatic dances; Ruth Montrose has a capable exponent in Miss Norah Caronne; Captain George Fielding is effective in the keeping of Mr. Cecil W. Parke; Mr. Henry C. Ward plays the heavy rôle with conspicuous success; Mr. Frank Howard, a clever comedian gets much fun out of the part of Featherstone Haugh; and Smith, the footman, is played in an amusing way by Mr. W. George Hearson. Mr. Arthur Verne scores in the rôle of Silas Crump; Hawkins is an excellent character study as played by Mr. Alf. Stretton; and the conventional part of General Garston is neatly acted by Mr. Walter Boyce.

THE EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Empire Palace Company; Manager, Mr. P. G. Wraith; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield.—A capital bill is submitted here this week. Mahatma's séances have attracted large numbers; Sylvino, the man of strength, gives on interesting and skilful turn; Fred Wright, comedian, sings comic songs in a happy manner; Maud Garlard has scored a big success with "Good-bye, my lady love"; and Harry Talbot gives a smart top-boot dance; the Seebolds, musical experts, make their performance most attractive; and Miss Nellie Gertine, the lady baritone, and Miss Nellie Navette, also contribute.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here this week with a delightful comic opera, *The Little Michus*. Mr. Eric Thorne represents General Des Ifs, a part which suits him admirably. As the Little Michus, the Misses Iris Hoey and Mabel Green both give a charming and graceful portrayal, and their singing is greatly admired. Mr. Arthur Royd gives an excellent rendering of Gaston Rigand, and Mr. Eardley Turner and Miss Eardley Turner and Miss Elsie Cameron as Pierre Michu and Mme. Michu represent their parts in clever style. In the rôle of Mme. Du Tertre, Miss Deborah Volar is most effective, and as the servant to the General, Mr. Jack Cannot gives a clever and amusing impersonation. Mr. Leonard Mackey acts and sings in capital style, as Aristide Vert, and Miss Ivy Louise as Mme. St. Cyr contributes several graceful dances with marked success.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Mr. William Greet's company is here with *The Earl and the Girl*. The rôle of Elphin Hayes is played in a charming manner by Miss Aimee Grey, and Mr. William Stephens causes much laughter by his impersonation of Jim Cheese. Mr. Percy Carr acts the part of Dick Wargrave successfully, and Miss Florence Imeson is graceful and refined as Daisy Fallowfield. Mr. George H. Curzon is acceptable as A. Bunker Bliss, and Miss Dot Carey acquits herself well as Liza Shoddam. The Hon. Crew Boodle has an able exponent in Mr. Vernon Davidson, and Miss Gladys Fontaine is capital as Mrs. Shimmering Black. The parts of Dudley Cranbourne, George Bellamy, and Hugh Wallender are well played by Messrs. Fred Hill, F. R. Lidington, and J. Hamilton, and the Misses Mabel Melba, Violet Vaughan, and Elsie Reamer are excellent as Lady Gussie, Lady Gwendoline, and Lady Muriel.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—The Osmond Tearle Shakespearean company opened here on Monday night, when *Othello* was played. Mr. Ernest Lodge gave an admirable portrayal of Othello, and Miss Lilian Herries displayed ability in the rôle of Desdemona. As Iago, Mr. Cyril Grier was all that could be desired, and Mr. George Tearle was creditable as Cassio. Roderigo was played in a capital manner by Mr. George T. Greig, and Miss Fanny Chamberlain was effective as Emila. Montano and Brabantio were well sustained by Messrs. Wilson Gunning and R. Seath Innes, and Mr. Edwin Beverley was good as Gratiana. The following are billed for remainder of the week: *Hamlet*, *The Lady of Lyons*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *David Garrick*, and *Richard the Third*.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Marsh.—The Riogoku Japanese Family in their daring and sensational act hold the premier position here this week. Geoffrey and Benson's comedy sketch, *Spoofed*, causes much laughter, and Dan Conroy is an up-to-date comedian. Edouin and Edwards, in *A Bachelor's Dream*, are warmly received, and Marie Neilson is a vivacious comedienne and dancer. The gymnastic act of the Rhoda Brothers meets with approval, and Dave McNeil, comedian, scores. The Empire Pictures are up to the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The chief item here this week is supplied by Bonnie Goodwin and her Apollo-Piccaninies, who meet with a good reception. The Dayton Family of risley acrobats merit applause, and W. H. Morgan, comedian, renders some acceptable songs. The Brothers Dean, American dancing team, make a decided hit, and Nancy Renshaw is a good coon vocalist and soloist. The Brothers Zampah, one-legged jumpers, are well appreciated, and other turns are Henri Bekker, conjurer, Dan Robans, comedian, the Two Jansons, gymnasts, and the Bioscope.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley. — Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is giving *A Royal Divorce* this week, with Mr. Fredk. Moyes in the principal rôle of Napoleon, a part to which he does full justice. He is ably seconded by Miss Lilian Dundas, whose pathetic and artistic rendering of Josephine secures well-merited applause. Mr. H. Gray Dolby satisfactorily fills the part of the Minister Talleyrand; Miss Muriel Thompson performs gracefully as Marie Louise; and a pleasing character is that of Stephanie, by Miss Gertrude Entwhistle.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson.—The programme this week includes Martine and Son, song illustrators and comedians; Miss Marcelle Eirl, in a song scena, *Moon Dreams*; Francisco, a clever equilibrist; Will Cornish, with the American silver chimes; May Moodie, who gives some clever piccolo solos; and Johnny Dwyer, comedian. The Empire pictures are a popular item.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—The Dundee Operatic Society have staged here this week *The Grand Duchess*. Mr. Edwin Bryan has successfully stage-managed the production.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Lillie Lassah, a pleasing comedienne and graceful dancer gets a flattering reception here. A clever tumbling act is given by Haig and Novel; Chevalier Cliquot returns with his sword swallowing act; Johnny Holland and Co. are big favourites here, their sketch, *My Friend the Boots*, never seems stale; Lambert and Glover produce an entertaining little sketch; and Lade Henderson proves himself to be a cultured vocalist. The Mozondos produce a comedy act, the lady dances neatly, and her partner is a clever barrel jumper; Victor Travers, in his burlesque coon song, proves himself to be a comedian of much resource; Nina Carlton is a fine vocalist; and the programme concludes with an excellent exhibition of pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Mr. Jack Cromo's company is here in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Miss Edna Cragge makes a handsome Principal Boy, and her vocal efforts are well received; Miss Amy Randolph, as Princess Beauty, sings effectively, and dances neatly; Miss Flo. Melvillle makes a pleasing appearance as Lord Lacklands; Mr. Jack Cromo a quaint Royal Nurse, and Mr. Charles Bayman is cast for the part of King Half-a-quid; Messrs Carl and Carr score a big success in their speciality; the Four Sydney Girls contribute several effective dances, which create unbounded enthusiasm.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—*The Rich and Poor of London*, a drama of intense interest is located here this week, and played by a powerful company under the direction of Mr. Sydney Dench. Miss Dora Dench makes a very creditable appearance in the part of May Braithwaite; Miss Ethel Denville exhibits much power in her assumption of the Heiress of Ravenswood; Miss Ethel Conda looks and acts well as the flower girl; Mr. Sydney Dench gives a telling, powerful interpretation of the character of Spider Jack.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mrs. Bandmann Palmer and company are appearing here in a round of standard and popular plays. On Monday evening *Mary Queen of Scots* was staged. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's performance as Queen Mary is too well known to need comment. Miss Catherine Herbert shows distinct power as Queen Elizabeth, and Miss More Dunphie is a satisfactory Hannah. Mr. Montague Lane possesses a fine appearance and is a capital Earl of Leicester; Mr. Matthew Boulton is a pleasing Sir Edward Mortimer; and Mr. Sydney Bland gives a strong and impressive performance as Lord Burleigh.

THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—At the top of the bill here is Miss Daisy James, one of the foremost favourites who visit here. Her capital songs are sung in excellent style, and the audience is unwilling to let her depart from the stage. Mlle. Yetta has one of the daintiest and prettiest wire acts; Spry and Monti sing and dance well; Mr. Jimmy Shields is a smart one-legged clog dancer; Mr. Cliff Harley is a successful comedian with electrical helps; Vere and Royal sing and dance in an able manner; the Maitland Comedy Trio amuse in a sketch; and Miss Mabel Carlton, a refined and pleasing comedian, and Mr. Will English also entertain.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Responsible - Managers, Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Wood.—There is no company visiting these parts that is more welcome than Miss Ada Wallis's. On the first three nights of the week *Sweet Marie* was presented, and proved one of the brightest attractions. The cast is particularly strong and clever. Mr. Tom Robertson, as John Bush, and Mr. Victor Silverine, as Alf. Bush, head the list; Mr. Harry Vernon, a popular favourite and a comedian of particular merit, made an ideal Tom Bush; and Miss Ada Wallis was particularly prominent as Marie Denver (sweet Marie). *The Major* concluded the week.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—The long and prosperous season of *The Forty Thieves* pantomime has reached its last week, and the concluding performance takes place this evening. The general excellence of the company engaged in the production, to success of which the book, the music, and the scenery have duly contributed, has been unchallenged; but no one among the principal performers has achieved more well-merited popularity than Mr. Tom E. Murray, in the part of Ali Baba. A matinée and the evening performance yesterday were set apart for this clever comedian's benefit, when special attractions found place in the bill, including the appearance of Mr. Harry Lauder, and crowds of Mr. Murray's admirers testified in most cordial fashion their appreciation of the beneficiaire. The usual packed houses have marked the final week of the pantomime, bringing the run of the piece to a triumphant and brilliant close. It is gratifying to be able to state that as a result of the Ali Baba sports, held in Edinburgh last week, for the getting up of which Mr. Tom E. Murray was largely responsible, a sum of £250 has been divided in equal shares among five of the local hospitals. Every one connected with the theatres and other places of entertainment in the neighbourhood assisted in this charitable work, and to all thanks are due.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company began a six nights' engagement here last Monday in *Mr. Hopkinson*. Mr. R. C. Carton's clever farce was beautifully placed upon the stage, and the ladies' dresses were remarkable for their elegance. The company is exceptionally strong, and the play received an extremely happy rendering. In the name part Mr. Edward Rigby has full scope for his genuine comedy powers, and he acted throughout with an admirable sense of humour which was particularly telling. Mr. Charles Esdale gave a capital sketch as the elderly Duke of Braceborough, and Mr. Cecil Burt was a decided success as the Earl of Addleton. Mr. Edward Vaughan's assumption of the character of the shady Lord Gawthorpe was marked by distinct ability. Mr. George Desmond was a vivacious Hon. Otho Dursingham; and in the secondary parts of Mr. Smethurst, Parbury, and Blisset, Mr. Harold Johnson, Mr. Oliver Rogers, and Mr. J. G. Lowther did well. Miss Blanka Stuart played the character of the Duchess of Braceborough with distinct individuality and great skill. The actress possesses in a high degree the charm of personal attractions of face and figure, and her impersonation stood out as one of the best in the representation of the piece. Miss Helen Russell was a graceful Lady Tyra Eggleby, and Miss Frances Davie evoked the hearty recognition of the audience by her vivid and clever portrait of Eliza Dibbs. The farce was preceded by the playlet *The Impossible Trio*, which was chiefly notable for the introduction of a violin solo, played with much refinement and intelligence by Miss Evelyn Tyser.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Following closely on the heels of *Aladdin*, comes another pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, presented by Mr. John Henry Savile. This production met with unqualified success in other towns, and it promises to equal its best records during a short season in Edinburgh. There is no lack of smartness in Mr. Fred Locke's cleverly-written book; good songs and happy local allusions are plentiful, and the fun is well maintained by a number of excellent comedians. Included among the latter are Mr. Dan O'Connor, Mr. George Hestor, Mr. Willie Garvey, Mr. Arthur Ferris, and Mr. Peter D. Bermingham. The leading ladies are well fitted with their respective rôles. Miss Ethel Wilson as the Prince, and Miss Marie Adair as the Princess greatly please the audience. Miss Alma Evelyne is the Queen, and Miss Kitty Jones, Miss Florence Lister, Miss Ettie Cinders, and Miss Annie Wright are quite satisfactory in the parts of Benevolentia, Furiana, Ladida, and Pipetti. Chorus and dancing troupes have evidently been carefully trained; scenery and stage-setting are effective, and pretty costumes lend their aid to spectacular display.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—Mr. Fred Storey and company head the bill with their elaborate production of *Rip Van Winkle*, which is effectively performed and very cordially received. The comedy musicians, Seeley and West, give a clever turn much to the liking of their audience, and O'Gust, the well-known imitator of the sounds of animals and "other descriptions," is greeted as an old friend. Songs, "In Dreamland," and "The Home of My Heart," finely sung by Miss Gracie Moore, and exceedingly well illustrated by Mr. John Hassal's pictures, are very pleasing items. Mr. Bert Woodward's cycle feats reveal an extraordinary command over his machine, indicating the expert artist; a very neat acrobatic performance "on the bars," is provided by Mezetti and Mora; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, with their mule, are an amazing quartet; and the Three Missouris, Miss Florrie St. Clair, Mr. James Fawn, and Mr. T. G. Callaghan all contribute successfully to an enjoyable and well-varied programme.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—That *The Sign of the Cross* has lost none of its popularity was abundantly evidenced by the crowded houses which have been attracted to witness its performance here this week by Mr. William Greet's No. 1 Co. Mr. William F. Grant portrays Marcus Superbus with forceful dignity; Mercia is depicted with delicacy and charm by Miss Marie Leonhard; Nero receives commendable treatment at the hands of Mr. J. Boyd Pearson, and Mr. Charles Aldred and Mr. J. Wetherall are well placed as Tigellinus and Licinius respectively. Glabrio is cleverly played by Mr. Frank Wood. Mr. Walter Fleet is an impressive Favius, and Servillus and Strabo are admirably sustained by Messrs. H. Thurston and Bernard Russell. Miss Nellie Bonser creditably assumes the part of Poppœa. Miss Alma Bolton is admirably suited as Berenice. Miss Cissie Carlton is well placed as Dacia, and Stephanus is acted with expression and feeling by Miss Ivy Millais.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This has been a week of musical comedy at the Grand. The first three nights *The Girl from Kay's* kept the audiences in great good humour. The company was Mr. George Dance's, and everyone did exceptionally well. In the title-rôle Miss Lily Edmonds was a complete success. The other leading members were Miss Marie Greenhouse, Miss May Wiltshire, Miss Irene Vere, Mr. J. W. Hooper, Mr. Fred Thompson, Mr. Herbert Franklyn, Mr. Claude Dampier. *The Dandy Doctor* (Mr. Edward Marris's company) opened a three nights' engagement on Thursday.

FLEETWOOD. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—Messrs. Stillwell and Fenlon's company is here this week with *The Branded Woman*. Mr. Jas. Stillwell gives an excellent account of himself in the dual rôle of Philip Maurice and Zooka; Mr. Edward Fryer supplies a powerful rendering of the part of Leon Baron Hauber; and Mr. Paul E. Toulin is highly successful as Louis Duroc; as Dick Brown Mr. Beckett Bould being very amusing. As Genevieve Lazouche, the Branded Woman, Miss Zona St. George acts with much force and skill; Miss Katherine Barnet is a sympathetic Marie; Miss May Townsend is well placed as Rudolph; and Miss Edith Wilde is a vivacious Jacqueline.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company, in *The Duffer*, occupies the boards this week. Mr. E. H. Wynne, in his portrayal of the title-rôle, is delightfully humorous; Mr. F. Pennington-Gush gives a telling impersonation of Charles Chester; Mr. Whitford Kane acts with force and feeling as Paul Martin; Miss Margaret Montrose is thoroughly efficient as Lady Amelia; Miss Mabel Taylor is most winning and impressive as Niobe; Miss Florence Adale as Phyllis Wade is seen to advantage; and Miss Nelly Griffen causes amusement as Miss Bide.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robt. Kirk.—Last week we had a return visit of Mr. Laurence Brough's company in *A Lady of Ostend* and *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally*. In the former piece Mr. Brough again appeared with great success as the Frenchman; Mr. Henry Hampson was amusing as Dick, and he was well supported by Mr. Percy Marshall as Mr. Carbury. Miss Dorcas Crosbie gave her admirable representation of the mother-in-law; Miss Moya Creegan and Miss Evelyn Ormonde were charming as Dorothy and Grace; Mr. Harold M. Mahay gave a clever character-sketch of the prize fighter, and the same remark may be applied to Miss Daisy Cook as the mysterious lady of Ostend. On Monday Mr. George Dance's company appeared in *The Orchid*, and opened to a crowded house. Mr. Colin Campbell as Meakin kept the fun going. The Hon. Guy Scrymgeour in the hands of Mr. Ion Maxwell, was excellent; Lady Violet and Josephine had charming representatives in Miss Constance Hamilton and Miss Maud Jay. Mr. R. Corray was a capital Mr. Chesterton, and Caroline was well played by Miss Madeline Maude. The company is under the management of Mr. Bert Ralland.

GATESHEAD.—METROPOLE THEATRE, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company is appearing here in *Proof*. Mr. F. H. De Quincey gives a skilful impersonation of Pierre Lorance; Mr. William Dexter cleverly delineates the Count De Laval; Mr. Wilford Bailey proves highly diverting as Chamboran; Mr. Terrence Nerrey does full justice to the part of Duke D'Aubeterre; Miss Ellina Turner deserves special mention for her clever portrayal of the child Adrienne; as the elder Adrienne Miss Lucy Prittie-Tydd is successful; Miss May Grimshaw gives a powerful and impressive rendering of the rôle of Valentine; Misses Phena Powell, Dorothy White, and Ellen Morris play their parts well.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Honour thy Father* is the attraction here. Mr. J. W. Evelyn depicts with great force the part of Gabriel Garth; Mr. Claverng Craig presents a careful study of Duncan Bly; Mr. Douglas B. Watson makes a manly Jack Hallyard; Ned Pennycomquick is a very amusing part in the capable hands of Mr. W. H. Melrose; another comedy part, that of Mike Copplestone, receives full justice at the hands of Mr. Walter M. Cameron; Miss Mabel Coleman, as Lilian Garth, makes the most of her opportunities; Miss Maude Scott is well placed as Mercy Merry; Mrs. Clavering Craig does well as Mrs. Garth; and Miss Lizzie Morley is amusing as Poppie Cornleigh.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Monti and Co.; Lessee, Mr. D. S. Cooper; General-Manager, Mr. Roy Cochrane.—Mr. Frank Ayrton's company in *The Power of Gold* are here this week. Mr. Charles Whitlock impersonates Hadji Zambra in admirable style; Mr. Tom Ronald renders the part of Paul Jutson in a praiseworthy manner; Mr. Albert Sefton is worthy of notice as Mark Harley; Dr. Stephen Saunders is ably undertaken by Mr. William Pimm; Miss Lilla Wilde proves herself a clever actress, and submits a finished performance as Lady Brandon; Miss Georgine V. France gives a capable exposition of Meg Jutson; Mr. Frank Ayrton (Sammy Smudge) and Miss Madge Seymour (Nora Donnelly) find plenty of scope for their excellent humour, and also contribute songs and dances.

GLASGOW. — KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Musical comedy is far from being worked out in the provinces, to judge by the large and enthusiastic audiences welcoming *The Spring Chicken*, Mr. George Edwardes's latest production here. The play is mounted and dressed with lavish expense, and the company presenting it includes many extremely clever artists. Mr. George Gregory is most amusing as Girdle, and keeps the fun going merrily all the time. As his watchful spouse, Miss Irene Verona has a part in which she fairly revels, and her songs "I can guess" and "Regent Street" went well. Their lively offspring, Emmy-Lou and Stephen-Henry were cleverly played by Miss Nellie Lonnen and Mr. Nelson Keys. Miss Gertrude Glyn, who had a part in the original production, now plays Rosalie and looks charming in her various dresses, either as a country maiden or after she has "come along to Paris for a change." Mr. L. W. Harris as Babori, the advocate on whom the spring exercises such a rejuvenating influence, acts, sings, and dances with unfailing humour and go, and his appearance as the "immortal bard" is a clever make-up, while the various characters from popular plays introduced during the bard's song were also cleverly impersonated and immediately recognised, that of Marie Studholme being specially happy. Miss Gertrude Gilliam as the Baroness Papouche is well suited and looks charming, her husband the Baron (Mr. Frank Hector) being by way of contrast made as hideous as possible. Miss Rita Everard acts with much effect as Babori's young wife, and secured a hearty recall for her song "Le vrai amour." Miss Jenny McNulty and Miss Beatrice Dunbar made a striking couple of clients of the advocate; Mr. Edgar Ronalds was well placed as the romantic clerk, Boniface; and Mr. C. D. Cleveland made an amusing head waiter at "The Crimson Butterfly." The chorus are attractive and sing well, and the dresses are a revelation in design and colouring.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Simple Simon* has had a successful run here, but the last twelve nights are now announced, and on Monday Miss Esta Stella, the popular principal girl, took her benefit, when she had the assistance of a number of artists from the other theatres and halls in the city, and in addition extra items were contributed by various members of the pantomime company.

GRAND, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—*The Prodigal Son* is still running here, and appreciative audiences are gathering nightly to see passing before them the scenery and incidents of Palestine and Egypt as in the times of the Pharaohs.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—*Her Wedding Day*, the attraction here this week, is presented by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. A powerful delineation of Madge Conway is given by Miss Maud E. Ward; Harold Saxby is well represented by Mr. Percy Brown; Mr. S. Herbert Humber as Weedon Kenyon makes a typical villain; Mr. T. Edward Ward gives a capital impersonation of Seth Mayson, and Mr. Fred Yarnold is very good as Caccles. Miss Beatrice Sinclair does good work as Dolly Kirk: Miss Eva Bertram cleverly presents the character of Dora; and Gordon P. Jessop and Sam Klink are parts efficiently interpreted by Mr. Norris Maud and Mr. James Barrett.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Playgoers in the Govan district have a bright and cheerful entertainment this week in Mr. Eade Montefiore's fine pantomime *The Babes and Robin Hood*. The book is by Mr. Fred Locke and Mr. E. T. de Banzie is responsible for the music, while some of the principals of the company are already well and favourably known at this house, notably Miss Lulu Evans, who makes a charming Maid Marian, and Mr. William Rokeby, whose Sheriff is an excellent bit of burlesque acting. The part of Robin Hood is taken by Miss Sophie Hariss, and in voice and appearance this lady makes a capital hero, other smart and shapely "boys" being seen in the Will Scarlet of Miss Clara Stanton, and the Alan-a-Dale of Miss Edyth Boodall. In Dame Cobble Mr. J. T. Macmillan has a Scotch part in which he excels; Mr. F. S. Gilbert appears as King Richard and sings several ballads in cultivated style. As the Babes Misses Renee Lancaster and Maisie Rawlings sing and dance tastefully; the Ruffians are played by the Brothers Lorenzi, who work with great success in keeping up the fun, in which they are assisted by Misses Rose and Lillie Phillips; and Mr. Tim Ryley does well as the Beadle, another popular feature being the singing and dancing of the four Sisters Tree.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Miss Charles Mussett.—The Uessems are the principal attraction here this week; Spessardy's troupe of bears and ponies are amusing; Sinclair and Parr in their sketch *Keeping an Appointment* proved themselves to be capable artists; Arthur Sutcliffe, fresh from pantomime, is well received; and other notable turns are Gittis and their dog, in a domestic incident; Arthur Melrose, whistling comedian; Irving Jones, "the little black man"; Bijou Russell, now in her second week; and Rajah Rham Singh and company in a pleasant operetta entitled *The Belle of India*.

ZOO-HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. B

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—A return visit of Mr. Wentworth Croke's company with *The Christian* is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. Frank Tennant is an excellent exponent of John Storm; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe ably fills the rôle of Father Lamplugh; Mr. Charles E. Dering is well suited as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is all that can be desired as Lord Ure; Mr. Jackson Wilcox in the part of Horatio Drake is convincing; and Mr. Bert Conway does well as the "Faro" King. A capable representative of Lorimer is found in Mr. Oswald Marshall, and Miss Grace Chalmers is an attractive Glory Quayle.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Horace Wheatley, Irish comedian and dancer, heads the bill here, and gives a humorous turn; A. P. Boswell, chair and table performer, is clever; Frank A. Wood, vocalist, is applauded; Vay's Juveniles, a clever lot, are well received; J. H. Allis is a smart dancer; Otta and Olga, comedy artists, are entertaining; and an amusing sketch entitled *The Blind Spinster* is well played by Fred Lloyd and company.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—The second pantomime of the season, Mr. James Kiddie's *Aladdin*, has proved a very entertaining show. It is handsomely staged, the scenery without exception being beautifully designed, whilst the dresses are as pretty as they are varied. Miss Marie Beresford is the principal boy, and has won entire approval, whilst Miss Cecilia Gold, as the Princess, is no less popular. Miss Lena Page, in the character of the Fairy, proves an accomplished vocalist; Mr. Arthur Aiston leads the fun, his burlesque conception of Abanazar being very laughable, whilst others who successfully share in the comedy are Mr. W. G. Wesley, as Widow Twankey; Mr. D. J. McCarthy, as the Emperor; Mr. Jack Waller, as Wun-Lung; Mr. Joe Bell, as Wishee Washee; and the Kelsos, who introduce a good deal of knockabout comedy, as the policemen. Special mention must be made of Miss Emmie Milsted, whose impersonation of the dusky maid, Saucee, is one of the features of the pantomime.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Miss Mabel Thorne's songs have quite caught the approbation of the Palace audiences this week, and her winsome style has greatly added to the attractiveness of her turn; Anthony has proved a magician of a decidedly original character, and the cinematographic introduction to his performance is a decidedly novel idea. *The Fight in the Forge*, a sketch, is dramatically represented by C. Wordley Hulse and Co.; George Prince, a favourite comedian here, has quite maintained his reputation; smart acrobatic work has been accomplished by the Max Trevally Troupe, who have an extensive repertoire of feats; whilst other contributing to the programme have been Sterling and Love, expert instrumentalists; Drum and Major, clever baton manipulators; Wallace Whitney, comedian; and Beattie Foster, comedienne.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—Smart work on the horizontal bars, combined with comedy, has been presented by Toch and Tard, and they also introduced a funny wrestling burlesque; Miss Florence Yayman has displayed new ideas in the way of coon singing, and her dancing has also been appreciated; A. J. Rebler, besides being a clever juggler, is one of the drollest comedians imaginable, and his quaint antics have provoked roars of laughter; the troupe of parrots, cockatoos, &c., introduced by the Sisters Judge have given a very entertaining exhibition, and are remarkably well trained. Other turns have been given by Henri Cazman, who is an excellent mimic; Curre, who introduces a performing dog; and Charles Sloman, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Cake-walk competitions have been the attraction here this week. There was a large entry, and some capital contests were seen. There were also singing competitions, which also proved popular. Varieties were given by Violi, instrumentalist, and Atroy, juggler.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Lucky Durham* is here this week under the direction of Messrs. Armitage and Leigh. Mr. Edmund Kennedy delights by his rendering of John Durham, Mr. Arthur Leigh is well adapted for the devil-may-care part of Reggie, Mr. Benson North gives a careful study of Lord Mountfallon, and Mr. A. E. Walker assumes the part of Mr. Valerton cleverly. Miss Louise Gourlay is a lovable Mother, and Miss Florence Dulhuntly is delightfully natural as Lord Mountfallon's daughter.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's excellent company opened here on Monday with *The Span of Life*. Mr. Sanderson Moffat sustains the rôle of Richard Blunt cleverly, Mr. R. S. Trelawney plays well as Dunstan Leach, Mr. Walter Dale and Miss Kitty Russell are responsible for some good comedy, and the Stebbing Bros. form the "Human Bridge," an incident which brings down the house.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—The Halifax Amateur Operatic Society occupies the boards here this week with *Dorothy*, which is being submitted for the benefit of local charities.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. George Dance's company is here with *Lady Madcap*. Miss Vera Vere admirably acts the part of Lady Betty Clarridge; Trooper Smith is cleverly portrayed by Mr. H. V. Surrey; Mr. Alix Chentrens is much applauded for his vocal items; Mr. Bay Russell is successful in his part; and Mr. Frank Payne is amusing. Mr. Lyall Grant as Colonel Layton contributes a good representation; Miss Kathleen Ronayne is seen to advantage as Gwenny Holden; Miss Peggie Primrose and Miss C. Johnstone capably fill the respective parts of Susan and Mrs. Layton. Messrs. F. C. Leister (Major Blatherswaite), Robert Cranny (Captain Harrington), E. Whitelock (Lieutenant Somerset), Louis du Cane (Lord Framlingham), Vincent Erne (Corporal Ham), Ralph Holland (Palmer), are all worthy exponents of their allotted parts.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The premier position in this week's programme is held by George Gray and company, in the sketch, viz., *The Fighting Parson*; Chas. Matthews, the human kangaroo, contributes an extraordinary jumping exhibition; Renson and Waite are always sure of a hearty reception; Ida Ross sings her songs in a telling style; Starr and Jerome are admirable sand dancers; Joe Archer is funny in his patter songs; the Biograph shows the launching of the Dreadnought.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; General Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Chant and Chant in comedy duologue are responsible for considerable mirth; Harry Lee, the man of many voices, provides good entertainment; Gracie Graham has a flattering reception; 'cello solos are well played by Martinengo; Juan and McQue are smart in patter and song, and the Charles Majiltons comedians remain for another week. Some good pictures on the Bioscope are very popular.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened here on Monday in the amusing comedy *On the Love Path*. Mr. Percy Hutchison as Arthur F. A. Taunton very cleverly sustained the part, Mr. George Mudie gave a capital presentment of the diplomatic and scheming John Gripleigh, Mr. Frank Elliott was quietly effective as Gerald Marvel, the bluffing scoundrel Denbigh Thrayle was well impersonated by Mr. T. W. Rawson, and Mr. Frank Hill was amusingly droll as Peter Concannon. Mr. S. Irwin Barrett was effective as William. A charming impersonation of Charity Concannon was made by Miss Lilias Earle, Miss Margaret Marshall was a vivacious Mary Concannon, and the Norah Concannon of Miss Hilda Honiss was pleasingly unaffected. The one-act farce *His Landaldy* preceded, and had a spirited interpretation by Messrs. Frank Elliott, George Mudie, and the Misses Hilda Honiss and Margaret Marshall.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—Mr. Charles Jackson, a clever legmania comedian, opens an interesting programme here; the Delmars, speciality artists, are well received; the juvenile Brothers Gilbert are skilful tight-rope dancers; the comicalities of Mr. Fred Dice are very amusing; the Sisters Charnley are attractive dancers; a laughable vocal comedy is introduced by the Sivronis; Mr. Charles Austin is a truly eccentric comedian; Mack Ollive and Daisy Baldry are smart in their whistling scena; and Miss Amy Allnutt also contributed. The new films are an interesting feature of the bill.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Messrs. Webb and Benge's company is occupying the boards here this week in the military drama entitled *The Two Hussars*. Miss M. D. Smith cleverly takes the part of Ellen Maythorne, and later assumes that of a young hussar; Mr. W. Benge comes out well both as a civilian and in his military uniform; the repugnant character of Lane Villiers is well embodied by Mr. F. J. Webb; the comic element is admirably represented by Messrs. Paradise, L. Nanton, and Miss L. Price.

HEBBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—Mr Eade Montefiore is presenting his successful pantomime *Cinderella* here this week. Miss Georgina Leonard plays the part of Prince Peerless with admirable dash; Miss Nellie Merton, in the title-rôle, gives a neat and dainty impersonation; Baron Hardup is rendered by Mr. Fred Lincoln with considerable tact, while the ugly sisters (Jawrinda and Clawrinda) are in the capable hands of Messrs. Arthur Byron and Geo. Antley respectively; Miss Adele Lincoln gracefully fills the part of Dandini; Miss Vera Schlesinger makes a charming Fairy Godmother; and Mr. Geo. Traverner does full justice to the Demon King. Miss Lizzie Lumsden is effective as Pansy; Miss Irana Lee scores as Sir Elder Park; Pert is made the most of by Miss Daisy Norman; and Miss Florence Wooley is well placed as Bluebell. Much amusement is created by Messrs. Conan and Doyle, comedians; Morrice Holmes submits some very clever whistling; while some smart dancing is contributed by the Four Fiori Del Montes.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Provincial Theatres Co.; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Neville; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke; Secretary, Mr. Chas. E. Bradley.—Last week's English historical play, *A Queen's Vengeance*, was followed this week by the French romantic play, *The Throne of Terror*. Mr. William J. Miller's company presented this very striking episode in the career of Robespierre, and the play was followed with intense interest by a good audience on Monday. Mr. Miller gives a powerful rendering of Robespierre, whose varied moods are very faithfully depicted; Mr. Roy Milton in Captain Eugene de Lisle has a part to which he does full justice; Mr. A. W. Thompson's rendering of the Comte de Roquefort is very artistic; and Mr. Bert Ellis plays Joujou in a humorous manner. Miss Katherine M. Davies's portrayal of Marguerite de Roquefort immediately secures the sympathy of the audience; Miss Augusta Tullock's Victorine D'Almonte is a finished performance; and Miss Russell depicts Peppietta, the barmaid, in good style.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—A smart performance of *The Earl and the Girl* is being given by Mr. Wm. Greet's company. Although there is room for improvement in the singing by some of the principals, no exception can be taken to the acting, which is distinctly clever. As Jim Cheese Mr. Alfred Donohoe causes much mirth, Mr. Leslie Gaze is fairly satisfactory as Wargrave, Mr. Thomas Kennard is very happy in his impersonation of the vivacious Crewe Boodle. Miss Hylda Dugdale is an attractive Elphin Haye, Miss Lina Hicks has caught the correct spirit of uneducated assertiveness as Liza Shoddam, Miss Ida Stratham is a piquant Daisy, and Miss Beatrice Anderson is simply overwhelming as Mrs. Shimmering Black.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company are here this week with *The Lady of Ostend*, which is preceded each evening by a striking Irish romance, *At the Risin' of the Moon*. Mr. Brough as the Baron de Longueville is entirely successful; Miss Moyra Creegan is well suited in the rôle of Dorothy Whortles; Miss Dorcas Corsbie as Mrs. Carbury makes a typical mother-in-law; Mr. Percy Marshall gives a creditable rendering of Joseph Carbury; and Mr. Henry Hampson's performance as Dick Whortles is decidedly clever. Mr. Harold M. McNay is responsible for an amusing scene as Toby Krockitt; and the remaining parts are all in good hands. *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was to be given on Friday evening.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. George Edwardes's talented company, including Miss Marie Studholme, is this week presenting *Lady Madcap* to crowded houses. As Lady Betty, Miss Marie Studholme's unbounded vivacity, winning smile, and captivating personality have already established her a great favourite; Miss Nina Severning is handsome and charming as Gwennie Holden; Miss Mabel Russell makes a pretty and graceful Susan; Mr. J. Robert Hale contributes a skilful performance as Stony Stratford; Mr. Ernest Maher as the Count de St. Hubert is seen and heard to much advantage; Mr. Arthur Longley gives a clever conception of Oroya Brown; and Mr. E. Statham Staples as Corporal Ham also creates much merriment. Mr. Oliver J. Round does well in the part of Posh Jenkins.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mortons, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—At this theatre, Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company is presenting *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery, who impersonates Napoleon, depicts the character in an impressive manner; in the villainous rôle of Colonel Lavarennes, Mr. Henry Earlesmere displays considerable power; and Mr. Phil Harper shows ability as Colonel Jules Menron. Mr. E. Bulmer Pitt is prominent by a creditable portrayal of Paul Laczinska; and Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Pierre is also deserving of praise. Miss Leslie Warner plays well as Marie Walewska; and Miss Maud Russell makes a natural and pleasing heroine.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The drama entitled *The Power and the Glory* is the attraction here this week. A very cordial welcome is extended to Miss Flo Florence, as Linda, a blind child. Mr. A. Fitzmaurice as Harry Goodluck is responsible for a pleasing performance, and Miss Mary Lovett as Lizzie Medwin is an artist of unmistakable culture. Mr. Reginald Fox as Harold Hatree presents a capital study. Miss Fanny Olive (Lady Gwendoline Dyce Morris) and Mr. Douglas Hutchins (Johnny Dyce Morris) play their respective parts in good style. Messrs. Jack Bigwood and Henry Gilpin, as Tommy Jinks and Jacob Hardbake, and the Misses Lizzie Lennon and M. Le Ray, as Mar Goodluck and Bessie Goodluck, add to the gaiety of the evening with their comedy. Miss Bessie Alma herself as Kate Goodluck, and Mr. Arthur Rodney as Ferdinand Crayle, play the villainous parts in an effective manner. The cast also includes Messrs. C. F. Johnson, H. Woodhouse, W. J. Gould, and C. Chatterstone, who are all equally praiseworthy.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Vesper, at the head of the programme, gives his excellent mimicry show; Mozzetto exhibits much earnestness as a juggler; Rex Carvell is an artistic and novel ventriloquist; Alma Dora is an effective serio and dancer; Bob Pearson as a comedy humorist is well to the front; Lily Pender sings with much charm; and the singing of Miss Ada Maud is one of the features of the evening.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. L. C. Jennings.—Mr. Alfred Sutro's play *The Walls of Jericho* has paid a return visit here under the direction of Messrs. Sylvanus Dauncey and M. V. Dauncey. As Jack Frobisher Mr. Edward Warburton is excellent, and Miss Amy Ravenscroft shows both talent and grace in the part of Lady Alethea Frobisher. Hankey Bannister has a capable representative in Mr. Alfred S. Barber, and the part of the Marquis receives justice at the hands of Mr. Cecil Brooking. Mr. W. H. Tyrer is a capable Harry Pallas, and others of assistance to the cast are Messrs. Joseph Herbert, Wilfrid S. Lane, and W. Brisco Owen, and Miss Nora Wynne and Miss Helen Haye.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Heading the bill of fare here are the Manard Team of British Rifle Experts. Sydney Lee accomplishes some neat juggling, and Marguerite Ismay and her piccaninnies introduce effective eccentric dancing and singing. Barton and Ashley cause much merriment in a humorous sketch, and Bessie Travis, described as the female Valentine Vox, pleases the audience greatly. Other turns include Frank Cass (comedian), Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payte (vocalists), and Gertie Gitana, who contributes a dramatic sketch.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. G. Jefferson.—Mr. F. Marriott Watson's company is here this week with the powerful drama, entitled *A False Wife*. Mr. G. Langham gives a good account of the part of Sir Colin Mansfield; Mr. W. Howard Barlow is a manly Lieutenant George Mansfield; Mr. Elton Morgan is quite at home as Ben Rattler; Mr. Owen Edwin is very droll as Archibald Brown Tee, the village constable; Miss Florence E. Florence gives a powerful rendering of the title-rôle, and is ably assisted by Mr. F. Strickland as Jean Beraud; Miss Ellen Armor submits a charming embodiment of Agnes Weyland; Miss Nita Imeson scores as Bessie Blazen.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Lessee, Mr. L. F. Sanderson; Manager, Mr. J. H. Wallace.—This place is again open, and the following artists are in the bill:—Clarke's Nippers, in a speciality act; the Sisters Brownie, duettists and dancers; the Cedrics, comedy equilibrists; Charles Valvo, ventriloquist; Elton and Elma, in a triple bar act; Dan Noble, comedian; Read and Wright, vocalists and dancers; Marie Yorke, burlesque artist; and the Four Albanos, in a musical speciality.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendal; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Kendal.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie presents an excellent pantomime this week, entitled, *Bo-Peep*. Miss Susie Beavan as Boy Blue gives a good account of herself; Miss Lizzie Payne is a charming Bo-Peep, singing and dancing well; Mr. J. W. Groves heads the comedians, and is very funny as the Dame; the Wicked Baron is admirably played by Mr. Dawson Derwick; Mr. Harry Wren is distinctly comical as Tommy Long; Stern and Stern are very successful; and Gilroy and Gross dance well.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The attraction this week is Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company in the pantomime of *Cinderella*. The company is principally juveniles, and the production is highly satisfactory. Miss Kitty Rafferty is an ideal Cinderella, Miss McQueen appears to good advantage as the Prince, Miss Kitty Chester is a charming Fairy Godmother, and Miss Florrie Parkinson is excellent as Flirty Flirt. The comic element is very strong, including Mr. Joe English as Buttons, Mr. Ally Benson as the Baron, Messrs. Dougherty and Swinhoe as the Ugly Sisters, and Miss Hilda Deacon as the Baroness. They work hard, and their efforts are most enthusiastically received. The minor characters are well played, and the scenery and effects are all that can be desired.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hales.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne is presenting *The Orphan Heiress* here this week. Mr. Henry Willis gives a fine rendering of Lord Ainsley, and the part of his confidential clerk, Douglas Kingston, is well filled by Mr Charles Boult; Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle is good as Laurence Gordon, while Mr. Walter Fergus makes a typical Richard Craven; Miss Rosalie Heath appears to advantage in the title-rôle, and Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is effective as Lady Ainsley.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—On Monday, *The Dandy Doctor* opened before a large and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Edmond Russell exhibited much talent as the ambitious millionaire, and was largely responsible for the continuous laughter which prevailed; Mr. James Danvers was equally competent and humorous, and gave a spirited reading of the colonel; Mr. Stanley S. Gordon was a successful Arthur Vandyke; and, as Bertie Bolingbroke, Mr. L. Martin was sound and effective. Miss May Yates was a winsome and attractive Miss Pendred; and Miss Nora Melton was exceptionally clever and amusing as the much-abused servant. *The Girl from Kay's* is the attraction for the latter half of the week.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—Pantomime is again with us This time it is Messrs. Leraine and Clayton's company, in *The Babes in the Wood*, which has been well patronised. Miss Jessie Lindsay makes a dashing Robin Hood, and sings nicely; Miss Lizzie Levaine does well as Maid Marion; and the Babes, Lilly Belle and Madge Bingham, are exceedingly good. Will Thorne and Eddie Clay make the most of Flip and Flop; whilst Mr. Alf. Vulo appears with success as the nurse. Specialities are introduced by Mr. Percy Victor's dog orchestra; Mons. Vulo, chapeaugraphist; the Valmores, sand dancers; Bernard and Fravelli; and the Ruby Quartette of lady dancers.

PALACE.—Lessees and Manager, Messrs. W. J. Ferguson and John Porter.—The programme arranged here is well up to the standard. At the head are Sanford and Lyons, in a clever turn; the Vekeys, banjoists; Mephisto, in a bending act; Don Harradean, comedienne; Raie Walters, in a fishing act; Billy Burns, singing collier; and Tatten Hall, comedian, all add to the success of the entertainment; whilst Walter Payne's pictures cause much merriment.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—This week Mr. Arthur Gibbons is presenting the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*, which is played by a powerful company. Miss Jane Lawton, Miss Nina Terri, and Miss Ruby Lester achieved considerable success as principal boy, principal girl, and principal dancer respectively, and plenty of irresponsible fun was provided by Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Dame Marjory, Mr. Charles Honey as Barren Badenough, and Mr. T. J. Banks as Johnny Stout. Specialities were introduced by the Three French Idols, acrobatic dancers; the Swift Trio, trick cyclists, and Mr. Charles Deignton, ventriloquist.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—The pantomime *Babes in the Wood*—which, under the care of energetic and enterprising Mr. Cadman, has enjoyed such a brilliant run—has to come off this week, notwithstanding a continuance of crowded houses and demonstrative appreciations. A bumper benefit performance to the popular principal boy, Miss Hilda Jacobsen, has been a feature, and a charity matinée on Thursday under the patronage of the Lord Mayor of the city and a distinguished audience was a brilliant success.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*Jack and Jill* bids fair to establish a record run at the Royal. Mr. Bob Selvidge, whose fine work as the Baron has been such a feature, has enjoyed a hugely successful benefit night, when a most attractive programme was got through in addition to the pantomime. Mr. Harry Conlin has developed his part of Dame with conspicuous success. The ladies are all charming, Miss Marguerite Broadfoote being an especial favourite as principal boy.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—*The Lights o' London* is the attraction here, and a fine presentation by Mr. Herbert Hollister's company is proving very popular. Mr. Hollister's duties as stage manager do not prevent him giving an effective portrayal of Seth Preene, the innkeeper. Mr. Arthur Cornell does good work as Harold Armytage; Squire Armytage is faithfully represented by Mr. Herbert Morgan; Mr. Riddell Robinson has a part well suited to his abilities as the nephew, Clifford; a winning performance of the heroine, Hetty Preene, is to be credited to Miss Eily O'Dempsey; Miss Emile Dawson undertakes with success the part of Mrs. Jarvis; whilst Miss Jeanie Burgoyne, Mr. W. E. Passmore, and Miss Gladys Murray also render able assistance in leading parts.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Mendel, the marvellous blind pianist, arouses the liveliest enthusiasm here by his clever performance at the piano; Ivan Tschernoff presents his trained horses, ponies, and hounds, and this proves an interesting and entertaining act; Virto and his accomplished daughters find a generous appreciation of their fine musical turn; Rauschle pleases all with clever impersonations of celebrities; the Urma Sisters give an excellent gymnastic display in the limited time at their disposal; a comedy duo, Cooke and Rothert, have clever and up-to-date business; Sybil St. Elms secures great appreciation for fine vocal renditions; Charles Vincent is very popular as an eccentric comedian; and the Knick-Knacks please with clever song and dance.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Managers, Mr. Charles Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—That clever little artist George Mozart is delighting full houses with his latest successes in the way of humorous song and business. Marie Santoi and her merry company of little Japs score well with an illuminated vocal scena; Diana Hope and company have an excellent dramatic sketch in *Her Good Name*, and do full justice to it; Musical Silvo is versatile in the use of instruments of music; Harry Lamore, the silent comedian, is quaintly amusing on the slack wire; Miniature Marie, as danseuse and Continental mimic, enjoys great favour; Estio and Lenigny present their performing canine in an eccentric act; whilst varied and entertaining turns are also submitted by Edney and Wade (vocalists and speciality dancers), the Donovans (vocal and comedy artists), Levarni (with feats on the tight wire), and Cherry Lass (comedienne and dancer).

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Another capital programme is in evidence at Mr. Wood's popular resort, the Six Ædians being specially prominent with fine vocal and comedy sketch. An exceedingly humorous comedian, Jack Pleasance, hits the mark with every song, and Matt Wilkinson and company are also entertaining in a comedy sketch. Hurman scores with a juggling show and display of hoop manipulation, and Marie Blythe is a charming vocalist. Feats of contortion by Frank Martino are interesting; the Three Sisters Geronde do a song and dance turn in clever fashion; and Charles Santon, double-voiced vocalist, is also in the programme.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton on Monday evening took over the control of this theatre with the intention of placing before their patrons the best procurable attractions on tour. They have installed as their general-manager, Mr. Henry Dundas, already well known to the Leicester public by frequent visits with his own companies. The grand staircase and front of the theatre is to be at once redecorated and carpeted, but the auditorium will not be finished till after the vacation. The opening attraction under the new régime on Monday evening was a return visit of *Charley's Aunt*, which was presented in excellent style. Mr. Stanley Cooke makes a conspicuous success with a portrayal causing the greatest merriment as the old lady; being exceedingly well seconded by Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesley, and Mr. Richard B. Mason as Charley Wykeham. As the college scout, Brassett, Mr. Sydney Compton is also to be complimented on a clever and humorous portrayal. Miss Ruth Suffield shines with an artistic and stately embodiment as Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez; Miss Marian Ripley as Kitty Verdun, Miss Dorothy Deacon as Amy Spettigue, and Miss Gladys Storey as Ella Delahay are also to be awarded praise for delightful impersonations. Mr. Walter Beaumont is very good as the solicitor, Stephen Spettigue; Mr. C. B. Keston is well placed as Colonel Sir Francis Chesney. Mr. Brandon Thomas's delightful little play, *Fouchette and Co.*, precedes, in which Miss Ruth Suffield as Isabel, Mr. C. B. Keston as Prince del Crillo, and Mr. Sydney Compton as Sergeant-Major Robert Fletcher score with portrayals of merit.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—This old and popular drama house was also brought under the direction of Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton on Monday evening. This theatre is the oldest place of entertainment in the town, having been built very many years ago, and has been visited by Edmund Kean and Macready, amongst other great stars. Mr. E. R. Beaumont, the new manager, has had an experience in the profession which should well adapt him for the duties he has undertaken, having for some years been producer and stage-manager for Mr. Milton Bode. Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company, under the direction of Mr. Sydney N. Hallows, formed the opening attraction, and presented the drama, *A Great Sensation*. A fine performance is given by Miss Beatrice Isaacson in the rôle of Eva Dale, a florist; Mr. Sydney N. Hallows is manly as Jack Damer; and as Henry Escombe, an adventurer, Mr. Roland Hope is capital. Miss Grace Baring is good as Sidonie; and Mr. J. H. Firman as Bunko Bates, and Mr. Alfred Richards as Robin Dale are well placed.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—At the head of this week's enjoyable programme is Victoria Monks, who is scoring a thoroughly well-deserved success. At the other end are Verno and Voyce, the popular singing comedians, who are repeating their usual success with their characteristic song scena. The Sisters Gasch are very smart in their admirable athletic display; Alburtus and Bartram stand out as remarkably clever club manipulators; the Wally-Hoste Trio give an enjoyable and clever comedy acrobatic and juggling act; the Picquays score with their skilful acrobatic feats; Ryan and Hall, acrobatic comedians, are very good; Leona Dare is seen to advantage in her novel trapeze act; Dion Wade, who has a quaint style, goes well. The American Bioscope is also showing a series of excellent films.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company have established a record in Leicester by a continuous engagement of five weeks, during which no less than nine different sketches have been presented. It is not too much to say that the company's success all along has been phenomenal. This week they are presenting the dramatic sketches, *The Demon Postillion* and *A Life Between*, in which Miss May Emery (Mrs. Fred Southern) is making her appearance. The other artists who also deserve high praise are Mr. Percy Emery, Miss Gipsy Alexander, Miss Florence Creagh, Mr. Charles Ashwell, and Mr. Fred Southern, an extremely popular comedian. Herbert Cecil, the 7ft. comedian, is most mirth-provoking and popular; Harry Luck is a very funny eccentric character comedian; Blanche Marion is an excellent burlesque actress and dancer; Nat Wilkins is aptly styled a peculiar comedian; Fip Gordon is a capital vocalist and smart dancer. An exaggerated report has been circulated with regard to a mishap to the cinématograph here on Monday. The facts are that a film ignited, but not one of the audience left the building, and the performance proceeded as usual. Both Mr. Lapworth, the manager, and Mr. Lawrence, the stage-manager, were prompt in assuring the audience that there was no danger, and the fire brigade arrived to at once return. The pictures were shown on Tuesday, and proved a popular feature of the programme.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Mr. Chas. Harrington's *Sailors of the King* company is occupying the boards here this week. Admiral Drake has an excellent exponent in Mr. Chas. Harrington, Mr. Harry Douglas gives a convincing assumption of Lieut. Dick Drake, Harris Wilkinstein has a capital representative in Mr. Fred Owen. Miss Sylvia Stella is distinctly successful as Felicia Phrynne, Daisy Dent is sympathetically portrayed by Miss Maud Tremayne, Miss Maud Digby is commendable as Rebecca Crosby, and Mr. F. Vernon Travers depicts the villain, Orrel Drake, in a powerful manner. The lighter element of the drama is capably portrayed by Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., as Barnet Fair, and Miss Hero Hathaway as Penelope Penn.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—The clowns, headed by Messrs. August and September with their comic sketches, still form the principal item in a goodly programme, and the equestrian and variety part still maintains its excellence. Mons. Massona, juggler, pleases the audience with his dexterity and smartness, Arthur and Ashby give a smart gymnastic performance, Cyr Armins is loudly applauded for his feats of strength, and other good turns are Mr. Ernest and Miss Carly in a two-horse act, the Itrams in a wonderful perch performance, Mr. Ernest and his wonderful troupe of performing dogs, and the Bros. Austin.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*The Swiss Express* has been many times in every part of almost every country in Europe, and it is not surprising to find the famous musical pantomimical comedy this week at the Leith play-house. Messrs. C. and F. Renad continue to keep the piece rolling successfully at express speed, and the fun is very much alive, having apparently renewed its youth in the matter of amusing an audience. Some good songs and dances help to carry the entertainment along, introducing an element of variety into the exciting scenes which depict the ceaseless tricks played upon the honeymooning quack doctor and his bride by their eccentric servants. A goodly company, including Mr. Herbert Lewis and Miss Jessica Ford, as the doctor and Virginia, support the Messrs. Renad, who work as indefatigably as ever in the droll parts of James and John.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—This week, Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is filling the bill and the house at the same time with a strong list of plays. The opening attraction was *The Taming of the Shrew*, and the comedy was an immense success, Mr. Henry Herbert striking just the right note as Petruchio, and Miss Dorothy Green being admirable as the termagant.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—This week's bill is one of the strongest Mr. Frank Macnaghten has presented for some time. Kitts and Windrum are admirable in that perfect little sketch *The Entr'acte*, and another capitally played interlude is entitled *Aunt Matilda*, by Frank Ellison and company. Spencer and Marks are comedians who likewise win a complete success, and by way of variety comes the broad fun of Rumbo Austin. The Sisters Wingrove are duettists and dancers of merit; Rose Elliott sings acceptably, and Edward E. Ford is funny. Miss May Moore Duprez's turn is entertaining.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—*The Beast and the Beauty* made its first appearance in Liverpool at this popular theatre, and has been well received. Mr. Fred D. Daviss was the "beast," Jack Barrymore, and played with effect; Miss Alice Bowes as the "beauty," Violet, handled her part with care, and won applause; Mr. Bernard Mervyn submitted a capital Henry Denver; as Delilah Vane Miss Georgette Thierry proved eminently satisfactory; Mr. Bernard J. Lieli held the rôle of the Earl of Loman; and much merriment was created by Mr. Will Corrie as Tom Chicken, the light-weight champion.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A capital turn for good business here is Dr. Walford Bodie, whose bloodless surgery is very interesting. Each house nightly has been crowded by an eager and highly interested audience. Other turns during the evening are W. G. Sutton, the well-known local pierrot; Minnie D'Aubyn, comedienne; J. P. Boston, comedian; Zasma, gymnast; and Diamond and Beatrice, musicians

with his musical specialities; Chris Masters sang several character songs with pleasing result; and Millie Howell gave every satisfaction with her neat singing. The Tuesday matinées here continue to prove popular.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*Poor Joe*, adapted from Dickens's novel, has been the sketch here this week, played by Mr. Percy Boucher's stock company. The part of the Rev. Chadband, in the hands of Mr. Boucher, was extremely funny; Miss Effie Mackintosh, a clever young actress, made a most favourable impression as Joe; Mr. Harry Tresham did well in the rôle of Bucket; the character of Sir Leicester Dedlock was handled with effect by Mr. Cecil Ravenswood; Miss Beryl Ravenswood acquitted herself in the parts of Mrs. Snagsby and Hortense; Miss Lina Nazeby was a stately Lady Dedlock; and Mr. E. D. Allen made a capital Mr. Snagsby.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The principal feature of the bill here this week is a dramatic sketch entitled *Leah; the Jewish Maiden*, performed by a specially selected company. The work, which was in nine tableaux, was well received. Harry Hunter provided an acceptable turn with his guitar and banjo playing; and Ida Dorrie was a *chic* soubrette. Some pleasing pictures were shown by the bioscope.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Martin Conway, a popular Liverpool comedian, is in big type here this week. He has a number of taking songs and patter which are much relished. As acrobats Franch Bros. will need a deal of beating; the ventriloquial powers of Bert Williams are great; Smith and Johnson, coloured vocalists, are amusing in their negro songs and duets; the Sisters Melba submit a pretty turn as vocalists and dancers; as an eccentric comedian Johnny Walker gives satisfaction; and others in the bill are Rosie Morn, a dainty comedienne; and Jack Neil, versatile comedian.

WESTMINSTER.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Mongomery.—Top of the bill here are Bensley Evans's sketch company, with the amusing trifle *Sally's Dilemma*, in which Miss Olive Lanty takes the title-part. The sketch created much amusement. Charles F. Best proved particularly funny with his comedy act *MacBunker, the Mountebank*; Souplessi was an accomplished contortionist; Fred Cashburn, as a quaint comedian, was very diverting; the Two Rubies, Rosie and Flo, were a smart pair of character vocalists and international dancers; and others who appeared included Frank Boyce, character vocal comedian; and Marguerite Chappelle, "the two extremes."

OLYMPIA.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Hengler's latest water novelty, *A Village Wedding; or, Tramps Abroad*, is the big line here this week, and has provided much amusement; the Fishing Cormorants are here another week; a well-written sketch, *Uncle Yank*, which creates endless laughter, comes from the Mannons; Nelson's Newsboys have a cordial reception for their singing and dancing; Florrie Gallimore gives her latest songs; the Hans Hansen Trio are especially smart with their acrobatic work; Harry Brown does a good turn as a comedian; the Boccacio Minstrels have a clever musical act; and Robert Ganthony is well received for his humorous sketches.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—The attraction here this week has been Mr. Chas. Macdona's *Three Little Maids* Company. Misses Vera Dallis, Cora Lingard, and Edith Colley are charming as the Maids. Mr. W. Stephenson as Lord Cheyne is capital, as is also Mr. Ewart Drake as Cupid. Messrs. W. Heath and G. Nelson as M. de l'Orme and Bryan Molyneaux are very good; Mr. W. Morgan is a realistic Rev. Branscombe, and Miss Kate Graham Beck is a good Lady St. Mallory. Miss Laura Wright is a pretty Gretchen, and Miss P. Castleton as Miss Price is most satisfactory.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Meakin.—Quite a big company is appearing in *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime this week, presented by Messrs. Monti and Firth.—Miss Dora Denmark is a great favourite as Robin Hood; Miss Ada Clare is Maid Marion; Mr. Fred Monti is the Nurse; the Brothers Luxmore are Tired Tim and Weary Willie; and Mr. Arthur Allen is the bold, bad Baron. The patter contains some local hits. The Sisters Godfrey are clever as acrobatic dancers.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Messrs. Payne Seddon and George Robertson, the highly esteemed proprietors of this popular playhouse, were accorded a grand complimentary benefit on Wednesday night. This mark of appreciation was richly deserved, as Messrs. Seddon and Robertson have been connected with theatrical enterprise in this town for the past six years, and during that time have shown admirable astuteness in their bookings, catering for all classes in excellent style. The benefit, which was arranged by the Loughborough Amateurs and given under distinguished patronage, was in every way a great success, the house being packed in all parts, and Mr. Seddon met with a most enthusiastic reception when in a graceful speech he thanked the players and the general public for the manner in which they had rallied around Mr. Robertson and himself on that occasion. *A Scrap of Paper* was the play chosen for the benefit night, Mr. Ernest Wright being responsible for the production. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps' company was billed for the last three nights of the week with *One Woman's Wickedness*.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director Mr. E. A. Smith. — After an absence of nearly seven years we have a welcome return visit of Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company in *The Grip of Iron*. The company is particularly strong, and the drama, with its striking situations, has lost none of its powers of attractiveness judging from the applause bestowed on the opening night. Mr. Fred Powell in the title-rôle repeats his masterly interpretation and scores heavily in the principal scenes. Mr. John Brittain's study of the old detective school is very amusing, and Mr. Harry Agar Lyons, who impersonates the new, gives an able and clever sketch. Mr. Harry Scott submits a capital reading as Paul Blanchard, and Mr. Richard Ferris as Lorentz is sufficiently powerful. A remarkably clever character-sketch is submitted by Mr. Geo. Denham as "The Smiler." Miss Mildred Cottell as Cora displays marked ability, and Miss Nellie Fletcher gives a sympathetic portrayal as Sophie Blanchard. Miss Hilda Baynton is a pleasing Marie Guerin.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard. — *San Toy*, presented by Messrs. Robert Macdonald and Fuller Allen's company, opened on Monday for three nights to a crowded and enthusiastic audience. Captain Bobby Preston is in the capable hands of Mr. Howard V. Crofton, who shows great talent, especially as a vocalist; as Sir Bingo Preston, Mr. Harry Turner is very good; and the same may be said of Mr. G. W. Clark, as the Emperor. The Lieutenant Harvey Tucker of Mr. Alf. H. Majilton could not be in better hands; the comic element, as represented by Mr. Alfred Beers as Li, is irresistible; Miss Maud Lucy as Dudley furnishes great assistance in the comic department; Poppy, Sir Bingo's daughter, is well interpreted by Miss Madge Hamilton; San Toy, as portrayed by Miss Nina Osborne, is a finished impersonation. Special mention must be made of the dancing of Miss Beatrice Gradella. The scenery and dresses are elaborate.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, The Town Clerk.—On Tuesday Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, had an immense house for the military play, *Revenge*. The King and Queen are represented in sympathetic and dignified manner by Mr. H. C. Lanceley and Miss Nesta Sandford; the scheming Prince Orloff and Draga Vanessa by Mr. Alfred Brandon and Miss Marion Turner; and the pathetic rôles of Captain Vanessa and Lieutenant Maurice are ably played by Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson and Miss Josie Beltram. Mr. Guy P. Ellis is smart and breezy as Captain Carr, and is well seconded by Mr. Walter Kennion (Jim Jennings, A.B.); Miss Eva Trevenna is good as Cora Brook, and Mr. Edward Swinton has a laughable part as the fire-eating Frenchman.

MAIDSTONE.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—*The Lady in Red* is drawing good houses here this week, and as played by Mr. Tom Craven and company proves very mirth-provoking. The Olive Trio, on a return visit, are as popular as ever; Miss Dorothy Payn is a clever raconteur and mimic; Mr. J. Binns, comedian, and Mr. Joe Humphreys, actor vocalist, are popular; Miss Lucrece, comedian, and Mr. Walter Lavalle, coster comedian, complete the bill. Mr. Fred Earle is indisposed and unable to appear.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Mr. George Grossmith appeared here on Friday evening and gave his farewell recital to a crowded house. The programme was chiefly composed of old favourites and past successes. Mr. Grossmith received a hearty welcome

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The attraction here this week is a return visit of *A Traitor Prince*, played by Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company in good style. The title-rôle is in the safe hands of Mr. G. M. Montanini, who is well supported by a cast among which Mr. Francis Everard, Miss Nita Langford, Mr. Victor Rae, Mr. Ernest A. Duval, Miss Rose Routledge, Miss Clara O'Grady, Miss Kitty Thomas, and Messrs. Alfred Selwood and Jerrold E. Reed figure prominently. The staging is excellent.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Following the close of pantomime at this house, an old favourite musical comedy *The Gay Parisienne* was staged here on Monday in the hands of Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company. Miss Nellie Hodson is very vivaciously effective in the title-part of Mlle. Julie Bon-Bon; Mr. Charles Seguin admirably realises expectations as M. Pompier; good delineations are given by Mr. Tom Conway (Ebenezer Honeycombe) and Mr. J. FitzJames (Hans); Mms. Ilma Norina moves and acts well as the jealous Mrs. Honeycombe; conspicuously entertaining is Miss Gwennie Harcourt as the comic servant, Ruth; and for the remainder of the long cast a general word of praise is well deserved. The performance is altogether bright and tuneful.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—At the conclusion of the initial performance in Manchester of *The Prince of Pilsen* by Mr. George Musgrove's company on Monday last the enthusiasm of the audience was such that the curtain was raised upwards of a dozen times, whilst the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. J. A. Robertson, repeated the catchy strains of "'Neath these Flags we'll beat the World." The company is excellent, the performance throughout being of a very high order. Mr. Edwin Adeler as Hans Wagner is full of reserve, and is irresistibly funny. Miss Mildred Baker as the Vassar Girl sings well; Miss Nelly Cozens is successful as Mrs. Crocker; and Miss Mabel Osborn plays delightfully as Nellie Wagner, sings "A Cup of Tea" nicely, and is a charming dancer. As a French maid Miss Nell Emerald makes a decided hit, her song "Keep it Dark" being well done, and Miss Meg Hamlyton is good as Jimmie. Other prominent parts are in the capable hands of Messrs. Stuart Alexander (Carl Otto), J. Villiers Arnold (Lieutenant John Wagner), Lawrence Wensley (Earl of Shrimpton), and Alfred Selby (François). Miss Christine Rayinski is a big success as a Gibson Girl. The chorus is excellent.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—This popular theatre is enlivened this week by the inclusion in the programme of the Six Brothers Luck, who give their well-known sketch, *The Demon of the Cellar*, with marked success. Other excellent turns are the Four Juggling Geraldos; the Franko Midget Conjurers; the Marion Sisters, dainty juvenile vocalists; and the Bros. Herslets, the funny Frenchmen, in a novel act. The programme is very agreeably completed by Grogie, the Sussex yokel; Will Harvey, novelty comedian; the Brontes, a funny pair in *The New Slavey*; La Petite Voltaire, comedienne and dancer; and Mabel La Blanche, a dainty ballad vocalist. The bioscope depicts "Robbing the Mail."

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A big attraction here is provided by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's presentment of *Two Little Vagabonds*, a popular and pathetic drama, which is particularly well handled by this clever company. The title-parts are exceptionally well done by Miss Helen Granville and Miss Freda Ettrick; and others deserving of high praise are Miss Grace Heywood as Marion, Messrs. E. K. Nelson and Fred Archer as Dido Bune and the Cough Drop, Miss F. Russell Spiers as Barbara Scarth, Miss Marie Pritchard as Biddy Mullins, Miss Muriel Clay as Sister Randall, Mr. Douglas Cecil as Captain Darville, Mr. Henry Hare as George Thornton, and Messrs. Hugh Holliman, Henry Buckland, and W. T. Harris in minor parts. A very good house witnessed Monday's performance.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Drama of Life* occupy the stage here this week with credit and success. The play is well known to and invariably well received by local audiences. Prominent in the cast, which is a strong one all round, are Mr. George M. Newall, Mr. Edward M. Hamilton, Mr. Harwood Roberts, and Miss Kate Hallam. The total effect is highly satisfactory.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter De Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Harry Ford, the well-known comedian, is here this week, and makes a big hit with capital songs, rendered in his characteristic manner. Another successful turn which causes endless amusement is Fred Karno's comedians in that smart burlesque, *The Mumming Birds*. Ferguson and Mac, the Transatlantic comedians, contribute some excellent fooling, and are well received, as are also the Five Madcaps, whose dancing is nothing short of wonderful. Montagu Biggs is a first-rate female impersonator; the Sisters Remo are expert dancers; Zaro and Arno are very funny on the bars; Carden and Zesch, light comedy vocalists, render "Stella" nicely; and Mlle. Thelma is a clever clay modeller. As usual, the Palace Pictures are good.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—After a big success in the Manchester Prince's pantomime Neil Kenyon, the Scotch comedian, tops the bill here this week, and is enthusiastically received. The Cratons are highly amusing in a mimical concoction entitled *Front and Behind*, written and arranged by Messrs. Will R. Crabtree and Harry Royston. Screams of laughter accompany the film-depicted journey of Will Onda, introduced in his latest production, *The Motor Maniac*, and much laughter is caused by Stelling and Revell on the triple bars. Violet Elliott, contralto vocalist, sings exceedingly well; the Howards (Ralph and Nellie) entertain with patter and bugle and cornet selections; Herbert La Martine is an eccentric vocalist and a surprising dancer; Josephine Sabel sings "A Bit of Blarney" and other songs in characteristic American fashion; and Viviana is a graceful dancer. "The Opium Smoker's Dream" is depicted on the bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The great spectacular sensation, *The Redskins*, which has been a great attraction here, reaches its final performance this week. In addition to this colossal spectacle, we have Lil Hawthorne, the charming principal boy from the Prince's pantomime, in various popular numbers, other capital turn being supplied by Little Ganty the little lump of fun; the Trapnell Family of expert and graceful acrobats; Ike Scott and Son on "The naughty nautical Navy"; Wood and Bates, clever comedy musicians; Hays and Suits, American duettists and dancers; Madge May, comedienne; "Star of My Life" by the choir (soloist, A. H. Duke); the glee, "Eldorado"; and a series of entertaining pictures on the bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Will Evans, the popular eccentric comedian, heads the bill here this week, and amuses in his usual inimitable way. Leo Stormont, the well-known baritone, sings "The Lifeboat Crew" and "A Soldier of the King" in fine style; Cecilia Maude is a very pleasing vocalist; Arthur Royce is amusing at the piano; the Greys are good operatic vocalists; and Walker and Lake are excellent patter purveyors. Other enjoyable items are those of Golden and Grey in a capital sketch; Clara Unwin, comedienne; Bertha Duckett, comedienne and dancer; and Raymond's Vivagraph Pictures.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The programme is headed here this week by the well-known comedian, Witty Watty Walton, in his latest patter and songs. The Four Abadaroffs in an acrobatic speciality are also prominent, and a really fine turn is that of the Sisters Volbecques in their burlesque character sketches of modern life. Zanfretta and Napio give a good musical performance; Carney and Armstrong are successful in their comic concoction, *The Pro and the Baggage Man*; Horace Sade exhibits uncommon skill in dancing; and other pleasing items are contributed by Tod Lowan (comedian), Louis Kerno (comedian and patterer), and Bert and Dora (a talented couple), while a series called "The Bigamist" is depicted on the bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Jordison's successful pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is again in Manchester, and is nightly delighting crowded houses. Miss Madge Daley is highly successful as Robin Hood; Miss Nancy Thornton is altogether charming as Maid Marion; and Miss Kitty Hearne is a pleasing Fairy. Much humour is contributed by Messrs. Rowland Hill, Stratton, and Bennett and Martell. The Babes, portrayed by little Dolly Cullen and little Elsie Jordison are also good, and the scenery and dresses are satisfactory, some of the latter being very pretty.

HIPPODROME (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The top star attraction here this week is that of Haley's Prize Juveniles, a really excellent turn of good singing and clever dancing, in which Dot and Spot, two very youthful artists, shine conspicuously. A somewhat novel turn is introduced by Ruby Dahl, the human marionette, and meets with much approval; Walter Curtis, with his quaint humour, evokes much laughter; and another novelty, "The Electrical Moulding Mill," is furnished by Carle and Carmanelli, who are clever musical comedians. A refined musical act given by Volp and Volp, lady artists, is also much appreciated. Other entertaining items are given by the Mimosa Trio, charming dancers; Rice and Rudge in comic cycle act; Lilian Dorie, graceful on the trapeze; and Little Violet, dainty child vocalist. "A Spanish Bull Fight" is shown on the bioscope, and is very good.

MANSFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings.—Good houses were again the rule this week at the above place of entertainment. The Revell Troupe cause a great amount of amusement in their comical absurdity, *Mischief*; the Musical Scoreys are a distinct success; Gypsy and her fortune-telling dog are much appreciated; and the Sisters Grenville, vocalists and dancers, are also good. Mlle. Rossini provides a good turn with her miniature menagerie, in which dogs represent lions, tigers, and other animals; Les Ardelles, comedy gymnasts, provoke much laughter. Other good items are provided by Jessie Vandean, burlesque artist, and George Raper, comedian. The Morellascope furnish an interesting series of pictures.

MARGATE.—THE HIPPODROME.—Sole proprietors, Messrs F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—An all-round good programme is presented this week, at the head of which is the screamingly funny burlesque on *Motoring*, presented in a most grotesque and laughter-provoking manner by Mr. Harry Tate's company. It is remarkably well played, and convulses the house with laughter. Saxo, the versatile instrumentalist, is a powerful attraction, and has met with a particularly favourable reception. The Sisters Edwards, vocalists, drummers, and dancers, are full of vivacity, and have taken the audience by storm. Frederic Neiman, with his Animated Ventriloquial Minstrels, is very good, and creates considerable amusement, whilst Alexandra Edwin, ballad vocalist, sings popular melodies in a manner that wins well-deserved applause. Fred Curran, the peculiar person, creates a good deal of merriment with his songs, and S. L. Spry, comedian and dancer, also does well. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is, as usual, well to the fore with a series of capital pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Mr. Chalmers Mackey's company is here this week in *The Wearin' of the Green*. In the title-rôle Mr. Mackey causes much amusement by his quaint humour. He is ably supported by Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Norah McGrath; Mr. Charles Homer makes a capital Shamus McDermott; Mr. H. Sainsbury is good as Sir George Courtenay; Miss Nina Flensburg is highly diverting as Biddy McGinn; and Miss Adele Liddon gives a sympathetic reading of Mrs. McDermott.

METHIL.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Herbert Melville.—On Monday night a capital variety company opened a week's engagement. The Sisters Lyle sang their songs tunefully and gracefully, the Garden Troupe (four ladies and one gentleman) speedily made themselves popular, Mr. Geo. H. Clark and Miss Betty Clare were effective in an amusing comedy sketch *The Tramp and the Girl*. Miss Clare gave further evidence of her vocal powers in an acceptable extra turn. Glenne's Marionettes with a condensed pantomime completed the bill.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—The drama *A Modern Adventuress* is the attraction here. Mr. Leonard Aardale submits an intensely dramatic portraiture of Pietro Donelli; Mr. Louis Edmonde gives a skilful rendering of Harry Delby; Mr. Sydney Grant plays forcefully as Wallace Dalton; Mr. Leonard Montgomery, in the rôle of John Crompton, gives a typical picture of a blunt Yorkshireman; Mr. Frank Wilton scores as Wm. Delby, as does Mr. S. E. Champion as the detective Beal; Miss Kate Fronde submits a capable and vigorous rendering of Violet Meredith; Miss Alice Defoe gives the requisite touch of pathos to the character of Vivette Delby; Miss Ivy Chandos is quaintly humorous as Sally Hodges.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage* is appearing here this week. The drama, which has been here before, fully maintains its high reputation. Mr. Albert Ward is the George Maddison, and acts with dramatic intensity. Mr. Lionel D'Aragan's impersonation of the villain is excellent, and as his accomplice, Mr. Holland Day figures prominently. Miss Isla Garnet Vayne impersonates the rôle of Lucy with sympathy and refinement. Miss Barbara Gott distinguishes herself as the Mother Superior. The comic element is well sustained by Mr. Fred De Vere and Miss Sybil Hammersley, who prove themselves an amusing pair.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. K. Chatto.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is here again. The principals are Mme. Fanny Moody, Mme. De Vere, Miss Jenkin, Mlle. De Lussan, Mr. Charles Manners, Mr. Wilson Pembroke, Mr. Joseph Omara, Mr. John Child, Mr. Wm. Dever, and the week's programme includes *Faust, Il Trovatore, Maritana, Carmen, The Huguenots, Tannhäuser*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alf. Mattison.—Frank and Albert Boissett and company head the bill here this week, and score a great success in their sketch, *The Bricklayers*. Frazer and Mac prove an interesting turn, as does the Northern Troupe of Dancers. Maxwell and Frances greatly take the fancy of the audiences in a speciality turn, and Jack Crawley has had a capital reception. Addie Dorina astonishes the audience in her quick-changing act, and is well applauded. Tiny Arnold also contributes to the programme.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alfred Graham.—A varied and interesting programme is submitted here this week. The Harvey Boys appear in an amusing boxing scene, entitled *The Fighting Dummy*. An enjoyable musical turn is provided by the Norman Leonard Trio, which proves very popular, whilst considerable interest is attached to the appearance of Richard Wanless, a local lad, whose fine voice wins for him the unstinted applause of the audiences. The other turns are provided by Beatrice Worth, Oakley and James, Sam Shipley, Walter Adams, and Warden Reed.

MIDDLETON.—PARDOE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Pardoe and T. Turner.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company is appearing in *A London Actress*. Miss Litchfield acts superbly as the adventuress in this play, possessing not only a splendid presence, but showing herself to be a past-mistress of quiet, scathing satire. Mr. Stuart Cleveland plays the part of a good-natured Jew with rare finish; Mr. John C. Carlyle has a good character part, and is seconded by Mr. Arthur Dudley; Miss Maud Steeple, in the title-rôle, acts with naïveté and reserve as well became her; Miss Nellie Fern and Miss Theo. Henries are quaint in two characters of the Billingsgate type.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is this week appearing in the new sensational melodrama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Homer, in the title-rôle, gives a strong yet withal pathetic rendering of the disfigured heroine; Mr. Philip Darien is a manly and convincing Jack Merriman; Hubert Gold and his accomplice, Antonio Luchessi, have suitable exponents in Messrs. Leyton Cincellor and Char'es Barret; Mr. Allen Davenport makes the most of his small opportunities as Tom Redvers; the drolleries of Mr. Tubby Edlin (Tubby Herrick) are quite an outstanding feature in the play; the Morita of Miss Margaret Watson deserves mention; while Misses Rita Millman and Nellie Jackson ably sustain their respective rôles as Rose Courtney and Aggie Brown.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham; Business Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—A large and enthusiastic audience assembled at the Tyne Theatre last Saturday night to witness the final performance of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's pantomime, *Mother Goose*. At the close the popular manager, Mr. Fred Sutcliffe, came forward, and thanked the public for the liberal patronage they had bestowed upon the pantomime, and to the artists, staff, and the orchestra—not forgetting his dear old friend, Mr. E. J. Rogers, the conductor—he wished to express his hearty appreciation of their services. Mr. Sutcliffe then announced a few of the engagements made for the spring season. He also intimated that next year's pantomime would be *Aladdin*, with the favourite Scotch comedian, Mr. Harry Lauder, in the cast, a remark that was greeted with tumultuous cheering. Mr. Ambrose Manning spoke on behalf of the artists, and also presented Mr. Sutcliffe with a massive silver tray and Mr. Rogers with a dressing case, both of these presents having been subscribed by artists and staff. Mr. Bidmead, on behalf of the St. Jude's choir boys, also presented Mr. Sutcliffe with a pair of bronze figures, the recipients suitably responding, and the curtain was rung down with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." The spring season commenced on Monday night with the favourite musical comedy *Florodora* by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Mr. Daley Cooper—who is an immense favourite hereabouts—again repeats his side-splitting performance of Tweedlepunch; Mr. R. Courtier Dutton sings with much acceptance as Frank Abercoed; very cleverly does Mr. Stanley White enact the rôle of Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. Herbert St. John is a bright and entertaining Captain Donegal; and Mr. Ted Oxlee is quite a callous and awe-inspiring Leandro. A vocalist and actress of much ability in Miss Leo Grieve sustains the rôle of Dolores in good style; Miss Edith Housley sings and acts with tact; and Miss Lily Gullick is charmingly fascinating as Angela. Minor parts are successfully fulfilled by Miss Nellie Barnwell, Miss Daisy Lake, and Miss Sullivan. The special dance in Act II. by Miss Maud Brock and Miss Hahn is a prominent feature in the performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Owing to previous bookings, the management of the Royal are compelled to announce the last three weeks of the successful pantomime *Cinderella*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—Lovers of grand opera are this week being well catered for by the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company. On Tuesday evening Bizet's *Carmen* occupied the boards. The Carmen of Miss Doris Woodall was very fine. Herr Julius Walther as José gave a powerful rendering of his part, his singing being greeted with frequent applause. The interpretation of the part of Escamillo by Mr. Frank Arthur was in every way successful, his rendering of the Toreador song being especially good. Micaella (Miss Elizabeth Burgess) was very pleasing, the beautiful quality of her voice and the earnestness displayed in her acting being a marked feature of the performance. The chorus is a well-balanced one, and altogether the whole company, under the able conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden, fully maintained the best traditions of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company. The remainder of the répertoire is *The Marriage of Figaro* (Wednesday), *Il Trovatore* (Thursday), *Fidelio* (Friday), *Tannhäuser* (Saturday matinée), and *The Bohemian Girl* (Saturday evening).

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Edward Marris's company in the pantomime *Dick Whittington* opened here on Monday. An old Newcastle pantomime favourite in Miss Madge Merry was, unfortunately, unable to take the title-rôle on Monday through indisposition, but a capable understudy was forthcoming in Miss Winifred Preece, who sustained with much animation and charm the part of the hero. Miss Lottie Vincent is an engaging representative of Alice, and Miss Poppie Howard, Miss Elvira Vincent, and Miss D. Drelincourt are frequently in the picture. Mr. Walter Wade imparts the essence of extravaganza into the part of Idle Jack, and his rendition meets with the recognition it deserves. Mr. C. Kashma provokes much hilarity as Captain Kettel, and Mr. George Harris is sufficiently stately as the Emperor. Mr. Walter Nugent is hardly at home as a petticoated comedian, but on the whole does well, and Mr. W. H. Ball is remarkably clever as the Alderman. The specialities introduced are of all-round excellence, and include Les Sprays, the Italian Glee Singers, the Sisters Vincent (coon singers and dancers), and Miss Effie White (fire dancer).

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—The Grigolatis, seven beautiful butterflies, in graceful rhythmic flights, top the bill here, and provide a pleasing turn. Edward Arthur and company in a scena from the *Lily of Killarney*, are heard to distinct advantage; Goggin and Davis, in a comedy tumbling act, prove vastly popular; Holden's mannikins are as successful as of yore; and Harry Clifford wins applause as a character vocalist. Prince Fee Lung, Chinese magician; George Ridgwell, baritone; Flem and Brock, aerial boxers; and the American Bioscope constitute the remaining items. Miss Daisy Dormer was billed, but was unable to appear through influenza.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss Lena Verdi, from the Tyne Theatre pantomime, has been specially engaged, and proves highly entertaining with her mimicry of popular "pro.'s." A most ludicrous sketch is that provided by the Waldrons entitled *The Silly Burglar*; Roma and Romani are responsible for an excellent musical speciality; Muir and Bartlet create much laughter with their cleverly written duologue; and the business of Harry Reynolds's Minstrel Quintette is exceptionally smart. George Barron, comedian; Walters and Wyndham, musicians; Allsopp and Beckwith, speciality artists; Kitty Glover and company in an amusing farce; Frances Letty, comedienne and dancer; and the Barrascope all add to the evening's enjoyment.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.—A short season was commenced here on Monday by Catlin's Royal Pierrots, whose entertainment of singing, dancing, &c., was thoroughly enjoyed.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the direction of Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux, is delighting good houses here with *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Herbert Bunston's Jack Frobisher is admirable in every detail, and the Lady Alethea Frobisher of Miss Florence Jackson is charming and graceful; while the Hankey Bannister of Mr. Geo. A. Brandram is a great character study. Mr. Laurence Hannay gives a remarkably fine performance of the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. Sidney Hamilton does well in the part of Harry Dallas; and Mr. George Percy makes much of Mr. Hannaford. Miss Lydia Busch is sympathetic as Lady Westerby, Miss Edith Cuthbert is bright as Miss Mornington, and Miss Molly Carton is a charming Lady Lucy Derenham.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—*The Naughty Professor*, in which the characters are well sustained, has been produced here by Amann and Hartley, who are responsible for much amusement. Another sketch, full of sparkling humour, *A Desperate Remedy*, is played by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden; and as lady gymnasts the Five Sisters Bellatzer captivate the house by their daring and agility; while Stewart and Morgan have some quaint patter, and their Irish duet gives entire satisfaction. W. H. Downs, a coloured tenor, renders a couple of good songs; burlesque juggling tricks are performed by Drowee, Frisco, and Hambo; and the Bohemians have proved themselves accomplished comedy musical artists. Fyne and Hurley appear in a humorous incident *Coster and Dude*; and the bioscope shows some pretty pictures, among which is the launching of H.M.S. Dreadnought.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company is here this week in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Cyril Austen Lee gives a decidedly clever rendering of Horace Parker; Mr. William H. Brougham plays admirably as the Messenger from Mars; Mr. Bruce Lindley is very good in the character of the Tramp; Mrs. Edward Saker as Miss Parker gives a highly finished and artistic rendering of the part; Miss May Saker makes a sweet and charming girl of Minnie Templar. The numerous smaller rôles are ably personated by Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson, Mr. Percy Tyler, Mr. Eustace French, Mr. Leslie Tyler, Mr. H. Reynolds, Miss Peggy B. Yeoman, Miss Joan Meredith, and Master Leonard Neville, &c.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The bill is headed this week by the clever Dunedin Troupe of acrobatic cyclists; Mabel Hind appears in a pleasing scena labelled *A Little Japanese*; George Anthill gives a cheery comical turn; Jimson's comedy animal act is clever and amusing. Other good items are furnished by Ena Richards, Canadian comedienne and dancer; Fraser and Haley, two pretty lady vocalists; Samuel Morrison, male soprano vocalist; Annie Fielding and Bert Hull, in a medley duet; Nina Elmo, a dashing comedienne, and the Palace pictures.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. George Dance's company is presenting *The Cingalee* here this week. The title-rôle (Nanoya) is in the able hands of Miss Cecile Beresford, who meets with a hearty reception; Miss Katie Yates wins general admiration as Peggie Sabine; and Miss Mona Grey proves a very acceptable Lady Patricia Vereker; Mr. Walter Champney plays Chamhuddy Ram to a continuous accompaniment of merriment; Mr. Hugh Webb is clever as Boobhamba; and Mr. W. Bosco is an excellent exponent of Sir Peter Loftus; Mr. Curtney Comber is well placed as Harry Vereker; Mr. Arthur Foote gives a good study of Bobby Warren.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—A capital bill of fare is provided here, and is headed by Miss Cassie Walmer, the dusky queen, who has met with an enthusiastic reception; Messrs. Hamill and Leon, saxophonists and campanologists, are very clever; and Larola, the funny man, makes a great hit; Messrs Wright and Elton, in eccentricities, cause hearty laughter; Miss Rose Cabano, comedienne, is well received; and Mr. Jas. H. Clark, singing boilermaker, and the Bio-Photoscope also meet with favour.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—Mr. T. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is fulfilling a three nights'

as Aurora Brue; and Miss Reydon Dallas as Lady Bickenhall, Miss Amy Vivash as Daisy, and Miss Kathleen V. Grey as Mabel Widget are excellent.

OXFORD.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. Will Ellerslie's variety company is here, including the pantomime sketch *Sinbad the Sailor*. Will Ellerslie, comedian, has a good reception; the Izens, comedy artists, are amusing; and Dan Idle, eccentric comedian, is a favourite. Good turns are also contributed by Miss Florrie Bray, Miss Ada Clare, Leslie and Player, and the Sisters Ascots. In the sketch *Sinbad*, Miss Florrie Bray scores easily in the title-rôle, and Miss Ada Clare makes an attractive Dolly; Miss May Edney as Will and Miss Daisy Cecil as Phyliss are successful; while Miss Lilian Player is seen to advantage as Sunbeam. Mr. Will Ellerslie makes the most of Sinbad, and Mr. Dan Idle causes considerable fun as Mrs. Sinbad.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Edward Compton opened here on Monday in *Davy Garrick*. Manifestations of delight were frequent throughout his masterly and artistic delineation of the title-rôle, and Miss Mackenzie's Violet possessed dignified and lovable qualities which won commendation. Mr. Henry Crocker contributed a most effective piece of acting as Alderman Gresham; as the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut Mr. A. B. Imeson submitted an admirable and realistic portraiture, and the parts of Rumbelow, Sowerberry, and Simpkins, placed respectively in the care of Mr. Herbert Pigot, Mr. Arnold Lucy, and Mr. G. Wallace Johnston, were filled with great credit to the gentlemen named. Miss Marie Hassell gave emphasis and value to the rôle of Mrs. Rumbelow, and Miss Muriel Meek as Selina was diverting. A pleasing little comedy, *The Desperate Lover*, served as the curtain-raiser. Other plays billed for the week were *New Men and Old Acres*, *School for Scandal*, *Money*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—The star turn this week is W. J. Ashcroft, "the original solid man," who is proving a great attraction. He is assisted in his performances by J. W. Norton, comedian. Others engaged are the Smith Family, in Irish comedy and dancing; Percy Maye, in specialities comprising songs and dances; Ellen Dunkinson, soprano vocalist; Tom Bassett, Shakesperian comedian, and Scottie's Waifs and Strays in their humorous and pathetic ballet *Life in the Streets*.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident Manager, Mr. J. Roberts Jones.—Mr. Fred J. Kirke's comedy company is here in *The Naval Detective*. Up-to-date songs and clever dances are features of the show. In the titular part Mr. Fred J. Kirke shows great versatility in his various disguises. Mr. Harold Wallace gives a capital impersonation of Dr. Schreiner; as Captain Hustle Mr. Mark Practice is exceedingly clever; Mr. Bert Leighton creates much laughter as the Hon. Bertie Fairlox; Hans Winklepump is in the capable hands of Mr. Chas. Burns; Miss Lily Seymour gives a capital portrayal of Rebecca Gentle, the Quakeress; Miss Anne Burnette as Lulu Kaufmann is seen to great advantage; Miss Louie Fountaine deserves praise for her capital impersonation; Miss Edith Claris as Susan Scrubbs is well appreciated; the Sisters Allen in their clever dances are greeted with loud applause.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Esmonds Bramley's company is here this week in productions of Shakespeare. In *Richard III.*, Mr. Cyril Este, in the title-rôle, is deservedly applauded; Mr. Baliol Holloway, in the double rôle of George Duke of Clarence and Henry Earl of Richmond, is seen to considerable advantage; as also are Mr. F. Owen Chambers, who assumes the rôle of Duke of Buckingham, Mr. C. Doyle as Lord Stanley, Mr. Frederick Scarth as Lord Hastings, Mr. Wm. Protose as Duke of Norfolk, Mr. A. L. Evans as Sir Richard Catesby, and Mr. Leonard Cheetham in the part of Sir Richard Ratcliffe. Misses May Beatrice and Nightingale are creditable representatives of King Edward's sons, Edward of Wales and Richard Duke of York; as is Miss Surrey, in the rôle of Marquis of Dorset. Miss Maud Garth displays considerable talent as Elizabeth; Mrs. Bernard Parkin gives an ideal portrayal of the Duchess of York; and Miss Millie Ford, in her impersonation of Queen Anne, receives the warmest approbation.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee. *The Freedom of Suzanne* is the popular attraction here this week. Miss Beatrice Lindley fills the title-rôle with distinction, her acting at times reaching a high plane of merit; Mr. Herbert T. Bentley, as the husband, plays with consummate skill. Another clever performance is provided by Miss Emily Batterson as Lady Charlotte Trevor, who, like Miss Charlotte Mead, is thoroughly efficient. Both Miss Violet Ley and Miss Annie Stalman enact minor parts with care and finish. Mr. F. G. Thurstans as the uncle is decidedly entertaining and diverting, and so is Mr. Townsend Whitling as the lord. Mrs. Mallanbeir impersonates a charwoman, and it is as fine a piece of realistic portraiture as we have seen.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—A rare dramatic treat is being presented here this week in the shape of *The Flying Scud*, which is capitally staged and well acted. Miss Irma Farington finely plays the part of Poppy Snaffle, and a hit is made by Miss Elsie Mesnard in the character of the winning jockey. Joe Snaffle finds a capable exponent in Mr. Greene Taylor, who plays with convincing realism. Mr. Edward Lloyd is a popular Arthur Somerton; Mr. Gordon McLeod appears with great success as Captain Clifton, and Mr. G. Beverley and Mr. R. Bosco sustain other rôles intelligently. The Eton Quartette dance and sing in good style.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Michell.—Mr. Harry Starr and company are here this week in *Otto the Outcast*. Although it has been staged here before, it is attracting good business. Much care is bestowed on the production. Mr. Harry Starr himself undertakes the principal character, and plays with dignity and restraint. Mr. Edwin Firth, the villain of the piece, shows rare power, and Mr. D. C. Clarke ably supports him. Miss Katie Morris contributes a performance of sterling merit.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—A great hit is being made here by Hall and Earle, eccentrics, who have recently been appearing at the London Coliseum. The Collinson combination evoke much laughter in *The Cook's Guest*; Bob Hamilton, comedian, is heartily encored; the Bros. Bright are smart gymnasts who provide novelties; high-class vocalism is forthcoming from the Charles Fisher Pocket Opera Company; the Venola Bros. score well with their comedy and gymnastics; Miss Mabel Lynn's songs are popular; Miss Rhoda Burnhill's transformation dancing is much beyond the average, and Vernon's animated pictures are, as usual, of a high standard.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—A decided attraction this week is Mr. Allan Wilkie's company, who presented *The Corsican Brothers* on Tuesday. Chief interest is centred in the admirable assumption of the Twin Brothers by Mr. Allan Wilkie. M. De Chateu Renaud is admirably portrayed by Mr. George Lambton, Mr. Louis Palgrave shows to great advantage as M. Alfred Meynard, M. Montgiron is ably portrayed by Mr. Clifford Rogers, Mr. Aubrey Fitzmaurice leaves nothing to be desired as Griffo; Miss Ina Cameron appeals to all hearts as Emilie de L'Esparre, Madame de Franchi is capably assumed by Miss Lizzie Maddocks, and Miss Barbara Pigot and Miss Dorothy Barrington shone as Estelle and Grain D'Or respectively. *Othello* was given on Monday, and *Belphegor* on Wednesday.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Bonghton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The musical dream play, *Blue Bell in Fairyland*, is being played here this week by Messrs. Murray King and Clark's Co. Dickey, the crossing-sweeper, is well portrayed by Mr. Lawrence Emery; Miss Gladys Cooper is a dainty and pleasing Blue Bell; Mr. Joplin, the kind-hearted City merchant, is well presented by Mr. David Cruickshank; Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Coesart are clever and smart in their dual representations; Will and Wont, and Blib and Blob; Miss Muriel Juin does well as the reigning queen; and Miss Millie Blanchard is a capable Blue Bell's good fairy.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*Her Second Time on Earth* is here on a return visit. Miss Hilda Beverley acts the part of the unprincipled Dora Grey, with powerful intensity; Miss Dorothy Hilderbrande makes a successful Laura Norman; Miss Polly March, as the drunken Elizabeth Burke submits a graphic study; Jack Carlton is impressively impersonated by Mr. Harry Hillier; Mr. George Galsford in the rôle of Captain Norman is admirable; the villainous Guy Brand finds an able exponent in Mr. W. H. Porter; Mr. W. C. Reid was droll as Teddy Butterfly; and Miss Marjory Millbank amusing as Kitty Rosebud.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Heading the bill this week at this house is Hardeen, handcuff and trunk manipulator; Ross and Lewis, musical comedy artists, create mirth; the Bros. Ralston, characteristic vocalists, gave an entertaining interlude; Thornbury, sand artist and smoke painter and ventriloquist, gives an enjoyable turn; Frank Manra, the Mexican warder, is exceedingly skilful; The Calcotts, instrumental speciality artists, meet with approvale; the Sisters Caselli, duettists and dancers, had a hearty greeting for their high kicking; and Ethel May, comedienne and danseuse; Collins and Hawley, dancing experts; and Harry Barker, character comedian, are responsible for some good work.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's company is here this week with *Somebody's Sweetheart*. Mr. Jorrold Manville effectively impersonates Stephen Leverton; Mr. Handley Paxton acts and sings well in the rôle of Stanton Ashleigh; Miss Dora Condor is a smart Freddie Ashleigh; Mr. George P. Lester does justice to the part of Lem Lee; and Mr. W. H. Kirby provides abundant fun as Martin Blabbs. Miss Dot Reeve gives a praiseworthy portrayal of Lulu, and her vocalism is appreciated, and Miss Cordelia Knight is quite satisfactory as Zora, a gipsy. Others who contribute to the success are Miss Bella Perris as Mrs. Ainslie and Mr. Hyland Shea as Old Joe. The play is well staged.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—The celebrated Craggs commenced a return engagement here on Monday night in the popular musical absurdity entitled *Laughter Land*. Mr. H. B. Lewis as Professor Sylvanus Wood was a distinct success; Mr. Harry Rousby as Dick Marlow deserves great credit for his portrayal of that part; Mr. Cremorne Cragg as Billy kept the house convulsed with laughter; and Squire Topsham had an excellent representative in Mr Dan Hardie. Miss Amy Hastings made a charming Clarisse, and Miss Louise Millward was seen to advantage as Clothilda. The Craggs gave a clever acrobatic performance, which was highly appreciated. The Sisters Belgrave are clever dancers and banjo experts. Others who capably sustained their respective parts are Mr. S. Basil Reynolds as Archie and Mr. G Westacott as Sir Vincent Marlow.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—An enjoyable variety programme is, as usual, provided here this week. Charles Baldwin's Bank Clerks score a success in a clever pantomimic absurdity; a comic sketch presented by the Three Gregsons causes great merriment; the Sisters Williams display pleasing vocal ability in their well-chosen duets; "James" gives a capital performance on the banjo and bones; Miss Lily Gaston is an expert top-boot dancer; Kendrick and Laura sing and dance acceptably; Harry Fredericks and J. C. Laurie, comedians, are favourably received; and Wild. Willie, and West evoke hearty laughter in their comedy acrobatic act. Bioscope pictures conclude the entertainment.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—We are favoured here by the special return visit of Mr. A. Hamilton Warden's company in *A Woman's Past*. Mr. Charles V. Sandford gives a capital rendering of Frank Dellannoy; Mr. A. Hamilton Warden plays with judgment as Clement Harper; Mr. Stanley Carlton renders good service as David Heath; and as Uriah Craven Mr. Oswald Cray scores heavily; Miss Maisie Hanbury contributes an excellent rendering of Bessie; Miss May Dallas is a charming Dorothy Heath; and much praise is due to Miss Olive Adair for her fine performance of Clara Darrel.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—*Under the Czar*, an Anglo-Russian drama, has been staged here in commendable style by Mr. Fred Jarman's company. Mr. Gerald Smythe is capital in the part of Capt. Johnson, and Mr. Bertram H. Ross excellent as Nicholas Yerosla ff; Mr. W. H. Riley does admirably as Kovesky; Miss Lucy Murray appears to distinct advantage as Zara Bhura, and a similar compliment should be paid to Miss Linda Riley (Simoka) and Miss C. Cavanagh (Sonia Gregorovitch).

ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION.—Proprietors, Corporation of Ramsgate; Manager, Mr. A. B. Perkins.—The Chas. W. Poole's Myriorama has attracted big audiences to the "Pav." this week. Incidentally admirable specialité items are introduced, including Miss Daisy Graham's marvellous trained birds; the Avondale Quartette, comedy vocalists; eccentric Leonard and Mac, Miss Kitty Woodford's canine circus, Mr. Harry Stewart, Mr. C. F. Couper, and Little Doretta, a clever dancer.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—This week we have a return visit from Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Sin of Her Childhood*, which is well performed with charming and elaborate scenery and staging. Miss Mary Fulton as Mary Haysel gives a delightful impersonation, and Mr. Beresford Lovett as Rev. Alan Grey is also very good. Mr. G. St. Clair Forbes as Stephen Haysel is a capital villain. Mr. Fred Elvin makes a hit as Barney O'Reilly, his rendering of the part being very humorous. He is ably assisted by Miss Annie Megson as Eliza Muggins. Little Dot Moss, a clever Hannah Spry, is a great favourite, as also is Little Edith as Eric Dugdale. Mr. Franklin Graham is a thoroughly capable Captain John Thornton, and Miss Jenny Douglas Hicks a good Maria Haysel.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres, Co., Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Silver King* is always a popular attraction here. On Monday a good house witnessed a capital performance of the well-known play. Mr. Herbert Ford acted with distinction as Wilfred Denver; Miss Daisy Scudamore was sweetly pathetic as Nellie Denver; Mr. Edward J. George, an old favourite here, maintains his popularity as Jaikes, a part he has made quite his own; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks cleverly portrays the part of Captain Skinner; and Mr. Arthur Wright acts his part to the life as Elijah Coombe. Other parts are successfully enacted by Miss Amy Manfree as Cissy Denver, Master Jack Evan as Ned Denver, Mr. James L. Power as Henry Corket, and Mr. Byron Pedley as Samuel Baxter.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—The Frantz Family, society acrobats, give a clever display of hand-balancing, somersaults, &c., which is heartily applauded; Hinton and Wooton submit a novel turn as trick cyclists; the Dunvilles are pleasing in a humorous musical act; and other enjoyable turns are contributed by Happy Atwood (comedian), Flora Steckel and Funny Steck in gymnastic speciality, York, Mac, and York (comedians), Will McIvor (vocalist), and Vernon's Animated Pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Savonas, in their musical scene "Palace of Orpheus" are proving an immense attraction here this week. The electric effects, the wonderful instruments, and the clever manipulation of the whole are most impressive. The same artists appear as the Cycling Elliotts in a clever and daring cycling performance, and Senorita Eloina, Spanish gymnast; Miss Florence, in illustrated songs; J. H. McCann, roller-skate dancer and comedian; Harry Taft, comedian; the Melroses, burlesque artists, &c.; and the Empire Bioscope complete the programme.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Again are the boards occupied with pantomime this week, Mr. Frank Denman-Woods' company producing *Dick Whittington* to record houses. Miss Grace Henderson is delightful in the title-rôle; Mr. Jack Simpson creates much amusement as Thomas the cat; Miss Millie Doris is pleasing as Alice Fitzwarren; Mr. Ben Ford is droll as Alderman Fitzwarren; Miss Winnie Aston is a sprightly Dolly Dimple; Mlle. Dora a smart Prince of Abyssinia; Mr. W. J. Rodie a very amusing Captain Spanker; and Mr. Fred Reeves an eccentric Emperor of Morocco. The Maros as Larboard and Starboard are responsible for mirth, and Mr. Arthur Albery creates much fun as Martha Muggins. Of the Immortals, special mention must be made of Miss Mona Wells (King Demona), Miss Gladys Wells (Fairy Sunshine), and Miss Gladys Lambert as Little Ray of Sunshine. The special turns are well received, especially the Three Marvellous Schaffers.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh. This week the domestic drama *Home, Sweet Home*, is being presented by Mr. Frank Lindo and company. As Stephen Armitage, Mr. Frank Lindo is most successful. He is ably supported by Captain Gerald Gambier (an excellent Duke of Ancaster) and Mr. Wilson Coleman, who is most effective as Lucas Lyle. Mr. J. W. Henson as David Armitage is good, and Mr. Sidney Bryant as the Hon. Percy is a success. As Joan, Miss Marion Wakeford adds to her reputation by her powerful rendering. Miss Hettie Webster is vivacious as Sybil Fay, and Miss Mary Denner is dignified as Lady Summerton. Miss Daisy Rocheford as Dora does exceedingly well.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—Messrs. Beaudyn, Livesey, and Hardy's company is here in *The Days of Cromwell*. As Ironhand Mr. Montagu Beaudyn does admirably; Mr. Robertson Foulis as Sir Marsden Mardyke and Mr. Harry Lloyd as Matthew Mardyke are forceful and convincing; Mr. Howard Hardy as Walter Clifford plays exceedingly well; Mr. Tom Robertson gives a highly interesting character sketch of Oliver Cromwell; as the true Loyalist, Sir Wilfred Avondale, Mr. Edward Carter is very good; while the many opportunities of displaying humorous ability are capably entrusted to Mr. Harry C. Momber as Toby, Mr. T. R. White as Shadrach Shadwell, Mr. J. Walker as Chaunt and Slay, Mr. A. Mewburn as Smite and Pray, Miss Annie Glunn as Betsy (a most versatile part), and Miss Jane Massey as Mrs. Shadwell. Mistress Judith, a Puritan lady, is done full justice to by Miss Gloria Hill, while the Ruby Avondale of Miss Irene Munroe is a striking feature throughout.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Mr. Wm. Martin.—Mr. Bannister Howard's company presented *The Eternal City* here on Monday and met with a gratifying reception. The cast included Mr. E. Stanton Sharpe, whose delineation of Baron Bonelli was cordially applauded. Miss Rona Merrick appeared with success as Donna Roma; and Mr. Henry Dear's interpretation of David Rossi was powerful. Mr. J. Fortescue deserves infinite credit for an impressive study of the Pope Pius XI., and as Bruno Rocco Mr. George Cartwright won whole-hearted expressions of appreciation. Charles Minghelli, the police spy, was treated skilfully by Mr. Herbert Legerton, and as Felice Mr. E. Stidwell gave a meritorious interpretation.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herrold Goulden.—*The Way of the World*, presented by Messrs. Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's company, is an excellent attraction this week; Adela de la Roche is presented in a forcible manner by Miss Sidney Crowe; and Mr. V. Gordon ably sustains the character of the villainous Captain Fred Slade; Miss Cissie Bellamy is a charming Kate Montague; and Cecil is a manly lover in the hands of Mr. H. Skardon. Mr. Clarence Temple makes an impression as the disgraced clergyman, Matthew Mayon. A lot of fun is contributed by Miss Violet Vivienne (as Polly Bell), Mr. Dick Seddon (as Joe Sparrow), and Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff).

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—One of the prettiest and smartest turns is that by George Chanti, electrical mechanical quick change artist; Dagmar and Clown give a comedy trapeze act of excellent quality; Johnson and Bentley are clever young comedians and dancers; Cyclounia is a smart illuminated cycle act; Thomas Finglas is much applauded for his coon song and dances. Other turns include Fred Earle, comedian; Morny Cash, eccentric comedian; Katie Marsh, comedienne; J. W. Elliston, swell comedian; and Alice Ormonde, comedienne.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—An excellent programme draws good houses. The famous Narows, in their knockabout sketch, *Over the Band*, are very good; J. W. Rickaby, comedian, keeps the house in roars. The other turns are also of a high order of merit, and include Moto, musical eccentric; Thurston, mimic; Harry Walker, comedian; Five Grovinis, acrobats; Clam Walters, juvenile dancer and pianist; Gertrude Mason, mezzo-soprano; Sisters Dainton, gipsy and character vocalists; and Little Violet, vocalist.

SCARBOROUGH. — PEOPLES' PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The Brothers Brook head the bill this week here in their original comedy act, which is well received. The Three Royal Tempests render selections from *Faust* in admirable style; Monsieur Zooroff, mimic of birds, animals, &c., has a flattering reception; Kavados, juggler and cannon-ball performer, goes through his performance neatly; Cinizelli, the silent juggler, on a return visit, causes a deal of laughter; the Sisters Brand, speciality dancers, execute their dances in excellent style; and Wallie Gibbert, a young descriptive vocalist, sings well. The Vernon Imperial Bioscope continues to show capital pictures.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Rierman.—King Pantomime still holds sway here, this week's bill being occupied by *Cinderella*. The title rôle is prettily played by Miss Dolly Wright, her two traditional ugly sisters being capitally acted by Messrs. Bert Gordon and Jess Boxer; Miss Lottie Holland makes a dashing Price Charming; and Miss M. Daventry is seen to advantage as Dandini; Miss Nellie Rose makes a charming Princess Rosella; and Mr. Tom Hulme keeps the fun rolling as Baron No Cash; Mr. T. Griffith's fine voice is heard to advantage as Father Time; Miss Nellie Cross and her quartette of dancers give some capital turns; and Messrs. France and Frances, equilibrists, &c., contribute some good items.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*Ben-My-Chree* gain holds the boards here, and the return visit of Mr. Arnold Bell's company finds general favour. As Dan Mylrie, Mr. Bell gives a vigorous and manly portrayal; Mr. Cuthbert Imrie's portrayal of the Bishop is excellent; Ewan Mylrie is carefully played by Mr John Belton; the Deemster is cleverly sketched by Mr. Frank Carlyle; as the Governor, Mr. F. C. Robson does well; Davey Fayer is acted with much success by Mr. Herbert Faller; and Hommey-Beg is humorously drawn by Mr. Joe Bardsley. Mona finds a sweet and sympathetic exponent in Miss Lilian Earle; Miss Violet Campbell is a successful Kitty; and Kerry is well done by Miss Vyner. On Tuesday *Called Back* was staged.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Good business still continues the rule here. Burg, Hand, and Wise are paying a welcome return visit and receive hearty applause for their pantomimic sketch *Ye Old Brown Cow*. A similar compliment is also shared with Esmond, Verona and Esmond in the farcial act *The Raw Recruit*. Mr. E. W. Selman, character comedian, meets with an excellent reception, Miss Marie Joyce gains unstinted applause for her well-rendered songs, Miss Minnie Mace, comedienne, is favourably received both in song and dance; Mr. Dan Pedley (eccentric comedian and dancer) and Miss Ivy Gallard (comedienne) are likewise deserving of special mention. An attractive set of pictures by Ruffel's Bioscope depicting scenes from "A Drunkard's Life" concludes the programme.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—Amongst the fresh arrivals this week are the Willisons in the comedy sketch *A Lady Every Time*, Steely and Dowton (duettists and legmania dancers), Miss Marie Florence (serio), Miss Rosie Lemaire (comedienne and dancer), Mr. Gus Daniels (descrintive vocalist), and Miss Minnie Manton (comedienne and dancer).

SHEFFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—The gorgeous pantomime of *The Forty Thieves*, from the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, concludes a successful three weeks' visit this week. Mr. Ben Albert, the quaint Ali Baba; Messrs. Johnson and Burt, the funny policemen; Mr. Will Johnson, the irrepressible Mrs. Cassim; Mr. Espinoza, the agile demon, Avarice; and Mr. Powis Pinder, the Gaspard-like old Cassim have all become popular; and those pretty, graceful, and accomplished ladies, Miss Fanny Wright, the pleasing principal boy; Miss Jennie Armstrong, the shapely and dashing Abdallah; Miss May Gurnay, Miss Ruby Verdi, the Four Papillons, and the New York Comedy Four will always be sure of a cordial greeting within the old walls of the historic Theatre Royal.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—King Pantomime again holds his court at the Lyceum in truly gorgeous and costly style, thanks to the enterprise and lavish outlay of Mr. Fred Karno, whose exquisite annual *Cinderella* commenced a return engagement on Monday, when a packed and enthusiastic audience received, with loud applause, old favourites, and gave cordial greetings to the new-comers. Miss Annie Purcell made a smart, elegant, and tuneful Prince Alexis, and her numbers were all encored; Miss Lulu Louden is a sweet and charming representative of Cinderella; and Miss Lillian Lea is still the graceful and refined Bandini. Mr. Alex Keith takes the place of Mr. Neil Kenyon as the Baron, and his impersonation is full of quaint and unforced humour; Mr. William Gourlay repeats his original and dramatic performance as Tatters; and Messrs. Fletch and Palmer are as diverting as ever. The flying ballet brings down the house, and the singing and funny business of the Canadian Quartette proves a popular feature in a splendid and perfectly managed pantomime.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The thrilling new drama of London life, *The Master Criminal*, was played to a large house on Monday, by Miss Winifred Chalmers and her well-selected company. Miss Chalmers looked handsome in her beautiful confections as the lovely, but wicked Lady Travennes; Mr. Henry L. Osmond appeared successfully as the scheming rascal, Lestang; Mr. Elmore Frith was good as Beady; Miss Kate Somerville was a sympathetic Mabel; and plenty of laughter was caused by Miss Tremere, Mr. Harry Cooke, and Mr. J. W. Callagher. The drama was effectively mounted.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—As usual, this perfectly appointed, palatial, and comfortable theatre was crowded on Monday, and the entertainment gave great pleasure. Madrali, the "Terrible Turk," and other champions of the wrestling art gave exhibitions. Mr. Albert Whelan, as mimic, comedian, instrumentalist, and whistler, was alike successful, and his smart and refined drawing-room act was loudly applauded; Miss Amber Austa, a tall and fascinating American belle, sang and danced in characteristic transatlantic style, and she was heartily cheered; Mr. Will Haines gave a clever impersonation of a dandy of the "Tom and Jerry" days; Terley submitted a plastic facial performance that was distinctly unique and successful; and other excellent performers were the Rinaldos, comic entertainers and head balancers; the Three Victorias, pretty young ladies, who sing and dance in a joyous manner; Mr. Fred E. Terry, comedian; Miss Lorette and her statue dog, in a novel tableau vivant act; and Miss Helen Martin, a handsome ballad vocalist, who sang two old Irish songs with sympathetic expression.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—M. Carl Herman, the well-known electrical wonder-worker; the society quartette; the Three Bostonians, in a comedy interlude; Miss Ruby Bijou, serio-comic vocalist; Mr. Brownson, and Miss Ellis, supported by several dramatic artists in a dramatic sketch; and Prof. Pallister with his bioscope, contribute to the gaiety of Westbar this week.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—On the first three nights of the present week the vastly amusing farce *Are you a Mason?* was finely enacted here by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company. Mr. Allan Pollock succeeded admirably as George Fisher, Mr. E. H. Paterson was droll as Amos Bloodgood, Mr. Langdon Bruce acted in talented fashion the part of Frank Perry, Mr. Richard Pindon infused plenty of spirit into the character of John Halton, Mr. Percy Bell made a capital Hamilton Travers, Mr. Howard L. Tracy merited high praise as Ernest Morrison, and Mr. Atherton made a satisfactory policeman. Miss Adelaide Grace as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood played with care and ability, the Misses Mabel Younge, Rita Ward, and Mabel Jowett were alike graceful and pleasing as her three daughters, Eva, Annie, and Lulu; Miss Rita Marcelli as Mrs. Halton played conscientiously and well, and Miss Alice Raynor merited praise as Lottie. A pretty little drama entitled *A Bad Penny* was exceedingly well performed as a curtain raiser.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Douglas Bruce, supported by a strong, capable company is producing *The Girl who Lost Her Character*, for this week's attraction, and on Monday a hearty reception was given the play, which is presented in creditable manner from start to finish, the scenery and effects being greatly admired. Mr. Henry Herne is well suited in the rôle of the Rev. John Everton; and Mr. Wingold Lawrence gives prominence in his impersonations of Jack England and Private Johnson; Mr. Frank Adair, as Captain Geoffrey Cavershan, is seen to advantage in his villainy, which he displays in capital manner; James Sutton is well taken by Mr. Albert H. Clarke; Mr. C. Hammond Asquin as Dick Punch and Miss Daisy Maynard as Isabella Jones are decidedly good in their respective parts, and both win commendable praise. Miss Marie McAulay plays the rôle of the villain's accomplice very forcibly, and her characterisation of Marion Franklyn was very successful; Miss Ethel Bracewell gives a dignified and pleasing portrayal of Rose Seymour; and Molly Vernon is made a prominent character by Miss Ada Marius, which is ably and successfully impersonated.

VICTORIA HALL.—Mr. Shakespeare Stewart, who is ably assisted by Mr. Edward E. Cutter in his winter season entertainments, is to be congratulated on his securing the well-known I. D. K. Minstrels for the last four nights of this week. A capital programme of coon songs, ditties, patter, and dancing is submitted, concluding each night with a laughable sketch.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—In consequence of the continued success of these popular winter gardens and skating rink, the management have decided to continue till the latter part of next month. The exhilarating pastime of roller skating is greatly enjoyed daily by crowds, who are also pleased with the capital set of new pictures shown on the American Bioscope, and the splendid selections of the celebrated Red Band.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—On Monday Mr. Louis Calvert's capital company presented for the first time at this theatre Messrs. W. Gayer Mackay and Robert Ord's successful comedy *Dr. Wake's Patient*. Miss Olive Terry played the rôle of Lady Gerania Wyn-Charteret in a charmingly artistic and effective manner; Miss Amy Fanchette was an admirable exponent of Mrs. Wake; Mr. Herbert Ross was very prominent as the blunt Duff Wynterden, a character that he capitally represented; one of the best sketches was that of Mr. Alfred Wellesley in the part of the bluff yeoman farmer, Andrew Wake; Dr. Wake had a clever and successful exponent in Mr. Douglas Vigors; and Miss Ina Pelly as the Countess of St. Olbyn deserves a word of praise for her artistic impersonation.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—Prominent amongst the excellent all-round variety combination presented here this week is Mr. Oliver Conroy, the popular eccentric comedian; also Flockton-Foster in the farcical sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-law*; other good items are supplied by Pulo, juggler; Arnold Richardson, comedian; Ethel Lonsdale, soubrette; Eileen Hope, contralto vocalist; Leotard Brothers, comical clowns; Reg. Bolton, comedy incubator; and the Bio-Tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Comlson.—*The Cotton Spinner*, by the late Frank Harvey, is being presented here by Miss Mary Anstin and company under the direction of Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. Miss Mary Austin artistically enacts the charming Mary Prescott, Mr. Edmonds praiseworthily portrays Arthur Northbury, Mr. John S. Haydon plays feelingly and soundly as the Cotton Spinner, Mr. Edwin F. Fysher is successful as Lord Northbury, and the Cunningham of Mr. Charles E. Wilton is good. Mr. Ernest C. Edwards scores as the irate Major, and Lady Charlotte Needy proves an excellent foil as delineated by Miss Bella Power. Miss Enid Ross is well placed as Constance Harrington.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—A pleasing turn here is given by the Empire Comedy Four, whose humorous vocal efforts delight the audience; Park's Eton Boys, juvenile vocalists, are responsible for a good turn; Griff, assisted by Alpha, repeats his clever and diverting entertainment; A Bo Kou is an unusually smart juggler, Palles and Cussick are knockabouts of no mean order; and others appearing are Babs Lloyd, Sisters Hula, Little Don, and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—Picette and Lizette in a juggling act entitled "Demon Chef" create a favourable impression; an ovation is accorded Craig, Rose, and Craig, gymnasts; the Sisters Terry are popular duettists, and

STOCKPORT.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Revill.—Delightfully entertaining have been the performances of the *Little Michus*, given here by Mr. George Dance's company before large and appreciative audiences. Mr. Leslie Holland, who appears as General Des Ifs is humorous, and evokes hearty laughter; as Gaston Riguard, Mr. Gerald Clifford acts and sings ably; and Mr. D. Fitzgibbon is pleasing as Artistide Vert; whilst the character of Bagnolet is admirably filled by Mr. Cecil Clayton. Mr. T. E. Conover and Miss Florence Hylton are exceedingly good as Pierre and Madame Michu; and Miss Alice Carrick as Marie, and Miss Gracie Sinclaire as Blanche Marie, both charming young ladies, play their parts with captivating grace and ability.

Empire, Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Black.—Among many excellent items here this week, the chief attraction is a dramatic and humorous episode, entitled *Did He Deserve it?* presented by Mr. James Millard, Mr. Willie Atom, Miss Violet Carr, and Miss Mildred Carr, in an effective manner. A neat and pleasing entertainment is given by Barton and Franklin, vocalists, instrumentalists, and dancers; Hector and Paulus are amusing and clever acrobats and equilibrists; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre meets with much success; Gracie Taylor, vocalist, and George Edney, character actor, are pleasingly greeted; and the Dainton-Shaw troupe of cyclists are deservedly applauded for their clever tricks.

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Harry Foxwell and company are here this week in the drama *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Bernice Fielding in the rôle of Nina Malvoisin proved an accomplished actress, and Mr. W. J. Butler as Phillipe Malvoisin scored with a faithful portrayal; Mr. Wolston Foster as Captain Herbert Seaton played in a skilful manner, while Mrs. Harry Foxwell was a pleasing and winning Eleanor Dean; the characters of Paddy Boyle and Sammy Sharp were undertaken with great credit by Messrs. Harry Foxwell and Harry Harrop; others who deserved mention are Messrs. Harrison Tate, George Gormley, and Miss Ethel Vinroy.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—After an absence of two weeks, the successful pantomime *Cinderella* (which was produced here at Christmas) reappeared at this theatre on Monday. The caste has undergone no change. Miss Madoline Rees is a dashing principal boy, and Miss Lola Patey delights with her singing and dancing as Cinderella; Mdlle. De Velin, a charming Fairy Progress, is a vocalist of exceptional merit. Mr. Shaun Glenville as Baron Harduppe is as popular as ever, and the Buttons of Mr. W. T. Thompson could not well be improved upon. As Ripples and Pimples, the Baron's daughters, Miss Jennie Gregson and Mr. George Goodfellow are well placed. The Dandini of Miss Minnie Miriam is excellent, the Wedburns are amusing as the broker's men, and Mr. George Belrose as Father Time pleases with his vocal efforts. On Monday night Messrs. King and Benson were unable to go through their specialty turn owing to Miss Benson suffering from a very severe cold.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—Mr. Chas. March's company is here this week in *The Gamester of Mets*. Mr. Chas. March is seen at his best in the difficult rôle of Paul Baldot. Mr. Fred Aldworth gives a commendable rendering of General de Montparnasse, and Mr. Edward Avinal makes the most of his opportunities as Captain Badaire. Mr. George Paget is seen to advantage as Lieut. Herve, and Mr. W. G. Dudeney is a capital Louis Badaire. Miss Una Lane gives a pathetic and refined rendering of Lucia Baldot, and Miss Cissy Haighton is a dainty Gwendolin Pearson.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—An excellent all-round programme is provided here this week. Mr. J. H. Milburn, the ever-popular comedian, has a budget of good songs; Flo Cecil (comedienne), Loyelle (a clever novelty gymnast), Charles Craston (comedian), Maggie Rimmer (comedienne), Cliff and Kean (in a smart dancing act), Reyene and Robini (comic trapeze artists), the Labakans (acrobatic grotesques), and Vernon's up-to-date animated pictures complete the entertainment.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—*A Sister's Sin*, played by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, is paying a first visit to Sutton this week. Mr. William Vane gives a polished rendering of Harold Raymond; Miss Violet Langley is good as Minnie Hastings; and the comedy is in the capable hands of Mr. W. Maccabe as Larry Murphy, Mr. Harry Lyndon as Theophilus Hope, and Miss Edie Macklin and Miss Alice Granville as Floss Perks and Nell Stubbs respectively.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—That capital romantic drama *The Breed of the Treshams* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Frank Bertram's company, under the business-management of Mr. Eugene Bertram. The important part of Lieut. Reresby was admirably sustained by Mr. Henry Belding. Among those standing out for special mention in an excellent company are Mr. Oswald Lingard, with a very fine impersonation of the dignified Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Geo. Traill, who ably worked the necessary touch of humanity into the part of Sir Henry Curwen; Mr. Hamilton Deane, who portrayed the cowardly Colonel C. Hungerford with good judgment; Mr. Cecil Klein, bright and natural as the Hon. Francis Tresham; and Mr. M. Wetherell successful as Captain Stanhope. The part of Colonel Bagshawe was ably undertaken by Mr. Charles T. Doe, who must also be credited with the excellent staging and dressing of the drama. Miss Florence Tressilian deserves to be highly commended for her graceful and charming delineation of the Hon. Margaret Hungerford; and Miss Celestine Bertram proved particularly pleasing and effective as Batty.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—This week we have a return visit of Miss Elaine Verner's company in *Saints and Sinners*. The piece was, as usual, well received. As Jacob Fletcher Mr. Harding Thomas soon established himself a prime favourite, the part of George Kingsmill was capably acted by Mr. J. Hooker, Captain Eustace Fanshaw being well placed in the hands of Mr. W. C. Wilson. Mr. F. Lyndon was much appreciated as Samuel Hoggard, and Miss Elaine Verner gave a charming and polished interpretation of Letty Fletcher.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey.—Mr. Norman Macowan's company in *Monsieur Beaucaire* and *A Soldier of Fortune* has been cordially received this week. Upon the occasion of our visit the former piece was presented. Mr. Norman Macowan himself took the title-rôle, and appeared with much distinction as the chivalrous French Prince who won Lady Mary Carlisle incognito. The part of the proud beauty of Bath had a charming representative in Miss Marguerite Cellier, who was fully equal to the emotional scene in the Pump Room, as well as the more tender sentiment around "Diana by moonlight." As the impecunious Duke whose hospitality to Beaucaire is characterised by more than one card up his sleeve, Mr. Murray Hathorn gave a well-conceived study of the villain of the piece; while Mr. Arthur Somers proved a sufficiently gallant representative of Major Molyneux. Mr. P. Ramsay Forman as the fire-eating Captain Badger, and Messrs. Conybeare Gough, Frank Storey, W. Barnett Parker, and R. Taylor as the protectors of Bath society, who come off second-best with the all-conquering Beaucaire, gave excellent studies of Bath manners; while Mr. Leonard Laurence as Beau Nash presented quite a vivid sketch of how Nash ruled Society. Mr. Harry Schleswiger doubled the part of the faithful Francois with the French Ambassador in the final scene; while Mr. Frank Portsmouth was a successful representative of Joliffe. Miss Annie Windsor gave a vivacious impersonation of Lucy, the companion of Lady Mary; and the several other ladies who figure in the society of Bath found graceful representatives in the Misses Mabel Adams, Howard Medley, Isabel Hathorn, Evelyn Victor, and Mrs. Izzard.

(*Continued on page 25.*)

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER HERR DER HANN,"
Volks-Opera, in Three Acts, by Hermann Kirchner,
Produced at the Theater des Westens,
Feb. 9, 1906.

General ..... Herr Niering
Lieutenant ..... Herr Nikow
Herr der Hann ..... Herr Barck
Die Hannin ..... Fraulein Recke
Kathi ..... Fraulein Hanne
Hans ..... Herr Haxthausen
Michel ..... Herr Below
Hanka ..... Fraulein Hanio
Rulla ..... Herr Fournes
Wortmann ..... Herr Brueckner
Nachtwächter ..... Herr Adolfi
Notarius ..... Herr Ziegler

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 15.—A very hearty reception was accorded to the new opera, the composer—who is also the writer of the book—being called on to the stage and, together with artists, manager, and conductor, warmly applauded. The music is—if not always as original as it might be—melodious and effective; there are several very taking solo and duo numbers, and the instrumentation is harmonious. The plot is as follows:—The "Herr der Hann" is the title of the Mayor in a Transylvanian hamlet, and the action passes in the eighteenth century. Michael Hann and the "Hannin," his good wife, have one child, pretty Kathi, the belle of the countryside. She is in love with Hans, her father's farm-servant, a worthy, fine-looking young fellow, who is torn with doubts and fears that Kathi can never be his. The Hanns have decided that their daughter is to wed Misch—or Michel—a wealthy but idiotic master-peasant, who is always turning up at the wrong moment to pester Kathi. Someone else is in love with the village belle, and that is the Kroatian lieutenant, but his course of action is less open, and he plans to kidnap her. His accomplices are Hanka, a vivandière, and her friend Rulla, the gipsy, a couple of graceless vagabonds who go about with a donkey-cart, stealing the farmers' fattest geese and anything else they can lay their hands upon. Hanka has cast covetous eyes upon the handsome Hans, using all her fascinations to gain his affection, but Hans proves true to Kathi. Enraged beyond measure at being spurned by Hans the vivandière swears vengeance. She overhears the lovers arrange a rendezvous for that night under the trees, and she is there, too, with Rulla, and the Lieutenant. The kidnapping scheme fails, the household being alarmed by Kathi's cries, and the evildoers are all taken into custody. The gipsies escape a time or two, but are always recaptured. The General, a German, proves everyone's good angel. He comes on to the scene several times, and finally sets all to rights. In the last act we see the trial of the prisoners, der Herr der Hann in his magisterial capacity presiding. The jury pronounce the gipsies worthy of death, while the Lieutenant is found guilty too. The General, however, uses his superior power, and sets them all at liberty, persuading Hann to allow the nuptuals of Kathi and Hans. Michel, who cuts a very funny figure in the uniform he has been called upon to wear in the General's service, calmly resigns himself to the inevitable, and we see him as the curtain descends becoming a willing victim to Hanka's blandishments. The costumes—particularly those of the male peasants—were most picturesque and artistic; a note on the programme stated that they were lent to the management for the occasion by the Saxon farmers of Transylvania. As to interpretation and mounting, both were highly satisfactory, Fräulein Hahne and Herr Haxthausen, especially, singing the numbers alloted to them in a thoroughly musicianly manner. Herr Below was very funny indeed in the part of the semi-idiot Michel, and the General found an excellent exponent in Herr Niering.

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 22.—There is no doubt about it, Russia—poor, oppressed Russia—is the mode, and we must bow to the inevitable. In the street-cars and shops Russian is heard all around us—it is computed that there are upwards of 150,000 refugees in Berlin—and now we are being invaded by Russian plays and Russian companies. The Lustspielhaus gave on Saturday a performance of Tschirikoff's drama *The Jews*, done into excellent German by Herr A. Bildner. It was, on its first appearance here a year or two ago, fully detailed in your columns. The play is interesting from the fact of its being a representative picture of the life of the Russian Jews; but it is too long, and "drama" is scarcely the correct designation for it. All depends upon the acting, which in this case was exceedingly good. Great pains had been expended upon both cast and mounting, the performance being in aid of the projected Heine memorial statue. Herr Reicher gave a flawless rendering of the watch and clock maker, Leiser Fraenkel, and equally good was Herr Paulmuller in the part of Srul, the newspaper vendor. Fräulein Gussmann was excellent as Lisa, and the principal artists were all well supported. The reception was very cordial, the artists being warmly applauded.

Saturday being the fiftieth anniversary of Heine's death, a prologue was delivered at the Neues and one or two other theatres. The poet of the Neues Theatre was Herr Frank Wedekind; the words were appropriate enough and poetic also, but it was a mistake to permit the author to read his poem when there are so many better qualified artists in the company.

At the Schiller N. Tolstoi's powerful play, *Die Macht der Finsternis*, is being given with a good deal of success. This play has appeared in turn on several of our stages, and always made its mark for a time, though it is too gloomy ever to become really popular. The interpretation at the Schiller was a careful and a praiseworthy one, Frau Gundra in the part of Matrjona carrying off the chief laurels, although Fräuleins Ullerich and Graehner as Anissja and Anjutka ran her very close. The performannces at the Schiller have now reached an all-round pitch of excellence that will compare with most of our best theatres.

Miss Frances Rose, a young German-American from the Stadt Theatre at Breslau, is giving a season "on approval" at the Royal Opera. Her initial performance was that of Valentine in *Die Hugonotten*, and she sang it with a good deal of success. Miss Rose's voice is very pleasing and of good compass, but it needs better training to bring out its full qualities. Her acting is intelligent and graceful, so that the impression created was on the whole distinctly favourable. Herr Joern sang the part of Raoul in first-rate style, and the performance under Herr von Strauss's leadership was an enjoyable one.

Donizetti's delightful little opera *Don Pasquale* has made its triumphant entry at the Komische Oper. The work has been far too much neglected by our managers—we have really only heard it when an Italian "guest" has been visiting us—and the gratitude of the music-loving public is due to Herr Gregor. Herr Otto Julius Bierbaum and Dr. Kleefeld are responsible for the translation of the book into German and the adaptation for the German stage, and very well their work is done. Herr Gregor, as we know, is in possession of an excellent company, while one of the best stage-managers in the country is charged with the scenic arrangements, so that whatever is put in the Komische Oper bill is fairly certain of success. *Don Pasquale* is no exception; it is alternating with the ever-popular *Hoffmann's Erzählungen*, and will unquestionably have a lengthy run. Fräulein Hedwig Kauffmann sang the part of Norina, and Herr Mantler gave the title-rôle. Both were well rendered, that of Herr Mantler particularly so; his fine voice, artistic singing, and humorous acting caused frequent applause by open stage. Dr. Nadolovitch's beautiful tenor is just fitted to the part of Ernesto, which he sang in capital style, except for a little temporary hoarseness, and Herr Egeniew made a decided hit in the rôle of Malatesta. A word of commendation must not be omitted as to the admirable manner in which the chorus acquitted themselves under the capable conducting of Herr Rummler. In this particular work Director Gregor was his own stage-manager, and the result was all that anyone could wish. The Komische Oper, by the way, has a pull over the Royal Opera in the matter of *Lakmé*, whose sole rights Herr Gregor wisely acquired long ago. That work will probably be the next of importance in the bill.

"Der Herr der Hann" is not proving such a source of attraction at the Theatre des Westens as its enthusiastic welcome at the *première* appeared to warrant, and the popular *Schützenliesl* has been filling the bill almost exclusively this week. Herr Fritz Werner—the Munich "guest"—has recovered from his indisposition, and is giving the chief rôle every evening to the delight of the large audience. Wolff-Ferrari's new comic opera, *Die Vier Grobiane*, will be produced at the Des Westens early in March.

The first lady stage-manager in Germany is Frau Betty L'Arronge, a clever actress in the company of the Frankfort Residenz Theatre. Her first attempt at stage-managing was in a recent performance of Ibsen's *Wildente*, which was such a complete success that she was at once offered the post as a permanency.

Apropos of Ibsen, I spoke to an intimate friend of both his and Grieg's a few days ago. My informant—who was one of the last persons who visited Ibsen—tells me the famous dramatist is, and has been for a long time, mentally a complete wreck, while his physical condition is comparatively healthy. His mind is clouded to such an extent that he does not know the wife who has so tenderly nursed him, and nobody except the members of his family are ever allowed to see him.

Herr Georg Hirschfeld's latest work—a four-act comedy entitled *Spätfrühling* (late spring)—has not met with much success at its production in Vienna. At the Residenz Theatre, Munich, where the piece was almost simultaneously produced, the reception was not very cordial either. Under these circumstances we shall scarcely see it in Berlin.

The next novelty at the Thalia will be *Die Doppel-Ehe*, a three-act farce by Curt Kraatz. Herr Thielsdier will, as usual, play the principal part, and there is not a cleverer "funny man" to be found anywhere than he. The piece has also been acquired by the Residenz Theatre at Dresden, and the Josefstadt at Vienna.

"Othello" has been revived with success at the Royal Schauspielhaus, the cast being unusually good and even. In the title-rôle Herr Matkowsky was seen to much advantage, it being a part well suited to the at times overweening temperament of this talented actor. The Iago of Dr. Max Pohl is well-known here, and it is amongst his most powerful renderings. Fräulein Wachner—a clever and sympathetic young actress—gave a thoughtful account of Desdemona; and the Emilia of Frau Butze was an excellent piece of acting. The play was staged in the best possible manner, and the audience—which was a large one—was most appreciative.

Herr Adolf Philipp celebrates this week his twenty-fifth anniversary as an actor. Born in Lübreck, Herr Philipp went on the stage at seventeen, sometimes as a tenor singer, sometimes as a heavy tragedian, often in light comedy. Nothing came amiss to him. He then went to New York, where he founded the Germania Theatre, and after some twenty years across the "herring-pond" he came to Berlin, where, with his brother, Paul Philipp, he carries on the successful management of the Deutsch-American Theatre. Herr Philipp has written a number of capital plays in addition to all this.

"Motogirl" is here again at the Wintergarten, and has commenced her season under a particularly bright star. On Sunday, at a special matinée, the Crown Prince was present with a large number of distinguished persons. His Imperial Highness asked if "Motogirl" could be brought to the Terrace (where he and his suite were sitting), so that he might see the wonderful impersonation at close quarters. Mr. Frederic Melville, the impresario, of course complied, carrying his precious burden right up to the Prince's chair, where "Motogirl" gave an exhibition of her powers. H.I.H. was delighted with it, and himself led the hearty applause. This is an honour such as is rarely accorded a variety artist, and pretty, clever little Miss Chertsey is to be congratulated.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Farce, in Three Acts, by F. C. Burnand,
entitled
"BETSY."

Crouch End is this week being moved to merriment by the antics of *Betsy* at the Opera House, and the play is being excellently presented by a really capable company. Mr. Birkett, as played by Mr. Norman Clark, is a pompous old gentleman, whose bobby consists of studying Parliamentary Reports, Blue Books, and similar publications. Mr. Clark is quite at home in the delineation of this sedentary type. Mr. Harvey White as Adolphus Birkett, otherwise "Dolly," is excellently fitted to the part. His study of the mild effeminate youth—molly-coddled by an adoring mother—but with an eye to all the good things of life, is a capital character sketch. Dick Talbot, his bright, breezy, and inconsequent friend, is well played by Mr. Eric Vane, who fills the part with life and vitality. Mr. A. P. Kaye as Captain McManus, the slangy horse dealer, is another excellent study of a jealous husband. The unctuous old tutor, Dawson, is realistically portrayed by Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey, who is fast becoming a great favourite here. He enacts the rôle of "the friend of the family" in a very able manner. Miss Gillmore could not be bettered as Mrs. Birkett, the doting mother, who thinks her son "Dolly" so innocent; and Miss Minnie Grey is bright, attractive, and vivacious as Mrs. McManus, the wife of the fiery horse dealer. As Madame Polenta Miss Ida Phillips is engaging, and makes the most of a small part. Miss Harcourt and Miss Avery play Nellie Bassett and Clara Peyton respectively, and are both well placed. Miss K. Brand as Betsy, the cause of all the trouble, makes a pert and attractive maid, and her comedy scenes cause great amusement. The farce is preceded by a short sketch, entitled *Polly and Scotch*, by Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey.

Miss Ethel Dove, principal boy in the *Little Red Riding Hood* pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Islington, is the winner of one of the famous diamond rings in *Ally Sloper's* competition, the presentation being made on Saturday, the last night of the pantomime. Ally Sloper, Esq., F.O.M., attended in state, and handed the "Award of Merit" to Mr. Samuel James, the managing-director of the theatre, and a silver watch to Mr. Newman Maurice, the acting-manager. Mr. E. S. Hoddy, the tenor who assists Miss Dove in her "Rainbow" song, also received a presentation watch. Mr. Samuel Jones gave his stage-carpenter, Mr. Alf. George, a silver cruet; the members of the company presented Mr. Frank Dradsell, the conductor of the original *Red Riding Hood* pantomime with a travelling bag and silver mounted umbrella; Mr. Newman Maurice received a shaving-glass from the chorus ladies and children of the *Sinbad* company; and Mr. Syd Morton was the recipient of a dressing-case.

"DON PAULO."

An Original Musical Play, in Two Acts,
Produced at the Assembly Rooms, Agricultural Hall, Norwich, on Monday, Feb. 19.
Lyrics by Walter Forder, Music by Joseph T. Gowing.

Abrajjio San Paulo ..... Mr. G. Gundry-White
Sebastian Shackleton Fendle ..... Mr. W. Forder
Leonard Mortimer ..... Mr. Gordon Lennox
Reigo ..... Mr. Alf Scutcheon
Napoleon Tuggs ..... Mr. Arnold Phillips
Sir James Mortimer ..... Mr. Gerald Whittle
Phillippe Tortosa ..... Mr. R. E. Killingback-Smith
The Padre ..... Mr. Horace Wright
Aubrey Habberton Mortimer ..... Mr. W. Edwards
Rena Mayvil ..... Miss Lily Sayer
Carmena ..... Miss Mabel Gundry-White
Matheme ..... Miss May Griffiths
Marion ..... Miss Ethel Earles
Phillippa ..... Miss Maud Hammond
Clothilda ..... Miss Louie Wynes
Inez ..... Miss Eva Sayer

Don Paulo was produced by amateurs, and thus probably lost something of its merits; but, however, the piece itself is well written, and the music of first-class order. The plot is interesting, and is as follows: Don Abrajjio San Paulo is captain of a band of brigands in the Oriedio Mountains, upon the outskirts of Vinaroz, Spain, who at the opening of the piece are evidently at very low ebb. Their hopes, however, are somewhat raised by the appearance of their captain, who informs them of the visit of some English excursionists, and their inevitable capture. Whilst discussing this, Matheme, a witch, appears, and foretells the dispersal of the band through the influence of love. Don Paulo, although betrothed to Carmena, ridicules this idea of love. Finally, the tourists are captured, including Sir James Mortimer and his daughters. Carmena has some presentiment of the coming change in the bandits' camp, for she sings a song with very pretty music and words, "The land where the dreams come from." Sebastian Shackleton Fendle is very romantic, and his capture by the brigands is one of the delights of his life, and has no terrors for him, whatever the consequences. However with the eatables supplied by the excursionists, under the guidance of Napoleon Tuggs, the bandits and captives fraternise, and thus ends the first act.

In the second act the occult influence speedily develops itself. Don Paulo falls in love with one of the captives, Rena Mayvil, who is engaged to Leonard Mortimer, another captive, whilst Sir James Mortimer gets into entanglements with Inez and Clothilda (Spanish girls of the band), and to crown all Carmena shows a fondness for Leonard Mortimer, who reciprocates her love. Ultimately a change is agreed upon, and Carmena asigns herself to Leonard Mortimer, whilst Inez transfers her affections to Don Paulo, as explained in the quartette and scena, "A mantelpiece love-story" of the four little Dresden folk. But another difficulty has to be overcome. A price has been set upon the capture of Don Paulo, dead or alive, and in the midst of this seeming Arcadia Phillippe Tortosa, Governor of Vinaroz, with a band of Spanish Guards, surrounds the bandits and their captives, and Don Paulo is taken prisoner. However, the romantic Fendle discovers a barrel of gunpowder, which he threatens to fire and "blow all to pieces" unless the Governor agrees to give Don Paulo a free pardon and allow Marion to marry Fendle. To save their lives the Governor consents to a free pardon to Don Paulo, and Marion accepts Fendle.

The band, under Mr. J. T. Gowen, materially assisted, and the dressing and staging were excellent. When the curtain fell a call was made for the author, and Mr. Forder acknowledged the same.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Play, in Five Acts, by Rudolph Bleichman,
Adapted from the Comedy *Alt Heidelberg*,
by Wilhelm Meyer-Forsted, entitled
"OLD HEIDELBERG."

Mr. Mouillot's company, headed by Mr. Robert Minster and Miss Irene Lavington, is proving very attractive this week in the above play, which has been here before. The representation is generally admirable, and the scenery and costumes are handsome and appropriate. Mr. Robert Minster is well suited to the character of the Prince, a part he plays with much power and discrimination. Miss Irene Lavington is altogether charming as Kathie, and scores heavily in the more important scenes. Miss Rose Helene is excellent as Frau Ruder; and Miss Nessie Blackford is very good indeed as Frau Dorffell. Mr. Eric Phillips gives an excellent representation of Staateminister von Haugh; Mr. J. Nelson Ramsey submits a fine rendering of the character of Dr. Juttner; and Mr. Lionel Gadsden is good as the valet Lutz. Mr. Wallace G. Court is a clever representative of Graf von Asterberg. Mr. P. Wells as Hofmarschal von Passarge, Mr. Collyn Leslie as Kammenherr von Brutenberg, Mr. A. J. Nicholls as Kammenherr Baron von Metzing, Mr. Martin Pedler as Kellerman, Mr. Willis Searle as Ruder, and the remaining members of the company are all well placed, and the performance in its entirety is thoroughly enjoyable.

FRENCH PLAYS AT THE ROYALTY.

On Thursday, Feb. 15,
for the First Time in London, the Play, in
Four Acts, by Henry Bataille, entitled
"LA MARCHE NUPTIALE."

Roger Lechatelier ..... M. Luguet
Claude Morillot ..... M. Armand Bour
Grâce de Plessans ..... Mlle. Berthe Bady
Suzanne Lechatelier ..... Mlle. Feriel
Mme. de Plessans ..... Mlle. Dorlia
Miguel ..... Mlle. de Villers
Mlle. Aimée ..... Mlle. Jeanne Berge

Four months barely separate the original production at the Paris Vaudeville of *La Marche Nuptiale* and its presentation to a London public, which took place at the Royalty on the 15th inst. It is a play of passion and false ideals, culminating in a tragedy, which has the weakest foundation of all. The story, which is dramatically told, but in construction leaves much to be desired, concerns Grâce de Plessans, a young girl of the French provincial nobility, who conceives it to be her duty to elope with Claude Morillot, her music master, a man with few qualities, either of person or character. The runaway couple go to Paris, where hard times come upon them, and the girl discovers her lover's weakness and is disillusioned. The pair are helped in their difficulties by the husband of Grâce's friend, and for him the erring woman conceives a real passion, until, appalled at the thought, she finds a way out by shooting herself. Mlle. Berthe Bady played the part of the fanatical young girl with a power and intensity that served almost to place her within the range of reason, and spared herself neither in vehemence nor dramatic action to secure the most thrilling effects. M. Armand Bour realised to perfection the author's conception of the part of Claude, the worthless shrine at which Grâce's abortive sacrifice is made, and acted meritoriously throughout. M. Luguet as the second lover played with considerable fervour; and Mlle. Fériel was charming as the young wife.

"The Era" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

COL. WINSTANLEY'S RETIREMENT.

Colonel J. A. Winstanley terminated his theatrical career in Leicester on Saturday, when he was, with Mrs. Winstanley, the recipient of many handsome and valuable presents from the leading citizens of the town and the whole of the employés at both the Royal Opera House and Theatre Royal. In an interval of the performance at the Opera House Mr. Geo. M. Slater, the Colonel's business-manager, addressed the crowded audience, and read a letter from Colonel Winstanley regretting his inability through illness to be present, and thanking the public for their constant support and the staff for their loyalty. In the course of his speech Mr. Slater said they all missed Colonel Winstanley's amiable presence, and although he was absent from them in body, he was with them in the spirit. He thanked them for their kind reception of his efforts to assist his esteemed employer in providing for their delectation during the past four years the best attractions procurable. He took his leave regretfully, but was pleased to say that in the hands of the new proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, the former a gentleman of prodigious business capacity and keen judgment, and the latter the talented actor whose performances had frequently received the endorsement of their approval, the high traditions of the Royal Opera House, Leicester, would be adequately maintained.

After the performance the whole company assembled on the stage, when Mrs. Winstanley received a number of presents on behalf of her husband. The gifts, which were presented by Mr. Slater, included an illuminated address bearing the following inscription:—

"To Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley, proprietor of the Royal Opera House and Lessee of the Theatre Royal.

"Dear Sir,—We, your friends and your employés, desire to present you with this testimonial and address, expressing our great regret that you have decided to retire, after a long and honourable career, from theatrical management.

"In Leicester your absence will leave a void difficult to fill.

"Most sincerely we wish you good health and happiness, assuring you that although we no longer have the pleasure of your presence, you will be ever remembered and esteemed."

The other gifts consisted of a cut-glass tantalus, mounted in coromandel wood and silver; a silver table set; a set of silver butter dishes; a set of silver-backed hair and clothes brushes; and a silver pocket sporting flask.

Earlier in the evening, at the Theatre Royal, Mrs. Winstanley was the recipient of a very valuable and handsome purse and hand-bag. Mr. J. C. Candler, the acting-manager for Colonel Winstanley, made the presentation on behalf of the whole of the theatre staff.

Mr. Slater was the recipient from Herr J. Th. Klee, the musical director, of an amber gold-mounted cigarette tube in solid gold case; and Mr. Geo. O. P. Jarvis, our Leicester representative, was presented with a solid silver cigarette case from Mr. Slater in token of appreciation of his courtesy.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by William Bourne,
entitled
"MAN TO MAN."

This week, the third of a very successful season, the excellent stock company is presenting the stirring drama by William Bourne, entitled *Man to Man*. As George Gordon Mr. Ernest E. Norris has a part admirably suited to his robust style. When arrested at the church door after marrying his employer's daughter, Mr. Norris's manly bearing claims the sympathy of the audience, and he fully maintains the dignity of the character when seen as a convict at Portland. Mr. Alfred Harding, by his excellent impersonation of Richard Ellerton, earns the hisses and bowls with which the villain is always greeted "across the bridge." That versatile actor, Mr. Edwin Bennett, as the Rev. Philip Ormond, the "mad" parson, gains some of the heartiest applause of the evening, more especially for his excellently-delivered reflections on our prison life and law. Mr. Howard Templeton as Samuel Plumtree, with no visible means of existence, shares with Miss Alice Spry (as Miss Dove) the constant laughter of the house. Mr. Wellesley Smith, with his grim humour, scores heavily as Bill Burkley, a convict. Mr. Arthur Wilson is a policeman to the life; Mr. W. Stevens as a warder is seen to advantage; and Mr. Harold Wagner and Mr. George Rowland as countrymen furnish the necessary local colour. Mrs. Bennett as George Gordon's bride makes the most of a pathetic part. In the one strong scene of misunderstanding and reconciliation the clever actress rises fully to the occasion. Miss Georgie de Lara is once again well suited in a gipsy part; Miss Gladys King makes a pert maidservant. The staging is excellent, a special feature being made of the railway collision in Act 3.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

Miss Rose Temple, who is called upon to speak the line, "What is the use of being virtuous in a shop?" in *The Heroic Stubbs* at Terry's, is the wife of Mr. John Donald, the capable acting-manager of the London Coliseum. She began by playing small parts with Mr. Charles Wybrow's comic opera company. Coming to town, Miss Temple took up Miss Daisy Atherton's part of Amy Loveboy in *The J.P.* At one o'clock in the afternoon she was called upon to appear in the character mentioned at a matinée to be held at the Strand Theatre an hour and a half later. The result was an emphatic triumph. Following *The J.P.*, Miss Temple had the advantage of four months' understudying Mrs. Tree at His Majesty's during the run of *The Three Musketeers*. She then went on tour with Miss Fanny Brough in *Masks and Faces*, appearing as Kitty Clive for a period of five months. She has played such parts as Minnie Gilfillian in *Sweet Lavender*, Mrs. Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Emilie St. Evremond in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and Julia in *The Rivals*.

"'TWIXT AXE AND CROWN".

Historical Drama, by Tom Taylor, Revived at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, on Monday, Feb. 19.

Bishop Gardiner .....MR. CHARLES COMBE
The Earl of Sussex .....MR. ULICK BURKE
Lord Paget .....MR. A. SPENCER
Lord William Howard .....MR. S. RIGGEY
Lord Treasurer .....MR. E. LONG
Lord Arundel .....MR. LASCELLES
Edward Courtenay ....MR. F. LUMSDEN HARE
Simon Renard .....MR. J. J. BARTLETT
Sir John Brydges .....MR. EDWARD BEECHER
Sir Thomas Wyatt .....MR. ALFRED FISHER
Sir John Harrington .....MR. LESLIE PALMER
Sir John Parry..... } MR. C. A. WHITE
Rutter..... }
Lord Mayor of London .....MR. EDWARD DANE
Sheriffs of London } ..... MR. TRACEY
..... MR. SANG
Executioner .....MR. H. R. COOK
Priest .....MR. PARR
Mary Tudor .....MISS GERALDINE OLLIFFE
Anne of Cleves .....MISS M. COOK
Countess of Dorset .....MISS FANNY LAURENCE
Duchess of Norfolk .....MRS. H. CANE
Isabel Markham .....MISS MABEL KNOWLES
Lady Elizabeth .....MRS. RUSS WHYTAL

A very cordial reception was accorded the revival on Monday at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, of Tom Taylor's celebrated historical romance, *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, a drama which, despite its age, will compare favourably with many modern plays. Full of incident, it never fails to interest and entertain, and its many exciting situations, especially the scene in the Tower, where the Princess Elizabeth defies the warrant of Queen Mary for her execution, aroused much enthusiasm. A character which compels our sympathy from the first is that of Queen Mary, who in the play is much to be pitied, being certainly not the "bloody Mary" of tradition. In the opening scene she treats very generously the Earl of Devonshire, Edward Courtenay, and even offers to share her throne with him. He respectfully declines the honour, however, being in love with her half-sister, the young Princess Elizabeth. Bishop Gardiner, the Queen's counsellor and confessor, and the Spanish envoy, Simon Renard, a pair of scoundrels who appear to have complete control over Mary, then determine to compass the Earl's downfall, and also succeed in estranging the Queen and Elizabeth, who subsequently seeks seclusion at Ashfield. Here we have an effective scene between Elizabeth and Courtenay; and an exciting episode is that in which Sir John Brydges, the lieutenant of the Tower, comes to take her to the Tower, the Queen having, after some persuasion from Gardiner and the crafty Renard, signed an order for her incarceration therein, she and Courtenay being accused of aiding and abetting in Wyatt's rebellion. After the powerful scene before mentioned, in which Elizabeth defies the warrant from the Queen, we are shown the death of Mary, and the curtain falls with the proclamation of Elizabeth, and the news that her lover Courtenay has died abroad. The company responsible for the representation is an excellent one all round, every part being played with earnestness and ability. The arduous rôle of Elizabeth was undertaken by Mrs. Russ Whytall, who is to be warmly complimented on her performance throughout. Very natural and dignified was her acting in the scene at the Manor House at Ashfield with Edward Courtenay; and a powerful and impressive episode was that in which she defies the warrant of the Queen. The concluding scene also, when the tidings of her lover's death come identically with the news that she is Queen of England, enabled her to display her emotional powers, and her portrayal altogether was one of earnestness and conviction. At the end of the fourth act she was thrice recalled, and her reception was throughout flattering in the extreme. Miss Geraldine Olliffe is also to be highly commended for her impersonation of the unhappy Queen Mary, the actress sounding the depths of despair in her concluding scene, where she learns that Philip is making overtures to Elizabeth. The little comedy relief there is in the play was contributed by Isabel Markham, the faithful attendant of the Queen's, and Sir John Harrington, Gentleman of the Chamber to the Lady Elizabeth, and the former part could not have had a better representative than Miss Mabel Knowles, a bright, engaging, and clever actress, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy her share in the performance. Mr. Lumsden Hare's fine presence and excellent elocution were well displayed in the part of Edward Courtenay, especially praiseworthy being his scene in the Manor House at Ashbridge; the crafty Renard was a finished and unexaggerated portrait as presented by that experienced actor, Mr. J. J. Bartlett; Mr. Charles Combe was quietly impressive as Bishop Gardiner; Mr. Leslie Palmer made a gay gallant of Sir John Harrington, acting in an easy and buoyant manner; and Sir John Brydges was admirably played by Mr. Edwin Beecher. The numerous other rôles were all carefully and capably undertaken; Mr. Alfred Fisher's Sir Thomas Wyatt being an especially impressive piece of acting. The drama was handsomely put upon the stage, and evidently much care and time had been expended upon its production. Some tedious waits were enlivened by excellent and much-appreciated selections by the band.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Malcolm Douglas, entitled
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."

Such thrilling situations as an escape in a submarine boat at the bottom of the River Hudson, and the depiction of a wireless telegraphy instrument giving forth a message from a thousand miles out at sea, are being watched with deep interest this week by those Stratfordians who like their melodramatic fare "hot and strong," and are not too insistent on the score of probability, and the liberal patronage they are according to Mr. Robert Perris's company in *A Fight for Millions* testifies to their appreciation of the piece. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves makes an earnest and buoyant Tom Manley; and Mr. Percy Ballard plays the scheming Richard Dudley very powerfully. Mr. Robert Perris is successful in the popular character of Willie Neverwork; and Mr. Karl H. Edwards contributes a characteristic unexaggerated performance as Solomon Moses. Mr. P. G. Beresford makes a dignified Hudson Rivers; Mr. Gus Harding is excellent as John Leveredge; and Mr. Nicholas Conway is decidedly good as Harold Hobbs. Miss Eva Purcell is a charming and sympathetic Pearl Rivers; and Miss Elma C. Turner plays with considerable ability as Helen Dudley. Miss Audrey Canning makes a natural Mrs. Hudson Rivers; and Miss Lottie Pearce plays brightly as Betty and Mag Brady. Other parts are quite competently played. The illustrated songs introduced during the performance make an interesting interlude, and are greatly applauded.

THE in-patients of the Cancer Hospital (Free) Fulham-road, were entertained on the 15th inst. by the members of "The Butterflies," who presented a programme, including songs, quartettes, duets, and dances, terminating with a pantomimic sketch, entitled *Aladdin*. At the conclusion, a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the secretary, Mr. Fred W. Howell.

MISS MILSTEAD having met with an accident, the special coloured character of Sauce, in Mr. James Kiddie's *Aladdin* pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre, Hull, was taken up by Edie Kelso.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS BERTHA KINGSTON.

Previous to entering the theatrical profession Miss Bertha Kingston was for two years a student at the Lambeth School of Art, gaining three South Kensington certificates for drawing; she also won London Academy and Trinity College Bronze Medals for singing, and passed the Society of Arts and Associated Board of the London College and R.A. examinations with honours, in addition to gaining various certificates for singing and pianoforte playing. Following an 18 months' course of study under Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe), Miss Kingston made her début as a platform reciter, appearing at concerts at the old St. James' Hall. Her first professional engagement was with Mr. Pitt Hardacre's *East Lynne* Co., followed by a short engagement as Kyndrede in *Everyman*, when Mr. Wm. Poel first revived the play at Charterhouse, the company also appearing at the University College, Oxford, Cheltenham, &c. In a special performance of *Macbeth* at St. George's Hall, organised by Miss Bateman, Miss Kingston was cast for the part of Lady Macbeth. A short engagement with Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow as Phœbe in *As you like it*, Dorothy Fenton in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, and Lady Beatrice in *Under Two Flags*, was followed by a tour with the Drury-lane drama, *The Great Ruby*, as the Hon. Moya Denzil. Then came several long

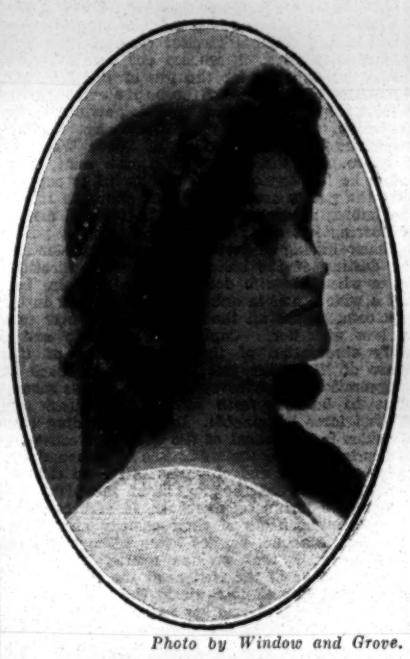

Photo by Window and Grove.

MISS BERTHA KINGSTON.

re-engagements with Miss Molesworth and Mr. Blow, during which Miss Kingston played Ligurette and the Princess in *Under Two Flags*, Dorothy Fenton in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, Lady Russendyll in the prologue to *The Prisoner of Zenda*, and Ottilive Mallinson in *Lord and Lady Algy*. She was also engaged by the same management to understudy Miss May Harvey during the run of *The Sword of the King* at Wyndham's Theatre. Miss Kingston has twice had offers from Mr. Blow to play Ligurette on tour, but other engagements have prevented her accepting. During a summer vacation she appeared with the Mermaid Society at the Botanic Gardens in Milton's *Comus*, *The Faithful Shepherdess*, and as Thalia in *The Hue and cry after Cupid*, Mr. Beerbohm Tree and Miss Tree being in the cast. When Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. T. Garrod revived the late Wilson-Barrett's play, *The Sledge-Hammer*, they engaged Miss Kingston for the leading part of Rose Maywell, in which she has appeared upwards of 300 times. Her success has been so pronounced that they have engaged her for the principal part in their next production.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Japanese Opera, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

Mr. Mouillot's chief company is meeting with a very hearty welcome at the Dalston Theatre this week. Miss Bessie Allayne as O Mimosa San (the Geisha) is winsome and vivacious, and her vocal contributions are a pleasing feature of the entertainment. Another sprightly interpretation is that of O. Juliette Diamante by Miss Violet Kenyon; while Miss Florrie Saunders also appears to advantage as Molly Seymour. Lady Constance Wynn has a pleasing representative in Miss Aubrey Ashton; Mr. Cyril Thompson is Reginald Fairfax, and the way in which he and the little girl of the "teahouse" make love and sing together quite captivates the audience. Brother officers of Fairfax are represented by Mr. S. Lockridge, Mr. Ryton Hcare and Mr. Stephen Hall, and to the credit of these gentlemen it should be said that they contribute to the interest and success of the representation. Wun Hi, represented by Mr. Edward Carlton, shares with the Marquis Imarie (played by Mr. Lionel Braham) in the matter of laughter-making. Mr. George D. Phillips represents Takemine, the Governor's factotum. Miss Blanche Browne makes a sprightly midshipman; and Mr. Edgar Ward looks well in the uniform of the Captain of the Governor's Guard. *The Greek Slave* was played on Friday by members of the same company.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
Benedict's Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"THE LILY OF KILLARNEY."

Decided success is attending Mr. J. W. Turner's English opera season at this theatre, and on Monday evening the house was crowded to enjoy *The Lily of Killarney*. Mr. J. W. Turner as Myles-na-Coppaleen played exceedingly well, and sang his music in his well-known finished style. Mr. F. J. Hargrave rendered capital service as Hardress Cregan, and used his fine voice to advantage in the melodious music of the part. Special mention must be made of Mr. Tom Griffiths as Danny Mann. Every praise is due to him for his capital rendering of the numbers falling to his share. Mr. William Anderson was all that could be desired as Father Tom; and Mr. George Ridding showed considerable ability as Corrigan. Miss Marie Burnett played with dignity as Mrs. Cregan; and Miss Maud Esdale fittingly portrayed Sheelah. As Ann Chute Miss Kitty Brownless showed great talent, her music being tastefully rendered. Miss Alice Boaden as Eily skilfully performed all that was required of her, and she certainly scored a great success. Capital assistance was given by the chorus and orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas included in this week's programme are *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Maritana*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Carmen*.

"A WAIF OF SIN," an adaptation of Charles Dickens's "Oliver Twist" by Grahame Watson, will be produced at the Grand Theatre, Forest Gate, early in March.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

A song and operatic recital with orchestra, conducted by Dr. Cummings, was given by the pupils of Mme. Eugénie Joachim in the theatre of the School in the afternoon of the 12th inst. before a very large audience. In the first part of the programme Mrs. J. F. Hopkins sang the aria "As when the dove" (from *Acis and Galatea*), Handel; Miss Ida Hart gave an effective rendering of two songs, "In my garden" (S. Liddle) and "The Nightingale" (Batten). Miss Charlotte Eyre was also successful in the "Indian Desert Song," by Amy Woodford Finden, and "A Fancy and Heigho!" by Edward German. Other songs were given in an able manner by Mme. Joachim's pupils, Miss Edith Romea singing Schumann's "Waldesgespräch" and "Mine Enemy," by Olda Rudd; and Miss Katie Tucker "Vocalise," by Carlotta Patti, and Haydn's Recitative and Aria from *Die Jahreszeiten*. Miss Rita Milner also received much applause for Her singing of Brahms' "Vorschneller Schwur," and Miss Frances Langton for Marchesi's "Gabriella Valse." Mrs. Gilderoy-Scott and Miss Charlotte Eyre presided at the pianoforte with good results. The second part of the programme consisted of an operatic recital in costume, with orchestra, the first item given being "Arie der Agathe" (from *Der Freischütz*), sung with no little ability by Miss E. Barwell-Holbrook, who was admirably supported in her exacting task by the orchestra. The young artist was also associated with Miss Edith Romea in the duet "Der Frau Fluth und Frau Reich" (from *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor*), by Otto Nicolai, the costumes in this case being kindly lent by Mr. George Alexander. Dr. Cummings conducted both these examples. A first performance of a new work, a song-play in two acts, entitled *The Garden*, with words by Frederick Fenn and Jetta Vogel and music by Richard Walthew, proved very attractive. The story relates how a young gardener, Quercus, resents the presence of Smilax, a lady gardener, and at the close of the first act, which occurs in springtime, sends the lady off; but he afterwards relents, and in the second act, which takes place in the autumn, Quercus heartily welcomes the reappearance of the lady. This slight plot is set to music that is both charming and melodious. Such, for instance, as Quercus's solo in the first act and his duet with Smilax in the second; while Mr. Richard Walthew shows decided talent in his clever scoring for the orchestra. The music also included a flower chorus and a very pretty dance by the pupils of Mr. B. Soutten, in which the young ladies are dressed as various flowers, the costumes being designed by Miss Jennie Moore. Miss E. Barwell-Holbrook as Smilax and Miss Gladys Scott as Quercus acted and sang with great intelligence, and Miss Frances Langton sang the music of the Bird. The piece was under the stage-management of Mr. B. Soutten, and the composer, who conducted, was called on at the close and warmly applauded.

The programme of the concert given on the 14th inst. commenced with a very meritorious rendering of Leslie's trio, "O Memory," the vocalists being Miss Annie F. Wallace, Miss Edith J. Upham, and Mr. Cyril O'Neal. Vulcan's Song, from Gounod's *Philemon et Baucis*, enabled Mr. G. Heath Robinson to display a fine voice; but a more dramatic style is required for music of this order. A well-executed harp solo, "Réverie," by John Thomas, was given by Mr. Arthur Jones—the School (harp) prize winner of 1903—and a painstaking performance of Liszt's pianoforte solo, "Rhapsody," No. 2, by Mr. W. E. Lawrence. Miss Dorothy Crompton suffered slightly from nervousness in her otherwise pleasing singing of "Home," by Walford Davis; and Miss Annie F. Wallace gained much applause in her difficult task of giving the aria "Convien-partir" from Donizetti's *La Figlia del Reggimento*. Miss Lizzie Ayton gave a neatly-executed violin solo of D'Ambrosio's "Romance" and "Canzonetta," and Mr. Gordon Burgess was warmly greeted after his careful performance of Chopin's piano solo, Ballade in F minor. Mrs. Edwin Bennett sang "Nymphs and Shepherds," by Bemberg, with no little skill. Miss Jessie Willis may be warmly praised for her capital playing of two piano solos, "Erotik," by Grieg, and Rachmaninoff's "Prelude." "Cara Nome," from Verdi's *Rigoletto*, was sung by Miss Dora Palmer; and the concert concluded with a clever recitation, "The Progress of Madness," by Miss Gertrude A. Shill, a pupil of Mr. L. F. Chapney. Miss Jenny Hyman ably performed the duties of accompanist.

THE GAZEKA.

The Gazëka toy, originated by Mr. George Edwardes offering a prize of five guineas for the best drawing of a toy animal representing the Gazëka mentioned by Mr. George Greaves in his play, *The Little Michus*, performed at Daly's Theatre. In response to this offer, some 600 drawings were submitted to Mr. George Greaves, some of them being of great merit. The illustration shows the successful design which took the prize. By kind permission of Mr. George Edwardes, Messrs. Hamley Brothers, Ltd., have the sole rights for the sale of this cute toy, and are the only agents in Great Britain for the wonderful Gazëka, which is the rage of the season, and

cannot be obtained elsewhere. The illustration shows this laughable and quaint oddity. The egg which the Gazëka is holding in his hand he is just going to eat, and the expression on his face shows with what delight he is looking forward to the delicate repast. The tuft of fur which is the Gazëka's chief characteristic is on his breast, and it is supposed to be most valuable; for this reason the Gazëka is said to always sleep on his back, so as not to damage the fur.

PRESENTATION.—Nipper Lupino Lane, the clever and original Boy Babe at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, was on Saturday night the delighted recipient of a very handsome present from Mr. Bransby Williams, viz., a complete set of Charles Dickens's works, in seventeen volumes.

MARRIAGE OF BARON DE CLIFFORD AND MISS EVA CARRINGTON.

That the members, old and young, but more especially young, of our peerage, take a great interest in the stage, not only from the point of view of the play itself, but also in the personnel of the player, finds practical proof every now and then in my Lord So-and-so leading to the altar a charming exponent of histrionics. It seems almost but yesterday that Miss Rosie Boote became the Marchioness of Headfort; some years before that happy event Miss Belle Bilton became Viscountess Dunlo; while the experienced playgoer finds it difficult to believe that it was as far back as 1892 that the Earl of Orkney robbed the stage of that lightest of dancers, Miss Connie Gilchrist.

When the public opened their newspapers last Saturday morning they were treated to another romance, by which the peerage is again recruited from the realms of light, or, rather, musical comedy. The majority of such alliances are usually preceded by a certain amount of more or less good-humoured gossip within certain circles, and some of this gossip generally finds its way into the columns of those journals which are supposed faithfully to chronicle the doings and misdoings of the Upper Ten. But no one has heard the slightest rumour of this latest alliance of the peerage and the stage. In fact, it was impossible that anyone could have done so, for the

Photo by Bernard Cooper.

MISS EVA CARRINGTON.

bridegroom only returned to London from Egypt a week ago last Monday, and the marriage took place on the following Friday.

The bridegroom is Jack Southwell Russell, twenty-fifth Baron de Clifford, and the bride is Miss Evelyn Victoria Ann Chandler, known on the stage as Miss Eva Carrington. The bridegroom's lineage carries us back to the brave old days of Fair Rosamund, and to the time when the Scottish borders were the scene of constant warfare. One of Lord de Clifford's ancestors married a daughter of the Earl of Warwick, and another a daughter of Harry Hotspur, Earl Percy. And so on through history we find many a De Clifford playing a gallant part on the battlefield. The present peer is barely twenty-two years of age, and has been engaged as an officer in the Egyptian Army at Cairo. Last summer, while on a visit to Dublin he met Miss Carrington, who was then appearing as one of the Gibson Girls in *The Catch of the Season*, which Mr. Seymour Hicks had on tour. Apparently Lord de Clifford was deeply impressed by the handsome young actress, for after some time spent in Egypt he returned, as we have said, at the beginning of last week, and promptly married Miss Carrington, who at the time was engaged in *Bluebell in Fairyland*, at Aldwych Theatre, and was busy rehearsing for Mr. Hicks's forthcoming production of *The Beauty of Bath*.

Miss Eva Carrington—or, to give her her proper title, Lady de Clifford—will be nineteen years of age in May. At a very early age she received a sound musical education, and even as a child took a leading part in charity concerts and theatrical performances, her father, an independent gentleman, having been connected in one way or another with the profession. Miss Carrington made her first appearance in *Alice in Wonderland* eight years ago, with Mr. Payne Seddon's company. Then she joined Mr. Seymour Hicks in *Bluebell in Fairyland*, when it was first produced, afterwards going on tour with the same piece. Recalled from that play, she was entrusted with the rôle of the Chamberlain in *The Cherry Girl*, and when Mr. Hicks produced *The Catch of the Season* at the Vaudeville in September, 1904, she was cast for the part of Stella, one of Gibson's daughters. With that piece she went on tour with Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss. Lately, of course, she has been seen and admired in the character of the Major Domo in *Bluebell* at the Aldwych, and, as we have already pointed out, she was to have appeared in Mr. Hicks' new piece, *The Beauty of Bath*, a part in which had been specially written for her. When informed that he was likely to lose her services, Mr. Hicks congratulated the young lady upon her approaching marriage, and kindly released her from her contract. Miss Carrington had been associated with Mr. Hicks for six years, and he speaks in appreciative terms of her work and her behaviour.

The marriage took place by special licence before the Superintendent Registrar for the District of St. Pancras, at the Holborn Town Hall. Lord de Clifford was "backed up" by Mr. M. Oliphant, and Mrs. Chandler represented her husband, the latter prevented from attending the little ceremony through illness. The two people mentioned signed the marriage certificate as witnesses, their names being put down as "Louisa Chandler" and "Lawrence M. Oliphant." Lord and Lady de Clifford signed themselves, respectively, as "De Clifford" and "Eva Chandler."

The bride is a particularly fine-looking girl. She stands over six feet in height, has a commanding appearance, a graceful pose, and a dignified and even beautiful carriage. She was extremely popular with all the members of Mr. Hicks's company, and her kindly conduct to everybody with whom she came into contact, as well as her good-heartedness to poorer members of the profession, gave her the reputation of possessing a very sweet character. She has now relinquished stage work, and will settle down with her husband, when their six months' honeymoon tour is completed, upon his lordship's beautiful Irish estate. Lady de Clifford leaves a younger sister, Miss Gladys Winifred Carrington, on the stage. This young lady is also in *Bluebell in Fairyland*, and will be seen later on in *The Beauty of Bath*. She is only sixteen years old, and great hopes are entertained of her rising to prominence in her profession.

Lord de Clifford has given many handsome and costly presents to his bride, these gifts including a large motor-car. We wish the young couple every possible happiness through life, and as their union appears to be based upon the principle of true love, one need scarcely entertain any but the brightest anticipations for their future.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The students of the Royal Academy gave an organ recital in the afternoon of the 12th inst., the programme commencing with Sir Charles V. Stanford's clever Fantasia and Toccata in D minor, ably interpreted by Mr. Ralph Letts, two movements, Scherzo and Passacaglia, from Sonata in G minor by Rheinberger, played by Mr. Redgewell Dansie, and a refined and graceful Phantasie MS. for violoncello and organ, written by Mr. Montague F. Phillips, and admirably performed by the composer and Mr. Kenneth Park. There was also included in the programme Sir Alexander Mackenzie's "Benedictus," for violin and organ, the executants being Mr. Rowsby Woof and Mr. B. J. Aale; and Liszt's tone-picture, Sposalizio, for the organ, to which Mr. Montague F. Phillips imparted much expression. Miss A. Mary Feild gave a clever recitation of Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott," with musical accompaniment by Miss Amy E. Horrocks, for piano, violin, and 'cello, of a subdued and appropriate character. Miss Marie Wadia gained much applause for her singing of Handel's recitative and air, "Lascia ch'io Pianga"; Miss Violet Thornhill being also successful in Mozart's song, "Gentle Zephyr," and Mr. Emile d'Oisly in three songs, "Adieu du Martin" (Pessard), "Obstination" (De Fontenailles), and "Au Printemps," by Gounod. The famous quartet from *Rigoletto* was given by Miss Mary Fielding, Miss Gwladys Roberts, Mr. John Bardsley, and Mr. David Evans. There was a violin solo set down for Miss Lilian Evans; and the recital concluded with Bach's Fugue in D major, for the organ, played by Mr. Thomas Stracy.

On Wednesday afternoon a chamber concert was given by the students of the Royal Academy. Several interesting works were performed by the Ensemble Class, which was conducted by Mr. F. Corder, the programme commencing with Tschaikowsky's "Adagio e con moto" and Finale (Allegro vivace) from Sextuor ("Souvenir de Florence"). The Ensemble Class were also very successful in their accompaniment to Bach's "Andante, Finale," from Concerto in D minor, for two violins, with Cadenza by Hellmesberger, the executants being Mr. Thomas Morgan and Mr. Raymond Jeremy, who played this genial composition of the grand old master with the requisite crispness and precision, gaining hearty applause. Among the instrumental items in the concert, Mr. Edgar Fawcett may be commended for his well-played violoncello solos, "Cantabile," by César Cui, and Davidoff's showy "Am Spring brünnen"; and Miss Juliet Capron for her able rendering of Wieniawski's violin solo, "Airs Russes."

A pianoforte solo was given by Miss Margorie Wigley of Chopin's Ballade in F, and Miss F. Margaret Bennett and Miss Mary Burgess were heard in a neat and careful performance of Saint-Saëns' Scherzo, for two pianos. Mr. John Bardsley sang two songs composed by Mr. Victor G. Booth, entitled "Truth," set to a poem of Ben Jonson, and "True Beauty," the first proving the more artistic; both songs were sung with great intelligence by Mr. Bardsley, and warmly greeted by the audience. Miss Clara Butterworth succeeded fairly well in Mozart's air, "Voi che sapete," from *Le Nozze di Figaro;* and Miss Gertrude Inglis displayed a fine voice in two songs, "Das Rosenband" and "Schlagende Herzen," by Richard Strauss. Slight nervousness somewhat marred the effect of Miss Selina Pitt Soper's otherwise pleasing singing of Saint-Saëns' "Aimons-nous."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An orchestral concert was given at the Royal College on Friday evening, Feb. 16, under the conductorship of Sir Charles V. Stanford, the programme opening with a very able performance of Mozart's Symphony in D (Prague). In the beautiful Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, in A minor, op. 54, by Schumann, the solo instrument was most skilfully undertaken by Mr. E. O'Neil Phillips, who, at the close, received the warmest tokens of approval by the immense audience that filled every part of the fine hall. Max Bruch's popular Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, in G minor, was also interpreted by Mr. Herbert Kinze in an intelligent manner, the rapid *finale* being given with much spirit. The concert concluded with Liszt's symphonic poem, "Tasso." The one vocal item in the concert was Grieg's song, "Alone," impressively sung by Mr. Robert Chignell, who was well supported in the orchestral accompaniment. It is also worthy of note that all the soloists at this concert were of the sterner sex—a somewhat unusual thing at a students' concert.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

At the sixth annual meeting of the Harrogate Grand Opera House Company, Ltd., held at the theatre on Saturday, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Wilson, J.P., C.C.), in moving the adoption of the balance-sheet, congratulated the shareholders on a successful year's working. During the year no fewer than 335 performances had been given, 102 different plays had been staged by 86 different companies, the attractions including Madame Sarah Bernhardt, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and Mrs. Lewis Waller, Edward Compton, Edward Terry, and the leading musical comedies. The bookings for the coming season were the best available, and with the return visit of some of the most popular plays they could look forward to a successful year's catering. During the year, on the advice of Mr. Frank Curzon, the footlights had been altered so that the whole of the light was concentrated on the stage; doing away with the curtains and substituting a wrought iron grille in front of the orchestra, which had been enlarged, made the band heard to better advantage. It would ill become him in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet were he not, as chairman, to mention the ability and the untiring energy and attention with which Mr Peacock had managed the Opera House, and in Mr. C. Fielding-Smyth he had a genial and capable sub-manager. Turning to the balance sheet they had cleared away the remnant of the preliminary expense, they had written off generous amounts for depreciation, and added to their reserve. He had pleasure in moving the adoption of the balance sheet and the payment of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary share capital.

Mr. Armitage seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. H. Wilson and Mr. E. Raworth were re-elected directors, and Mr. F. Royce auditor.

Mr. W. Peacock, on behalf of the staff, Mr. Smyth, and himself, thanked Mr. Wilson for his kind remarks.

MR. CHARLES ALLAN, who plays the part of Sir George Peacock in *The Little Stranger*, just catches the farcical spirit of that amusing piece, and the expression of mixed astonishment and fear that overspreads his features when the "infant" addresses Sir George in the second act is screamingly funny. The part has few opportunities, but his resourcefulness and tact enable him to score most unmistakably.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 19, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Of a musical comedy which has been running for over two years at the Vaudeville Theatre much is anticipated, and expectations were quite realised on Monday evening when the King's was crowded in every part with an enthusiastic audience, who expressed themselves in loud applause at the brilliant performance of Mr. Charles Frohman's chief company. Principals and chorus alike all act with a will, and the audiences show their appreciation by eagerly encoring the songs and choruses, and laughing loudly at the comical situations and smart dialogue. Mr. Frank Lincoln brings to the part of the Duke of St. Jermyns a fund of ability which, used with absolute discretion, makes for a distinct success, and establishes him at once as a universal favourite. A hit is made by Mr. Lawrence Cairn in the resuscitated Lord Dundreary, and Mr. Julian Cross acts with his well-known ability the rather colourless part of Sir John Crystal. Mr. E. W. Royce revives pleasant Gaiety memories in the character of Mr. William Gibson, the father of the famous "Gibson Girls." Messrs. Lloyd, Wickens, McGarth, and Pearce are all capable as Higham Montague, Lord Yatton, Captain Rushpool, and Almeric Montpelier. Bucket, a page, brings to the front a boy-actor named Masta Grata, whose love-making is a treat to witness, and is highly diverting. Miss Marie Ashe is a bewitching Angela, and sings and acts with a charm that is quite refreshing. Lady Caterham is played with excellent effect by Miss Belle Napier, and Miss Hilda Stewart is a satisfactory Duchess of St. Jermyns. Miss Ida Mann represents Lady Crystal efficiently; and Miss Ethel Quarry is good as the German Princess. Miss Alice Lethbridge dances divinely as the Hon. Sophia Bedford; and Miss Hettie Muret's voice is heard with pleasure in the songs allotted to her in the character of Honoria Bedford. The Eight Gibson Girls are eminently popular, and have been judiciously chosen. Elegantly gowned, they hit off the popular craze to perfection. The chorus is full of animation, and the scenery by Harford could not be improved upon. Mr. Ernest Yousden ably conducted the large orchestra.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 19, the comedy, entitled
"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

Mr. F. W. Purcell, whose managerial tact and skill come of long experience, scores a distinct success this week in securing for its first appearance in North London, *Beauty and the Barge*. It is presented with all the elaboration and regard to detail as when first produced "up West." Little marvel, therefore, that the attendances this week can be chronicled as excellent. Mr. Cyril Maude's company is of singularly uniform excellence, and the various amusing situations which follow fast upon one another are carried through neatly and briskly, and all the artists are to be commended on the natural manner they impart to the characters they represent. The honours fall by the nature of the piece to Mr. Harry Ashford and Miss May Fairclough. Mr. Ashford, as Captain Barley, exhibits a fine vein of dry humour, and simply revels in the part. Miss May Fairclough makes a pert and delightful Ethel Smedley, and keeps her audience in a continual ripple of amusement. Mr. Percival Knight is responsible for a refreshingly brisk impersonation of Lieut. Boyne, R.N., and Mr. Percy Marmont contributes a thoroughly excellent reading of the part of Herbert Manners. Mr. Walter Pemberton keeps the ball of fun rolling with his humorous piece of character-acting as the "peppery" Major Smedley; and Miss Ethel Stalman plays with care as Mrs. Smedley. A large share of the honours we must allot to Mr. Charles Goold, whose quaint "make-up" and splendid interpretation of Tom Codd is genuinely funny. Augustus is well sustained by Mr. F. Harvey, and Mr. Charles Caffrey is judiciously entrusted with the part of Mr. Porter. Miss Mary Pemberton, as Lucy Dallas, evidently has a part which suits her abilities; and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite, as Mrs. Porter, is worthy of great commendation for having caught the meaning of the character and her admirable interpretation of same. Other characters are efficiently filled by Messrs. Fred Lake (Ted), Arthur Flinders (Joe), Fred Paul (Bill), B. Fairclough (Alf), and H. Richford (Jack). Miss Mary Griffiths deserves praiseworthy mention in the highest degree for her Mrs. Baldwin; she has some good opportunities in the part, and makes the most of them. The scenery is admirable, and the full-rigged barge, as it comes gliding along, elicits loud applause. *Beauty and the Barge* is preceded by *That Brute Simmons*, in which Miss Harriet Trench and Messrs. Wheatman and Lake appear with conspicuous success.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Musical Comedy, in Three Acts, entitled
"SERGEANT BRUE."

If laughter is conducive to good health, then the large audiences that have attended the above theatre this week must have derived considerable benefit from the performances of the sparkling musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Frank Curzon's company does the piece full justice. Mr. Percy Clifton in the title-rôle gives an excellent interpretation. A fine character study of Crookie Scrubbs is given by Mr. George Barrett, whose clever drollery keeps the house in continuous merriment. His most successful numbers are "George Washington" and "Put me in my little cell." In the latter he is ably assisted by Mr. J. Jordan as Mr. Lambe, and Mr. Hugh Oliver as Captain Bay. Miss Violet Dene as Lady Bickenhall appears to advantage, her song "Instinct" being sung with great expression, and deservedly encored. As Aurora Brue, Miss Constance Lait makes a charming appearance in the part, and is accorded an enthusiastic encore for her excellent singing of "Under a Panama" and "Darby and Joan." The talents of Mr. Charles Hanbury are well employed in the part of Michael Brue, and he gains much applause for his songs, "A wife without a smile" and "Follow me." Miss Constance Berkeley is amusing as the servant Daisy, and commendation is due to Miss Margaret Saville for an attractive performance of Mabel Widgett. Mr. A. E. E. Edwards is a dignified Mr. Crank, and he is well supported by Mr. Harold Montague as Inspector Gorringe. Mr. Harry Soutar (who also undertakes the stage-management) as Matthew Harbishon and Mr. Ivor Harvey as Erskine Murray prove highly capable exponents of their respective parts. The latter assists Miss Mabel Weir as Louisa Clair in a very graceful dance. Amongst others giving good support mention may be made of Miss Doris Greville, Miss Haidee Hamilton, Miss Claire de Vere, Miss Isobel Dickens, and Miss May Stuart. Mr. J. B. Watson is general-manager, and Mr. Ernest Hurman directs the augmented orchestra.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Drama, founded on Ouida's Novel, by Edwin Elsner, and entitled
"UNDER TWO FLAGS."

Mr. Mark Blow's company is presenting *Under Two Flags* here this week. Ouida's stories have a strong fascination for most people, and Edwin Elsner's excellent dramatisation of this novel makes an engrossing and interesting play. The Cigarette of Miss Emelie Polini deserves high praise. The character affords the actress many opportunities for the display of dramatic power, and Miss Polini is seen to the greatest advantage. Mr. Mark Blow gives his customary excellent performance as Bertie Cecil Royellieu, and receives deserved appreciation; Barklie, the brother, is in the capable hands of Mr. R. Harley West. Mr. Walter Thornton plays with convincing earnestness as Lord Rockingham; Mr. Charles D. Pitt's well-known character performance of the Black Hawk is a feature of the play, his sullen demeanour and brutal bursts of passion being well depicted; Mr. Will Hook is amusing as Rake; whilst Mr. Albert Rogers gives a humorous impersonation of the moneylender, Ezra Baroni. Miss Dorothea Graeme is everything that can be desired as Princess Venetia Corona; Miss Daisy Carlton is the Lavina; Miss Joan Stean, Countess Olga; and Miss Lucy Carr, Lady Beatrice Guinevere. An earnest and thoroughly sound performance of the Arab chief, Abe-el-Kan, is contributed by Mr. Fred Hilliard.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
"THE ONLY WAY."

Once again Mr. Martin Harvey and his company are playing here, and a most welcome return it is, for Mr. Harvey's admirers seem to grow in volume each year. The company is the same almost as on the last visit, though a notable addition is Mr. H. J. Loveday, whose long association with the late Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum is well remembered. Mr. Martin Harvey has shown great wisdom in securing Mr. Loveday's services for general stage direction. *The Only Way* was chosen for Monday evening, when Mr. Martin Harvey repeated his magnificent performance of Sidney Carton. For it we have nothing but unqualified praise. It improves every time we see it. As Ernest Defarge, Mr. Charles Glenney is particularly good; and the Charles Darnay of Mr. Percy Anstey is a finished piece of work. Mr. Fred Wright, sen., is again the good old Doctor Manette, bringing all his ripe experience to bear on the character; Lucy Manette is sweetly played by Miss Amy Coleridge; Mimi, the pathetic little maid, is still delightfully portrayed by Miss De Silva; the excitable Mr. Lorry is neatly presented by Mr. P. Alexander; Mr. Reeve Denbigh plays Mr. Stryver in an acceptable manner; Mr. Charles Cameron is good as the President; and Mr. George Cooke is forcible as the Public Prosecutor. Miss Frances Ivor is seen to advantage as the Vengeance; and Miss Bessie Elder repeats her clever impersonation of a Citizeness. Included also in the cast are Messrs. J. E. Fraser, A. E. Rayner, and L. Craske. Mr. Alfred Rivers stage-manages; Mr. C. Franckenstein conducts the orchestra; and Mr. F. B. O'Neill is the business-manager. During the week *The Breed of the Treshams* and *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* have also been presented.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
for the First Time in London, the Drama, in a Prologue and Four Acts, Adapted by Rev. Forbes Phillips, from Mr. Guy Thorne's Novel of the same name, entitled
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."

Lord Caistor	Mr. Douglas West
Sir Robert Llewellyn	Mr. H. Athol Forde
Rev. Ambrose Byars	Mr. Frank Melrose
Rev. Basil Gortre	Mr. Rupert Lister
Constantine Schuabe	Mr. Leslie Carter
Mr. Hamilton Hill	Mr. Herbert Chown
Ionides	Mr. Stanley Lathbury
Rabbi	Mr. Francis Tagg
Dragoman	Mr. Frank Dale
An Arab	Mr. George Ronald
First Workman	Mr. Geoffrey Hill
Second Workman	Mr. T. Brooklyn
First Turkish Soldier	Mr. D. Dyer
Second Turkish Soldier	Mr. R. J. Whyard
Helena Byars	Miss Hope Mayne
Miss Katherine Moberly	Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips
Margaret	Miss Ida Daw
Anna	Miss Florence Read
Gertrude Hunt	Miss Margaret Damer

The dramatic aspirations of the Rev. Forbes Phillips, cradled in the remote village of Gorleston, and since exercised in more than one piece written for Mrs. Brown-Potter, have now found vent in an adaptation of Mr. Guy Thorne's sensational novel named above. Produced at Kingston last week, it came within the London area on Monday, when a crowded audience at the Brixton Theatre found cause for hearty cheers in the appeals to religious sentiment which are constantly made in the piece. *When It Was Dark* is reminiscent both of *The Sign of the Cross* and *The Christian*, but as the reverend adapter has neither the dramatic craftmanship of the late Wilson Barrett nor the literary gifts of Hall Caine the result of his work is nothing more than melodrama, with an element of the supernatural thrown in. Mr. Phillips girds in a casual way at an invertebrate clergy, singling out bishops in particular for criticism, and diluting his dialogue with a little mild humour, that cannot always be grasped, but some of the situations are dramatic, and the moral of the story is convincingly drawn. A full account of the plot was given in our last issue on the production of the play at Kingston, so that a detailed description of it is not necessary. It may, nevertheless, be recalled that the interest centres in the attempt by the villain of the piece to overthrow the fundamental truth of Christianity by bribing Sir Robert Llewellyn, the Government expert, to deposit a papyrus scroll within a first-century tomb on the Mount of Olives, where excavations are being made. The forged document purports to be signed by Joseph of Arimathœa, and declares the story of the Resurrection to be a myth. Llewellyn, in his official capacity, pronounces the document to be genuine, and the whole social system is convulsed by the announcement, the people of the Christian nations, unchecked by moral influence, giving themselves over to murder and pillage. The truth is at length established by Llewellyn's former mistress, who had been converted by a young curate, and again gives herself up to the Professor in order to extract his confession. The prologue opens in the Valley of the Shadow, where Satan is depicted hatching the infernal idea which is afterwards to be projected into the brain of his creature, and the setting of the play includes a representation of Jerusalem, where a massacre of Christians takes place, and of the interior of a London church, which is stormed by a frenzied mob, eager to compass the death of the young clergyman and his friends. Eastern manners and customs are carefully realised, and the piece gains greatly by the life and colour thus imparted.

An admirably selected company has been provided by Mr. Walter Maxwell, and an interpretation of all-round excellence is given. Miss Margaret Damer has the part of Gertrude Hunt, the Magdalen of the piece, who surrenders her virtue over again in order to win the Professor's acknowledgment. Charmingly vivacious at first, Miss Damer skilfully suggests the contrite girl who for the first time thoroughly realises her iniquity, and though, in the later episodes there is room for a little more emotional fervour, the character of the part is completely maintained. Mr. H. Athol Forde has an arduous task in depicting Sir Robert Llewellyn, a rôle in which more depends upon facial play than upon declamation. Mr. Forde is quite equal to the varied phases of the part, his expression as the remorseful scientist, broken-down by the burden of his crime, being very poignant. A strong and firm exponent of Constantine Schuabe, the evil genius of the piece, is found in Mr. Leslie Carter, whose mocking tones and devilish demeanour are admirably affected. At times the hastening of his lines rendered them a little indistinct, thus marring an otherwise excellent delivery. No better representative of a fighting parson could be imagined than Mr. Rupert Lister, who acts with such vigour as to induce regrets that his physical powers are not put more actively to the proof. He makes the Rev. Basil Gortre a most popular figure, and to his share fell most of the applause which was obtained. The appearances of Helena Byars, his sweetheart, are few and far between, but Miss Hope Mayne acts and speaks admirably in the part, her refined and charming manner invariably lending grace and prettiness to the scene. In the part of the Rev. Ambrose Byars Mr. Frank Melrose supplies a fount of humour which dries up prematurely. His appearance as a venerable vicar is a striking one, and the delivery of his sympathetic lines is very effective. Mr. Herbert Chown gives a smart and intelligent performance of the Professor's Secretary; and as Lord Caistor, who acts in a similar capacity to the Prime Minister, Mr. Douglas West is earnest and painstaking. Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips, evidently a near relation of the author, despite a little nervousness, plays a typewriter neatly, delivering a little homily on the effects of the withdrawal of religious influences with admirable spirit. Mr. Stanley Lathbury, well made-up as a Mussulman, acts with due ferocity as Ionides, who is in league with Llewellyn; a picturesque Jewish Rabbi is made by Mr. Francis Tagg; Mr. Frank Dale gives a clever sketch of a garrulous guide; and the other parts are all capably sustained. The applause was very hearty on Monday at the close of each act, but calls were not made for the author, who thus has no inducement to give his views on the theme, which we understand he is going to expound at the Lyceum to-morrow evening.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Drama by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

The heartiest thanks of Woolwich playgoers are due to Mr. Clarence Saunes for his enterprise in booking Mr. Arthur Collins's company in *The Prodigal Son*, which has only just started touring, and which, to judge from the enthusiasm aroused on Monday evening, bids fair to be as popular in the suburbs and provinces as it was in the West End. Mr. Collins has got together an exceptionally strong cast, who throw themselves whole-heartedly into their work, and do not allow the interest in the story to flag for a single moment. Miss Lily Hall Caine cleverly doubled the parts of Thora and Elin, her rendering of the former character being sympathetic and convincing, while in the latter rôle she made a refreshingly natural girl of fifteen. As Helga Neilson Miss Cecil Cromwell gave a faithful and forcible portrayal of this woman of strong passions and stronger self-interest, and was at her best in the scene in which Helga begs Oscar to stay with her. Miss Alma Murray submitted a delightful portrait of Anna Magnusson, and played the last act with undeniable pathos. Miss Mima Renouf was amusing as Margret. Mr. Norman Partriege was responsible for a powerful delineation of Oscar Stephensson, indicating with great skill the weak, passionate nature of this latter-day prodigal, and his earnest, if generally unsuccessful, endeavours to "run straight." Mr. Henry Renouf played Magnus Stephensson in a forcible, direct style, fully characteristic of the part, his best piece of acting being perhaps the scene in the last act with Oscar. The Factor was skilfully portrayed by Mr. Frank Collins, whose performance was, from all points of view, a most finished one. Mr. Henry George submitted a dignified, realistic rendering of the Governor-General, and gave full effect to the old man's rage and humiliation on the discovery of his son's forgery. Mr. Herbert Hewetson acted in good style as Neils Finsen; Mr. Phillips was clear and precise as the Sheriff; and Mr. Howard Russell gave distinction to the small part of the Doctor. The drama is magnificently mounted and staged, the scenery being in great part that used at Drury Lane.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Musical Play, in Three Acts, by Leedham Bantock and Arthur Anderson, composed by Howard Talbot, entitled
"THE WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM."

The White Chrysanthemum, which found considerable favour when presented at the Criterion, is this week being played at the Alexandra by Mr. Frank Curzon's company. This play has the advantage of possessing more than the average amount of plot to be found in musical comedy, and the musical numbers are throughout bright, tuneful, and to the point, and as, in the present instance, it is dressed and mounted in a manner in no way inferior to that of the West End, and played by a company of well-selected and clever artists, a genuine and complete success results. Mr. John Clulow as Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage both looks and plays the part perfectly, and his topical song in the third act gains innumerable encores. Mr. F. Pope-Stamper, in the rôle of Lieut. Reginald Armitage, has many opportunities, of which he takes the fullest advantage, and his pleasing style and excellent voice admirably fit him for a *jeune premier* of musical comedy. The vagaries and eccentricities of Lieut. Chippendale Belmont are presented in the most entertaining manner by Mr. J. Davy Burnaby, and while he is on the stage laughter is incessant. Although the Chinese cook, Su Chong, reminds one somewhat vividly of a similar character in another musical comedy, he is none the less amusing on that account, and Mr. O. E. Lennon—who, by the way, is an exceptionally clever dancer—extracts every ounce of fun from the part. Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., too, provides a good deal of laughter as Private Perks, and his duet in the last act with Mr. Lennon is among the best things in the piece. The capabilities of Miss Ruth Lincoln as a vocalist are well known, and her Sybil Cunningham is among the best things this clever actress has done. Miss Isabel Dillon is a smart and spirited Cornelia Vanderdecken; and Betty Kenyon is played by Miss Maud Harvey, who scores with her song, "A Hint."

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by George R. Sims and Wilson Barrett, entitled
"THE GOLDEN LADDER."

The several strong situations in this powerful play appealed most forcibly to the susceptible Marylebone playgoers on Monday evening, and they quickly showed their appreciation by vigorously applauding from time to time. The burden of the piece fell principally upon the stalwart shoulders of Mr. Harry Cullenford, who, as the Rev. Frank Thornhill, gave one of those stylish, finished performances that only a capable actor, of wide experience can give, his delivery being clear and emphatic and his bearing excellent. As Samuel Peckaby Mr. Joseph Rowland's broad comedy found ample scope for its development, his portrayal of the kindly-disposed pastrycook being most praiseworthy. No less successful was Mr. Harry Belford as Jim Dixon, a part which fitted him like the proverbial glove, and in which he revelled accordingly. Mr. Graham Winsford was all that was necessary as M. Peranza, the Greek adventurer; Mr. Edward McLean made his mark as Noah Learoyd; and Mr. J. Milne Taylor was most earnest and convincing in the trying and strenuous rôle of Michael Severn. Miss Eva Moss lent dignity and charm to the character of Lilian Grant; Miss Nellie Graham was perfectly natural as the motherly Mrs. Peckaby; Miss Teresa Haynes made her mark as Mrs. Dixon; Miss Jessie Gillette was full of exuberant jollity as Victoria Alexandra Peckaby whilst little Miss Holly Haslewood was exceedingly bright and intelligent as Lily. The piece was well staged and mounted, the whole production being thoroughly sound. Mr. J. Milne Taylor is manager for Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond, Mr. James Sinclair looking after Mr. Bailey's interests in front.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Comedy, by Edward A. Parry and Fredk. Mouillot, entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

Jack Barrington	Mr. Charles Fawcett
Sir Charles Foden	Mr. Reddick Anderson
General Dunlop	Mr. George Ascott
Abraham Weinstein	Mr. Harry H. Rignold
Sidney Clifford	Mr. G. Beale
Vere de Bogyns	Mr. Alec Alves
Professor Shale	Mr. Roy Byford
Dr. Clayton	Mr. Frank Elton
Servant	Mr. J. Turner
Pink	Mr. Lionel Rignold
Miss Foden	Miss Marie Daltra
Nora	Miss Grace Richardson
Miss Clarissa Dunlop	Miss Maud Evelyn.
Miss Selina Dunlop	Miss Minnie Willett
Mrs. Fleming Smith	Miss Edith Blanche
Mrs. Hake	Miss Annie Goward
Sophonisba Hake	Miss May Hart
Maria	Miss Dorothy Garth
Emily	Miss Violet Gould
Mrs. Barrington	Miss Ada Blanche

What the Butler Saw is an admirable specimen of brilliant and original farcical comedy. The title is distinctly good, it arouses our curiosity and whets our appetite for the fun of the fair, and the merits of the piece by no means end with the title. A simple but sufficient plot is provided in the utilisation of his ancestral home by the impecunious Sir Charles Foden, of Foden Wells, as a hydro, and the advent of a rich aunt, from whom he has expectations, who is led to suppose that the guests are his visitors. Added to this is the imbroglio arising from the unexpected arrival of Barrington's wife from America, this gay young Lothario having hitherto posed as a bachelor and the darling of the ladies. Further complications ensue when his wife determines to proclaim herself a widow, and in order to pay him back in his own coin, makes all the men fall head over ears in love with her. Capital workmanship and a witty observation of the idiosyncrasies of this phase of life, with just the necessary touch of exaggeration and extravagance, cause these central ideas to blossom forth into the brightest and liveliest farce imaginable. Laughter holding both his sides is symbolical of the audiences convulsed with merriment by the witticisms and screamingly funny situations and characterisation so cleverly constructed around the nucleus of the plot. The authors are fortunate, moreover, in securing such admirable exponents of their comedy characters. Miss Ada Blanche, besides being of so charming an appearance that we can readily understand the infatuation of the visitors at the Foden Wells Hydro, just hits off to a nicety the comic characteristics of the part, and her coquetry and vivacity is tempered with just the necessary shade of sadness and sentimentality. Hers is a delightfully natural and convincing performance. Mr. Lionel Rignold as Pink the butler, who has such a strange experience, keeps the audience in a roar of laughter the whole time he is on the stage, his facial expression, his movements, and gestures, all add fuel to the fire of comic intensity, and the fun waxes fast and furious as the imbroglio increases. Mr. Charles Fawcett contributes a capital character sketch as the breezy, happy-go-lucky Irishman, Jack Barrington, and loses no opportunity in his effective rendering of the part. Mr. Reddick Anderson makes a most attractive personality out of the versatile Sir Charles Foden, and acts with polish and distinction. Mr. George Ascott as the fire-eating General Dunlop, and Mr. Harry H. Rignold as "old Jerusalem" Abraham Weinstein, are especially good among the types of visitor at the Hydro; and Mr. G. Beale as Sydney Clifford, Mr. Alec Alves as the stage-struck Vere de Bogyns, Mr. Roy Byford as the absent-minded scientist Professor Shale, and Mr. Frank Elton as Dr. Clayton, all do good service. Miss Marie Daltra contributes a very clever embodiment of the exacting old maiden lady, Miss Foden, with her decided views on woman's rights. She squeezes all the fun out of the part without in the least overdoing it or vulgarising the rôle. Miss Grace Richardson is extremely pleasing as her companion Nora. Misses Maud Evelyn and Minnie Willett are charming as the Sisters Dunlop; and the same may be said of the Mrs. Fleming-Smythe of Miss Edith Blanche. Miss Annie Goward is very droll as Mrs. Hake; and as little Sophy Hake Miss May Hart gives a very pleasing portraiture of an irrepressible *enfant terrible*. Miss Dorothy Garth does well as the maid Maria; and all work right loyally and well under Mr. Lionel Rignold's direction to make a most deserved success.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Irish-American Drama, by W. J. Patmore,
"SONS OF ERIN."

This week a return to dramatic fare has been provided by a revival of *Sons of Erin*. Mr. Vernon Sansbury impersonates in a fine style the much tried Val Desmond, and Mr. Richard Norton is commendable in the somewhat "shadowy" character of Cass Kennedy; while Mr. Walter Williams lends prominence to Tom Corrigan. Some excellent comedy is afforded by Mr. Harry Barford, who was remarkably good as Terry O'Hagan; and Mr. Charles Langley exhibits force and precision as the old doctor Michael Corrigan. Mr. Douglas Hamilton acquits himself creditably as Charlie Delaware; and a clever negro study is presented by Mr. Alfred Holles as Abel. Mr. Fred Boustead, always reliable, is seen to advantage as Dickson; and Mr. Maurice Drew deserves high praise for his entertaining interpretation of Cornelius Septimus Brown. Mr. Frank Harding, who is responsible for the production, bears the burden of the work upon his shoulders, and displays his wonted vigour by giving a performance of sterling artistic merit as the plotting and vindictive Ralph Vincent; Miss Katharine Clarke plays Kathleen Corrigan with natural grace and simplicity of manner; and Miss Lucy Sibley is effective as Margarita; while Miss Lucy Beaumont is fresh and lively as Bridget Maloney. Mr. Harry Bristow scores a success as Tim O'Flagherty; and Mr. J. Watts as Sergeant McCall, Mr. Edward Sparks as the Sentry, Mr. F. Benson as Redman, Mr. E. Godfrey as Sergeant Cregg, Mr. Fred Wilton as Grey, and Miss Murray as Mrs. Kennedy were distinctly good in their respective parts.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Sydney Grundy and the late Henry Pettitt, entitled
"THE BELLS OF HASLEMERE."

Before a crowded audience this popular drama is running here this week. Although this piece has been presented many times, both in London and the provinces, it does not appear to have lost its popularity. Mr. Ashley Page plays the part of the lover Frank Beresford, the squire of Haslemere. His powerful and convincing manner soon gains the sympathy of the audience. Mr. Charles A. Chandler submits a very fine rendering of the important and complex part of the adventurer Captain Vere, and is especially fine in his scene in the swamp. His changing moods from rascality to virtue are cleverly expressed. Mr. Cyril Vernon makes a manly and outspoken Mathew Brookfield. Mr. Johnny Chippendale always keeps the fun going as Reuben Armstrong the blacksmith. Mr. J. Major Jones is adequate as John Silkstone; Mr. Tom Tayler is a smart Yankee as Captain Salem; and Mr. H. J. Barrett makes the most of Captain Desmond. The popular leading lady, Miss Marion Denvill, achieves a great success as the gentle heroine, Evelyn Brookfield, and her final restoration to happiness is warmly greeted by the audience. Miss Kate Wolfred gains much applause as the kind-hearted Nora Desmond, whose love the hero is unable to return. Miss Kathleen Russell evokes much sympathy as the unfortunate Mary Northcote. Miss Mattie Everett makes a bright and engaging Dorothy Tremble.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Play, in a Prologue and Three Acts, Adapted from Rudyard Kipling's Novel by George Fleming, entitled
"THE LIGHT THAT FAILED."

No more popular engagement than that of Mr. Forbes-Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott could be made at the Kennington Theatre, which has this week overflowed in every part. *The Light that Failed* has furnished the bill for the first part of the week, giving inexpressible delight to the audience, gratifying tributes to the success achieved being found in recalls at the end of each act, when the curtain has had repeatedly to be raised. Mr. Forbes Robertson, whose rendering of Dick Heldar was acclaimed on the production of the play at the Lyric three years ago as one of his most brilliant conceptions, gives little sign of the recent illness which took him away to Switzerland to recuperate. He treats the earlier scenes of the play with a delicate method which ill prepares the spectator for the scenes of grim humour, the moments of passionate intensity, which follow. The audience at Kennington is heart and soul with the actor all through his arduous performance, but he thrills them irresistibly when the blind artist, in the lowest depths of despair, resists with passionate resolve the force of his love for Maisie, the fervour of his acting extracting many a sob from the onlookers. Nor is Miss Gertrude Elliott's triumph in the latter part any the less complete. Deliciously natural and refined throughout, every tone of her voice accords with the necessities of the moment, the burst of emotion at the last causing many a responsive throb in the breasts of the audience. The noble-minded Gilbert Torpenhow is again played by Mr. Ian Robertson, who bears himself with becoming ease, and cleverly denotes the nobility of character of Heldar's devoted friend. Mr. Charles Weir realises the brusque, but warm-hearted, "Nilghai" to perfection; and Mr. Herbert Dansey brings out admirably the comicalities of the foreigner in the rôle of Leone Cassavetti. Miss Auriol Lee subjects her natural attractions to the strict portrayal, both in speech and appearance, of the hateful Bessie Broke. The venom and spite of the little ingrate are vividly suggested, and it is no wonder that a round of applause marks each exit. The "Red-Haired Girl" is portrayed with charming tenderness and delicacy by Miss Rita Trekelle, whose well-marked delivery emphasises the touching nature of the rôle. The Mrs. Haines of Miss Minnie Griffin is a completely characteristic study, the humour of which is perceived in expression and appearance. Mrs. Haines' utterances are few and brief, but they are all marked by a peal of laughter. Mr. J. H. Ryley's impersonation of the loquacious Beeton gives cause for the heartiest merriment. Miss Esme Hubbard's vivacity and drollery as a French bonne are delightful; and Miss Dorothy Paget humorously reveals the spirit of independence possessed by an artist's model. Mr. Ernest Barton acts the part of a Young Man; and the group of newspaper men are realistically represented by Messrs. Vernon Steele, Frank Bickley, J. Beaumont, and William Pilling. Scenery from the brushes of Mr. J. Halker, Mr. W. T. Hemsley, and Mr. W. Hann gives an exquisite setting to the piece, which is ushered in by "Songs and Stories from Dixie-Land," delivered by Miss Clara Alexander. *Mice and Men* is in the bill for the concluding part of the week.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 19, the Drama, entitled
"ONE OF THE BEST."

The above popular Adelphi success is now successfully appealing for the suffrages of the good people of Peckham. Messrs. George Edwardes and Seymour Hicks's stirring military piece has now been a long time on the road, and it loses nothing in force and effectiveness at the hands of Miss Elsie Roberts' company. Especially thrilling is the great scene in the Barrack Square, where the luckless hero is degraded in front of his regiment. In this thrilling situation Mr. Frank Fenton acted with much power and pathos, moving the more susceptible among his audience to tears. Indeed, throughout the play Mr. Fenton acts with much boyish impetuosity and sincerity. Miss Elsie Roberts looks charming as the Vicar's daughter, Mary Penrose, and by her skilful acting causes much sympathy in her unmerited trials. Mr. Cyril Melton is admirably placed as Lieut-General Coventry, presenting a striking portrait of the dignified old officer. His daughter Esther is well played by Miss M. D. Webster, and her final repentance is capitally rendered. Mr. Harry Edward Ray is amusing as Private Jupp; Mr. A. J. Murray gives a good character sketch as old Mr. Jupp, but his voice might be more senile in tone. Miss Dorrie Roberts is bright and lively as Kitty Spencer, and her scenes with her sweetheart, Private Jupp, create much laughter. Miss Ethel Sarjient contributes to the fun, and has a good Irish brogue as Mrs. Spencer. Mr. Escott Robson plays powerfully as the villain Philip Elsworthy; and Jules de Cruchy, his companion in crime, is done full justice to by Mr. Lionel West. Mr. A. J. Vincent is sufficiently stern as Sergeant Hennessy. Mr. George Child is very effective as the good old Vicar, Dr. Penrose. The scenery and effects are entirely adequate; while the presence of two military bands and eighty auxiliaries adds much to the *tout ensemble* of the play.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 19,
the Musical Comedy, in Three Acts, Adapted from the French by J. S. Pigott, entitled
"KITTY GREY."

Under the direction of Mr. C. St. John Denton a capable company is performing this week at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, in this popular musical comedy. Though it was not the first visit of *Kitty Grey* to the riverside town, it was received with unmistakable signs of approval by a crowded audience, who vociferously redemanded many of the more popular of the numbers. Chief honours were bestowed upon Miss Hilda Guiver, who played the title-rôle, and whose presence and fine soprano voice eminently fitted her for the part. A very favourable impression was also made by Miss Marie West in the part of Lady Binfield, her singing of the popular item, "The rain came pitter-patter down," being one of the pleasantest features of the production. The part of Mrs. Bright found a capable exponent in Miss Nellie Lauraine; and Miss Gertrude Page was well placed as Saidie de Poulson. Mr. Lauri Lisle made the most of his opportunities as the gay King of Illyria; Mr. Robert Hyett was a satisfactory Sir John Binfield; and Mr. H. E. Garden succeeded in introducing a good deal of humour into the part of the invertebrate Lord Plantagenet. All the other parts in the comedy were judiciously filled, the chorus was well trained, and the scenery and costumes all that could be desired; whilst a capable orchestra was ably conducted by Mr. Forbes Russell. Several members of the Eccentric Club visited the theatre on Monday night, and bestowed a number of floral favours upon the principal lady artists during the evening.

"HER WILD OATS."

A Thames-side Comedy, in Four Acts, by John Bickerdyke and W. Gavazzi King, Produced for the first time at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford, on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Celeste ..... Miss Rita Martin
Lock Keeper ..... Mr. Fred Miller
Caroline ..... Miss Dora Dodd
Mrs. Farrant ..... Mrs. Greet
Diane Adeane ..... Miss Muriel Goodwin
Christopher Forrest ..... Mr. C. H. Cook
Rev. Horatio Proctor .... Mr. George Jenkins
Sophie Forrest ..... Miss Winifred Bazett
Doris Brunetière ..... Miss Norah Cook
Colonel Hamilton ..... Mr. M. Stewart-Dyer
Farmer Threshet ..... Mr. G. Paulin
Mrs. Threshet ..... Mrs. Paulin
Horace Hamilton ..... Mr. Barry Cook
Chauffeur ..... Mr. H. Morris

The story centres round the love affair of a young Oxfordshire farmer. A celebrated actress, "resting" with her companion, Mrs. Farrant, in a houseboat near Goring, breaks the monotony of a riverside holiday by a flirtation with a young farmer. The flirtation, though intended only for amusement, develops into a serious love affair. Christopher Forrest, ignorant of the identity of his inamorata, offers her marriage, and Diane conditionally accepts him. The love story is broken for a moment by the return of the squire's son, Horace Hamilton, a gay young man, who has neglected the opportunities offered him by a University career, and become enamoured of the celebrated actress, Belle Beresford. He has booked a passage to America in the same ship, but she, at the last moment, had intentionally left the company, a fact which Horace did not discover until the boat had sailed. While in America he met Lord Arnesdale, who showed him a letter from Belle proving her to be thoroughly abandoned. On his return to Bloomsgrove, Horace tells his only friend Christopher all that has happened, and incidentally acquaints him of Belle's intrigue; judge of his surprise when he finds that the young farmer is in love with the very girl for whom he had ruined his prospects, and concerning whom he had such damning evidence. When he tells Christopher, in the presence of his friends, that Diane and Belle Beresford are one and the same person, Christopher repudiates the possibility of such a statement, and a violent quarrel ensues between the old chums. Belle's appearance on the scene, and her admission that she is an actress, lead up to a strong scene between her and the young farmer, in which she gives him up. The scene of the last act is laid in the actress's drawing-room in St. John's Wood. Here, again, the young farmer's friends seek to disentangle him from the enchantment of Belle. Horace and Lord Arnesdale meantime have submitted the incriminating letter to a handwriting expert, who declares it to be a forgery. Suspicion falls on Mrs. Farrant, an old love of Arnesdale, and, taxed with the crime, admits her guilt, and clears the actress's name from suspicion. The play ends with a happy scene of reconciliation.

Mr. C. H. Cook gave a very natural rendering of Christopher Forrest; and Mr. Barry Cook conducted himself in an easy manner as Horace Hamilton. Mr. M. Stewart-Dyer impersonated Colonel Hamilton most successfully; while Mr. George Jenkins was a typical parson as the Rev. Horatio Proctor. Mr. G. Paulin made the most of Farmer Threshet; and Mr. Fred Miller was an effective Lock Keeper. Of the ladies, Mrs. Greet gave evidence of experience and skill as Mrs. Farrant; Miss Winifred Bazett was good as Sophie Forrest; Mrs. Paulin as Mrs. Threshet and Miss Dora Dodd as Caroline, were well up to their work; and Miss Muriel Goodwin, who acted with much grace and charm, showed promise of considerable histrionic ability as Diane (Belle Beresford). The play could be compressed into three acts with advantage.

The scenery was excellent and the mounting good, especially in Act One, when, in addition to a tastefully decorated, practicable houseboat, an excellent effect was obtained by the lock-keeper's punt, which conveyed the dwellers in the houseboat to the river bank. Another good scene in the second act is laid in the island of primroses, Thames Island, by moonlight.

At the conclusion there were loud calls for the author, who expressed his gratitude in fitting terms. The hall was well filled with a friendly and delighted audience.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 19, the Drama, by Arthur Shirley and E. Hill Mitchelson, entitled "I DEFY THE WORLD."

Mr. Samuel James, the managing-director of this old-established house, never fails to supply his patrons with the dramatic fare required by them. The more sensational the dish, the more it is relished, and the better for the treasury. The present week is given up to a very powerful drama written by two past-masters in the art of sensational drama—i.e., Mr. Arthur Shirley and Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson, and with such names as these it is not to be wondered at that a play is evolved with sensation after sensation crowded into four acts, which appeals with force to the drama-lovers of Hammersmith, who in consequence crowd the theatre nightly, much to the satisfaction of the management. *I Defy the World* deals with the adventures of "Devil Darvelle," an ex-French soldier, who, in the activity of his efforts to be revenged upon the seducer of his wife, assumes a variety of disguises, and ultimately, as is necessary, the villain meets his well-merited doom in the usual manner. Mr. Lewis Gilbert obtains the utmost success in the character of Leon Darvelle, his rousing acting and amazing and clever disguises helping to establish him as a popular favourite. As the villainous Count de Beaulieu Mr. Horace Booth plays with sufficient power to earn the amount of hostility necessary to show that he has been successful in his efforts. Mr. Alfred Denning is a capable General Delaporte; and Mr. Charles Conway as Laroche, a blackmailer, lends valuable support by his vigorous declamation. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt acts effectively as André, a young artist, and Mr. Charles M. Julian enacts Samuel Wozzlo quite to the amusement of the audience. Najac and Bochan, nondescripts, are both exceedingly well represented by Mr. Dunlop Stewart and Mr. Dalton J. Bosher. Captain Sitre is ably played by Mr. Albert Ball, and Mr. W. Davenport makes an efficient Father Dumont. Miss Trixie St. Albans is satisfactory as Pauline Delaporte, and Miss Maud Lilian is a vivacious Marie Wozzle. Miss G. Coats prettily portrays the part of the child Fanchette. As Blanche Darvelle Miss Maud Malvern has some arduous acting to undertake, in which she is altogether successful. The scenery of Paris is very effective.

A paper entitled "The Ballet—Then and Now" will be read to the members of the Playgoers' Club by Mr. S. L. Bensusan, in the Grand Hall of the Hotel Cecil, on Sunday. Mdlle. Adeline Genée will illustrate the lecture by giving examples of speech by gesture and by a dance.

Unsolicited Testimonials.—Lyceum Club, 128, Piccadilly, W., Feb. 16, '06:—Dear Sir,—Many thanks for the beautiful way in which you dyed the costume; it has been much admired, and no one thinks it is "dyed."—Your faithfully, Lydia Nervil. 11, Clarence Gate-gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.:—Miss Marjorian is very pleased with the pink dress; it is most beautifully cleaned. T. Harris, Esq., Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co., 6, Argyll-street, W. [Advt.]

DEATH OF MR. H. O. CLAREY.

We regret to announce that Mr. H. O. Clarey, the well-known comedian, died, after a short illness, at his residence, 45, Forthbridge-road, Clapham Common, on Monday morning. The deceased was born in London—Marlborough-road Station now occupies the site of the house that his parents lived in. Many distinguished actors were on visiting terms with them, and Mr. Clarey has a vivid recollection of being introduced to Sir Henry Irving and Mr. Henry Neville in his childhood. He was educated at Paris and at Bonn, and of French at any rate retained sufficient knowledge to play a part in that language. Incited by Captain Marryat's novels, Mr. Clarey went to sea, serving mostly in the tea clippers then running to China and Japan. He had a narrow escape of shipwreck on his last voyage but one. When he abandoned the sea Mr. Clarey tried the City as French correspondent, but soon gave up that career.

It was in 1884 that he became an actor, under the management of Mr. Fred Neebe, then of the Bath and Exeter theatres. He made his first appearance as Paul, in *The Octoroon*. A comrade who suggested and superintended the removal of a fierce military moustache was Mr. Milton Bode—destined to be Mr. Clarey's manager in years to come. During the twelve months that he spent with Mr. Neebe, Mr. Clarey acted mostly in such pieces as *The Rivals*, *The School for Scandal*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*. At the en dof this engagement he took part in his first pantomime, as Cassim, in *The Forty Thieves*, under the management of Messrs. Roberts, Archer, and Bartlett. Mr. Clarey appeared in *Hazel Kirke*, under the direction of Mr. Rollo Balmain; and then for a year or more acted with various companies of no importance. Under the management of Mr. Arthur Lloyd, he appeared in that gentleman's Irish play, *Ballyvogan*. Then he devoted himself to comic opera, playing Mr. Arthur Roberts's part in *The Old Guard*; and taking a summer engagement with a company formed by Mr. Milton Bode, to play *Monte Cristo* in the south of England. He came to the Royalty to assist in a revival of *The Barrister*. His next part of any importance was that of Little Pierre, in *Paul Jones*, which he played for nearly two years. He played Quasimodo in a provincial reproduction of *Miss Esmeralda*, and then, with a partner, took *Fun on the Bristol* on tour, playing Widow O'Brien. Mr. Clarey went to the Gaiety, and, for a time, replaced Mr. Payne as the Call Boy in *In Town*. He joined Mr. Arthur Roberts, "creating" the part of Sherlock Holmes Spotter in *Claude Duval*, and continuing to play that part at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. During the greater part of the following year Mr. Clarey was a member of the company at the Court Theatre, taking part, notably, in a little musical piece called *A Near Shave*. He was the original French Admiral, in *The French Maid*, when that

THE LATE MR. H. O. CLAREY.

merry musical play was first produced in London, and made a great success in the part. He took part in about a dozen pantomimes, notably at the Gaiety, Dublin, the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, and the Opera House, Leicester. Three times he played Widow Twankey; once a Sister, in *Cinderella*; and the Cook, in *Dick Whittington*, at the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

For the last six years Mr. Clarey was associated with Miss Kate Chard in comedy sketches, which were successfully played in the principal halls throughout the United Kingdom. Recently he appeared in the part of the Professor, in *Among the Stars*, produced at the Hippodrome, but was compelled to resign the engagement through illness. Mr. Clarey was forty-five years of age.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, when the remains of the deceased actor were interred at Kensal Green Cemetery.

PRESENTATIONS AT BRIGHTON.

The performance of the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on the 15th inst., was set apart for the benefit of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, the popular managing-director, who received several handsome presents on behalf of subscribers who included a large number of the townspeople and many members of the theatrical profession and managers of other theatres in different parts of the country. Alderman J. C. Buckwell, J.P., presented Mr. Carpenter with a silver tea and coffee service, and an illuminated address, the terms of which were as follows:—"We, the undersigned committee, on behalf of a large number of your fellow townsmen, desire to place on record our appreciation of the good work you have done in raising the tone and character of the theatre to the high position it now holds among the places of public amusement in the town. We ask your acceptance of the accompanying silver tea and coffee service as a small token of our esteem and regard, trusting you may long be spared to enjoy the results of your successful management."

Mr. Carpenter acknowledged the presentation and said it was an additional pleasure to him to realise that the presentation was made on the anniversary of the birthday of his wife, to whose valuable help and assistance whatever success he might have achieved was largely due. On behalf of the members of the company Mr. Newton (stage-manager) presented Mr. Carpenter with a silver épergne, and also with a silver card case from Mr. Edgar Budden (Friday). In acknowledging these gifts Mr. Carpenter said he had never had around him a more happy or zealous band of workers than the members of the *Robinson Crusoe* company.

Mr. Ridgewood Barrie has just been appointed acting-manager of the Royal Theatre, Ton-y-pandy. Mr. Barrie is the author of *A Queen of Villainy*, a drama very popular on tour.

"MEASURE FOR MEASURE" AT OXFORD.

In their production on Wednesday night at the New Theatre, Oxford, of *Measure for Measure*, the Oxford University Dramatic Society has deserved well of the public, for a more interesting play could not have been selected. Doubts of the expediency of performing a play with such a plot had been freely expressed, and it is gratifying to state that the theatre was better filled for the first performance than it has been for many years past, and that the patrons of the society took a wider view than had been expected of them. The difficult task of arranging the acting edition had been entrusted to Mr. G. R. Foss, and exceedingly well he has done his work. Of course, the scene with Mistress Overdone has been cut out, but the good lines of that scene have not been lost, having been transferred to Pompey; and many lines that must needs have given offence have been eliminated without at all spoiling the continuity of the play, so that Mr. Foss can fairly be congratulated on having given an excellent edition of a most difficult and risky play, and the public can now understand why the liberal-minded and popular Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Merry, Rector of Lincoln College) has approved of the acting edition and permitted the undergraduates to play it. Mr. Foss was also responsible for the direction of the entire play, which went with marvellous smoothness, the only little hitch that occurred being the amusing one that at the end one of the curtains refused to fall, and the act drop had to be lowered amid much laughter. The success of *Measure for Measure* was never in doubt, the curtain having to be raised again at the end of every act, while the applause at the finish from the evidently delighted house had a true ring about it that promised a complete success for this year's venture; and well the undergraduates deserve it, for they have spared neither expense nor trouble in putting before the public a representation of a play seldom seen that in every particular is worthy of the past traditions of this well-known society, and at the same time given us an opportunity of hearing some of the very best lines that Shakespeare ever wrote. The scenery, specially designed and painted by Mr. W. T. Hemsley, was highly satisfactory—especially good was the City Gate in the last act; the arrangement of the crowds here called forth the unstinted admiration of the house. The dresses were handsome and historically accurate, while the music, composed throughout for the occasion by Mr. Robert Cox (of St. John's College), was admirably rendered by a strong professional band under the direction of Mr. Cox. Of the music, it may be said that it was tuneful and pretty, though one could not trace any connection in it with the play performed. It is in the rendering of the small and super parts that the society shows its greatest strength; no better crowds, with natural movements and looking what they were, could be wished for in any production.

The cast was as follows:—

Vincentio ..... Mr. R. Gorell Barnes
Angelo ..... Mr. G. S. C. Rentoul
Escalus ..... Mr. E. N. Farnell
Claudio ..... Mr. F. C. Meyer
Lucio ..... Mr. W. J. H. Curwen
1st Gentleman ..... Mr. J. H. M. Greenly
2nd Gentleman ..... Mr. A. B. Dale
Provost ..... Mr. C. A. E. Williams
Friar Peter ..... Mr. E. G. Southam
A Justice ..... Mr. R. G. Macswinney
Elbow ..... Mr. L. Gartside
Froth ..... Hon. A. A. Fraser
Pompey ..... Mr. H. G. Farmer
Abhorson ..... Mr. I. E. Snell
Barnardine ..... Mr. J. L. Philipps
Attendant ..... Mr. N. A. Limbert
Herald ..... Mr. B. Cornwallis
Mariana ..... Miss Edith Coleman
Juliet ..... Miss Alice Leigh
Francisca ..... Miss F. B. Walker
Isabella ..... Miss Maud Hoffman

Taken as a whole, the representation of the play was a distinct success. No doubt the scenery and appointments had something to do with the enthusiastic reception accorded the play, but the acting was good, and a very fair level of excellence attained. Mr. Rentoul's Angelo was far and away the best performance, his clear, incisive style and excellent conception of the character affording the keenest enjoyment to all present. The society is rich in a trio of really good comedians, the performances of Mr. Gartside, Hon. A. A. Fraser, and Mr. Farmer being full of genuine humour. Mr. Gorell Barnes worked hard and successfully as the Duke, but his delivery was monotonous. Escalus and Claudio found really excellent exponents in Messrs. Farnell and Meyer, and Mr. Curwen played Lucio with a brightness and point that were highly effective. Mr. Williams and Mr. Southam did full justice to the parts of the Provost and Friar Peter, and in the small parts of Abhorson and Barnardine Messrs. Snell and Philipps showed themselves entirely competent. Miss Edith Coleman acted with sympathetic power as Mariana, Miss Alice Leigh made a most interesting Juliet, Miss F. B. Walker was quite admirable as Francisca, while Miss Maud Hoffman scored a triumph in her splendid performance of Isabella, speaking the many lines that might have given offence in the lips of others with a delicacy and point that met with the keenest appreciation. A word of praise, too, is due to Master G. Putman for his pleasing rendering of the song in Act IV.

THE BEAUTIFYING OF THE ROYALTY.

The great success of the French plays at the New Royalty Theatre has naturally called unusual attention to the theatre itself, more especially as the entire building has undergone so great a transformation as to fully justify its present title, "New" Royalty Theatre. The interior decorations are especially striking, being artistically unique in colour and design. The whole of the upholstering, carpets, curtains, and drapery to the boxes, archways, &c., throughout the auditorium, foyer, and grand saloon, as well as the proscenium curtain and pelmet, are in a very special cerise colour, artistically embroidered in silver and pale Gobelin blue. These show up most beautifully against the decoration of the theatre's interior, which is carried out entirely in cream and gold, and the electric lighting has been very cleverly arranged so as to still further enhance the harmony of colour that prevails throughout. The vestibule has a very handsome marble floor of Swedish green and Sicilian white marble, and the staircase leading therefrom a wrought-iron balustrade, with Swedish green marble handrail.

In the reconstruction of the entrance and staircase great difficulty was encountered, owing to its position, in complying with the regulations of the County Council; and during the progress of the work large additions were decided on which more than doubled the original contract, but the contractors, Messrs, Smee and Cobay, of New Bond-street, London, were fully equal to the emergency, and did not exceed by one day the date originally fixed for completion. We must certainly congratulate this firm, who have so successfully carried out the whole of the work, on the great taste and ability they have displayed. Madame Réjane, whose dressing-room has been tastefully decorated in Gobelin blue and white, personally expressed her admiration of the high artistic skill that had been brought to bear on the work by Messrs Smee and Cobay.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—In your issue of Jan. 20 you announce that I was leaving Brixton Theatre to take up an appointment at the King's Theatre. It should have read the Grand Theatre, Glasgow. —Yours truly, Harry L. Carlo.

CHEMICAL CLEANING AND DYEING CO.

(of 6, ARGYLL-STREET, REGENT-STREET, W.)

(By our own commissioner.)

Few business concerns have made such wonderful progress in a comparatively brief space of time as the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company. At Acton, where the works of this firm occupy six and a quarter acres of ground, alterations and improvements are now being carried out on a big scale. The other day Mr. Thomas Harris, the energetic manager of the company, took us over the Acton establishment, and the tour of inspection proved to be an extremely interesting one.

In the chemical cleaning department one sees quantities of silk, woollen, and cotton goods being prepared for the process. The different colours are separated. Thus, white materials are cleaned by themselves. The materials are laid on marble slabs, where they are brushed with soap and spirit, the latter supplied by taps like water. The soap is manufactured by the company itself. In the machine-room hard by cleaning and rinsing operations are carried out in specially constructed machines. The fabrics are afterwards placed in revolving machines. By this means the spirit is shaken out, and after a few minutes the dresses, or whatever they be, are found to be almost completely dried. This hydro extractor, as it is called, turns round and round at the rate of 2,000 revolutions per minute. The spirit extracted is not wasted, but returns into huge tanks, and from thence is purified by being placed into a patent vacuum still, where it is purified by being boiled and evaporated off. After the first distillation there is a residue of a dense black colour, somewhat resembling dark, sticky earth, and after the second distillation the spirit is forced by a double pump into the tanks containing the clean liquid.

The drying-room next engages our attention. Here dresses and other things are hung in great heat, and the gas given off is extracted by electric fans. In what is called the inspection and overhauling room the goods which have been cleaned and dried are carefully examined, and the slightest evidence of a spot or a mark is removed, every mark being treated separately. A huge apartment is set aside for electric ironing. Here a small army of girls is busily engaged in the exercise of moving to and fro electrically heated irons over the different garments, cloths, and other things which have been passed on from another department. The heating power of each iron can be regulated by the operative.

Walking a little further on, long metal cylinders are brought to our notice. On these the skirts and other light articles are finished. Ladies can

MR. THOMAS HARRIS.

have no idea when they send their garments to a chemical cleaning or dyeing company how much time is required before the work is completed, of from how many different people the dress has to receive attention. Here it is of interest to state that the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company is the only firm in the world that has produced a black spirit dye on silk. In another room one sees silk and woollen tapestries, chenilles, and plushes being finished by machines, something after the style of a Hoe press, but, of course, very much smaller. The articles are passed between huge cylindrical brushes, and by an automatic arrangement are thrown off the machine much in the way that printed newspapers are flung off from a four-decker. Mr. Harris informs us that machines similar to these are used in the manufacture of tapestries and carpets. Blanket-carding is done in the adjoining apartment. The cleaned blankets are passed between two roller brushes, and emerge from the operation with a fine, silky texture.

"And your made-up goods, such as shoes, Mr. Harris?" The question is prompted by the sight of ladies' dainty little slippers lying on a bench, all the colours of the rainbow being represented in the various sets.

"They are dyed separately by hand, and are not the easiest things in the world to finish."

"I want to show you," he goes on, "a framing machine. Here you see a girl who has fixed a cushion cover to a square wooden frame which can be moved to and fro. You will notice the steam issuing from underneath the cover. That finished, it will be placed in this heated cupboard."

An armour-plated door—and there are several in the establishment—is flung back on its wheels, and we are shown some very beautiful specimens of the dyer's art. Here, for instance, is a plush cloth, once yellow, and now transformed to a rich dark green. Another, sent into the works a dirty blue, is transfigured into a pretty orange colour.

The dry-dyeing room is the next place to be examined. This is a huge oblong workshop on the ground floor. Most of the space is occupied by tanks containing the various spirit dyes. In one a white silk blouse is being changed to myrtle green, in another straw hats are being dyed navy blue. In a third a black crêpe dress is being rejuvenated. And so on. If Mrs. Jones wants to know how it is that her neighbour, Mrs. Robinson, is able on Robinson's meagre income to blazon forth each spring in trappings of such gorgeous hue—though, be it whispered, Mrs. Jones has noted that Mrs. Robinson's style of dress does not vary so much as the colour—Mr. Harris is the man who can solve the mystery. And, ladies, think what you can save! You can have your gloves cleaned or dyed over and over again. That pretty silk blouse, rather dirty now, it must be admitted, can be made to look as pretty and sweet as it was when you bought it.

To an outsider it is really a revelation to go over the establishment of the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company. There is the electricity department, with its four huge dynamos, and in this room, too, be it said, the firm has been enterprising enough to erect a steam-driven pump to an artesian well 400ft. deep, so that they have at command their own water supply. Near to the boiler-house there is another of these wells, 450ft. deep. At present, as we have already indicated, the company is reconstructing the whole of its premises. A very large dyeing-house is in course of erection, and the most modern principles as to ventilation, light, and convenience for the workpeople are being employed in the whole building. The room for the ordinary work will be 250ft. long by 60ft. wide, and with its massive glass and ironwork roof already gives the appearance of a miniature Crystal Palace. Another apartment is 250ft. by 60ft., and sixteen smaller workshops will be devoted to the "treating" operations. The firm employ between 600 and 700 people, and every possible arrangement is put into practice for their comfort.

"HOUSE FULL."

Comedy Sketch, in One Scene, Produced at the Standard Music Hall, Pimlico, on Monday, Feb. 12.

Jedbury Jawkins, J.P. .... Mr. Geo. Warriner
Mrs. Jawkins ..... Miss Sybil Hardcastle
Jedbury Jawkins, jun. ..... Mr. Eric Halsbury
Macey ..... Mr. Audrey Collett
Mary ..... Miss Maud Cotterell
Parker ..... Mr. Cecil H. Rutland

A farcical trifle, that quite fulfilled the object with which it was written, was the comedy sketch, *House Full*, played for the first time at the Standard Music Hall, on Monday, Feb. 12, by the Damerell-Rutland Combination. The author's name is not given, but he has provided some very amusing situations, and the playlet was cordially received by the audience. The principal character is Jedbury Jawkins, an elderly J.P., who apparently has been having a "night out," for, on the rising of the curtain, we see him at the breakfast-table, somewhat anxious at the reception he will get from his indignant spouse. Her greeting is naturally far from affectionate, and his efforts to smooth matters over do not meet with success. In the midst of their melancholy meal, a large basket is brought in by one of the servants, and the wife, presuming it to contain fruit, wants it opened on the spot. Jawkins, however, fancies he hears strange noises from within, and the contents are not disclosed till Mrs. J. has left the room. Then it is that the distressed Jawkins opens it, and brings forth an infant in long clothes. The entrance of the butler, Parker, necessitates him placing the baby back almost immediately, and, when Jawkins retires, Mary, the butler's wife, comes in with another infant in arms, and fondly places it in its proud father's care. Voices heard outside compel him to hide his offspring somewhere, and he of course places it in the basket. The fun is greatest when both Jawkins and the butler endeavour to drown the weird wailings of the babes by continued and unnaturally loud laughter; and also when each—unbeknown to the other—takes a peep into the basket, and sees two infants instead of the one placed there. Mary and Mrs. Jawkins also imagine they have been cruelly deceived, and their indignation is the cause of much merriment. Happiness is eventually restored by the entrance of Jawkins, jun., who explains that he is the father of the first arrival. He brings with him two more "little strangers"—hence the title of the trifle. *House Full* was admirably presented, Mr. George Warriner and Mr. Cecil H. Rutland being conspicuous fun-makers as the perplexed Jawkins and his equally troubled butler, Parker. Miss Sybil Hardcastle was sufficiently vinegary and disdainful as Mrs. Jawkins; and Mary had a comely and capable representative in Miss Maud Cotterell.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 19, the Play, in Five Acts, by W. G. Wills, entitled "A ROYAL DIVORCE."

Always a capital draw at the Stratford Borough Theatre, where it has been presented on several previous occasions, *A Royal Divorce*, with the additional attraction of coming direct from the New Scala Theatre, was received most cordially on Monday night by a well-filled house. All the original and most valuable appurtenances are being utilised, and the brilliant scenic effects and beautiful dresses and mounting are occasioning unstinted praise. Mr. W. W. Kelly has secured an exceptionally strong cast for the interpretation of W. G. Wills's engrossing story, and under such favourable auspices the present tour of the piece should be gratifying to all concerned. Mr. Frank Lister essays the part of Napoleon, and it suits this clever actor immeasurably. Of appropriate physique and excellently made up, he gains thunderous applause in Napoleon's soliloquies on the courage of the British Bulldogs," and in the more tender passages he is equally successful. Long familiarity with the part detracts not one whit from the merits of Miss Edith Cole's performance as the divorced wife of Napoleon, her portrayal of the much-wronged Josephine being as sympathetic, impressive, and tactful as heretofore, and winning her vociferous applause at the conclusion of each act. Mr. F. Joynson-Powell acts with fluency and conviction as Talleyrand; and Mr. Geo. W. Cockburn submits a powerful portraiture of the traitorous Marquis de Beaumont. The swagging General Angereau is most appropriately played by Mr. George Howard; and Mr. Maurice Hoffmann portrays Marshall Murat very effectively. Mr. Frederick Powell admirably enacts Dr. Corvisart; and a very clever character-sketch is contributed by Mr. T. P. Haynes as the innkeeper Grimaud. Miss Elizabeth Watson portrays the superficial nature of Marie Louise entirely satisfactorily; Stephanie de Beauharnais is portrayed with brightness and vivacity by Miss Clara Earle; and Master Herbert Hollom plays very intelligently as the little King of Rome. Remaining parts are all in capable hands. A word of praise must be bestowed upon the tableaux "Napoleon at Waterloo," depicting "The Battle," succeeded by "The Conqueror Overthrown," both being capital examples of stage illustration. Mr. Walner Gregory is the courteous manager for Mr. W. W. Kelly.

In celebration of the great success of the recently concluded Britannia pantomime *King Wow-Wow* (of which, with Mr. Edmund Edmunds, he was part proprietor), and also of his fifty-third birthday, Mr. John Dipple gave a dinner party on Sunday evening last at the Café de l'Italie, the guests including Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Edmunds, Mr. and Mrs. James Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilmott, Mr. and Mrs. W. Melford (Miss Vinnie Edmunds), Mrs. H. Tucker (Miss Polly Albert) and her son, Mr. Harry Albert, Mr. James McCarthy (acting-manager of the Britannia Theatre), Messrs. Jock and George and the Misses Josie and Bella Preston (Preston Family), and several private friends. Mrs. John Dipple also graced the proceedings with her presence. After one of the recherché dinners, for which the Italie is famous, a very enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. and Mrs. Shirley (Miss Jessie Preston) were unavoidably absent, but were remembered amongst the toasts, which included, besides the loyal toasts, those of "The Host" (given by Mr. E. Edmunds, with an eulogistic supporter in Mr. James Albert), and "The Proprietors of the Pantomime" (given by Mr. Charles Wilmott).

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham and his company took a still further flight on Monday, when they gave a matinée of *Captain Drew on Leave* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol. Sir Charles and Miss Mary Moore had enthusiastic receptions from a packed house, and the performance gave the utmost delight, the play running perfectly from start to finish. At the close Sir Charles Wyndham in a few words tendered thanks for the "charming reception" awarded him and his company. The whole party returned to town by the non-stop express which leaves Bristol at 4.45 p.m., dining en route, and arriving at Paddington, a distance of 117½ miles, in 125 minutes, in time for the evening performance at Wyndham's. The accomplishment of such a feat renders punctuality in train service and accuracy of plans imperative, and its successful issue reflects credit both on the arrangements of Sir Charles and those of the Great Western Railway.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday Mr. T. P. O'Connor asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to a recent trial in which the loss to the musical profession and trade by pirates was shown; and whether, in view of the loss to members of the musical profession and of the fact that the industry had been brought almost to a standstill by the advantage taken by these pirates of defects in the existing law, he would introduce at an early date a measure to amend the law with regard to musical copyright. Mr. Gladstone said that this matter was receiving his careful consideration. He desired strongly to see a remedy adopted to put an end to the hardships in this connection of which the musical profession justly complained; but he was not yet in a position to make any statement with regard to legislation.

Mr. George Alexander was warmly welcomed as the new vice-president of the Vagabonds Club at a dinner at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday. The popular actor-manager, who was accompanied by Mrs. Alexander, in reply to the toast of his health, referred to his famous predecessor in the post, telling a story of the late Sir Henry Irving, characteristic at once of his humour and his generosity. "Sir Henry wrote suggesting that I should make another season's engagement with him at the Lyceum," said Mr. Alexander. At that time I was receiving a salary of £40 a week, and the Scotch instinct being strong in me, I asked my wife if she thought it was possible to squeeze out a little more. After a sleepless night I went to the theatre, with my mind made up to ask for 40 guineas. Irving looked at me, and said, 'My boy, what have you done that you should get this enormous salary? Are you aware that I was leading man in this theatre for £15 a week? Are you aware that I played Hamlet for £20 a week? And yet you have the audacity to ask for a rise in salary. You are not content with your present salary, but you come here as if you were a doctor or a lawyer and suggest guineas. I am determined to have my own way in this matter, and I engage you for next season at £45 a week.'"

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has lent a large amount of practical support to his Dramatic Academy scheme by giving salaried engagements to thirty of the students to appear in the crowd in *Nero* at His Majesty's, some of them speaking a few lines.

The prize for the lady students of the Academy for dramatic blank verse recitation given by Mr. W. L. Courtney, consisting of £5, to be expended in books, has been awarded to Miss Mary Barton, those honourably mentioned being Miss Beatrice Smith and Miss Leighton (Sykes). The examiners were Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Norman Forbes, and Mr. H. B. Irving. The selected passages were from Shakespeare and Marlowe, the students not being coached for the competition.

Mr. George Edwardes's latest acquisition is an operetta from Vienna, to which Continental capital the enterprising manager has just made a trip. The piece, which is now being played at the An der Wien Theatre, is called, in English, *The Jolly Widow*, and is written by Victor Leon and Leo Stein to the music of Franz Lehar. An entertaining love-story is developed in the operetta, which is embellished by light and graceful melodies, and its welcome to London, on the authority of such an expert as Mr. Edwardes, is certain to be cordial.

Miss Fanny Coleman will in a few months reach the fiftieth year of her professional career, and the occasion will be made memorable by a benefit matinée to be given early in May at the Haymarket, kindly lent by Mr. Frederick Harrison. It was at this theatre in its old guise that Miss Coleman made her début under the management of Mr. J. B. Buckstone in 1857, and since that time she has acted almost unceasingly. An attractive programme is being arranged by Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, of the St. James's Theatre, and the event has already enlisted the support of many eminent persons, among whom may be mentioned Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Esmond, and Mr. H. B. Irving.

Mr. James Weaver, who has worthily filled the position of musical director at fifteen London theatres, will be accorded a benefit matinée at the Metropolitan Theatre of Varieties, by permission of the directors, on Thursday next. Mr. Weaver, unfortunately, is no longer able to follow his profession, an inflammatory spot at the back of each eye having deprived him permanently of direct sight. A powerful programme, in which the names of Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and Little Tich figure, has been aranged, and tickets for this most deserving case may be obtained from Mr. James W. Mathews at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Mr. Cyril Maude's revival of *The Heir-at-Law*, the rehearsals for which were temporarily suspended on account of the production of *She Stoops to Conquer*, is now in active preparation, and may be expected at the Waldorf for a series of matinées in a little more than a fortnight. Mr. Charles Groves will play Daniel Dowlas, a part originally meant for Mr. Lionel Rignold, and Miss Madge Crichton will take up that of Cicely Homespun, for which Miss Jessie Bateman was at first retained.

A rich entertainment was afforded to the audience which crowded every part of Wyndham's Theatre on Thursday, when a matinée was given in aid of the St. Barnabas Country Holiday Home. Each item of the programme gave the utmost pleasure, loud cheers awaiting Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and Miss Marion Terry, who appeared in the first act of *Captain Drew on Leave*. Miss Irene Vanbrugh awakened the sympathies of all by reciting a touching appeal in verse, specially written for the occasion by Miss Ethel Clifford, on behalf of "London Children"; and Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Eric Lewis, and Mr. Vivian Reynolds won boundless mirth with Mr. Max Hecht's [illegible] little play, *Scruples*. Mlle. Genée gave her fascinating "Hunting Dance" and in the absence, through illness, of Miss Marie Dainton, who had been announced to appear with him in "The imitation duet," Mr. Arthur Playfair contributed several travesties of the methods and styles of various well-known actors.

Mr. H. B. Irving delivered the second of two lectures on "The English Stage in the Eighteenth Century" at the Royal Institution on Thursday. After dealing with the career of Garrick, he said that the traditions handed down to their successors by the eighteenth century actors were worthy of the beautiful art they so faithfully pursued. The pure art of acting, unassisted by the collaboration of other arts, received in them its highest expression. In order to follow his art in the eighteenth century, the would-be player had to be prepared to face difficulties and disadvantages which to-day had disappeared. The ambitious actor who began his career as a strolling player had to endure, if they were to accept the reminiscences of John Kemble, such humiliation, ignominy, and actual suffering as only a great devotion to his work could have determined a man of ordinary sensitiveness to go through. Towards the end of the century, however, a great improvement in these conditions took place. Instead of booths and barns, the provincial actor began to find in the more considerable towns theatres ready to receive him, and the London "stars" began to make tours. An impartial study of the history of the eighteenth century theatre proved conclusively that, under propitious conditions, England was a soil as favourable to the production of fine actors as any other, and that the traditions of the English stage were as deserving as those of any other theatre of fostering care and preservation.

We regret to record the death on the 9th inst. of Miss Alice Rees (Mrs. Matthew Brodie). The deceased actress made her first appearance on the stage at the Empire Theatre in 1889 as a ballad singer. She was then engaged by the late Carl Rosa for his light opera company, playing Malagmena in *Paul Jones* in support of Miss Camille D'Arville, whom she succeeded in the position of prima-donna, playing Yvonne for eighteen months. Her next engagement was with Mr. Horace Sedger, in whose provincial company, then playing *La Cigale*, she was Charlotte. Miss Rees at the same time understudied and eventually played the part of Marton. During an engagement with Mr. Horace Lingard's company Miss Rees greatly extended her comic opera repertory, playing, for instance, Pepita, Falka, Fauvette, Fraisette in *The Old Guard*. Rejoining the *La Cigale* company, she played Marton once more. Under the guidance of her husband she occasionally appeared in comedy, as, for instance, Mrs. Honeyton in *A Happy Pair*, Nelly Marley in *Uncles and Aunts*, and Kate O'Brien in *Checkmate*.

The tour of *What the Butler Saw* promises to be a most gratifying success. Miss Ada Blanche, assuming just enough American twang to sound pretty, makes a capital Mrs. Barrington. Mr. Lionel Rignold has worked up the character of the Butler into a part worthy of any comedian. One of the best features of the provincial edition of Judge Parry's amusing farce is the impromptu dance on which the final curtain falls. The parrot that plays such an important part in the development of the plot formerly played its part in London, and has been a great favourite with the audiences at the Coronet Theatre this week. Mrs. Lionel Rignold (Miss Marie Daltra) herself possesses a particularly handsome Polly, but, although it speaks well, it has never made a professional appearance.

Mr. Edward Compton, who was enthusiastically recalled on Monday night at the Paisley Theatre, referring to the 1,300th performance of *David Garrick*, said he could truly say that this was a unique record, for no other actor, living or dead, had played the part of David Garrick the same number of times. And the best of it was, the play and the players were not in the least exhausted, but, he might be allowed to say, were both going stronger and better than ever. He might be permitted to leave it to the public to declare whether or no he had the right to be proud and happy at such a result.

"I can imagine actors," continued Mr. Compton, "playing certain parts—villains, for instance—a similar number of times, and getting heartily sick of them, but with David Garrick it is so different. He does the right thing at all times; he is always a gentleman, even when feigning to be a drunkard, and he reaches the topmost height of self-abnegation when, in giving up the girl he loves so passionately, he nobly illustrates the lines:

> I could not love thee, dear, so much
> Loved I not honour more.

No wonder, therefore, that I never weary of him, but get to like him better and better, still wearing him in my 'heart of hearts'—my prime favourite, as I believe he is yours also. To you, my old and tried friends, ladies and gentlemen, I offer my sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments for your attendance and enthusiasm to-night; while to the great public all over the country who have supported and encouraged me for many years to play the 'preux chevalier sans peur et sans reproche,' I say with Shakespeare: 'I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends.'"

Mr. Charles Frohman has another novelty in store for London playgoers, in the production during the current season of an American play, in which English actors will appear in the first act, the scene of which is laid in England, while American actors will be engaged for the other acts, which will have American scenes, representing life among the cowboys and Indians. The play, which is entitled *The Squaw Man*, has been given nearly 150 times at one theatre in New York, and is still running.

Mr. Douglas Gerrard has unmistakably made a decided hit, both as leading man and producer of plays. He produced *Merely Mary Ann* and *Leah Kleschna* with great success in Sydney and Melbourne, playing Lancelot in the former piece and Paul Sylvaine in the latter. At the conclusion of the first night of each of the productions he was presented with two huge laurel wreaths. Mr. Gerrard thinks the Australians very warm-hearted and generous.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on Saturday, Miss Ada Reeve was sued by the Broughton Theatre Syndicate, Limited, Manchester, who alleged that she broke an agreement to appear for twelve nights in *Winnie Brooke, Widow*, at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, last Christmas. It was arranged that the syndicate should receive 30 per cent. of the receipts, while a minimum of £500 was guaranteed to Miss Reeve. Before the time, however, she accepted an engagement as principal boy in a pantomime, and plaintiffs had had great difficulty in finding companies to appear at their theatre. They expected Miss Reeve would be so big a draw that the gross receipts would amount to £1600, and that they would be entitled to £476. The jury awarded plaintiffs £75 damages.

Miss Gertrude Kingston's matinée will take place at the Savoy Theatre on Thursday, March 8. Laurence Binyon's one-act tragedy, *Paris and Œnone*, with Miss Kingston as Œnone, will be produced, and another one-act play, *The Friend in the Garden*, by E. F. Benson, and a revival of George Bernard Shaw's *How He Lied to Her Husband*, with the original cast, will also figure in the programme.

Miss Billie Burke, the charming Evelyn Ormsby of *The Blue Moon* at the Lyric, was a saloon passenger by the R.M.S. Campania, which left Liverpool on Saturday for New York.

Two recruits to the ranks of the British aristocracy have been given by the theatrical profession within the last few days. Miss Eva Carrington, who was one of the fascinating "Gibson Girls" in *The Catch of the Season* at the Vaudeville, and more recently had a part in *Bluebell in Fairyland* at the Aldwych, was married on the 16th inst. at the St. Pancras Registry Office to Lord de Clifford, of Dalgan Park, Shrule, Tuam, the barony of which dates back to 1299. Lady de Clifford, who first became associated with Mr. Seymour Hicks's companies seven years ago, will now retire from the stage, and, after the bridal tour, which will take the happy pair to Abyssinia, will settle down in Ireland.

Miss Frances Donnelly, a *Florodora* girl, was the heroine of the second happy event, which took place on Monday, when she became the wife of Lord Ashburton. The civil function was performed in the Town Hall of Passy, a Western suburb of Paris, and the religious ceremony was subsequently gone through at the English church. The bride, whose professional name was Miss Frances Belmont, was a member of the original *Florodora* sextet in America, and afterwards joined Mr. Charles Hawtrey's company. Lord Ashburton, who is in his fortieth year, succeeded his father in 1889 as fifth baron. He is a well-known figure in the London social world, a member of many clubs, and the owner of large estates in Hampshire. Immediately after the wedding the bridal couple went to Bordeaux to take steamer to Africa, there to spend the honeymoon in a long hunting trip.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree's remarkable embodiment of Nero has attracted the expert eye of Mr. John Tussaud, who is at work on a portrait model to be included in Madame Tussaud's Exhibition.

Mr. Surtees Corne, musical-director and composer, and Renée Ashley Gilbert-Price, were married at Hastings on Tuesday, Mr. J. D. Hunter, the well-known manager of the pier, acting as best man. The happy pair are spending their honeymoon at Paris.

Mr. Wentworth Croke, who has been seriously ill at his house in Bedford-street, was greatly distressed at the report of his death, spread by some malicious person, who sent a forged telegram, typed in a light green ink, and left at the Leicester-square Post Office, to the manager of his *Christian* company at Paisley, purporting to have been sent by his wife. Mr. Croke, who is recuperating in the country at the top of the Chiltern Hills, is so upset at this dastardly and cruel deed that he is offering a reward of £50 to anyone who will give information that will lead to the conviction of the offender.

The Queen's Fund on behalf of the Unemployed has been appreciably swelled by contributions from a theatrical source. The latest subscription is from Mr. Charles Frohman, who has forwarded to the Lord Mayor the sum of £131 8s. 6d., the receipts of the opening night at the Aldwych Theatre.

Mr. Martin Harvey continues his highly successful suburban tour at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, next week. *The Only Way* will be played on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday matinée, and Friday, and on the remaining evenings *The Breed of the Treshams* will be given.

Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren, at the conclusion of their engagement with *Claudian* at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on Saturday, were repeatedly called for, the audience refusing to disperse till Mr. Maclaren had said a few words. When he referred to the late Wilson Barrett their enthusiasm knew no bounds, and in concluding with the words, "Do not forget Claudian the accursed when he has passed from you," Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren were greeted with a hearty assurance of remembrance.

The title of Miss Edith Brom's one-act play, to be produced at the Royalty on Sunday evening, has been altered to *A Maker of Women*. The cast consists of Miss Irene Rooke, Mr. Robert Bottomley, and Mr. Milton Rosmer.

Mr. Henry Tweedie tells a remarkable coincidence which occurred in one of the leading manufacturing centres during the visit of one of the latest London dramas. The juvenile lead, playing a handsome, courtly character, is seen for the first time by a fair member of the audience. The striking resemblance to her fiancé lately killed in the South African War makes the character of absorbing interest to her. During the week an introduction is made, and whilst at luncheon at the family mansion the extraordinary fact is revealed that the actor and the dead fiancé both bear the same Christian and surname, although in no possible way related.

Miss Jessie Millward will open her season at the Scala Theatre on March 10 with *The School for Husbands*, an eighteenth century English comedy, which has had a run in America, though Miss Millward appears in it for the first time. Miss Millward's acquaintance with comedy began immediately after her departure for the United States some nine years ago, since which time she has played many parts, including Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, one of her greatest successes being that of Lady Algy in R. C. Carton's clever comedy. At the Scala Miss Millward's full support will comprise Messrs. Frank Cooper, Philip Cuningham, A. Holmes Gore, Clarence Blakiston, T. Wigney Percyval, John P. MacCallam, George Unwin, and J. W. Macdonald, and Misses Dorothy Minto, Mona K. Oram, Dolores Drummond, Maude Leslie, and Frances Welstead.

"The Charity that Began at Home," a new comedy by St. John Hankin, has just been secured by Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker, and will be produced in the autumn series of matinées at the Court Theatre.

Mr. Jerrold Heather has been engaged by Miss Nettie Ware and Mrs. Millar Anderson for Lieutenant Fred Rokeby, R.N., in *When Woman Hates* Mr. Heather has been fortunate in obtaining valuable experience, having played no less than fifteen leading parts in the last eight or nine months.

Mr. Charles Hannan's new three-act farce comedy entitled *United States* will be produced at the Crouch End Opera House on Monday evening, March 5, by Mr. Samuel James. The entire action of the play, which is a modern one, takes place during the space of one very busy day.

Mr. Gerald Du Maurier will play the honourable hero in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, to be produced at the Duke of York's on Tuesday, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, to whom the part was originally given, being unhappily too ill to take it up. Miss Marie Tempest will be Peggy, and the rest of the cast will consist of Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. Charles Bryant, Mr. Clayton Greene, Mr. Richard Haigh, Miss Kate Sergeantson, Miss Beatrice Beckley, Miss Ethel Matthews, and Miss Florence Wood.

Mr. Harry Lyons has been appointed general manager for Mr. Clarence Saunes' various theatres, and will direct all business from the Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

Owing to the temporary indisposition of Miss Julia Neilson, her part of Lady Blakeney in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at the New Theatre was on Tuesday played by Miss Miriam Lewes, who acquitted herself very creditably.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held last Tuesday, when Mr. C. Aubrey Smith was unanimously elected chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There were present Messrs. Edward Terry (chairman), Henry Warburton (hon. standing counsel), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Cecil Barth, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, William Devereux, A. E. Drinkwater, A. E. George, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, H. B. Irving, Fewlass Llewellyn, Walter Russell, C. Aubrey Smith, Spencer Trevor, Hubert Willis, Mesdames Carlotta Adison, Beatrice Lamb, Kate Phillips, Saba Raleigh, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Questions in connection with the attendances of members of the Council were under discussion, and a mode of procedure with respect to the tabulation of such attendances was resolved upon. A member attended before the Council, and gave particulars of claim for balance of unpaid salary and railway fare, and the secretary was directed to suggest arbitration. Dr. S. Wilkinson, 4, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead; Dr. K. W. J. Mackenzie, Lansdowne House, Ryde, I. of W.; and Dr. James Galloway, 54, Harley-street, W., were elected as hon. medical officers to the A.A., the latter gentleman being selected by the hon. consulting staff of physicians and surgeons to take the place vacated by Dr. Malcolm Morris.

Mr. Henry Tweedie tells of a remarkable coincition with the investigation of a case of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre. The following ladies and gentlemen were elected members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year:—Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Kate Phillips, and Messrs. Acton Bond, J. Cooke Beresford, William Devereux, A. E. Drinkwater, H. B. Irving, A. E. George, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, M. R. Morand, C. Aubrey Smith, and Hubert Willis. The following were nominated for election to the Association:—Chas. Ommanney, Willie Hartill, and Arthur G. Brown.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held their usual weekly meeting on Tuesday last, when Mr. Acton Bond was unanimously elected chairman for the ensuing year. He was supported by Mrs. Cecil Raleigh and Miss Kate Phillips and Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, A. Holmes-Gore, C. Aubrey Smith, Hubert Willis, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). It was resolved that in future the weekly meetings of this committee should be held on Tuesday mornings at 11.30. The secretary was directed to prepare a notice to the members whose subscriptions for the current year are unpaid, such notice to contain a reference to the insurance scheme, by which every member is covered immediately upon payment of dues. The committee prepared legal notes for the consideration of the Council.

The theatrical and Ali Baba sports and fancy dress street parade, which took place in Edinburgh on the 13th inst. were very creditable to all concerned, and it is expected that £250 will be realised to be divided amongst five of the most deserving local charities.

Miss Madge Merry, the charming Dick Whittington in Mr. Edward Marris's pantomime, contracted a severe cold last week at Gateshead, and has, in consequence, been out of the cast through loss of voice. Miss Merry is a big favourite with Tyneside playgoers, and it is hoped she will have sufficiently recovered to enable her to resume her part during the pantomime's stay at the Grand Theatre, Newcastle.

"What the Butler Saw," the clever comedy by Fredk. Mouillot and Judge Parry, has been going splendidly at the London suburban theatres, and is this week playing to crowded houses at the Coronet. The piece is received with shouts of laughter, and repeated calls are made for Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche, who are now playing the parts of the Butler and Mrs. Barrington. They are supported by an excellent all-round company, including such well-known artists as Mr. Charles Fawcett, Mr. H. H. Rignold, Miss Annie Goward, Miss Edith Blanche, and Miss Marie Daltra.

Mr. Lionel Rignold, who was engaged by Mr. Cyril Maude to play Lord Duberly in the forthcoming production of *The Heir-at-Law* at the Waldorf, has been so pleased with the success of *What the Butler Saw* that he has induced Mr. Maude to release him from the engagement. Mr. Rignold will now devote his entire attention to Mr. Mouillot and Judge Parry's clever comedy, which will visit Manchester at Easter for two weeks, and all the principal cities in the kingdom and gives promise of being one of the most successful pieces touring this year.

Mr. C. W. Somerset has secured all rights of the engrossing play, *Human Hearts*, and is now negotiating for its production in London. The drama was first seen in this country at Kennington last June, when it aroused great interest.

The members of the Scenic Artists' Association have the first of their proposed monthly dinners at the Adelphi Hotel on Tuesday at seven o'clock. The dinner will be followed by an informal conference, to which all scenic artists (whether members or not of the Association) are cordially invited, and complimentary tickets to the conference may be had on personal application at the offices of the Scenic Artists' Association, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., any day between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., or by sending stamped addressed envelope with professional card to the hon. secretary, Mr. H. Laurence Harris. It is respectfully requested that immediate application be made by members of the Association for dinner tickets for themselves and friends, as the number is limited to fifty. The engagement by master painters of members of the Association only, the fixing of a minimum wage for assistants, measures to prevent the repainting and lending of scenery, and to stop the import of scenery from foreign countries are amongst the subjects likely to engage the attention of the conference on Tuesday next, in addition to the consideration of the ways and means to increase the membership of the S.A. Association, and more efficiently carry out its aims and objects.

Mr. Lewis Waller (one of the vice-presidents of the British Empire Shakespeare Society) will give a dramatic reading of *Julius Cæsar* at the Imperial Theatre on Monday afternoon, March 12. Miss Evelyn Millard will read Portia and Miss Madge McIntosh Calphurnia, and Mr. Waller will impersonate all the male characters. The crowd in the forum scene will be sustained by a large number of members of the profession.

At the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, on Saturday, the run of *Aladdin* terminated after a record season of ten weeks and a half. *Cinderella* will terminate at Manchester on Saturday next, and Mr. Eade Montefiore's third pantomime, *The Babes and Robin Hood*, finishes at Dundee on March 10. Mr. Montefiore, who has been associated with the Grand Theatre since the inception, is leaving Edinburgh at the end of March, but Mr. Harry Fischer, who has been assisting him since April, will take up his good work, and will produce *The Scottish Bluebells*, the new musical play, invented by Mr. Eade Montefiore, written by Mr. David James, with music by Dr. F. Osmond Carr, at the end of March. Mr. Montefiore proposes to make his headquarters in London, and his telegraphic address. "Busily, London," will doubtless be indicative of his future.

Mr. Lewis Waller will realise his own desire, and one shared by the public, in the revival at the Imperial early in May of *Othello*, in which the popular actor will enact the Moor of Venice for the first time. The play, which will be given at matinées three or four times a week, will enlist the services also of Mr. H. B. Irving. Miss Evelyn Millard will play Desdemona, and other parts will be in the hands of Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. A. E. George, Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison, and Miss Sarah Brooke. *The Harlequin King* finishes its run on Tuesday evening, and on Saturday Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's comedy, *Brigadier Gérard*, will be produced, with Messrs. Lewis Waller, A. E. George, Edward O'Neill, J. H. Irvine, Eric Scott, Owen Roughwood, Frank Woolfe, S. B. Brereton, K. F. Foss, C. McGuinness, Shiel Barry, Frank Cochrane, Tom Heslewood, Patrick Digan, F. Danby, and John Byron in the cast. There are only two female characters, which will be impersonated by Miss Helen Leyton and Miss Evelyn Millard.

Maxim Gorki's *Nachtasyl* was produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre on the 15th inst. by the German company. The title is rendered in the programme as *The Lower Depths*, a name under which it was translated into English by Mr. Laurence Irving, and produced by the Stage Society at the same theatre in the November of 1903. The play, which deals with the dregs of the community in Russia, was realistically represented by Herr Hans Andresen and his colleagues.

"The Judge's Memory," the new piece by Mr. Brandon Thomas which is shortly to follow *The Heroic Stubbs* at Terry's, will comprise in its full cast Mr. James Welch, Mr. J. Fernandez, Mr. Thalberg Corbett, Mr. Sam Sothern, Mr. G. F. Tully, Mr. Frank Denton, Mr. John Deverell, Mr. E. Dagnall, Mr. Leopold Profeit, Miss Wallis, Miss Beatrice Terry, Miss Margaret Busse, Miss Ethel Hollingshead, and Mrs. E. H. Brooke.

Miss Maud MacCarthy, the young Irish violinist who will give her final recital at Queen's Hall on Tuesday, will have the patronage and presence of members of the Irish Parliamentary Party, including Mr. and Mrs. Redmond, Mr. and Mrs. John Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Tim Healy. Next month Miss MacCarthy, who is the most distinguished of Irish violinists, will visit her native land, and at Dublin will play to the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Aberdeen by Viceregal command.

Mr. Huntley Wright is starting immediately on a short tour of the provinces with *The Mountain Climbers* and *The Little Father of the Wilderness*, the two plays in which he provided such a striking contrast, and gave proof of his remarkable versatility recently at the Comedy Theatre. In the latter play the actor's charming and pathetic picture of a French mission priest of the Louis XV. period proved a revelation to London audiences, who had hardly realised Mr. Wright's varied experience. The tour opens at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, on Monday.

The final competition for Free Open Scholarships in the Royal College of Music took place on Thursday. The following are the names of the successful candidates:—Pianoforte—Marjorie S. Adam, Farnborough; Idris Lewis, Swansea. Singing—Dorothea H. Kershaw, Kensington; May A. Peach, Sydney, N.S.W.; Frank Webster, Exmouth; Arthur H. Wynn, Painswick, Gloucestershire. Organ—Edmund L. Guest, London; Reginald S. Thatcher, Bristol. Violin—Juliet Motto, London; Philip Levine, Edinburgh. Violoncello—Harold W. Pickett, Brighton. Double bass—Eugene J. Cruft, London. Flute—Robert Murchie, Greenock. Horn—Frederick T. Stephens, Bristol. Trombone—Edward T. Garvin, London. The Pauer Memorial Exhibition (£7 10s.) for the student of at least one year's standing in the college who attains the highest position among the proxime was awarded to Sylvia, Capel-Cure, London.

Mr. James P. Moore, the well-known and popular proprietor and manager of the West Bromwich Theatre Royal, has secured a magnificent site for his new Alcazar Hippodrome Theatre, which will be ready for opening in West Bromwich early next year. The new theatre is planned on the latest up-to-date lines, and will accommodate over 3,000 persons. The success of the new theatre is practically assured, for Mr. Moore's knowledge of the requirements of the town, owing to the changed conditions in the class of entertainment in the larger and adjoining city of Birmingham, will enable him to cater in the new line as successfully as he has done on the old lines for the last fifteen years.

Miss Louisa Peach, who terminates to-night a special five weeks' starring engagement with Mr. Morton Powell as Countess Natalie in *The Woman Who Gambles*, will be at Greenwich next week with her successful comedy sketches, *Taming a Husband* and *Peggy and the Curate*.

During the indisposition of Miss Lily Black, the principal girl at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, was played by Miss Louie Adair, who has thus played both principal boy and girl during the run, being highly complimented by the management on both performances.

King Edward has graciously accepted a copy of "The Life of Verdi," by Albert Visetti, the well-known professor of singing at the Royal College of Music.

"The Beauty of Bath," Mr. Seymour Hicks's new musical play at the Aldwych Theatre, will number among its attractions a "picture ball," for which Mr. Wilhelm is designing a series of costumes representing such famous studies as Gainsborough's Duchess of Devonshire, "Perdita," and Mrs. Siddons, a Greuze, and Romney's Lady Hamilton; also Sir Joshua Reynolds's Mrs. Carnac and Nelly O'Brien and Boucher's Marquise de Pompadour. Young ladies will occupy framed positions on the walls of the stage in the second act, and afterwards descend and tread a stately measure.

On Monday evening, before an interested gathering of members of the Playgoers' Club, Mr. Douglas Crichton read a paper on "Nero: the Roman Emperor, and the Play," pointing out the unreliability of much of the evidence which was accessible to the inquirer. There was no historian actually contemporaneous with Nero, the leading authority, Tacitus, being only six years of age at Nero's death. Thus, any records were, after all, based on tradition, and such evidence could not be too cautiously received. Mr. Crichton particularly dealt with two events in Nero's life. The one was the murder of Britannicus. This was alleged to have been due to poison administered in a cup of wine. But the knowledge of poisons possessed by the Romans was very limited, and it was practically certain that they knew of no poison which would have produced such an instantaneous effect. It was more probable that the real cause of the death was that suggested by Nero himself, a final epileptic fit, from which seizures it was never denied that Britannicus suffered. Again, in regard to Nero's responsibility for the fire, it was well authenticated that he was at Antium, thirty miles distant from Rome, when the fire broke out, and that he immediately hastened to the capital, and took a very active personal part in the attempts to subjugate the flames, even incurring great risk in so doing. The canard that he was seen playing the lyre while watching the spectacle with crazy frenzy from Mæcenas's tower was no more substantiated than the accusation that the Christians were responsible for the incendiarism.

THE O.P. CLUB DINNER.

At the annual dinner of the O.P. Club at the Criterion last Sunday evening, the guest of the evening was Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, the President of the Club, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle being in the chair. Mrs. Tree, who was unable to be present on account of slight indisposition, sent a telegram to the President expressing her regret at her enforced absence. There was a large gathering of the members of the Club and their friends, including Mr. Tree, Lord Howard de Walden, Mr. Stephen Phillips, Miss Eva Moore, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Sybil Arundale, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, Miss Mabel Love, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel and Miss Olga Hentschel, Mlle. Adeline Genée, Miss Ethel Wynne-Matthison, and Miss Nora Kerin.

The toast of "The Drama" was proposed by the President, who thought it would be a good plan if the actor-manager would sometimes cast himself for one of the minor parts; and he suggested that Mr. Tree should essay the rôle of Marcellus, Mr. Arthur Bourchier that of Lancelot Gobbo, Mr. Martin Harvey that of the man with the axe, and Mr. Seymour Hicks that of a "Gibson Girl." Referring to the guest of the evening, Mr. Rendle said that Mr. Tree was one of those men who had displayed remarkable versatility in his various parts, and had put forward many beautiful productions for the benefit of the public. At the present moment he had reached high water mark in *Nero*, which was drawing all London to His Majesty's. The toast of "The Drama," coupled with the name of Mr. Tree, was then drunk. In responding to the toast Mr. Tree said :—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank you very heartily for having invited me to-night to respond to the toast of "The Drama." The last time that I had the privilege of addressing the members of this Club was on the occasion of its first annual dinner. I am delighted to find that in the intervening years your Club has grown into a flourishing institution, that prosperity has not quenched your enthusiasm for the theatre, and that custom has not staled for you its infinite variety. Here at least the Drama is not dead. When I was your guest five years ago I received your congratulations on the production of Mr. Stephen Phillips' *Herod*. By a dramatic coincidence I have to-night received your felicitations on the successful production of another play by the same author. Flushed with the new wine of success, and stimulated by the old wine of your board, I stand before you to-night in an optimistic mood, and I delight to echo the joyous note sounded by your President, turning a deaf ear to the funeral dirge which is being sounded by pessimists outside these walls. Somehow the love of funerals seems to be inherent in human nature. The Drama is always being buried, and its resurrection is consequently frequent. Wandering in a suburban churchyard, I remember reading the following inscription on a tombstone :—

"Although pro tem. the earth my body keepeth
Weep not for me, kind friends, I am not dead,
but sleepeth."

No, in spite of its frequent obituary notices, in my opinion the Drama is not dead—it is not even sleeping. But the pessimist—like the tax-collector and the younger generation—is always knocking at our door. We have read a good deal lately in the newspapers that the Drama is starving—that the stomach of the theatre (I mean the box office) is empty. I notice that this state of things is variously attributed by the authors to the actors; by the actors to the authors; by the unacted to the actor-manager; and by others again to the depravity of public taste. For my part, I do not think that it is the author who is exclusively responsible for this state of things. I do not think it is the actor. I do not even think it is the actor-manager, although all the ills to which dramatic flesh is heir are laid at his door. I think it is rather due to the late war in South Africa. All other callings, all other trades, are similarly affected. But I am not aware that the doctor, the barrister, the painter, the merchant, the tailor, and the candlestick-maker are marching through the London streets in procession as the great unemployed, singing in melancholy chorus "We've got no work to do!" Speaking for myself, I have been able to fight through these troublous times with exhilarating good fortune—and I think that so far as the serious drama is concerned never was there a time when greater public interest was taken in the doings of the theatre than is taken to-day, and the present seems to me a particularly inappropriate time to complain of the decadence of the Drama, and the failure of the theatre as a national institution. We must all take a delight in the triumph of Mr. Pinero's play at the St. James's Theatre; the successes of the plays of Bernard Shaw and Granville Barker at the Court are certainly not a sign of a lack of intelligence among theatre-goers. The newly-formed French and German theatres in London again are among the encouraging signs of the times. In truth, to me all this clamour in the newspapers, all this discussion, seems evidence of renaissance rather than of decline. I notice a welcome tendency to introduce dramatic entertainments in villages, and only this week I read a most interesting account of a melodrama written, acted, and produced by village folk. There is another feature of the times which seems to me very important. You remember that last year Mr. Louis N. Parker was instrumental in managing a great pageant at Sherborne, and I already see announcements that he is again to delight another part of the country with a glorious pageant at Warwick, and he tells me that he hopes to continue this work from year to year in other centres of England. I do not think that enough attention has been paid to this, because it does seem to me to be an extremely valuable accession to the dramatic interests of our country. The number of persons employed in these pageants runs into thousands. The work I believe of making the properties and making the dresses and doing the hundred-and-one incidental things necessitated by the production of any play or pageant is all done locally, and a vast public is drawn to take not only the interest of the spectator, but the interest also of the participator in the Drama. And just think of the additional interest this must give to life in many otherwise dull provincial centres, for I am assured that dulness is not unknown even in provincial centres. I can conceive no way in which the prejudice against the Drama—of which we here know so little, but which remains so marked a feature of some of the counties of England and some of the outlying parts of London even—can be more effectively overthrown. And these pageants of Mr. Parker's, which I again view optimistically, justify me, I think, in feeling that it is a further reason for cheerfulness and hope in speaking on the subject of the Drama.

There is yet another adjunct to the drama which I may be allowed briefly to touch upon. I mean the Dramatic School. When I instituted this school two years ago, I said that I did so in the hope that it should prove its usefulness, and so might be taken up by a larger body of my profession, and in time obtain a Royal charter. The first of these happy consummations has now been achieved. A number of my colleagues have approached me with a view to taking the school under their care. I feel that its sphere of usefulness will now be greatly increased, as such men as Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Hare, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Bourchier, and Mr. Pinero have undertaken to give their personal services to the institution, and the students will have the benefit of their active interest and instruction. Moreover, it will not be liable even to the suspicion of being run for the benefit of an individual management. Seeing that the school in its new constitution starts with no financial encumbrances, and seeing that its establishment has cost its founder a sum of not less than £2000, he may be held exempt from purely selfish motives. That the essential quality of acting cannot be taught is a truth we all must admit, but that there are a great number of accomplishments with which the actor must be equipped, and which can be acquired, is, I believe, equally true; and I believe that this School of Acting will be a lasting benefit to the English stage if encouraged and fostered by the leading members of the theatrical profession, just as the students at the Royal Academy are benefited by the instruction given to them by the leaders in the arts of painting and of sculpture. There certainly is no lack of activity in the body dramatic, no lack of variety in its manifestations.

For myself, I have a wide tolerance for every kind of dramatic entertainment. Pinero and Maeterlinck, Gilbert and Stephen Phillips, Shakespeare and Bernard Shaw—(Bernard Shaw and Shakespeare)—Sutro and Sims, J. M. Barrie and Claude Carton, Cecil Raleigh and Captain Marshall, Louis N. Parker and Haddon Chambers, Henry Arthur Jones and Paul Rubens; let them all come! Tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, tragical-historical, tragical-comical-historical-pastoral, scene individual, or poem unlimited. All are welcome so long as they are good of their kind.

Mr. Rendle has confessed to a preference for melodrama, which is, I suppose, another word for homely tragedy. So long as humanity lasts, so long will a taste for melodrama last, and I wish we had more Boucicaults who would give us melodrama tinged with poetry. By the way, I remember *The Colleen Bawn* was the first play I ever saw—an admirable melodrama. It is a long time ago, and all that is left to me now of that memory are flaring lights from the window of a four-wheeled cab, an Irishman with a keg on his shoulders, and a leap into the water. It gave me enormous pleasure at the time, and from our teeming population, great enough to make audiences of every sort and description, there must be thousands to whom such plays will still give keen pleasure, keen interest, keen delight. Those who have the precious gift of imagination feel the lure of tragedy. Indeed, to many the imagined sufferings of the stage are often more enthralling and give a greater emotion than do the real incidents and the real sufferings of which human life is so full. Not only the unhappy, but the joyful people also, like to have their deeper feelings stirred. The Greeks were a very joyous people, and yet they loved their great tragedies. I imagine that why people are so fond of tragedy is that their own past and present sufferings sink into insignificance beside the greater tragedies they witness upon the stage; that their pains receive a counter irritant by their sympathy with the greater agonies through which the mimic humanity is passing. Indeed, the greatest antidote to selfish suffering is that which is given by sympathy with the suffering of others, for if we are capable of sympathy with others, our own little troubles become insignificant.

Mr. Rendle has spoken of the actor-manager system, and, of course, it would be delightful occasionally to play Marcellus. But the public—rightly or wrongly—put their money on an actor as they would put their money on a horse, and they do not like to see him pulled. In fact, they like their favourite to take the lead. I should be very glad occasionally to make way for others in my own theatre, but the box office will assert its tyrannic sway. If by placing a notice outside the theatre "Mr. Tree will positively not appear to-night" one could secure a rush to the box office, it would be a delightful holiday which would enable one to discourse in the columns of the newspapers on the decadence of the British Drama. But perhaps it is well to be busy merely doing things. And it is a precious gift to be able to find in work that absorbing interest which creates an indifference to the slings and arrows of fortune and of criticism. For myself, these forces have left undiminished my enthusiasm for the work of the stage—and that is saying a good deal for the stage as a profession. If an artist keeps his eye on one star, and that star is the public, it will guide him sooner or later to his coveted goal. Let him turn a deaf ear to the uttered sneers of log-rolling cliques and a blind eye to the written page of depreciation. These are sometimes irritating, for fleas are more annoying than elephants. But the gift of serenity will triumph over them, and there is always one way to conserve one's strength which I commend to the sensitive. A friend in whose geniality I detected a touch of East wind, lately put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Tell me, my dear Tree, how are you able to bear your many buffets and reverses with such a gay demeanour, and always to have a kindly word for your countless detractors." "Ah! my dear friend," I replied, "I will tell you my system. I bury my head in the sand, and that attitude enables me to show a smiling back to my enemies." We should look to the public alone—I believe the greatest mistake a man can make is to undervalue the public of his generation. It is through losing our ideals that we fail—for in pursuing the game we lose the cause. And so it is with criticism—to discover beauties is a greater achievement than to discover uglinesses—it is a greater genius to understand and to sympathise with what the gods have given us than to quarrel with what they have withheld.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to find myself to-night among the lovers of the theatre, among those who keep the drama alive, whose adherence to the theatre is our strongest encouragement, whose goodwill is our privilege and our pride in good fortune as it is our solace when we fail. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you one and all for the honour you have done me to-night, and I drink to the continued success of the O.P. Club.

MR. SIDNEY DARK proposed the toast of "The Ladies." "Woman," said Mr. Dark, "is the comrade of man, his better half; and she proves the fact by spending the better half of his income. Woman is one of the mysteries of life; we know everything except woman." Mr. Dark then referred to the presence of some distinguished women that evening, among others to Miss Adeline Genée, of whom he had once said in a burst of frenzied enthusiasm that she beat a sonata with her feet, and to Miss Eva Moore, whose art was essentially English, womanly, and sweet.

MISS EVA MOORE, in responding to the toast, said :—

It is always a trying experience for a woman to speak on such an occasion as this. If she stammers out a few irrelevant remarks you shrug your shoulders and say, "Well, well, what can we expect?" whereas, if she succeeds in arresting your attention or in raising the ghost of a smile, you say, "Of course her husband wrote that for her." Husbands don't do such things; at least, mine doesn't. I have been wondering if there is any great mysterious reason for your asking a woman to speak to-night. I saw that at the late elections the women who succeeded in speaking had to be removed by force. Perhaps you were afraid that if you did not ask a lady to speak you might see on the posters to-morrow, "Carl Hentschel heckled by actresses; Miss Eva Moore removed by the stewards of the O.P. Club." This is the only public recognition which is given to women, with the exception of Ally Sloper's Award of Merit. May I now say one serious word? May I take it that, in honouring me by this invitation to respond to this toast, you have chosen me as representative of those members of my profession who have worked their way up after many years of "heart-breaking" experiences. I have said nothing about the ladies for whom I am to respond. If they are as glad to be here as I am, and if you are as glad to have them as we are to be here, then everything is for the best. I thank you for your hospitality, and for the kind way in which you have listened to me.

In the absence of the Vice-President, Mr. John F. Adair, the toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. Carl Hentschel, who said :—

I give you the toast of "The Visitors," coupled with "The Press." We are very much indebted to the Press for leaving their happy firesides Sunday after Sunday to report us. With this toast I couple the name of Mr. Pett Ridge; he is too well known to you for me to say much about him.

MR. PETT RIDGE, in a witty speech, responded to the toast of "The Visitors."

MR. BEN NATHAN then made a short speech congratulating the Club on their President, whose health he proposed.

Entertainment was provided by Mr. Harry Dearth, whose fine baritone was heard to advantage in "The Lowland Sea"; Miss Norah Meredith, a well-tried favourite of the O.P. Club; Miss Sybil Arundale, who sang an Irish ballad charmingly; Miss Carrie Moore, Miss Marie Mendes da Costa, Mr. G. H. Snazelle, Mr. Phillip Ritte, and Mlle. Martel. The Criterion management is to be congratulated upon having acquired the services of the last named lady, a singer of French chansonettes, and the personification of "chic."

MISS RITA TREKELLE played the Red-haired Girl in *The Light that Failed* at the Coronet Theatre last week, not Miss Gertrude Bibby, as stated in the programme.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES PLUMES DU GEAI."

Play, in Four Acts, by M. Jean Jullien,
Produced at the Théâtre Molière, on Feb. 14.

Paul Dumont	M. POUCTAL
Le Père Palud	M. MEVISTE
Lerminier	M. ANGELY
Philippe	M. DEAN
Taberneau	M. MORGAN
Bretonneux	M. FLEURY-FONTES
Marthe	MDLLE. MAUD AMY
Mdme. Lerminier	MDME. J. MALVAU
Marguerite de Valois	MDLLE. DE DEKEN
Viviane de Kersonec	MDME. DARGENTON
Maurita	MDLLE. DARBELLY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Feb. 15.—Of all our dramatists, M. Jean Jullien certainly is the most sincere. He never stoops to trickery to produce effect; and everybody will remember how pluckily he defended poor Henri Becque against his detractors, and his attacks on the Sardou school. Some of his works, like *La Mer* and *Le Maître*, are real masterpieces, and it is a pity the same compliment cannot be paid to the play just produced at the Théâtre Molière. It has many qualities, but unfortunately many faults, the most glaring of which is that some of the situations are so improbable as to surprise us on the part of such an experienced playwright. Moreover, a doubt pervades these four acts, clearly proving that the author himself does not see a solution to the problem he puts forward, so that the piece ends in a point of interrogation—in itself a dangerous proceeding. The hero of the piece is Paul Dumont, a banker, enormously wealthy, but bored to death. He is sick of the men who flatter him, or make constant onslaughts on his purse, and of the women, in whom he has no faith. He has travelled, he has published books, he has collected works of art, he has done everything, and come across everything, except—an honest, sincere person. And it is already here that we begin to find fault with the author. We can quite understand that Paul Dumont should wish to throw up his companions, empty-headed fools, only interested in motor-cars and *cocottes*; but why, in that case, did he not seek the society of educated and intelligent men? Instead of this he looks among his entourage for the *rara avis*, a "good and happy man," until he finds him in the person of Lerminier, his head-porter. And we involuntarily think of that king who, wanting the shirt of a really happy man, came across such a man, but discovered that this fortunate individual was the only subject within his domain who did not possess a shirt. The curious intimacy between the banker and the porter is also one of the marvellous features in this improbable story, although nothing ought to surprise us in a financier who transacts important business, not in his office, but in his drawing-room, overrun with women and men of every description. M. Jullien evidently has not come across many financiers. The fact, however, remains that Lerminier is quite satisfied with his lot. He has a wife he adores, his two children give him no trouble, and he has adopted two orphans, a boy and a girl. Moreover, in his humble abode he shelters Palud, his wife's uncle, an old Communard, with a rooted aversion to everything that savours of wealth. Paul is anxious to make the acquaintance of this happy family; and at his request Lerminier introduces him as M. Paul, a small employee, promising not to divulge his identity. All this is very far-fetched. Paul is so delighted with what he sees and hears in this, to him, new atmosphere, that he spends several evenings there, and finally falls head over ears in love with Marthe, Lerminier's niece and adopted child. Marthe, as might be expected, has lost her heart to the young man whom she fancies to be a humble employee, and when Paul asks her to become his wife she gladly accepts him. Thus far things have gone smoothly, but then a difficulty arises that fairly startled the audience. Uncle Palud's Communistic ideas have been instilled into Marthe's mind. According to her, the rich man is necessarily a robber, and the poor man his victim. And when Paul tells her that he is not an employee, but the banker Paul Dumont, she gives a shriek of horror and refuses to marry him. This sudden revulsion in the girl's feelings came upon us like a surprise. We were not prepared for it. Such violent class-hatred in the mind of a young girl seems unnatural. But the author had a fine opportunity to display his powers of observation in showing us the change in the minds of the members of the Lerminier household since Marthe refused to marry Paul. The fierce Palud has quieted down considerably, and the others tell the girl frankly that she is wrong in refusing such a chance to bring money into the family. And they bring forward the conclusive argument that if Marthe is so anxious to help the poor, she has now a splendid opportunity to restore to them a portion of what has been taken away from them. Once more the lovers meet, and Marthe accepts him on condition that he will employ his wealth for the relief of suffering humanity. Marthe is cold and reticent, and Paul anything but happy; but when the curtain is lowered on this rather unsatisfactory ending we console ourselves with the thought that the foolish Marthe will relent and fall in her lover's arms, as she did before she knew he was a millionaire. If the principal personages do not appear real, the same cannot be said of the episodical ones, who are splendidly portrayed. The work, which met with a warm reception, was excellently played by an efficient cast.

The piece was preceded by two one-act plays, of which only *Le Parvenu* deserves mention. The parvenu, in this instance, is no less a person than the Great Napoleon. Yes, Napoleon the First, to whom this epithet is rather well applied. We see him on his return from Elba, having sent Mdme. de Rovanes, disguised as a modiste, to Marie-Louise, then staying at Schönbrunn. Mdme. de Rovanes, however, is very badly received, and the Empress gives her to understand that she is not anxious to see her Imperial husband again. When Napoleon hears this, he is mad with rage, and indulges in a long, a very long, tirade, wherein he informs us that he never loved his second wife, whom he married solely in order to have a child—half-German and half-French—and who therefore could reign over France as well as over Germany. And he piffles on for a long time, until he is exhausted and suddenly loses heart, so that Mdme. de Rovanes is compelled to cheer him up. The authors, MM. Georges Darrien and Méviste, who pride themselves on their contempt for the First Napoleon, and who have the rare courage to say so, have, of course, depicted him in anything but flattering colours; and as a work of daring it is remarkable.

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 22.—*Madame Bovary*, the new play taken from Flaubert's famous novel by M. William Busnach, has been produced at the Théâtre Français in Rouen, where it scored but a moderate success. As will be remembered, there was a great outcry in the literary world that sacrilegious hands should have been laid on this masterpiece of French literature, and protests were heard on every side against the dramatisation of the work. It cannot be denied that M. Busnach, a clever adaptor, has displayed considerable skill in transferring the novel to the stage, and the seven tableaux are not wanting in interest; but the delicate psychology is, of course, entirely lost, and poor Flaubert would shriek were he to see how some of the scenes have been treated. M. Busnach has not tampered with the story, and has only slightly modified the denouement to make it less gruesome. We are shown Emma, the farmer's daughter, married to Charles Bovary, a village surgeon. The sentimental, flighty, brainless Emma, devoid of moral sense, and with no other ambition than to become a "society woman," loathes the humble position in which she is placed; and when she meets Rodolphe de la Huchette, a country squire, she is dazzled by his title, and at once becomes his mistress. The vain woman's head is turned by this liaison, and she acquires luxurious tastes, which cause her to contract heavy debts. She abhors her husband, who has no knowledge of the life she is leading, and she implores her aristocratic lover to run away with her. But Rodolphe is alarmed at the turn things are taking, and it is he who runs away, leaving the lady behind. Emma then becomes the mistress of Léon Dupuis, a notary's clerk, and as her creditors are pressing for payment she asks Léon to lend her three thousand francs; but the boy, not having the money, tries to raise it. When he tells Emma that all his efforts have failed, she hints at his taking it from the safe in the office. Léon refuses to act upon her suggestion, whereupon she hurls the word "coward" at his head. As a last resort she calls on the village lawyer, who consents to advance the money—in exchange for a little love. But the woman has not sunk so low as to accept these propositions. And she poisons herself, too proud to crave her husband's forgiveness, and too corrupted to repent of her sins. In the play Emma, before dying, orders her old servant Félécité to burn Rodolphe's and Léon's letters; and Charles Bovary will never know his wife deceived him. The work was fairly well interpreted.

THE Gymnase promises us for next week *Sacha*, a three-act comedy by Mme. Régine Martial, wherein the two important women's rôles will be interpreted by Mlle. Andrée Mégard and Mlle. Suzanne Munte. Mme. Martial, who is responsible for the work, is an actress who made her début at the Palais-Royal in 1886. From there she went to the Odéon, where she appeared in *Le Cid*. She then signed a long engagement with the Théâtre Libre, and made her last bow to the Paris public in *Les Ruffians de Paris* at the Ambigu.

"POUR SA PATRIE," the play to be brought out at the Ambigu, is by the Marquis de Castellane, the father of the Comte de Castellane, whose wife, née Anna Gould, is now suing her husband for a divorce. That the Marquis should have suddenly blossomed into a playwright came like a surprise to the good Parisians.

THE "Affaire Denizetti" is giving our Authors' Society sleepless nights. The royalties claimed from the Society by the Italian composer's heirs amount to something like £100,000, and the case will be among the most extraordinary ones on record when brought into court. According to French law a work after fifty years becomes public property; yet the Society coolly collects 10 per cent. on plays by Shakespeare, Molière, Racine, &c., if produced in a non-subventioned theatre. If M. Antoine were to treat us to, say, a comedy by Plautus, who lived 150 years B.C., the Society would insist on its pound of flesh. It sounds grotesque, but it is even less grotesque than the reason the Society gives for this high-handed proceeding. "We are humane people," says the Society, "for if we did not compel the theatrical managers to pay us royalties on pieces that belong to the man in the street, the said managers would, in order to save authors' dues, only bring out works half a century old, and what then would become of modern dramatic art?" The Society will come out with this astounding argument when the case is thrashed out; but what reason they will assign for refusing to pay Denizetti's heirs that which really belongs to them remains yet to be seen. I firmly believe they will not risk such an exposure, and will try to come to an amicable settlement. In the meantime, the Society, presided over by M. Georges Ohnet, is receiving some very hard knocks, which will not increase its prestige.

TO-NIGHT, at the Opéra Comique, we are celebrating the 200th performance of *Le Roi d'Ys*. Lalo, the composer, was born in 1832, and therefore was nearly seventy when his fine work was first produced. He had waited patiently for over twenty years before he heard his opera sung, and then soon afterwards died.

"SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER."

The Comedy, by Oliver Goldsmith, Arranged in Three Acts, Produced by Mr. Cyril Maude, at the Waldorf Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Sir Charles Marlow	MR. F. PERCIVAL STEVENS
Hardcastle	MR. CYRIL MAUDE
Young Marlow	MR. PAUL ARTHUR
Hastings	MR. G. M. GRAHAM
Tony Lumpkin	MR. SYDNEY BROUGH
Stingo	MR. E. C. MATTHEWS
Diggory	MR. WILLIAM CALVERT
Roger	MR. JACK HAMPTON
Ralph	MR. W. DEMPSEY
Gregory	MR. OWEN
Jeremy	MR. F. JACQUES
Tom Tickle	MR. G. MACINTOSH
Jack Slang	MR. EDMUND LEA
Tom Twist	MR. R. M'KIE
Mat Muggins	MR. KING FORDHAM
Fiddler	MR. E. COUTTS
Mrs. Hardcastle	MRS. CHARLES CALVERT
Miss Hardcastle	MISS WINIFRED EMERY
Miss Neville	MISS BEATRICE FERRAR
Maid	MISS MADGE TITHERADGE

A play "must undergo a chemical process," says the author of *She Stoops to Conquer*, "before it is presented to the public. It must be tried in the manager's fire, strained through a licenser, and suffer from repeated corrections." Whatever these repeated corrections may have been—and they were probably done by Colman, who continually prophesied failure for *She Stoops to Conquer* during the rehearsals—the piece did not satisfy Sir Horace Walpole, who wrote quite in the vein of the superior person in his criticism. His opinion apparently was shared by a magazine of the period, which stated that *She Stoops to Conquer* was full of that "sort of dialogue which is on a level with the most common understandings and that low mischief and mirth which we laugh at while we are ready to despise ourselves for so doing." In the capital revival of the old English comedy at the Waldorf, the modern London playgoer will find much to admire, though possibly the older frequenter of the theatre will recall performances that have given him greater satisfaction.

The representation may be described briefly as hearty and hilarious, and the essence of broad farce flavours scenes wherein a more genteel treatment would be entirely out of place. Mr. Cyril Maude, in resuming the part of old Hardcastle, still preserves the aroma of old comedy in his fine rendering, and we know of no actor who could embody the character so consistently, with such a courtly elegance, or such an old-world air. The invincible good nature of the old squire is brought out admirably in the first interview with Young Marlow, and the indignant protest of the host against his guest's old-fashioned impudence is a splenetic outburst quite in the right spirit. The revival was worth doing for the sake of Miss Winifred Emery's Kate Hardcastle, a winsome and refreshing impersonation of a character that has attracted the most brilliant actresses of our stage since the days of Mrs. Abington. Miss Emery has many delightful moments, but she is certainly at her very best—and how good this is our readers need not to be told—in what may be termed the barmaid scenes. Herein she plays with an archness and a demure simplicity that are the most captivating qualities of the entire performance. Mr. Paul Arthur is a decidedly modern Young Marlow, but plays with no little spirit in the earlier scenes, and with considerable grace and refinement in the repentant scene in the last act. Mr. Sydney Brough follows the traditional methods in his rendering of Tony Lumpkin, and he makes the character thoroughly amusing. Tony roars, shouts, and romps when necessary, but there is more than mere horseplay in the young actor's rendering of the rôle. There is something more than the mere booby suggested by his interpretation, and though sufficiently bucolic it never descends to mere empty extravagance. Miss Beatrice Ferrar is roguish and full of fun as Miss Neville, and gives the utmost importance to the quarrelling scenes with Tony, without erring on the side of waspishness. Mrs. Charles Calvert is unimpeachable as Mrs. Hardcastle, whose self-complacency and vanity have rarely found a more talented exponent. Mr. William Calvert's Diggory is a ripe and finished performance, full of unctuous humour and extremely amusing; and Mr. G. M. Graham's Hastings is a personable and pleasing presentment. The minor characters have careful treatment from the gentlemen whose names are attached to them in the above cast. The scene at the Three Pigeons goes with immense spirit; and old Hardcastle's "drill" scene with the servants is exceedingly droll.

Mr. F. Percival Stevens makes an old-world courtier of Sir Charles Marlow; and Miss Madge Titheradge acts neatly as the Maid.

"MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

Mr. Otho Stuart, on the evening of Friday, the 16th inst., celebrated the hundredth night of the production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a play of which he preserves many pleasant recollections, apart from the present successful run at the Adelphi, for was it not in the character of Oberon that he first made the acquaintance of London playgoers, when Shakespeare's pleasant fantasy enjoyed a spell of success at the old Globe Theatre, under the Benson management? The beauty of the production, and the reverence with which the text has been treated completely justify the attainment of the "century," and a large and, joyous audience—every member of which was endowed with a neat little silver match-box, engraved with portraits of Bottom and Titania—gave on the night in question a most enthusiastic reception to the comedy, and curtain-calls were frequent. The performance, indeed, was better than ever, the company playing with wonderful spirit and unquenchable jollity. Of the sylvan charm of Mr. Joseph Harker's Wood near Athens we have already spoken in terms of high praise. Surely never was there a more fitting place for a fairies' tryst. Mr. James Hicks, too, is responsible for some excellent brush-work in his pictures of Quince's House and Outside the Palace of Theseus. Then the music! What a delight it is to hear the immortal melodies of Mendelssohn as beautifully rendered as they are by the band under Mr. Christopher Wilson; and the ear is entranced by the cultured and artistic interpretation of the songs by Miss Elizabeth Parkina, who is ably assisted in Horn's well-known setting as a duet of "I know a bank," by Miss Ethel James.

To Mr. Oscar Asche as the producer is due another tribute of praise for his excellent work, and his cleverness as an actor was never better illustrated than in the part of Nick Bottom. The broad humour of the part is never over-emphasised, and yet the actor realises the ineffable conceit of the weaver, and his natural stupidity, without in the smallest degree forcing the note. We have neither inexplicable dumb show or noise, and yet we are able to laugh heartily at every scene in which the "rude mechanicals" are concerned, thanks to the restraint so artistically exercised, not only by Mr. Asche, but by his companions. Mr Charles Rock as Snug, the joiner, is quaintly funny; Mr. Gordon Harker presents the humours of Snug very effectively; and Messrs. G. Kay Souper, Henry Kitts, and Herbert Grimwood, as Flute, Snout, and Starveling, also aid the drollery of the representation of that most lamentable comedy, *Pyramus and Thisbe*, at the Palace of Theseus.

The representation stands out, too, by the wonderful sweetness and tenderness of Miss Lily Brayton's Helena, of which character she proves to be quite an ideal interpreter. The scene between the Hermia and Helena in the wood is a somewhat difficult one, and it is due to the tactfulness of Miss Brayton, and the high intelligence of Miss Frances Dillon, the Hermia of the cast, that its seriousness is preserved. Mr. Alfred Brydone's fine elocutionary powers are shown to advantage in the part of Theseus; Mr. Caleb Porter is quite satisfactory as Egeus; and there is poetry and dignity in Mr. R. Ian Penny's rendering of Demetrius; Mr. H. R. Hignett also giving a sound interpretation of Lysander. Miss Constance Robertson is a queenly Hippolyta; Mr. Walter Hampden makes an imposing figure as Oberon, King of the Fairies; and Titania finds a spirited representative in Miss Roxy Barton. Miss Nita Faydon, who now plays Puck, is an active and elfish sprite, bringing out the mischievous humour of the part with much cleverness. Miss Fanny Brown has arranged the pretty dances, under the personal direction of Mr. Otho Stuart, whose enviable reputation as a Shakespearean student and producer has been largely increased by the production under notice.

AT the Croydon Coroner's Court, on the 12th inst., an inquiry was made into the death of Mr. Horatio William Stockham, 64, of The Grove, Thornton Heath. He returned from South Africa about four year ago, having been connected with several very successful enterprises in Capetown, including the Opera House. He possessed a walking-stick shot-gun, and having a large garden, was in the habit of using it to frighten the birds away. On the 9th inst. his gardener, with whom he had just previously had a conversation, heard it discharged, and immediately afterwards Mr. Stockham called out. He was found standing by a table near the stable door, leaning forward with his hands upon his knees. He exclaimed: "I laid the gun upon the table and it went off." An operation was performed, but death occurred the same evening. Dr. E. L. Adams, of Croydon, stated that the shot had penetrated the abdomen. The wound was horizontal, and indicated that the gun went off when placed on the table. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

AT the Southwark County Court, on the 12th inst., before Judge Addison, K.C., Charles Houghton, dramatic and variety agent, of Waterloo-road, sought to recover £14 from St. John Beecher, of the Regent Theatre, Hackney-road. Mr. Houghton claimed the money for supplying the theatre at short notice with "The Jubilee Black and White Minstrels," whose programme included a drama entitled *A Fight for Life*. Mr. Beecher complained that the *Fight for Life* nearly caused a riot among the dissatisfied audience. The curtain was rung down and the entertainment abruptly concluded. The author declared that "the restlessness of the audience" was due to a lack of programmes. It was further stated for the defence that the whole company were incompetent, there was no cohesion, a coloured man broke down after singing two lines of a song, and a child, not being told when to stop, danced until she was exhausted. The audience, said the various witnesses, endured the performance patiently for half an hour, and then stormed the pay-box, demanding their money back. The judge observed that suburban audiences were somewhat critical, and the people at the theatre appeared disgusted with the performance. He should accept their verdict, and give judgment for the defendant.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Fairy's Father, Olympic, Feb. 24, 1862.
Fairy Tales of Mother Goose, Adelphi, April 9, 1855.
Faith and Hope, New Cross Public Hall, April 12, 1886.
Faithful Heart, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Oct. 18, 1875.
Faithful James, Ealing, Nov. 16, 1889.
Faithful until Death, Britannia, March 13, 1876.
Faithless Wife, Britannia, April 15, 1876.
Faith; or, A Wife and a Mother, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Aug. 21, 1879.
Faith; or Eddication and Rights, Gaiety, Aug. 27, 1884.
Faith Under Peril, Pavilion, Aug. 9, 1873.
Falcon, The, St. James's, Dec. 18, 1879.
Falka, Comedy, Oct. 29, 1883.
Fallen Among Thieves, Elephant and Castle, March 10, 1888.
Falling Star, Steinway Hall, July 4, 1893.
Fall of Jerusalem, Standard, Nov. 16, 1895.
Fall of Khartoum, Prince of Wales's, Salford, April 6, 1885.
Fall of Sebastopol, Astley's, Sept. 24, 1855.
Fall of the Leaf, City of London, March 1, 1852.
Falsacappa, Globe, April 22, 1871.
False Accusation, Marylebone, May 3, 1875.
False Alarm, Holborn, Oct. 5, 1872.
False Cards, Bury, Jan. 11, 1873.
False Colours, Royalty, Oct. 8, 1881.
False Evidence, St. James's, Manchester, Aug. 19, 1889.
False Friend, Liverpool, April 8, 1893.
False Glitter, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, April 22, 1875.
False Hands and Faithful Hearts, City of London, April 20, 1867.
False Hearts, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich, Dec. 3, 1886.
False Lights, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, April 9, 1886.
Falsely Accused, Britannia, Aug. 7, 1876.
Falsely Judged, Connaught, Aug. 7, 1880.
False Pride, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Sept. 24, 1883.
False Steps, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Sept. 19, 1837.
False Witness, New Cross, Oct. 28, 1890.
Falstaff, Her Majesty's, May 3, 1864.
False Shame, Globe, Nov. 4, 1872.
Fame, Haymarket, April 7, 1877.
Families Supplied, Adelphi, Aug. 7, 1882.
Family Failing, Haymarket, Nov. 17, 1856.
Family Fix, Opera House, Northampton, March 8, 1897.
Family Fool, Prince's, Edinburgh, March 6, 1882.
Family Honour, Aquarium, May 18, 1878.
Family Matter, Garrick, June 27, 1894.
Family Novelette, New Cross, Feb. 21, 1894.
Family Party, St. George's Hall, Dec. 26, 1839.
Family Pride, Sadler's Wells, May 14, 1862.
Family Secret, Haymarket, May 9, 1860.
Family Ties, Strand, Sept. 29, 1877.
Famine, The, Queen's, Dublin, April 26, 1886.
Famous Beauty, Hoyland, March 15, 1892.
Fanatic, Theatre Royal, Margate, July 23, 1897.
Fanchette, Lyceum, Sept. 11, 1871.
Fanchette, the Will o' the Wisp, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, May 6, 1871.
Fanchonette; or, The Cricket, Standard, Sept. 30, 1871.
Fanchon the Cricket, Liverpool, May 27, 1865.
Fancourt's Folly, Folkestone, May 14, 1894.
Fancy Ball, The, Gaiety, Dec. 12, 1885.
Fancy Dress Ball, St. George's Hall, Feb. 6, 1892.
Fancy Fair, Ealing, Sept. 22, 1892.
Fancy Land, H.M.S. Rainbow, April 9, 1884.
Fannette; or, Up in the Dark, Pavilion, Oct. 24, 1868.
Fanny Lear, Royalty, Oct. 26, 1885.
Fanny, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, April 8, 1895.
Fanny's Flirtations, Pavilion, July 11, 1887.
Fantasticks, Royalty, May 29, 1900.
Far Away where Angels Dwell, Britannia, Oct. 6, 1869.
Far from the Madding Crowd, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Feb. 27, 1882.
Farm by the Sea, Vaudeville, May 29, 1889.
Farnley, St. George's Hall, Oct. 27, 1894.
Farrago, Opera House, Ashton, May 14, 1883.
Fascinating Fellows, Olympic, March 18, 1876.
Fascinating Individual, Olympic, June 9, 1856.
Fascination, Novelty, Oct. 6, 1887.
Fashionable Beauty, Avenue, April 7, 1885.
Fashionable Intelligence, Court, March 5, 1894.
Fashion, Olympic, Jan. 9, 1850.
Fast Asleep, Criterion, March 1, 1892.
Fast Family, Adelphi, May 5, 1866.
Fast Friend, Olympic, July 2, 1876.
Fast Friends, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, Sept. 17, 1884.
Fast Life, Opera House, Rhyl, Oct. 26, 1896.
Fast Mail, Theatre Royal, Rochdale, Dec. 26, 1891.
Fast Train, Lyceum, April 26, 1853.
Fatal Beauty, Sadler's Wells, April 2, 1892.
Fatal Card, Adelphi, Sept. 6, 1894.
Fatality, Bishop Auckland, Jan. 26, 1898.
Fatal Letter, East London, May 9, 1868.
Fatal Marriage, East London, Sept. 10, 1870.
Fatal Ring, Ladbroke Hall, Sept. 12, 1893.
Fatal Triumph, New Cross, Dec. 11, 1886.
Fate and Fortune, Princess's, July 27, 1891.
Fate; or, Driven from Home, Ladbroke Hall, May 6, 1882.
Fates and Furies, Surrey, Oct. 20, 1877.
Fate's Decree, Sanger's, Sept. 17, 1883.
Fate, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough, March 9, 1874.
Father Buonaparte, Olympic, March 19, 1891.
Fatherland, Queen's, Jan. 3, 1878.
Father Satan, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston, Feb. 27, 1896.
Father's Oath, Glasgow, Oct. 24, 1892.
Father's Oath, The, Surrey, May 29, 1893.
Father's Sacrifice, Argyle Street, Feb. 6, 1887.
Father's Sin, Theatre Royal, Woolwich, April 5, 1886.
Fathoms Deep, Sadler's Wells, March 24, 1883.
Fatinitza, Alhambra, June 20, 1878.
Faust and Co., Theatre Royal, Greenock, Feb. 27, 1886.
Faust and Loose, Toole's, Feb. 4, 1886.
Faust and Margaret, Leicester, Jan. 30, 1899.
Faust and Marguerite, Burlesque, St. James's. July 9, 1864.
Faust and Marguerite; or, The Devil's Draught, Strand Theatre, June 8, 1854.
Faust, Burlesque, Standard, July 20, 1891.
Faust e Margherita, Covent Garden, July 2, 1863.
Faust, Her Majesty's, June 11, 1863.
Faustine, Old Theatre Royal, Bristol, April 9, 1880.
Faustine's Love, Strand, June 25, 1889.
Faust in Forty Minutes, Gaiety, Glasgow, Aug. 17, 1885.
Faust in Three Flashes, Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, March 5, 1884.
Faust or Marguerite's Mangle, Britannia, March 25, 1867.
Faust Up to Date, Gaiety, Oct. 30, 1888.
Faust Up Too Late, Ladbroke Hall, Oct. 22, 1889.
Faute de s' Entendre, Royalty, Jan. 30, 1889.
Fauvette, Edinburgh, May 18, 1891.
Favette, Vaudeville, Jan. 29, 1885.
Favourite of Fortune, Haymarket, April 2, 1866.
Favourite of the King, Comedy, March 11, 1890.
Favourite, The, Elephant and Castle, March 13, 1899.
Fay o' Fire, Opera Comique, July 2, 1876.
Fay of the Fern, Oxford, Feb. 4, 1893.
Fayre Rosamond, Greenwich, Dec. 26, 1868.
Fazis, Strand, July 1, 1890.
Fearful Fog, Prince of Wales's, Glasgow, Feb. 11, 1871.
Fearful Tragedy, Adelphi, May 4, 1857.
Fearless Fred the Fireman, Opera House, Sheffield, July 13, 1874.
Fear of Robert Clive, Lyceum, July 14, 1896.
Featherbrain, Criterion, June 23, 1884.
Fedora, Haymarket, May 5, 1883.
Fee Faw Fum, Drury Lane, Christmas, 1867.
Felix; or, Festival of Roses, New Royalty, Oct. 24, 1865.
Female Barbarism, Kilburn, Dec. 17, 1890.
Female Iago, Theatre Royal, Jersey, Aug. 6, 1872.
Female Judas, Leith, Nov. 26, 1896.
Female Pirate, Victoria, Oct. 31, 1870.
Feminine Strategy, Basingstoke, Nov. 16, 1893.
Fencing Master, Sadler's Wells, Sept. 26, 1892.
Fenian, The, Princess's, Glasgow, April 1, 1889.
Fennel, Novelty, March 31, 1888.
Ferdinando, Grand, Nov. 1, 1886.
Fernande, St. James's, Oct. 15, 1870.
Ferry Girl, Savoy, May 13, 1890.
Ferryman's Daughter, Opera House, Hammersmith, July 31, 1890.
Fetches, The, Lyceum, Aug. 26, 1861.
Fettered Freedom, Vaudeville, Sept. 28, 1887.
Fettered, Holborn, Feb. 17, 1869.
Fettered Lives, Britannia, July 31, 1893.
Fetters of Passion, Bishop Auckland, Jan. 12, 1894.
Fetters, Theatre Royal, Bradford, Dec. 13, 1875.
First Violin, Crown, Peckham, March 27, 1899.
Fisher Girl, Ladbroke Hall, Jan. 16, 1890.
F.F.F.; or, Fidget's First Floor, Queen's, Manchester, Aug. 22, 1882.
Fiat of the Gods, Avenue, Aug. 25, 1891.
Fibs, Toole's, June 14, 1882.
Fickle Fatima, Streatham, Feb. 6, 1892.
Fickle Fortune, Battersea, April 14, 1890.
Field of the Cloth of Gold, Strand, April 11, 1868.
Fiend at Fault, Vaudeville, April 4, 1894.
Fiery Ordeal, Britannia, Jan. 27, 1862.
Fiesco, Pavilion, July 2, 1860.
Fif; or, Lost for Love, Varieties, Bradford, Dec. , 1882.
Fifteen Minutes' Grace, Prince of Wales's Club, Feb. 18, 1894.
Fifteenth Century, H.M.S. "Rainbow," April 10, 1883.
Fifteenth of October, Prince of Wales's, Aug. 8, 1891.
Fifty Fafty, Theatre Royal, North Shields, Feb. 13, 1882.
Fifty Years After, St. George's Hall, Feb. 25, 1888.
Fight Against Fate, Victoria, Newport, March 2, 1885.
Fight at Dame Europa's School, Derby, March 17, 1871.
Fighting Fifth, Surrey, Oct. 19, 1900.
Fighting Fortune, Theatre Royal, Bolton, May 9, 1881.
Fighting Forty-First, Britannia, Sept. 11, 1876.
Fight for Freedom, Brighton, May 28, 1894.
Fight for Honour, Theatre Royal, South Shields, March 23, 1892.
Fight for Life, Theatre Royal, Bradford, Aug. 26, 1876.
Fine Feathers, Globe, April 26, 1873.
Finesse, Haymarket, May 6, 1863.
Fin Maccoul, Elephant and Castle, Feb. 2, 1887.
Finnigan's Fortune, Openshaw, June 12, 1897.
Fire Alarm, Teddington, Feb. 1, 1893.
Fire Eaters, Royalty, April 15, 1874.
Firefly, Surrey, May 17, 1869.
Fire King, The, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Aug. 3, 1885.
Fireman of Glasgow, Adelphi, Glasgow, April 5, 1875.
Fireside Hamlet, Prince's, Nov. 27, 1884.
Fireworks, Vaudeville, June 29, 1893.
Firm as Oak, Britannia, June 2, 1873,
First Affection, St. James's, Feb. 13, 1860.
First Born, Globe, Nov. 1, 1897.
First Breeze, West Hartlepool, March 6, 1891.
First Class, Prince of Wales's, Greenwich, Sept. 14, 1885.
First Crime, City of London, Oct. 20, 1856.
First Experiment, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury, Oct. 10, 1882.
First Favourite, Britannia, Oct. 25, 1873.
First in the Field, Globe, May 20, 1882.
First Love, Queen's, Sept. 5, 1863.
First Mate, Gaiety, Dec. 31, 1888.
First Printer, Princess's, March 3, 1856.
First Rehearsal, Athenæum, June 1, 1892.
Fisherman's Daughter, Royalty, Dec. 26, 1881.

THE SHAFTESBURY.

On Thursday, Feb. 22,
the Comedy, in Four Acts, by Madeleine Lucette Ryley, entitled

"AN AMERICAN CITIZEN."

Beresford Cruger ..... Mr. Goodwin
Peter Barbury ..... Mr. Cooper Cliffe
Egerton Brown ..... Mr. J. L. McKay
Sir Humphrey Bunn .... Mr. Lionel Belmore
Willie Bunn ..... Mr. A. Curtis
Otto Stroble ..... Mr. Hylton Allen
Lucas ..... Mr. H. Asheton Tonge
Victor ..... Mr. W. Carle
Simms ..... Mr. Neil O'Brien
Beatrice Carew ..... Miss Alexander Carlyle
Lady Bunn ..... Miss Aimee de Burgh
Carola Chapin ..... Miss Agnes Thomas
Georgia Chapin ..... Miss Lily Lorrel
Annette ..... Miss Evelyn Martheze
Mercury ..... Master Tonge

Mrs. Ryley's play, which was first seen in London at the Duke of York's Theatre in the June of 1899, makes a powerful appeal to the patriotism of Americans, many of whom were seen in the stalls of the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday. The hero is a cool, dry New Yorker, a fellow of infinite jest. For instance, when a lady tells him that she has ridden a horse bare-backed, he inquires, "Didn't you find it cold?" and then points the joke by pretending that he has made a blunder. Under the mask of playful pleasantry such as this he conceals a noble and chivalrous nature, which eventually wins for him the affection of the girl he loves, who enters into a mock marriage with him in order to evade the stipulations of a ridiculous will. The action revolves around this eccentric personage, who is depicted by Mr. N. C. Goodwin with all the "cheek" and confidence which come of years of success in a character. He makes all his points with audacious ease, and is still a great favourite. He is fortunate in having to "play up" to him such a delightful actress as Miss Alexandra Carlyle, whose performance of the part of Beatrice Carew is quite bewitching in its delicate tact and winning charm. That excellent actor, Mr. Cooper Cliffe, has scant opportunity for the use of his experience and ability as Peter Barbury; but it need hardly be stated that he is entirely satisfactory in a task so easy to him as its representation. Mr. J. L. McKay gives a neat and polished performance as Egerton Brown, and Mr. Lionel Belmore's Sir Humphrey Bunn has all the necessary aristocratic aplomb. Mr. A. Curtis is smoothly satisfactory as Willie Bunn, and Mr. Hylton Allen puts plenty of energy into his acting as Otto Stroble. Miss Aimée De Burgh is an agreeable and intelligent representative of Lady Bunn, and Miss Agnes Thomas is quaint and comical as Carola Chapin, Miss Lily Lorrel's Georgia Chapin having a fine flavour of plaintive femininity. Miss Evelyn Martheze prattles French fluently as Annette, and Mr. Neil O'Brien is sufficiently stolid and serene as the valet, Simms. The revival of *An American Citizen* had a cordial reception on Thursday from a very friendly house.

"MR. POPPLE" AT THE APOLLO.

The one hundredth performance of *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)* was given at the Apollo Theatre on Wednesday night, when it was evident both by the largeness of the attendance and the way in which "the comedy with music" was received that its popularity is very far from exhausted. The occasion was marked by the introduction of several new songs, all of which met with a decidedly favourable reception.

The Freddy Popple of Mr. G. P. Huntley remains, of course, the central figure of the comedy, and to renew one's acquaintance with the bucolic visitor from Ippleton is a delightful experience. Mr. Popple is a character which affords Mr. Huntley every opportunity for the display of his droll humour, and the countryman's eccentricities of dress and manner are just sufficiently exaggerated to render him an object of almost unceasing laughter while he is in occupation of the stage. It was a happy idea to make Mr. Popple, at an exceedingly embarrassing moment, pull from one of his capacious pockets an apple and begin munching it. However, nothing really worries or flurries the young gentleman from Ippleton, and it is this placidity in the midst of somewhat disquieting events that makes such a strong appeal to one's sense of humour. Miss Ethel Irving as the lively little actress, La Bolero ,continues to win admiration by her bright style and her excellent singing and dancing. Her song with the "La, la, la!" refrain is one of the most effective items in the piece, and on Wednesday she introduced a new ditty called "The Many Parts I've Played." In this she gives imitations of the hero and heroine of melodrama, and other familiar stage characters, very cleverly. She also joined Mr. Huntley in a new duet with a very catchy melody, "When I came up from Ippleton." Mr. Kenneth Douglas deserves praise for his embodiment of Norman Popple, and the admirable work done by Mr. W. Cheesman as the furnishing man, George Hennay, and Mr. Harold Eden as the wine merchant, Henry Doring, deserves special mention. Mr. Robert Michalls, who has succeeded Mr. Leon Rennay as the jealous vocalist Jacques Kenyon, sings well. Mr. Lionel Victor's capital little sketch of Platt, Freddy Popple's servant, is duly appreciated, and other male characters are ably represented by Messrs. Morris Harvey, Frank Perfitt, and S. Hughes. Miss Coralie Blythe's neat and attractive embodiment of Louise, La Bolero's maid, is highly effective, and she is given a new topical song, "Turn the Other Way," sung in capital style. Another successful musical item is a duet, "Lord and Lady Bird," well rendered by Miss Nancy Malone (the pleasing representative of Violet Brinton, in succession to Miss Olive Hood) and Mr. Kenneth Douglas. Miss Marie Illington continues to score as Mrs. Doring, and Miss Grace Dudley is a satisfactory Mrs. Hennay. In the last act has been introduced a new feature in the form of a "Motor Dance," suggesting speed, storm, and snow.

The first annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Theatre Royal (Birmingham), Ltd., was held at the Grand Hotel on Thursday, Mr. Harry Lewis presiding. The directors, in their report for the year ended Dec. 9, regretted that the trading account for that period showed a loss of £514 10s. 4d., attributable mainly to the non-success of *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime and the summer "promenade concerts." The spring and autumn dramatic season had been as successful as could have been anticipated, in view of the great difficulty of securing attractions for the first year. Other sources of income had exceeded the directors' estimate, and the pantomime *Aladdin* was proving successful, and a considerable profit on the season was assured. Mr. Tom B. Davis, the managing director, said the theatre had given the greatest satisfaction to manager and companies. Engagements for provincial theatres were generally booked a considerable way ahead, and in opening a new theatre they were always at a disadvantage. It would take a little time to get as good bookings as he hoped their average years would show. Though the promenade concert experiment had not been successful, it had aroused a great deal of interest. A certain number of gentlemen in the town had formed a guarantee fund, and had requested the directors to give another season of promenade concerts. As the guarantee fund practically ensured them against loss, they had decided to do so. The adoption of the report, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. W. R. Cobay, was agreed to. Mr. Lewis was re-elected to the directorate, and the auditors were re-appointed.

On Saturday, the 17th inst., there was produced at Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, for copyright purposes, a new and original comedietta, entitled *The Foreign Butler*, by G. G. Scurfield and H. K. Campbell. The following was the cast:—Squire Broadfield, Mr. John Percy; Kitty (his daughter), Miss Madge Hartopp; Aunt Jane (squire's sister), Miss Daisy Garrett; Alphonse (the foreign butler), Mr. Harold Spencer.

The title of *The Dairy Maids* has been bestowed upon a new musical play by A. M. Thompson and Robert Courtneidge, with music by Paul Rubens and Frank Tours, which will succeed *Mr. Popple* at the Apollo. The piece is in two acts, the scene of which include a model dairy, the mess-room of a man-of-war, and a boarding-school.

Miss Katharine Clarke is fulfilling a re-engagement as leading lady at the Pavilion Theatre, and is appearing this week as Kathleen in *Sons of Erin*. Next week she will impersonate Norah Hanlon in *A Life of Pleasure*.

Mr. Fred Conquest has been re-engaged by Mr. Chute, of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, to play a special part in his pantomime next Christmas, this making Mr. Conquest's third consecutive year.

Mr. Percy Burton, who was for a long period in the service of Sir Henry Irving, has recently resigned his engagement with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, and, after a week's holiday seeing the latest plays in Paris, has joined Mr. Forbes-Robertson.

Miss Muriel Godfrey-Turner will make her first appearance before a Cambridge audience on March 10, and during the engagement will appear as Kate Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*. It may be remembered that Miss Godfrey-Turner was specially engaged some little time ago to play Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* in the sister University's—O.U.D.S.—annual Shakespearean revival. Miss Turner will be again under Mr. M. Russell Rosse's management.

Miss Maidie Scott, the Aladdin of the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, was bombarded with blooms on Saturday, the close of the fortnight's run of the pantomime, and sang one of her songs with the stage literally strewn with flowers, no less than forty-three bunches and seven sprays being thrown to her by an enthusiastic audience. Miss Scott was also the recipient of numerous presents.

RIDDLE STOWER'S
ENGLISH and AMERICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION,
80, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, LONDON, W.
Late of 202, Regent-st., W. Established over 25 Years
American Gold and Porcelain Crowns and Filling, &c
Absolutely Painless Extractions, 2/6.
Special terms to the Profession.
Ici on parle Francais. Man Spricht Deutsch.
Oui si parla Italiano.

ON THE ROAD, FEBRUARY 26.

After the Ball.—Cheltenham.
Alexander Opera Company.—T. R., Crook.
Are You a Mason?—Prince's T., Accrington.
At Duty's Call.—Victoria, Broughton.
At the World's Mercy.—T. R., Thornley.
Babes in the Wood (Kiddie).—T. R., Darlington.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Barnsley.
Beauty and the Barge.—Crown T., Peckham.
Benson, F. R. (B.).—O. H., Burnley.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Bramley Esmond.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Breed of the Treshams.—Grand T., Swansea.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Bury.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Catch of the Season.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Warrington.
Christian, The.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Cingalee.—Barrow.
Cingalee (S.).—Dundee.
Claudian.—T. R., Worcester.
Coal King.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Compton Comedy Co.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Cotton Spinner.—T. R., Hull.
Country Girl.—Newmarket.
Country Girl (Dance).—St. Helens.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Dais of Cromwell.—T. R., Macclesfield.
D'Oyly Carte.—Johannesburg.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—T. R., Dublin.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Carlisle.
Duke of Killicrankie.—T. R., Belfast.
Earl and the Girl.—Ashton-under-Lyne.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Sunderland.
False Wife.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Female Swindler.—Empire T., Southend.
Fight for Millions.—King's T., Walthamstow.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Frivolity.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Gay Parisiens.—Blackpool.
Girl from Japan.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Chatham.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Prince's, Portsmouth.
Golden Ladder.—T. R., Scarborough.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Cambridge T., Spenny moor.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Newport.
Grip of Iron.—Leamington.
Her Fatal Past.—New T., Clydebank.
Her Lost Self.—Miners', Ashington.
Her One Great Sin.—Grand T., Halifax.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Her Wedding Day.—Sheffield.
Home, Sweet Home.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
Honour Thy Father.—T. R., West Stanley.
I Defy the World.—T. R., Stratford.
Indian Mutiny.—Grand T., Brighton.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Grand T., Croydon.
Kitty Grey.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Huddersfield.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—Alexandra T., Stoke Newington.
La Poupee (Ralland).—T. R., Halifax.
Laughter Land.—T. R., Leigh.
Leah Kleschna.—T. R., Bolton.
Life's Sweetest Sins.—T. R., Stockton.
Little Bo-Peep (Kiddie).—Queen's T., Keighley.
Little Bread Winner.—T. R., Rotherham.
Little Michus (Dance).—Oldham.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Prince's, Manchester.
London Fireman.—T. R., Croydon.
Love that Women Desire.—Rotunda, Liverpool.
Lucky Durham.—T. R., Bath.
Man's Enemy.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Manxman.—T. R., Rugby.
Martin Harvey.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Master Criminal.—Cradley Heath.
Message from Mars.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Midnight Mail.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Merthyr.
Money Makes the Man.—O. H., Dudley.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Moody Manners (A.).—T. R., Sheffield.
Mountain Climber.—Marlborough Theatre.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Mr. Smith.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Mr. Smith.—Blackburn.
Napoleon the Great.—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
Norman V. Norman.—Athenæum, Lancaster.
No Wedding Bells for Her.—Bilston.
On the Love Path.—T. R., Exeter.
Orchid (2).—Preston.
Orchid (3).—Doncaster.
Orphan Heiress.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Passion's Power.—West London Theatre.
Path of Thorns.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Peggy Machree.—Shakespeare T., London.
Poor Must Live.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Power and the Glory.—Queen's, Longton.
Power of Gold.—T. R., Windsor.
Prince of Pilsen.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Prodigal Parson.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Prodigal Son.—T. R., Edmonton.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.
Revenge.—Star, Liverpool.
Rogues of the Turf.—Blackpool.
Romany's Revenge.—Goole.
Royal Divorce (N.).—T. R., Norwich.
Royal Revenge.—T. R., Runcorn.
Sailors of the King.—Carlton T., Birmingham
Saints and Sinners.—Star T., Swansea.
See-Saw of Life.—Grand T., Plymouth.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Bury.
Sergeant Brue (Lockwood).—S. Shields.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Rochdale.
Sign of the Cross.—Grand T., Southampton.
Silver King.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Sin of Her Childhood.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Sins of a City.—T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.
Spring Chicken.—T. R., Edinburgh.
Still Alarm.—Royalty, Chester.
Sunday.—Grand T., Derby.
Swiss Express.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Talk of the Town.—T. R., Brighton.
Temptress, The.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Kidderminster.
Throne of Terror.—Kettering.
Toreador.—Darwen.
Traitor Prince.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Two Hussars.—T. R., Grantham.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Manchester.
Ugliest Woman on Earth.—Kirkcaldy.
Under the Czar.—T. R., Dover.
Veronique (Dance).—Leicester.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Hanley.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—Grand T., Leeds.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—O. H., Coventry.
Warner, Miss Grace.—T. R., Gloucester.
Way of the World.—Darwen.
Wearin' o' the Green.—King's T., Cardiff.
What the Butler Saw.—Kennington Theatre.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Castleford.
White Chrysanthemum.—T. R., Nottingham.
Wilkie, Allen, and Co.—O. H., Porth.
Willard, E. S.—O. H., New York.
Woman's Past.—Albert T., Brighouse.
Woman's Pluck.—Grand T., Bolton.
Worst Woman in London.—O. H., Radcliffe.
10.30 Down Express.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Allan Edwardes with a party of Derby friends left Victoria on Wednesday morning en route to the Riviera for a stay of about three weeks.

Mr. Herbert Barrs has just completed an entirely original version of *East Lynne*, introducing a new comedy part. This version is licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and entered at Stationers' Hall.

Everybody knows that
EPPS'S
is an admirable food, the nicest and most nutritious beverage for the breakfast table. It is made in a moment with boiling water or milk, and its sustaining qualities are
COCOA
Invaluable to all.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHAS. HOLMES.—*(1) Oct. 17, 1904. (2) St. Thomas's Nursing Home, Westminster.*

EARLSFIELD.—*We have no record. The comedian himself might supply you with the date.*

H. C. T.—*Write to the Secretary of the Actors' Association, King-street, Covent Garden.*

N. GODFREY.—*We do not keep a record of such events, and cannot therefore furnish you with the information.*

C. WILLIAMS.—*Write to Mr. George Conquest, the Empire Theatre, Southend.*

T. R. V.—*Neither Miss Violet Vanbrugh nor Miss Irene Vanbrugh appeared in* The Three Musketeers *at the Garrick.*

B. A.—*In the Covent Garden* Forty Thieves *pantomime of 1866, W. H. Payne played Ali Baba; Kate Carson, Abdullah; Ada Harland, Morgiana; Rachel Sanger, the Inspector of Police; and Fred Payne, Ganem.*

KATE B.—Not Such a Fool as He Looks *was first played at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, December 4, 1868. The first London production was at the Globe, October 23, 1869.*

WEST-ENDER.—The Gay Parisienne *was originally produced at the Opera House, Northampton, Oct. 1, 1894. The first London production was at the Elephant and Castle, March 23, 1896. It was brought to the Duke of York's on April 4 of that year. The principals on that occasion were Messrs. Lionel Rignold, W. H. Denny, Edgar Stevens, Hubert Willis, and Frank Wheeler; Misses Ada Reeve, Lillie Belmore, Violet Robinson, and Louie Freear.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

KEEN.—On Feb. 10, at 22, Osborne-terrace, Clapham-road, the wife of Walter Keen (Keen and Waller) of a son; both doing well.

RIGNOLD.—Feb. 15, the wife of Walter L. Rignold, of T. R., Manchester, of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

CORNE—ASHLEY.—On Feb. 20, at Hastings, Surtees Corne, Musical-Director, to Renée Ashley Gilbert-Price, eldest daughter of the late John Gilbert-Price, of Eastbourne. American and Australian papers please copy.

DE CLIFFORD—CARRINGTON.—Feb. 16, at St. Pancras Registry Office, Lord De Clifford to Eva Carrington (Chandler), actress.

DEATHS.

ARMSTRONG.—Sunday, Feb. 18, Susan Armstrong, aged 77 years, the beloved mother of Mrs. W. J. Churchill. Gone, but will never be forgotten by her loving sons and daughters. R.I.P.

BRODIE.—Feb. 9, at Maidenhead, Mrs. Matthew Brodie (Miss Alice Rees), aged 36. R.I.P.

BROWN.—Feb. 21, suddenly, at Whitley Bay, Elizabeth Brown, mother of the famous Henderson, blind musician. Interred on Sunday at the above.

CLAREY. Feb. 19, at his residence at Clapham, after a short illness, H. O. Clarey, comedian.

GITTINS.—On Feb. 4, in London, Mary Gittins, the beloved mother of Vita, Nita, and Frances Adrian and Ernest St. John.

LORENZI.—On Feb. 18, Frank Lorenzi, of the Sisters Phillips and Bros. Lorenzi; buried at Bolton Cemetery on Friday. Deeply mourned by his wife Rose Phillips and his two sons and daughter.

REES.—Feb. 9, at Maidenhead, Alice Rees, after two years' painful illness, borne with the greatest fortitude, aged 36. Deeply mourned by Arthur T. Lennard.

RITCHIE.—At Glasgow, Feb. 16, of consumption, Harry Grey Ritchie (née Harry Diamond), aged 40 years.

ST. LEDGER.—Harry St. Ledger, Feb. 1, at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith. The readiness is all.

TAYLOR.—Feb. 11, Alfred Taylor, stage-door keeper at the Great Queen-street Theatre, aged 61.

IN MEMORIAM.

COOKE.—In loving memory of my beloved wife Emma, who departed this life Feb. 22, 1904. R.I.P. C. P. COOKE.

DODSWORTH. — In loving memory of Miss Lizzie Aubrey (Mrs. Chas. Dodsworth), who died Feb. 22, 1900. Never forgotten by her friend, Maude Stoneham.

JUDGE.—In loving memory of Mr. William Judge (Judge's Cockatoos), who died Feb. 24, 1903. Sadly missed by his sorrowing wife and daughters.

JUDGE.—In loving memory of our dear father, Mr. William Judge, who died Feb. 24, 1903. From his affectionate sons, Willie and Charlie (Alaska's Sea Lions).

WENTWORTH.—In loving memory of dear Hettie Chapman, youngest sister of the late Bessie Wentworth. Feb. 21, 1904. Sadly missed by her mother.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Sylvia Spiers—Saturday, Feb. 24.
Frank Graham—Saturday, Feb. 24.
G. M. Hurst—Saturday, Feb. 24.
T. Ronald Hurst—Saturday, Feb. 24.
George Bernard—Saturday, Feb. 24.
Dorothy Marsdin—Sunday, Feb. 25.
W. V. Garrod—Sunday, Feb. 25.
Grace Warner—Monday, Feb. 26.
Edith Leighton—Monday, Feb. 26.
T. H. Barnes—Monday, Feb. 26.
Arthur B. Murray—Monday, Feb. 26.
Victor Selbini—Monday, Feb. 26.
Tom Shaw—Monday, Feb. 26.
Ellen Terry—Tuesday, Feb. 27.
Sidney Cooper—Tuesday, Feb. 27.
J. B. Howard—Tuesday, Feb. 27.
Charles Santley—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
John F. Preston—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
Frank Harvey (Harvey Bros.)—Wed. Feb. 28.
Ernest Korrie—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
E. V. Page—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
Marie Blythe—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
Stylo—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
Winifred Fraser—Wednesday, Feb. 28.
Sid Bandon—Thursday, March 1.
Rachel Lowe—Thursday, March 1.
John Sargent—Thursday, March 1.
Harry Nicholls—Thursday, March 1.

THE manageress of the Tottenham Palace still continues to cater well for the local residents of Tottenham. This week Mr. Charles Hartley and company are successfully appearing in *The Sorrows of Satan*, by Marie Corelli. The quick-change from the scene "Chaos" to the luxuriously-appointed drawing-room of Geoffrey Tempest is smartly worked. Mr. Charles Hartley, as Lucio, plays with intensity; and Miss Ethel Paull shows a thorough grip of the part of Lady Sybil. Mr. George D'Albert has taken the patrons of the Palace by storm with his songs, "You can't blame me for that" and "The truth or a lie?" Master Frank Hartley certainly lives up to his title of the "pocket Cinquevalli." Great praise must be given to the Guyons for their excellent little episode, *His One Great Sin*, Marlowe and Manton provide a "scream" in *La Creche*, Miss Rita Bell is a pleasing singer, and an excellent programme is finished with Mr. Harry Banford.

SORE THROAT OR HOARSENESS
CURED IN A FEW HOURS.

Sir Morell Mackenzie, M.D., the Eminent Throat Specialist, constantly recommended Condy's Remedial Fluid to be diluted and used as a Gargle for speedily curing Sore Throat or Hoarseness.

Dr. Walford Harris, in his book entitled "The Throat and its Treatment," says: "I have found the 'Condy' and cold water gargle excellent, many cases being cured immediately."

The late Mr. Sims Reeves, the world-famed Tenor Vocalist, wrote: "'Condy' used as a Gargle clears the voice and braces up the uvula."

Condy's Remedial Fluid, sold by all Chemists at 1s. 1½d. Caution.—Insist on having "Condy's."

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Abel, Mr. George
Adams, Miss Nelly
Aida, Miss B.
Allerton, Mr. H.
Ando, Mr. M.
Anson, Miss C.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Atherton, Mr.
Attwood, Mrs. H.
Baldry, Mr. Harry
Banfield, Miss Iris
Barham, Mr. G. M.
Barlow, Miss Billie
Baroni, Mr. H.
Barrie, Mr. Gus
Barrow, Mr. C. Kenneth
Bayley, Mr. Chas.
Beatrice, Mdlle.
Beaven, Miss S.
Beckley, Miss
Bertram, Mr. Eugene
Bon Bon, Mr. Harry
Branscombe, Mr. A.
Brooks, Bros.
Broton, Mr. Fritz
Brough, Miss F.
Burdell, Miss Marie
Burgess, Messrs.
Burgoyne, Miss Jessie
Burn, Mr. Andy
Carcassi, The
Caledonian Boys
Carling, Mr. Tom
Carlton, Mr. Fred
Carlyle, Miss Edith
Caygill, Mr. O. H.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul
Clency, Mr. Cyril
Coleridge, Mr. W. L.
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Congdon, Miss May
Creighton, Miss Maud
Cronow, Mr.
Curre, Mr. Carne
Curtis, Mr. Milton
Dardinis, The
D'Arcy, Mrs.
Day, Miss Hanna,
Dearlove, Mr. Mark
Delmonico, Signor
Delomes, The Two
Denbigh, Mr. H.
Dench, Mr. Sidney
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Driscoll, Mr. J. F.
Dunbar, Mr. Thomas
Dunedin Troupe
Dunningarto, Mr. H.
Eckark, Miss Kitty
Edney, Mr. George
Egochaga, Mr. Alfredo
Elkin, Mr. Bernard
Elmore, Miss Belle
Etherdo, Mr. Harry
Evans, Mrs. Bensley
Fairchild, Miss M.
Fealy, Miss Maude
Featherstone, Miss Vane
Finney, Mr. James
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Florador, Mrs. Fred
Fontaine, Mr. Victor
Fossett, Mr. Harry
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Gaertner and Weston
George, Miss Marie
Gerrard, Capt.
Girard, Mr. Gilbert
Glenny, Miss Blanch
Godwin, Mr. Will
Gordon, Miss
Gravetta and Parr
Green, Mr. W. F.
Gregory, Mr. W. L.
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Haigh, Mr. Jesse
Haines, Miss M.
Hallie, Mr. Dave
Hamilton, Miss Edie
Hamilton, Mr. Henry
Haniford, Mr. N.
Hanneford, Mr. Ed.
Harley, Miss Lilly
Harrison, Mr. George
Haviland, Mr. Wm.
Haywood, Miss Dolly
Hedmondt, Mr. E. C.
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Howard, Mr. Walter
Howes, Miss Millie
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Hunsley, Mr. Godfrey
Ipswich, Mr. Francis
Irving, Mr. H. B.
Jesson, Mr. Sam
Juliana, The Eight
Kelly, Mr. Edward H.
Kempton and Murdoch
Kirkdall, Mr. R. D.
Kirwain, Miss Kitty
Knowles, Mr. J. W.
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Kronemann Bros.
Lancaster-Wallis, Mrs.
Langley, Mr. Chas
Lannons, The
Lee and Arden, Messrs.
Lee, Miss Minnie
Lee, Mr. Fred S.
Leeson, Mr. M. P.
Lena, Miss L.
Leonox, Mrs. Gordon
Leon, Mr. Frank
Linde, Herr
Lindsay, Madame
Lovegrove, Miss P.
Levey, Miss A.
Lynch, Miss L.
MacEwen, Mr.
MacKinnon, Mr. A.
Manchester, Mr. H.
Manderville, Miss Flo
Martifi Troupe
Maynard, Mr. Harry
Meldon, Miss Irene
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Moore, Miss C.
Moore, Miss Maggie
Morrison, Mr. Ralph
Moss, Mr. H. E.
Motramo, Mrs.
Mozondos, The
Myra
Nelldon, Mr. Tom
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Nicholls, Mr. Harry
Norman, Mr. N. B.
Oliver, Miss Ethel
O'Neill, Mr. Ed.
Orme, Miss Hilda
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Paccy, Miss S. J.
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Paull, Mrs. Wm.
Payne, Mr. H. M.
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Ray, Miss Daisy
Renaud, Miss
Rene, Miss Ida
Richard, Prof.
Richardson, Mr. J. T.
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Ripley, Miss Blanch
Risto, Mr. Alf.
Roberts, Mr. R. A.
Ross, Mr. Billy
Ross and Lewis, Messrs.
Scarth, Mrs.
Scott, Miss Maidie
Scott, Mrs. Walter
Sevening, Miss Nina
Spessardy, Mons., C.
Stansfield, Mrs. Fred
Starr, Mr. Harry
Steward, Mr. Harry
Stewart, Mr. Hamilton
Sydmon, Mr. N.
Tavner, Mrs. E.
Temple, Mr. Fred
Tennyson and Wallis
Terria Duo
Thomas, Mrs. R.
Toreadores, The
Trentanivi, Mr. Alfredo
Trevor, Mr. Theadore
Twichin, Mr. Fred
Van Noorden, Mr. W.
Vasco
Vetter, Mr. Oscar
Vincent, Miss C.
Von Holst, Mr. E.
Vypond, Mr. Fred
Wade, Miss V.
Walmer, Miss C.
Wardle, Mr. Harry
Wardroper, Mr. Henry
Warren, Mr. Arthur
Warsaw, Mr. Dave
Waterfield, Mr. Chas.
Wells, Mr. Adolfus
Willoughby, Mr. George
Wilton, Mr. G. W.
Wingard, Prof.
Woodville, Mr. E.
Woodward, Capt.
Yeamans, Miss Lydia

MADAME RIMOSAMY REITZ and her Ladies' Quartette will appear at the Caxton Hall on Tuesday next in aid of the Westminster Hospital. The lady mentioned was *prima donna* for several years in the large towns of Germany, and has been for fifteen years a teacher of music in England.

MR. EDWARD S. PETLEY is part-author with Mr. G. W. Elton of the farce, *The Other Man's Business*, which is shortly to be sent on tour.

MRS. LAWSON'S cosy little hall, the Hounslow Hippodrome, continues to meet with the appreciation which is its due. At the top of the bill this week is the Hippodrome stock company in *Belphegor*, which is drawing crowded houses. Mr. Murray Forbes, in the late Charles Dillon's rôle, is pathetic and strong, and he is ably supported by Miss E. Watkins, as the wife. Good service is also rendered by the rest of the company. Mr. Cyrus Dare, with his imitations of children, has created great enthusiasm; the Sages show wonderful improvement; the Sisters Stratton sing and dance pleasingly; and the Sainsburys, Jury's Pictures, and other attractions complete a good programme.

CREATORE, who comes from America with a band composed entirely of Italian musicians, will be heard in seven concerts (five nights and two matinées) at Queen's Hall, commencing Monday night, March 5. Creatore comes here with the reputation of having been a very great success in America for the last five years, this period being spent in travelling from one place to another, but with many reappearances in all of the large cities. Mme. Barili, a soprano of note, will be the soloist of the London concerts.

A SUCCESSFUL performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard* was given by the Swindon Mechanics' Institution Amateur Theatrical Society on Tuesday, in the large hall of the institution, before a crowded and appreciative audience. Special scenery had been painted, and correct dresses and costumes were used, the opera being produced under the management of Messrs. F. S. Westlake and Fred J. Whittaker, with Mr. F. G. Davis as musical-director. Mr. R. H. Wood gave an admirable performance of Jack Point, being equally successful in vocalism and dancing; as Colonel Fairfax Mr. Stanley Cook made a great hit, rendering his vocal numbers well; Mr. Tom F. Finn, too, must be complimented on his efforts as Wilfred Shadbolt; and Mr. H. E. Allen as Sergeant Meryll, Mr. T. Tee as Leonard, and Mr. Chris. Finn as Sir Richard, were all seen to distinct advantage. Miss Belle Thomas was bright and pleasing as Phœbe Meryll; and Miss Nancy Thomas excellent as Dame Carruthers; and Miss Mary J. Finn as Elsie Maynard sang tastefully.

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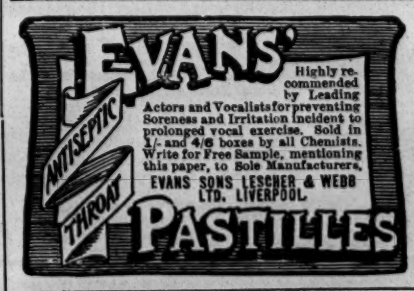

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Hon. Sec.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanac and Annual for 1906, is not only a valuable collection of information and a history of the dramatic and musical year. It is also a very amusing and entertaining shillingsworth It contains contributions from many well-known actors and actresses. Mr. Frank Desprez, the editor, contributes a delightful story about an actress who sold her collection of Press notices in order to help a colleague in distress. There are numerous portraits. The lists of English, French, and German plays produced during the year are very useful. Altogether, "The Era" Almanack is indispensable to all interested in the stage.—The Star, Jan. 24, 1906.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
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GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Instantaneous success of "The Prodigal Son" (or "The Judgment of Pharaoh"), produced on Wednesday, Jan. 31, for a run. Spring, Carl Rosa Season. Autumn, "Blue Moon" (first production in the City). First-class Companies only.
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At present in course of erection. The most central site in the City. Will open Autumn, 1906.

Bookings include Carl Rosa Grand Opera Co., J. W. Turner's Opera Co., "The Cingalee," "The Orchid," "San Toy," "Earl and the Girl," "The Girl from Kay's," "Kitty Grey," "Florodora," "Three Little Maids," "Trip to the Highlands," "Sergeant Brue," "Dandy Doctor," "New Barmaid," "Gay Parisienne," "Laughter Land," &c.

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AYR, NEW GAIETY.
KILMARNOCK, THE KING'S.
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FALKIRK, THE GRAND.
CLYDEBANK, NEW GAIETY.
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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER.
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1906.

THE NEW DRAMATIC SCHOOL.

Many years since, when the question of establishing an English Conservatoire was being energetically discussed, we pointed out that all schemes would be futile until the matter was taken up by the London managers themselves. That our view was correct was proved by the collapse of the ill-fated School of Dramatic Art, and by all the propositions which followed falling through absolutely. We confess, however, that, in our most sanguine moments, we never hoped for such a practical condensation of common-sense as that which has now come to pass as the outcome of Mr. BEERBOHM TREE'S educational experiment in connection with His Majesty's Theatre. To him belongs the credit of having, in the spring of 1904, founded the Academy of Dramatic Art as it at present exists. The object was to provide a thorough general training for the English stage in the hope that, if success attended the scheme, the Academy might eventually become one of the national institutions of Great Britain. The number of students who have attended the Academy has been remarkable, and the usefulness of the institution has been widely recognised. Many of these students have already won positions upon the professional stage—a result largely due to the public performance given by the Academy at His Majesty's Theatre in February, 1905, a performance highly creditable in itself and full of promise for the future.

As an outcome of this performance, and of the excellent training provided at the school, Mr. CHARLES MAUDE, for instance, secured an engagement at the Comedy Theatre last year, and appeared last Wednesday in Captain MARSHALL'S play at the Comedy. Another successful student was Miss BETTY CALLISH, who was engaged by Mr. CYRIL MAUDE; and Miss MAUD CRESSAL, having distinguished herself at the public performance at His Majesty's, was secured for a production by the Mermaid Society at the Royalty Theatre, and is at present appearing under Mr. HARRISON'S *régime* at the Haymarket.

Up to the present time Mr. TREE has borne all the pecuniary risk connected with the Academy; but it is generally felt that, in an undertaking which is designed to benefit the English stage as a whole, the burden of responsibility should not rest upon one person, however willing and anxious he may be to continue to bear it. It has therefore been suggested to Mr. TREE that a corporate body, embracing many of the principal members of the dramatic profession, should be formed to share with him the responsibility which he has hitherto so cheerfully undertaken, and at the same time to establish a wider system of control, and so extend the scope of usefulness of the institution. This suggestion Mr. TREE has expressed himself willing to accept; and it is proposed that the work of the Academy of Dramatic Art shall, from the commencement of the term beginning at the end of April next, be continued under the direct superintendence of an executive council consisting of Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT, Mr. JOHN HARE, Mr. TREE, Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, Mr. FORBES-ROBERTSON, Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, Mr. PINERO, and Mr. J. M. BARRIE. Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT has been elected the president of the council.

Though the council are desirous that the Academy shall be self-supporting, it will be conducted as heretofore—not for the purpose of profit. Recognising the excellent tuition hitherto given by Mr. FREDERICK KERR, Mr. NORMAN FORBES, Mr. FISHER WHITE, Mrs. CROWE, Miss FILIPPI, Madame CAVALLAZZI, Mr. LOUIS HERVEY D'EGVILLE, and M. BERTRAND, the council hope to be able to retain the valuable services of these ladies and gentlemen; and it is the intention of members of the council themselves to visit the school regularly, and to conduct the work of the more advanced students. They propose, in addition, to invite the co-operation of distinguished actors and actresses other than those already upon the staff of the Academy. Mr. GEORGE P. BANCROFT, who, since the opening of the institution, has been manager of it on Mr. TREE'S behalf, will continue to retain that position.

The plan which is to be adopted is absolutely practical and complete. The training of the students is to be progressive, the culmination of their dramatic education being their passing through what will be called the "final school." That is to say, the talent which presents itself to the Academy of Dramatic Art will first be trained by the teachers in technicalities, and will then be subjected to the best of all culture—rehearsal by actors of eminence. One of the strongest motives which impel the ambitious aspirant to obtain an engagement in a first-rate London company is the unspeakable benefit of the education at rehearsals. Anyone who has been present at the preparation of a new piece at a first-rate West End house knows that, in addition to the salaries paid them, unfinished artists receive a very valuable *quid pro quo* in the shape of instruction. They imbibe from the very atmosphere of rehearsal, from observing the leading artists and listening to the remarks of authors and managers, an amount of information in the technique of their profession which is inestimable. That artists like those above-mentioned as belonging to the council are prepared to devote time to what is practically tuition of promising learners shows how deeply the London managers feel the necessity of supplying the stage with young artists. It is a wise, far-sighted, and patriotic policy which induces them thus to add another responsibility to the very heavy ones which many of them already bear; and those of them who are still in management will not fail to reap their reward in the increase in the supply of capable young artists.

On the general question of the value of preparatory instruction there cannot, we think, be two opinions. Technical training makes mediocrity acceptable, and prevents genius from being obscured by inexpertness. An all-round actor or actress ought to be able, not only to play modern drama or comedy, but to "tackle" SHAKESPEARE or STEPHEN PHILLIPS with equal ease. This is where schooling comes in. The mimicry of human emotions is a natural gift; the expression of feeling through an artificial medium is skilled craftsmanship. In the performance of a blank-verse play every line and every word should be audible to a listener at the back of the gallery. This should be a *sine quâ non*, and should be insisted on by the rehearsing manager with the stern severity of a despot. He should not be satisfied with rehearsing from the stalls. He should ascend to the region of the "gods," and then he will appreciate the value of Distinct Diction in assisting the success of a blank-verse play. Of course, when we have exacted this absolute audibility, we are still far from the perfect mastery which enables the ripe elocutionist to play with the art of Delivery as a fine fencer plays with his foil in an easy bout. But let us insist first of all on the excellent admonitions of Mrs. BANCROFT'S mamma, when she said to her daughter, in order to impress upon her the importance of being distinct: "Fancy there is a poor man who is the last to get into the gallery, and consequently only has a corner in the back row of all, therefore he sees and hears with great difficulty; he has been working hard, and has saved his sixpence to give himself a little treat. How dreadful, then, it would be to find that he cannot hear what the actors are talking about! How he must envy those more fortunate than himself, and how unhappy he must be! Think of him when you are acting; direct your voice to the poor man who is sitting at the very back of the gallery, and he will be grateful to you." The performance of a blank-verse play ought to give the audience a *better* opinion of the author's poetry than the perusal of the book the next day; and things are so steadily improving in this respect—witness the elocution in *Nero* at His Majesty's—that we may hope to see Mrs. WILTON'S ideal attained. What was done by Mr. GILBERT when he rehearsed his poetical pieces may be done by any manager with the power of climbing the gallery stairs and a strong determination to have his own way.

AT the Sussex Assizes on Saturday Alexander Loftus sued Ernest Carpenter, manager of the Grand Theatre, Brighton, for breach of contract, the damages claimed being 100 guineas. Plaintiff stated that in September last he entered into an agreement with defendant to run *The New Barmaid*, a musical comedy, at the Grand Theatre for a week. Defendant, however, cancelled the booking, and when plaintiff arrived with his company he was refused permission to use the theatre. According to the agreement the day bills for exhibition were to be sent a week previous to the arrival of the company, but plaintiff stated that according to his experience it was a common practice for the bills to be delivered as late as the Tuesday or Wednesday prior to the production of the piece.

MR. H. CECIL BERYL, manager of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, gave evidence in support of plaintiff's contention as to the delivery of the bills. Defendant, he said, told him that musical comedy was not paying at his theatre as well as drama. Defendant, on being called, stated that six months before the date the piece was to be produced he wrote to the plaintiff suggesting that the arrangement should be cancelled, as musical comedy was not paying. He received no day bills by the first post on the Saturday, and that day wired to the manager of *The Harbour Lights* with a view to the production of that piece during the week in question. His lordship announced that he would give his decision in London.

"THE ALABASTER STAIRCASE."

A Comedy in Three Acts, by Robert Marshall, Produced at the Comedy Theatre, on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Rt. Hon. Sir John Abbotsford..MR. JOHN HARE
Duke of Ranelagh ....MR. A. E. MATTHEWS
Edward Pickford, M.P. .....MR. LESLIE FABER
Sir William Blackadder, M.D. MR. ARTHUR PLAYFAIR
Lord Portmore .....MR. FORBES DAWSON
Rt. Hon. James Harley..MR. A. CORNEY GRAIN
Sir Harold Airlie.....MR. CHARLES MAUDE
Mr. Smith.....MR. BRAIDON
Mr. Jones .....MR. C. WALLS
Lady Abbotsford .....MISS GRANVILLE
Duchess of Ranelagh .....MISS LOTTIE VENNE
Alice Abbotsford .....MISS SYBIL CARLISLE
Miss Mitcham .....MISS HELEN LUCK
Butler .....MR. HORTON COOPER
First Footman .....MR. DONALD MACLEAN
Second Footman .....MR. ARTHUR ELDRED

The Alabaster Staircase is likely to be either a great success or an absolute failure—we cannot imagine an ordinary fate for a piece so odd and extraordinary. It opens in the ordinary aristocratic atmosphere—"Adams" house in Grosvenor-square, family portraits, perfect tailoring. Miss Alice Abbotsford, the "heroine," is a little unusual. She has advanced views on the distribution of property, and thinks that it would have been much better if her father, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Abbotsford, the Premier, instead of spending a large sum on the addition of a magnificent alabaster staircase to the Grosvenor-square house, had spent the money in improving the insanitary cottage property on his estate. Sir John is unconvinced and unrepentant; and he administers a severe lecture to Mr. Pickford, a clever young Radical member. Alice, it is intended, shall marry the Duke of Ranelagh, a good-natured, inane, young man, with a sleepy style and a loose-limbed swagger; the girl consenting to the arrangement with the idea of using her position as Duchess for philanthropic purposes. But she has reckoned without the electric influence of Mr. Pickford, who makes love to her in masterly and original style. Now comes the pivot of the plot. Sir John slips on the alabaster staircase, and falls, bruising his head at the back; and the result of the accident is that he is suddenly converted to extreme Radicalism.

We naturally expect that the play is going to be semi-fantastic, turning on a medical point, like Mr. Pinero's comedy in which a man suddenly loses his memory, recovering it, of course, in the last act. Not so; from this point onwards Captain Marshall follows in the path of French didactic dramatists like M. Brieux; he is in deadly earnest, and he drives home his arguments in the most solid and serious way. The converted Premier has the courage of his opinions. He denounces his wife's extravagance in jewellery; he is prepared even to separate from her rather than abandon his new principles. When he discovers that the Duke of Ranelagh, while engaged to Alice, has been carrying on a flirtation with a female professional diver, he refuses to give his sanction to the proposed marriage; and in the last act, he calls a Cabinet Council in Downing-street, and after announcing his resignation preaches a sermon *à la* Ruy Blas to the assembled Ministers, on the ingenuity of holding well-paid offices without any special fitness for performing their functions. Sir John then shakes hands all round, and goes quietly out; and the curtain falls. We have omitted to mention that the young Radical M.P. and the philanthropic Alice have been brought together by the act of the Duke, who resigns his claim to the young lady's hand.

The audience at the close seemed absolutely astounded. The piece is, indeed, somewhat bewildering. Sir John's conversion is as miraculous as that of the Apostle Paul, with this troubling difference—that the Premier's change of opinion is caused by a physical injury, which an operation in the nature of trepanning might remove, restoring him to his normal Conservatism. After the blow on the cranium has served the author's purpose, we hear nothing more of the accidental motive of the play, which then becomes a social treatise cast in dramatic form. We do not object to "plays with a purpose," though in England they seldom pay expenses. But *The Alabaster Staircase* is an incoherent mixture of light comedy, quaint fantasy, and very serious social science. When Captain Marshall is in what Turnerian critics call the "first manner," he is as epigrammatic and up-to-date as ever. There is an epicure of a Duchess who thinks that "conversation is impossible on mineral waters," and who talks about possibly marrying a chauffeur; there is the Premier's wife, who tells him that he will find the ways of socialistic politics "muddy, and getting very crowded"; and the Duke of Ranelagh gets a hearty laugh when he remarks, respecting the professional diver with whom he is philandering, "She's a good girl, and I often wish she wasn't!" Then there is a West End physician (Scotch) who, when told that a certain opinion of his isn't worth two guineas, replies, "It's not; but that's what I'm charging you!" There are also some capitally-written love scenes; and the speeches which come from the lips of Sir John Abbotsford are polished, pithy, and to the point. As for the acting, it could hardly have been improved upon in any instance. Mr. John Hare was the perfection of easy, acute dignity as Sir John Abbotsford. All the finished and aristocratic art of Mr. Hare's long experience, all his marvellous keenness of perception, his deft neatness of handling, and his absolute aplomb and unforced authority, were brought to bear on the part. In the Cabinet Council scene in the last act, Mr. Hare, by the sheer force of personality, won from the astonished audience a patient hearing for an oration into which, as it were, they felt they had been entrapped. The treatment of this hazardous scene by Mr. Hare was a masterpiece of skill and tact; and his Sir John Abbotsford will remain a lasting memory in connection with *The Alabaster Staircase*. Mr. A. E. Matthews's creation of the Duke of Ranelagh was immensely clever, and so natural and unconscious as to be absolutely convincing and illusive. The type was admirably studied and reproduced with surprising realism. The half-lounge, half-slouch of the young man, his lazy-mindedness, which is by no means stupidity, and his inveterate quietism, were indicated with astonishing accuracy and most excellent results. Mr. Leslie Faber played Edward Pickford in just the resolute, intellectual tone required by the rôle, and with a combination of brightness and manliness which was very telling. With no great opportunities, he took full advantage of every chance, and scored a decided success. Mr. Arthur Playfair, in his brief appearances as Sir William Blackadder, proved both amusing and impressive; and who could have possibly played Lady Abbotsford better than Miss Granville, always above reproach as a modern "lady of quality?" What there was of Miss Lottie Venne's gastronomic fun as the Duchess was so delightful that we only wished there was more of it and of this always-agreeable artist in the piece. Miss Venne was in her best form, and all London playgoers know how good that is. Miss Sybil Carlisle was the acme of sweet, thoughtful, cultured maidenhood as Alice Abbotsford, her acting in the dainty love scenes being full of tact and refinement. The Members of the Cabinet had only a line or two each to speak, but their "make-ups" were marvels of thoughtful care. In these circumstances, we can only say of them that Mr. Forbes Dawson, Mr. A. Corney Grain, with Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Braidon, and Mr. C. Walls did their respective duties well and conscientiously. Miss Helen Luck was efficient as a meek companion; and the servant's parts—especially Mr. Horton Cooper's discreet butler—were very carefully played. Everyone should see *The Alabaster Staircase*; it is certainly something quite out of the common in the comedy line.

A NEW PLAY BY M. V. SARDOU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, FEB. 22.—The interesting feature in *La Piste*, M. Sardou's new play, brought out at the Variétés, lies chiefly in the fact that it was inspired by some remarks which occur in his own *Vieux Garçons*, the well-known comedy produced in 1865. The idea of the piece is an intensely sad one, inasmuch as it shows us a man's jealousy with his wife's past. But the veteran dramatist is not, and has never been, a psychologist. He is an expert conjurer, who can produce stage effects from unexpected places; and, fascinated by his marvellous dexterity, we feel more interested in the curiously-brought-about situations than in the personages of the work. And we willingly forgive him that he has dealt with his subject in a farcical manner, and has supplied us with a vaudeville wherein the dramatis personæ are puppets which he directs with his unsurpassable skill.

Casimir Révillon has married a pretty woman, Florence, divorced from her first husband, Philippe Jobelin. One day, whilst husband and wife are rummaging amongst some papers in an old secrétaire, Casimir discovers a note written in the most endearing terms and signed "Z. Z." The terms of the note are such as leave no doubt of the intimacy which existed between the writer and the receiver of the letter. Casimir, of course, is disagreeably surprised, but the wife explains matters by saying that she bought the secrétaire among the effects of a *cocotte*, and that very probably the late owner had left the letter there. Unfortunately for Florence's story, her sister, Gilberte, enters the room at that moment, and exclaims: "What would poor grandmama have said if she had seen her secrétaire in such a disorder?" Casimir has found out his wife in a lie, and in view of the attempted deception, he naturally concludes that she has a lover. He leaves the house, bangs the door after him, and Florence is severely taken to task by her sister, her brother-in-law, and the latter's cousin, for betraying, as they think, Casimir. "I have no lover," says Florence. "I had one whilst I was Jobelin's wife. I took him because I felt bored, and I left him because he bored me." Florence's friends give a sigh of relief when they hear that explanation; and these four people put their heads together to find the means to prove to Casimir that he suspects his wife wrongly. This is no easy matter. The note signed "Z. Z." bears no date; and Florence has destroyed all her former lover's letters, by which she might have shown that her intrigue dated as far back as 1897. And then they hit upon the strange plan of applying to Jobelin, Florence's divorced husband, to help them out of the difficulty. Jobelin lives in a luxurious mansion, with his nephew, Oscar Mirival, married to a shrewish woman called Hortense. It is this very Oscar who was Florence's lover, and Jobelin, who heard of this liaison through Florence's maid, has forgiven his young relative. Jobelin is rather surprised when Florence and her sister are announced; and, somewhat to our surprise, he promises to confirm to Casimir that Florence's infidelity dates from the year 1897, and that, therefore, he (Jobelin), and not Casimir, was the victim of it. But the truth is that Jobelin does not believe a word of the story his ex-wife tells him; and he is not sorry to bamboozle, as he thinks, his successor, whom he fancies she served in the same way. Whilst they are discussing, a motor-car stops at Jobelin's house. It is Casimir, who wants to enquire privately into the matter. As ill-luck has it, Casimir discovers that Florence has already called on Jobelin, and he is now more than ever convinced that they all want to bluff him. Poor Florence then thinks what other proofs she can give her suspicious husband of her innocence, and finally succeeds in inducing him to accompany her to the Hotel des Deux Cocottes, in Garches, where she and Oscar stayed two days under the name of M. and Mme. Durand. They go, but a fresh disappointment awaits Florence. The former proprietress is dead; the visitors' book has been destroyed; and the proprietress's son is in Tunis. Then she remembers that on the looking-glass in the bedroom Oscar and she scratched their Christian names; but the old glass is gone, and has been replaced by a new one. Florence cries, Casimir remains sceptical, and things begin to look hopeless, when Casimir, by chance, overhears the wicked Hortense telling Gilberte's husband that she found a lot of letters among her husband's papers, showing that in 1897 he was Florence's lover. This time no more doubt is possible; and the repentant Casimir dines comfortably with his wife and her friends in the Hotel des Deux Cocottes, where she and Oscar spent two happy days.

The new piece was very well acted. Mme. Réjane did full justice to the rôle of Florence, which, however, seemed somewhat insignificant for an artist of her talent. M. Brasseur, as Casimir, displayed his usual tact by not making that character too ridiculous. M. Dubosc impersonated Jobelin with much skill, and imparted to that personage the right note. As Gilberte and Hortense, Mlles. Marguerite Caron and Suzanne Avril were excellent; and M. Prince was intensely funny as the foolish Oscar.

"THE LITTLE GRAY LADY," a play in four acts, by Channing Pollock, which has made a hit at the Garden Theatre, New York, tells a capital story of boarding-house life in Washington. Anna Gray, the lady referred to in the title, is in love with Perriton Carlyle, the friend of her childhood; but, being fickle and impulsive, he falls a victim to the wiles of the landlady's daughter, Ruth Jordan. Carlyle is employed in the Treasury Department, and, being hard-pressed for money, he tears off bits of the notes that pass through his hands, and by piecing them together forms a complete note for one hundred dollars. The fraud is discovered, and Samuel Meade, an agent of the Secret Service, has charge of the investigation. Meade is honest, but is hampered by the fact that he is in love with Anna Gray, who will be plunged into trouble by the arrest of Carlyle. When Anna learns that the man she loves is the guilty one she sacrifices herself in order to save him, and ultimately succeeds, the sympathetic detective destroying the bogus note, when it is replaced by a good one. Then Carlyle makes up his mind to reform, and discovers that he loves Anna after all, which makes "the little gray lady" very happy. The intrigues of the boarders are cleverly depicted, and the play is extremely interesting and diverting.

"MR. STEPHEN FISKE'S semi-centennial as a journalist and dramatic critic," says the New York *Realty Journal*, "has been cordially celebrated by our contemporaries. But they have overlooked the fact that Mr. Fiske has been for nearly forty-two years a member of the Bar of New York. He was admitted May 19, 1864, after an oral examination in open court, as was the custom at that period. Justices William H. Leonard, Henry Welles, and Thomas N. Clark were on the Bench of the Supreme Court; General Term, and John T. Hoffman and A. Oakey Hall were appointed his examiners. Their first question might puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer now: 'What is the difference between a widow in quarantine and a ship in quarantine?' That Mr. Fiske retains his knowledge of the fundamentals is evident from his recent article on 'John Doe *v.* the Constitution of the United States.'"

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, on Wednesday, in the House of Commons, asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to a recent trial in which the loss to the musical profession and trade by pirates was shown; and whether, in view of the loss to members of the musical profession and of the fact that the industry had been brought almost to a standstill by the advantage taken by these pirates of defects in the existing law, he would introduce at an early date a measure to amend the law with regard to musical copyright. Mr. Herbert Gladstone said that this matter was receiving his careful consideration. He desired strongly to see a remedy adopted to put an end to the hardships in this connection of which the musical profession justly complained; but he was not yet in position to make any statement with regard to legislation.

Mr. T. Ernest Polden, who has come forward as the Liberal candidate for North Hants, to fill the position occupied by the late member, the Right Hon. A. F. Jeffreys, deceased, is well known in connection with the Palace Theatre in Shaftesbury-avenue, and his many friends will, we feel sure, not only wish him the best of good luck, but will make up their minds to go down to Basingstoke and help him during the next few weeks. The theatrical and music hall professions badly require a few energetic representatives in the House of Commons, and men of Mr. Polden's robust and clear-headed stamp are hard to find. Withal, he has a good heart, as hundreds of homes can testify at Aldershot, where the works of Gale and Polden (who employ about 500 people) are situated.

Miss Letty Lind, we are given to understand, is by way of appearing on the variety stage in a very original sketch. The plot is founded on the pathetic story of a seamstress who, when her sewing-machine is about to be seized for rent by a heartless landlord, becomes desperate, and throws out the interloper. In order to give the necessary realism to this situation, the popular comedienne and danseuse is taking lessons in Jiu-jitsu, or the Japanese art of self-defence, from the wife of a well-known professor.

A meeting of various music-hall artists' societies, representing in all over 10,000 members, was held at the offices of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, Wellington-street, Strand, on Tuesday, when it was decided to present a memorial to all music-hall managers asking for a limitation of the "barring out" clause in contracts, which it is contended inflicts considerable hardship on performers. The memorial points out that cases have been known in which "artists have been reduced to absolute want as a consequence of being prevented from accepting sorely-needed immediate engagements, because they already held a contract some ten, twelve, or eighteen months ahead in the particular town, or its vicinity, for which the immediate engagements were offered." The full text of the Memorial is given in another column.

Mr. B. P. Lucas, in accordance with his annual custom, will lend the Bedford, Camden Town, on the afternoon of Thursday next, March 1, for the purposes of a matinée in aid of the funds of the North-Western Hospital, in Kentish Town-road. The Mayor of St. Pancras and Borough Council will attend the function, which promises to be a great success. A powerful company of prominent artists has promised to entertain, and the result should be a sensible addition to the funds of an excellently administered institution, which is sorely in need of funds.

Mr. Arthur Roberts's skit on *Nero*, due at the Oxford on Monday, March 5, is to be a most elaborate production—Arthurian in humour and strictly up to date in scenery and properties. Mr. Roberts will be heard in a topical song and "other good things," and Miss Ruby Celeste will appear as Agrippina—with drowning effects. The Eccentric Clubbites intend to support their fellow member on the opening night, having taken the two first rows of stalls at the Oxford when the new Nero sets Rome on fire.

The money necessary to endow a "Dan Leno" cot in the Belgrave Hospital for Children has now been raised. A sum of £400 was realised by a special matinée, and a fancy dress ball recently held at the Horns, Kennington, was so successful that on Monday a cheque for 500 guineas was handed to the treasurer of the hospital. At the meeting called for that purpose, Mrs. Leno said that many proposals had been made to do something to perpetuate the memory of her late husband, but, with this one exception, all had fallen through. Mrs. Leno herself gave an additional £100 to the hospital funds.

"Madame Lingerie," a new musical comedietta, will be produced on Monday at the Palace Theatre, the principal parts being played by Miss Violet Loraine (already an established Palace favourite), Mr. Fred Eastman, and Mr. Henry Godfrey. This trio will be supported by a strong company and chorus, and Miss Dorothy Drew will introduce a new dance. The scene is laid in a lady milliner's establishment, most of the company being her lady assistants, and we shall be forcibly reminded of *Frocks and Frills* at the Haymarket, though the new piece has no resemblance whatever to the larger comedy. The same evening Mr. Butt will introduce to London a farcical comedy sketch, entitled *Would-be Actors*.

The "Terriers" are busy with the preliminary arrangements for their annual dinner and ball, which this year is to take place on Sunday, March 11, at the Horns, Kennington. It is expected that the attendance at this popular function will surpass all previous records. Applications for tickets should be made to the secretary, Mr. Harry Lester.

Mr. J. L. Graydon, the President for the year of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, in a reminder he has sent to the profession regarding the necessities of that charity, writes:—"I feel most anxious that my year of office should be, if not better, at least as successful as my predecessors' years have been. I hope that you will give the matter your serious consideration, and, if I may suggest, without delay, forward me a donation. I can assure you that funds are much needed at the present time in order to give relief to the numerous applicants, and for those pensioners who, without the little aid that we can afford, would probably suffer seriously."

Mr. E. E. Giles has been appointed manager of the Surrey Theatre of Varieties, and commences his duties there on Monday next. Mr. Giles has had some valuable experience both at the Camberwell Palace and the Battersea Empire, and in his new position should find scope for his energy and business acumen.

The success of *Humanity* on the stage is now followed by its success on the gramophone, and over 30,000 Edison-Bell records are on the market, and more are to follow. John Lawson's wonderful episode is more than a money-spinner this week at New Cross.

Mr. Harry Gardner, who made a hit in Mr. Clarence Sounes' *Forty Thieves* pantomime with his donkey act and harlequinade, has been secured for the Coliseum for animal parts in *S'Nero*, and has just been re-engaged for the new production, *Variety Fair*.

Mr. C. Irvine Bacon has been selected from an enormous number of applicants as general manager of the Pavilion and Gardens, Kingstown, Ireland, and takes up the duties on April 2.

The musical genius of Mendel, the blind pianist, was amusingly illustrated last week, when a friend read out to him a paragraph from a newspaper published weekly in Glasgow, wherein a correspondent inquired if it was possible for anyone to render three separate tunes at the same time. He had heard of two being done, but did not think it possible for three to be produced at one and the same time. To show that it could be done, Mendel immediately sat down to the piano, and played "Stop yer ticklin', Jock" with one hand, "The Blue Bells of Scotland" with the other, and at the same time whistled "Auld Lang Syne."

On Tuesday evening, at Mr. Albert Bushell's benefit at the Gaiety, Birmingham, Mr. Nat Clifford and Mr. Hairy Wright, at a moment's notice, and without any rehearsal, went on the stage and played an impromptu sketch, which kept the audience in one scream of laughter for nine minutes. Mr. Albert Bushell afterwards presented Mr. Wright and Mr. Clifford with two bronze medals.

A special matinée, under distinguished patronage, was held at the Pavilion Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday afternoon, when the proceeds therefrom were devoted to Jewish charities. A stupendous programme, including all the pantomime favourites, had been arranged, and it is expected that a goodly sum will be handed over.

Mr. George Brooks, on the last night of Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime *Aladdin* at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, presented on behalf of the company four gentlemen's dressing-cases to Mr. Elliot, acting manager; to Mr. Mackenzie, stage manager; and to John W. Wilkinson and Charles Clemson, stage carpenters. To Mr. Lawrence he gave a silver cigarette-case.

The remains of the late Mr. Ralph Donkin Allen, an elder brother of Mr. Frank Allen, who died suddenly on Monday, were interred at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery on Thursday afternoon. The deceased was in the treasury department of the Theatre Royal, Sunderland, for a long period, having been connected with the theatre for many years, was well known and highly respected, his genial and kindly nature making friends everywhere. Until lately he was in the service of the River Wear Commissioners. He died in his seventieth year, after a long and useful career.

The cortège left the residence, 63, Borough-road, Sunderland, and the coffin, which was of polished oak, was suitably inscribed. The chief mourners present were Mr. Frank Allen (manager of Messrs. Moss and Thornton, Empires, Ltd., London, and brother of the deceased), Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Milburn, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rudland, Mr. Richard Thornton and Mr. Conroy (Newcastle), Mr. Thompson (manager of the Empire, South Shields), Mr. G. Tawse, Mr. J. Hemingway (manager of Theatre Royal), Mr. Douglas Ettrick (assistant manager), Messrs. Thomas Stubbs, Joseph Wright, W. Leadbitter, E. Laidlaw, G. Gay, G. Smith, J. Clark, E. Bennett, R. Laidlaw, E. Ablett, J. C. Frame, and R. Barkes. Mr. Charles E. Machin, managing director of the Avenue Theatre, was unavoidably absent. Wreaths were sent by Mr. Chas. E. Machin, the staff of the Avenue and Theatre Royal, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Milburn, Miss Maud Allen, Mrs. J. Lang (London), Mrs. Milburn (sister), Mr. Frank Allen (brother), and Mr. G. Tawse.

Mr. Bransby Williams, who is playing a principal comedy part in the pantomime at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, is handed nightly a huge stalk of bananas. This is the gift of Sir Alfred Jones, the great importer of the fruit, who was present on the night when Mr. Williams gagged about the banana. The young actor, who is re-engaged by Mr. F. W. Wyndham for pantomime, received a guinea from Mr. J. L. Toole for the Liverpool Theatrical Gala.

The theatrical sports promoted by Mr. Tom E. Murray at Edinburgh last week realised no less than £266, which was equally divided between five hospitals. Though all the artists in the different theatres gave their services, both theatrical and music hall charities were entirely ignored. This should not be. Mr. Murray should have stipulated at least for some recognition both of the Actors' and Music Hall Benevolent Funds.

During the first-house performance at the Hippodrome, Bury, Lancashire, on Monday night, an accident happened to one of the performers, named William Ara, a German, while taking part in the "Indian Pastimes" act so cleverly presented by the combination known as Ara, Zebra, and Vora. He climbed to the top of a tent, and another performer got across him, when they overbalanced, and he alighted on the back of his head, being rendered unconscious. He was taken to the infirmary in the horse ambulance, but on arrival he recovered consciousness, stood up, and said he was all right. He was not detained.

Mr. Fred Ramsdale, at the matinée on Tuesday at the Regent Theatre, Salford, had an extra turn with his new sketch *The Squire's Daughter*, which evoked a most enthusiastic welcome from the large house. The sketch is something after the style of *The Lady Slavey*, much abridged. The Squire's daughter, who is to marry Sir Lucas, a millionaire whom she has not seen, becomes a slavey. Sir Lucas, coming to see the lady, whom he does not know, persuades a burglar whom he has just caught to impersonate him, while he becomes the private secretary. Much fun is the result. The young couple fall in love, and everything ends satisfactorily.

Miss Millie Payne starts on the 5th prox. a tour until Christmas. She has secured two new comedy successes by Leighton and Everard, and will return to town at Christmas with all new songs.

Tmos. E. Finglis produced on Monday at the Regent, Salford, a new song entitled "Ma Little White Flower," written and composed by Percy Edgar. It proved an instantaneous success.

Mr. John Henry Cooke's benefit at the Royal Circus, Edinburgh, on the 16th inst., was a conspicuous success, hosts of the veteran manager's admirers crowding the house on the occasion. A pleasing feature of the programme was a pony show, in which there were a large number of entries, the display of so many beautiful animals making it difficult for the judges to award the prizes. The *beneficiare*, in one of those hearty, eloquent speeches for which he is famous, took the opportunity of returning his thanks to his patrons and the public for their kindness to him during the past season. He retired from the arena amidst deafening applause, again and again renewed.

Mr. Alfred Lester made such a big hit with his *Hamlet* skit last week at the Hipodrome, Southampton, that the management on Saturday last secured his services for a further stay of a week at the same hall.

Mr. Fred Curran has just entered into an agreement with Mr. Leo Fritz to act as his representative in the provinces, as Mr. Fritz is compelled to put in more of his time in town owing to the increase of his London business.

As a result of the deliberations of the conference of delegates from the principal societies of the music-hall profession, a Variety Artists' Federation has been formed. The delegates present at the last meeting of the conference, so it is reported by Mr. Harry Blake, each laid a certain sum on the table in the way of a subscription for membership. The Water Rats have given a donation amounting to three figures. The conference will continue to meet on Sundays.

Miss Vesta Victoria, who is paying her first visit to the United States, opened on Monday at Mr. Percy Williams's Colonial Theatre, New York, with terrific success. Miss Victoria's characters bear a cockney complexion certainly, but true comedy is cosmopolitan, and she possesses it.

Mr. Cecil Raleigh's sketch, *The King's Minister*, with John Lawson playing the Prime Minister, has, as we predicted, soon found its way to town. Mr. Lawson is producing it on Monday at the Empress, Brixton, were those managers who did not have the opportunity of witnessing it at Hounslow will be able to see it on a larger stage. The second scene in this intensely dramatic episode is perhaps the finest ever placed upon the music-hall stage, with its beautiful carving in white and gold. John Lawson has never been better suited with a part, and it must be confessed that he makes the most of his opportunities. Mrs. Lawson will repeat her admirable performance of the Prime Minister's daughter.

Mr. Walter George, who is one of the best men at the piano on the variety stage or concert platform, is producing two new songs, with the promising titles "The Chiffon Girl" and "The Bandstand Promenade," at the London Pavilion, on Monday evening. The composer, Mr. Herbert Oliver, was responsible for one of the chief successes of *The Talk of the Town*, the rattling song that was called "If I were Vanderbilt," and his latest melodies are equally "catchy." Mr. George, who is the manager of the Smart Set Entertainers, will be assisted at the London Pavilion by the ladies of that popular little company.

Mr. H. O. Clarey, whose lamented death on Monday is recorded in another column, had for the last six years mostly devoted his attention to the variety stage, whereon he appeared with Miss Kate Chard in the very successful farcical duologue known as *The Covent Garden Ball*. His latest engagement was at the Hippodrome, where he played the part of Professor Cranium in the original production of Mr. Arthur Shirley's go-as-you-please travestie, *Among the Stars*. Poor Clarey had to give up this engagement owing to illness, and knew when he left his comrades at the Hippodrome that he would never return. He succumbed to that distressing malady consumption of the throat. He was a genial, kind-hearted little chap, full of jocularity, and a universal favourite. He was buried at Kensal Green on Friday (yesterday).

The souvenir which Mr. Oswald Stoll will give away next week at the Coliseum to patrons taking tickets to the value of 3s. and upwards contains an account of an artist's dream after having visited the beautiful building in St. Martin's-lane. Each souvenir on the right-hand top corner is numbered, and each evening numbers are drawn and advertised in the theatrical column of the *Daily Telegraph*, which entitles persons holding such numbers to valuable prizes. Besides these daily gifts, special prizes will be given, of which the value will be of not less than £2. These prizes will be advertised from time to time, under the Coliseum advertisement, so that although the holder of a souvenir given, say, to-night may not find that his souvenir bears a lucky number, he yet has an inducement to retain the same, in the hope of winning one of these special prizes.

In order to fight the music pirates, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have decided to reduce the wholesale price of the sixpenny "pops," and these can now be secured for 2¾d. a copy. Mr. David Day, in the course of an interview in a daily contemporary, said:—"Since the law will not protect us, we have to meet the pirates on their own ground and beat them. We sell to the trade at 16s. 100 copies, 15s. if 1,000 are ordered. That works out at less than 2d. a copy, so that the retailer can sell at 2¾d., or even 2½d. The music is issued at the nominal price of 6d., and the retailers can charge what they like up to 6d. Some of them ask 4d., some 3d., others even less. The composer gets 10 per cent. on the published price—the sixpence—which means nearly ¾d. per copy sold, whether offered to the public at 4d., 3d., or less. We pay composers the same rate per cent. on the old-style copies retailed at 1s. 4d."

Mr. Fred Day, who, as is well known, is managing Messrs. Francis and Day's New York establishment, secured on the 5th inst. for the firm a number of lyrics by Wallace Irwin, a writer whose verses have been for several years a prominent feature of the leading American weeklies and monthlies. They have been set to music by Henry Stanley Haskins, a composer of light melodies of more than average merit, and will be published both in America and England. A leading New York paper, in commenting on the matter, says: "It has remained for a firm of enterprising Englishmen to realise that in Wallace Irwin there is a possible Gilbert, and that this young man, whose rhymes would suggest that he is the master of any American or English writer of light lyrics, may be of invaluable aid in the building of future comic operas. . . . All which goes to show that there may be something new under the sun after all, and that American managers may possibly have a big start in the great international sleeping match, which has entries from most of the leading theatre concerns of Broadway."

Mr. James Weaver, a gentleman who has for many years occupied a prominent position as a musician in London, having been during his long career a conductor of no less than fifteen of the best theatre orchestras, is afflicted with failing sight, and unable to follow his profession. In these painful circumstances his many friends (Masonic and otherwise) have determined on getting up a benefit for him. This will take place at the Metropolitan on Thursday afternoon next, when Messrs. Arthur Roberts, Hayden Coffin, Little Tich, Mike Whallen, Albert Serpentello, Le Fre, Charles Coborn, Arthur Helmore (the original Private Secretary), Datas, Queen, and Le Brun; and Misses Amy Clevere, Madge McIntosh, Beatrice Fitzgerald, and a number of other entertainers will appear. Tickets for the matinée may be obtained of Mr. James W. Mathews, at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Miss Rose Hamilton, who is making her first appearance at the Duchess, Balham, this week, has made a big success with a new song by Lumbe and Mellor entitled "I'm curious to know."

A meeting of the London branch of the International Artists' League took place on Sunday at the Hôtel Provence, Leicester-square, at six p.m. There were twenty-five members present, the attendance including the President and the Hon. Sec. There were also two guests. A long and interesting discussion ensued with reference to the activity of the Legal Protection Society in England. An unofficial report of the conference of the four representative music-hall societies held at the offices of the M.H.A.R.A. during the last few weeks was furnished, and a long and animated debate followed. The official report was reserved till later.

Mr. H. E. Barnes has terminated his connection with the Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit. He leaves for a tour in the States on Wednesday next.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten, the proprietor and director-general of the Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit, leaves to-day for an extended tour round the world. His travelling companion is Mr. Alleyne Reynolds, the chairman of the North of England Theatre Company, Ltd. They will reach Paris to-night, and proceed from thence on Monday to Genoa (viâ the new tunnel). At Genoa they will embark on the Prinz Eitel Frederick, the famous floating palace of the Nord Deutscher Lloyd Steamship Company. Among the places to be visited are Naples, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama, Tokio, and Honolulu.

Mr. Macnaghten intends to make an expedition into the little known regions of Japan, and will make an especial study of the mysterious caves of the interior, and he may be depended upon to secure for his extensive Circuit some weird and interesting native novelties from the Land of the Crysanthemum. The travellers are to visit the Court of the Mikado. After leaving Japan Mr. Macnaghten will extend his tour through California, and will do a little big-game shooting in the Rockies. A tour through the States will follow, and about June the globe-trotters will depart from New York by the Baltic for home.

Miss Daisy James, after a most successful engagement in Vienna, opened on Monday at the Hippodrome, Eastbourne, where she was most enthusiastically received, having to sing no less than seven songs. Miss James returns to town on March 5.

Miss Ida Rene, comedienne, and Mr. Arthur Prince, ventriloquist, having returned to town after a successful tour in the States, will make their reappearance on Monday at the London Pavilion, where a hearty welcome awaits them. The programme will be further strengthened by the return of Mr. W. E. Bates, the renowned American cornet soloist.

The C. Douglas Stuart testimonial was presented at the Hercules Tavern, Kennington-road, on Thursday last (by kind permission of Mr. Douglas White). There were present about forty artists, provincial agents, and representatives of the railway companies, including Mr. Hoyle, S.W.R., Mr. Simpson, G.W.R., and Mr. Barton, G.C.R. The presentation took the form of a well-filled purse of gold, and a silver cigarette-case, inscribed as follows:—"Presented to C. Douglas Stuart, Secretary of the M.H.A.R.A., Feb. 15, '06." A gold-mounted umbrella was given to Mrs. C. D. Stuart. Mr. Tom H. Branson, of Hastings, and the presentation committee, wish to thank the numerous artists, provincial agents, and gentlemen representing the various railways for their kindness in helping to make this well-deserved testimonial such a huge success.

Mr. Frederick Baugh, representing Mr. Frank Macnaghten, hearing that the Queen's, Poplar, is about to re-open, wishes to draw the attention of artists and agents to the fact that the barring clause will be strictly enforced. He does this in order to avoid unnecessary complications. At the Britannia, Hoxton, on Saturday night, 7,746 persons paid for admission.

The wife of Mr. J. Pardoe, of the Marvellous Pardoes, presented her husband on Feb. 14, with a pretty valentine in the form of a fine son. Mr. Pardoe thanks friends for numerous wires and congratulations.

Mr. Frank Lorenzi, of the combination known as the Sisters Phillips and Brothers Lorenzi, was taken seriously ill whilst performing at the Theatre, Eccles, on Saturday night last. He was carried to his lodgings, where he died on Sunday evening, Feb. 18. The deceased, some years ago, was known in conjunction with his father and sisters as the Lorenzi troupe of acrobats. He leaves a wife, Miss Rose Phillips, two sons, and a daughter to mourn his loss. He was buried on Friday (yesterday) at the Cemetery, Bolton.

Mr. George Burton, the well-known Yorkshire caterer, has secured the exclusive services of the Hamiltons, the comical cards, two burlesquers who have just arrived from "down under." They are booked with the reliable for his entire gala season.

Mendel, the wonderful blind pianist, is this week starring at the Empire Theatre, Leeds, where he has introduced for the first time on the variety stage a portion of Beethoven's Concerto No. 2, Op. 19, in the Rondo movement of which he is accompanied by the orchestra with great success. He has also another piece by a classical composer, which he will shortly introduce with orchestral accompaniment. That such performances of the great composers should be appreciated by music-hall audiences of the present day snows the improved taste of the public.

Mr. Charles Bertram will be installed Worshipful Master of the Lyric Lodge of Masons (3,016) this (Saturday) evening at the Imperial Restaurant. The Lyric is now two years old, and its present Master is Mr. J. Harrison, Past Grand Steward.

Mr. Chris Wordswork, who served for five years under Mr. Frank Macnaghten, in various places on that gentleman's vaudeville circuit, has resigned his position at the Surrey Theatre, to take up agency in conjunction with Mr. C. T. Smith, who is well known in the variety world.

Mr. Charles Windermere will produce a new comedy sketch, written by himself, and entitled *Poor Pa!* at the Standard on Saturday, March 3.

"Her Last Chance," a new society playlet partially founded by M. A. Curtois on Lord Tennyson's celebrated poem, "Lady Clare," was produced at the Canterbury on Monday by "The Players." The reception accorded it by a large audience was most appreciative, rounds of applause marking every situation, whilst at the conclusion "The Players" were twice called before the curtain. The plot proved most interesting. A Mrs. Warrener, who has a passion for gambling, has lost large sums to an unprincipled schemer, Prince Sergius, who seeks to mend his own fortune by an alliance with Mrs. Warrener's daughter Ella, who has a fortune in her own right. The mother, having staked everything, even to her jewels, is induced as a last resource to stake her daughter's hand against all her previous losses. Ella, however, has given her affections to Jack Vivian, her cousin, but, to save her mother from ruin, she consents to marry the prince. At the last moment, however, the mother's better feelings prevail, and she makes a disclosure which precludes her daughter from inheriting the fortune, and baffles the Prince. The curtain descends on a most touching finale, in which Jack agrees to protect both women.

Miss Violet Ellicott as Mrs. Warrener and Mr. George Unwin as Prince Sergius were most convincing and dramatic in their delineations of these two characters, and Miss Rose Temple (who appeared by kind permission of Mr. James Welch) as Ella and Mr. Fred Conyers as Jack Vivian were bright and entertaining in the lighter scenes, the lady rising fully to the dramatic opportunites provided for her in the episode of self-sacrifice. The playlet was magnificently dressed, the frocks being very effective.

By the courtesy of Mrs. Thos. Barrasford, who has kindly given the use of the Lyceum Theatre for the afternoon of March 14 next, Mr. Thomas Barrasford will give an extra turn matinée for those artists who are new to London. Communications with reference to applications to appear should be addressed to Richard Cass, 30, Maiden-lane, Strand.

Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co., the premier cinematographers, did wonders on Monday last. Their film of the opening of Parliament was exhibited on that evening at the Empire, Leicester-square, the Lyceum, the Holborn Empire, the Bedford, Camden Town, the Royal Albert, Canning Town, and at least four other suburban halls. Their film of King Christian's funeral was also exhibited at the Empire on Monday, and at Bradford.

Elgo films are not barred; that is why they fill the bill at the Palace, the Empire, the Coliseum, the Hippodrome, the Lyceum, Holborn Empire, and Middlesex. This is in the West End only. It is the same story in the suburbs and the provinces.

The search for unknown talent by the management of the Lyceum has developed in a somewhat curious groove. Mrs. Barrasford has often been attracted by the clever dancing of children in the London streets. She has therefore arranged a competition, to commence from Monday next, for the street dancers of London, and this will be divided in two sections—first for the children, and second for adults. The prizes offered are £3, £2, £1, for children; and £5, £3, £2, for adults.

Mr. C. St. John Denton is appearing at the Tivoli on Monday in a new turn, entitled "The Eight Rainbow Girls," supporting Miss Ethel Negretti, who has recently made a big success in pantomime at the Crown Theatre, Peckham.

The eighteenth annual theatrical gala was held in Liverpool on Tuesday, the weather being especially fine. Since this movement, which has for its object the benefiting of charitable and theatrical institutions, was inaugurated, over £10,000 has been realised, £600 alone being given last year. Thousands of people lined the streets on Tuesday, when the finest show yet seen marched to Goodison football ground. Scores of pantomime and variety artists took part in the proceedings, which were of the liveliest character. About 6000 spectators assembled at the grounds, and money was given very freely. Many of the tableaux were exceedingly pretty. The Royal Court Theatre artists arranged an effective picture of "The Doctor," and the Shakespeare Theatre people came out with one entitled "My Irish Molly." Several bands, including the famous one belonging to the Liverpool Police, were present, and played music; while the theatrical artists busied themselves in collecting money by numerous methods. A football team belonging to the Shakespeare, and another from the Royal Court Theatres, had a match for the Egerton Cup, resulting in the latter, who are the holders, retaining it. The tableaux, belonging to the Olympia, which was a device entitled "Butterfly," won the first prize; the Shakespeare carried off the second; and the Empire secured the third. A deal of fun was caused by a band of musicians in grotesque costumes, which had come all the way from Keighley, under arrangement with Mr. Lingford Carson, of the Queen's Theatre there, and the Queen's, Liverpool.

There are not many of the founders of the Liverpool Theatrical Gala, held on Tuesday last, remaining, among those with us being Mr. Tom Bush, proprietor of the well-known theatrical resort, the "Bee" Hotel; Mr. John Gaffney, manager of the Shakespeare Theatre, and Mr. Alf. Hemming, all of the first year, and Mr. Lewis Peake, the next earliest supporter. The late Mr. Albert Smith, the well-known commission agent, was the actual founder of the Gala, and in its first year the sum of £200 was raised on the ground now owned by the Liverpool Football Club, the money, without any deduction for expenses, being handed to the Stanley Hospital. Mr. Smith received a life-governorship of that institution for his efforts. Since that period over £10,000 has been raised, and last year alone £600 was divided among the following:—Stanley Hospital, Consumption Hospital, Actors' Benevolent Fund, Music Hall Artists' Fund, Actors' Orphanage, Musicians' Union, Liverpool Police Orphanage, Woolton Convalescent Home, training-ship Indefatigable, Samaritan Hospital for Women, Hospital for Women, Shaw-street, Liverpool, Southern Hospital, Birkenhead Borough Hospital, and the Liverpool Food and Betterment Association.

Birmingham, on Wednesday morning, the 14th inst., was the locale of as quaint a function as was ever witnessed in its midst—Ye Old English Theatrical Supper and Carousal, to wit, holden in ye vaults below Temple-street. Ancient costumes were *de rigueur*, and "vagabonds, roysterers, malaperts, and base pickthanks" were invited to "viands and stoups of liquor," accompanied by "harmony, jests, and merry quips and cranks." As this was for "ye enjoyment of all able-bodied yeomen," "shrews," it was notified, would not be entertained. Squires Lester Collingwood, A. W. Matcham, George Lashwood, Mark Sheridan, Albert Bushell, and Masters Harry Tate and Harrison Brockbank (ye founder of ye feast) were amongst a motley and picturesque crew, under the presidency and vice-presidency of Squires Harry Lewis and J. F. Graham respectively. The invitation, "Oyez! Oyez!!" with its quaint service of song, ushered in the "vittles," "soup o' sorts," a sheep roasted whole, a baron of beef, beef steak pie, and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce galore, washed down with nut-brown ale and punch. The organist and choir were in constant requisition, and nothing could have exceeded the quaintness of the scene.

The stocks were also in requisition, albeit Falstaff stoutly resisted his mentors, and absolutely refused to be placed in the stocks, when a properly constituted judge tried the recalcitrant, and, despite Advocate Edward Foster's forensic skill, he was ignominiously confined therein. The toast of the King was honoured with extraordinary fervour by the roysterers, and the whole thing was marked with music, mirth, and good temper. The white-washed walls of the vaults displayed the heraldic devices of the period suggested, the rapier, the bludgeon, and the blunderbuss, with ancient axes and spears, being conspicuous. On the side of the chairman stood a tripod and kettle, and at the top table a settle—used ordinarily for accommodating casks of liquor—was used for seating. All drank from the old-fashioned brown earthenware mug and the antiquated two-handled loving cup, and the old-time churchwarden clay pipe was general.

The company "sat long and late at the carousing board," making merry with song and jest, and it boots it not to state what time the party rose. The costumes were generally effective, Sir Charles Surface, Tony Lumpkin, Mother Hubbard, Captain Absolute, and old English gentlemen and a certain alchemist, together with monks and gallant musketeers, lending verisimilitude to the scene. Messrs. Harrison Brockbank (who will be ever remembered for his success in evolving and producing the notion), Harry Tate (who assisted him splendidly), A. W. Matcham, Lester Collingwood, Albert Bushell, Edward Foster, P. Elbourne, J. H. Whittaker, W. Barlow, Harry Calver, "Teddy" Ferris, Bert Wilson, J. Hubbard, Dr. Trout, Councillor Freeman, J. F. Graham, McEwen, George Lashwood, George Mozart, J. H. Cruise, Captain Wells, Philip Rodway, Harry Brayne, and many others, numbering upwards of a hundred, were prominent at the feast.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

The special feature of the Alhambra programme is, of course, ballet; but there are excellent variety items interspersed throughout the excellent entertainment presented at the older house in Leicester-square, under the direction of Mr. George Scott. Early in the evening come the Five Whiteleys, who dub their interlude an acrobatic potpourri. There is, first of all, some clever shoulder-balancing and somersaulting, and the droll of the troupe shows himself to be very dexterous with his feet by rapidly turning with them a long cylinder. This he does while lying prone on a high pedestal. The lady of the combination is a wonderful wire performer, and accomplishes some remarkable leaps over chairs on the thin filament of steel. She is also an intrepid acrobat, possessed of lissomeness and uncommon strength. Indeed, to call (Miss) Whiteley one of the "weaker sex" would be a misnomer, and she well deserves the special call that is given her at the conclusion of her exertions. A later addition to the fine bill is Sam Elton, "the man who made the Shah laugh," who is an old favourite in Leicester-square. Mr. Elton is really a fine acrobat, but he disguises the fact in a performance that is at once droll and ingenious. He pretends to be an inebriated reveller in a kitchen, with an insane desire to carry a very large number of plates, and a craving for dainty tarts, which he swallows wholesale. To describe exactly what Mr. Elton does would be an impossibility, but the reader may be assured that he keeps his audience laughing all the time. There is something irresistibly humorous in his antics, and how he escapes being seriously hurt is his own secret, for at the finish of his performance he allows the kitchen dresser and a number of plates to fall upon him. Furniture and china are smashed to melodramatic purpose in Mr. John Lawson's sketch *Humanity*. Mr. Elton has no tragic intent, and wholesale destruction aids his humorous purpose as an entertainer.

Miss Alice Dianda's zoological revue includes a number of monkeys, dogs, and cockatoos. The simians are quite accomplished gymnasts. One of them is a barrel jumper, another a globe-runner, and "foots" a large ball up and down an inclined plane. A third puts a small toy terrier through a clever performance. A capital feature of the turn is the performance on a roundabout by a number of monkeys. Miss Dianda has a special call every evening at the conclusion of a most interesting show. Miss Lalla Selbini, who, in spite of her Italian name, is quite English you know, performs a number of clever tricks on a cycle in a most elegant costume, which towards the end of her turn she entirely discards. The swimming dress in which she then appears discloses much of a very charming figure, and her final tricks display much cleverness. She is assisted by a smart youth of a chocolate tint, who will one day, no doubt, be a star humorist, for he already has excellent ideas of the true consituents of fun-making.

The Urbanora pictures are, as usual, splendid examples of what may be called the "cinematographic" art. Mr. Urban not only brings the world before us; as a matter of fact, he brings several worlds before us. The world of invention, the world of imagination, and the world of nature are at least three illustrated in his latest series of films. The launch of the new type cruiser, Natal, from Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim's shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness is a remarkably impressive function, and even more magnificently imposing is the launch of the Dreadnought by His Majesty the King at Portsmouth on Feb. 10. The steel leviathan glides smoothly down the "ways" into the water, and we gaze in wonder at the monster so cleverly designed for destructive warfare, and think of its possible destiny. The realm of natural wonders shown by Mr. Charles Urban reveals the story of the moth and the butterfly. The lepidoptera are shown in various stages, the illustrations including pictures of the great oak beauty emerging from the pupa, the poplar hawk caterpillar, the gipsy moth caterpillars, the August thorn caterpillars, the privet hawk caterpillar, the privet caterpillar feeding, the fagi caterpillar feeding, the fagi caterpillars fighting, and the red admiral butterfly emerging. All of them are most curious and interesting, and have an educational value.

Urbani and Son submit a turn distinguished by marvellous gymnastic grace and wonderful muscular strength. Both father and boy seem to be like the gentleman spoken of by Mrs. Malaprop—"as headstrong as an allegory on the banks of the Nile," for they do some wonderful head-to-head balancing. The youngster is a splendidly-trained athlete, and displays a most powerful muscular development in a curtained alcove of the stage *à la* Sandow. Mr. Herbert Clifton, the newest mimic, is very clever in his illustrations of the methods of the favourites of comic opera or musical play, and is especially happy in his singing of Miss Isabel Jay's song from *The Cingalee*, "My heart's at your feet." He also realises the broad Glasgow accent of Mr. Harry Lauder in that famous song "Stop your tickling, Jock." The two ballets, *My Lady Nicotiné* and *Parisiana*, are as popular and as attractive as ever.

ROYAL ALBERT.

Sensational sketches can always rely upon a good hearing at Canning Town, provided their interest is sustained throughout. The name of Mr. Fred G. Brooke is a name to conjure with in this part of the world, for here he is not only known as an acceptable actor, but also a producer of many popular playlets. This week he has treated Royal Albert audiences to his sketch *A Lost Woman*, written by himself and Miss Dora Deane. The plot has been dealt with before in this paper, and recapitulation is therefore unnecessary. The different scenes which act as a setting to the sketch are quite admirable of their kind. Mr. Fred G. Brooke distinguishes himself in the rôle of a detective, who assumes various disguises, and Miss Dora Deane pathetically portrays the character of an injured woman. The other parts are in capable hands.

There were a couple of extra turns on the night of our visit to Canning Town. Mr. David Buckingham was one, and he had a most pleasing item in his song and patter about two golden sovereigns. His "Racing" ditty went well, too. As he appears to be yet in the early twenties, and posesses distinct abilities as a comedian, one may venture to predict a fair success for him in the future. The other extra turn was Miss Susie Marney, whose Irish descriptive vocalism and scenes formed a delightful feature of the programme.

An agreeable portion of the evening's entertainment is furnished by the Sisters Bartholomew. They have three distinct scenes. One of the young ladies appears in a smart military uniform, and for the time being plays the part of an ardent lover, the sweetheart being her stage partner. Vivacious, indeed, are their actions during the singing of the song, "The pride of the regiment," the lines being rendered with a smartness and tunefulness that at once bring them into favour with the audience. Their other ditties, "The girl that he left behind" and "The sweetest girl that I know," are also given in capital style. Mr. Frank Zara indulges in short patter tales anent the mistakes of one Casey, an Irishman, and Mr. Zara's comical mannerisms and mode of speech create intense merriment in the house. Miss Katie Eplett dances daintily and sings in nice fashion; and Mr. Billy Binks, the coloured comedian, executes in his admirable way a sand and buck dance. The grotesque comedy act of Sandes and Vincent is fruitful in the direction of diverting sayings and doings, and the two artists, who work hard, make the act a very acceptable one. For rapid repartee, witticisms, amusing facial expressions, and movements, we can commend the Two Dewars, who can certainly claim to be up-to-date comedians, patterers, and dancers.

The Kendals (Kitty and Leonard) are uproariously funny with their musical comedy sketch, entitled *Lord Gorton*. A young lady and her mother are eagerly awaiting the expected visit of the gentleman whose name is given in the title. Lord Gorton is immensely wealthy, and the girl naturally enough is anxious to complete matrimonial negotiations at the earliest possible moment. A knock comes to the door, and in there enters a most cadaverous-looking individual, absurdly dressed, and made up to represent an "ole clo man." Having heard that Lord Gorton is an eccentric person, the girl and her mother conclude that this must be him, and they at once do everything to make him feel thoroughly at home. The antics of the collector of "cast-offs" are as ridiculous as they could well be, and they are irresistibly diverting. A number of daring performances on the trapeze form the work of the Alexandre Trio. To watch one of these athletes letting go his grip of the hands of one of his partners, then executing a somersault in mid-air, and finally catching hold, with wonderful precision and quickness, of the performer at the opposite side of the stage, is sufficient to cause one to hold one's breath. Kirk and Randall have an exceedingly amusing trifle in the duologue in which they submit a burlesque of a tragedy situation. The quaint costume and make-up of the alleged villain are in themselves something to laugh at, and the climax, which is the saving of the life of the heroine, in a scene charged with farcicalities, simply brings down the house. Miss Ruby Winstone is an engaging comedienne, who charms with her singing, and catches one's fancy with her dancing; and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope presents a series of interesting pictures of the animated picture order.

THE BEDFORD.

MR. B. P. LUCAS is always seeking for novelty wherewith to enrich his programmes, and he has found in *Casey's Court* a hilarious interlude that appeals distinctly to the sense of fun possessed by the Camden Town folk. The humour of the whole thing lies in the realisation of an up-to-date variety show according to the ideas of a street urchin. Mrs. Casey is a theatrical wardrobe dealer, and occupies the principal dwelling in the court—a typical London one—which forms a background for the show. A band of "hungryuns" with ten instruments form up in the centre of the stage, which is supposed to be divided into stalls, boxes, pit, and gallery—it is of course mostly make-believe—and the "turns" are contributed by youthful singers and dancers. Of course there is a coon contribution with a buck dance, which is full of spirit; and an amusing item is the skit on a ventriloquial performance. A concerted piece that affords much amusement is "Mary had a little lamb," and a much-appreciated number is the "Sweep Trio." Some amusing comic business is worked up between one of the court urchins and a young gentleman wearing superior raiment who goes to college, and Mrs. Casey, represented by a clever Irish comedian, whose name does not appear on the bill, is full of fun. *Casey's Court* should add to the brightness and brilliancy of any variety bill, and we anticipate for the sketch, which is acted by "the thirty Midget Mimes," a great success.

A fine melodramatic sketch comes at the end of the Bedford programme. It is entitled *Dick Dare, M.P.*, and is played by Mr. Fred Maxwell and company. The hero, who gives his name to the playlet, has evidently been returned to the House in the Labour interest, and his philanthropic sentiments do him credit. It is his misfortune to have a foreign adventurer for his private secretary, named Jules Valérie, who is really Rafaël Valois, an escaped *forçat* who is wanted by the French police. Valérie or Valois is plotting to get hold of the plans of some fortifications in Dare's possession—we may suppose that Dick is either Secretary for War or Secretary to the Admiralty—and in his (Valérie's) scheme he has the aid of his mistress, Lucy, the twin-sister of Alice, who has plighted her troth to the earnest young politician. Lucy is so exactly like Alice that the villainess is easily mistaken for the virtuous girl, and when the former appears to Dick Dare, he is taken off his guard and chloroformed, as he thinks by the girl of his heart, who in a letter to him breaking off the engagement tells him that she no longer can deceive him. Lucy eventually repents; Alice is reinstated in the affections of Dick; and Jules Valérie is arrested through the action of an itinerant organ-grinder, who has been befriended by Dick. Mr. Fred Maxwell gives excellent emphasis to the enunciation of Dare's Liberal political sentiments; but when he says that the working classes invest their hard-earned savings in bogus companies he is taking too much advantage of melodramatic licence. The part of Dick is, however, thoroughly sympathetic, and Mr. Maxwell acts with fine fervour and elocutionary grace. Miss Lois Du Cane, who plays the dual part of Lucy and Alice, is happily able to differentiate by facial expression and voice between the two characters, and she displays great earnestness and considerable ability. As Alice Miss Du Cane looks extremely attractive in a pretty white dress.

The Two Bees are announced to give their popular mixture of "Quipps and Cramps." We protest that there is nothing "cramped" about their picture postcard interlude, which contains a really comical portrait of the King, who looks to be a Jewish gentleman of very benevolent aspect. Miss Amy Anderson has some clever people in her company of "aristocrats" in the coster scena; but some humorous dialogue is wanted to accompany the droll business. All the company work very hard to secure success, especially the acrobatic newspaper seller, who is a very fine tumbler. Salvino, a youngster, is quite a virtuoso on the saxophone, on which he gives an excellent rendering of the famous Irish ballad "Eileen Alannah." Mr. Billy Farrell is a clever coon with a fund of entertaining anecdote. He knows how to dance, too, does Billy, as he takes care to show us when he has sung an agreeable ditty in praise of "Stella"—no relation of the favourite companion of Dean Swift, *bien entendu*. The fire dance of La Roland, an opulent serpentine dancer, is cleverly realised, and she is also successful in her realisation of the Spirit of the Storm. On the night of our visit her act seemed to need more rehearsal to produce properly the effects desired. Others in the bill are Harry Rogerson, who may be counselled to immediately suppress his three-legged dance; Marie Reeve, a capital dancer; and the Sisters Belmont, successful in a clog dance. Mr. A. F. Lovesy was, we regret to say, somewhat indisposed on the night of our call.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Raymond's Bio-tableaux have got a "full show" this week at Sadler's Wells, and deservedly so. No less than four big sets of pictures on a programme of two-houses-a-night is something to boast of, especially when each of the series was of such a character as to retain the attention of the audience. Starting with an amusing photographic description of "Father's Holiday," we are treated to a magnificent film illustrating a performance on the stage by bears. Next, the adventures of an electioneering canvasser engage our observation; and, finally, we are told a highly-diverting story of a cycle run, in which a whole family take part, and which is, perhaps, the most comical of the lot. Turning from cinématograph pictures, we come to living pictures, as arranged by Mr. George Leyton in his military scena, *Boys of the Chelsea School*. In this scena, twenty-four smart-looking lads go through various exercises in a manner which speaks of excellent discipline and careful training. In their work the boys are assisted by a Balaclava veteran, Corporal Abbott, late of the 5th Dragoon Guards, aged seventy-six. This little military exhibition is a most attractive one. Miss Dora Martini is seen and admired in a neat display of gymnastics, her different feats being gracefully executed. Mr. Harry Maxim has a lot of comical things to say in his turn, and in his song about "They're just beginning to sprout" he shows us how eccentric he can be.

Mr. Arthur Elvey, the "up-to-date tipster," has a world of information to impart on the subject of racing He even goes so far as to inform the audience of the probable winners for the following day's principal "events," the "tips" being contained in a telegram addressed to Mr. Elvey at the theatre. He displays a great aptitude for applying the names of well-known horses to other uses. Mr. Elvey causes considerable merriment, and the act is certainly a novel one. A couple of clever entertainers come on in the persons of the Seddons, "the lady juggler and the lazy waiter." The lady affords evidence of undoubted ability in the juggling line, her tricks with balls, plates, and other articles being accomplished with rapidity and precision. Her gentleman partner is full of the spirit of absurdity, and his lively antics are extremely mirth-provoking.

Mr. Arthur Breton and his company appear in the sketch, *A Trip to the Isle of Man*. "Vivacity" is apparently the motto upon which this piece has been built up, and there is hardly a barren moment in the various scenes. Fun of the rollicking order prevails throughout. We have songs sung in the liveliest fashion, amusing situations, burlesque duologues, smart dances, and even acrobatics. Thus, there is Mr. James Mallam as the excitable lunatic, who frantically rushes about, brandishing forth a long butcher's knife; Mr. Arthur Gaston as the retired merchant, in anxious quest of husbands with well-filled pockets for his daughters; Mr. Arthur Breton as the exceedingly whimsical cheap tripper; and Miss Kitty Terris in the part of an absurd and somewhat ancient coquette. During the progress of the sketch several popular songs were rendered in delightful style, such, for instance, as "Hear the pipers calling," "I must sell out to-day" (sung by Mr. Arthur Gaston), and "Home to Jacksonville." The four scenes are adequately and beautifully mounted. Praise can be bestowed upon the Sisters MacGovern for their bathing-costume dance; and Lorne and Rene, for their musical duologue, "Capital and Labour." Coming once more to the single turns, Miss Edie Anderson enchants the audience with her sweet vocalism and dainty dancing; and the Lannons win golden opinions with their duets and pedestal dancing.

"IN THE CUPBOARD,"

A New Farcical Sketch, by Fritz Zorn,
Produced at Collins's Music Hall,
Islington Green,
on Monday, Feb. 19.

Mr. Gulper ..... MR. FRANK LESTER
Mrs. Gulper ..... MISS INA ROZANT
Bill ..... MR. FRED DOBELL
Gerald Tracey ..... Mr. Pat Malone
Rose ..... MISS MARY THORNE

Mr. Fritz Zorn, who is the author of the farcical comedy entitled *The Designers*, successfully produced at the Brixton Theatre last spring, has hit upon a happy idea in his new farcical sketch, the first performance of which was given at Collins's Music Hall on Monday evening, and the little piece was played to an accompaniment of merry laughter which augured well for a successful career. The scene represents the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gulper in Denmark Buildings, Walworth. When the curtain rises we discover Mrs. Gulper and her brother Bill, who has been seeking his sister's husband in vain. When that individual does appear, it is apparent that he has been imbibing freely, and Mrs. Gulper quickly sends him off to bed. Bill also retires. Next arrive Gerald Tracey and his sweetheart Rose. On their way to a fancy dress ball an accident has occurred to the vehicle they were travelling in, and Rose has sought the assistance of her old nurse, Mrs. Gulper. Her father is opposed to the match, and her object is to induce him to give his consent. Gerald is attired in the conventional Mephistophelian costume for the fancy dress ball, and as a temporary place of concealment, where also he can change into ordinary dress, he enters a large cupboard, the doors of which are then fastened. In this cupboard is also kept a bottle of whisky, which the drunken Gulper has already discovered and helped himself to in the absence of his wife. When the coast is again clear he re-enters only partly dressed. There is something wrong with the gas, and the room is in partial darkness. When the half-drunken man opens the cupboard he is horrified to discover a figure all in red, and presenting the appearance of the "gentleman from below." His terrified shouts bring his brother-in-law, Bill, upon the scene. When the latter hears the explanation he comes to the conclusion that Gulper is suffering from an attack of what he calls the "jim-jams," and, exploring the cupboard himself, also gets a terrible fright. When Mrs. Gulper returns, their story that there is a "red devil" concealed in the cupboard leads her to suppose that they have both been drinking. She throws open the cupboard doors, and Gerald Tracey is discovered inside, but dressed in his ordinary clothes, to the bewilderment of Gulper and Bill. Then Rose returns to announce that her father has at last given his consent to her marriage with Gerald.

Mr. Frank Lester, a comedian well known in musical comedy, gives a most amusing embodiment of Mr. Gulper, and Mr. Fred Dobell supplies a robust and natural rendering of Bill. Mr. Pat Malone plays well as Gerald Tracey, and Miss Mary Thorne, who has recently concluded a pantomime engagement as principal boy, was bright and pleasing as Rose, and Miss Ina Rozant was good as Mrs. Gulper.

THE DUCHESS.

Abnormal attractions are offered by Mr. Walter Gibbons at Balham this week, the most conspicuous figure in the programme being Princess Lucy, the Russian Fat Girl, who is asserted to be the largest and heaviest maiden in the world. Her age is given on the programme as seventeen, but the fair Lucy admits to only sixteen. The Princess, who towers high above her mother, was up to the age of three years of the usual infantile proportions, but began then to develop until she has attained the weight of 25st. Her chest is 63in. round, her waist 49in., her calves 23½in., and the upper part of her arm 21in.; but her feet are little larger than those of an ordinary person, being 9½in. only in length. Despite her massive size, the Princess is light on her feet, and trips quite airily about the stage, being afterwards prevailed upon to sing a song, in a soft, but tuneful voice, in praise of England. It is an interesting exhibition, and received a most cordial welcome.

The familiar features of Mr. Phil Ray arouse a ripple of merriment, which soon swells into a wave of laughter during his comic observations about every conceivable topic. The audience are taken wholly into the scheme of laughter-producing, and form a fertile field for the comedian, who allows no rest to the risibilities during his stay. Mirth is also the constant accompaniment of the turn supplied by Burke and MacVoy in a scena entitled *Fun in a Saloon*. The depredations of a tramp who makes himself at home in an hotel bar are very funny, but the skill of the acrobatic feats performed by his partner, who does some marvellous somersaults and handsprings, is nevertheless conspicuous. Loud applause at the end makes an encore inevitable, and brings forth a double pirouette somersault, the performer claiming that he is the only man in the world to do it without the aid of a spring board.

The ventriloquial performance of Mr. Rex Fox would be sufficient of itself to secure the warmest approval, but when it is combined with daring feats on the slack wire the enthusiasm is necessarily unbounded. The conversation which the expert wire-walker carries on with the figure on his back is genuinely funny, but when he discards the encumbrance, Mr. Fox gives an astonishing display of his powers of equilibrium, among which his standing with one foot on the wire, and with the other balancing a lighted lamp while he plays a melody on the mandoline is the most astounding. Miss Rose Hamilton is fitted with a couple of songs which employ to admirable advantage her versatility and comedy talents. Attractively attired, she sings of the experiences of "Shopping," in which the methods of the American, the Scotch lassie, and the coster lady are imitated with great skill. Miss Hamilton's second number takes a topical turn, references in the form of artfully-designed questions being made to the recent General Election and its results. The fair politician is quite without bias, and refers favourably and unfavourably to members of both the Government and the Opposition alike, many extra verses having to be added in response to hearty recalls.

One of the most appreciated items of the bill is the film of "The Train Wreckers" on Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. It depicts a thrilling story of the attempt to wreck a train in the backwoods of America, and the prevention of the crime by a young lady, who is afterwards caught by the vengeful gang, and placed on the line. The train is seen dashing along at full speed, but just as it approaches the spot, a young driver steps out on to the front of the engine and catches up the insensible form of the girl. It is a subject admirably conceived and vividly displayed. Valvero sketches pictures in chalk of battleships, a large cruiser appearing under his hand with marvellous rapidity. The same lightning methods are employed in his production of the great battle in the Korean Straits, which is portrayed within an enormous frame, and embellished by flashlights, gun shots, and red fire, which give a realistic impression of a fight at sea. Selbo is a neat and comprehensive juggler, even divesting himself of collar, coat, and tie in order to vary the articles in use. He is a deft manipulator of Indian clubs, his prowess securing loud approval, and his subsequent juggling with earthenware plates is quite sensational. Mr. George Collins exerts his drollery in the character of a lady; a funny few minutes may be spent in the company of Allis and Casatti; and Major Moss and Son are also in the liberal and well-assorted bill. Mr. George L. Wilson is the able and energetic manager; Mr. J. H. Watling is the acting-manager; and Mr. Chas. Longmaid ably leads the band.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

To slightly parody the words put into the mouth of Cardinal Richelieu by the first Lord Lytton, "In the vocabulary of Mr. Arthur J. Barclay there is no such word as fail." The truth of the assertion is to be found in the crowded houses that assemble nightly to enjoy the very liberal programme with which he entices his patrons this week, the enthusiasm with which the various items are received, and the all-round air of happiness and contentment that spreads from audience to stage, and from stage to audience.

One of the most thoroughly artistic novelties to which frequenters of the Palace have been treated for a considerable time is that given by Mr. C. Emlyn-Jones and his Emerald Ladies' Quartette. The four ladies, attired in handsome costumes, representing England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, are joined by Mr. Emlyn Jones himself, in the rich "habit" of the courtly eighteenth-century period. These five artists, whose voices "blend" as successfully as the beverages associated with the names to two of these countries, sing charming songs representative of each nationality. For England, we have the good old "Lasses and Lads," Ireland furnishes the ever-popular "Killarney," Scotland is heard in the tuneful "Loch Lomond"; while Wales supplies, in her native tongue, "The Bells of Aberdovey." The harmony of every one of these is delightful, each member of the little company being possessed of an excellent voice, trained to perfection. Mr. Emlyn-Jones's own contribution is an amusing ditty about a certain charming, but faithless, young widow he met in the train, and the whole winds up with a stirring chorus to the air of the "Soldier's Chorus" in *Faust*. Miss Winnie Deacon sings two songs with agreeable effect. The Four Olympian Stars, about whose performance there is little that can be described as classical or suggestive of Olympus, sing a short song, and then naturally take to what may be termed their native element—dancing. Their terpsichorean achievements are of the most astonishing nature, their high-kicking, "splitting," somersaulting, and catherine-wheeling being bewildering in the rapidity and dexterity with which all are executed. Lieut. Travis, one of the best exponents of the ventriloquial art on the stage, puts many quaintly amusing sayings into the mouths of his two puppets, and the manner in which he changes one of these from a girl to a Frenchman, and then into an old Chelsea Pensioner, is very adroit. His imitation of the cracked voice and racking cough of the latter is admirable. Loud laughter, thoroughly deserved, greets Mr. Laurie Wylie and his "mimicking mannikin," the singer giving life-like imitations of George Robey, Harry Lauder, Eugene Stratton, and other stars of the variety stage. Augustin and Hartley, gentleman and lady, give a barrel act which is aptly described on the programme as "marvellous." This their performance certainly is, the manner in which the jump into and out of barrels on the stage, on chairs, on the tops of tables, wholesale and in small numbers, is very clever, and rouses the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Rossetti, a charming young lady, makes the sweet sound of music creep in our ears through the medium of the violin, the 'cello, and a tiny instrument she describes as "the smallest violin in the world." With all she proves herself a skilful and sympathetic artist. Mr. Gus Garrick is greatly popular in a number of well-known songs, and is received at every performance with a demonstration that is only reserved for genuine favourites.

From the dramatic point of view the *pièce de résistance* of the programme is the clever and exhilarating sketch, entitled *The Britisher*, presented by Mr. Leonard Mortimer and his company. This is a well-told and capitally-constructed little play, dealing with an incident in the recent insurrection among the Philippines, in which, of course, the pluck and bravery of a true-born Britisher carry all before them, and prove that without assistance from the old country the army of the United States runs some risk of going to pot. Mr. Leonard Mortimer as Pensive Pete, the heroic Britisher, acts with great and well-sustained vigour. An excellent contrast to his manliness is given by the rascality of Lieut. Royston Stratton, as played by Mr. Ernest Wingfield. Mr. Weldon Atherstone gives a very satisfactory picture of Colonel Charlestown; Seymour Milford, a special correspondent for a London paper, is amusingly played by Mr. J. E. Leighton, but his opportunities for fun-making are not over-abundant; Miss Ida Clifford looks pretty, and plays unobtrusively as Rennie Milford; and Miss Edith Lewis is a handsome and spirited Donna Inez Marcelino. The "set" is very well painted and built, and the men's uniforms are handsome, and, doubtless, correct. Mr. John Grant, of the Palace, again shows the advantages to be received from good stage-management.

THE BARRING CLAUSE.

The annexed Memorial, agreed upon at a conference of delegates representing 10,000 artists, has been sent to us for publication. It has been addressed by the various societies therein named to the leading music-hall proprietors. Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Frank Allen (both of Moss' Empires), and Mr. J. L. Graydon (of the Middlesex and a director of the Palace Theatre), have written to say that they will put the matter before their various boards, and Mr. Tom Barrasford (of the Barrasford circuit), Mr. Frank Macnaghten (of the Macnaghten circuit), Mr. W. B. Broadhead (of the Broadhead enterprises), and Mr. Fred Willmot (who is connected with the Lyric Theatre of Varieties, the Paddington Palace, the Park Palace, and the Haymarket, Liverpool), have already expressed their willingness to adopt the arrangement suggested.

MEMORIAL FROM CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES
representing
The Music Hall Artists' Railway Association,
The International Artists' Lodge,
The Terriers Association, and
The Grand Order of Water Rats.

"SIR,—Your Memorialists in conference assembled, consisting of delegates from the various music-hall societies, and representing nearly 10,000 artists, desire respectfully to call your attention to the operation of the barring clause in music-hall contracts, which, in its recently extended form, is inflicting a great amount of hardship on performers.

"Notwithstanding the vast increase in the popularity of music-hall entertainments (due, in some measure, your Memorialists submit, to the work of the artists themselves), and the great addition to the number of variety theatres, the position of the artist has suffered great deterioration.

"Whereas, a few years ago, artists were called upon to give only six or seven performances per week, they are now required under the 'two houses per night' system to play twice that number (and in some cases, unfortunately, matinées in addition), but, except in a very few instances, they have had to give these twelve, thirteen, fourteen, or fifteen performances for the same salary they received for six or seven hitherto. To these altered conditions they have submitted in the interests of the proprietors; but now the provisions of the barring clause are being so rigorously enforced as to inflict a great additional hardship and heavy financial loss on artists who are out of work, by preventing them accepting contracts when engagements are offered.

"Your Memorialists do not deny that a limited barring clause may be necessary for the protection of proprietors, nor do they ask for anything unreasonable or unfair; but they maintain it is not equitable that an artist should be prevented from performing within many miles of a town for eighteen months or two years from the time of signing a contract, or until its fulfilment.

"Cases have been brought to the notice of your Memorialists where artists have been reduced to absolute want as a consequence of being prevented from accepting sorely-needed immediate dates because they already held a contract some ten, twelve, or eighteen months ahead in the particular town or its vicinity for which the immediate engagements were offered.

"Your Memorialists beg, therefore, that in all existing and future contracts you will be content with a barring clause of five miles and six months in the case of provincial halls, and of one mile and three months in the case of London and suburban halls.

"In conclusion, your Memorialists would respectfully point out that they only ask on behalf of their brother and sister artists to be allowed to pursue their calling untrammeled by undue interference with the rights of free labour; and they venture to assert that by granting their request, within the limits herein stated, you will, without injury to the enterprises you so ably control, do an act of justice to a body of men and women who have ever shown their willingness to meet your wishes, and so consolidate that cordial good feeling which has hitherto existed between proprietors and artists."

A HIPPODROME MYSTERY.

An interesting novelty was introduced into the Hippodrome programme on Monday evening in the form of a mysterious performance, which was strongly suggestive of the magic doings of Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant at St. George's Hall. The mystery was called "Menetekel," and the working of the new show was in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Konorah. Suspended over the stage by cords was seen a large drawing-board, attached to which were sheets of white paper. Close by was a small table, on which were a number of black balls, about the size of those used in the game of tennis. The lady having picked up one of the balls with a pair of pincers, places it on the board, to which it adheres. She then commands the ball to write the word "Menetekel," which it proceeds to do, travelling slowly over the paper, and forming the word in a somewhat shaky hand-writing. The balls, it should be explained, have been prepared by being coated with some kind of glutinous ink. Mr. Konorah next invites any one amongst the audience to whisper to him a word or write it on a piece of paper; and on Monday evening the words Hamburg, Bristol, Rose, Faust, were faithfully reproduced to the amazement of the audience, who were permitted to examine the sheet of paper torn from the board. Finally, the word, "Good-bye," was written. It occasionally happened that one of the balls dropped off the board, and was at once replaced by another. The mystery left for the spectators to solve is, what is the controlling influence which propels the ball over the surface of the paper, and in such a manner as to form any word that may be selected. To Mr. and Mrs. Konorah belongs the credit of presenting a very puzzling problem for an audience to exercise their wits upon.

The amusing travesty, entitled *Among the Stars* is still in the programme, the leading parts being well played by Messrs. T. W. Volt, Hal Forde, Windham Guise, H. O. Clarey, Rhys Thomas, and Miss Minnie Hunt. King Encyclops and the members of his Court look on while various artists appear in the ring on the stage—a double performance that is somewhat embarrassing to the spectators. The Hardinis, in their musical act, afford evidence of their ability as violinists; and the Novellos do well in their entertainment, *India in Europe*. The trained elephants, ponies, and dogs perform very cleverly, and the members of the troupe distinguish themselves in a variety of acrobatic feats which evoke applause. Mr. Herbert Lloyd is an eccentric comedian who gives a very laughable performance; and he makes his exit in a small motor, labelled with the name of an asylum. It is appropriate that Vasco, known as "the mad musician," should make his appearance. He plays all kinds of musical instruments, big and little, deep-toned and the opposite, and displays such versatile ability that he is at the conclusion recalled several times. The contortionist business of Genaro and Theol is clever and graceful; and Les Ados, in Olympian games, add to the strength of the programme. Lavater Lee, the Hippodrome droll, is still a very popular personage, and his hat trick is an amusing "sell." Mention must also be made of Lux's performing white French poodles; the athletic feats of the Brothers Andreassen; Alexandra and Bertie, gymnasts; the Possiutis, acrobaic equestrians; the Imperial Troupe of Dancers; and the Human Bullet, whose remarkable aerial flight we recently noticed. Early in the evening appear Gallando, sculptor, and Anderson, clown, followed by the American Bioscope, with the latest pictures.

"THE ERA"

NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Subscribed to date, 1,112 shillings.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charities (per Fred W. Warden)	400
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Wm. Morton	63
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannering	25
Johnny Holland	21
P. Madden	21
Charles Weldon	20
Nellie Wilson	10½
Bros. Webb	10
Andie Caine	3
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1
Rozel	1
Nellie Nora	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs. F. Maxwell	2
Frank Martin	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Frank Quigg	1	J. Roland	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	Frank Leonard	1
Chas. Warner	1	J. Cunningham	1
Lilly Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A. M. Holmes	1
J. D. McGregor	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
B. Iles	1	G. Rhone	1
Harry Clifford	1	H. Griff	1
Hardeene	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Chas. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Gallando	1
Luigi Gargani	1	J. W. Riley	1
Maude Rose	1	J. Mendel	1
Henry Butcher	1	Mr. and Mrs. Jeane Priver	2
Geo. Green	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Givani Cristie	1	Erna Harrison	1
Geo. Vickery	1	Mina Fisher	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1
Ethel Esdaile	1		
Will Collins	1		

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Danl. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydora, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	½
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlyn	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Collected by Mr. James Brady, 9s.

Ernest Ball	1	J. Woods	1
Ethel Dunford	1	M. Anderson	1
"Zaid"	1	Sam Jones	1
E. W. Manning	1	James Brady	1
D. J. Banks	1		

Collected by Miss Maud Mortimer, 34s.

G. Norton	1	Alf. Bishop	1
W. J. Churchill	5	W. H. J.	1
H. Calver	1	Billy Closs	1
Bert Burnell	1	A Friend	1
Billy Barlow	1	James Chippendale	1
J. H. Whittaker	2	L. C.	1
Jack Davenport	5	Frederick Ross	1
Walter Gillman	1	Maude Mortimer	5
Boris Fridkin	5		

Collected by Barrett and Knowles, 25s.

George F. Ide	1	Madge Sinclair	1
Harry Barrett	1	Louie Mavis	1
Jack Knowles	1	Malcolm Scott	1
José Collins	1	J. P. Wilson	1
Birdie Sutherland	1	K. A. Hutchison	1
Alice Russon	1	Bob Potter	1
Paul Knox	1	W. B. Barratt	1
Harry Laudy	1	Arthur Sutcliffe	1
Bessie Featherstone	1	Billy Ireland	1
Syd May	1	Uncle Scott	1
Alice Belmore	1	P. C. Murray	1
Dorothy Ide	1	Max Rose	1
Jeanie Christoe	1		

Collected by Mr. Charles Beanland, 22s. 6d.

Chas. Beanland	1	Harry Tomlinson	1
Anon	1	Henris	1
Boys	1	Mrs. Fred Cary	1
G. Cerney	1	E. S. Salambo	1
Belmonts	2	C. M. J.	1
F. Armstrong	1	Harry Du Gros	1
E. Korrie	1	Eddie Stidder	1
A Friend	1½	Tom Bonnetti	1
J. Zedora	1	Gus Rickards	1
J. C. Skelsey	½	Harry Trevor	1

Collected by Ernie Mayne, Esq., 9s.

Ernie Mayne	1	Daisy Dormer	1
St. John Madley	1	Lina Vercli	1
Geo. Formby	1	Robert Pender	1
Drew and Alders	2	Maggie Pender	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, £1 17s.

Bob Selvidge	2½	Barney Dixon	2
Fred Fowler	2½	Mrs. Selvidge	1
Martin Conway	1	Frank Gee	1
Joe Waldron	1	Will Gee	1
B. Nicholls	1	Mrs. Martin Conway	1
F. Borland	1	Fox	1
Harry Dent	1	Mr. Clemart	1
Fanny Harris	1	Mr. Charles Weldon	1
Miss Walker	1	Baby Conlin	1
John Tiller	1	Griff	1
John L. Tiller	1	Summerton	1
Mrs. Conlin	1	Juno Salmo	1
F. W. Balchin	1	Bessie Cohen	1
Mrs. Balchin	1	Harrogate Friend	1
Harry Conlin	1	Sidney Bacon	1
Carlton	1	Harry Elliston	2

Collected by Harris and Worth, 15s.

Harris and Worth	2	Mabel Higson	1
Chas. Russell	1	M. Mamie Iris	1
Billy Keene	1	Syd Dooley	1
Fred Dry	1	George Coopers	1
Will Letters	1	Carrie Mack	1
Johnny Worman	1	Les B. Americaines	1
Mr. Rutt	1	W. J. Williams	1

Collected by Mr. T. C. Callaghan, 10s.

T. C. Callaghan	2	Mike Cray	1
W. Dane	1	Griff	1
J. Waldron	1	Alpha	1
A. H.	1	Florrie St. Clair	2

Collected by Mr. Ernest Shand, £1 2s.

K. Vesey	1	P. Davies	1
Ruby Forbes	1	Gladys Dare	1
Meg Hampton	1	L. Kinross	1
Ethel Dunbar	1	M. Molloy	1
Enid Errol	1	Alexandre	1
H. C. B.	1	N. E.	1
Brabourne	1	Hughes	1
Herbert	1	Ernest Shand	1
T. W. Wood	1	Ditto	1
A. Linton	1	La Même	1
Bee Duppa	1	Idem	1

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Jan 9.—Mr. Alfred Dampier, who has long been in a precarious state of health, is ordered a sea voyage, so, with his wife (Miss Katharine Russell), his daughter Rose, and son Alfred, he will leave for England on the 21st. The theatrical managers and their companies will give Mr. Dampier a testimonial farewell matinée on the 19th, at Her Majesty's Theatre, granted for the occasion by Mr. J. C. Williamson.

"The Girl from Kay's" keeps the holiday-folk in fine humour. Miss Florence Young, Miss Rose Musgrove, Miss Margaret Thomas, and Mr. Haigh Jackson make a very good musical combination at Her Majesty's, and the fun is catered for by Messrs. George Lauri, Claude R. Bantock, and W. S. Percy. The dances are brilliant, and the chorus is up to Mr. Williamson's high standard.

Mr. W. Anderson's pantomime at the Royal is exceptionally good, Mr. Harry Quealy's Mrs. Sinbad being quite on the Dan Leno lines. Miss Marie Campbell is winsome; and Mr. Bert Bailey creates uproarious fun by his acting and topical songs. Miss Edith Maitland is the chief singer, her Zoe being a melodious performance. The youthful Powers Brothers do wire walking of a sensational character; the Bicknells excel as dancers; Lizette Parkes, grown into a handsome girl, sings and dances attractively; Miss Maud Cosham, who directs the ballet and dances a *pas seul*, is very popular, and the Maxixe dance creates a furore. Mr. Anderson proposes to produce comic opera when his pantomime ceases to draw.

Mr. Charles Holloway's dramatic season at the Criterion, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Geach, has proved extremely successful, full houses being attracted by *Two Little Vagabonds*, with Misses Beatrice Holloway, Alice Deorwyn, Hilda Fraser, Ethel Appleton, Messrs. Robert Inna, Godfrey Cass, J. P. O'Neill, and Jefferson Taite in the leading parts. The next production will be *The Rogues of the Turf*, in which Mr. Holloway will appear for the first time this season.

The Tivoli has a new star, Mr. Post Mason, who was engaged by Mr. Harry Rickards during his recent visit to London. The new singer is above the average, and his songs are all good. Mr. Alf. Lawton is back, and is as popular as before; whilst Miss Hilda Lane's return is welcomed by all lovers of vocal excellence. Boy Glen, Ryder Slone, Olive Lenton, A. G. Spry, Leeds and Leamar, Carleton and Sutton, and Little Baby Watson are also in the bill.

The Brough-Flemming Comedy Combination, now doing great business in New Zealand, will follow Mr. Charles Holloway at the Criterion early in February.

A stirring march song entitled "The Beat, Beat, Beat of the Drum," by Kenneth Lyle, has been acquired for publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. The firm's series of "Sixpenny Pops." has been yet further augmented, the latest additions comprising "How'd you like to spoon with me?" (now being featured at the Palace by Miss Millie Legarde), "When the boys go marching by," "My Latchkey," "Good-night, Number One," and Miss Vesta Victoria's "Waiting at the church."

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—Your correspondent in his report of Sheerness last week omitted to mention the comedy sketch, *Freezing Hard*.—Yours faithfully, Phil Reymond. Palace, Sheerness, Feb. 22.

An original sketch, entitled *The New Actress*, has been secured by Miss May Yohe from the author, Mr. Edwin Drew, and is in rehearsal for London production during March.

CHAT WITH "MY FANCY."

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Barefoot dancing seems to be the latest novelty on the variety stage. Rather, it is not exactly a novelty, because, for one thing, the charming lady who has bestowed upon herself the title of "My Fancy" engaged in this kind of business ten years ago in Johannesburg, and a few months later at Leeds. While at the City of Varieties in the last-mentioned town she dressed as Trilby, and her uncovered

> . . . feet beneath her petticoat
> Like little mice stole in and out,
> As if they feared the light;
> But O, she dances such a way!
> No sun upon an Easter day
> Is half so fine a sight!

"And you're not afraid to dance bare-footed upon sand?"

"People will not believe that it can be done," returned My Fancy, "and they say I must put something on my feet. Of course, I could not do more than one show a night of this kind, but it doesn't injure my feet at all. They are as hard as an alligator's skin. That is due to my having danced all my life. Even when I was a little girl in America I used to pirouette in the garden."

"I trust your accident will not incapacitate you much longer."

My Fancy had been limping slightly as she entered the delightful sitting-room of her cosy and artistically appointed home in Balham, and a recollection of a suddenly relinquished engagement was brought to one's mind.

"I am pretty well all right now," came the answer. "I cut my foot on Jan. 31 while performing at the Metropolitan, and had to seek medical attention. I have not been able to dance for a week and a half, but I shall return to my work in three or four days. Oh! you may like to know that I am going to produce a new dance shortly on tour. It will be in the nature of a long waltz step-dance, and while executing it I shall be tearing plain pieces of paper into different designs with my hands. That is doing two things at a time, if you like."

My Fancy has seen summer's sun and winter's snow in many different climes. She has experienced a heavy storm in a Michigan village, which blew her travelling waggon off its track, and caused it to become submerged. She has danced on gold quartz in Western Australia; she has sat under the shadows of the domes and minarets of Cairo and Alexandria; she has gazed in admiration at the scenic splendours of Ceylon and Colombo; she has marvelled at the sublime beauty of an Indian sunset, and has listened to the Muezzin calling the faithful to prayer from an Indian mosque; she has witnessed the South African sky become blackened by legions of locusts; and—she is now in the greatest city in the world, delighting audiences with her exquisite sand-dancing. And yet, after a multitude of doings in a multitude of places, the lady has years of youth still in front of her.

Photo. by Hana.

MY FANCY.

My Fancy was born in St. Louis, U.S.A., and commenced her stage career at the early age of eight, when she joined a travelling company, which had its fair share of the vicissitudes of theatrical life during a tour through America. My Fancy was then one of the Macumber Sisters—the other lady wasn't really a sister, but that didn't matter—their business being singing and sand dancing. And here My Fancy tells us that she never received a lesson in dancing, so that the daughter of Jupiter and Mnemosyne must have been the muse that presided over her birth. That the mythological genius known as Terpsichore has favoured My Fancy there seems little doubt—the clever artist's audiences have always borne willing testimony to her remarkable talents. Of course, she admits she has practised her art, and, for the matter of that, still practises it every day. In an American comic opera company she, while little more than a child, introduced some speciality dances in the different scenes. Very thoroughly did My Fancy experience what it means to "go through the mill." She has shared the joys and sorrows of the caravan-dweller, and if you are lucky enough to get her into a talkative mood you will hear many amusing yarns about the Romany of the New World. When she was with a travelling circus company it was her duty in the daytime, along with other members of the troupe, to take part in what was described as a "grand processional parade." And My Fancy laughs as she recalls that the imposing pageant, with a goodly space between each unit, stretched out to a distance of some twelve yards. At that period she learned to do everything, including bar-walking, trapeze acts and general acrobatics, and illusions after the style of the "sleeping beauty" order.

She came over to England twelve years ago, making her first appearance in London—and in this country for the matter of that—at the Pavilion, Piccadilly-circus, where she performed her sand and buck dances. She stayed for six weeks at the Pavilion, and was immediately engaged for a similar period at the Oxford. The late Mr. Charles Morton, who witnessed her turn at the latter house, gave her a month's contract for the Palace Theatre, but she proved such an attraction at the Shaftesbury-avenue hall that she remained there for sixteen weeks. Up to the time of appearing at the Oxford she was known as Mae Rose Baker, and it was on the programme at that establishment that she first assumed the *nom de guerre* of My Fancy. After London she went into the provinces and into Ireland, appearing later for a couple of months at the Folies-Bergère in Paris. This was followed by a short stay at Liverpool, at the old Alexandra Theatre (now known as the Empire), and then came a trip to New York for the opening of Hammerstein's Olympia. She returned to England for a few days in order to prepare for her voyage to South Africa, where, at the Johannesburg Empire and Royal Theatre, she delighted large audiences with her wonderful dancing. Back again to this country for a long provincial tour, then to Australia, under the management of Messrs. Garner and Harry Rickards, it will be seen that My Fancy was kept pretty well on the move.

LATENT TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Dear Sir,—I am pleased to say my letter in your last issue has created great interest, and caused a deal of discussion amongst several prominent people in the profession.

I think the concluding line of my letter of last week may be misconstrued, as people often view things in an opposite light to what is meant. In consideration of many excellent performers who were in the business years before myself, and not wishing to displease anyone, I desire to explain that by my saying the "old stuff keep going round," I meant not "old *names*"—and many old performers are *still* drawing cards—but people trotting out the same business time after time.

In using this expression I was endeavouring to emphasise my contention (which is also Mrs. Barrasford's) as to giving to new turns, with original acts, a chance of appearing in London.

Often big trees from little acorns grow.—Yours faithfully, WILL DALTON (Dalton's Agency).

5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

Sir,—Without doubt Mr. Will Dalton has hit the right nail on the head when he states that there is a lot of talent in the provinces which would be new to London, and a bigger draw than the all-the-year-round same artists that are continually in the halls of the metropolis, which must be stale to their patrons. I have tried many of Mr. Dalton's turns, and have found them excellent in every respect.—Yours faithfully,

ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

Royal Varieties, Oldham, Feb. 19.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I can quite understand your correspondent, Mr. Will Dalton, expecting credit and honour where it is due to him; we all do, but very seldom get it. No doubt, had he been able, or taken the trouble, to keep the turns he "found" booked up, their names would not, and need not, appear under any other agency advertisements. It is only natural that artists, if one agent does not keep them booked up, should turn to others to find work, instead of hanging about doing nothing. Last summer, in Manchester, Mr. Dalton was recommended to me by fellow artists as a "decent and straight" agent. I wrote to Mr. Dalton, asking him to see my turn, but received no answer.

On asking one agent for a return date at a hall where he had booked me, and where I had gone exceedingly well, and where the local papers had remarked on my rendering of a certain song bringing down the house, he told me that the manager did not like my turn. Hence no return date. Who was being catered for—the management who did not like my turn, or the public who did? So far I have no return date for any hall I worked—successfully—last year. Why not?

If, in engaging and encouraging artists, managers and agents would be guided by the public's approval and appreciation of artists, instead of by their own fancy or prejudice (especially where women are concerned), there would be less talk of "latent talent" and "bad business." This applies to theatres as well as music halls.

In addition to Mrs. Barrasford and Mr. Sparrow, whom Mr. Dalton mentions in his letter, Mr. Henri Gros also will give new turns a chance. Through an introduction I procured an interview with Mr. Gros As a result, I appeared at the Chelsea Palace and Metropolitan the week before last (Feb. 5), and went splendidly at Chelsea, but not so well at the Metropolitan; but, then, even "stars" go worse at some halls than others. I asked nine agents to see my turn. Not one has done so. After expecting bookings galore, my date-book remains empty. On the strength of the paragraph in *The Era*, regarding Mrs. Barrasford, which Mr. Dalton quotes in his letter, I wrote to that lady, asking her to try and see, or send someone to see, my turn, and grant me an interview; but up to row my letter has been ignored. About eighteen months ago, after giving a trial show, I worked two Barrasford halls, went well with the public, but did not get the tour. I have now turned to Mrs. Barrasford, in the hope of getting work through a *woman*, where I *failed* to get it through a *man*.

I have, with others, almost given up hope for a woman who wants to earn her own living, and at the same time rise in the profession on her merits only, without influence of any sort.—Yours faithfully, KITTY MARION.

10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.,
Feb. 21

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I have read with interest Mr. Will Dalton's letter, and, with a rather lengthy experience, I cordially agree therewith. I think I could adduce hundreds of such cases as he refers to. It is, in my opinion, a matter for shareholders to inquire into and deal with. The question interests them far more than it does Mr. Will Dalton, or any other agent or agents; but it will be healthy for both agents and managers when a little daylight is given to the subject.

Now that the question has been opened out, I shall look for developments, which I feel sure will come.—Thanking you in anticipation, yours truly,

Oldham, Feb. 21, 1906. S. WALL.

Miss Daphne de Rohan, who proved such a great attraction in her latest clever musical creation, *Le Rêve d'un Vieillard*, throughout the whole of the past season at the Naval Exhibition, Earl's Court, is busy arranging a tour of the provinces in partnership with Mr. Fred Evered, whose talents as a comedian, humorist, and sketch artist are so well known and popular.

Mr. Lewin Sharp asked, at the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday, whether the alteration in the licence now made by the Coliseum authorities meant that intoxicating liquors could be sold all through the premises, and whether the Lord Chamberlain was correct in licensing for stage plays a house of this description, which was supposed to cater for variety entertainments. Mr. Yates, chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committees, replied that the facts stated by Mr. Sharp were correct. Intoxicating drinks could be sold, but there must be no smoking. The legal position was being considered by the committee.

A small but active youth, with a very marked Scottish accent, charged before Mr. Denman on Monday at Marlborough-street Police Court with begging, told quite a romantic story. The lad—James Gilbertson is his name—said that, being unable to find work in his native place—"Langtoon, Kirkcaldy," Fifeshire—he walked to London, and had now been promised an engagement as a music-hall artist at the Star, Bermondsey. In the presence of the magistrate the youth went through his programme, including some songs in the style of Harry Lauder, the well-known Scottish comedian. He quite captured the heart of the magistrate, and with more money in his pocket than perhaps he ever possessed before, he went on his way rejoicing.

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT.

AS ALADDIN, 1905-6.

In the title-rôle we have Miss Maidie Scott, who is no stranger to Derby theatre-goers. As Aladdin, one may venture to predict that she will not fail to win favour. Possessed of a charming personality and presence and a gifted actress, Miss Scott, on Tuesday night, early captivated her audience; and immensely delighted all by her pleasing singing of "Yokohama Queen" and "Lazy Moon." All through she worked with rare energy, and much of the success achieved was due to her.—*Derby Express*, Dec. 27.

Miss Maidie Scott, who plays Aladdin, renewed her acquaintance with the Derby playgoers, and it was obvious from the outset that she was meeting old friends and admirers. She is distinctly dainty in boy's attire. She dances with exquisite grace, and is, moreover, the possessor of a pleasant and tuneful voice. She has some very nice songs, one, "Lazy Moon," might become very popular here. It was loudly and deservedly encored, as indeed were most of her songs and dances.—*Derby Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 27.

Miss Scott is a charming little lady at whose feet I can quite imagine all susceptible Derby falling. She is well placed as Aladdin, petite of figure and "riant" of method, and how much prettier she looks in her dainty "San Toy" attire than in the "tights" usually affected by the "principal boy."—*Nottingham Post*, Dec. 30.

Miss Maidie Scott, in the name-part, proves herself thoroughly equal to the occasion. She has an attractive stage presence, and bids fair to quickly sing and dance herself into the favour of local playgoers.—*The Era*, Dec. 30.

Miss Maidie Scott makes an exceedingly charming principal boy, and has become a great favourite. She sings, acts, and dances with delightful vivacity, and her various songs are all encored. "Lazy Moon" is one of the hits of the evening.—*Derby Express*, Jan. 2.

Miss Maidie Scott, who plays Aladdin, is no stranger to Derby. She has a charming presence, is a finished actress, and both sings and dances exceedingly well. She made a great hit at once with her songs, "Lazy Moon," with its charming dance finale, and "My Yokohama Queen."—*Derby Advertiser*, Jan. 5.

Miss Maidie Scott, in the title-rôle, again rendered her songs with excellent taste, and thoroughly deserved her numerous encores. All along she has been a great favourite.—*Derby Express*, Jan. 9.

Aladdin is represented by Miss Maidie Scott, a charming and talented actress, with versatility, which makes her in herself a complete entertainment. She acts and sings and dances with such grace and absence of affectation as wins for her unstinted admiration and applause.—*Lancashire Daily Post*, Jan. 16.

Miss Maidie Scott, who was an immense favourite here (Theatre Royal, Preston) last year, makes a captivating Aladdin. She has a charming presence, and by her sweet singing and dainty dancing again scores a great success.—*The Era*, Jan. 20.

Aladdin is played by Miss Maidie Scott, who commands success wherever she goes and conquers in whatever rôle she appears. Endowed with those natural attractions of face and figure so characteristic of a charming and pretty woman, one is not surprised that her triumph is co-equal with her popularity as an artist, for she has talent that will not be denied an outlet or refused recognition, and it is a pleasure indeed to record here how splendidly she figured as Aladdin acted, sang, and danced.—*Magnet*, Jan. 21.

Miss Maidie Scott, in the title-rôle, is not only a pleasing actress but an excellent vocalist, and two or three of her songs were encored.—*Burnley Express*, Jan. 24.

Miss Maidie Scott is the lady who impersonates the wondrous youth, and it is doubtful whether the part could have fallen into better hands. There is that about Miss Scott's acting which fascinates one; there is a robustness and there is a gentleness; an under-current of laughter, and in it all a great sympathy, a simplicity, a truthfulness. It is refreshing.—*Burnley Gazette*, Jan. 31.

Miss Maidie Scott, a roguish, ingratiating little actress, seemed even brighter than her usual sweet self by contrast, and the song of the "Little Brown Man" and the pendant dance amongst the coloured Chinese lanterns had to be twice repeated.—*Nottingham Daily Express*, Feb. 6.

Miss Maidie Scott makes a charming Aladdin, her singing and dancing and vivacity generally being an unfailing source of delight. The "Moon" song is alone worth visiting the theatre to hear.—*Nottingham Guardian*, Feb. 6.

Miss Maidie Scott fills the title-rôle, and her charming manner and pleasant voice gain her hosts of friends.—*The Era*, Feb. 10.

Miss Maidie Scott, the roguish little Aladdin, has become a prime favourite with Grand Theatre habitués, and the refrains of her songs are heartily caught up.—*Nottingham Daily Express*, Feb. 13.

Miss Maidie Scott has won all hearts by her dainty impersonation of Aladdin.—*The Era*, Feb. 17.

Fancy, fun, frolic, and thorough enjoyment were the dominant features of Mr. R. J. Brinkley's Annual Fancy Dress Ball and Carnival, held on Thursday evening, the 15th inst., at the Horns Hotel, Kennington, in the Grand Hall. In the early hours of the morning the march past took place before the ladies and gentlemen officiating as judges. The first ladies' prize (a beautiful Queen Anne silver tea and coffee service on tray) was awarded to Miss Davis, who, as "In Old Madrid," wore a lovely confection of pink silk, hand-painted, with a guitar of pink roses. The second prize (a lady's fitted dressing-case) went to Mrs. Hewson, for a delightful conception of "A Penny Bazaar," worn on a beautifully-designed costume. The third prize (a lady's bicycle) was awarded to Miss Martin, who, as "Vanity," was costumed in a handsome gown literally covered with small mirrors. Fourth prize (a silver tea and coffee service, on tray) was given to Miss Sutherland, who, as "Bluebell in Fairyland," with bare feet, made a typical and pretty flower girl.

Mr. Stanford took the first gentlemen's prize (a fitted dressing-case), for his "North American Indian"; Mr. Ferguson came second with a unique conception of "The Growth of Speed," and won a pair of five-light silver candelabra. Mr. Samuels, in the character of a "Golliwog," gained a fitted tantalus, the third prize. The brilliant success of the carnival was due to the energy and efficiency of Mr. Jean Kohl, whose experience of these festive functions is large and varied. Mr. Callaghan acted as spokesman, and Mrs. R. J. Brinkley charmingly distributed the prizes.

The Leicester Fire Brigade received at half-past ten on Monday evening a call to the Pavilion Music Hall, where an exciting incident had occurred. A bioscope exhibition was in progress there when by some means a film in the lantern caught fire. There was an alarming burst of flame and a good deal of smoke. A number of people left their seats in some alarm, but the flames were immediately extinguished, and when the brigade arrived they found their work already done. The great bulk of the audience fortunately kept their seats, and so saved a panic, and the performance was safely concluded.

Mr. Tony Iveson, so well known in the provinces, opened in London at Walham Green on Monday, and after keeping his audience laughing and applauding for fifteen minutes, was recalled again and again. He is fully booked in the provinces this year, but London will see more of him in 1907.

THE LATE GEORGE LE BRUNN TESTIMONIAL FUND.

The committee of the above met at the Oxford on Monday last, and in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Albert Gilmer voted Miss Marie Lloyd in the chair. Mr. Blyth Pratt reported as to the money taken at the doors of the matinée on Jan. 22, and sales of programmes, &c., showing, after deduction of all unavoidable expenses, a surplus of £302 16s. 6d. This handsome result, added to subscriptions to the fund, brings about a grand total of nearly £700. £200 of this it was decided to set aside for the mother of the deceased, and the balance allotted to the widow, two trustees—Miss Marie Lloyd and Mr. David Day—being appointed to pay out all monies, as and how they in their discretion judged would be best.

Votes of thanks to all helpers in the good cause were unanimously passed, including special ones to the Directors of the Oxford for so readily and generously placing the hall at the service of the committee, thereby largely ensuring the success of the movement, and to the Editor of *The Era* for his courtesy in giving the matter so much publicity.

It is decided to wind up the fund without further delay, and Mr. David Day would therefore be favoured if all outstanding lists and donations could be returned to him at 142, Charing Cross-road, W.C., at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. George Fraser's List.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
W. Benjamin....	1	1	0	E. W. Fraser ..	1	1	0
G. F.	1	0	0	Jim	0	5	0
G. Camp	0	10	6	W. A. B.	0	10	0
M. Aylin	0	5	0				
N. Leigh	0	5	0		5	18	6
Simpsons, Ltd...	1	1	0				

Mr. Frank Glenister's List.

L. M. B. and C. A. L.	0	2	0	A. G. S.	0	2	6
P. S. L. and G. W. D.	0	2	0	E. R.	0	2	0
E. H.	0	2	0	A. S. S.	0	2	0
E. C. H.	0	2	0	Epsom	0	3	0
T. O.	0	2	0	H.	0	2	0
An Arab	0	2	0	R. L.	0	2	0
A. Caport	0	2	0	A. R. H.	0	2	0
F. R. H.	0	2	0	A. L.	0	2	0
L. S. S.	0	2	0	Rutter	0	2	0
H. E. H.	0	2	0	Fred Parker	0	2	0
H. T.	0	2	0	Jessie	0	2	0
Joynkynr B.	0	3	0	Old Dear	0	2	6
The	0	4	6	C. W.	0	2	0
H. F.	0	2	6	Sudden Visits ..	0	2	0
Whiskey	0	4	0	China (Hong Kong)	0	2	0
Tommy	0	2	0	Mr. Collin ..	1	1	0
The Hardups ..	0	3	0				
Lord Lose Duck	0	6	0		5	9	0
Heavenly Twins.	0	3	0				

Mr. Joseph Wilson's List.

Mr. Joseph Wilson	0	10	0	Nellie Navette..	0	5	0
John Nathan (2nd Sub.)	0	10	0	T. S. W.	0	5	0
Ted Shuter	0	5	0	H. A. B.	0	5	0
Mr. Carter	0	5	0	K. Robinson	0	5	0
Frank Hardy ..	0	5	0	H. Hunt	0	5	0
J. Callingham ..	0	10	0	Langley Hunt ..	0	5	0
					4	0	0

Mr. Monk's List.

Mr. Dunkley	1	1	0
P. Titte	1	1	0
	2	2	0

Mr. J. McCready Chute's List.

J. M. Chute	1	1	0	Mrs. Griffiths ..	0	5	0
Wilkie Bard	0	10	6	Miss J. Griffiths	0	5	0
Edward Lewis ..	0	10	6	Fred Conquest ..	0	10	6
Fanny Fields ..	0	10	6	Rich and Rich..	0	5	0
Lily Morris	0	5	0	G. Edgar	0	2	6
Fred Griffiths ..	0	10	6	Fred Griffiths, Simon	0	3	0
				jun.	0	5	0
					5	4	0

Mr. E. Montefiore's List.

Wall Croft	0	2	6	Daisy Stratton..	0	2	6
Deane Tribune..	0	2	6	Little Zola	0	2	6
Arthur Poole ..	0	2	6	May Morton	0	2	6
Percy Yorke	0	2	6	Eade Montefiore.	0	5	0
Walton and Lester	0	2	6		1	5	0

Per Mr. Eugene Stratton.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. A. Tubbs	1	1	0

Mr. Fred Earle's List.

Mr. Fred Earle	0	10	6
Collected	0	10	0
	1	0	6

Mr. P. Reymond's List.

Phil Reymond ..	0	10	6	Mr. Howard	0	1	0
Mr. Morgan	0	2	6	Sympathy	0	0	6
Bluejacket	0	1	0				
Friend	0	2	0		1	0	0
Mr. Vincent	0	2	6				

Messrs. J. Porter and W. F. J. Ferguson's List.

G. C. Murgatroyd	0	1	0	Chas. Woodward	0	1	0
Bros. Webb	0	2	0	Anonymous	0	2	2
Geo. Barrington.	0	1	0	Cliff Ryland	0	2	0
Madge Elliott ..	0	1	0	Hy. Carlton	0	1	0
Addie Dorma ..	0	3	0				
Three Schaffers..	0	1	6		0	15	8

Miss Selina Seaforth's List.

Miss Selina Seaforth	0	5	0	William Jackson A. W.	0	5	0
W. Whitney	0	1	0		0	0	6
					0	11	6

Mr. Campkin's List.

Lloyd Campkin..	0	2	6	Frank Cass	0	1	0
W. Cameron	0	1	0	Venta	0	1	0
George Newsham	0	1	0				
Percy Snape	0	1	0		0	7	6

Mr. George Mozart	0	10	6
Mr. Joseph Tabrar	0	10	6

Mr. Fred J. Reece's List.

F. J. R.	0	2	0
Anonymous	0	2	0

Mr. H. J. Preston's List.

Royal York Hotel, Brighton	3	3	0

STEINWAY HALL.

Miss Grace Angus had a very large attendance at her concert, given at the Steinway Hall on the 15th inst. Miss Angus, who has a light and well-trained soprano voice, was first heard in Handel's recit. and air, "Oh, had I Jubal's lyre," but seemed better suited in Spohr's cavatina, "Rose softly blooming." Miss Angus also received great applause for her singing of the Swallow song from Goring Thomas's *Esmeralda*, and was associated with Mr. Norman Ridley in a very able rendering of three German duets by Cornelius, and later in the programme was set down for "The Song of Dolores," by Manzocchi, and Chaminade's "Berceuse," and for "Crabbed Age and Youth," C. H. H. Parry. Miss Angus was assisted by Mr. Norman Ridley (baritone), who sang well in two songs of Korbay. Miss Nora McKay (solo violin) and Miss Edith A. Parsons (pianoforte) both rendered useful aid towards the success of the concert, the former playing Handel's Sonata in A with marked ability, and the latter giving Chopin's piano solo "Mazurka" in B minor in a finished and able manner. The accompanists were Mr. Herbert L. Cooke and Mr. T. S. Hamilton.

MR. TED COWAN finishes to-night a successful run of ten weeks in London, and goes on the Moss and Stoll tour on Monday, commencing at the Olympia, Liverpool.

MISS FRANCES LETTY, the coon comedy girl, recently produced successfully at the Palace, Glasgow, a new song by Will Godwin, "Captain Kettle's Farewell," assisted by a miniature Captain Kettle in the front of the theatre, and met with a great reception. The fair artist has had a very successful tour at the Barrasford halls, and will soon be seen in London.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE many friends of Mr. H. Powell, property master at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, will regret to hear that his wife died on the 13th inst. MRS. Powell had been in ill-health for some months.

DEATHS and accidents have been unusually numerous in Stage-Staff circles recently. Mr. Ingram, a member of the electrician staff, whose sudden illness at His Majesty's Theatre was alluded to the other week, died before he reached the hospital. Mr. Wright, a member of the electrician's staff at the Waldorf Theatre, fell from the gallery, underneath the "fly" gallery, to the stage during the performance on the 13th inst., and was killed. Mr. Morgan, a member of the staff at the Gaiety Theatre, fell from Jacob's ladder, 30ft. to the stage, during the performance on the 10th inst, and was removed in an unconscious state to the hospital.

AT a meeting of the General Operative Sick and Benefit Society, held on the 11th inst., it was decided to hold the annual dinner on Sunday evening, March 18, in the Salisbury Hotel. Tickets, price 2s. 6d., may be obtained from Mr. A. E. Wood, secretary, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, and from Mr. P. Thomas, at the Alhambra Theatre, and from other members of the committee.

MR. H. B. IRVING has accepted the invitation of the Heads of Departments to preside at the forthcoming annual dinner of the Association. A meeting of the Committee will be held next week to decide the date, but it is anticipated that Sunday, April 1, will be selected. It is expected that a thoroughly representative gathering will be secured, as each of the preceding annual dinners has been extremely successful.

THE announcement that the Drury-lane pantomime will go to Paris may account for the rumour that the members of the working staff who will be sent to help "work the show" are to have lessons in French. Should this idea be carried out, it will be interesting to have "Messieurs'" impression of Paris. It would not, however, be the first time that English stage employees had visited *la ville lumière*. It will be remembered that several members of the Duke of York's Theatre accompanied *The Admirable Crichton* company from that theatre on a flying matinée trip to Paris. On that occasion only one performance was given, and as the staff worked, practically, day and night, their impressions of the gay city were not very instructive.

A MEETING of the members of the Theatrical Carpenters' Society will be held in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, on Sunday evening, at 8.30, when the business includes a discussion of the auditors' report, the election of officers for the ensuing year, the fixing of the dates of the annual dinner and the theatrical sports, and the election of new members.

A MEETING will be held on Thursday evening in Stratford for the purpose of considering the objects and benefits of the National Association of Theatrical Employees and the formation of a branch for the benefits of the stage employees of the district. All stage employees are invited to attend the meeting.

AN interesting ceremony took place on the stage of the Grand Theatre, Islington, on Saturday night, the occasion being the last night of the pantomime and the annual presentations to members of the company and the meritorious members of the staff. Mr. Samuel James, the managing-director, said it gave him great pleasure to publicly thank his master carpenter for the efficient manner in which he had conducted his department, and for the way he had worked for him. He had never had a more reliable and obliging employee. The proceedings concluded with "Auld Lang Syne." Dancing then commenced, and continued until the small hours.

THE success of the Theatrical Sports lately given in Liverpool directs attention to the metropolitan theatrical sports. It is worth while considering whether the London fixture cannot be made more imposing and more representative of the profession and the professional charities. If any of our readers can suggest some improved methods we shall be glad to hear from them.

MR. ALFRED BUTT, who is always on the *qui vive* for something new to place before the Palace patrons, promises us a long and hearty laugh on Monday, when *The Would-be Actors* will appear on the programme. We believe this will be the first appearance in London of this amusing skit, which has lately been so successful in the provinces.

THE run of *Hero and Heroine* at the Palace terminated on Saturday evening, and Mr. Arthur Playfair has now returned to the theatrical stage to play a part in Captain Marshall's piece at the Comedy.

MLLE. ADELINA GENEE is again appearing each evening in *The Little Michus* at Daly's Theatre, and her dance is as attractive as ever. Her part in *The Bugle Call* at the Empire is now being filled by Miss Elise Clerc. Mlle. Genée, however, is seen in her exquisite performance of Cinderella

THE Three Rubys, who are the granddaughters of the late Billy Randall, the famous comedian, are scoring at the Alexandra, Birmingham, in their dance and acrobatic speciality in the Palace scene.

THE latest quotations for Music Hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra 1½, Canterbury 1½, Empire (15s. paid) 1½, ditto (10s. paid) 1, London Pav. Ord. 4½, ditto Pref. 4½, London Coliseum 1, Metropolitan ⅞, Moss Empire 4, ditto Pref. 3½, Oxford 6½, Palace 10s. 6d., Tivoli 5½, Variety Consolidated Theatres 14s. 6d.

A PRIVATE enterprise has been started for the erection of one or two variety establishments abroad. We cannot at present give the names of the places, but the engaging and sole booking of the artists is in the hands of Richard Cass's Agency.

LA BELLE OTERO, the well-known Spanish dancer, who could not carry out her tour to St. Petersburg because of the insurrection, is being sued for £640 damages by two artists whom she had engaged to accompany her.

As a result of the football match played at Goodison Park ground, Liverpool, last week, between Mr. George Robey's XI. and the Everton team, the sum of £405 has been realised for charitable purposes.

MR. FRANK LEO'S song, "Iona from Arizona," which Miss Sable Fern has been singing with very great success at the London Coliseum, has been published by the Charing Cross-road firm.

MR. SID BANDON, character comedian, has been laid aside for eighteen weeks with rheumatism and lumbago. He is now getting better, and hopes to commence work on March 12.

MISS GWENNIE HASTO has been re-engaged by Mr. Robert Courtneidge for another two years, at a big increase of salary. This will make Miss Hasto's sixth year with him in panto.

CHAT WITH MR. WILL OLIVER.

It is nearly sixteen years since Mr. Will Oliver, of the well-known agency firm of Oliver and Holmes, retired from the stage. The occasion, it will be remembered, was marked by the presentation to Mr. Oliver of an illuminated address signed by 125 prominent music-hall managers and artists. Mr. Oliver was then thirty-nine years of age, and as the anniversary of his birthday came close upon his retirement from active work before the footlights, a double event was celebrated. Presents poured in from all parts, for "Will," as he is affectionately termed, is a popular personality in variety circles. He has a nickname, with which, we believe, all music-hall people are acquainted, and that is "The Man on the Spot."

In his delightful home, "Spot Lodge," 233, Brixton-road, S.W., we had a chat with Mr. Oliver a few days ago. Showing us a time-worn portrait of himself in a red jacket, blue trousers, and old-fashioned broad silk hat, he remarked: "That was taken when I was appearing at Wilton's thirty-nine years ago, when I started in business. During my career I have played at every hall of note in London and the provinces and in twenty-three pantomimes, my last appearance in a Christmas production being at the Britannia, Hoxton. I was then the principal comedian and Miss Marie

MR. WILL OLIVER.

Lloyd was the principal girl. That was her first engagement in pantomime—and my last. Curiously enough, she went straight from the Britannia to Drury-lane. Wasn't it a jump?"

"Yes," he went on in reply to a question, "I am enjoying excellent health at the present time. I have taken care of myself whenever I could, and at times others have performed a similar service for me. I am fifty-four years old on Friday, the 23rd inst.," and as he spoke we were shown a bundle of telegrams of congratulation which had reached him on his last birthday celebration, and which, naturally enough, he regards with a good deal of affection. And talking about his approaching anniversary—which, we presume, was duly commemorated yesterday—brought to one's mind the reflection that Mr. Oliver didn't look his age, and was, in fact, as energetic as many a man of thirty. One recollected that he had appeared quite recently at the London Pavilion, when he performed as a very comical drummer-boy in a special performance under the auspices of The Water Rats. The make-up was admittedly good on this occasion, and some of Mr. Oliver's waggish friends insisted that he had padded himself, because, normally, he is a very thin man. His highest weight, he tells us, was 7st. 4lb., and now he only brings the scale down at 6st. 12lb.

"Of course," said Mr. Oliver, "I have seen a great many changes in agency work since I first launched into that department of theatrical business twenty years ago. When I commenced I used to visit three and sometimes four towns a day, and filled up all the vacancies for the following Monday. Hence my title, 'The Man on the Spot.' Today there are forty agents to every one of twenty years ago. Some of them combine the business of rag-shops and other such undertakings, and not long ago we had six clients on our books who described themselves as variety agents and carried books round the provinces. Mr. Holmes, by the way, has been with me for the last fourteen years. One of my latest 'finds' is Miss Millie Payne, who has already signed contracts for the Moss and Stoll tour well into 1909."

Mr. Oliver is one of the original founders of The Water Rats' Society, is a P.M. in Freemasonry, and one of the oldest members of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund Committee. "Spot Lodge," where he has resided for the last sixteen years, is one of the best houses in Brixton, and attached thereto is a very nice garden, upon which Mr. Oliver bestows great attention and care. Mr. Paul Cinquevalli, whose house faces this garden, has expressed his gratitude to Mr. Oliver for furnishing him with such a nice outlook.

Among his household treasures, Mr. Oliver values very much a number of oil-paintings by Mr. Carl Brenner, who was for many years the general-manager of the Palace, Nottingham; and particularly proud he is in the possession of bound volumes of *The Era* for seventeen years, presented to him by the late Mr. Dan Leno.

CARL HERTZ'S new illusion, entitled "Belshazzar's Blackboard," which he first presented last month at the Scala Theatre, Copenhagen, was produced for the first time in England on Monday evening last at the Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead. The novelty consists of a schoolroom blackboard measuring 3ft. by 2ft. 6in and 1in. in thickness. It is shown to the audience on all sides, and is hung in a small frame isolated from all parts of the stage. While in that position writing in chalk mysteriously appears on its surface; sums given by the audience are correctly added up; questions are answered, communications in sealed envelopes are reproduced, and numerous other experiments are performed. As soon as one writing appears on the board it is rubbed off with a wet sponge, and the next one appears on the same blackboard. All these experiments are done in full light and without any visible agency. The illusion has proved a tremendous success at Birkenhead, and will be seen Monday next at the Zoo in Glasgow.

MOST of the equestrian profession will remember "Donbavand," the jockey-act rider, who, we regret to say, passed away on Jan. 28 last, after two weeks' illness, from a very bad type of consumption. Rosie Transfield, his widow, is also well known. She is left with six children, totally unprovided for. She appeals for aid in her distressful circumstances. Those who are willing to help, please send subscriptions, which will be be acknowledged, to Mr. Gilmore, proprietor, Empire, Stockport

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page 12.*)

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The Wakefield and District Amateur Operatic Society occupies the stage this week with the opera, *The Gondoliers*, the performance being in aid of local charities.

HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—Wee Mona, an exceptionally smart juvenile comedienne, heads the bills this week, and delights with her songs and clever dancing. The Mannikins, living marionets, win appreciation; Ariel and Astarte, gymnasts, are accorded applause; Albert Ventnor, eccentric comedian, gives a humorous turn; a wonderfully well educated horse, Billy, performs some astounding feats in arithmetical calculations, and playing cards. Other capital turns include Miss Fanny Humber, smart skipping-rope dancer and musical instrumentalist, and Wisper, comedy tourist juggler.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, LTD.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—An outstanding feature in the current bill is Ella's lions; Baker and Balfe, xylophone players and dancers are clever; Viola May sings some pleasing songs; the Brothers Corty, aërial humourists, prove themselves popular; a pleasing turn is provided by F. H. Dundas, actor-vocalist; May Geraldine, comedienne; Kyoto and his mysterious Japanese box add greatly to the interest of the programme, which also includes the American Bioscope.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. John B. Stinton and Mr. Alexander Greenwood's company in the Russian drama, *The Price of Her Soul*, is occupying the boards here this week. Mr. John B. Shinton makes a capital Lord Rolf Mandeville; Mr. Langdon Goulding scores as General Demetrius Lonovitz; Miss Ada M. Ryder as Countess Inex Steinmetz does full justice to the part; and Vera has a careful exponent in Little Ida Thompson.

WALTHAMSTOW.—KING'S THEATRE. — One of our oldest stage favourites, Mr. Henry Bedford, is appearing here this week in a stirring drama entitled *Gipsy Jack*, in which his fine dashing style of acting finds good scope as the hero. Mr. Bedford is well supported by a clever company, including Messrs. Geo. W. Hewetson, Walter H. Damoney, Alec Alexander, Cecil C. Churton, Sid Bedford; Miss Mary Masters, Miss Frances Foley, Miss Ada Antley, Miss Jennie Risley, Miss Frances Pole, and Miss Bessie Bedford.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—This week we have a return visit of Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Sunday*. Miss Jean Stirling Mackinlay fills the title-rôle with grace, refinement, and pathos; Miss Juliet Hardinge leaves nothing to be desired as the Nun, and Miss Rosalind Ross as Mrs. Naresby is well suited. Mr. Leonard Pagden gives a fine rendering of Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas enacts the part of Tim Cody in good style, and Mr. William Lockhart scores as Towzer. Mr. Sydney Rennef wins favour as Harry, and Jacky is in the safe hands of Mr. Arthur Vezin.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. Fred J. Willmot.—A couple of clever quick-change artists in Baroni and Kemp astonish all with a wonderful performance; Gus Harris, a big favourite here, enhances his reputation as a character Hebrew vocalist, and is very dramatic in his rendering of "The Synagogue"; the Thompsons supply a rare sporting turn in boxing and wrestling; the Campeons are refined duettists, and Yorkshire Tom amuses all with his mimicry. Maud Edwards scores a big success with her ventriloquial turn, and Little Tina sings exceptionally well.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—This week Mr. G. H. W. Burrough's up-to-date pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* is drawing crowded houses here. Miss Louie Fuller makes a dashing and sprightly Sinbad; the part of the Princess Yazora is in the capable hands of Miss Florence Barnes; Miss V. Winifred Hamilton as Captain Selim makes the most of her opportunities; the rôles of Irza and the Princess Fatima are interestingly portrayed by Miss May Gower and Miss Ada Langton respectively. Excellent amusement is afforded by Mr. H. G. Brandon as Mother Sinbad; the part of Tinbad is most comically portrayed by Mr. Chas. I. Langton; and the Fairy is charmingly enacted by Miss Nellie Trevallian.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's No. 1 company in the powerful drama *Two Little Drummer Boys* opened here on Monday night. Mr. F. G. Kimberley played with great success the part of Quiney O'Quirk, and kept the audience in continual roars of laughter; Mr. William Vane was all that could be desired as Captain Frank Carsdale, and the same remark applies to Mr. Andrew Money in the character of Gaptain George Darrell; Mr. Frank Hoyd gave a clever impersonation of the deserter Jim Barker; the General Kingsley, V.C., of Mr. Edward Bikker was good; Mr. Horace Custins did well as Timothy Trimmer; Miss May Smart and Miss Eva Norman, who portrayed the two Little Drummer Boys, deserve special mention for their clever acting; Miss Violet Langley presented a smart Alma Kingsley, and Miss Lottie Addison (Mrs. F. G. Kimberley) submitted an accomplished interpretation of Margaret Rivers.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—*Her Lost Self* is being played here this week by Miss Frances Delavel's company, in which Miss Delavel achieves a triumph in the rôle of Phillipine Marcel; Mr. Percy Carne Waram as Wilfred Daventry is entirely successful; Miss Min Johnson is pretty and clever as Dorothy Daventry; Miss Dora Hammersley entirely wins the sympathy of the house in the double rôle of Dorothy and Lucille.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The dexterity and precision with which the Andos Happy Little Japs do their work is creating wonderment; George Newburn's imitations of popular variety people are faithful; the Hartley Wonders' exhibition of jumping is an astonishing one; and other numbers on the programme are contributed by Raymond's Bioscope, Mark Merry, Dusty Rhodes, Maggie Walsh, De Henau, and Mdlle. Aladina's performing cockatoos.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Clifford's company is paying a visit here this week in *On Circumstantial Evidence*. Mr. Milton Curtis is a manly Jack Ogilvy; Mr. Chas. Clifford makes a decidedly villainous Captain Hamilton; Mr. S. Long gives a sound performance of General Garibaldi; and Mr. E. Morton submits an artistic interpretation of Antonio; Mr. A. M. James is commendable as Sir Lawrence Kinlock. As Jeremiah Tobin, Mr. Val Gally is extremely humorous; and in the dual rôle of Olga and Mary Brandoni, Miss Rose Faitt shows much dramatic ability; Miss Maud Camfield presents an interesting study of Violet Ogilvy; and Miss Polly Denville evokes laughter as Polly Smithers.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—The original Leopolds are doing good business here this week in *New Frivolity*. Mr. Watson Hume is a humorous Oliver Buckwheat, and is well supported by Mr. Barry Lupino as Sammy. Miss Marie Anit is excellent as Madame Cobweb, and Miss Amy Hall is graceful as Lucy Buckwheat. Some astounding acrobatic feats are introduced by the Leopold Bros.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Keddie.—After an absence of five years we have again here *La Poupée*. The company is that of Mr. Herbert Ralland, and its work is very successful. The Hilarius of Mr. Fred Seymour was the big hit of the evening, and the popular artist came in for a hearty ovation. Miss Dot Stephens as Alesia proved herself a charming little lady and an actress of undoubted ability. Mr. Wm. Everard as Lancelot brought out the bashfulness of the young man exceedingly well; Mr. Walter Balfour was a bluff Father Maxime; and Miss Edith Hunter did some work as Madame Hilarius.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is here with the popular drama *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Florence Dalton plays the leading part of the adventuress with much power and histrionic ability, and Miss Effie Bartlett acts the rôle of Ruth Milford with expression and resourcefulness; Miss Florence Lovell is good as Matilda Parker, and Mr. Wallace Campbell portrays with success the manly Jack Felton; Mr. Paul Barry Lewers is very effective as the rascally Vincent Lyle; Mr. H. H. Barrington acquits himself well as James Milford; and Mr. H. W. Monte is responsible for a clever character-study of Hugh Drayton. Mr. Leonard Booker is adapted to the part of Philip Armstrong.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—At this popular house Miss Caselli's troupe of Mexican Chihuahua trained dogs perform amazing feats which are highly appreciated. Miss Nellie Coleman, the female Dan Leno, meets with a rousing reception in her many character songs; several tuneful selections on the pianoforte and concertina are given by Henderson, the blind musician; and another clever turn is provided by Juno Salmo, contortionist; Dome, clay modeller, gives some excellent likenesses of well-known people; and Tom E. Hughes delights the house with his song, "I am one of the Upper Ten." Captain Ralston, vocalist, who possesses a good bass voice, receives encores for his rendering of "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." Other good turns are given by Gallagher and Hild, comedy artists and dancers; Vanoia, Mexican antipodeste; and by Jack Hylton, comedian. The Bioscope pictures, as usual, are good.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —Nothing more elaborate in stage scenery and effects has ever been seen here than is displayed this week by Mr. William Greet's company in *The Talk of the Town*. The dresses are beautiful, and many charming combinations are produced by a large and effective chorus. Among individual artistes, the principal burden falls upon Mr. William Cromwell, who as Jerry Snipe is very successful, and provides any amount of fun; as Mrs. Snipe, Miss Louie Tinsley scores heavily, and gives a most artistic impersonation of the part; Miss Joan Keddie is a charming Ellaline Lewin; Miss G. Melville is smart as Madame Modiste; Miss Katherine Harrington is a graceful and ladylike Lady Nightingale; and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy is a winsome Jane. Mr. Arthur Harrold does capitally as Lieut. Reggie Drummond; and Mr. Tom Graves and Mr. A. Gambier Melford afford much amusement as Ernest and Frank English. The whole performance goes with a good swing from start to finish.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—This week's special attraction consists of J. L. Shine and company, who are seen to great advantage in *Hogmanay* (A New Year's Eve). A capital programme also includes Chris Richards, "the man with the hat," an excellent comedian; Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dee in a sketch; Nelson and Thomas, comedians; Alethea, lady gymnast; Charles Ashdowne, comedian and dancer; Kishey, patter comedian; and Ruffel's Bioscope.

WORCESTER.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Lewards.—Mr. Tree has sent a specially selected company to present to Worcester playgoers for a week *Oliver Twist*, with all the necessary scenic and other appointments. Mr. Wm. Mackintosh in the part of Fagin enhances a reputation already firmly established by previous visits. In his hands the character, though repulsive in its cunning and duplicity, is a masterly piece of acting. As Bill Sikes, Mr. Cecil A. Collins brings out the unredeemed brutality of the character, and Mr. Ashton Pearse makes the part of Mouks a striking one. Messrs. Tom Macfarlane (The Artful Dodger), Edgar J. Coyne (Charlie Bates), Christmas Grose (Tom Chitling), and Max Montecole (Burney) are well suited in their respective parts. Mr. Harry Braban is a distinguished Harry Maylie, Mr. Clifford Bown makes the part of Mr. Grimwig distinctly interesting, and Mr. Ben Lewin is a breezy Mr. Brownlow. As Nancy, Miss Hutin Britton's is a clever impersonation; Miss Gertrude Lang is a pleasing and lovable Oliver, and Miss Hilda Dick takes the part of Rose very sweetly. Miss Elsie Carew is a sympathetic and graceful Mrs. Maylie.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. John A. Thomson's No. 1 company is here this week presenting *Dick Whittington and His Cat* to highly appreciative audiences. Miss Ida Kessenly as Dick gives a very good rendering. Miss Ella Wilmer is a winsome and pretty Alice Fitzwarren, her vocalisation and dancing being greatly admired. Miss Lily English and Miss Violet English as Algy and Polly were soon installed as favourites. Miss Ella Rose does well as Princess Charming; Mr. Ross Warren is excellent as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Harry Harcourt as Betsy Jane is extremely funny, and gives a clever impersonation; Mr. Syd Morreli scores as Captain Bunting, causing unstinted merriment. Great praise is due to Mr. Fred Anderson as Pimple; he proves himself to be a really first-class comedian, keeping the house in roars of laughter with his quaint comicalities. Mr. Edwin Dodds greatly adds to the fun as Idle Jack. Mr. Hubert Davis is extremely good as Thomas (the cat). Mr. Albert Hammond as the Demon Rat and Mr. Albert Victor as the Emperor of Morocco do excellent work.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company is appearing this week in the apparently evergeen *Florodora*. No more charming representative of Lady Holyrood than Miss Kate Leicester has previously appeared here; her performance is marked by much grace, she is a sweet singer, and as a dancer would be hard to beat. A dainty Angela is seen in the person of Miss Florence Hersee, who is extremely interesting and lively. Her share in the duet with Arthur Donegal, a part capitally played by Mr. Harold Perry, is well received and re-demanded. Miss Gwladys Elvey makes a handsome Dolores; Mr. Henry Crosland gives a good account of himself as Frank Abercoed; Mr. Edward Chester's abilities as a character-actor have full scope, and as a result he makes a very amusing Cyrus Gilfain. Of Mr. Albert Brino, who appears as Tweedlepunch, nothing but praise can be said. He works extremely hard, is a quaint comedian, and dances with much skill.

EMPIRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Conway and Garland's sketch *Left in Charge* is a very amusing item. The Ferras Bros. are expert acrobats, who never fail to attract; and Rose Waller is a pleasing and refined singer. On several different instruments Burnetti proves himself an adept; Leslie Race sings two songs in good style; Prince Kokin is an astonishingly clever juggler; Howard and St. Clair's sketch is well received, and Reba and the Empire bioscope completes the list.

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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

We are glad to be able to lay before our readers the full text of the petitions of the organised showmen against the Private Bill legislation affecting their business, and now before the House of Commons. The Wallassey Bill will come before the House of Lords in due time, and if the pacific negotiations now pending between the executive of the Showmen's Guild and the District Council fail, a petition will be lodged against the Wallassey Bill.

The petition against the Middlesex County Council Bill is as follows:—

To the HONOURABLE THE COMMONS of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in PARLIAMENT assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of JANE PETTIGROVE, EDMOND HOLLOWAY, WILLIAM BEACH, ALFRED BALL, and HENRY TAYLOR

Sheweth—

1. That a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") has been deposited in the Private Bill Office of your Honourable House, intituled "A Bill to make further provision for preventing the pollution and obstruction of Streams in the County of Middlesex and to confer further powers on the County Council of Middlesex for that purpose and in relation to the width and maintenance of Roads Employment Agencies Ice Cream Vendors Gipsy Encampments Quarter Sessions rating of Cemeteries Recreation Ground Brentford Market and Runnymede Rifle Range; for amending the London and Middlesex (Adjustment) Scheme 1905; and for other purposes."

2. The promoters of the Bill are the County Council of Middlesex (hereinafter called "the Council").

3. Your petitioners are proprietors of travelling shows and other similar exhibitions, and for their greater convenience in the carrying on of such shows, &c., they are in the habit of dwelling in vans on the ground where the said shows, &c., are on view. For the purposes of their calling they habitually resort to various places within the County of Middlesex. Your Petitioners, their property, rights, and interests, are injuriously affected by the Bill, and they object thereto for the reasons hereinafter stated.

4. By Clause 31 of the Bill it is proposed to be enacted as follows:—

"If and whenever the Council on the application of the local authority of any district shall by resolution so determine the following provisions shall have effect in the district of such local authority (that is to say):—

"(1) No owner of land shall cause or suffer any such land within one hundred yards of any street or of any dwelling house to be occupied so as to cause annoyance injury or disturbance to residents in the neighbourhood by any tent-dweller squatter gipsy or other person dwelling in a tent or van or other similar structure:

"(2) No tent-dweller squatter gipsy or other person shall use as a dwelling place so as to cause annoyance injury or disturbance to residents in the neighbourhood any tent or van or other similar structure placed on any land situated within one hundred yards of any street or of any dwelling house:

"(3) Every person who shall offend against either of the foregoing enactments shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty of not exceeding five pounds."

5. Your Petitioners, while in no way desirous of causing annoyance, injury, or disturbance, against which the said Clause 31 is ostensibly directed, are nevertheless apprehensive that the Clause, if passed into law, might be so interpreted as to interfere with their businesses in cases where no real annoyance, injury, or disturbance had been caused, since it is the practice of some justices to treat the mere presence of van-dwellers as an annoyance without evidence of any specific objectionable acts on their part.

6. Your Petitioners humbly submit that the said Clause 31 should not be passed into law by your Honourable House, as they are advised that the Council could obtain the same powers by means of by-laws made under the authority of Section 16 of the Local Government Act, 1888.

7. The Preamble of the Bill in so far as it relates to the matters aforesaid is unfounded and incapable of proof.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands, and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents, and Witnesses against the Preamble and Clauses thereof, and, in the event of the Preamble being proved, then in support of such Clauses and Provisions as may be necessary for their protection and benefit, and that your Honourable House may grant to your Petitioners such further and other relief in the premises as to your Honourable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

JANE PETTIGROVE.
EDMOND HOLLOWAY.
WILLIAM BEACH.
ALFRED BALL.
HENRY TAYLOR.

The Pontefract Bill raises again the important issues the showmen fought and won in the Eccles, Hyde, and Halifax Bills.

PONTEFRACT CORPORATION BILL.

To the HONOURABLE THE COMMONS of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in PARLIAMENT assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Sheweth—

1. That a Bill (hereinafter refered to as "the Bill") has been deposited in the Private Bill Office of your Honourable House, intituled "A Bill to vest in the Corporation of Pontefract the undertakings of the Pontefract Park Trustees and the Pontefract Gas Company, and to make further provision for the local government of the borough and the water supply thereto and for other purposes."

2. The promoters of the Bill are the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Pontefract (hereinafter called "the Corporation").

3. Your petitioners are an Association founded in 1890 with *inter alia* the following object: To watch any attempt at legislation which is calculated to affect or interfere with the rights or business of Showmen and Vandwellers in general, and to take such proceedings in Parliamentary and other matters as may be deemed advisable.

4. The members of your Petitioners' Association are showmen, stall-holders, and others carrying on business at fairs throughout the United Kingdom. The property, rights, and interests of the said members are injuriously affected by the Bill, and your Petitioners object thereto for the reasons hereinafter stated.

5. By Clause 76 of the Bill it is proposed to be enacted as follows:—

"(1) The Corporation may by licence permit the holding of fairs within the borough at such times and places for such purposes and subject to such conditions restrictions and limitations as they may think fit to impose and the Corporation may in connection with any such fairs and in connection with the Statute Hiring Fair held annually in the month of November in the borough make by-laws for the conduct of the fairs and in particular may by such by-laws:—

"(A) Fix the hours during which the fairs may remain open;

"(B) Provide for the preservation of order and good conduct among persons frequenting the fairs;

"(C) Regulate the erection or placing on the lands on which the fairs for the time being are held or upon any streets or other public places within the borough of any booths tents sheds stands and stalls (whether fixed or movable) or vehicles for the sale or exposure of any article or thing or any shows exhibitions performances swings roundabouts or other erections vans photographic carts or other vehicles whether drawn or propelled by animals or mechanical power.

"And the Corporation may, by any such by-laws go to be made by them impose such reasonable penalties as they think fit not exceeding forty shillings for each breach of such by-laws and such by-laws shall be published in the manner following viz. by advertisement in the local newspapers and by handbills and otherwise in such manner as they think sufficient.

"(2) The Corporation may by licence permit the erection placing and use upon any streets or other public places within the borough during any of the days on which the Pontefract races are held of any of the erections and things mentioned in paragraph (C) of sub-section (1) of this section and any such licence may be granted upon such terms and conditions as the Corporation may think fit and the Corporation may make by-laws for regulating the erection management and use of any such erections and things. Provided always that nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to derogate from or prejudice any other powers or rights for the time being vested in or exerciseable by the Corporation."

6. It is further proposed to be enacted by Clause 80 as follows: "Subject to the provisions of this Act if any person shall without the licence of the Corporation in any part of the borough hold or permit to be held any market or fair, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds and to a daily penalty not exceeding five pounds. Provided that nothing in this section or in section 13 of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act 1847 shall be held to deprive the Corporation of any right to proceed by action or otherwise which the Corporation would have had if those sections had not been enacted."

7. Your Petitioners humbly submit that the various powers for the regulation of fairs proposed to be conferred upon the Corporation by Clause 76 are in excess of the general law, and that no necessity for the same can be made out. These powers, taken in conjunction with the provisions of Clause 80, would enable the Corporation to seriously curtail and possibly destroy the businesses of showmen, stall-holders, and others; and the exercise of such powers would at the same time constitute an infringement of the rights of persons desirous of resorting to their shows, &c.

8. Your Petitioners further submit that the provisions of Clause 80 prohibiting the holding of fairs upon land belonging to private owners are a serious infringement of the rights of showmen. And your Petitioners also submit that it is contrary to the public interest that any restriction should be placed upon the letting or hiring of land for the use of showmen, &c., whether during fair time or otherwise.

9. The Preamble of the Bill in so far as it relates to the matters aforesaid is unfounded, and cannot be substantiated by argument or evidence.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands, and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents, and Witnesses against the Preamble and Clauses thereof, and, in the event of the Preamble being proved, then in support of such Clauses and Provisions as may be necessary for their protection and benefit, and that your Honourable House may grant to your Petitioners such further and other relief in the premises as to your Honourable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

G. SANGER, *President.*
WILLIAM CLARKE, *Vice-President.*
THOMAS HURST, *Secretary.*

Mr. Tom Norman sends us the following kindly appreciation of the sterling worth of the late Theophilus Read, of World's Fair celebrity:—

"Sir,—Another World's Fair has passed and gone, but unfortunately one has passed with it whom we could ill afford to lose, and I feel that I cannot let it pass without saying a few words respecting one who was so much liked and loved by all. I suppose that I was one of the last persons who spoke to the late Mr. T. Read on his last night at the Agricultural Hall. I remember him walking through just as the Hall was closing in company with his worthy secretary, Mr. Fowler, when he invited me to meet him in his office in ten minutes' time. I regret that unfortunately I was unable to keep that appointment, but sent a message instead, which makes me feel it all the more.

"Of his private character one cannot speak without admiration and regard. In his long and brilliant career he made innumerable friends, but never an enemy. Generous and open-handed, simple and equable of temper, he was everywhere beloved. By his intellectual artistic eminence he helped to raise the show profession to the level at which it now stands, thereby reclaiming it from the reproach that it had hitherto borne.

"It is men like the late Mr. T. Read that have helped me in my nine years' uphill struggle as an auctioneer to gain the success that I have attained. always an encouraging word, and a helping hand if required, therefore all well know how fully I realise for one that I have indeed lost one of my best friends.

"I am sure everyone that knew him will acclaim in their hearts with one accord that he was indeed one of the best."

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES FOR MARCH IN ENGLAND, WALES, AND SCOTLAND.

ENGLAND.

Mar. 1.	Downham	Mar. 22.	Retford
Mar. 1.	Maiden Newton	Mar. 24.	Clitheroe
		Mar. 24.	Helston
Mar. 2.	Oswestry	Mar. 24.	Holmfirth
Mar. 3.	St. Buryan's	Mar. 24.	Leigh (Dorset)
Mar. 3.	Wisbeach	Mar. 24.	Odiham
Mar. 5.	Bury.	Mar. 26.	Durham
Mar. 5.	Chertsey	Mar. 26.	Henley-in Arden
Mar. 5.	Dudley		
Mar. 7.	Belford	Mar. 26.	Stamford
Mar. 7.	Blandford	Mar. 27.	Bridgnorth
Mar. 7.	Camborne	Mar. 27.	Bridlington
Mar. 14.	Colne	Mar. 27.	Ottery St. Mary
Mar. 17.	Alston (Cumb.)	Mar. 29.	Stamfordham
Mar. 19.	Gomersall Feast	Mar. 31.	Hertford
Mar. 20.	Upper Ottery	Mar. 31.	Lindfield
Mar. 22.	Congleton	Mar. 31.	Stourbridge
Mar. 22.	Okehampton	Mar. 31.	Worthen

SCOTLAND.

Mar. 3.	Berwick-on-Tweed	Mar. 10.	Haddington
		Mar. 21.	Dumfries
Mar. 3.	Roxborough	Mar. 21.	Galashiels

WALES.

Mar. 2.	Brecon	Mar. 20.	Corwen
Mar. 8.	Menai Bridge	Mar. 31.	Llanfyllion
Mar. 15.	Penmorfa	Mar. 31.	Maesyewmmer
Mar. 17.	Cowbridge	Mar. 31.	Menai Bridge
Mar. 17.	Rhyadar	Mar. 31.	Tredegar

The fairs ahead next week are Lichfield, Longton, Bildesden, Tetbury, Downham Market, Oswestry, Wisbech, Bury March Fair, and St. Buryans in the West, Brecon in Wales, and Berwick and Roxboro' in Scotland.

The following note is from one of our Welsh showman correspondents, and tells of an interesting episode in travelling or portable theatre life:—

An event which in the annals of the stage is as unique as it is rare, especially in the humbler grade of the profession, took place at Tredegar on the 16th inst., when Mr. Harry Howard was the recipient of a very pretty gold cross pendant suitably inscribed, on the occasion of his leaving the stage to take up his duties in the Church preparatory to his ordination for the ministry.

Mr. John Johnson, the proprietor of the Victoria Theatre, Tredegar, in some well-chosen words, touched on the excellent manner in which Mr. Howard had fulfilled his twelve months' engagement with him, not only studying five and often more parts weekly, but at the same time mastering both Latin and Greek, and making himself thoroughly conversant with all necessary Christian knowledge, and even preaching a sermon in one of the English Churches here, in the very town in which he was acting, a feat of study and perseverance which it would be difficult to surpass; and in presenting what was a most appropriate token of remembrance on behalf of his fellow artists, he hoped Mr. Howard would attain successfully that end to which his heart's ambition pointed.

Mr. Howard, in acknowledging the gift, feelingly remarked that words could not express his extreme gratitude for the kindly interest Mr. Johnson and his fellow artists had always taken in him, culminating in such an unexpected, and to him, an extremely flattering manner; and though he was quitting the stage for what, to him at least, appeared a higher life, he would always look upon his past career with pride. The stage he would always consider a noble calling, from which many a lasting lesson had been taught, his experience of which in time to come he would assuredly profit by; and though bidding good-bye to the "boards," the memory of the happy times he had spent in the Temple of Thespis would live in his heart as long as he breathed.

Mr. Howard preached two sermons on Sunday last at Moston (Manchester) Mission of St. Michael's and All Angels. Two nights previous he appeared as Martelli in *Corsican Brothers* and Lord Plato in *A Rough Diamond*—not a bad record, and a circumstance which says much for the stage.

A goodly number of new subscribers to the Showmen's Guild were enrolled at the King's Lynn meeting.

Per Rev. T. Horne,

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
John Wilmot, Esq.	5 0 0	Walter Wilmot, Esq.	1 0 0
H. Thurston and Sons	4 4 0	John Proctor, Esq.	0 10 6
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J. Relph, Esq.	1 1 0		
Wm. Pedley, Esq.	1 1 0		
James Wilmot, Esq.	1 0 0		

Per T. Hurst, Esq.,

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
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Per H. R. Hibbert, Esq.,

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
E. Farrar, Esq.	1 1 0	W. Sconce, Esq.	0 10 6
E. Danter, Esq.	1 1 0	R. Suett, Esq.	0 5 0

Subscriptions to Dean Memorial Fund.

Jacob Studt, Esq. ..... 10s. 6d.

Guild Subscriptions at the World's Fair.

Per Frank Turner, Esq.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
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T. Irish, Esq.	0 5 0	G. Pickard, Esq.	0 5 0
W. Hussey, Esq.	0 5 0	G. Taylor, Esq.	0 5 0

Mr. F. E. Fillis, the "Lord George Sanger" of South Africa, has been showing this week in Kimberley with very satisfactory results, both morning and evening performances having drawn large crowds. The present programme is far and away the best Mr Fillis has yet provided for his patrons, both as regards quality and quantity. Topping the list is Keaney P. Speedy, the world's greatest high-diver, whose sensational dive from a height of 120ft. into a small tank containing 3ft. of water is as thrilling a feat as one cares to witness. The Zenos, Jordan and Zeno, put in some very clever trapeze work, the excellent "fooling" of one of the troupe adding greatly to the enjoyment given by their act. The slack-rope has a capital exponent in Hugh Lloyd, who goes through his entire performance without the aid of a balancing-pole or umbrella, his concluding feat, playing the violin while throwing somersaults, always evoking the heartiest applause. Another admirable turn is that of Provo, a very smart juggler and equilibrist, with some novel and amusing tricks. The Nillson troupe of ladies contribute several pretty dances, the luminous butterfly dance being particularly pleasing. Mr. Fillis once more demonstrates his wonderful ability as a horse-trainer, cake-walking and other forms of dancing being among a few of the antics his thoroughbreds indulge in. Mr. Fillis also introduces a well-trained elephant, and Lieut. Staines exhibits his prowess amongst four big lions. The Bros. Frehal provide some really funny clowning, and the Bros. Lloyd the latest novelties in circus riding. Many other items go to make up a programme which, with variations, will be given for another week.

Mr. W. Simpson Cross, the famous animal importer of Liverpool, will this summer provide Southport with a Zoological Park, having acquired the Kew Gardens for that purpose. It is Mr. Cross's intention to have a zoological collection worthy of the town of Southport, and there is a fine lake which he intends to stock with waterfowl from all parts of the world. Admission to the Park, which will open about Easter, will be 6d., and yearly, half-yearly, monthly, and weekly contracts will be issued, as well as family tickets, students' and artists' tickets, and special rates will be arranged for the admission of schools of children. Mr. Cross, who will be the sole proprietor and director of the zoological department, is taking up his residence in Southport.

Mr. Testo, who has been in the village of Ryhill for several weeks past with his cinematograph and gramaphone worked by electricity, terminated his visit on Tuesday evening, when he gave his final display in aid of the refreshment stall for the coming Wesleyan bazaar, the sum of £2 7s. being realised.

Jenning's Theatre opens for a short season at the Royal Hotel Yard, Redditch, to-day.

CHAT WITH MR. CHARLES URBAN.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

A book that should prove of immense service to showmen, music hall managers, and even householders who entertain on a large scale will shortly be published by Mr. Charles Urban. It will deal with every aspect of the animated photography question. It will explain how to operate a bioscope machine, and it will afford adequate information to those who wish to make a business of cinématograph exhibitions as to what official—County Council or Municipal—regulations have to be conformed to. The price of the volume will be one shilling, and we should judge that it will be a veritable cinématograph dictionary.

"Urbanora" is now a distinctive and welcome feature of the programme at the Alhambra, Leicester-square, and many other managers of theatres of variety might, with advantage to themselves and their patrons, follow the example set by London's "home of ballet." "I warrant," said Mr. Charles Urban in an interview with the writer, "that fully one-third of the people who go to the Alhambra go to see the pictures. I think the provincial managers are ignoring a good opportunity in not running first-class cinematograph shows themselves. For a comparatively small sum of money 'Urbanora' pictures can be shown at any provincial music hall, and for that small sum we would give the most up-to-date pictures, as well as illustrations of local events on the same night as they occurred."

The Charles Urban Trading Company seems to have dealt with everything under the sun in their wonderful representations by animated photography. What more interesting to the entomologist than their series depicting the quaint denizens of the insect world? Here we see the almost incredible feat of an ant bearing a globe 800 times as heavy as itself. Then, the beautiful sight of the birth of a butterfly—the pupa bursting, the wings growing and expanding from mere crumpled masses, and the butterfly finally opening its gorgeously-coloured wings ready to take flight. Next, visits to birdland, to beastland, and reptile-land—what a veritable Noah's Ark in counterfeit presentment it is! Again, to those who cannot afford the trip, what more attractive than the long panorama of scenes illustrative of the various phases on board an ocean liner on its voyage from Southampton to Buenos Ayres? Here we see the anchor being weighed, the ship passing the Needles, the change of the watch, five-o-clock tea on the promenade deck, a cricket match on the main deck, and the magnificent harbour of Rio de Janeiro, with the forts realistically firing a salute. Or, to stir the blood of any perfervid Scot, we get a graphic portrayal of the splendid volunteer review at Edinburgh last September. Considering the interest which the public is at present taking in the forthcoming launch of the Dreadnought, the magnificent series of pictures showing the progress of a warship on "the stocks" is of special significance. And these are not all. Comedy and pathos, business and pleasure, wars and rumours of wars, demonstrations of peace, life in the Army, the Navy, the office, the workship, and the theatre all find a place in Mr. Urban's wonderful gallery.

And how is this encyclopædia of incidents compiled? Mr. Urban tells us that he has fourteen men in different countries. But, be it understood, before he sends any of his emissaries forth he himself makes a careful study of all the information available as to the scenes of their future operations so as to give them, as far as possible, explicit directions in regard to the phases of local life which he wishes depicted. So it is that we get these scenes from Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strands. "The study of books on these various lands and peoples," remarked Mr. Urban, "is the most fascinating part of the work. Some of my plans? Well, I am sending an expedition into Bolivia. I am afraid my representatives will have an interesting if not an exciting time there, as some of the native tribes have rather an evil reputation. Then I am going over the new Canadian-Pacific line, on which the journey to Yokohama is completed within twenty-four days. In regard to our Canadian pictures, Lord Strathcona said that they had done more for Canada than anything else."

It is anticipated that the Urban films may, at some future date, be used by the Board of Education for conveying to youthful minds never-to-be-forgotten impressions of animal life and general geographical knowledge.

The realisation of the very great importance of teaching through the agency of the eye as well as the ear has revolutionised educational methods and swept away the old dry-as-dust, pedantic ways of imparting knowledge for ever. In these days of keen competition and of competitive examinations it is of vital importance that the teacher shall not only be thoroughly up-to-date in his methods, but that he shall be able to impart instruction in a way that will hold the attention of his students, and enable them to clearly grasp and remember the subject. This can only be successfully accomplished by apt illustration. Every teacher, no matter what may be his subject, knows full well that the lecture or lesson that is demonstrated by a graphic series of illustrations or experiments is far more vividly and permanently impressed upon the minds of the students than a simple unillustrated oration. It is therefore imperative that the teacher shall have at his command some source from which he can obtain striking, truthful, and adequate illustrations for his work.

Photography is one of the greatest and most important factors in modern education. It is the magic carpet by means of which the teacher of geography can transport his or her students to the country forming the subject of the lesson or lecture, and show them the character of the country, its inhabitants and industries, its natural life, both animal and plant, and the habits and customs of the native races. By its aid Nature study may be carried on in the heart of the great city, and pupils learn to recognise the flowers of the field, the birds, animals, and insects that dwell in valley and woodland, and observe their habits. The most important advancement in photography as an aid to teaching is the successful application of cinématography to educational and scientific subjects by Mr. Charles Urban and Mr. F. Martin-Duncan. By means of the Urban-Duncan Micro-Bioscope, a wonderful series of animated pictures of microscopic forms of life has been obtained. The entire life-history of many insects, the growth of plants, the characteristic habits and movements of animals, birds, fish, and reptiles have all been cinématographed, and a unique and most remarkable educational series of animated pictures produced.

The educational series of animated pictures form an absolutely ideal means of illustrating lectures or lessons on natural science, zoology, botany, entomology, anthropology, geography, Nature study, the great industries of the world, etc., etc. They were the first to apply animated photography to the recording of *living* microscopic organisms, and the Urban-Duncan micro-bioscope films are in demand all over the world, and in daily use in all up-to-date educational centres.

These films and slides have been specially prepared to meet the requirements of the Board of Education syllabus, educational and scientific establishments, lecturers, and teachers. They have received the highest commendation from Prof. Ray Lankester, F.R.S., director of the National History Museum; Sir H. Trueman Wood; Prof. H. E. Armstrong, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S.; Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., F.Z.S.; and many other eminent scientific and educational authorities. The Urban Company have just produced a very perfect small projection outfit, suitable for use in private schools and small lecture halls, which they offer at a very reasonable price, to meet the requirements of teachers. They are prepared to make special and advantageous terms to schools, colleges, and institutes for the illustration of series of lectures on natural science, geographical, and kindred subjects.

On our own visit to the Fair at Lynn last week we were made aware of the intimate business relations between our fairs and pleasure resorts and the passenger traffic on the railways. From Peterborough right down to King's Lynn we saw posters announcing the facilities the Great Northren and the Midland were giving the public to journey down to the historic Lynn Mart, and we saw the great crowds of visitors from all parts of East Anglia to the Pleasure Fair.

From all parts of England, Ireland, and Wales, and even from the United States, we found showmen gathered at Lynn. The principal shows and roundabouts made long railway journeys to begin the spring season at Lynn, and altogether King's Lynn proves to the hilt an argument we have before adduced that the pleasure and holiday traffic on our great railways is largely owing to the fairs and local holidays of the people, in which the travelling showman plays the all-important part of perpetuating and improving.

Showmen and roundabout proprietors would do well to make a note of the fêtes, galas, and wakes, &c., in the Evesham and Redditch district during the summer months. In the Evesham district fêtes, &c., are held at the following places, viz.:—Alderton, Badsey, Bidford, Bretforton, Blockley, Bishampton Broadway, Campden, Dumbleton, Elmley Castle, Fladbury, Harvington, Ilmington, Mickleton, Offenham, Pinvin, Quinton, Snowshill, Willersey, &c. In the Redditch district, at Astwood Bank, Alvechurch, Besley, Studley, Feckenham, Inkberrow, Hanbury, Crabbs Cross, Headless Cross, &c.

At Bloxham there are Mr. A. Tiller's marionettes, bioscope, and varieties.

One of the unforeseen results of the gathering together of the organised showmen of the Empire for trade defence has been the very considerable increase in railway travel by show-folk in all parts of the kingdom. For Manchester, London, and Lynn the various railway companies make a special feature of affording facilities for showman travel. With regard to London, the showmen's pilgrimage to the heart of the empire coincides with the holiday stream of pleasure-seekers, but the railways recognise the importance of the show contingent, and always, by arrangement with the Showmen's Guild Executive, fix their long-date excursions from all the country at the time of the showmen's meeting at the World's Fair, Islington.

Mr. Lyndon Greenwood may be congratulated on his rapid promotion on Monday last to the position of acting manager at the Islington Empire. He was only appointed assistant manager of that house on Feb. 5, a fortnight previously. An excellent programme at Islington has been presented throughout the week, and Mr. T. E. Dunville and other "stars" are drawing big audiences.

Lovers of good music who in the season frequent Folkestone have cause to rejoice, Mr. Karl Kaps' band having been again engaged to play on the Leas during the ensuing summer months.

Mr. David Day is shortly issuing a stirring march song, by Kenneth Lyle, entitled "The Beat, Beat, Beat of the Drum." "The Statue in Trafalgar Square," written by George Arthurs, and "A Dream of Old Algiers," by J. Francis Barron are notable examples of Mr. Lyle's musical attainments.

Mr. Tom Costello, ever on the look-out for novelties, has secured a comic character song entitled for the nonce "The Ten Bob Rise." He will portray in the ditty an abject, crushed "houseworm" of a husband, the slave of a domineering virago of a wife. The song is being set to music by Bennett Scott, and is by the author of "If it wasn't for the 'ouses in between."

SHOWMEN AT DINNER.

Messrs. Savage Brothers, of King's Lynn, the well-known patentees and makers of roundabouts and showmen's requisites generally, claim the majority of showmen in the kingdom as their customers. As many showmen are now attending Lynn Mart, and others are in the town making arrangements for their year's tour, Mr. T. R. Ronald, one of the members of the firm, took the opportunity of entertaining several of these gentlemen to dinner in the Assembly Rooms of the Town Hall, on the 16th inst. Seldom has a more jovial party assembled in the handsome and historic old rooms, and all spent a very pleasant evening. Mr. Ronald, unfortunately, was unable to be present, but he wrote expressing his regret, and wishing his guests a most prosperous season. The firm's manager, Mr. W. J. Affleck, presided, and among the guests were the Mayor (Alderman E Dunn), the Deputy-Mayor (Alderman F. J. Carpenter), Chief Constable W. G. Payne, Mr. J. W. Woolstencroft (Town Clerk), Rev. R. Gordon Roe, Messrs. C. Quennell, J. Watson Wright (solicitor Van-Dwellers Association), T. Hurst (secretary), P. Collins, J. Collins, Smith, Warren, W. Davies, H. R. Hibbert, H. Strickland, T. Clarke, J. Bostock, B. Howden, sen. and jun., J. Wilmot, W. Holmes, W. F. Terry, G. Green, T. Harniess, H. J. Wallis, B. Mitchell, W. Mitchell, jun., J. Green, W. Mitchell, H. Studt, Jacob Studt, John Studt, Jeffreys, J. Polsey, A. Twigdon, C. G. Rix, W. Wilkinson, and A. R. Dresser.

The loyal toasts and also the healths of the Mayor and Deputy-Mayor and the Corporation of Lynn were drunk with much enthusiasm.

MR. CARPENTER, Deputy-Mayor, replying to his health, said the Mart was one of the greatest boons the town had. The van-dwellers gave Lynn the first call in the whole kingdom, and this meant a profit to the town. He did not care what anyone said, the van-dwellers had upheld the town for the last thirty or forty years. The borough just now was lying under a deep cloud, and he did not think the showmen would do so well as they ought to, but he hoped they would.

THE CHAIRMAN, in proposing "Success to the Showmen's Guild and the Association of Roundabout Proprietors and Van-Dwellers," said they were two worthy societies that had done an immense amount of good amongst the travelling public. It was very kindly said by the Mayor at the opening of the Mart that all the churches, chapels, and schools were open to the van-dwellers with welcome, and this showed the good feeling that existed between the public and the travellers. Years ago, undoubtedly, all of the travellers' class were looked on with very great suspicion, but to-day they were known as a reliable, honest, and trustworthy people, who commanded the respect and trust of everyone in every town. To the Associations he wished the very best of prosperity; might they go on and prosper in the future even more than they had done in the past. The firm he represented would be very pleased to have their names put down as honorary members.

MR. T. HURST, responding, said it used to be said that showmen could not combine, but it had been shown that they could, and the results of their combining and standing up for their rights had been splendid.

MR. WATSON WRIGHT also responded. He said Mr. Hurst had the respect of every member of both Associations. The company were deeply indebted to Messrs. Savage Brothers, through their principal representative and the showmen's dear old friend, Mr. Affleck, for they all appreciated the opportunity and privilege of coming into that historic hall and dining with the official head of the old, important, and historic borough of Lynn. Showmen were welcome here and welcome everywhere in England. Why? Because as individuals they had proved that they were worthy to rank equally with the best citizens of the Empire. He ventured to say that when, in a large and important borough like King's Lynn, an old and loyal borough, the showmen met the Mayor, Aldermen, magistrates, chief constable, and other authorities at dinner, it was a lesson to other corporations who criticised and found fault with men of their (the showmen's) character, standing, and ability. The flourishing firm of Savage Brothers was busily engaged, for the benefit of the town of King's Lynn, in making appliances for showmen to do what they had the right and title to do—to find pleasure and amusement for the people of the country, which the people appreciated, and would have. Mr. Affleck was a personal friend of all the showmen, and with him and the gentlemen who were now associated with him, at Savage Brothers, showmen could rest assured that all they required would be supplied to them. Since the Van-dwellers Association was formed in 1889, it had been constantly at work endeavouring to prevent County Councils and Town Councils from harassing and interfering with showmen in their business. Since 1900 the Association had opposed fifty Bills before Parliament, and not one of these was now on the Statute Book. That was something to be proud of, and it showed that travellers had the respect of the Imperial Parliament. After commenting on the fact that her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and King Edward VII. had bestowed several presents on Lord George Sanger as a mark of their appreciation for his work of catering for the public amusement, Mr. Wright concluded by wishing prosperity to the borough, to Messrs. Savage Brothers, and the showmen, saying he believed it to be for the good of the Empire that all respectable citizens should prosper.

CHIEF CONSTABLE PAYNE, replying to the toast of his health, proposed by MR. BOSTOCK, said that during the early part of his eighteen years' police service, the police, when a van was stopping at a place, kept a sharp eye on the van-dwellers, because they imagined that the poultry and rabbits were going. It was different now, because people had learnt to discriminate between the van-dweller and the hanger-on, who kept about on the off-chance of getting a job, and was the man the van-dwellers often got blamed for. Showmen did not only come to Lynn for the business they did at the Mart. Their appliances needed overhauling and repairing; they brought them here to be attended to, and so, by giving employment, helped to pay the town's rates. If they could give him any ideas they had picked up in the course of their travels as to the regulation of traffic, accommodation at the Mart, &c., he should be pleased to do what he could for them.

MR. HARRY STUDT, who spoke first in Welsh and then translated his remarks into English, proposed the health of the chairman, which was very cordially received.

The CHAIRMAN said he or anyone else on the firm would always be only too pleased to assist the showmen in any way they could. They always treated their customers in a fair and square manner, and their work was always of the best. Their prices might be a little higher than other people's, he did not deny it; but they were not so very much higher, and those they dealt with always got value for money.

The healths of Messrs. C. Quennell and C. G. Rix (of Savage Brothers) and the Press were also drunk.

Mr. Pollsey, of Birmingham, promised to give 2 guineas to the Van-dwellers Association.

OWING to the enormous success of *'Appy 'Amstead*, Mr. Walter Gibbons has booked Mr. Joe Elvin's No. 2 company for this great production; commencing on Monday at the Islington Empire. Mr Maitland Marlan has been especially engaged to play Mr. Elvin's part of Tommy Flipper, the retired bookmaker.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—*The Vanderbilt Cup*, produced at the Broadway Theatre on the 16th inst., is the first of the automobile plays, of which we may now expect a series, the success of this one being most emphatic. Time was when the author would have called it a musical comedy, but this is the era of the motor car, so the piece is described as "a new eight-cylinder comic machine, carrying three shoes and eight tubes." Mr. Sydney Rosenfeld wrote the book, and Mr. Raymond Peck the lyrics; while the music was composed by Mr. Robert Hood Bowers. Miss Elsie Janis, a girl of seventeen, who jumped into popularity very suddenly last summer through her cleverness as a mimic, made her début as a Broadway "star" in this production, and scored a personal success of the first magnitude. Miss Janis appears under the management of that ardent motorist Mr. George C. Tyler, of Messrs. Liebler and Co., who traverses Europe at intervals in his "machine."

THE story runs as follows:—Dorothy Willetts is an ingenuous little country girl, who knows nothing of motor cars until her uncle, Cart Willetts, a New York millionaire, sends for her, and makes her acquainted with the countless delights of the big city. Uncle Curt has the motoring craze, and on the day after his niece arrives he takes her to see the race for the Vanderbilt Cup, which takes place on Long Island, and in which he has entered his powerful racing-car. Dexter Joyce, a wine agent, who has fallen desperately in love with Dorothy; Theodore Banting, an attorney; and Clarinda Larkspur, a young lady with a "past," attend the race, and figure prominently in the subsequent proceedings. The fair Clarinda has a number of compromising letters from Uncle Curt, and failing to realise a large sum of money on them, she contrives to win the affections of his French chauffeur, and induces him to desert his employer just before the race begins. Dorothy discovers the plot, makes her uncle promise to give her anything she may ask for if she wins the race, and orders Dexter Joyce to drive the millionaire's motor car. The young man consents, and at early dawn the entire party troop out of the hotel to the half-lighted racecourse, where a vast crowd is assembled. The race scene is tremendously effective. Through a landscape that flies past in one long, indistinguishable blur, and through two lines of wildly enthusiastic spectators, the famous motorists, "Barney" Oldfield and "Tom" Coper speed their great machines neck and neck, the scene being extremely realistic and exciting. The struggle ends in a victory for the Willetts motor car, and, of course, having been instrumental in winning the race for her uncle, Dorothy asks and obtains his consent to her marriage with Dexter Joyce, but not until she has dressed herself in boy's clothing, made love to the designing Clarinda, and obtained the compromising letters. As Dorothy Willetts, Miss Janis captivates the audience with her girlish charm and vivacity, singing and dancing with an air of enjoyment, that has the effect of keeping everyone in a good humour. In the last act her imitations of Ethel Barrymore, George M. Cohan, Eddie Foy, and other stage favourites win hearty and prolonged applause. In a scene representing the lobby of the Marjorie Wellington Hotel, there is a comic burlesque of life in a well-known hotel in this city that is occupied exclusively by women. The music is tuneful. "The little chauffeur," sung by Miss Edith Decker; "If you were I and I were you," by Miss Janis and Mr. Henry V. Donnelly; "Somewhere in the world," by Mr. Aubrey Boucicault; and "My houseboat beau," by Miss Janis, are popular numbers; and "Wine, woman, and song," rendered by Mr. Harlan, with an automobile chorus, serves to introduce a sprightly trio of dancing girls, whose gymnastic movements are enthusiastically applauded. As Mr. Boxwood, president of the gasoline trust, Mr. Jacques Kruger creates much amusement, being made up to resemble John D. Rockefeller

NEW YORK.—Feb. 7.—Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play, *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, has scored an unqualified success at Daly's Theatre. The dialogue is uncommonly bright, witty, and interesting, and the piece is admirably acted by Miss Ellis Jeffreys, Mr. Frank Worthing, Mr. Herbert Sleath, and the other members of the company. Miss Jeffreys appears as Lady Clarice Howland, a charming young widow. Her mother, the Marchioness of Headingly, and her sister, Lady Clementina Desborough, are determined that she shall marry again, and two worthy old gentlemen with lots of money are encouraged to dance attendance upon her. Lady Clarice is poor, and she admits that she will have to marry some day, but being fancy free she is no particular hurry. Colonel Raynor, an old friend of the family, takes a good deal of interest in Lady Clarice and lectures her in a fatherly way, but is not supposed to be in love with her. The fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt (Mr. Frank Worthing), for whom Lady Clarice evinces a partiality which causes her mother and sister much uneasiness, is extremely attractive to women, and finds his chief pastime in encouraging their admiration. Lady Clarice is apparently a rather frivolous woman, but she has too much good sense for Mr. Vanderveldt's fascinations to have any effect upon her, and merely tolerates him because he is more amusing than either of the serious-minded old gentlemen favoured by her relatives. Lady Clarice proves that she is not as heedless as she is supposed to be by spoiling one of Mr. Vanderveldt's intrigues with a married woman, and the fascinator conceives the idea of capturing his fair monitress. So he tells her that he is going away, and asks her to take a farewell ride with him in his motor-car. Lady Clarice consents, and at a distance of fifty miles from home he pretends that the car is disabled. They take refuge at an inn, where they learn that they are seventeen miles from the nearest railway station. After Lady Clarice has failed to procure a horse and found it impossible to communicate in any way with her friends, Mr. Vanderveldt confesses that it is all a plot of his own to compromise her, so that she will have to marry him. He shows her the "sparking plug," the removal of which from the machine has caused the apparent breakdown. Lady Clarice takes his confession good-humouredly, but whilst she is laughing over the situation she is wondering how she can outwit her companion. Her opportunity comes when he leaves her for a few minutes and the village clergyman happens in. She has kept the little plug that makes the wheels go round, and the parson confesses that he can drive a motor-car. At first he refuses, but his scruples are overcome when he discovers that Lady Clarice is the widow of a college friend whose athletic prowess has won his undying admiration. So while the fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt is unpacking the hamper that he has thoughtfully provided, the lady is whisked off to the railway-station in his motor-car. There is some excellent comedy in this, the best scene of the play. Lady Clarice reaches home on the following morning, and her scandalised relatives treat her with so much suspicion that she refuses to give an account of herself. The two suitors, being highly respectable old gentlemen, shake their heads and withdraw. Colonel Raynor is the only one who believes in her. He has loved Lady Clarice all along, and has wanted to tell her so, but she has always laughed at his serious face and put him out of patience with her. This time, however, she listens, and the fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt, who turns up all unabashed after his futile expedition, is just in time to witness her betrothal to the Colonel. As Lady Clarice Miss Jeffreys gives a delightful portrayal of a charming woman of society upon whom the cares of life sit lightly, and fully confirms the agreeable impression she made during her previous engagement in this city.

MR. JAMES K. HACKETT recently interrupted the long run of *The Walls of Jericho* at the Savoy Theatre in order to produce a new play, by Herman K. Viele, called *The House of Silence*. This is the name bestowed upon an old manor house on the coast of Brittany, where an aged artist named Gravin dwells with his young wife Beatrice. In the prologue, the action of which takes place on the cliffs, the only servant, Victor, the gardener, kills old Gravin by pushing him over a precipice into the sea, being prompted apparently by a double motive—a passionate fondness for his mistress and a hatred of his master. Fearing that she will be suspected of complicity in the crime, Beatrice suffers it to be regarded as an accident, and remains secluded in the House of Silence, being looked upon as a witch by the simple fisherfolk. She visits the village occasionally, but at such times she dons a peasant's gown, and is not recognised by the villagers. At the door of the church she encounters a young American artist, Paul Gregory, and theirs is a case of love at first sight. Victor, the gardener, offends the villagers, and Gregory shields him from their fury, imposing the condition that he be allowed to use the garden of the House of Silence as a studio. Installed there, the artist woos the lovely Beatrice at every opportunity, and Victor is made mad with jealousy. After a quarrel with the artist he is locked out, but he finds admittance to the House of Silence through an upper window. A storm is raging without, and Beatrice is entertaining her lover before a cheery wood fire, when Victor creeps down the stairs and sees the pair embracing each other. He declares that he will put an end to both of them, and seizes a big scythe, but in the same moment he is struck by lightning and killed. Mr. Hackett gave a grim and impressive portrayal of the surly and revengeful gardener, and Miss Mary Mannering was a charming Beatrice, the American artist being represented by Mr. Edwin Arden. The play was withdrawn after a few performances, and *The Walls of Jericho* will be allowed to pursue the even tenor of its way until next week, when the English comedy *Mr. Hopkinson* is due at the Savoy Theatre.

"THE GALLOPER," a farce in three acts, by Richard Harding Davis, recently produced at the Garden Theatre, has won the approval of the Press and the public chiefly because it provides the favourite comedian, Mr. Raymond Hitchcock, with a suitable rôle. The scenes are laid in Athens, at the time of the Graeco-Turkish War. Copeland Schuyler (Mr. Hitchcock), a wealthy New Yorker, follows Grace Whitney, a trained nurse, to Greece, and pretends to be a well-known war correspondent named Kirke Warren in order that he may be near her. In carrying out this deception he lands himself in all sorts of difficulties, the said Warren being pursued by his divorced wife, a soubrette known as the "Human Fly," to whom he owes alimony. Then there is a widow to whom he has proposed marriage also on the war-path; and, to add to his troubles, he is involved in a misunderstanding with the Foreign Legion, and is burdened with the demonstrative gratitude of the Cretans, whose revolutionary plans he has furthered. Schuyler takes all of these responsibilities upon himself when he assumes the name of Warren, and has a lively time of it before he succeeds in extricating himself from his difficulties. Schuyler, the nurse, two English war correspondents, and the "Human Fly" are all captured by the Turks, and the latter, fearing a bombardment by the Greeks, permit one of the party to ride into the enemy's lines to apprise them of the presence of women. Schuyler is the chosen messenger, and he gallops away in a rainstorm. Finally, he wins the nurse, and is decorated by the Greeks for bravery. As the pretended war correspondent Mr. Hitchcock's drollery has full play, and his characterisation proves highly amusing. Mr. Harold Vizard is excellent in the comedy rôle of a stammering, self-important correspondent of a London newspaper, and Mr. L. Rogers Lytton acquits himself well as another English journalist. Miss May Buckley gives a clever impersonation of the "Human Fly." Mr. Edgar L. Davenport as the real Kirke Warren and Miss Nanette Comstock as Grace Whitney play their parts well.

ON Mr. Frank Parker's birthday last Saturday he was presented by his staff with a splendid walnut "surprise card-table," richly adorned with solid silver hammered fittings on the exterior, and fitted in the interior with the following silver-mounted articles:—3 cut-glass, silver-mounted liqueur glasses, 12 liqueur glasses, 6 Copeland china coffee-cups, and silver-mounted holders and spoons. Mr. Hal Forde made a neat little speech in making the presentation, on behalf of the staff, artists, stage staff, &c., including *Among the Stars* company. This splendid table was ornamented with the crest of the London Hippodrome inlaid with silver in one corner and Mr. Parker's own monogram in the other.

IN addition, the popular "Frank" was the recipient of a silver and cut-glass claret jug from Miss Marguerite Doris, a silver-plated syphon-holder from Mr. and Mrs. F. Percival, and a silver-mounted paper-knife and book-market from some of the ladies. Mr. Hal Forde, who again did the amiable, said, "On behalf of a few friends I have the honour to present you, as a token of regard, a small birthday present. When you are at home on Sunday, dear old guv'nor, having your usual cup of coffee—and a liqueur—may you always find remembrances of the people you have had working for and with you, and when you are in dreamland 'among the stars' may you never see spotted troglodytes. Mr. Parker, who never can reply when he is taken by strategy, could only say "God bless you."

A DELIGHTFUL rendering of Harrington and Tate's charming song, "We'll be Married in Primrose-time," is nightly being given by the Dandies at the London Coliseum; and the enterprising Monte Carlo Publishing Co., which publishes the song in its "Sixpenny Successes," has received large orders from the trade for this number, during the past fortnight, while the daily sales in the auditorium of the Coliseum have been correspondingly large.

MR. EUGENE STRATTON has just accepted from Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate an ear-haunting "romance of life Down South," with the quaint title "De Whitewashed Coon," which he will produce during his forthcoming Stoll tour.

MR. ALEC HURLEY has just accepted for production, in the near future, a new scena, of intensely human interest, entitled *The Neglected*. This novelty is written by Mr. John P. Harrington, while appropriate music has been specially composed for it by that master of melody, Mr. Jas. W. Tate.

"COPPELIA," the most charming production of Léo Délibes, which Mr. George Edwardes promises us at the Empire in Easter week, first saw the footlights at the Paris Opéra on May 25, 1870. The composer had greater ambition than to write merely the music for ballets, and on May 24, 1873, he produced at the Opéra-Comique a work in three acts entitled *Le Roi l'a Dit*, which, in spite of the grace and charm of the first act, has not had a lasting success. After this Délibes returned to the Opéra, where he produced a grand mythological ballet, *Sylvia*, on June 14, 1876, which confirmed his superiority in dance music. He still hankered, however, after the higher walks of composition, and wrote *Jean de Nivelle* and *Lakmé* for the Opéra-Comique. He died in Paris on Jan. 16, 1891.

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"An admirable idea, and will prove a most valuable record."

MR. FRANK CURZON.

"Your list, I think, will be most useful for reference."

MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD.

"I think the list will be immensely useful."

MR. SYDNEY GRUNDY.

"Your list will be exceedingly useful. But, of course, there is no reason why old titles should not be used again. Indeed, some day we shall have to go back to them. Some of our modern titles, when they are not mere proper names with an adjective attached, display the desperation of the dramatist in too ludicrous a light. Such a title as 'The Importance of Being Earnest' amounts to a misdemeanour."

MR. ARTHUR W. PINERO.

"The list of plays produced during the last half-century is a most valuable record. The thanks of those interested in the theatre are due to *The Era* for this and many other enterprises."

MR. ALFRED SUTRO.

"The list you are compiling will be of very great benefit, and I am looking forward to the time when it shall be complete, and obtainable in pamphlet form."

MR. JUSTIN HUNTLY McCARTHY.

"I have watched with the greatest interest the progress of your alphabetical list of the plays published during the last half of the nineteenth century. It is a most useful undertaking, and when it appears in volume form, it must prove of great value to all who are concerned with the drama."

MR. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

"The list of plays will be very interesting and useful when published in complete form. The etiquette of the profession apparently still allows of novelists' titles being used by playwrights. Thus, *The Master*, which will appear in your list as a play by somebody else, is the name of a book of mine; while the new play, *Noah's Ark*, has the same title as a shorter story of mine."

MR. ARTHUR LAW.

"The publication in *The Era* of a list of plays produced during the fifty years, 1850-1900, is an excellent idea, and will be most useful to authors who may be in doubt as to their right to a certain title. When it is issued in book form I shall be very glad to possess a copy."

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER.

"Mr. Arthur Bourchier thinks the list very useful indeed."

MR. TOM GALLON.

"Your idea seems to me to be a most excellent one. Quite apart from the fact that there is always a difficulty in knowing what titles have been used, there very often arises the question of when and where a play was actually produced—a question difficult to be answered. Actors and authors should alike be grateful to *The Era*."

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE.

"I think the idea of printing a list of plays produced during the last fifty years an excellent one. It should be of great value to authors."

MR. ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

"The list of produced plays was not merely a happy thought, for the same idea has probably occurred to many, though until *The Era* carried it out no one took the pains to collect and publish such a truly valuable record.

"Managers, dramatists, as well as would-be authors, will henceforward have a long list of titles to refer to, and there will be neither reason nor excuse for encroaching on pre-existing copyright in play titles. What a lot of trouble it should save us all!"

MR. WALTER MELVILLE.

"I think it shows great enterprise on the part of your journal, and likely to prove most useful and at the same time interesting to the general profession."

MR. ARTHUR MORRISON.

"The list you are publishing will be a most valuable work of reference to everybody taking an interest in the stage, and I have no doubt that when it is published as a book you will find its success warrant you in issuing fresh editions from time to time, with the information brought to date in each case."

MR. J. J. DILLEY.

"The idea is an excellent one, and there can be no question at all of the usefulness of such a summary. *Cousin Grace* has not been included. This is a little piece from the French, played at a matinée performance at the Gaiety Theatre, Dec. 4, 1884."

MR. COSMO HAMILTON.

"I think that your new feature is an excellent and most useful one. A list of plays produced during fifty years is interesting not only to the playgoer, but essentially so to the manager and the playwright. They will only have to consult it to be sure that a title has not been used before."

MR. CHARLES H. E. BROOKFIELD.

"My attention has been called to your list of plays produced between 1850-1900. I have no doubt it will prove interesting and useful to many."

MR. F. FRANKFORT MOORE.

"The list of plays produced during the past fifty years, now appearing in *The Era*, will, I am certain, prove, when completed, extremely valuable to everyone associated with the drama in England. I am convinced—and I have had a considerable amount of experience in this direction—that it will be especially valued by all writers upon stage matters. The advantage of being able to refer at a moment's notice to the criticisms upon the production of various plays in various newspapers must be apparent to everyone. If such a list had been in existence some years ago, I would have been saved a vast amount of worry and vexation of spirit. *The Era* has once again proved itself appreciative of the conditions under which the best interests of the drama in England are maintained."

MR. LOUIS N. PARKER.

"I think your list of plays, produced between 1850 and 1900, will, like the other contents of your paper, be invaluable."

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

The Offices of "The Era" are
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post, FREE OF CHARGE.

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Advertisers and Subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 12, 26, April 9, 30, May 7, 21, 28, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
March 19, April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 21, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7 (Race Week), 14, 28, June 11, 18, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
March 26, April 2, 16, May 7, 14,
Aug. 6, 13, 27, Sept. 3, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, June 4, Aug. 13, 20, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Feb. 25, March 5, 19, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
May 7, June 11, 18, Aug. 13, 20, Sept. 10, on.
Milton Bode and Edward Compton take over the Opera House, Leicester, and the Theatre Royal, Leicester, on Monday, Feb. 19.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for two and three weeks. Please state subject, and where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 7, 14, 21, June 11, July 2, 9, 23, 30, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, 17.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 23,
30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 6,
onwards, with exceptions.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies for Bedford, March 12 and 26.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, 21, 28, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, Dramatic and Musical Companies, for the following Dates:
Vacant May 14, 21.
Apply,
LINGFORD CARSON, as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, April 16 (Easter), 23, and May 7, Strong Dramas only,
Share or Certainty.
Apply,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for March 12,
April 2, 9.
Big Attraction required for April 16, Easter, Musical preferred.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, PRINCE'S THEATRE, MANCHESTER,
May 21, June 4 (Whit Week).
GAIETY THEATRE, MANCHESTER,
May 7.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHEFFIELD.
Summer Dramatic Season, at Popular Prices.
WANTED, Known, Vacant April 9, 30, May 14, 21, 28, June 11, 18.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 30, through disappointment.
Wire, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, a First-class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also June 4 (Whit Week).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3, 4, 25, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit Week.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

CARDIFF, KING'S THEATRE.
WANTED, for April 2, April 2
(through obliging Mr. Harding Thomas),
First-Class Melodrama, must be new to Cardiff.
Apply, FRANK BATEMAN.

THEATRE ROYAL, DOVER.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction for Easter (three nights) and Saturday before, Musical preferred; also First-Class Concert Parties, for the Pier Pavilion, Dover. All applications,
F. C. DEW, Theatre Royal, Dover.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, April 16 (Easter Week), and onwards; also Whit. Week Open. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Big Attractions, March 12, April 9, on, Grand, Chorley, also March 19, 26, April 16, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 12 (through misunderstanding). H. MASTERMAN, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions (Musical preferred), Easter Week and Whit. Week, 1906. Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
WANTED, High-class Attraction, April 16 (Easter). Forward full particulars to STEPHEN PRITT.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM
WANTED, Attractions, March 19, 26, April 23. Good terms given to the right attractions.
Address, DAVID WILLIAMS.

WANTED, Good Sound Attractions, May 14, Aston and Chatham, also Summer Dates.
BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant May 21, June 4, July 30, Aug. 6.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant March 5, 19, April 2, 9.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant March 12, April 2, 9, 23, 30.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant March 8 (3 nights), 12, 19, 26 (3 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 5, 12, April 9.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant March 26, April 23, 30, May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 12, April 9, 16.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant March 19 (3 nights), April 9, 23, 30.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Feb. 26, March 19, 26, April 2 (3 nights).

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant March 19, April 9, 23, May 7, 14.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant April 2, 23, 30, May 7.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, 14.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant April 23, April 30, May 14, May 21.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 7, 14, and 28.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies, GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
April 9, Easter Week (musical comedy preferred), April 23 (?), May 7, 28, June 11, 18, July 16.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
April 30, May 7, 21, June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 23 (3 nights).
Coms., H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Modern brick building, now being erected.
Will open Aug.; lighted by electricity; heated hot water; stage 60 by 40; 40 to flies.
Main street, centre of town; holds 1,200.
All coms. to EDWARD GRAY, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.
which is booked in conjunction with Mansfield.

THEATRE ROYAL, GRANTHAM.
WANTED, First-class Dramas, last Three Nights of Weeks commencing March 12, 19, 26, also Easter. Bookings include Moody-Manners B Co., "The Orchid," "The Cingalee," "Sergeant Brue," "Florodora," "Kitty Grey," "Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace," "The Dandy Doctor," "Somebody's Sweetheart," Osmond Tearle Co., "The Christian," &c., &c.
Electric Light throughout.
EDWARD MARRIS, Proprietor.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for April 9, August Bank Holiday, and onward. Apply, Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.
All Companies Holding Contracts must send printing, plots, and day-bill 14 clear days before opening.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT;
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, for Production next Christmas, two First-Class Pantomimes, also Vacant May 21, June 4, 11.
Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
WANTED, for few Summer Dates, Good Attractions, Booking in conjunction with Pontypridd, April 2, Vacant at Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, and few later dates. For dates address, WILL SMITHSON, Merthyr.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, April 2, last three weeks' receipts £113, £102, £142; last week "Mr. Smith"; this week, Alexandra Grand Opera Company; next week "Osmond Tearle" Répertoire Company. Address, GERALD HARDING.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
(The West-end Theatre of Hastings.)
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 30, onwards, with exceptions. Apply Mr. ELVEY THOMAS, as above; or Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly. Telephone, 6,534 Gerrard.

NEW PAVILION, EASTBOURNE PIER.
WANTED, Companies, April 2 (High-class Drama preferred), April 23 (?), May 28, June 4 (Whit.), June 11 (?), June 18 and 25, and various dates onwards. Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

WANTED, Companies, March 5, 12, and three nights, March 22, 23, and 24. Address, CADDICK, Theatre Royal, Runcorn.

NEW COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for March 5, on, with exceptions, musical preferred. PHILLIPS.

WANTED, Good Companies, April 5 (3), April 16, 23.
GRAY, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE, March 19 (three nights), April 2, 9, 16, 30.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA, May 14, 21, 28, on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Plays and Musical Attractions only, for a few Autumn and Spring Dates Vacant.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
Autumn and Spring Dates Vacant, for Good, Sound Drama, new to the town.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
A few Autumn and Spring Dates Vacant for First-class Attractions and Good Drama.
Address, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 9, 23, 30, and May 7 and 14.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, for the Autumn. N.B.—Through transferring, March 12 may fall vacant.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, Three Nights each, March 12, 19, and possibly Easter.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, March 5, 26, and on. First-class Attraction wanted for reopening date, Aug. 13. Dumfries, Vacant March 5, on.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Good Attractions, May 14, 28, June 11, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 10, 17, Nov. 15 (3 nights), Dec. 24. Pantomime wanted, Jan., '07. Silence polite negative. Address, FRANK KING.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-Class Company, April 23.
Terms to RICH. WALDON.

WANTED, First-class Companies, March 5, 12, 19, and onwards, New Hippodrome Theatre and Opera House, Mansfield, one of the finest theatres out of London, brick and stone building, lighted by electricity inside and out, large stage, full band, staff, and everything up to date, doing excellent business. This new theatre is situated in the centre of the town, near the market-place, and the only new theatre recently built and licensed for stage plays. Electric cars pass the doors from all parts. This theatre is not built in a ploughed field, where you climb hills to reach it, where no cars pass. Only First-class Companies entertained. Fast Booking.
Communications,
J. MORRELLA and T. JENNINGS.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Owners and Proprietors,
Mrs. TRENCHARD and Miss LILY JONES.
Manager, Mr. CHARLES TRENCHARD.
No expense will be spared to make the above Theatre one of the most Comfortable and Money-making Theatres in Wales.
WANTED, Big Attraction for April 2, 30, and onwards. For dates, apply MANAGER, Royal Clarence Theatre; or to Mr. SMITHSON, Royal Theatre, Merthyr.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 12, April 2, 9.
Big Attraction required for April 16, Easter, Musical preferred.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, ALDERSHOT.
WANTED, Good Attractions, Musical preferred, for May 14, for the above theatre.
Address, SOUNES, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

PALACE PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Good Attractions. Comedies preferred, March 26, April 2, 9, and 23 (weeks).
Particulars to ALEXANDER GENEE.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Good Dramas, Musical Comedies, Nothing too Big. Share or certainty. April 9, 16, 23, onwards.
E. H. PAGE.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, May 14, Whit. Week, and June 11, Musical, or any High-class Attraction.
Address, WM. MORTON.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, March 12 and 19 (six nights), March 26 (four nights), April 2, and on. JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, May 21, June 4 (Whit week), June 11 and 18.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Companies for May 21, possibly the 28th, and a few Dates in June and July.
J. H. CURRY, as above.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, March 12. First in after Pantomime.
Wire, MONTEFIORE, Edinburgh.

CENTRAL THEATRE, NORTHWICH.
CENTRAL THEATRE, NORTHWICH.
WANTED, Big Dramatic Company, week commencing March 12.
Wire in first instance to LEICESTER-JACKSON, Gaiety, Burnley; Monday, Grand, Halifax.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Comedy and Musical Plays, for Theatre Royal, Inverness. Season opens Sept. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, March 26, and various, onwards. Gentlemen who previously applied, will please write again?
J. EDWARD WHITLY, T. R., Batley.

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, March 19, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, and Whit Week. Apply, MANAGING DIRECTOR, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, for the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, First-Class Musical Attractions, for April 9, 16, and 23.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Jarrow.

WANTED, April 2, for 3 nights, a First-class Show. Address, GEO. CONQUEST, Empire Theatre, Southend.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions, March 19, 26, April 2 (?). Address, E. A. SMITH, Lowestoft Marina Theatre Co., Ltd.

FROME, SOMERSET.
WANTED, Known, F. E. Douglas can arrange for good fit-up companies and entertainments, on sharing terms, 1 to 6 nights, 1 or 2 nights Frome, and 1 night in District Towns. Address, 16, Portway. Population of Frome, 12,000 to 13,000.

WANTED, good Musical or good Variety Companies, April 30 and May 14. J. W. CHAPMAN, Grand Theatre and Empire, Doncaster.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, May 28.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SHOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Spring, '07.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2, Sept. 24.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, 30, Sept. 17, 24.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, and Spring, 1907.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 2, 23, 30, Aug. 6.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Brixton Theatre, London, S.W.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for the Scala production, week of May 14, in or around London.
Wire to-day,
KELLY,
Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.
Next week, Hustler, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.
WANTED, for this Powerful Attraction, weeks of April 2, 9, and 16. Wire to-day, KELLY, Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.
Next week, Hustler, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, 30, May 28, June 4, on.
"SAILORS OF THE KING."
April 2, 16, May 14, 28. Now Booking Autumn.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Known, no Vacant Dates this year.
CHALMERS MACKEY,
This, Theatre R., Merthyr; next, King's T., Cardiff.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, March 26 (follow Seacombe), April 2, 9 (precede Ton-y-pandy, Easter), April 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
To-day, O. H., Treherbert; next, T. H. T., Maesteg.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, Aug. 6, 20, 27, and on, with exceptions. WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
Feb. 26, Town Hall Theatre, Maesteg.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 30, May 14, 21 (3 nights).
J. W. CORDINER, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

WANTED, "Private Secretary." Open Dates, Aug. 20, Sept. 10, 17, and 24, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 24, onwards.
Apply, EUGENE C. STAFFORD, c/o FRENCH, LTD., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, May 14, 21, June 18, on.
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANIES.
"THE GUIDING STAR."
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, March 26, April 2, and 16, for "A LONDON ACTRESS."
Address, STUART CLEVELAND, King's T., Nottingham.

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Wanted, March 26, in or near London Suburbs.
McNEILL, en route, or Lyric T., W.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, March 26, April 2, 9, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bury.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, April 9.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bury.

MESSRS. MURRAY AND STAFFORD'S CO.
WANTED, Several Spring Dates, for the Great Moral Drama,
"Conscience and Crime."
Grand Production, at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, March 12. Everything done to ensure success. Managers desirous of Booking a strong attraction Communicate, 39, Evans-square, Beetonsville, Hull.

WANTED, Important Theatres for Paumier and Howard's various Attractions, including "The Midnight Wedding," "Under the Russian Flag," "Why Men Love Women." Communications, ALFRED PAUMIER, Theatre, Merthyr.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, April 2, in or near London, April 2. 28th Week of Present Tour,
April 23, 30 (?), May 7, Midlands.
Bookings and re-bookings extend into March, '07. Sept. 3, 10, and 17 Open, South.
FRANK AYRTON, Theatre Royal, Windsor.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, "THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
The Successful Musical Comedy,
March 12,
onwards.
Wire,
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
Grand Theatre, Luton;
Next week, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, April 2, 9, 16, and various dates in May, June, and July. Bookings, re-bookings include Hammersmith, West London, Croydon, Portsmouth, Leicester, Birkenhead, York, Birmingham, Worcester, Devonport, Dublin, and the best houses. CHAS. CLIFFORD, King's T., Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, for the Great Success, "Her Fatal Past," Oct. 15, Nov. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3. Only the Best Theatres booked. Autumn, '05, bookings are Portsmouth, Islington, Nottingham, Liverpool, Oldham, Croydon, Hammersmith, Woolwich, Blackburn, Burnley, Birmingham, Aston, Stratford, &c. Coms., WARD, G. T., Clydebank.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, for this Strong Attraction, May 28, June 25 (Midlands), July 2, and on, with exceptions. Thanks Wm. Morton, Esq., for Contract, Alex., Hull. Sound Cast, New Scenery, Correct Uniforms, Striking Plant of Pictorials.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

MESSRS. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
No Vacant Spring Dates.
WANTED, Aug. 6, Sept. 10 and 24, Oct. 8. All coms. to JOHN B. SHINTON, T. R., Chesterfield.

WANTED, a First-class Theatre, to follow Torquay and Devonport, March 12, March 19, March 12, for "Rajah of Ranjapore," or "Sporting Girl." A Company of 20 Artists. All coms., FRED HAMMOND, Opera House, Torquay.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
S. Buchanan Rogersen's
S. Buchanan Rogersen's
Startling Play.
Startling Play.
Suggested by and founded on Guy Thorne's Famous Novel,
"When it was Dark."
"When it was Dark."

Notice.
This Version is Fully Registered and Protected.

Important Notice.
In order to avoid confusion in the minds of Managers and Public;
In order to fully protect all Rights in this Play, Mr. Morton Powell
has decided to name
S. Buchanan Rogersen's Piece
"DARKNESS."
"DARKNESS."
"DARKNESS."
Suggested by and founded on Guy Thorne's Novel,
"When it was Dark."
"When it was Dark."
"When it was Dark."

The above is the Title and Description which will appear on all Posters, Lithos, Bills, and other Advertisements.

Anyone infringing same, or using the Dialogue, Original Situations, New Characters, Tableaux, or Introduced Scenes, will be proceeded against, Messrs. Gush, Hare and Co., Solicitors, Gray's Inn, having received instructions to take immediate action against anyone infringing the Title, Dialogue, Original Situations, Tableaux, and New Scenes contained in this version.

"DARKNESS."
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"DARKNESS."
Suggested by and founded on Guy Thorne's Novel,
"When it was Dark."
"When it was Dark."
"When it was Dark."
"When it was Dark."

Vacant,
April 9, 16, 23; May 7.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
by S. Buchanan Rogersen.
A Brilliant Success,
at the Grand Theatre, Walsall
To refer, refer to
Manager WESTWOOD,
who expressed himself delighted in the highest possible terms with Play, Scenery, Company.
Managers invited to witness play.
This week,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool;
next week,
THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.
Vacant,
April 9, 16, May 21, June 4.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, June 18, only vacant Spring date; also August 6, 13, and few later. Magnificently advertised, splendidly acted, beautiful new special scenery and effects; fifth year of Tour, and success continued.
ALFRED B. CROSS as PETE (over 1,500 times);
MINNIE WATERSFORD as KATE (900 times),
T. R., RUGBY, Feb. 26 (return).

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction, April 30, May 7, 21, 28, and June 4.
Apply,
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Miss MARY NIEL and Mr. GEO. KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON," by Chas. Darrell. Produced Jan. 1, and secured by the following Managers for immediate dates:—Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Milton Bode, C. W. Poole, W. Morton, &c., &c. Wanted, March 5, April 9 (through transferring). Only Vacant Dates until Aug. 20. Address, GEO. KIRK, T. R., Leicester.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 16, 23, for this Really Remarkable and Powerful Attraction. J. H. CLYNDES, Theatre Royal, Runcorn.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS.
"EAST LYNNE" and "LIFE."
WANTED, April 9, 16, 30, on, and Autumn Dates. No finer company touring, fine printing, everything that capital and experience can do to ensure good business. Feb. 26, Hippo., Mansfield.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.'S.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter. Over 30,000 people paid to see this piece last week at Manchester. Refer, W. Broadhead, Esq. "A Sister's Sin," March 26, March 26, March 26. Splendid cast, including Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley. Wire for this money-maker, to KIMBERLEY, T. R., West Bromwich; next, Keighley.

MISS GRACE WARNER'S CO.
WANTED, Theatre, unexpectedly vacant March 5. Wire, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, for this evergreen success, March 19, April 2, May 28, Whit; Cast second to none Touring. Wire,
E. A'DELL, King's, Gainsborough.

WANTED, April 23, vacant, between Bath and Manchester, New Comic Opera No. 1 Co., "Gold-Diggers; or, Girl from Utah."
WALTER MCEWEN, T. R., Birmingham.

WANTED, March 19 and April 30, for Bramley's Shakespeare Co. (28), each play a production. Address, HALDANE CRICHTON, Paisley Theatre, N.B.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, March 12, North.
EDWARD MARRIS, P. O. W. T., Mexboro'.

WANTED, "The Master Criminal," Good Theatres, May 14, June 4, only open dates till Autumn. Thanks Lester Collingwood, Esq., for offer March 26, Alex., Birmingham; regret unable to accept. Wire for above, OSMOND, Alex., Sheffield; next, Cradley Heath.

"THE DESERTER."
WANTED, Good Theatres in the Summer for this High-class Military and Domestic Drama. Magnificent plant of printing and scenery. CHARLES CLIFFORD, King's, Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, few good dates, between Easter and Whit, for the successful American Musical Farce, "The Girl from Chicago." Address, HAROLD WEBB, 8, Parkhurst-road, Sutton, Surrey.

"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Theatres, with Holding Capacity, for next season. Both productions from Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool. See "Whittington," Feb. 26, week, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexboro'
EDWARD MARRIS.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED (by Arrangement with Mr. Herbert Barrs), First-class Theatre, Christmas, 2 or 3 weeks, for his most successful Panto., "Aladdin," produced on a gorgeous scale. Next Vacant Date, Jan. 28, Midlands preferred. "Cinderella" this year is running extra weeks, owing to enormous success. Feb. 26, Hippodrome T. and O. H., Mansfield.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, March 26, April 2, Easter, a Refined High-Class Drama. W. J. MILLER, Avenue, Kettering.

THEATRES WANTED.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, April 23, 30, May 7, on, with exceptions.
Apply, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Good Theatres. Vacant March 26, April 9, and Easter Week. Everything carried. Strong Cast of Recognised Artists.
Apply, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Dates for Various Attractions, as hereunder:—
"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS."
Mr. W. Reuben Payne's Company,
August Bank Holiday, various, onwards.
"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY."
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company,
April 2 (South), various onwards.
"SAINTS AND SINNERS" and "MIDDLEMAN."
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 9, various on (North).
Vacant dates for Mr. Arthur Carlton's new play (by Sutton Vane) will shortly be announced.
Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Please note: Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
Walter Howard's latest success.
Paumier and Howard's production.
ANNIE SAKER.
ALFRED PAUMIER.
Of rich romantic interest.—Daily Mail.
Brilliant company of artists.—Liverpool Echo.
High plane of dramatic excellence.—Liverpool Post.
High-class Non-Sensational Play.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres for remaining Vacant weeks 1907; this year full.
Communications,
ALFRED PAUMIER, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR,"
Entire Production from Grand Theatre, Islington.
Lloyd's News, Dec. 31, said:—One of the best pantomimes seen at Islington for some years.
Referee, Dec. 31, said:—"Sinbad" is a funny as well as a beautiful pantomime.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Jan. 14 and 21, 1907.
Large stage absolutely essential.
Apply,
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre,
Islington, N.

"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."
The Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this pantomime that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Jan. 14 and 21, 1907.
Large stage absolutely essential.
Apply,
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by the late F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Theatres, March 26, Aug. 6 20, Oct. 8, 22, Dec. 24, 30. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, Grand, Hartlepool; next, Miners', Ashington.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "Toreador," March 5, "Mason," March 19, Easter, "Gay Parisienne," March 26, April 2 (all North). Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-av., W.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
WANTED, April 2 (between Bradford and Wigan).
"THE OTHER MAN'S BUSINESS."
Easter Week and Several Dates onward, for this Exceptional Production with Cast of Well-known Artists, including
Mr. G. W. Anson,
Mr. Frank E. Petley,
Mr. G. W. Elton,
and
Miss Lilian Hubbard.
Other Important Artists in Negotiation.
This farce was produced for a few trial weeks some time back at the County Theatre, Kingston (Mr. Davey now offers return dates for it), where it proved a success. It will now be sent on tour with New Scenery and Printing, and a Star Cast, Advertised in a Smart Manner, and should be the talk of the coming Spring Season.
Address.
EUGENE BERTRAM, Grand T., Swansea.

RUSSELL ROSSE COMEDY REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, March 12, follow Cambridge. Wire. RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Miss Daphne de Rohan and Mr. Fred Evered have a few vacant dates left for their brilliant Musical and Dramatic Entertainment, in Pier Pavilion, Gardens, &c. Terms, Certainty or Share. Address, Mr. N. BENNETT, Manager, Wall Tyning, Bilton, nr. Bristol.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Complete Company, new Drama, all share expenses proportionately. Photos., height, stamp appointment. No callers. FISHER, 42, Mayola-road, Clapton

THE F. B. WOULFE REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, Recognised, Madge Wildfire, Special Week, Newcastle District, open March 5, also good Responsible Man for Tour. Lowest terms, &c., F. B. WOULFE, Theatre Royal Houghton-le-Spring.

WANTED, Smart Male Juveniles, all Lines, over 14 and small; must have good voices and be able to dance; exceptional opportunities gaining all-round experience. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, for the Production of "The Scottish Blue Bells," First-Class Musical Comedy Artists in all Lines, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, Scotch and Irish Comedian, must dance. Rehearse March 19. Terms, references, photos., and all particulars, HARRY FISCHER, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, to Rehearse at Once, Open March 5, Responsible Juvenile Actress, for Small Parts, in High-class Répertoire; must be young, refined, and possess good modern wardrobe. Experienced Amateur not objected to. Parts only worth nominal salary. References, photos., terms, &c., to E. R. ABBOTT, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich. Letters only.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, First-Class Heavy Gentleman, important vacancy, to open March 12. Photos, height, &c., to DOUGLAS BRUCE, Brixton Theatre, London, S.W.

WANTED, Ambitious Young Juvenile Leading Gentleman, anxious to gain experience in good parts, for High-class Stock Season; also one or two useful Ladies and Gentlemen. State age, height, build, and experience in Society Play, Farcical Comedy, and Melodrama, with lowest terms, to Box 2,840, "The Era."

WANTED, a Coloured Man, for Uncle Tom, must sing, with child for Eva if possible; also four Coloured Men who can play parts and sing glees; and Rough Chambermaid for Topsy, must have Speciality. Write "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Secretary, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, to Open at Once, Gent. for Responsibles, capable of Line and Turn, for Portable; young, sober. BREAMER, Alexandra Theatre, Cinderford.

WANTED, Intense Gentlemanly Heavy, dress thoroughly well, tall, good appearance. Photo and dramatic references to GEO. KIRK, 48, King-street, Leicester.

WANTED, two Juvenile Leading Men, and Heavy Man, to rehearse March 5.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
WANTED, First-Class Leading Juvenile Man, through releasing. Age, height, references, terms. H. HOLLISTER, Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.

WANTED, Tall Young Gent., for Dude, Tour, assist Acting-Management. Terms photos., &c., to E. CARTER LIVESEY, 10, King-street, W.C.

WANTED, Robust Comedian, for Tour, at Easter. Height, lowest terms, references, C. WINDERMERE, 20, Yarrell-mans., West Kensington.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.'S.
WANTED, Tall, Juvenile Leading Gent., for Carsdale, in "Drummer Boys"; also Character Powerful Old Man, double Jew, in "Sister's Sin"; rehearse next week, Keighley. Lowest, Queen's, Keighley.

"NEW FRIVOLITY."
WANTED, Good Comedian, for Sammy. Full particulars to JOHN LEOPOLD, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, for Early Autumn Tours, Smart, Attractive Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, good appearance and good voices absolutely essential. Apply, personally and immediately, KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, for "Shrine of Istar," Music Hall Illusion. Height and terms to KEMP-WIDDICOMBE, 25, Swayfield-avenue, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Basso, for Quartette Halls; must be young, not over 5ft. 7in. Apply, 19, Kennington Park-road, Monday, 12 to 1, sharp.

WANTED, immediately, good all-round Dancer, must be tall and fair; permanent Engagement in well-known troupe. Apply, 6, Hereford House (opposite Stage Door Brixton Theatre).

WANTED, for West End production, two little Piccaninny Boys, as near same height as possible. Apply immediately, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Known, Pupils trained in Singing, Dancing, and Elocution. Ten Ladies and Ten Gentlemen wanted for good Bonâ-fide Engagement. Contracts given immediately. Apply, Box 2,832, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists, Musical, Dramatic, Novel; Vacancies. "Amusement" (6d. Monthly), Theatres, Halls, Institutes. Post, 7d. 7, Whitefriars-street, E.C. EDWIN DREW.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, two Smart, Up-to-date Costume Parties, for Piers, Gardens, Halls, &c.
"THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER,"
Booked June 4 to August 19 and Sept. 10 to 22. Good Friday (Sacred Concert) and Easter week vacant.
"THE STAR DOMINOS AND THEIR PIERROT,"
Booked August 13 to Sept. 15.
Bookings include: Winter Gardens, Bournemouth; Tower, Blackpool; Tunbridge Wells, Jersey, Guernsey, Rusholme Pavilion, Manchester, &c.
Terms, photos., and full particulars of
Mr. DARCY CLAYTON,
75, Brecknock-road, London, N.W.
High-Class Comedians and other Artists write in for new Party now forming.

WANTED, by Young Lady, with Good Voice. Engt., in Musical Comedy, Comic Opera, or Grand Opera. Miss L., 6, Raymede-st., Notting Hill.

WANTED, by Frank C. Clifford, Engagement in Touring Company, as Comedian or otherwise, knowledge of French for Frenchman's part, height 5ft. 5in., slight build. Box 2,841, "The Era."

WANTED.—Alto wants to join Troupe for Summer Season. Songs, Ballads, Quartettes. E. JACKSON, 122, Junction-road, Upper Holloway.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, First-class Burlesque Artist, to play Dandini in "Cinderella" for Special Week, commencing Monday, March 5. Address with lowest terms and references, to
JAMES KIDDIE,
Caen Villa, Highfield-road, Widnes.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, 1906-7. Send last two references, age, height, lowest salary, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester. Mark envelopes "Pantomime."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words. Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Clifton Hall, Vocalist, Ideal Demon King, voice and appearance, Liberty 1906-7; also Vacant April 9. Monday, Lyceum, Eccles.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, immediately, as a Permanency, a First-class Scenic Artist. State lowest terms, highest references, and where their work can be seen. It is only wasting time for anyone but First-class Artists to apply. Address, Moody-Manners Opera Co., Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement, or Contract, town or provinces. Refs. Add., 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Contracts, anywhere, Ernest R. Jones, 65, Hanover-road, Willesden, London, 20 years' London and Provincial experience, best of references. Enquiries invited. Productions and renovations at inclusive terms. Good sound permanency considered.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Pier Pavilion, South-East Coast, Easter Week and Whitsun until end of September, several Young Men, to act as Toll Keeper, Check Takers, &c., to combine Billing and generally make themselves useful; a Young Man with knowledge of Electric Lighting and Stage work may also write in. State age, lowest salary, and forward references (copies only) to Box 2,833, "The Era."

WANTED, four Commissionaires, for Tottenham and Hounslow, to wear uniform and distribute bills, &c., during day. Hours 9 till 4 and 6 till end of performance; Army men preferred; abstainers. Apply, COMMISSIONAIRE, Sec., 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, by H. Leaton, Engagement as Manager in a Music Hall, March 5, or later, through Hippodrome, Bridgwater, closing. Address, Hippo., Bridgwater.

WANTED, an Engagement, by Steady, Reliable Man, as Manager, or take charge of any travelling show. Write, C. SPINCH, 9, Hotham-street, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress; must be able to cut and fit. Apply, by letter with references and wages required, Stage Department, Moss's Empires, Ltd., Cranbourn Mansions, Cranbourn-st., W.C.

WANTED, Known, P. A. Lennon, at Liberty. Just concluded 18 months as Manager, Richmond Theatre, for George Dance. Late 10 years with Moss' Empires, Ltd.
Address, 10, Hotham-road, Putney, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known. — Will Writer of repute communicate with advertiser, who has most attractive music lyrics, and plot of musical comedy. COMEDY, c/o 140, High-street, St. John's Wood.

WANTED, Experienced Poster-writer, at once. State wages required. MANCHESTER BILL-POSTING Co., 36, Peter-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Position, Assistant Advertising, or Stage-Manager, Theatre or Varieties, Disengaged, age 34. Good refs. Wire or write, EXPERT, 125, Eleanor-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Chas. H. Barclay, Advance Representative, Disengaged.
Steady and Reliable.
Address,
G. P. O., Sheffield.

WANTED, Employment, C. H. Reed, Circus Agent and Manager, at Liberty March 10 (Great Britain or Ireland); sober, reliable, energetic worker. Address, REED, Stores, Leigh-road, Leigh, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Journalist, Theatre or Music Hall; business experience, knowledge advertising; good references; moderate salary. Box 2,863, "The Era."

WANTED, Evening Employment, by Gentleman engaged in London during the day; might arrange to attend Matinées. Box 2,834, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man (25), Situation, Theatre or Music Hall, as Assistant Electrician, London or Provinces, 8 years' experience. Highest references. Box 2,848, "The Era."

WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour; good references. Address, 42, Walcot-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Props. and Billposter, 5 years T. R., Canterbury, married, Disengaged through closing. Experienced, and refs. SUMMERS, Billposter, Canterbury.

WANTED, Engagement, in Theatre or Music Hall Bar, by Young Lady; good experience and references. Address, Box 2,862, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Wolverhampton, to open April 16, good Leader and full Orchestra, must be thoroughly experienced in Variety business. Apply, stating references and lowest terms, MUS.-DIRECTOR, 13, Wellclose-mount, Leeds.

WANTED, next month, Leader, First Violin, Piano, Clarionet, Euphonium, Permanency, Circus, Varieties. State full particulars, Box 2,850, "The Era."

WANTED, to Open, Monday, Feb. 26, Leader, for a London Music Hall.
State terms. Apply,
MUS. DIR., Box 2,860, "The Era."

WANTED, Musical Conductor, one who is used to Music Hall Work; must be thoroughly efficient. References from last engagements. Apply, J. WOOLF, Wonderland, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED, Theatre Royal, Rugby, to Open March 5, First Violin, thoroughly experienced in Dramatic and Musical Pieces. References and lowest terms to JOHN GREGORY, T. R., Rugby.

WANTED, Competent First Violin, Soloist, Young, open March 6, for Touring Exhibition. State terms. TYLER, G.P.O., Falkirk, N.B.

WANTED, Immediately, Solo Cornet.
Address,
VAL MARRIOTT, Director,
The Kursaal, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, Solo Clarionet, B flat, for Pitching. Terms, shares. Can join at once. BANDMASTER, 28, Lisson-street, London, N.W.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, Competent Double Bass Player, to open Monday, March 5, permanent engagement. Apply, with age, references, and lowest terms, to H. EVERITT LOSEBY, Musical Director.

Tenor Side Trombone Player
WANTED, for a Staff Band.—A very good opportunity for a good man, must be young and desirous of progressing.

Apply to
G. N., care of HAWKES and SON,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

WANTED, Trombone, Chorley (one week), March 5 (Musical Comedy). Lowest terms, first letter, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Harpist, or Good Portable, for hotels, select pitching, &c., reliable, gentlemanly, and good reader. FLAUTO, 35, Greencloserd., Ilfracombe.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Flautist, Permanent Engagement to Good Man. State absolute lowest terms, and reference, A. MOSCROP ALLISON, Musical Director.

WANTED, Pianist, to Travel, Single, Good Vamper and Reader, perm. to suitable man. MARSHALL'S Auction Tent, Hollingwood, near Manchester.

WANTED, Solo Pianist, Solo Cornet, and Solo Trombone, for Long Summer Season (Seaside). Only First-class Musicians need apply. FROST, 43, Woodbine-street, South Shields.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class String, Brass, and Wood Instrumentalists, to complete Orchestra, for Easter, April 12 to 21, and for Season, from June 2; also First-class Accompanist, to combine other instrument. Applications, with particulars of experience and terms required for two performances daily, to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Train with Band, 3rd Queen's Regiment, from May 28 to June 23, 1906, with one week's previous practice.
Apply to ADJUTANT,
Depôt, The Queen's, Guildford,
for particulars,
Cornets, Clarionets, Horns, Bass Trombone, Tenor Trombone, Bombardon, Piccolo, and Flute.

HIPPODROME, COLCHESTER.
Proprietors, FREDERICK MOUILLOT and WALTER DE FRECE.
WANTED, to Open March 5, Full Orchestra. Apply, stating last two engagements, to Mr. J. DE FRECE, 178, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Bandsmen, Good Musicians, from March 12 to June 9.
For particulars,
apply early to
BANDMASTER,
The Barracks, Grantham.

WANTED, Musicians who are anxious to secure the best Terms, before accepting Engagements in Glasgow, to write to Mr. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Disengaged March 5, Composer, Arranger, Violinist. Address, 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Sydney Davies, smart, reliable, experienced and thoroughly up-to-date Musical Director, Disengaged, brilliant violinist, late Conductor, Palace Theatre, Cork; Empire Palace, Dudley; Hippodrome, Coventry; Palace Theatre, Derby. Lion Hotel, Colchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader, for Tenting Season, with Good Répertoire of Circus Music. Long experience. T. REYNOLDS, Red Lion, Coleshill, near Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, First-Class Musical Director, Pianist, at Liberty to open Monday next, competent in all lines of professional business, steady and reliable; good references from Theatres and Music Halls. Wire, WARD, 5, Back Gardenstreet, Wakefield.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Well-known Conductor (Violinist), with own First-class Band, any number. Highest testimonials; splendid library. Box 2,853, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Bandmaster, any Description of Band. Excellent Cornettist, Circus Répertoire. Can write more. A., 17, Bennett-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Known, thoroughly Trained Vocalist, Disengaged, for summer, with ladies' orchestra or concert party, take second Violin. Extensive refs.. experienced. Box 2,854, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Ladies, First Violin, A.C.V., and 'Cello, A.R.C.M., silver and bronze medallist, soloist, Disengaged end April. Miss ENID NEWCOMBE, 129, Chatham-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin or Cornet, experienced.
STARKEY, 85, Henry-street, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist, Orchestral or Soloist. Tour or permanent. Good appearance. Box 2,836, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Dorothea Aug. Vincent, Solo Violinist and 'Cellist, Disengaged, Solo or Orchestral Work. 28, Marjorie-grove, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Two Violinists, together or separate, can combine Clarionet. VIOLINIST, 86, Park-place, Darlington.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, as First Violin, to lead if required, last season Hastings. Excellent refs. Box 2,842, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Violin or Viola. Good refs. Wire or write, H. GLAISTER, 25, Dan-y-Parc, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist, as Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Concert Orchestra, any distance. ARTHUR BASSON, 57, Barmouth-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement, any Business. Good testimonials, abstainer, experienced conductor. Permanency required. Apply, A. VIRGO, 50, Oswald-road, Dover.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, highest references; last place four years. Apply, A. W. BASSETT, 20, Cambridge-grove, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Competent, Reliable, good refs.; any business, London or Suburbs. Address, CLARIONET, 2, Evelyn-road, Ham, Surrey.

WANTED, Engagement, by good, reliable Clarionette, experienced all Lines, excellent refs Address, H. C. GARNER, The Porches, Rainhill, near Liverpool.

WANTED, by Good Clarionettist, Engagement, Good Theatre or Music Hall, twelve years' best references; available now. URBAN F. JOHNSTONE, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo, or First Clarionet, military or string. Good refs. Apply, H. MOORE, Croford, Wiveliscombe, Somerset.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Solo B Flat Clarionet or E Flat, experienced and reliable; excellent references. G. HARRISON, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

WANTED, by Clarionet, at Liberty through closing, best refs. and thoroughly experienced, Music Hall or Theatre. T. CRAWSHAW, 89, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Clarionet, any business; experienced and reliable; also good references. CLARIONET, 187, Millbrook-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, £5 bonus to anyone finding Permanency for Double Bass; good, reliable, sober, excellent references. Address, D. B., c/o SMITH, 19, St. Vincent-street East, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Dennis Butler, Principal Bass (4-string), Theatre Royal, Birmingham, at Lib. for Summer Engt., military or string orchestra.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass, Experienced, young, seeks engagement, any capacity. F. V., c/o Crockett, 8, St. John's-lane, West Smithfield, E.C.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, Competent, Experienced, Reliable; Good References. Address ALFRED SUNDERLAND, 5, Ebenezer-place, Great Horton, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady, D. Bass, well Experienced, not Touring.
Box 2,852, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon, Season or otherwise, Theatre Experiences and good Refs. 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, by Bass Trombone, Summer Engagement, any bus.; first-class refs.; steady, reliable. TROMBONE, 9, Jesson-st., West Bromwich, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, good experience. F. BURNS, 8, James-street, Hyde, near Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by First French Horn, good references and experiences from Moody-Manners Opera Co. V. DI DOMENICO, 5, High-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, for Summer. Apply, F. GOEDERTIER, Principal Horn Player, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., en route.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLS, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, Known, Solo 'Cellist, and thoroughly experienced Orchestral Musician, Disengaged March desires High-class Hotel Engagement, full Summer Season. Box 2,845, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Joseph Ackroyd, First-Class 'Cellist, thoroughly experienced, steady, and excellent references. 284, Collingbourne-road, Shepherd's Bush, London.

WANTED, Engagement by a thoroughly experienced 'Cello player. Continental and English Experience. Apply, S. AILION, 82, Richmond-road, Bayswater, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Celloist, through reducing Orchestra, any business, good refs. Would accept long Seaside Engagement. Apply, 'CELLOIST, Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

WANTED, Engagement as Viola, experienced.
GEORGE C. GROSS,
35, Bath-lane-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by experienced Oboeist, Engagement, any Business, would Tour. Good testimonials. Also Offers for Summer. OBOE, 2, Church-street, Cambridge.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by Robert Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, for Court Theatre, Liverpool

WANTED, Summer Engagement, as Solo or Orchestral Harpist, piano if required. Add., Miss WOLTERS, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth. Reference to Mr. Dan Godfrey.

WANTED, by Gentleman Pianist, Summer Seaside Re-engagement, with First-class Orchestra, Concert Party, Dancing. Apply, Mulgrave House, Saltwell-rd., Gateshead-Tyne.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer Season, as Pianist, or Violinist, experienced, any Business. Good refs. MADELEINE TUGMANN, Burnbrae House, Falkirk, N.B.

WANTED, by Quadrille Pianist and Accompanist, Engagements for Dances, Parties, Concerts, Summer Engagements, River or Seaside. T., 61 Seward-road, Hanwell.

WANTED, Known, Marie Sheldon, Orchestral Pianiste, Vocalist, and Mandoliniste, at Liberty Monday next. C/o Post Office, Creetown, N.B.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist-Harpist, any business; good experience; references. J. SINCLAIR, 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Young Lady Pianist, an Engagement for Band or as Accompanist, holder Senior Certificate. COLE, 50, Beresford-st., Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Pianist, Theatre or Music Hall, experienced, reliable, Disengaged March 5. E. BRINKLEY, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Lady Pianist, Brilliant Soloist and Accompanist, having concluded Long Engagement at High-class Hotel, wishes for Re-engagement with Select Trio.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, Temporary or Permanent, Variety or Military, now open. A. FARRELL, 78, Coleshill-buildings, Pimlico-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Good, Steady, Reliable Double Drummer, all effects, experienced, any business. Highest refs. Address, JELFS, 40, Villiers-st., Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, join at once, Variety preferred. DRUMS, 94, Graham-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Known, Double Drums, Engagement, Variety and Dramatic, London Experience, own drums and effects. GEO. SMITH, 19, Brecknock-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Distinguished Licentiate, R.A.M.; could provide Large or Small Orchestra if necessary. Highest possible recommendations. Address, L. E., Cremona, Mountfield-road, Finchley, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Methodios' Roumanian Orchestra. March 2, Grand Evening Concert, Queen's Hall, Langham-place, W. Managers are invited to hear this Band. Tickets, 7, St. John Evangelist-road, Highgate-rd.

Managers of Hotels, Restaurants, and Piers.
WANTED, Known, if you want a big attraction for your establishment, engage at once the celebrated Gardenia Orchestra (four to thirty performers). All Artists and Soloists. Great Success at a well-known Pier last season, and tremendous Success on the Continent. To secure this fine band write at once. Box 2,808, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Ladies' Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet engaged Johannesburg, January to July.

WANTED, by First-Class Professional Military Band, 18 to 30 performers, Summer Season Engagement; splendid library. SMEDLEY, 76, Parliament-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Well-known Ladies' Orchestra (Costume) requires Engagement for Easter, Hotel Work, &c. Write, Box 2,843, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Easter Week or Ten Days, by Permanent Orchestra of Seven, for Variety, Theatre, &c.; excellent Library. CRABTREE, Pier, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Good Band (any number), open for Engagements, splendid references, &c. Box 2,851, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS,
LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, the Best Star Turns in England, Big Sensations and Startling Novelties, also Useful Circus Turns in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates, for the above Circus and another Lancashire town at Easter. A Good Groom write at once. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, PAISLEY, N.B.
Now in Full Tide of Success.
WANTED, the Greatest of Stars and Novelties, Nothing too Big. Aërial Acts, Three-bars Acrobats, Animal Acts, in fact any Performance that can take place in a Circus Arena. Shares or salary. All Artists must state if appeared in Paisley before; if so, when and where. Address, TRANSFIELD, as above.

WANTED, for Gala Season, June, July, August, Aërial and Novel Acts, Single and Double Turns.

Sample Litho. and Lowest Terms.

to W. and J. WILDER,
Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Sensational and Startling Attractions, First-class Aerial Acts, Troupe of Acrobats, Triple Bar Act, Cyclists, Wire Act, and anything suitable for Large Halls.
Various Dates, commencing Feb. 26, to Xmas.
State fully in first communication, lowest terms, vacant dates.
If lithos., forward specimen.
Letters only. JURY'S Imperial Bioscopes, 142, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, a Lady Rider, with or without horse, and good novelty turns write in. DUFFY'S Star Theatre, Dee-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Contortionist (Lady). Lowest terms for Tour.
HUBER, P.O., Brentford, Middlesex.

WANTED, Smart Young Men Acrobats (Tumblers), also able to Play a Stringed Instrument, for Big Speciality. Smart Amateurs or Beginners. Send in absolute lowest terms, and photo. if possible, to Mons. TURNER, Bowling Green Hotel, Holloway Head, Birmingham.

WANTED, a Smart Acrobatic Knockabout, one that can vault preferred, open at once. Age, height, references, and terms, with fare paid after joining, to REVELL TROUPE, 54, Sherwood-st., Mansfield.

WANTED, Smart Boy, age about 12 to 14, one that can tumble preferred; must be small for age. Address, JOE BOGANNY, c/o F. Shaw, 18, Adam-street, Strand, London.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Pinder, Novel Equestrienne, with her Performing Horse-riding Dog and Flight of Pigeons (this turn is quite new, and Miss Pinder is the only lady doing this turn on any stage), will be at Liberty March 5, also for Fêtes and Galas, with John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist. Agents, BROS. ARTOIS. Address, 144, High-street, Deptford, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Caban's Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, Liberty Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19. Dates for Galas and Fêtes. Address, Hippo., Higher Broughton, Salford.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey Comic Act, away from all other Animal Shows, vacant Monday. Drill Hall, Penrith.

WANTED, Known, Tom-Tom, Tumbling, Talking Clown and Agouste, at Liberty for the Summer Season. Add., 15, Union-street, Southport.

WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5, Mayeno Trio (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, terrific success Hippodrome, Higher Broughton, Salford, where wire for Monday. After, Turley's Hotel, Chichester-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo Lo, Graceful Gymnastic Speciality, finish to-night Glasgow Carnival; Monday, Algie's Hippodrome, Carlisle. Vacant March 5, 12. Address, Carlisle.

WANTED, next week, by Mdlle. De Vena, Lady Juggler, and Alec Aubrey, Gymnast, Two Star Acts. Wire, Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, smartest of all Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Acts, free March 5, 12. Address, Cirque Varieties, Bury.

WANTED, Flora Steckel, Gymnastic Speciality, Liberty Monday. Wire, Circus Hippodrome, Rochdale; after Sat., 12, Seymour-street, Belfast.

WANTED, by The Flying Zoderas, New Original Stage Flying Trapeze, by Two Ladies, One Gent., week of March 5.
90, Victoria-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, most Daring High-rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous success. 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Monday, also March 5 and 12, The Cedrics (Olga and Edward), Refined Continental Comedy Equilibristic Artists, different to all others. Albert Hall, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Cycling Staircase Acrobat, complimented by Sheriff Howard, Esq., and the Directors on my performance. Free April, on. Royal, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Known, Fredk. Bendo, Contortionist, at Liberty.
7, Verdun-place, Hyde Park, Leeds.

WANTED, Monday, also Tenting, Home or Abroad, by Sauteron, Original Speciality Jumper. Usual Success, Palace, Manchester. 50, Shepherd-st., Bury.

WANTED, by Strong Young Man, Engagement as Improver with Acrobats; good knowledge of bearing, &c.; pocket money to start. W. G., 7, Owen's-row, E.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANNOPE and Co., 63, Regent-st., W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, JARROW.
General-Manager, L. F. SANDERSON.
WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, March 5, onwards. Bioscope write in.

SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, March 5, and onwards. Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, Variety Artists all Lines, immediate and future dates. Terms, &c., J. CUMMINGS, 66, Whitevale, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for Sudbury, Suffolk, also Pianist write, shares or salary. BRUCE, 133, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

EMPIRE,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Comedy Star Artists, in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, June, July, Aug., and Sept., Big Acts and Smaller Turns. Can give two to fifteen weeks to suitable artists. Send full particulars of business, lowest terms (to save time), where working during next four weeks, and permanent address, to
HARRY BARKER,
Entertainment Bureau, 6, Harley-road, Great Yarmouth. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 12, 19, April 2, 16; Lady Balladist, March 5; always opening for good freaks. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for March 5. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists of every description (disengaged) to write or call at the Managers' Requirements Agency, 141, Long Acre, where they will find something to their advantage. Manager, GEO. SIDNEY.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, Big Specialities, March 5, onwards, Big Sensational Acts, for Easter week, April 16.
Terms, lithos., Bookings,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Grimsby, Artists all Lines, Big Acts wanted, Share or Certainty, nothing too big. Say when last in Grimsby. Combinations not entertained unless containing big Acts. LARDER, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now on. Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists of every description, Doubles doing Singles; no fancy prices. State your terms. R. DOBSON, Waterloo Hotel, Blyth.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, new to Hippodrome, Broughton, Manchester, March 5, combination terms. CHARLES HECTOR, 12, Larkhill-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, Artists all descriptions, immediate and future dates. Send full list of Bookings, lowest Terms, DUNNING'S Agency, 7, Wiltshire-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, to Open Monday, at Clempert's Hippodrome, High Broughton, Salford, Manchester. Wire, HUGH DEMPSEY.

WANTED, Artists, Comic Ballets, Pictures, Dumb Shows, anything suitable for Big Building, Easter Week, onwards. ENTERTAINMENT-MANAGER, Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, for Small Music Halls, Concert Artists, Amateurs and Beginners, immediately. Write, BOB GRAHAM'S Agency, "Raleigh," Salford-road, Streatham Hill, S.W.

Fête and Gala Artists
WANTED for June 9 (Midlands), June 18, 20, 21, 22 (North), July 27 and 28 (Midlands), Aug. 18 (North). We can, must, and will have the best in all branches, and are always prepared to pay fair market, but not fancy, prices. Talent desiring business should send immediately terms, lithos., and full particulars to
LEMPRIERE and GREEN,
The Midland Variety Agents,
70, Holloway Head, Birmingham.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Big Specialities and Star Acts write, nothing too big. Will old clients send revised list of bookings, &c., as the business will be carried on as usual? Address, Mrs. FRED HARCOURT'S Variety Agency, 133, Moss-lane East, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Magician, Manchester."

CLEMPERT'S HIPPODROME, H. BROUGHTON, SALFORD.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, March 12 and upwards, direct, or STEBBINGS' Agency. Address letters, Clempert's Hippodrome, Devonshire Street, H. Broughton, Manchester. Tel. address, "Clempert," Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London. Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London." Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, Bills, &c., address, and route.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, Coventry Hippodrome Co., Ltd.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that, from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contract will be recognised unless Signed by the Secretary and Manager.
T. M. Sylvester, Manager.
G. E. Wright, Secretary.

CIRCUS, HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Proprietors, Smith and Lee.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for: Four Avocas, Leslie Race, Vernon's Pictures, Lillie Currie, Two Eltons, Sisters Williams, Marblesque Trio, Lee and Arden.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, for March 5, 12, and 19,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 35, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., Feb. 26 and March 5, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can fix you. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

WANTED, for Empire, Paisley, Stars of all kinds, anything with drawing powers, money no object. All communications to Delno Fritz.

JAMES FIONI'S AGENCY,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Smart and Refined Novelty and Singing Acts,
for Seaside Towns.

GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE,
DONCASTER. Man.-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.
WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the Business, for the above. Apply to Leo Fritz's Agency, 55, Haverstock-road, London, N.W.. Comedy Acts new to Carlisle, Glasgow, and Greenock wire immediately.

WANTED, Big Acts for America. All particulars to Frank Lynne, 121, West 42nd-street, New York City, U.S.A.

WANTED, Star Acts in Every Line, nothing too big. Send full bookings and particulars, lowest terms, to Charles Dietrich, 15, Hotham-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Big Sensational Act, for Easter Week, April 16. Terms, lithos., &c., Edgar Stebbings, Agent, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Comedy, Cycle, Musical, and Novelty Acts, for Gala, Aug. 6 and 7, near Birmingham. Address, Will Percival, Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Known, I can Place the Biggest Acts. Atlas, Agent,
17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns,
Easter,
Whit Week,
July 2, onwards,
Big Specialities,
Comedy Acts,
Bar Performers,
Comedy Musical Acts,
Novelty Jugglers,
Sensational Cycle Acts,
Acrobatic Acts,
in fact anything that is New and Novel.
Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

TEMPERANCE HALL OF VARIETY, MERTHYR TYDFIL. Manager, Israel Price.
WANTED, for Easter Week, and Future Dates, Specialities, Comedians, and Artists in all lines; artists must have ten orchestra parts.

The Old Firm. 23 Years a Real Performer, England and Abroad.
WANTED, the Very Best of Talent Money can Buy. Address, Drew Bayley, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester. Rinaldos communicate.

To Fête Agents.
GRAND YORKSHIRE GALA, YORK,
June 20, 21, and 22, 1906.
WANTED, Tenders.—Persons willing to Tender for the Stage Amusements, at a cost of not more than £300, and which must include one or two specially attractive features, must send full particulars to the Secretary, Mr. Fred Airy, Davyhall Chambers, York, on or before March 5, 1906.

PALACE, BOSTON (LINCS.).
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
First-Class Variety Companies, Choirs, &c., for Feb. 19 and onwards; rent or Share. Large Stage, and Seating Accommodation for 700.
Apply,
Manager,
Palace Theatre of Varieties, Boston (Lincs.).

WANTED, First-class Combinations, for Palace, Boston, Vacant March 5, onwards; must have good printing. Great Success, New York Nippers. Cinders, 32, Mainridge, Boston.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. Will Avis, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Top Liners, London and Provinces, Early Dates. Antoun, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.R. Wires, "Antics London." 'Phone, 1999 Hop.

WANTED, Two Young Lady Dancers; must be pretty, fairly tall, and able to do both Skirt and Step-dancing, for a London Engagement. Age not over 20. To rehearse not later than end of March.
Apply by letter in first instance, enclosing photograph if possible, to Hartley Musgan, 23, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Two young and smart Sisters, Act, Sing, and Dance well.
Must have Good Wardrobe.
Photos. (to be returned), terms, &c., to Mayson, Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Attractive and Terse Young Lady, for Small Part in Sketch for Music Halls; good appearance most essential. Previous experience not necessary. Small premium required, which will be returned in salary. Address full particulars, Box 2835, "The Era."

WANTED, two Young Girls, as Apprentices, for Music, Singing, Dancing Act, two years' Engagement. State all particulars, with photos. Martinez, Poste Restante, Lisbon, Portugal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Attractive Young Lady, for Illusion, Vocalist preferred; experience not so necessary as refinement. Box 2,844, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Strong Acrobatic Dancer, for bearer, able to sing. Send photo. at once. Spencer, 25, Sackville-st., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

WANTED, for Tour, Young Lady, about 16, to play Mandoline or Banjo, Sing and Play in Sketches; also clever Amateur. Dale, Royal Oak Hotel, Luxborough, Somerset.

Baritone Vocalist.
WANTED, Dramatic Style, Trained Voice, Sympathetic Tone, tall and good appearance essential, descriptive song, with scenic effects, at best music halls. Apply by letter only to D. K., 31, Alfred-place, Bedford-square.

WANTED, Pierrots, for Elgar and Allen's Society Entertainers, Berwick-on-Tweed, Specialities, &c. Photos., age, and lowest terms for Summer Season, Theatre, Consett.

WANTED, a Smart Boy, small, good voice, age 14, to look younger, to assist in Scena.
C. W. Ward, Alhambra, Belfast.

WANTED, for Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope, First-Class Operators, well up in Alternation and Lime-light. 346, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Bessie Carlyle, Comedienne, Ballad Vocalist, and Pianist, at Liberty. 92, Netherfield-road, North, Everton, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedienne, Vacant Monday, wire Hippo., Stockton; after Sat., 148, Fountains-rd., Liverpool.

WANTED, by Gertrude Malyon, Descriptive Vocalist, Mon. next, also 26th. Big success. Wire quick for talent, 176, Burgess-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, Male Impersonator, Liberty Summer Season, Piers and Concerts. Offers. Next two weeks, 20, Gt. Egerton-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Volp and Volp (Tina and Cissie), Refined Musical Speciality, Harp and Banjo Solos, &c. Vacant March 5 and 12.

WANTED, Engagement, by two Young Ladies, halls or known tour, terms £5, juv. comediennes and serios. Add., E. M., 16, Rigby-rd., Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Charley Dixon, "The Funny Miser," last year starred special, Palace, Glasgow; Pal., Bridlington; O. H., York; Hippo., Wigan; W., Met., Camberwell, P.; Funny Miser à la Gaspard "Cloches de Corneville," and highly complimented on my original idea. Reproducing shortly a funnier revised version. Monday next, Hippo., Ipswich.

WANTED, immediate dates, Variety, by Walter Howard, Comedian, Instrumentalist, Smart Show for good places. Wire, 18, Boyson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, also March 5, Bob Rixby, whose quaint expressions are as funny as his songs ("Era."). 348, Ladypool-rd., Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Geo. Davis, Comedian, any branch of business, fully experienced. Address, 262, Manchester-rd., Nelson.

WANTED, by J. H. Carney, Character Comedian and Change Artist, at Liberty Feb. 26, March 5. Wire, Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees; after Monday, 30, Ney-st., Green-rd., Leeds.

WANTED, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, March 5, 12, and 19. Wire or write, Court Theatre, Bacup, Lancs.

WANTED, Monday, by Fred Casburn, Comedian, Westminster, Liverpool; after Sat., 14, Dudley-street, Shipley, Yorks. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Harry Plant, Vacant for the Summer. Four seasons, big success with Perry's Happy Valley Minstrels, Llandudno. More than some (born) comedians can say.

See Cards.
WANTED, Known, Max Merlin, Crocodile, with Scenery, presents new act, which stands alone. Public Opinion:—Prettiest and most novel of its kind. Blackpool Times:—Max Merlin gives a really amazing performance as the crocodile. He twists and turns in every imaginable form, and follows with some remarkably clever contortions, putting himself into almost every possible shape. Liberty Monday. Wire, Sat., Palace, Blackpool. Higham.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist, March 5, &c. Perm., 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Known, Ernie Leech, Singing Ventriloquist, at Liberty March 5 and 12. Wire, 161, Nantwich-road, Crewe. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Ted Young and Ada Twibell, Vacant Monday next. Wire one or both. 4, St. Thomas-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Terry and Snowdon (Cecil and Vera), duettists, dancers, and cross-talkers, at Liberty March 5, end of panto. T. R., West Bromwich.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 5 and 19, by Alf. Hey, vocal comedian, and Belle Dinmont, comedienne. 59, Gt. Jackson-st., Manchester.

WANTED, March 12 and 19, North, the Monck-tons, in original screamingly funny musical comedy acts. Re-booked everywhere. Next, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hulme, Comedian, also Elsie Kedwards, Comedienne and All-round Dancer, just concluding Panto., Theatre, Aston, Birmingham. Lib. March 5.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 5, by Walter Gurney, Comedian, also Lily Mason, Comedienne and Dancer. Wire, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

Nellie Teddie
STUART and WORTH.
WANTED, March 5 12, 19, 26, only Vacancies. Always successful. Managers wanting Big Comedy Act, write, Bernard Cottage, Dewsbury.

WANTED, March 19 and 26, by Dale and D'Argan, Acrobatic Conjurers, in a Smart, Funny, and Original Pot-pourri Act, "Le Café Magique." Tenth week, Big Success. Parts and Speciality, Thomson's Pantomime. Clarendon T., Watford.

WANTED, Monday, also March 5, 12, by Golden and Grey, "The Missing Will," or "Sweethearts and Wives." Wire, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, Bert Serony, Light Comedian, and Vosco, Comedy Conjurer, Two Clever Acts, Two Laughing Successes. Wire, Vosco, G.P.O., Salisbury.

WANTED, Feb. 26, through hall closing, by Conway and Garland, for their famous burlesque absurdity, "Left in Charge." Emp., York.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Grimaldis, Feb. 26, onwards. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, March 19, 26, also Al Fresco Season, by Carl and Carr, refined comedians. Terrific Success, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday next, The Three Pirmans, great Pantomimic Comedy Gymnastic Posturing Act, Starring through the country, tremendous screaming success. Wire, Gaiety, Chatham. March 5, Collins's, Islington, London; follow Alhambra, Paris; free Monday only. Wire, Gaiety, Chatham.

WANTED, Monday next, by The Gelders, Modern Magicians, Lillie Hustler, Soubrette and Dancer. Wire, 20, Church-drive, Shirebrook, Mansfield.

WANTED, March 5 and 12, Royal Zerbinis Troupe (Five), in Musical Electrical Scena, "In Fairyland." P., Aberdeen; next, Pal., Dundee.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dates (Seaside preferred), Birkenhead's Royal Empire Troupe of Juveniles Comedians, Coons, Descriptive and Alto Vocalists, including Master Frank Birkenhead (England's Youngest Comedian), and Miss Gertie Williams (the Clever Girl Comedienne). Write, Birkenhead, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, March 5, onward, by Gilroy and Boston, ventriloquist and bioscope. Big success, second week, Hippo., Grimsby; then, Met. Theatre, Hoyland.

THE "REGAL" OPERATIC TROUPE.
WANTED, for about three months (probably longer), commencing May, really good Pitch, for exceptionally fine Troupe of Pierrots, six Operatic Artists, Comedian, Pianist already engaged. Terms and all particulars to E. Cn. Gittins, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

WANTED, April 16 (through transferring), for Matt. Wilkinson's Laughing Success, "The Registry Office." Also May 14 and 21, to follow return visit to Empire, Liverpool. Address, Palace, Derby, Feb. 26 (third visit).

WANTED, Monday next and intermediate dates, onwards, for Louie Prescott's sensational Sketch, "The Circus Queen." Address, 45, Risinghill-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, for Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensational and Daring High Ladder Act. Leclair, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, March 5, for Devereux's Up-to-date Troupe of Dogs, the Greatest Draw before the Public. Theatre Royal, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Roza's Canine Hippodrome, March 12, North; also 3 weeks, April, Midlands. Coms., 24, Preston-st., Barrow-Furness.

WANTED, Known, Evening Parties, At-Homes, &c., Attended, Entertaining Colour Experiments in Chromoscopy. Mystic Thirteen, Chromocartomancy, and Flora Clairvoyance. Booklets, Fees, &c., free, from
Mr. Wm. Heald,
35, Richmond-road, Bayswater, London, W.

WANTED, Feb. 26, March 5 and 12, Electrifying Bounders, Los Granadas, Summer Dates for Galas, Sports. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Fontain's Marionettes and De Roy's Comedy Conjurers, Dates for one or both acts. 11, High-street, Barton-on-Humber.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope, Lime or Electric, 20 minutes or 2 hours, everything up to date. J. Bainton, Post Office, Blackburn.

WANTED, Engagement, by a Young Operator, for Cinématograph, Experienced Electrician, with good references. M. R., 72, Hallam-street, Gt. Portland-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Lantern Operator, young and energetic, could combine secretarial and agent's work, on lecture tour, preferably abroad. Bradley, c/o Sanders and Crowhurst 71, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Tom Orton,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.
Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, Tom Orton, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Move with the times, or get left.
WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time. Send for catalogue and testimonials,
Minerva Automatic Co.,
120, York-road, King's Cross,
London.

The Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-road, King's Cross, London.
WANTED, to thank the many Customers who have placed their Orders for the Ball-punching and other Automatic Machines for Spring Delivery, and would respectfully ask those who contemplate ordering to do so as quickly as possible, to prevent risk of disappointment.
Members of the Showmen's Protection Association.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

WANTED, Showmen, to Know that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage paid on all orders, £2. Write for Price List, or call, Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for particulars.
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

To Showmen and Amusement Caterers.
WANTED, Known, Orders for Shanks and Taylor's Aerial Roundabouts should be placed as early as possible for the coming season to ensure prompt delivery. 17, Poland-st., London, W.

WANTED, Showmen to Note, the Success of the Show World. Motor-Cars for Roundabouts. All Sorts, Patterns, and Sizes. Universally acknowledged the best on the market. Perfect running guaranteed. Complete bottoms. Bogies fitted with our patent spring wheels, which save 30 per cent. engine power, and no rubber required. Repairs of all kinds and alterations promptly carried out. Guarantee no patents infringed.
Phœnix Carriage Co., Ltd., Aston-rd., Birmingham. Sole Representative, Mr. Albert Brandon. Telegrams, "Resuscito, Birmingham."

WANTED, Known, Waterproof Covers, for Carts, Wagons, &c., and Tents for every purpose;
Ricksheets and Sunblinds;
also Horse Cloths of every description, as supplied to Royalty, and on the Admiralty and War Office Lists. Samples and prices on application to the actual maker.
Showmen's Covers and Tents a Speciality.
Charles D. Phillips,
Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Known, Professor Retené supplies Shooting Galleries, Side-shows, and Novelties for Gardens, Piers, and Pavilions. Latest Novelty, the "Willow Pattern Plate" Shooting Gallery, right up-to-date, a good Money-taker (duly registered). Spaces wanted in good places. Address, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known.—Proprietors, Managers, and Secretaries of Exhibitions, Piers, Pleasure Gardens, and Seaside Resorts, to Note that the Comic Mirror, Crystal Maze and Side Show Company are preparing Special Attractions, in Side Shows, for the Coming Season, Distorting Mirrors (improved principle), Crystal Maze, Eve's Garden. Further particulars, Box 2,849, "The Era."

WANTED, for Manchester and Stockport, Novelties, Big Flash, open next Friday or Saturday. W. Brooks, 31, Market-place, Stockport.

WANTED, Good Novelties, for Shop. Apply.
C. Chaplins, 95, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Stallholders and Working Exhibits, for the Grand Trades Exhibition, Pier Pavilion, Southend, March 28 to April 7. S. E. Angless, Manager.

WANTED, Novelties. Send vacant dates. Have Exceptional Window Show, and be Artists at their Business. Panopticum, 174, High-street, Shoreditch.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, for Feb. 26, Good Novelty, half shares, fare one way. "Eagle Davis" wire. Exhibiton, Abbeygate-street, Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, Shows, any kind, best position here. Write, Watson and Jackson, Showman's Hippodrome, 20, Old Market-street, Bristol.

WANTED, Novelties, Feb. 26, and on, with Good Flash, for Prof. Elba's Variety Exhibition. 19, Bath-street, Ilkeston. Shares. Wire for Mon.

WANTED, Novel Side Shows, Easter, onwards. Good Terms to good Shows; under new management. Address, Entertainment Manager, Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Paraders, to open Easter, or before.
James Leo, The American Show,
Pemberton, Wigan.

Mr. William Vido write.
WANTED, for five months, starting April 26, for a Seabeach Zoological collection, a tall, good-looking Coloured Man, to attend to animals and act as doorsman and lecturer, must be abstainer and thoroughly respectable. Photo and references required. Liberal salary and commission; also room on show. For further particulars apply at once, John Sinclair, Viewbank Cottage, Cults, near Aberdeen.

WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Palmist, for Caston's Panopticon, Touring the Halls, So. Wales, week each place. 69 Holton-road, Glam.

WANTED for Novelties, Doorsman that can talk. Duds please save trouble of applying. Panopticum, 174, High-street, Shoreditch.

WANTED, Known, Vacancy, for Good Photographer (sticky-backs), in the Original Scenic Trades Exhibition. Apply. Manager, "Japan" Exhibition, Corn Exchange, Kelso.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Animated Pictures, Marionettes; also Royal Punch and Judy, with Dog Toby. 101a, Penwith-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers of Gardens, Piers, Pavilions, to know I have good open air Scenic Novelties, also can make and paint anything required either for inside or outside. Address,
Turner, Scenic Artist, 50, Vernon-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Saxo, the Quick-showing Strong Man, can show 40 times Saturday. I have good paintings, good appearance. At Lib. for Monday. Wire, 19, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Valcon, Youthful Hercules, wishes to join Showman with Booth, to travel Fairs, Scotland preferred. 124, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Madame Zeta, the Famous London Character Reader, Dis., for exhibitions, bazaars, &c. Wire or write, 14, Currier's-lane, Ipswich.

WANTED, Stands, Seaside, &c., Smart Side Shows, and American Al Automatics. State terms. Vidson, 120, Drayton-rd., Landport, Hants.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
To Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, &c.,
P. Collins, Ltd.,
Gondola Works, Walsall,
have Positions to Let on their Old-established Fair Grounds, commencing with the
March Round.
Oswestry and Dudley, opening March 2,
to follow Shrewsbury, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, and Brierley Hill.
Easter Grounds,
Two grand Positions in London, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Birkenhead, and Dudley,
to follow
Wednesbury, Smethwick, Oldbury, Darlaston, West Bromwich, Heath Town.
Birmingham, Two Great Fairs,
May and October Onion Fair,
Bromsgrove Midsummer Fair, Worcester July Races, several Summer Fêtes, Flower Shows, Carnivals, &c.
For Terms and Particulars address as above.
Telephone, 80 Walsall.
Telegrams: "Gondola, Walsall."

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Fair Ground is the only place of Outdoor Entertainment and Attraction in Blackpool, situated at South Shore, next the Promenade; the electric trams run right to it; finest position in the town. The Grounds face the sea, and have a frontage of over 500yds. The permanent Attractions now installed include the River Caves of the World, the Maxim Flying Machine, Helter Skelter, &c.
Room for new Attractions next season, commencing at Easter.
Good Tunnel Railway Wanted.
Native Village Wanted.
Enclosure now being erected for same.
Good Shooting Jungle or Side Show Wanted for new building, 30ft. by 30ft.
Covered and well-built Stalls, 10ft. by 20ft., to let.
Apply, Proprietors, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

STARR ESTATE FAIRGROUND CO.
Manager, J. Hardman.
Secretary, A. Ellis.
WANTED, to Let, Land, on Blackpool Sands, for all kinds of Shows.
Apply,
Secretary,
31, Central Beach,
Blackpool.

BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.
NEW FAIR GROUND.
WANTED, Known, the Corporation of Congleton invite applications from Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, and others, for Ground and Stands during the May Pleasure Fair, to be held on May 12, 1906. The Ground is situate at the rear of the Town Hall, 50yds. from the main Street, is 3 acres in extent, and the only Fair Ground allowed in the Borough. Applicants must state their requirements, class of Exhibit, Frontage, and Depth. All applications to be made to
Randle Bursian,
Borough Surveyor.
Town Hall, Congleton,
Feb. 20, 1906.

WANTED, Known.—Special notice.—Parties requiring Ground for all kinds of Amusements for Exeter Easter Fair, in the old Fair Field, Okehampton-road; Lopes Fair, May 5 and 6; Redruth Fair, Whit Monday; Poole, Hayle, and others en route, apply W. C. and S. Hancock.

WANTED, to Let, Ground for Gallopers or Switchback, prominent position. Apply, Forrest, Fair Ground, Mile End-road, London.

LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL AND FINE ART EXHIBITION,
March 28, 29, 30, and 31, 1906.
WANTED, Known, Spaces to Let, for which early application is to be made to the Secretary, 96, Wharncliffe-road, Loughborough.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, and Stallholders, that I shall commence my usual Spring Fairs the second week in March, and continue until the end of the season, including Ordsall-lane for Easter, and Knutsford, &c. John Whiting, Anchorage, Stretford.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all Travellers, that I have Ground to Let at all my well-known and old-established Spring Fairs, commencing second week in March; also at the only recognised Easter Fair in Manchester, Queen's-road Ground; also Wolverhampton Market-place, Top Ground; and a continuous run of Wakes and Fairs throughout the entire season. Rents Moderate to tenants. All applications for Ground to be made to John Collins, World's Fair, Liverpool.

WANTED, Showmen and others to know, Ground Spaces to be Let, in Garrison Field, Sunderland, for Easter Annual Fair. For terms and particulars apply to John Cooper, 65, Milton-street, Eastbourne, Darlington.

BRIDLINGTON TRADES EXHIBITION,
Six Days, commencing March 12.
WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Jewellery, Rubber Stamps, Embroidery, Polish Powders, and Opticians. Apply, Mr. Hague, General Manager, New Spa and Gardens, Bridlington, Yorks.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Let, Space, in Successful Touring Trades Exhibition. No Vacancies for Side Shows. Only Selling Novelties. Write, Manager, Provincial Trades Exhibition, Teignmouth.

WANTED, Known, a Room to Let, in Waxwork Exhibition, shares or salary, last occupant seven years; no palmists or photography. Chas. A. James, Henry-street, Dublin.

WANTED, to Let at Once, Best Shop in Swansea, for Auctioneers, Bazaars, Exhibitions. Dolson, 30, Hannah-st., Porth, Rhondda Valley.

WANTED, Good Position for Gem Photo. Business, First-class Work; also Space for Good Distorting Mirror Show. Managers of Exhibitions, please write. Photographer, 2, High-street, Galway, Ireland.

Re P. Collins, Ltd., Roundabout Proprietors, in Voluntary Liquidation.
WANTED, Known.—The Liquidators are prepared to receive Offers for the purchase of this business as a going concern, with all rights in Grounds, held under goodwills, leases, &c.
Offers for separate Machines, which can be seen working on various Fair Grounds, are also invited.
Full particulars can be obtained from
The Liquidators,
Gondola Works,
Walsall
Telegrams: "Gondola, Walsall."
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Era, Feb. 3, 1906.—Brimful of bustle and excitement, there is no departure from an welcome a rule. . . . . With such a wealth of elaboration it was nothing less than remarkable that the fun—all performed in dumb show—should be kept going so briskly. . . . . The sketch was received with uproarious laughter, and forms a successful beginning to Mr. Karno's new enterprises.

Daily Telegraph, Feb. 6, 1906.—"The Thirsty First," which is the leading item in the Canterbury programme this week. . . . proves very good fooling.

Entr'acte, Feb. 10, 1906.—The name Karno has become quite a Hall mark of excellence in connection with Music Hall Burlesques. There are plenty of laughs in the new production, which is of the pantomimic order—not a word being spoken throughout the three scenes. The idea is a burlesque upon Tommy Atkins—the Tommy Atkins of the comic papers. The fun is kept going by an efficient company, and should be another "screamer."

South London Mail, Feb. 9, 1906.—"The Thirsty First" will bear favourable comparison with any of this "fun" merchant's previous efforts. . . . . For sheer merriment this production will long remain the funniest sketch seen on the variety stage.

Eastern Post, Feb. 17, 1906.—"Fred Karno's latest pantomimical production, "The Thirsty First," is really worth everybody going to see."

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To be followed in rapid succession by the following sketches, which will form part of Fred Karno's new répertoire:—

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THE CHIMNEY SWEEPS.
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THE FOOTBALL MATCH.
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THE GREATEST HIT

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OR

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CALLS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1906.

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"Among the Stars," Cannon Jump, Hardinis, Labakans, Herbert Lloyd, Vasco, Alexandre and Bertie, Lux's Dogs, Brothers Andreassen, Genaro and Theol, Gallando, Russian Imperials, Novellos, Lavater Lee, Les Ados, Alexandre and Hughes, The Pissiutis, Menetekel, Frank Anderson.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Jeannie Mackay, Royal Six, W. H. Clemart, Griff and Alpha, Frazer and Mac, A Bo Kou, Bijou Russell, Morton and Bowman, Empire Comedy Four, Bioscope, Bert Gilbert.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"Bloomsbury Burglars," Bioscope, James Fawn, Three Missouris, O'Gust, Bertha Vere, Ella Retford, Hayes and Suits, Rex King.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Carl Hertz, Bioscope, Mezzetti and Mora, Fanny Wentworth, Rossi Ashton, Maningos, Lola Yberri, E. J. Sheldon, Mdlle. Sylvia.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Madrali, Bioscope, Derenda and Green, Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, Seeley and West, Bert Woodward, Katie Butler, Amann and Hartley, Lena Verdi.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Gus Elen, Ruth Doris, Urma Sisters, Chas. Vincent, Cook and Robert, Knick Knacks, Palles and Cussick, Ranschle, Lydden and Hayward, Park's Eton Boys, Daisy Dormer.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Auroras, Sybil St. Elmo, Two Bostons, Fred E. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Albert Whelan, Rinaldos, Terley, Virto and Daughters, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Moses and Son," Helene and Emilion, Mattie Wilkes, Morton and Elliott, Lukushimas, Nina Gordon, Fanny Robina, Cole De Losse Duo.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Karno's "Mumming Birds," Edi Veno, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Lydia and Albino, Spessardy's Bears, Frank Seeley, Hans Hansen Trio, Princess Pauline, Kelly and Ashby.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Riogoku Family, Chas. Adams, Coloured Meisters, Dan Conroy, Selma Braatz, La Tostia, The Uessems, Bioscope, Baker and Lynn, Bros. Leslie.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Sawade's Animals, Bioscope, Sisters St. Julian, Billy Hobbs, Boccaccios, Edie King, Three Victorias, Frobel and Ruge, The Serenaders, The Tupps.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Cratons, Bioscope, Sisters Chester, Two St. Johns, The Howards, Four Ramlos, Trapnell Family, Harry Brown.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Majiltons, Bioscope, Harry Drew, D'Arc's Marionettes, Arthur Sutcliffe, Conway and Leland, Stuart Quartette, Staley's Transformation, The Finneys, Cardow's Cadets.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Village Wedding," Bioscope, Gracie Moore, Ted Cowan, Tribune Trio, Rohda Bros., Six Lancashire Lasses, Little Barney, White's Arabs, Lemprière Pringle and Co.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Road to Ruin," Benson and Geoffreys, Unthan, Four Skandias, Alma and Abdullah, Madge Carlyle, The Violas, Josephine Sabel, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Hetty King, R. H. Douglas, Marie Collins, Manning's Entertainers, Marzella's Birds, Mora and Lola, Oetzmann Troupe, Lady Fauntleroy, Burt Shepard, Mason and Bart.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"Moving In," Cruikshank, Ten Genis, Eugen Joly, La Berat, Alf. Chester, Wolkowsky Troupe, Helen Ford, The Courtiers, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Tarro Myaki, Arthur Gill, Ian Colquhoun, Haydas Troupe, Dainez' Circus, Sarnthaler Troupe, Abel and Welsh, Marie Weston, Bioscope, Clarice Netta.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Carlotta Levey, Two Cavaliers, Bros. Artois, The Delevines, Warsaw Bros., Three Renards, Sisters Anderson, Walter Munroe, Volta, Bioscope, Clown Barker.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Kellino Family, Duncan's Dogs, Esdale Bros., Payne's Vagabonds, Howe and Ardie, Cape Girls, Sleedes Troupe, Kyoto, May Geraldine, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
A. C. Lilly and Co., Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Alice Simmons, Marlo and Dunham Trio, Sisters Aindow, The Silvas, Terry and Bentley, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Vesta Tilley, The Bohemians, Sisters Bellatzer, Fyne and Hurley, The Findens, Drawee, W. H. Downs, The Mannons, Stewart and Morgan.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Ella's Lions, The Selbinis, Alf Gibson, J. Alexandre and Co., Bioscope, Lilian Lowe, Five Julians, Five Olracs, Harding and Ah Sid, Mdlle. Olive.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Orange Girl," Three Merrions, Sisters Gasch, Albertus and Bartram, Verno and Voyce, Ryan and Hall, Bioscope, Dion Wade, Lil Hawthorne, T. E. Dunville.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Cormorants, Princess Gooma, Leona Dare, Gordon and Harvey, The Picquays, Wally Hoste Trio, Illustrated Song, Victoria Monks, Bioscope, Neil Kenyon.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Programme for 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock Performances:—
"S'Nero," "Aladdin's Lamp," Ella Shields, De Lucca Troupe, Eugene Stratton, The Gems, The Ten Loonies, Madge Temple and Richard Green in "Fenella," "In Dreamland," Florence St. John and Company in "My Milliner's Bill," "Little Wooden Hut," Millie Hylton.

Programme for 6 o'clock Performance:—
Mrs. Brown Potter and Co., "La Mascotte," Mabel Love in "Bells and Motley," Bioscope, "Arabian Nightmare," Sable Fern, Orla, Powell's Marionettes, Rainbow Song, The Dandies, Ted and May Hopkins.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Edouin and Edwards, Dave McNeil, Les Gittis, Arthur Melrose, Sinclair and Parr, Fitzroys, Irving Jones, Stephens and Rennior.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bella and Bijou, Florrie St. Clair, Pictures, T. C. Callaghan, Goggin and Davis, Harry Clifford, Prince Fee Lung, George Ridgwell, Holden's Mannikins.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Salambos, Harry Weldon, Chas. Chard, Amy Marsden, Ella Lane, Woodhouse and Wells, Prince Yata, Pictures, Cecilias, Horace White.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
E. Arthurs and Co., Bioscope, Flem and Brok, Glenroy Troupe, Grais' Baboons, Ethel Ra-Leslie, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Morny Cash, Eric Graham, Kit Keene, Little Cliff, Ernie Mayne, Rose Archer, Millie Harris, Ethel May, Minnie Dare, Deer Family, Rose and Rose, New York Comedy Four, The Carlyles, Newham and Latimar, Bioscope, Arthur Prince.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Tom Costello, Vernando, Will Evans, Frank Leslie, Frank Jee, George Antill, Minnie D'Aubyn, Jessica Grace, The Mackweys, Barlee and Smith, Kronemann Bros., Deer Family, "A Daughter of Pleasure," Bioscope, Daisy Silcott, Three Sisters Leigh.

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"TRY AN' FIND ANOTHER COON."

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Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
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Rehearsals on Monday, at 11 o'clock.
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PARAGON,
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Artists are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3 o'clock.
Paul Martinetti and Co., in "A Duel in the Snow," Ada Colley, the Melroses, Mountford and Walsh, Gladys Mavius, Atlas and Vulcana, Doody and Wright, Leah Laurie, the Gargannis, Will Musgrave, Duncan and Godfrey, Valazzi, Ruffle's Bioscope, Selkirk's Spectacle, "England's Defenders."
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EUSTON,
EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
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Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

THE EMPRESS,
BRIXTON-ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1 o'clock.
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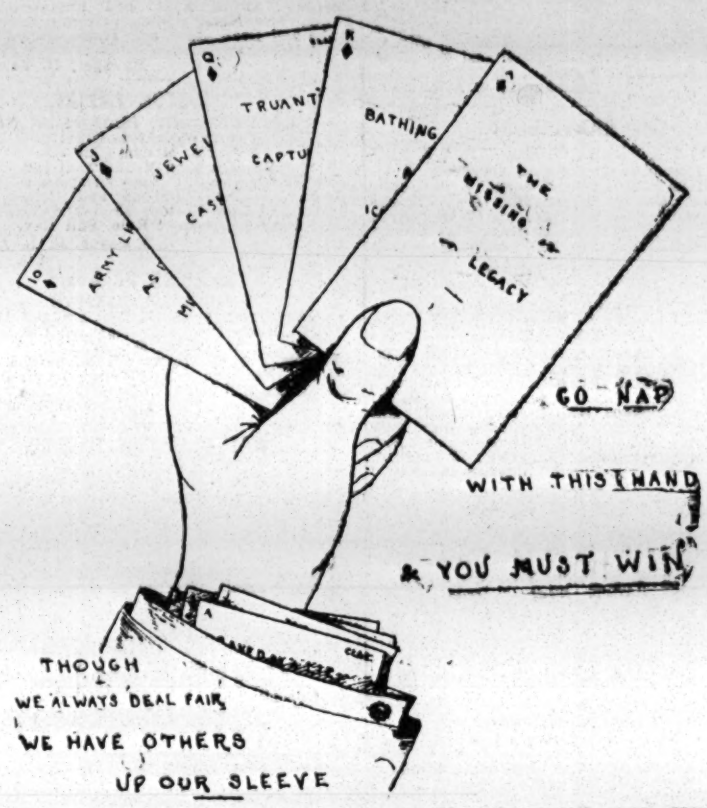

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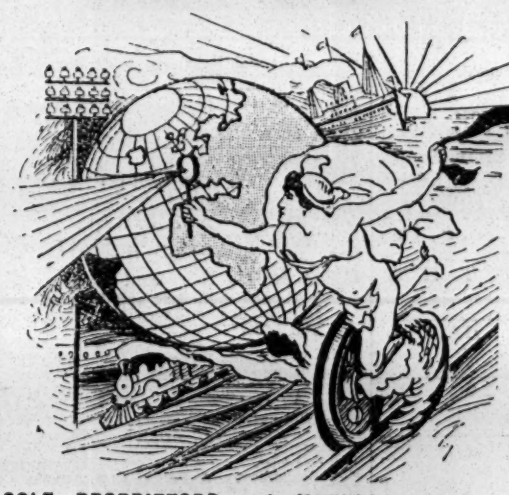

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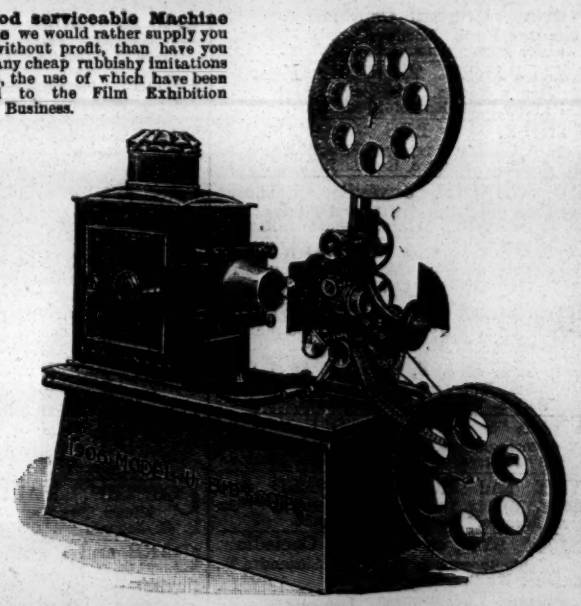

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CARLTON, HENRY, The Comedian. Barnard's, T. R., Woolwich, second week.

CARMEN, HARRY, DAISY LANE, Widow Twankey. Princess Badroulbadour. E. C. Jazon's "Aladdin" Co., T. R., Castleford.

CARR and ROSE, Scotch Baritone and Yiddish Soprano, presenting "The Gherkin Carrier's Lament." Hippo., Accrington.

CASEY, GEORGE, Great Hit as Dame, Gar Kiddie's "Babes" Co. Liberty Panto., 1906-7. Offers invited. T. R., Darlington.

CAVALLOTTIS, THE, Instrumentalists. Next week, Hippodrome, Bury. Good Agent for first-class Music Hall required.

CHALLIS, FLORENCE, Tremendous Success in Australia with Monologues and Songs. Returning home.

CHANT and CHANT, Another Hit, Empress, Hartlepool. Mon., return Albert Hall, Jarrow. Vac., Mar. 12, 19, 26, North.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS and Troupe of Leaping Hounds, Excelled by None. Empire Stockport.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE & EDIE), Dainty and Clever Duettists and Dancers. Big Succ. H., Hastings; Mon., Hippo., Eastbourne.

CHEERS, THE THREE, in Musical Sketch, "Dick Whittington," introducing Fluffy. This, Dudley Port, Stourbridge.

CHESTER and LEE'S Marionettes. Theatre, Bulford Camp, near Salisbury. Easter Vacant, Share or Certainty.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, LIMITED, 13, Oxford-street, Manchester. 'Phone 08904. Wires, "Amusements, Manchester."

CHIRGWIN, London until July 2, Plymouth.

CLAVER and PICCOLO, Juggling and Balancing. 50, Woodbine-street, Salford, Manchester. Vacant March 5, 12, 19, 26.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, FRED, Next week, Empire, York. Agents, Pacey and Reeves.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, Enormous Success in New Scena, "A Trial Trip," Hip., Coventry; next, Barnard's, Chatham.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

CLYDES, THE (AMY and QUEENIE), Finish to-night, Granville (Return); Monday, Canning Town (Return).

COLLINS, GEO., the Quaint Comedian, 14, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, S.E. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne. Empire Theatre, Rochdale.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN, 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, London.

CONROY, OLIVER, Top of Bill, Pier Pavilion, Southport. Vacant April 9, 30.

CONWAY and GARLAND, Terrific reception and genuine hit nightly. Empire, York. Vacant, March 12 onwards.

COOKE, STEVE, Clean Comedy Merchant. Vacant Summer. Refinement, not Vulgarity. O. H., Northampton.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, Empire, Dudley, next, Hippo., Wigan.

COSTELLO, BROS., Comedy Acrobats and legmania and patter Comedians. This, P. T., Taunton, Add., C/o "Era."

COWPERS, THE, "Missus' Double." Re Dates, Coliseum, London, W.C.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Care of "The Era."

CRANKS, COMICAL CYCLING, Trick and Comedy Cyclists, Vacant 26th, March 5. Wire. Perm., 19, Alexandra-road, Manchester.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Co., Feb. 26, Empire, Liverpool.

CRISTO, Magician and Illusionist, Re-engaged second week at the Empire, Dublin. Next, Alhambra, Belfast.

CRYSTALS, THE (NITA and ROSE), Vocalists and Speciality Dancers. London Pav. One Month. 62 Anerley-park, S.E.

CURRAN, FRED, Not a Talker of Parodies, but a singer of same. Monday, Hippodrome, Southampton.

CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack; ADA JENNER, Captain Cable, in Francis Laidler's superb production. Prince's T., Bradford.

CUSTANCES, THE, in their Bright and Sparkling Comedy Duologue, "A Game for Two." Letters, re dates, 104, Salisbury-st., Bedford.

DALE and VALE, Another Successful Return. Palace, Bow. Next week, Foresters (Return).

D'AMYEL, JEANNE, Prima Contralto, Liberty Monday. 20, Market-st., Widnes. Lancs. Agent, E. Stebbings, Manchester.

DANBYS, THE, Ruffians "Babes in the Wood." Good Comedy songs wanted. Prince's T., Blackburn.

DANIELS, THE TWO, "A Darkie's Holiday," Alhambra Theatre, Dudley Port.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, the Successful Artist. Always Working. This, Lyric, Liverpool; next Palace, Camberwell. Pacey and Reeves.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). Feb. 26, Palace, Manchester.

DAVENPORTS, THE, Lightning Magicians and Illusionists. No Time to Talk. Big Success, Tivoli, Barrow. Vacant Monday.

DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and MAY), Harmonizing Duettists and Coon Vocalist. This, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

DAY, JAS., Postman Handcuff King and straight Jacket Expert. Vacant, March. 354, Victoria-rd., Aston, Birmingham.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE, Feb. 26, Resting. Add., 60, Great Brunswick-st., Dublin.

DE DIO, MDLLE., The Originator of the Fire Dance. Continental Tour. Ronacher's, Vienna. Manz., P. H. Boggis

DEETRICH'S AGENCY, 15, Hotham-street, Liverpool. Always vacancies for First-Class Act.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Cockatoos. Regent, Salford.

DELAINE, MISS JOSIE, Theatre Royal, Oldham. Sole Agent, Florian-Fretelli.

DELEVINES, THE, In New and Original Comedy, "The Bell Inn," Empire, Shepherd's Bush.

DENBY and DENT, Monday, Empire Theatre, Greenock.

DENNIS, WILL, Eccentric Comedian. Success Idle Jack, F. D. Wood's Panto. Lib. Musical Comedy, March 12. Court T., Bacup.

DENT, BERT, Manager, Barnard's Palace Greenwich, S.E. Palace Buffet open on Sundays.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., Principal Boy; J. H. HAWTREY, Malicio, J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Opera House, Northampton.

DEVERENNE, the Great Mystery, Nail Walker, and Balancer, wants future Dates. 31, Higher Wharf-st., Ashton-under-Lyne.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week Hippodrome, St. Helens.

DEWICK, DAWSON, Comedian and Versatile Vocalist. Feb. 26, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, "The Crazy Miser," a Funny Song Scena. Monday, Hippo., Ipswich. See Wanted.

DIXONS, TWO, Expert Sand Dancer and Banjoist, Palace, Lincoln. Agent, De Vere.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Refined Vocalists, Complimented by Everyone. Monday, Queen's Park Hippodrome.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, Feb. 26, Palace, Bow. Producing New Act in London, March 26.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, the Factory Nightingales, Originality and Ability. Monday, Hippodrome, Bristol.

DOME, Hippodrome, Norwich.

DOMINOS, TWO, Clown and Donkey, Comic Act, Finish to-night, Drill Hall, Penrith. Liberty Manday, 26th. Wire.

DORMER, DAISY, Principal Girl, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

DORRIE, MISS IDA, Chic Soubrette, Big Success. This, Paddington; Next, Park Palace, Liverpool.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Comedienne. Monday, Feb. 26, Empire, Newcastle.

DOUGHERTY and SWINHOE, On and after March 5, will be known as MOON and MORRIS.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, The Week, Collins's; Next Week, London, Shoreditch.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Young Comedienne and Graceful Dancer. Next week, Tivoli, Manchester.

DUDLEY, LENA, Versatile Artist. Vacant March 5 and 12. Coms., 9, Leeds-street, Stockton-on-Tees.

DUNCAN and BRASQUE (CORA). (ALBERT). Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Comedians. Feb. 26, Hippodrome, Mansfield. Panto. settled 1906-7.

DUNDAS, F. H., Actor-Vocalist, Wants Monday. Wire or write. Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaintness. The original human hairpin. Mon. next, P., Derby. Macdermott and Sheldon.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN, Metropolitan and Shoreditch. See "Wanted" Column. Don't forget; look.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, Griffin and Drake's Panto. "Cinderella," T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne; next, Lyceum T., Eccles.

EDISON, CONNIE, the Lady Electrician, in her Electrical Speciality. All Business by Electricity. Coons' Cabin, Penton-st., N.

ELCOCK, AMY, and FLORRIE ST. ROY. Great success Palace, Belfast. Mon., Palace, Cork. Vacant, March 12.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast. Only Act of its Kind, Vacant March 5, on; also Fêtes and Galas. 30, Gt. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELLA'S, MISS, Best existing Lion Show. Palace, Leicester.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Feb. 26, Empire, Rochdale.

ELTON and ELMA, Comedy Bar Act. Liberty Mar. 5, 12. Monday, Paddington, Liverpool.

EMLYN-JONES and CO., in their New and Original International Sketch, Feb. 26, Balham. 34, Red Lion-square, W.C.

EPLETT, KATIE, Comedienne, Dancer; FRANK ZARA, Comedian Raconteur. Address, 26, Temple-street, St. George's-road, S.E.

ESCOTT, ALBERT, Rose and Crown, Hounslow; opposite Palace. Always at home. Recommended by H. Leslie Bell.

ESDALE BROS., Novelty Comedians, Enormous Success Empire, Shepherd's Bush, London. Monday, Empire, Cardiff.

EUSTACE, FRED, "Our Curate," "La Belle Parisienne," "The Amber Light," &c., &c. Fortune and Granville.

FALCONS, THE, Comedy Jugglers, Always a success. Next week, Hippo., Wakefield.

FAWN, MISS ADA, Tricky London Serio and Burlesque Actress. Monday next, Feb. 26, Palace, Lancaster.

FERGUS, C. H., Comedian, in Songs, Patter and Dancing. Liberty for a few weeks. Wire, 56, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow.

FERRIS and FARNLEY, Eccentric Patter Comedians, Finish to-night, P., Glasgow. Monday, Alhambra, Belfast.

FIMANS, THE, Vaudeville Act. Fast Booking 1906.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS. HAROLD, The Empire, Nottingham.

FINGLAS, THOMAS E., on Tour.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. Feb. 26, Empire, Belfast.

FLORADORA GIRLS, Enormous Success. Lib. March 5, owing to Close of Hall. Wire or Write Monday, Royal Court, Wigan.

FLORIZELL, Original. Stands Alone. Alhambra, Paris.

FORD and HANSON, the American Musical Millionaires. Address, Midland Hotel, Hull.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, COMEDY COMPANY. Big Success, Empire, Cardiff. Monday next, Empire, Swansea.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FOX and MELVILLE, Premier Song Illustrators, new songs by St. Clair. Monday, Empire, Greenock.

FRANKS, WILL, Vocal Comedian, On tour. Free for Seaside, June 4. 1, Rosamond-place, C.-on-M., Manchester.

FRASER and HALEY (MAGGIE and EDITH). This week, Pal., Northampton; Next, Canterbury, London. Sole Agent, T. Claxton.

FRASETTIS, LES, Empire, Huddersfield.

GALE, ETHEL, Blind Comedienne; HARRY CARTER, Comedian. Vac., March 5, on. Coms., 94, Boston-st., Hulme, Manchester.

GANNON, NELLIE, Concludes Tonight, London. Re-engaged Monday, Muncaster, Bootle. Harry Wright also at Bootle.

GANTHONY, ROBERT, Great Success. Stoll Tour. Address, Poplars, Richmond, Surrey.

GARVEY, JAS. E., Character Vocalist, and Hungarian top dancer. Liberty, Monday. Offers invited. Wire, Garvey, Grangetown, Yorks.

GATLEY, ADA, in her Up-to-date Combination Speciality. A few Vacant dates. Address, 149, Waldegrave-rd., Preston, Brighton.

GAY, WILL, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Lib. Monday. Halls or Tour. Hippo., Reading, or 141, Gt. Knolley-street, Reading.

GEE, FRANK, Metropolitan and Camberwell Palace.

GERETTI SISTERS, Double Trapeze Wonders. Free Whitsun and Easter. Add., 3, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, S.W.

GERONDE, THREE SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. "City Varieties," Leeds. At liberty, Feb. 26. Wire.

GERRARD, MISS MARIE, Erno Aguzzi's "Sinbad" Co. Will Lauri and Ellis send Address? Central, Northwich.

GILBERT, TOM, Comedian, Vacant March 5 and 12. All Coms., 8, Gray-street, Lincoln.

GILMORE, ROBB, The Talented Grotesque Comedian. Starring Palace, Oldbury, second week.

GLENN, MARY M., The Premier Scottish Vocalist. Perm. Address, 170, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

GOLD, HARRY, Comedian, "Animated Sovereigns" and "Cloudland." 2, Jessamine-villas, Percy-rd, Ramsgate.

GRAHAM, ERIC, Author-Composer. Granville, Walham Green.

GRAHAM'S, DAISY, Performing Birds, Gorgeous Electric fit-up. Liberty, June 18, 25, July 2, 9, and 16. Opera H., Tunbridge Wells.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders. Perm. add., 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANTLEY, CHAS., Eccentric Entertainer, Vacant Monday, also March 5, break Journey, Glasgow. 15, Berwick-street, Manchester.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Comedians, "In a Restaurant," last week. As Ugly Sisters, New Hippo., Mansfield.

GRAY, GEORGE, Stoll-Moss Empires. Stoll-Moss Empires.

GRAYDON, NED, Instrumentalist, This Week, Hippodrome, Southampton. Next, Hippodrome, Boscombe.

GREEN, GORDON, and GREEN, "Our New Slavey," V. Hall, Mitcham, 28th. 106, Fairholme-rd, Croydon.

GRENVILLE, SISTERS, Vocalists and Dancers, and GEORGE RAPER, Character Comedian. Hip., Mansfield. Mon., G. P., Riddings.

GRIESLEY, SAM, Actor-Vocalist, and LIZZIE ROUND, Male Impersonator. Lib. March 19. Address, 1, Joiner-street, Sheffield.

GROSVENORS, THE (Three Sisters), Operatic Vocalists, Second Boy, Girl, Fairy Speciality. Next, Lyceum, Eccles.

GROVINIS, On Tour. Address, care of "The Era."

GUNN, JOHNNY, Executor for the late Harry Diamond. All coms., 80, Wellington-street, Glasgow.

HAIG and NOVEL, This Week, Palace, Dundee; next Week, Palace, Sunderland.

HALL, CLIFTON, Vocalist, "Demon King," at Liberty April 9, on. Feb. 26, Lyceum, Eccles.

HALL, DAVE, Author, Composer, Songs, Patter, Scenas, Sketches, on hand or to order. 47, Chatham-place, Hackney.

HALL, EDITH, in Own Sketch "Playing at Poverty," by Wilfred H. Benson. Address, care of "The Era."

HALL, GEORGE, Comedian and Sifleur. Conclude Tivoli, Manchester. Monday, Pier, Southport. Agent, Stebbings, Manch'ter.

HALLAM and STANTON, Refined Entertainers, in "A Broken Journey." Empire, Greenock.

HAMPSON, CHARLIE, Meritorious Act, Dogs and Pigeons. Liberty March 19, 26. Empire, Dundee.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Palace, Belfast.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, Vacant April 9, 23, May 7, 14. Only vacancies this year. Add., 16, Repton-st, C-on-M., Manchester.

HARRIS and WORTH, Thanks Fred Parr and Will Dalton. King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

HARROW, BERT, and MARION WALKER, Principal Comedian and 2nd Boy "Red Riding Hood." 28, Highbury Park, N.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY, FRANK, the Juggling Schoolboy. A Pocket Cinquevalli. Palace, Tottenham; next, Palace, Hounslow.

HARTLEY WONDERS, Original Jumping Speciality. As Usual, Big Success. Feb. 26, Palace, Blackburn.

HAYDEE'S, Miniature Vaudeville Theatre. Feb. 26, Empire, Stockport.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius. This week, Hippo, Wigan; next, Hippo, Dewsbury.

HENDERSON and STANLEY Quratette, Comedy Acrobatic Musical Act. Free Mar. 5, on. Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

HENN, HINTON, Comedian, Big Hit, "That'll Do," few copies, P.O. 1s. 1d. 76, Parkfield-street, Moss-lane East, Manchester.

HENRIQUES, THREE, Comedy Act. Liberty Feb. 26 and March 5. Wire 117, Upper Moss-lane, Hulme, Manchester.

HENRIS, LES, M. and MDME., Elegant Equilibrists and Gymnasts. The Original Henris, Palace, Bradford.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Empire, Wolverhampton. Vacant March 12 through Colchester closing.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. Palace, Greenock.

HERMAN, SYD, Hebrew Comedian, Big Success of Parody, "My Yiddish Rachel, Oh." Also LIL BRESDEN. Mon., P., Oldbury.

HILL, ROWLAND, "The Man in Skirts." Jordison's "Babes," Hippodrome, Salford.

HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Star Male Impersonator, the Hit of the Panto, Th. Royal, Darwen; Mon., Queen's T., Liverpool.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Performers. Perm. add., 47, Nuttall-street, Liver col.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Chas. W. Poole's No. 1 Hyper-Myriorama. Mr. John R. Poole is a capable and interesting guide. Other attractions include Woolford's wrestling ponies, dogs, &c.; the Three Rochesters, in a musical performance; Mr. Harry Raymond, in his Amazonian creations; Coma, an amusing and clever juggler; Dane's Marionettes; Funny Chef, with his witticisms.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—Mr. Eade Montefiore's successful pantomime, *The Babes and Robin Hood* proves a big attraction this week. There are many outstanding features in the piece. The four Misses Tree dance and sing with equally telling effect, and two other quartettes of lady dancers are also heartily applauded. The leading parts are in the extremely capable hands of Miss Lulu Evans (Maid Marian), Miss Sophie Harris (Robin Hood), and Mr. J. T. Macmillan (Dame Cobbie), while the Brothers Lorenzi act very humorously as the two ruffians. Other equally successful parts are the Allan-a-Dale of Miss Edyth Goodall, Mr. F. G. Gilbert's King Richard, and Mr. William Rokeby's Sheriff. The Babes are very cleverly represented by Misses Renee Lancaster and Maisie Rawlings. The production is finely staged.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Edwin Boyde, a most resourceful and original comedian, is exceptionally popular, and an equally striking success is made by Walton and Lester, a very clever pair of comedy conjurers. The Two Kays are successful as usual, and Johnny Holland and company make a hit in their funny sketch *The Millionaire*. Lozelle and the Mozondos contribute exceedingly good gymnastic and acrobatic displays, and Mueller and Coyne are highly appreciated as comedians. Among the other artists are Miss Lillie Lassah, a sprightly comedienne and dancer; Miss Mina Carlton, an accomplished operatic singer; and Mr. Lade Henderson, a successful character vocalist. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope, among other novelties, introduces a graphic and interesting depiction of "A Sailor's Wedding."

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. A. Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. George W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—Miss Ada Wallis's No. 1 Company is here in the musical comedies, *The Major* and *Sweet Marie*. In the latter piece Miss Wallis plays the title-rôle with much vigour, her singing and dancing being very smart. As John Bush Mr. Tom Robertson is good; as Alfred Bush Mr. Victor Silvernie excels, his singing of "My Nightingale" being quite a feature; and as Tom Bush Mr. Harry Vernon keeps the house in roars of laughter. Miss Marie Carlton and Miss B. Vernon as Lady Violet and Lady Augusta respectively are very capable. The Sisters Valli in their dance specialities are charming and clever. Mr. T. C. McQuire is the author, and plays Lord Tofton in fine style.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—This week we have Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *Are You a Mason?* Mr. E. H. Patterson gives an amusing impersonation of Amos Bloodgood; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce plays Frank Perry in a praiseworthy manner; and Mr. Allan Pollock and Mr. Howard L. Tracy are good in their respective parts. Miss Adelaide Grace gives a capable exposition of Mrs. Bloodgood, and Eva, Annie, and Lulu are in the capable keeping of Misses Mabel Younge, Rita Ward, and Mabel Jowett.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—An excellent bill is provided at the above hall this week. Miss Bonnie Goodwin and her Piccaninnies are smart; Tom Johnston is good; Carr and Rose are all that can be desired; Tasma receives due appreciation; the Campoens are clever duettists and dancers; Ike Scott and Son fairly bring down the house; and the Hippo. Pictures are good.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong-Fairbairn.—The popular musical comedy *The Earl and the Girl* is here this week, played by Mr. Wm. Greet's company. Mr. Reginald Switz, as before, is the impecunious dog-trainer, Jim Cheese, and his droll method is laughter-provoking to a degree; Jim's sweetheart Liza is admirably hit off by Miss Florence Wix; a remarkably good impersonation of character is given of Dick Wargrave by Mr. Alec Fraser; Mr. Stanley Harrison is equally happy in his assumption of the Hon. Crewe Boodle; Mr. H. B. Brandreth is very comical as Bunker Bliss; and Messrs. F. Cane and Robert Rous are capital as the American and English solicitors. Miss Mary Fraser takes first honours as the American heiress, Miss Elphin Haye; and remarkably effective as character-actresses are Miss Maud Adams as the strong lady, Miss Maude Aston as Daisy Fallowfield, and Miss Mary Morrison as Miss Virginia Bliss.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—This week's bill is headed by the banjo expert, James; and also includes Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre; Cissy Maude, comedienne; the Du Gros Trio; Moto, the musical eccentric; Will Souls, comedian; and the Marion Sisters, dainty juvenile vocalists; La Petite Voltaire, mimic and speciality dancer; Mr. Chas. Baldwin's comedians and pantomimists, in the farce *Bank Clerks;* and the bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—This week's attraction here is furnished by Mr. Harry Foxwell and company in the drama *An Abandoned Woman*. Captain Herbert Seaton, a manly hero, is interpreted by Mr. Wolston Foster; as Robert Saunders Mr. Nelson Ford is good; Mr. Harry Foxwell as Paddy Boyle causes much amusement; Mr. J. Butler in the peculiar part of Phillipe Malvoisin succeeds in realising its requirements; Mrs. Harry Foxwell gives a well-studied performance of Eleanor Dean; and Miss Doris Gilham is good as Ninian Malvoisin.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—The management here is providing a strong programme this week, headed by the Max Trevally Harley troupe of acrobats, who give a clever and novel show. Miss Beattie Foster is a dashing comedienne; the Silvester-Sansome Trio are well received in *The Maiden and the Tutor*, in which Miss Frances Farina gives a most amusing impersonation of a "slavey"; Mr. Arthur Croxon wins hearty applause with his admirable rendition of the "One Man Village Concert"; Mr. E. C. Clayton has an excellent selection of pictures; Anthony, as the "mysterious gentleman in white," goes well; Mr. Ventom Swift is good as the Piccadilly Coon; and Mr. Wallace Whitney is a capable comedian.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is here on a welcome return visit. There is a slight change in the cast since its last appearance, and some new songs and specialities have been introduced. Miss Grace Henderson still successfully fills the title-rôle; Miss Millie Doris makes a charming Alice, her singing and acting evoking much applause. Mr. Harry Albery is as funny as ever as Martha Muggins, and Mr. Will Dennis is excellent as Idle Jack. Amongst the specialities introduced may be mentioned the Three Marvellous Schaffers, in their equilibristic act; the Estos, contortionists; Leslie Murray, court magician; Mlle. Dora, oboe soloist; the Maros, and Miss Marie Winsome.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Cingalee* is here. Mr. Frank Crimp sings well and acts finely as Harry Vereker; Mr. Bertrand Gates is effective as Boobhamba; Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is a pleasing Bobby Warren; and the irascible Sir Peter Loftus is forcibly rendered by Mr. Coop Edmunds. As Lady Patricia Vane Miss Marjorie Clarke acts with much charm; Miss Essie Perrin, as Angy, dances with grace; and Miss Winnie O'Connor is a finished Nanoya, singing her numbers with much artistic finish. Chambuddy Ram, in the hands of Mr. Lauri de Frece, is a humorous creation; and Miss Gladys Guy, as Peggy Sabine, does well.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Norman Macowan's company, with *Monsieur Beaucaire*, is here this week. Special mention must be made of Mr. Norman Macowan in the title-rôle. He gives an exceedingly clever rendering. Miss Marguerite Cellier is charming as Lady Mary Carlisle.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi.—Miss Daisy James, the Gibson Girl, is paying a welcome return visit here; Rastus and Banks, the coloured American artists, are a capable turn; Lord, Murray, and Lord, in their sketch, *The Intruder*, give an excellent gymnastic show; Miss Florence Badalle delights the audience with her charming singing; Zoroff gives a capital whistling and mimicry entertainment; and Harry Cotton is a first-class eccentric comedian.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. H. Armitage's and Mr. Arthur Leigh's company is here in the late Mr. Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham*. Mr. Edmund Kennedy is starred in the rôle of John Durham, his portrayal of the strong-minded millionaire being excellently sustained; Mr. Arthur Leigh has a thorough grip of the character of Reggie, his scene with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. W. F. Clitherow (Verstein) in act 3 being particularly effective. Mr. A. E. Walker does much commendable work as Mr. Vallerton; Mr. Benson North hardly realises one's idea of Lord Mountfallon, but acts with power, especially in the final act. Other gentlemen who assist in keeping the interest going are Mr. Campbell Goldsmid (Arthur Walcombe), Mr. John Hartt (Tasker), and Mr. George Lake (Jarvis). Miss Gertrude Robins makes an engaging Helen Vallerton; Lady Mountfallon is well enacted by Miss Frances Wolviston; Margaret, a candidly outspoken young lady, being brightly impersonated by Miss Florence Dulhunty. Miss Louise Gourlay plays the loveable Mrs. Durham in quite the right key.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—A genuine success is being scored this week by Jake Friedman, the one-man opera; Kitts and Windrum, in their new society skit, provide capital entertainment; Lilian, the lady trick cyclist, outshines in daring and cleverness any similar turn seen locally; and a unique item is the appearance of Chieftain Rangiuia, the Maori singer, who secures a cordial reception; Otto and Olga provide a musical and mock operatic turn that has plenty of good points; Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer, is paying a successful return visit; and Harry Luck, eccentric comedian, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete the bill.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—Mr. W. H. Kirby has got together a capable little company in the performance of the musical play *Somebody's Sweetheart*. As the heroine Miss Dot Reeve is naïve, sweet, and chic, she is a sweet singer and dainty dancer; Miss Cordelia, possessed of a good voice, renders her numbers very well, and acts the part of Zorah with skill; Miss Dora Condor plays a somewhat colourless part as well as she can, and Miss Bella Parriss does well as Miss Ainslie. Mr. W. H. Kirby fairly revels in the ridiculously funny Blabbs; Mr. Percy Maitland is strong in a heavy part; Mr. Barry Searle acts naturally and sings admirably; Mr. G. P. Lester does well as Lem Lee, and Mr. Hyland Shea gives a patient, pathetic, and touching rendering of Old Joe, a negro retainer. The scenery is adequate, and the Three Gibson Girls supply some effective acrobatic dances.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Arthur Gibbons' company in the children's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Ruby Lester makes a sweet Red Riding Hood, and Miss Nina Terri is seen to advantage in the rôle of Maid Marion. A couple of extra turns are provided by the acrobatic dancers known as the Three French Dolls and the Swift Trio of expert cyclists.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's company is paying a return visit to this city with the delightful play *The Duke of Killicrankie*. In the title-rôle Mr. Guy Cary's acting throughout is very fine. No one could desire a more charming exponent of Lady Henrietta Addison than Miss Octavia Kenmore; a special word of praise is due to the clever actress, Miss Naomi Neilson, for her impersonation of Mrs. Mulholland; Mr. Lovel delights all with his sketch of Henry Pitt Welbi; Miss Celia Gordon is admirable as the Countess of Pangbourne; and Miss Ethel Savill is the housekeeper (Mrs. McBayne) to the life. Mr. Arthur Claremont makes the most of his few opportunities as Ambrose Hicks (a reporter).

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—The chief attraction at this popular theatre is the comic operetta entitled *The Belle of India*, presented with every element of success by Rajah Rham Singh and company. Mr. Fred Russell, the ventriloquist, is welcome; Captain Max Gruber introduces his marvellously trained elephant, horse, and pony; and Hanvarr and Anna Lee appear in their attractive juggling speciality "The Golfer and the Maid." Also appearing are Adey Spencer, Kisbey (the Call Boy), Los Rupertos, Culpitt, and the Palace pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading attraction at this popular theatre is the smart sketch *A Bachelor's Dream*, presented with much success by Mr. Fred Edwards and that delightful actress Miss May Edouin. A big hit has been recorded by Miss Nellie Farrell, who sings Irish songs with much fervour; Sinclair and Parr appear to advantage in their vocal item "Keeping an Appointment," their fine voices being much admired; Les Gittins and their dog supply a clever performance; and the gymnastic feats of the Fitzroys have caused quite a sensation. Also appearing are Dave McNeill (character comedian), Mr. Arthur Melrose (the popular and accomplished whistling comedian), Mr. Irving Jones, and Stephens and Rennior (vocalists and dancers).

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. J. S. Benyon, described as the "World's Champion Cyclist," heads the bill, and assisted by Miss Violet Whitworth's Cycling Girls, appears with immense success in their capital sporting act *Riding to Win*. The dancing of the Bros. Dean is clever; and a fine reception has been extended to Keith and Merson in their smart acrobatic absurdity "Military Manœuvres"; Ferris and Farnley, an exceedingly funny duo, raise the heartiest laughter; and Harley and Hardon, mandoline soloists, have been deservedly applauded; Mr. Charles Woodward, actor vocalist, gains the heartiest approval; and appearing with every success are Vasey and Ramsey (comedy dancers), Cristo (a wonderful illusionist), Miss Nancy Renshaw (coon vocalist), and Mr. George Rae (Scotch comedian).

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr. Frank Bateman holds the stage here with his attractive drama *No Wedding Bells for Her!* Miss Lizzie Montague is seen to advantage in the heavy part of Lola. Mr. Stuart Lomath makes a manly fighting parson; Mr. George C. Doughty is smart as Detective Delver; in the character of Horatio Fane, Mr. A. Balfour Mackay shows his talent as an experienced actor; Miss Ida Mackay's efforts as Doris Fane are of a restrained character; and Mr. Will Skelton as Simkins and Miss Helen Stuart as Peggy fill up the comedy relief.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—In the musical comedy *The Girl from Japan* Mr. J. Martin Morris's company is presenting an agreeable and amusing entertainment and are attracting overflowing audiences. Mr. W. H. Moore is prominent with a clever rendering of Horatio Binks; the part of Lord Allenbury is skilfully assumed by Mr. George Hudson; Mr. Percy Baverstock is a capital General Baugh, and Mr. Charles Lupton as Sir Mulberry Flippington, Mr. Ernest Spalding as the Rev. John Smith, and Mr. Charles L. Ludlow are all capital in their respective impersonations. The title-rôle, Violet, the girl from Japan, is charmingly played by Miss Dorothy Glenton; Miss Mabel Kerridge is a good Polly Perkins; and Miss Jeannie Holmes as Lady Flippington and Miss Josephine Ellis as Maud are both thoroughly efficient. There is a wealth of supernumeraries; Miss Josephine Ellis is premier danseuse; and the orchestral arrangements are in the hands of Mr. W. H. Eveleigh.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Starr and Leslie, American speciality artists, are a prominent feature here, as also are Florence and Lilian in their elaborate musical act; Sydney James's Strolling Players are again appearing with eclat; and Mr. Fred Earle, comedian, is on a successful return visit; the Sisters Oswald, duettists and dancers, are favourites; and Mr. Hamilton Hill (vocalist), Miss Alice Ormonde (comedienne), Mr. Walter King (comedian), and a good display by the Bioscope complete the programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* gives no signs of withdrawal, its rich and various attractions being received with the enthusiasm and support due to such an elaborate and generous production. Last night (Friday) was "Students' Night," the medicos being present in full force.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella*, despite its enormous success, has to be withdrawn on Saturday next to make way for other engagements. In the meantime, Messrs. Mark Sheridan, George Lashwood, Mesdames Lelia Roze, Edith Fink, and the rest of the company increase in favour nightly. Last night Miss Lelia Roze was accorded a benefit, which promised exceedingly well for this popular and princely principal boy.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Romeo and Juliet* remains an abiding pleasure, and Miss Edith Turner as Juliet and Mr. Milton Rosmer as Romeo are to be richly commended for the rare quality of their acting. Mr. Vincent Clive is attracting much attention with his really brilliant personification of the merry jesting Mercutio; Mr. Sydney Arnold, besides acting excellently as Montague, has in the capacity of producer wrought the play to a fine point of perfection and beauty; and Mr. Thos. Holding as Tybalt, Mr. Kenyon Musgrave as Friar Laurence, Mr. Frederick Harker as Paris, Mrs. William Lowe as the Nurse, and Miss Lilian Revell as Lady Capulet endue their characters with the proper attributes.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* ranks among the best successes of the year, and its reign will be one of the longest, lasting until the 17th inst., making twelve weeks in all.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*The Scales of Justice*, with the clever stock company engaged therein, fully maintains the reputation of this house for healthy, clean melodrama. Mr. Felix Pitt again leads, and puts some clever acting into the part of the Spanish adventurer, Antonio Cordova. Mr. Andrew Emm on the side of comedy also does good work as Tony Wilkins; Mr. Ernest Owtrim is earnest and convincing as Harry Maxwell; Mr. Frederick Sandy wins great respect for his sterling qualities as Tom Duncan; and Mr. H. J. North as Captain Duncan and Mr. Alec Macmillan as Jack Breeze do good service. Miss Frances Ruttledge is in entire sympathy with her rôle of Mary Maxwell, which she doubles cleverly with that of Jenny Maxwell, and the Misses Florence Nelson and Evelyn Marrable shine in their well-sustained parts

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Sailors of the King*, in which the famous Mr. Charles Harrington scores a legitimate hit as Admiral Drake, and who is, moreover, supported by an excellent company, has brought a most prosperous week to the Carlton. The audiences have been delighted with the manly acting of Mr. Harry Douglas as Dick Drake; Mr. F. Vernon Travers has given a capable impersonation of the villain, Orrel Drake; Miss Sylvia Stella as Felicia Thrynne has aroused much interest and sympathy; Miss Maud Digby portrays the housekeeper, Rebecca Crosby, in a meritorious manner; and Mr. W. Farnsworth, Mr. Kenneth Black, Mr. Fred Owen, Miss Maud Treymane, and Miss Hero Hathaway are eminently successful in their parts.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Cinderella*, plentifully embellished with clever specialities and lovely scenery, is the attraction here, with the marvellous Pardoes and company. A most charming heroine, who speedily wins the affections of the house is found in Miss Dolly Wright, and Miss Lottie Holland has all the ability for the rôle of Prince Charming. Miss May Daventry acts in a popular style as Dandini, and the Ugly Sisters are made most diverting by Messrs. Gordon and Boxer. Mr. Tom Hulme is good as the Baron; Mr. George Hyam as Scoot, the man in possession, keeps the house in constant mirth with his clever humours; and Messrs. France and Frances, Wright and Gordon, Zenieth (the famous animal impersonator), Miss Nellie Cross and her clever quartette, Nelly Rose, and Paul Rundle's performing dogs are among the specialities.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W Matcham.—The prominent item this week is the Serenaders, a quartette of masked singers. Their entertainment is refined, and much appreciated. Richard Sawade's lions, tigers, and bears remain another week; the Boccacio Minstrels receive loud applause; Billy Hobbs is a smart dancer, and as a comedian he is very droll; the Three Victorias, vocalists and dancers, and the St. Julian Sisters are well received; Edie King is seen in an artistic vocal and terpsichorean scena; an amusing acrobatic act is given by the Tups; while Frobel and Ruge come in for a fair share of applause.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Arthur Rigby is always sure of a big reception here. The Alexandroff Troupe of Russian Singers and Dancers give an excellent entertainment; the Three Sisters Sprightly are smart; Les Bollingers, "The Rag Painters of Paris," are original, and deserve the applause given them; the Sisters Cora, duettists and dancers, and Maxwell and Francis, duettists, are highly appreciated; Harry Champion and Bliss and Bliss are amusing comedians; and Anthy in a wire act and Fielding and Hull in their sketch conclude the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Musical Johnsons head a long programme here. Their xylophone entertainment receives loud applause. As banjoists the Sisters Redfern are far above the average, as also are the Donovans. Harry Lamore, silent comedian, on the loose wire, is applauded; Harry Reynolds's Minstrel Quintette all sing well, and are appreciated; Jennie Johns is a dainty soubrette; the Louberts have a fine comedy act in *Uninvited;* and the Passports in their dancing speciality and Vandinoff in a clever exhibition of quick painting also contribute.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—An attractive programme this week is drawing large houses. The Cratons have a sketch, *Front and Behind*, which is very amusing; the musical entertainment provided by the Two Howards is well received; the Four Ramlos are comedians who cause roars of laughter; the acrobatic performance given by the Trapnell Family is exceedingly smart; and Harry Brown, coloured comedian and the Three Sisters Chester are well applauded.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Huntley.—The attraction here this week is Mr. John Leopold's company, including the world-renowned Original Leopold Acrobatic Troupe, in their farcical musical absurdity entitled *New Frivolity*. Mr. Watson Hume as Oliver Buckwheat is admirably suited to the character; Jules Vermiglio, the deserted husband of Madame Cobweb, is admirably handled by Mr. Wilfred Vaughan; whilst Madame Cobweb has a capable exponent in Miss Marie Ault; Mr. Barry Lupino is seen in the rôle of Samuel Vermiglio, a character of which he gives a diverting rendering; Professor Fumble is well played by Mr. Tom Leopold; Daniel Teething has a good representative in Mr. John Leopold jun.; whilst Tickle is amusingly rendered by Mr. Will Leopold. Mention is also earned by Miss Amy Hall as Lucy Buckwheat, her coon song and dance being quite an important item. The several acrobatic performances of the Leopolds are loudly encored each evening.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. J. F. Preston presents Miss Madge Nelson and company here this week with *Rogues of the Turf*. Mr. Preston himself takes the same important part, and as Joe Flaxman establishes himself a great favourite; Miss Nelson plays Nellie Flaxman, and is also well received; Miss Hilda Shirley shines as Lady Heathcote, and Miss Lalla Stanhope is successful as Phyllis Wurzel. Mr. Arthur Prescott carefully portrays Sir Gerald Heathcote; and Mr. Ernest R. Allen gives ample proof of his histrionic ability as the heroic Arthur Somerton; the villainous Captain Clifton is faithfully represented by Mr. Fred Emery, whilst Mr. Herbert Woodin cleverly impersonates Sam Flaxman. A stud of race-horses is a special feature of the production.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*The Gay Parisienne*, played by Mr. Charles Macdona's company, is here once again. The title-rôle is this time in the very capable hands of Miss Nellie Hodson, whose vivacity and charm are unquestionable; Ebenezer Honeycombe has an ideal exponent in Mr. Tom Conway; and Messrs. Charles Adeson as Major Poendyke and Mr. Charles Seguin as M. Pompier also do well in their respective parts; Miss Gwennie Harcourt plays Ruth in the most humorous manner imaginable; and Madame Ilma Norma gives a creditable rendition of Mrs. Honeycombe. The Imperial Glee Singers (Messrs. Jones, Reid, Carey, and Fitz-James) sing some pleasing quartettes, and clever skipping-rope dancing is contributed by Miss Ducie Saunderson.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, tops a good bill here this week; other contributors are the Steinway Quartette, Hall and Wilson (expert bicyclists), Lilian Rigby (singer and dancer), Syd Godfrey (a very clever mimic), Richardson Taylor (whistling ventriloquist), Edie Rivers (comedienne), A. J. Rebla (comedy juggler), and My Fancy (the peerless dancer). Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is, of course, always here.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—Miss Annie Bell, supported by an excellent company, has paid a successful return visit here with *Sapho*. Miss Bell in the title-rôle has had a most hearty reception. She gave a highly artistic and clever portrayal of the part. Mr. Pringle Roberts was a prominent figure as Jean Gausin, and as Cesare le Ferrat Mr. Francis Serle gave satisfaction. Father le Grande was ably portrayed by Mr. C. M. Daley; Mr. H. Langford played the part of Eugene Flamant with success; Mr. Lawrence Kingsley as the patron of art, Paul Dechellette, gave a vigorous performance; Miss Florence Graham as Machaume was much in evidence, and had a good reception.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company has this week presented the drama *Leah Kleschna*, which has been well staged and acted by a good company. Miss Pearla Gardner deserves much praise for her fine rendering of the exacting part of Leah Kleschna; Mr. George Ingleton displays great histrionic ability in the character of Kleschna; Mr. Langhorne Burton does justice to the part of Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Cyril Rawdon was good as Schram; Mr. Pat Newall made the most of the part of Raoul Berton; the rôles of General Berton, Madame Berton, Claire Berton, Valentine, and Sophie were in the capable hands of Mr. Leslie Lees, Mr. Gissing Walters, Miss Mary Barton, Miss Lilian Locke, and Miss Ida Vinnall.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The company here comprises the Mohamed Troupe of Sousa Arabs; Amy Russell, vocalist; Billy Burns, singing Wigan pit lad; the Sultan Bros., comedy herculean acrobats and equilibrists; Harry Grey, eccentric comedian; George A. Booker and Mabel Narbis in their original comedy creation of wit and song, *The Interviewer;* Harry Rogerson in a new scena, *Sleepy Sam;* Maggie Grimshaw, juvenile male impersonator; the Gregory Comedy Trio in their screaming absurdity, *The Dummy;* George Foyle, vocalist; Mlle. Victoria Dagmar and Clown on the horizontal bar and gymnastic ropes; and James Willard and company in the amusing and dramatic episode, *Did He Deserve It?*

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert E. Wilson.—Messrs. R. H. and W. H. Maddox are presenting *Dick Whittington* here. It would be difficult to find a more admirable Dick than Miss Mabel Kessler, whose singing and cornet solo playing gain her encores nightly; Miss Peggy Fame, a sympathetic Alice, plays with marked success; Mr. Dan Iyndan scores a great success as Alderman Fitzwarren; Messrs. Kempton and Pastor, as McFlip and McFlop, keep the house in roars of laughter with their quaint comicalities; Mr. Harry Howe makes a good Betsy, the cook; and Mr. Gus Granville causes endless amusement as Idle Jack. Mr. Harry Wright is a good Emperor of Morocco, his extempore song demanding numerous recalls; Mr. Fred Garrett, as King Rat, and Mr. Victor Le Glere, as the Cat, are distinct successes.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*Blue-Bell in Fairyland* was produced here on Monday by Messrs. Murry, King, and Clark's company. Miss Gladys Cooper made a most fascinating Blue-Bell, and was well assisted by Mr. Lawrence Emery as Dickey and Mr. David Cruickshank as Mr. Joplin. Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart worked hard in the dual parts of Blib and Blob and Will and Wont. Mr. Fred P. Allen and Miss Muriel Juin played well, the latter giving evidence of a good voice; and as the tiny sisters of Blue-Bell Miss Connie Emerald and Miss Marie Edmonds were quite successful.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The successful flight of *Mother Goose* will be cut short on Saturday evening, although the pantomime is in the height of its prosperity. The Floral Matinée which was held last week realised £113 for the local charities.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Dick Whittington's* merry run continues with uninterrupted success. There was a crowded audience on last Monday night, the occasion being a complimentary benefit to the courteous Acting-Manager, Mr. Hepworth, who was the recipient of a large marble timepiece and bronze ornaments, presented by Mr. Lardler as a token of esteem from the staff and the members of the company, and a handsome cigar case was also handed over the footlights to Mr. Hepworth. Extra turns were contributed during the evening by the members of the company for the occasion, and also by Edie Veno (comedienne) and Frank Seeley (comedian) from the Empire Theatre.

THE EMPIRE (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Spessardy's wonderfully trained bears and ponies are seen here this week in a performance which elicits great applause, and there is great interest taken in the charming and graceful trapeze performance, with electric effects, which is submitted by Lydia and Albino; Frank Seeley in humorous style sings a capital comic song; there are many novel features in the clever gymnastic feats performed by the Hans Hansen Trio; Princess Pauline and Edie Veno are comediennes whose contributions are much in favour; the "Bounding Billiardists," Kelly and Ashby, do some clever work on a spring table; in their familiar sketch, *Little Charlie and the Twin Sisters*, the Arthur Lloyd Trio make a welcome reappearance; and Fred Karno's company of comedians in the boisterous sketch *The Mumming Birds* simply keep the audience in roars of laughter.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—At the head of a good programme here this week is Winifred Ward, male impersonator, who is well received; there are a couple of comedians in the company who provide a lot of mirth in different styles, viz., Frank Coyle, "the continuous," and Jock Walker, a Scottish comedian; Lily Esplin's comedy contributions are entertaining; Fred Bronte submits a good turn as an actor-vocalist; the gymnastic feats by Les Henris are distinctly clever; Kate Carney, the coster comedienne, achieves success with her musical burlesque sketches *The Mouth-Organ Brigade* and *'Liza Johnson*, and for the best imitations of herself by local amateurs prizes in money and jewellery are offered. There are some excellent films shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BRIDGEND.—TOWN HALL.—Manager, Mr. T. D. Schofield.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *The Christian*, attracted a crowded house here on Monday. Miss Laura Walker won golden opinions by her vivacious, fascinating, and withal pathetic, rendering of the part of Glory Quayle; Mr. Alfred Goddard gave a strong portrayal of the manly Christian, John Storm; as Polly Love, Miss Florence Radcliffe was most pathetic; Mrs. Callender received an excellent interpretation at the hands of Miss Violet Vivian; Mr. Harry Colbeck as Father Lamplugh and Mr. Colin Johnstone as Archdeacon Wealthy, were both good. The parts of Lord Robert Ure and Horatio Drake were in excellent keeping in the hands of Mr. E. S. Sharpe and Mr. Duncan Yarrow.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. James Stephens and his répertoire company are appearing here this week in a round of plays. On Monday night they gave a good representation of the drama *The Golden Chance*, in which the part of Arthur Hastings was capitally played by Mr. Talisyn G. Davies; Mr. Chas. Yorke as Clinton was very good; and as Shelberg Mr. Stephens gave a powerful representation of the part. Mr. Frank Landon as St. Claire, Mr. James Hart as Sam Brown, and Mr. C. Brecon as Dick Newman lent valuable aid. The part of Lydia Hastings gave Miss Mabel Lewis Cluer chances which she grasped with great ability, her acting being intense and powerful; Miss Louise Cooper was a charming Vivia Zac; Miss Lucie Cooper did remarkably well as Susan Brown, and Miss Annie Hart shone as Mother Hawk. On Tuesday the company gave a finished performance of *The Heart of London*, and the other plays billed are *Best Lynne, Our Boys, The Gentleman Plunkey*, and *For Wife and Fortune*.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. William Greet's company opened here on Monday with *The Talk of the Town*. The piece was well staged and superbly dressed. Mr. William Cromwell was highly amusing as Jerry Snipe; and Miss Louie Tinsley achieved success as Mrs. Snipe. Miss Joan Keddie made a delightful Ellaline Lewin; Miss G. Melville was an attractive Madame Modiste; and Miss Katherine Harrington a charming Lady Nightingale; Miss Evelyn D'Alroy as June sang very expressively; Mr. Tom Graves and Mr. A. Gambier-Melford were entertaining as the Brothers English; and the remaining characters were ably sustained. The choruses were ably sung; the augmented orchestra proved very efficient; and the duties of conductor were in

non's animated pictures. The performance on Thursday afternoon, with special attractions, was for the benefit of the Bristol Ambulance Corps.

BROMLEY. — Lyric Theatre. — Lessee, Mr. A. Carlton; Manager, Mr. H. Strong.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company, under the personal direction of Mr. Bannister Howard, made a successful two nights' visit here in the comedy *Merely Mary Ann*. Mr. J. Harold Standing is good as Lancelot, whose friend Peter is smartly played by Mr. J. Cranstoun Nevill; Mr. Dudley Stewart as the Rev. Samuel Smedge is a realistic country vicar; a clever character study of Herr Brahmson, a music publisher, is presented by Mr. Wm. Collard; Lord Tottenham, of the Automobile Club, is safe in the hands of Mr. David Faulkner; Miss Ruth Hazelwood makes a typical London lodging-house keeper; Mrs. Leadbetter and her simpering daughter Rose is creditably undertaken by Miss Pauline Emeric; the Sisters Trippett are daintily represented by Miss Marie Nelson and Miss Margaret Frame; and a refined and unassuming impersonation of the little country girl, Mary Ann, is supplied by Miss Margaret Fairleigh.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria, Limited.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred. Watson.—The revised version of *The Prodigal Parson* was witnessed here on Monday, the piece being well played by Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company. Mr. W. V. Garrod added to his reputation by his portrayal of the Rev. Tom Godley; Miss Bertha Kingston had a gratifying reception for her clever study of Fern Godley. Mr. Alfred Northway left nothing to be desired in his impersonation of the villainous Enoch Jaggins; Mr. Frank Dallas also did well as Ben Jaggins. Mr. Claremont Gaskell as Phil Drive and Miss Mary Grayce as Gretchen were responsible for some good comedy business, and Miss Gladys Conover was a charming Myrtle Godley. The Radium Girls did some good dancing.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Delighted audiences are witnessing the performances of Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearian company here this week. On Monday *The Taming of the Shrew* was accorded a flattering reception. Mr. Henry Herbert, an extremely clever actor, gave a fine representation of Petruchio; Mr. Bernard Limpus made a handsome and dignified Lucentio; and Mr. Gerald Ames was a pleasing Hortensio; Tranio was pleasantly portrayed by Mr. James Annand; Mr. Ross Shore and Mr. Alfred A. Harris were equally responsible for humour as Gremio and Biondello. Miss Dorothy Green as Katharina was distinctly the shrew; and Miss Kate Turner was a pleasant and amiable Bianca. The programme for the week includes *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. Jas. E. Culeen.—The popular attraction here is *The Sin of Her Childhood*, performed by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company. Miss Mary Fulton gives a charming rendering of Mary Haysel; little Dot Moss makes herself quite a favourite with her performance as Hannah Spry; Mr. Franklyn Graham is smart and soldierly as Capt. John Thornton, and Mr. Beresford Lovett is appreciated as Rev. Alan Grey; Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes plays well as the scoundrel Stephen Haysel, and Mr. Fred Elvin is an amusing Barney.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — New Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Edmund Tearle is here for the week with his company in a series of Shakespearean plays, &c. Opening to a good house on Monday with representation of *Othello*, Mr. Tearle gave a really powerful rendition of the jealous Moor. The cunning Iago as depicted by Mr. Richard Vine was a masterly conception; Cassio also found a clever exponent in Mr. V. O. Crabtree; Mr. T. W. Benson as Brabantio was convincing, and Mr. F. Kelsie did well as the Duke of Venice. Miss Esther Tearle gave a finished and pleasing presentation of Desdemona, and Miss Mary Campbell showed marked ability as Emilia.

BURY (Lancs).—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Sentenced for Life*, a convict drama, is being played here by Mr. Fred Bulmer's company. Mr. T. A. Ellis acts well as Lieut. Stillwell, and is ably assisted by Miss Madge Douglas as Adele Gray; Mr. Ernest Vaughan is worthy of mention for his capable rendering of Captain Derrick.

Circus of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Tom Foy heads the bill, and his sketch entitled *The Yorkshire Lad in London* is exceedingly funny; another sketch by the Five Boys is enjoyable. Ariel and Astarte (smart gymnasts), the Albano Troupe (musicians), the Boston Twins (comedians), Grace Logan (vocalist), Shirley Higgins (negro joker), and Cinizelli (the "silent jester") make up a good show.

The Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good programme is provided here, and includes the Four Geraldos, club swingers and jugglers; Bert Williams, ventriloquist; Gertrude Mason, vocalist; the Cavalattis, musicians; Amy Anderson and Co. in a sketch entitled *The Banana Stall*; the Two Rayners (contortionists), Mabel La Blanche (vocalist), Tod Lowan (comedian), and the usual Bioscope pictures.

CARDIFF.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Tree's company in *Oliver Twist* is here this week. Mr. Wm. Mackintosh's Fagin is an impersonation worthy of the highest praise, artistic to a degree as regards both make-up and acting. The ruffianly Bill Sikes is a remarkably fine realisation of the character by Mr. Cecil A. Collins; Mr Harvey Braban portrays Harry Maylie in a markedly successful manner; the part of Oliver Twist is well sustained by Miss Gertrude Long; and a striking triumph is attained by Miss Hatin Britton as Nancy, well-deserved applause being the reward of the talented actress's brilliant work. Mr. Ben Lewin gives an excellent delineation of Mr. Brownlow, and Mr. Ashton Pearse as Monks and Mr. Clifford Brown as Mr. Grimwig are both responsible for some creditable acting.

King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—The boards here are occupied with a welcome visit of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company in *The Wearing o' the Green*. Mr. and Mrs. Mackey appear in the rôles of Barney O'Hea and Norah M'Grath, and achieve considerable success.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A particularly strong programme is presented at the Empire this week, consisting of the following:—The Sleedes, in *The Haunted House*; Esdale Bros., comedians and speciality artists; the Cape Girls, long boot dancers: Kyoto, with the mysterious comedy Japanese box; "Down on the Farm," a humorous and exciting episode on the American Bioscope; Payne's Little Vagabonds; Duncan's Collies; May Geraldine, comedienne; Howe and Ardie, in their specialitv *Up in a Balloon*; and the Kellinos.

CARLISLE.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, Trustees of Mr. R. S. M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—The first visit of *The Duchess of Dantzig* has created an immense amount of interest here. Mr. George Dance's company gives a delightful interpretation of this clever and delightful musical play. Miss May Glenn, who made a big hit on her last visit here in *The Country Girl*, has added to her previous success, her charming freedom of style and brilliant vocalism, in the title-rôle. Miss Maggie White plays Renee with grace and spirit, singing delightfully and dancing daintily; Mr. Gilbert Yorke's clever sketch of Napoleon is a big feature of the performance; Mr. Leonard F. Griffith is a manly and dignified Lefebvre; Adhémar has a clever exponent in Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy, a baritone of exceptional power and ability, and an actor of much merit.

Algir's Hippodrome. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—The Frantz troupe of acrobats are first favourites here; Dandy George and his dog Rosie meet with an enthusiastic reception; Queenie Lolo submits a smart speciality act; Mlle. Aunneda, equilibrist, hand balancer, scores a big success; T. C. Jacques sings a couple of descriptive songs in good style; and Scottie's Waifs and Strays secure the plaudits of the audience with their ballet *Life in the Streets*.

CASTLEFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman.—Mr. Edwin C. Jazon's company is entertaining large audiences here with the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Marie Braham plays the title-rôle, a part which she fills in a sprightly and fascinating manner, her songs being particularly well received; Miss Daisy Lane is a charming Princess, and Miss Effie Morde impersonates the Vizier's son Pekoe; Miss Florrie White dances remarkably well, and makes a capital Caramel. As the Widow Twankey Mr. Harry Carmen causes incessant mirth, and Mr. E. C. Jazon gives a humorous impersonation of the Magician; Mr. Cyril Carle sings in fine style, and is a first-rate Emperor; as Gin Sling Mr. Alf Brooke is amusing. The specialities include the Sisters Varley, who are well received as harmony vocalists; the Three Delaries in their interesting and clever gymnastic display; Salidi and Vone, smart dancers; Mantell and Oval, who cause uproarious hilarity as knockabout cyclists.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—*The Girl from Kay's* is making a welcome reappearance here, the company being toured by Mr. George Dance, under the business management of Mr. Percy Hart. The most popular delineations are as follows:—Max Hoggenheimer, Mr. H. C. Barry; Winnie Harborough, Miss Beatrice Poole; the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle, Mr. Reginald Grey; Harry Gordon, Mr. J. S. Durant; Norah Chalmers, Miss Emily Taylor; Ellen, Miss Mabel Dent; and Joseph, the hall porter, Mr. Tom Seymour.

Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The chief attraction at this house is Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls's company in *The Battle of the Bells*, which causes laughter from start to finish. Harry Maxam's ditty, "How would you like to be me?" just suits Mr. Barnard's patrons; Venie Clements's vocal scena, *A Trial Trip*, goes well; Bertha Winder is greatly admired and applauded for her clever dancing; "The Great Jewel Robbery" is the title of one of Mr. Lacey's best-liked Erascope pictures; and Lillie Stewart (comedienne), the Bros. Obo (patter vocalists), and Gold and Sterling complete the company.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Miss Florrie Forde tops the bill here, and is getting a good reception nightly. The Gaiety's patrons still marvel at Frank Maura's dexterous equilibristic skill; *Terry; or, True to His Trust*, is capitally played by Edward Cranston's company; Ethel Dunford scores with "My Irish Molly O" and "Killarney"; spirited dances are executed by the Sisters Mayo; and the following artists assist in the evening's entertainment:—Larry Logan, comedian and dancer, and Samuel Morrison, male soprano vocalist. Pictures by the Edisonograph form the concluding item.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—On Monday evening Mr. Charles Carey presented *After the Ball* to a full house. Mr. Buckstone Clair, the author, takes the part of Martin, the hero's servant; and the orchestra is conducted by the composer, Mr. Guillaume Leone. Miss Nellie Groves distinguishes herself as Nellie Mather; Mr. Walter Ringham works hard as Halliwell Menit; and Mr. Victor Widdicombe is strenuous as the Colonel; four chic little waitresses are Misses Roze Alma, Dorothy Westerleigh, Gladys Darrell, and Helen Vane; and the eight new-type Gibson girls are very prominent.

CHESTERFIELD.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Dickie.—Mr. John B. Shinton and Mr. Alexander Greenwood's company occupies the boards this week in the Russian drama *The Price of Her Soul*. Mr. John B. Shinton gives a capital impersonation of Lord Rolf Mandeville; Mr. Langdon Goulding is seen to advantage as General Demetrius Lonovitz; Miss Ada M. Ryder does full justice to the rôle of Countess Inez Steinmetz, and Vera finds a capable exponent in little Ida Thompson.

Corporation Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Dickie.—Mr. George Dance's own company in *The Orchid* is paying a visit here, and meets with the success it deserves. Miss Constance Hamilton gives a charming impersonation of Lady Violet; Miss Maude Jay makes a delightful Josephine Zaccary; Mr. W. Garland is a success as Dr. Ronald W. Faussett; Mr. R. C. Corray acts the part of Mr. Aubrey Chesterton with great ability; Mr. Tom Maxwell scores in the portrayal of the Hon. Guy Scrymgrour; Miss Madaline Maude does well in the part of Caroline; Miss Beck is a charming Thisbe; Mr. Colin Campbell as Meakin is the life and soul of the piece.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here presenting *A Modern Adventuress*. Miss Kate Froude is a capable Violet Meredith, her fine impersonation arousing great interest; Miss Alice Defoe is particularly effective in a charming rendering of Vivette Delby; Miss Ivy Chandos vivaciously undertakes Sally Hodges; as Pietro Donelli, Mr. Leonard Aardale gives a powerful interpretation; Harry Delby is capitally undertaken by Mr. Louis Edmonde; Mr. Leonard Montgomery is distinctly good as John Crompton, Mr. Sydney Grant ably impersonates Wallace Dalton; and Mr. Stanley F. Champion and Mr. Frank Orchard, as Walter Beal and Steve Meredith respectively are very effective.

CLYDEBANK.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Carlo.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here this week with *Her Wedding Day*. Mr. Percy Brown gives a finished performance of Harold Saxby; Mr. S. Herbert Humber scores as the unscrupulous Weedon Kenyon; Mr. T. Edward Ward is good as Seth Mayson; Mr. Fred Yarnold is highly successful as Caccles; Gordon P. Jessop has a capable exponent in Mr. Norris Maud; and Sam Klink is safe in the hands of Mr. James Barrett. Miss Maud E. Ward looks and acts charmingly as Madge Conway; Miss Beatrice Sinclair gives a clever impersonation of Dolly Kirk; and the same may be said of Miss Eva Betram as Dora.

COATBRIDGE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—*When Woman Hates*, which is played by Mr. Millar Anderson's company, is the attraction here this week. Miss Mabel Mannering gives an artistic impersonation of Cora Daintry; Miss Maude Townsend is efficient as Marie Rokeby: Miss Eva Lane plays with much distinction as Thirsty Meg; and Miss Helen Richmond as Sally Potts fills the part to perfection. Mr. Charles Herberte is powerful in the rôle of General Rokeby; Mr. Jerrold Heather acquits himself well as Lieut. Fred Rokeby; Mr. Millar Anderson finds full scope for his abilities as Godfrey Lawton; and Patrick O'Brien receives full justice at the hands of Mr. Frank Litchfield.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Charles Price is this week presenting *The Shop Boy*, a pantomimical absurdity, and the piece, which is of the extravagant type, gives ample scope to the comic abilities associated with the name of that versatile comedian Mr. Harry Pleon, who, with action, song, and repartee, maintains the fun throughout. A clever introduction in the second act is a travesty entitled *Hero the Haughty*, which evokes hilarious applause nightly. Plenty of songs of a light nature and dances of a novel type are introduced. The principal piece is preceded each evening by a farce entitled *The Club Raid*.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy Company is occupying the boards this week. The second part consisted of single turns, the following artists taking part therein:—Elsie Rubina, princess of equipoise; Sam Paul, comedian; Florida Girls, vocalists and dancers; John Mathews, descriptive vocalist; Bert Allen, Lilliputian comedian; the Musical Keiths; Frank Weir, comedian and dancer; Annie Knowles, lady trombone soloist; and the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats and tumblers.

CORK.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The principal turn here is that given by Leoni Clarke and his trained cats, monkeys, &c.; the Alexandra Trio, acrobats, perform some wonderful feats; George Le Wist is a capital ventriloquist; the Staffords, in *Happy Hooligan's Troubles*, are amusing; Reno gives a clever performance with cards, coins, &c; Oliver Conroy is a capital eccentric comedian; Amy Elcock and Florrie St. Roy, comediennes and dancers, also contribute.

COVENTRY.—The Opera House.—Proprietor, Wm. Bennett.—*The Walls of Jericho* is proving a very great attraction at the above house this week, the piece being presented by Mr. Bourchier's company under the direction of Messrs. S. Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux. Mr. Herbert Bunston in his presentation of Jack Frobisher is very clever and convincing. Mr. George A. Brandram gives a hearty rendering of the outspoken Hankey Bannister. Mr. Lawrence Hanray is indeed a study as the Marquis of Stevenston. Miss Florence Jackson gives a polished and pleasing rendering of Lady Alethea Frobisher; Miss Molloy Carton is seen to advantage as Lady Lucy Derenham. The piece is excellently staged.

The Hippodrome.—Manager, T. M. Sylvester.—This popular house was well filled on Monday with an appreciative audience. Harry Freeman established himself as a favourite. The Two Bees on a return visit are just as popular as ever; Alethea is a clever contortionist; Farley, Rennie, and Farley are amusing in a comedy act entitled *Fun at a Railway Station*; the Musical Schaffers give a much-appreciated turn; Miss Katie Marsh is a clever singer and dancer; and the Olive Trio submit a short musical sketch entitled *Auntie*. The animated pictures are a success.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, John H. Morton.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company is doing good business here this week with *The Master Criminal*. Miss Winifred Chalmers herself represents the part of Cecile, alias Lady Travennes, and plays with grace and feeling. Mr. H. L. Osmond takes the title-rôle, the Master Criminal (Telfard Lestage), and the highest praise is due to him. Mr. Albert Sember is well placed as Philip Manners, and he is ably supported by Miss Kate Somerville, as Philip's wife; Mabel, little Ivy Rocheforte, gives a sweet and winning representation of Winifred Manners. Mr. Elmore Frith, as Ben Beandy, of Scotland Yard, deserves special mention, as also does Mr. Russel Yorke as James Dawney. Mr. W. B. Somerville makes a dignified bank manager, Mr. Manners; and Miss Augusta Tullock is pleasing as his widow, Mrs. Manners. Mr. Geo. Nuttall is an ideal Bank Clerk, Simmons; and Mr. Harry Cooke is well received as Tommy Dale. Mr. J. W. Gallagher as Gentleman Jim and Mr. Fred Jordan as the doctor are well selected for their respective parts.

CREWE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland are presenting this week an interesting drama in *The Coal King*. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland as Tom Roberts plays throughout with distinction, and frequently evokes applause; Mr. Robin Shiells gives an admirable portrayal of Sir Reginald Harford; the part of Walter Harford is capitally rendered by Mr. Joseph Millane; Mr. Wilfred Graham proves a capable Dick Shirley; and Mr. Charles R. Stone is decidedly amusing as Jim Williams; Mr. H. S. Rutter is good as the detective. Miss Gertrude Valentine is a sympathetic Grace Shirley; and Miss Joan Wellman creditably sustains the part of Mad Ann; Miss Hetty Cornwallis as Araminta Green acquits herself worthily. Mr. Archie Gradshaw, Mr. Harry Bellain, and Mr. Harry Nelson, as colliers, deserve notice. During the week Mr. Maitland very generously gave four half-tons of coal to the four most deserving persons in the town, an act which was much appreciated.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—A return visit of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company is giving great satisfaction to Croydon playgoers. *The Older Miss Blossom* was plaeyd on Tuesday. Mr. Kendal acted with good judgement and was always interesting as Andrew Quick; Mr. Ernest Hendrie's efforts as Christopher Blossom were rightly directed; Mr. Bassett Roe had a real grip of the character of Major Twentymen; Mr. Reynolds Denniston acted the rôle of the Rev. Arthur Leacroft in the best possible manner; Mrs E. Barnett's Tyrrel Jones had many good points; Mr. Metcalfe Wood was adequate as Withers; and Mr. W. M. Rutherford was satisfactory as Wells. Miss Kate Bishop submitted an admirable impersonation of Mrs. Wells; Mrs. A. B. Tapping gave a noteworthy performance as Cooper; and Miss Elsie Clarens was quite equal to the rôle of Sophie Blossom. We have nothing but praise for Mrs. Kendal, who gave a carefully-studied and finished portrayal of Dorothy Blossom. The week's programme also includes:—*Still Waters Run Deep*, *A Scrap of Paper*, and *The Ironmaster*.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Messrs. Garside and Knowle's company is here with *The London Fireman*. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles is commendable as Colonel Fleming; Mr. Edward L. Garside is excellent as Hall Curtis; Mr. Frank Hertie shows ability as Doctor Gerrard; Mr. Oliver Birrell acts carefully in the rôle of Viscount Fleming; Mr. Walter Wilby is creditable as Joe Bluener; Mr. Joe Rockley scores as Captain Langton; Mr. Charles Preece is a comical Nixey Stinger; Miss Florence M. Daly is effectual in the part of Grace Curtis; Miss Nellie Waddington's Countess Fleming is a finished performance; Miss Nellie Garside is at her best as Polly Bramble; and Miss Nellie Shirley deserves congratulations as Ida Curtis. Smaller rôles are in capable hands, and the scenery is worthy of special notice.

DARWEN. — Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. Montague Beaudy and Sidney Crowe's company was here during the first portion of the week in *The Way of the World*. Miss Cissie Bellamy won the sympathy of the audience by her delicate rendering of the part of Kate Montague; Miss Violet Ingram was seen to advantage as Marian Fanshaw; Miss Violet Vivienne did justice to the part of Polly Bell. In the heavy rôle of Adela de la Roche Miss Sidney Crowe could scarcely be improved upon; Mr. Herbert Shardon impersonated Cecil Montague in praiseworthy fashion; Mr. V. Gordon was capitally placed as Capt. Fred Slade, being ably supported by Mr. C. Temple as Matthew Malyon and Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff. The Racecourse scene is a most realistic one. On Thursday evening and during the remainder of the week *The Toreador* was staged.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. Louis Calvert's principal London company is here this week in *Sunday*. In the title-rôle Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay appears to distinct advantage, bringing out the light and shade of the character in most effective fashion; indeed, her achievement is one of all round excellence. Mr. Leonard Pagden as Col. Brinthorpe acquits himself admirably; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas does exceedingly well as Tom Oxley; and Mr. Cecil Duncan is capital as Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. Wm. Lockhart as Towzer, Mr. Sidney Rennef as Davy, Mr. T. Norman Walter as Lively, and Mr. Arthur Vezin as Jacky are all good alike. Miss Juliet Hardinge and Miss Rosalind Ross as the Nun and Mrs. Naresby respectively are well worthy of honourable mention, and the part of Abbott is well filled by Mr. Ernest Harrison.

Palace.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—The Pichel Troupe of Risley acrobats and equilibrists are the principal attraction here, and their performance is one of considerable ability; Ben Hur gives a creditable exhibition of strength, and Matt Wilkinson and company cause much amusement in their comedy sketch *The Registry Office*; Walter Wallis, a lively comedian, soon makes himself popular; Violet Beatrice is a charming Irish comedienne; Phillips and Merritt, Australia's comedy duo, are quaint and entertaining, and the same may be said of Tom Dunmore, comedian; the Palace Bioscope is again to the fore with interesting pictures.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Messrs. Melford and Polini with *The Silver King* are achieving much success by their telling production of this sterling play. In the name-part Mr. Herbert Ford gives a powerful performance, while Mr. E. J. George remains the same kindly Jaikes. Miss Daisy Scudamore as Nellie Denvers portrays this arduous rôle with telling skill, and the Cissy of Miss Amy Manfree is quite clever. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is the Spider, and the rôle could hardly be in better hands, while the parts of Cripps and Coombe are ably taken by Messrs. W. Thompson and A. Wright. Corket is earnestly enacted by Mr. J. L. Power, while Olive Skinner in the hands of Miss Georgina Winter is played with care and sympathy.

Hippodrome and Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon.—The varied programme here includes Madame Frederica's terriers; Zanfretto and Napier, musical eccentrics; F. S. Hulme, actor-vocalist; Vincent, scrobatic tumbler; Ada Merry, dancer and comedienne; Charles Santon, double-voiced vocalist; Harley and Melton, novelty comedians; Henderson, blind musician; and the Harriscope, operated by Mr. Harris.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. George Dance's principal company came here on Monday evening with *The Orchid*. Lady Violet Anstruther had a most engaging exponent in Miss Dorothy Firmin; Miss Madeline Maud played with humour the rôle of Caroline Vekins; Miss Florence Wakeman was acceptable as Zelie Humbert; Miss Daisy Kersey acted with much dignity as Thisbe, private secretary; Countess Anstruther came with grace from Miss Edith Johnson; Miss Elsa Brull added to her professional reputation by her dainty reading of Josephine Zaccary; and Mr. W. Griffin was well placed as Dr. Ronald Faussett. Mr. Gordon Begg gave an acceptable interpretation of Mr. Aubrey Chesterton, and a great success was scored by Mr. E. Nainby as Comte Raoul. Zaccary was exceedingly well rendered by Mr. Arthur Helmsley.

DOVER. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—*Under the Czar* is drawing crowded houses this week, this being the first visit of Mr. Jarman's clever company to this town. The rôle of Nicholas Yeroshaff is played by Mr. Bertram H. Ross in a capable manner, his sweetheart, Sonia Gregorovitch, finding a most sympathetic exponent in Miss Cathleen Cavanagh. Mr. W. H. Riley gives a powerful rendering of Yakhar Yovesky, and Mr. C. P. Amalia is responsible for a well-studied piece of acting as Count Nesseldorf. The small part of the Englishman, Captain Johnson, is excellently acted by Mr. Gerald Smythe; Mr. Hugh Rounsey gives a clever study as Michael Granoviski; Mr. Louis Weston is a really humorous Paul Ignat; Mr. Lawrence Brien as Alexis Petroff gives a very effective portrayal; Mr. R. Tarrant does some good work as Victor Kleff; and Mr. P. Diamond as Sergeant Anton is also worthy of mention. Some amusing scenes are contributed by Mrs. Linda Riley as Siomka, and Miss Lucy Murray is good as Zara.

The Empire Palace Co.—Manager, P. C. Wraith.—T. W. Barrett tops the bill here this week; Lillian Devon sings and dances well; Charles Aigo, ventriloquist, is most versatile; and Sam Dalton has some really comic songs; Lillian Travelli contributes charming ballads; Belle Meredith wins approval with song and dance; and the Cartell Trio, in their musical act, introduce a large number of instruments.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—A large audience was present here on Monday to witness *Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush*, as presented by Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison's company. Mr. Mollison gives a praiseworthy impersonation of Lachlan Campbell; Miss Evelyn McNay is all that can be desired as Flora Campbell; the rôle of Dr. Maclure has an able exponent in Mr. Allen Thomas; Mr. Alec F. Thomson sustains the humour of the part of Wee Posty in capital style; the Rev. John Carmichael is in the capable hands of Mr. Durward Lely; Miss Alice Francis is seen to advantage as Kate Carnegie; Mr. F. M. Paget is exceedingly good as the Earl of Kinspindle; and Mr. Kendal Chalmers as Tammas Mitchell and Mr. Archie Chapel as Lord Hay are both successful in their respective rôles.

Theatre Royal. — Managing Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Louis Calvert's company in the charming comedy, *Dr. Wake's Patient*. Mr. Herbert Ross causes no end of laughter by his impersonation of Duff Wynterden, and Miss Olive Terry displays considerable ability in the rôle of Lady Gerania. Mr. Douglas Vigors is admirable as Dr. Wake; Miss Ina Pelly is particularly good as the Countess of St. Olbyn; Mr. Arthur Willoughby makes the most of the part of the Earl St. Olbyn; Miss Amy Fanchette is creditable in the rôle of Mrs. Wake; Mr. Alfred Wellesley cleverly enacts the part of Andrew Wake; and the Misses Lilian Rachael and Beatrice Webb successfully portray the rôles of Mrs. Murdoch and Harriet Brosnan respectively.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General-Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Mr. Kennedy Miller's annual benefit took place here on Monday, when a varied and attractive programme was presented to a crowded house. On Tuesday Mr. Kennedy Miller's Co. commenced a short engagement here with *The Irishman*. Mr. Dane Clarke in the rôle of Felix Blake repeats his former success; Mickey Whelan is successfully played by Mr. James Daly; the part of Owen Kavanagh is well sustained by Ion Ireland; Mr. Robert Faulker is capital as his nephew, Dan Kavanagh; as Larry O'Rourke Mr. James O'Brien is as humorous as ever; Miss Monica Kelly is amusing as Molly O'Flaherty; the part of Father Kelly is well filled by Mr. Harry Richardson; Miss May Axon is effective as Norah Desmond; and Mr. H. Ryland Leigh is good as Captain Frank Delahunt.

Empire.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Marsh.—The star turn here this week is Will H. Fox, the comedian at the piano, whose clever performance is loudly applauded. Another excellent turn is provided by Collins and Rice, American comedy artists; the Three Sisters Slater are warmly received; a laughable comedy act is contributed by the Driscoll and Beattie Company; the marvellous acrobatic act of the Goltz Trio elicits applause; the Korries, musical entertainers, are as popular as ever; Walter Stanley is a capital comedian; the Cotton Blossom Quartette of Coon Vocalists are highly appreciated; Cora Casselli sings several songs with good effect; Charles Russell is an acceptable comedian; and the Empire Pictures are up to date.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, tops the bill here, and meets with a good reception. Diamond and Beatrice are entertaining instrumentalists; the Naros are clever male and female acrobats; Fancourt and Rubie's sketch *Out of Barracks* is well enjoyed; Molly Doon is a pleasing comedienne; the McKays, comedy artists, meet with success; an interesting item of animal training is given by Gilbert's dogs and cats; and other turns are Satsuma, illusionist, and Smiler Lee, comedian. The Bioscope Pictures are also good.

EASTBOURNE.—Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Mouillot's company is appearing here in *Old Heidelberg*. Chief honours fall to Mr. Robert Minster, who gives a capable and sympathetic rendering of the part of Karl Heinrich. Mr. J. Nelson Ramsay is to be highly complimented on his very fine work as Dr. Jutner; Mr. Lionel Gadsden is happily-placed as Lutz; and Mr. Eric Phillips is an entirely effective Von Haugh. Mr. Wallace G. Court is an eminently satisfactory Graff von Asterberg, and he sings very pleasingly; and Mr. A. M. Moore and Mr. William Searle, as Ruder and Kellerman, do good work. Miss Irene Lavington is a dainty Kathie, attaining particular success in the lighter parts; Miss Nellie Blackford is a satisfactory Frau Dorffell; and Miss Rose Helene does well as Frau Ruder. The chorus of students deserve a word of praise for their tuneful singing.

The Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—Mr. Harry Tate's company heads the bill here with the amusing sketch, *Motoring*; Mdlle. von Etta has an attractive setting to her smart illusion act; Miss Marie Reeve provides a popular turn as a comedienne, and her dancing is of the daintiest and prettiest; the Sisters Charnley sing, dance, and swing bâtons, to the delight of the audience; Saxo has a very entertaining musical show; the Sivronis are amusing in their opera burlesque; the Delmars are laughing comedians, who deserve praise; and Mr. Charles Jackson's work as a comedian, and the pictures, complete the bill.

EDINBURGH.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—*The Spring Chicken* has made its first appearance in Edinburgh this week, and here, as elsewhere on its provincial tour, the piece has been very warmly received. Mr. George Edwardes's company, by whom the production is brought round, gives a successful interpretation of the humour and mirth with which this bright musical comedy abounds. Included among the leading performers in a good cast are Miss Irene Verona, Miss Gertrude Gilliam, Miss Rita Everard, Miss Gertrude Glyn, Mr. L. W. Harris, Mr. Edgar Ronalds, Mr. Frank Hector, Mr. C. D. Cleveland, and Mr. George Gregory. The first and last-named of these artists keep the fun going very merrily, and all concerned work together with great zest in their respective rôles. Scenery and costumes are on a superb scale.

Royal Lyceum Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. George T. Minshull.—Mr. Edward Compton deserves the thanks of all playgoers for the care and completeness with which he presents, year after year, the best of the old English comedies, and that his efforts are duly recognised was evidenced by the heartiness of his reception from the crowded audience which greeted him upon his appearance in *Davy Garrick* on Monday evening last, when he began a six nights' engagement here. Repetition has only mellowed Mr. Compton's performance of the title-rôle of Muskerry's play, and he acted on Monday with more than his usual felicity, depicting with unfailing power the humour and pathos of the character. He was twice recalled after his exit in the second act, and in response to loud calls at the close of the scene he came forward, and in a neat speech thanked the audience for their enthusiasm. Mr. Compton was ably supported by the members of his company. Mr. Henry Crocker imparted the true note of pride and feeling to the part of Alderman Gresham, and Mr. A. B. Imeson, a promising young actor, showed admirable skill in his rendering of the character of Tom Tallyhaut. Miss Mackenzie displayed much charm of voice and method as Violet, being particularly good in the lighter passages of the comedy. The Guests were brightly acted by Mr. Herbert Pigat as Rumbelow, Mr. Arnold Lucy as Sowerberry, Mr. G. Wallace Johnston as Simkins, Miss Marie Hassell as Mrs. Rumbelow, and Miss Muriel Meek as Selina; and, if the farcical business of the second act was somewhat over accentuated, the players probably were justified in their action by the loud laughter of the audience. The comedy was preceded by a play in one act, *The Desperate Lover*, which gave Miss Mackenzie and Mr. Imeson the chance for some excellent acting. On Tuesday evening *She Stoops to Conquer* was presented.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—*The Sleeping Beauty* continues to run with unabated vigour and success, and public interest in the entertainment is well maintained.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—The programme which is provided here this week is an admirably varied and interesting one. Mr. Bert Gilbert arouses

J. M. Barrie's poetic fantasy, played by the original company direct from the Duke of York's Theatre. Miss Cecilia Loftus as Peter Pan gives a charming performance, humorous yet pathetic, bright and animated, but with that wistful abstraction that befits the part. Next in importance ranks the Wendy of Miss Hilda Trevelyan, another of those finished studies of youthful character that this clever young actress has lately made so successfully. Both performers were accorded a hearty welcome, and their acting throughout evoked much enthusiasm. Mr. Loring Fernie as Mr. Darling gives a clever bit of acting, and again in the part of the Pirate Captain he fairly revels in the old-fashioned melodramatic touches which the character is capable of. Master George Hersee and Master Harry Edwin Duff impart boyish enthusiasm to their parts as Wendy's two brothers, and Miss Enid Spencer-Brunton gives a realistic touch to the part of their mother, Mrs. Darling. Mr. Arthur Lupino is extremely good as the dog Nana, and clever character studies of the pirate crew are contributed by Mr. George Shelton as Smee, Mr. Ben Field as Starkey, and Messrs. Charles Medwin, Chris Walker, Frederick Annerley, &c. In the absence of Miss Pauline Chase, her part of First Twin is well played by Miss Phyllis Beadon, and the other boys are amusingly acted by Misses Joan Burnett, Christine Silver, Winifred Geoghegan, and Mr. A. W. Baskcomb. Miss Mary Mayfren as Tiger Lily, Miss Ela Q. May as Liza, and the representatives of the Crocodile, the Ostrich, and the wolves all help to make the play as novel as it is enjoyable.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Simple Simon* is now in its last week here, and on Friday, the 23rd ult., Mr. Jack Lorrimer appealed to his friends, and a crowded house rallied round him. He had the assistance of Mr. Harry Lauder from the Royal, and Mr. John E. Coyle, a great favourite at the Princess's. On Monday, the Sisters Hall were given a hearty welcome, and on Friday Mr. Rich. Waldon took a complimentary benefit, on both occasions special attractions being given in addition to the pantomime.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—*The Prodigal Son* is now in the last week of a most successful engagement, after a run of nearly six weeks. All the members of the company give clever performances in their respective parts.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—*The Swiss Express* opened here on Monday. The Brothers Renad once more essay their parts with all their well-known ability, and there is not a dull moment while they are on the stage, their fun-making in the last act being particularly enjoyable. Mr. Herbert Lewis as Dr. Gull has a heavy part, and is irresistibly funny; Mr. C. Gray is good as Septimus Squeeze; and other clever actors, as Dudley and Rob, are Messrs. Owen Remonde and Geo. Martin; while Mr. J. Carl Lyle is alert and amusing as Rhino. Miss Helen Douglas as Mrs. Squeeze acts well in conjunction with Mr. C. Gray; and as the sorely-tried and tormented bride Miss Jessica Ford is at home in the part. The Edene Quartette are clever in acrobatic and other dances. The "Met" pictures are deserving of notice, and close a merry entertainment.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company is fulfilling a week's engagement in *Florodora*. Mr. Daley Cooper, as Anthony Tweedlepunch, made a great hit; Miss Leonora Grieve plays Doroles—her acting and stage presence are thoroughly well suited for the part; Mr. R. Courtier Dutton was successful in the part of Frank Abercoed; Mr. Stanley White did well as Cyrus W. Gilfain; the same may be said of the Angela Gilfain of Miss Lily Gullick; the Lady Rid'rood of Miss Edith Horsley, was also a successful performance.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.: District Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—A first-class variety company is billed here this week. A capital sketch, entitled *Bloomsbury Burglars*, is given by Lew Lake and company; and the turn submitted by Rex King, "The One-man Programme," is decidedely smart. O'Gust's wonderful impersonations of animals, &c., fairly captivate the house, while the novel dancing of Frank Hayes and Anna Suits is deservedly applauded: Ella Retford, coon singer, has a pleasing reception; and the Three Missouris get through some clever acrobatic feats. The well-known comedian James Fawn, Kate Gourlay, "the Scotch Lassie," and a series of animated pictures make up the rest of the programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal item on the programme at this popular resort is the mystifying illusion act of Carl Hertz, the most novel and mysterious feature of which is the answering of questions by means of writing on a blackboard, the writing being done in some invisible manner. Fanny Wentworth's musical sketches at the piano prove very entertaining; the singing and painting of Rossi Ashton is an exceptionally clever turn; and a distinct novelty is seen in Mlle. Sylvia's picturesque vocal tableaux; La Belle Mexicaine Yberri, the expert international dancer, gives a pleasing exhibition; and in the gymnastic line smart displays are given by Mezetti and Mora, bar performers, and the Maningos, head and hand balancers; E. J. Sheldon, the white coon, sings topical songs in taking style, and Charles Ousley retains his popularity as an expert dancer; while the Hippodrome Bioscope is kept up to date with such films as the funeral of the late King of Denmark.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, S. Gething; Resident-Manager, B. G. Maclachlan.—The principal attraction here is Ahmed Madrali (the Terrible Turk) and his international troupe of wrestlers. Other notable turns include Seeley and West, comedy musicians; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, grotesque acrobats; Katie Traill, vocalist; Albert Le Fre, versatile comedian; Bert Woodward, trick cyclist; Amann and Hartley, comedy sketch artists; Derenda and Green, comedy jugglers; Katie Butler, comedienne; and the American Bioscope.

PALACE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Rich. Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. McKelvie.—An interesting programme is provided here this week. Nat Clifford, cahracter comedian, is the top turn. The other members of a good programme include Lil O'Gorman, vocalist and dancer; Lal Melrose, comedienne; Talberto and Douglas, comedy artists; the Canadian Boys, comedy artists; the Royal Welsh Singers; Will Vay's Juveniles, comedy artists; Solaire Duo, speciality artists; Wright and Elton, comedians; and Walters and Wyndham, speciality artists.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The programme this week is headed by Whit Cunliffe, a comedian whose catchy topical songs are a decided treat. The Three Sisters Andersen perform some graceful feats of ball and barrel balancing; Ida Brophy sings her lively songs with great animation; F. Warden Reid and company are amusing in their comedy duologues; Tom Yorke sings coster songs in telling style; intense merriment is caused by Frank Elliston and company in their sketch called *Aunt Matilda*; the Carina Sisters render excellent music on various instruments; Zaro and Arno contrive to mix up good fun with surprising feats on the bar; and the Four Aces perform clever acrobatic feats. A football match on the Bioscope screen makes a fitting finale to a pleasing entertainment.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and Barney Armstrong.—Marie Kendall is starring here, and fetching the audience with all her songs, new and old. The Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese are a clever and daring combination, their balancing feats being wonderful; Henri Cazman gives his well-known shadowgraph turn, and also impersonations of famous composers and conductors; Barney Vox's ventriloquial turn is well received; Florence Yaymen contributes some coon ditties of eccentric type; Chas. Stevens is a clever comedian with smart songs; and J. W. Elliston and Steve McCarthy also do well, the dancing of the latter being a strong feature. Jack Crawley's imitations are neat and prove popular.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *The Toreador* was here the first three nights this week. Mr. J. Colclough Fagan was extremely good as Carajolo; Mr. Richard Telford was the principal mirth-maker as Sammy Gigg; Mr. Tom May did well as Pettifer; and Mr. Chas. W. Anson scored as Rinaldo. Mr. Chas. M. Heslop as Augustus Trail and Mr. F. Hulme Sharp as Sir Archibald Slackett submitted good portrayals of their respective characters; Mr. Henry Arthur was praiseworthy as the Governor of Villaya; Mr. Daniel Maston was effective as Moreno; and Mr. Harry Playfair as Mr. Probitt, a solicitor, was well placed. Miss Florence Spurgeon made a capital Donna Teresa; Miss Gracie Desmond was successful as Mrs. Malton Hoppings; and Miss Ethel Netherton made a delightful Nancy Staunton. Miss Leah Howard was a success as Susan, and Miss Sadie Neville as Dora Selby gave a good reading. In Act II. Miss Nora O'Niel was applauded for a well-executed dance.

GLOUCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Miss Grace Warner and company are here in *The Scarlet Clue*, *East Lynne*, and *The Little Widow*. On Monday *The Scarlet Clue* was played, Miss Grace Warner enacting the exacting rôle of Sal Scarlet in a powerful manner. Mr. George Gordon plays in skilful and finished style as Michael Stanton, and Mr. Reginald Brown doubles the parts of the twin brothers Jack and Henry Esmond capably. Mr. V. T. Raymond proves a smart comedian as Billy the Rotter, and little Edith Rutland displays ability as Little Polly. As Elsie Dane Miss Grace Jones acts effectively, and a clever performance of Reggie Carstairs is given by little Miss Phyllis Massey. Mr. J. E. Tomlinson is extremely realistic as Crazy Jim, as is Miss Kathleen Cranston as Mother Scrooge. Miss Esther Dean is a vivacious Musette.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—On Monday night Messrs. E. A'Dell and Fred Chabot's company presented *The Romany's Revenge*. Mr. E. A'Dell as Farmer John Hope gives a conscientious study, and is ably supported by Miss E. Elwes, a sympathetic and graceful Mrs. Hope. Miss Elwes also appears to great advantage as Elspie, a gipsy. Miss F. Wallace is delightfully fresh as Polly Pluck, her dances being quite a feature of the performance. Mr. D. Hamilton as Bobby Bloom keeps the house highly amused; Mr. G. Austin is well placed as Archibald Heath; and Mr. H. C. Robinson gives a powerful portrayal of the villain David Renard; Miss Ethel Ashleigh very ably acts the part of Zamet, a gipsy boy.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—Engaged here this week are the New Macs, knockabout comedians and dancers; Maud Esmond, a refined comedienne and dancer; Funny Rose Newport, a lively coon artist; the Sisters Darrell, capable character duettists and dancers; Rackett and Hazard, American trumpeters; Syd Burford, comedian; and the Donatos, one-leg clowns.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A return visit is being paid by Mr. Horace Stanley's company with the sensational drama *The 10.30 Down Express*. Mr. Chas. Burden presents a natural and effective study as Jack O'Malley: Mr. Geo. Arthur is excellent as the villain, James Inderwick, and Sam Wagstaffe is capitally played by Mr. Horace Stanley. Bessie Leigh is charmingly represented by Miss Elsie Capell; Miss Clara Santley is admirable as Olive Coombes; and Miss Kate Kilpack is amusing and pert as Peggy Pots.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The Royal Carl Rosa Opera company is paying a successful visit to the above theatre this week. On Monday *Tannhauser* was presented to a crowded and appreciative audience. Herr Julius Walther made an ideal Tannhauser. His singing was superb, and the same can be said of his acting. Mr. Charles Victor, as Wolfram, used his fine voice with telling effect; Mr. Arthur Winckworth, as the Landgrave, is to be congratulated on his artistic singing and acting. Miss Grace Nicoll, in the part of Venus, was all that could be desired as regards singing and acting; and Miss Hanna Mara, who possesses a lovely soprano voice, filled the rôle of Elizabeth effectively. A feature of the performance was the fine singing of the chorus, which, along with a largely augmented orchestra, is ably directed by Mr. Eugene Goossens. The other operas produced during the week were *The Bohemian Girl*, *Il Trovatore*, *Carmen*, *Lohengrin*, *Faust*, and *Maritana*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The Tom Davies Trio, who head the bill here, give a truly marvellous exhibition of motoring in mid-air; Will McIvor, vocalist, sings well; Denby and Dent, comedians and dancers, give an amusing performance; Oakdene is a clever ventriloquist; Fox and Melville introduce illustrated songs effectively; the Vyponds are smart society entertainers; and Hallam and Stanton smartly enact a sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey*.

GREENOCK PAVILION.—Proprietors, The Greenock Pavilion, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Lottie Lennox, comedienne, heads the bill here, and her turn is applauded. Other items of an excellent bill are:—Fred Herbert, vocalist and rhymester; the Ashers, duologue couple; Janet Howard Reynolds, vocalist; Francisco Comedy Jugglers; May Moody, with a musical performance; Tom E. Hughes, Scotch comedian; and Cribb and Cribb comedians. The entertainment concludes with a first-class cinematograph display.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The drama *The Midnight Mail* has made its second visit here this week. Mr. George Harvard still portrays the engine driver, Harry Steyne, who is reclaimed by his wife from dissolute habits, and Miss Grace Lester successfully takes the part of Mary Steyne. Mr. Fred G. Evison is a popular figure as the vagabond, Billy Brewer; whilst the part of Nancy is brightly played by Miss Mildred Carr. Miss Hilda Merrilees accomplishes good work as Lady Phyllis Eustace; and mention may also be made of Mr. C. P. Wentworth, as Hassan Padisha; Mr. Dobell Lyle as Donald Craig, and Mr. Austin Mortimer as Leonard Royle.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Lively Lily Langtry has thoroughly justified her name, for she is one of the liveliest comediennes imaginable, and puts unlimited dash into her songs. She has been a great success here. The Voldram Brothers, a couple of Dutch eccentric acrobats, have performed a variety of clever feats, and excellent gymnastic work was also accomplished by Carlin, who proved an expert equilibrist; the musical turn given by the Saxonias was very pleasing, these artists being capable performers on a big variety of instruments; plenty of humour was contributed by Walker and Lake, comedians; the Katos, in a speciality; and Fred Hallam, comedian; whilst *The Chaperon* was presented by Frank Bertram and company.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—George Formby has given an entertaining exposition of Yorkshire humour, his songs and patter being very funny; a capital display of various styles of dancing was given by the Great Northern Troupe; Gillin's ventriloquial turn was productive of much fun; and comedy was also provided by the Bros. Ashley, who performed a sketch; Marie Blythe's songs were greatly appreciated; Starr and Jerome contributed a smart sand dance; Myles and May gave a laughable hunting burlesque; and Ida Ross, comedienne and Tyrolean vocalist, also appeared.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*La Poupée*, despite its innumerable visits here, is this week being hailed with applause by excellent houses. Mr. Wm. Everard acts and sings finely as Launcelot; Mr. Walter Balfour makes a commanding Father Maxime; Mr. Arthur Dennis as Loremois, Mr. Fuller Allen as Baron Chanterelle, and Mr. W. J. O'Sullivan assume their respective rôles with ability. The humorous side of the piece is unfolded in irresistible style by Mr. Fred Seymour, who is very smart in the quaint character of Hilarius; Miss Dot Stephens as Alesia sings the various numbers allotted to her beautifully, her conception of the doll being excellent. The orchestra is under the able guidance of Mr. H. H. Shaw.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Capital houses are this week giving enthusiastic receptions to *Her One Great Sin*, which is being presented by Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company. Mr. Sam Arthur depicts Reuben Warhurst with telling effect; Mr. J. Leicester Jackson is effective as Arnold Thornhill; Mr. Fred Hodson is well placed as Jerry; and Miss Blanche St. Albans is a great success as Grace Warhurst.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—An artist who has many Halifax admirers is Herbert Shelley, whose character songs are a feature of the programme here. Bill Williams is as clever as ever; as is also Addie Dorina, character impersonator; Donald Keir and Mabel Kempton provide an attractive turn with their solos and duets; some ornamental swimming is exhibited by Dickinson and Johnson; and Fred Southern is also in the bill.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—*The Village Blacksmith* is staged here this week, and Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is warmly welcomed. Mr. Sam Livesey is responsible for a characteristic rendering of John Strong; Captain Leo is quite effective in the hands of Mr. Joseph Carter; Mr. Edwin Maydew is a meritorious Lucas Marlow; Jeremiah Parkins finds a capable exponent in Mr. Thos. E. Marshall; Mr. George V. Campbell is well placed as Billy Twigg; Mr. George Wilton is seen to advantage as St. John Harman. As Kate Strong Miss Laura Hansen makes a favourable impression; the boy Harry Strong is admirably enacted by Miss Bertha Hanbury; Mrs. T. C. Livesey contributes a good character study as Sal Parkins; and Miss Edith Giddens makes a capital Martha Mopps. Ruth Parkins is nicely portrayed by Miss Cassie Edwardes.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The premier position here is held by Dr. Carl Hermann, electrician, &c., whose hypnotism is most amusing. Fred Poplar pleases everyone with his humorous contributions; Kitty Wager sings a good song, in which she introduces local items; Rozene and Robini are funny in their trapeze act; Arthur Slater is a whistler of much ability; Lilian Doreen sings her songs admirably; France and Stewart, in their American racing comedy, *A Hundred to One Chance*, are most diverting; the Three Bostonians sing and dance admirably; and the pictures are excellent.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; General Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—The Avolos head the bill here in some novel acrobatic feats; Charles Matthews accomplishes some difficult jumping feats; Marie Gibson is a pleasant-voiced soprano; the Sisters Terry are popular mimics; and Craig, Rose, and Craig, in a sensational act, have all appeared here before. Harry Taft, Winnie Scott, and a new series of pictures are other attractions.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's interesting and amusing comedy, entitled *The Duffer*, is proving a great success here. The company is smart and clever, and the mounting of the play is in keeping with the general excellence of the entertainment. Mr. E. H. Wynne in the title-rôle may be credited with exceptional ability; Mr. Pennington-Gush as Charles Chester presents a capital character study; Mr. Whitford Kane as Paul Martin gives a finished piece of acting; Niobe is admirably played by Miss Mabel Taylor; Miss M. Montrose as Lady Amelia Farington plays with much grace and finish; Miss Nelly Griffen is highly amusing as Miss Bide; Miss D. Cousin and Miss Florence Adale are charmingly natural in their attitudes, and refreshingly simple as models for the Academy students.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—Mr. Will Percival, eccentric comedian, takes the place of honour on the bill; the Maitland Comedy Trio engage in a laughable trio; Salvino is an expert musician, and shows his ability on many instruments; a clever turn is given by the Arizonas, five in number, who exhibit some nimble and diverting comedy juggling; Miss Flo Luck is an attractive comedienne; Miss Minnie Mace is warmly welcomed as comedienne and dancer; the negro element has an excellent representative in Mr. Will English. A feature of interest during the evening is the new Hippodrome films.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Edward Neville's company is here in the play, entitled *The Anarchist Terror*. Mr. J. Nelson Turner is a typical American; Mr. M. J. Cumming shines as a true British sailor; Mr. George Langdon scores as Ravagoon; Mikey Doolan is remarkably well played by Mr. Edward Neville; a fine, bold character sketch Mr. Gus Bowerman gives of the gipsy chief, Ishmael; Miss Flora Leslio is natural as Marita; Miss Evelyn Clare is a brisk representative of Columbria Goldstraw; Miss Loie Esmond takes the part of Kitty Malone in a pleasing manner.

HEBBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—This week the boards are occupied by a first-class variety company. The top of the bill is taken by Charlie Green, wrestler, contests being arranged with him throughout the week; Pooh and Pooh, comedy entertainers, introduce smart acrobatic business; Etherdo is an artistic magician, juggler, and contortionist; Eva Frere has popular songs; the Sisters Sylvia, duettists and dancers; the Kendals, eccentric comedians; Ormonde, speciality artist; J. Kavanagh, patter comedian; Malvo, ventriloquist; and Bert Brookes, eccentric comedian, complete the programme.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Provincial Theatres Co.; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Neville; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke; Secretary, Mr. Chas. Bradley.—Mr. Roy Jackson is paying a return visit this week with *The Hand of Iron*. The company is a good all-round one, and includes Mr. Jackson, whose varied impersonations are very striking; Mr. Herbert De Ville as Lucky Ned and Mr. Henry Deane as Geo. Sutherland, who play their parts admirably. Mr. Everett Lynn as Solomon Isaac Silver, Mr. Frank Haynes as Hiram Lincoln O. U. Duch, and Mr. Arthur Beaufort as Jos. Wellington receive their due share of aplause. Miss Kittie Durogue's portrayal of Marie Durogue is most artistic, Miss May Sutherland is sympathetically played by Miss Violet Lesborough, and Miss Florrie Hayes as Nell Swift creates much laughter.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Mr. George Dance's company is here in *Lady Madcap*. Miss Vera Vere's merry spirits and tireless activity are admirably suited to a part like the Madcap. Her singing and acting are alike eminently attractive. Mr. H. V. Surrey is the embodiment of quaint, crisp, cultivated humour as Oroya Brown; Mr. Vincent Erne is a loyal helper as Corporal Ham; Mr. Alex Chentrens as the Count de St. Hubert is an artist to his fingertips; Mr. Bay Russell as the flamboyant Stratford sings and dances with an energy well directed and highly successful; Mr. Fred Payne makes the most of his chances as Jenkins. In important if less prominent parts adequate support is given by Miss Kathleen Ronayne as Gwenny, Miss Peggie Primrose as Susan, and Miss C. Johnstone as Mrs. Layton. The bright, concerted music is smartly sung by a well-trained chorus under the guidance of Mr. Alfred C. Tone.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The bill this week includes the well-known Automatus Torupe, in their speciality *Fun in a Restaurant*; Miss Ivy Callard, comedienne; the Lovelaces, in an acceptable turn as song illustrators; E. W. Selman, comedian; the Waldrons, in a screamingly funny duologue which sets the house roaring with laughter; Judd, Rudd, and Budd, comedians; the Frasettis, a couple of instrumental soloists of exceptional merit; Bellonini, the smart juggler and plate thrower; and the pictures on the biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Miss Mary Austin and company, under the direction of Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds, are paying a return visit here with *The Cotton Spinner*. Miss Austin, who undertakes the rôle of Mary Prescott, gives a talented and sympathetic performance. Mr. John S. Haydon is also heartily welcomed, and his portrayal of John Prescott is worthy of great praise. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds contributes a fine piece of acting as Arthur Northbury; Mr. Edwin F. Fysher plays feelingly as Lord Northbury; and Mr. Ernest C. Edwards as Major Stratton, and Mr. Charles F. Wilton as Foster Cunningham are both good in their respective parts. Miss Enid Ross gives a careful and creditable performance as Constance Harrington, and Miss Bella Power as Lady Charlotte Needy is quite at home.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Crowded and appreciative houses are nightly greeting Mr. Fred Karno's gorgeous pantomime *Cinderella*, which is here for the week. Miss Annie Purcell makes a handsome and dashing principal boy, and her vocal numbers are well received. A winsome and charming Cinderella is found in Miss Lulu Louden, and Miss Lilian Lea is a shapely and attractive Dandini. Mr. Fred Winn and Mr. Austin Lenton as the two Sisters are most amusing, and Mr. Alex. Keith as the Baron also creates much merriment. Special mention should be made of Mr. William Gourlay, who as the Baron's page proves himself a versatile and resourceful actor. The funny business of Mr. James Fletch and Mr. Ned Palmer also meets with approbation. An effective and novel feature is the flying ballet which is greeted with loud applause.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mortons, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—A strong attraction is provided here this week by Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *The Beast and the Beauty*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a good performance as Jack Barrymore; Mr. Bernard J. Lieil as the Earl of Lomon handles the part with care; and Mr. Bernard Merdyn plays in a convincing manner as Lord X. As Delilah Vane, an adventuress, Miss Georgiette Thiery is seen to advantage, and Miss Alice Bowes as Violet is charming.

THE PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—The Aurora troupe of cyclists are the principal turn here. Ivan Edwards also appears in his ventriloquial show; Mr. and Mrs. Lucas present various Dickens characters with much dramatic effect; Fred. E. Terry is singing an original song which should become very popular; Albert Whelan, from Australia, gives a clever and varied entertainment; Virto and his daughters are a welcome musical turn; a nice ballad-singer is Sybil St. Elmo; the two Bostons and Terley, the latter in a plastic figure entertainment, are also popular.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham.—A dramatic sketch, *A Fight in the Forge*, is a good top turn, and Dorothy L. Clark bottoms the bill in some well-rendered songs. Charles F. Best creates much laughter, and Mark Leslie is one of the best of coon vocalists. Other turns include Ethel Loftus, the Brothers Ralston, Geo. Prince, and Major Moss and Son.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. R. Elder.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's pantomime company, including their wonderful team of juveniles, is attracting large houses with *Cinderella*. Miss Gerty McQueen is a dashing Prince Charming. She speaks her lines clearly, and is successful vocally. A dainty little Cinderella is Miss Kitty Rafferty, who acts with charm and grace and sings sweetly. Miss Marie Hardacre is an attractive Dandini, Miss Florrie Parkinson a pleasing Flighty Flirt, and Miss Kitty Chester warbles artistically as the Fairy Godmother. Mr. A. Benson as Baron Wheresmecash and Mr. Joe English as Buttons create roars of laughter; whilst others who are responsible for touching the risible faculties of the audience are Mr. Dan Dougherty and Mr. George Swinhoe as the two Ugly Sisters.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. G. H. W. Burrough's company with the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Florence Barnes gives a pleasing performance as Princess Yazera, and Miss Louie Fuller as Sinbad well earns the same compliment. Miss May Gower and Miss V. W. Hamilton as Irza and Capt. Selim capably represent the parts allotted them. Mr. John Sanbrook as Caliph of Bagdad and Miss Ada Langton as Princess Fatima are worthy of praise. Mr. H. G. Brandon makes up capitally as the Dame, and in conjunction with Mr. Chas. J. Langton as Tinbad creates much amusement. Mr. Jack MacMahon (Bizbad) and Mr. Fred Fuller (Quizbad) are a pair of comedians of more than ordinary merit. Mr. Will Trevellian and Miss Nellie Trevellian sing a duet in very telling style. Mr. Geo. Sinclair's quartette of lady dancers are exceedingly smart, and Master Sidney is a vocalist of no mean ability.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Nora McEvoy, serio, retains her popularity at this place of amusement. Mac and Hill, patter comedians, are appreciated; Manko does a clever rope-climbing and monkey act; Florrie Wright is a meritorious serio; T. W. Lenner pleases with his comic songs; James Oliver is a successful vocalist; and Hugo, trapezist, and Sid Bernard, comedian, complete the bill.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—After twelve years *The Lights o' London* has been revived here this week with a company under the direction of Mr. Herbert Hollister. Mr. Arthur Colwell gives a manly impersonation of Harold Armytage; Mr. Riddell Robinson as the villainous Clifford does justice to an unthankful part; Bess, the long-suffering wife of Harold, has a pathetic representative in Miss Jeannie Burgoyne; and Miss Lilly D. Dempsey is a charming Hetty Preene. The showman, his wife, and son are humorously played by Mr. W. E. Passmore, Miss Violet Temple, and Miss Gladys Murray, and the minor characters have capable representatives.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—One of the chief turns in this week's varied programme is the appearance of Nellie Wallace, whose quaint songs and patter elicit much merriment, her ditty "I was born on a Friday" being very funny. Another attractive item is a sketch entitled *The Prodigal Son*, in which a black and white quartette of vocalists, led by Emma Don, contribute some pleasing songs and dances. The Three Seabornes, as speciality gymnasts, do some neat and clever acrobatic feats, and a couple of banjo players named Stanley and Greenop are responsible for clever business with these instruments. James Stewart, the original "tramp," at the piano is amusing, and other turns included George Tacius (female impersonator), Chas. Dixon (comedian), and Kate Lynn. The Hippodrome Pictures are very effective.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr G. G. Jefferson.—This week's attraction is Mr. George Dance's company in *The Cingalee*. Miss Cecile Beresford gives a good account of herself in the title-rôle; Miss Katie Yates wins admiration as Peggy Sabine; and Miss Mona Grey is an excellent Lady Patricia. Mr. Walter Chapney is a droll Chambuddy Ram; Mr. Hugh Webb as Boobhamba is clever; and Mr. W. Bosco is quite at home as Sir Peter Loftus. Mr. Courtney Comber is well placed as the Hon. Harry Vereker; and Mr. Arthur Foote gives a capital study of Bobby Warren

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—General Manager, Mr. L. F. Sanderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Wallace.—The attractions here this week include the Dahomeians, coloured comedians and dancers; Chant and Chant, comedy vocalists and patterers; Nellie Vann, serio; the Bowery Boys, in a sketch; Marcus Boyle, character comedian; Miss Babs Lloyd, serio; Miss Ada Whitton, male impersonater; and Shavo and Frank in *The Demon Chef*.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hales.—Mr. Chas. Carey's company is presenting *The New Barmaid* here. As William White Mr. Alexander Loftus does excellent work; Mr. Joseph B. Montague ably fills the rôle of Bertie White; Mr. Jas. Grant gives a typical rendering of Colonel Claymore; and Mr. Leslie Austin finds a part to suit him as Captain Lovebury. Ethel Joy receives full justice in the capable keeping of Miss Amy Preston, and Miss Hilda Blanche is charming as Brenda Lough.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard's Co., Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—A return visit of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *Oliver Twist* company during the latter half of last week enabled Lynn theatregoers to renew their acquaintance with Mr. Stanley Drewitt in his excellent impersonation of Fagin. There were many new faces in the company, but of the original members Mr. Wm. H. Kemble as Bill Sikes was recognised and deservedly applauded for his excellent acting. Mr. Rotherham was enthusiastically received for his inimitable Mr. Grimwig. He surmounted the difficult task of doubling that part with that of Monks with signal success. Miss Edith Anton Laing gave a clever rendering of Nancy; Miss Dorothy Marsden made a boyish Oliver Twist; Mr. Cyril Cattley did well as Harry Maylie; Miss Helen Clement making a sympathetic Rose Maylie, and Mr. Fred Penley a benevolent Mr. Brownlow. On Monday and Tuesday this week Mr. Chevalier and his company were here. The programmes presented were pleasing and varied. Mr. Chevalier's own contributions were loudly acclaimed, more especially "The Workhouse Man," and an old favourite, sung by special desire, "Mafekin' Night."

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company opened on Monday with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Special mention should be made of Miss Beatrice Homer in the name-part; Miss Margaret Watson as Morita; Mr. Tubby Edlin as Tubby Herrick; Mr. Philip Darien as Jack Merriman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor as Hubert Gold and Mr. Allan Davonport as Tom Redvers. Miss Nellie Jackson is smart and humorous as Aggie Brown; and Miss Rita Milman as Rose Courtenay could not be better suited. Mr. Frank Denis is an accomplished Dr. Carr, and Messrs. Charles Barrett and William Wallace as Antonio and Raggles exhibit the requisite amount of villainy demanded by their respective parts.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Henry Wilkinson.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company, which is one of all-round excellence, occupied the boards for three nights this week with *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* and *As You Like It*. The latter was played on Tuesday evening, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience. Mr. Norman as Jacques was seen to special advantage; Mr. Dennis Cleugh was all that could be desired as Orlando; and Touchstone was cleverly depicted by Mr. Frances Hope. Miss Beatrice Wilson gave a clever portrayal of Rosalind, and other characters were in able hands. On Wednesday *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* was produced, with Mr Norman V. Norman as Sir George Sylvester and Miss Beatrice Wilson in the leading rôle.

PALACE.—Lessees and Manager, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and J. Porter.—The bill is this week headed with Bosanquet, violinist, who is paying a return visit. Jack Rae is a clever gymnast, and Tilley's Minstrels have a good reception. Others who contribute successfully include Mozzetto, juggler; Lottie De Abbey, vocalist; Bert Delmar, in a comedy act; Miss Cissie Curlette; and Walter Payne's Animated Pictures.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—*The Grip of Iron* is paying a visit this week. Mr. Fred Powell, who has played the dual parts of Simmonet the Strangler and Jagon for many years past, is very dramatic; Mr. George Denham is a capable Loustalot; and the rival detectives have competent representatives in Messrs. Harry Agar Lyons and John Brittain. Mr. Harry Scott and Mr. Leonard Howe are well placed in the parts of Paul Blanchard

Queen's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Bush.—That bright and bustling Yankee importation, *The Prince of Pilsen*, is on a welcome return visit. Mr. George Musgrove's company includes Mr. Edwin Adeler, in the comical part of Hans Wagner, and his performance is vastly amusing. Clever and vivacious Miss Nell Emerald has made a big hit as Sidonie; Mr. Stuart Alexander is effective as the real Prince; and Miss Nellie Cozens as Mrs. Madison Crocker invests the part with an abundance of the necessary dash and vigour. Mr. Alfred Selby wins general approval as the concierge François, his speciality dance being exceedingly well done. Good service is also rendered by Mr. G. Villiers Arnold, Mr. Lawrence Wensley, Miss Mildred Baker, and Miss Mabel Osborn.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Mr. Fred Karno's latest extravaganza, *Moses and Son*, is the feature of the week's programme here, and, with that very humorous personage Mr. Fred Kitchen in the lead, fulfils its mission of providing a feast of laughter and merriment. The Lukushima Troupe present their typical Eastern entertainment with success. The Cole de Losse Duo are pleasing humorists and expert performers on the slack wire; Mattie Wilks, a coloured vocalist, arouses much enthusiasm; whilst Helene and Emilon, with expert gymnastics, and Morton and Elliott, with paper tearing and other specialities, also prove distinctly popular.

Tivoli.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Harry Ford is the star turn here, and ably fills the position. Harry Allister is very clever in his impersonations; Gus Garrick and H. O. Wills are smart and entertaining comedians; and G. Lennard has also a prominent place in the programme with a clever speciality. A really accomplished musical act, by Roma and Romani, is particularly well received; an Eastern musical fantasy, by Sherlock and Van Dalle, is a decided novelty; and Alma Grey, a charming comedienne, is another prominent contributor to an excellent programme.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The Barra Troupe of instrumentalists and grotesques lead here, and have a big reception; the speciality dancing act submitted by Collins and Hawley is cleverly done, and a popular item; as also is a fine acrobatic and equilibristic performance by the Paul Hesse Trio. The Sisters Hall are charming duettists; Fred Lloyd and company are vastly amusing in a comedy sketch; another smart comedy duo, Oakley and James, appear with success; whilst Dan Noble and Charles J. Johnson provide capital humorous turns.

Leicester.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A most enjoyable attraction is being presented here this week in the booking of Mr. George Dance's principal company in the comic opera *Veronique*. A word of praise should also be meted out to the chorus and augmented orchestra, under Mr. Leonard Leslie. In the title-rôle, Miss Rita Leonhardt deserves high praise for a charming performance, which is heartily applauded; Mr. Ellis Holland is extremely mirth-provoking in the part of Mons. Coquenard; Mr. Roland Bottomley both acts and sings well as Florestan de Vallancourt; Mr. Ivan Berlyn is very good as Mons. Loustot; and Mr. Tom Shelford is capital as the groom Seraphim. Both Miss Florence Lee as Agatha (Madame Coquenard) and Miss Florence Aylwin as Emerance (the Countess de Champ d'Azur) are well suited to their parts, and Miss Neste Laurel as Denise is excellent.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The new management here are also determined to do everything to conduce to the comfort of their patrons, and have commenced to redecorate the theatre and recast the gallery and cushion the pit. The attraction this week is provided by Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company, in the new drama, *Her Luck in London*. Miss Mary Neil is prominent with a very clever portrayal of Nellie Harborne, and scores a well-deserved success. Miss Neil also wears some charming dresses. Mr. Charles A. Leicester, as the Hon. Gerald Fitzgerald O'Connor, shines with a portrayal of much merit; Mr. Charles Draycott is good as Richard Lenowen; both Mr. Douglas Tremayne as the Rev. Lionel Strong and Mr. Tyrone Power as Stephen Harborne invest their parts with considerable histrionic ability. The comedy characters are in the safe hands of Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys Shovepenny and Mr. J. Telly Dillsen as Jerry Gotobed, who keep the audience in the best of humours. Miss Frances Waring submits a good performance as Lilian Harborne; and Miss Pamela N. Hodson as Angelina Plantagenet is capital. Mr. Charles Digby is praiseworthy as Algie Kirkcumbrie.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The great attraction in this week's varied and entertaining programme is Miss Ella, with her full-grown lions, which she puts through a clever performance. Alf. Gibson repeats his usual success, his quaint style keeping the audience in a roar of merriment; the Selbinis get a cordial reception for their pot-pourri act, consisting of a smart display of trick cycling, acrobatics, and baton swinging; the Five Olracs, rag-time acrobats, give a clever and mirth-provoking turn, which is cordially appreciated; Mdlle. Olive is a quick and skilful juggler; Lillian Lowe sings in excellent style; Harding and Ah-Sid are eccentrics, who create hearty laughter; the Five Julians, beautifully costumed, sing and dance in a vivacious manner; Alexander and Co. give their latest comedy sketch to the accompaniment of much laughter; the American Bioscope is a popular feature.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The premier attraction in this week's programme is Miss Hulo Hodgson, Mr. Harry Lowther, and company, who are presenting for the first time here their extremely funny farcical episode *Barmaids*, which is scoring a well-deserved success. Rumbo Austin and his comical troupe of navvies keep the house in continual merriment; Ted Saunders, the popular mimic, is very good and realistic; the Sisters Beatrice, excellent duettists and clever dancers, score a success; Johnny Walker, eccentric character comedian, creates hearty laughter; Geo. Victor is a capital descriptive vocalist; Marie Stole, serio, also entertains; Walter H. Pallister's American Bioscope is projecting the usual series of entertaining films.

King's Hall.—On Tuesday afternoon and evening, Mr. C. Hayden-Coffin, assisted by Miss Ada Davies (late of the Moody-Manners Opera Company), Miss Kathleen Meyer, Mr. Sydney Dorée (late of Mr. J. W. Turner's Opera Company), Miss Margaret Holloway (violinist), Mr. J. H. Taylor, and the Rev. Wyndham Earée, gave a delightful entertainment here. Both Mr. Hayden Coffin and Miss Ada Davies were rapturously encored for their songs, and the violin solos of Miss Holloway, the character songs of Mr. Dorée, the humorous songs of Mr. Taylor, and the singing of Miss Kathleen Meyer (who gave "The Sunbeam Girl," composed by herself), elicited unstinted applause. The duologue *Both of One Mind* was performed by Mr. Sydney Dorée and Miss Meyer to the accompaniment of hearty laughter.

Leigh.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—The Craggs are paying a welcome return visit this week with *Laughter Land*. Mr. Cremorne Cragg as Billy keeps the audience in continual laughter; Mr. Dan Hardie as the Squire does well; Mr. Harry Rousby is a capable exponent of Dick Marlow; and Mr. H. B. Lewis does well as the Professor; Miss Louise Millward as Clothilda sustains the character effectively; Miss Amy Hastings is quite at home as Clarisse; the Sisters Glynne also score in their singing and dancing; and the acrobatic feats of the Marvellous Craggs in Act II. bring down the house.

Ohmy's Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—An interesting bill of fare is presented here this week, headed by Les Kyasyas, who give clever exhibitions of feats of strength. The Rizarelis, lady gymnasts, contribute a smart turn on the revolving trapeze; the Ernests, in their riding acts, are greatly appreciated; Cattle is deservedly applauded for his ladder performance; Onda and Leon provide a clever and amusing act on the horizontal bars; Mr. J. C. Laurie, comedian, sings in good style; and August and September ably supply the comic element.

Leven.—Town Hall.—On Friday and Saturday Miss Maggie Morton's company presented *The Temptress*. Miss Marion Fawcett as Lady Fordyce played with convincing power, Mr. Somers Leigh being commendable as Sir Oswald. Mr. George Rammell was a manly Philip Welford; Mr. Leonard Thackeray made himself thoroughly disliked as Lucas Denbeigh; Mr. Willis Collins as Francis Fitz-Fluke was amusing; and Mr. Percy Morton Wright and Mr. Sidney Claydon made the most of the parts of Pedro Gonzales and Bob Tanner. Miss Elsie Dean as Marion Fordyce made a successful appeal to the sympathies of the audience, and Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff was an engaging Rhoda Brown.

Liverpool.—Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, Jun.—For the first time in Liverpool Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's *The Love that Women Desire* has been presented here by the author's own company. Mr. David G. Noble handled the part of Philip Carnaby satisfactorily; as Squire Abingdon Mr. J. O. Stewart played admirably; and the rôle of Richard found an able exponent in Mr. C. Quinton Fulford. Mr. G. Carlton Wallace made a strong impression with his portrayal of the outcast, Frank Hardy; the rôle of the clergyman Gathorne was capitally presented by Mr. H. Wallace; Miss Lydia Donovan played sweetly as Sybil Thorburn; Miss Clarissa Bamford gave every satisfaction as Mariquinha, the Indian maiden; and Miss Alice N. Livesey presented Madge Abingdon with success.

Lyric Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—The second week's engagement of Dr. Walford Bodie is as decided a success as the first, and the house has been packed nightly with enthusiastic audiences. On Wednesday, a special matinée performance was given in connection with the Theatrical Gala (of which Mr. Henry C. Arnold is chairman of the Entertainments Committee), when Dr. Walford Bodie gave a most interesting and unique programme. Other artists who appear on this week's programme are Marguerite Ismay and her piccaninnies, in a musical scena; Yorkshire Tom, with his mimicry; Curtis Leo, a clever conjurer; Charley Harvey, who is answerable for considerable laughter; the Brothers Hayes, comedy vocalists; Sisters Melba; and Ivy Leafe. On Friday night, the 23rd ult., the annual "Pick of the Pantomime" and "Stars of the Stage" Concert was held at the Picton Lecture Hall, Liverpool, in aid of the Liverpool Food and Betterment Association, in which the principal artists engaged in Liverpool appeared, including Misses Winifred Hare, Ethel Haydon, Millie Lindon, Maude Darling, Maidie Andrews, Gertrude Branscombe, Messrs. Bransby Williams, George Robey, George Bastow, Brothers Egbert, Lupino Lane, and Harry Lupino.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's excellent military drama *Death or Glory Boys* has proved an attraction here this week. Mr. Mitchelson held his original part of Captain Ferrers, which he played in his well-known able manner; as Jack Malden, Mr. Wellesley Draper indicated the feelings of a suffering man with great realism; Miss Violet Carlyle was a pretty Nana Furgeson; Miss Rosabel Dodd handled the rôle of Edith Malden with discretion; Mr. Edwin Jenner was an excellent Lieut. Duff, and as Colonel Furgeson Mr. Theo. Balfour proved capable; Miss Hettie Senior as Jane and Mr. J. R. Boyne in the character of Nat Wilks were extremely humorous.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—The enterprise shown by this theatre is being well repaid, for during the week large and appreciative audiences have witnessed the pretty pantomime *Dick Whittington*, produced by Mr. James Kiddie. A talented company presented it, and the dresses and scenery were on an elaborate scale; while a principal feature was the large amount of comedy introduced by several able artists. Miss Bessie Willow was an attractive Whittington; a capital "Cat" was presented by W. V. Vido; Miss Maggie Summerson made a sweet Alice; a deal of fun was provoked by Mr. Cyril Dundas as Fitzwarren; Messrs. Clifton and Gibson were exceedingly laughable as the apprentices; Mr. Archie J. Milne in playing King Hat did excellently with a difficult rôle; Miss Mildred Wrightson sang sweetly as the Fairy Queen; a dashing young "mash" was presented by Miss Florence Hilton; and Mr. Charles Dillon's notion of a cook was very amusing. Specialities, loudly applauded, were introduced by Curtis and Vanity, the Three Sisters Kilner, and a smart troupe of Parisian dancers.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—At the head of the bill here this week are Charles Majilton's company with the musical comedy *The Runaways*, which has provoked great merriment; Staley's Novelty Transformation Company remain another six nights with their much appreciated entertainment; the Finney's are heartily applauded for their aquatic exhibition; a smart turn is given by Cardow's Cadets, their whistling, singing, and dancing proving most enjoyable; much interest is centred in the clever manipulation of D'Arc's marionettes; Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, earned and received a good reception; Arthur Sutcliffe, an up-to-date comedian, has some capital songs and patter; Harry Drew, possessed of a fine bass voice, sings several popular ballads; and the Stuart Quartet of vocalists and dancers are not the least interesting turn on the bill.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—John Tiller's delightful extravaganza *Red Riding Hood* remains another six nights, the amount of appreciation bestowed upon it being considerable. The Gotham Comedy Four provide a most acceptable turn in music and comedy; Frances Letty, comedienne and dancer, comes in for a cordial reception; a pleasing comedienne is Dorothy Gould; and some neat dancing and singing are given by Edney and Wade.

New Parthenon.—Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—Good business continues to be done at this cosy little place. Heading the bill this week are York, Mac, and York, who provoke endless merriment with their comedy act, *Widow Mac's Troublesome Boys*; Joe Humphreys, a favourite vocal comedian here, pays a return visit; some excellent singing and dancing is provided by the Two Rubies (Rosie and Flo); Decona, as an eccentric comedian and novelty instrumentalist, proves very diverting; Frank Boyce has several good songs; and Daisy Summers is a pleasing vocalist and comedienne.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Mr. Percy Boucher and his stock company are staging here this week *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, which has been well received. Mr. Boucher held the part of Kilsip; Mr. E. D. Allen was an able Gorby; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood played Mark Frettleby; as Brian Fitzgerald Mr. Harry Tresham acted most capably; and other good supporters were Mr. Herbert Cecil as Roger Moreland, Miss Beryl Ravenswood as Sal Rawlins, Miss Lina Nazeby as Madge Frettleby, and Mrs. Charles Wood as Mother Guttersnipe.

Paddington Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Most of the programme here this week is occupied by a sketch company, under the control of Mr. J. Wright Aitken, including Miss Una Wright, with *A Human Fiend*, a domestic episode of much interest; Elton and Elma have a most amusing knockabout triple bar act; as a tramp juggler Monty is particularly funny; and the Bioscope shows a number of attractive pictures.

Park Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The Jackley Trio of comedy acrobats, including the whistling comedian George, are at the top of the bill this week. Their drawing-room entertainment is very diverting; some amusing juggling is introduced by Zarmo; the vocal act of the Four Mill Lads is pleasing; Jolly Tom Mills sings several acceptable character songs; an uncommon turn is that given by M. Slippere, the blind novelty pianist and baritone vocalist; some clever banjo playing is shown by Harry Hunter; and others who appear are Ida Dorce (comedienne) and Alsop and Beckwith (vocalists and dancers).

Haymarket.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Foremost here this week are Allis and Cassati with their amusing act of singing, comedy, and dancing; the popular Gerald Mount, an able comedian, has had a hearty re-welcome, and delighted everybody with his "The Gallery Boy"; Thomson's Topweights go through a smart exhibition of wrestling and boxing; J. P. Boston puts in some dexterous dancing; Little Tina is a neat vocalist and dancer; and Robins and Collier have a humorous musical comedy scena, *The Lady and the Porter*.

Westminster.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Mongomery.—At the head of an acceptable bill here this week are the Wallys, whose smart juggling is of a very high order; the Musical Couple, Ford and Hanson, present a turn which is much appreciated; Arthur Royce goes through a funny show at the piano; Harry Morris displays talent as a comedian and lady impersonator; Kavados is an accomplished juggler with cannon balls; Miss Mona McDonald sings pleasingly, and J. D. Tonier, the newsboy mimic, is well worthy attention.

Olympia.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Hengler's interesting water novelty *A Village Wedding, or Tramps Abroad*, has proved so popular that it is retained in the bill for another week; Lempriere Pringle, an operatic artist well known in Liverpool, gives a beautifully-staged excerpt from *Faust*, assisted by Mr. Scott Russell; the Dean Tribune Trio with their comedy sketch *Applicants* create much merriment; Rohda Bros. have a novel gymnastic act; the singing and dancing of the six Lancashire lasses is much appreciated; the illustrated songs "The Homeland of my Heart" and "In Dreamland," rendered by Miss Gracie Moore, caught on immensely, and that artist was most cordially applauded; Tom White's Arabs gave an excellent comedy and vocal entertainment; and others in the programme were Little Barney (comedian), and Ted Cowan (comedian).

Llanelly.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—*Cinderella* is being presented here this week by Mr. Cecil Clayton. Miss Norah Waylett in the title-rôle is most charming, and Miss Eva Rosslyn as the Prince is very vivacious; Miss Annie Rose makes a capital Dandini; the part of the Baron is in the able hands of Mr. Arthur Colley, who together with Messrs. Reg. Kloof and Arthur Omani as the Ugly Sisters, and Mr. A. Evermond as Pimples cause endless fun. Miss Gertrude Gray as the fairy Sunshine is a sweet ballad vocalist; the Misses Florrie and Theresa Keithley, Mabel Beaufort, Minnie Burrell, and Violet Cameron are all most capable in their parts; the Sisters Clancy introduce clever speciality dancing.

Loughborough.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Miss Maud Camfield's company in the drama *At Twelve Midnight* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Charles Clifford gives a powerful impersonation of Sir Robert Dare, and Mr. A. M. James does well as Lionel Daventry. Mr. Milton Curtis is well placed as Dick Holland; Mr. Val Gully makes a good Sammy Bimbo, and Miss K. Faith a praiseworthy Gertrude de Sage. Miss Maud Camfield is sympathetic as Hazel Dene, and Miss Polly Denville is capital as Sally Wiggins.

Lowestoft.—Marina.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Admirably staged and dressed, we have this week the first visit of Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company in *The Temptress*. In the title-rôle Miss Blanche Steele submits a finished performance; and equally praiseworthy in their respective rôles are the Misses Mabel Scudamore (a charming Marion Fordyce) and Florence Palmer (Madge Denbeigh). Amusing character-sketches are contributed by Messrs. Tom E. Sinclair, Allan Carruthers, Oscar Power, and Miss Lizzie Chambers. Mr. Geo. D. Daiper makes a manly Philip Welford, and Mr. James C. Ashworth is good as the banker, Sir Oswald Fordyce.

Maidstone.—Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. T. Sylvester.—A good bill is headed by Lady Mansel and her Juveniles, who give a clever and entertaining turn; Mr. Alf. Aubyn, dancer and coon impersonator, is on a return visit; the Gilbert Bros. are a smart pair of tight-rope performers; Calile and Walker cause great amusement in their cross patter business; Lorne and Rene are popular in their singing scena *Capital and Labour*; Chas. Norman in *My Wife's Peculiarity*, and the Hippograph complete the programme.

Macclesfield.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—The boards are occupied this week by Messrs. Beaudyn, Livesey, and Hardy's company, in the drama *The Days of Cromwell*. As Sir Marsden Mardyke, Mr. Robertson Foulis does exceptionally well; Mr. Montagu Beaudyn appears as Ironhand, and his powerful and finished impersonation creates a good impression. Mr. Harry Lloyd, as Mathew Mardyke, is both forceful and convincing; Mr. Tom Robertson is a dignified Oliver Cromwell; Mr. Howard Hardy's impersonation of Walter Clifford is commendable; Mr. Edward Carter is very good as Sir Wilfred Avondale; Miss Gloria Hill's interpretation of Mistress Judith is all that can be desired; Miss Irene Munroe, as Ruby Avondale, brilliantly sustains this part; Mr. Harry C. Momber as Toby, Mr. J. Walker as Chaunt, Mr. T. R. White as Shadrach, Mr. A. Mewburn as Smith, Miss Annie Glunn as Betsy, and Miss Jane Massey, as Mrs. Shadwell are prominent in the comic scenes.

Manchester.—Royal Osborne Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds* are here this week, after a week at the Junction Theatre.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Little Michus* provided a capital entertainment for a large audience here on Monday, this being the first visit of the piece to Manchester. As a sample of comic opera, distinct in point of coherence from musical comedy, it is as pleasing and satisfactory as anything needs to be in the exploitation of this kind of piece. Like most stage stories of the romantic orders, it has few claims to probability, but this is more than compensated by the delicate sentiment it exhales from first to last. The expression of this sentiment is, in fact, its greatest charm, and it is most daintily centred in the characters of the title. Nothing more charmingly sympathetic could be imagined than the exposition of the supposed sisters Michu by Miss Iris Holy and Miss Mabel Green; the sentimental Blanche-Marie of Miss Holy and Miss Green's cheerful Marie-Blanche are as nearly perfect as could be wished. A big success is made also by Mr. Eric Thorne as the eccentric General des Ifs, but this is in the direction of broad burlesque, which, though vastly amusing, detracts from the verisimilitude; Mr. Jack Cannot as Bagnolet has extraordinary chances, in which he proves himself a comedian of excellent and unfailing ability; of Mr. Leonard Mackay as Aristide Vert it must be said, regretfully, that his splendid voice and accomplished manner are not sufficiently called upon. Others prominent in the development of the story are Mr. Arthur Royd as Gaston Rigaud, a vigorous tenor and pleasing actor; Mr. Eardley Turner as Pierre Michu; and Miss Elsie Cameron as Madame Michu; both of the latter being sufficiently clever and amusing. Incidentally, Mr. Willie Ward, jun., depicts a market man in the comic vein; and Miss Deborah Volar sings "The Fairy Princess"—an excellent song—in highly accomplished style. The music is consistently good, without being catchy in the cheap sense of the word, and the vocalism adds greatly to the pleasant effect of the story. Staging and dresses are beautiful.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—One of the most amusing farces seen in Manchester for some time past is *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, excellently presented here this week by Miss Florence Baines and company. The part of Mary Ellen Thompson, the Lancashire Lass, fits Miss Baines like a glove, and laughter reigns supreme the whole of the time she occupies the stage. She also sings several songs in first-rate style, and her acting throughout is worthy of special praise. Excellent support is given by Messrs. Patrick Evans, Richard C. Hicks, Allen M. Servington, H. Pollock, Payne Fletcher, David Donaldson, and the Misses Jennie Hallsworth, Pattie Groves, and Mabelle Clinton. The scenery is good, and the whole performance most enjoyable.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The bill is headed here this week by Percy Honri, who delights the house with his admirable new sketch *Concordia*; J. W. Rickaby, comedian, is also a popular turn; and good business is supplied by Clara Walters, a clever juvenile, who dances while playing the piano; Kendrick and Laura, singers and dancers; Ben Johnson, banjoist; Olive Poole, singer and dancer; Bernard Noble, comedian; Edna, the whistling girl; and Harry Walker, comedian. A good series is depicted on the Bioscope.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in the American drama, *At Cripple Creek*, are the attraction here this week. A very clever performance is given, in which Mr. Hilliard Vox particularly shines as the heroic Joe Mayfield, and important parts are finely rendered also by Miss Vera Fordyce, Miss Daisy Carlton, Miss Leslie Wynne, Miss Ella Dixon, Little May Douglas; and Messrs. Walter Thornton, C. Douglas Carlyle, Chas. D. Pitt, Albert Rogers, and Will Hook. By all these a high level of excellence is attained, and the staging is correspondingly effective.

St. James's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. A. Jordison.—A bright performance of *Cinderella* is given here this week by Mr. Eade Montefiore's company, whose efforts to amuse are considerably enhanced by the elaborate and effective staging of the production. The principal parts are all in capable hands, excellent comic business being provided by Messrs. Conan and Doyle, Mr. Fred Lincoln, and Messrs. Arthur Byron and Geo. Antley; while Miss Georgina Leonard and Miss Nellie Merton fill their respective parts of the Prince and Cinderella with admirable tact. The minor parts are also well played.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter De Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The bill is topped here this week by those first-rate comedians, Foreman and Fannan, The Millionaires, and their patter and eccentric business, as usual, are productive of endless laughter. Claude Ginnett's well-known sketch, *The Rejected Remounts*, is also highly amusing and well received; and Charles Coborn (acting as deputy for Miss Florrie Gallimore), makes a big hit with his coster scena; the veteran Ethiopian philosopher, Sam Redfern, amuses with song and patter; George Bohu plays the banjo well; Speedwell is a smart lightning portrait painter; Cora Corina, Anglo-Spanish speciality artist, dances nicely; the Three Laurels are wonderfully clever in their speciality on the ping-pong table; and John Marx, the modern Hercules, does some surprising things in weight and other lifting. Animated pictures complete a capital programme.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Collins.—The big turn here this week is *The Orange Girl*, an elaborate episode in three scenes concerning Nell Gwyn and King Charles II. There is a cast of nine accomplished artists, of whom Miss Dolly Elsworthy as Nell, Mr. Frank Liston as the King, and Mr. D. Wall as Dick Harradin are particularly good. The piece, as a whole, is very successful. Lil Hawthorne contributes to the programme a couple of charming songs; and T. E. Dunville makes a hit in his well-known comic style. Other excellent turns are given by Alburtus and Bartram, club experts; Ryan and Hall, acrobatic comedians; the Merrions, entertainers; Verno and Voyce, in a song scena; the Sisters Gasch, smart athletes; and Dion Wade, the quaint-style one. The Biograph, as usual, is entertaining.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—A novelty here this week, which is attracting considerable notice, is the Fishing Cormorants, lately to be seen at the London Hippodrome. It is undoubtedly an interesting, instructive, unique, and amusing sight. Neil Kenyon, that highly amusing Scotch comedian, is still in Manchester, and is deservedly well received; the Picquays are extremely graceful head and hand balancers, and the inverted sand-dance, in conclusion, evokes a storm of applause; Victoria Monks, the popular comedienne, sings two catchy songs in a style of her own; the Wally Hoste Trio, comedy acrobats and jugglers, provide a capital turn, and introduce a cleverly-trained dog; Leona Dare gives a remarkably clever and unique musical trapeze act; Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew dialect comedians, are exceptionally funny; and Princess Gooma, of Youribah, and her West African bodyguard furnish an interesting turn. "In the Village by the Sea" is nicely sung by Miss Mildred Timms, assisted by the choir, who also render in finer style Elgar's glee, "O Happy Eyes." The American Bioscope shows some instructive pictures.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Mlle. Sylvia Du Barry, the charming South American soprano, is here this week, and renders three songs in a most delightful manner, and meets with a flattering reception. Very successful also are John E. Coyle, the popular eccentric comedian; G. W. Hunter, comedian and raconteur; and the American Comedy Four in scena, *Outside ye Old Bulle and Bushe*; Jennie Lynwood, a pleasing comedienne, makes a hit with her song, "Billy"; Kitty Neville sings nicely; Mlle. Vanda juggles cleverly whilst on the rolling globe; and Raynor and Reece are capital dancers. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures are particularly good.

King's, Longsight.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A return visit of Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime of *Cinderella* is to be recorded here this week. The company includes Miss Daisy Morrell as the Prince; Miss Mamie Iris as Cinderella; Messrs. Johnny Worman and Billy Keene as the ugly sisters; Mr. Will Letters as the page; Mr. Chas. Russell, as the Baron; Messrs. Harris and Worth as the broker's men; and Mr. J. H. Booth as the deaf General; and all of these do much towards making the performance amusing and successful. The dresses, scenery, and general staging give brightness and colour to the show.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Ara, Zebra, and Vora present here this week a novel and pleasing acrobatic sketch, entitled *Indian Pastimes*, and are greeted with much applause. Well received sketches, which cause no end of laughter, are also contributed by the Brothers Anthony and the Brontes. Other good turns are those of the Three Royal Temples, including Louie Gilbert (soprano), operatic vocalists; Welda and Wynne, very smart jugglers; Dobito and Buxton, vocalists; Linton, who performs clever feats on the wire; and Little Violet, child vocalist. The Mimosa Trio did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

Hippodrome (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Harry Tate's company in an original sketch, entitled *Fishing*, is to the front here this week. The piece is quaintly humorous, and causes much merriment. Menotti, the Stockholm Wonder, is very clever and daring in his cycling act on the revolving wire, and is loudly applauded; and the exceedingly smart juggling of Ernesto is also well received. Particularly good are the Eccentric Arleys in their clever and amusing cycling performance; Bert and Dora are good in song and smart patter; and Harry Bent is successful in his impersonations of music-hall stars. Other entertaining items are given by Little Dando, comedian; Thurston, mimic; and Carlotta Lunn, American comedienne. "Oxo Cattle Farms," are shown on the Bioscope.

Mansfield.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moulla and Jennings; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Jennings.—Mr. Herbert Barr's pantomime *Cinderella* is attracting large audiences here this week. Miss Lallah Davies is a capital Prince Charming; she has a good voice, and her singing is much appreciated. The character of Dandini is capitally portrayed by Miss Josephine Preece; Messrs. Grapho and Jackson as the Ugly Sisters create roars of laughter; Baron Stonio is played in first class style by Mr. Carl Fredericks; Miss Dorothy Oswald as Cinderella sings her way into the hearts of her audience; the Broker's Men (Messrs. Duncan and Morton) create a great amount of merriment; as also does Mr. Alf Widdownson as Buttons; Messrs. Grapho and Jackson introduce a quick change act entitled *In a Restaurant*, and win much applause; the Ya Pyn Keto Family give a clever turn of conjuring; the dancing by the Rainbow Trio is very clever. Entertaining turns are also given by the Ohio Quartette and Duncan and Morton.

Margate.—The Hippodrome.—Sole proprietors, Messrs F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree. The list of turns here is deservedly headed by Helen Charles, an artist of exceptional merit, her imitation of Chirgwin singing "The Blind Boy" is cheered to the echo; Edith Sylvesto is a clever contortionist; and Wal Robbins proves himself an amusing instrumentalist; Constance Mori is especially good as a dancer; Little Don keeps the house in a roar of laughter with his eccentricities; and Minnie Cunningham, Irish comedienne, is also good; the Harlem Brothers, versatile performers, do a smart turn in rifle swinging, tumbling, and sand dancing; and Ruffell's pictures are once more excellent.

Merthyr Tydfil.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—*The Midnight Wedding*, presented by Messrs. Walter Howard and Alfred Panmier's company is here this week. Mr. Alfred Panmier ably impersonates the character of Paul Valmar, and Miss Annie Luther is to be praised for her capable embodiment of Princess Astrea; Mr. Clinton Baddeley presents a careful study of the part of Captain Rudolph Von Scarsbruck; and Mr. Fred W. Freeman satisfactorily fills the rôle of the Crown Prince Leopold. Messrs. Fred Constable, Reginald Payne, and Algie Spalding cause much amusement as Max, Otto, and Bobo, receiving valuable support from Miss Ada Champion as Kathie.

Mexborough.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Ed. Marris's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is being presented here this week. Miss Winifred Preece is delightful in the title-rôle; Miss Lottie Vincent is a capital Alice; Mr. Walter Wade a versatile Idle Jack; Mr. Walter Nugent a capable Dame; and Mr. W. H. Ball does well as Fitzwarren. Mr. C. Kashma is thoroughly at home as Captain Kettle; and Mr. Wm. Kashma is a particularly lively cat. The specialities include the Thalian Glee Singers, the Kashmas (acrobatic comedians), the Sisters Vincent (coon singers and dancers), and Miss Effie White in her rainbow and fire dances.

Middlesbrough.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *Oliver Twist* is here this week. Fagan is entrusted to Mr. Stanley Drewitt, and in his hands the portrayal leaves little to be desired. Mr. W. H. Kemble is well adapted for the rôle of Bill Sykes, in which he achieves a distinct success; Mr. Cyril Cattley does well as Henry Maylie; and Mr. W. H. Rotherham in the rôles of Monks and Mr. Grimwig, gives every satisfaction. As Nancy, Miss Edith Auton Laing is responsible for a faithful interpretation, and wins many tokens of approval; Miss Helen Clement acts gracefully as Rose; whilst Miss Dorothy Marsdin, in the title-rôle, is an effective exponent; Mr. Chas. Clark, as the Dodger; and Mr. C. Hunter, as Bates, are interesting.

Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto. Mr. Walter Reynolds' company in *Mr. Smith* is here this week. The cast includes Mr. Hamilton Stewart, who figures prominently in the title rôle, his acting being strong and vigorous; Mr. Herbert Graham smartly represents Herr Deidrich Anheuser; Mr. Sydney Price, as The Earl, is interesting; as is also Mr. William Dunlop, as the Duke. Mrs. Alfred Davis plays Mrs. Smith with becoming dignity and grace; and Miss Phyllis Relph is clever as the vivacious Ruth Anheuser; Miss Mary Relph proves herself a bright and hearty Duchess; and Miss Ethel Milton is a fascinating Lady Mary. Other praiseworthy performances are given by Mr. Rupert Strutfield and Mr. Austin Spencer.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alf. Mattison; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Excellent turns are provided at this place of amusement. Frank and Albert Boisset's troupe head the bill and create roars of laughter in their sketch, *The Wild West*; Raie Walters is well appl

given by Levarni; and Nash and Noel, comedians and dancers, are well received, as are also Julian Mack, Carl Howard, the crazy juggler, the Sisters Albert, vocalists, Estio and Leuigy, eccentrics, and the animated pictures by the Barrascope.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company is here in *The Great Awakening* this week. Miss Maud Hildyard as Lola Selby gives a really clever interpretation of an unscrupulous adventuress; Mr. Bernard Copping provides a good impersonation of Jack Merton, and he also sustains the part of Sir Henry Merton; Mr. Chas. Fancourt, as Captain Harry Lambert, makes a pleasing hero; and Miss Nina Blake Adams, as Molly Merton, wins the sympathy of the audience. The humorous side of the piece is in the hands of Mr. Willie Scott (Billy Brass), and Miss Isa Bellington (Selina Worte), who evoke much laughter while they occupy the stage.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Arthur Lennard heads the bill here, and is received with hearty applause; Madame Alice Simmons, Australian operatic artist, scores; and the Marlo and Dunham Trio are smart performers on the horizontal bar; and great skill in ladder balancing is shown by the Silvas. The comedy sketch, *The Hunt*, by Terry and Bentley, is a source of amusement; the Sisters Aindow provide a pleasing musical turn; and Lizzie Fletcher sings her songs in a taking style. The military sketch, *Drummed Out*, by A. C. Lilly and Co., is much appreciated; and the Bioscope shows some new pictures.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. James Kiddie presented here his comic pantomime of *Cinderella* on Monday. Mlle. De Rose's rich voice does justice to her songs as the Prince; Miss Rose Pareezer sings admirably and looks well as Sunbeam; Miss Adela Roze is a delightful Cinderella; and plenty of fun is provided by Mr. Dick Thomas as the Baron, Mr. Sidney Benson and Mr. Steve Cooke as Ethel and Maud, the two Sisters, and Mr. Frank Dunlop as Pimples the Page. The specialities of Messrs. Houpla and Hecla are well appreciated, and the ballet and choruses are very good.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Burton.—The Seven Savonas in their musical scena, *The Palace of Orpheus*, a veritable prismatic combination, give their remarkably clever musical display with the greatest success; the wonderful cycling of the Six Elliotts is clever, daring, and unique; Harry Sims (descriptive vocalist), Janet Howard Reynolds (a sweet singer of sweet songs), Harry Royde (an amusing comedian), Horton and Linder (in a grotesque gymnastic act), Elsie Earle (burlesque actress), Josie Watson (comedienne), and the famous Palace pictures furnish the rest of a good programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Large audiences have assembled here this week, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company, with the pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, being the attraction. As Prince Charming, Miss Kitty Trewhitt gives an artistic representation of the part; and Miss Mona Townshend is smart as Will Scarlett; Miss Dolly Dodds makes quite a hit as Beauty; Miss Ida Gibson is clever as Maid Marion; and Miss May Gibson shines as Silver Star; Master Will Kay is a droll Baron Mumps; Master Fred Bentley makes the most of Dressalinda; Master Fred Ellis is prominent as Marigolda; and Master Paddy Mills and Master Tot Hunter, as the sheriff officers, are responsible for much hearty laughter. The specialities and the harlequinade are also much enjoyed.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The Celtics, in their musical comedy act, are received with much favour here. The Grovinis, lady and gentlemen acrobats, perform some marvellous feats, for which they are loudly applauded; Messrs. Reed and Wright, comedy duettists and dancers, are clever; and Mr. Sam Shipley (eccentric comedian), Miss Beattie Worth (comedienne), Mr. Charles Valvo (ventriloquist), and Mr. Dan Merriles (bass drum performer), and the Bio-Photoscope, are all successful.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—Mr. Erno Aguzzi's company in *Sinbad the Sailor* is here this week. Miss Marie Gerrard is a dashing Sinbad, and she dances and sings in a pleasing manner. As Princess Zaza Miss Rose Tree does well, her dancing being exceptionally clever. Mr. Erno Aguzzi in the rôle of Tinbad causes much amusement, and is ably supported in his efforts by the Ashley Bros. as Captain Scuttlem and Baccer Stopper. As Mrs. Sinbad Mr. Will Owen is extremely funny, and his drolleries earn well-merited applause. The specialities include the Tom Boys, acrobatic and speciality dancers; the Great Anthy, in a clever wire act; Belford and Mars, comedy duettists; and Will Owen, Tyrolean vocalist.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is giving a capital representation here this week of *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. Frederick Mayes presents Napoleon in a most impressive manner; Mr. Harry Gray Dolby is everything desirable as Talleyrand; whilst Mr. Henry Ludlow ably embodies Marquis de Beaumont. Mr. C. Lionel Brocknor as General Angereau; Mr. T. W. Ford as Marshal Murat, and Mr. H. J. Powell as Dr. Corvisart, do well in their respective parts. Mr. Dennis Bryan as Gumaud, and Mr. Charles Stanley as Marshall Ney, are capable. Miss Lilian Dundas acts the part of the Empress Josephine with much dignity and power; Miss Muriel Thompson is excellent as Marie Louise; whilst Miss Gertrude Entwistle has had a favourable reception as Stephanie de Beauharnais, Miss Gracie Kendrick is good as the little King of Rome; and Miss B. French Stewart equally so as Gouvernant. Miss Alice Metcalfe as Blanche d'Hervas, Miss Teresa Gilmour as Angelique de Varennes, Miss Ada Kavanagh as Madam la Campan, and Miss Barbara Mead as Jeannela Terroure, ably assist. On Friday evening a complimentary benefit was given to Miss Lillian Dundas.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—A capital variety programme is presented this week. Miss Nellie Coleman, rightly called the female Dan Leno, heads the bill, and delights the audience with her eccentric drolleries; the Four Marsanas are entertaining as well as comical musicians, and create amusement; the Phillipi Brothers are clever head and hand balancers, exhibiting great strength and agility; Percy Hannan, the American baritone, gives some excellent songs; Wal Grove and Jenny Chalmers are very good as society entertainers; Dome exhibits clever work in clay modelling; whilst Gertie Gitana proves entertaining in her songs and step dancing. Gus Hindel, in song and story, is an excellent turn; the Hippo. Bio shows pretty pictures; whilst Captain Selby's band renders great assistance to the entertainment. At last Saturday's matinée through the kindness of the proprietors, the boys of the "Evening News Brigade," numbering about 350, were entertained to the performance, previously to which the party were photographed, with the manager, Mr. Councillor Fitt, and others being taken in the centre of the group.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. Frank Curzon has provided an all-round good company for the latest musical comedy *The White Chrysanthemum*. The tuneful music, bright setting, and wholesome fun were thoroughly appreciated by Monday's audience, and numerous recalls demanded. Miss Ruth Lincoln, who impersonates the name-part, is a cultured and experienced vocalist; Miss Maud Harvey makes a winsome and attractive Betty Kenyon; and Miss Isabelle Dillon contributes a lively portraiture of the American girl, Cornelia Vankerdecken. Mr. John Clulow aptly assumes the breezy Admiral Armitage, and Reggie Armitage is capitally acted by Mr. F. Pope-Stamper; Mr. G. Davy Burnaby enters into the spirit of the fun in no half-hearted way, his "chipping" being a success throughout; two exceedingly droll characters are seen in Mr. O. B. Lennen (Sin Chong) and Mr. Harry Paulton, jun. (Perks), and a well balanced chorus render the music with good effect under the direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson opened their second and last week with a fine performance of *Julius Cæsar*. In the part of Marcus Antonius Mr. Benson displayed his best qualities, the oration especially being given with fervour and earnestness; Mrs. Benson showed a tender womanliness in depicting Portia; and Miss Tita Brand embodied Calphurnia with dignity and refinement; Mr. George Buchanan was impressive as Julius Cæsar; and Mr. Derwent gave the fullest expression to the rôle of Octavius Cæsar. Valuable assistance was also rendered by Misses Katharine Boyce, Leah Hanman, and Messrs. Cyril Keightley, H. O. Nicholson, B. A. Pillar, and Clarence Derwent. *King Lear* on Tuesday brought out Mr. Benson's great histrionic powers, and the audience cheered him to the echo. Mrs. Benson gave a sympathetic portrayal of Cordelia; and the two vengeful sisters, Regan and Goneril, were vigorously described by Miss Elinor Aickin and Miss Tita Brand; the faithful Edgar was finely depicted by Mr. Cyril Keightley; and as the Fool Mr. George R. Weir realised the pathetic side with realistic feeling. Other plays given were *Henry the Fifth*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—*A London Actress* contains an element of excitement and plenty of fun, which appeal to the patrons here, and a large house on Monday gave it a rousing welcome. Miss Emma Litchfield, the authoress of the play, presents a fine interpretation of the unscrupulous adventuress, Hilda Mannering, showing the necessary fire and passion; Miss Maud Steeples enacts the heroine, Phyllis Crawford, with sympathetic tact and care; Mr. John C. Carlyle plays Clive Crawford feelingly and earnestly, and Mr. Arthur F. Dudley makes a satisfactory Lieutenant Kingstone; Mr. George H. Doyle as the deceived husband, Captain Mannering, gives a smart embodiment; and Mr. Stuart Cleveland shows aptitude as the money-lending Jew, Moses Mendoza. A word of praise is also earned by Misses Nellie Fern, Millie Hayward, Theo. Herries, and Maud Saxby.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—Vesta Tilley, as dainty and delightful as ever, is charming crowded houses nightly by her inimitable rendering of songs, both old and new. A vast amount of fun is created by the Mannons in their burlesque absurdity *Uncle Yank*, which brings forth uproarious laughter; Stewart and Morgan find much favour by a little sketch introducing a number of Irish melodies; an interesting and attractive entertainment of physical culture is supplied by the five Bellatzer Sisters; an amusing comedy juggling performance is given by Drawee, Frisco, and Hambo; and another humorous piece of work brings out the abilities of Fyne and Hurley; the drollery of the Bohemians does not interfere with their clever playing of musical instruments, and the singing of W. H. Downs calls for a word of praise; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden submit a capital little trifle called *A Desperate Remedy*, for which they receive their reward.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—*Home, Sweet Home*, presented by Mr. Frank Lindo's company, is proving a good attraction here. The author, Mr. Lindo, fills with much success the rôle of Stephen Armitage; as David Armitage Mr. J. W. Henson gives an excellent study; Miss Marion Wakeford is impressive as Joan; abundant humour is supplied by Mr. Ernest E. Owens (Lord Silvermore), Mr. S. Bryant (the Hon. Percy), and Miss Hettie Webster (Sibyl Fay). Good work is done by Capt. Gerald Gambier as the Duke of Ancaster, Mr. Wilson Coleman as Lucas Lyle, and Mr. George Overs as Dick Kidmayne.

OXFORD.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company in *A Wrecker of Men* is the attraction here for this week. Mr. C. Watson Mill presents a very powerful and careful rendering of Jim Murley, and Mr. P. Horton enlists sympathy as Guise Strange. Mr. Gilson Brooke enacts Railton with due restraint, and Mr. M. Noble gives a clever and artistic portrayal of Pharosophus. Mr. Henry Rutland does good work as Ezekiel Isaacs; Mr. N. Carter is seen to advantage as Hon. Reggie Verincourt; and Mr. Alfred Maurice is a manly Eric Melville. Miss Cissie Podmore is convincing as Dorris Melville, and Miss Kittie Melville is a vivacious Valvasole Slopper. Miss Rosalind Tate interprets Risca Mallison with considerable dramatic intensity, and achieves undoubted success.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Esmond Bramley's company headed by Mr. Cyril Este and Miss Millie Ford, is presenting a good selection of Shakespeare's plays this week, the répertoire for the week including *Richard III.*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—An entirely satisfactory programme is submitted here this week by the Lulaine Darrell Trio (novelty gymnasts), W. E. Hilton (ventriloquist), the Percys, in their comedy act *The Showman*, Blanche Gerard (versatile actress and dancer), Lang and Beal (knockabout musical comedians), Stentora (baritone vocalist and singer of coon songs), and Joe Mack (eccentric burlesque comedian).

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. George Dance's own company in *The Girl from Kay's* is delighting theatregoers here this week. Miss Lily Edmonds assumes the title-rôle, and could hardly imagine a more suitable exponent for so charming a part; Mr. J. W. Cooper excels in the arduous part of Max Hoggenheimer, and creates considerable amusement, while Mr. Claude Dampier stands high in the roll of honour for his delightful impersonation of Joseph; and no mean talent is exhibited by Mr. Herbert Franklin in his clever portrayal of Harry Gordon. Miss Marie Greenhouse displays considerable power as Norah Chalmers, and Miss Irene Vere is quite a favourite as the amorous Ellen; Miss May Wiltshire does full justice to the rôle of Mrs. Chalmers, in which her vocal talent finds scope and is much appreciated; Miss Roma D'Alroy is advantageously placed as Jane, Mr. Fred Thomson is quite amusing as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle, as also are Messrs. Herbert Jennings and E. Ford as Theodore Quench, Q.C., and Mr. Chalmers. Mr. Austin Herbert is an admirable Pepper the Page Boy; Messrs. Sydney Carte and J. Hart are capable exponents of Archie Pembridge and Fred respectively, as also are the several artists who adopt the rôles of Assistants at Kay's and Norah's Bridesmaids.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Brown.—*The Cingalee* presented by Mr. George Dance's company is here this week. Miss Edith Harmer is entirely successful in the leading rôle of Nanoya, which she acts with much grace and energy. Mr. Tom Payne leads the comedy, and deserves unstinted praise; the Hon. Harry Vereker is ably accounted for by Mr. A. Wortley Drewitt, whose voice is heard to advantage in the various numbers allotted to the part; the rôle of Peggy Sabine finds an excellent representative in Miss E. Hughes; Mr. Eric Fenton is distinctly clever as Sir Peter Loftus; and Mr. E. Edwards is in every way satisfactory as Bobby Warren; as the tea girls, Miss Phillis Herbert, Miss Marie Hayden, Miss Rose Lind, and Miss Millie Gordon figure most agreeably. Mr. F. Sutton acquits himself admirably as Boobhamba. Other members of the company are Messrs. Miller Wilson, Guy Nixon, G. Mepstead, Misses Millie Field, Cynthia Norman, Dora Grey.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Local playgoers are enjoying a dramatic treat here this week, *The Little Breadwinner* being the attraction. An excellent company interprets the piece most successfully. Mr. Edward Lloyd plays with power and earnestness as Lord Dorrington; Mr. Gordon McLeod enacts the part of the secretary with skill and care; Richard Lawrence is an attractive character in the capable hands of Mr. Richard Boses; and a judicious amount of low comedy is introduced by Mr. Green Taylor as Charles Prior. Miss Myrtle Woodward gives a fine reading of the heroine, Margaret Daventry, her acting at times reaching a high standard. Miss Lily Prescot, Miss Irene Farington, and Miss Pattie Bells appear in important rôles with great credit.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—This week Mr. Henry Bedford and company are appearing here in *Gipsy Jack* and *The See-Saw of Life*. In the former drama Mr. Bedford essays the title-rôle in good style.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Mitchell.—The popular musical comedy-drama *Carl the Clock-maker* is doing good business here this week. Mr. Harry Starr as Carl gives a clear-cut and realistic portrayal; Mr. Edwin Firth provides a fine study of Helmore the Anarchist; and Mr. Arthur Armfield and Mr. Arthur Esdail both render excellent service. Miss Lucy Fitzroy, Miss Madge Blundell, and Miss Kate Morris deserve warm commendation for their performances.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Brothers.—Some clever and interesting turns are included in this week's programme. Notably so is the one supplied by the Caledonian Boys, an orchestral and concert combination under the direction of Herr Guster Stephen and Herr Karl Hegel. A very amusing sketch is *The Man in Possession*, submitted by Blake and Granby; the Bros. Kroney appear in an act entitled *London's Lazy Coalmen*, their acrobatic feats being marvellous; delightful dancing by Susie and Protti is much enjoyed; the topical songs by George French hit the popular taste; Zeta Grey and company in *The Lancashire Lass* score a triumph; the Wiltons are clever duettists and dancers; Massona is a smart original juggler; and Vernon's Animated Pictures are excellent.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—This week Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company is presenting the drama entitled *A Traitor Prince*. Mr. G. M. Montanini is a conspicuous success in his portrayal of Prince Ras Dalmirez; Miss Nita Langford contributes an artistic embodiment of Vashti, the Indian snake charmer; Mr. Francis Everard is to be highly complimented on a clever portrayal of Lieut. Frank Derrick; Mr. Ernest A. Duval does full justice to the character of Bobby Bright; Mr. Jerold B. Reed as the Hon. Bobby Vavasour Dalrymple is entertaining; and Cara as presented by Mr. Victor Rae leaves nothing to be desired; Miss Rose Routledge gives a delightful impersonation of Lola Vane; Miss Kitty Thomas is a charming Pansy Blossom; Miss Clara O'Grady acts capably as Mrs. Martha Blossom; Mr. A. W. Norman ably impersonates Richard Vane, and Mr. George Montague shows to advantage as Sergt. Bucket.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—The special attraction here this week is Mr. Allan Wilkie and his dramatic company, who opened on Monday evening in *Othello*. Mr. Allan Wilkie in the title-rôle was well received, and was responsible for some excellent acting; Mr. Edwin Ling was a most satisfactory Duke of Venice; Mr. James Willoughby displayed ability in his representation of Brabantio; Cassio had a capital exponent in Mr. Clifford Rogers; Mr. G. Lambton was successful as Iago; Mr. Alfred Gray merited praise as Montano; Roderigo had an amusing representative in Mr. Louis Palgrave. Miss Ine Cameron gave an effective rendering of Desdemona and Miss Lizzie Maddocks was an efficient Emilia. *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Fool's Revenge*, *David Garrick*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and the *Sleigh Bells* are also in the week's Bill.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The bright and very successful musical play, *The Catch of the Season*, is being presented here this week by Mr. Charles Frohman's well-organised company. Angela is charmingly played by Miss Maie Ash; Miss Belle Napier makes the most of the part of Lady Catherham; Lady Crystal is ably portrayed by Miss Ida Mann; and the two daughters, the Hon. Sophia and the Hon. Honoria, are effectively acted by Miss Alice Lethbridge and Miss Hettie Muret. The Duke of St. Jermyns is well and successfully undertaken by Mr. Frank Lincoln; Mr. E. H. Kelly is most amusing as Lord Dundreary; Mr. Alfred Lloyd does well as Mr. William Gibson, and Mr. Julian Cross is an excellent Sir John Crystal. Mention may also be made of Master Grata, who does capitally as Bucket the page.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Walter Melville's combination is playing here the powerful play *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Miss Ada Oakley is most life-like in her delineation of the degraded Barbara Wade; Miss Nannie Meade meets with much appreciation as Nellie Meadows; Miss Elsie Savile gives a good rendering of Constance Cornell, the schoolmistress; the farmer, John Meadows, is excellently acted by Mr. Chas. Franmore; Mr. Frank R. Robertson as Jack Livingstone submits a finished and careful performance.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A diversified programme here this week includes the Andos Troupe of native Japanese equilibrists and acrobats, who do exceedingly good work; Queenie May, a youthful soubrette, has had a very kindly greeting; Risto Bros., acrobatic grotesques, contribute a diverting turn; the Norman Leonard Trio in the musical sketch *The Itinerant* is an undoubted success; W. J. Churchill, eccentric character comedian, has had a capital reception for his highly humorous songs and patter; Bert Byrne, light comedian, does well; Jennie Hartley, soubrette and danseuse, another youthful aspirant, is well received; and contributing to the success of the bill are the Clarion Trio (speciality artists), Les Sprays (Continental dancers), and some realistic pictures by Payne's Bio-photoscope.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Charles Carte is this week presenting the drama, entitled *A Noble Brother*. Miss Doris Brookes gives a sympathetic rendering of Nana Leigh; Mr. Charles Carte shows dramatic ability and also a quaint sense of humour as Jerry, the tramp; Mr. J. Anadel Wilson is an ideal hero in the part of Jack Elsworth; Mr. Arthur Gilroy ably sustains the rôle of Henry Travers; Mr. Maurice Jones deserves great credit for his portrayal of Colonel Richard Leigh; Miss Alice Ballard as Mrs. Leigh wins the sympathy of the house; Miss Kate Cameron is a charming and vivacious Rosie Rapid.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—This week Witty Watty Walton heads the bill here, and, needless to say, scores a success; Avon and Crest also are popular comedians; the Five M.P.'s give a versatile and tuneful musical performance; the Franko Midgets are smart prestidigitators; the Brothers Herslebs display unusual strength in a comic acrobatic act; Dot Stanley is an accomplished vocalist and dancer; the Marconis present some clever and diverting electrical experiments; Daisy Aylmer, comedienne, is well received; the Ringling Trio, eccentric comedians and stilt-walkers, privide a capital turn. Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Worst Woman in London* is proving a decided success. Mr. Wallace Campbell assumes the character of Jack Felton with the utmost success; Vincent Lyle is well depicted by Mr. Paul Barry Lewers; Mr. H. H. Barrington, the able stage-manager, is applauded for his acting as James Milford; Mr. Leonard Booker gives a forcible rendering of Philip Armstrong; Mr. W. H. Monte submits a fine conception of Hugh Drayton; and Mr. Percy Dawsone does good work as Bob Goldfinch. Miss Florence Dalton brings to bear considerable talent in the heavy part of Frances Vere; Miss Effie Bartlett plays Ruth Milford with much grace and refinement; and Miss Florence Lovell is to be complimented on a clever and humorous Matilda Parker.

RAMSGATE.—SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—With two shows a night, Mr. Gerald Hunt's biograph and varieties have been attracting large crowds here this week. One of the strong lines in the bill is Mr. Leo Selwyn, the handcuff prince, who proves his wonderful dexterity in getting free from manacles, &c. The variety programme is contributed to by Ricardo, comedy conjurer; Miss Hilda Verdi, vocalist; Dan Raymond, eccentric comedian; and Miss Edith Waring, ballad vocalist, &c.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company is here this week with *The Poor Must Live*. Miss Olive Fulton as Olga D'Ryncourt displays great talent and gives an artistic interpretation; and as Moya Darling Miss Alice Buckland presents a vivacious impersonation; Mr. Harold C. Macartney is a capital Donald; Miss Mollie Wynne as Dick Sully gives a sprightly portrayal, causing much merriment; as does also Mr. Arthur Carleton as Hooker Holdsmith. Mr. Geoffrey Fulton presents a clever impersonation as Clifton Manville; and as Sam Sully Mr. Arthur Trail is a great success; Mr. Charles O'Connor is good as the Earl of Marswood; and Miss Violet Hammersley as Dorothy Murdock acts with marked skill. Miss Marguerite Thorne scores as Sal Darling, and Mr. William Myers is also an excellent James

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—The popular military drama *One of the Best* is being played in excellent style this week by Miss Elsie Roberts's company, under the direction of Mr. Frank Fenton. The leading rôles are sustained very ably by Miss Roberts and Mr. Fenton, who are well supported by the company.

REDHILL.—MARKET HALL.—Market Hall Co., Proprietors; Mr. A. Smith, Secretary and Manager.—Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell are this week presenting I. Zangwill's *Merely Mary Ann*, with Miss Margaret Fareleigh in the title-rôle. Miss Fareleigh's clever work is decidedly artistic, whether as the "slavey" or as the lady of fortune. Mr. Harold Standing scores as Lancelot, Mr. J. Cranstown Neville is good as Peter, whilst Mr. Dudley Stewart is decidedly lifelike as the Rev. Mr. Smedge. Miss Ruth Hazlewood makes a typical lodging-house keeper, and together with Miss Pauline Emeric, creates considerable amusement.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Sherlock Holmes* is the attraction here this week. The acting of Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton in the title-rôle is of a very high standard; Mr. Edward Heanley is good as Dr. Watson; Mr. W. F. Sterling cleverly portrays the Napoleon of crime as Professor Moriarty; Mr. Ernest Gray submits a vigorous impersonation of James Larabee; and Mr. Philip Renouf does well as Sidney Prince. Master Charles Chaplin is a favourite as the faithful Billy, Miss Gertrude Harrison enacts with skill the part of Madge Larabee, and Miss Beatrice Marsdene acts with graceful bearing as Alice Faulkner.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee.—The Four Avocas, in an operatic scena, *The Reckless Miner*, contribute some excellent vocalism with novel scenic effects; the Two Eltons are amusing and clever on the horizontal bars. Other enjoyable turns are submitted by Lily Currie, vocalist; Mdlle. Sara's Marblesque Trio, in classical statuary tableaux; Leslie Race, vocal comedian; Sisters Williams, operatic duettists; Vernon's bioscope; and Lee and Arden, Scotch comedy duettists, &c.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thos. Hargreaves; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—A varied and excellent programme is submitted here this week. Rosina Caselli, with her midget wonders of highly-trained Chihuahua dogs, perform some wonderfully clever tricks; Haley's Prize Juveniles, in a carnival scene, introduce songs and dances, which are warmly appreciated; Vanola, Mexican Antipodeste, is exceptionally clever in manipulating with his feet barrels, globes, &c; Mabel Comely, comedienne; Morgan, character-comedian; Austin and Conway, vocal entertainers; Tom Moore, comedian and vocalist; the Empire bioscope; and Loudoun Cameron, conjurer, complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here this week with an interesting piece, *The Little Breadwinner*. Mr. David Gordon is a manly Richard Lawrence; Mr. J. A. Campbell is seen to advantage as Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Scott Leighton scores as Joseph Prior; and Mr. Allen Charles is humorous as Charles Prior. Mr Henry Lowther is smart as the Detective, and Mr. Waller Spinner is deserving of mention as Doctor Chadwick. Miss Maud Hastings is pleasing as Margaret Daventry; Miss Jenny Bostock is a sprightly Bridget O'Flannagan; Miss Lissa Young scores as Bobby Trott; and Little Emmie Thomas is clever as Meg. Misses Maud Buchanan as Kate Cherry and Emmie Letchfield as Ruth Cherry are also deserving of mention.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—This week Mr. A. B. Cross and company are presenting *The Manxman* with conspicuous success. Mr. A. B. Cross as Pete is all that can be desired, and he is ably seconded by Miss Minnie Waterford as Kate Cregeen, who gives a most effective and moving portrayal; Mr. Sydney H. Kearns as Phillip Christian is very artistic, and Mr. Chas. Halling as Ross Christian does very well. Miss Nancy Mitchell is charming as Nancy.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—Mr. J. H. Clynde's company in *A Royal Revenge* claims attention this week. Mr. J. H. Clyndes plays Estevan Alvarez in his usual finished style; as the rascally Moor Azan Ben Musid Mr. Fred Rivers excels; Manuel Mondega finds an apt representative in Mr. Arthur Chisholm; Mr. Herbert M. King is passable as the King of Spain; while Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon as Michael Sancha is truly styled the "Merry Muleteer," introducing catchy songs. Miss Enid Edoni is excellent as Inez Alvarez, her efforts being warmly applauded; Miss Aimee Grattan as the rejuvenated daughter Cora Casilda presents a pretty study; the volatile Macquita Marcella of Miss Celestine Brandon is a delightful piece of work; and the mother Marie Teresa of Miss Eve Manfred deserves mention.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife?* by Nita Rae, an interesting drama only a few weeks old, is presented this week by Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield. Miss Marie Dagmar sustains in a careful manner the principal character of Elinor D'Arville; Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's study of the infatuated Will Maynard is fine; Mr. George Mitchell powerfully interprets the dual parts of Geoffrey Langdon and Cyril Langdon; much laughter is caused by the clever drollery of Mr. T. G. Vane as the bespecked Leonard Vimbart, assisted by Miss Marie Chavering as Rosini; another comical character is Peter Miles, well played by Mr. Bradford Crosby; Miss Maudie Grayson as Phœbe and Mr. Charles R. Warne as Charles (a flunkey) also add some good comedy business; Miss Marie Barrett cleverly sustains the trying part of Lily Lorrimer.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Although most of the artists engaged this week have been seen here before, they appear to be none the less welcome. George Gilbey is exceedingly droll as "Sproutey the goalkeeper," causing hearty laughter; a pretty dramatic scena, *The Little Colonel*, by Ernest Montefiore and company, makes a good impression; De Henau, the rapid painter with his toes, is well received; some exceedingly smart acrobatic work is done by the Borghetti Troupe; Barney Stuart's sketches are clever; Reed and Lerne, comedians, cause much laughter; and Mlle. Aladina with her performing cockatoos, Ranji Singi (Indian magician), Lily Turner (descriptive vocalist), and Gracie Bard (coon artist and dancer) also give acceptable turns.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Yet another pantomime twice nightly. This week it is *Babes in the Wood*, specially written by Theodore Adge, and it is full of fun. Robin Hood is sustained by Miss Madge Daly (who is a favourite in this district), and Miss Nancy Thornton is a charming Maid Marian; the Baron is well played by Mr. A. Stratton; Mr. R. Hill makes a comical Dame Peggy; the Babes are very cleverly played by little Dolly Cullen and little Elsie Jordison; and Messrs. Bennett and Martell make excellent comic robbers; Mr. David Poole does a clever ventriloquial speciality, and there is plenty of go in the Ariston Quartette of dancers.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Miss Jessie D'Alton's company appeared here on Friday and Saturday last in *Beauty and the Beast*, and were received by appreciative audiences. Miss Jessie D'Alton appeared to great advantage in the title-rôle, and was well supported by Messrs. Fred Park and J. V. Noble as the Two Sisters; Mr. Percy Galino as Marmaduke was very lively; Miss Lily Rhodes as Silver Star rendered her songs in excellent style. Specialities were introduced by the Cerito Troupe of Lady Dancers, who provided a smart turn; M. Pizet, the contortionist, deserves praise; and the Two Dandies, coloured comedians, kept the audience in roars of laughter.

SCARBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Henry Mayhew; Business-Manager, Mr. F. P. Morgan.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. H. Vivian Edmond's company in *The Golden Ladder* is here this week. Mr. Harry Cullenford as the Rev. Frank Thornhill is a most delightful missionary; Mr. J. Milne Taylor excelled himself in the trying part of Michael Severn; Mr. H. Bedford as Jim Dixon is well placed; Mr. G. Winsford as Peranza is effective. As Samuel Peckaby Mr. Joseph Rowlands finds favour; Miss Eva Moss as Lilian has a most captivating style and acts throughout with great ability; and Miss Nelly Graham makes an excellent Mrs. Peckaby.

AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—A strong programme is again presented here. This week Captain and Mrs. Julia Manard head the bill with an exceptional display of rifle and revolver shooting. Miss Lola Vereker has a good voice; the Shamrocks are clever dancers; Prof. McArthur delights the audience by showing how conjuring tricks are done; the Lennards with their illustrated songs are well received; and Miss May Longford and Harry Harcourt are both comedians of merit; the Hustlers, comedy dialogue artists, are entertaining; and the Monckton make a favourable impression in the sketches *A Woman's Curiosity* and *The Lady and the Burglar*.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. John F. Preston's company, under the dire

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—Amongst the newcomers this week are Maynard and France, who appear with success in the dramatic sketch *A Father's Love*; also Miss Amy Leggett, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Gus Daniels, descriptive vocalist; the Callcotts, comedy sketch artists; Miss Ethel Mordaunt, ballad vocalist, and the Rishaw Combination in the comedy act *A Perfect Lady*.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened on Monday in *The Freedom of Suzanne*. Miss Beatrice Lindley as Suzanne revealed talents of a high order, united to a charming and winning personality; Miss Emily Patterson acted cleverly as the irritating mother-in-law, Mrs. Mallalieu was very successful as Mrs. Putman; and a good performance was the Fanny Minching of Miss Charlotte Mead. The character of Charles Trevor was represented in an earnest, sincere, and convincing manner by Mr. Herbert J. Bentley; Mr. F. G. Thurstans made a humorous uncle as Fitzroy Harding; a careful bit of character delineation was Mr. Townsend Whitling's Lord Datchet; and other neat sketches were the Harry Cecil of Mr. Edward Bonfield, the Mason of Mr. Frank Lee, the Sir Horace Hatton of Mr. William Mallalieu, the Tommy Kestan of Mr. Archie Selwyn, and the Mr. Budd of Mr. Edward Sidney. Miss Violet Fay was excellent as Lady Isabel; Miss Annie Stalman acted well as Mrs. Tunstail; and Mr. Bruce Smith was a characteristic Porter.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Walter Melville's *Her Second Time on Earth* was again played here on Monday. Miss Hilda Beverley, a great favourite with Mr. Fosdike's patrons, was again seen to advantage as the handsome and alluring Dora Grey. An old Sheffield pantomime favourite in the person of Miss Pollie Marsh gave a realistic impersonation of a drunken virago. Mr. Harry Hillier was effective as Jack Carlton; and other well-considered studies of modern types of character were Mr. W. H. Porter's Guy Brand, Mr. W. C. Reid's Teddy Butterfly, Mr. George Gaisford's Captain Norman, Miss Dorothy Hildebrande's Laura Norman, and Miss Marjorie Millbank's Kitty Rosebud.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The following artists gave pleasure on Monday to a crowded audience:—The Brothers Leslie, in a novel comedy act; Miss Selma Braatz, in a unique and graceful act; the Riogaka Family, sensational performers; Mr. Dan Conroy, a funny comedian; La Tostia, a talented and versatile artist; the Coloured Meisters, Messrs Baker and Lynne; Mr. Charles Adams, vocalist; the celebrated Vessems, in a distinctly novel performance, &c. In addition to these there was the American Bioscope, with special films of a humorous, local, and topical nature.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Pallister's Biograph with up-to-date pictures, Mr. Sydney Mason's dramatic company, the Raymond Trio, Mr. Chas. Ray, and Miss Fifi Gordon form the chief items in the programme at the Grand this week.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal.— Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*Florodora* is being played here by J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company. Mr. Albert Bruno makes Tweedlepunch one of the drollest of characters; his versatility as a comedian is fully displayed, and he dances with much skill. Miss Florence Hersee is admirable in the part of Angela Gilfain; no more charming representative of Lady Holyrood than Miss Kate Leicester has previously appeared here; Mr. Edward Chester is a very amusing Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. Harold Perry is a dashing Capt. Arthur Donegal; Mr. Edward Crossland is a pronounced success as Frank Abercoed; Miss Gwladys Elvey is an attractive Dolores; Leandro is cleverly portrayed by Mr. C. A. James; and special dances are introduced by the Misses L. Coe and F. Fenn.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—Mr. William Greet's company is here in *The Sign of the Cross*. Miss Marie Leonhard is a sweet and dainty Mercia, and Mr. William F. Grant is capital as Marcus Superbus. Miss Nellie Bonser is a charming Poppœa, and Mr. J. Boyd Pearson is good as the Emperor. Miss Ivy Millais is excellent as Stephanus.

Palace.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten: Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—The principal attraction is Mlle. Luba de Saremo and her wonderful performing animals. Dinah Morris and her troupe of Southern belles score in a musical scena, *The Lost Coon*, and Charles Austin, a capital eccentric comedian; Baker and Balfe, xylophone experts; Marba and Verity, humorists and dancers; Elsie Roby, comedienne and pianist; and Leah Arden, ballad vocalist, complete the bill.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; District Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. C. Aldin.—George Abel's company in the nautical sketch *The Little Stowaway* is well played and cordially received; Mahatma completely mystifies her audience, and is liberally aplauded; and H. A. Moore (an excellent mimic), Fred. Curran (a capital comedian), Sisters Edwards (dancers), the Bodina Trio (vocalists and instrumentalists), and Flo Schuberth (burlesque artist) also find great favour.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The attraction for this week is the fascinating drama entitled *The Female Swindler*, which is being presented by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's renowned company. Monday's production was most successful in all respects, and the scenery and effects elicited admiration. Mr. Henry C. Cooper soon gave the impression that the rôle of John Coulson, the criminal investigator, was in really clever hands; Abraham Mikestein was well taken by Mr. Bernard Dunstan; and Mr. Luke Forster won praise for his many characters, Billy Binks being conspicuous; Mr. W. Shaw was good as Detective Dixon; to Mr. Hugh Mewburn was entrusted the rôle of Geoffrey Warden, whose villainy was finely depicted; Harold Travers found in Mr. Paul Beckett a capital exponent; Miss Florrie Kelsey was seen to advantage in her portrayal of May Andrews; and Miss Grace E. Leslie gave a really clever impersonation of Lu Valroy.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—An entertainment of more than usual attractiveness is provided by the engagement of Mr. William Greet's principal company in *The Earl and the Girl*. Principal honours are shared by Mr. William Stephens and Miss Aimee Grey, the former in the rôle of Jim Cheese, which he impersonates with irresistible grotesque drollery, and the latter as the American heiress Elphin Haye, a part that is depicted in a charmingly volatile manner. Daisy Fallowfield is piquantly represented by Miss Florence Imeson; Mr. Percy Carr is an admirable exponent of Dick Wargrave; Miss Dot Carey submits a capital character-sketch as Liza Shoddam; Miss Gladys Fontaine very effectively portrays Mrs. Shimmering Black; the Hon. Crewe Boodle has a commendable representative in Mr. Percy Wright; Mr. George H. Curzon appears to advantage as Bunker Bliss; Mr. Will Hudson and Mr. J. C. Graves, as the American and English solicitors, create much amusement.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—Carlton, the King of Cards and eccentric wizard, supplies the premier turn here this week. The good all-round programme presented includes Masie Pelham, comedienne and dancer; Milly Wolstenholme, operatic vocalist; George Hall, comedian and siffleur; the Vekeys, marvellous banjoists; Mark Merry, quaint comedian; the Three Sisters Geroude, vocalists and dancers; Harry Maynard, vocal comedian; and the bio-tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Mr. E. Lockwood's excellent company is appearing here in the musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Paddy Dupres proves a capital exponent of the title-rôle; Miss Midge Clark furnishes a pleasing Lady Bickenhall; Miss Lilian Middleton as Aurora Brue also figures charmingly; Mr. Henry Chichester characteristically interprets Mr. Crank; Mr. Clarence Napier (Inspector Gorringe) and Mr. Arthur Stroud (General Treherne) do justice to the parts allotted them; Mr. E. Percy Rogers is a handsome and manly Michael Brue; and another praiseworthy portrayal is the Daisy of Miss Eliza Earle. An augmented orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. Norman Latham.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—The principal attraction this week is Bella and Bijou, the favourite society entertainers. Holden's Mannikins submit an exceedingly enjoyable performance; Harry Clifford is an amusing comedian; Prince Lee Fung is a good Chinese magician; the American Bioscope is again prominent with fresh films; Goggin and Davis are smart in a comedy act; Florrie St. Clair is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and the remaining items are contributed by George Ridgwell and T. C. Callaghan.

Tivoli.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Joseph Sweeney.—J. H. Milburn, vocal comedian, heads a good bill here, and is enthusiastically received; Harry Lee is a comedian and mimic of ability; Devoy, Hurst, and Ricks are responsible for an amusing sketch; the Atkins Trio of Comedy Vocalists are firm favourites; and Volp and Volp appear to advantage in a refined musical act. Other successful items are A. P. Boswell, Fred Lindsay, and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—The noted American-Indian actress, Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk, is paying a visit here with *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*, in which she plays the title-rôle in a really charming manner. Her efforts are ably seconded by her well-trained Indian ponies Wongy and Buckskin. Mr. Edward Leroy appears successfully as Spanish Joe; as the kind-hearted Col. Stockton Mr. C. W. Charles is seen to advantage; Miss Minnie Goepel is exceedingly vivacious as Nellie Stockton; and Miss Dora Pass exhibits talent in her portrayal of Matilda. Mr. Guy C. Hackney in the nigger part of Sam White, with his dog, is the cause of much merriment; and Mr. Dan Ryan as Garry Cullen establishes himself a prime favourite. In the rôle of Captain Franklin Mr. Ike Shawcross renders adequate service. The scenery is all that can be desired.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Benton's company opened on Monday with *A Marriage of Vengeance*. Mr. A. L. Baron does well as Glynne Earnscliffe; and Mr. Max Coutts is well placed as Geoffrey Fannock; as Max Rheinhardt Mr. Fred Benton gives a clever presentation of an exacting rôle. The comedy business is in the capable hands of Miss R. Hamilton Belasco (Amelia) and Mr. Seymour Perry (Bob Shorner), who work well together; as Stella Miss A. Harrison Tate is a distinct success.

STOCKPORT. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Pantomime again is entertaining the numerous habitués of this theatre, Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company of talented artists presenting *Little Bo Peep* with marked success. Miss Susie Bevan makes an attractive principal boy, and as Boy Blue sings most pleasingly; a charming little lady is Miss Lizzie Payne in the part of Bo Peep; Mr. J. W. Groves is genuinely funny and amusing as the Dame; whilst among other comedians who work hard together and provide abundant fun are Messrs. Stern and Stern as Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green; Messrs. Gilroy and Gross as Weary William and Tired Thomas; Mr. Harry Wren as Tommy Long, and Mr. Dawson Dewick as Baron Hardup. Included in the specialities are the Pemm Quartette in their charming coon song and dance, the Solon Trio in their pleasing statue performance, and the Hammersley troupe of lady dancers.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatres Co., Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Akimoto troupe of Japanese equilibrists, who give a marvellous entertainment, are the chief attraction here this week; among others engaged are Bayne and Hope in a Napoleonic episode *An Emperor's Divorce*, which was followed with interest and received with gratifying appreciation; Emilie Warren is a ballad vocalist of much ability, and was deservedly applauded; Morimura, a Chinese conjurer, gives a clever entertainment; the Brothers Newport are able and amusing gymnasts; John Ross, styled the silver-voiced tenor, sang pleasingly, whilst the entertainment given by Lieut. Chard's performing dogs and troupe of high-leaping hounds was greeted with hearty applause.

STOURBRIDGE. — Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company was here on Monday and two following nights with the successful musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. In the title-rôle Mr. J. Harold Carson proves a capable representative; while Mr. Frank Wilson as Michael Brue is funny, and receives unstinted applause. Miss Gertie Fawcett is a charming Aurora Brue; the rôle of Lady Bickenhall is admirably depicted by Miss Reydon Dallas; and Miss Amy Vivash is good as Daisy.

STROUD.—Subscription Rooms.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Twitchett.—Miss Inez Howard's company presented on Saturday the romantic military play *Revenge*. Mr. H. Bonhote Willson displayed fine acting qualities in the rôle of Capt. Loris Vanetta; the villainy of Prince Orloff was well depicted by Mr. Alfred Brandon; Mr. H. C. Lanceley sumbitted a good rendering of the King; Count Mussant found a clever exponent in Mr. Edward Swinton; Mr. Guy P. Ellis made a manly Capt. Carr; the same may be said of Mr. Walter Kenion as Jim Jennings; Miss Josie Beltram acted with much feeling as Lieutenant Maurice; the Queen was sympathetically represented by Miss Nesta Sandford; Miss Eva Trevenna faithfully interpreted the part of Cora Brook; and Draga Vanessa was powerfully acted by Miss Marion Turner.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—This is the last week of the successful pantomime *Cinderella*. There is no change in the cast, and the piece is as popular as ever.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is here this week in *The Face at the Window*. The Chevalier Lucio Delgado finds an apt exponent in Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale, and Mr. T. W. Dunscombe infuses considerable power into the rôle of Paul Gouffet. Mr. Alfred Warne is seen to advantage as Henry de Brisson, whilst Mr. Gilbert Hall makes the most of his opportunities as Lucien Cortier. Mr. Calne Hineson is a droll Peter Pottleberry, and Mr. George Phythian is well placed as Le Blanc. Miss N. Thorne Hallam gives a refined rendering of Marie de Brisson, and as La Pinau Miss Elaine Grant leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Gwynne Warren is a bright and charming Babette.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—A good all-round programme is provided here this week. The Moran and Marreece Quartette party top the bills, and please with their clever electric and musical entertainment, their lightning transformations being very smart. George Adams, baritone vocalist; Barton and Franklin, Scottish musicians; Grell and Grey, in their amusing absurdity *Bertie's First Lesson in Tennis*; Charles Lilburn, comedian; Agnes and Arthur Lynch, with picture songs; Haig and Novel in a clever comedy act; and the Four Stellings in their quick-change act, all contribute acceptable turns. The entertainment winds up with the usual show of Vernon's up-to-date animated pictures.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy*, played by Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, is paying a first visit here this week. Miss Dorothy Desmond plays the title-rôle in a charming manner; Mr. Arthur Verne as Silas Crump creates roars of laughter, his humour and singing being greatly appreciated. He is ably assisted in the comedy by Miss Mabel Blake, who plays Rosy Ann; Mr. Cecil W. Parke as Capt. George Fielding and Mr. Henry C. Ward as Capt. Edward Dudley, are also good. The specialities which abound in the piece are excellent. Miss Mabel Blake and Miss Nellie Anderson's mirror dance is exceptionally clever.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The visit of Miss Lillian Holmes to this town with her *Rip Van Winkle* company, under the business direction of Mr. Herbert Burnley, attracted a large audience on Monday. A prominent feature of this production was the beautiful scenery, Mr. A. Maitland Stapley, who was seen to considerable advantage as the hard-hearted Derrick, being also responsible for the excellent staging of the piece. The company was headed by that popular artiste Mr. Fred Storey, who must be highly complimented on his clever impersonation of Rip, for which he was deservedly applauded; Miss Lilian Holmes was very successful as Gretchen; while Mr. A. Wainwright and Miss Ella Brandon as Heindrick and Meenie respectively deserve praise for their good work; Master R. Conner and Miss Florence Gardner also undertook their small parts very pleasingly.

TON-Y-PANDY. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Miss Winifred Maude's company is here in *The Sins of a City*. As Ralph Blackwater Mr. Edward Avinnal scores heavily; the parts of the twin brothers, Joe and Jasper Woodleigh, are well acted by Mr. Norman Shields; Mr. Royce Carleton is an excellent Sandy McDonald; Mr. Victor Du Cane creates great amusement as Isaac Levi. As Seaweed Miss Winifred Maude wins sympathy by her graceful impersonation. *The Stowaway* is booked for the latter part of the week.

WAKEFIELD.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—A great attraction is provided by Mr. William Greet's company, in the musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*. The comedy is admirably performed throughout, and the staging is excellent. Mr. Alfred Donohoe sustains the part of Jim Cheese with great humour; Mr. Leslie Gaze does well as Dick Wargrave; Mr. Thomas Kennard is seen to advantage as the Hon. Crewe Poodle; and A. Bunker Bliss, the irate American, finds an admirable exponent in Mr. A. E. Wilson. The important character of Elphin Haye is entrusted to Miss Hylda Dugdale, who gives a charming performance; Miss Ida Statham is a vivacious Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Beatrice Anderson's Mrs. Shimmering Black, and Miss Lina Hicks' 'Liza Shoddam, are well played; and Miss Minnie Plumpton is smart as Miss Virginia Bliss, Mr. E. Plumpton as Downham, Mr. Sam Lysons as Mr. Talk, and Mr. Greville Hayes as Mr. Hazell, all fill their respective parts in good style.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—The Royal Cingalese Troupe contribute some native dances, which meet with appreciation; Martini and Son, American song illustrators, supply a capital turn; "Silent" Tait is a comical juggler; Messrs. Juan and McQue, comedians and patterers, are amusing; the Falcons, hand-balancers, are clever; and Miss Lottie Bray, banjo and dance artist, dances well; and Mr. Fred Brooke, comedian, wins favour.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre, Ltd.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Joint Management, Moss Empires, Ltd., and The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd; Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—At the top of the bill here are Herr Grais's baboons, which prove a great attraction; Frank Darwin, character vocalist, is applauded; Gertrude Bradshaw, soprano, is clever; the Glenroy Troupe of Dancers are great favourites; and Flem and Brok are smart aerial boxers; Ethel Ra-Leslie sings some pleasing songs; the American Bioscope gives a sensational episode, "The Train Wreckers"; Edward Arthur and company in two scenes from *The Lily of Killarney* prove a great attraction.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A visit of Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's company with *A Gambler's Daughter* is being paid here this week. Mr. R. Ayrton is most successful as Desmond O'Dare; as the villain Mr. R. Pitt acts with ability; Mr. Harry Rutland is well placed as Ralph Gillman; Mr. Alfred Sanders is a capable exponent of Soloman; as Jack Grant, Mr. Victor Millard lends adequate support; Miss Adria Hill plays with vigour and effect; and Miss E. Vane makes an amusing negress.

WALTHAMSTOW.—Palace.—Managing Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slater.—Prominent in this week's bill are Vivian's Arcadians, a trio of pretty damsels who in a fine woodland scene, and attired as ideal shepherd and shepherdesses, sing much charming music and dance with grace; C. St. John Denton and G. Rowland's company of children in the scena *The Punch and Judy Girl*, by Newman Harding, introduce a number of sprightly youngsters who sing in good style some rattling songs and perform various intricate dances; the Virginians, a quartette of genuine coloured artists, appear in "Koons' Kutting Kapers" most effectively, their harmonious singing being supplemented by a considerable amount of energetic dancing. Miss Cassie Walmer, described as the Dusky Queen, is the possessor of a powerful voice which is heard to great advantage in "Bombay," while her sand dancing is not only good but shows extraordinary staying power; Mr. Tom Collins is a comedian whose voice is heard to great advantage in songs of the sympathetically dramatic character; one of the most amusing eccentric comedians we have had lately is Mr. Fred Dunstone, whose success is empathic, especially with his clever parody of the "Little Wooden Hut." Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope has a couple of series of capital films. Brien McCullough and company occupy an important position in the bill with the serio-comic episode *Beneath Big Ben*; Mr. McCullough appears as Walker Wallop, and extracts every inch of fun that can be secured from the part.

King's Theatre.—The American drama *A Fight for Millions* is the attraction here this week and, capitally played and well staged, has been meeting with much popular favour. Mr. Percy Ballard makes a hit as Richard Dudley; Mr. Robert Ferris is capital as Willie Neverwork; Mr. W. Henry Hargraves is good as Tom Manley; Miss Eva Purcell is a capital heroine as Pearl Rivers, and Miss Audrey Sutherland acts very prettily as Little Madge. The other parts in a long cast are all well filled by Miss Aubrey Canning, Mrs. Elma C. Turner, and Miss Lottie Pearce; Messrs. P. Geo. Beresford, Karl H. Edwards, Gus Harding, Nicholas Conway, George Hodges, James Risk, William Turner, R. Bradshaw, and J. Knox.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. George Dance's company is at the Rylands-street house this week with *The Chinese Honeymoon*. Miss Minnie Leslie as Fi Fi gives a reading of the rôle which is decidedly her own, and her quaint personality is irresistible; Miss Poppy Wilkinson is active and vivacious as Mrs. Pineapple, and Miss Edie Ross is happily cast as Mrs. Brown; a smart and charming Soo Soo is Miss Ada Watson, who sings her songs very spiritedly. The bridesmaids are vivaciously impersonated by the Misses Lillie Hildroe, Maud Carlton, Madge Shaw, and Isobel Vivian. Mr. St. John Hammond acts with all the necessary ease and *aplomb*; Mr. Percy Russell is the essence of official acidity as Chippi Chop; and Mr. Jack Lisle is drily droll as Hi Lung, the Lord High Admiral; Mr. L. Bullock-Webster is a manly and agreeable exponent of the rôle of Tom Atherton, and Mr. Foster Courtenay as Mr. Pineapple makes the part stand out by his strong and acute treatment.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—The Brothers Bellong head the bill here this week, and are really the most sensational equilibrists seen here; Charley Whittle, one of the most popular comedians, again scores; and the Sisters Russell are thorough exponents of low comedy; Herbert Maden, character vocalist, does well, and Bromley and Fontein are original duettists. Charles Bignell (comedian) and the Brothers Hannaway (cross talkers and expert dancers), together with the fine Bioscope pictures complete an excellent programme.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's celebrated No. 1 Company in the romantic costume play *Proof* is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. Gerald Kennedy's characteristic rendering of Pierre Lorance evokes loud applause; whilst the important rôle of Lazaire is admirably rendered by Mr. William Defter; Mr. Wilford Bailey as Chamboran proves a decided success; as Victor de Langney Mr. G. Garnet-Vayne is all that could be desired, and as the Duke D'Aubeterre Mr. Terence Nerry is well suited. Miss May Grimshaw plays the rôle of Valentine in an artistic manner; the part of Adrienne is left in the clever hands of Miss Lucy Prittie-Tydd; Miss Phena Powell as Madame Deprets, and Miss Dorothy White as the Duchesse D'Aubeterre do excellent work in their respective portrayals.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Messrs. Moore and Kennedy's pantomime company is here in the old favourite *Dick Whittington*, the title-rôle being played by Mlle. Lucretia with that charm and grace which are ever at her command, captivating the house with her clever singing and dancing; Mr. Dan Agar gives a smart impersonation of Idle Jack, keeping the audience in roars with his funny antics; Mr. Clarence Turner as Captain Bunting causes great amusement by his clever delineation; the Betsy Mary Ann of Mr. Arthur Behan reflects great credit upon him; M. Pauletti is responsible for much merriment and clever acting as the Cat; Mr. Hyam Long as Alderman Fitzwarren pleases with his instrumental turn; the Jessie Barrow Troupe work hard and give a good show; much of the applause goes to the three Behans, who give a smart turn of singing, dancing, and quick changing.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — Palace. — Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Georg Hackenschmidt, the champion wrestler, is taking on all comers here, and offers various challenges to British wrestlers. His exhibitions are followed with keen interest. A clever contortionist entertainment is provided by the Two Neros, with some diverting comedy interwoven into the act; the Paolias are responsible for a turn of much athletic interest, including some fine classic poses; a very popular artist is Ed. L. Ford, the Australian sundowner; Fred Harrison, in a funny Chinese ditty; Ted Farrar, the Lancashire comedian; the Sisters Wingrove, duettists and dancers; Gertie Moore, in a singing and dancing act; and the Bio-tableaux, are other attractions in a good programme.

Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with great success. The attraction is *A Path of Thorns*, a drama of great merit. Mr. Wm. Fazan undertakes the work of the hero of the plot, John Edmunds, giving a most powerful interpretation of the character. Miss Muriel Dean, as the wife of Edmunds, is an artist capable of winning the deepest sympathies of an audience; and another lady who sustains a difficult rôle with great effect is Miss Emil Leslie, as Nell. The Rev. Frank Selby finds a worthy and manly exponent in Mr. Gilbert Fenn; and Mr. Gordon K. Bull as Jonas Dean stands out prominently amongst a clever company, which includes Miss Marion Ryder, Miss Kitty Lofting, Miss Evelyn Shaw, Mr. Chris Mason, Mr. A. E. Enroblem, Mr. Frank Gordon, Mr. Harry G. Wright, and others.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. John a Thomson's No. 1 company commenced on Monday a week's engagement here in the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. Miss Ida Kessanby's interpretation of Dick is full of vivacity. Miss Ella Willmer is sweetly pretty as Alice Fitzwarren, and acts, sings, and dances to perfection. Miss Lily English, as Algy, and Miss Violet English, as Polly, are both commendable. Miss Ella Rose is a delightful Princess; charming Miss Annie Swires is entitled to the highest eulogy for her artistic singing as the Fairy Goodwill. Mr. Fred Anderson, a clever comedian, and his funny gags, as Pimple, kept the house convulsed with laughter. Mr. Edwin Dodds is decidedly humorous as Idle Jack; and Mr. Ross Warren evokes much amusement as Alderman Fitzwarren. Betsy Jane is comically portrayed by Mr. Harry Harcourt; Mr. Syd Morrill ludicrously made up as Captain Bunting, causes a lot of mirth; Mr. Hubert Davis's antics, as the Cat, are praiseworthy; Mr. Albert Hammond is worthy of unstinted praise as the Demon Rat; and the same can be said of Mr. Albert Victor, as the Emperor of Morocco. A special word of praise must be given Mlle. Florence for her globe walking act.

WEST STANLEY.—Royal Theatre.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd; Managing Director, Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Honour thy Father*, is paying a visit to Stanley. It is a fine drama, ably played by a powerful company. Mr. J. W. Evelyn, as Gabriel Garth, is a fine type of a descriptive and emotional actor, and evokes rounds of applause; Mr. Douglas B. Watson, as Jack Halyard, portrays the breezy and good-hearted British seaman in a thorough manner; Miss Mabel Coleman and Miss Winnie Donovan, as Lillian Garth and Mercy Merry, both fulfil their parts in an able manner, their enunciation being clear and distinct. As Mike Copplestone, Mr. Walter Cameron lends a vein of humour to the drama; Mr. Clavering Craig displays the fierce and relentless nature of Sir Duncan Bly, throughout; and the Mad Inventor is ably played by Mr. Claude Merton.

WIDNES. — Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—On Monday evening Mr. Lingford Carson's company opened with the weird play *The Power of the Cross*. Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby created a deep impression by his study of Baron Curzola; Mr. Fred W. Goddard used his sonorous voice to the best possible advantage in the part of Gerald Fairfax. Mr. Horace Denton was an admirable Leslie Fairfax. Plenty of fun was created by Mr. Richard E. Nugent as Timothy Dowd; Mr. Edward L. Hocking, in a clever make-up, did sound work in the character of Benjamin Hawke; Miss Cissie St. Elmo was a dignified and powerful Rita Lascelles; Miss Lilian Ross was at home in the part of Blanche Kingsley, and Miss Stanley Burt won all hearts by her charming and sympathetic acting as Margaret Seaton; Miss Etta Turner was humorous and clever in the part of Dolly Gray.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—A hearty reception has been accorded this week to Mr. William Holland's company in *Aladdin*. Miss Frances Haskell makes a captivating Pekin Boy. She has a charming presence, and by her sweet singing scores a great success. The Princess Badroulbadour has an attractive exponent in Miss Florence Wood, whose songs are greeted with loud applause; and to Miss Flo Warner praise must be accorded as Pekoe. Mr. R. M. Woodville does exceedingly well as the Emperor of China; and Mr. Glanmore Jones is well placed as the Grand Vizier. The comedy element is cleverly supplied by Mr. George Reeves as the Widow Twankey, Mr. Jack O'Conner as Wishee-Washey, and Miss Evelyn O'Conner as Chief Laundry Maid. Sandy and Carl as the Policemen are to be well commended for their smart dancing. The specialities include Jack and Evelyn, the Three Florodora Girls, and the Colonial Vocal Four. The scenery is worthy of note.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—A good all-round programme is provided this week. At the head is the zoological comedy, presented in a grotesque and laughter-provoking manner by Donaldson Bros. and Ardell. Another good turn is provided by the Lyons troupe of pantomimists; the Five Madcaps, acrobats and dancers; a refined musical act by Will Cornish: Martin Conway, comedian; Larola, juggler; Rose Cabani, comedienne; Lottie Siemgenberg, comedienne; Herbert Betts, comedian; Fred Horsfall, mimic; and Syd Bird and Walter Arnold's illustrated songs are other attractions of the bill.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is this week producing here *Her Majesty's Guests*, an amusing, rollicking farce, which keeps the audience entertained from first to last. Mr. Dick Kitchen is particularly funny as Sergeant Lightning; Mr. Frank Morton is a capable Lord Easem; Mr. Chas. Usher is a capital Mr. Miffin; Mr. S. Bolton does well as Mr. Minks; and Miss L. Castelle ably fills the part of Lady Maud Easem. Some excellent pantomimical business is introduced.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—This week's programme includes some good turns. Morritt, a clever conjurer and illusionist, heads the bill; Eva Hope and Jack Wayho perform some sketches taken from Dickens's works; and the Herald Comedy Four appear to advantage in *The Shipwrecked Sailor*. The other artists include Rita and Roma, vocalists and dancers; Andy Higginson, swell comedian; Clio and Rochelle, comedians; and Nina Elmo, vocalist.

WORCESTER.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Mr. Wm. Maclaren's company is this week presenting *Claudian* to well-filled houses. Mr. Maclaren interprets the title-rôle with dignity and a restraint which emphasises its power. Miss Lily C. Bandman is a delightful Almida; as Agazil, Mr. G. R. J. Austin is seen to advantage; Miss Carlotta Anson, as Edessa, and Mr. C. T. Chaloner, as Belos, contribute some welcome comedy. Mr. Wilson Howard is well suited as the Tetrarch, and other parts capably taken are Holy Clement (Mr. A. G. Carr), Alcares (Mr. Weston Hubbard), and Clia (Miss Dora Harvey). Mr. Amy Hardcastle is responsible for the cymbal dance and the incidental music is made a feature of the performance.

WORKINGTON. — Opera House. — Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—Mr. Edward Marris's company presented *The Dandy Doctor* on Monday night to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Edmond Russelle's impersonation of Brown was highly successful, and equally so that of Mr. Jas. Danvers as the Colonel. There were roars of laughter at the humorous incidents. Mr. S. S. Gordon was satisfactory as the Doctor; Mr. L. Martin created amusement as Berty; Miss May Yates sang well and danced gracefully as Ivy; Miss Norah Melton's comedy as the servant was clever and successful. The chorus was good, and throughout there was capital dancing.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—Miss Ella Dean, a great favourite here is repeating her previous successes; the Two Leons, acrobatic, song, and dance duettists, do well; Mr. Charles Ashdowne is a capable comedian; Mlle. Melita, a graceful dancer, scores with her Cossack dance; and Mitzi, in his Japanese and acrobatic entertainment, is clever. The Empire electric tableaux show excellent pictures.

YORK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Woman Who Gambles* is the title of a new drama which Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is playing this week. Mrs. Powell has a very strong part, which provides many opportunities for the display of her skill as an emotional actress; Miss Ada Roscoe also does remarkably well as the Countess Stembach. Mr. E. A. Ashby is a manly hero; Mr. Horatio Sinclair is an effective Baron Cratzlaw; much amusement is caused by Mr. F. Calvert and Mr. Fred Prior.

Empire and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooks.—Barton and Ashley are here again this week giving their clever sketch with much success; the Three Romas, strong men, give a neat and original show; Marzello and Millay are grotesque gymnasts of the first rank; Gracie Lawn is petite and pleasing; Carney and Armstrong give an original act *The Pro and the Baggageman*, which is well received; Bessie Travis is a clever ventriloquist, and the New Hulines

"THE PRINCE OF INDIA."

A Dramatisation of General Lew Wallace's Novel, by J. I. C. Clarke, Produced at the Colonial Theatre, Chicago, on Feb. 5.

(FROM OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT.)

The scenery of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger's splendid production, which was designed by Messrs. Thomas E. Ryan and Henry Emden, was painted by Mr. Ryan and Messrs. Ernest Albert and Richard Marsden. The costumes were designed by Mr. F. Richard Anderson. Mr. J. C. Hemmett looked after the historical details; and the incidental music was composed by Prof. Horatio Parker, of Yale College. The drama is arranged in a prologue and five acts, comprising thirteen scenes. Thirty-six characters are represented, the principal parts being distributed as follows:—The Wanderer, afterwards the Prince of India, Mr. J. E. Dodson; Prince Mahomet, Mr. William Farnum; Emperor Constantine, Mr. William Beach; the Emir Mirza, afterwards Count Corti, Mr. Gerald Lawrence; Gennadius, Mr. Sydney Herbert; Princess Irene, Miss Sarah Truax; Lael, Miss Julie Herne.

Of the two novels written by General Lew Wallace, his "Ben Hur" is probably more widely known than "The Prince of India." The first-mentioned book was dramatised seven years ago, the play being produced by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger at the Broadway Theatre, New York, in 1899. It was considered an extraordinary achievement, and it scored an extraordinary success. The material for the story of "The Prince of India" was gathered during the author's residence in Constantinople, as United States Minister to Turkey. The nucleus of its interest is the wooing of the Princess Irene, a follower of the orthodox Greek Church, by Mahomet II., a disciple of Islam. The fortunes of these two are involved in the wars of the Christians and the Moslems before Constantinople, during the sixteenth century. Through the ramifications of the plot moves the strange figure of the Wandering Jew, who bears the title of Prince of India, and symbolises the protest of a peaceful soul against the crimes committed in religious warfare.

The prologue has two scenes. In the first of these, the Wandering Jew and his dumb attendants are seen entering the rock-hewn tomb of Hiram, King of Tyre, the friend of Solomon, King of Israel, and builder of the Temple of Jerusalem. From the tomb the Wanderer reverently takes the sword of Solomon and a portion of the treasure deposited there, which he dedicates "to the service of the ever-living Lord." The scene is impressively arranged and effectively lighted. A view of Constantinople from Galata is disclosed in the second scene, and the Wanderer is revealed as the Prince of India, who preaches the union of all men in one religious brotherhood. In the garden of Uel, a Jewish merchant, he tells his story of the day of the crucifixion, and speaks of his own doom. Here, too, he first meets Lael, the daughter of Uel, and exchanges his jewels for the merchant's gold. The first act opens at the house of the Prince of India in Constantinople, and shows Lael's happiness at being adopted as his daughter. The Emperor Constantine commands the Jew to visit the palace, and explain his plan for a universal religion to the Court. Mention is made of the dissolute young Greek nobles, who have banded themselves together under the pagan title of Epicureans, whose highest aim is to abduct young maidens. Angered by the discovery that the Emperor's messenger, Demedes, has been following his adopted daughter about the city, the Jew is about to denounce him; but Lael persuades him to take her for a sail in his galley on the Bosphorus, and thus relieve his mind of its fears. The scene changes to the landing-place of Blacherne, on the Golden Horn, where the Prince and Lael embark. Demedes and his dissolute associates are there, mingling with the crowd of citizens. Presently, amid a scene showing how fatally the citizens are divided amongst themselves, the Emperor Constantine, conducting the Princess Irene to her galley, arrives. He is in love with the Princess, and, as she leaves him to return to her palace at Therapia, on the Bosphorus, he cautions her to avoid the Asian shore. The two boats start, and are seen leaving the Golden Horn and passing into the Bosphorus. A storm arises; the boats are driven to seek shelter on the Asian shore, and the Princess takes refuge at the White Castle, a Turkish stronghold. The third scene of this act shows the arrival of the young Prince Mahomet at the fortress with his friend and companion, the Emir Mirza, and the first meeting between Mahomet and Princess Irene, the former concealing his identity, and passing as the governor of the castle.

In the second act, the Emperor Constantine, with his retinue, comes to the palace of Therapia, to ask for the hand of the Princess. Much as she reveres him, and is impressed by the honour, she rejects him. As he is about to depart, Mahomet, disguised as an Arab story-teller, arrives, and when the opportunity offers, he tells her that he has come to ask her hand. Although she loves him deeply, she cannot as a Christian accept him, but declares she will devote her life to religion. Duke Notaras, a kinsman of the Emperor, returns to seize the story-teller; but Mahomet escapes by jumping into the sea. Ere he leaves, he places his royal graven sign of protection upon the palace gate.

A year is supposed to elapse between the second and the third act, which takes place in the throne-room of the imperial palace of Blacherne in Constantinople, resplendent with the pomp and ceremony of the Byzantine Court. The Princess Irene is being tried by the Holy Council for keeping upon the sea-gate of her palace the seal, or teukra, of the infidel Mahomet. She is pardoned by Constantine. Count Corti, under which name the Emir Mirza has been sent to Constantinople by Mahomet to spy out the strength and weakness of the Greeks, has also fallen in love with the Princess, and has cast off his allegiance to Mahomet. The Prince of India, vainly expounding his universal religion to the Greeks, suddenly learns that his adopted daughter, Lael, has been abducted, and bursts into a frenzy, announcing that Mahomet's father is dead, that Mahomet himself reigns, and that the Greek Empire is lost.

The fourth act begins in the tent of Mahomet before Constantinople, to which city he is laying siege. He sends for Count Corti to arrange plans for the safety of Princess Irene when the city falls. Mirza will not come, so Mahomet resolves to seek him. The scene changes to a room in the palace of the Princess in the city, which is being used as a hospital, the Princess refusing to leave Thither comes Mahomet to demand an explanation of Corti. He is recognised by the Princess, who is about to hand him over to the guard; but her heart fails her. In despair at her weakness, she seeks to die by heading a procession of maidens on the walls during the assault on the city.

The fifth act has four scenes. Within the walls of the city the doomed Emperor is preparing to resist the enemy. Without, Mahomet suspends operations whilst the procession of the maidens passes, then leads the attack, until the walls crumble and the city is captured. The curtain falls for a few moments, and then, amid the darkness of the night, on the broken walls, the rejuvenation of the Wanderer and the struggling onward of this pathetic figure are depicted. In the final scene, the conqueror, Mahomet, rides on his black charger into the ruins of the church of Sancta Sophia, where the terror-stricken Greeks are gathered, to tell the Princess Irene that her devotion has won peace and religious freedom under his rule for her people. He asks her to share his throne, and as the curtain falls, she kneels at his feet in silent consent.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS SYLVIA CAVALHO.

Miss Sylvia Cavalho is well known to the theatre-going public in England and South Africa. At her pretty suburban house the visitor is confronted on entering the hall with some fine specimens of leopard and tiger skins. A specially fine panther skin was presented to Miss Cavalho by friends in South Africa. Along the walls are hung some handsome springbok and other horns, genuine Zulu shields and assegais, which were used in the Zulu War.

Miss Cavalho says: "They were very nice to me in South Africa; people didn't seem to be able to do enough to show their appreciation. And what splendid audiences you get in Johannesburg—quite as intelligent and cosmopolitan as London audiences, I'm sure!"

Miss Cavalho, who returned to England over a year ago, went out to "star" under Messrs. B.

Photo by Watkins, Peterborough.

MISS SYLVIA CAVALHO.

and F. Wheeler's management. Her original contract was for twenty weeks, but she was asked to extend her engagement to play Zaza and Yo-San in *The Darling of the Gods*. She visited Johannesburg, Cape Town, Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, all twice, besides going to numbers of small towns, with especially small scenery, where, of course, the big productions could not be played.

Her répertoire consisted of *Zaza, Marriage of Kitty, Darling of the Gods, Silver King, Sign of the Cross*, &c.

Miss Cavalho made a phenomenal success in South Africa. Mr. Frank Wheeler wrote: "I should like you to know how much Miss Cavalho's work and great talent have been appreciated." The estimate in which she is held by the South African Press is indicated by the flattering notices which appeared of her performances there.

Asked as to whether she anticipated returning to South Africa, Miss Cavalho said that she had had a tempting offer to return in the spring; but that she hoped—if certain arrangements are satisfactory—to have a London season by that time.

Miss Cavalho owed her first important engagement to Mr. J. W. Boughton, the genial manager of the Portsmouth theatres, who was quick to recognise her ability, and gave her every encouragement.

Miss Cavalho appeared with great success as Mercia in *The Sign of the Cross*, when that play was toured under the management of Mr. William Greet. It is to be hoped that before long Miss Cavalho will be seen in a West-End theatre in a part suited to her undoubted great ability.

MISS HELEN KINNAIRD.

Miss Helen Kinnaird comes of a non-theatrical family, is German on her father's side, and of French extraction on her mother's. She was, however, born in London, and regards herself as quite English. Her first performances were as an amateur in Germany—in German, which is the same to her as English. Under the management of the late Mr. D'Oyly Carte, she made her first professional appearance, and for six months she toured as Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*, and then as Lady Jane in *Patience*. Having decided that acting was far more congenial to her than singing,

Photo. by Smith.

MISS HELEN KINNAIRD.

she decided to go in for a course of training in elocution under that admirable teacher, Mr. Hermann Vezin. She then made a successful London début as leader of the chorus in Dr. Todhunter's *Helena in Troas*. After playing a couple of less important parts in town, she went on tour to play lead in the Court Comedy Company, under the management of the late Messrs. Clayton and Cecil. Coming back to London she played in *Pepita*, and lead in *The Deputy Registrar* at the Criterion, and in *Kleptomania* at the Strand. She also played in the pantomime *King Gold* at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, and Captain of the Forty Thieves at the Theatre Royal, Brighton. An engagement under the management of Messrs. Williamson and Musgrove followed, and Miss Kinnaird says that during the time she was in the colonies (over two years) she was always rehearsing or studying when she was not acting, and that it was considered to be very hard work, but that she thoroughly enjoyed it, and feels that she gained invaluable experience. She played everything but pantomime. She would one week be playing Lady Dedlock in *Jo*, and the next Mrs. Privet in *Dorothy*.

She then went home viâ the States, and played there for four seasons under the management of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, the late Mr. John Stetson, Mr. Daniel Frohman, and Mr. Charles Frohman. On her return to London she took up the leading part in *The New Boy* at the Vaudeville, the part she had just been playing through the States under Mr. Charles Frohman's management. Then, after a short engagement at the Duke of York's, she reluctantly allowed her family to persuade her to give up work, and tried to be happy without it. Miss Kinnaird says that she found doing nothing very irksome, and that when she went to the theatre to see a performance she envied everyone on the other side of the footlights; and, finally, not being able to stand private life any longer, made her reappearance as Mrs. Shimmering Black in *The Earl and the Girl* at the Adelphi. Finding that the public took very kindly to her in that line of business, Miss Kinnaird decided to write a sketch for herself, with a similar part, and try it on the variety stage, which she did. Thereupon, a gathering of the clans was called, and an indignation meeting held, at which it was decided that on no account should she be permitted to carry out her desire, and at the time she had no alternative but to submit, or, at least, to appear to do so. Opposition, Miss Kinnaird says, acts always as an excellent tonic upon her temperament, so she employed her time in getting together a number of handsome costumes for the part, and now finds herself playing the sketch with everyone's consent and approval. It is just a short farcical comedy called *A Poor Weak Woman*, playing only fourteen minutes, and Miss Kinnaird sustains the title-part.

MISS DORA PRICE.

Miss Dora Price started her theatrical career about 10 years ago in a travelling pantomime, playing small parts and understudying the principal boy. Next followed a short stock season at Bolton, followed by a tour of *Liberty Hall*, Miss Price playing Miss Ailsa Craig's part in that comedy. She was then engaged for a pantomime at the Royal, Cardiff, playing the Fairy Queen. In three tours of *A Royal Divorce* with Mr. W. W. Kelly she acted the part of Stephanie. A pantomime engagement at Sheffield as Cinderella was followed by two tours with *The Girl of my Heart*, in which Miss Price played the comedy character. Turning to heavier parts, she next created the leading rôle of Brenda in *For the Colours*, making a big hit, and this was succeeded by a short tour with Mr. Frank E. Burdett's *Denounced* Co., Miss

Photo. by Arbus.

MISS DORA PRICE.

Price playing the heavy part. A highly successful engagement followed as *The Worst Woman in London*. The late Mr. Frank Connor then engaged her to star in the title rôle in the drama *A Beautiful Fiend*. She was afterwards engaged by Mr. Isaac Cohen for stock at The Pavilion, Mile End, where she played La Colombe in *Woman and Wine*, and created the part of Mrs. Galloway in *The Boom of Big Ben*. Next followed starring engagements with Mr. Walter Melville as *That Wretch of a Woman*, and as Dora Grey in *Her Second Time on Earth*. In the part of the woman in Mr. William A. Armour's drama, *What a Woman Did*, Miss Price starred for nearly two years most successfully at all the principal suburban and provincial theatres.

MISS ANNIE SAKER.

Miss Annie Saker comes of a very old theatrical family, being a daughter of the late Maria Saker, granddaughter of the late Horatio Saker (who was principal comedian with Charles Kean), and great-granddaughter of William Saker, grandniece of the late Edward Saker, and Mrs. R. H. Wyndham, and cousin of F. W. Wyndham. She began her career when a child in Mr. Tree's production of *Hypatia* at the Haymarket Theatre, and felt very proud when Mr. Tree gave her a little dumb acting scene. She writes: I was a little slave girl, and had to be torn from my slave sister's arms. Miss Esmé Beringer was the other slave, Mr. James Welch was the slave dealer, and when the elder girl was sold, and I dragged from her arms, he used to strike me across my arm with a scroll he held in his hand as I fell sobbing to the ground. I remember, one night, Mr. Welch (noticing some bruises on my arm) said he would cut out the business of hitting me and just push me down. I implored him not to; that I never felt the blows. He then said that he would see that he hit me lighter. "Oh no," I said, "Please hit me *as hard* as you can." I so dreaded even a little bit of business being cut out of *my scene*. I think I knew every line in the play, I loved it all so much, and I almost worshipped Miss Julia Neilson, and no wonder, she was always so gracious and kind to all.

Miss Saker remained with Mr. Tree through the run, and then appeared in *The Tempter* and *The Enemy of the People*. She has very happy recollections of her engagement with Mr. Tree, who, she says, "makes everyone so happy and comfortable." From the Haymarket she went to Mr., (now Sir Charles) Wyndham. Being too tall for children's parts, with the aid of longer frocks she was able to play young girls' parts in *The Headless Man*, understudying Miss Annie Hughes in *An Aristocratic Alliance*, Mary (the heroine) in *Home Rule*, Lady Dorothy (Miss Mary Moore's part) in *The Candidate*, Nina (the Italian Girl) in *Hot Water*, and *The Case of Rebellious Susan*. Then Messrs. Harrison and Maude engaged her for the Waitress in the first act of *Under the Red Robe*, and to understudy Miss Eva Moore. After she played Suzette for three weeks, and then Miss Emery and her understudy being suddenly taken ill at the same time, Miss Saker played Renée de Cocheporet at half an hour's notice. She sustained the part several times. Then she accepted an offer to tour with Miss Hutchison, playing Rebecca in *Pink Dominoes*, Lady Hamilton in *The Great Divorce Case*, Madame Polenta in *Betsy*, Mary in *Mary's Secret*, Dora in *Why Women Weep*. Following that came a short London suburban tour of *Pink Dominoes*, with Percy Hutchison as Harry Greenlanes, her mother (Maria Saker) appearing as Mrs. Tubbs, while Miss Saker played Rebecca again. Then followed tours as Beatrice in *The Liars*, Astraea (Mrs. Patrick Campbell's part) in *The Trumpet Call*, Esther in *Caste*, Blanche in *Ours*, Bella in *School*, Violet in *Our Boys*, Kate in *The Gov'nor*, Beatrice in *A*

Photo. by Kay.

MISS ANNIE SAKER.

Fool's Paradise, Millicent in *The Money-Spinner*, and Violet in *Why Men Love Women*. Her present part, Princess Astrea von Strelsburg (in Messrs. Paumier and Howard's play, *The Midnight Wedding*) was written expressly for her by Mr. Howard. Miss Saker has had offers to visit America, South Africa, and Australia, but up to the present has never been abroad. The accompanying photograph is in the character of Astrea mentioned above.

MISS KITTY LOFTING.

Miss Kitty Lofting comes of an old theatrical family, and began her stage career at a very early age. The first part she played was that of a chambermaid in the farcical comedy called *Tomboy*. After that she played anything from comic old women to Miami in *The Green Bushes*. A long engagement in Criterion comedies followed. She played the title-rôle in *Betsy*, Mrs. Sterry in *Truth*, &c. She next had three tours with Mr. Arthur Bearne, playing Miss Softdown and understudying Miss Lottie Venne's part in *Husband and Wife*. Special weeks and stock seasons followed; then a tour in Wales, Miss Lofting playing Mildred Parker in *Flying from Justice*. After that came a long tour under the management of Miss Ethel Calrow and Mr. Charles Harrington in *Her Wedding Day*, in which she played the juvenile part. An engagement lasting nearly two years with Mr. William Greet in *The Sign of the Cross* followed, during which Miss Lofting played Dacia, Poppœa, and Anearia, and understudied Mercia and Berenice. Various stock seasons at Blyth, South Shields, and Hastings, under the several managements of Miss Ellen Cranston, Mr. L. M. Snowdon, and Miss Nina Cressy intervened. A four months' tour with Mr. H. J. Hadfield, during which she played Lady Sybil in Mr. Creagh Henry's version of the *Sorrows of Satan*, and Cecilia Hudson in the light comedy part in *Married by Proxy* was succeeded by a short summer tour (which included the principal Scotch towns), under the management of Mr. W. A. McNeill, Miss Lofting playing Effie in *Jeanne Deans*. She was next personally engaged by Mrs.

Photo. by Hana.

MISS KITTY LOFTING.

Lewis Calvert to play Valentine in *Proof*, which she did with only one rehearsal. A special engagement with Mr. A. Clifton Alderson to play the leading part in *A Soldier and a Man* followed. Various Pantomime engagements came in between, Miss Lofting playing both boy and girl parts. She was engaged by Mr. Milton Bode to play the adventuress in *Night Birds of London*, and on a long tour with Messrs Conquest and Leonard she took the lead in *On Active Service*. Afterwards she was again engaged by Mr. Milton Bode, this time for the heroine in *Women and Wine*. A tour under the management of Messrs. John Hart and J. B. Mulholland, during which Miss Lofting played the part of Mary Tremain in *An Eye for an Eye*, was followed by a re-engagement for a special week by Miss Nina Cressy to again play Effie, the Scotch girl, in *The Professor's Love Story*. Two of Miss Lofting's favourite parts are Janet Preece in the *Profligate* and Margaret Vesle in *Lady Bountiful*.

In the autumn of 1903 Miss Lofting had a long tour under the management of Mr. A. E. Maskell, when she played Glory Quayle in *The Christian*. Nearly the whole of the year 1904 she was in South Africa with Mr. Leonard Payne. It was her first trip abroad, and in spite of the hard work the constant change of programme entailed, she looks back to it as a most enjoyable experience. Miss Lofting visited Pretoria, Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, and Cape Town, making long stays in the two last towns. She sincerely hopes to go again at some future time. She played Glory Quayle out there among a large range of parts, Mr. Rayne's repertoire being very varied in character. Recently Miss Lofting has been playing Marion Thornton in *The Two Little Vagabonds*.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 26, the Japanese Opera, by Owen Hall and Sidney Jones, entitled "THE GEISHA."

The play this week at the Fulham has been *The Geisha*, which still appears to retain a fair measure of its popularity. The company is well organised, and maintains a good general level of merit; whilst two or three parts were really admirably played. Of the ladies, Miss Bessie Allayne was a dainty representative of O Mimosa San, and her singing and acting were excellent. Molly Seymour was brightly played by Miss Florrie Saunders; and Miss Aubrey Ashton was a stately Lady Constance. Miss Violet Kenyon played the French Geisha, Juliette Diamante, with much grace and all the needful piquancy. The leading geishas were Misses L. Bland, D. Browne, D. Irving, and Maude Lloyd; they were charming in their Oriental attire, and their songs and dances went excellently. Mr. Cyril Thompson looked well and sang finely as Fairfax, and was well supported by Messrs. S. Lockridge, Ryton Hoare, and Stephen Hall, and Miss Blanche Browne, as his fellow officers. Mr. Edgar Ward gave a pleasant rendering of the part of Captain Katana. The rôle of the Marquis Imari was taken by Mr. Lionel Braham, whose great stature afforded a comical contrast to that of the other Japanese characters. Mr. Braham's performance was full of rich humour, and caused many a hearty laugh. As Wun Hi, Mr. Edward Carlton was admirable. His performance was quite one of the successes of the evening, while his wonderful contortions and clever dancing caused endless merriment. Both he and Mr. Braham may be congratulated on making the most of these two important parts, and they had a good store of up-to-date jokes and sayings, which were quite naturally brought in, and did not suffer from the appearance of being dragged in to raise a laugh. The dresses were very handsome, and the chorus sang capitally; while Mr. Francis Knowles presided most capably over the orchestra. A performance of *The Greek Slave* was given on Friday.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The programme of the Students' Concert given on Wednesday evening commenced with a duet for two pianos, "Rondo in C" (Chopin), the executants being Miss Constance M. Beech and Miss Gertrude Peachey. Miss Gertrude Gill sang Allitsen's "Oh! for a burst of song" in a pleasing manner, and was much applauded. In the violin solo Sonata in E Minor (MS.) Mr. Lawrance A. Collingwood undertook too exacting a task in writing a sonata for the violin, although the second movement revealed much promise. Miss Bessie George was the executant, the work being accompanied by the composer. Two songs by Mr. Waddington Cooke, "Dream Ships" and "Visitors" (the latter of a humorous nature), were well sung by Miss Beatrice Jeffereys, and Miss Violet Coombs revealed a good touch and neat execution in her piano solo "Fantasia on Verdi's *Rigoletto*, by Liszt. Mr. Edwin Lewis gained hearty applause for his very able singing of Balfe's air "Come into the garden, Maud," and Miss Grace Cole and Miss Bertha Lansdell gave a pleasing rendering of the duet "Quis est homo," from Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. A mandoline solo, Andante from Concerto (Mendelssohn) and "Moto Perpetuo" (Bohm), gave variety to the concert, both pieces being admirably executed by Miss Lillie Selden; and Miss Ethel Wynne gave ample evidence of careful training in her piano solos, "Humoresque," by Tschaikowsky, and "Etude de Concert" (Liszt). Mr. Fred Henry sang "Oh! Jolly Robin Hood," by Carmichael, with much spirit, and Miss Yathe Mandelbom was warmly greeted by the audience after her violin solos Romance in F Major and "Moto Perpetuo," by Ries. Two Indian songs by R. Orlando Morgan, "A Lullaby" and "Serenade," were skilfully sung by Miss Ethel Willet, the first song proving very attractive. The concert concluded with a duet for two pianos, "Variation on a Theme of Beethoven," by Saint-Saëns," given with good effect by Miss Muriel Hearson and Miss Katie Gray. Miss Jenny Hyman ably fulfilled the duties of accompanist.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co., of Berners-street, has accepted for immediate inclusion in their "Sixpenny Successes" two new songs, from the pens of Ballard Macdonald and Donovan Meher, respectively entitled "My Tiny Fire-fly," which will shortly be sung by a leading artist at the Palace, Shaftesbury Avenue, and a striking march number, "Now I've come back to you."

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Farce in Three Acts, entitled
"THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER."

Mr. F. W. Purcell this week again gives cause for the keenest enjoyment in the setting forth for the first time in North London of the whimsicalities contained in the adventures of Mr. Montague Sibsey and his imaginary trip to the Alps. Proof of his comedy powers is to be found in Mr. Huntley Wright's highly-mirthful and entertaining embodiment of Montague Sibsey. Mr. Charles Frohman has engaged an exceptionally strong company to support Mr. Wright. Very notable is Miss Kate Mill's animated and enjoyable impersonation of Mrs. Sibsey; and the Misses Christine McGill and Dora Barton impersonate the two winsome daughters, Alice and Betty, with great success. Messrs. Eric Maturin and T. McCausland Stewart also score as their lovers, Arthur Lydbrooke and Sidney Ketton, and good representations of the Swiss guides are contributed by Mr. Algernon Newark as Oscar Rheinthaller and Mr. Scott Craven as Sepp. Miss Ivy Hertzog sustains in excellent style the part of Lena; and the servant Mary is well assumed by Miss Amy Thomas. Mr. W. R. Staveley infuses humour into his impersonation of Samuel Midgham, and the remainder of the cast are all praiseworthy.

In *The Little Father of the Wilderness* the wonderful versatility of Mr. Wright is forcibly demonstrated. Of his portrayal of Père Marlotte it is only necessary to say his grip of the character is full and complete, and at the fall of the curtain full recognition of his clever performance is deservedly rendered him. Mr. Eric Maturin fills the rôle of Louis XV. in a dignified style; and Captain Chevillon has a competent exponent in Mr. Montague Elphinstone. Distinction is earned by Miss Christine McGill for her graceful study of Mlle. Henriette; and Messrs. Staveley, Victor, and Craven as Frère Grégoire, Duc de St. Albret, and Chevalier de Frontenac respectively, all render valuable aid in this charming one-act play by Lloyd Osbourne and Austin Strong.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Farce-Comedy, by R. C. Carton, entitled
"PUBLIC OPINION."

That the public and private opinion of Mr. Carton's latest farce-comedy was entirely satisfactory was made very manifest on Monday evening at this popular house, when the audience laughed whole-heartedly at the extremely absurd situations in which the different personages are placed in their search for the incriminating letters written by them to Miss Pansy Bligh, the music-hall star. As played by Miss Emma Hutchinson and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's company, there is very little, if any, falling-off from the brilliant performances lately given at Wyndham's Theatre. Of the original performers, Mr. George Giddens remains to repeat his highly amusing impersonation of the lawyer, Horace Wibsey, and it will suffice to say that no actor could have been more effectively placed in the part than Mr. Giddens. A deliciously comical representation of Mr. Justice Mulley is given by Mr. William Hargreaves; whilst Mr. George Mallett makes a most satisfactory and realistic Sir Babbington Mulley, F.R.C.P., the Harley-street specialist. Mr. Harold West is capital as the silly young peer, Viscount Poffley. As Spencer Fraughton, C.B., Mr. Ernest Ruston works hard, and succeeds admirably as the Indian civil servant suffering from "spleen." Mr. Templer Powell is a dashing and manly Lord Percy Kilgour. Smeeton, Finchett, and Jowers are ably undertaken by Mr. C. J. Barber, Mr. Ernest Cox, and Mr. John E. Watson. Miss Emma Hutchinson makes one of her few appearances on the stage, but she is very welcome in the part of Lady Diana Caldershaw, and is completely successful in that rôle. Miss Mary Mallalieu is a fascinating Phyllis Dagenham, and Miss Ida Laurie, as the maid Charlotte, is excellent. Pansy Bligh, the music-hall star, finds a charming representative in Miss Lilian Hallows, whose acting is alike refreshing and natural. The scenery and appointments are of a high order. A comedietta by Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, entitled *The Stratagem*, in which Miss Hallows, Mr. Harold West, and Mr. Templer Powell act with marked ability, is also played during the evening.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, entitled
"LEAH KLESCHNA."

In booking Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *Leah Kleschna* Mr. Sounes has provided his patrons with what should prove a strong attraction. Miss Haidee Wright played Leah with a sympathetic, convincing manner, which betrayed thorough insight into, and appreciation of, the conflicting traits of the girl-thief's character, her acting—especially in the strong fourth act—rising at times to considerable heights of histrionic ability. As Paul Sylvaine Mr. J. Graeme Campbell gave a consistent portrayal of the somewhat visionary reformer, his fine resonant voice and quiet, unforced style of acting adding to the value of his impersonation. Mr. Robert Pateman submitted a powerful delineation of Kleschna, rightly throwing into prominence the rugged, tyrannous nature of this expert cracksman, but at the same time cleverly suggesting as a secondary side to his character an almost chivalrous determination to "play the game through," and a passionate affection for his daughter. Mr. E. H. Brooke was well suited as Schram, whose dogged devotion to Leah and her father, spite of all snubs and bullying, was ably depicted. Mr. Cyril Harcourt was very successful as Raoul Berton, and contributed a really fine piece of acting in the scene in which the drunken Raoul, having forced his way into Sylvaine's house, is suddenly sobered by the discovery of Leah there. Mr. Roland Daniel made a decided impression in the somewhat meagre part of Valentin Favre; and Mr. Kenneth Rivington was sufficiently military and pig-headed as General Berton. Miss Dorothy Sidney was a lively Sophie Chaponnière; and Miss Haidee Hemsley and Miss Ethel Marryatt, as Claire and Mme. Berton respectively, made the most of their small chances.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"THE TRUMPET CALL."

The patrons of the Elephant and Castle will indeed sustain a heavy loss when the present stock company takes its leave. That it has been exceedingly popular under the management of Mr. E. E. Norris there is no doubt. He has not only been responsible for the carefully-selected and well-staged production of a series of high-class dramas, but has undertaken the leading parts each week, and right well he has done it all. The season, however, is not quite finished, as in a fortnight's time we shall see the company again in a Grand Irish week. *Lord Edward, or '98*, will be produced. The stirring Adelphi drama, *The Trumpet Call*, is being presented this week. The fine presence, good voice, and manly bearing of Mr. Ernest E. Norris is admirably suited to the part of Cuthbert Cuthbertson. The part of the heroine is in the very capable hands of Mrs. Bennett, who fully maintains her popularity. The sweet womanliness of Constance is pathetically rendered, and, in more than one scene, draws tears from her audience. Mr. Alfred Harding as Richard Featherstone is a plausible villain. The part of the breezy, rollicking Sergeant-Major Milligan is drawn to the life by Mr. Wellesley Smith. Mr. Howard Templeton as Professor Ginnifer works hard and successfully throughout. The part of Colonel Engleheart is thoroughly safe in the capable hands of Mr. Edwin Bennett. Mr. Harold Wagner is satisfactory as Captain Sparks. Other male characters are adequately filled, Mr. Herbert Coddard being a most efficient James Redruth. A striking piece of character acting is given by Miss Georgie de Lara in the difficult part of Astrea. Miss de Lara is intensely dramatic in voice and gesture, and scores a genuine success. Miss Alice Spry cleverly depicts the warm-hearted Mrs. Wicklow, afterwards Mrs. Ginnifer. Miss Clara Moore is exceedingly funny as Lavinia; and Miss Alice Williams thoroughly enters into the humour of the part of Tommy Dutton. The expressive by-play of these two is most enjoyable. The childish pathos of Little Cuthbert is well portrayed by Miss Florrie Green. As Lill, Mary, and Lucy, Miss Gladys King, Miss Vivian Stuart, and Miss Olive Duncan are satisfactory. Great credit is due to the management for the effective staging. The principals are vociferously called before the curtain after each act, and receive a well-merited ovation from the crowded audience.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Play, by M. L. Ryley, entitled
"MICE AND MEN."

The playgoers of North London have indeed a special treat provided for them this week, and it is pleasing to note that they are showing their appreciation to the full. Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott are making a very welcome appearance here, and are playing in two of their most popular pieces of recent years, *The Light that Failed* and *Mice and Men*. The latter was chosen for the opening performance. The story of Mark Embury, the scholar, scientist, and philanthropist, who adopts a foundling to train as his wife, is delightfully told, and though we see Embury's scheme is doomed to failure, and in the end he bows to the inevitable, and does the right thing, yet one feels that the old bachelor will not go back to a very unhappy life; so the finish of the story only leaves us wondering, and not worrying, which is just as it should be. As Mark Mr. Forbes Robertson has a part which suits him well, and which he plays with all that dignity and richness of voice to which he has so long accustomed us. It is a fine study of a thoughtful man—strong, and yet full of quiet restraint. For Miss Gertrude Elliott we have nothing but praise as the foundling, Little Britain, afterwards Peggy. She was quite at her best. The way the development of the girl's character is shown is capital, and her joy at being told she is grown up was perfectly delightful, and so natural. Miss Elliott, too, has a delicious humour of her own, which is quite fascinating, and these two players were accorded tremendous receptions at the close of each act. Mr. Charles Weir was in fine form as the jealous Roger Goodlake, whose flighty wife, Joanna, was excellently portrayed by Miss Auriol Lee. Mr. Vernon Steel as the dashing young lover, Captain George Lovell, played in good style; Mr. J. H. Beaumont was seen to advantage as the gay Sir Harry Tumblestone; Miss Minnie Griffin, who was only seen for a few moments in the opening act, managed to give a clever character sketch of the hospital matron; Miss Keith Lytton was very good as Mrs. Deborah; and Miss Dorothy Paget did well as the maid. The old fiddler, Kit, was quaintly played by Mr. J. H. Ryley, who extracted much from the part. Peter, the old servant, had an admirable representative in Mr. Robson Paige; Mr. William Pilling was amusing as the portly old beadle. The play was prettily staged, under the management of Mr. Ian Robertson.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Comic Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"PEGGY MACHREE."

A strong attraction has been provided here this week by the presentation by Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company of the new comic opera, *Peggy Machree*. The piece is bright and sparkling, there is plenty of pretty music, and the scenery and dresses are all that can be desired. Large audiences have attended each performance, and testified their appreciation by enthusiastic applause and repeated demands for encores. Miss Claudia Lasell is a charming and sprightly Peggy Machree. Acting her part with marked ability, and rendering her songs with much expression, Miss Lasell scores a decided success. Her most successful songs are "Sundial Shadows," "The Simple Life," and "The Emerald Isle." The part of Barry Trevor is undertaken by Mr. Leslie Stiles, who gives an excellent performance, and contributes greatly to the success of the play. He was deservedly encored for his spirited rendering of the song, "Donovan." Miss Blanche Asley sings and acts well as Molly Cafferty, and her dancing gains much applause. A clever study of Moira Cafferty is given by Miss Madge Avery, who gives a sound display in the part. Mr. Ralph Lynn presents an excellent picture of Sir Lawrence Borthwick; and the fine voice of Mr. John Morley is heard to advantage in the rôle of Sergeant Bampton. His duet with Miss Blanche Asley, entitled "A little man and a little maid," receives much applause. The talents of Mr. Milroe Cooper are well employed in the part of the solemn Scotchman, Alexander M'Dougall, and he scores with his song "Bonny Scotland." A humorous contrast is the performance by Mr. Dan Fitzgerald in the part of Michael; and Mr. Hare Macdermott does all that is possible in the rôle of the designing Frenchman, Captain de la Cour. Miss Doris Kelvey is thoroughly efficient as Madame de la Cour; and Miss Dorothy Garden is pleasing as the Hon. Emily Pryor. Valuable support is also rendered by Miss Marion Cecil as Arline, and Mr. J. Herbert Willis as Lawyer Keene. The powerful chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. K. Ernest Irving, render efficient support. Mr. Chas. F. J. Watts is the business-manager, and Mr. W. H. Chattell acting-manager for Mr. Hamilton, and the opera is produced under the direction of Mr. Herbert Cottesmore.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley, entitled
"PASSION'S POWER."

It is a good many years since Mr. Arthur Shirley's powerful drama was seen in London, but played by such an excellent company as that organised by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds, it never fails to make a favourable impression upon an audience. The manly and generous character of Prince Kandos is brought into striking contrast with the mean, despicable conduct of Michel Laski. Zorah Varno, when an innocent, inexperienced girl, was betrayed by the man she trusted—Michel Laski. Subsequently she meets Prince Kandos, who falls in love with her, and, ignorant of her past, offers to marry her. In the second act Michel calls at the Countess Delaunay's house in Paris to see Zorah, but at her command the servants release two large boarhounds, who fiercely attack Laski. Indeed, he would no doubt have been torn to pieces, but for the intervention of Prince Kandos. Zorah tells him that the intruder was a thief, and gives Michel to understand that she will give him another chance of leading a better life. Zorah's former lover resolves to have a bitter revenge. He places in an envelope the letters, couched in warm, ardent terms, received in former days from Zorah, and instructs his valet to hand this package to Prince Kandos just as he is about to lead his bride to the altar. The servant, missing the Prince, entrusts the package to Michel's father, Rudolph Laski, who places it on a table, and forgets all about it. The marriage ceremony duly takes place, and just afterwards the Prince discovers the package. Zorah begs him not to open it, and her intense earnestness arouses his suspicions. Seeing that he is determined to ascertain the truth, she makes a full confession; but the strain of the situation is too much for her brain, and she suddenly goes mad. The last act is devoted to bringing the story to a satisfactory conclusion. Mr. William Clayton is forcible yet quietly effective in his treatment of the character of Prince Kandos, whose noble qualities are very naturally portrayed. Mr. Frank Radcliffe is a brisk representative of General Zuran, and makes good use of his opportunities for the introduction of a little humour. Mr. Walter Roberts gives a dignified embodiment of the judge, Rudolph Laski, whose son, Michel, has a powerful exponent in Mr. Stephen S. Scanlan, who quite succeeds in arousing the enmity of the audience. Mr. Henry Howard is good as Patrice, a journalist; and good work is done by Mr. Ernest Dare as Michel's valet, Felix. Miss Ruth Shepperd plays the part of Zorah Varno with much power and passion, her acting being specially effective in the scene where she goes mad. Miss Stella Carmichael is a charming representative of the coquettish widow, the Countess Delaunay; and Miss Lowe Dare is bright as Lucie. Efficient assistance is given by Mr. Henry Howard as Yacopo, Mr. Arthur Lowry as Prosper, and Mr. Henry Merlin as Ivan. The play has been carefully staged; and the audiences at the West London have given it a most favourable reception.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Fred Melville, entitled
"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

This week Mr. Douglas Bruce's company, in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, is playing a return visit. The company is, with two exceptions, the same that performed it previously. Mr. Henry Herne undertakes the part of the Rev. John Everton, and acts exceedingly well; Mr. Wingald Lawrence gives a manly rendering of, and brings into prominence, the character of Jack England; Mr. Frank Adair is quite at home as Captain Caversham, the callous individual who disgraces Molly and then deserts her. The repentant forger, James Sutton, is well played by Mr. Albert H. Clarke; Miss Marie McAulay acts as the villain's accomplice, Marion Franklyn, very forcibly, and her powerful acting in the last act is received with abundant applause. Miss Ethel Bracewell presents a pleasing and dignified portrait of Rose Seymour; Miss Ada Marius as Molly Vernon plays very ably and successfully the part of the poor deluded girl; Mr. C. Hammond Asquin as Dick Punch and Miss Daisy Maynard as Isabella Jones are the cause of incessant laughter whenever they occupy the stage. The drama is staged in the usual elaborate manner of Mr. Melville, two of the scenes being very pretty sets.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Comedy-Drama, in Three Acts, entitled
"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."

Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company in *A Message from Mars* is paying its first visit to Mr. Clarence Sounes's latest playhouse. On the opening evening the piece was received with enthusiasm by a well-filled house. Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee realises most naturally the selfish propensities of Horace Parker, evoking much laughter by the awkward consequences arising therefrom. Mr. William H. Brougham as the Messenger from Mars is responsible for a sound performance throughout. Mr. Bruce Lindley makes an acceptable "tramp"; whilst Joe the coster finds an amusing exponent in Mr. James Mayall. Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson secures much appreciation for his embodiment of the American, Arthur Dicey; Mr. Eustace French is well placed as Sir E. Vivian; and Mr. Leslie Tyler is successful in his portrayal of Mr. Fergusson. Mr. Harry Reynolds's policeman evokes much hearty laughter; a charming and winsome impersonation of Minnie is contributed by Miss May Saker, who gains some of the chief honours of the evening; Miss Parker is thoughtfully played by Mrs. Edward Saker; Bella by Miss Peggy E. Yeoman; Mrs. Clarence by Miss Joan Meredith; and the Flower Girl by Miss Elsie Walton. A clever little character study of Jim is given by Mr. Willie Wrench; Dr. Chapman is in the capable hands of Mr. Percy Tyler; Miss Teresa Vanburgh is the Polly; and the remaining characters are well sustained. Some capital selections of music are provided during the intervals by Mr. Blythe's excellent orchestra.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Musical Farce, in Two Acts, by Paul Rubens and Newnham Davis, composed by Paul Rubens, entitled
"LADY MADCAP."

Mr. George Edwardes's company in *Lady Madcap* forms the attraction at Stoke Newington for the present week. Every possible aid is given to the play in the way of dressing and mounting, which is quite as elaborate as is customary in Mr. Edwardes's productions. Miss Marie Studholme appears as Lady Betty Claridge, the "madcap" of the title, and her pranks and antics appear to give unbounded delight to her audience. Miss Nina Sevening is the Gwennie Halden, and her performance is pleasingly natural and refined. A very bright and attractive Susan is found in Miss Mabel Russell, who is not only a capital dancer but also a clever and capable actress. The singing of some popular English songs in French by Mr. Ernest Mahar, who appears as Count de St. Hubert, evokes considerable enthusiasm. Mr. W. E. Richardson is too good a comedian not to make the utmost of his all too slender chances as Colonel Layton, and the other officers of the East Anglian Hussars are fittingly represented by Messrs. Eustace H. Burnaby, Harold Parkes, and J. Edward Fraser, the last of whom scores with his song in the first act. Mr. Arthur Longley is the Oroya Brown, and although he succeeds in keeping his audience thoroughly amused, we have seen him more happily suited in another of Mr. G. P. Huntley's parts. Mr. E. Stalham Staples makes a quaint and droll little corporal; and Mr. Oliver J. Round plays Posh Jenkins with a quiet, dry humour that is not ineffective; but the performance that stands out above all others is the Bill Stratford of Mr. J. Robert Hale. Mr. Hale is a comedian whose bright and alert style arrests attention the moment he steps on to the stage, and he never relaxes his efforts to keep things moving for an instant. The wonder is that Mr. Edwardes can spare Mr. Hale from the West End. Mr. Douglas Munro contributes a characteristic sketch of the butler, Palmer, and Messrs. Henry Latimer and Percy Davison do all that is possible as Lord Framlingham and the old Huntsman. Mrs. Layton is successfully played by Miss Ethel Griffies.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Play, in Three Acts, by A. W. Pinero, entitled
"SWEET LAVENDER."

Sweet Lavender is proving a popular attraction at Crouch End, and good houses testify nightly to the skill and ability of the excellent company which has been playing this celebrated work of Mr. Pinero. Miss Ethel Carlyon, in the title-rôle, is charming. Dainty and petite, she seems to realise in every way the author's ideal. Minnie Gilfillian, as played by Miss Minnie Grey, is an excellent creation, and she is bright, sympathetic, and pleasing in every way. Miss Kate Wingfield, as Ruth Rolt, the injured mother of Lavender, gives a careful rendering of the part; and Miss N. Gillmore is most effective as Mrs. Gilfillian. Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey is again quite at home in the part of Dick Phenyl, and vastly pleases his admirers by the way he enacts the character. Mr. A. P. Kaye gives a refined and polished performance of Clement Hall; and Mr. C. A. Clarke, in the rôle of Geoffrey Wedderburn, is well placed. Equal praise is merited by Mr. Norman Clarke as Dr. Delaney, the kind-hearted physician. As the young American Horace Bream, Mr. Harvey White wins golden opinions. Mr. Fred Castleman's Mr. Maw and Mr. E. St. Claire Vayne's Bulgar are both excellent performances.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Historical Drama, by Tom Taylor, entitled
"'TWIXT AXE AND CROWN."

Miss Russ Whytal headed a strong company who appeared at the Kingston Theatre on Monday, for the first time there, in that stirring play, *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, and the reception which it received from a well-filled house was at once a tribute to the excellent manner in which it was presented, as well as a proof of the interest which the historical events depicted still have for playgoers. Chief honours were secured and deserved by Miss Whytal, who played the part of Lady Elizabeth with an impressive dignity that won her admirers in all parts of the house. The rôle of Mary Tudor was filled by Miss Elsie Chester at short notice on Monday, owing to the sudden indisposition of Miss Geraldine Olliffe, but she acquitted herself with great distinction, and earned and received the warm approval of those who witnessed the effort. Mr. Alfred Fisher also scored a great success as Sir Thomas Wyatt, which was shared by Mr. Charles Combe, who filled the rôle of Bishop Gardiner. A fine impersonation of the part of the Earl of Devonshire was given by Mr. Lumsden Hare; and others deserving of particular mention were Mr. J. J. Bartlett as Simon Renard, Messrs. Ulick Burke, John Bower, and S. Riggey as Lords of the Council, and Mr. Edward Beecher as Sir John Brydges. The play was admirably staged and dressed.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, by Sir Augustus Harris and Henry Pettitt, entitled
"A LIFE OF PLEASURE."

Everything that a thoughtful and experienced management can do has been done this week to properly frame the well-known Drury Lane drama, *A Life of Pleasure*, which met with an enthusiastic reception on Monday evening. The play, although episodic, is certainly most exciting, and with its vivid pictures of love, hate, revenge, and martial heroism, forms an engrossing work of much interest. In every respect the drama has been well mounted, while the result from a scenic point of view is most gratifying, the scenes, Houseboat at Cliveden, The Empire, and The Chasm, being especially deserving of notice, and every praise must be given to Mr. Frank Harding, who is responsible for the production. As the much-tried Nora Hanlan, Miss Katherine Clarke played with pleasing tenderness and skill, exhibiting much pathos and emotion, rising to a fine degree of power at the close of the third act; and Miss Ethel Kay displayed grace, delicacy, and sympathetic feeling in her earnest portrayal of Lady Mary Clifford; while Miss Eleanor Gilbart as Lady Nellborough acted with dignity and decision. The fine voice of Mr. Fred Victor was heard to advantage in his attractive and picturesque impersonation of Desmond O'Brien, which was full of force and penetration, combined with manliness and sincerity. Mr. Vernon Sansbury, although a trifle uncertain of his lines, was frank and soldierly in bearing, and presented a convincing exposition of Lord Avondale; and Mr. Maurice Drew gave a painstaking rendering of the conventional Jewish moneylender, Isidor Scasi. Mr. Charles Langley infused a sufficiency of rough character into his reading of Michael Hanlan; and Mr. Fred Boustead was suitably direct and outspoken as Tim Doolan. Mr. Harry Barford, who is an established favourite here, and has the satisfaction of being thoroughly *en rapport* with the audience, must be warmly congratulated on his particularly fine conception of the faithful friend and true-hearted English officer, Captain Danby. The humour of the part was never forced, while the occasional gleams of pathos were excellently brought out. A careful, clever, and conscientious piece of work, full of those little artistic details which add so considerably to success, was given by Mr. Frank Harding, whose performance of that very incarnation of evil, Captain Chandos, was marked throughout with an intensity of villainy that largely strengthens the motive of the play. Miss Lucy Beaumont won repeated marks of approval as Phyllis de Belleville; and Miss Lydia Cantwell was a capable Laura Somerville. Mr. Henry Cooper created amusement as the Empire Checktaker; and Mr. C. Mordan was an efficient Dr. Delamore; while a neat little sketch of Dennis O'Rourke was given by Mr. Harry Bristow; and Sir John Berkeley was carefully enacted by Mr. Henry D. Brame. Mr. F. Wilton as Sergeant Perkins, Mr. H. Garside as Larry Doolan, Mr. James Mason as Tompkins, and Mr. J. Robinson as Private Smithers leave nothing to be desired. The smart Pavilion orchestra must be complimented on their masterly rendering of the various selections and incidental music, reflecting great credit on their talented conductor, Mr. Charles Aves.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
"THE PRODIGAL SON,"
by Hall Caine.

It is no small achievement to transfer the Drury Lane production of *The Prodigal Son*, with its huge "sets" and colossal and elaborate effects, to a provincial or suburban theatre, but when one considers that this process takes place weekly with the touring company, under the business management of Mr. Hy. Templeton, and the stage-management of Mr. Frank Collins, it speaks volumes for the huge strides made by the profession of recent years. On a somewhat modified scale all the original scenes as produced at Drury Lane are preserved, with the home-coming to the Inn Farm, the grand spectacular view of the Casino on the Riviera, and the final tableau of the regenerated Oscar ascending the snowclad mountain peak in silent solitude, and looking back on the happiness of home life at the Inn Farm. A capital cast has been secured, including Miss Alma Murray, who is full of sweet womanly tenderness as Anna, Stephen Magnusson's wife, and, indeed, she contributes a beautiful and moving picture of a mother's love, replete with charm and expressiveness. Miss Lily Hall Caine supplies a pathetic portraiture of the unhappy Thora, but she shows off to most advantage as the ingenuous and sunny-dispositioned Elin, her daughter, in the closing scenes. Miss Cecil Cromwell makes a very fascinating Helga Neilsen, and her fine figure and commanding presence, added to her emotional ability, show off the part to perfection. Mr. Norman Partridge is excellently well suited as the unstable Oscar Stephensson, his handsome and youthful appearance, excellent elocution, and intense earnestness all tending to make the part interesting and convincing. Mr. Henry Renouf undertakes the sympathetic rôle of Magnus, and he shines most in the quieter and more subdued scenes of the last act, though he acts well throughout. Mr. Henry George is a dignified and impressive Stephen Magnusson, Governor-General of Iceland; and Mr. Frank Collins does good service as the factor, Oscar Neilsen. Miss Mima Renouf is entrusted with the witty, plain-spoken remarks of Margret Neilsen, the factor's sister; and Mr. Howard Russell is good as Doctor Olsen; while the other small parts are quite satisfactorily rendered. Mr. Edward Lytton, the courteous and able resident-manager for Mr. Arthur, also lends valuable assistance.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Henry Pettitt and the late Sir Augustus Harris, entitled
"A LIFE OF PLEASURE."

Large crowds are flocking this week to see the above popular Drury Lane drama. Mr. Ashley Page and Miss Marion Denvil are great favourites with the Rotherhithe audiences, and during the performance are called several times before the curtain. Mr. Ashley Page gives a fine rendering of the part of Desmond O'Brien; Miss Marion Denvil makes a charming and sympathetic heroine, and the success of the production is greatly due to her ability in the part of Norah Hanlan. Mr. Cyril Vernon presents a powerful sketch of Lord Avondale; Mr. Tom Taylor submits a fine delineation of the character of Captain Chandos; the fun soon starts when Mr. Johnny Chippendale makes his appearance on the stage, and he extracts much fun from the rôle of Captain Danby; Mr. John Sargeant makes the most of Michael Hanlon; Mr. S. Major Jones gives a neat character sketch of Isidore Scarsi, the moneylender; Mr. Eugene Santley plays with power and skill as Sir John Berkeley; Miss Kathleen Russell submits a delightful portrait of Lady Mary Clifford, and plays with undeniable pathos; Miss Mattie Everett is a bright Phyllis de Belville, and her song in the second act is greatly appreciated by the audience; and Miss Maggie Lindsay is well suited in the part of Lady Nellborough. The remaining characters are in good hands. The scenery and effects are excellent, and in the fourth act the machine gun is introduced, firing at the rate of 500 shots per minute.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Farce, by W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker, entitled
"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

"Laughter holding both his sides" is to be heard at the popular Peckham house this week, and it is not to be wondered at that the first visit of Mr. Cyril Maude's company in the above popular piece is attracting large audiences. The gay old sea dog, Captain Barley, whose only failing is "haffability, too much haffability," is capitally represented by Mr. Harry Ashford, who hits off all the peculiarities of the man, the cockney accent, the insinuating smile, the amazing impudence, to perfection, and must be credited with a most artistic piece of acting. Mr. Charles Goold gives a comic impersonation of the mate of the barge, Tom Codd, and his make-up is capital. Mr. Percival Knight is dashing and natural as the volatile Lieutenant Boyne; and Mr. Percy Marmont makes the most of the rôle of Herbert Manners. Augustus is well rendered by Mr. Forrester Harvey; the diminutive landlord of the Old Ship, as played by Mr. Charles Caffrey, caused roars of laughter. The dry humour of the gardener, John Dibbs, as represented by Mr. John Wheatman, is excellently suggested. Mr. Walter Pemberton gives a clever character sketch as the irascible Major Smedley. The customers at the inn are adequately played by Messrs. Fred Lake, Arthur Flinders, Fred Paul, and Boothroyd Fairclough. Miss May Fairclough makes a charming Beauty of the Barge, and represents the various phases of the character with refreshing naturalness and fidelity to nature. Miss Mary Pemberton presents a neat companion portait as Lucy Dallas; Miss Mary Griffiths makes an appropriately massive Mrs. Baldwin, and causes roars of laughter by her clever reading of the part; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite plays cleverly as the yellow-haired Mrs. Porter; Miss Ethel Stalman is good as Mrs. Smedley. The scenery is excellent, especially the open meadow near Hedge End, which is a pretty piece of brushwork. The curtain-raiser is the amusing one-act play, *That Brute Simmons*, to which full justice is done by Messrs. John Wheatman, Fred Lake, and Miss Harriet Trench.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by T. N. Waller, entitled
"JANE SHORE."

For the current attraction at this theatre, Mr. Samuel James has selected as a welcome change *Jane Shore*. The drama has many claims on popular approval—dialogue much above the average, a picturesque setting, and a well sustained and entertaining plot. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the production is meeting with cordial approval. Mr. James is once again relying on the efforts of his stock company, amongst whom we notice many familiar faces, and it is pleasant to be able to congratulate them on so excellent an all-round performance. Mr. Frank Stone as Richard Duke of Gloucester plays a difficult and arduous part with distinction and effect. In his hands the character finds an apt and skilful interpreter. Mr. Bert Morley as Edward IV. is dignified in a part of limited opportunity. Mr. C. F. Collings as Hastings submits a really excellent performance; Mr. Harry Hillier as Lord William Catesby is good in a poor part, and makes everything possible out of it; Mr. Fred Waller deserves warm commendation for a clever reading; Mr. Edwin Wilde as Shore enacts the part of the much-injured goldsmith with sincerity and ability, and makes a good impression; Messrs. Jo Monkhouse and Tod Squires, as Peter and Simon, are responsible for the comedy, and discharge that task in a light-hearted and irresponsible manner; Miss East Robertson powerfully enacts the part of Jane Shore, and the trials and troubles of that unfortunate lady evoke a sympathetic response from the feminine portion of the audience; Miss Marie de Roos as Queen Elizabeth portrays the revengeful nature of the jealous woman with skill; Miss May Seton, who is pleasantly remembered here, has a small, but attractive, part to play as Drusilla, and acts in an unassuming manner that greatly pleases the audience. The scenery and dresses are on a very elaborate scale, and the incidental music was capitally performed by Mr. Gliddon's orchestra. Mr. Frank Stone, who produces the play, deserves a word of commendation for the smooth performance he secured.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
Verdi's Opera, in Four Acts, entitled
"IL TROVATORE."

The third week of Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera season at this theatre was opened on Monday with a performance of *Il Trovatore*. As usual, a large audience was present, and great enthusiasm was shown during the evening. The mounting and staging of the piece was all that could be desired, and the orchestra and chorus was ably led by Mr. T. Lawton. Mr. F. J. Hargrave as Manrico used his fine tenor voice exceedingly well, and for his exquisite rendering of the ear-haunting melody occurring in the first scene of the last act, won some well-deserved applause. As Count di Luna, Mr. Tom Griffiths was excellent, and he sang his music in a manner worthy of the warmest praise. Mr. George Ridding made a capital Ferrando; and Mr. Newton was a satisfactory Ruiz. Miss Marie Burnett supplied an impressive rendering of Azucena, and sang sweetly; and Miss Ethel Locker was a very suitable Inez. The rôle of Leonora was capitally sustained by Mme. Duma, a lady specially engaged to encounter the difficult and intricate music occurring in the part. She certainly made the most of every opportunity offered, and acquitted herself with great credit. Other operas in this week's programme are *The Puritan's Daughter, Night Dancers, Maritana, The Bohemian Girl, Satanella*, and *Faust*.

NEW AMATEUR PLAYS.

The Dramatic Debaters can scarcely congratulate themselves upon two out of three of the new one-act plays by the "great unacted," produced at the Royalty Theatre on Sunday evening. But the fact that they have discovered one agreeable little oasis in a desert of rubbish is something, for if all the others plays sent in by the members were worse than *Miss Vere D'Arsay* and *The Death of a Soul*—two of the chosen pieces upon which it is impossible to bestow praise—then we sympathise with Mr. H. Hamilton Fyfe, upon whose shoulders fell the onus of selection, in having to wade through what must have been a shoal of "shockers." But after listening to insipid conversations by insipid characters in the first piece, and, in the second piece, absurdly unsoldierly platitudes, and equally unsoldierly situations, in what was intended to be a military sketch, we had some compensation when we came to the third item on the programme. This was

"A MAKER OF WOMEN,"
by Edith A Browne.

John Raines .....MR. MILTON ROSMER
Myra Raines .....MISS IRENE ROOKE
Tom ..... MR. ROBERT BOTTOMLEY

Much as we admire Miss Browne's work, we are forced to the conclusion that her story savours somewhat of Mr. Alfred Sutro's clever play, *A Maker of Men*. Myra Raines is a loyal little wife, whose ambition for her husband to make a name as an artist carries her beyond the point of matter-of-fact commonsense. John Raines has risen practically from errand boy to engineer in a tinplate works; but the latter position is considered by his wife as a very humiliating one for a man whom she fancies to be endowed with such transcendent artistic talents. It had always been her ideal to marry a struggling genius, and she is prepared to sacrifice much in order that her husband may continue to engage in what is really a hopeless fight for fame as a painter. Like the devoted woman she is, she employs her time in making and selling pretty little household ornaments, thereby meeting the expenses of the home; but apparently their finances have reached a rather low ebb, and John Raines is sadly disappointed at his lack of success. His disappointment is the disappointment of despair. He realises that he is not an artist, and never can be. He is too honest to impose pot-boilers upon the unwary and the uncritical, and he is too much of a man, and too much a lover of his wife, to allow the silly pride which has been mainly instilled into him by her to overcome his sounder judgments. At the tinplate works he had been an immense favourite with everybody. He was popular with his fellow workman, he was looked upon as a steady and clever artisan by his employers. He will go back to the works. Once more he will don the blue smock. Once more he will live a healthy, conscientious life, free from the hypocrisy of pretending to be what he is not. With an exclamation of disgust he cuts out the canvas of his latest effort from its frame, tears it into several pieces, and flings them contemptuously to the ground. He has tried—and tried hard—to be what it was his wife's heartfelt desire he should be, and he feels he has failed lamentably. At his former trade he was able to earn a respectable livelihood for himself and his wife; as an artist it is impossible. And, above all, he cannot bear the thought that she is not experiencin gthat ease and comfort in their married life which he ought to be in a position to ensure. Myra's generous egotism is shocked at his declarations. What does he mean by changing his brown velvet smoking-jacket and his æsthetic "Trilby" hat for a plain blue serge coat and a bowler? Where can he be going in such unartistic garb? "I am going," he says, "to the tinplate works, to ask them if they will take me back." She expostulates, she pleads, she even suggests that, as he is not fulfilling her ideal of a man, she can love him no more. But the very love of which she speaks triumphs, and, after an angry scene and a flood of tears, she recognises that it is all for the best—he must do something for which his real nature fits him.

Charming, affectionate, and womanly was Miss Irene Rooke as Myra Raines, and a very tender note she struck as, with pleading persuasiveness, Myra endeavours to encourage her husband to do the impossible. Very commendable, too, was Mr. Milton Rosmer in the rôle of the artist who has the courage to abandon what he knows to be a false position. Mr. Robert Bottomley was distinctly good in the part of the landlady's talkative, yet somewhat comical, son. At the conclusion of this piece Mr. J. T. Grein, the president of the Dramatic Debaters, presented the authoress, Miss Browne, with a silver inkstand, and expressed the hope that before long she would complete another play.

Another of the playlets bore the title,

"MISS VERE D'ARSAY,"
by F. M. Mayor.

Miss Vere D'Arsay .....MISS JULIE SAMUEL
Miss Lil St. Cyr .....MRS. J. T. GREIN
Mr. King .....MR. SPENCER CARPENTER

This piece was badly constructed and badly written, although the author certainly seemed to have an idea which might with advantage be worked out by a much abler dramatist. Miss d'Arsay is a young actress who is experiencing the seamy side of theatrical life. Apparently she has received, or expects to receive, an offer from a young playwright of a part in his piece. Miss d'Arsay's companion, Lil St. Cyr, gives hints to the former as to the manner in which she shall hide her lack of experience and engagements from the author, and vulgarly suggests that she shall make love to him. It appears that Mr. King, the author, has previously seen Miss d'Arsay, and has come to the conclusion that she is his "ideal," both from his own personal point of view and from the point of view of the principal part in his play. He interviews her at her lodgings. Unfortunately, however, during her temporary absence from the room, he is ungentlemanly enough to pick up a private note from the table, on which Miss St. Cyr had indicated her scheme of duplicity. He is disgusted; crumples the piece of paper in his hand, and flings it on the floor. When Miss d'Arsay returns, he tells her that he has overheard a conversation which has disillusioned him as to her real fitness for the part in his play, and he will not now require her services. She bursts into tears, and makes a confession; leaves the room again, so as to give him time to write a conciliatory epistle, and presumably all ends well.

Miss Julie Samuel exhibited real dramatic ability in her handling of the rôle of Miss d'Arsay, and as an amateur actress she shows great promise. Mrs. J. T. Grein imparted a spirit of breeziness to the piece with her acceptable performance of the not altogether unsophisticated Lil St. Cyr. The part of Mr. King, the playwright, was a weak character, and it was weakly played by Mr. Spencer Carpenter.

Remaining item:

"THE DEATH OF A SOUL,"
by Robert Kelso.

Sergeant-Major Spry .....MR. JOHN M. COHEN
Col-Sergt. Humphrey Quayle..MR. A. GOODSALL
Colour-Sergeant Gray ..MR. P. A. GAWTHORNE
Sergeant Holloway .....MR. W. C. HOBBS
Sergeant Beatson .....MR. H. CANNON-GEORGE
Sergeant Stretton .....MR. BERTRAM FORSYTH
Sergeant Archibald Tetewood..MR. ERIC MAXON
Sergeant Pringle .....MR. REGINALD H. JOSEPH M.C. .....MR. GILBERT CLARKE
Sergeant of the Guard ..MR. E. BLOODWORTH
Waiter .....MR. HUBERT C. BRETT

We failed to see how the death of the soul came about. Colour-Sergeant Humphrey Quayle has seen twenty years' service, and, with all the experience of the necessity of discipline, he does not seem to understand that, when his brother sergeant has been promoted, he must obey him, in spite of the fact that the brother sergeant has been elevated owing to the part he played in an intrigue between his colonel and a woman. Quayle is not inclined to obey Sergeat-Major Spry; but there does not seem sufficient reason why he should not. In a terrible scene, in which his ungovernable fury bursts forth, he lifts up a chair, and threatens to kill his superior officer, or the first man who comes near him. He is given a chance to quit the mess quietly under arrest, but he doesn't take the hint. Ergo, he is removed forcibly through the means of the frog's march, squealing all the while like a pig at its execution. Quayle, we suppose, is intended to be the hero of the play We are bound to confess that he is a very sorry one, and we hope there are not many like him in the British Army. Mr. Arthur Goodsall acted with dramatic intensity in the part, such as it was. For ourselves, we can scarcely believe that a soldier of twenty years' standing could have behaved, as Quayle did, like an hysterical schoolgirl.

MISS WINIFRED SIDDONS.

Miss Winifred Siddons has been singing at the principal London and provincial concerts during the last four years, and is a great favourite. She was specially engaged to play Dolores in *Florodora* at the Theatre Royal,

Photo by Lambert Weston and Son

MISS WINIFRED SIDDONS as LADY ERTA in the Operetta, *Humpty Dumpty*, by H. Glynn-Gryll. Music by Hubert Colegrave.

Bournemouth, last week, for the Bournemouth Lyric Club, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Jennings. Our photo is by Messrs. Lambert, Weston, and Son, 27, New Bond-street, W.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 26,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"KITTY GREY."

Mr. C. St. John Denton's company, appearing this week at the Dalston with *Kitty Grey*, one of the many successful musical comedies now on tour, begets the reception generally accorded to old favourites. Miss Hilda Guiver, whose general deportment and spirited manner render her an ideal Kitty, is many times recalled in some of her best scenes. Lady Binfield, as represented by Miss Marie West, is an interesting character, and her sympathetic singing adds charm to the representation. Other prominent characters are played by Miss Ada Booth, Miss Nellie Lauraine, Miss Beatrice Balfour, and Miss Kathleen Arnold, who all do well. Mr. Robert Hyett as Sir J. Binfield realises the piquancy of the many adventures associated with the part; and Mr. H. E. Garden as Lord Plantagenet imparts an amount of humour to the character which secures popularity. Mr. Lauri Lisle is decidedly well placed as the King of Illyria, being a decidedly energetic actor; and others helping in the success are Mr. T. W. Kingston, Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft, Mr. F. Russell, and Mr. L. Steward. Mr. Forbes Russell conducts the orchestra, and the music is well rendered.

MR. STANLEY LEVERTON'S RECITAL.

The third dramatic recital given by Mr. Stanley Leverton on the 23rd ult., at Stanley Hall, N.W., proved most successful. Mr. Leverton is an earnest student of the drama, and his rendering of Clarence in the Murder Scene from *Richard the Third* deserves great credit. He was also seen to advantage as Frank in a little comedietta entitled *Confessions*, in which a newly-married couple, who wish to conceal from the people in a Brighton hotel the fact that they are on their honeymoon, are thus led into all sorts of difficulties. Miss Rita Gallally made a pretty and charming bride. Another meritorious item on the programme was "The Portrait," recited by Mr. Leverton in fine elocutionary style. Miss Rita Gallally may be congratulated on her very intelligent rendering of Andersen's "The Red Shoes." The audience showed their appreciation by demanding an encore, Miss Gallally giving "The Lesson of the Fan" in response. The entertainment concluded with *Poor Pillicoddy*, in which Mr. Leverton, humorously made up, enacted the title-rôle with decided ability. A great improvement in his stage demeanour was also noticeable. Mr. Leverton may be heartily congratulated on his engagement with Mr. Chas. Fry during his season at the Court Theatre to play Richmond and Clarence in *Richard the Third* and Camillo in *A Winter's Tale*.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

"THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH."

Historical Play, by Charles H. Meltzer,
Produced at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, on Thursday, Feb. 22.

Queen Anne .....MISS EUGENIE VERNIE
John, Duke of Marlborough..MR. ARTHUR BURNE
Mr. Robert Harley .....MR. A. AUSTIN-LEIGH
Lord Villiers .....MR. J. K. LORD
Lady Susan Villiers..MISS MAUDE CREIGHTON
Lady Teraminta Wood....MISS LILIAN ROGERS
Lady Betty Martin .....MISS VIOLET AGNEW
Colonel "Jack" Hill.....MR. J. E. SAVERY
Jonathan Swift, D.D.....MR. G. W. ELTON
Captain Richard Steel..MR. RICHARD FIELDING
Mrs. Masham .....MISS EMMIE O'REILLY
Sir William Devral ..MR. FARRINGDON STUART
Handel .....MR. DARE AUSTIN
Mistress Prudence Malling..MISS C. YOUNGSON
Groom-in-Waiting .....MR. RICHARD FIELDING
Cole .....MR. CLAUDE AGNEW
Gentleman Usher .....MR. DARE AUSTIN
Footman to Mr. Harley ..MR. F. J. INGLEDEW
Pompey .....MASTER HORACE EYRES
First Duchess of Marlborough..MISS M. LIND

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

At the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, on the 22nd ult., what promises to be a most popular new costume play was staged, for the first time, by the theatre stock company, under the stage-direction of Mr. J. Austin-Leigh. The action of the play, which is a pleasing blending of romance and fact, takes place during a day in April, 1710, and deals with the Court of Queen Anne. The first act represents an audience chamber in St. James's Palace, and members of the Court are depicted busily engaged in discussing an article written by Dr. Swift, editor of *The Examiner*, in which he charges the Duke of Marlborough with misappropriating certain State funds, and with intriguing with the French, against whom England is at war. Queen Anne, who is very weak-willed and easily swayed, holds converse with Harley, a prominent Tory, and Dr. Swift, who use their utmost endeavours to prejudice her against the Duke of Marlborough and the Duchess. The Duchess of Marlborough suddenly appears upon the scene, and denounces Dr. Swift as a scurrilous slanderer, and then asks for a warrant to be issued for his arrest. The Queen eventually consents to come to the Duchess's apartments that night, and to bring the warrant with her, signed and sealed. This alarms Harley, who has really been the instigator of the attacks made on the Duke of Marlborough, and he makes an appointment with Mrs. Masham, his paramour (who is desirous of supplanting the Duchess as Mistress of the Robes), at his house. At their interview they devise a plot to prevent the proposed arrest. The Duchess pays an unexpected visit, and Masham is forced to hide in an adjoining room. After an ineffectual appeal to Harley that he should seek no further to bring the Duke into disfavour, the suspicions of the Duchess are aroused by the scent of lavender that pervades the room, and she suddenly opens the door leading to the adjoining room, and discovers Mrs. Masham listening at the keyhole.

In the next act the Queen visits the Duchess at her apartments, and brings with her the warrant, signed, but not sealed. She explains that she has mislaid the ring which contains the seal, but promises to return later, and complete the warrant. This she fails to do, and the Duchess accordingly goes to the Queen. During her absence, Harley enters the Duchess's apartment by a secret passage, and seals the warrant for Swift's arrest with the Queen's ring, of which he has surreptitiously obtained possession, afterwards placing the ring in a drawer of the Duchess's table. Swift is arrested on the warrant, but is liberated an hour afterwards. The Queen is told of the Duchess's supposed perfidy, and a passionate scene takes place between them. The Queen later commands the Duchess to leave her apartments, and to relinquish her position as Mistress of the Robes at midnight. Before this summons arrives, a French spy is brought before the Duke, on whom are found letters to the French from Mrs. Masham, and implicating Harley. At midnight the Duchess pretends to permanently leave her rooms, and Mrs. Masham immediately takes possession as Mistress of the Robes. Harley presently joins her, and while the two chat gaily of the success of their plans, the Queen listens patiently, and, entering at a compromising moment, a *dénouement* takes place, and both Mrs. Masham and Harley are dismissed from the Court. The final act is a touching little scene, in which the Queen asks forgiveness from the Duchess.

The stock company at the Theatre Royal are certainly deserving of great praise for the excellence of their performance. The part of Queen Anne was admirably taken by Miss Eugenie Vernie. The rôle was a difficult one, the Queen being swayed by every passing emotion; but Miss Vernie seemed to be thoroughly at home in the part, and gave a distinctly clever performance. Miss Marion Lind, who was called upon to take the part of the Duchess at a few days' notice, was a great success. Miss Lind was not only letter-perfect, but displayed adequate appreciation of the effective situations. Her tirades against Swift and Masham were particularly good; but perhaps her crowning effort was in the interview with the Queen, when she denounces her for not signing the warrant for Swift's arrest. The part of the Duke of Marlborough was taken by Mr. Arthur Burne, and his representation of the great soldier-minister was a very creditable one. The scene between the Duke and Duchess in their apartments was a very effective piece of acting. Mr. Austin Leigh impersonated the crafty, scheming Harley with much ability, being at home in his audiences with the Queen, as in the stolen interviews with Mrs. Masham. This latter impersonation was not altogether an enviable one, the Queen's favourite being depicted as a fawning, ambitious woman, who would go to any lengths to gain her ends. Miss Emmie O'Reilly was, however, quite equal to the part, and the impersonation must be described as an exceedingly clever one. As the wizened, bitterly sarcastic Dr. Swift, Mr. G. W. Elton seemed to find a congenial part, and his performance left little to be desired. Mr. Richard Fielding made an excellent, blithe-hearted, popular "Dick" Steele, besides taking the part of a groom-in-waiting; and Mr. J. E. Savery made a very soldierly Colonel Jack Hill. Miss Maude Creighton, Miss Lilian Rogers, and Miss Violet Agnew all did full justice to their respective impersonations. The part of Lord Villiers was very creditably sustained by Mr. J. K. Lord; and Mr. Farringdon capably enacted the rôle of Sir William Devral. Miss Clara Youngson made a charming Mistress Prudence Malling; and Mr. Dare Austin showed much ability in the part of Handel. The subsidiary impersonations of footman to Mr. Harley, Cole, and Pompey were well carried out respectively by Mr. F. J. Ingledew, Mr. Claude Agnew, and Master Horace Eyres. The play was excellently staged, and the costumes were of a most elaborate and charming character.

AT Covent Garden Theatre on Friday afternoon a concert was given in aid of the widow of M. Coquelin (late musician and secretary to the Garde Républicaine Band). Several prominent artists gave their services, and the combined bands of the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, and the Garde Républicaine, comprising 180 performers, played selections. The concert was organised under the management of Mr. Philip Yorke.

CHAT WITH MRS. BROWN-POTTER.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Mrs. Brown-Potter is a great believer in the stage representation of historical characters. During the last few weeks she has been seen and admired at the Coliseum in what was called a "poetic cycle," in one scene and three tableaux. The scene represented the Abode of the Spirit of Love, and to Mrs. Brown-Potter it was mainly left to explain the apotheosis of the ruling passion. We had the love of Antony for his Cleopatra and of Dante for his Beatrice vividly brought before us, and the translated lines of Armand Silvestre were rendered with power and intensity and beautiful expression by Mrs. Brown-Potter.

This clever actress is now appearing at the Coliseum as Mary Queen of Scots in a new scena. It will not by any means be the first time she has impersonated that unfortunate lady, for she has already played the character on the Moss and Stoll tour.

"My idea in taking heroines," said Mrs. Brown-Potter during a few minutes' conversation in her dressing-room at the Coliseum a few days ago, "is that the public in a theatre should have something to pin their eye to. The moment you work on broad lines in a great palace of entertainment like this, you must get some conspicuous character, in history or fiction, that your audience know something about, so that when they see you make your entrance they will say, 'This is Mary Queen of Scots,' 'This Joan of Arc,' or 'That Charlotte Corday.' One of the first historical parts I played was that of Elizabeth in *'Twixt Axe and Crown*. I have played Charlotte Corday right round the world, and I think that that is my most successful heroine. Another part

[*Photo by The Gainsborough Studio.*
MRS. BROWN-POTTER.

I liked very much was that of Marie Antoinette in *The Queen's Necklace*, which I played for over a year in America with the late Augustin Daly."

The play in which Charlotte Corday was the central figure was first produced in India. It is interesting at this time to mention that the piece was written by Mr. A. Macdonald, then editor of the *Times of India*, and perhaps the first man to discover the extraordinary talents of Mr. Rudyard Kipling. Mr. Macdonald, Mrs. Brown-Potter informs us, did not wish to be at all identified with theatrical literature. He was a political writer of the old school of journalists who thought that Parliamentary affairs should not be mixed up with play-writing or with the theatre in any way. Upon leaving India, Mrs. Brown-Potter proceeded to America, where she acted as Charlotte Corday for a couple of years, after which she had a tour with the piece in Australia and in England.

"Joan of Arc is a character in which I have a great belief," said Mrs. Brown-Potter. "In portraying the French heroine I was particularly fortunate in having the old and correct historical records of the time placed at my disposal. Joan possessed a distinctive charm, a charm in which simplicity of life and manners was combined with most extraordinary patriotism. Other people of the period were patriotic, too, but her patriotism amounted to a passion, so much so, in fact, that, with the force of her individuality and personal beauty, it swept everything before it.

"Reverting to what I said about Mary Queen of Scots," continued the vivacious lady, "it may surprise some folk to know that the lowest as well as the better classes of audience have taken a great interest in this character wherever I have appeared in it. When I played it in Edinburgh the students from the University came to the theatre, and were most enthusiastic with their applause. Then we got excellent notices from the local Press.

"I have always held the opinion that in stage representations truth cannot fail to please. One frequently hears the remark fall from the lips of an artist or a manager, 'Oh, the public wants this,' or 'the public wants that.' My own idea is that an actor or an actress should make a work of art a work of love, and then he or she will not go far wrong. It frequently happens that in trying to find out what playgoers do want, they are given what they don't want. I am strongly inclined to the view that wholeheartedness in one's work, whatever it be, brings success in its train."

Mrs. Brown-Potter's admirers have long since recognised that her marked and delightful personality is well suited to the stage representation of those "strong" women whose influence has left a powerful impression upon the pages of history. In attempting to delineate the famous women of all ages she makes it a self-imposed duty to study every possible detail of her characters, as well as the customs and manners of the period. We can feel sure that her portrayal of the ill-fated daughter of James V. of Scotland will in all respects be an adequate dramatic likeness.

A MATINEE in aid of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, was given on Tuesday, at the Prince's Theatre in that town and attracted a crowded assemblage. Mr. J. M. Chute, the popular proprietor of the Prince's, was chairman of a committee which comprised Mr. Wilkie Bard, Mr. Edward Lewis, Miss Fanny Fields, Miss Lily Morris, Mr. G. R. Chapman, Mr. Henry Turner, and Mr. F. S. Green (hon. secretary). The programme was contributed to by many of the performers engaged in the pantomime of *Mother Goose* at the Prince's, and valuable aid was rendered by artists from London, Birmingham, and elsewhere. During an interval Mr. Chute announced that he anticipated the total result would amount to £315. The entire proceeds would be handed to the Infirmary Fund without any charge for expenses whatever, with the exception of a small percentage deducted for the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Benevolent Fund.

"DAS ERBE."

Schauspiel, in Four Aufzügen, von Felix Philippi,
Produced, for the First Time in England,
at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on
Friday Evening, Feb. 23.

Baron Karl von Larun .....HANS STOCK
Heinrich Sartorius .....HANS ANDRESEN
Henriette .....CHARLOTTE KELLY
Hertha .....MARGARETHE RUSS
Van der Matthiesen .....RICHARD STARNBURG
Clarisse .....JOHANNA BECKER
Excellenz von Küstner .....BRUNO WIBURGER
Wesendank .....ERNST REICHER
Rahnsdorf .....HUGO MULLER
Lipetzky .....WILLY KLEIN
Schaper .....KARL BERGER
Bernhardi .....PAUL KEEL
Lorinser .....GEORG BASELT
Rossmann .....OTTOMAR BLOSS

Of late the mind of the average British citizen has been obsessed with the legend of the inherent super-excellence of everything German. Especially has this been the case in the sphere of intellectual activity. The very possibility of understanding Hegel has been to the average ignoramus a guarantee of that thinker's profundity.

If this young man expresses himself in terms too
deep for me,
Why, what a particularly deep young man this
deep young man must be.

Thus Mr. Gilbert very tersely expresses the truth about a good deal of the seemingly *ex cathedra rhodomontade* which, merely because it is German, we are expected to assimilate as the deliverances of the spirit of wisdom itself. Such is the devout feeling with which one goes to hear a new production at the German Theatre, in Great Queen-street. But if *Das Erbe* is to be accepted as an average specimen of the modern Teutonic drama, then we are afraid that the principle of "dumping," about which we have heard so much during the recent Election, has been extended to the stage, and we are having the surplus output of German slop-work sent over here for Britannic consumption. For surely no one can believe for one moment that this ill-constructed tale of sordid mercenary intrigue is a sample of what is regarded as good drama in the Fatherland to-day. Of course, if one witnesses it with a mind in a state of receptive adulation, good and well. Then no doubt there would be discovered some cryptic power which otherwise is totally wasted upon the average spectator. The story is somehow involved with the betrayal of a secret of gun-manufacture to the emissary of an American firm. A somewhat peculiar Government official, Excellenz von Küstner, announces that, owing to this leakage, a great Government contract has been transferred from Germany to America. The young proprietor of the German firm, Baron von Larun, declares that he will dismiss all his employees unless the traitor is discovered. General suspicion arises all round. Küstner proposes to found a new factory with the assistance of Heinrich Sartorius, the manager of von Larun's works; but the latter demurs to leaving the employment in which he has been so long. But when he finds that von Larun believes that he is the guilty party, he announces his intention of abandoning him. Then the work-people threaten to storm von Larun's house. The true villain is opportunely discovered, and everything ends happily in Sartorius receiving a partnership in the firm.

A slight love interest is added by the rivalry of two ladies for the hand of the easily-influenced Baron von Larun. There is only one redeeming feature in an otherwise dreary performance, and that is the really praiseworthy efforts which the company make to give life to this unresponsive collection of bombastic ineptitudes.

Herr Hans Andresen really managed to arouse some sympathy with the badly-used Sartorius; but the credit is all due to the art of the actor, who imparts some force and vitality to what would be otherwise a very prosaic part. The rather eccentric diplomatist, Excellenz von Küstner, was played as well as could be expected by Herr Bruno Wiburger. What we suppose must be regarded as the villain of the play, Van der Matthiesen, was ably portrayed by Herr Richard Starnburg. It seems essential in German plays that the villain should be of Dutch extraction. The female parts hardly call for rmention. Sartorius's wife, Henriette, was rendered somewhat lifelike by Fraulein Charlotte Kelly; and the two rivals, Hertha Sartorius and Clarice Matthiesen, were made as much of as possible by Frauleins Margarethe Russ and Johanna Becker.

MISS SARA DREW, the Roland of *Goody Two Shoes* at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, was the winner of the coveted diamond ring in the Pantomime Popularity Competition promoted by the proprietors of *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday*, the result being decided by public ballot. The "Eminent" himself was in attendance on Saturday, and made the award in the presence of a crowded audience, who displayed much enthusiasm. Mr. W. F. Crewe, the popular manager, personally attended to the arrangements at the theatre.

WHEN the proprietary of the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, take over the Theatre Royal at the end of this month, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont, the able and courteous general-manager of the Lyceum, will fulfil the duties of business manager, though he will retain his important position as Mr. John Hart's local representative and treasurer at the house "over the way." Mr. Beaumont is a thorough man of business, and a great favourite socially.

MR. CHARLES WILSON, the popular stage-manager at the Alhambra, is, we are pleased to hear, now convalescent. His recent serious illness gave his friends considerable anxiety.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's visit to the Crystal Palace Theatre on Monday afternoon had been long looked forward to, and an overflowing audience fully appreciated every point in Mr. Hubert Henry Davies's fine comedy *Captain Drew on Leave*. Mr. Bannister Howard, the new lessee of the theatre, apologised for the delay in beginning, Sir Charles having missed his train at Brighton; but the wait was short, and the eminent actor was quickly on the scene, brimming over with high spirits as the mercurial Captain Drew. Added pleasure was given to the afternoon by the unexpected appearance of Miss Mary Moore, who, it was feared, would be unable, on account of indisposition, to take up her part of Miss Mills; but, despite some evidences of a cold, Miss Moore played with all her customary brightness and charm.

Miss Ellen Terry, who celebrated her birthday on Tuesday, spent last week-end at Bath with her daughter, Miss Ailsa Craig, who has been staying in the "West City of the West" for some little time. The eminent actress, it is pleasing to note, is shortly to be seen in London again, having been secured for the part of Hermione in Mr. Beerbohm Tree's production of *The Winter's Tale* at His Majesty's in the autumn.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has selected *The Winter's Tale* for the attraction at His Majesty's Theatre, during his absence from town in the autumn, and rehearsals of Shakespeare's comedy will have the benefit of his personal supervision. Mr. Tree has made a happy engagement in that of Miss Ellen Terry for the part of Hermione, Miss Viola Tree playing Perdita. The rôle of Autolycus has been allotted to Mr. C. W. Somerset.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Mr. Charles Frohman will produce Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play, *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, rehearsals of which have been in steady progress for some time past, at the Garrick Theatre on Wednesday, the 21st inst. In addition to Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh, the cast will be a very strong one, including Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. O. B. Clarence, Mr. Charles Goodhart, Mr. Charles V. France, Mr. Walter Pearce, Mr. George Trollope, Miss Muriel Beaumont, Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Elfrida Clement, Miss Pamela Gaythorne, Miss Nora Greenlaw, and Miss Kate Phillips, whose re-appearance on the stage will be very welcome. The present revival of *Brother Officers* reaches its fiftieth performance to-night, and might have run until Easter at least but for the arrangements made for the new production above alluded to.

Mr. Willard is having one of the most prosperous of his always highly successful seasons in the New England States. He has just concluded his "record" week at Hartford, Conn., and the advance sale of seats for his two weeks at the Colonial gave clear indication that that would be one of his best fortnights in Boston.

Miss Jessie Millward, who begins her season at the Scala Theatre on Saturday with *The School for Husbands*, has received an assurance from Mr. Stanislaus Stange, who is in the United States, that he will be present at the first performance in this country of his comedy, provided his business arrangements permit of his leaving New York in time.

Mr. J. M. Barrie, whose fanciful pen has yielded nothing since it evolved *Alice-Sit-by-the-Fire* last April, has provided the Haymarket with a new play, which will form Mr. Frederick Harrison's next production, this time in conjunction with Mr. Charles Frohman. The cast of the new play will include Mr. Charles Hawtrey and Mr. Gerald Du Maurier.

"Peter Pan" concluded his second visit to the Duke of York's Theatre on Saturday amid a scene of great enthusiasm. Mr. Barrie was in a stage box, but made no response to the cries for a speech, contenting himself with dropping a bunch of flowers at the feet of his little representative, Miss Ella Q. May, who came forward and said, "We are all to do it again next year. We all wish we could give you a thimble"—a thimble being, in the language of the Never, Never Land, a kiss. When *Peter Pan* is revived next Christmas the evening performance will be supplemented by daily matinées, at which the play will be acted by children.

Since the death of Sir Henry Irving new trustees of the Adelaide Neilson Fund for the Relief of Indigent Actors and Actresses have been appointed. They are now Mr. J. L. Toole, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. Arthur Bourchier.

Miss Alma Murray is playing Anna in the provincial tour of *The Prodigal Son*, that opened so auspiciously three weeks ago. Although this charming actress, so well known to theatre-goers for so many years, has recently accepted engagements to appear in the characters of old women—Mrs. Mayley, in *Oliver Twist*, at His Majesty's, and now the mother of the hero in Mr. Hall Caine's exciting drama—there is no need for her to do so for a long time to come, for she looks, off the stage, so exactly like the Alma Murray of the good old days at the Vaudeville and the Lyceum, that time seems to have stood still with her. There is also a popular fallacy in regard to Miss Murray's retirement that needs contradicting. She has never retired, and although her name has not been found in playbills so frequently as of yore, every year has brought its work—special matinées, teaching, or opportunities to create new parts. Miss Murray's father was, as everybody knows, the late Leigh Murray, and as the wife of a literary man, Mr. Alfred Forman, she has always had the advantage of artistic surroundings and every encouragement in her profession.

To attempt to give a list of the engagements Miss Murray has filled, and the managers she has known, would fill a column of this page. She has a quaint recollection of her very first evening behind the scenes of a theatre. It was probably at Covent Garden. Somebody gave her a shuttlecock and battledore, with which she played in a fair scene, happily unconcerned with the company or the audience, for she can only remember three people distinctly—a very fat little child, whose name has long faded out of her mind, little Paul Fechter, son of the actor, and the great Fechter himself. Later on she commenced her stage career in earnest, appearing as "Miss Alma," afterwards changed—without her permission by a manager who thought it sounded too childish—into "Miss Almar," until she went under Chatterton's management, and he, being a friend of her late father, and having great faith in the young girl, persuaded her to use her own name in full. All her work has been in London theatres, including a memorable engagement at the Lyceum, when she played Portia and other big parts with Sir Henry Irving. Mr. Pinero's *Bygones*—one of his successes long before he became "our leading playwright"—owed not a little of its popularity to Miss Murray's fresh and finished performance, and she also did Mr. Louis N. Parker a good service in making so much of the woman's part in his one-act piece, *The Sequel*, that was revived, by the way, a few years back at the Criterion during Mr. John Hare's season.

There was not a little excitement behind the scenes at the Coronet Theatre during the performance of *The Prodigal Son* last Monday evening. A piece of scenery caught fire at the back of the stage, luckily unperceived by the audience, and as it happened at the close of one of the acts, the safety curtain was lowered, and prompt measures taken to extinguish the flames. Although the members of the company were somewhat alarmed and agitated—and slightly drenched—they speak in the highest terms of the self-possession and quick action of the stage staff. A possible disaster was averted as coolly and cheerfully as if it were a mere matter of shifting scenery.

The creditors of Andrew Edwin Mackintosh, acting theatrical manager, of James-street, Rugby, held a first meeting at the Official Receiver's Office, Coventry, on Wednesday. The Official Receiver stated that the receiving order was made on the 15th ult. on the debtor's own petition, which he filed in consequence of a creditor having proceeded against him under a judgment summons. He was adjudged bankrupt the same day. Debtor appeared to have commenced business on his own account about six years ago without any capital. He toured the farcical comedy *Jane* for about twelve months, having borrowed money for the purpose. This tour was not a success, and the money borrowed was still owing. After this the debtor fulfilled various engagements, and in 1904 was general manager of the Brighton Palace Pier at a salary of £300 a year. During 1904 he went on tour with the farcical comedy *Oh! Susannah*, on which he also sustained a loss. The unsecured liabilities amounted to £465 10s. 6d., including thirteen creditors for loans amounting to £438 and two royalties amounting to £21. Debtor attributed the cause of failure to "general theatrical depression." The deficiency was returned at £465 10s. 6d. No resolution was placed before the meeting, and the case was left in the hands of the Official Receiver, the public examination being fixed for March 12, at Coventry.

Miss Fanny Coleman, whose jubilee on the professional stage is to be marked by a benefit matinée in May, has interesting memories of the last half-century of the drama in London. The old Haymarket Theatre, where Miss Coleman made her first appearance, under the management of Mr. Buckstone, was very different from the present theatre. "In those days," she says, "the curtain always went up at seven o'clock—the company were supposed to be in the theatre at six—and the curtain did not come down till midnight. Mr Buckstone was always quite annoyed if it came down earlier. The programme would begin with a farce, and that might be followed by a five-act play, and after that would come the ballet, and sometimes after that another farce. People did not dine as late as they do now.

"I remember," continues Miss Coleman, "that at the Haymarket nearly all the dresses were made in the theatre itself; there was a dressmakers' workroom, and a tailors' shop where the men's costumes were made. We did not have any Paris gowns then. Salaries, too, were very much smaller then. I remember when £15 a week was the highest salary taken at the Haymarket. But actors and actresses stayed much longer at the same theatre, and the profession was not so crowded."

Mr. Stewart D. Wright, who is an old favourite in Glasgow, both as actor and manager, was, at the conclusion of his pantomime engagement, entertained by some of the "Old Club" boys to supper, and presented with an address, at the Adelphi, on the 21st ult.

Mr. Sterling Mackinlay will give his Twenty-fifth London Recital on the afternoon of May 21, at Bechstein Hall. This will be his only appearance during the coming season, as the number of his pupils obliged him some eighteen months ago to abandon all future concert and theatrical work, in order to devote the whole of his time to teaching singing.

Mr. Daniel Frohman has obtained from Mr. Pinero the American rights of his play, *His House in Order*, which Mr. George Alexander recently produced with such striking success at the St. James's.

The success of *Mizpah*, the new Biblical verse play, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Luscombe Searelle, which made a great impression on its production recently in America, has been repeated in Boston, the enthusiasm on the opening night at the Majestic Theatre in that city being phenomenal. The play is produced by Mr. Charles Frohman, who is credited with having attained a veritable triumph of stage-craft. Mr. Searelle, who figures both as poet and musician in the play, is about to return to England, and sails from Boston on the 7th inst.

At the meeting of the Swansea Borough Council, held at the Town Hall on the 21st ult., Mr. E. O. Brooks, the manager, applied for the renewal of a licence for the Grand Theatre. The decision given at the previous meeting, when the application for an unconditional licence had been refused by the casting vote of the Mayor, was said to be illegal. Mr. Brooks reminded the council that for a couple of years past he and his partner had been kept in suspense respecting this licence, and they were very seriously thinking of giving up the theatre altogether, unless they received fair and equitable treatment. He took over from his predecessor a full and unrestricted licence, as had always been previously granted. The question as to the legality of the former decision was debated with some warmth by the council, but an unconditional licence was finally granted by twenty votes to seventeen.

Miss Haidee Gunn has been engaged by Mr. J. M. Chute, of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, to play Juliet in his forthcoming revival of *Romeo and Juliet*, at his Shakespearean Festival, commencing April 23.

The American rights of Judge Parry's and Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's farcical comedy, *What the Butler Saw*, which ran for over one hundred nights at Wyndham's and the Savoy Theatres last autumn, have been secured by Mr. W. H. Reynolds, of the Garrick Theatre, New York, and the piece will probably be produced some time during the coming season in New York.

Miss Agnes Molteno, the popular prima donna, who is just concluding a four months' tour, has been most successful, and is said by everyone to be singing better than ever. Miss Molteno is specially engaged to sing at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough, on Sunday, after which she will return to town, where she will probably be heard in her scena, *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

Miss Edith Wynne Matthison will deliver to the members of the O.P. Club, on Sunday, "A Few Unscholastic Reflections on the Greek Chorus." The address will be given at the Criterion Hotel, with Mr. Alfred F. Robbins in the chair. On the following Friday, in the Club Room, an informal debate on Mr. A. W. Pinero's play, *His House in Order*, will be opened by Mr. W. O. Summers.

Miss Julia Neilson, whose Lady Blakeney is one of her finest impersonations, is now back in the cast of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, which reached its 375th performance on Friday, at the New Theatre.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose new play, *Brigadier Gerard*, will be produced at the Imperial Theatre to-night, has a rooted antipathy to taking a call, and nothing in the world would induce him to respond to a demand for the "author." His experience as a dramatist, however, is a very small one, as *Brigadier Gerard* is the first whole-evening play for which he is entirely responsible. Sir Conan Doyle does not think that the entrance of the novelist into the theatre interferes with the dramatist pure and simple. "A stage taken by a dramatised novel leaves one less for the purely original—that is obvious; but whether a play that is dug out of the entrails of a novel is as good or better than the other sort depends on many things. A play carries with it a big responsibility. The man who writes a novel," adds Sir Arthur sagely, "does not bring down a whole company with him if the public won't have his work."

Mr. Michael Connelly, in terminating a pleasant pantomime engagement as musical director with Mr. Eade Montefiore, received the following testimonial:—"Many thanks for past and present endeavours, and my grateful appreciation of so pleasant an association.—Believe me, yours truly, Eade Montefiore."

Mr. Sidney Dench was obliged to retire from the part of Spider Jack in *Rich and Poor of London* at the Empire, Dundee, last week, and the rôle was taken up at a few minutes' notice by Mr. Jack Sydney, who was complimented by Mr. Percival, the resident-manager, and Mr. Dench on a perfect rendering of a most difficult part.

The Scenic Artists' Association's first social dinner was given on Tuesday at the Adelphi Hotel, and was well attended, the following members of the Association with their friends being present:—Messrs. Walter Hann, E. G. Banks, Richard Douglass, R. H. Halley, E. J. Hirst, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, George Herbert Wallis, and Harry Woolls (members of the Committee), R. Caney, Phil W. Goatcher, Ernest Hann, E. J. Humphries, Bernard A. Hastain, H. L. Jacobs, J. Johnston, J. Davies Massey, J. B. Morand, R. C. McCleery, H. W. Owen, Herbert Pike, Stanes Prem, Phil Small, George Tweddell, H. Thompson, C. Watson, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Lawrence Harris. It was arranged to have these social dinners on the last Tuesday in each month at the Adelphi Hotel. The next committee meeting will be held at the offices of the Association on Tuesday at 7.30. At eight o'clock on the same evening an informal conference will be held for the discussion of any matters of general interest to scene painters, and to consider suggestions for enlarging the scope of the aims and objects of the Association. To this conference all scene painters (whether members of the Association or not) are cordially invited.

Mr. T. Edward Ward, the successful touring manager, will revive at Christmas or thereabouts, on an elaborate scale, the Napoleonic play *Man and Wife*, which will then have had a rest of some four years. Arrangements have been made with the author, Mr. Walter Howard, for the play to undergo a course of reconstruction, which will assure the success of the revival and render it one of the finest romantic attractions on tour. Mr. Howard's latest play, *The Midnight Wedding*, is developing into an irresistible attraction.

A new theatre is proposed to be built at Reading at the north-west corner of Friar-street and Cheapside. Plans for the erection of the theatre have been submitted to the Buildings Committee of the Corporation by Mr. R. E. Daniel, of Uxbridge-road, London. The Surveyor reports that generally speaking the plan is good, but as some of the sections of the Reading Corporation Act, 1881, and of the Bye-laws have been contravened, the plans should be referred back for amendment.

Ibsen's *Ghosts* will be produced by the English Drama Society at the King's Hall on Sunday, the 11th inst., the cast including Miss Madge McIntosh, Mr. Arthur Goodsall, Mr. Lumsden Hare, Mr. Arthur Curtis, and Miss Isabel Roland. *Ghosts* will be preceded by a one-act play, entitled *Peter the Great*, in which Miss Isabel Roland, Miss Ina Royle, Mr. Bertram Forsyth, and Mr. Esmé Percy will appear. How far the latter play will resemble the five-act drama of the same name by Mr. Laurence Irving, produced at the Lyceum in 1898, is not revealed.

Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy* will commence their seventh year of tour on Monday next at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells. During the last three years the piece has made rapid strides, and is without doubt one of the most successful musical comedies of its kind now touring, the company having had only two weeks' vacation since August Bank Holiday, 1903. Mr. J. W. Cordiner, who is still the general-manager, has bookings as far ahead as autumn, 1907.

Mr. Robert Castleton underwent a severe internal operation on the 13th ult., but is going on well, and hopes to be able to accept engagements again about Easter. *The Tiger Lily* will, he anticipates, be again on the road in the autumn.

Mme. Rejane, who since her return to Paris has been playing in Sardou's successful play, *La Piste*, is organising a school of acting. Only eight pupils will be admitted—four young men and four young women who have a liking for the stage. There will be four courses of study—viz., a course of diction (classic authors), a course of ancient and modern dramatic literature, a course of modern artistic education, and a course of dancing, deportment, and fencing. Mme. Réjane herself will undertake the course of modern artistic education, so far as the young women are concerned, while M. Dumeny will teach the young men. Each will give two lessons a week.

The candidates for the school will be chosen by a special committee, who, after hearing them, will nominate the eight pupils. Each pupil will receive a grant of £24 for the first year and £50 for the second. At the end of the first school year, the pupils who are definitely admitted to the school, will have to sign an engagement for two years with the Réjane Theatre, all the costumes being furnished gratuitously, and every year there will be two public performances, in which all the pupils will play with Mme. Réjane and her company. The piece played will be by an unknown author, and the proceeds of each performance will be divided, half to the author and half in the shape of several prizes to the pupils, the awards to be made by a public vote.

The Horspool Natural Voice Academy, Limited, was registered on Feb. 22, with a capital of £5500 in £1 shares (1000 6 per cent. preference). The company proposes to take over, as a going concern, the business carried on at Grosvenor Mansions, Victoria-street, Westminster, as the Natural Voice Academy. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than five) are Professor J. Horspool and others to be appointed by the signatories. There is no initial public issue.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard, whose enterprise seems to be limitless, has arranged with Messrs. Polini and Austin Melford for the rights of *The Silver King* for all towns not visited by them.

Messrs. Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton will rely chiefly on the story in *The Beauty of Bath*, their new musical play to be produced at the Aldwych Theatre on March 19, Mr. H. E. Haines' charming music being made an adjunct to the "book" rather than a peg on which an author has to fit his work. The key to the plot is given just before the fall of the curtain on the first act, when the heroine, played by Miss Ellaline Terriss, is confronted by the man she thinks she is in love with and the man who is in love with her, the two being as alike as the Dromios, but she discovers the deception about to be practised on her, a fact of which the audience is made aware.

Mr. McLeod Loader, the general-manager of the St. Helens Theatre Royal and Opera House, took his fifth annual benefit on the 22nd ult., when a crowded audience supplied complete evidence of his popularity. The pantomime was supplemented by many variety turns, all of which gave the utmost pleasure. Mr. Loader, who was enthusiastically received, delivered a speech, in which he thanked the directors, the artists, and the audience, and outlined his future plans for this and the forthcoming season.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt's feud with the Theatrical Trust in America is unabated, and the determination of the famous actress to play under canvas remains fixed. It has been found that an ordinary circus tent was quite unsuitable for the purpose, and the Messrs. Shubert, who are managing Madame Bernhardt's arrangements in America, have ordered a big tent, 180ft. long and 130ft. wide, with a portable stage and a seating capacity for 4000 persons, for her tour in Mexico and California.

Patrons of the drama in the remoter states of America evidently take the duties of the censorship into their own hands. At Linton, Indiana, recently the leading lady of a Chicago company, in the course of the performance, spoke slightingly of the town, whereupon a member of the audience at the back of the house drew a revolver, and shot her in the leg, inflicting a slight wound. The assailant succeeded in making his escape.

Miss Eva Carrington, the young actress of whose romantic marriage to Lord de Clifford we gave an account last week, is a niece, as well as pupil, of that well-known professor of singing, Madame Helen Townshend.

The action of *Parlez-vous Français*, the new play which will be produced at Miss Florence Warden's matinée at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Tuesday, is laid in and near Paris, and the hero, played by Mr. Graham Browne, is a young English baronet, who finds himself involved in serious difficulties through his wooing of a French girl while he is but imperfectly acquainted with her native tongue.

Miss Winifred Pearson, who was with Miss Olga Nethersole for five seasons, terminates at Easter a long engagement as Carmen de Saveraux in Mr. Frederick Melville's *Between Two Women* company.

Messrs. Wheeler are sending out a company to South Africa on Saturday next, with a répertoire including *The Beauty and the Barge*, *The Freedom of Suzanne*, *Billy's Little Love Affair*, and other West End comedy successes. The company, which will open in Durban on April 2, consists of Messrs. Wilfred E. Payne, Fred W. Permain, Douglas Gordon, H. Greville, A. S. Homewood, Rule Pyott, David Miller, and Hylton Wards, and Misses Marie Housley, Florence Le Clercq, Violet Greville, Joan Blair, Gertrude le Sage, and Hilda Vaughan. Mr. Frank Wheeler, who is now in England arranging various matters with regard to his enterprises and theatres in South Africa, is personally organising and superintending the rehearsals, and will probably return to South Africa with the company.

Before the Strand Licensing Bench on Tuesday an application was made on behalf of Sir Charles Wyndham for the renewal of his license for the Crown public-house, St. Martin's-court, St. Martin's-lane. It was urged by the Bench that the house was not in a satisfactory condition, and that there were eight other licensed houses within a distance of 128 yards. Sir Charles Wyndham suggested that the license should be renewed on his undertaking not to apply next year if he had not started building an hotel. The application was granted on this condition.

"The Head Girl" has been selected for the title of the adaptation to be made by Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox of Jules Lemaitre's comedy *La Massière*, the English rights of which were acquired some time since by Mr. George Edwardes. To suit the tastes of English playgoers the characters have been anglicised and the action laid in England. The plot of *La Massière*, which was produced at the Paris Renaissance in January, 1905, is largely concerned with studio life and with the rivalry of a father and son for the same woman, and its production in this country may be shortly looked for in one of the West End theatres.

Miss May Chevalier, who will probably appear in London very shortly—for she is far too clever and pretty to be allowed to "rest" for long—possesses a fine collection of curious souvenirs of her long tours in different parts of the world. Beautiful chains of every tint of shells from Tasmania, quaint satchels woven by the Maoris, water-colour sketches of the most lovely scenery in New Zealand, strings of carved wooden beads, ivory ornaments—the rooms of her pretty house in Bedford-park tell the tale of her many travels and keen appreciation of everything that is odd or artistic.

Mr. Robert Arthur was unsuccessful in his appeal in the Divisional Court, presided over by the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Ridley and Darling, on Wednesday. The appeal was brought against the decision of Judge Selfe, in the Brompton County Court, in an action brought against Mr. Arthur by the mother—as next-of-kin—of a young girl who was employed in the 1904 pantomime at Fulham. It was alleged that the girl through being supplied with damp tights contracted phlebitis and phthisis, and the County Court Judge awarded her £50 damages and the mother £35 damages.

Madame Dorina Natalia, the well-known South African contralto, gave her first vocal recital in England at the Theatre Royal, Ryde, on Tuesday. Madame Natalia, by special request, only rendered English songs, though she is able to sing in four different languages. Special praise must be given to the finished and sympathetic rendering of Hatton's "Enchantress" and Batten's "April Morn." Mr. Clifton Barritt gave humorous interludes at the piano, and Mr. P. W. Taylor acquitted himself well in Chopins's valses, and proved an efficient accompanist.

Mr H. B. Irving, who goes to the Imperial in May to play in matinées of *Othello*, will begin a season at the Lyric Theatre on the 31st inst., under the management of Messrs. Nixon and Zimmerman, the well-known American *entrepreneurs*. The initial attraction will be *Jeunesse*, a piece by André Picard, originally produced at the Odéon Theatre, Paris, which is being translated by Mr. Irving himself. Mr. Irving will visit America in the autumn, under the same management, opening at the Amsterdam Theatre, New York, on Oct. 8.

Mr. Charles Frohman returned from America on Monday with every evidence of having spent a busy time in the States. Among the novelties he has secured for London from American sources are Charles Klein's *The Lion and the Mouse*; *Raffles*, with Mr. Kyrle Bellew; *The Squaw Man*, a new play by H. V. Esmond; *The Heir of the Hoorah*; *La Belle Marseillaise*, adapted from the French; and *Marjory Strode*, a comedy specially written for him by A. E. W. Mason, the actor who has just attained to Parliamentary honours. Mr. Frohman's latest success in America was an adaptation by Mr. Louis N. Parker, of the Paris success of *Le Duel*, a full account of which is given on another page.

Miss Edna May, who has scored a brilliant success in Mr. Frohman's production of *The Catch of the Season* in New York, sails for London on Tuesday, armed with her part in the new musical comedy shortly to be produced at the Vaudeville, in order that she may study it on the journey. The title of the new play remains up to the present *The Belle of Mayfair*.

Mr. Norman V. Norman, one of our most earnest and enterprising touring managers, will shortly add to his répertoire *Much Ado About Nothing*, in which Miss Beatrice Wilson will play Beatrice, and himself Benedick. Mr. Norman's other Shakespearean production, *As You Like It*, has been exceedingly successful, Miss Wilson's Rosalind being the subject of the most favourable comment from the Press and public. It is interesting to learn that Miss Betty Stannard, the youngest daughter of Mrs. Arthur Stannard (John Strange Winter), has lately joined Mr. Norman's company.

Miss Celestine Bertram, who is playing the boy in *The Breed of the Treshams*, received the following letter last week at Gloucester:—"Dear Batty,—I am writing to tell you how much we loved you for saving the rat's life. We came to see *The Breed of the Treshams* for my birthday treat, and we did enjoy ourselves so much. We are having a tea party on Friday, will you come and bring your sword, and we can play robbers? Mother says you are not a little boy at all, but a grown-up woman, but I'm sure she's wrong, as girls are not plucky.—Your loving Freddie." Needless to say, Miss Bertram did not accept the invitation, but her little admirer received by return a portrait of Batty and the sword.

In our notice of the production of Mr. "John Bickerdyke's" new play *Her Wild Oats* at Wallingford last week we omitted to mention the work of a very charming and talented young amateur, Miss Norah Cook, a daughter of the author, who distinguished herself in the comedy rôle of Doris Brunettière. As a result of the performances of the piece a sum of about £20 has been obtained for the benefit of the Wallingford Cottage Hospital.

At Leeds, on Thursday, before the stipendiary magistrate, at the instance of the London Publishers' Association, acting for Messrs. Chappell and Co., Ltd., the hearing was concluded of the case in which John Owen Smith, *alias* Major Smith, Thomas Sheridan, and John Watson, *alias* Walsh, were charged with conspiring to defraud by selling pirated music. Mr. R. D. Muir, for the prosecution, said that Smith carried on business at 52, High-street, Leeds, and Sheridan and Watson also resorted there. Some 1300 copies of pirated music were found in the house by the police, and in addition there were catalogues containing a large number of names of copyright songs which Smith offered for sale. Some letters were also found relating to pirated music. Watson and Sheridan were committed for trial at the assizes, and Smith was remanded until the following day in order that a further charge might be preferred. Each defendant pleaded "Not guilty," reserving his defence. Bail was accepted.

Mr. Joseph W. Worley's tour with *A Faithful Friend*, by Lewis Gilbert, will start at the Hippodrome, New Brompton, on Monday. A first-class company has been engaged, including Mr. Henry Hatchman and Miss Trissie Humphries, and a completely new production will be presented. The play has been rehearsed by the author, and a successful tour is anticipated. It will be under the direction of Mr. Worley, who will also play the part of Harold Sefton.

Mr. Plowden assumed his most beaming smile on Thursday, when a pretty child dressed in sailor costume appeared in his court with the object of securing a licence to take part in the performance of *The Span of Life* at the West London Theatre. "Is it a girl or a boy?" inquired the magistrate, genially. "A girl, sir," was the reply; "but she plays a boy's part." "And what is that?" queried his Worship. "Oh, she just comes on and says 'Oh, mother, mother,' and something like that." "Is this the first appearance of this artist?" he continued. "Oh, no," was the reply. "She is an old dramatic hand," returned Mr. Plowden. "Well, I hope some day she will get beyond saying 'Mother, mother.' In the meantime you may have the licence."

Saturday next will witness the first performance of Mr. Brandon Thomas's new play, *A Judge's Memory*, at Terry's. Mr. James Welch's production will thus coincide with that of *The School for Husbands* at the Scala, an announcement made some time ago by Miss Millward.

Madame Huita Krautz, whose cultured dramatic soprano voice has been delighting select audiences with excerpts from *Faust*, *Tosca*, *Griselidis*, *Lohengrin*, *Tannhäuser*, *Les Huguenots*, *La Princesse d'Auberge* at some of the best society concerts, comes as a French and German cantatrice laden with the most favourable criticisms from Brussels, where she has been a most appreciated artist. Her exceptionally fine voice will shortly be heard in London, as important engagements are pending.

Messrs. Beardmore, Power, and Byrne commence a short tour with *Man's Enemy* on Monday. The company will include Mr. Augustine Knight in his original part, Mr. John Power, Miss Daisy Halling, and other well-known artists. The tour will be under the direction of Mr. John P. Beardmore. The tour of *Man's Enemy* will be followed by the production in the autumn of a new drama.

An unfortunate mishap occurred during the performance of a play called *The Day of Judgment* at the Variety Theatre at Rexdorf on Tuesday. An actor, who has to fire a shot, stood behind the wings awaiting his turn to appear, holding the revolver in his hand. In some unaccountable way the weapon was discharged, and the charge hit an actor named Hermann in the face. His eyes and face were terribly burnt, and an eye specialist, who was immediately summoned, declared that the actor would lose the sight of one eye, but that the other might be saved.

Mr. Otho Stuart has postponed the production of *Measure for Measure* at the Adelphi until Tuesday, March 20, on account of the increased business consequent on the announcement of the last nights of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the final performance of which will be given on Saturday, March 17. The Adelphi acting edition has been specially prepared by Mr. Oscar Asche, and this, with an exact copy of the original, will constitute a little volume, which will be given to every member of the audience on the night of the revival.

"CINDERELLA'S" CENTURY.

Thousands of happy playgoers who have visited Drury Lane Theatre have framed their minds to mirth and merriment. Theirs has been no counterfeited glee. They have shouted approval of jest, song, dance, or topical allusion—all of which are to be found in the happily-inspired version of the immortal fairy story of *Cinderella*, to which literary elegance and poetic charm have been given by Sir Francis Burnand and Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and the most artistic and brilliant scenic illustration by Mr. Arthur Collins. The pantomime attained its century on the evening of Friday, the 23rd ult., when Mr. Collins gave away as a souvenir a waltz by Mr. Harry Fragson, on the popular duet, "Whispers of Love," and several of the performers introduced new numbers into what is no doubt one of the most successful productions in the muster-roll of Old Drury—a production in which the glories of a magnificent spectacle are united to refined humour. But we have already exhausted the superlatives of praise in speaking of the splendour of its scenic design and the richness of its dresses, and we may therefore devote our space to some further recognition of the clever people who have, by their loyal exertions, done so much for the annual.

Mr. Harry Fragson, the Anglo-French comedian, ingratiated himself with a Drury Lane audience on the opening night, and his popularity is now firmly established. He animates every scene with a humour that is quite *spirituelle*, and his rendering of the character of Dandigny is a piece of excellent character-acting. On the hundredth night Mr. Fragson introduced some delightful new numbers from an extensive répertory. He illustrated his cleverness as a comedian at the piano in a ditty redolent of the canebrake, introduced into the Baronial Hall scene, which he enriched with a wonderful vocal imitation of a banjo accompaniment. In place of "Pour Elle," he gave a pretty selection, entitled "Lettre Tendre." Giving way to the demand for an encore, he sang his well-known "Mal-de-Mer" song. "Vive le Sport" and "The Parisienne" are other of his contributions that have become extremely popular.

In the pretty duet, "Whispers of Love," the chief honours are taken by Miss May de Sousa, the daintiest of Cinderellas. Her cultured voice enables her to do complete justice to this ear-haunting melody, which is most enthusiastically encored. She is not only a charming singer, but a vivacious actress, and gives delightful prominence to the title-rôle, realising to the full the pretty romance of the neglected maiden of the hearth, who has always been "associated with the grate." From her first entrance until the trying on of the slipper of glass she plays with archness, sincerity, and conviction, and her popularity is well deserved.

Mr. Walter Passmore hits off the burlesque old lady, the Baroness de Bluff, with apt drollery and unctuous humour. Nothing more hilarious could be imagined than the pantomime dame's adventures in the forest, where she falls into the pond through an accidental shot on the part of a sportive daughter. The Baroness has a real sense of the dignity of the ancient nobility, and her efforts to preserve it under difficulties born of impecuniosity and other misfortunes are rich in the opportunities they offer for funny business, of which this resourceful and clever comedian makes the very most.

Mr. Arthur Williams makes a very comic old gentleman of the Baron de Bluff, who was by no means communicative concerning his past when he entered into matrimonial bonds the second time. Mr. Williams never forces the fun in his interpretation of the character, but plays with a quiet strength that is wholly admirable, and that extracts every ounce of humour that there is in the part.

Mr. Harry Randall has not the adventitious aid of even one of his music hall ditties in the part of Alfonso, the page; but it must be confessed that he does extremely well. There is honest heartiness in the fun of his realisation of the precocity and forwardness of the lovesick youth, and he scores a triumph with Mr. Harry Fragson in the rapid transformation illustrative of "L'Entente Cordiale," in which he makes up splendidly as President Loubet; while his associate is quite life-like as Mr. Chamberlain. In his attempts at French pronunciation the comedian is extremely amusing.

Miss Queenie Leighton, a stately, tall, handsome principal boy, has an excellent musical style, a crisp delivery, and an impressive method of acting that makes her an ideal representative of the romantic Prince Jasper. Many and hearty were the compliments bestowed upon her on the evening to which we are now particularly alluding for her capital rendering of a new number, entitled "Hello, little girl"; and she also has a share with Miss de Sousa in the success of "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut."

Mr. Arthur Nelstone has established himself a favourite by his droll acting as the sentry, and his dance is a remarkable effort in eccentric leg-twisting and acrobatism that invariably brings down the house.

Miss Emily Spiller works loyally to assist the fun in the character of Œnone, the bigger of the ugly sisters; and that excellent comedienne, Miss Pollie Emery, is quaintly kittenish at the other sister, Hippolyta, a lady who evidently sets a value upon her reputation for fatal beauty, that has been lost, alas! in the lapse of years.

Mr. Johnny Danvers as Sammy Snap, the representative of a newspaper, is responsible for some very welcome fun in his one scene with the Baroness; and much the same may be said of Mr. Tom Woottwell in the part of Growler.

Mr. Arthur Conquest as the cat has to follow Mr. Charles Lauri in animal parts at the National Theatre, and we know of no artist who is so capable of wearing the mantle of that lamented pantomimist, who was known as the "Garrick of animal mimes." Mr. Conquest has been trained in an excellent school—that of the Surrey Theatre, where the genius of his father sustained the best traditions of pantomimic art. The Drury Lane feline has evidently studied the ways of Grimalkin, and mimes to some *purr-puss*, illustrating admirably the affection and playfulness of the household pet of the Baron. Mr. Conquest's excursion round the dress-circle was as heartily welcomed on the hundredth night as it was on the first, and he has established his reputation as one of the first animal impersonators of the present day.

Queen and Le Brun, who appear first as Trim and Trott, and afterwards as the bull, give useful aid to Mr. Harry Fragson in his burlesque Toreador scene. Like Robin, in the famous old song, the bovine is nimble and light on its feet, and its antics are as droll as they can be, the two performers making quite a hit by their whimsical business.

Miss Daisy Cordell cuts an elegant figure as the Fairy Godmother; Miss Minnie Abbey is most effective as Ferdinand; and the few lines of Father Time are given with apt expression by Mr. Alec Davidson; the small part of the Beadle being carefully handled by Mr. Edward Morgan.

Mr. Whimsical Walker, the clown, is an immense favourite with the youngsters, and preserves the traditions of old Drury for a funny and well-conceived harlequinade.

Mr. Sidney Smith, the popular business-manager, is accustomed to the feeling of elation, and he has had great cause for rejoicing during this pantomime season, for *Cinderella* has drawn excellent houses throughout. Mr. Smith is a most courteous official, and deserves all the kind things said of him.

LEONCAVALLO'S new opera, *Chatterton*, is to be produced at Vienna in the German translation shortly, and it will be heard here very soon after.

THE ART OF SPEAKING.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier delivered a lecture under the title of "Ars Loquendi: A few words on the gentle art of speaking distinctly," in the Drill Hall, Eton College, Windsor, on the 22nd ult. Mr. Bourchier, who is an M.A. of Oxon, in the course of his address made an amusing example of Jaque's speech, "The Seven Ages of Man," from *As You Like It*. "Cultivation of the art of speaking distinctly," he continued, "is the very first principle of all oratory. Without it, 'winged words' are of no avail, and the periods over which we have spent so many hours of study are best left undelivered—save, perhaps, in the form of MS. for the reporters! It is not necessary to shout—your slightest whisper will be heard if you articulate properly, and if you remember that in every audience there is an old lady who is slightly deaf of one ear. To get accustomed to the sound of your own voice—that somewhat alarming thing to beginners—it is a good plan to read aloud, say, twenty lines at a time of some familiar author, very carefully and very slowly, giving every syllable in every word its due value and correct pronunciation.

"You will not be able to read well or to speak well unless you breathe properly. The secret of breathing properly is to keep the lungs well filled with air, not expending more breath at any given moment than is absolutely necessary, and refilling them at every possible opportunity. After distinct articulation and correct pronunciation comes *Expression*, without which all reading or speaking must be unintelligent. Expression depends largely upon proper attention to *modulation* of the voice, to *emphasis* on the right word or phrase, and to *pause*.

By *modulation* of voice, I mean the passing from one key to another, showing changes of sentiment, changes of thought. To acquire modulation, it is a good thing to practise reading dialogue and dramatic scenes, when you will easily see that the voice must be modulated to suit the different characters.

"*Emphasis* means the marking by the voice of such words or phrases or sentences as you consider the most important. This you can do in various ways: by an increase of stress upon a particular word or sentence, by variation of tone, or by varying the time in the enunciation of the words. Correctness of emphasis must, of course, depend upon the intelligence of the speaker, for, if he understands his subject right through, he cannot fail to note the right words to emphasise. Incorrect emphasis will make a sentence ludicrous. For example, you all probably know the story of the nervous curate, who, on reading the words, 'And he said unto his sons, saddle me the ass, and they saddled him,' read it thus, 'Saddle *me* the ass!' Being reproved by his rector, who pointed out that the word *ass* was the one on which emphasis should be placed, the curate, to be on the safe side, added yet another emphasis, and an amused congregation heard the passage read thus, 'Saddle *me* the ass, so they saddled *him!*'

"The value of *pause* is threefold. It enables you to get breath and, as I said before, to keep the lungs well filled with air; it gives your audience time to consider the full meaning of what you have been saying; and it serves for *extra emphasis*. In this connection I will quote to you the words of Froude, in illustrating Cardinal Newman's powers as a preacher:

"Froude relates that on one occasion Newman, who was at that time Vicar of St. Mary's, at Oxford, had been describing some of the incidents of our Lord's Passion. At this point, he says, 'He paused. For a few moments there was a breathless silence. Then, in a low, clear voice, of which the faintest vibration was heard in the farthest corner of St. Mary's, came the words, "Now, I bid you recollect that He to whom these things were done was Almighty God." It was as if an electric stroke had gone through the church, as if every person present understood for the first time the meaning of what he had all his life been saying. I suppose it was an epoch in the mental history of more than one of my Oxford contemporaries.'

"Another example of an effective and affecting use of the pause was told me last week. Our ex-Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, an old Etonian, who in a busy career has always managed to show practical interest in the affairs of this School, was taking leave of the various permanent officials with whom he had been associated for so many years. At the close of a little informal speech, he said: 'Gentlemen, I may be wrong; I may be right; but I've done my best,' and then he paused for a moment 'I've done my best.' None of his hearers can ever forget the simple pathos, the quiet dignity of that pause.

"Among actors of our time, none understood the value of pause more than Henry Irving, who never failed to give it extraordinary significance. It was said of his delivery of certain speeches that the very pauses had eloquence. Next to distinctness, and almost equal in importance, is the art of speaking fluently and with conviction.

"In your choice of words, for the composition of a speech, study the best models, selecting your phrases for their simplicity, and avoiding what Matthew Arnold used to call 'endeavours to make a platitude endurable by making it pompous.' In quoting, be careful to verify your references, and quote the exact words; neglect of this precaution will involve you in many disasters. A good start, too, is everything. The speaker who makes a good impression at the beginning will generally hold his audience to the end. Many a briefless barrister has *remained* briefless by forgetting this salutary rule. You may remember the story of one who began his defence, 'My lord, er, er, my lord, my unfortunate client.' 'Go on, sir,' purred the judge, 'the court is entirely with you, so far!'"

After making references to famous politicians and barristers, Mr. Bourchier went on:—"Many small hints can be obtained from the rehearsal of a speech before a friendly critic. A different manner, different gesture, different methods of speaking are all necessary, say, in a lecture at the Royal Institution, a speech at the Royal Academy Banquet, a debate in the House of Commons, or in an address to my present audience. Therefore, don't be afraid of criticism. However unpalatable it may seem at the moment, it will generally be salutary, and remember that 'none of us are infallible, not even the youngest of us.'

"Some years ago, when the manager of Drury Lane was rehearsing some particularly complicated piece of scenery—the destruction of the Armada—he was at his wits' end how to make the huge vessels move in a sufficiently realistic manner. A voice from above (where the limelight comes from), 'Try a railway turning-table, Guv'nor!' solved the problem, and you may be sure that the individual who made the suggestion was not forgotten.

"Of course you must choose your critic according to your discourse. If you are to address a learned society, you will turn for counsel to some friend with the ready sympathy and vast store of learning of your tutor or your Headmaster:

'Too true to flatter, and too kind to sneer,
And only just, when seemingly severe.'

"If, again, you are to address a popular audience, you cannot do better than rehearse your speech to your gardener or to your old nurse; if it pleases them you need not be afraid of its effect later. Be careful, too, to suit your *wit* to your audience; an ill-considered jest, harmless enough in itself, has cost its perpetrator very dear before now. There is the warning instance of the London barrister who, in his courtship of a Scottish constituency, made a jesting allusion to the haggis. It was held that an insult to the national delicacy showed want of taste in more ways than one, and a vote of no confidence in the candidate was promptly passed.

"Finally, in the words of President Lincoln, make your speech 'with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right,' and always bear in mind those noble words of St. Paul: 'Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are elevated, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are amiable, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, have *these* in your mind, let your thoughts run upon *these*.'

"The Duke of Wellington said that the battle of Waterloo was won in the playing-fields of Eton. Other battles have been won here, too. Battles in Parliament and battles in the Law Courts were foreshadowed in the skirmishes of Upper School, of Pop, aye, of our House Debating Societies.

"Has not our Eton record in the Church proved more than worthy of the past? May I venture to hope that our record in Art may prove worthy of the future?

"Gentlemen, 'fair is our lot, and a goodly heritage.' It rests with you that the torch which has been borne aloft by so many generations of Eton orators, from the time of Chatham and Fox to the days of Gladstone, Rosebery, and Curzon, shall burn with undimmed light as long as Eton endures."

A CHAT WITH MISS EDITH GIBBS.

Whatever the strides that have been made in artistic history they can all be traced to the individual efforts of those few earnest men and women, who, ignoring to a great extent mere pecuniary gains and meteoric notoriety, have set themselves to study *ab initio* the means by which their particular branch of art may be brought as near perfection as possible. In all branches of study one of the most fascinating is the scientific cultivation of that most beautiful of all instruments—the human voice; and amongst those engaged in this delightful pursuit we may mention Miss Edith Gibbs, the well-known teacher of

Photo. by Alfred Ellis.

MISS EDITH GIBBS.

voice-production, elocution, and stage-training, with whom our representative has had the pleasure of an interview.

In whichever of the above branches she undertakes, she proves equally successful. Miss Gibbs says that nothing can exceed the delight she experiences when she has produced a beautiful voice, be it for speaking or for singing. It is needless to say that she is the idol of her pupils, who are unanimous in their praises of her patient and thoughtful teaching. One of her pupils, a leading light in musical comedy, says, "I have quite ceased to be nervous, for now my voice flows out without the slightest effort or strain, and is never tired."

Another of her pupils achieved the most exacting feat of singing Carmen for three nights in one week, and at the end of the third performance said that she felt her voice fresher and stronger than ever.

Turning now to the more technical side of Miss Gibbs's art, *Paulatim sed firmiter* may be said to be her motto. She first aims at getting the voice from the throat (a too frequent failing in English men and women), and then to bring it out in all its vigorous fullness, with exquisite finish.

Her method necessarily entails inexhaustible patience and perseverance on her part, but the means are fully justified by the results, which include purity and brilliancy of tone as well as ease and silence in breathing. This can only be obtained by one who has thoroughly studied the vocal art in its physiological and scientific aspects. For example, she has cured very difficult cases of "clergy throat," and also of elongated uvula. In short, all her pupils benefit in health, as well as expand in lung and chest, through her instruction.

She has a numerous *clientèle* in society for the cultivation of a beautiful speaking voice, a charm which is much sought after by the preparing débutante. She is equally successful with her male as with her female students, and is especially proud of the fact that her very first pupil still returns to her for coaching lessons. Indeed, many of her pupils, once their voices are produced, still rely on her coaching for every big event.

Her pupils include brilliant members of society, and also those of the musical, dramatic, forensic, and medical professions. She has pupils playing the principal parts at the leading London theatres. Her studios are at the Bechstein Hall and 60, Berners-street.

MISS AMY ST. JOHN'S monologue, *The Man Who Didn't*, was recited on Thursday evening by permission at the Chelsea Town Hall, on the occasion of the Chelsea Liberal Ladies' soirée.

THE Stage Society held their annual dinner at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday, under the presidency of the Earl of Desart, who, in giving the toast of the society, said that of the 149 plays submitted to the council last year, 131 were by English writers. Six plays in all had been produced. Personally, he did not much believe in the subsidised theatre, which, he thought, would have in England a narrowing tendency. Miss Gertrude Kingston, in responding to the toast of the "Players," said that every manager in London, instead of throwing obstacles in the way of the Stage Society, ought to do everything in his power to further its work, not only in his own interests, but for the sake of the drama and art.

REOPENING OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

The happiest auspices attended the inauguration by Mr. J. Bannister Howard, a manager of boundless enterprise, of his lesseeship of the Crystal Palace Theatre, the re-opening of which on Monday afternoon enjoyed the inestimable advantage of a visit by Sir Charles Wyndham and company, in *Captain Drew on Leave*. During the short time the theatre has been closed a welcome renovation has been effected. The interior has been tastefully redecorated, gold and maroon being the predominant tints, the seating has been renewed, and everything rendered bright and attractive, a group of waving palms, ferns, and flowers at each side of the stage having a charming effect.

The theatre, it may be recalled, was opened in 1870, when performances took place on Tuesdays and Thursdays in each week. In 1872 a series of operas in English, under the direction of Mr. J. A. Friend, was begun, succeeded in the following year by Shakespearean performances, and by operas, in which Miss Blanche Cole, Mme. Ida Gillies, Mrs. Henry Corri, Mr. Fox, Mr. Maas, among many others, appeared, with a chorus from Her Majesty's. Ballad concerts were started in 1875, when Mr. Sims Reeves, Mme. Blanche Cole, Miss Rose Hersee, Miss Alice Barth, Mrs. Aynsley Cook, and Mr. Geo. Fox sang. The same year witnessed a series of dramas and Shakespearean plays, in which Messrs. Henry Neville, Compton, Hermann Vezin, W. H. Kendal, Wm. Rignold, Chas. Warner, Chas. Sugden, Chas. Wyndham, W. H. Vernon, Herbert Standing, Lionel Brough, Edward Terry, George Conquest, Chas. Collette, and H. Paulton, Mme. Stirling, Mrs. Hermann Vezin, Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. John Wood, Mrs. Kendal, Miss Genevieve Ward, and Miss Carlotta Addison, appeared from time to time. In 1876-7 plays were given under the direction of Chas. Wyndham, including his production of the Greek drama, *Alcestis*, and a first series of comic operas. Italian opera commenced in 1879, under the direction of Mr. Gye, and dramatic performances, under the management of G. E. Anson, were also given. In the Whit. week of that year, Mr. John Hollingshead brought Miss Nellie Farren, Miss Kate Vaughan, and Mr. E. W. Royce, in many of the Gaiety successes. The year 1880 was notable for the appearance of Mr. J. L. Toole, with Mr. Henry J. Byron and the Folly Theatre company, and for a series of dramatic performances under the direction of the late William Terriss. Dramatic performances, under the direction variously of Mr. Toole, Mr. Hollingshead, Mr. Chas. Wyndham, Mr. Augustus Harris, Miss Isabel Bateman, Mr. J. H. Barnes and Mr. E. Righton, and Mr. C. W. Somerset, continued up to 1885, in the May of which year Mrs. Langtry made her first appearance at the Crystal Palace in Sheridan's *School for Scandal*. 1886 brought the Hare and Kendal company, from the St. James's Theatre, Chas. Wyndham and the Criterion company, Wilson Barrett, Fred Thorne, and Mrs. Langtry; and in 1887, Mrs. Brown Potter and the Haymarket company made their appearance. In 1888, Mr. Beerbohm Tree and Mr. W. Terriss appeared in *Othello*; and up to 1891 all the best London companies were engaged. A long and successful season, under the management of Mr. Oscar Barrett, succeeded, when Miss Edith Bruce appeared yearly with great success in pantomime. Sir Chas. Wyndham, it may be noted, has produced no less than three pantomimes at the Crystal Palace, viz., 1876-7, *Sinbad the Sailor*; 1877-8, *The Sleeping Beauty*; and 1879-80, *Robinson Crusoe*. For the past ten years the theatre has been visited principally by touring companies, with melodrama, musical plays, and varied attractions, and each Christmas, up to the present, a pantomime has been produced.

It must be many years since the theatre held such a large and representative audience as that on Monday afternoon. Every seat was occupied, standing-room there was none, and the business of turning money away followed quickly upon the opening of the doors. Those who succeeded in gaining admission lived in an atmosphere of the highest enjoyment during the superb performance supplied by Sir Charles Wyndham and his model company, in *Captain Drew on Leave*. There is no need to dwell upon the excellences, already so widely appreciated in the metropolis, of the eminent actor's performance of the gallant sea-captain, his buoyant humour, his eloquence, and his fragrant sentiment. It is enough to say that he took instant possession of the hearts of the audience, and won their most enthusiastic cheers. Miss Mary Moore, who it was feared would be too ill to attend, provided a pleasant surprise, and was greeted with the warmest welcome on her appearance as Miss Mills, in which the artlessness of the character, her ingenuous manner, and the varieties of expression captivated all. Miss Marion Terry, who also had a most cordial reception, was in her tenderest mood as Mrs. Moxon, denoting with a finished skill the innocence and purity of the wife and mother tried by sore temptation. The blunt and overbearing Mr. Moxon was realised with his usual thoroughness by Mr. Edmund Maurice, whose make-up, voice, and manner needed nothing to perfect the part. Mr. Yorke Stephens is of the utmost value to the play as the unprincipled Mr. Hassell, his mordant delivery and well-contrasted style giving the character all the significance desired; and Mr. A. Vane-Tempest completed the miniature cast by his clever study of Mr. White, whose jealous perturbation was made constantly the cause of mirth. The maid was gracefully impersonated by Miss Salberg.

The applause, which awaited every curtain, was loud and continuous at the last, until Sir Charles Wyndham at length stepped forward and thanked the audience on behalf of himself, Miss Mary Moore, and company, for the reception accorded them. It was a peculiar pleasure to him to appear after so many years at the Palace, with which he was identified a long time ago in management for four or five years. He thought he might say they had always a most gratifying success, but he did not take the credit for that success. He felt somewhat in the position of the little school urchin, who was asked by his master, "Who made this great and beautiful world?" and was too stupefied with fear to answer. Again was the question repeated, until the boy tremblingly replied, "Please, sir, it wasn't me!" So did he say, "It wasn't me." The success achieved was all due to the encouragement and enthusiasm manifested always during those years by them, and not only by them, but by their ancestors. Among the letters he had received that afternoon was one from his friend, Sir August Manns, still more identified with the building, who gave him a hearty welcome to the Crystal Palace, where they, in the days of old, had done pleasant and useful work by their united efforts. After all, he and Sir August were now, so far as the Crystal Palace was concerned, men of the past. It was his pleasant duty to bring to their notice a man of the future, to whose hands had been committed the destinies of the theatre—Mr. Bannister Howard. To him they would have to look for greater and higher work, and he (Sir Charles) hoped they would make it as pleasant to Mr. Howard as they and others had always made it to him.

Mr. Bannister Howard, who received a hearty greeting, then stepped before the curtain, and said he could only thank Sir Charles Wyndham for coming down and giving them such a splendid send-off, and he also thanked the audience, one and all, for being present. During his management it was his intention to try and revive some of the old days, giving pure and healthy plays by first-class companies. He also intended having a Shakespeare Festival in April, when that fine, wholesome play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, would be given. Mr. Howard then briefly outlined the history of the theatre, as indicated above, and, once again thanking the audience, asked them to spare a few moments, as there was a photographer who would like to take the house on this most interesting occasion. A flash-light photograph was then taken of the whole auditorium.

The attraction for the evening performance was Mr. Hall Caine's play, *The Eternal City*, performed by Mr. Howard's own company, and staged on a scale of magnificence rare in the suburbs. The play was received with enthusiastic appreciation, the members of the company earning constant cheers. Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp has the part of Bonelli, and gives a clever rendering of a character demanding the utmost power and resource. He makes the rôle especially Satanic, and his striking make-up, and the variations of his voice, help greatly in a picturesque representation. A stalwart and intense David Rossi is found in Mr. Henry Deas, who gains the greatest sympathy for the brave young Italian Deputy, delivering his stirring lines with well-judged emphasis. The classic features of Miss Marie Polini are well adapted to the character of Donna Roma Volonna, and the emotions of the part are skilfully depicted by the popular actress, whose elocution and dramatic skill are agreeably apparent. Mr. George Cartwright gives a striking performance of Bruno Rocco, his interpretation being aided by a voice of rich quality. The appearance of the bereaved father at the military tribunal was a remarkable one, and he put so much energy and force into the scene that he was the object of an enthusiastic recall. Mr. J. Fortescue makes a venerable figure of the Pope, speaking and acting with a restrained force that is very convincing. The tottering gait and quavering voice of the old man are cleverly assumed, and a finished rendering of the exacting rôle is given throughout. Mr. L. St. G. Lowther, who stage-manages the piece, acts the part of Angelelli very effectively; and Mr. Herbert Legerton as Minghelli is the scowling and vindictive police-spy to the life, his acting being dramatic and intense. Mr. Percy is a grave and reverend Father Pifferi; the President of the Tribunal and the Public Prosecutor are well embodied by Mr. Court and Mr. K. Herbert respectively; Mr. E Stidwell plays Felice with undoubted ability; and the English and American Ambassadors are sustained by Mr. A. Jefferson and Mr. Roberts. Miss C. Stephens has a suitably regal appearance as the Princess Bellini; and charming vivacity marks the impersonation by Miss Marie Grey of the maid, Nattalina. Miss Mary Mannering gives an affecting portrayal of Elena, and Miss Goodby is a suitable exponent of Francesca. Mr. E. Comberbach is a commendable Major Doria; and the extensive cast is completed by Mr. R. Walsh as Tomasso; and Messrs. Edwards, Percy Whiteman, P. Reginald, and H. L. Wilson. The motets and choruses occurring in the play, which is produced by Mr. D. Lewin Mannering, are artistically rendered, the serenade in Act 5 being sung by Miss Ethel Percival.

During one of the entr'actes Mr. Howard appeared, and asked the indulgence of the audience for the rather lengthy waits. He thanked them for attending there on that, his opening night, and assured them it was his intention to bring only the best-class companies before them. He felt that, in coming back to the Palace, he was taking on a great responsibility. It had had in the past first-class entertainments, and Sir Charles Wyndham and all the finest artists had appeared in their turn. It was his intention to arrange flying matinées, and he had already had a promise from Mr. Forbes Robertson, and also from Mrs. Langtry, and no doubt the splendid reception accorded to Sir Charles that afternoon would induce other London companies to visit the Palace, and enable him to revive, if not weekly, at any rate fortnightly, matinées of London successes. He once again thanked them, and trusted they would bear with him a little in the lengthy waits, which would not occur again.

Mr. Arthur Howard is the business-manager of the theatre, the orchestra of which is presided over by Mr. Joseph Sainton.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Thursday, there being present Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, C. Hayden Coffin, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, A. E. Drinkwater, Lawrence Grant, Charles Cruikshanks (secretary), and Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Beatrice Lamb, Kate Phillips, and Sara Raleigh. The suggested scheme for the qualification and registration of actors was again under discussion, and several important questions in connection therewith were considered, and ultimately the scheme was settled, the promoters being authorised to lay it before leading members of the profession with the view of their forming themselves into the nucleus of a senate to carry the project into effect.

A meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was held on Tuesday last, there being present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), William Devereux, Lawrence Grant, C. Aubrey Smith, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). A circular letter to the members whose subscriptions for the current year are not paid was settled, particular attention being drawn to the insurance scheme, under which every member whose subscription is paid is insured in substantial amounts in case of death or accident, the actual carrying of the coupon issued not being absolutely necessary, though it is advisable to have it accessible for reference in case of need. Other matters in connection with the affairs of the association were considered, and the secretary received instructions on various points.

The Council held their usual weekly meeting on Tuesday last, there being present Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Blake Adams, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, A. E. Drinkwater, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, Fewlass Llewellyn, Quinton McPherson, Walter Russell, Algernon Syms, Fredk. Volpé, and Hubert Willis. Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Beatrice Lamb, Kate Phillips, and Saba Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. A. E. Drinkwater was unanimously elected deputy-chairman for the ensuing year, and a vote of thanks was tendered to him for his invaluable services during the past year. Rita Everard, Beatrice Chester, Frank G. Holyoake, Mary Conroy, Olive Bashford, Edward Ouston, and Archibald C. Thornhill were nominated for election, and a former member was proposed for reinstatement; in three cases applications for membership were ordered to stand over. The secretary was directed to tender the thanks of the Council to Mr. A. W. Baskcomb for his presentation of a framed programme of a "command" performance at Windsor Castle. The hon. solicitors, having reported progress in several matters, were requested to brief a K.C. as leading counsel in a case now in the list for trial. In a case of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre, it was resolved to ask the hon. medical officer of health to visit the premises and report to the Council. Arrangements were made for holding an arbitration between members. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was taken, and a scheme in connection with the agency department and provincial and touring members, suggested by a member of the association, was referred to them for consideration and report thereon.

AMONG the presentations at the King's Levee last Monday we noticed the name of Mr. Wilfred Stanford, the popular acting-manager at the Camden Theatre, who is lieutenant in the 17th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, and we wish to congratulate him on the honour he has received.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Fits and Starts, Gaiety, May 2, 1885.
Fitzsmythe of Fitzsmythe Hall, Haymarket, May 26, 1860.
Five Hundred Francs, Vaudeville, July 6, 1885.
£5 Reward, Olympic, Dec. 3, 1855.
Fixed, Theatre Royal, Wigan, March 12, 1883.
Flagger's Telegram, Theatre Royal, Grimsby, Feb. 24, 1871.
Flag, The; or, The Battle Field, Surrey, Nov. 12, 1870.
Flamingo; or, The Rook and the Cause, Strand, Sept. 18, 1875.
Flashes, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, April 7, 1890.
Flash in the Pan, Dublin, Oct. 23, 1896.
Flash of Lightning, Leeds, Aug. 1, 1870.
Flats, Criterion, July 23, 1881.
Fleeting Clouds, Ladbroke Hall, Jan. 25, 1889.
Fleur de Lys, Philharmonic, April 5, 1873.
Fleur de The, Tyne, Newcastle, March 15, 1875.
Fleurette and Fadette, Cardiff, Feb. 24, 1879.
Fleurette, Gaiety, March 1, 1873.
Flight for Life, Surrey, July 8, 1895.
Flight, Terry's, Feb. 16, 1893.
Flighty's Flirtation, Amphitheatre, Liverpool, Feb. 25, 1874.
Flint and Steel, Opera House, Sheffield, May , 1881.
Flip, Flap, Flop, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Nov. 10, 1879.
Flirtation, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Aug. 11, 1873.
Flirting, Sanger's, Ramsgate, July 14, 1884.
Floradora, Lyric, Nov. 11, 1899.
Florence, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Nov. 20, 1872.
Florentine Wooing, Avenue, July 6, 1898.
Florette, St. George's Hall, July 17, 1899.
Florian, Novelty, July 14, 1886.
Flo's First Frolic, Princess's, May 23, 1868.
Flower Girl, Surrey, Oct. 1, 1855
Flower Makers and Heart Breakers, Grecian, Oct. 7, 1869.
Flower of the Farm, Ayr, Nov. 6, 1896.
Flower of the Flock, Theatre Royal, Exeter, Nov. 8, 1880.
Flowers of the Forest, Adelphi, 1847.
Fly and the Web, Strand, Feb. 5, 1866.
Flyaway's Race, Kilburn, March 9, 1892.
Flying Dutchman, Grecian, Dec. 24, 1868.
Flying from Justice, Prince of Wales's, Southampton, May 6, 1890.
Flying Visit, Criterion, Nov. 6, 1889.
Fluf; or, A Clean Sweep, Opera House, Leicester, Aug. 1, 1881.
F. M. Julius Cræsar, Royalty, Sept. 7, 1870.
Foggerty's Fairy, Criterion, Dec. 15, 1881.
Foggy Day, Theatre Royal, Belfast, July 23, 1900.
Foiled by Fate, West London, Oct. 22, 1900.
Foiled, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, May 4, 1882.
Folded Page, Steinway Hall, May 12, 1891.
Folle Farine, Theatre Royal, Bishop Auckland, March 10, 1884.
Follies of the Day, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Oct. 16, 1882.
Follow My Leader, St. Leonards, Nov. 22, 1899.
Follow the Drum, Opera House, Wakefield, April 2, 1888.
Follow the Leader, Charing Cross, April 12, 1873.
Folly Fete, Grecian, Oct. 12, 1865.
Folly of Age, Opera Comique, Nov. 26, 1894.
Folly's Fortunes, Bacup, Aug. 21, 1899.
Fond Hearts, Prince of Wales's, Southampton, Oct. 7, 1889.
Fool and His Money, Globe, Jan. 17, 1878.
Fooled by Fortune, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, Sept. 28, 1874.
Fool of the Family, Adelphi, July 12, 1860.
Fools, Camden Town, Feb. 14, 1885.
Fool's Fidelity, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, March 14, 1887.
Fool's Mate, Toole's, Dec. 12, 1889.
Fool's Paradise, Theatre Royal, West Hartlepool, Jan. 20, 1879.

PLAYERS IN THE PROVINCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It is good to know that many of the West-End managers are associating themselves with Mr. Tree's school of acting. It is nice also to see that Mrs. Barrasford will shortly give an opportunity to provincial variety artists to show their abilities in London.

I wonder if any influential person will ever find a means to let provincial dramatic artists (who, notwithstanding years of experience, are still earnest, ambitious, and artistic) have the chance of appearing in the West-End, and so be placed in open competition with their fellows!—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES CARTE.

Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER RUF DES LEBENS,"

Drama, in Three Acts, by Arthur Schnitzler, Produced at the Lessing, Feb. 24.

Captain Moser ..... Herr Marr
Marie ..... Fraulein Triesch
Frau Richter ..... Fraulein Lehmann
Oberst ..... Herr Bassermann
Dr. Schindler ..... Herr Reicher
Katharina ..... Fraulein Hofmann
Irene ..... Fraulein Schiff
Förster ..... Herr Rittner
Max ..... Herr Stieler
Albrecht ..... Herr Reuss
Sebastian ..... Herr Fuchs
Soldat ..... Herr Teuber
Cuirassier ..... Herr Borowsky
Zweite Cuirassier ..... Herr Mueller

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Thursday, March 1.—Herr Schnitzler's latest work met with a cordial reception on the whole. Although a small minority put in a few determined hisses at the close of the last two acts, the author appeared before the curtain several times, and was heartily applauded. It is a "genuine Schnitzler," full of psychological problems, clever dialogue, smart epigrams, "far-fetchedness," and what may be termed a coquetting with love and death. The action passes—as is usual with the author, himself an Austrian—in Vienna. It is the middle of the last century, and war has broken out. The Blue Dragoons have doomed themselves to death for the honour of their name, the same regiment some thirty years back having fled before the enemy, and thereby caused the defeat of the Austrians. The regiment has entreated the Emperor to place it where the danger is greatest, so that by certain death its prestige may be rehabilitated. Old Captain Moser is a terrible tyrant; he keeps his daughter Marie tied to his sick bed, and rewards her with abuse. The girl is twenty-six years old, and longs for a little distraction, or perhaps the expression is too mild. She is in love with Max, a lieutenant of the doomed regiment, and determines to pass the last evening with him. The doctor has provided her with a sleeping draught for her father, and she gives him a dose enough to settle the old tyrant for ever. It has the desired effect, and Marie, when she goes to follow "the call of life," leaves a corpse behind her. The piece is—so to say—full of corpses. Marie creeps into Max's rooms, and is the unwilling witness of a love scene. His colonel's wife has come to visit the young man, too, and her husband presently surprising them through the window, she is shot by his avenging hand. The colonel retires, and Max is about to shoot himself, when Marie comes out of her hiding-place. Leaving Irene's dead body, the guilty pair hasten away to spend the night together, whereupon the curtain falls on the second act. In the last act everyone is dead, except Marie and the doctor—who talks platitudes—and a strapping young forester, whom she will probably marry in the end. Katharina, a young consumptive girl, who also follows the "call of life," is dead, too, but Marie lives on and wonders at herself. The first act—which lasts over an hour—is the best; it is a drama in itself; the others show a distinct falling-off both in language and action. The interpretation was not as good as usual, no doubt because the artists could not feel at home in their rôles. Fräulein Triesch, of course, was excellent, though not at her best.

The Moscow Artistic Theatre Company, under the management of M. Stanislawsky, commenced its season at the Berliner on Friday. These artists have the reputation of being the best that Russia can produce; consequently, the house was filled almost to the last place. Neither were we in any way disappointed. The opening play was Count Alexis Tolstoi's tragedy—in five acts and seven scenes—*Czar Feodor Ivanovitch*. This particular Tolstoi, by the by, is of another branch to Count Leo, the author of "The Powers of Darkness." He died in 1875, leaving an indelible impression upon Russian high-class poetry and literature. *Czar Feodor* is one of a trilogy—the second; the first is *The Death of Ivan the Terrible*, the last *Boris, the Czar*. They are considered some of the finest political plays ever written, but historically inaccurate. Feodor, the follower of the inflexible Ivan, has always been looked upon as mentally deficient and weak; Tolstoi, however, depicts him as merely weak of will. He is tossed about like a shuttlecock between the parties of his brother-in-law Boris—who intrigues for and finally obtains the crown—and of the statesman, Prince Ivan Schujski, and this conflict forms the theme of the play. It was splendidly acted and staged, M. Moskvin in the name-part, M. Luschskis as Schujski, Mlle. Sjawitzlajas in the rôle of the noble-minded Czarina Irina, and M. Wischnewski as Boris being especially fine. The performance was an even one, such as is seldom seen, each supernumerary playing his part to perfection. Gorki's *Nachtasyl* is to be given to-morrow, and that play being so well-known here the demand for tickets for the performance in the original language is very great.

At the Théâtre des Westens Miss Isadora Duncan gave one of her delightful dance illustrations on Sunday last. It was a matinée performance, and the large house was well filled with a most enthusiastic audience. The programme was a new one this time. The curtain rose upon a stage which was grey in grey, a grand piano at the side and the accompanist being all that was visible. Miss Duncan entered, her bare feet making no sound upon the carpet. She was clad in a grey Grecian robe, reaching to the knee, and with her classically-formed head looked a veritable Greek goddess that had stepped from her pedestal. She danced four waltzes by Chopin and three by Brahms in her own inimitable manner, which is as chaste as it is graceful. Herr Carl Zimmer accompanied exquisitely, and the audience applauded to the echo. In the second part the orchestra took the place of the piano, Miss Duncan dancing seven waltzes by Schubert, wearing for these a long Empire dress of pink silk, and a white wreath on her dark hair. She was compelled to repeat two of the shorter dances, the audience literally refusing to be quiet. The final number consisted of a couple of waltzes by Strauss, one being the "Blue Danube," in the illustration of which Miss Duncan has attained innumerable triumphs. For these she wore a short Grecian dress of bright red that was eminently becoming. Calls *ad. fin.* an encore, and flowers formed the conclusion of the successful performance, which lasted nearly two hours. Among the audience was H.R.H. the Princess of Wied—one of Miss Duncan's warmest adherents.

The next novelty at the Théâtre des Westens will be a three-act operetta by Herr Eysler. It bears the title of *Pufferl*, and is reported to be very amusing.

Mme. Charlotte Wiehe, the well-known French-Danish actress, has been with us again, but in a new capacity. She made her *début* on Wednesday at the Hôtel de Rome as a singer of national and characteristic songs. Her voice is less pleasing than her personality, which carries all before it. Perhaps Madame Wiehe's best efforts were the coon songs, but she was also successful in a number of clever little French songs. Her husband, M. Berény, accompanied, and the artistic pair were much applauded.

"Sherlock Holmes" has been produced with very great success at the Stadt Theatre at Halle. The author, Herr Albert Bogenhardt, has adapted Sir Conan Doyle's book, or rather parts of it, with a good deal of skill; the audience followed each scene with breathless attention, breaking out into acclamations at the close of the play.

MAURICE HEWLETT'S PLAYS.

"PAN AND THE YOUNG SHEPHERD."

Pastoral Play in Two Acts, by Maurice Hewlett, Music by H. W. Hewlett, produced at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 27.

Geron ..... Mr. Edmund Gurney
Neanias ..... Mr. Henry Ainley
Balkis ..... Miss Ray Rockman
Teucer ..... Mr. Norman Page
Mopsus ..... Mr. Edmund Gwenn
Sphorx ..... Mr. Stratton Rodney
Merla ..... Miss Suzanne Sheldon
Aglaë ..... Miss Grace Lane
Erotion ..... Miss Lillah McCarthy
Sitys ..... Miss Gwendolen Bishop
Geërna ..... Miss Hazel Thompson
Phoeno ..... Miss Gwladys Wynne
Dryas ..... Miss Mabel Hackney
Adora ..... Miss Alice Crawford
Pan ..... Mr. Norman McKinnel

Mr. Maurice Hewlett has not the instinct of the theatre—to use a common expression, he is not built that way; but his pastoral play, if it will never draw the general public to the playhouse, offers a delightful recreative hour to the dramatic student, who will be struck by its many literary beauties, its poetic charm, and its idyllic grace. It reminds one occasionally of an old masque or of such a play as Ben Jonson's *Cynthia's Revels*; and there is something of the character of Shakespeare's "homespuns" about the mere humans of *Pan and the Young Shepherd*, which Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker produced at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. In volume form the work has been before the public since 1897, and therefore many are acquainted with the romantic love of the dreamy young herdsman, Neanias, for Aglaë, otherwise Virgin Dawn, a daughter of the Earth. In the opening scene of the first act the boy talks with his grandsire Geron, a shrewd old peasant, with a keen eye to the main chance, who listens with unsympathetic ear to his grandson's fantasies.

Says Neanias: Did you never dream, in your youth? Did you never dream of women and soft voices o' nights, when the moon is yellow, and lieth low down—and the wind a-getting? Did you never hear the world calling you over the moor?

Geron: Why, to be plain with ye, I never did. Soft voices o' women—gossip of the country! You sit too much with the women—they tell their tales over the kettle. Once I dreamed a dream that a man sold wool by the quart. But I'd had liquor that night; and so I had.

Neanias: Over this ridge there's a tarn, and by the tarn are seven trees. Men call their name the Seven Sisters, and do well, for those are no trees at all—but women. And nights o' the year you may hear them sing—as I have heard them sing—once, yes. once I heard them all sing—all but one.

Neanias goes to seek the Seven Sisters—the Earth Daughters—on the hilltop. and he is not disappointed. They at first form a ring round him, and speak to him in verse—and very musical verse too. They are named Erotion (Warmth of the Earth), Sitys (Bonny Beech Mast), Geërna (Thirsty Corn Ear), Phoeno (Tang o' the Loam), Dryas (Crown o' the Oak), Adora (Morning Calm), and Aglaë (Virgin Dawn). Aglaë sits apart, silent and sad. Of the chatter of her sisters, who rally the young shepherd on his modesty, she takes no heed. She is the youngest of the sisters. Repulsing the amorous advances of Pan, she had prayed to the Earth Mother to keep her inviolate, and the god, in his resentment, had struck her dumb. Neanias is irresistibly drawn to the young girl, and he takes her by the hand. The six sisters warn him that she is banned and that Pan will avenge; but the herdsman lover declares bravely that he "dare do all that a man may dare for the maid he chooseth to wife." How tenderly he woos the dumb maiden—

Stay with me. Your eyes are soft and very gentle, yet wide with waiting for fear! Narrow them, that peace may come in. Do you fear? You cannot fear me. Look at me, Aglaë—are you afraid? You shake your head: you are not! Then I will tell you more. I am here and you are here, none beside us, we two in the open world. Oh, my dear, I love you well! The danger and sick dread are going with the night! Soon you and the day will smile together. The sun will touch the hill-tops, and race down the flanks of the high hills. He will kindle the trees in the valley, and we shall see his light, and the blue smoke make a spire to God. Day will come, day will come! Hark! Is that the priest's bell? Not yet, not yet; courage, wait awhile. Soon will be a wedding, and a bride carried over the threshold to the hearth. You the bride, Aglaë, Virgin Dawn; and I the groom; I, Neanias, son of Balkis. Oh, I would tend you well, Aglaë, and love you dearly! The homestead should flow with milk and honey: I would get you the firstlings of the year, apples, and quinces, and mellow pears. Fine wool should be your bedclothes, all of first-shear lambs; you should be drest in white wool and thin flax. I will teach you love, and love, they say, is life.

Neanias brings Aglaë to his mother's cottage, to the bitter grief of Merla, the life-companion of Neanias, and the girl is blessed both by dame and grandsire Geron compliments the lad on his choice of a dumb wife by saying, "Boy, thou hast a riper judgment than I thought in thee."

In the second act a hidden power draws Aglaë from the cottage. She goes out into the wild November night, and again comes under the spell of Pan. Neanias goes after her, and meets Pan, who tells him "my hand is upon thy flock, and thy kindred, and all that thou callest thine; but chiefest it is upon the rebel whom thou thinkest to have to wife. She is mine: was it not told thee in the beginning? She is mine: thou shalt know it in the end . . . I am Pan, and the earth is mine." But Aglaë is restored to the arms of Neanias, and the sylvan god finds consolation in the love of Merla.

In the last scene, which takes place in the cottage on Epiphany Eve, Aglaë can speak her thoughts, and the play concludes with the singing by Neanias of the Epiphany song.

The music, by Mr. H. W. Hewlett, is cleverly written, but the songs given to the sisters are not melodious, and they did not gain by their rendering on Tuesday. Mr. Henry Ainley made a tender and romantic Neanias, his rich voice and warm, impassioned manner making him an ideal shepherd boy. We wondered, when hearing the delightful love passages of Neanias, where he obtained such a command of elegant language—certainly not from his homespun grandfather, the honest peasant Geron—most admirably played by Mr. Edmund Gurney, who gave excellent expression to the humour of the part. Miss Grace Lane made a pathetic figure of the dumb Aglaë, and her expression of devotion to Neanias was eloquently expressed. Miss Suzanne Sheldon was powerful in her display of Merla's hate towards the helpless Aglaë, and later in the play exhibited a pleasant humour in the homely peasant girl's banter of the god Pan, a part that was represented with much tact and discretion by Mr. Norman McKinnel. Miss Ray Rockman looked rather young for the part of Balkis, but acted with genuine feeling. The village peasants—all of them quite Shakespearean in conception—were impersonated with considerable humour by Mr. Norman Page as Teucer, Mr. Edmund Gwenn as Mopsus, and Mr. Stratton Rodney as Sphorx. Miss Lillah McCarthy, in her representation of Erotion, cleverly suggested the warmth of temperament that possesses the oldest of the Earth Daughters. Miss Mabel Hackney made an interesting Dryas, and Miss Gwendolen Bishop, Miss Hazel Thompson, Miss Gwladys Wynne, and Miss Alice Crawford were seen to advantage in the parts of Sitys, Geërna, Phoeno, and Adora, though their intonation when singing left something to be desired.

A long afternoon wound up with another play by Mr. Hewlett, entitled—

"THE YOUNGEST OF THE ANGELS."

Dr. Dolfino Tron ..... Mr. J. H. Barnes
Mr. Francis Hastings.. Mr. E. Harcourt Williams
Donna Domenica ..... Miss Lillah McCarthy
Nonna ..... Miss Agnes Thomas

This piece is partly adapted by the author from the opening episode of his "Fool Errant." Donna Domenica, the sweet young wife of Dr. Dolfino Tron (old enough to be her father), has, in her coy, artless way, given too much encouragement to the unconcealed admiration of young Mr. Francis Hastings. One night he comes to her as usual for a lesson in Italian, and stays too late. The doctor's footstep is heard on the stair, and the love-sick youth is hustled into a cupboard. Donna Domenica would confess her slight indiscretion to the doctor, but is sent to bed before she can do so. Hastings, however, makes good the omission by emerging from his concealment and letting the doctor know of the perfectly innocent flirtation. The old man would send Donna Domenica home to her mother; but her indignant outburst against his tyranny convinces him that he has been lacking in kindness and consideration for her, who is described, in the phrase of Dante, as "the youngest of the angels." The performance was chiefly remarkable for the excellent acting of Miss Lillah McCarthy as Donna Domenica, Mr. J. H. Barnes as the Doctor, Mr. E. Harcourt Williams as Francis Hastings, and Miss Agnes Thomas as Nonna.

THE SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY OPERA WEEK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The opera festival for the benefit of the Sheffield University College, originated by Mr. Charles Manners, proved such an artistic and financial success last year that it was decided unanimously by the special committee to continue the festivals, provided that the music-loving public gave the necessary support. Arrangements were accordingly entered into with the enterprising director of the Moody-Manners Company, Mr. Charles Manners, and the Theatre Royal was again chosen as the venue. Mr. Charles Manners has spared no pains to again make the festival a triumphant success. With a chorus of 95, a band of 60, together with a fine list of principals, all animated with the whole-souled enthusiasm of their devoted chief, there could be little doubt as to the result of the scheme. Special scenery for each opera has been brought from London, Liverpool, and Edinburgh. Many dresses and properties have been specially made, and Mr. Paul Valentine has been hard at work for some weeks with a strong *corps de ballet*; in fact, Mr. Manners has done all he could to put opera on the local stage as it has never before been seen in the provinces, and Sheffield lovers of music and spectacle will not forget the debt of gratitude they owe to the popular and talented impresario-vocalist. The week's work began auspiciously on Monday with a fine performance of Wagner's *Siegfried*. Mme. de Vere created a profound impression as Brünnhilde. She sang and acted splendidly, and in appearance truly looked "a daughter of the gods." Wotan was carefully represented by Mr. Charles Magrath. Mr. Joseph O'Mara sang with energy and dramatic expression, and his efforts won cordial recognition. Mr. W. Dever made an effective Albrecht; and other rôles were well sung by Miss Lucie Lever, Miss Olive Westwood, Mr. Bailey, and Mr. G. Renshaw. The orchestra acquitted itself creditably, and Mr. Richard Eckhold, who conducted, received an ovation at the finish. On Tuesday, *Carmen* was presented, with Mlle. Zelie de Lussan in her famous part of the passionate Spanish girl; and Mr. Joseph Pembroke as Don José. It may safely be said that such a superb performance of Bizet's opera has never been seen before in a local theatre

Tuesday was the "Students' Night," when the students of the University attended in fancy costume, and vocalised between the acts.

On Wednesday night the company were responsible for a brilliant performance of Tschaikowsky's *Eugen Onegin*, which has never been heard in the English provinces before. Mme. Fanny Moody sang the part of Tatiana, and Mr. Charles Manners sang Prince Gremin, the parts they first sustained when the opera was produced for the first time some fourteen years ago. On Thursday afternoon the company produced for the first time a new opera in one act by Mr. Nicholas Gatty entitled *Grey-steel*. The programme for the balance of the week was as follows:—Thursday (matinée), *Philemon and Baucis*, (evening) *Tristan and Isolde*; Friday, *The Flying Dutchman*; Saturday (matinée), *The Marriage of Figaro* (evening) *Lohengrin*. The Moody-Manners Opera Company have now established a precedent in this respect, and it is hoped that other large cities will, in the near future, have opportunities of hearing the two companies together, giving these magnificent performances, which were so greatly appreciated at Sheffield this week.

THE WALLSEND THEATRE BURNED DOWN.

The Theatre Royal, Wallsend, was burned to the ground on Sunday night. The first sign of the outbreak was reported to the local fire brigade about 10.30 p.m., and a little after midnight there was nothing left but a mass of smouldering ruins. Though the building itself was not valuable, there was a great deal of property and stage effects on the premises, all of which have been lost. During the afternoon Mr. Tony Richardson (the manager) visited the premises, and when he left at about six o'clock everything was in order, and there were no lights. As to how the fire originated, no one has the slightest idea. It appears to have broken out first at the stage end of the structure, and spread with great rapidity. When the brigade reached the scene the interior of the building was filled with dense smoke, and the firemen were greatly hampered in getting to the origin of the outbreak. All the scenery and stage effects of *The Prairie Flower* company, who appeared at the theatre last week, have been destroyed. In addition there was a considerable quantity of scenery belonging to a company about to play *Jeanie Deans*, which had been sent on beforehand. Fortunately, the scenery of *Guilty Man*, which was to have been staged this week, had not arrived. Mr. J. Angus, of Newcastle, is the proprietor of the theatre, which seated about 1200 people. It was partly lighted by gas—perhaps the cause of the outbreak.

It is roughly estimated by the manager of the theatre that the damage will amount to about £3000.

Little Dott Moss is desirous of thanking Mr. Beagle, of the Theatre Royal, Attercliffe, for a handsome bouquet presented to her on Saturday, the 17th ult., as a mark of appreciation of her clever performance of Hannah Spry in the *Sin of Her Childhood* company.

RIDDLE STOWER'S
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Absolutely Painless Extractions, 2/5.
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Oui si parla Italiano.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 5.

Alexander Opera Company—Victoria T., W. Stanley.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
After the Ball.—Newport.
Are You a Mason?—Bradford.
At Duty's Call.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
At the World's Mercy.—Houghton.
Babes in the Wood (Kiddie).—T. R., Darlington.
Bandmann-Palmer.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Beauty and the Barge.—Pavilion, Mile End.
Benson, F. R. (B.)—Royalty T., Barrow.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Royalty, Glasgow.
Bramley, Esmond.—O. H., Workington.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Plymouth.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Attercliffe.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Catch of the Season.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Chester.
Christian, The.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Christian, The (Howards).—Crewe and Stafford.
Cingalee.—Rochdale.
Cingalee (S.).—Sunderland.
Claudian.—T. R., Portsmouth
Coal King.—O. H., St. Helens.
Compton Comedy Co.—O. H., Perth
Cotton Spinner.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Country Girl.—Loughborough.
Country Girl (Dance).—T. R., Birkenhead.
Dare Devil Dorothy.—Tunbridge Wells and Deal
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Aberdeen.
Duke of Killicrankie.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Stockport.
Eternal City.—Brighton.
Face at the Window.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Faithful Friend.—Hippodrome, New Brompton.
False Wife.—Theatre Royal, Crook.
Female Swindler.—Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.
Fight for Millions.—Gainsborough and Harrogate.
Florodora (N.).—Gaiety, Leith.
Florodora (S.).—Cambridge.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Frivolity.—Kilmarnock and Ayr.
Gay Parisienne.—York.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Woolwich.
Golden Ladder.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
Go-Won-Go-Mohawk.—Theatre Royal, W. Stanley.
Great Awakening.—Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.
Greatest Scoundrel Living.—T. R., Attercliffe.
Grip of Iron.—Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.
Her Fatal Past.—T. R., Coatbridge.
Her Lost Self.—Standard Theatre, Hetton.
Her One Great Sin.—Halifax.
Honour thy Father.—H. M. T., Barrow.
I Defy the World.—Greenwich.
Indian Mutiny.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Nottingham.
Kitty Grey.—T. R., Chatham.
La Comedie Anglaise.—P. H., Ashbourne, and Tomworth.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Oxford.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—Coronet Theatre, W.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Huddersfield.
Laughter Land.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Leah Kleschna.—O. H., Southport.
Life of a Showman.—T. R., Aldershot.
Life's Sweetest Sins.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Little Bo-Peep (Kiddie).—T. R., Stockport.
Little Bread Winner.—T. R., Castleford.
Little Michus (Dance).—Halifax.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Grand T., Leeds.
London Fireman.—Empire T., Southend.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Barnsley.
Lucky Durham.—Grand T., Croydon.
Man's Enemy.—T. R., Tyldesley.
Manxman.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Martin Harvey.—Alexandra Theatre, N.
Master Criminal.—Grand T., Walsall.
Message from Mars.—Crystal Palace.
Midnight Mail.—Dewsbury.
Midnight Wedding.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Money makes the Man.—T. R. Wednesbury.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Moody Manners (A.).—Lyceum T., Edinboro'.
Moody Manners (B.).—T. R., North Shields.
Mr. Hopkinson.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Mr. Smith.—T. R., Stockton.
Mr. Smith.—Prince's, Accrington.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., Lincoln.
No Escape.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Norman V. Norman.—T. R., Sheffield.
Oliver Twist.—Preston.
On the Love Path—T. R., Torquay.
Orchid (2).—Bolton.
Orchid (3).—West Bromwich.
Orphan Heiress.—Grand, Newcastle.
Passion's Power.—T. R., Worcester.
Path of Thorns.—T. R. Edinburgh.
Peggy Machree.—County T., Kingston.
Poor Must Live.—P. O. W., Salford.
Power of Gold.—King's T., Cardiff.
Price of Her Soul.—T. R., Bristol.
Prince of Pilsen.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Hyde.
Prodigal Son.—T. R., Windsor.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Smethwick.
Public Opinion (N.).—Leicester.
Revenge.—O. H., Doncaster.
Rogues of the Turf.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Romany's Revenge.—Brighouse and Yeadon.
Royal Divorce.—New Cross.
Royal Divorce (N.).—Queen's, Longton.
Royal Revenge.—Prince's T., Horwich.
Sailors of the King.—O. H., Dudley.
Saints and Sinners.—Lyceum T., Pentre.
See-Saw of Life.—T. R., Stratford.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Attercliffe.
Sergeant Brue (Lockwood).—G. T. W. Hartlepool.
Sign of the Cross.—Brixton Theatre.
Silver King.—T. R., Blackburn
Sin of Her Childhood.—O. H., Burton.
Sins of a City.—Abertillery.
Spring Chicken.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Still Alarm.—Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.
Sunday.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Swiss Express.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Talk of the Town.—Marlboro' Theatre.
Temptress, The.—Star T., Liverpool.
Three Little Maids (S.).—T. R., Bath.
Throne of Terror.—King's T., Nottingham.
Toreador.—Mansfield
Traitor.—O. H., Doncaster.
Traitor Prince.—T. R., Merthyr.
Two Hussars.—King's T., Sutton.
Two Little Vagabonds.—T. R., South Shields.
Under the Czar.—Grand T., Luton.
Veronique (Dance).—Hanley.
Village Blacksmith.—Ashton.
Walls of Jericho (N.)—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—Borough T., Stratford.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Royalty, Llanelly
Way of the World.—O. H., Radcliffe.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Ebbw Vale.
What the Butler Saw.—County T., Reading.
When It Was Dark.—T. R., Hull.
When Woman Hates.—Gateshead.
White Chrysanthemum.—Kennington Theatre.
Wife's Triumph.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Wilkie, Allen and Co.—Maestag.
Willard, E. S.—Montank, Brooklyn.
Woman of Pleasure.—T. R., Colchester.
Woman's Past.—Pavilion, Hastings.
Worst Woman in London.—Lyceum, Eccles.
Wrecker of Men.—Aquarium, Gt. Yarmouth.
10.30 Down Express.—Marina T., Lowestoft.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN.—*As far as we know, neither title has been used.*

JOHN EDWARDS.—*We have been unable to discover any account of the career of Charles Marsh, or the date of his death.*

THERESA.—*We do not know. You might enquire of the principal publishers of comic songs.*

PERCY MAYE.—*Apply to Francis, Day, and Hunter, 142, Charing Cross-road.*

R. H. GILLARD.—*Write to S. French, theatrical publisher, Southampton-street, Strand, London.*

A. L. L.—*You do not say what kind of song it is If comic, you might send it on approval to music hall artists whose style it is likely to suit.*

M. KELLY.—(1) *Send them to a composer.* (2 and 3) *It is best to first get them set to music. With regard to your other questions, a song may be sold outright, or there may be, if published, an arrangement as to payment of royalties. We do not know his present address, but by searching the pages of "The Era" you may discover at what hall he is engaged. Mr. George Le Brunn died a few weeks ago.*

JOHN BARNARD.—*Write to Mr. Tom Pacey, 186, Brixton-road, London, S.W.*

A. B. C.—*We are unable to trace the play mentioned, but a piece called* A Midnight Wedding, *by Walter Howard, was produced at the Junction Theatre, Manchester, on Oct. 30, 1905.*

C. S.—(1). The Second Mrs. Tanqueray *was produced at St. James's Theatre on May 27, 1893.* (2) The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith *was produced at the Garrick Theatre on March 13, 1895.*

MOLLY (*Manchester*).—*We cannot say. Search our provincial correspondence columns.*

J. C. MCCULLOCH.—*If you refer to our advertisement columns, pages 2 and 3, you will probably obtain the information you require.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

DEATHS.

ALLEN.—Feb. 19, suddenly, Ralph Donkin Allen, elder brother of Frank Allen, in his seventieth year.

BLAKE.—Sunday, Feb. 11, aged 61 years, the beloved father of Mrs. Charles Ferris (Ferris and Farnley)

BROMELOW.—Jan. 11, at Dunedin, New Zealand, from pneumonia, John Bromelow, professionally known as Little Gulliver, dwarf comedian, aged 29.

IN MEMORIAM.

COLEMAN.—In loving memory of George Coleman, who died March 3, 1900. Never forgotten by his loving mother, sisters, and brother. R.I.P.

HOMFRAY.—In affectionate and loving memory of Reginald Stockton and his wife Ella Stirling, who both died Feb. 27, 1898.

MACKNIGHT.—In ever loving memory of our darling mother (Sarah Thorne), who passed away Feb. 27, 1899. Gone, but never forgotten.

NEVADA.—In loving memory of Aimée Nevada, who departed this life, March 5, 1903. Gone, but not forgotten.

SCOTT.—In loving memory of Ellen, the beloved wife of William Scott, and mother of Lydia Dudley, died March 6, 1905. Sadly missed by her sorrowing husband, sons, and only daughter, LYDIA.

STOCKTON.—In affectionate remembrance of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Stockton (Ella Stirling), who both died Feb 27, 1898. R.I.P. Eight years have passed and still we miss them.

WOOTTWELL.—In loving memory of Madame Castaglioni May, mother to Emily Lyndale (Mrs. Tom Woottwell), who died Feb. 22, 1895. Gone, but not forgotten. R.I.P.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Ada Reeve—Saturday, March 3.
Ada Crossley—Saturday, March 3.
Jessie Lindsay—Saturday, March 3.
Felice Napoli—Saturday, March 3.
Nancy Renshaw—Sunday, March 4.
Katherine Rind—Sunday, March 4.
Ada Hollingsworth—Sunday, March 4.
Effie Mason—Sunday, March 4.
Mary Campbell—Sunday, March 4.
Godfrey A. Yates—Sunday, March 4.
Stuart Robson—Sunday, March 4.
A. Hall Menzies—Sunday, March 4.
J. Somerville Ellis—Sunday, March 4.
Arthur Stratton—Sunday, March 4.
(Miss) Georgie de Lara—Monday, March 5.
Lucie Victor—Monday, March 5.
Fred Emney—Monday, March 5.
Fewlass Llewellyn—Monday, March 5.
Harry Bawn—Monday, March 5.
Frank Aylmer—Monday, March 5.
John Deakin—Monday, March 5.
Lily Feymour—Tuesday, March 6.
Edith Grey—Tuesday, March 6.
Leonard Rayne—Tuesday, March 6.
Bock Pylades—Tuesday, March 6.
Ida Murray—Wednesday, March 7.
Ivy Ellaline Thorne—Wednesday, March 7.
Charles Cartwright—Wednesday, March 7.
Fred Graham—Wednesday, March 7.
Albert E. Ansell—Wednesday, March 7.
Stanley Radcliffe—Wednesday, March 7.
Florence St. John—Thursday, March 8.
Florence Lingard—Thursday, March 8.
Ernestine Walter—Thursday, March 8.
Leonard Russell—Thursday, March 8.
R. Leoncavallo—Thursday, March 8.
Edward Offley—Thursday, March 8.
James Skea—Friday, March 9.

"A LAST YEAR'S NEST," a play by Lilian S. Arnold, was produced for copyright purposes at the Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane, E.C., on Wednesday.

MESSRS. HOWARD AND WYNDHAM accorded Mr. Tom E. Murray a double benefit on the morning and evening of the 23rd ult. In addition to the pantomime Mr. Harry Lauder and Miss Josie Collins appeared at the matinée, and Talberto and Douglas and Molly McGuire at the evening performance, the theatre being packed on both occasions.

PRESENTATION.—Miss Lillie Monckton, the Prince Charming in Mr. Herbert Barr's *Cinderella* pantomime, was, at the conclusion of her engagement, the recipient of a handsome diamond crescent, presented by Miss Kitty Olive, as a token of esteem and appreciation.

AT the Grand Theatre, Leeds, on Saturday, at the close of the successful pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, the courteous manager, Mr. Edward Cadman, the ballet mistress, Mrs. Royce, and the stage-manager, Mr. McInnes, were the recipients of choice and costly presents from the principals and chorus engaged in the pantomime.

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"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Abel, Mr. George
Adams, Miss Neily
Aida, Miss B.
Alexandra, Mr. A.
Allerton, Mr. H.
Ando, Mr. M.
Anson, Miss C.
Anthoney, Mr. H.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arthurs, Mr. E. J.
Attwood, Mrs. H.
Audre, Miss Olga
Bacon, Mr. C. Irvine
Baker, Mr. John
Barham, Mr. G. M.
Barlow, Miss Billie
Barrow, Mr. C. Kenneth
Bayley, Mr. Chas. S
Beatrice, Mdlle.
Beatty, Miss Maude
Beaven, Miss Susie
Boisset, Mr. Frank
Bosanquet, Mr. E.
Branscombe, Mr. A.
Brooks, Bros.
Brough, Miss F.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.
Bunce, Mr. Thomas
Burdell, Miss Marie
Burgess, Messrs.
Burgoyne, Miss Jessie
Caledonian Boys
Callan, Mr. John
Caine, Mr. Andie
Carling, Mr. Tom
Carlton, Mr. Fred
Carlyle, Miss Edith
Casson, Mr. Frank
Chipperfield, jun., Mr.
Chivereli, Mr. M.
Clyo and Rochelle, Messrs
Coleridge, Mr. W. L.
Combes, Mr. Arthur
Conway and Leland
Copland, Mr. Max.
Cregg, Mr. Frank
Creighton, Miss Maud
Curre, Mr. Carne
Cyrus and Maude Messrs
D'Arcy, Mrs.
Day, Miss Hannah
Dearlove, Mr. Mark
Deer, Mr. James D.
Delmonico, Signor
Driscoll, Mr. J. F.
Dunbar, Mr. Thos.
Dunningarto, Mr. H.
Eckark, Miss Kitty
Edney, Mr. George
Egochaga, Mr. Alfredo
Elkin, Mr. Bernard
Eno, Mr. Tom
Espinosa, Mr. Ed.
Etherdo, Mr. Harry
Evans, Mrs. Bensley
Fealy, Miss Maude
Featherstone, Miss Vane
Finney, Mr. James
Fitzsimmons, Miss Eva
Fossett, Mr. Harry
Frank and Austin
George, Miss Marie
Gerrard, Capt.
Gilroy and Gros
Girard, Mr. Gilbert
Godwin, Mr. Will
Goodfellow and Gregson
Gordon, Miss
Gregory, Mr. W. L.
Grey, Mrs. Fred
Gunning, Mr. H. H.
Haigh, Mr. Jesse
Haines, Miss Madge
Hallie, Mr. Dave
Hamilton, Miss Edie
Hamilton, Miss Phyllis
Hamilton, Mr. Henry
Hare, Mr. James
Harley, Miss Lilly
Harrington, Mr. Geo.
Harrison, Mr. George
Haviland, Mr. Wm.
Hawthorne, Mr. John
Haywood, Miss Dolly
Helene, Miss Rose
Hoggan-Armadale, Mr.
Holden, Mr. J.
Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Holmes, Mr. Preston
Hope, Miss Alice M.
Hope, Mr. R. M.
Hope, Mr. Stanley
Howard and Harris
Howard, Mrs. L.
Howard, Prof.
Hughes, Miss Annie
Hunsley, Mr. Godfrey
Ipswich, Mr. Francis
Irving, Mr. H. B.
Jesson, Mr. Sam
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Juliana, The Eight
Kelly, Mr. Edward H.
Kempton and Murdoch
Keyes, Mrs. L.
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Kramer, Paul
Kronemann Bros
Lancaster-Wallis, Mrs.
Lannons, The
Lee, Miss Minnie
Leeson, Mr. M. F.
Lena, Miss L.
Lennie and Hash
Lennox, Mrs. Gordon
Leon, Mr. Frank
Linde, Herr
Lindsay, Madame
Lynch, Miss L.
MacEwen, Mr.
MacKinnon, Mr. A. W.
Manchester, Mr. Harry
Manderville, Miss Flo
Marie, Miniature
Masano, Prof.
Meredith, Mr. Arthur
Moffat, Mr. Dickson
Monte, Mr. J.
Moore, Miss Carrie
Moore, Miss Maggie
Morris, Miss Lilian
Motramo, Mrs.
Myra
New York Comedy Four
Nicholls, Mr. Harry
Norman and Leonard
Norman, Mr. N. B.
Oliver, Miss Ethel
Orme, Miss Hilda
Ouseley, Mr. G.
Paull, Mrs. Wm.
Payne, Mr. H. M.
Ponchery, Capt.
Powel, Mr. G.
Preston, Miss J.
Proctor, Mr. Geo.
Purdey, Mr. Percy J.
Rainforth, Miss Ethel
Ramier, Mr. Ed.
Rene, Miss Ida
Richard, Prof.
Risto, Mr. Alf.
Rivington and Gordon
Ronald, Mr. Tom
Ross, Mr. Billy
Ross and Lewis, Messrs.
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Russell, Miss Nellie
Samuelson, Mr. M. L.
Savaros
Scarth, Mrs.
Scott, Miss Maidie
Scott, Mr. Geo.
Scott, Mrs. Walter
Sevening, Miss Nina
Shrapnel, Mr. Leonard
Simmons, Miss Edith
South, Miss Lena
Southgate, Mr. R. E.
Spessardy, Mons., C.
Stewart, Mr. Hamilton
Tavner, Mrs. E.
Temple, Mr. Fred
Terria Duo
Thelma, Mdlle.
Toreadores, The
Trentanivi, Mr. Alfredo
Trevor, Mr. Theadore
Twichin, Mr. Fred
Vasco
Virginia, Miss
Von Holst, Mr. E.
Vypond, Mr. Fred
Wade, Miss V.
Ward, Mr. Hugh
Wardle, Mr. Harry
Warren, Mr. Arthur
Warsaw, Mr. Dave
Watson, Mr. Dock
Watts, Mr. Clive
Willoughby, Mr. George
Willses, Mr. E. J.
Woodward, Capt.
Worswick, Mr. J.
Worth, Miss Beatrice
Wyndham's Sketch Co.
Yeamans, Miss Lydia

HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S LADIES' TEAM v. MISS WINIFRED BRADLEY'S LADIES' TEAM.

Played near Clifton Downs, on Feb. 17. Misses Ivy Bowman, Cecilia Fowler, and Kit Montgomery, scored for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

Miss Fowler's Team.—Miss Ethel Bowman (goal), Miss Lilla Carter and Miss Ivy Bowman (backs), Miss Cecilia Fowler, Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss Nellie Bailey (half-backs), Miss Lillie Clayton, Miss Gracie Leonard, Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Amy Bernard, and Miss Minnie Leonard (forwards).

Miss Bradley's Eleven.—Miss Winifred Bradley (captain) (goal), Miss Rosie Davis and Miss Minnie Hamilton (backs), Miss Edie Lawrence, Miss Lillie Coles, and Miss Lucy Norris (half-backs), Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Nellie Lawrence, Miss Jessie Maguire, Miss Kit Montgomery, and Miss Maudie Burgess (forwards).

Referee, Miss Alice Gibbs. Result: Miss Fowler's XI., 2 goals; Miss Bradley's XI., 1 goal.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S COMPANY v. HARROGATE HOCKEY CLUB.

Played at Harrogate on Feb. 19. The Harrogate, who turned out one of the strongest teams they have been able to put into the field this season, including five of the Yorkshire County team, were too strong for their opponents, and gained a victory by 9 goals to nil. The game was played under wretched conditions, rain falling heavily all through.

MR. NORMAN'S COMPANY.—Alex Cassy, S. Wilkinson, and Murray, backs; C. Freer, W. Marshall, and C. Curtis, half-backs; D. Cleugh, N. Leslie, W. H. Ashley, R. Howard, and N. V. Norman, forwards.

ON Wednesday afternoon, in the Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy, Mr. Fredk. Melville's *Ugliest Woman on Earth* company played Kirkcaldy Hockey Club. The game, which was witnessed by a large crowd of spectators, was well contested throughout, the actors being rather unfortunate to lose by three goals to one. The theatricals showed some fine touches, and played a good combination game, but the local team had the advantage of being more experienced. Prominent for the actors were Messrs. Edlin, Davonport, and Darien. A collection was taken on behalf of Kirkcaldy Cottage Hospital.

FOOTBALL.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Hoyland Town Football Ground, Miss Lena Stanton's *Robinson Crusoe* company (captained by Mr. Harry Josephs) opposed Elsecar Thursday, in aid of local charities. The ball was kicked off by Miss Lena Stanton, and after an exciting game the local team won by 5 goals to 3. The ladies of the company made a collection, and this sum, added to the proceeds of the match, were divided between the Barnsley Beckett Hospital, the Hoyland Old Folks' Fund, and Jump Old Folks' Fund.

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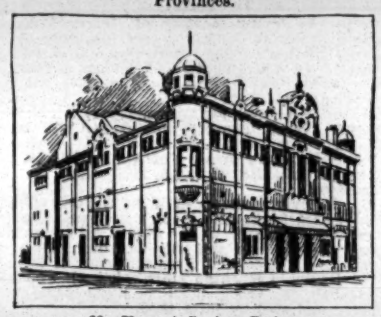

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FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER.

BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1906.

THE MUSIC HALL BARRING CLAUSE.

Never was there a more diametrical difference of opinion than that between the Moss Empires and Associated Stoll Companies and the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, the International Artists' Lodge, the Terriers' Association, and the Grand Order of Water Rats; and seldom has issue been joined by two parties with greater frankness and decision. The Associated Companies have a straightforward reply to every assertion made by the associations representing the variety artists. The barring clause, say the latter, inflicts a great amount of hardship on performers. If we abandoned the clause, say the companies, no good would be done. If we keep certain artists out of certain halls, we thus make openings for others.

The memorialists go on to claim that notwithstanding the increase in the popularity of music hall entertainments, and the addition to the number of variety theatres, the position of the music hall artist has deteriorated. Not in the least, reply the companies; both the position of the artists and the beauty of the buildings in which they appear are improved, and so are the salaries. Yes, say the memorialists, returning to the charge, but remember how much harder they have to work for it—from twelve to fifteen performances for the same salary as they received for six or seven in the past. To which the companies answer: "Don't forget that the increased number of performances has provided more music halls, and therefore more engagements." Coming to the pith of their memorial, the memorialists say it is not equitable that an artist should be prevented from performing within many miles of a town for eighteen months or two years from the time of signing a contract or until its fulfilment. The answer of the companies to this is decisive. The stringency of the barring clause, they say, has been regulated by experience, and must become more rather than less severe as competition grows keener. Managements must either not book ahead at all, or, if they do, they must protect themselves both by preserving the freshness of particular artists in a particular locality and guarding themselves against making it easy for unfair competition at impossibly low prices of admission starting against them with the very artists whom they have on their books for later dates at high salaries.

This is the very kernel of the debate. The memorialists ask the companies to be content with a barring clause of five miles and six months in the case of provincial halls, and of one mile and three months in the case of London and suburban halls. This the companies absolutely refuse to be content with. So the matter stands.

The reply of the companies amounts to an "ultimatum," though not, we hope, to a declaration of war. And this is not a matter of right and wrong on which it is possible to create opinion, and so influence the action of either of the parties whose interests are—apparently—opposed. The Moss' Empires and Associated Stoll Companies have a perfect right to carry on their halls under what conditions they please. Competition is the soul of business, and the whole system of trade is based upon it. If the companies consider that they are advancing their own interests, and increasing their profits, by using the barring clause, they cannot be blamed for doing so; and to a considerable section of the music hall profession the barring clause makes no difference whatever. The salaries paid to them by the "barring" proprietors are so large, and the engagements so long, that they profit by the system, which suits them completely. The hardship is felt by the second-rate artists, who are really not sufficiently attractive to the public for it to make any real difference if they appear at a rival establishment within the prescribed limit, but are equally subject to the stringent clause in their agreements. We must, however, remember that the salaries paid to second-rate artists have risen with the establishment of syndicates, and that the severity of the barring system cuts both ways. In individual cases it acts cruelly; but it certainly leaves openings at the "one man" halls which would otherwise be filled, and so gives chances of employment to a greater number of artists. It is just as well, as Doctor JOHNSON once remarked, to "clear our minds of cant" in connection with matters of business. If there are two shops in the same trade and in the same street, their proprietors are, in the very nature of things, rivals and opponents. Mr. A may be on the best of terms, personally, with Mr. B; but that will not prevent either of the competitors from undersselling his rival or doing all in his power to attract the public to his own establishment, to the lowering of the other proprietor's profits. As for the artists, they are in the position of the working men of England before the trades unions were established. They are not sufficiently united to "boycott" the Syndicates, because, as we have pointed out above, the barring clause suits the "stars" of the profession well, its hardship being only felt by the smaller artists, and not by all of these. It may occur to one to invite the syndicates, as they are strong, to be merciful to the smaller men, and to make a difference between the famous comedian, whose services it is desired to monopolise for a period, and the medium artist who only helps to fill up a programme. But we fear it would be impossible to make distinctions without causing an immeasurable amount of jealousy and heart-burning. All that can be done by the artists, as the companies cannot be coerced, is to endeavour to conciliate them; and we congratulate the M.H.A.R.A., the International Artists' Lodge, the Terriers, and the Water Rats upon the manly yet moderate tone of their memorial. The ventilation of the subject which has been caused by its presentation will, we hope, do real good. It is, after all, merely a question of the degree of stringency of a clause which the artists agree to be reasonable; and perhaps the Companies may be induced to reconsider their decision.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

The Shrove Tuesday fancy dress ball at Covent Garden has become quite an annual institution, and the latest of these festivals attracted a very large attendance. That the pancake would figure among the fancy dress designs goes without saying, and from Mr. Clarkson's well-known establishment there came a costume representing "Shrove Tuesday, or the Greatest Fryday of the Year." The dress was of pale pink satin with painted panels, and a head-dress representing a kitchen. In her hand the wearer carried a frying-pan with pancakes, and the effect of the whole was accentuated by the lavish use of electric lights. "Spring on the Riviera" was another effective design, and so was "Goosey, Goosey, Gandy," the cloak of the latter being made of white feathers, which gave a very pretty appearance to the costume. Among other notable creations were "Riviera Rambles," "Shooting Big Game in the Rockies," "The Home and Haunts of Bobbie Burns," "The Far East," and "Falstaff." The prizes included a silver tea and coffee service and tray for the best fancy costume, a silver toilet set in case for the most original dress, and about twenty others. These were awarded about half-past two in the morning, when there was a grand march past the judges' box. Mr. Dan Godfrey's band occupied the stand, and dancers were able to appreciate to the full the effect of the new arrangement, whereby the sound of the music is directed into the ball-room.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 26, the Comedy,
by Edward A. Parry and Frederick Mouillot,
entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

Mr. Robert Arthur has provided an excellent attraction this week at the Kennington Theatre by the engagement of Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche in the clever comedy *What the Butler Saw*. Mr. Charles Fawcett is one of a very excellent company, acting the part of the young Irishman Jack Barrington to the life. Miss Ada Blanche is delightful as his young wife, speaking with an American accent that adds agreeably to her clever performance. Mr. Lionel Rignold is extremely humorous as Pink, the butler, who saw it all, and his presence on the stage is never unaccompanied by laughter. Sir Charles Foden has an excellent exponent in Mr. Reddick Anderson, who possesses a brisk, cheerful delivery. Mr. George Ascott is good as the fighting general who lost his regiment; Mr. Harry Rignold makes a very good Jew financier; and the parts of Sydney Clifford, his son, and Vere Bogins, an actor of the old school, are adequately enacted by Mr. George Beale and Mr. Alec Davies respectively. Mr. Roy Byford makes Professor Shale exceedingly humorous. Dr. Clayton, of the Hydro, was in the excellent hands of Mr. Frank Elton. Miss Marie Daltra is crisp and vivacious as Miss Foden, and her parrot's behaviour is very creditable. Nora, Miss Foden's companion, is successfully undertaken by Miss Grace Richardson; the sisters Dunlop are represented by the Misses Maud Evelyn and Minnie Willet; and Miss Edith Blanche is duly concise as Mrs. Fleming-Smyth. Mrs. Hake, a plain widow, is well played by Miss Annie Goward; Sophonisba Hake, her daughter, is brightly represented by Miss May Hart; and the Misses Dorothy Garth and Violet Gould are good as the maids Maria and Emily. The play is well received, laughter being the order of the evening throughout.

MR. CHARLES HANNAN'S new three-act comedy, *United States*, is due for production on Monday evening at the Opera House, Crouch End.

MR. GILBERT TRENT is engaged to recite at the National Sunday League's concert to-morrow evening at the Chelsea Palace.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"ALL-OF-A-SUDDEN PEGGY."

A Comedy in Three Acts, by Ernest Denny,
Produced at the Duke of York's Theatre,
on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Anthony, Lord Crackenthorpe...MR. ERIC LEWIS
Hon. Jimmy Keppel ..MR. GERALD DU MAURIER
Major Archie Phipps .....MR. ALFRED BISHOP
Jack Menzies .....MR. CHARLES BRYANT
Parker .....MR. CLAYTON GREENE
Lucas .....MR. RICHARD HAIGH
Lady Crackenthorpe ....MISS KATE SERGEANTSON
Hon. Millicent Keppel ..MISS BEATRICE BECKLEY
Hon. Mrs. Colquhoun ..MISS ETHEL MATTHEWS
Mrs. O'Mara .....MISS FLORENCE WOOD
Peggy .....MISS MARIE TEMPEST

"Such a gettin' upstairs, and a stoppin' in the middle; such a gettin' upstairs I never did see!" runs the old nigger song; and seldom have the legs of a company been more exercised than in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy* at the Duke of York's Theatre on Wednesday. The telling of the story involves an immense amount of running up and down a practicable staircase "at back," giving the members of the company a great deal of healthy exercise. The ways in which the different characters took the flight were characteristic. Some went up at a gallop and some at a trot; the servants only ascended with calm dignity. As far as the stairs were concerned, the piece had certainly plenty of "movement." The general impression created by the production was that of an amusing "notion," treated with a certain amount of inexpertness, but prevailing by dint of its essential fun and frolic. Rattled off in the brightest of styles by the most competent of casts, *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy* had an enthusiastic reception, the advent of the author—who did not appear—being loudly demanded. The piece is one of those pleasant, lively, unpretentious comedies, whose fate seems to depend entirely on the caprice of the public. We have seen no better pieces run for scores of performances; and we have known works no worse to be taken off in less than a month. These little plays, like little books, have their fates.

The central character is Peggy O'Mara, an impulsive Irish girl, whose habit of acting on the spur of the moment causes most of the complications of the plot. She and her mother are staying at the country house of Anthony, Lord Crackenthorpe, a middle-aged peer, with a mania for entomology. His mother, Lady Crackenthorpe, is afraid of Anthony's falling in love with Peggy, and persuades her younger son, the Hon. Jimmy Keppel, a tea-planter, home from Ceylon on a holiday, to "dazzle" Peggy, and distract her attention from the too-susceptible spider-catcher.

Jimmy finds that he has met his match in the quick-witted Irish girl, who is not to be dazzled; but an affectionate feeling springs up between them, and Peggy confesses that she would like to see her mother married to Lord Crackenthorpe. If, thinks the girl, she pretends to elope with the Honourable Jimmy, her mother, thrown for consolation on the artless Anthony, will be able to capture him. So off Peggy starts for Jimmy's flat in London, to find that he is not at home. She falls asleep on the couch in his room; and there Jimmy finds her when he arrives next morning. Peggy has telegraphed home that she and Jimmy have been married at a registry office; and his uncle, Major Archie Phipps, has put an advertisement of the wedding into the *Morning Post;* so that the situation is sufficiently awkward. What follows is a combat of "fine feelings" on the parts of Jimmy and Peggy. He has grown really fond of her, and she of him; but when the blundering old Major arrives, and lets out that Jimmy's first overtures were false ones, Peggy, of course, is highly indignant, and believes she is still being trifled with. When, however, she finds that the result of her hasty refusal to marry Jimmy is that he will injure his prospects by declining an excellent offer made to him by his rich friend, Jack Menzies, she relents; and, in the last act, the see-saw of misconception is kept working till at last the lovers comprehend each other, and are united.

Miss Marie Tempest as Peggy was the heart and soul of the play, acting throughout with a vivacity and a piquancy which were delightful. Her sparkling animation and exuberant vitality kept the audience in great good temper; and while she was on the stage—which was almost all the evening—things went most merrily. As the active, energetic, and impulsive Irish girl, Miss Tempest put another to the list of her successes; and her Peggy O'Mara will certainly add to her popularity with her public. Particularly good was her treatment of the love scenes, in which the daintiness of her method, her arch humour, and her quaint comicality were employed to immense advantage. Without Miss Tempest there would certainly have been scenes in Mr. Ernest Denny's piece which would have made a much less alluring impression than they did at the Duke of York's on Tuesday. It must be added that this charming comedienne looked particularly smart in some quite becoming dresses. Mr. Eric Lewis had not many chances for the employment of his famous *finesse* and polish as Lord Crackenthorpe, the part being a rather empty one; but all that could be done with it Mr. Lewis did in the best style of his art. Mr. Gerald du Maurier had an exacting but effective rôle in that of the Hon. Jimmy Keppel, and played it with remarkable tact and appreciation, never forcing the note, yet always sufficiently emphasising his points. Mr. du Maurier's "form" is always excellent; and this, combined with a rare intelligence and a technique which is always improving, ensured the success of his creation of the Honourable Jimmy. Mr. Alfred Bishop is such a consummate exponent of elderly gentlemen on the stage that in the part of the fussy Major Phipps he could hardly go wrong. His make-up, manner, and method were alike unexceptionable. Mr. Charles Bryant made quite a hit by his bold and "breezy" performance of the part of Jack Menzies—a character sketch of a buoyant and boisterous, good-natured gentleman which evidently pleased the audience greatly. Miss Kate Serjeantson, with her stately grace and refined dignity, looked every inch the proud and picturesque Lady Crackenthorpe, and acted with all the aristocratic ease demanded by the rôle; Miss Beatrice Beckley was bright, pleasant, and lady-like as the Hon. Millicent Keppel; and Miss Ethel Matthews, looking sweetly pretty in an exquisite costume, expressed languid indifference admirably as the luxuriously-affected Mrs. Colquhoun; Miss Florence Wood contributing a hearty and natural embodiment of the Irish matron, Mrs. O'Mara. Mr. W. Hann's scene for the first and last acts was a marvel of realistic fitting and fine furniture; and his bachelor's room for the second was very well-appointed and up-to-date. Mr. Dion Boucicault's careful stage-management ensured the complete smoothness of the production.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 1.—For some unknown reason Camille Saint-Saëns and Victor Massenet, our two great composers, prefer to have their new works launched in the Monte Carlo Theatre. Last year it was Massenet, who brought out there his *Cherubin*, and it now being Saint-Saëns' turn, he gave us *L'Ancêtre*, for which M. Augé de Lassus wrote the libretto. As usual, all the critics were invited, and they readily responded to the call. *L'Ancêtre* is a sombre Corsican drama, the story of a vendetta, wherein we are shown the unsympathetic figure of the grandmother (l'Ancêtre), the implacable Nunciata, who never forgives. In the first act we are in the mountains in Corsica. Raphael, a hermit, owns many bee-hives, and, like Francis of Assisi, calls the bees his sisters. But if peace reigns in the hives, the same cannot be said of the village, where a blood-feud exists between the Fabianis and Pietra Neras, whose dead fill the little churchyard. Tébaldo, a young officer in Napoleon the First's army, then makes his appearance. Tébaldo, born in the village and brought up by Raphael, is a Pietra Nera; and Margarita and Vanina, the two sisters whom we see rush at him and seize his hands, are Fabianis. Both love Tébaldo, but he has lost his heart to Margarita. Now that Tébaldo has returned the two families can bury the hatchet, and they send for Nunciata, who, as head of the family, alone can declare peace. The half-blind old woman, still mourning the loss of her son, Margarita and Vanina's father, is led in by her grandson Leandri. But, unforgiving and shaking with rage, she will not hear of any reconciliation. The scene of the second act is laid in Nunciata's cottage, where Vanina is waiting for her brother Leandri. A distant noise is heard; as it draws nearer we distinguish the chant of the "Requiem," and Leandri's corpse is brought in. He, too, has been murdered; and Nunciata makes Vanina swear to avenge her brother's death on the Pietra Neras. When, however, Bursica, the swineherd, says that Tébaldo committed the deed Vanina trembles. Yes, Tébaldo is the murderer; but, as he informs the hermit, he had to defend his life against Leandri, who had trapped him. The hermit implores the young officer to leave the island, and makes hurried preparations for Tébaldo's and Margarita's marriage. Vanina, meanwhile, has stealthily followed the youth. She does not want to kill him; yet, when she overhears him speak to her sister her jealousy is roused, and she grasps the pistol. Then she again hesitates; the weapon drops from her hand, and old Nunciata, seizing it, fires. But the bullet strikes Vanina, who has rushed forward to warn Tébaldo. This silly story has not even the merit of being original, for the author has borrowed it from a collection of Corsican adventures, published as far back as 1856. M. Camille Saint-Saëns, strangely enough, was satisfied with this libretto, and enlivened this series of melodramatic incidents with music that came upon us like a surprise. In these three acts the inevitable cavatinas, duos, trios, &c., are introduced; and, departing from his usual method, the composer has gratified us with some daring dissonances that will probably delight the admirers of the very advanced school. M. Saint-Saëns is hardly himself in this work; yet we detect the master hand in the delicate instrumentation of Raphael's ode to the bees; in the way we are reminded of the "Marseillaise" when Tébaldo mentions the Emperor; and in the love duet of Tébaldo and Margarita. *L'Ancêtre* was well mounted, and fairly well interpreted; but it will hardly rank among the great French musician's best productions.

AT Antoine's *Le Vieil Heidelberg* has well caught on, and is played there nightly to crowded houses. The great playwright here who betted that the piece would not reach its hundredth performance now regrets his rashness.

M. MIRBEAU'S *Les Affaires sont les Affaires* has also, what we call here, come to boiling-point—*i.e.*, it has appeared for the hundredth time on the bill.

THE 104th celebration of Victor Hugo's death has been celebrated at the Comédie-Française in a worthy manner. *Ruy Blas* was given in the afternoon, and *Les Burgraves* produced in the evening, with MM. Mounet-Sully, Albert Lambert, Paul Mounet, Mmes. Lara, Segond-Weber, Faylis, &c. The crowning of the poet's bust raised, as usual, great enthusiasm. The total receipts on that day amounted to nearly £700.

MME. LE BARGY'S rather high-handed proceeding in throwing up her rôle in *La Rafale* has produced a painful impression in theatrical circles. It is a heavy loss to M. Franck, of the Gymnase, who, since Mme. Le Bargy left, has seen his receipts suddenly drop from £150 to £68. Mr. Henry Bernstein, the author, fumes and rages, and wants M. Franck to bring an action against the talented young actress. But M. Franck is a philosopher; he hates law-suits, and, although legally in the right, he does not want to bring the matter in court. "Mme. le Bargy," he says, "was wrong in leaving me at a moment's notice whilst the piece was making money, under the pretence that she had a better engagement in England. I have, however, no intention to proceed against her. All I hope is that it will be a lesson to my colleagues, who will know in the future how to protect themselves." Mme. Le Barby was paid at the Gymnase at the rate of £400 a month.

IF Mme. Réjane really carries out her scheme to start a private conservatoire, she will be able to do plenty of good work. Her intention is to try the experiment with four girls and four young men who show decided talent for the stage. She will teach the girls, and the boys will be taken in hand by M. Duménv, the well-known actor. Many years ago Mme. Sarah Bernhardt also wanted to open a kind of conservatoire, and had even drawn up an elaborate plan. But, as she afterwards remarked to one of our confrères, "She did not want to be bothered with it," whereupon the matter dropped.

AT the closing performance of the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Saturday evening, the principals of the company and not a few of the members of the ballet were the recipients of floral and other gifts. Mr. Ernest Carpenter, in a neat speech, said the pantomime season just closed had beaten, financially, their last year's record, and he gratefully acknowledged the support he had received from the zealous and whole-hearted company, the staff of the theatre, Signor de La Camera and his orchestra, and his friends in front. He presented his manager, Mr. Ben Court, with a tantalus from the principal members of the company, and a silver-mounted umbrella and cigar-case from some friends in front; Mr. J. D. Newton (stage-manager) with a silver fountain pen, and Signor de La Camera with a silver cigar-case—both from the principal members of the company; and Mr. Edgar Budden with a portmanteau from some of his friends in Brighton. Mr. David Young (scenic artist) presented Mr. Ben Court with a gold watch on behalf of the general staff in front of the house; Mr. Court presented Mr. Carpenter with a portmanteau and dressing-case combined from the permanent members of the staff; and Signor de La Camera gave him a portrait and sketch, the work of Mr. Alan Wye.

"BEAU BROCADE," a romantic play in four acts by the Baroness Orczy and M. Barstow, was produced for copyright purposes at the Coronet Theatre on Thursday.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE thirteenth anniversary of the Oxford will be celebrated on Friday, March 16, when Mr. Albert Gilmer will present a festival programme, to which all the variety stars in London will contribute.

MR. HARRY BAWN has resigned his position under Mr. Walter Gibbons, as general-manager for that gentleman's London circuit. Mr. Bawn is by way of taking a short holiday before he seeks another sphere for his business energy.

MR. JAMES HOWELL, of the Tivoli, has been associated for over a quarter of a century with popular entertainment in London. He dates his connection therewith back to the Polytechnic Institute quite thirty years ago. For some years he was at the Alhambra, and afterwards followed the late Charles Morton, father of the halls, to the Palace Theatre. During his many years' service he has never taken a benefit, and therefore we feel sure that his approaching bespeak on the afternoon of Monday, March 26, will be a bumper. Neighbouring managements at any rate are adopting a most friendly and courteous attitude towards the popular beneficiaire, and the "barring clause" will be kept in abeyance for an hour or so in order that the large number of star artists who have volunteered their services may be able to fulfil their kindly intentions of appearing at the Tivoli.

MISS MAUDE COURTNEY, the pretty American girl who tells stories so wittily, has returned from the Rand, where she became such a favourite at the Empire, Johannesburg. Miss Courtney sails this week for her native land, but will return on May 7 to open on the Moss and Stoll tour. In August and September she will be at the Palace and the Oxford.

THE sale of the late Mr. Herbert Campbell's "effects" took place at the auction rooms of Messrs. Phillips, Son, and Neale, 73, New Bond-street, on Thursday afternoon. We failed to recognise any prominent theatrical or music hall people, and the disposal of the various lots excited no curiosity whatever on the part of the public. A large presentation salver, weighing 97oz., realised £16 3s. 4d. The tray possessed a certain interest, and bore the following inscription: "Presented to Herbert Campbell by the directors of the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, Limited, as a mark of their appreciation, esteem, and friendship on the unique occasion of his 21st birthday or coming of age in pantomime at Old Drury.—March 28, 1903."

MR. BERT FELDMAN, the well-known music publisher, bought several small lots, including a plaster statuette of Sir Augustus Harris, three smaller statuettes, a majolica jardiniere, a carriage clock, a leaded glass panel, and a leather case, all of which went for 16s.! No sensational prices were secured for any of the articles. Portraits of theatrical celebrities, many of them looking much the worse for age, went in their dozens and scores for a few shillings.

MR. WILL OLIVER on the 23rd ult., his fifty-fourth birthday, received no fewer than 168 telegrams, including eighteen from his brother agents, and a large number of letters, cards, &c., of which he of course feels very proud. The presents were both costly and numerous, and his chat in *The Era* brought him numerous letters from old friends of over thirty years' standing.

CORAM, the ventriloquist, was initiated into the fraternity of Terriers on Sunday, the ceremony being performed by Terrier Fred Neiman, a brother polyphonist. Mr. Neiman is too good a judge of his art not to recognise the ability of his latest comrade.

"NAUGHTY NERO," at the Oxford, on Monday, is a respectful perversion of Stephen Phillips's play at His Majes-Tree's Theatre, by Adrian Ross, music by Augustus Barratt, in which Mr. Arthur Roberts will sustain the title-rôle, supported by Miss Ruby Celeste as Agrippineapple, Mr. Stanley Damerell as Aniseedus, Miss Yates as Poppy, and Miss Frances Kapstowne as Rule Britannicus. The whole of this elaborate burlesque is produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Albert Gilmer. Mr. Augustus Barratt, the composer, who wrote that fine song "The Mermaid," was responsible for the music of Mr. Arthur Roberts's skit on Mr. Tree as D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers*.

REHEARSALS have been in full swing all this week. Mr. Arthur Roberts believes in working at his productions till the eleventh hour, for he aims to be not only up to date, but down to the minute. It will not be the first time that Mr. George Womack, the energetic young stage-manager at the Oxford, has "lived through" a big first night, for he took up his responsible position at the time when Mr. Joe Elvin first put on *'Appy 'Ampstead*. Mr. Womack, who has only just resumed his duties after a long term of illness, is deservedly popular behind the scenes—from the stars to the first and last turn on the programme.

WE are desired by Mr. Alfred Butt to state that before Miss Millie Legarde sang "How'd you like to spoon with me?" at the Palace, the management purchased all performing rights in the song within a six-mile radius of the theatre from Mr. Jerome D. Kern, the composer, and that permission to sing the number elsewhere within that area should be obtained from the Palace management. Mr. Butt is naturally anxious to avoid unpleasant proceedings against artists or brother managers.

MR. ALFRED LESTER, who has made such a big hit with his *Scene-Shifter's Lament*, returns to the Palace Theatre on Monday, with a new political skit, entitled *The Labour Candidate*.

MRS. DOUGLAS STUART, the wife of the popular secretary of the M.H.A.R.A., underwent a serious operation on Saturday, at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. The many friends of the lady will be glad to hear that she is progressing favourably.

MR. R. L. ADKIN has resigned his position as manager of the Islington Empire, of which popular hall Mr. Walter Gibbons is the proprietor.

MR. HARRY WRIGHT was presented on Friday, the 23rd ult., with a case of briar root pipes in crocodile hide case by Mr. R. Crossman, proprietor of *Dick Whittington* pantomime, in which Mr. Wright is playing Emperor.

MR. H. LYNDON (Fitzwarren) was married on Wednesday to Miss Yates (Princess Loo). Several presents were made by the members of the *Dick Whittington* company, and a substantial cheque was given by the proprietor, Mr. R. Crossman.

THE creditors met on Thursday in the case of Edwin Cleary, lessee and manager of Olympia, who recently filed his petition. The debtor said that he opened Olympia on Dec. 22 last, having invested about £2,500 in it. The takings from the very first were insufficient to cover the outgoings, and the General Election and the recent bad weather had affected adversely the business. A draft statement of affairs showed ranking liabilities £9,469, and net assets £582. A resolution was passed to wind up the estate.

MR. H. E. ANGLESS, the popular lessee of the Pier Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea, has been granted an extended term of tenancy for seven years by the local corporation. Capital bookings have been arranged for the coming season, including some of the best companies touring the provinces.

SIR SAMUEL AND LADY SADLER, accompanied by a party of a dozen ladies and gentlemen, visited the Empire, Middlesbrough, on Tuesday evening, and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The party arrived before the close of the first performance, and were much interested and surprised to see how quickly the house was emptied and filled again. Lady Sadler on entering her box was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Mr. Charles Rembjes, the courteous and genial manager of the Empire.

THE new Palace Theatre of Varieties at Carlisle, a full description of which will be given in our next issue, will open its doors on Monday. The fine and spacious building, which has been erected from the designs and under the supervision of Messrs. Owen and Ward, the well-known architects of Birmingham, will accommodate about 2,000 people. Signor R. Pepi, who already controls the Hippodrome, Blackpool, and the Tivoli, Barrow, is the managing-director, and Mr. A. E. Nicholls, of Blackpool, the acting-manager. The hall will be run on the two-houses-a-night system, and the following turns will appear on the opening night:—Bella and Bijou, Marion Scott, Tom Stuart, Barney Vox, Georgina Leonard, Lieut. Albini, the Brothers Redmond, Ike Scott and Son, and Vernon's Bioscope.

THE Liverpool Theatrical Gala took place on Wednesday, the 21st ult., in glorious weather, in the presence of about 6000 spectators, at the Liverpool Football ground, Anfield. The event was a great success financially, this being in no small degree due to the efforts of the Brothers Egbert (the Happy Dustmen), who are appearing nightly at the Shakespeare Theatre as the robbers. Their tableau of a dustcart and twelve dustmen was the success of the show, and as they drove along the rank the well-known "gag" "Hurry up, Walter," was shouted time and again from the thousands of spectators lining the streets. As a result of their untiring energy and efforts they have handed over a good sum to the hospital committee.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE, having concluded a highly successful pantomime engagement in Manchester, was retained by Mr. Oswald Stoll for a special week each at the Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire. Her three songs, "The Gal of Tennessee," "Springtime is ringtime" (written specially for Miss Hawthorne by J. P. Harrington and the late Geo. Le Brunn), and "Don't cry, little girl," proving enormous successes. Miss Hawthorne will now take a well-earned rest, visiting the Continent.

THE accident that we reported last week as happening to Willie Ara (of Ara, Zebra, and Vora), during the performance of the troupe in *Indian Pastimes*, was not at all serious. The clever combination showed in the second house, on the same evening, and scored a big success, which has been repeated this week at Manchester. The troupe is engaged for Madrid by Mr. William Parrish for the coming season, which is to be followed by a tour in the South of France.

THE Palace Theatre, Greenock, which has been closed for a fortnight owing to financial difficulties, was reopened on Monday night. It will in future be known as the Pavilion, and will be under the direction of the Glasgow Pavilion Co. Mr. Samuel Lloyd is general-manager. The hall was handed over to Mr. Lloyd on Thursday last, the 22nd ult., and between that day and Monday he had the interior painted and thoroughly cleaned. He had also to engage the staff and book artists. He managed the whole business, and opened to packed houses on Monday, much to the surprise of all.

THE many friends of Mr. Harry Downs, the popular manager of the New Alhambra, Belfast, will be pleased to hear he has now quite recovered from the severe attack of sciatica which has prostrated him for the past two weeks.

MR. BARNEY ARMSTRONG is more than justifying his existence in Glasgow as a caterer for public amusement. Since his return to that city he has not only placed the Queen's Theatre on a sound financial basis, but he has just entered into a contract with the proprietors of the Tivoli, Glasgow, whereby he will hold a lease over that property. It should be distinctly understood that his management has nothing whatever to do with the late tenants, Messrs. P. Mackay Findlay or S. King Alexander, and that he is not, and has never been in any way, responsible for the conduct of this theatre whilst under the management of those gentlemen.

IT is Mr. Armstrong's intention to run the Tivoli in conjunction with the Queen's on the same principle as that operating in the London halls. Artists going to Glasgow will work three shows a night, twice at the Queen's and once at the Tivoli. Their appearance at the Tivoli is for four nights a week only, as it is the intention of Mr. Armstrong to take advantage of the present craze for boxing in Glasgow by devoting two nights exclusively to that sport. As an earnest of his desire to raise boxing and other forms of athletics to a higher scientific level, it may be mentioned that on Monday next the world-renowned Jabez White is billed at a considerable cost to meet all the best Scottish boxers.

LES VALDOS conclude to-night a successful ten weeks' engagement with the *Mother Goose* pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford. They are also re-engaged with Mr. John Hart for next season, 1906-7, and open on Monday at Rochdale, and are booked at most of the premier English and Continental halls.

So much of the success of the popular production at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, of *Goody Two Shoes* has depended upon Dave O'Toole, that a packed house for his benefit on Tuesday might have been taken as a foregone conclusion. He has been an unqualified success, and his reception was correspondingly enthusiastic. Messrs. Harrigan and Holt, the popular knockabouts in the same pantomime, were given a "benefit" on the 23rd ult., when a large audience assembled to show their appreciation of the good work done by the pair.

DR. WALFORD BODIE has been creating a great sensation again in Liverpool at the Lyric Theatre, where he has been performing to packed houses for the last two weeks, all the best seats being booked in advance. Close on 1,600 patients have passed through his hands. He returns again to Liverpool at an early date, making his eleventh visit. Dr. Bodie, with characteristic generosity, has sent 100 shillings to the Treasurer of the Music Hall Home Fund.

MR. FRANK COYLE last week, at the Palace, Blackburn, sang fifty-six songs at the night shows and two days shows. He is doing the same this week at the Palace, Bradford.

THE latest quotations of music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅛; Canterbury, 1½; Empire, (15s. paid) 1½, (10s. paid) 1⅛; Gaiety, 1½; London Pavilion, Ordinary 4½, Preference 4⅜; London Coliseum, 1⅛; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss' Empire, 4, Preference 3⅞; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5⅛; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 15s.

THE following pathetic notice on black-bordered paper was posted inside the stage-door of the Palace Theatre on Saturday evening:—"Jack passed away peacefully to-day—a noble dog, a dear companion, whose place can never be adequately filled, and a loyal and industrious servant to the Palace Theatre.—THE MANAGEMENT.—Feb. 24." Jack will be mourned far beyond the Palace Theatre. In his walks abroad he made a vast number of friends, particularly among policemen and children.

THE principal new feature of next week's programme at the Palace Theatre will be *Madame Lingerie*, the musical comedietta, the production of which had to be postponed from last Monday. Alfred Lester, the "scene-shifter comedian" (who was first "discovered" by the Palace management last autumn at a suburban theatre), will begin a return visit with new material, as also will J. P. Ling, with his imitations of musical instruments.

"CASEY'S COURT," a street urchin's idea of a first-class music-hall entertainment, has proved such a colossal success that Messrs. Cadle have had to suspend bookings for the present in order to straighten dates out, as they have had offers for no less than sixty weeks, in some cases four for the same week.

MR. REX KING, whose turn is entitled "The One-man Programme," met with well-deserved success at the Glasgow Empire, where he opened on Monday. This versatile artist impersonated no less than fourteen characters in less than the same number of minutes, and delighted an enthusiastic audience with his rapid changes, his clever facial expression, and his masterly elocution.

MISS JESSIE PRESTON has recovered from her severe illness under the careful treatment of Dr. G. de G. Griffiths, and we are glad to announce that she will again be delighting Tivoli audiences nightly. Miss Preston has undergone a serious operation, and Dr. Griffiths marvels at the suddenness with which she is resuming business.

MR. W. H. BERRY, who plays Shingle in *The Little Cherub* at the Prince of Wales's, is able to entertain music hallgoers at the Empire, too, thus following the example that was set some time ago by Miss Ada Reeve, and lately by Miss Kate Cutler.

MESSRS. FRED O'MALLEY AND BILLY BROWN have been engaged by Mr. Fred W. Warden for his forthcoming Easter pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Belfast. They have also been specially booked, to appear in single turns, during the week commencing March 12 at the Parthenon, Liverpool, where they will also rehearse their new comedy-act, *The Day I Came Back*, from the pen of Mr. Johnny Danvers. This will be something fresh in the double-turn line.

THE twenty-second annual entertainment in aid of the Metropolitan and City Police Relief Fund will be given on Friday evening, March 23, at the Holborn Empire. Several star artists will be added to the current programme on that evening. The fund was founded by the benevolence of an influential gentleman interested in the welfare of the members of the Metropolitan and City Police, and affords immediate assistance to such of them who by sickness, death, or other domestic affliction are placed in urgent need.

MR. JAS. E. DONEGAN, Australian sport, and his talented and world-famed Dunedin troupe of cyclists, leave Waterloo railway station this morning by the 8.30 train. They are bound for New York City, on board the Philadelphia, of the American line. They open in Chicago at the Ringling Brothers' Circus. Mr. Donegan, professionally known as J. E. Dunedin, wishes, in saying *au revoir* through the columns of *The Era* to his many friends among proprietors, managers, agents, and professionals, to thank all and sundry for their many courtesies to him and his troupe during the past, and he trusts he may grip them by the hand in 1908, when he returns to the old country.

THE Elliotts and Savonas are doing very big business in Northampton. They have just received from their works in Middlesbrough, known as Elliott and Sons, engineer and boiler makers, a very fine 1½ horse-power motor engine, to drive the huge pair of twin bellows that supplies the wind to their beautiful pneumatic triplet organs. It is a marvel of ingenuity in mechanism, and was designed specially for all currents and voltages by Mr. J. B. Elliott. It has been tried on the following voltages, 100, 110, 200, 220, and 420, and works equally well on all. It is an excellent engine, and is quite an acquisition to their colossal entertainments.

MISS ADELE DE FRECE, who returned from South Africa last December, and made such a big success as Cinderella at the Coliseum at Christmas, has since then been delighting huge audiences with her charming and artistic rendering of that popular song, "Rainbow," the beautiful limelight effects and chorus making this one of the most pleasing items in the programme. Miss de Frece, who will conclude a twelve weeks' engagement at the Coliseum on March 10, is now studying a new scena.

THAT well-known writer for the variety stage, Fred Murray, has joined hands with Charles Hilbury, and the two have written a song for Miss Marie Kendall, entitled "A flower by any other name——," which Mr. David Day is publishing. Mr. Arthur Aldridge, the tenor, has likewise acquired a ballad from the same pens, entitled "I've left my heart in the Lotus Land."

IN reference to the George Le Brunn Fund, Mr. H. J. Preston, of the Royal York Hotel, Brighton, desires to state that two guineas of the three guineas sent by him were subscribed by Mr. Charles Blacklock.

MISS HETTIE LEE returns to town after a most successful tour of twelve weeks. She has produced a highly successful song entitled "English Girls," published by Messrs. Francis and Day.—Miss Florrie Bray, comedienne, will make her first appearance in London on Monday at the Chelsea Palace.

ARTISTS in want of first-class song novelties would do well to carefully peruse Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford's list of "free" songs enumerated in their advertisement on the back page of this number.

THE one and only Marie Lloyd is the chief star at Shepherd's Bush Empire next week. To speak of Miss Lloyd's attainments is like attempting to paint the lily; but apropos of her experiences, the following anecdote may be repeated. Miss Lloyd was once visiting Liverpool at the same time as the late Sir Henry Irving. The two stars of such very different firmaments met in an embarrassing way. Miss Lloyd had heard that an old friend of hers, Mr. Joe Elvin, was staying at a large hotel in the town, and she called there to see him. After she had sent her name up, however, the hall porter returned, and said: "I'm very sorry, but he says he hasn't the pleasure of your acquaintance." Miss Lloyd thought that her old friend was joking, so she said, "I am going to see him," and forced the reluctant porter to show her into a darkened sitting-room, exclaiming as she entered, "Now, then, Joe, what's the meaning of this?" A tall, thin figure advanced, and a well-known voice demanded coldly: "To what am I indebted for the pleasure of this visit?" The porter had mistaken Sir Henry for Elvin!

AT the last meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, the Committee investigated thirty-five applications for relief, and granted assistance in thirty-two cases.

CRUIKSHANK, who is descended from a family that won fame in the arena, is one of the few comic men who have successfully migrated from the ring to the stage. That he is a humorist has been discovered this week by delighted audiences at the Empire, New Cross, where his well-told jokes have caused screams of laughter.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON has been unable to appear this week at the Metropolitan owing to a severe cold which she unfortunately contracted at the end of last week. The popular American soprano, who has been in the doctor's hands, hopes to be able to resume her place during the coming week, when she will introduce Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford's dainty song, entitled "Redbreast," which seems likely to prove extremely popular.

AS ANNOUNCED last week, the recent football match at Liverpool between George Robey's XI. and the Everton team resulted in a gate of £405, but it should also have been stated that the committee was able to hand the whole of that sum to charity in consequence of Mr. Robey defraying out of his own pocket the whole of the expenses attaching to the match—a not inconsiderable sum. This action on the part of the well-known comedian, entirely unexpected, has vastly increased his popularity, already very great, in the Mersey city.

MR. ROBEY, by the way, takes his benefit at the Royal Court Theatre on Friday next, the evening before the termination of *The Queen of Hearts*, a pantomime which has proved perhaps the most successful of all Mr. Robert Arthur's previous annuals.

IT was mentioned in *The Era* a fortnight ago that the management of this theatre had offered two money prizes for the best sketches of "Mrs. Simpkins" (a mythical personage like unto Sarah Gamp's "Mrs. Harris"), to whom Mr. Robey, as the Queen of Hearts, makes frequent allusion. No fewer than 150 drawings were sent in, and these being shown in the foyer of the theatre for a week the audience were requested to vote upon their respective merits. The winner of the first prize was Mr. Alfred H. Dutton, 31, Great Charlotte-street, Liverpool; and of the second, Mr. William Nickson, 32, Clifton-road, Birkenhead.

ON Sunday the Terriers will give their fifth social concert of the season at the headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster-bridge-road. Coram, the ventriloquist, is the latest to join the fraternity.

MISS MAUDE MORTIMER, we are sorry to hear, had to undergo a serious operation last Saturday; but we are pleased to learn from a friend who saw her on Wednesday at the St. Thomas's Home, that she is very bright and out of danger. If all goes well, she will be convalescent in two or three weeks. Miss Mortimer will be glad to see or hear from any of her old friends. Her address is St. Thomas's Home, St. Thomas's Hospital, Westminster.

MR. JOE ELVIN'S No. 2 company, in *'Appy 'Ampstead*, has made a phenomenal success at the Islington Empire, Mr. Walter Gibbons having booked it for his circuit. It will be presented at the Ealing Hippodrome next week. Mr. Maitland Marler has made a decided hit in Mr. Joe Elvin's part of Tommy Flipper, the retired bookmaker. "Ain't it all right, eh?"

MESSRS FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER have in the press for immediate publication two new songs by J. Francis Lambe and Tom Mellor, entitled respectively, "They were thinking of home, sweet home," and "I'm longing for someone like you." A limited number of free singing rights for both songs will be given by the publishers, early applications being necessary.

THE vocal scena *Jack Sheppard*, written by Albert Voyce (Verno and Voyce), has made a decided hit during this week at the Hippodrome, Hounslow. Mr. Theodore Jones as Jack, is well supported by Mr. Arthur Cartwright as Blueskin. Managers and agents who want a first-class scena cannot do better than to secure it.

IT is now some twelve years ago that the Messrs. Hyman opened their first music hall in South Africa, for on Dec. 3, 1894, the old Globe Theatre at Johannesburg was opened as the Empire Palace. What strides have been made in supplying South Africa with the best possible talent can be seen by comparing the amount of passage-money paid to the Union Castle S.S. Co. for taking out artists. In the first year of their business, the Messrs. Hyman paid the company under £1,000, but for the year 1905 the amount reached something like £12,000.

IT was only about twelve months back that this go-ahead firm of South African entrepeneurs took over the handsome new Tivoli Theatre at Cape Town. Not satisfied with this extension, they are now building a new Empire at Johannesburg, to take the place of their present theatre, which they find is not up to date or large enough, and will open it on May 14 next, with Miss Ada Reeve as the principal star. It is considered to be one of the most handsome places of amusement in the world. In order that everything should be as up to date as possible, Mr. Edgar M. Hyman, in 1904, made a tour of all the important cities of this country, the Continent, and America, and carefully studied the construction of all the latest theatres built.

MISS LILY BURNAND, the fascinating burlesque artist, has returned to London after a successful provincial tour, and will sing her successful song, "The Stowaway," next week at the Cambridge and Collins's.

MR. DAN ASHTON, comedian, who has been unable to appear since his accident on Nov. 18 last, resumes business at the Beswick Co-operative Hall, Manchester, where he takes a benefit on Thursday next.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Company, of Berners-street, have this week accepted for publication a new song of a romantic character, jointly written by F. J. Barnes and R. P. Weston, and composed by Maurice Scott, entitled, "If you set me free." For this song, which is of the semi-free variety, this enterprising publishing firm has already found several prominent singers.

MR. TOM CRAVEN'S sketch, *The Lady in Red*, will be produced for the first time at the West End at the Lyceum on Monday next.

FRED SINCLAIR AND GRACIE WHITEFORD, after staying two weeks at the Lyceum, were offered by Mrs. Barrasford another week, which they were unable to accept.—Mr. Harry Nation returns to town after having a successful initial booking tour, he having booked over thirty artists of every description.—Mr. Alf Maynall, who has just concluded ten weeks with Mr. Fred Warden's *Cinderella* pantomime at Belfast, Dublin, and Cork, has been engaged by Mr. Henry Kemble, of Palace Theatre, Cork, to open at that hall on Monday.—Stern and Stern, who conclude their fourteenth pantomime engagement to-night, have been re-engaged by J. Gar Kiddie for pantomime, 1906-7.

AT the meeting of the International Artists' Lodge at the Hôtel Provence on Sunday President Konorah gave a report of the conference of the four music-hall societies which had been taking place the last few Sundays. He said:—"The final meeting of the conference took place this afternoon, and was not the meeting of any organisation, but purely a conference where all acted as delegates from beginning to end. A previous meeting had considered the establishment of a new society, which was to provide for the establishment of old-age pensions, loan funds, and a newspaper, the profits of which were to go to the funds of the organisation. To-day we considered the entrance-fee and dues, and after discussion the entrance-fee was fixed at 2s. 6d. and the due at 6d. per week. These were to be arranged so that artists would find them very easy to pay. They could pay them either to the offices of the organisation or to members of the executive or agents appointed. It was further agreed that a system of legal protection be adopted. The constitution of this is practically the same as that of the I.A.L., and the expression of it almost verbatim from the rules of the I.A.L.

"THE next point was the affiliation with the I.A.L., and this has been agreed upon as suggested by the Executive Committee of the I.A.L., because it is taken almost word for word from my letter. Any member of the one organisation will be able to attend the meetings of the other, where he will have voice, but no vote. Members of the Executive Committee of the one will be able to attend the Executive Committee meetings of the other. Further, any information possessed by the one will be at the disposal of the other.

"ONE important point is this. It is intended to establish a safe system of legal protection. We have it already, but it can be simplified by there being two organisations. It will make it possible for this organisation to attend to many legal affairs for us here, which it would not be so easy for us to do. Loans will be extended to members mutually. Naturally expenses will be reimbursed by the organisation for whom the expenses are incurred. Naturally there will be limits, and if the expenditure exceeds a certain amount, the home organisation shall be asked for their permission. With this the conference was ended this afternoon."

MANY members again asked for details of the new schemes, and another discussion on the subject ensued. The president explained these points, making the position quite clear, and suggested the necessity of looking at the question in a broad light. He quoted the first paragraph of the rules and regulations, saying that the aim of the I.A.L. is "to advance the moral and material welfare of the profession," and we shall be willing to support anything which does this. The motto of the affiliation should be, "Both shall be be as one and one shall be as both."

BROTHER 1211 proposed following resolution:—"That greeting be sent to the new organisation (the Variety Artists' Federation) as follows:—'The meeting of the I.A.L. in London on Feb. 25 having heard the report of the I.A.L. to the conference of the four music-hall societies, heartily welcome the V.A.F., and will assist it in every possible way as long as the V.A.F., while furthering their own interests, advance the moral and material welfare of the music-hall profession at large.'" This was seconded by Brother 1302, and passed. The Legal Committee for the month was then elected. The next point was the report of an interview which the President had had with the London solicitor, which was satisfactory. There was some discussion over this, and owing to the lateness of the hour the meeting then adjourned.

A NOVEL wager was decided this week at the Hippodrome, Eastbourne. On Monday evening during the turn of Mlle. Von Etta, the lady illusionist and quick-change artist, two members of the audience had a difference of opinion, one asserting that there were two ladies working the turn—Mlle. Von Etta having a double—the other insisting that it was the same lady all the time. A bet being made, the gentlemen appealed to Von Etta's manager, who, out of courtesy, allowed them to decide the wager without further argument. Needless to say the lady has no double.

SCHEMES designed to popularise Southsea as a seaside resort are being pushed forward. A new theatre is in course of erection, and a winter palace is also projected. The South Parade Pier, in all probability, will pass into the hands of the Corporation and be equipped in a thoroughly modern style, while the new entertainment committee is considering the provision of a variety of outdoor festivals. Plans have been approved for a new Hippodrome and Coliseum.

THE affairs of Tom Leamore, the well-known music-hall artist, were investigated at the London Bankruptcy Court on the 23rd ult., when he was publicly examined. His real name is H. T. Lee, and he recently presented his own petition. The accounts filed showed liabilities £904 (£664 unsecured), and assets nil. He stated that he had been a music-hall artist for the last twenty-two years, and he attributed his failure to the adverse result of an action brought against him by Mr. Stoll, of Moss' Empires, for breach of contract by performing at a hall within two miles of an "Empire."

MISS MAY HENDERSON wishes to thank everyone concerned in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, for the kindness shown to her during her three months' engagement. Mr. Ben Zieber has offered to re-engage her for the Apollo Theatre, Vienna, but she has been secured by Mr. John Hart for next year.

MESSRS. JOHN P. HARRINGTON and Jas. W. Tate have just equipped Mr. Edgar Romaine with a new comedy chorus song, entitled, "Come in the corner, Lucy," and Miss Claire Romaine has also accepted two new numbers from the same prolific author and composer, entitled "Built wrong" and "Lum-ta-tiddley-ay."

MISS FLORRIE FORDE has achieved an instantaneous success on tour with Paul Paulton and Arthur Van Dixie's chorus song, "Any old place where the sun shines," and although only just published in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "sixpenny successes," the trade demand has already been abnormally great. Pierrot troupes are eagerly snapping this number up for forthcoming seaside exploitation

MR. BERT GILBERT, who has been playing the part of the lovesick and jealous private soldier in *The Blue Moon*, will on Monday resume his original part of King Encyclops in *Among the Stars* at the London Hippodrome. His part has been admirably filled in the interim by Mr. W. T. Volt, who will remain at the Hippodrome for the next production, entitled *The Flood*.

"MA HAVANA QUEEN," one of the most successful songs ever sung by Mr. G. H. Elliott, the "Chocolate Coon," is now "free" for the halls, and artists wishing to sing this delightful number should write to the publishers, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, for the necessary permission. The author-composers are Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPIRE.

A world of delightful notions delightfully carried out, and you have the ballet divertissement *The Bugle Call*, still running its graceful and æsthetic course at the Empire Theatre. The prettiest of love in the prettiest of makings, the not unnatural accompaniment to that love of green-eyed jealousy, the mischievous doings of practical jokers, the doings of all manner of persons appropriate to their peculiar characteristics, form part of this story told without the aid of words. But the motions of the different actors in it are executed in such an explanatory way that the plot, such as it is, is rendered understandable. What could excel in its pleasing effect the exquisite dancing of Mlle. Zanfretta in her rôle of the Lady of the Manor, or of Miss Elise Clerc as the pert and engaging Bugler Boy? And if you desire comedy that is not spoken but is merely acted with such striking truthfulness that no language of the voice is required to interpret its meaning, there is Mr. Fred Farren's clever representation of the character of the Colonel de Mille Tonnerres. The artistic eye revels in the beautiful pictures of life and colour presented during the progression of the divertissement, and the very effective dances catch one's fancy.

One way of imparting a humorous rendering to what would otherwise be a serious song is for the same artist to sing it partly in the tone of a tenor and partly in the tone of a sweet-voiced soprano. But voice dissimulation is a power that very few people possess, therefore one can all the more congratulate Taciana upon the ownership of really remarkable gifts. Attired and made up as a not unhandsome woman, he gave a capital rendering of a French ditty, as well as of "Sweet, sweet love," his voice alternating with each few lines with masculine and feminine enunciations, each being performed most naturally. Aerial and other gymnastics of an original order by the D'Osta troupe form an extremely interesting feature of the programme. With wonderful neatness and precision do these three young people perform various feats, such as rapidly turning from back to front, and catching hold of the trapeze while swinging to and fro in mid-air. The two boys give an astonishingly smart exhibition of jumping, turning, and gliding on and about the cushioned floor. Mac Turc appears in an intensely laughable juggling act. One wonders how he manages to balance a hat upon his face while he divests himself of his coat: There is drollery in everything he does; he even instils the spirit of whimsicality into his manipulation of the tennis balls which he tosses in the air and catches so skilfully.

Mr. Burt Earle might not inaptly be termed a burlesquing banjoist. With the assistance of the instrument, in the handling of which he is quite a master, he describes how the lines beginning "For he's a jolly good fellow" are sung in different stages of intoxication. This item in Mr. Earle's turn is a clever bit of instrumentalism. When he comes to soberer things, we get an exceptionally fine interpretation of a popular Hungarian rhapsody. "Cycling extraordinary" is the keynote of a very attractive entertainment furnished by the Barber Ritchie Trio. One sees curious makes of machines never met with before. The comical member of the little troupe rides on a quaint "velocipede" at the rate of about two miles an hour, the back wheel of this fearful contrivance consisting of boots attached to spokes. It would, indeed, be difficult to describe some of the other strange vehicles used by the Barber Ritchie Trio. We should imagine that the absurdity of locomotive invention has scarcely been exceeded than in this case. The whole display is full of diverting incidents, while all the performers exhibit marvellous agility and adroitness in their control of the cycle. A dainty singer of dainty themes comes along in the person of Miss Sybil Arundale, and one feels quite refreshed after hearing her voice the praises of the sweet denizens of Nature's nursery. Another talented vocalist is Miss Marta Cunningham, whose rendering of chansonettes is most captivating. The fairy ballet in four tableaux, *Cinderella*, in which Mlle. Adeline Genée explains in such fascinating manner what the singer meant when he referred to "the poetry of motion," holds the audience entranced with its pretty story and scenes.

THE OXFORD.

Since our last visit to this popular central hall, *Toffy's Trotter* has been withdrawn, but Mr. Elvin, the chief comic man of that sketch, has been retained, and is presenting nightly the farcical domestic playlet, *Obedient Billy*, which first saw the footlights at the Canterbury at Christmas. In the household where Winkle (Mr. Joe Elvin) is engaged, the young wife is expecting the brokers hourly, and instructs him to kick them out, and throw their belongings after them. Billy, as Winkle is renamed, is enjoined to strictly obey orders, and does so, his first victim being his master, whom he had not seen previously. A respectable stockbroker, who had come to the house at the summons of an elderly female relative, wishful to help the young couple, is also "chucked," and the home broken up by "obedient Billy." Some amusing conversation is carried on by him and the elderly female referred to, who is anxious for his moral regeneration; and in Billy's examination there is an excellent opportunity for the addition of up-to-date gags. The extravagant nature of the knockabout business reminds us of one of Mr. Elvin's earliest successes, and the fun of the whole thing lies as much in the oddities of speech and manner of the chief interpreter, as in what may be called the "turn him out" incidents. The farce thoroughly justifies its production at the Oxford, where audiences are convulsed nightly by Mr. Elvin's vagaries as Winkle.

Wanted, a Divorce, a new duologue given at the Oxford for the first time on Monday, bears internal evidence of its American origin. It is played—and well played—by Mr. Stone and Miss Lulu Evans. The former represents Lawyer Legalbrief, who is within sight of bankruptcy, being unable to pay his rent. Even the telephone people have removed from his office their apparatus, which is ingeniously replaced by a disused receiver, to which is attached a bicycle bell. By these means Legalbrief is able to vamp up replies to imaginary messages from celebrated people in order to impress his clients (when he has any) with the importance of his connection. His only client is Mrs. Cleopatra McMuggins, who seeks a divorce from her husband, from whom she is estranged through various farcical reasons. She gives the lawyer a retaining fee for £150, and instructs him to sue for £200 a week as alimony. This is as far as we get in the way of plot; for. Mr Stone and Miss Evans break into a duet, and the lady afterwards indulges in wild snatches of song, and a very vigorous dance, with which the piece of nonsense concludes. Miss Evans is a lively and entertaining comedienne, and Mr. Stone has a command of dry humour which should be a sure passport to the favour of English audiences.

A Yacht for Sale, another duologue, is repeating at the Oxford the success it scored at the Metropolitan a few weeks ago, when we fully noticed the amusing nature of the imbroglio, and the excellent acting of Mr. Royston Keith and Miss Alice Yorke. Early in the evening Miss Dolly Harmer hits off with much cleverness the various turns in a music-hall entertainment—the comic singer, the coster comedian, the coon singer, and others. Miss Harmer is not too extravagant, but just extravagant enough, and puts just the necessary touch of burlesque into her mimicry, which always has the saving grace of humour. Mlle. Eugenie Fougère, in a much less refined way, burlesques the method of Otero, the Spanish singer and dancer, whose diamonds dazzle Paris audiences more than they do London. The French chanteuse is termed charming by the compilers of the Oxford programme. Perhaps her charm is to be discovered in the action of slapping her bust—plentifully displayed—and saying (in French) that it is the gift of her mother.

Miss Alexandra Dagmar appears in quite a protean entertainment. The clever lady seems to gain in vivacity and versatility as she gains in years. The first item in her own particular programme is an amusing imitation of a French comic singer, after which we are treated to a number of funny stories, personal experiences, and otherwise. Miss Dagmar's mimicry of "Good-bye, my lady love," as sung by a lady with a double voice, is a capital feature of her turn, which concludes with two or three verses about "A message from the dead." The song begins quite seriously, but when Miss Dagmar goes on to describe an egg thrown at a music-hall performer as a message from the dead, the audience are seized with an irresistible fit of laughing.

Mr. Mike S. Whallen has come back from the States with some new and amusing gags, and makes a tremendous hit, as usual, with his extempore verses on members of the audience. Mr. Jack Camp, who has happily recovered from his severe illness, has some amusing wheezes concerning his reception in various towns, and tells stories against himself with great gusto. He is quite an original humorist, and his turn is all too short. Miss Marie Lloyd, who is fulfilling a special engagement, is delighting Oxford audiences with the three numbers that have won for her at the Tivoli such a success, which is sure to be repeated here.

A remarkable exhibition of animal training is shown us in Wylie's Dog Circus. The poodles and terriers perform in an arena, with a number of wooden dolls, representing an audience in the first three tiers of seats, the remainder of the spectators being cleverly painted on the back cloth. The canines box, dance, turn somersaults, and altogether give a circus entertainment that is very gravely and amusingly carried out. Mr. Morris Cronin and Company are responsible for a marvellous juggling act, in which Indian clubs figure mainly. Two footmen and a couple of boys in buttons seem to be as expert at the business as their instructor; but Cronin himself is a remarkable example of imperturbable calm, and his impassiveness when accomplishing the most difficult tricks adds much to their effectiveness. The show is pretty, and it is prettily set.

Classical pianoforte selections are played by Kopski, who chose on the night to which we are now alluding the last movement of Mendelssohn's E minor concerto, which was loudly applauded. Early in the evening Orpheus shows his versatility as an instrumentalist; and other attractions on the bill are Mr. Edgar Romaine, comedian; Mr. V. L. Granville, impersonator of character actors; Jury's Bioscope, with a delightful series of coloured films illustrative of "A Butterfly Ballet; or, the Conversion of the Entomologist; Mr. Arthur Reece, vocal comedian; Doody and Wright, who are responsible for drollery as Australian comiques; and Lockhart's elephants.

THE MIDDLESEX.

The Would-be Actors, an amusing "skit" that has been meeting with decided approval in the provinces, was given for the first time in London on Monday, and the hearty and almost continuous laughter it evoked at the Middlesex must have been very gratifying to the trio responsible for the making of the fun. The cast is as follows:—The Heroine, Miss Lilian Rosebery; the villain, Mr. Albert Mason; the hero and any other character, Mr. Carter Livesey.

The "would-be actors" are a young lady and gentleman anxious to distinguish themselves on the boards. Added to her personal attractions, the lady apparently has money, for she readily satisfies the demands of the theatrical manager whom they interview; but the swell does not prove such a "prize packet." The manager, however, agrees to forego payment for a time, and the pair are given their "parts," and proceed to the rehearsal of a melodrama immediately. It is at once seen by their tutor—and the audience—that he has exceptionally "raw" material to deal with. The lady, who is to impersonate the sorely-tried heroine, is told to make her entrance as if exhausted and faint, but the impression she gives is that of semi-intoxication. She has to try again, with only slightly better results. Much laughter is created by the cruel treatment meted out to Little Willie, her baby—being only a rehearsal, a cushion has to do duty for the infant—who is placed in all sorts of awkward positions, and is finally flung across the stage, such is the lady's disgust at her inability to satisfy the patient manager. Equally provocative of mirth are the efforts of the gentleman who has to portray the villain. His numerous "Ha! ha!'s" fail to strike terror in the heart of the heroine, as intended; and his lunges into space with a wooden dagger are absurdly funny. Both aspirants to histrionic fame, too, will persist in including the stage instructions in their lines; and the rehearsal concludes with a terrific explosion, the villain having dropped the "bomb" at the wrong moment, much to the disgust of the manager and his own discomfort. One can give no idea of the humour of the trifle in print; but it is one laugh from beginning to end, and the fun is such as will appeal to any audience. Mr. Carter Livesey gave a clever and quietly humorous impersonation of the much-worried and patient manager, also enacting the hero, the father, and other characters, and worked hard and successfully throughout for the success of the skit. Mr. Albert Mason admirably indicated the awkwardness and "woodenness" of the representative of the villain; and Miss Lilian Rosebery is to be highly commended on her refined performance as the heroine, aiding largely in the hilarity created without making the part appear too absurd, which might easily have been the case.

Duologues and playlets occupy the greater portion of Mr. Graydon's attractive bill this week, a cordial greeting being extended the familiar coster episode, *Me and 'Er*, so admirably presented by Duncan and Godfrey. Frequently as is this well-written and amusing trifle seen in London, it always compels attention throughout; and there is no sign of staleness in the acting of the happily-associated couple who are responsible for it, the pathetic finish being especially well played. Laughter of the heartiest is evoked by Athas and Collins, in their comedy duologue, *Four Bob*, the acrobatic and clever dancing of the pair aiding considerably in its success; and yet another mirthful morsel is *Her Ladyship*, humorously played by Evelyn and Yates. An entertaining item is *The Lie Alarm*, a miniature comedy presented by the Smythsons; and the programme is concluded by George M. Marriott and his combination, including the accomplished actress, Miss Edith Finley, in a sensational playlet, *A Woman of the World*.

Amongst the single turns no artist is received with greater approval than Miss Lily Burnand, a vocalist with a fine presence and an admirable method of delivering her songs. She has a popular and tuneful song in "Don't care for Rosie," the audience joining in the refrain with evident enjoyment; and her second item, "Stowaway," in which she wore a handsome principal boy's dress, also enabled her to secure applause. Mr. Herbert Rule, a comedian who employs an eccentric style that largely contributes to the humour of his effusions, moved his auditors to merriment with "Why?" and another comic song; Miss Lily Flexmore warbled pleasingly "They always come out in the sun," and was rewarded with much applause for some really extraordinary leg-twisting and acrobatic dancing; and Hall and Earle were likewise the recipients of a flattering reception for their quaint antics as a Chinaman and an eccentric, who also indulge in marvellous somersaulting, jumping, and other acrobatic feats—a turn full of surprises and one of genuine cleverness. Edie Grey and her white coons were listened to with pleasure and loudly cheered for their harmonious renderings of a hunting and other songs; and the Ten Dixie Girls presented a very attractive and tuneful scena, *The Silver Coon*, and are also to be complimented on their neat dancing. One of the number scored greatly for her rendering of a verse of the familiar "Sing me to sleep," and other much appreciated songs were included in their keenly-enjoyed interlude. Miss Cissie Scofield, comedienne, succeeded in arousing mirth with her two low-comedy impersonations, her funniest item being "I lost him at half-past nine"; Rose and Lewis, American comedy musical artists, submitted an enjoyable turn of mirth and melody, the male of the duo being applauded for some clever dancing; and Dolly Denton, comedienne, and the New Bioscope also contributed to the success of the entertainment.

THE CANTERBURY.

Aerial performances have always been in favour at the Canterbury, and there are few, if any, of the most famous gymnasts who have not taken their flights beneath the roof of the old-established hall. Interest in the art has been revived this week by the appearance of the Peerless Potters, a quintet of ladies and gentlemen, described with no little truth as the most startling and fearless performers in the world. During the time they occupy the spacious auditorium they are continuously engaged in a number of extraordinary feats, single and double somersaults, from hand to hand, being done with marvellous intrepidity by graceful young ladies, one of whom, on leaving her partner's hands, rises in the air, and turning a double somersault, descends to the performer hanging from the bar below. The show is a sensational one, and wins many hearty cheers. Price and Revost are a pair of skilled athletes, one of whom turns his abilities to very comic account. He is an eccentric of a delightfully fresh and novel character, with an ingenuous smile, which remains with him even while he tumbles over chairs and tables, quite regardless of a broken neck or limb. His partner supplies what is technically termed the "straight" show, and straight as an arrow he is in double and pirouette somersaults and hand springs, his work being so cleanly executed that nothing but admiration can be conceived. Roars of laughter alternate with enthusiastic applause during the progress of the interlude, to which the name of "Bumpity Bumps" is fitly applied.

The art of the acrobat is also worthily practised by the Garganis, whose ground and lofty tumbling is of a startling kind. Their top-mounting and shoulder-work is artistically done, one clever member of the trio, who is remarkably sure-footed, taking possession of a private box on the first tier, and leaping thence on to the shoulders of his partner on the stage. Recalls are numerously bestowed on the well-trained performers, who also combine an agreeable amount of humour with their skilful feats. The marionette is put to new uses by Mr. Laurie Wylie, who places his own head upon a wooden figure, and gives imitations of popular artists. Mr. Fred Wright, jun., is the first subject to be mimicked, followed by Mr. George Robey as "The Prehistoric Man," and by Mr. Harry Lauder in "Killiecrankie." Mr. Wylie comes as near as possible to the originals, so far as the humour of the impersonations is concerned, and quite surpasses them in the dance which concludes each item. Merriment is abundantly created during the turn, which is presented on a miniature stage, effect being given by a droll figure, who changes the numbers at the wings.

A welcome of the most cordial character is given to Mr. Herbert La Martine, who may be said to have grown up in the favour of lovers of variety. "I want to be a soldier, too," possesses just the right kind of sentiment to please, and Mr. Martine sings it so sympathetically, and with such expression, that the audience are compelled to join him in the melodious refrain. Mr. La Martine embellishes a coon song with his speciality dances, the variations of which are truly remarkable, displaying both skill and agility and securing him the highest admiration.

The moving pictures shown on Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope are extremely interesting, the launch of H.M.S. Dreadnought by the King being a particularly striking film. A tinted view of a waterfall is also well appreciated, and another successful picture is a quaint series of different styles of hair dresses, in which pretty faces are seen surmounted with all manner of hirsute adornment. A novel turn is that supplied by Boswell's Stage Circus, in which a stud of educated ponies and dogs combine with a cantankerous donkey to give untold delight. The mnemonic powers of Datas are familiar in every hall, and his remarkably tenacious memory well wins him the title of "The Living Almanack." Mr. Mike S. Whallen is rich in story and clever in impersonation; Fraser and Haley indulge agreeably in vocal selections; and other numbers in the programme are those of Vona and Merle, singers and dancers; the McConnell Trio of singers and players; Miss Rosa Rosetti, in a musical act; and Frank and Free, speciality performers. Mr. Fred Miller remains with credit in the position of general-manager; and Mr. Archie Howell's direction of the orchestra helps considerably towards the harmony that prevails.

THE SURREY.

Fun, fancy, and thorough enjoyment, with unceasing variety, are the dominant note of Mr. Frank Macnaghten's entertainment here, and twice nightly a clientele that fills every part of the vast and brilliantly-illuminated auditorium testify with no uncertain voice their enthusiastic approval of the bill of fare. That the love of drama has still a firm hold on the affections of the Surreyiters is evident by the absorbing interest they take in Fergus Hume's thrilling dramatic military sketch, *The Last Shot*, admirably played by Mr. James C. Aubrey, and an excellent company. In a camp on the Sabi River, Matabeleland, we find Gerald Baird, a war correspondent, and Lieutenant Wilfred Tarver, with a handful of men holding out against fearful odds. They have fully made up their minds that theirs is a forelorn hope, and in their interchange of confidences they find they are both in love with a girl named Helen. Tarver is badly wounded, and entrusts to his friend a package to give to his aged mother should he go under. News is brought to the camp that the dread Matabele have raided a town close to the camp, and carried off the womenfolk, and, much to Baird and Tarver's astonishment, a lady nurse is seen approaching the camp as an envoy. Baird recognises her as his fiancée, Helen Dudleigh, and learns from her that the Matabele will spare all the lives in the camp but his—he being a non-combatant—if they will haul down the British flag and surrender. Tarver comes on the scene, and Baird soon discovers that his Helen is Tarver's Helen also, and in accusing her of coquetry he learns that she really loves Tarver and only respects himself. Baird, to save the lives of all in the camp, rushes to the flagstaff and lowers the flag; but, just at that moment, Helen sees a relief column coming, and Baird, while hoisting the flag again, receives the Matabele's "last shot," and falls dead at Tarver and Helen's feet. As Gerald Baird Mr. J. C. Aubrey invests his character with a devil-may-care nonchalance; Miss Jennie Armstrong as the nurse acts with tender feeling and grace; Mr. Cecil Newton is manly and earnest as Lieutenant Tarver; and Mr. John Miller as Sergeant Mac O'Neil gives just the one touch of humour that is necessary.

John Tiller's energetic eight champion expert dancers soon sing and dance themselves into favour, and whether with skipping-rope or sleighbells, they, with perfect time and tune, demonstrate that they are thoroughly proficient in the art of Terpsichore. Arthur Elvey, the up-to-date tipster, introduces a novel turn in a racecourse scene, and gives infinite delight to the sporting members of the audience by imparting to them the contents of a wire received from a well-known sporting prophet, the value of which can be judged by our readers, for on the occasion of our visit it gave "John, M.P." for Thursday last at Sandown Park, and "Roman Law" for the forthcoming Grand National. In a neat little recital Mr. Elvey humorously and cleverly manipulates the names of many well-known racehorses. Charlie Jerome, with a style and method suggestive of our only 'Gene Stratton, in a pretty sylvan scene, sings a charming ballad, "Letty," and dances with unabated activity to its bewitching melody.

Roars of merriment follow the course of Alec Hurley's *Friendly Lead*, a striking and realistic episode of coster life, which, although it has been seen in nearly every variety theatre in London, is so full of clever character studies that it always claims the attention and interest of the audience. Opening with a pathetic little domestic scena, this unrivalled exponent of coster life touches the hearts of his hearers in the simple little ballad, "I love her as my life," and easily turns tears to laughter in "The Friendly Lead" scene, wherein we are introduced to a rollicking company of costers and street sellers, who demonstrate that, under their rough exterior, there lies the true spirit of sweet charity. The Four Jumells easily assert their title as expert banjoists, for this gifted quartette of male and female instrumentalists give a musical entertainment of rare merit. Opening with a skilfully-played series of popular airs on mandolines, they soon demonstrate that they are as efficient on the banjo by giving a smart operatic selection, and as a finale they play "The Lost Chord" with charming effect and perfect expression, on a combination of phonograph harmoniums, with bell accompaniment. Milner Verren is the fortunate possessor of a clear light tenor voice. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, with its series of three animated pictures, is a turn that is always highly appreciated. The first film shows in marvellous detail all the exciting incidents of a "Fox Hunt," and makes every member of the audience long to be bounding "o'er the green turf" to be in with the hounds. The second depicts "That Awful Mother-in-Law," who, in providing a "hot time" for her son-in-law creates roars of laughter. The Greys (Adah and Lucien) are well received in their duet, "Farewell"; and L. B. Athol wins many friends by his rendering of a sentimental ballad.

THE EUSTON.

The approach of the Lenten season has somewhat dulled business at the halls, but the Euston scarcely depends on the fashionable folk, and the toilers in the neighbourhood, staunch to their local variety theatre, have been crowding it twice a night to assist at the really admirable entertainment provided under the direction of Mr. George Adney Payne. The chief attraction of the current bill is Mr. Joe Elvin, in a revival of the successful sporting sketch, *Over the Sticks*, which, on its first production at the Oxford, proved to be one of the most successful spectacular playlets that had seen the footlights. The stage of the Euston is fortunately equal to the reproduction of the famous racecourse scene at Kempton Park, where Plodder Pilks, "to oblige his brother," wins the Sunbury Hurdle Handicap. Realistic illustration of the humours of a racecourse are supplied by a typical turf crowd, and there are well-known jockeys, trainers, bookmakers, punters, &c. The racehorses—a likely looking lot—are supplied by Thomas Hales, and the excitement and bustle of an equine contest are well sustained. Mr. Elvin revels in the humours of the amateur horseman, his comicalities being heartily roared at by the Eustonians. Mr. Elvin is well supported by a capable company, whose names, unfortunately, do not appear on the programme, and the sketch is admirably staged.

Early in the evening appear Walker and May, a couple of interesting darkies, whose entertainment is characterised by comedy of the broad, obvious type, so dearly loved by music-hall audiences. They indulge in a deal of good-humoured cross talk, which is followed by a capital dance. The difficulties of Mr. Walker as a dancer are much increased by the infirmity of blindness, but his cheerfulness is beyond question, and the pair score most unmistakably. Comedy acrobats loom large in the bill. First we have the Five Bon-Bons, who exploit a deal of fun in various ways, being especially expert in their somersaults on a spring mattress. Fun is in the ascendant, too, when they sit down to a comic meal, or when the head of the troupe burlesques the ventriloquial business. Tate and Tate are termed comedy trampolean acrobats, and have plenty of quaint business to justify the title. The lady of the pair does her spiriting in skirts, and the mere man just turns fifty forward and backward somersaults on a spring mattress, and brings down the house.

Mr. Tom Costello ever rejoiced in parody, and he has an excellent subject in "Teasing," in which he sketches with much drollery the extraordinary adventures of an unattached Gorgonzola. The audience demanded another song from the popular comedian on the night to which we are now particularly alluding, but time did not permit of a second contribution. Miss Rosie Lloyd, a scion of a famous family, had an excellent coster ditty, entitled "Never introduce your bloke to your lady friend," an excellent companion to Mr. Elen's famous song, "Never introduce your donah to a pal," which considerably helped to establish the fame of that comedian. Let us hope that Miss Lloyd's song may be instrumental in advancing an already well-established reputation. She does it full justice, and her success in it was assured from the first night she sang it. Her other number, "A bungalow for two," is a pretty bit of sentiment. A solid attraction of the bill is Young Colossus, a Hungarian youth of eighteen, who weighs 35st. The Czech is a mass of adipose tissue, and his measurements are commented upon by a lecturer, who also describes his companion, a miniature man, the contrast between the two being very marked. Selbo, the other turn in the programme, is a clever club juggler. Cline and Clark, American sand dancers, are good. Mr. Victor Opferman's orchestra is an excellent combination; and Mr. Charles C. Wellman is an energetic aide-de-camp to the courteous manager, Mr. Fred McAvoy.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

A new performer, who elects to be known as Volta, contributed a remarkably unique and interesting exposition of the wonders of electricity and its effect on the human body at the above popular hall last week. Volta, through the fluent gentleman who introduces him, claims to accomplish many startling and hitherto considered impossible feats by the aid of electricity. The stage is completely filled with electrical appliances, making quite an impressive array, and when the young and ascetic-looking performer steps forward to commence his task, there is an expectant hush. Volta takes up a position inside a coil of wire, through which the voltage is reckoned by the million, and becomes so charged with electricity that sparks and flames are emitted from everything he touches. Another feat is to recline on a "live" electric couch, very heavily charged, and to ignite paper and other materials by mere contact with his clothes, boots, or even his bare arm. Volta also lights a cigarette electrically, lights gas jets with the tip of his tongue, and performs many like feats, to the amazement and wonderment of the audience. The performance is not without its comic side, and roars of merriment are aroused at the lively capers cut by those intrepid members of the audience who, on Volta's invitation, appear on the stage, and accept as a gift the articles he disposes on a tray—provided they can remove them. The performance is undoubtedly a very arduous one, and Volta well merits the applause showered upon him at its conclusion.

The Delevines, now four in number, appeared in quite a new style of entertainment in *The Bell Inn*, which introduces some very clever leg-mania dancing and laughable knockabout business, by the three gentlemen of the troupe. The act is highly diverting, and was heartily applauded. Gertrude Bradshaw, who possesses a most agreeable soprano voice, though she has something to learn in the important matter of enunciation, gave a very pleasing rendering of "The Children's Home," and afterwards sang in tasteful fashion, "Mary of Argyle." A most entertaining pair are the Brothers Warsaw. One appears in exaggerated military attire, and the other in spruce officer's dress, and their amusing by-play and clever manipulation of various instruments won them a cordial reception. The Twin Sisters Anderson secured plenty of applause for their nimble and rhythmical skipping-rope dance, and these tastefully-attired young ladies were also very successful with a duet and dance. Charles J. Butler and John Josey appeared as "The Two Cavaliers," and contributed a very interesting and artistic act; Walter Munroe brought into play his ripe experience as an Irish comedian with the happiest results; and Frank Darwin had a capital lilt, dealing with the fair sex, which went exceedingly well.

The Brothers Artois were prime favourites with their expert triple bar act, with which is blended some capital comedy business. The pictures on the bioscope are always popular, and last week's series, including "The King's Opening of Parliament," proved no exception. The aërial strong act, contributed by the Three Renards, was much enjoyed. The selection by the orchestra, under Mr. Augustus Greco's skilful guidance, is much appreciated by early-comers; and the comfort of the audience could not be in better hands than those of Mr. T. S. Mayne, the popular and assiduous acting-manager.

THE EMPRESS.

Paramount in the programme at the Empress this week is the sketch *The King's Minister*, which Mr. Cecil Raleigh has written for Mr. John Lawson. Produced at Hounslow a fortnight ago, it has this week come within the metropolitan area, and a verdict of unqualified success must be pronounced. Written in Mr. Raleigh's best style the piece has strikingly original situations that appeal both to lovers of the sensational and to those who can discern the finer qualities of dramatic construction, and the final scene is of such strength that the audience is wrought to the highest pitch of excitement. The plot, details of which were given in our columns on the first production, has for its central figure no less a personage than a Prime Minister of England, whose identity with the late Disraeli is thinly veiled under the name of Lord Draconsmere. Anxious to secure some letters written by his daughter many years ago to a music-master, with whom she imagined herself to be in love, the Prime Minister pays a visit to a restaurant in a shady quarter of Soho, and obtains the compromising missives from the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozler, who had purloined them from the musician. Lord Draconsmere bestows his pocket-book upon the lady, the contents of which excite the cupidity of Milano, the proprietor of the house, who strangles her, gives the alarm, and attributes the crime to the mysterious stranger who had that evening dined with the murdered woman. The pocket-book, which bears its owner's name, is secured by Milano, who carries it to Lord Draconsmere, and threatens to accuse him of the murder unless he reveals the secret of the State cypher, which will enable a revolutionary society, of which he is a member, to strike a blow at England. Paternal love and patriotism are thus opposed in the breast of the Minister, whose conviction of the crime of murder would wreck the happiness of his daughter betrothed to a gallant young officer, but he solves the problem by shooting himself with Milano's pistol, and with his last words branding him as a murderer.

Mr. John Lawson, in the title-rôle, marks another upward step in his career, his impersonation of the Prime Minister being one of remarkable power and resource. He delivers an eloquent tirade against the gambling craze that depraves society, and his simple earnestness when pleading to Mrs. St. Ozler to relinquish the habit is very effective, no less convincing being his advocacy of the merits of the Jewish race. The scene in which the Premier, thinking only how to secure the happiness of his daughter, and leave his honour unsullied, takes the most extreme measure, is acted with a remarkable degree of intensity, that made the audience thrill with excitement. Mrs. Lawson acts with great delicacy and charm as Muriel, the handsome dress worn by the Prime Minister's daughter well becoming her. The two other parts were admirably sustained, and the sketch is mounted on a complete scale seldom seen on the variety stage, the State-room in Carlton House being a remarkably brilliant set, in which no expense has evidently been spared.

Phenomenons of humanity are introduced in the persons of Young Colossus, a Hungarian giant, who is eighteen years of age, close upon 36st. in weight, and measures 77in. round the chest, and 35in. round the knee, and L'Homme Miniature, twenty-five years old, and 2st. 6lb. in weight. Colossus is a ruddy-complexioned youth, dressed in a child's frock and pinafore, and his companion, a weazened little fellow, attired in a velvet suit and a high silk hat, who puffs a cigarette and throws kisses continuously at the audience. Their appearance side by side has a most ludicrous effect, and is a sight that no lover of the extraordinary should miss.

A star position in the bill is occupied by Mr. Tom Leamore, who is cordially welcomed, and keeps his hearers in constant laughter by his account of "Eliza," his courtship and wedding, and his subsequent misfortunes. Atroy juggles with his customary finish and accuracy, the articles which he utilises being varied and comprehensive. He wins frequent applause, most of which is bestowed upon his concluding feat, in which he sets a heavy table revolving on a chair, which, in turn, is made to spin upon his chin. A dainty scena is presented by Maud and Sidney Wood, who sing a duet of "A Chinese Honeymoon," and also render a verse of the "Bamboo Bungalow." The costumes are appropriate to the songs, and the dance which is added to each number is neatly executed, and wins many recalls. The Montague Brothers appear in a new sketch, called *The Sculptor's Dream*, in which statues come to life, and go through a number of tableaux, afterwards performing feats of strength with barbells, one of the performers sustaining four men on his prostrate body, stretched across the backs of two chairs. The Lurins supplement their sketch, *The Abode of Love*, with a clever medley of popular choruses; Mountford and Walsh give an amusing performance, in which smart sayings are prominent; and Violi, lady instrumentalist; Hector, the wire king; Valazzi, in a pot-pourri act; Charles Mildare, whistler and bird imitator; Hill and Hull, comedians; and Amber Austa, coon singer and buck dancer, also contribute to Mr. Nelson Francis's programme, which is completed by up-to-date pictures on Ruffell's Bioscope.

"THE ERA" NEW YEAR'S SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Subscribed to date, **1,283** shillings.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charities (per Fred W. Warden)	400
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Dr. Walford Bodie	100
Wm. Morton	63
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannering	25
Johnny Holland	21
P. Madden	21
Charles Weldon	20
Nellie Wilson	10½
Bros. Webb	10
Andie Caine	3
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1
Rozel	1
Nellie Nora	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. E. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	2½
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs. Jeane Priver	2
Givani Cristie	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Geo. Vickery	1	Erna Harrison	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Mina Fisher	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1
Will Collins	1		

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred. Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Danl. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydora, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	½
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlya	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Collected by Mr. James Brady, 9s.

Ernest Ball	1	J. Woods	1
Ethel Dunford	1	M. Anderson	1
"Zaid"	1	Sam Jones	1
E. W. Manning	1	James Brady	1
D. J. Banks	1		

Collected by Miss Maud Mortimer, 34s.

G. Norton	1	Alf. Bishop	1
W. J. Churchill	5	W. H. J.	1
H. Calver	1	Billy Closs	1
Bert Burnell	1	A Friend	1
Billy Barlow	1	James Chippendale	1
J. H. Whittaker	2	L. C.	1
Jack Davenport	5	Frederick Ross	1
Walter Gillman	1	Maude Mortimer	5
Boris Fridkin	5		

Collected by Barrett and Knowles, 25s.

George F. Ide	1	Madge Sinclair	1
Harry Barrett	1	Louie Mavis	1
Jack Knowles	1	Malcolm Scott	1
José Collins	1	J. P. Wilson	1
Birdie Sutherland	1	K. A. Hutchison	1
Alice Russon	1	Bob Potter	1
Paul Knox	1	W. B. Barratt	1
Harry Laudy	1	Arthur Sutcliffe	1
Bessie Featherstone	1	Billy Ireland	1
Syd May	1	Uncle Scott	1
Alice Belmore	1	P. C. Murray	1
Dorothy Ide	1	Max Rose	1
Jeanie Christoe	1		

Collected by Mr. Charles Beanland, 22s. 6d.

Chas. Beanland	1	Harry Tomlinson	1
Anon	1	Henris	1
Boys	1	Mrs. Fred Cary	1
G. Carney	1	E. S. Salambo	1
Belmonts	2	C. M. J.	1
F. Armstrong	1	Harry Du Gros	1
E. Korrie	1	Eddie Stidder	1
A Friend	1½	Tom Bonnetti	1
J. Zedora	1	Gus Rickards	1
J. C. Skelsey	2	Harry Trevor	1

Collected by Ernie Mayne, Esq., 9s.

Ernie Mayne	1	Daisy Dormer	1
St. John Madley	1	Lina Vercli	1
Geo. Formby	1	Robert Pender	1
Drew and Alders	2	Maggie Pender	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, £1 17s.

Bob Selvidge	2½	Barney Dixon	2
Fred Fowler	2½	Mrs. Selvidge	1
Martin Conway	1	Frank Gee	1
Joe Waldron	1	Will Gee	1
B. Nicholls	1	Mrs. Martin Conway	1
F. Borland	1	Fox	1
Harry Dent	1	Mr. Clemart	1
Fanny Harris	1	Mr. Charles Weldon	1
Miss Walker	1	Baby Conlin	1
John Tiller	1	Griff	1
John L. Tiller	1	Summerton	1
Mrs. Conlin	1	Juno Salmo	1
F. W. Balchin	1	Bessie Cohen	1
Mrs. Balchin	1	Harrogate Friend	1
Harry Conlin	1	Sidney Bacon	1
Carlton	1	Harry Elliston	2

Collected by Harris and Worth, 15s.

Harris and Worth	2	Mabel Higson	1
Chas. Russell	1	M. Mamie Iris	1
Billy Keene	1	Syd Dooley	1
Fred Dry	1	George Coopers	1
Will Letters	1	Carrie Mack	1
Johnny Worman	1	Les B. Americaines	1
Mr. Rutt	1	W. J. Williams	1

Collected by Mr. T. C. Callaghan, 10s.

T. C. Callaghan	2	Mike Cray	1
W. Dane	1	Griff	1
J. Waldron	1	Alpha	1
A. H.	1	Florrie St. Clair	2

Collected by Mr. Ernest Shand, £1 2s.

K. Vesey	1	P. Davies	1
Ruby Forbes	1	Gladys Dare	1
Meg Hampton	1	L. Kinross	1
Ethel Dunbar	1	M. Mollov	1
Enid Errol	1	Alexandre	1
H. C. B.	1	N. E.	1
Brabourne	1	Hughes	1
Herbert	1	Ernest Shand	1
T. W. Wood	1	Ditto	1
A. Linton	1	La Même	1
Bee Duppa	1	Idem	1

Collected by Sandford and Lyons, 24s.

Neil Kenyon	1	Ted Fields	1
Harry Zietz	1	Morny Cash	1
Albert Le Fre	1	Mrs. Morny Cash	1
Lil Hawthorne	1	Madge Daly	1
Geo. McNally	1	John Worman	1
John McNally	1	Tom E. Gilbey	1
Arthur Haylor	1	Dave Poole	1
Colin Coop	1	Chas. Parker	1
E. T. S.	1	Vivian Munro	1
Geo. Miller	1	Willie Edelsten	1
Dave Miller	1	Geo. Abel	1
Mr. Smithers, M.B.C.	1	Will Letters	1

Collected by Mr. Frank Dunlop, 20s.

Mdlle. De Rose	2½	Frank Dunlop	2½
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Fanny Hartland	2½
Dick Thomas	1	Houpla	1
Jack Kershaw	1	Steve Cooke	1
Syd Benson	1	Geo. Burton	1
Geo. Hecla	1	Miss Adele Roze	1
Rose Parreyer	1	Miss Zenapana	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, Esq., 14s.

Fred Herbert	1	C. W. Porter	1
R. Millett	1	Roma and Romani	1
Hughes and Elliott	1	The Rubens	1
T. E. Dunville	1	Hanvarr	2
Jim Howard	1	Anna Lee	2
Ronald Bayne	1	Gus Dallon	1

Collected by Mr. Chas. Clifford, 8s.

Charles Clifford	1	Kate Moffat	1
George Essmann	1	T. Hulbert	1
Oldbury Brough	1	H. J.	1
Graham Moffat	1	Georgie Butler	1

Collected by Swan and Vesta, 5s.

Swan and Vesta	1	Oscard Armino	1
Primavesi	1	Charles Danton	1
Fred Wood	1		

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Plymouth Palace of Varieties was on Friday (Feb. 23) the scene of an interesting function, the Administration Committee of the Matinée Distress Fund presenting Mr. J. Field, the popular manager, and Mr. Carlton, the genial treasurer, with illuminated letters of thanks for their very successful efforts in connection with the performance arranged by them in aid of the local fund. The ceremony took place during the interval between the first and second performances.

To Mr. Skinner (stage-manager of the Empress, Brixton) a purse of gold was handed on Monday by Mr. W. Grimes. Mr. Joe Elvin headed the list.

The Montague Brothers and company, who made their first appearance at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, in a new sensational scena, entitled *The Sculptor's Dream*, are a distinct acquisition to the variety theatre. Mr. Montague, while studying statuary in Rome, met a sculptor who related to him a most remarkable dream. The idea seemed so original that Mr. Montague decided to produce it in the form of a sketch. All the properties and scenic effects have been expressly designed, and are exact reproductions of the handiwork of the greatest masters of sculpture in the Roman Empire.

Undoubtedly one of the biggest "song-hits" of the present season is Messrs. Lawrance and Mellor's ear-haunting song, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. in their "sixpenny successes" series. Not only is it sung by a great number of music-hall artists, but it is also "featured" in no less than three touring musical comedies, and sung nightly by Park's Eton Boys and Cardow's Cadets. It bids fair to be one of the favourite pierrot songs of the year.

CHAT WITH WALKER AND MAY.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER).

A turn that has proved greatly to the tastes of variety audiences is that of Walker and May, the coloured comedians, who hold quite a unique position in their own particular line upon the music hall stage. Mr. Charles W. Walker and Miss Ida May—the couple are in private life man and wife—have been recognised in America as champion cake-walkers and coon singers and dancers, and, although they have only been in England a little over two years, their work has brought such strong appreciation in its train that these clever artists have been rebooked wherever they have once appeared.

A pathetic interest attaches to the performances by Walker and May, inasmuch as Mr. Walker is totally blind—the result, it is believed, of a four years' stay in a climate much hotter than that to which he had been accustomed. The early stages of the trouble made themselves apparent when he was performing at the Melbourne Opera House, and in order to obtain expert advice he sailed for England. Shortly afterwards he completely lost the power of sight, but, on arriving in London, a specialist afforded him some consolation by holding out the hope that he might, after a lapse of two or three years, regain the faculty of seeing.

Mr. Walker, however, despite his infirmity, appeared for one week at the Oxford in September, 1903, presenting his usual business, that being the first time he went on the stage absolutely blind.

One wonders how it is possible to work under such a serious handicap, especially in view of the

MR. CHARLES WALKER and MISS IDA MAY.

fact that Mr. Walker engages both in a single as well as a double turn. Miss Ida May opens the act with her coon song, "Don't get funny, Mr. Johnson," and her "Chocolate-drop" ditty, after which she treats her audience to a delightful nigger dance. Mr. Walker then comes on with his verses about "My Evelyn," which are followed by a smartly-executed dance. His lady partner then joins him, and together they speak a lot of amusing patter.

"Do you still feel that old instinctive grip upon your audience—an audience whom you cannot now see?"

The reply came readily enough, "Yes, and do you know, that 'grip,' as you call it, has become intensified. The magnetic current of mutual recognition which draws the artist to the audience seems to have become stronger and better defined than in the old days, when a glance revealed a smiling and interested 'house.'"

"How can I dance in the way I do without getting too far out of position on the stage?" he went on, in answer to another query. "Well, at first, I certainly was very nervous; but my wife arranged a series of signalling touches, and we got on so well that, in some of the theatres, the people never knew I was blind. I can generally find my way to the wings, but I had a funny experience at Sunderland a little while back. At the rehearsal, the stage-manager was not aware of my condition, but being informed at the Monday evening's performance that I could not see, he very considerately pulled away the wings, so that I should have a free passage. What was the result? I was feeling all over the walls, trying to find the wings! Of course, I study everything before I go on the stage, and I talk much louder than I did before."

Mr. Walker could not have a more conscientious partner than Miss Ida May. That lady has only been connected with the profession some seven years, and since she was married. In America they used to give cake-walk exhibitions, and it was for this style of business that they were specially engaged for Australia, where they remained for four years and seven months, under the management of Mr. McAdoo and Mr. Harry Rickards.

"We were to go back in two years' time," remarked Miss May, "but my husband's blindness now precludes our doing so."

No two people could be more loyal to each other than are these performers.

"I could not work good without seeing him at the side of the stage," said Miss May; "in fact, if anything should happen to him I'm afraid I should be quite helpless. But it's wonderful how he knows everything that goes on on the stage. If I make ever so slight a mistake he tells me of it.

Mr. Walker made a start in the profession when quite a youngster. He was about nine years of age at the time, and appeared at concerts in his native town of Riverside, in America. He has toured all over the States with coon dances and songs, and he tells us that he was the first coloured man to produce the cake-walk. That was sixteen years ago, and since then he has been presented with many prizes for dancing.

"I must say that I like the English music halls better than the American," said Mr. Walker. "An artist gets more money in the States, but then he has to do three or four times as much work as he would be called upon to do in this country; so that if a comparative analysis were drawn, it would be found that the English manager paid at a higher rate for his talent. Of course, if you had a continuous show, as we have in America, a re-arrangement of salaries would become necessary; and while the performers might receive a little more money, they would undoubtedly have to work infinitely harder."

"I am a great admirer of the British orchestra," he went on. "In America the orchestras consist of from eight to twelve instruments, rarely more than the latter number. The Americans, however, make up in quality what they lack in quantity, for their bands are only manned by good musicians, who are, by the way, mostly of German nationality. At the same time, the English orchestra is a much more thorough concern, both for the number and the nature of the instruments."

"We have been very successful in England," he concluded, "and are nearly booked up for the whole of this year. The managers have been very good to myself and the missus."

LATENT TALENT.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.)

Sir,—Miss Marion's letter in your last issue is of great interest to variety artists. My experience has been just the same. I have been trying for two years to book our turn. Mr. Sparrow gave us a week at the Camberwell Palace, and evidently did not consider the turn worthless, for he gave us three return dates. Still, we cannot get a London agent to come and see us. It is most disheartening. Sometimes you cannot get a return because your manager does not like you, and sometimes you cannot accept the offer because he does like you too well. I saw a paragraph in *The Era* about a year ago, saying that a certain London manager would see any turns willing to come to one of the band rehearsals. I wrote, asking permission to do so. I enclosed stamped, addressed envelope. I still await his reply. We tried doing extra turns. Went to the Britannia, and were told we were to go on at 6.50. We were kept standing about on a winter night till 10.10. We had seven instruments to take care of, as it is no one's business to help that unfortunate pariah, "the extra turn." After we had done, we were told to call the next day at the office. After waiting there for an hour, we were told to come again next week, and, so far as I can see, we could have gone on calling till now, with the same result, although our turn went well.—Yours faithfully,

AMY CLYDE.

(The Clydes, Comediennes and Instrumentalists.)
Royal Albert, Canning Town, Feb. 26, '06.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.)

Dear Sir,—I am pleased to see that a lady has had the pluck to take up the cudgels on behalf of her sister artists of the smaller fry. Let the managers say what they please about latent talent. One may be a clever performer, and have all the talent possible, but if only a small-salaried turn, your talent is never allowed to shine; or, if by chance you get a look in, and make a success, it is quickly nipped in the bud, and you find yourself very small beer for the rest of your engagement. The reason of this is easily explained. Managers will not allow the small turns to upset their star. Here is a point in fact. A small-salaried speciality act, which always went big everywhere, was offered to a manager by an agent. The manager said, "Oh, yes; I know the act well. It is a first-class one, but I don't care to book it." "Why not?" said the agent. "Put my big-salaried star turn in the shade," said the manager, "the last time I had it here, so I shall bar it in future." This will show that the small turn has no chance, however clever he or she may be; for, should you make a success, it means that on the next night's programme you find yourself No. 1, and down for five minutes. This is how the small turn is treated, and perhaps never gets a return date with that same manager. How dare a small turn make a success equal to the star, who is paid £40 or £50 a week.

Now, I contend that the Syndicate directors would save their shareholders thousands every year by putting on a good all-round company of acknowledged artists, and allowing each to do a full show. But, no; the manager does not bother himself about the small fry, nor will an agent take the trouble to see their turn, yet that same agent will rush all over the country to see a new foreign act. Look at the programmes of the London and provincial halls. Half of them are made up of foreign acts, all receiving big salaries; yet if they were to take a run round the provinces, they could pick up heaps of English artists working similar, and equally as good, acts, at about a third the price of the foreign artist.

I am one of the small fry, and it has been my ill-fortune to make a success at several halls, where they have given me time and opportunity, and I have been served in the manner I have stated above. I plead guilty, and beg of those managers I have offended to forgive my past offences, with the assurance I will not again offend.—Yours faithfully, ETHEL LLOYD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—With regard to the article by Miss Marion, although not on the music-hall stage myself (but I have been nine years on the dramatic and comedy stage), I quite agree with her statement that her remarks apply to the theatrical as well as the music-hall side of the profession; and they are so very true, especially the remarks referring to managers not answering letters.

When one writes to a manager soliciting an interview, however good one's credentials, 99 out of 100 have not the courtesy to reply. I know of a case where a certain actor was specially recommended to two managers, to whom of course he applied for a post then vacant. But although highly spoken of by men of good standing and irreproachable character, they (the managers) ignored his application. Doubtless, if this same actor was in good circumstances or recommended by some titled person, the managers would have been eager enough. It grieves one to see that such snobbishness is so rampant in this profession, especially in the higher grades, which reduces a noble art to the lowest depths of vulgarity. While managers pander to such things provincial actors will never get a proper chance, because instead of ability the chiefs make money and influence the one and only consideration, so the ordinary good, competent provincial actor must give place to the moneyed and influential amateur.—Yours faithfully, E. S. R.

London, W., Feb. 26.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I read with interest the letters under the above heading in your last issue. Besides a great number of good turns which have never appeared in London, there are, I think, a great many talented artists who are new to a number of provincial towns—who work decent halls and book returns, but are unable to obtain dates at other towns simply because they are not known. Agents will not book a turn without first seeing it, and managers prefer to book through a reliable agent rather than run the risk of being bitten; and no one can blame them for this. I think it would be a good idea if a form of recommendation were to be drawn up and artists were to get this signed by four or five managers for whom they had worked. Surely this would be a sufficient guarantee to other managers that the turn was worth one week's engagement, and I am sure in many cases return dates would follow. I am confident if this plan was adopted many deserving artists would not be out of work so often, and a number of managers would discover some really good new turns.—Yours faithfully, A PERFORMER.

Feb. 28, 1906.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Like many others, I have read in your indispensable paper the interesting controversy anent Mr. Will Dalton and latent talent. Now, Sir, I have had long experience in almost every branch of our precarious business—from the orchestra to fit-ups and theatres, four seasons in the principal theatres of America, long stock seasons with the late lamented Andrew Melville. I then started an artistic act on the variety stage, and did very well for some years, but was often asked when we were going to do something new. An original idea was suggested to me last summer in production of a musical romance, or the story of a once eminent but now decrepit violinist. The story was well written, a special scene was painted, excellent properties made, a thousand lithographs printed, and a theatre engaged for rehearsals. Everybody eulogised the act, appealing as it does to one's better nature; and, in conjunction with a really great violinist, two ladies, and myself, the new romance, or episode, was engaged by Mr. Broadhead for his Hulme Hippodrome, and re-engaged the next week for Bury.

Mr. Will Dalton wrote us asking for terms, dates, &c., acknowledging that he had seen the act twice at Hulme; and in a few days he (Mr. Dalton) kindly sent us two contracts with long journeys between. Meantime we could book nothing ourselves, and in consequence we were among the unemployed for six weeks. We then filled the two dates with success—in fact, bottomed the bill at one hall under a very strong programme. Now these two said dates being at Christmas time lost us a good pantomime engagement, which we had to refuse, thinking of course that we should get booked up, having a fair start, and the unprecedented tour of two consecutive weeks made by a reputable and energetic agent (after seeing the act). But we heard no more—at least, only the usual promise, and it does seem hard, after all our experience, work, and anxiety that a really good thing should be cast to the four winds of heaven, as it were, for the want of a fair chance of being seen, yet managers are always asking for something new and novel.

And it is a well-known fact that there are hundreds of excellent turns in the provinces struggling for a mere existence, who would, if they had a chance in London, revolutionise some of the stereotyped programmes presented year after year to one of the best audiences in the world.

But we must all submit to the inevitable, and sometimes sink into oblivion, if only to make room for antiquated mediocrity or a galaxy of Continental numbers.—Yours faithfully,

FRED C. BROOKS.
38, Eccles-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.
Feb. 28, 1906.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.)

Sir,—I have read Mr. Dalton's letter *re* latent talent; also Miss Marion's. The latter seems to me to have hit the bull's-eye.

Having been some years in this business, I find it more puzzling every year. We have held two dates with Mr. Oswald Stoll, and have done immensely well on each occasion; but have received no further contracts. Why? We have always had returns on other acknowledged circuits. It seems to me the better your act goes the less chance you have of a return date.—"It's all a muddle."—Yours faithfully,

HARRY G. NELSON (of Nelson and Thomas).
Empire, Dudley, Feb. 25.

THE M.H.A.R. ASSOCIATION.

The 452nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held at the offices of the Association on Tuesday afternoon. The members present were Messrs. Joe O'Gorman (chairman), George Gray, J. E. Dunedin, Wm. Lee, Charles Pastor, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The secretary reported that the weekly financial statement showed an amount of £33 7s. 6d., and that twenty new members had joined during the week.

The secretary read a letter from a member stating that he and other artists engaged at a certain place of amusement in Paris had been left stranded, and suggesting that a warning should be posted at the offices of the Association.

The secretary was instructed to issue a notice requesting artists who had been offered engagements at the music hall in question to consult him before accepting the offer.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. Frank Gerald reporting the death of his father, and on the proposal of Mr. Gray it was resolved that the secretary should write to Mr. Gerald expressing the sincere condolences of the members of the Association at the loss he had sustained. It was also agreed to send a wreath if time permitted.

On the proposition of Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Dunedin, it was resolved that the minute removing the name of Mr. C. Bartram from the list of voters be rescinded.

The Chairman said that the next business was with reference to the return of Mr. George Gray's cheque of £1,000, as proposed at the previous meeting by Mr. Blake.

Mr. Gray:—I don't see how you can return it without consulting the Association. You think differently.

The Chairman:—The sub-committee think differently. It was decided not to use your cheque, as there was a possibility of losing a part or the whole of the money, which they could not see their way to refund.

Mr. Gray:—I think it is a matter for the Association to deal with.

The Chairman:—It was left to a sub-committee.

Mr. Gray:—Yes; to go into the details of the scheme.

Mr. Lee remarked that £1,000 was a lot of money; but it appeared to him that the matter was entirely in the hands of the sub-committee, who had considered the proposals, and had come to the conclusion that they were absolutely impracticable, though Mr. Gray's offer was admittedly a very generous one. There was no necessity to appeal to the Association as a body, or to call a general meeting, which would involve a good deal of unnecessary expense.

Mr. Gray:—The intellectual members of the Association were in favour of accepting the cheque.

Mr. Lee:—It's rather a tall order for anyone to say which is the intellectual portion of the Association.

Mr. Gray:—I think the members should know that the cheque has been refused.

The Chairman:—Your only supporter was Mr. Gerald, and now he is in favour of another scheme.

Mr. Gray:—Have the delegates reported the result of the conference that has been held?

The Chairman:—Yes; they have reported to this committee.

Mr. Lee:—I think you can safely say that most members of the music-hall profession know what has been done. A new society, to be called the Variety Artists' Federation, has been formed.

Mr. Gray:—Then it ought to be publicly reported to this Association.

The Chairman:—Do you mean that we should circularise the whole of the members of the Association?

Mr. Gray:—No; but I say it has not been given publicity.

The Chairman:—I may say it has been proposed that the new society should be affiliated to this Association.

Mr. Lee:—The proper time to bring the matter forward will be at the next general meeting of the Association.

After some further discussion it was agreed on the motion of Mr. Lee that the further consideration of the subject should be deferred until the next meeting

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There are a number of new turns opening at the Tivoli on Monday. First and foremost Mr. Harry Lauder (fresh from his pantomime triumphs) arrives with new songs. Mr. Ernest Shand, another favourite, returns; and then again the Follies come back with their clever burlesque of a pantomime. Karno's screamingly funny sketch, *The Mumming Birds*, is an attractive item; and Dan Crawley, Ella Retford, and the Norman and Leonard Trio, &c., complete Mr. Joseph Wilson's strong bill.

Mr. Harry Liston's song "Pork Pie" (a parody on "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye") has been a phenomenal success at his provincial concerts.

THE BARRING CLAUSE.

A case of great importance to the profession came before Sheriff Fyfe on Wednesday at the County Buildings, Glasgow, when an application for interim interdict was presented at the instance of Moss's Empires, Limited, to prevent Miss Marie Kendall from appearing during the present week at the Queen's Theatre of Varieties, Glasgow Cross. Mr. Barney Armstrong, the proprietor of the theatre, interposed by caveat.

The applicants were represented by Mr. Jubb, writer; while Mr. Angus Campbell appeared for Miss Kendall and Mr. Armstrong.

In the course of a somewhat lengthy argument in favour of the petition, Mr. Jubb stated that the contract was entered into in 1902, whereby Miss Kendall was to begin a nine weeks' engagement in September next. The effect of that contract was to shut her out of nine of the cities named therein until the completion of the period of nine weeks.

Sheriff Fyfe remarked that that was unreasonable, as it meant that for practically four years she must not appear in any of the towns scheduled. She would require extensive remuneration to warrant that.

Mr. Jubb pointed out that Miss Kendall was getting a salary sufficiently remunerative to meet the case.

His lordship said that what was wanted was an interim interdict. You want me (he said to the agent) to kill her engagement.

Mr. Angus Campbell: And in the middle of the week, too.

The Sheriff added that such an application, although in the form of interdict, was in fact taking money out of her pocket. Supposing he granted that, and supposing he was wrong, she would not get her money back. She might get it out of applicants, but not her earnings. Interdict, he pointed out, was a very drastic remedy—the stopping of a person's bread and butter. The agreement was not sufficiently clear to enable him to take the responsibility of applying such a drastic remedy, and accordingly his lordship refused the application.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

Extremely varied and interesting is the programme submitted at the Holloway Empire this week, and if the entertainment does not quite include Shakespeare and the musical glasses, it may be said to contain many compensating attractions. Amongst these Manning's Entertainers, in a second edition of *The Hotel Boots*, can with confidence be recommended as an effective antidote to melancholia. Mr. Manning, himself in the title-rôle, may be relied upon to evoke hearty merriment by his quaint manner and comical expression of face. He is assisted by a comedian who undertakes several characters, and a couple of youths who are very smart acrobats. All sorts of devices are introduced with the object of causing merriment, and there is not a pause in the flow of fun from beginning to end. An infant is deposited in a machine labelled "Baby Incubator," and after a time emerges a full-grown man, with hoary locks. Many other ludicrous incidents help to strengthen the predominant comedy elements, and altogether one's encounter with the Hotel Boots is a decidedly amusing and pleasant experience, which can safely be recommended to the dyspeptic and the depressed.

Quite a remarkable performance is given by Mme. Marzello's birds, who display all the intelligence seen in carefully-trained trick dogs. The cockatoos seem to take the lead in the show. One of them picks out the letters, which spell the words, "King Edward," and another wonderful accomplishment is the selection of the flags of various nations. Another cockatoo throws all the flags on the stage except the Union Jack, for which, explains Mme. Marzello, the bird entertains too much respect. A miniature cannon is next produced, fired off, and one of the feathered bipeds falls down apparently dead. The body is placed in a tiny hearse, which is propelled by several of the survivors. A trained black cockatoo is quite a novelty, and so, too, is a bird belonging to the same family that does backward somersaults. This is, we are given to understand, the first bird that has been taught to perform this trick. Lastly, several of the birds enjoy the delights of a roundabout drawn by a small dog in the guise of a pony, while a cockatoo turns the handle of a miniature barrel-organ. Mme. Marzello, at the beginning of her entertainment, introduces a number of pigeons, who settle upon her head and shoulders, and when thrown into the air at once return to her.

Mr. R. H. Douglass, the clever comedian, is here this week, appearing in his latest character, that of Dedshaw, the private detective, who narrates marvellous incidents illustrative of his sagacity and perceptive powers as a follower of Sherlock Holmes. In the pursuit of his investigations he adopts various disguises. He gives three specimens, appearing first as a masher, next as a curate who speaks in the sing-song style characteristic of his kind, and, lastly, as an old miser who gloats over his gold, after the manner of Gaspard. Mr. Douglass, as usual, works hard, and his efforts are crowned with complete success. Miss Hetty King, fresh from pantomime successes, is both clever and attractive, and her latest songs are received with demonstrations of delight. She appears first as a young man about town, and sings "When a fellow's twenty-one" with much spirit. She next represents a sailor lad, with an appropriate ditty, "Jack's Ashore," and a hornpipe. Lastly, Miss King appears as a smart young officer in the army, who is also given to song and dance. Mason and Bart, in the rôles of Captain Kettle and the tourist, deserve every credit for an exceedingly clever gymnastic performance on the bars; and Lady Fauntleroy successfully introduces her ventriloquial chum, "Dan, the Blue-coat Boy," whose remarks are very pert and to the point. Mr. Burt Shepard, comedian, is good both in song and story. He has a neat parody on "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye," and altogether is assured of a cordial reception. Miss Marie Collins sings "My Juliette" with much spirit; Mora and Lola do very well in their musical act; and the Reid-Oetzman troupe cause much laughter in their bustling pantomime, *On Tour in the Tyrol*. The orchestra, under the musical direction of Mr. Henry W. May, deserves a word of praise; and Mr. Chas. W. Adams, the acting-manager, is making active preparations for the forthcoming benefit performance in aid of the Great Northern Hospital.

MESSRS. MASKELYNE AND DEVANT, of St. George's Hall, are offering a prize of £50 for the best title for a new trick which they have just invented. In the course of the trick a man is securely fastened to an iron frame, which is so constructed that the captive is bound round the neck, wrists, waist, and feet to a heavy iron bar. The locks and fastenings of the frame may be freely examined by the audience. The iron frame, with the man attached to it, is then placed in a small box, which is put together on the stage. The box is then suspended in mid-air, and while it is in that position something happens. Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant wish to keep the conclusion of the trick as a little surprise for their audiences, and the prize of £50 will be awarded to the sender of the best title which describes the trick without indicating exactly what happens in the performance. We may add that the "occurrence" is quite different from that which usually brings a trick of this kind to a close. The first performance of the trick will take place on Monday afternoon.

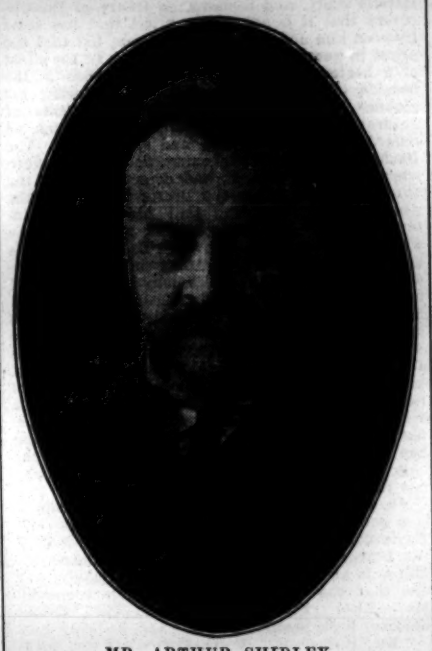
"VARIETY FAIR."

MR. ARTHUR SHIRLEY'S 100TH "BOOK."

Novelty is the keynote of the new production down for March 12 at the Coliseum. It is entitled *Variety Fair*, and is Mr. Arthur Shirley's 100th "book." The idea of the play, which will last two hours, is the outcome of efforts Mr. Oswald Stoll has for some time been making to get variety turns to alter their business more frequently than they do. As the head of "the largest aggregation of variety theatres in the world," Mr. Stoll gets frequent letters of complaint from patrons because, year after year, artists go round the tour giving the same business. As one correspondent recently wrote, "What would you think of me if I insisted on telling you the same old story every time I met you? Again, what would you think of me if every time I told you that story, I charged you a shilling for it?"

Accordingly, in *Variety Fair*, Mr. Arthur Shirley has devised a plot in which it will be possible for first-class variety artists to join forces with "legitimate" actors. The former will be required to go upon the stage at any and every time required by the action of the piece, and deliver whatever lines may be allotted to them. This, of course, is nothing more or less than the same artists are required to do in the pantomime season

The interpreters of *Variety Fair* will include the old Savoy comedian, Mr. R. Morand; Miss Millicent Marsden, not so long since seen as Mrs. Madison Crocker, in *The Prince of Pilsen;* Miss Clarissa Talbot, who took the part of Nance, in *Orlando Dando;* Mr. Charles Trevor, so popular at Drury Lane; Miss Millie Hylton, of Gaiety and



MR. ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

music hall renown; the famous Boisset Troupe of Pantomimists; the American comedienne, Belle Davis, and her piccaninnies; George Lashwood, than whom none other is better fitted to take the part of "the man about town"; Mr. Eugene Stratton, "the dandy-coloured coon"; and a couple of comical Welsh servants, Ted and May Hopkins, who promise to show audiences what a wooing in the Land of the Leek is like.

In the first scene Mr. Juffins, a most conventional suburban villa resident, imagines that by an accident he has murdered his best friend. He insists on his wife and daughter leaving the country immediately with him. They pack up whatever luggage they can, and drive to the nearest railway terminus. There they get mixed up with a touring theatrical company, which is setting out for a Midland town. How Juffins is mistaken for a celebrated actor, and made to attend a dress rehearsal at a well-known theatre, whilst he is in an agony of fear lest he should be arrested, is the axis on which many amusing situations are made to revolve.

Mr. Shirley's life has been full of incident. He was educated at a collegiate school, where the head master wrote plays which the pupils acted. At sixteen Shirley was packed off to Paris to learn French. This he succeeded in doing chiefly in the pits of minor theatres. A few years later he became interpreter to the Comédie-Française. At the end of that season Mr. Shirley made up his mind to become an actor, so he took what turned out to be a very unprofitable engagement with a bogus manager, and was promptly stranded. After many wanderings and hungry moments, he found himself at Southend. *Hamlet* was being played at the local theatre. Laertes fell ill, and Mr. Shirley applied for the part. He got it, and made "good." Having played some 200 parts in Shakespeare, old comedy, modern drama, and farce, Mr. Shirley next wrote melodramas industriously for the Elephant and Castle Theatre. The late George Conquest, of Grecian and Surrey fame, next commissioned him to write a drama, which is now known as *The Grip of Iron*. This was ultimately sold for a trifle, and has been played over 5000 times. This fact worries Mr. Shirley to this day for obvious financial reasons.

Collaboration has always been a strong point with Mr. Shirley. Once he wrote his share of three plays at one time. This is how he did it: From 11 to 1.30 he worked with Collaborator No. 1; from 3 to 5 he was conferring with No. 2; and from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. with No. 3. Among his collaborators have been Messrs. George R. Sims, Benjamin Landeck, and many other dramatists

"MALUMA," "Farewell, my little bushmate," and "Why don't you paddle your own canoe?" are the respective titles of three songs by Lawrence, Gifford, and Mellor. They may be sung without fee on application to Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

A ROLLICKING sea song, entitled "A jolly little sailor boy," by Francis Barron and J. Airlie Dix, has been acquired by the Charing Cross-road music-publishing house.

MR. HARRY REYNOLDS, the proprietor and originator of Reynolds's Anglo-American Minstrels, is introducing a minstrelsy turn with great success in the halls. His quintet of melodists appear with black faces, and their choice blending of melody and mirth is making a big hit on the Barrasford tour.

MR. GEORGE W. BYNG'S fine orchestra at the Alhambra has during the current week been performing Reginald Allan's fine valse "Congratulations." Mr. James M. Glover's beautiful music in the grand ballet *Parisiana* was orchestrated by this rising composer, who is a younger brother of the late Ernest Allan.

THE Music Publishers and Concert Assistants' Provident Society will hold its annual Bohemian concert on Thursday evening next in the Queen's (small) Hall. Ladies are specially invited. The proceeds are in aid of the benevolent fund attached to the society.

THE PRODUCTION OF BALLETS

CHAT WITH MR. CHARLES WILSON.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

"What should be the first object of a ballet?"

Mr. Charles Wilson, the inventor and producer of many successful "divertissements" at the Alhambra Theatre was not slow to answer the question.

"When the board of directors have decided that a new ballet shall be put on, the first thing I do is to consider the subject as if I were an ordinary member of the playgoing public. I realise that a man does not pay to go into a theatre for the purpose of being instructed. He wants to be amused, and therein lies the object to be aimed at."

"You then have to decide upon a period of history which will allow you to use your stage as a show-ground for the costumes and scenic effects. Another most necessary thing is such an arrangement of the dances as will give the musical composer an opportunity of relief in the style of his composition. But, after all, the main consideration never to be lost sight of is this:—We are trying to play for the public, and the public tastes must be studied. A ballet is the most difficult form of entertainment in the world so far as securing the attention of the audience is concerned. In the case of a musical comedy you have songs which will bolster up the story and make up for a weak plot. It is a very different matter with a ballet, where you depend so much upon action, dresses, scenery, and music. Then, as you know, we are not allowed a plot or anything in the nature of a continued story. We must simply have little passing events, and if our ballet consists of four or five scenes there must be no continuity between any of the different scenes. We have to be on our p's and q's on this point since the legal trouble over *Carmen*."

"The chief difficulties of production, Mr. Wilson?"

"Money is the primary one. You must find out how much a generous board will allow you. As a rule, a definite sum is stated. Next you must get hold of an idea or a theme—preferably new or novel, if there be such a thing in the world—which will be interesting to the public and which will afford you an opportunity of a display of costumes framed in by good scenic effects. It is important, too, as I have already stated, that the composer of the music be given scope to display his talents. And now you have it in a nutshell—money, music, and costumes are the three absolute necessaries."

"May I pry into the question of the cost of a ballet—the initial production only, I mean?"

"£4,000 to £7,000. If you have a ballet divertissement with only one scene the cost might not exceed £4,000, but where there are three or four scenes you can go far towards doubling that amount. The dresses, which are always elaborate, account for a good deal of the money."

"The idea of writing and inventing ballets," said Mr. Wilson, in reply to another query, "came to me quite suddenly, although I had been intimate with this form of entertainment for several years, as during my association with the Italian Opera Company a ballet was always considered an adjunct to the programme. When Mr. C. Dundas Slater took over the management of the Alhambra I joined him. The directors at that time considered that ballets were either unremunerative or were not wanted by the public, and it was generally thought that they intended to abolish them. However, business not improving to the extent anticipated, the directors held a special board meeting, and decided to produce a ballet. I was allowed four weeks in which to produce it. I looked through all the papers at the Alhambra in the hope of finding a suitable scenario which someone might have sent in on spec., but not one could I find. I told Mr. Slater of the enormous difficulties which lay in my path, and his reply was that he had promised the directors that the ballet should be put on at the date they specified, and he left it to me to make all the necessary arrangements. Well, to cut a long story short, it struck me, while riding in a cab, that I might make up some sort of a story out of the death of Nelson, and I hung on to the idea until I felt absolutely certain that a divertissement could be invented out of it. In three hours I had written the scenario of *Jack Ashore*, opening out a new and original plan in the direction of speaking and singing parts. That was the most successful ballet we have ever had at the Alhambra, and it formed the foundation of putting the theatre on a proper definite footing so far as this class of entertainment was concerned. And since then, mind you, we have had no two ballets of the same type, our aim being to do something as different as possible from what we have done before. Notions as to other ballets have occurred to me in various ways. I was once on a visit to Scotland and saw the name of Gretna Green at one of the railway stations. A pretty story immediately suggested itself to my mind—and you know what was the outcome of it. *The Devil's Forge* owed its origin to a picture I was looking at a couple of years ago."

"What about your present ballet, *Parisiana?*"

"Well, so far as the opening is concerned, I have taken a leaf out of the book of Dumas, and the first scene will play on the doings of the Comtesse de Chaney. Then we wander away from that character, because we are not allowed to have anything like a story."

"Foreign ballets of any description are much more elastic in the way of treatment than English ballets. You have better opportunities for scenic effects and costuming by placing the story of your locale on the Continent. If you keep to the up-to-date English ideas, you are outclassed. Modern women's dresses are old-fashioned in six months' time in this country."

Mr. Wilson's professional career has been a pretty eventful one. He commenced in 1872 at Drury Lane as chief librarian for the Italian Opera Company under J. H. Mapleson, sen., the conductor of the orchestra at that time being Sir Michael Costa. After a tour as assistant stage-manager for Sir Augustus Harris, he became, through a rather strange series of circumstances, appointed stage-manager. The Italian Opera Company were announced to appear at Liverpool, and Harris, owing to his having had a dispute with a certain prominent gentleman, refused to enter the theatre. The piece was *William Tell*, and Harris, not wishing that the performance should be a bad one, stood outside the stage-door and gave instruction to Mr. Wilson, who was obliged to keep running in and out. Leaving Sir Augustus, Mr. Wilson went to America with Mr. Mapleson, again as librarian, afterwards joining Mr. Henry Abbey as stage-manager for his season with Madame Patti in Mexico, California, and the States. He was then offered the stage-management of the Empire Theatre, London, where he remained for four years, afterwards accepting a tempting offer from Mr. Oscar Hammerstein for the Manhattan Theatre in New York, which house, amalgamated with Koster and Bial's, was eventually turned into a music hall. Mr. Wilson was associated with that place of entertainment when Mr. Albert Chevalier and Miss Cissie Loftus made first appearances there. Returning to England some time later, Mr. Wilson was engaged by Mr. George Edwardes to look after the latter's touring companies, only severing his connection with the famous Gaiety manager to take up the position of stage-manager at the Alhambra shortly after Mr. C. Dundas Slater entered upon his duties as manager.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

No. 4.

MR. WILLIAM BARBOUR.

Mr. William Barbour, the electrician at the St. James's Theatre, comes of a theatrical family. His father was master gasman at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, for twenty-five years, and invented the limelight tank and the medium sliders used for footlights in place of the old argand burners.

Mr. William Barbour commenced his theatrical career when only thirteen years of age, first as "call boy," and then in the gas department, at the Royal Theatre, under his father. He was there six years, and went from that house to the Royalty Theatre, where he was gasman for six years. While at the Royalty Theatre he got employment in the day-time with the old Brush Electric Light Company to learn all he could of electricity. Mr. Barbour left Glasgow to take charge of the electricians' department at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, for Messrs. Howard and Wyndham. While there he was engaged by Mr. H. J. Loveday to join the late Sir Henry Irving's staff for an American tour, and was in charge of the limelight effects during the tour of *Faust*. Mr. Barbour was with Sir Henry Irving for four years, during which period he toured four times through the United Kingdom. In 1890 he accompanied Sir Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry on an eight weeks' reading tour through the provinces, when they recited the tragedy of "Macbeth." The footlights and battens used by the late Mr. Charles Dickens in his tour round the world were used in

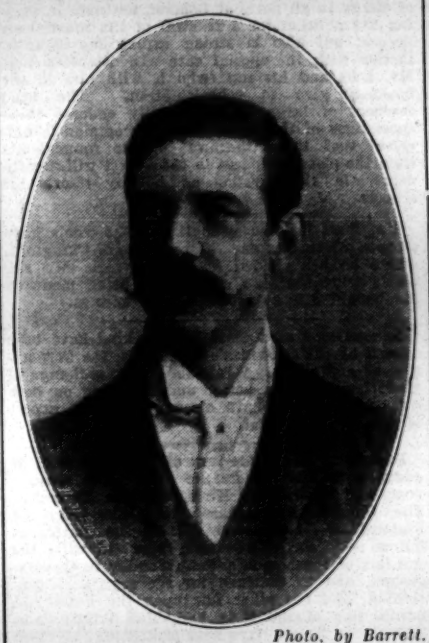


Photo. by Barrett.

MR. WILLIAM BARBOUR.

this tour. On the termination of the tour Miss Ellen Terry gave Mr. Barbour a handsome present.

Mr. Barbour left the Lyceum Theatre, London, to take up the position of electrician at the St. James's Theatre for Mr. George Alexander, a position he has now held for some twelve or thirteen years. He has toured the United Kingdom nine seasons with Mr. Alexander, with whom he has also been to Balmoral. He was also a week at Sandringham with the late Sir Henry Irving. Mr. Barbour claims that the St. James's Theatre has one of the most effective switch-boards in London. It carries 600 ampères, four colours throughout. The electric battens can be worked from any angle. A special independent switch-board under the stage may be used to give separate control of the footlights. By means of this switch-board floats may be cut out and the number of lights and the colours regulated. The St. James's Theatre is provided with the most modern heating, cooling, and ventilating apparatus. Hot-water pipes heat, when necessary, every part of the house, hot baths are provided for the use of members of the company. Cold air and fresh air can be distributed, and the air that is not fresh can be drawn from the theatre. This plant is under the supervision of Mr. Barbour.

Mr. Barbour is a man of considerable practical experience, to whom the scientific and artistic side of his profession is attractive. His skill as an expert in stage lighting has elicited praise from some of our more famous scenic artists.

Mr. Barbour is one of the founders of the Heads of Departments Association, for which he has been one of the honorary secretaries since its formation. He has also taken an active interest in the theatrical sports and concerts, and other efforts to establish good feeling among all ranks of the stage staff, and to provide means for their mutual benefit. As a conscientious and experienced master in his profession he is deservedly esteemed by all who know him.

THE NEW EMPIRE, JOHANNESBURG.

The new Empire, Johannesburg, that is being built by Messrs. Hyman will be in the heart of the city, standing on an entire block, bounded by Commissioner, Market, and Kruis Streets. The architects are Messrs. McIntosh and Moffat, and the contractors Messrs. Gabriel and Ballantine. The buildings will be completed on May 1, and will comprise a three-tier music hall, with shops and offices. On the ground floor extensive fauteuils are provided, and orchestra stalls; on the first floor are to be boxes and dress circle; and on the top floor a magnificent gallery. There are eighteen boxes, backed by a beautiful foyer, a special entrance to this part of the house being provided in Kruis-street. The building will be entirely fireproof, and is constructed on the latest cantilever principles, there being in the whole pile but two columns, and these are so disposed as not to obstruct the view of the stage. The whole of the interior decorations will be in fibrous plaster; the scheme of colour is green and gold; and the bar fittings, and the whole of the interior woodwork will be in Australian cedar. The main entrance (which is 25ft. wide and 35ft. long) is in Commissioner-street. Opening out of it is the handsome vestibule of white marble, which will form an antechamber to a magnificent crush-room, fitted with every convenience, such as writing tables and materials, a public telephone, and lounges. Leading from this on either side are retiring rooms, ladies' boudoir, &c.

The whole of the stalls, and, in fact, the whole of the building, will be carpeted with a specially-woven green Wilton carpet, of which no fewer than 2,000 yards will be required. The fauteuils and boxes will be furnished luxuriously, the latter having lounge chairs and tables. On each floor have been fitted up very handsome promenades. That on the stalls level is 56ft. by 120ft. The four bars on the same level are 40ft. by 30ft., and, as far as the visitors' comfort is concerned, are absolutely perfect.

The ceiling will be handsomely frescoed, and the friezes artistically panelled. There will be 250 hidden lights, arranged in such a way that, although they cannot be seen by the audience, they will cast a reflection over the entire auditorium. The tops of the boxes are illuminated with 100 lights in a similar manner, by which means a beautiful effect is obtained. Nernst lamps will be employed in theatrical lighting for the first time. Over 1,500 incandescent lamps will be required in the whole building, and there will be arc lamps outside, and 70 Nernst lamps for the foyers and bars. 120 lamps will be fitted into the ornamentation around the balcony, and 16 of the arc lamps referred to will be employed for the illumination of the spacious verandahs. The stage and dressing-rooms are being fitted up on the latest principles, and each of the latter is supplied with hot and cold water, and a suite of furniture. All the dressing-rooms are also carpeted, and the lamps are portable and protected. A handsome green room is fitted up at the side of the stage for the exclusive use of artists while waiting their turn. This room is 35ft. by 24ft., and is fitted up with every convenience. Particular attention is being devoted to the ventilation. Large fans will be worked by motors behind the stage, and these will force air of any required temperature into the building. The temperature will be kept at the same level all the year round, and so that there shall be no draught, the floor under each seat will be perforated with small holes, through which the fresh air will be forced. The foul air will be drawn out by two immense fans in the roof. The entrances and exits are the most complete ever put into a South African building. The occupants of the stalls will have four—one into Market-street, one into Commissioner-street, and two into Kruis-street; the circle, one into Commissioner-street and two into Market-street; and the gods exeunt into Kruis-street and into Market-street.

The building and ground are costing £120,000. The whole of the ground floor, which will seat 400 people, is fitted with handsome lounge arm-chairs. The circle, which will seat 275, and the gallery, which will accommodate 300, are fitted with tip-up seats, and the eighteen boxes will take from four to seven persons each. The whole of the seating throughout the building is covered in handsome embossed green pegamoid.

A LOAN AND PROVIDENT FUND has been started by the staff of the Walthamstow Palace. Mr. Arthur J. Barclay is trustee and treasurer and Mr. A. E. Hill (box office) secretary. Only members of the establishment will be eligible to join.

MISS WINIFRED HARE'S new "march" song, "The girl he left behind him," with which she will shortly open at the Tivoli and Oxford, has been specially written and composed for her by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate; while the two other numbers she will produce at the same time, viz., "Gentle Genevieve" and "One little lonely star," are also from the pen of Mr. Harrington, the music having been composed by the late Mr. George Le Brunn.

MISS LUCRETIA has been re-engaged by Messrs. Moore and Kennedy for the part of principal boy in their pantomime, 1906-7, at a big increase of salary.

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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The Guild executive, having shown their determination to carry the matter through to a finish with the Pontefract Corporation over their proposed Bill dealing with the show business, now find that negotiations with a view to a settlement are possible. This of course is good news; but it only proves what we have said over and over again, and showmen ought to make a note of, that public bodies will not surrender to reason and compromise until they find that the game of bluff and evasion is played out.

If the issues were not too serious for jesting, it would be comical indeed to notice the surprise and consternation of the official mind, when they find that the organised showmen have followed up their words by action, and the petition is not only lodged in proper order and form, but that its very reasonableness is likely to impress the Private Bills Committee.

Our point of serious moment to showmen is that they must never relax their vigilance or determination to oppose all restrictive measures against their business. The official mind will in the end grasp the truth that clauses for additional powers to restrict the show business, or to abolish public holidays, will be met and defeated in every case. When this is clearly understood, then will come peace in the showman world; until then, it is war, war, and a fight to a finish.

As an example of the evasive tricks of the official mind, we give the quite recent case—the proposed abolition of Shipdham Fair, a small pleasure fixture in Norfolk. The local showmen and their friends sent the newspaper-cuttings on the matter to the Showmen's Guild. The executive officials, in order to have both sides of the subject, asked the clerk to the local authority to furnish them with the official reasons of the District Council for taking the serious step of petitioning the Home Secretary to abolish the fair.

Knowing full well that in less than a week the Home Office would deal with the matter, the clerk returned the baldest acknowledgment of the receipt of the letter from the Guild, and the polite assurance that he would lay it before his Board at their next meeting. The object of this was obvious—it was to put off the showmen preparing or stating their case until it was too late and the matter had been closed against them.

This policy of evasion has frequently been tried by public bodies when dealing with the Guild. In no single instance, however, has it succeeded, for the Guild have gone forward on their own lines, independent of lack of information from official quarters. The Guild executive know with whom they have to deal; but we can well imagine how misleading this policy of official put-off would be to an individual showman trying to get justice done without the aid of a powerful trade organisation and expert advisers. The end would be injustice and the triumph of narrow-minded faction against the time-honoured pleasures and holidays of the people, and the showmen, their servants.

In no single instance has the Guild incurred the cost of petitioning without exhausting all the means of correspondence and interview with corporations and their officials, and we regret that, in many cases, the most scant attention and courtesy have been shown the pacific efforts of the Guild, until the petition has been actually lodged, and large official expense incurred.

Every pacific effort has been made, both by showmen residents and by the Guild officials, to come to working terms with the New Brighton authorities, to drop their penal clauses in the Wallasey Bill, to be considered in the House of Lords; but with no satisfactory result. The petition against it reads as follows:—

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in PARLIAMENT assembled.
THE HUMBLE PETITION of PATRICK COLLINS, HENRY JAMES WALLIS, FLORA COLLINS, PATRICK COLLINS, Jun., and JAMES RAVENSCROFT.

Sheweth—

1. That a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") is now pending in your Right Honourable House, intituled "An Act to authorise the Wallasey Urban District Council to construct tramways street improvements promenades and a marine lake and to make further provision in regard to their gas water electricity ferries and tramways undertakings and the health local government and improvement of their district and for other purposes."

2. The promoters of the Bill are the Urban District Council of Wallasey (hereinafter called "the Council").

3. Your Petitioners are proprietors of travelling shows, &c., and for the purposes of their calling have resorted, and still do resort, to the Urban District of Wallasey. Your Petitioners, their property, rights, and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill; and they object thereto for the reasons hereinafter stated.

4. By Clause 21 of the Bill it is proposed to be enacted as follows:—

"The Council may make by-laws for the preservation of order and good conduct among persons resorting to the foreshore and seashore in the district and to the open lands adjoining the same and for the regulation or prohibition of the placing of stalls or stands or of hawking thereon."

5. By Clause 122 of the Bill it is further proposed to enact:—

"(1) No person shall in any street or public place or on any land adjoining or near to any street or public place use or play or cause to be used or played any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical or other means to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers.

"(2) Any person who shall offend against this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds."

6. Your Petitioners humbly submit that no necessity can be made out for the enactment of any further or other provisions than already exist for the preservation of order and good conduct among persons resorting to the foreshore and seashore within the district of the Council. And they also submit that power should not be conferred upon the Council which would enable them to prohibit the placing of stalls or stands on the said foreshore and seashore.

7. Your Petitioners further submit that any annoyance or disturbance arising from the use of steam organs or other similar instruments can be dealt with under the existing law, and that any further provisions in that behalf are unnecessary.

8. The preamble of the Bill is unfounded and incapable of proof.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Right Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands, and that they may be heard by themselves, their Counsel, Agents, and Witnesses, against the Preamble and Clauses thereof, and, in the event of the Preamble being proved, then in support of such Clauses and Provisions as may be necessary for their protection and benefit, and that your Right Honourable House may grant to your Petitioners such further and other relief in the premises as to your Right Honourable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioners will ever pray,

PATRICK COLLINS.
HENRY JAMES WALLIS.
FLORA COLLINS.
PATRICK COLLINS, Jun.
JAMES RAVENSCROFT.

A case of considerable hardship to an individual showman has been engaging the attention and enlisting the active assistance of the Rev. T. Horne, the hon. chaplain of the Showmen's Guild.

For many years past Mr. Ellis, a highly-respected London showman, has had a set of steam-gallopers at Chingford, a well-known pleasure resort in Epping Forest. This machine has been a source of delight to thousands of schoolchildren taken to the Forest for their annual outing, hundreds of thousands of visitors, mainly school and Congregational parties, using Chingford for this purpose every summer, children from the East and North of London largely predominating. Until this year Mr. Ellis has had his licence to run the machine from the Verderers of the Forest without denial or delay; for some unknown reason this has been now refused, and an intimation given him that no roundabouts will be allowed on the open pleasure spaces in the Forest.

No reason is given. No complaint against Mr. Ellis nor grievance by the people of Chingford has been alleged. Nothing but the arbitrary fiat, "No roundabouts will be licensed." Mr. Ellis, however, is not without friends and local influence. Amongst these friends of the showman he told his case to Mr. Horne.

The immediate result was a conference of Mr. Ellis's friends at *The Era* offices, and the arranging of a plan of campaign with the object of getting the Verderers of the Forest and the City Council Committee of the Forest to reconsider its adverse decision.

A numerously signed petition is to be presented by an influential deputation at the next meeting of the Verderers.

Mr. Horne has had the most hearty co-operation of clergy in all parts of London, not only in signing the petition for a renewal of the roundabout licence, but also in strong expressions of satisfaction with the special care and attention that Mr. Ellis and his son (who is with him in the business) give to schoolchildren. The head teachers of large schools readily endorse these encomiums of the clergy, and the opinion is universal that the withdrawal of the roundabouts from the pleasure spaces in the Forest will greatly depreciate their value as holiday resorts for schools.

Mr. Ellis has the sympathy of the whole body of open-air traders and the residents of Chingford, where he has resided for many years. We sincerely trust that the efforts now being made on his behalf will be crowned with success.

Negotiations of a most hopeful kind have been opened by the Showmen's Guild with the Corporation of Pontefract. A full and frank exchange of views has led to a better understanding on both sides, and, as we have already said, the aspect of affairs is hopeful.

Pontefract is an old—very old—Charter Fair, in addition to which there are races three times a year and the Statute Hiring Fair in November. The Charter Fairs date from the reign of Richard III., and are set out in the charter as follows:—"Yearly two fairs there (to wit), the one fair of them upon a Palm Sunday in Quadragesima, and to continue for six days next proceeding, and the other fair upon the Feast and Lord's Day of the Holy undivided Trinity, and to continue for six days next proceeding, together with all liberties, rights, privileges, and appurtenances, to these fairs."

The Statute Hirings are held on the first Thursday in November, and this fair has become for many years past the principal one, although good business may be done on the race days. We are informed that at the Statute Hirings the concerns fix up a few days before and continue for several days after the fair, although the Statute only provides the one day.

This has been done with the hearty consent of the Corporation; the only embargo that has hitherto been exercised was over show and other erections on the race days.

That old and tried friend of the showman Mr. C. D. Williams, of Wooburn Green, sends us the following warning note about the fair:—

TOLLS FOR WOOBURN FAIR.

The Council discussed for some time the question of fixing tolls for Wooburn Fair, held on the Village Green, which has come under the control of the Parish Council. On the proposition of Councillor Eccles, seconded by Councillor Child, it was resolved to charge the following tolls:—Traction engines, 7s. 6d. each; stalls, 6d.; caravans, 6d.; roundabouts, 2s. 6d. It was pointed out by the Clerk and the Chairman that the glass-bottle shooting galleries did a lot of damage by the broken glass, and that after the show people had left, a large quantity of broken glass had to be cleared away. The Chairman expressed an opinion that people with such galleries ought to pay more toll, but the Council did not fall in with the suggestion. On the motion of Councillor Norman, seconded by Councillor Eccles, it was unanimously decided to charge a toll of 1s. each for all kinds of shooting galleries, swings, and cocoanut shies, and 2s. 6d. each for exhibitions.

The Clerk was instructed to send copies of the list of tolls to the Van-Dwellers' Association and to Mr. Watson Wright, the solicitor to the same.

The very useful booklet of Cattle and other Fairs and fixtures issued by the Publicity Department of the Great Northern Railway is to hand. We recommend showmen and other amusement caterers who desire to break new ground, or who wish to arrange for possibly vacant dates in their yearly route, to send to the General Manager's office, King's Cross, for a copy. It is supplied free. Besides cattle and horse fairs there are exhaustive lists of agricultural shows, dog and poultry shows, and racing fixtures. The 1906 edition of "The Showmen's Year" is now on sale at *The Era* Offices. Price to non-subscribers to the Guild funds, 1s.; to Guild members and subscibers it is issued free. There are only a limited number of copies available for the general public.

There are many new and useful features in the 1906 issue. Principally amongst these will be found a short appreciation, with portrait, of the veteran showman, Lord George Sanger, the President of the Guild and doyen of the circus world; portraits, with short biographies, of Messrs. Hurst, Hartshorn, Payne, Tom Norman, and R. Mackney; portraits of the Rev. T. Horne and F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., of *The Era;* British shows and showmen; the story of the rise and progress of the Showmen's Guild; a concise synopsis of by-laws affecting the show business; the constitution and rules of the Guild; general and local fair lists; and many other items of exclusive information and original and copyright matter.

With Lynn Mart the great round of English fairs begins. From Lynn, the next fixture in Norfolk is Downham Market, then on to Wisbech. In Lancashire we have the opening of the season at Bury on the 5th, followed by Colne, and the spring fair at Stockport, dated for the 15th; then Congleton and Clitheroe.

The Roundabout Proprietors and Showmens Union have a business meeting at Bury this week. For place, and time of gathering, see their advertisement.

This Union also controls the spring fair at Stockport, dated March 15-22. See their announcement on the matter.

SHOWMEN OF TO-DAY.

(By the Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain the Showmen's Guild.)

WILLIAM CLARK.

The Clarks are a numerous clan in the Showman World of to-day, "even unto the third and fourth generation."

The great progenitor of the race, Wm. Clark, sen., a nonagenarian showman, is living in honoured retirement in Manchester, from which the race sprang.

The greatest showman of the clan is the subject of this short appreciation, professionally known on the fair-grounds of the kingdom as Colonel Wm. Clark, of cinematograph celebrity.

The story of the rise and progress of the Clark family in the Showman World is a typical example of scores of families who have reached the top of the ladder of success in the fair-ground and open-air-amusement catering business.

The writer of this notice has far-away memories of the Clark family stretching over a period of nearly half a century.

These are the rungs of the ladder that the Clarks have successively and successfully mounted. From shooting gallery to peep-show, from peep-show to mechanical exhibition, from mechanical exhibition to wild-beast show, thence to waxworks, on to the great ghost illusion, and by natural order and sequence to cinematograph and its latest development, the portable coliseum of varieties and theatre of animated photography.

All through this story of the rise and progress of a typical show business the showman of the

Photo. by Ash.
MR. WILLIAM CLARK.

family *par excellence* has been the one and brilliantly successful "Colonel" Wm. Clark.

At the present moment the "Colonel's" clever son, another Wm. Clark, is in Scotland, running his own high-class cinematograph show.

It is a truism that "history repeats itself," for young Wm. Clark is enacting over again the memorable triumphs that his father achieved in Scotland some twenty years ago.

Colonel Clark's show takes the great Lancashire round, and is the universal favourite with the cotton workers in the great districts of Manchester, Oldham, Bolton, Wigan, Blackburn, Burnley, Stockport, Bury, and a score of other places in the Cotton Belt.

Wm. Clark has been identified with the Showmen's Guild from its very earliest days, and has done yeoman service, both as a public speaker and an executive officer. He is a vice-president, and a generous contributor to its funds.

In the winter season he stays with his first-class show for many weeks at a time in great centres of industry, and so popular is the entertainment he provides that he has crowded and appreciative audiences every night.

So creditable and acceptable is Clark's show, that upon many occasions he has received the patronage of the Mayor and Corporation in the towns he has visited.

He has not forgotten to support by numberless benefit performances local charities, and has thus endeared himself to the hearts of Lancashire folk, and has elevated the profession of the travelling showman in public esteem.

Although the father and grandfather of showmen, he is still in the prime and vigour of life, the Clarks being a long-lived family, as testified by the full ninety years of the head of the race, William of Manchester.

Messrs. Henry W. Iles and Co., the well-known concert agents, launched on Monday a new enterprise, "The St. Louis Animated Pictures." The opening took place at the Swimming Baths, Swindon, and to say that success was achieved would be but to mildly express it. The evening's show was a veritable triumph for all concerned. "The St. Louis Animated Pictures" will make a noise in the world—in fact, they have done so already—for every night this week Swindon's audiences have heard, as well as seen, that wonderful invention of Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co, "The Chronophone."

Mr. Henry Iles and his able manager, Mr. Hook, are enterprising men, who can see ahead, and have equipped their exhibition with his latest triumph of scientific and mechanical skill. On Monday night a crowded audience applauded the talking and singing pictures vociferously; in fact, so great was the demand for encores, that the operators often found it difficult to proceed with the next picture. Amongst the pictures reproduced by the Chronophone were Mr. R. G. Knowles singing some of his most popular songs; Mr. Joe Mack singing "Walking home with Angeline," "The Swing Song" from *Veronique*, "The Twin Duet" from *The French Maid*, and "The Whistling Bowery Boy." The Chronophone is assured of success, and will prove a big drawing card wherever exhibited. The ordinary pictures were all of them excellent, Elge films predominated—L. Gaumont and Co. again. Later reports to hand state that the bookings are phenomenal, and crowded audiences every night have given their unanimous verdict that the Chronophone is "the show" and the novelty that managers have so long been waiting for.

At the Hyde Borough Police Court on Monday, Wiliam Flaxman, a showman, employed at Sedgwick's Menagerie, which is at present on the Market Ground, was committed to Knutsford Quarter Sessions on the charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm upon Harry Williamson on Feb. 24. Williamson, who is a lad of eleven years of age, was peeping through the canvas to catch a glimpse of the animals, when it was alleged that Flaxman, who was working inside, stabbed him with a hay-fork, inflicting a dangerous wound on the forehead.

With Shrovetide, the great Midland route of fairs commences, under the management of P. Collins, Ltd. This round is fully set out by the enterprising Walsall firm in our showmen advertising columns.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(From our own correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—*The Duel*, a play in three acts, by Henri Lavedau, translated into English by Louis N. Parker, was produced by Mr. Charles Frohman at the Hudson Theatre on the 12th inst. It has aroused more than ordinary interest, and will undoubtedly prove one of the strongest attractions of the season. The duel is between two brothers, Daniel and Henri Morey. In his youth Daniel was a profligate; but he repented, joined the Church, and became the Abbé Daniel. Henri, on the other hand, was pious; but he also changed and became an atheist, taking up the profession of a doctor. Grown to manhood, the brothers are implicated in the affairs of the Duchess de Chailles, who has made an unfortunate marriage, her husband being a mental and physical wreck from taking morphine. He is an inmate of Dr. Morey's asylum, and the Duchess and the physician fall in love with each other. The unhappy woman seeks strength and comfort in the confessional, and the priest is the brother from whom Dr. Morey has long been estranged—the Abbé Daniel. Here, then, is the duel. The physician and atheist fights for the body, and the priest for the soul of the woman. There is no happiness but love, is the religion of the physician. There is no happiness but faith is that of the priest. The brothers meet and their relative positions are disclosed. In three strong scenes they struggle for supremacy, each in accordance with his own view, the drift of the drama being mainly argumentative, dealing as it does with the old warfare of religion and science. In the second act, Dr. Morey interrupts an interview between the Duchess and the Abbé Daniel in the latter's study, and is moved to frenzy at the discovery that it is not only a priest that has come between him and the woman he loves, but that the priest in question is his own brother. In the midst of a heated argument the Abbé is called to the bedside of a dying parishioner, and during his absence the doctor presses the arguments of natural human affection against those which he regards as mere mummery and superstition. The Duchess, apparently weakening, finds new strength when the Abbé returns, and departs, leaving the two men alone. Then the Doctor turns upon the Abbé, finally intimating that his brother's interest in the Duchess is not so spiritual as he would have himself believe. This suggestion is especially horrible to the Abbé, since it begins to dawn upon him that there may be a grain of truth in it. He replies vigorously, however, and finally, in a burst of impassioned eloquence, drives his brother from the room. In the last act, the Abbé, having decided to go away, advises the Duchess, who has contemplated entering a nunnery, that she is not fitted for the spiritual life. But, in her determination not to become a nun, she is influenced not by priestly admonition, but by the timely information that her husband has ended his miserable existence, and that the only real obstacle to her union with the physician has thus been removed.

Mr. Otis Skinner gives an earnest and impressive portrayal of the Abbé Daniel; and Miss Fay Davis depicts with much fidelity the emotions of the Duchess de Chailles. Mr. Guy Standing's Dr. Morey is an extraordinarily fine performance, and one that has earned much favourable comment. Mr. Eben Plympton's Monseigneur Boléne deserves high praise.

"Mr. Hopkinson," R. C. Carton's farce, made an instantaneous hit at the Savoy Theatre on the 12th inst., being delightfully acted by the English company sent over by Mr. Frank Curzon, by arrangement with Mr. James K. Hackett. The farce was received with much laughter, and the newspapers coupled its success with that of the immortal *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Dallas Welford, literally "a stranger in New York," awoke the next morning and found himself famous. His "Hoppy" is a distinctly clever and amusing characterisation, and it has made its mark. From the moment of his first entrance it was evident that the audience was going to be immensely tickled by his life-like imitation of a contemptible little "bounder" breaking into society. Miss Annie Hughes gave an excellent impersonation of Eliza Dibb, and was an important factor in the success of Mr. Carton's play. Miss Elinor Foster, who has a gracious personality, created a very good impression as the Duchess of Braceborough. Miss Olive Temple as Lady Thyra Egglesby played the part of a handsome well-bred English girl to perfection. The Duke of Braceborough, admirably represented by Mr. H. Stephenson, was an interesting figure; and the Lord Gawthorpe of Mr. Howard Sturge was a praiseworthy portrayal. Mr. Fred Lewis as the Earl of Addleton, Mr. Charles Crawford as the Hon. Otho Dursingham, Mr. Hubert Druce as Mr. Smethurst, and Mr. Lewis Fielder as Parbury, were all very successful in their respective rôles.

Mr. Welford has introduced a new expression which is likely to become a catch phrase in New York. It is "Bunkey doodle." Every time that "Hoppy" said it the audience roared. Americans are fond of slang, and always keep a liberal supply on hand; but they appropriate a strictly English bit occasionally. There is certainly room for a little reciprocity, for while the Londoner's colloquialisms are largely local, the majority of the slang phrases used by Englishmen are unquestionably of American origin. And one has only to listen to the "up-to-date" dialogue of such plays as *Mr. Hopkinson* to discover that the use of American slang in England is decidedly on the increase. If this sort of thing goes on, the "common speech" so frequently referred to by the post-prandial orators on both sides of the water will soon be something more than a polite fiction.

Another London success, Mr. Sidney Bowkett's *Lucky Miss Dean*, has not been so well received here as it was on "the other side." Produced at the Madison-square Theatre, the comedy has just been withdrawn after a fortnight's run. The best feature of the performance was Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk's Wilfred Ashmole. His impersonation of that mercenary individual, with a facial make-up that betrayed his character, placed another clever bit of work to his credit. Mr. Gottschalk's portraitures are never lost in their settings. Miss Helen Grantly in the title-rôle, and Mr. William Courtleigh as Frederick Ware, won favourable mention; but the critics found the comedy "too thin," and only "mildly diverting."

Messrs. Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie visited Ilkeston on Monday, and gave two shows, which were largely attended.

Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 Menagerie opened at Rovers' Ground, Eastville, Bristol, on Tuesday afternoon. There was a very large attendance from all parts of the city, and much interest was taken in the splendid and extensive collection, some of the exhibits being very rare. It is about five years since this menagerie visited Bristol.

The old fair at the City of Lichfield was held on Shrove Tuesday, being duly proclaimed by the Mayor and other civic authorities. The market square had been let by the City Council to Messrs. P. Collins and Co., Ltd., who provided a capital array of attractions, including their own cinématograph theatre, No. 1 cockerills, &c. Unfortunately the weather was bad, a snowstorm preventing all attempts at opening until late in the day.

Mr. John Whiting begins his round of spring fairs in the second week in March, and runs right away up to Easter, when he opens his well-known Easter round at Ordsall-lane, and carries it forward to the May Day Festival, at Knutsford, with other fixtures, linking up with the greater Manchester cycle of wakes under his control. See Mr. Whiting's advertisement this and following weeks.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The meeting of Theatrical Carpenters, held last Sunday, was well attended. It was decided to hold the annual dinner on a Sunday evening next month. Representatives were appointed to a meeting which is being arranged in connection with the Theatrical Sports. The officers and committee of the society for the ensuing year were appointed.

Mr. Lionel Belmore has consented to take the chair at the annual dinner of the General Theatrical Operatives Sick and Benevolent Society, to be given on March 18 in the Salisbury Hotel. A few tickets, price 2s. 6d., are still available, and may be obtained from Mr. A. E. Wood, master carpenter, the Shaftesbury Theatre; or from Mr. Philip Thomas, Alhambra Theatre.

Arrangements are being made to form a branch of the National Association Theatrical Employées in Leicester. Local stage employees who are interested in the matter are invited to communicate with Mr. Branson, 212, Welford-road, Leicester.

The date fixed for the fourth annual dinner of the Heads of Departments Association is Sunday, April 8, and the dinner will be given in the Georgian Hall, New Gaiety Restaurant. The annual general meeting of members of this Association will be held next week, when the officers and committee for the ensuing year will be elected and other important business dealt with.

At a meeting of the General Staff Branch of the N.A.T.E. on Wednesday evening the question of the Theatrical Sports was considered. Messrs. Thorogood, Thomas, Porter, and Johnson were appointed to confer with representatives from other societies with regard to the arrangements for the Sports.

A meeting in connection with the Theatrical Regatta for 1906 will be held at the Freemason's Arms, Long Acre, on Sunday, at 8.30, to elect officers for the ensuing year. A cordial invitation is extended to all London and suburban theatres.

Mr. Albert Bushell, who manages the Birmingham Gaiety so wisely and well, was accorded a benefit on the 20th ult., when an audience of gigantic proportions testified their appreciation of the beneficiaire, and also their satisfaction in the programme, which comprised turns from all the local pantomimes and halls, in addition to the Gaiety show. Mr. Bushell was also supported by the leading proprietors, managers, and agents, and was presented, through Mr. Councillor Marsh, on behalf of the committee, with a case of cutlery, a pair of fruit spoons, a spirit flask from Mr. A. W. Matcham (Empire), a match-box and cigarette-holder, a silver egg-stand from the staff, a clock, a diamond ring, and a cheque from his directors. A cheque from his admiring friends was also forthcoming. Mrs. Bushell, for her amiable qualities, received a ruby and diamond ring, and Mr. Bushell presented umbrellas to Messrs. Camp, McCloud, and Smith. This was his sixth benefit, and Mr. Bushell, who is nothing if not genial and jocular, trusted "they might never turn him away," and so said all of the audience right heartily.

The Sheffield Photo Company, of 95, Norfolk-street, Sheffield, the makers of the famous "S.P.C." films, in order to cope with their increasing business, have taken over much larger premises at the West End, a large open-air theatre, new printing, developing, and operating rooms having been erected at the Bioscope Works, Upper Hanover-street. Facilities have now been obtained for turning out three times the quantity of films, and clients are invited with confidence to inspect the new showrooms.

Some of the "Friends of the Empire," including Mdlle. Genée, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hitchins, and Mr. Walter Dickson, were present at the birthday dinner given to their intimates by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hayes at the Cavour on Monday. The guests numbered about twenty, and Philippe's chef excelled himself, particularly in the *omelette en surprise*, which one diner pronounced a "dream."

At present rehearsals are in full swing at the Empire of both the forthcoming ballet *Coppelia* and the new revue *Venus, 1906*, the first being produced by Mr. Alexandre Genée, the well-known ballet director, and the other being under the care of the author, Mr. George Grossmith, jun. The ballet, the delightful music of which is well known, is by Léo Délibes, and is in two scenes, the first dealing with the tiff of a couple of lovers over a mechanical doll, the second somewhat reminiscent of *La Poupée*, of which *Coppelia* was the forerunner, showing how the misunderstanding is cleared up. Mdlle. Genée plays the part of Swanilda, and will present a character giving her more chances of showing her great talent as a dancer than she has had recently. Other principal characters in *Coppelia* are Franz, the sweetheart; Coppelias, the old doll-maker, and a burgomaster.

Next week there will be a considerable change in the programme at the Empire. Among the new turns are Signor Ancilotti and his clever dog, discovered in Paris by a well-known London clubman, who was so struck by their performance that he wrote and recommended them to the directors; the Three Braggs; the Otrebs, eccentric pantomimists; and Kelly and Rino, who describe themselves as comedy acrobats. The programme at the Empire still includes the ideal ballet *Cinderella*, with Mdlle. Genée in the chief part; *The Bugle Call;* Miss Marta Cunningham, a dramatic soprano; Miss Sybil Arundale, whose Irish songs in character seem to have caught on; and new pictures on the Biograph. Mr. Bransby Williams, who was to have returned to the Empire on Monday, has been so successful in pantomime at Liverpool that he has been given a fortnight's longer leave.

Selma Braatz, a young lady who has in an amazingly short space of time made herself specially famous as a juggler in this and other countries, is about to enter on an extended tour round the word, sailing on April 25 for America.

After an absence of four years from America, Paul Cinquevalli, the world-famed master of the art of juggling, who originated many of the most daring feats in his line, has been scoring a triumph at Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street Theatre, New York.

The real or assumed ignorance of judges was once more exemplified at North London this week when Mr. George Gray applied for the licence of a little girl to play in *The Road to Ruin* at Hackney Empire. The magistrate insisted that a girl of eighteen or so was suitable to the play, and, when this contention was proved erroneous, he snapped out, "The smaller the girl, the smaller the salary, I suppose."

Regan and Ryan are again in a record pantomime success this year at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, which makes their eleventh consecutive year in record successes.—Haig and Novel deputised at the Empire, Leicester-square, for the Brittons, and were instantly booked, owing to their success.—After a successful run of five weeks at the Palace Chirgwin has been re-engaged for another five.

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March 19, April 2, 16, 30, May 21, 28, June 4, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Aug. 6, 13, 20, Sept. 3, 10, 24, Oct. 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
March 26, May 7 (race week), 14, June 11, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
March 12, April 2, 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, May 7, June 11, Aug. 13, 20, on
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 16, May 7, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
March 5, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16.
Wanted. First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for two and three weeks. Please state subject, and where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 7, 14, 21, July 23, 30, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, 17.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead..
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 23, 30,
May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6,
onwards, with exceptions.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, for Bedford, March 12. Wire,
FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, 21, 28, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, Dramatic and Musical Companies, for the following Dates:
Vacant May 14, 21.
Apply,
LINGFORD CARSON, as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, April 16 (Easter), 23, and May 7, Strong Dramas only,
Share or Certainty.
Apply,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.
THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 30, through disappointment.
Wire, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, a First-class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also June 4 (Whit Week).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for April 2, 9, 23. All applications addressed,
CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

ROTUNDA THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Company, April 9.
Apply, M. MONTGOMERY, JUN.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies for April 2, 9.
Required, Sound Attraction for April 16 (Easter), Musical preferred.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, First-class Company, not Musical, for April 30. Other vacancies for really Big Attraction. Address all communications,
J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions (Musical preferred), Easter Week and Whit. Week, 1906. Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3, 4, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit Week.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3, 4, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit Week.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies, March 19, May 7.
Apply to FRED MOYAS, as above.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, HORWICH.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions. March 12, 26, and onwards. Good Shows a Sure Success.
CHAS. E. BRADLEY, Responsible Manager.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, June 11, Aug. 20, 27, Oct. 1, 8, 15, Nov. 5 (Race week), Nov. 18 (three nights). Address, FRANK KING.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Co.'s, April 2, 9, and 16, Sunday onwards.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Batley.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, from May 14, and onwards, with exceptions, Musical comedy preferred.
HARRY FISCHER.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for April 9, August Bank Holiday, and onward. Apply, Owner and Manager, JAMES KIERNAN.
All Companies Holding Contracts must send printing, plots, and day-bill 14 clear days before opening.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 2, 9, 30, May 7, 28, and June 4.
Apply, STANLEY ROGERS,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant March 12, 19, May 21, June 4.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant April 2, 9, 16, 23.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vavant March 12, April 2, 9, 23.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant March 5, 12, 19, 26.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant March 8 (3 nights), 12, 19, 26 (3 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant March 5, 12, 19, 26.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant March 26, April 23, 30, May 7.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant April 9, 23 (3 nights), May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant March 12, April 9, 16, 23.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant April 9, 23, March 19 (3 nights).

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 2 (3 nights), 9.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant April 23, 30, May 7, 14.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, 14.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Company, April 16 (Easter), and 23, Exceptional Dramas only Booked. "Silver King" and "Rogues of Turf" only Dramas booked this season.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
Only vacant dates this season, March 15, 16, 17 (Booking three days per fortnight only).
SPA THEATRE, WHITBY.
Wanted, Good Companies, Bands, or Pierrots, July 16 and 23, Aug. 27 (?), and Sept. 10 (3 days).
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
7, Hilltop-road, West Hampstead, N.W., after Wednesday next.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
(The West-end Theatre of Hastings.)
Resident-Manager, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS.
The Company have just spent £2,000 on improving and renovating this Pavilion, including lighting and the approach thereto, and have made arrangements for carrying it on on up-to-date and vigorous lines. New Advertising Methods. Everything possible done to assist visiting Companies.
Big Attractions sure of Big Money.
WANTED, Vacant April 30, and several Dates, onwards. Early application desirable. Musical Comedies sure draw. Apply as above, or to Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly. Telephone, 6534 Gerrard.

NEW PAVILION.
EASTBOURNE PIER.
WANTED, Companies, April 2 (High-class Drama preferred), April 16 (Easter), through disappointment, May 28, June 4, 18, and 25, and various dates onwards. Address,
G. HAYES, Manager.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Big Attractions, April 9.
Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for April 16 (Easter week), and onwards; also Whit week open. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Good Co.'s, for Porth, April 9, 23, and 30; Treherbert and Maesteg, April 9, 16, 23, and 30; Gloucester, Porth, Treherbert, and Maesteg, May 7, onwards. C. W. POOLE, T. R., Gloucester.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for March 26, April 23, 30, May 7, 21, 28, and June 4. Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply, Mr. C. R. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 26 and April 2; also Big Attraction for Easter. W. PAYNE, Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for April 23, 30, May 7, 14, August, nothing too big. Address, HORNER, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for April 30, for Theatre Royal, Jarrow, Whit week, June 25 (Race week). Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 9, 30, on, Grand, Chorley; also March 26, April 16, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

CARDIFF.—KING'S THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction (share or certainty), for April 16 (Easter week); must be new to Cardiff. Communications to FRANK BATEMAN.

WANTED, Good, Sound Attractions, Musical preferred, March 19 and 26, for Pardoe Theatre, Middleton, Lancs. All coms., W. PARDOE, on the spot.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 19, 26, April 23, on. Big terms given to big attractions. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 23, onwards.
Manager, STANLEY E. ANGLESS.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
April 16, 23, 30, on.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
April 9, 16, 30, May 7.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
April 9, May 7, 14, 21.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth. Bolton.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant May 14, and June.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 14, and June.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies, GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Easter Week (musical comedy preferred),
April 23 (?), May 7, 28, June 11, 18, July 16,
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
April 30, May 7, 21, June 11, 18, 25,
July 2, 9, 23 (3 nights).
Coms., H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool, vacant April 9, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, also a few Autumn Dates for High-class Attractions only. Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees, vacant March 26, April 9, May 28, June 4, for Good Drama, new to the town. Theatre Royal, Hyde, vacant March 26, April 9, 16, 23, Best Dramatic and Musical Attractions only. Share or certainty at either theatre.
Address,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

NEW ROYAL, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 12, 26, Easter, and onwards (three nights each). Also Good Companies, for Season Dates,
Theatre Royal, Ryde.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
Sole Proprietor, LORD GEORGE SANGER.
Manager, HENRY BOWMAN.
WANTED, First-class Company, for Easter Week.
Only No. 1 Attraction Entertained.
This is one of the Best Dates of the Season.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, as above.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON.
Managing-Director, JAS. W. HAWORTH.
Acting-Manager, J. FRED WATSON.
WANTED, Companies (Musical preferred), May 28, July 16, 23, and 30, onwards, with exceptions; must be strong attractions, or useless. Silence a polite negative.

PUBLIC HALL, COLWYN BAY.
PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 12, on, with exceptions; also few Autumn dates vacant.
CHAS. CHAPLIN, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, Good Companies, March 12, Pentre; March 19, 3 nights Ton-y-Pandy, 3 nights Abertillery.
Wire, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical preferred, for April 9, 16, 23. Apply,
HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, Comedy and Musical Plays, for Theatre Royal, Inverness. Season opens Sept. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, April 2 (Holiday date), 9, 16, and on. Dumfries, Vacant March 12 and 26, on.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction (three nights), April 2, 3, and 4, Theatre Royal, Preston; and April 5, 6, and 7, Theatre Royal, Blackburn; distance between towns only ten miles. Finest dates in Lancashire. Address, STEPHEN PRITT, Theatre Royal, Preston; or HARRY YORKE, Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

NEW COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 5, on, with exceptions, magnificent place, seating about 1400. Wire, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, March 12,
HARRY TAYLOR, Pavilion, Altrincham.
Good Drama or Comedy.

COUNTY HALL, ST. ALBANS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Two Nights, Week of March 12, Easter Vacant, and onwards; must have own scenery. Sharing terms. Apply, A. ROWDEN.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly. W.

FROME, SOMERSET.
WANTED, Known, F. E. Douglas can arrange for Good Fit-up Co.'s and Entertainments, 1 to 6 nights (1 or 2 nights Frome, 1 night in district towns). On sharing terms. Address, 16, Portway. Population of Frome, 12,000 to 13,000.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, May 28.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14 Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Spring, '07.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2, Sept. 24.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 23, 30, Sept. 17, 24.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 9, 16, 23, 30. Aug. 6.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 2, 23, 30, Aug. 6.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.
WANTED, for this Powerful Attraction, weeks of May 7 and 14. Wire, to-day, HUSTLER, Birkenhead; next week, Broadway Theatre, New Cross, London.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for the Scala Production, week of May 14, in or around London.
Wire, to-day, HUSTLER, Birkenhead;
next week, Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 30, May 28, June 4.
"SAILORS OF THE KING,"
April 2, 16, May 28. Now booking autumn.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Opera House, Dudley.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"DARKNESS,"
a Play
suggested by and founded on
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
"DARKNESS,"
founded on
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
"DARKNESS,"
founded on
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Tour proper starts.
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER,
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER,
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER,
March 12.
Vacant dates,
April 9, 16, 23, May 7, June 4.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
A Success.
A Success.
A Success.
Vacant,
April 9 16, July 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Known, no Vacant Dates this year.
CHALMERS MACKEY,
This, King's T., Cardiff;
March 5, King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale, Six Nights.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, March 26 (follow Seacombe), April 2, 9 (precede Ton-y-Pandy, Easter), April 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
To-day, T. H. Theatre, Maesteg; next, O. H., Porth.

"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, April 2, onwards.
Wire,
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
Theatre Royal,
Birkenhead.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.'S.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Whit. Week, and Autumn.
"THE BOOM OF BIG BEN,"
Vacant April 23 (London).
GEORGE DENHAM, this Leamington;
next, Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, May 21, June 25, on.
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING,"
Miss MAUD HILDYARD
and Powerful Company.
WANTED, Big Theatre,
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
Tremendous Success Everywhere.
Mr. ERNEST DOTTRIDGE,
Empire T., Oldham.

A. HAMILTON WARDEN'S TOURS.
"A WOMAN'S PAST."
47th Consecutive Week of Tour.
WANTED, March 22 (three nights), South.
Easter Week.
Easter Week.
A. HAMILTON WARDEN, Pier Pavilion, Hastings.

WANTED, for Miss MARY NIEL and Mr. GEO. KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON," by Chas. Darrell. Produced Jan. 1, and secured by the following Managers for immediate dates:—Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Milton Bode, C. W. Poole, W. Morton, T. Edwardes, &c., &c. Wanted, April 9. Only vacant date until Aug. 20. Address, GEO. KIRK, T. R., Leicester; next, Grand, Derby.

WANTED, "Private Secretary," Open Dates, Aug. 20, Sept. 10, 17, and 24, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 24, onwards.
Apply, EUGENE C. STAFFORD, c/o FRENCH, LTD., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
Reconstructed Version.
WANTED, July 2, 9, 23 (Midlands), and onwards, with exceptions. Striking Pictorials.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also few Autumn Dates vacant.
Apply, FRED GRANVILLE,
Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE DRAMAS.
"EAST LYNNE" and "LIFE."
WANTED, April 16, May 14, on, for either or both Plays; powerful company, special scenery. This version of "East Lynne" is fully protected. Wires, HERBERT BARRS, Hippo., Mans.; write, St. George's Theatre, Kendal.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
WANTED, Wanted, April 2.
EUGENE BERTRAM,
T. R., Plymouth.

"HER LOST SELF."
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH."
WANTED, March 26, Aug. 6, 13, 29, Dec. 24, 31. Wire, MISS DELAVAL, Miners', Ashington; next, Hetton-le-Hole.

WANTED, Important Theatres for Paumier and Howard's various Attractions, including "The Midnight Wedding," "Under the Russian Flag," "Why Men Love Women." ALFRED PAUMIER, Theatre, Pontypridd.

"THE GIRL FROM CHICAGO."
WANTED, for this successful American Musical Farce, good Theatres, April 23, and on, with exceptions. Address, HAROLD WEBB, 8, Parkhurst-road, Sutton, Surrey.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN,"
the Dramatic Mascot.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for the following dates: June 11 (between London and Lancashire), Aug., Nov. 19, Feb. 4, 1907, onwards, with exceptions. SANTE, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

Mr. JOHN LEOPOLD'S
"NEW FRIVOLITY."
WANTED, April 23 and 30, onward, with exceptions. RICHARD F. PAKENHAM: Mon., Tues., Wed., O. H., Kilmarnock; Thurs., Fri., Sat., Gaiety, Ayr.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "Mason," March 19, Easter. "Gay Parisienne," April 2 (all North). Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."
WANTED, for Murray and Stafford's Tour, March 19, and some dates onward, specially selected company, every scene carried. Managers cordially invited to see production, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, March 12 and during week. All communications, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Wanted, March 26, in or near London Suburbs.
McNEILL, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, March 19, April 2, April 2,
Cast second to none Touring.
Wire, A'DELL (to-day), Gainsboro'; next, Brighouse.

THEATRES WANTED.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Dates for various Attractions, as hereunder:—

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. W. Reuben Payne's Company,
August Bank Holiday, various onwards.

"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company.
April 2 (South), various onwards.

"SAINTS AND SINNERS" and "MIDDLEMAN,"
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 10, various, on (North).

"THE WORLD'S VERDICT,"
Specially Cast and Beautifully Mounted, will resume tour shortly.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Mr. Arthur Carlton's Company,
Aug. 6, various onwards.

Vacant dates for Mr. Carlton's New Play (by Sutton Vane) will shortly be announced.

"HOME FROM THE HONEYMOON,"
Farcical Comedy in two scenes (by A. J.),
An undeniable Success. Note special ad.

Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Please Note: Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
By Walter Howard.
Paumier and Howard's Company.
ANNIE SAKER,
ALFRED PAUMIER.
Of rich romantic interest.—Daily Mail.
Brilliant company of artists.—Liverpool Echo.
High plane of dramatic excellence.—Liverpool Post.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres for remaining Vacant weeks 1907; this year full.
Communications,
ALFRED PAUMIER, Clarence T., Pontypridd.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
A huge success artistically and financially at the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, and is proving a really remarkable and powerful attraction.
WANTED, March 26, April 16 (Easter), 23, on, with exceptions.
Address, J. H. CLYNDES, Prince's T., Horwich.

Mr. GEORGE E. MUDD'S TOUR of
"A BUNCH OF VIOLETS" CO.,
from the Haymarket Theatre, London.
WANTED, Good Theatres, South Coast preferred, June 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August Bank Holiday Week. Mr. Norman Partridge as Sir Philip Marchand. Bookings include Grand Theatre, Blackpool, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, Theatre Royal, Dover, Opera House, Buxton, Grand Opera House, Harrogate, and Grand Theatre, Llandudno. For vacant dates, apply, GEORGE E. MUDD, Business Manager, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 30, May 14, 21 (three nights).
J. W. CORDINER, May 5, O. H., Tunbridge Wells; May 8, Globe Theatre, Deal.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, April 2, in or near London, April 2. 29th Week of Present Tour,
May 7, 14, 21, and Whit., Midlands.
Bookings and re-bookings extend into March, '07. Sept. 3, 10, and 17 Open, South.
FRANK AYRTON, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."
Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this Pantomime that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Xmas. Large Stage absolutely essential.
Apply,
SAMUEL JAMES,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON,"
Miss Dora Dench and Full Company.
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 16.
DENCH, Prince's, Preston.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, April 2, 16, May 7, on. Bookings include West London, Hammersmith, Croydon, Leeds, Leicester, Dublin, &c. CHARLES CLIFFORD, T. R., Shrewsbury.

WANTED, for "The Plucky Nipper," March 26 (follow St. James', Manchester). EDWARD SURREY, This, T., Hetton; next, T R., Middleton, return.

WANTED, for the Success, "Her Fatal Past," Oct. 15, Nov. 12, 19, 26, and Dec. 3. Big theatres only. WARD, T. R., Coatbridge.

MR. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S TOUR.
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Vacant April 16 and 23. Now Booking Autumn. Everything new, everything carried, everything good.
LEWIS GILBERT, Carlton Theatre, Greenwich.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
WANTED, for this Splendid Attraction, April 2, April 2.
Address,
Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"A MOTHER'S LOVE."
WANTED, March 19, April 2, and Easter.
Address, F. L. CONNYNGHAME,
17, Regent-road, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Theatres for "THE PANTOMIME GIRL,"
Musical Farcical Comedy, March 19, on (3 and 6 nights. Messrs. ROBERTS and TOWNLEY, 113, Lisson-grove, N.W.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Easter Week. Easter Week.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
WANTED, March 26, March 26, and Easter. Splendid cast, including Mr. and Mrs. KIMBERLEY. Wire for both Plays to KIMBERLEY, this, Keighley; next, Met. T., Glasgow.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, April 2, 23,
No Greater Success Touring.
Miss ANNIE BELL as FANNY LE GRANDE.
Wire, JAMES BELL, Theatre, Darlington.

Messrs. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
No Vacant Spring Dates.
WANTED, Aug. 6, 20, Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 1. All communications to JOHN B. SHINTON, T. R., Bristol.

PANTOMIME,
CHRISTMAS, 1906-7.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for Month or Six Weeks. BRYDON-PHILLIPS, c/o "The Era."

"BILLY'S LITTLE LOVE AFFAIR."
WANTED, April 16, to follow Grand Theatre, Croydon, also Autumn Dates.
FRANK G. BAYLY, 1, St. Aubyn's-rd., Upper Norwood.

WANTED, March 19 and April 30, for Bramley's Shakespeare Co. (28), each play a production. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Paisley, Theatre, N.B.

"THE BROKEN MELODY."
WANTED, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 15, 29, Big Theatres and Big Terms only. EDWARD VAN BIENE (sole representative), C. T., Spennymoor.

WANTED, for the Alexandra Grand Opera Company, Theatres, Midlands preferred, April 2, on. BOLTON, Royal, Crook; next, Victoria, West Stanley.

WANTED, August Bank Holiday, "Midnight Mail"; also Easter and August 6. "The Great Awakening." Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Xmas week and on, with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

THEATRES WANTED.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, April 23, 30, May 7, on, with exceptions.
Apply, Lingford Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Good Theatres. Vacant March 26, April 9, and Easter Week. Everything carried. Strong Cast of Recognised Artists.
Apply, Lingford Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, Aug. 6, 13, and few later. Magnificently advertised, splendidly acted, beautiful new special scenery, and effects; fifth year of tour, and success continued. ALFRED B. CROSS as PETE (over 1,500 times); MINNIE WATERSFORD as KATE (900 times). GAIETY T., HASTINGS, March 5.; P. G., FOLKESTONE, March 8.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, Easter. Fred Bulmer, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

"THE HINDUSTANEE," a Musical Comedy with a Plot (and Good Plotters!). Libretto by A. F. Allen Tower. Music by Leon Wood.
WANTED, Dates, South preferred, March 26, and few on, with exceptions.
Leon Wood, Empire, Oxford.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Spring Tour (already booked), starting April 23, Full Company (with exceptions), Leading Lady, first-class, young; Refined Irish Comedian, must sing; Heavy; Character Old Woman; Experienced Actors to Double. Apply, giving age, height, experience, and references, with permanent address for return of photos., Box 2,872, "The Era."

WANTED, for Casey's Court Opera Drama, Juvenile Actors, Vocalists, Comedians, &c., over 14 and small. Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, several Ladies and Gentlemen, good Amateurs, to complete Cast. Address, Chas. H. Houghton and Co., Dramatic Agents, 253, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Soubrette, Good Voice and Powerful, for Sunshine, "Silver Cross"; also juv. gent., to sing. Fred A. Marston, Alexandra T., Birmingham.

"A MOTHER'S LOVE."
WANTED, First-class Child Actress, Aristocratic Heavy Man. Address, stating absolutely lowest terms (photos. where not known), actual height, latest references, Connynghame, 17, Regent-road, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Juvenile Actor, to take Dive into Water Tank, and Character Heavy Actor, open 12th. Particulars to Miss Ida Millais, 68, Sisters-avenue, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Gentlemanly Heavy, for Gilbert Fernside, "Her Fatal Past," through releasing Roland Yorke to accept joint engagement. Terms, Rushbury, Brechin.

WANTED, a Smart Comedian, to play Chinaman, one who can Sing and Dance; must be Funny, the smaller the better. Experience absolutely necessary. No fancy salary, but a sure twelve months' tour.
Apply, Marie Santoi, Pavilion, Leicester.

WANTED, Good Comedy Gentleman, for Duologue, tall, and slightly built.
Box 2,895, "The Era."

WANTED, Amateurs; experience not necessary, but must give month. Fares paid after joining. Photos. Violet Gray, 99, Lauderdale-mansions, Maida Vale.

WANTED, Talented Amateur, to Play Small Part, and Understudy, in First-class Costume Drama, tuition, small premium, returned in salary. Box 2,896, "The Era."

WANTED, for Early Autumn Tours, Smart, Attractive Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, good appearance and good voices absolutely essential. Apply personally and immediately, Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Artists, Dramatic, Musical, Novel. "Amusement's" arrangements unique. Write, call. "Amusement," 6d., post 7d. Edwin Drew, 7, Whitefriars-street, London.

WANTED, Lady or Gentleman, to Sing a new Spanish Song, must be known on the Stage and have good voice. Call or write to
Composer,
37, South-place, Kennington Park, S.E.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, two Smart, Up-to-date Costume Parties, for Piers, Gardens, Halls, &c. "THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER," Booked June 4 to August 19 and Sept. 10 to 22. Good Friday (Sacred Concert) and Easter week vacant.
"THE STAR DOMINOS AND THEIR PIERROT," Booked August 13 to Sept. 15.
Bookings include: Winter Gardens, Bournemouth; Tower, Blackpool; Tunbridge Wells, Jersey, Guernsey, Rusholme Pavilion, Manchester, &c.
Terms, photos., and full particulars of
Mr. Darcy Clayton,
75, Brecknock-road, London, N.W.
High-Class Comedians and other Artists write in for new Party now forming.

WANTED, Known, good Dancers, Chorus Ladies, Juveniles, at Liberty, Monday. Directress, 43, St. James's-street, Leeds

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Pantomime Artists.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Season 1906-7, "FORTY THIEVES" and "BABES." Full particulars, terms, references, photos., to Fred Granville, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.
N.B.—Mark envelopes, "Pantomime."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words. Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Colley, Prin. Com., third year Clayton's "Cinderella." Good offers invited 1906 and 1907. Success this, Royalty, Llanelly; next, T. R., Aberdare.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement, or Contract, town or provinces. Refs. Add., 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers of Gardens, Piers, Pavilions, to know I have good open-air Scenic Novelties; also can make and paint anything required, either for inside or outside. Address,
Turner, Scenic Artist, 50, Vernon-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Manchester Scenic Co (20 years' reputation), Artistic Work, models free; new Cloths, from £2. Bostock, Rumford-st., O.-on-M., Manchester.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, immediately, as a Permanency, a First-class Scenic Artist. State lowest terms, highest references, and where their work can be seen. It is only wasting time for anyone but First-class Artists to apply. Address, Moody-Manners Opera Co., Lyceum Th., Edinburgh.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Assistant-Manager, for a London Music Hall; must be used to the work. Society's guarantee required.
State salary and all particulars,
Box 2,891, "The Era."

WANTED, Acting-Manager, to Travel with Lord George Sanger and Sons, Ltd.; must understand Book-keeping (D.E.), and have highest references as to character and ability. Apply, stating salary, age, with references and photo., to Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, a smart Business-Manager for Lionel Strongfort's new Sensational Act, which is booked to appear beginning March 19, for the first time in England; must Deposit £100. Address, Strongfort, 24, Lisle-street, Leicester-square, London, W.

WANTED, Stage Manager and Advertising Inspector (combined), for Hippodrome, Blackpool, Easter (nine days) and Season, Whitsuntide, onwards; one with knowledge of Blackpool preferred. Apply, with copies of references and salary required, to T. P. Duignan, General-Manager. Hippo., Blackpool.

WANTED, for Sedgwick's Menagerie, Agent to commence March 12.
Address, Market-place, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, Stage Carpenter; must be good Bench Hand and Strict Disciplinarian. Apply, with references, Acting-Manager, H. M. Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Smart Bill Posters and Window-Billers, to travel with Circus Agent.
Address, Fred Lewis, 8, Grindlay-st., Edinburgh.

WANTED, First-class Billposter. Good references indispensable.
Apply, Rockley's, Ltd., Talbot-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, First-class Resoureeful Wardrobe Mistress, capable of Making to Sketches, and the care and regulation of much varied and constantly chaging wardrobe, in large first-class theatre. Apply by letter to Oswald Stoll, Stage Department, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., W.C.

WANTED, immediate offers as Advance or Acting-Management, just concluded 19 months Messrs. Poole Bros., Porth and Maesteg. Highest refs. J. M. Bryan, 39, St. Michael's-rd, Maesteg.

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty shortly, Theatres or Fit-ups. Experienced. References. Address, Post Office, Cardiff.

WANTED, Management, by Popular Entertainer, knows every Town; his Lady Partner could play Juveniles; both established performers. Mornus, 186, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

WANTED.—Young Gentleman (25) desires post as assistant to manager, theatre, variety, or al fresco, speaks French, fair knowledge business. Moderate salary commence. Address, Wisor, 173, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Electrician requires Installation or Exhibition Work, day or piece, thorough practical theatrical experience. C., 234, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour; good references. Address, 42, Walcot-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement as Baggage or Window-billing, or as useful man, permanent or tour. Apply, G. T. Cope, 70, Manchester-road, Burnley, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Dramatic, Variety, and Booking Agency. Correspondence invited from Managers and Artists. Preliminary communications confidential. Henry J. Bilsborough, Woodville-terrace, Bradford.

WANTED, by Young Lady, good appearance, experienced, speaks German, Engagement as Companion or Wardrobe Mistress, ablo to assist any Variety Show. Box 2,874, "The Era."

WANTED, by a highly respectable Woman (husband London Fire Brigade), Evening Work in a Theatre, behind scenes or front of house. Personal recommendation. Mrs. Wilkinson, Fire Brigade, Euston, N.W.

WANTED, by Two Young Ladies, Positions as Barmaids in Theatre or Music Hall, Saloon Bar, City preferred. Highest references obtainable. Capable of taking management. Address, M. L., The Restaurant, Bank-street, Maidstone.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Blackpool, Easter Holidays (nine days), and Season, Whitsuntide, onwards, Conductor and Full Orchestra; must have a thorough experience in variety business. Apply, with references and lowest terms, to T. P. Duignan, General-Manager, Hippodrome, Blackpool.

WANTED, for Grand Theatre, Bolton, Musical-Director, Pianist preferred, must be used to Variety Business, steady and energetic; long engagement to suitable applicant. Letters only, with terms and references,
J. F. Elliston, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Leader, also Accompanist, Easter, April 12 to 21, and Season, from June 2. Only competent Musicians need apply. First-class Concert Experience necessary. Applications, with full particulars, references, and salary required for two performances daily, to J. R. Huddlestone, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, for Sedgwick's Menagerie, to commence Monday, March 19, Leader Cornet, 35s. per week; Solo and Second Cornet, Bombardon, Euphonium, and Trombone, 30s. week; also three Horse-keepers and two or three inside men, used to animals. Address, Sedgwick, Menagerie, Market-place, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, Leader, to Commence at Once, in London. Apply, stating age, salary required, with copies of testimonials, to Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn Mansions, London, W.C.

WANTED, Good Violin (Leader), Flute, Cornet, Bass, and Drums, for 6 weeks, South Coast. Tour commencing Easter. Terms, &c., to Harry Reynolds, 104, Gt. Dover-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, at Once, through disappointment, Good Second Violin. Terms, shares. Apply, J. Duchscherer, 51, Victoria-road, Exmouth.

WANTED, Good Cornet, thoroughly experienced in Variety Business. Terms and refs. to Chas. P. Fox, Musical Director, Hippo., Hastings.

WANTED, E Flat Clarionet, to join at once, Pitching Band, foreigner preferred. Apply, C. Keipaber, 18, Mitcham-street, London, W.

WANTED, Good Bassoonist, Ex-Army Bandsman, Permanent Staff, R.E., age limit 30. Good character indispensable. Bandmaster, Castle, Monmouth.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASYLUM, FULBOURN, Near CAMBRIDGE.
WANTED, Male Attendant, Euphonium Player preferred.
Apply, stating age and height, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to the Medical Superintendent, at the Asylum.

WANTED, at Once, Second Horn, for Pump Room Orchestra. Applicants state previous engagements and references, Max Heymann, Pump Room, Bath.

WANTED, Harpist (Gentleman), combine Piano, Vocalist preferred, for Season, commence Whitsuntide, Al-fresco. State lowest terms, first letter. C. Beanland, 21, Bloom-street, Stockport.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Attendant Musician, able to play the Oboe. Wages, £30 per annum, rising £2 10s. annually to £55, with £3 extra as Bandsman. Board, lodging, washing, and uniform, suit every 3 months. Apply at once, stating age, height, references to character and ability, to Medical Director.

WANTED, Good Harpist or Portable, for Hotel Business, &c., Devonshire, gentlemanly and experienced; commence immediately. Flautist, 35, Greenclose-road, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, First Flute, First Clarionet, and Double Drums; must have tympany, and Xylophone if possible, all must be soloists; long summer engagement, seaside. Address, Box 2,875, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Variety Pianist (Gent.), Good Soloist and Quick Reader, Transpose, for First-class Al-fresco Troupe, commencing Whitsun. State salary, &c., H. R., 57, Shenley-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Good Pianist, used to Variety, open Monday week. Terms and refs., Maitland Lacey, Mus. Dir., Empire, Greenock.

DEVIL'S DYKE,
DEVIL'S DYKE,
NEAR BRIGHTON.
CAFE CHANTANT.
CAFE CHANTANT.
WANTED, for Above, for Easter, Complete Ladies' Orchestra, those which include Vocalists and Specialities preferred.
Apply,
Mrs. M. Barrasford,
Lyceum Theatre,
London.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician-Attendants, First Violin and Second Cornet, preference to one able to play Solo Cornet when required. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the Medical Superintendent.

WANTED, Smart, Steady, Young Musicians (Pianists, Violinists, 'Cellists, and Bassists), thoroughly experienced in orchestral work, for South American and Mediterranean Trips, permanent employment, comfortable quarters, and musical duties only. State age and references.
Rehearsals required in Liverpool.
C. W. Black,
19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Ladies' Orchestra, Twelve Performers, One Week, April 16, for York Industrial Exhibition. Jones, 59, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Band of Ten, for London, also Twenty-five, for Seaside. State lowest terms and full particulars, letters only. Box 2,887, "Era."

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Disengaged March 5, Composer, Arranger, Violinist. Address, 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Sydney Davies, smart, reliable, experienced, and thoroughly up-to-date Musical Director, Disengaged, brilliant violinist, late conductor Palace Theatre, Cork; Empire Palace, Dudley; Hippodrome, Coventry; Palace, Derby. 15, Kendal-road, Colchester.

WANTED, by Leader, or as First Violin, Engagement, thoroughly experienced any business, at Liberty March 12. Box 2,886, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, William F. Closs, Musical Director, Piano, resigning 5 years' Engagement with J. F. Elliston, Esq. First-class offers invited. Grand, Bolton.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer, by Good Leader or First Violin, combining first clarionet, military, first-class business only, highest refs. M. Lutz, 6, Moreton-st., S.W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement. Well-known Conductor (Violinist), with own First-class Band, any number. Highest testimonials; splendid library. Box 2,853, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Violinist (combine Piano), through reducing Orchestra, any business; first-class references. Mills, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist, as Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Concert Orchestra, any distance. Arthur Basson, 57, Barmouth-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Violin and Viola, any business; best refs. Wire or write, Glaister, care of 16, Pontmorlais, Merthyr.

WANTED, Summer Engagement as First Violin. Good references; well experienced. Alfr. Kuhn, 98, Aylmer-road, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist, Leader or First Violin, good Library, Theatre, or Variety Hall. Address, J. C., 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Engagement by the Principal Second Violinist, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co. Address, Lewis, Orchestra, Grand Theatre, Glasgow

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo and First Cornets, together, for Militia Training. Apply, with terms, to Geo. Avis, late Band-Sergeant, Rifle Regiment, 3, Albion-row, Wise-st., Leamington.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement; highest references. Can join at once. Apply, A. W. Bassett, 20, Cambridge-grove, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Summer Engagement (Orchestral or Military Band), as First or Second Cornet; young, steady, and reliable. Box 2,868, "The Era."

WANTED, by Clarionettist, Summer Engagement, thoroughly experienced, Orchestral or Military, Solo Clarionet for years Military Section, Mr. Dan Godfrey's Band, Bournemouth. Fred Dibdin, Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Clarionet. Best references. Could open Monday. Any Business. G. Clarke, 8, Turncroft-lane, Stockport.

WANTED, by Clarionet (Diplomé), Theatrical Work in London; high-class refs.
Box 2,866, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Engagement, by Solo Clarionet. Highest refs. Address, O. Degan, Earlsdon House, Mostyn-avenue, Llandudno, N. Wales.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Clarionet, best refs., and thoroughly reliable, theatre or variety. T. Crawshaw, 89, St. Stephen's-av., Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good, Reliable Clarionet, experienced all lines, excellent refs. Add., H. C. Garner, The Porches, Rainhill, near Liverpool.

WANTED, by experienced Bassoon, Summer Engagement, or any business; last season Worthing. W. Rogers, 164, Folkestone-gardens, Trundley's-road, Deptford.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, for full season, can start any time; good experience and refs. 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, an Engagement, as Double Bass, steady and reliable. Good refs. R. J. Langridge, 66, Priory-street, Colchester.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Dennis Butler, Principal Double Bass, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, can accept summer engagement, first-class military or string orchestra, or would deputise. Highest refs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, young, experienced, any capacity. F. V., c/o Crockett, 3, St. John's-lane, West Smithfield, London, E.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by ex-Army Bandsman, E flat Bass or Bass Trombone. Excellent refs. Cole, 25, Gipsy-road, W. Norwood.

WANTED, by a First-class Trombonist, Summer Engagement, large experience, reliable, sober. Refs. Gowings, 19, Walgrave-st., Hull.

WANTED, by Second or Bass Trombone, long Summer Engt. with military band, at seaside. J. Randle, 48, Pigott-st., Bath-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, an Engagement, by Trombone, can combine Viola, experienced at any Business. W. R. S., 12, Middleborough, Colchester.

WANTED, by Bass Trombone, Summer Engagement, any bus.; first-class refs.; steady, reliable. Trombone, 9, Jesson-st., West Bromwich, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombone, Tenor or Bass, 10 years Guards' Band, good London experience; highest references. Musician, 16, Belgrave-road, Abbey-road, N.W.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, for Summer. Apply, F. Gordertier, Principal Horn Player, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., en route.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. Cassells, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist and Violinist, Summer Engagement, with ladies' orchestra, 'cello soloist. Harvey, 4, Belsize-parade, Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, an Engagement, by thoroughly experienced 'Cellist; any business; disengaged. S. Sponerman, 66, Richmond-road, Bayswater.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good 'Cello, Experienced, First-class References.
M. Lutz, 6, Moreton-street, S.W.

HIPPODROME, SOUTHAMPTON.
WANTED, 'Cello, accustomed to Variety Business, to open at once. Apply, with terms and recent references, Howard J. Shackleton.

WANTED, by First-Class Oboist, any business, 23 years' experience; excellent refs; Disengaged March 10. Williams, Grand Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by R. Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, Court T., Liverpool. At Liberty March 10.

WANTED, Known, Miss Florence Maye, L.R.A.M., solo and orchestral harpist, will conclude 10 weeks' engagement, March 5. 180, Blomfield-terrace, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo, in good Orchestra, '67 Boehm and Carte System. T. C. Richmond, 33, Peel-street, Darlington.

WANTED, by Experienced Flute and Piccolo, Summer Engagement; good references and strictly reliable. H. Allen, 42, Kent-st., Leicester.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, or Permanency, by Experienced Flute and Piccolo, steady and reliable. Flautist, 1, Grosvenor-terrace, High-street, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Known, Lady Pianist, Brilliant Soloist and Accompanist, having concluded long engagement at High-class Hotel, wishes for re-engagement with Select Trio. Box 2,865, "The Era."

WANTED, by Gentleman Pianist, Summer Seaside Re-engagement, with First-class Orchestra, Concert Party, Dancing. Apply, Mulgrave House, Saltwell-rd., Gateshead-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement, by Newton Robinson, pianist, orch. or self, exper. var., dram. business, good refs., steady, reliable. Add., Post Office, Barton-on-Humber.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist-Harpist, any business; good experience; references. J. Sinclair, 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady (21), Soprano, Pianist, Sight Reader, Accompanist, used to concerted music, good appearance. Heane, Rouse Lench, Kingsholm, Gloucester.

WANTED, by the Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, dates for Halls, Exhibitions, Hotels, Piers. Apply, Conductress, Volthurst, Boundary-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred. Now at Liberty. Drums, 94, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, by Drummer and Clarionets, permanent engagement. Will P. Gordon and H. Wordsworth write? Box 2,882, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, temporary or permanent, variety or military, now open. H. H., 6, Victoria-sq., St. Paul's, Cheltenham.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, experienced, Theatre or Music Hall Engagement. Highest refs. D., 50, Flood-street, Chelsea, S.W.

Managers of Hotels, Restaurants, and Piers.
WANTED, Known, if you want a big attraction for your establishment, engage at once the celebrated Gardenia Orchestra (four to thirty performers). All Artists and Soloists. Great Success at a well-known Pier last season, and tremendous Success on the Continent. To secure this fine Band, write at once. Box 2,873, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Ladies' Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet engaged Johannesburg, January to July.

WANTED, by First-Class Professional Military Band, 18 to 30 performers, Summer Season Engagement; splendid library. Smedley, 76, Parliament-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, by the Austro-Hungarian Band, Seaside Engagement; excellent township testimonials; splendid uniforms; large and varied Selection of First-class Modern Music. Box 2,883, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by the Celebrated Rhine String Band, small, or any number, good rep., highest refs., uniform. Manager, Bath, Somerset.

WANTED, Engagement, to provide Large or Small Orchestra, by Licentiate, R.A.M. Highest possible recommendations. Address, L. E., Cremona, Mountfield-rd., Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Military Band, Brilliant Soloists, Smart Uniforms, Splendid Répertoire. Highest testimonials. Bandmaster, 123, Drew-road, Silvertown.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. Williams, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,429, Manchester. C. Jesson, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. Lees, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by the Original Blue Austrian Band, for Seaside or Exhibition, &c.; also Small Band, for Hotel, &c.; and Ladies' Orchestra. Save 10 per cent. and write to Musical-Director, 53, Philpot-street, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, First-class Band, Open for Town and Country Engagements (any number). Highest references. Box 2,888, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, at Once, and Future Dates, Startling Sensations and Big Novelties, Star Turns in all Lines, for the above Successful Circus; also for Opening in another Town, April 2. Nothing too Big. Must have a Great Company.
Address, King Ohmy,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, PAISLEY, N.B.
WANTED, at all Times, Big Stars and Novelties, suitable for the Arena; also First-class Lady Bareback Equestrian, Big Acts, on shares or salary; must be new to the above town. Address, Transfield.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Specialities, of every Description, for Immediate and Future Dates.
Good, Refined, Funny Acts, address,
C. Algie.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH.
WANTED, Easter Monday, Artist in all Lines, not Musical or Cyclist, also Violin Leader, Small Band. Address as above.

BOSCO'S TENTING CIRCUS.
WANTED, to commence Easter Monday, for Long and Comfortable Tenting Season, Artists of all Classes, including Good Animal Acts, Acrobats, and New and Novel Acts of Every Description, Useful Families, &c., &c. Lowest terms and full particulars to Bosco, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, a Big, Sensational, and Attractive Act, with Drawing Powers, to Open March 12; also for tenting, Lady and Gentleman Riders, with own horses, Acrobats, Triple Bar, and Ring Performers, Jugglers, Big Animal Acts, in fact, anything suitable for a circus ring. Artists doing more than one act preferred. State all particulars and lowest terms in first letter to J. Crockett, 3, Manor-parade, High-street, Sutton, Surrey.
N.B.—Wanted, a Good Doorsman; one that can do a little window billing.

WANTED, for Mrs. E. Pinder Ord's Royal Circus and Menagerie, suitable acts, for tenting season; also band, and grooms and tentmen. Lowest terms, Muirhead-st., Partick, Scotland.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Circus, Tenting Ireland, a good Talking and Singing Clown, an Irish Comedian; also a Stud Groom and Tent Master. Will Vorn, Stud Groom, communicate at once to Hanneford, 6, George-street, off Ravenhill-road, Belfast?

Circus Performers Wanted.
WANTED, for Casey's Court Circus, Juvenile Circus Performers and Dwarfs, in all Lines, over 14, and small for age, acrobats, clowns, &c., &c. Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand.

CIRCUS, HULL.
WANTED, Equestrians, Lady and Gentlemen Riders, Clowns, and Artists of all Descriptions, Open April 16, 23. Address,
Edward Emerson, General-Manager.

WANTED, for Summer Open Air Concerts, good Tumblers, Acrobatic Specialities, Novelties, &c., three shows daily. Send full particulars, lithos., &c., quote absolute lowest terms. Estelle's Agency, 425, Romford-road, Forest Gate, London, E.

WANTED, a Good Tumbling Knockabout Clown. A long engagement for suitable person. Apply, H. B. Marinelli, 29a, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Big Flying Trapeze Acts, Comedy Acts, Comedians, and Knockabouts. Address, Drew Bayley, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, 3-Bar Performer, one that can do throws over doubles, &c., to join two comedians. Address, Bar Performer, West London Theatre, Marylebone, W.

WANTED, for First-class Speciality, Single Performer, a Good Comedian, Circus Clown preferred; must be experienced performer. Good salary. Address, Equilibrist, G.P.O., Brighton.

Triple Bar Performer.
WANTED, a Young Man that can do a few Good Tricks on the Triple Bars, one that is not afraid of a little Knockabout Business. All particulars of tricks, age, height, and salary in first letter, or no notice taken.
Address,
Box 2897, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, for Triple Bars. State full particulars. Address, Wheeler, 14, Dodson-street, Westminster Bridge-road, London.

KNARESBOROUGH WATER CARNIVAL.
WANTED, Aug. 16, Aquatic or Japanese Artists, outdoor fête. State terms, length of turn. C. Hebblethwaite.

Important.
WANTED, Top Mounter, for well-known Troupe, to join immediately. State weight, tricks, and salary. Address, Box 2,728, "The Era."

WANTED, Sensational Diving Turn, must be steady and worker. State lowest terms, and where last employed. Pier, Skegness.

WANTED, Young Ladies, Smart Appearance, to learn contortionist's, gymnast's number, age 14. State height, with photo., Tresoro, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Immediate Dates, Madame Collard's Boarhounds, Burlesque Trained Lions and Tigers. Amusing Animal Act. This week, Hammersmith. Good Agent wanted.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Horsewoman, Rides Diving Horse, Good Swimmer, Serio, good voice; has small Troupe Performing Dogs and Pony. Helvetia, 36, Heathfield-gardens, Chiswick, London.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey, a Comic Act, far away from other Donkeys. T. H., Bishop Auckland; Mon., T. R., Blyth. Burr and Son.

WANTED, March 5 and 12, on, the Maros, Three-Bar Comedians. Wire, Court Theatre, Bacup; after, 126, Porter-st., Hull.

WANTED, Tenting, by Turle and Turle, Trapeze, Rings, Knockabout Clowns, three acts. 5, Wood-st. East, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Smartest of all Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Acts, free March 19, 26.
Address, Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, March 19, Mayeno Trio (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, the only vacant date this year, to follow Coatbridge. Com., Ohmy's Circus, Leigh.

WANTED, Tom Hall Family, Acrobats, Wire, Animal Act. Thank Silvester and Lloyd for offer. Still Vacant. Carnival, Govan-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Modern Blondin, most Daring High-rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Enormous success. 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, Idento Bros., the Great Australian Juggling Cricketers, Monday next, and dates to follow. A big top. Wire, 54, Sandringham-rd., Dalston.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagements, by Lieut. Lemprière and his Charming Lady Pupils, for parachute descents, together or separate. LEMPRIÈRE, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Secretaries, to Engage Lieut. Lemprière, the popular, reliable Aëronaut, for balloon ascents and parachute descents. Address, Handsworth, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANHOPE and Co., 63, Regent-st., W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, Variety Artists all Lines, immediate and future dates. Terms, &c., J. CUMMINGS, 66, Whitevale, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, March 12, and onwards. Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, March 5, 12, onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, singing turns, specialities, good theatres, combination, sharing terms. SANSOME, Palace, Attercliffe.

WANTED, the Best Artists only,

March 12, 19, 26 (North).

Silence in all cases a polite negative.

G. and F. PEEL,
Granville House, Arundel-street, W.C.

Dr. WALFORD BODIE'S
ROYAL MAGNETS
AND MERRY-MAKERS.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, March 12, 19, and 26. Thanks to all those who replied to my last. Rehearsal, Monday next, at the Tivoli, Leeds, for Norman Mills, Bella Skene, J. G. Aitken, Mdlle. Rosina, Major Kent, Sig. Bandoni, Helen Henri, Gipsy Nan, Dolly Robson, Mystic Marie, and full staff. All must attend.
All letters, address,
Dr. WALFORD BODIE,
Tivoli, Leeds.

EMPIRE,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Comedy Star Artists, in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, First-class Al Fresco Artists, Vocalists, Comedians, and Dancers only, for First-class Old-established Troupe, commencing Whitsun; long engagement; young, with good and refined répertoire. First-class Variety Pianist write in. State salary and all particulars, Box 2,871, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, all kinds of Artists, for Easter week, for Variety Show. State lowest terms to GOULDER HAMILTON, Concert Proprietor, Rotherham.

WANTED, Artists, all Descriptions, Immediate and Future Dates. Send full bookings and lowest terms, DUNNING, Agent, Post Office, Coventry.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Grimsby, March 10, onwards. Artists all Lines, including Big Acts; nothing too big. J. LARDER, Hippo., Grimsby.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Big Specialities and Star Acts write, nothing too big. Will old clients send revised list of bookings, &c., as the business will be carried on as usual? Address, Mrs. FRED HARCOURT'S Variety Agency, 133, Moss-lane East, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Magician, Manchester."

WANTED, First-Class Artists, for Scotland and elsewhere.

Send full list of bookings, terms, &c., to
BARNEY ARMSTRONG,
Tivoli Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Barrow, March 19 and 26. Artists in all Lines. Address, R. SILVESTER, Miners' T., Ashington, Northumberland.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL OF VARIETIES,
JARROW.
WANTED, First-class Artists, in all Lines, March 12, onwards. L. F. SANDERSON, General-Manager.

WANTED, Artists,
Wanted, Artists,
Wanted, Artists.
Immediate Dates for London Waiting.
Artists Wanted,
Vocal Quartettes, for Sunday Evenings.
Wanted, Artists,
Wanted, Artists,
Wanted, Artists,
J. W. JOHNSON,
Variety and Speciality Agent, 86, Waterloo-road.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 12, 19, April 2, 16; always opening for good freaks. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for March 12. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London. Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME ROCHDALE.
Proprietors, SMITH and LEE.
WANTED, Known. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Valda, Lily Hope, Gilbert Bros., Hampson, Alec Kennedy, Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, Sandes and Vincent, Vernon's Bioscope.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, March 19, 26, Stars, Provinces; Midgets, own turnout, for later. GEO. AYTOUN, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Stars and Novelties, the Bigger the Better, for England, Continent, and America. Send terms, open time, and bookings. Will Team of Boxers, also Troupe of Dancers, wire at once to BEN NEVIS & Co., Agents, G.P.O., Manchester?

WANTED, Big Star, Novelties, Comedy Acts, Baritone, to lecture, Baggage Men, to play brass, Pianist, double handed, commence April 2, canvas pavilion, tour, sobriety indispensable. Letters only, LINDSAY WORTH, 133, Coplaw-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., March 5 and 12, onwards.
State lowest terms, bookings, &c.; I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, for Easter Holidays (nine days) and Season, Whitsuntide, onwards,
Stars in all Lines,
Comedy Acts,
Novelty Acts,
Comedians,
Comediennes,
Big Specialities,
Anything New, Anything Good,
Direct or through Agents.

All communications to T. P. DUIGNAN,
General Manager,
Hippodrome,
Blackpool.

WANTED, for March 12 and 19,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Henri Cazman's Agency, Turns, Novelties, &c., March 12, 19, &c.,
Biz Features, for Best London Halls,
Star Turns, for Best Provincial Tours.

Sensational Features and Acts for Easter, for Big London Establishment, write.

This Agency Opens a Branch in Paris this Month.
Suitable Turns known to me write.
Can always place big numbers.
HENRI CAZMAN'S Agency,
138, Denmark-hill, London, S.E.

WANTED, useful Gala Turns, Male and Female, all Lines. Those doing Double Act preferred. Send lithos., with terms per day or week, to LEMPRIÈRE and GREEN, Agents, 70, Holloway-head, Birmingham.
No fancy prices, please. We know the market.

WANTED, Several First-Class Turns, for March 12, at Bacup; also the 19th. Address, with terms, Dr. CARL HERMANN, Metropole, Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Turns for 7th and 10th (two nights).
Send lowest terms to
B. STEWART GEORGE, Theatre, Crawley.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
and other Seaside Towns,
Easter,
Whit Week,
July 2, onwards,
Big Specialities,
Comedy Acts,
Bar Performers,
Comedy Musical Acts,
Novelty Jugglers,
Sensational Cycle Acts,
Acrobatic Acts,
in fact anything that is New and Novel.
WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, the Biggest Specialities and Sensational Novelties, for Easter Week, April 16, Whit. Week, June 4, Bank Holiday, Aug. 6, Xmas Week, Dec. 24, and New Year's Week, Dec. 31. Send lithos., terms, bookings, immediately to EDGAR STEBBINGS'S Agency,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

Telephone No., 288.
Telegraphic address, "Zalva, Scarboro'."
GEO. ZALVA'S
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY.
Residential Offices,
The Hippodrome, Scarboro'.
WANTED, Top, for
March 19,
also
all Kinds
of
Acts,
Easter,
onwards.
Give full bookings
and
absolute lowest terms.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager, Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester. Capt. Devereux write.

WANTED, good Gala Acts, Easter, Whitsun, and Season, Bristol, also for Gala, Yorkshire, June 20, 21, 22; Japs. (Wrestlers), Arabs (Acrobats), Gymnasts, Cycle Acts, Novelties; nothing too big. Lowest terms, lithos., bills. WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, Big Acts for America. All particulars to FRANK LYNNE, 121, West 42nd-street, New York City, U.S.A.

WANTED, Big Acts of every description, Share or Salary, for Halls and First-Class Theatres. Address, MANAGER, Mirth Picture Co., March 5, Public Hall, Stockbridge.

WANTED, Known, I can Place the Biggest Act.
ATLAS, Agent, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Gala Acts and Specialities, June, July, and August. State terms per day, with lithos. L. C. STEWARD, Public Hall, Waterfoot, Lancashire.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Top of the Bill Drawing Card.
Price no object,
March 12, 19, 26.

HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Head Office,
Empress Theatre,
Hartlepool.

Telephone, 0231.

WANTED, Varieties, for big building, Easter, onwards. Absolute lowest Summer Terms or no notice taken. ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER, Tower, New Brighton.

PALACE, BOSTON (LINCS.).
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
First-Class Variety Companies, Choirs, &c., for Mar. 5, and onwards; rent or Share.
Large Stage, and Seating Accommodation for 700.
Apply,
MANAGER,
Palace Theatre of Varieties, Boston (Lincs.).

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Good Variety Combination, or Good Entertainment, for three nights,
April 12, 13, and 14.
Address,
C. M. JULIAN, Carlton, Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, Big Tops and Star Novelties, price no object, for all the Principal Towns, for March 12, onwards. Send list of bookings and lowest terms; also permanent address, sample lithos. Those on my books keep me posted. FRED NEIMAN, 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E. Tele., 247, Brixton.

WANTED, Refined Concert Parties, Artists, and other Attractions, for Skegness Pier, Whitsuntide, onwards, with exceptions. Silence polite negative. No stamps. MANAGING-DIRECTOR, Pier, Skegness.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Several Ladies and Gents., for Sketches, &c., summer tour, South. Full particulars, photos. (stamped envelopes for return), to ASHLEY BEALE, 84, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, for Casey's Court "Palis of Varites" Act, Juveniles, over 14 and small, Dude, Wing and Buck Dancer, Coloured Boys, and Boy Comedians, with voices. CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, at Once, Young Lady, for Musical Act; must play two or more instruments, live in. Terms, &c., ZERBINIS, 47, Oxford-st., Wellingboro'.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Young Attractive Soprano or Mezzo, for Music Hall Scena, Dancer preferred; long Engagement. Photo., terms, &c., to H. C., 69, Oakmead-road, Balham.

WANTED, two Young Girls, as Apprentices, for Music, Singing, Dancing Act, two years' Engagement. State all particulars, with photos. MARTINEU, Poste Restante, Lisbon, Portugal.

WANTED, a Really Clever Child (girl), must Sing and Dance exceptionally well, under fourteen if possible and small, for London Music Halls. Apply immediately, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, by Perry's Happy Valley Minstrels, Llandudno, First-class Comedians, Vocalists, and Musicians, commence May 28, 1906. State absolute lowest terms. Granton House, Llandudno.

WANTED, Good Minstrel Comedians and Dancers, with Speciality preferred, commencing Easter. C. Wills write. State salary and particulars by letter, HARRY REYNOLDS, 104, Gt. Dover-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Ventriloquist, Summer Season; must be exceptionally good, and have extensive répertoire. State lowest terms, age, where can be seen; must have good appearance. Box 2,890, "The Era."

WANTED, Boys, Twenty,
with Good Voices.
Apply any time,
Park's Eton Boys,
Eton House, Sudbourne-road, Brixton Hill.

WANTED, for week of June 11, for a Lancashire Town, Bioscope and Ventriloquist, Descriptive Lady Serio, Comic Singer, a Comedian and Dancer, a Pair of Sisters, and Patter Vocalist; must be cheap, as place only small. Apply by letter to
HARTLEY MILBURN, 22, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Bioscope Operators, only thoroughly competent men need apply. JURY'S Imperial Bioscopes, 142, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Iris Keith, Refined Serio and Top Boot Dancer, Liberty Monday. Address to save time, 12, Albert-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, by Elsie Earle, March 5, 19, 26, for her successful scena, "Love against Gold." Wire for Monday. P., Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Elsie Earle, the Charming Comedienne, with a voice, songs, and dress, Great Success of her Scena, "Love against Gold," this, Palace, Northampton, Vacant March 5, 19, 26. PACEY and REEVES.

WANTED, Known, Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Vocalist, Comedienne and Dancer, Vacant Monday 12 and 19. Wire, 2, Bruin-street, Leicester.

WANTED, March 12, Engagement, by Miss Marie Gerrard, Chic Comedienne, concluding Prin. Boy with Erno Aguzzi's "Sinbad" Co. Five Bells, Salt-lane, Salisbury.

WANTED, Monday next, also the 12th, by Nellie McMerry, brisk comedienne. Wire offers, 47, Eleanor-street, Widnes, Lancs.

WANTED, March 12 and 19, by Gertie Grahame, Specialité Artist, Serio, Dancer, Al-fresco. Offers invited. Write, 13, Beech Hall-road, Higham's Park, Chingford.

WANTED, Engagement, Miss Hetty Coventry, Smart Acrobatic Dancer, late of Brewster Troupe, Renad's "Swiss Express." McGOVERNS, 37A, Church-street, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Monday next, Sisters Daventry, Harmonising Duettists and Coon Vocalists. T. R., Aston, Birmingham. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, Ethel Gale, Marvellous Blind Comedienne, who does her business totally unassisted; Harry Carter, Comedian; Double Turn if required. Wire, 94, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Operatic Vocalists, March 26, April 23, through Halls closing Next, T. R., Leigh. See Card.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical and Talking Comedian, and I am English, Liberty. Wire, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, immediate dates, Variety, by Walter Howard, Comedian, Instrumentalist, Smart Show for good places. Wire, 18, Boyson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, F. H. Dundas, Actor Vocalist, big success on Moss and Stoll Tour, wants Monday. Her Majesty's, Walsall. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, by James, Banjo Artist, &c., Trick and Juggling Bone Solo Expert. Wire, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, March 12, 19, by Jimmy Shields, Novel Comedian and One-legged Dancer.
Address, Palace T., Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, C. H. Fergus, Comedian, in Songs, Patter, and Dancing, Vacant March 19, 26, onwards, England preferred. 24, Eyam-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, Big Novelty; also Ventriloquist. Two acts. Wire, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Known, Clifton Hall, Vocalist, vacant April 9, onwards, also for Summer Season. Lyceum, Eccles; Monday, T. R., Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, March 12, and four following Weeks, by Ventom Swift, the Piccadilly Coon, Swell Eccentric Dancer. This week, Palace, Attercliffe; next week, Parthenon, Liverpool. Wires direct, or PACEY and REEVES.

WANTED, Monday next Bert Serony, Light Comedian; and Vosco, Comedy Conjurer; two clever Acts, two reliable Turns. Wire, Vosco, 14, Manchester-street, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by George Turner, Versatile Comedian, Monday and onwards; also Pierrots, Al-fresco. 14, McNeil-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Karnoc, the Handcuff King, Great Success, this week, at People's Palace, Portsmouth, Vac. Mon., 5th, onwards. Write, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by Reg. Wood, the Celebrated Handcuff and Trunk Manipulator, Season Engagement, the late Dr. Lynn's Famous Box Trick. Oswald-road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, on, by Grieve, Ventriloquist, Novelty Figures, funny act, fine singing. Wire offers, 15, Buckingham-st., York.

WANTED, Known, Baddow, Ventriloquist, Clever, Smart Act, great Success, Liberty Monday. Wire, any distance, wire, JAMES, Exhibition, Dublin.

WANTED, by Gilroy, Ventriloquist, and Boston Bioscope, March 5, and onward. Wire for these two great acts. GILROY, Metropole T., Hoyland.

WANTED, Summer Engagements, Kingsley, Hand-bell Expert; brilliant Fancy Costume; High-class Al Frescos, Banquets. 73, Saltoun-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist, March 5, 12, &c. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, March 19 and on, for C. H. Charlton's High-class and Novel Magic Act. Perm., Market-street, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, Bookings, Three Distinct Turns. High-class Conjuring, Second Sight, and Bioscope, latest pictures. Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green.

WANTED, Known, Professor Fricker, Hypnotist and Teacher of Hypnotism, &c. Write for terms and Press opinions. 91, Regent-street, W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, to Join Panto. or Sketch Co., by Known Comedian, good knockabout, patterer, and dancer. Add., COMEDIAN, 10, Naylor-rd., Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Harry Marvello, Enormous Success this Week, magical and ventriloquial specialities, Prince Edward Animated Pictures, Vacant Monday, also March 19. Wire, Empire, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Miss Daphne de Rohan and Mr. Fred Evered have a few vacant dates left for their brilliant Musical and Dramatic Entertainment, in Pier Pavilion, Gardens, &c. Terms, Certainty or Share. Address, Mr. N. BENNETT, Manager, Wall Tyning, Bitton, nr. Bristol.

WANTED, Monday next, on, the Mintos, Lady and Gentleman, Musical Eccentrics and Vocalists; a Smart Act. Wire, 14, Rosamond-place, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 19 and 26, by Alf. Hey, Vocal Comedian, and Belle Dinmont, Comedienne, Single or Jointly. 59, Gt. Jackson-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, by Tom Hulme, Comedian, also Elsie Kedwards, Charming Soubrette and All-round Dancer. Wire, Royal, Aston, Birmingham. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Dixon, Kate Lynd, Big Success, Norwich, Ipswich, Hippodromes, Reproduce shortly Second Version, "Burlesque Miser." Mon., Pal., Northampton.

Stuart and Worth (Nellie and Teddie).
WANTED, March 12, 19, 26, Comedy and Originality. Eighteen Weeks (all returns) booked before October. Write, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Bert and Dora, Comedy Artists, March 19 and 26. Next, Queen's Park Hippo. Manchester. Coms., 24, Brook-av., Levenshulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Grimaldis, March 12, onwards. Address, March 5, Pavilion Palace, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Solo and Mayo thank Managers for cancelling Provincial Dates. F. Solo open for Single Service. See Card.

WANTED, Known, Oxley and Pitt, Screaming Comedy Sketch, by Harrington and Tate, Liberty Monday, also 12th. 7, Forest-st., Burnley. Wire quick.

WANTED, Monday, and March 12, through disappointment, by Reed and Lerne, the Novel Comedians. Wire, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, March 19 and 26, by Dale and D'Argan, acrobatic conjurers, in their novelty comedy act. Theatre Royal, Colchester.

WANTED, Known, Clark and Gold, in their Astronmore Act, Return to the Continent, March 4, Marseilles; to follow, Nice, Monte Carlo, and Rome.

WANTED, March 12, by the Monckton, in original screamingly funny musical comedy acts. Usual success, Aquarium, Scarboro'; next, Grand, Stockton.

WANTED, Engagement, April, Carney and Armstrong, Original Comedy Act. 9, Farlong-road, Highbury, London. Telegrams, "Headed, London." Telephone, 1755 North.

WANTED, Al Fresco Season, also Panto., 1906-7, by Carl and Carr, refined comedians, success in J. Cromo's Burlesques. Gaiety T., Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Kashma Bros., with their eccentric staircase speciality, March 12, on, concluding successful tour E. Marris's "Dick Whittington" Panto. Next, Grand, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Chant and Chant. Press, Public, and Proprietors' Opinion.—One of the best turns seen here. Albert Hall, Jarrow; Monday, Theatre, Ashington; Vac. March 12, 19, 26, North or Scotland.

WANTED, March 12, onwards, with exceptions, by Conway and Garland, for this burlesque absurdity, "Left in Charge." Hippodrome, Paisley.

COSGROVE AND BURNS' AMERICAN DUO.
WANTED, Monday next, also March 12, Great Singing Speciality; sure hit. 1, Albert Bridge, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, also March 12, Poole and Poole, Comedy Couple and Wonderful Table Dancers. Wire, Theatre, Hebburn-on-Tyne.

WANTED, March 12 and 26, Electrifying Bounders, Los Granadas. Summer dates, for galas, sports. Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, the Elbas, at Liberty, comedy thought reading and black art.
Wire for Monday, 17, Union-road, Ilkeston.

WANTED, March 5, by the Dewars, in their Screaming Absurdity, "The New Barman"; also Leon and Leon, Comedy Duettists; two distinct Acts. Address, 1, Bethel-place, Woodhouse, Leeds.

WANTED, by Four Abadaroffs, in Great Comedy Act, "Prehistoric Peeps," Monday next, also 12th and 19th. Wire, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Seven Wulfrunas, Lady and Gentlemen Comedy Acrobats, "Fun in a Café." Terrific success, Hippo., Boscombe; Lib. Monday. Wire.

WANTED, by Leona, Dora, and Maude, Trapeze Specialists, and Miss Maude Sidurma, Ballad and Tyrolean Vocalist, March 26 and April 9, onwards. Now with Griffin and Drake's Panto., "Cinderella," Lyceum T., Eccles; next week, T. R., Leigh.
Managers invited to see these acts.

WANTED, Known, that the Three Sisters Urma, Premier Triple Trapeze Artists, have one week at Liberty, March 26, between Edinburgh and Stockton. Letters, this week, Empire, Newcastle; next, Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Zedoras, original stage flying trapeze,, break journey Glasgow. Wire, 90, Victoria-street, Ipswich.

Important Announcement.
The
Native Choir from Jamaica
(specially brought to this country by Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G.),
Four Coloured Ladies and Six Coloured Gentlemen. A novel, artistic, and charming entertainment. From 30 minutes to 2½ hours. An extensive and versatile répertoire. Certain success anywhere.
WANTED, Known, Vacant March 19, 26, Easter week, and a few Summer Dates, now at Pier Pavilion, New Brighton. Booklet and Press Opinions on application.
Apply, Messrs. JONES and DOUGLASS, 21, Water-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Motherland, Liverpool." Telephones, 5650 and 2449 Central.

WANTED, March 5, 12, and 26 (April full), for Arnold's No. 1 Amalgamation of Stars, including Charlie Green and Alex. Bain, Heavyweight Champion Wrestlers of England and Scotland, Pettitt (Banjoist), Poole and Poole, &c., &c. Terrific Success here. Refer G. H. Austin, Esq. J. ARNOLD, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

WANTED, April 16 (through transferring), for Matt. Wilkinson's Laughing Success, "The Registry Office." Also May 14 and 21, to follow return visit to Empire, Liverpool.
Address, Hippo, Stoke, March 5 (second visit).

WANTED, weeks March 19, 26, and some later (unexpectedly), whole or part programme. Salary or Share. LISTON and LUMLEY'S Merry Moments, Town Hall, Cheadle, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, there is only One Moon, and there is only One Sun, and there is only One Zarmah, with a Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals, consisting of African forest-bred lions, lioness, grizzly and silver-grey bears, and boarhounds, the most exciting, original, exclusive performance with wild animals ever seen. As far as the sun is above, so is this act above all other animal shows. Great success, this week, Hippodrome, Stoke; next week, Olympia, Bury. Vacant March 26.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Canine Marvels. the Greatest Dog Show in the World, and a Sure Draw, Liberty Monday next. Good lithos. Share or salary. Wire, T. R., Aston.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Rosa's Canine Hippodrome, March 12, North; also 3 weeks, April, Midlands. 24, Seymour-flats, Euston, N.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors, Agents, and Managers, to see the greatest Variety Act of modern times, introduced by
the Acme of Womanly Perfection,
MDLLE. VON-ETTA,
the World's only Lady Illusionist,
Protean and Quick-Change Artist.
In a lightning series of bewildering mystifications. The most beautifully-staged and elaborately-dressed Act ever introduced into this country. The Palace of Electricity, being a scene of dazzling splendour and costliness.
Every costume worn is a perfect creation.
Each move during the Act is a fresh surprise.
N.B.—Fit-up, Dresses, and Illusions copyright and registered. Produced in London Feb. 12. Thanks to Messrs. Harry Day, J. C. Coe, Tom Claxton, Walter De Frece, and J. L. Graydon for Contracts.
This week Starring, and a genuine Success, Hippo., Eastbourne; next week, ALHAMBRA, BRIGHTON. For dates and terms address, T. M. PAUL, Business Manager, en route.
Vacant April 16 and 23.
Managers, Agents, See This Act.
The only one of its kind.

WANTED, Known, McCann's Famous Performing Irish Terriers and World's Champion Leaping Dogs, Vacant March 5, 12, 19.

Wire or write, address,
Hippodrome, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, Vacant March 12.
Wire, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Scientific Hypnotist, any business, subjects audience; screams laughter. A gold mine. Who wants? BURGESS, 19, Angle-st., Burnley.

WANTED, a Good Position, at the Seaside, for Pierrot or Variety Show, for the coming season. Send particulars,
174, Rinole-road, Barking, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Evening Parties, At-Homes, &c., Attended, Entertaining Colour Experiments in Chromoscopy. Mystic Thirteen, Chromocartomancy, and Flora Clairvoyance. Booklets, Fees, &c., free, from
Mr. WM. HEALD,
36, Richmond-road, Bayswater, London, W.

WANTED, by a Smart Young Man, Situation with Pantomimist or Sketch Co., to take small parts and make himself generally useful; three years' experience. BASIL ENGLISH, 16, St. George's-road, Stamford Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, with Hypnotist, Illusionist, or any kind of mystery show. ROSALIE ARNOLD, 496, Wandsworth-rd., Clapham, London.

WANTED, Known, Le Clair's Bioscope, and Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensational and Daring High Ladder Act. Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope, Lime or Electric, 20 minutes or 2 hours, everything up to date. J. BAINTON, G.P.O., Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, Tumbler, good Sand Dancer and Gun Spinner, wishes Engagement with any Act. MILRAY, c/o Mr. Gough, 17, Errol-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, by a smart Young Man, Situation with Performing Dogs or any Animals. Goods refs.; total abstainer. Address, BERT SCOTT, 285, Walton-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Operator at Liberty, Lime or Electric, ten years' experience, late Moss Empires, &c. TRAVERS, 91, Totterdown-st., Tooting, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a Complete
COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS FOR MARCH, 1906.
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ENGLAND.

Mar. 1.	Downham	Mar. 22.	Retford
Mar. 1.	Maiden Newton	Mar. 24.	Clitheroe
		Mar. 24.	Helston
Mar. 2.	Oswestry	Mar. 24.	Holmfirth
Mar. 3.	St. Buryan's	Mar. 24.	Leigh (Dorset)
Mar. 3.	Wisbeach	Mar. 24.	Odiham
Mar. 5.	Bury.	Mar. 26.	Durham
Mar. 5.	Chertsey	Mar. 26.	Henley-in-Arden
Mar. 5.	Dudley		
Mar. 7.	Belford	Mar. 26.	Stamford
Mar. 7.	Blandford	Mar. 27.	Bridgnorth
Mar. 7.	Camborne	Mar. 27.	Bridlington
Mar. 14.	Colne	Mar. 27.	Ottery St. Mary
Mar. 17.	Alston (Cumb.)	Mar. 29.	Stamfordham
Mar. 19.	Gomersall Feast	Mar. 31.	Hertford
Mar. 20.	Upper Ottery	Mar. 31.	Lindfield
Mar. 22.	Congleton	Mar. 31.	Stourbridge
Mar. 22.	Okehampton	Mar. 31.	Worthen

SCOTLAND.

Mar. 3.	Berwick-on-Tweed	Mar. 10.	Haddington
		Mar. 21.	Dumfries
Mar. 3.	Roxborough	Mar. 21.	Galashiels

WALES.

Mar. 2.	Brecon	Mar. 20.	Corwen
Mar. 8.	Menai Bridge	Mar. 31.	Llanfyllion
Mar. 15.	Penmorfa	Mar. 31.	Maesyewmmor
Mar. 17.	Cowbridge	Mar. 31.	Menai Bridge
Mar. 17.	Rhyadar	Mar. 31.	Tredegar

WANTED, Known (Important).—That the next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Bury, on Tuesday next, March 6, at 2.30 p.m., when Important and Special Business will be brought forward. All members are requested to attend. (Signed) T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
TOM ORTON,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.

Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, TOM ORTON, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Move with the times, or get left.
WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time Send for catalogue and testimonials.
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
120, York-road, King's Cross,
London.

The Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-road, King's Cross, London.
WANTED, to thank the many Customers who have placed their Orders for the Ball-punching and other Automatic Machines for Spring Delivery, and would respectfully ask those who contemplate ordering to do so as quickly as possible, to prevent risk of disappointment.
Members of the Showmen's Protection Association.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

WANTED, Showmen, to Know that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage paid on all orders. £2. Write for Price List, or call, LEETE'S Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Professor Retené supplies Shooting Galleries, Side-shows, and Novelties for Gardens, Piers, and Pavilions. Latest Novelty, the "Willow Pattern Plate" Shooting Gallery, right up-to-date, a good Money-taker (duly registered). Spaces wanted in good places. Address, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Auctioneers.

WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for particulars.
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known.—If you want cheap and up-to-date Legal Automatic Machines, give us a call, or write for list. Machines as low as 5s. each. AUTOMATIC MACHINE EXCHANGE, Villiers-street, Strand, London.

WANTED, Known, to Fair-Keepers, &c., for shooting gallery requirements, and everything for the fair, send for list. STACEY and Co., Settles-st., London, E.

WANTED, Known, Latest American Punching Bags and Figure, complete, ready for taking money, been used a little. Accept 50s. MANSHER, 315, Liverpool-road, London, N.

WANTED, Known, the Biggest Moneytaker is the New American Punch Bag and Figure. For particulars, write ANGLO-AMERICAN NOVELTY Co., 35, High-street, Putney, London.

WANTED, Showmen, Market People, to Sell Doncaster Butterscotch and Fortunes, 3s. per gross. GRAHAM, 7, Banbury-street, Watford, Herts.

WANTED, Automatic Machine Proprietors to Note.—An unprecedented Opportunity is offered for placing Automatic Machines and Automatic Novelties. Send fullest particulars at once to MILLER, 14, Woodland-hill, Upper Norwood, S.E.

DEVIL'S DYKE,
DEVIL'S DYKE,
NEAR BRIGHTON.

WANTED, a Few More Novelties, for Above, Commencing Easter;
also, to Let,
a Few Shops,
for Sale of Fancy Goods, Japanese Stalls, Jewellery, Rubber Stamps, &c., &c., &c.
Open Grounds. Free Admission.
Apply,
Mrs. M. BARRASFORD,
Lyceum Theatre,
London.

NOVELTY AND AUTOMATIC EXHIBITION,
WEST-STREET, BROMLEY, KENT.

WANTED, for the Above, Living Novelties, Automatic Machines, Stallholders, Thought Reader, or any suitable attraction. Best position in the town. Write, JAMES, 123, Alderney-street, Pimlico, S.W.

WANTED, Novelties, for Monday next, onwards, Novelties, must have good Paintings or Posters, otherwise useless, for four of the best shops in London, Whitechapel, Fulham, Hammersmith, and Shoreditch, one month certain. Terms, Shares or Salary. Apply, MANAGER, Madame Vallua's Permanent Exhibition, 129, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, Novelties, suitable for Waxwork Exhibition, I can book you for two months, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. HUMBER'S Permanent Waxwork Exhibition, 112, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Novelties, for Stockport, open next Friday. Wire,
BROOKS, 31, Market-place.

WANTED, First-class Side-shows, Novelties, Marionettes, Mirrors, &c., sharing or rent, Crystal Palace, Season, start Easter. Halls provided. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WORTHING.—WORLD'S FAIR AND SPORTS, WHIT-MONDAY.

WANTED, Proprietors of Side-shows, Roundabouts, Swings, and Outdoor Novelties, to apply (with particulars) for space to W. DUFFIELD, 41, Ashdown-road, Worthing.

ILFORD GREAT FETES.
Whitsun and August Bank Holidays.

WANTED, Roundabouts, Side-shows, Novelties, &c. Offers, terms, and lithos., to PROMOTER, 1, Rossiyn-gardens, Ilford.

WANTED, to Open the 24th, Litchfield Shrovetide Fair, Second Sight, or any Quick. Terms, shares. SALVA, 99, Lower Sandford-st., Lichfield City.

WANTED, for Auction Mart, Good Firm, Smart Comedian, Auctioneer, or Handseller. No Gas-bag. Bert Hall, Arthur Clarke, others, write.
Box 2,889, "The Era."

WANTED, Paraders, to
Open Easter or before.
JAMES LEO,
The American Show,
Atherton, Lancs.

WANTED, for Kemp's Cinématograph, a Capable Doorsman, one who understands the business, and not afraid of work; two good Parading Girls, also good Knockabouts and Jugglers. Fair Ground, Wisbech.

WANTED, for Waxwork and Variety Business, a smart, handy man, accustomed to the above, for my new show, to be opened in Glasgow, at the Britannia Music Hall. Permanent situation for good man. Apply, A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Animated Pictures, Marionettes; also Royal Punch and Judy, with Dog Toby. 101A, Penwith-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Madam Zeta, the Celebrated Palmist and Character Reader, now at Liberty. Offers invited. Address, 14, Courrier's-lone, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Professor Zawgyi, Burmese Magician and Indian Cabinet Illusionist. Paintings, &c. Apply ZAWGYI, 95, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Auctioneer requires Berth, age 35, abstainer, first-class references, Disengaged. HAMMER, 91, Totterdown-st., Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Doorsman, Assistant, &c., late Tom Norman, Signor Durland, &c., Disengaged. Please state terms. WILLIAMS, 6, Clarence-gardens, Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
to Let.
Ground for the Easter Holidays,
Welsh Harp, Hendon,
Commencing April 10,
for Roundabouts, Shows,
and all kinds of Amusements,
in a First-Class Position.
Apply,
HASTINGS and WHAYMAN,
Exhibition Ground, Barking, Essex.

WANTED, Known. Notice.—All parties requiring Ground for all kinds of Amusements at Exeter Easter Fair, Looe Fair, May 5 and 6, Redruth, Whit Monday, Poole, and other Holidays, en route, Good Opening for a Shooter and some Small Games to Open with one of our Machines. Apply, W. C. & S. HANCOCK, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

WANTED, Known, that the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union, having secured the whole of the Cattle Market at Stockport, will hold a Monster Spring Carnival, commencing March 17 to 22, on the same. Ground to Let for Shows, Shooting Saloons, and Throwing Games, &c. All applications for space to be made to T. HURST, Secretary.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.

WANTED, to Let, Fine Position for Up-to-date Shooting Gallery. Applications to
J. R. HUDDLESTONE,
Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Showmen and others to know, Ground Spaces to be Let, in Garrison Field, Sunderland, for Easter Annual Fair. For terms and particulars apply to JOHN COOPER, 65, Milton-street, Eastbourne, Darlington.

BRIDLINGTON TRADES EXHIBITION,
Six Days, commencing March 12.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Jewellery, Rubber Stamps, Embroidery, Polish Powders, and Opticians. Apply, Mr. HAGUE, General Manager, New Spa and Gardens, Bridlington, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, and Stallholders, that I shall commence my usual Spring Fairs the second week in March, and continue until the end of the season, including Ordsall-lane for Easter, and Knutsford, &c. JOHN WHITING, Anchorage, Stretford.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
To Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, &c.
P. COLLINS, LTD.,
Gondola Works, Walsall,
have Positions to Let on their Old-established Fair Grounds, commencing with the
March Round,
Oswestry and Dudley, opening March 2,
to follow Shrewsbury, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, and Brierley Hill.
Easter Grounds,
Two grand Positions in London, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Birkenhead, and Dudley,
to follow
Wednesbury, Smethwick, Oldbury, Darlaston, West Bromwich, Heath Town.
Birmingham, Two Great Fairs,
May and October Onion Fair,
Bromsgrove Midsummer Fair, Worcester July Races, several Summer Fêtes, Flower Shows, Carnivals, &c.
For Terms and Particulars address as above.
Telephone, 80 Walsall.
Telegrams: "Gondola, Walsall."

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WANTED, Known, the South Shore Fair Ground is the only place of Outdoor Entertainment and Attraction in Blackpool, situated at South Shore, next the Promenade; the electric trams run right to it; finest position in the town. The Grounds face the sea, and have a frontage of over 500yds. The permanent Attractions now installed include the River Caves of the World, the Maxim Flying Machine, Helter Skelter, &c.
Room for new Attractions next season, commencing at Easter.
Good Tunnel Railway Wanted.
Native Village Wanted.
Enclosure now being erected for same.
Good Shooting Jungle or Side Show Wanted for new building, 30ft. by 30ft.
Covered and well-built Stalls, 10ft. by 20ft., to let.
Apply, PROPRIETORS, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

STARR ESTATE FAIRGROUND CO.

Manager, J. HARDMAN.
Secretary, A. ELLIS.

WANTED, to Let, Land, on Blackpool Sands, for all kinds of Shows.

Apply,
SECRETARY,
81, Central Beach,
Blackpool.

BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.
NEW FAIR GROUND.

WANTED, Known, the Corporation of Congleton invite applications from Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, and others, for Ground and Stands during the May Pleasure Fair, to be held on May 12, 1906. The Ground is situate at the rear of the Town Hall, 50yds. from the main Street, is 3 acres in extent, and the only Fair Ground allowed in the Borough. Applicants must state their requirements, class of Exhibit, Frontage, and Depth. All applications to be made to
RANDLE BURSLAM,
Borough Surveyor.
Town Hall, Congleton,
Feb. 20, 1906.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all Travellers, that I have Ground to Let at all my well-known and old-established Spring Fairs, commencing second week in March; also at the only recognised Easter Fair in Manchester, Queen's-road Ground; also Wolverhampton Market-place, Top Ground; and a continuous run of Wakes and Fairs throughout the entire season. Rents Moderate to tenants. All applications for Ground to be made to JOHN COLLINS, World's Fair, Liverpool.

WANTED, all Showmen, Stall-holders, and others to Know, that Heywood Mid-Lent Fair commences March 23 to 27; Castleton Wakes, March 30 to April 3; Accrington Spring Fair, April 5 to 10; Tyldesley Spring Fair, April 20 to 24; St. Helens Spring Fair, May 4 to 15; Ashton-in-Makerfield; then Wigan to follow. Application to WM. MITCHELL, Hindhill-street, Heywood.

WANTED, Space, in Good Exhibition, for Minnie Letta's Sporting Girls, the only show of its kind on the road, a novel and money-making side show. Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

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WANTED, to Sell, owner giving up Travelling, through illness, Road Living Waggon, 10ft. 6in. long, with all fixtures; also Covered Rail Waggon, 16ft. long; Ring Stall, 20ft. long, in two sections; also 14ft. Emma, or Dool Frame; also two Horses, and their harness, lamps, and stock; in fact, everything complete for opening. No reasonable offer refused. Apply, A. MILES, Cossack Yard, Kingsland, Southampton.

WANTED, to Sell, Great Bargain, Excellent Modern 6 n.h.p. Compound Showman's Road Locomotive, by Burrell, Mounted on Springs, practically new Firebox, and everything in splendid condition. Photo on application.

Apply, CHARLES D. PHILLIPS,
Emlyn Engineering Works, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, to Sell for Cash, or Deferred Payments, 6 h.p. Burrell's Compound Showman's Road Locomotive, awning and brass rods, dynamo plate, and all showman's fittings; also 8 h.p. Fowler's Compound Showman's Road Locomotive. GRAVEN, Ely, Cambs.

WANTED, to Sell, Portable Engine, with Dynamo, all in first-class order. Can be seen working at Willesden Green, Dudding Hill Show Ground. ALF. BALL.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, Harry Greene's Travelling Cough Candy Waggon to correspond with Mrs. KENNERLEY, 7, Banbury-street, Watford.

WREXHAM PLEASURE FAIR, 1906.
Important Alteration.

WANTED, Known.—Notice is hereby given that it has been found necessary to change the Date of the above Pleasure Fair, so as to commence on THURSDAY, MARCH 29, instead of April 5. It will end on Thursday, April 12.
By order,
J. KERRISON JONES,
Guildhall, Wrexham. Borough Collector.
February, 1906.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed, according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand W.C.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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WANTED, to Sell, the whole of the Scenery, Dresses, and Properties, as used in MR. Eland's most successful production,
"THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
(originally produced at the Grand Theatre, Hull), consisting of three front cloths and four full sets all painted by Egerton, and all new this season, four complete sets of ballet dresses for a ballet of twenty, principal dresses, &c.
Also all the dresses, &c., used in
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originally produced for the Moss Empire, Bradford, and last Xmas at the Queen's, Leeds, consisting of three front cloths, four full sets, and a special trick scene (this alone cost £35), four changes of dresses for ballet of fifteen, costumes for children's ballet, and all the principals' dresses.
All the above are in excellent condition. We have also for sale the Fishing Village (full set) and the Cannibal Island (full set), scenes as used in "Treasure Island," and a quantity of odd wardrobe, most rich Oriental dresses; also the sole or partial rights of the "books" of the following successful Pantomimes, written by Peter Eland: "The Babes in the Wood," "Red Riding Hood," "Aladdin," Robinson Crusoe." These are all extremely original, and make capital "groundworks." The original music rights can also be arranged on easy terms. For full particulars and offers, apply, BEST and TURNER, 21, Bridge-street, Bradford.

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WANTED, to Sell, the Entire Beautiful and Costly Scenery of this Play, recently painted by W. T. Hemsley. Full particulars on application. Apply. FRED H ANDERSON, Palace Theatre, Northampton.

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of
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Menagerie.
Kindly write at once,
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WANTED, to Thank,
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GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Harry Fischer wishes to thank the ladies and gentlemen who replied to his advertisement. Impossible to reply to all. Silence a polite negative.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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See "Wanted to Sell" Column.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906. The thirty-ninth issue of "The Era" Annual has just appeared, and once more it supplies a useful record of the theatrical year. An editorial note reminds us that among the contributors to the first number, that of 1868, were E. L. Blanchard (its editor), Charles Mathews, T. W. Robertson, Andrew Halliday, H. J. Byron, Watts Phillips, and Dion Boucicault—a brilliant band indeed. The contributors to the present issue are almost exclusively actors rather than literary men, but upon the whole they make a very fair show; while the lists of plays produced in London and the provinces, and in Paris and Berlin during the twelve months under review are distinctly useful. There are a number of photographs including an exceedingly fine one of the late Sir Henry Irving.—Pall Mall Gazette, Jan. 22.

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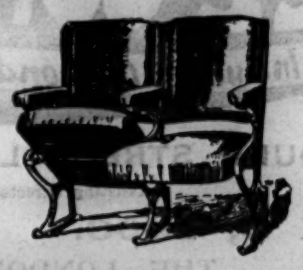

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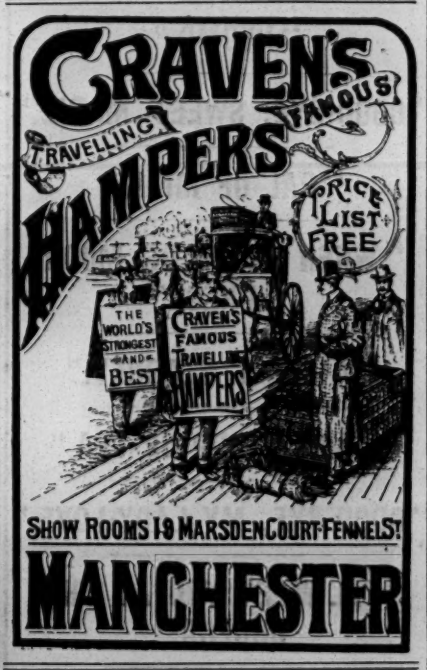

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Era, Feb. 3, 1906.—Brimful of bustle and excitement, there is no departure from so welcome a rule. . . . . With such a wealth of elaboration it was nothing less than remarkable that the fun—all performed in dumb show—should be kept going so briskly. . . . . The sketch was received with uproarious laughter, and forms a successful beginning to Mr. Karno's new enterprises.

Daily Telegraph, Feb. 6, 1906.—"The Thirsty First," which is the leading item in the Canterbury programme this week. . . . proves very good fooling.

Entr'acte, Feb. 10, 1906.—The name Karno has become quite a Hall mark of excellence in connection with Music Hall Burlesques. There are plenty of laughs in the new production, which is of the pantomimic order—not a word being spoken throughout the three scenes. The idea is a burlesque upon Tommy Atkins—the Tommy Atkins of the comic papers. The fun is kept going by an efficient company, and should be another "screamer."

South London Mail, Feb. 9, 1906.—"The Thirsty First" will bear favourable comparison with any of this "fun" merchant's previous efforts. . . . . For sheer merriment this production will long remain the funniest sketch seen on the variety stage.

Eastern Post, Feb. 17, 1906.—"Fred Karno's latest pantomimical production, "The Thirsty First," is really worth everybody going to see."

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EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Brown and Le Clerq, Bioscope, Wally Hoste Trio, Empire Comedy Four, Nina Gordon, Griff and Alpha, Ruby and Lawa, Paul Pelham, Elsie Hill and Co., The Marchanis.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Mark Melford and Co., Bioscope, Lilian Warren, Stelling Troupe, Playfair and Nikola, A Bo Kou, Pat Rafferty, Stidder and Dunbar, Robb Gilmour, Fancourt and Rubie.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Runaways," Bioscope, Ryan and Hall, The Picquays, W. H. Clemart, Royal Six, Driscoll, Beattie, and Co., Miss Foy, Frazer and Mac, Hetty King.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Burmese Gong," Bijou Russell, Trapnell Family, Virto and Daughters, Cole De Losse Duo, James Fawn, Morton and Elliott, Mattie Wilks, Two Bostons, Lukushima Troupe.

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Rehearsal at 2 for :—
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MR. ALBERT C. DUNCAN, See Page 2.

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MR. CHARLES A. EAST Disengaged March 18. Lead, Char., or S.-M. 17, Adie-road, The Grove, Hammersmith.

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MR. ASHTON PEARSE, Monks, in "Oliver Twist" (Mr. Tree's Co.), March 12, Lyceum Theatre, Newport.

MR. FRED PENLEY, Mr. Brownlow, in "Oliver Twist" (Mr. Howard's Co.), March 12, Theatre Royal, York.

MR. SANDON PERKINS, Business Manager, Address, 36, Emperor's Gate, S.W.

MR. and MRS. FRED W. PERMAIN (Miss Florence Le Clercq), Mr. Wheeler's Comedy Co., Cape Town, South Africa; or A.A.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY (Miss Gertrude Price), Mrs. Clement Scott's Co. Add., 10, Oberstein-road, London, S.W.

MR. THOMAS J. PHILLIPS, General Manager, Mr. Cyril Maude's "Beauty and the Barge" Co., dis. Aut. Camden Theatre, N.W.

MR. HARRY PHYDORA, March 19, Hippodrome, Maidstone. Perm., 88a Bedford-road, Clapham, London, S.W.

MR. WILLIAM PIMM, Character, Comedy, and Heavy Business. Dis. 89, St. Thomas's-rd., Victoria Park, London.

MR. FELIX PITT, Engaged by Andrew Melville, Esq. Dis. April 21. A. Theatre, Yarmouth.

MR. & MRS. DONALD PRICE-EVANS (Miss Marcella Hudson). "The Talk of the Town" Co. Alexandra Theatre, N.

MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE, Rehearsing, Vaudeville Theatre, London.

MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNOR, Business Manager for Mr. Bert Coote. Address all communications 150, Oxford-street, W.

MR. and MRS. SIDNEY RENNEF, S. R., Davy, "Sunday" Co., New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

MR. PERCY RHODES, On Tour as Paul Sylvaine in "Leah Kleschna." Address, 54, St. Maur-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON, Mr. Geo. Edwardes's "Lady Madcap" Co. Disengaged May 19. Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD, Weinstein and Stage Management, "What the Butler Saw." T. R., Nottingham.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD, Just concluded panto., T.R. Manchester. Lib. Spring. Add., 22, Osborne-terrace, Clapham-rd, S.W.

MR. WALTER ROBERTS, Rudolph Laski, "Passion's Power," March 12, Grand T., Walsall, Six Nights.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON, Cius Lucius, "Cymbeline," Queen's T., Disengaged Easter. 115, Grosvenor-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS. Address all communications, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. HARRY ROUSBY, Comedian, At Liberty Easter. Offers invited. Mar. 12, O. H., St. Helens, Six Nights.

MR. and MRS. R. ROYSTON-DENE, "His Birthday," original Playette, fully protected. March 12, Foresters' and Star.

MR. VERNON SANSBURY, Disengaged for Juvenile or Heavy Lead. 93, Barrow-road, Streatham Common, S.W.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT, Principal Comedy, "Great Awakening" Co. Theatre, Aston, Birmingham.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN, Tommy Keston, "The Freedom of Suzanne." March 12, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

MR. JULES SHAW, Court Theatre.

MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE and Miss ALICE ARDEN (Mrs. S.), 2, Joubert's-mansions, Jubilee-place, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. FRED SINCLAIR, Top of Bill, Palace, Derby.

MR. JAMES SKEA, Character Actor, E. Tearle's Co. Disengaged shortly. Grand Theatre, Stalybridge.

MR. GEO. M. SLATER, Manager and Producer. 39, Upper Gloucester-pl., Dorset-sq., London, N.W.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY, Manager for Mr. Robt. Courtneidge. Letters only. 47, Leinster-gardens, W.

MR. FRANK STANLEY, Acting-Manager, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. E. STANTON - SHARP, Baron Bonelli, in the "Eternal City," March 12, County Theatre, Kingston.

MR. GORDON STARKEY, Disengaged until July. 1, Mercatoria, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

MR. W. R. STAVELEY, "Little Father of the Wilderness," and "Mountain Climber," Theatre Royal, Newcastle.

MR. CHARLES STIRLING, Relinquishing engagement with Messrs. Dagmar and Somerfield. Re-en. by P. Howard Sturgess.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES R. STONE, Character, Comedy, &c. Offers invited, joint or separate. T. R., Rochdale.

MR. GEORGE STONE, Resident Manager (Twelfth Year), Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK, Disengaged Business or Stage Management. 180, New Kent-road, S.E.

MR. EDWARD SWINTON, Principal Character Comedian. Disengaged shortly. Address, c/o "The Era."

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS, Engaged by Chas. Frohman, KATE PARRY, Disengaged, Light Com., Juv., &c, T. R., Hanley.

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MR. TAPPING. Address, 28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. JAMES C. TAYLOR, As Benvolio in "Romeo and Juliet." Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER, Dis., Comedy, Char., Mus., Com., Drama, or Management. 51, Bridge-road, Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. E. W. THOMAS (Agnes Knights). At liberty. 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON, Light Comedy, Dudes. Disengaged. Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. CHARLES THORBURN, General-Manager, George Musgrove's "Prince of Pilsen" Co., Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.

MR. WALTER THORNTON Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's Co. Mar. 12, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

MR. ALFRED C. TOONE, Musical Director, "Lady Madcap." O. H., Northampton. Dis. April 30.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS, Disengaged. Conclusion of 12 weeks' successful pantomime. Add., 57, Bridge-av., Hammersmith.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL, "Breed of the Treshams." Dis. Easter. Theatre Royal, Worcester.

MR. A. W. TYRER as Harry Dallas, "Walls of Jericho" Co. March 12, Coronet Theatre.

MR. GEORGE UNWIN, The Scala Theatre, W.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE (Kate Hallam), General Manager and Lead. "Drama of Life" Co. T. R., West Stanley.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN Miss M LEWES, New Theatre, W.C. C. B. V. at Liberty March 10. 25, Kathleen-road, Clapham.

MR. FRED VAUGHAN, General Business-Manager, "Life of a Showman" Co.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON, "A Royal Divorce." New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR, Address, March 12, Pavilion Theatre, E.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS (Miss Lucy Beaumont). D. V., "Dr. Wake's Patient." Grand Theatre, Croydon.

MR. A. N. VINCE, Advance Manager, Engaged by F. Grans, Esq. 6, Ranelagh-gardens, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. A. E. WALKER, Mr. Vallerton, "Lucky Durham." This, Grand, Croydon; Next, Gaiety, Hastings.

MR. HARRY WALSH, Meakin, "The Orchid." Next, Court Theatre, Warrington.

MR. EDWIN WALTON. Address, Playgoers' Club, 6, Clement's Inn, W.C.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

MR. E. C. WARBURTON-GAMBLE, Disengaged till March 13. 93, Edith-road, West Kensington.

MR. ALBERT WARD, Star Lead. Disengaged shortly. 5, Marsden-street, Chesterfield.

MR. HYLTON WARDE, Messrs. Wheeler's South African Tour, "Beauty and the Barge." 17, Doris-road, Norwich.

MR. W. LEMMON WARDE, Disengaged. 47, Algiers-road, Ladywell, S.E.

MR. FRANK WEATHERSBY, Theatrical Agency, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, 'Phone, 3781 Cen. Tel., "Frivolous, London."

MR. WYN WEAVER thanks Mr. Peter Davey for re-engagement, Panto., also Mr. George Dance for offer Principal Comedy.

MR. CHARLES WEIR, At Liberty in a few weeks. 26, Wolverton-gardens, W.

MR. and MRS. ALFRED WELLESLEY (Miss Beatrice Webb), "Dr. Wake's Patient" Co. T. R., Belfast; 12th, Grand, Croydon.

MR. C. A. WHITE, Rutter, "Twixt Axe and Crown," Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. JACKSON WILCOX, Horatio Drake, "The Christian." March 12, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS Six Brothers Luck. Chelsea Palace.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS, Disengaged. Juvenile Lead. Disengaged. Burkelands, Carlisle-road, Hove, Brighton, or A.A.

MR. BREMBER WILLS, Norman and Norman Co. en route.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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PRUDENTIAL
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHIEF OFFICE:
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Summary of the Report Presented at the Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting, held on March 1, 1906.

ORDINARY BRANCH. — The number of Policies issued during the year was **75,293**, assuring the sum of **£7,211,427**, and producing a New Annual Premium Income of **£395,029**.

The Premiums received during the year were **£4,123,318**, being an increase of **£154,302** over the year 1904.

The Claims of the year amounted to **£1,812,618**. The number of Deaths was **7,437**, and **7,775** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **773,051**.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH. — The Premiums received during the year were **£6,139,050**, being an increase of **£159,715**.

The Claims of the year amounted to **£2,261,748**. The number of Deaths was **238,220**, and **3,344** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policyholders of five years' standing and upwards who desired to discontinue their payments was **123,586**, the number in force being **1,102,267**. The number of Free Policies which became Claims during the year was **24,698**.

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **16,065,268**; their average duration is eleven years.

The Assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance-Sheet, are **£59,464,376**, being an increase of **£4,104,871** over those of 1904.

The Staff Provident Fund, which was founded in 1898 for the benefit of the outdoor staff, shews a satisfactory increase for the year, the total amount standing to the credit of the Fund being **£148,941**.

Since the completion of the Valuation the Actuary has reported that in his opinion a general increase of *two-and-a-half per cent.* could, with safety, be granted under the principal Industrial Branch Tables if provision were made for an increase in the liability of **£750,000**. The Board have accordingly revised the Tables as from March 1, 1906, and have made provision to meet the increased liability by the transfer during the current year of **£750,000** from the Reserve Fund to the Life Assurance Fund in the Industrial Branch, leaving this Reserve Fund at **£1,000,000**. The Shareholders will be glad to know that this revision affects nearly Thirteen Million Policies; and of this number over Ten Million Policies receive an immediate increase in the sum assured.

GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET of the PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, being the Summary of both Branches, on Dec. 31, 1905.

LIABILITIES.

Shareholders' Capital	£1,000,000	0	0
Reserve Funds	2,700,000	0	0
Life Assurance Funds	55,633,131	14	10
Claims under Life Policies admitted	131,244	10	8
	£59,464,376	5	6

ASSETS.

British Government Securities	£3,352,182	13	9
Indian and Colonial Government Securities	5,292,114	14	2
Railway and other Debentures and Debenture Stocks, and Gold and Sterling Bonds	6,133,775	5	1
Loans on County Council, Municipal, and other Rates	13,819,468	10	2
Freehold Ground Rents and Scotch Feu Duties	3,860,399	6	4
Freehold and Leasehold Property	3,685,329	4	2
Mortgages on Property within the United Kingdom	7,609,760	5	7
Railway, Gas, and Water Stocks	7,581,357	0	4
Suez Canal Shares	164,883	9	4
Telegraph and other Shares	97,623	6	4
Metropolitan Consolidated Stock, and City of London Bonds	258,717	2	11
Bank of England Stock	200,559	18	6
Colonial and Foreign Corporation Stocks	1,419,012	13	6
Foreign Government Securities	1,294,215	0	7
Reversions and Life Interests	1,161,978	18	5
Loans on the Company's Policies	2,134,509	8	7
Rent Charges	297,298	2	4
Outstanding Premiums and Agents' Balances	425,667	19	2
Outstanding Interest and Rents	508,463	10	9
Cash—In hands of Superintendents	34,653	11	5
Do. —On Current Accounts, and in hand	132,406	4	1
	£59,464,376	5	6

FREDERICK SCHOOLING, *Actuary.* D. W. STABLE, *Secretary.*
THOS. C. DEWEY, *General Manager.*

We have examined the Cash transactions (receipts and payments) affecting the accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended Dec. 31, 1905, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on Dec. 31, 1905.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS, & CO., Chartered Accountants.

Feb. 14, 1906.

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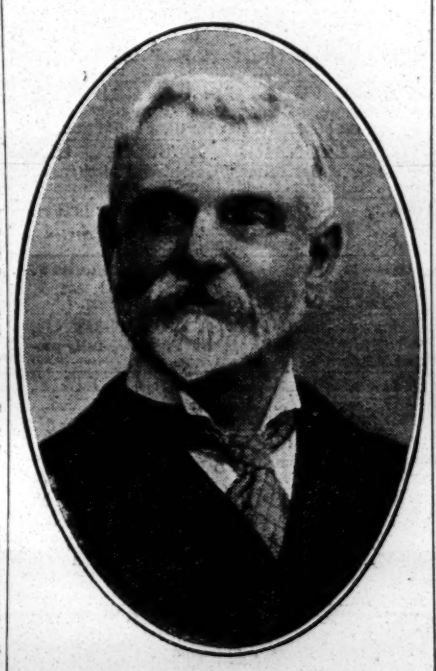

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS.

Palace Theatre, London, W.,
March 3, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,— Many thanks for the fine way you have cleaned my costumes. I have just returned from a South African engagement, and am sailing for America on Wednesday.

Must also thank you for doing them at such short notice.—Sincerely yours,
MAUDE COURTNEY,
"The American Girl in Song and Story."

Theatre Royal, Edinburgh,
March 7, 1906.

Mrs. Dick Winslow received the hat yesterday, and is delighted with the way it has been cleaned. It looks like new. She encloses two stamps for the extra postage, and will be sending some more things shortly.

'Phone, wire, or write to

T. HARRIS.

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AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KIMBERLEY, Feb. 5. — Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler have again been relieving the dullness of our evenings by the presentation of such ever-welcome favourites as *The Toreador*, *Three Little Maids*, and *The Country Girl*, all of which were most cordially received, though the business done was hardly such as the merits of the company—the Wheeler-Edwardes No. 2 Musical Comedy Company—deserved. Mr. Herbert Walton (nephew of Witty Watty Walton) is the principal comedian of this company, a position to which he is thoroughly entitled, his work throughout being of a high order. Though young in years, Mr. Walton has had a lengthy theatrical experience, and hard work, combined with his natural gifts as a comedian, have within the last year brought him to the front. Whether as Barry, Sammy Giggs, or Cupid, Mr. Walton was always at home, full of go from start to finish, and frequently bringing down the house with his fun and apt gagging. Mr. H. Lane Bayliff is also a comedian of considerable ability, his stage Johnny being irresistibly amusing, and as clever a piece of characterisation of that cult as one can conceive. In addition to enacting one of the principal rôles, Mr. Bayliff also undertakes—and most satisfactorily, too—the onerous duties of stage management. Mr. E. C. Carter acts and sings well, and is particularly good as Brian Molyneux in *Three Little Maids*. Mr. Sydney Mannering puts in excellent work as August Traill, De L'Orme, and Geoffrey Challoner, his singing never failing to elicit encores. Messrs. Theo. Leonard and Lucien Kesney also display much talent in their respective rôles; whilst minor parts are capably filled by Messrs. J. Needham and L. Slater. Among the ladies, the Misses SylviaMay, Ada Edney, Gertrude Parker, and Nellie Wilson form a charming quartette, their acting and vocalisation leaving nothing to be desired. Miss Parker was perhaps at her best as Susan in *The Toreador*, Miss Wilson making her biggest hit as Donna Teresa in the same piece. Miss Ada Thompson, too, deserves the greatest praise for her acting and singing, her rendering of "Under the Deodar," proving particularly pleasing. Miss Alice Rex is another clever artist of whom mention should not be omitted; whilst a small but efficient chorus deserve congratulation on their efforts. Mr. Harry Burton must also be complimented on the effective discharge of his onerous duties as musical director. The company, for which Mr. P. F. Thompson is business-manager, entrained on Sunday en route for Vryburg, Mafeking, Bulawayo, &c.

The D'Oyley Carte company open here on Tuesday with *The Mikado*, to be followed by *The Yeoman of the Guard* and *Iolanthe*.

KIMBERLEY, Feb. 12. — After altogether too long an interval, Kimberley has again been given an opportunity of renewing acquaintance with the delightful operas of Sullivan and Gilbert, the principal D'Oyly Carte Opera Company having commenced an all too brief season here on Tuesday last. The company opened with *The Mikado*, followed by *The Yeomen of the Guard*, both of which were played two nights, and *Iolanthe*, which drew a packed house. The performances throughout have been noteworthy by reason of their uniform excellence, the perfect vocal and histrionic interpretations of the respective operas, and the careful attention given to every detail of stage management, having won the highest encomiums from delighted and enthusiastic audiences. As regards the individual work in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, that of Mr. Fred Billington as Wilfred Shadbolt and Miss Jessie Rose as Phœbe Meryll was most conspicuous, their respective performances being in every way admirable, and impossible of improvement. Mr. C. H. Workman gave a thoroughly artistic interpretation to the rôle of Jack Point. The Elsie Maynard was Miss Nancie Freyne, who sang charmingly, though obviously handicapped by a cold. Mr. Pacie Ripple was a most satisfactory Colonel Fairfax, using his voice with the happiest results. Miss Theresa Rassam as Dame Carruthers, Mr. Albert Kavanagh as Sergeant Meryll, Mr. Blake Johnston as Leonard Meryll, and Mr. Leicester Tunks, were alike excellent in their respective parts; and the remainder of the cast was also in thoroughly capable hands. One of the most enjoyable features was the chorus-singing, though of course this was but a natural sequence with that old Savoyard, Mr. François Cellier, as musical director. Mr. Fred Leon should not, as stage-manager, be omitted from the general praise in respect to the success of the D'Oyly Carte Company.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Jan. 23.—Mr. Alfred Dampier is ordered, for his health's restoration, a long sea voyage, so he leaves shortly for England. The managers of the theatres and their companies arranged a testimonial entertainment on the 19th, when Mr. Williamson's Theatre—Her Majesty's—was filled with an enthusiastic audience. The artists appearing belonged to Mr. Williamson's Royal Comic Opera Company, Mr. Charles Holloway's Criterion Dramatic Company, Mr. William Anderson's Theatre Royal Dramatic Company, and Mr. Rickards' Vaudeville Company, from the Tivoli. A long and interesting bill was provided, and the audience was highly delighted. Mr Dampier's doctor forbade his being present, so Mr J. C. Williamson returned thanks for him in an excellent speech. An eloquent telegram from Mr. Bland Holt—now in Melbourne—was read, and loudly cheered.

Mr. Charles Holloway's latest production, *The Rogues of the Turf*, is still drawing crowded houses. The cast remains unchanged, and the capital acting of Mr. Charles Holloway, Mrs. Holloway (Miss Alice Deorwyn), and Miss Beatrice Holloway, stands out. But every member of the company is so loyal and industrious that not one dull moment obtains from the rise to fall of the curtain. Mr. Edwin Geach, under whose direction this Criterion season is being run, deserves the good luck which is attending his venture. *Shall We Forgive Her?* is to follow.

Mr. William Anderson's pantomime shows no decrease in attendance in the auditorium or interest in the performance. Early nights for suburbanites are arranged, as also special hours and performances for juveniles. This is a public that rewards being humoured and paternally catered for. *Sinbad the Sailor* will run for some time, and then be taken to New Zealand, the stage being occupied by a comic opera company, in a revival of *La Fille du Tambour Major*. For this production Miss Maud Amber, Miss Ivy Scott, and Mr. Winfield Blake are specially secured.

The Tivoli has a big bill, including the Jackson Family, Hill and Whittaker, the Eight English Primroses, Miss Florence Challis, the Cathedral Choristers, Post Mason, A. G. Spry, Olive Lenton, Maggie Ogilvie, May Dagmar, and Baby Watson. An excellent and amusing performance is that of Mr. Fred Graham and Miss Nellie Dent, in their screaming sketch, *Packing Up*. Mr. Percy Coward, male alto, having seceded from the Westminster Glee Singers, created quite a sensation by his wonderful voice and artistic singing.

Mr. Harry Rickards has engaged the Queen's Hall, to present his recently-secured Urbanora Bioscope. Miss Hilda Lane, the well-known soprano; Mr. Walter Keer, ventriloquist; Mr. Harry Rochefort, baritone; and Mr. Harry Hart, tenor, assist.

Messrs. Meynell and Gunn's *J.P.* company will return to the Palace on the 27th, headed by Miss Florence Lloyd and Mr. J. J. Dallas.

The Maney Water Chute, now owned by Mr. Lewis de Groen, has had attractive features added of late. The Gothams and the Georgia Coons, directed by the sable comedian, Charles Pope, appear every day and night.

Little Gulliver died at Dunedin, New Zealand, on Jan 11, from pneumonia. His private name was John Bromelow; and, as a dwarf who sang, danced, and acted far beyond the ordinary, he was a great attraction in every performance which included him. He is said to have been twenty-nine years of age: a pigmy in height, but strong, and marvellously active, he was very useful in pantomime. Visitors from the Old Country will remember his Cat in *Dick Whittington*.

SYDNEY, Jan. 30.—Her Majesty's (Mr. J. C. Williamson, Lessee and Manager; Mr. G. L. Goodman, Business-Manager). — *Veronique* was staged on the 27th with a refreshing brightness which captivated a crowded house.—Mr. W. R. Coleman was responsible for the exquisite scenery, and Mr. Spencer Barry for the production, of the dainty French opera. Miss Florence Young was Madame Agatha Coquenard, and her singing and acting were admirable. Miss Margaret Thomas made Helene de Solanges (*alias* Veronique) arch and winsome, and, whether singing alone or with Mr. Haigh Jackson, the petite contralto was delightfully tuneful. Miss Clara Clifton as the Countess, with her rich voice and ripe humour, added to the value of the performance. A crisp performance was that of Miss Connie Milne, who sang and spoke with enjoyably clear enunciation. This young lady made the garter-matching episode as little objectionable as possible. Mr. George Lauri had an appropriate rôle as Mons, Coquenard, no point being missed. Mr. Haigh Jackson sang daintily and in exquisite taste the music allotted to Florestan de Valiancourt; and Mr. W. S. Percy made a prominent figure of Seraphin, the groom. A ripe and unctuous Mons. Loustot was Mr. C. R. Bantock, laughter-compelling and never vulgar. Miss Kattie Potter gave a quaint portraiture of old Aunt Benoit.

Criterion (Frank Musgrove, Lessee; under Direction of Edwin Geach).—Mr. Charles Holloway began the last week of his season with *Shall We Forgive Her?* The revival was quite up to Mr. Holloway's original production of this play. Miss Mabel Russell made quite a success with her strong acting as Johanna. Miss Beatrice Holloway was a bright, winsome Nellie West. Mr. Robert Inman's parson was artistic and correct. Mr. H. O. Willard returned to Sydney to enact one James Stapleton; and Mr. Godfrey Cass achieved another success as Oliver West. The play will run up to and on Feb. 1, and next night Mr. Holloway's season will close with *Two Little Vagabonds*, in which Miss Beatrice Holloway will again be Dick.

Palace Theatre (Mr. Edwin Geach, Lessee).—Messrs. Clyde Meynell and John Gunn and their Strand Theatre comedy company came here for a two weeks' season. *The J.P.* was revived, with Miss Florence Lloyd and Mr. J. J. Dallas in their old favourite parts. Mr. Barnes is business-manager, and all goes merrily and profitably.

The Tivoli (Mr. Harry Rickards, Sole Proprietor and Manager).—On Saturday Mr. Harry Rickards opened the budget of new songs which he brought from England. His welcome was hearty enough, and his songs, "Give my regards to Leicester-square," "The best, best world," and "'Arf a pint of ale," went with the old-time vim and energy. Urquhart Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters introduced an enthusiastically cheered turn. Miss Florence Lorrimer sang "Listening" most acceptably.

Theatre Royal (Mr. J. C. Williamson, Lessee; Mr. William Anderson, Sub-Lessee and Manager; Mr. Julius Grant, Business-Manager).—The second edition of *Sinbad the Sailor* finds Miss Marie Campbell and Miss Celia Mavis singing new songs, and new items are introduced, freshening up the pantomime.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Actors' Association held their usual weekly meeting on Tuesday, there being present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), J. Cooke Beresford, A. E. Drinkwater, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. Henry W. Mote being in attendance, certain legal notes were considered and settled. It was agreed that in future the meetings of this committee should be held on Saturday mornings, at 11.30, and that at the next meeting Miss Vera Leslie's scheme as to subscriptions, etc., should be considered. A project submitted by Mr. Llewellyn E. Eykyn, in connection with the working of the agency, was considered, and it was agreed that at present it was impracticable, and the secretary was directed to file the papers for future reference.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday last, there being present Messrs. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Blake Adams, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, C. Hayden Coffin, F. Cremlin, A. E. George, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Quinton McPherson, and Spencer Trevor; and Mesdames Kate Phillips and Saba Raleigh, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The committees dealing with questions affecting copyright in photographs, payment for rehearsals, and other matters were amalgamated with the "Special" Committee, and Messrs. Clarence Blakiston, C. Hayden Coffin, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, M. R. Morand, C. Aubrey Smith, and Mrs. Cecil Raleigh were elected as members of that Committee. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. The secretary reported the result of the arbitration recently held. Dr. F. H. Kyngdon, of Cargate Lodge, Aldershot, was elected as an hon. medical officer, and the address of Dr. O'Connor, late of Aldershot, was altered to Queen's House, St. James's-court, Buckingham Gate, S.W.

The following nominations for election to the Association were made:—Ursula Geoghegan, Beatrice Egerton, Harry Averell, and Henry W. H. Reade, and a former member was proposed for reinstatement. The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members. A case referred to arbitration was withdrawn, the claimant having abandoned her claim. The committee appointed to carry out the details in connection with the amateur billiard handicap in aid of the Actors' Orphanage Fund reported that the handicap was concluded, and resulted in a net profit of £108 6s. 2d., which amount had been handed to the treasurer of the fund. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs Thurston and to the committee (Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford and Thalberg Corbett).

AMUSEMENTS IN GLASGOW.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson opened here on Monday for a season of the "legitimate," their first production being *Much Ado About Nothing*. Mr. and Mrs. Benson repeated their well-known renderings of the parts of Benedick and Beatrice, and Miss Tita Brand gave a clever performance as Hero. Mr. Cyril Keightley made a handsome Claudio, and Mr. Clarence Derwent acted well as Don Pedro. As the scheming Don John Mr. George Buchanan played his part capably, ably supported by Mr. Philip Sanders as Borachio. Mr. B. A. Pittar as Leonato and Mr. Reginald Davis as Antonio contributed two clever studies of old men. Two particularly good performances were the Balthazar of Miss May Melley (with songs) and the Boy of Miss Leah Hanman. Mr. George R. Weir gave with stolid unconsciousness the humorous sallies of Dogberry. For the remainder of the week, *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, and *Julius Cæsar* formed the programme.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—The three weeks' season of the Carl Rosa Opera Company commenced auspiciously on Monday last, when a splendid all-round performance of *Tannhäuser* was given before a large and very appreciative audience. Herr Julius Walther appeared in the title-rôle, and sang and acted throughout with conspicuous success, and for the part of Elizabeth another accomplished Wagnerian artist is found in Miss Hanna Mara, her rendering of the part being well up to the best traditions of the company. For the character of Wolfran Mr. Charles Victor is in all respects eminently suited, and as the Landgrave the voice and bearing of Mr. Arthur Winckworth are again all that could be wished. Miss Grace Nicoll is a valuable addition to the company, her performance as Venus being of outstanding merit; as the Shepherd Boy Miss Ina Hill sang with great taste. The parts of the Knights, Biterolf, Reinmar, Walther, and Schrieber, were well filled by Messrs. Frank Arthur, C. Brierley, Edward Wynn, and Albert Felton respectively. Mr. Eugene Grossens was conductor, and received a hearty call at the close of the performance. During the week *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, and *Bohemian Girl* were performed; and to-day (Saturday) Beethoven's *Fidelio*, which has not been played in Glasgow since 1877, is being revived.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdock.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here with a finely-mounted drama, called *The Woman Who Gambles*, in which the title-rôle, Countess Steinbach, is sustained by Miss Ada Roscoe, who acts with intense dramatic power. Miss Jessie Darrington gives a pleasing representation of Cora Gouldhart, Miss Florrie Hall is effective as Mlle. Zila Zeyelda, and Miss Brenda May is good as Zanette. The part of the villainous Baron is forcibly played by Mr. Horatio Sinclair, and Mr. Charles Calvert introduces much amusing comedy into the rôle of the Hon. Bertie Bray. A fine character is that of the hero, Count Steinbach, strongly depicted by Mr. Edward E. Ashley, and that of his friend Lieut. Karl is well rendered by Mr. Fred L. Lawrence. Mr. Fred Price scores as Count Von Hoomboog. Mr. Waldon's benefit on the 2nd inst. was marked by a big audience. Among the extra attractions was the "Man you know." Mr. W. F. Frame, who had a warm reception, and gave one or two of his inimitable impersonations. The pantomime came to an end on Saturday evening after a run of twelve weeks.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's powerful company are paying a return visit with the drama, *Two Little Drummer Boys*. The rôle of the hero, Captain Carsdale, is admirably suited to Mr. William Vane, and Miss Violet Langley acts with much earnestness in the part of Alma Kingsley. As Eric and Jack, the two Drummer Boys, Miss May Smart and Miss Eva Norman sustain their respective parts with credit. Mr. Andrew Money displays sound ability as the unscrupulous villain, Captain Darrell, and the exacting rôle of Margaret Rivers is cleverly undertaken by Miss Ruby Handley. Mr. H. Imbert causes much merriment as Quincy O'Quirke, as also does Mr. Horace Custins as Timothy Trimmer. Miss Edie Maclin is very amusing as Molly Meadows.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*Uncle Tom's Cabin* is being played here by Mr. Charles Harrington's company, which includes Mr. J. Carr as Uncle Tom, Mr. J. H. Rogers as Legree, Miss Ethel Mildmay as Cassy, Miss Hettie Johnston as Eliza Harris, and Miss Annie Watson as Topsy. Some excellent singing is introduced by the coloured choristers.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—A capital programme is presented this week, Brown and Le Clercqs topping the bill in *Black Justice*, the two comedians having a very hearty reception; Margaret Ruby and Ernest Laws are seen to advantage in a smart sketch, entitled *Cora's Visitors*, in which the latter performer makes some clever quick changes; Griff is as clever with hoops as ever, his very smart patter being an enjoyable feature, and he has a dexterous assistant in Alpha; Paul Pelham is a first-rate comedian, and is a favourite to boot; at the piano, Miss Nina Gordon is very successful in a series of imitations, which please greatly, notably Harry Lauder's "I Love a Lassie"; the Empire Comedy Four well sustain their reputation in a selection of serious and grotesque harmonies and suitable business; Elsie Hill and company, in *Fanny's Flat*, delight in a sketch of some merit, which they perform with much nerve and vivacity; the Marchanis are very pleasing in folk songs and operatic airs, and add a nice touch of variety to the programme; juggling and comedy are suitably mingled by the Wally Host Trio; and the Bioscope is popular still.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mark Melford provides the chief turn this week with his humorous sketch entitled *Black and White*. He is assisted by a company of capable artists, and the sketch proved highly successful. The Stelling troupe give an amusing act entitled *Fun at the Masquerade Ball*, and work in some clever horizontal-bar business. Playfair and Nikola do some marvellous tricks with paper, and their paper pictures are really artistic. Stidder and Dunbar are another clever pair, their musical items being very well received. Fancourt and Ruble give an amusing comedy-act entitled *Out of Barracks*. Other good items are presented by Robb Gilmore, comedian; A-Bo-Kon, juggler; Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian; and Lilian Warren, with her illustrated songs.

Pavilion, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Bessie Featherstone, fresh from her pantomime triumphs at the Royal, is a prime favourite, and sings numerous songs. Theo Hardeen, the handcuff king, still mystifies the audience by his dexterity at escaping from all sorts of fetters. Nat Clifford as a comedian and dancer proves a great success. Baroni and Kemp contribute a wonderfully smart quick-change turn. Bayne and Hope in their Napoleon scena act well and are heartily appreciated. Hallam and Stanton give a clever musical sketch *A Broken Journey*. The programme concludes with a smart playlet in three scenes, entitled *The Phonograph Girl*, presented by George Leyton's company, which includes many favourites from the recent pantomimes, headed by Miss Ida Gladstone, Mr. Frank A. Wood, Miss Florence Lelgardo, &c.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan.—Variety and merit are the outstanding features of this week's programme. Charles Magilton's company in *The Runaways*, by Fred Locke, give an elaborate comedy sketch. It is full of fun and quaint situations, and proves very successful. Regan and Hall are a couple of clever acrobatic comedians, the audience thoroughly enjoying their efforts. "The Royal Six," clever lady cyclists and singers, are very successful. Driscoll and Beattie present an amusing sketch with their usual cleverness. W. H. Clemart, ventriloquist, is also another smart performer. Hetty King male impersonator, sings some rollicking songs, and the reception given must have been very gratifying to the performer. The Picquays give a wonderful display of head and hand balancing, some of their tricks being decidedly new. Frazer and Mac, comedy artists, and Miss Foy, a smart dancer, complete a most enjoyable performance.

Palace.—Proprietors and Managers, Rich. Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—The place of honour here this week is allotted to Lawrence Barclay, comedian, who made a welcome appearance on Monday night. The Sisters Hall, comediennes, also make a good impression. Other notable turns include Alma Gray, Australian dancing girl; Lily Flexmore, attractive dancer; Casselli and James, banjoists; Ross and Taylor and Miss Elvio, comedy artists; Tom E. Hughes, character comedian; Sherlock and Van Dalle, sketch artists; Mulvey and Miriam, in a musical duologue; Rastus and Banks, American entertainers; and the Animatograph with a series of up-to-date pictures.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. M. Armstrong.—This hall opened under auspicious conditions on Saturday, when a well-diversified programme was submitted, and various artists from the pantomimes lent their friendly aid. On Monday the regular bill included many excellent turns, notably Martin Conway, always a favourite here; Kitty Marrion, a clever and handsome serio; Two Whites, a very smart American duo; Hughes in *Codology*; T. C. Jacques, Geo. Westland, Denby and Dent, Marco, the Moxon Family, and Wright and Elton. In addition a boxing display is given by Jabez White. Under the new management this comfortable hall looks like resuming its proper place in the long list of Glasgow amusements.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAVON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. D. Jones; Manager, Mr. J. Corlass.—Mr. Fred Kirke's musical comedy company is delighting the patrons of this theatre this week with a repertoire, including *The Naval Detective*, *Our Sailor Lad*, and *In Old Madrid*. A very capable company includes Mr. Kirke as a breezy representative of the sea. An exceptionally smart dancer is found in Mr. Mark Practice, Mr. Harold Wallace is an excellent villain, and the comedy of the piece is well sustained by Miss Edith Clarris. The American sisters, Gladys and Elsie Allen, appear in a series of varied turns.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—Mr. George Dance's company is appearing this week in *The Duchess of Dantzic*, which proves highly popular. Miss May Glen makes an admirable appearance in the title-rôle, and the part of Marshal Lefebvre is powerfully played by Mr. L. T. Griffiths. Napoleon and Papillon are capably represented by Mr. Gilbert Yorke and Mr. Arthur Paterson, and Miss Buena Kent sings very tastefully as Lisette.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The most sensational turn this week, which is called "Whirling the Whirl" is contributed by Mr. Tom Davies and his assistant, whose daring cycling feats are followed with breathless interest. The Stack and Milton Trio are highly successful with their "comedy flying act," and Mr. Harris L. Bell and Miss Lily Pearl cleverly present a humorous sketch, *A Bit of String*. Mr. J. H. Millburn is cordially welcome as usual, and Johnny Holland and company again make a hit with their comedy sketch *The Millionaire*. The Llewellyns are operatic artists of marked ability, Miss Edna Payne is a dashing male impersonator, and Mr. Leon Rolfe a smart ventriloquist, while the Bransbys show themselves to be versatile comedians, and Mr. E. W. Selman is applauded for his quaint patter and capital dancing.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. A. Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. George W. Ventom.—Miss Winifred Maude is paying a welcome return visit with *The Sins of a City*. The piece is admirably played, especially noticeable being the performances of Miss Maude as Seaweed and Norah, and Mr. Victor H. Cane as Isaac Levi. The humorous element is well sustained by Miss Amy Coralie. On Thursday and Friday *The Stowaway* was played.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—This week Mr. Walter Reynolds and company present *Mr. Smith*. The title-rôle is in the capable hands of Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, whose resonant voice and restrained acting add a charm to his impersonation; Mr. Russell Norrie submits a powerful delineation of the Earl of Oxted; Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway is a finished actor; Mr. H. Carter Bligh gives a pleasing reading of Jack Berkeley; Mr. T. Darvell is highly amusing as Herr Deidrich Anheuser. The ability of Miss Elisbeth Dudgeon as the Duchess calls for more than ordinary comment; Lady Mary finds a charming representative in Miss Rosamond Rokeby; Miss Daisy England may be complimented on her natural performance of Mrs. Smith; Miss Fife Alexander makes a good impression in the part of Ruth Anheuser.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—At the above hall a pleasing bill was presented on Monday. Haley's Prize Juveniles call for special comment, their carnival scene being very good; Rappo, a wonderful gymnast, is ably assisted by Mlle. Ella; Jake Euston is a smart dancer; Hess and Lisbon submit a clever grotesque speciality; a word of praise should be given Sydney Garden and Lulu Zesch for their sketch; Charlie Williams is well received, and Gerald Mount is a clever mimic.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*The Life of a Showman*—an interesting novelty drama—is being presented by Mr. Geo. Testo Sante's company. Mr. Sante himself takes a prominent part in the performance, and is assisted by a capable company, whose efforts are highly appreciated throughout. Mr. Logan Darra is capital as Marais, Mr. Edward Warden's Arliss is good, and Messrs Frank Sante, J. Sante, and Charles Osborne are indispensable in their parts. Misses Enid Trench, Amy McNeill, May Warden, and May Neilson are seen to advantage in their respective rôles.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—A drama of the domestic and sensational order, entitled *The Village Blacksmith*, is being presented here this week. The company is a very capable one. Mr. Sam Livesey plays the part of the blacksmith with fine dramatic fervour and discrimination; the villain of Mr. Jos. Carter is of the audacious and callously cruel kind, and he is vigorously hissed by the audience; Miss Laura Hansen, as the blacksmith's wife, is sympathetic and tearful; Miss Cassie Edwards plays the part of a betrayed woman excellently. Capital impersonations of female characters are also given by Miss E. Giddens and Mrs. T. C. Livesey, and the child of Strong, the blacksmith, is a precociously clever piece of acting by little Bertha Hanbury.

THE EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The artists in this week's list include Little Tina, the dainty juvenile vocalist; the Ringlings, American eccentrics; Mabel La Blanche, ballad vocalist; Witty Wattie Walton, an old favourite; the Four Juggling Geraldos; the Falcons, novel strong act, *The Benches in the Park*; Dot Stanley, with characteristic ditties; the Canadian statuesque comedienne, Vera Mayne; and Lachie Thompson's top-weights, Tom and Neil, in boxing, wrestling, and club swinging.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Mr. Frank Bateman's convict drama, *Sentenced for Life*, is this week being presented here by a good all-round company, under the direction of Mr. Bulmer. An excellent exposition of the hero, Lieut. Roy Stillwell, is given by Mr. T. Arthur Ellis; a fine interpretation of the Rev. Martin Orris comes from Mr. T. C. Glenville; Miss Gladys Hawthorne is sympathetic and forcible as Lady Stillwell; and comedy finds able exponents in Mr. Arthur Keand and Mr. Reg. Oldroyd as Bill Sharkley and Toby respectively.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—This week's programme is provided by the following: C. Wordley Hulse and company in an exciting dramatic sketch, *The Fight in the Forge*; Mr. Frank Boyce, an excellent character comedian; the Two Rubies, clever and refined comediennes; Mr. Ben Harris and his Nippers in a sporting speciality *A Promising Pupil*; a pleasing selection of pictures by the Palace Claytograph; Mr. Frank Bertram and company in *The Chaperon*, and the Three Henres, jugglers.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company have paid this town a return visit with *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Brough is excellent in his impersonation of the Frenchman, Le Baron de Longueville. In his artistic hands the character becomes the outstanding one in the piece. Mr. Henry Hampton's Dick Whortles, and Mr. Percy Marshall's Joseph Carbury are particularly well-played parts; the same may be said of the Dorothy Whortles of Miss Moyra Creegan and the Matilda Carbury of Miss Dorcas Corsbie; while as Millie Grace Miss Emlyn Ormonde gives a delightful rendering, and Mr. Harold M. McNay as the prize fighter, Toby Krockitt, is exceedingly quaint and funny. For the remaining three nights of the week the Leopolds in *New Frivolity* will occupy the theatre.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe's Répertoire Company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday with *Lady Godiva*. Miss Josephine Colona imparted to the title-rôle the full charm of her personality, and she was ably supported by Mr. James Duncan, a dignified Leofric, and Mr. Alfred B. Adams, a capable Elgar; Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Tom of Coventry had a part for which he was in every way suited; and Mr. Clifford Marle gave a careful portrayal of Edgar the Nameless; Mr. Ernest Hamilton as Unwolf Unwolfson made the most of that character. Miss Gwen Stewart enacts the part of Lady Aldyth with success. The lighter scenes of the drama are safely entrusted to Mr. Dan F. Roe as Robin Shacklebolt, and Miss Edith Loraine as Elfrida. *Jane Shore* was billed for Friday evening.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean Company is here, and opened with *The Taming of the Shrew*. Petruchio of Mr. Henry Herbert was in every way a fine performance, and Mr. Bernard Limpus was a pleasing Lucentio, while Mr. Gerald Ames was a noteworthy Hortensio; the Traino and Biondello of Messrs. James Armand and Alfred A. Harris were bright and virile impersonations; Miss Kate Turner made a winsome Bianca, and Miss Dorothy Green was a spirited and interesting Katherine. Other plays billed are *As You Like it*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *Merchant of Venice*.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in the drama *Honour Thy Father* is here this week. Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Gabriel Garth makes a manly hero, and plays the part in a clever manner; Mr. Douglas B. Watson represents Captain Jack Halyard with much feeling; Mr. Clavering Craig gives a capital rendering of Duncan Bly; Miss Winnie Donovan as Mercy Merry and Miss Mabel Coleman as Lillian Garth display some clever acting, and are well received.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Austin and Cowan are the top of the bill here this week, and their fine voices are heard to great advantage; Sandford and Lyons, comedians, are successful; the Alaskarno Trio, tumblers and Risley artists, give a good show; the Two Dixons are expert dancers and banjoists; Harry Tomlinson sings in good style, Irene Rose is a charming comedienne, and Mr. H. B. Almon gives a novel hand-balancing act.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The popular musical play *Three Little Maids* is again occupying the boards here, the presentment on this occasion being entrusted to Mr. Chas. Macdona's well-balanced company. Mr. W. Stevenson has a difficult task in following his predecessor in the part of Lord Cheyne, but comes through the ordeal with flying colours. Mr. Wilfred Heath, the fortunate possessor of a rich, full baritone voice, makes an excellent M. de L'Orme. Mr. Edward Drake gets plenty of fun out of Cupid the Caddy, his nimble dancing, in conjunction with Miss Laura Wright in her old sketch of the Dutch maid Gretchen, bringing down the house. The trio of maids have bright and engaging representatives in Miss Vera Vallis, Miss Cora Lingard, and Miss Edith Collev, who quickly win their way into the good graces of the audience. Lady St. Mallory is sustained in attractive style by Miss Kate G. Beck, whose three protégés are successfully impersonated by the Misses Grace Hardy, G. Bruce, and Mabel Sarl. Two gentlemen who deserve cordial praise are Mr. Garnet Wilson (Brian Molyneaux) and Mr. Chas. Leverton (Rev. Branscombe).

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Scuthbert.—There are several good things in this week's bill. As pedestal and Risley acrobats the Dayton Family do many new and extremely difficult feats in a finished manner. It is a pleasure to again welcome Addie Dorina in her quick-change duologue *How It was Done*. Helen Charles gives a delightful drawing-room act, the Society Quartette shine individually and collectively in some energetic dancing, George Newburn mimics "stars" with life-like effect, his efforts winning him much favour, Johnny Walker is an eccentric comedian, and Fifi Gordon, comedienne and dancer, is well received. On Wednesday the Bath Cycling Club gave their patronage to do honour to Mr. Macnaghten for the assistance he always extends to the local charities during the winter.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—Miss Annie Bell is starring here in *Sapho*, and her Fanny le Grande is a powerful and thoroughly capable performance. Mr. Pringle Roberts plays Jean Gausin admirably—he is thoroughly in sympathy with his part. Messrs. Chas. M. Daly and Francis Serle give satisfactory rendering of their respective parts.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Charles Price's company in the pantomimical farce *The Shop Boy*. Mr. Harry Pleon is an excellent Sarsaparella Smith; Mr. Jack McKenzie also helps to keep up the fun of the piece as Mrs. Septimus Green. Mr. Paul Belmore is a successful Frank Counter-jumper, and Mr. Claud Aymond capably sustains the part of Victor Victorine; Miss Bessie Rignold scores in the rôle of Denise Victorine, Miss Celia Kent is an exceedingly lively Blighted Biride and an expert dancer; Messrs. White and Jerome afford good entertainment with their comedy singing, and the Alexander Troupe of Lady Dancers execute some graceful dances. The piece is preceded by a sensational episode entitled *The Club Raid*, in which Mr. Paul Belmore, Mr. Jack McKenzie, and Mr. Chas. Gladwell are seen to considerable advantage.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company opened here on Monday with the successful comedy *Dr. Wake's Patient*. A decidedly clever impersonation of Dr. Wake was submitted by Mr. Douglas Vigors; it would indeed be difficult to excel Miss Olive Terry's delightful interpretation of Lady Gerania; her charming acting won all hearts. Mr. Arthur Willoughby was all that could possibly be desired as the Earl of St. Olbyn; and one of the best impersonations was that of Duff Wynterden by Mr. Herbert Ross; Mr. Alfred Wellesley must be congratulated on his unqualified success in the rôle of Andrew Wake. Miss Amy Fanchette was good as Mrs. Wake; and Mr. Alfred Phillips was a realistic Bishop of Selby; Miss Ina Pelly was admirable as the Countess of St. Olbyn; and other rôles were capitally presented by Miss Beatrice Webb, Miss Amy Townsend, Miss Dorothy Gordon, and Messrs. H. P. Owen, Cecil Yapp, M. Wilson, H. Martin, and Thos. Pegg.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—The chief attraction here is the grand pantomime entitled *Little Dick Whittington*. Miss Crissie Leonard was a delightful Dick Whittington, and Mr. Kennedy Allen was admirable as Idle Jack. Miss May Davis was a charming Alice Fitzwarren; and Mr. Linslie Burton was capital as Eliza the Cook. Mr. Tom Gilmore as Thomas the Cat was excellent, and the cast was completed by Messrs. W. Alfreton and Wm. Clark. Mr. Billy Tucker, described as the "champion ball puncher," upholds his reputation; and the Tokio Troupe of Japanese artists amaze with their startling and daring performance; Miss Alice Hollander, operatic comedy artist, is well received; and also appearing are Mr. Sam Redfern, "the Black Philosopher"; Cyclumina, introduced with great effect by Mr. Hubert Adams; Mr. Will Van Allen (tramp musician), Mr. Richardson Taylor (mimic), and the Palace pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—O'Gust, the Continental mimic, heads the bill, and his imitations have been enthusiastically received; Mr. Bert Woodward's extraordinary bicycle act is well received; and Miss Olive Marston is a charming comedienne; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, comedy artists, introduce their well-trained mule; and Mr. Chas. Russell, a clever comedian, appears to advantage in his original vocal scena *The Bravest of the Brave*; the Three Missouris are smart acrobats; and much praise is due to Seeley and West, the droll comedians; Mr. Walter Stanley, comedian, is certainly funny; and the talented duo Mezzetti and Mora in their unique gymnastic performance complete the programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Dean Tribune Trio head the bill, and present with unqualified success their amusing sketch entitled *Applicants*; a big hit has been made by Mr. Charles Diamond, harpist, and the clever saxophone soloist Miss Beatrice; Mr. Robert Gilbert's troupe of dogs and cats execute some extraordinary feats; and the original Wallys, comedy jugglers, gain nightly a good reception; the Bros. Zampah, one-legged equilibrists and dancers, furnish a capital performance; and the Alhambra Bioscope is warmly welcomed. Also appearing are Minnie Mace (comedienne and dancer), Nash and Noel (comedians and dancers), and Mr. Tom Yorke (comedian).

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley have brought their company to present *A Sister's Sin*. A very competent hero is seen in Mr. William Vane as Harold Raymond; and excellent work is done by Mrs. Kimberley (Miss Lottie Addison) in the rôle of Minnie Hastings; Miss Augustus Tullock does well as the gipsy Charzel; and Miss Violet Langley is effective as the gipsy Redempta; Miss Elsie May in the character of Jack is well placed; Mr. Kimberley is brimful of humour as Larry Murphy; and the Misses Edie Macklin and Alice Granville create fun as the rival lovers.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—A really perfect representation of the musical play *A Country Girl*, by Mr. George Dance's principal company, has naturally been enthusiastically greeted by large and fashionable audiences. The production is well costumed and staged. The Geoffrey Calloner of Mr. J. Warren Forester is in every respect a praiseworthy performance. Mr. J. Rooney gives a capital rendering of the Rajah of Bhong, and Sir Joseph Verity is amusingly impersonated by Mr. Arthur Jackson. As Nan, Miss Masie Gay plays with great piquancy, Miss Nancy Rossiter is fascinating and effective as Marjory, and Miss Daisy Davies, as the Princess Melanah, enacts the part with a finish and thoroughness, both vocally and histrionically, which are much admired. Much of the success is due to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. Jack Crichton, who, as Barry, invests the character with an irresistible fund of humour, and in conjunction with Miss Addie Leonard, the excellent Madame Sophie, scores heavily.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. George Gilbey, the popular comedian, than whom there are few greater favourites at this hall, is on a welcome return visit. Miss Florrie Gallimore, a talented and charming comedienne, is again here, and meets with her usual big reception, and Verno and Voyce, the versatile vocalists and sketch artists, are also reappearing with their usual distinction. The Brothers Hannaway, resourceful comedians and dancers, are also a leading feature, and Miss Josie Delaine (comedienne), Mr. Andy Higginson (comedian), Miss Edie Rivers (a pleasing serio), and an up-to-date display by the bioscope complete the programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The last nights of *Aladdin* are now announced, and on Monday next Mr. Philip Rodway, who has been testimonialised by the Press, and is admired by the public, takes a well-deserved benefit in his capacity of acting-manager. On Friday last week the medical students visited the pantomime in high spirits and gorgeous raiment, and Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like some of these. Miss Ada Reeve dispensed medals for the best costumes, while the medicos assembled at her back made a fine stage picture in their brave dresses, making presents to the artists in return.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Cinderella* vanishes to-night (Saturday) after a most successful eleven weeks' run, on which management and artists can look back with wholesome pride. Miss Lelia Roze's benefit on Friday last week evoked an enthusiastic and also substantial response, Miss Ada Reeve and others rallying to her support, while Miss Roze, in her new venture *A Dressing-room Dream*, approved herself an actress and an impersonator of rare merit, scoring an indubitably big hit. Mr. Mark Sheridan took his benefit last night (Friday), when the witty and subtle *farceur* would certainly get a bumper.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* reaches its final performance on Saturday next, when it will have attained a tremendously successful run of three months duration. All available seats have been booked for this final performance, a "last night" at the Alexandra being regarded as a festival, and is attended as such. On Tuesday last Mr. Collingwood gave a charity matinée, for which Miss Lelia Roze, Harry Tate, Mark Sheridan, Harrison Brockbank, Regan and Ryan, Tom Foy, Florence and Lillian, and the Anartos appeared in addition to the pantomime. On Wednesday the members of the Rocket Club attended in their customary full force, and bestowed presents and favours on all and sundry of the artists.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*The Trumpet Call* completes a very successful stock season, in which several reputations have been made or added to. Mr. Felix Pitt has done monumental service, and this week his striking aptitude and utility is proven in the rôle of Sergeant-Major Milligan; Mr. Fredk. Sandy gives a polished study of the villain, Richard Featherstone; Mr. Ernest Witham shows to special advantage as the hero, Cuthbert Cuthbertson; Miss Frances Ruttledge acts with fine pathos as the heroine, Constance; Miss Florence Nelson displays dramatic genius as Astrea, and the Misses Doris Lorraine and Polly Hughes deserve commendation for their clever acting as Mary and little Cuthbert respectively. Mr. Andrew Emm, as Professor Ginnifer, is highly popular for his droll acting, in which he is supported by Mr. Alic Macmillan, Miss Edie Martin, and Miss E. Marrable.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*In Holy* (?) *Russia* is the title of the week's fare, which shows Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company to advantage. As Sir Henry Beresford, Mr. Frank Copeland makes a powerful and successful appeal; Mr. Louis Norman looks and acts the part of the villain, Michael Natolski, to the utmost degree of satisfaction; Miss Beatrice Western endows the vindictive Catska Lavotski with a fine voice and presence; and Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy as Renee Rubinoff is charming. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy provides true Irish comedy as Micky Nolan, and Mr. Arthur Stratton as Colonel Forrest, Mr. Tom G. Warry as Petrolski, Mr. Carl Rovinelli as Steragoff, Mr. Jno. Chesterfield as Overitch, Mr. J. Cuthbertson as the Chief, Miss Alice Marsden as Madame Natolski, and Miss Alicia Stratton as Mrs. Forest do well.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Power of the Cross* is drawing crowded houses nightly, the capable company being under Mr. Lingford Carson's banner. The Baron Woulfe Curzola, an old Hungarian legendary character, is played with excellent dramatic effect by Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby; Mr. Fred W. Goddard cleverly enacts the rôle of Gerald Fairfax; Mr. Horace Denton as Dr. Leslie Fairfax is manly and convincing; Miss Cissie St. Elma is successful as Rita Lascelles, and Miss Lilian Ross capably fills the heroine's rôle.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The electrical display presented by Volta is the big attraction this week, the coloured Meisters are more popular than ever, their well-harmonised glees being loudly applauded, Kitts and Windrum have an excellent musical sketch (*The Cuckoo*), Cardow's Cadets are highly entertaining, Elsie Roby in her slavcys' "At Home" wins applause, a smart gymnastic act is given by Lydia and Albino, Kelly and Ashby are clever billiardists, and Edie Veno (comedienne) and Charles Lilburn come in for a large share of applause.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The diversified and well-arranged programme this week is headed by Tom Foy, who scores as the Yorkshire lad, Florence and Lilian are responsible for a really clever musical entertainment, a clever acrobatic act is given by the Mahomed Ben Mahomed troupe of Arabs, the Two Anartos, Harry Bedford, and Morris and Morris are all amusing comedians, Charles Johnson is smart at the "cake-walk," the Sisters Wingrove (duettists and dancers) have had a hearty welcome, and Martine and Son render their illustrated songs with effect.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—John Tiller is presenting a bright rollicking extravaganza, *Red Riding Hood*, which goes with a swing all through. Miss May Terry (title-rôle) and Miss Bessie Cohen (principal boy) play with spirit and artistic finish, while the Poppy Quartette and Excelsior Troupe of children added largely to the success of the entertainment. The comedians provide many opportunities for laughter, Gus Garrick is more humorous than ever, Frances Letty and Dorothy Gould contribute their songs in their happiest manner, and Edney and Wade are refined vocalists and dancers.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The Brothers Leslie are making a big impression here with their musical eccentricities, the Arthur Lloyd Trio are seen in a comedy playlet *Little Charlie*, Frank Rose and Overy Calvert add to the mirth of the audience, the Hans Hansen Trio of acrobats are decidedly smart, Harry Drew renders his songs with effect, the Princess Pauline is a dainty comedienne, Ted Cowan is a popular comedian, and the bioscope depicts the replayed Cup-tie football match.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Fred Granville's drama *For Better or Worse*. Mr. Edwin Clive undertakes the rôle of Captain Frank Hilliard in a manly and spirited fashion; Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh is exceedingly good as Ned Earnshaw; the villainous character of Major Gerald Crawshaw is well played by Mr. Ellis J. Preston; Mr. H. C. Lovell does well as Lieut. Hector Dalrymple, and Mr. Edward W. Cudd as David Heathcote is seen to advantage. Miss Chrissie Dunbar is effective as Olive Heathcote; Miss Annie Lovell is attractive as Dollie Delaney, as is also Miss Leslie Cudd as Aunt Gertrude; Miss Amy Vennimore as the unscrupulous Belle Baverstock makes her mark. Humorous power is shown by Mr. Willie Black as Horatio P. Rantor and Miss Eva Reed as Melinda Lovell.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—That evergreen drama *The Silver King* is being played at this house by Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company, and judging by the audiences on the opening nights the play's popularity is still assured. The company is a fully efficient one, including as it does Miss Daisy Scudamore (a niece of the well-known playwright), who plays Nellie Denver with a sweetness and pathos which go to the hearts of her audience. Mr. Herbert Ford as Wilfred Denver gives a fine portrayal of the tribulations and the heroism of the Silver King; Mr. George's Jaikes is as full of vitality as ever, despite the fact that the number of times he has appeared in the character runs far into the thousands; as the Spider, Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is all that is required; while the part of Elijah Coombe is in the very capable hands of Mr. Arthur Wright. Mr. E. A. Palmer, Mr. Byron Pedley, Mr. Eric Store, and Miss Amy Wood all deserve special mention for good work in their resepctive parts, while Miss Amy Manfree and Master Jack Evan as Cissie and Jack Denver act very prettily.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company are here in *The Still Alarm*. There are some old favourites in the cast, including Miss Hettie Zillwood as Carrie Wilbur, Mr. Fred Osmond as Doc Wilbur, Mr. M. H. Glenville as Jack Manley, and Mr. Cecil Du Gue as John Bird. A special word should be said for the staging of the piece, the fire-station scene being especially good.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The management are providing their numerous patrons with excellent entertainment this week. A big success has been scored by the Brothers Huxter, acrobats and tumblers of a very high order; the performance of Mr. Ed. E. Ford, "the Australian sundowner," whose facial contortions are extremely amusing, is marked by a continuous roar of laughter; Miss Adeline Yohle, a charming soprano vocalist, quickly establishes herself a first favourite; and Marba and Verity, humorists and acrobatic dancers, who are old visitors to the Palace, repeat former successes; Ivan Tschernoff is responsible for a clever and interesting animal turn, his exhibition including performing ponies, dogs, and pigeons, which gave numerous evidences of careful training; Jimmy Shields, a one-legged dancer, and Kathleen Gray, comedienne, contribute to the general success of the entertainment, which, as usual, is brought to a close by an exhibition of living pictures by Raymond's biograph.

EXCHANGE HALL.—Lessee, Mr. W. Kenyon.—The New Century Animated Pictures are fulfilling a week's engagement at this hall, and crowded houses are the rule. The programme includes the latest pictures of the Royal visit to India, opening of Parliament by the King, and a good selection of comic and other films.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Ian Maclaren Shakespearean and Classical Repertoire Company has possession here this week. *Hamlet* was the piéce de resistance on Monday, with Mr. Maclaren as the Prince, on which part he brought to bear considerable histrionic ability. Mr. B. Iden Payne did well as Polonius, and Mr. Francois Cellier, jun., was not bad as Laertes. *David Garrick* was cordially received on Tuesday, with Mr. Maclaren, of course, in the title-rôle. The *Merchant of Venice* was given on Wednesday, when Miss F. Glossop Harris very successfully played Portia. *The Corsican Brothers*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Three Musketeers* have also had a place in the bill.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Monsieur Beaucaire*, carefully enacted by Mr. Norman Macowan and company, is the attraction here. In the title-rôle Mr. Macowan has a part to which he is admirably suited, and he acquits himself with the utmost credit. Mr. Murray Halthorn contributes a careful portrayal of the Duke of Winterset, and Mr. Arthur Somers ably assumes the part of Major Molyneux. Miss Marguerite Cellier as Lady Mary Carlisle is likewise very successful, and wins the warmest encomiums. Mr. P. Ramsay Forman as Captain Badger, Mr. Leonard Laurence as Bean Nash, Miss Annie Windsor as Lucy Rellerton, Miss C. Howard Medley as Lady Rellerton, and Miss S. Izzard as the Countess of Greenbury also deserve credit for careful work.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—G. W. Hunter heads the bill here this week; Oliver Conroy, Downes and Langford, Edwards and Espinosa, Lizzie Kirk, Harry Morris, the Olive Trio, Will Onda's combination in *Motor Maniacs*, Frank Leon, Happy Tom Parker, and Vernon's Bioscope complete the list.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert E. Wilson.—Mr. F. H. Neville's company is here this week with the historical drama *A Queen's Vengeance*. Mr. R. Grasswell gives a good rendering of Henry II., and Mrs. Walter Bentley makes a bold Queen Eleanor. Mr. F. H. Neville submits a capital performance of Sir Rupert Warriner, Miss Nelson Ramsey is very sympathetic as Mistress Clifford, and Miss Mildred Monteath is a pleasing Janet. Mr. Gifforde Reynolds is good as Gilbert Ormonde. Bibeau, the Court fool, is in the capable hands of Mr. Ulick Burke. The bioscope between the acts adds interest to the performance.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietor, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Ball.—The programme this week is a popular one. Mr. Claude Ginnett's equestrian sketch, *Rejected Mounts*, heads the bill, and proves a great attraction; Mahatma completely mystifies the audience by her extraordinary powers of second sight, Miss Edith Sylvester is a clever contortionist, Miss Flo Schuberth (burlesque actress) and Wal Robbins (a black and white comedy instrumentalist) are well received, Joe Mack is a popular comedian and dancer, the Four Olympian Stars are exceptionally good vocalists and dancers, and Ruffel's Imperial Bioscope shews some interesting pictures.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Louis Calvert's clever company in *The Duffer*, under the direction of Mr. William Giffard, received a hearty reception here on Monday. Mr. E. H. Wynne, in the title-rôle, gave a capital study of the part, Mr. F. Pennington-Gush was easy and natural as Charles Chester, and Mr. Whitford Kane as Paul Martin. Miss Margaret Montrose as Lady Amelia, and Miss Mabel Taylor as Miss Hillier were clever.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The regular dramatic season was commenced on Monday evening by Mr. Charles Macdona's company with the bright farcical comedy *Are You a Mason?* It is a return visit, and the piece was heartily welcomed by a large audience. Mr. E. H. Paterson elicited much laughter by his capital impersonation of Amos Bloodgood, and he has able support from Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as Frank Perry. Mr. Allan is very funny as George Fisher. Amongst the ladies of the smart company Miss Adelaide Grace earns distinction for her excellent acting as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood, and Miss Mabel Younge is charming as Mrs. Perry. *A Bad Penny* is the curtain-raiser, in which Mr. E. H. Paterson in a clever character sketch is well supported by Mr. Percy Bell, Mr. H. L. Tracy, Mr. O. Smith, and Miss Mabel Jowett.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Dick Whittington* is still running with undiminished success, although the end of its career is in sight. Benefits are the order. On last Tuesday evening the charming principal girl, Miss Edith Ager, appealed to her numerous friends, when Mr. Fred Kitchen, the comedian from the Fred Karno's Company, lent valuable aid for the occasion.

THE EMPIRE (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Laughter reigns supreme here this week, and for this Fred Karno's company are mainly responsible with *Moses and Son*. Mr. Fred Kitchen, who takes the part of Perkins, is simply irresistible, and he has fine support from the numerous gentlemen of the clever company, and from a bevy of charming ladies. Miss Godwynne Earle, the principal girl of the Royal pantomime, scores heavily in capital songs; the Hardinis, a quartette of accomplished violinists, contribute an excellent musical turn; Helene and Emilow are very expert and graceful in a performance on the trapeze; Chris. Richards, "the man with the hat," is wonderfully smart, and an exceedingly funny comedian; the Rohda Bros. are a couple of muscular gymnasts, who introduce many novel features into their performance; Viviana, the charming dancer, is the very essence of grace, and those clever aquatic performers, James and Marie Finney, are again giving their turn in the tank with all their accustomed grace and success.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—There is an attractive programme here this week, Alfred Cyclo heading it with some clever trick riding on the bicycle; Tiny Arnold, a di

applause on Mr. Carpenter mentioning several well-known names, and he was loudly cheered on leaving the stage. On Monday evening there was a large attendance, when *The Price of Her Soul* was staged. The play is mounted in a very satisfactory manner, both scenery and dresses being on a liberal scale, and Messrs. John B. Shinton and Alexander Greenwood's company is a competent one. Mr. John B. Shinton acts well as Lord Rolf Mandeville, V.C.; Mr. Annesley Hele displays power as Major Ivan Skoboloff; and both Miss Mona Gray and Miss Ida M. Ryder give excellent performances of their respective parts of Olga Lanovitz and Countess Ines Steinmitz. The comic parts are successfully taken by Mr. Will Percy, Mr. Maurice de Sage, Mr. Edwin Coates, Miss Tina Frank, and Miss Ada Arnott; and the remaining characters are all in very able hands.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Musical Johnstons present a pleasing and refined musical entertainment, being described as "America's Foremost Xlyophone Artists." Keen and Waller are smart and amusing acrobatic comedians; Leah Arden is a capable ballad vocalist; the Donovans are pleasing vocalists; Kitty Glover and company score in their sketch, *Mistaken Identity*; Fred Laud, eccentric comedian, obtains applause; Hughes and Elliott are expert sand dancers; and Billie Burford (a lady) is a pleasing comedienne with some entertaining songs. "Quarter Day," by the Barrascope, concludes the entertainment. Mr. Frank Weston, the manager here, takes a well-deserved benefit on Friday evening, special attractions being announced.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Moran and Marreece Quartette head the programme with a good musical turn, with electric effects, and a lightning transformation of both costumes and scenery. The Brothers Kroney are smart in their eccentric contortionist act, *London's Lazy Coalmen*, the stage setting being also exceptionally good; the Deer Family have an interesting and well-mounted sketch, *Indians of the Past*; Boyd and Gilfain please with a diverting operetta; La Danseuse (a clever juvenile dancer) has a pretty act, *Noel; or, A Child's Christmas Story*; Mansona does some capable juggling; Bliss and Bliss amuse as eccentric comedians; Blake and Granby obtain applause for their comedy duologue, *The Man in Possession*; and the performance concludes with "The Train Wreckers," projected by Vernon's Bioscope.

BROMLEY. — Lyric Theatre. — Lessee, Mr. A. Carlton; Manager, Mr. H. Strong.—On Friday, March 2, Mr. Rutland Barrington gave a very successful humorous musical and dramatic recital, including the "Vicar's Song" from *The Sorcerer*, and also some of his own composing, notably "The Silent Way," a musical sketch, entitled *The Two Troubadours*, and a recitation written by himself and set to music—"At the Ball." Miss Robertson Grimston charmingly rendered "Orpheus with his lute," "My heart's at your feet," and "Under the Deodar." The concluding item was a musical duologue, written by Mr. Barrington and composed by Mr. Frederick Rosse, entitled *The Turncoats*, which was smartly played by Mr. Barrington and Miss Robertson Grimston. Mr. Harold Grimston presided at the piano, and during the evening executed two artistic pianoforte solos.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria, Limited.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in the American drama *At Cripple Creek*, by Hal Reid, provided a capital entertainment for a large audience here on Monday. Joe Mayfield is a type of manly miner who has earned the nickname of "Parson," and Mr. Hilliard Cox ably sustains the character. Miss Vera Fordyce as Dynamite Ann shows histrionic ability, Mr. Will Hook as Reggie Harwood and Miss Ella Dixon as Maggie Mason work well in the comedy business, Mr. Walter Thornton as Martin Mason and Mr. C. Douglas Carlyle as Manuel Alvarez are well placed, and Mr. Albert Rogers is funny as the nigger Ben White.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Mr. William Mollison and company are here playing *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, a charming Scotch love story. Mr. William Mollison is accorded a hearty reception for his clever portrayal of Lachlan Campbell, Mr. Allen Thompson makes a delightfully jovial William Maclure, and Mr. Durward Lely is excellent as the Rev. John Carmichael. Lord Hay is in the able hands of Mr. A. Chappell, and Mr. F. M. Paget is a typical Earl of Kilspindie. Mr. Alec F. Thompson as Wee Posty is highly praiseworthy, and Mr. Kendal Chalmers is very good as Tammas Mitchell, Miss Evelyn McNay is a charming Flora Campbell Miss Josephine Woodward is quite a Scotchwoman as Margaret Howe, Miss Edith Blair-Staples is admirable as Annie, and Miss Alice Francis is a prepossessing Kate Carnegie. The two children Geordie and Jeannie are capitally rendered by Miss Martha Stewart and Miss Jeannie Fitzgerald respectively. The play is beautifully mounted, and is preceded by *A Happy Pair*, in which Miss Alice Francis and Mr. Durward Lely are at home.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. Jas. E. Culeen.—Popular audiences here are paying much attention to Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *A Modern Adventuress*.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Bernar heads the bill here this week with his performing marionettes, and is highly appreciated; George Reeves is quite as funny as ever, the Clavers are much applauded for their smart juggling, and the Sisters Cora are an acceptable pair of dancers. Dent and Harris give a funny sketch, *Mary and the Squire*, Frances Drew is a charming comedienne, and Edna, the whistling girl, is a good turn. Mona McDonald, comedienne, sings well, and the Urbanora pictures are of unusual excellence.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — New Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, with *The Sin of Her Childhood*, occupies the boards this week. A most pathetic picture of the heroine is given by Miss Mary Fulton, an emotional actress of exceptional ability; the drunken vindictive stepmother, vividly portrayed by Miss Jenny Douglas Hicks, creates a feeling of abhorrence in the audience; Mr. Charles Fancourt assumes the rôle of Anglican priest, a character for which he is eminently suited; the villain is played with dramatic power and intensity by Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes; a soldierly figure is that of Mr. Fred Lloyd, who is a distinct success as Captain Thornton; the Irish humour of Mr. Hugh Brady (Barney) and his vivacious sweetheart (Eliza Muggins) affords relief to the tension of the drama, while Little Dot Moss, an extremely clever little lady, soon sings and dances herself into favour. Little Edyth does well in her dual rôle of Little Mary and Eric Dugdale.

BURY (Lancs).—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*The Face at the Window* is being played here this week by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company. Chief parts are well played by Mr. E. Hogan Armadale, Mr. T. W. Dunscombe, Mr. Geo. Phythian, Mr. G. Hall, and Miss N. Thorn Hallam.

Circus of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Zarmah heads the bill, and goes through a remarkable performance with lions, bears, and boarhounds. The Bouncing Dillons (gymnasts), Scottish Waifs and Strays in a sketch, Forest and King (comedy dancers), Harry Varden (ventriloquist), A. P. Boswell (comedian), and Nellie Shannon (vocalist) are also in the bill.

The Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good programme includes Horace Sade (dancer), Chas. Baldwin's comedians in *The Bank Clerks*, Knockabout Arleys, Grapho and Jackson (comedians), Bert Kemp (impersonator), Alice Townend (vocalist), and Clifford and Gibson (eccentric comedians).

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—Athenæum Hall.—Manager, Mr. E. Arnold Crack.—Mr. Albert Chevalier has been here for one night, meeting with an enthusiastic reception from a house filled to overflowing. Mr. Chevalier's inimitable impersonations are, of course, the chief attraction, but he is supported by artistes of high capability.

CAMBRIDGE. — New Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—On Monday Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened here with a return visit of *Floradora*. Mr. T. Albert Bruno is funny as Anthony Tweedlepunch; Frank Abercoed is well played by Mr. Henry Crosland; Miss Gladys Elvey, though suffering from cold, looks and acts the part of Dolores to perfection; Miss Florence Hersee makes a winsome Angela Gilfain; the Lady Holywood of Miss Kate Leicester is excellent; and Mr. Harry Perry fills the part of Captain Arthur Donegal ably.

CARDIFF.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Wm. Greet's principal London company returns this week with *The Earl and the Girl*. The cast includes the same artists as on the previous visit, and crowded audiences have been the rule nightly. Mr. William Stephens in the part of Jim Cheese gives one of the funniest delineations possible; as Dick Walgrave Mr. Percy Carr is another conspicuous success; Miss Aimée Grey gives a captivating portrayal of Elphin Haye, and scores in her well-rendered songs; Miss Florence Imeson depicts Daisy Fallowfield very charmingly; Mr. Will Hindson's performance of the American solicitor is exceptionally smart; Mr. Percy Wright distinguishes himself in the rôle of the Hon. Crewe Boodle, and Miss Dot Carey displays talent as Liza Shoddham. Other notable contributions are given by Mr. Geo. H. Curzon as Bunker Bliss, Miss Gladys Fontaine as Mrs. Black, Miss Helen Langton as Virginia Bliss, and Mr. J. Graves as Mr. Talk; while the large and well-costumed chorus are in no small way responsible for the phenomenal success of the piece, which is under the able general management of Mr. Geo. Highland.

King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—*The Power of Gold* occupies the boards here, being presented by Mr. Frank Ayrton's No. 1 Company. The hero, Paul Jutson, is interpreted by Mr. Tom Ronald in a very effective manner; Miss Georgina V. France undertaking the arduous task of the heroine Meg. Miss Lilla Wilde portrays Lady Brandon in a particularly clever manner; Mr. Charles Whitlock makes a great success of the character of Madji Zambra; and Mr. Frank Ayrton as Sammy Smudge and Miss Madge Seymour as Norah Donnelly are responsible for some capital and wholesome comedy.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The Russian Giant Machnow is causing a sensation and drawing packed houses by his huge proportions. The clever and humorous Artois Bros. in their smart performance on the triple-bar put in a welcome appearance; Walter Munroe goes down with his well-rendered songs; Jordon and Harvey are excruciatingly amusing in their Jewish impersonations; and the Bros. Warshaw prove a very entertaining couple of musicians; Chas. J. Butler and John Josey as the Two Cavaliers in jest and song; Louie Counsell and Oscar Mills, in *On the Stage*; The Delevines, in a new and original comedy sketch; and the Three Renards, in an aerial strong act, appear with much success; while the Bioscope with very attractive pictures completes a more than usually good programme.

CARLISLE.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, Trustees of Mr. R. S. M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—Mr. Fred Benton's powerful and interesting drama *A Life's Story* is this week presented to Carlisle playgoers for the first time by a strong and well-balanced company under the direction of the author and Mrs. Fred Benton. Mr. Charles E. Linney as the hero, Captain Jack Temple, R.N., makes an ideal sailor, and contributes an impressive and satisfactory performance. The polished villainy of Count Bergen is admirably depicted by Mr. Max Coutts, an incisive and clever actor, who gets full effect out of the many dramatic scenes in which he appears. He is ably supported by Miss A. Harrison-Tate, whose Zeika is a meritorious performance; Mr. Fred Benton, always a favourite here, has a part in Tom Berry, the detective, that exactly suits his robust and humorous style; and Mr. Seymour Perry and Miss Ruby Hamilton Belasco have excellent comedy parts which are smartly played, and each contributed songs which were favourably received. Mr. A. L. Baron in the dual part of Frank and Max Clifford shows considerable versatility and resource.

Algie's Hippodrome. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—Topping the bill here this week are those clever foot equilibrists the Three Sisters Anderson, and the reception accorded them is of the most flattering description. The Four Aces in a refined comedy acrobatic performance score a great success; Miss Alexandra gives a clever and graceful performance on the wire, and is much appreciated; the musical act submitted by the Royal Zerbinis is one of the prettiest and most brilliant ever seen here; Lade Henderson is the possessor of a fine baritone voice, which he uses with great effect in a couple of songs; Sam Shipley is a funny comedian, and scores immediately; Rabbit, the clown, is still here, and as funny as ever. Payne's Bio-photoscope, with new films, complete a most interesting entertainment.

CASTLEFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman.—Mr. J. A. Campbell opened on Monday night with his company in *The Little Bread Winner*. A capital sketch of Lord William Dorrington is given by Mr. J. A. Campbell; Richard Lawrence is well interpreted by Mr. David Gordon; Mr. Scott Leighton is a painstaking actor, and makes a real success of Joseph Prior; Mr. Allen Charles is responsible for much hilarity in the character of Charles Prior; as Margaret Daventry Miss Maud Hastings plays with grace and feeling; Miss Jenny Bostock makes the most of her opportunities as Bridget O'Flanaghan; a word of praise is due to Miss Emmie Thomas for her remarkably clever and telling portrayal of Meg, the little bread winner; an excellent Kate Cherry is seen in Miss Maud Buchanan; while Ruth Cherry finds a capable exponent in Miss Emmie Litchfield; Miss Lissa Young plays in a painstaking manner as Bobby Trott.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Messrs. Murray King and Clarke's company in *Bluebell in Fairyland* is charming patrons here this week. The little heroine is impersonated by a very clever young actress in Miss Gladys Cooper, whose performance is daintily graceful throughout; Mr. Lawrence Emery acts pleasantly as Dicky; Mr. Shirley Lea as the Stout Policeman and the Reigning King in the dream is excellent; Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart as the Footmen, afterwards Blib and Blob, get through a great amount of comic business in fine style, and Mr. Stanley Crisp is very funny as the wonderful cat. Peter. Miss Muriel Juin doubles the parts of the Queen and the Water Lily, singing with much success "My Irish Molly" and "Glow-worm"; Miss Annie Blanchard dances very daintily as Autumn Leaf; and Miss Rubie Carter as Will o' the Wisp is a perfect little exponent of terpsichorean art; Miss Connie Emerald and Miss Marie Edmonds act prettily as Bluebell's sisters; Miss May Casson sings charmingly as the Thrush; and Mr. Percy Farimond, as the Singing Collier, uses his remarkable voice with effect. Other parts are well sustained by Mr. David Cruickshank (the Merchant), Mr. Fred F. Allen (the Sleepy King), Mr. Edgar Pleon (the Yellow Dwarf), and Master Harry Pleon.

CHESTERFIELD.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company provides the attraction here with *Life's Sweetest Sins*. The chief female rôle is forcibly delineated by that gifted actress, Miss Marie Daventry, who is ably supported by the other members of the company. The piece is well staged, and the scenic effects are exceptionally good.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Mr. William Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl* is here this week. The company, under the courteous management of Mr. Francis Hawley, is an exceptionally fine one, and the staging exceptionally good. Mr. Alfred Donohoe sustains the character of Jim Cheese with much humour; Mr. Leslie Gaze as Dick Wargrave, is well placed; Mr Thomas Kennard is good as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; and Mr. A. E. Wilson as A. Bunker Bliss, Mr. Percy Bronson as Downham, and Mr. Sam Lysons as Mr. Talk are capital in their respective rôles; Mr. Greville Hayes successfully undertakes the part of Mr. Hazel; Miss Hylda Dugdale gives a charming rendering of Elphin Haye; Miss Ida Shatham, vivaciously presents the part of Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Minnie Plumpton is effective as Miss Virginia Bliss; and Miss Lina Hicks (Lizzie Shoddam) and Miss Beatrice Anderson (Mrs. Shimmering Black) render adequate service.

CLYDEBANK.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Carlo.—The attraction here this week is the Elster Grinie Grand Opera Company. On Monday *Maritana* was presented to a good house. Mr. Payne Clark, vocally, was a decided success as Don Cæsar de Bazan; Mr. Michael Kemble did good work as Don Jose; the title-rôle was in the safe hands of Miss Marie Elster, who did every justice to the part, her numbers being especially well rendered; Mr. Gilbert King gave a dignified impersonation of the King; Miss Edmee De Dreux was well placed as Lazarillo; and other parts worthy of mention are Mr. Tom Patridge as the Captain, Miss M. Quilliam as Marchioness, Mr. H. Murphy as Marquis, and Mr. C. Cook as Alcade. *The Bohemian Girl, Faust, The Lily of Killarney*, and *La Fille de Madame Angot* are also billed.

COATBRIDGE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—The boards are this week occupied by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *Her Wedding Day*, and a large audience welcomed the artists on the opening night. Mr. Percy Brown as Harold Saxby is excellent in a difficult rôle; Mr. S. Herbert Humber is prominent with a clever portrayal of Weedon Kenyon, and Mr. T. Edward Ward is both forceful and convincing as Seth Mayson; Miss Ward brilliantly sustains the part of Madge Conway; Miss Eva Bertram is good as Dora; Miss Beatrice Sinclair is praiseworthy as Dolly Klink, and Mrs. Caccles receives careful attention at the hands of Miss Ettie Spalding.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. John A. Thompson's *Aladdin* company opened, before a good house, on Monday night, and the feature of the pantomime was the high-class varieties introduced in the second act. They included among others, Abex, reputed to be the strongest youth living; the Verona Troupe of acrobatic dancers; Dale and D'Argan grotesque tumblers and contortionists; Chas. Wood, an exceedingly clever quick change artist; Ernest Douri, a pleasing siffleur; and the Sisters Isabelle, specialty artists. As Aladdin, Miss Beatrice Varley was unquestionably a big success; and Mr. Albert Williams made a most becoming Widow Twankey; Mr. Ernest Douri was an extremely agile Vizier; while the wickedness of the scheming old uncle was well depicted by Mr. Chas. Wood.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week in the romantic play, *A Heart's Desire*. Mr. Arthur Hinton is an excellent Lord St. Ives, and as Luke Forrest Mr. Travis Green is really good. Eric May is well played by Mr. Gerald Byrne. Miss Florence Zillwood is a capable Hon. Elsie Beresford; as Gwendolin Rose Miss Lydia Andre gives entire satisfaction; as Olga Miss Leila Zillwood is the recipient of well-deserved applause. On Wednesday and Friday night *The Sorrows of Satan* was played.

CORK.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—An excellent turn is provided here by the Akimoto Troupe of Japanese Equilibrists. Cul Pitt introduces some smart sleight-of-hand tricks, and is a good quick-change artist; the Five "M.P.'s" are musicians of ability; the Three Schaffers perform some remarkable feats of strength; George Prince is a first-class comic singer; Molly Doon sings her songs with much taste; Daisy Almer sings and dances capitally; and Alf Mayall is a comedian of ability.

COVENTRY.—Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—One of the most successful turns on the programme presented this week is Arthur Rigby, whose songs are capitally rendered; J. E. Coyle, another comedian, is likewise successful; Kahn and Kahn, described as modern necromancers, give some exceptionally clever and well-thought-out tricks; Dunning is a skilful ventriloquist; the Sisters Chester prove to be excellent singers and dancers; John Fossett's miniature circus, includes dogs, donkeys, &c., who give some very clever tricks; George Collins is a comedian whose capabilities are beyond doubt; Harry and May Kent cause amusement in a comedy act; the Hippodrome pictures conclude the performance.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in the always popular play *East Lynne* is meeting with success this week. Mr. Alfred Beaumont makes a most effective Archibald Carlyle; Miss Julie Kennard gives a sweet and pathetic rendering of Lady Isobel; Miss Violet Dunn does full justice to the part of Barbara Hare; and Miss Ethel Hardacre and Miss A. Byron are both successful as Cornelia Carlyle and Bryce respectively; Mr. Eric Mayne is to be commended for an admirable rendering of Francis Leveson; Mr. Geo. Jarvis wins full credit as the wronged son of Justice Hare.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—We have a welcome return visit of Messrs. E. E. Knight and George Denham's company this week with *The Grip of Iron*. Mr. Fred Powell is in his favourite rôle of Jagon, alias Simmonet, the Strangler, a part which, after his 5,000 times of performance, seems to have become almost second nature to him. Miss Mildred Cottell takes the rôle of Cora Simmonet, and plays it with grace and feeling. Mr. Harry Scott has a difficult part as Paul Blanchard, and Miss Nellie Fletcher is very good as Sophie Blanchard, his sister. Miss Hilda Baynton gives a pleasing rendition of Marie Guerin, whose father, Captain Guerin, is ably portrayed by Mr. Charles Mackay. Mr. Leonard Howe as Robert de Belfort deserves special mention, as also do Mr. John Brittain and Mr. Harry Agar Lyons, who as Dodot and Alphonse de Concow cause much amusement by their quarrels. Mr. Richard Ferris has the heavy part in Lorentz de Ribas, and it suits him capitally. Mr. George Child is a dignified M. de Beaudin, and Mr. Geo. Denham is particularly well suited as Lonstalot, the Smiler.

CREWE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in Hall Caine's play, *The Christian*, opened here on Monday for three nights. The part of John Storm is in the capable hands of Mr. Alfred Goddard, who does full justice to it. Mr. Harry Colbeck gives a dignified portrayal of Father Lamplugh, and Mr. Colin Johnston is well suited as Archdeacon Wealthy. Mr. Percy Twyman proves himself an able exponent in the rôle of Lord Robert Ure, and Mr. Duncan Yarrow as Horatio Drake contributes a good representation. Mr. Anthony Rawles as the Faro King, Mr. Jack Hames as Mr. Lorimer, and Mr. Charles Stafford as Brother Paul successfully sustain their alloted parts. Miss Laura Walker is both graceful and clever as Glory Quayle, whose varied moods are faithfully rendered. Miss Violet Vivian displays ability as Mrs. Callander, and Miss Florence Radcliffe as Polly acquits herself well. Miss L. Kingston, Miss Phyllis Leslie, and Miss Eileen Barry as Netty, Betty, and Letty respectively deserve notice. Mr. W. H. Kirby's company in *Somebody's Sweetheart* is billed for the remainder of the week.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh are presenting Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham*, here this week. Mr. Edmund Kennedy gives point to the character of John Durham; Mr. Benson North submits a genuine performance as Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Arthur Leigh is quite in his element as the Hon. Reginald Steighton; Mr. A. E. Walker makes a suitable Mr. Vallerton; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid gives a smart sketch of Ben Verstein; Mr. John Hartt is excellent as Tasker; Messrs. Sydney Bancroft and Charles Phipps put in good work as Mr. Mintborough and Mr. Lubenham; and Messrs. George Lake (Jarvis), Bert Gunter (Little), and Eric Wynne (Paddon) deserve praise. Miss Gertrude Robins gives an artistic performance in the rôle of Helen Vallerton; Miss Frances Wolviston is commendable as Lady Mountfallon; Miss Florence Dulhunty merits congratulations as the Hon. Margaret Steighton; Miss Louise Gourlay is a womanly Mrs. Durham; and Miss Kate North is adequate as Miss Premore.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—*Mysteries of London* is the draw at the Royal this week. Mr. F. Morgan gives a consistent performance as Victor Levigne; Mr. F. Stone appears to advantage in the dual rôles of Sam Conway and Phillip Conway; Mr. C. A. East is invaluable as Bill Rawson; Mr. Joe Monkhouse is invigorating as Dick Coppem; Mr. Harvey White makes capital out of the part of Robert Best; and Mr. J. E. Manning is good as Franz Muller. Miss Ida Phillips gives a faithful portrayal of Lena North; Miss May Seton is well placed as Liza Stumps; and Miss Marie de Roos skilfully enacts the character of Sybil Grey. Minor parts are neatly played by Mr. H. Scott and Miss Nell Gillmore.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—The attraction this week is Mr. George Dance's company in *The Cingalee*. Miss Cecile Beresford is charming as Nanoya; Mr. Walter Champney an amusing Chambuddy Ram, is ably supported by Miss Katie Yates; Mr. Hugh Webb, as Boobhamba, is capital, and his rendering of his topical song causes him to be recalled; and Mr. Courteney Comber, as the tea planter, plays well. Miss Mona Grey, as Lady Vereker, is graceful; Miss Florrie Treseder as Angy Loftus, is excellent; Mr. W. Bosco, as Sir Peter Loftus, gives a clever impersonation; and Mr. Arthur Foote, as Bobby Warren, is to be congratulated.

DARWEN. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robinson. — Delighted audiences are witnessing the performances of *The Girl from Japan*. Miss Dorothy Glenton gives a charming impersonation of Violet; Miss Mabel Kerridge undertakes Polly Perkins in a capable manner; and Miss Jeannie Holmes does well as Lady Flippington. Miss Josephine Ellis is a dancer of exceptional ability; Mr. Percy Baverstock makes a capital old General Baugh; Mr. Ernest Spalding sustains the rôle of the Rev. John Smith in good style; Mr. W. H. Moore is capable as Horatio Binks.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—The Milton Rays' Company in *A Hot Night* were to occupy the boards this week, but owing to the illness of Mr. Milton that engagement fell through. Mr. George Kirk and Miss May Neil's company are consequently producing Charles Darrell's play, *Her Luck in London*. The romantic and at times pathetic adventures of Nellie Harborne, the Belle of Meadowfield, impersonated by Miss May Neil, were closely followed by Monday night's audience, and the performance has in it much to commend it to popularity, the acting being of a high standard. The hero is well played by Mr. Charles Leicester, who does full justice to the rôle. Mr. Stephen Crossley as Richard Lenowen, proprietor of the Hilarity Lounge, creditably accounts for an unpopular character; a pleasing performance is given by Mr. Douglas Tremayne as the Rev. Lionel Strong, who is in love with Lilian Harborne, a character capably portrayed by Miss Frances Waring; some fun is caused by Mr. Chas. Digby as Algie Kirkcumbrie (a broken-down swell), Mr. J. Tilley Dillson as Jerry, and Miss Florie Groves as Maud Gladys (a dairymaid and servant); a good performance is that of Miss Ella Vane as Ruth Harborne; and Mr. Tyrone Power enacts her outraged and long-suffering husband, Stephen Harborne, with ability.

Palace.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—An attractive star turn is provided this week by Sinclair and Whiteford in their pleasing monologue entitled *Getting Even*. It is a clever little sketch, admirably acted, and causes hearty amusement. Sterling and Love appear to advantage in a vocal and instrumental comedy act, and are well received; Fred Hallam, a popular comedian locally, is well to the fore; Ralston Bros. sing very acceptably; Nellie Chandos is a pleasing comedienne and clever dancer; Fred Gilbert proves himself an expert on the high, unsupported ladder; and Mlle. Thelma as a clay modeller is excellent. The Palace Bioscope is responsible for several amusing pictures.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is presenting here this week the exciting drama, *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. George Harvard submits an earnest performance of Harry Steyne. A fine study is that given by Mr. F. G. Evison as Billy Brewer, while Hassan and Leonard Royle are in the capable hands of Messrs. C. P. Wentworth and Austim Mortimer. Miss Mildred Carr is a lively Nancy Brewer, and Miss Grace Lester scores as Mary Steyne.

Hippodrome and Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon.—The bill here is occupied by turns of all-round excellence, notable among them being, Lord, Murray, and Lord in a pot-pourri gymnastic entertainment. Pueblo and Cropp, speciality artists, are smart; the Three Clarions, patterers, cause much amusement; Hyam Long and Harry Zeter, eccentric comedians, are worthy of note; and others included in the bill are Babs Lloyd, baby coon, and Wat Tyler, character vocalist.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The romantic military play *Revenge* was well received here on Monday. Mr. E. Hill-Michelson was capital as Prince Orloff; the Captain Lario Vanessa of Mr. Wellesley Draper was vigorous; Mr. Theo. Balfour acted with dignity; Mrs. Edward Lowris made much of the part of Count Mussant; and another vigorous and breezy rendering was the Captain David Carr of Mr. Edwin Jenner. Miss Grace Amero scored as Lieutenant Maurice, and the Jim Jennings, A.B., of Mr. J. Russell Bagne was effective. Charming and graceful, Miss Violet Carlyle's embodiment of the Queen was a triumph.

DOVER. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Mr. John Lawson and company opened a successful week's engagement here on Monday. Three sketches have been played nightly—viz., *A Bride for a Living, The King's Minister*, and *Humanity*. In the first-named Miss Cissie Lawson easily gains chief honours for her consummately clever rendering of Louie, Mr. E. S. Vincent playing the part of Lucus Poulton with great skill, the others in the cast assisting admirably. Mr. John Lawson is, of course, seen to most advantage in *The King's Minister*, his capital acting as Lord Draconsmere meeting with universal appreciation. Miss Lawson appears as Lady Muriel, and plays with much grace and feeling. The part of the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozier could not have a more capable exponent than Miss Ethel Gordon Paull. Mr. Arthur Royston's portrayal of Milano is a powerful and effective piece of work, Mr. Ommanney making a success of the small rôle of Lord Arthur Lincoln. Between the sketches several variety turns were introduced, including the Brothers Tarrant, patterists; Miss Louie Belrose in the scena, *The Man in the Moon*; the Sisters Valasco, graceful Spanish dancers; and Miss Paull, who sang "The Shepherd's Lullaby" most artistically. Mr. Lawson took his benefit on Friday night, when *The Monkey's Paw* was played.

The Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Empire Palace Co.; Manager, Mr. P. G. Wraith; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield.—At the head of the bill this week is Miss Carlotta de Yonsen's company, including Mr. Chas. A. Carlisle, in a sketch entitled *Blue River Valley*. Billy Munro is an amusing comedian; Jessie Hart sings and dances well; Omeg and Lux are responsible for much hilarity; Will Kendrick is clever; Lucy Lucelle sings coon songs in a fascinating manner; and the Two Wiltons win popularity with their duets and dances.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company, including Miss Kate Clinton, commenced a week's engagement here on Monday night, when *Othello* was produced before a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Edmund Tearle in the title-rôle displayed his usual striking abilities, and the Desdemona of Miss Esher Tearle was a praiseworthy performance. Iago was capably sustained by Mr. Richard Vane, and Miss Mary Cleveland effectively portrayed the rôle of Julia. Mr. O. V. Crabtree enacted the part of Cassio in an admirable manner, and Miss Mary Campbell was excellent as Emilia. Mr. A. Wynne, Mr. Spencer Geach, Mr. T. W. Benson, Mr. Clifton Marle, Mr. James Skea, Mr. Joseph A. Keogh, Mr. Richard Melton, and Miss Clare Armitage were all creditable in their respective parts. *The Three Musketeers, Virginius, Macbeth*, and *Richard III.* were also billed.

Theatre Royal. — Managing Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—A new departure was made here on Monday night, when a huge entertainment was presented to a crowded house. One of the most attractive features of the programme was that of Madame Alice Esty, assisted by Mr. Elliston Webb, in the Miserere scene from *Il Trovatore*, which was loudly applauded. Captain Max Gruber with his elephant, horse, and pony provides an interesting turn; the American Comedy Four cause no end of laughter in their scene, *Outside Ye Olde Bulle and Bushe*; the Athos Troupe give an original and clever acrobatic show; the Sisters Reno are vocalists and dancers of more than ordinary merit; the latest American sensation known as the "Globe of Life," in which Wizard Strong and Miss Irene Strong appear, is a thrilling performance, and merits applause; Les Rupertos appear with success as equilibrists; Hanover and Lee are expert jugglers; Will Driscoll wins favour as a comedian; the Three Laurels' speciality act on the ping-pong table is well enjoyed; and the Animated Pictures are up to date.

Empire.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Marsh.—The premier position is allotted to Julie Mackay, whose vocal numbers are nightly encored. A favourite comedian in the person of Mr. Russell Wallet is also here, and keeps the audience highly amused; Nellie Farrell, comedienne, meets with a warm reception; the Fitzroys are clever male and female gymnasts; Irving Jones is a humorous comedian; Sinclair and Parr in their vocal entracte meet with success; Stephens and Rennio are acceptable comedy artists; Les Gittis are well received; and Hector, wire walker, and the Empire Pictures complete the programme.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Leoni Clarke with his performing cats, monkeys, rabbits, &c., heads the bill here this week, and provides a marvellous display of animal training. The sensational somersault and pirouette act of the Alexander Trio elicits applause; Charles Woodward is an exceedingly good actor-vocalist; M. Slippere, blind pianist, scores a success, as does also Kavados, juggler and cannon ball manipulator; Tokio is a capital mimic; and George Le Wist, ventriloquist, meets with approval. Other turns which are well received are those of Ferris and Farnley, patter comedians; Vasey and Ramsey in their comedy dancing act; and Harry Cotton, eccentric comedian.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here include Mme. Hypa, thought-reader; Percy Anderson, conjurer and ventriloquist; Lottie Haven, serio and dancer; Mike Murphy, comedian and dancer; and Leopold Llama, American musician.

Samuels' Exhibition Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The following artists are appearing here:—Sisters Du Barrie, male impersonators; Lily Wallace, serio and dancer; Paul Vincent, musical expert; Madge Seymour, comedienne and dancer; James Foy, comedian; and Brothers Bailey, musical grotesques.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Charles Harrington (of *Uncle Tom Cabin's* fame) and a specially selected company are giving *The Sailors of the King* for the first time in Dudley. Mr. Harrington takes premier honours as Admiral Drake and Mr. Harry Douglas quickly wins favour by his manly rendering of Dick Drake. Mr. F. Vernon Travers is quite convincing enough as the villain Orrel Drake, and he is ably seconded, or rather led, in his vill

which brings it to Edinburgh for the first time. Mr. William Fagan in the arduous part of John Edmunds bears the main burden of the piece in very convincing fashion; and he is sympathetically supported by Miss Muriel Dean and Miss Marion Ryder as the wife and child; Jonas Deane and Edward Langley find well-contrasted exponents in Mr. Gordon Kay Bull and Mr. A. E. Enroblem; the Rev. Frank Selby is well portrayed by Mr. F. Gilbert Fenn, and Mr. Harry F. Wright gives a delightful study of an old physician in the part of Dr. Gaye. Other excellent bits of character acting are the Jem Price of Mr. Frank Gordon and the Ratty Gibbit of Mr. Harry G. Wright. Miss Kitty Lofting and Miss Emil Leslie have the difficult rôles of Constance Howard and Nellie Hallett, which they play with artistic discrimination. The comic relief afforded by Sam Hallett and Jane Adelaide is in the hands of Mr. Chris. Mason and Miss Evelyn Shaw, who carry it through in a fine, breezy style which is vastly appreciated. Smaller parts are capably filled, and the stage setting, which includes about a dozen highly effective scenes, is most creditable to the management.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—The Moody-Manners' Opera Company began an engagement here on Monday evening last before a crowded audience in Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. This opera, which had not been heard in Edinburgh for some time, received a fine rendition by a cast which comprised several of the ablest artists of the company. Madame Fanny Moody, who was in magnificent form, sang with delightful expression, and acted with great vivacity as Susanna; Mlle. Zelix de Lussan's Cherubino was characterised by immense sprightliness, and she sang with the brilliancy which marks all her performances. In Miss Kate Anderson the company possesses a valuable recruit, and her fresh, well-trained voice was heard to advantage in the music of the part of the Countess, while her acting was graceful and dignified. Mr. Lewis James is another decided acquisition; his Figaro was distinctly clever, alike from the vocal and dramatic standpoint, and the enthusiasm of the audience was well deserved. Mr. William Dever was excellent as the Count Almaviva; Mr. Charles Macgrath was an amusing Dr. Bartolo, and the remaining parts were filled with effect by Mr. H. Bailey as Don Basilio, Mr. G. Renshaw as Antonio, Miss M. Baker as Marcellina, and Miss Cadman as Barbasina. The choruses were sung with power and precision, and the orchestra under Herr Richard Eckold played with really admirable expression. *Carmen* was produced on Tuesday, Miss Zelie de Lussan repeating her dramatic impersonation of the title-rôle, and singing with her customary charm; Mr. Joseph O'Mara as Don José and Mr. Lewis James as Escamillo sang and acted in a finished style; and Miss Kate Anderson scored another success in her sympathetic performance of Michaela. Mr. Cuthbert Hawley was a masterly conductor. *Eugene Onegin*, the opera which made Tschaikowsky famous when produced at the Moscow Conservatorium in 1879, was given for the first time in Edinburgh on Wednesday. *Tannhäusser*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Huguenots*, and *The Bohemian Girl* have also been played during the week.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Mr. J. H. Savile's short season with *The Sleeping Beauty* pantomime closes this week. The production has had a very successful run, thanks to the inherent merits of the piece and the ability of the performers. Miss Marie Adair as the Beauty and Miss Ethel Wilson as the Prince have earned a full measure of public favour, and Mr. Peter Bermingham has established himself as a most acceptable Scotch comedian; Mr. Dan O'Connor, Mr. George Hestor, Mr. William Garvey, and Mr. Arthur Ferris also distinguish themselves in their respective rôles; while Miss Alma Evelyne as the Queen and other ladies in less exacting parts acquit themselves successfully.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—The programme at the Empire this week introduces one or two clever artists new to Edinburgh. It is pleasant to listen to a singer so good as Mr. George Ridgewell, whose baritone voice was heard to much advantage in several solos; Holden's Marionettes provide an entertainment which is really admirable; the Matwcef-Hugoston Troupe give an exhilarating exhibition of Russian songs and dances; and Prince Fee Lung shows what a Chinese juggler can do in exhibiting mystifying feats; Miss Katie Rutler's songs are well received; Goggin and Davis give an amusing acrobatic sketch; Mr. Harry Clifford is a capital comedian; Flem and Brok evoke applause by their aerial pugilistic act, and the American Bioscope adds variety to a programme which has as its concluding item the musical and dancing sketch of Haley's Novelty Transformation Company.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. John A. Thompson's No. 1. Company opened on Monday with *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Ida Kessenly was smart in the title-rôle, and Miss Ella Wilmer was an attractive Alice Fitzwarren; her songs and dances evoked continued applause. Miss Ella Rose was a charming Princess, and Algy and Polly were prettily portrayed by Miss Lily and Violet English. The comedians were very good, especially Mr. Fred Anderson as Pimple, Mr. Edwin Dodd as Idle Jack, Mr. Ross Warren as Fitzwarren, and Mr. Harry Harcourt as Betsy Jane. Mr. Syd Morrell was comical as Captain Bunting. Both Mr. Hubert Davis as the Cat and Mr. Albert Hammond as the Demon Rat were effective. A special attraction was provided by the appearance of Mlle. Florence and her astounding feats on the rolling globe.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—This week Mr. Frank Bateman's company is presenting the play *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Mr. Stuart Lomath as Frank Hatherleigh is to be congratulated on his thoroughly artistic rendering of the part; a fine character sketch is forthcoming from Mr. A. Balfour Mackay as the old actor, Horatio Fane, and the audience are not slow in recognising the many good points it contains; as Harold Treveley Mr. Edward Louis is all that could be desired in the part. Miss Lizzie Montague as Lola Delaspierre proves herself a very capable actress, and her interpretation meets with well-merited approval; Miss Ida Mackay gives a clever representation of the part of Doris Fane.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—For the first part of the week Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott were here in *The Light that Failed* and *Mice and Men*. In the first-named piece Mr. Forbes Robertson's characteristic rendering of Dick Heldar evoked loud applause; Mr. Ian Robertson acted with good taste the part of Torpenhow; Miss Gertrude Elliott as Maisie, played with pleasing tenderness and skill; Miss Auriol Lee was seen to advantage as Bessie; Miss Gertrude Bibby as the Red-haired Girl, was thoroughly efficient; and Miss Minnie Griffin did well as Mrs. Haines. The play was preceded by Miss Clara Alexander in songs and stories from Dixieland. Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company in *The Manxman* opened on Thursday.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robt. Kirk.—For the last three nights last week we had Messrs A'Dell and Chabot's company in *The Romany's Revenge*. Mr. G. Austin was good as Archibald Heath; Mr. H. C. Robinson was a powerful David Renard. The comedy element was in the hands of Mr. D. Hamilton as Bobby Bloom and Miss F. Wallace as Polly Pluck. This week we have Mr. Robt. Perris's company in the sensational drama *A Fight for Millions*, in which Mr. Perris gives a manly rendering of the hero, and Mr. Percy Ballard an excellent portrayal of the villain Richard Dudley. On Monday night a bright little musical sketch was produced as a curtain-raiser entitled *The Brigand Chief*. This was well put on, and will doubtless soon become a favourite. Mr. Perris in the title-rôle made a dashing brigand, and amongst other songs introduced with good effect was "The Bandoliers." Miss Eva Purcell was also responsible for some effective numbers. The other characters were played by Mr. Karl Edwards and Mr. Arthur Clifton.

GATESHEAD.—METROPOLE THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian* is proving a great attraction here. Miss Grace Chalmers plays Glory Quayle, and on this, her second visit to the town within a few months, has added to her already large number of admirers. Mr. Frank Tennant repeats his excellent portrayal of John Storm; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe's impersonation of Father Lamplugh leaves nothing to be desired; and Mr. Jackson Wilcox's Horatio Drake is a finished piece of work. Mr. Chas. E. Dering depicts the snobbish Archdeacon Wealthy with skill, and Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is well fitted for the part of Lord Robert. Mr. Wilfred Blumberg's portrayal of Brother Paul is telling, and Mr. Oswald Marshall is successful as Mr. Lorimer. Miss Molly Hayden has, in Mrs. Callander, a part which suits her well; Miss Vashti Wellborne is an emotional Polly Love; and the Misses Bella Moody, Dorothy Clifton, and Edith Huntley do well in their respective parts.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Miss Nettie Ware and Millar Anderson's company is presenting here the drama *When Woman Hates*. Mr. Jerrold Heather is a manly Fred Rokeby; Mr. Millar Anderson presents an excellent picture of the scoundrel Godfrey Lawton; Mr. Chas. Herbrante makes the most of the part of Sir Henry Rokeby; Mr. Frank Litchfield extracts all the humour possible from the part of Pat O'Brien; an amusing character is that of Alphonso Picolot, which is in the capable hands of Mr. Chas. H. Hughes; Mr. Alfred Grenville makes the most of his few opportunities as Hiram Vancuston; and Mr. Geo. Stone is an excellent Bill Smasher. Miss Mabel Mannering is a powerful Cora Daintry, Miss Maud Townsend a successful Marie Rokeby, and Miss Gladys Lloyd an effective Edith Rokeby. A special word of praise is due to Miss Dorothy Lupone for her conception of the rôle of Nellie Rokeby. Miss Eleanor Papera as Mrs. Sally Potts and Miss Helen Richmond as Miss Sally Potts cause considerable amusement.

GILLINGHAM (KENT).—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Monti and Co.; Lessee, Mr. D. S. Cooper; General-Manager, Mr. Roy Cochrane.—The attraction here is *A Faithful Friend* presented by Mr. Joseph W. Worley's company. Mr. Henry W. Hatchman gives a meritorious performance as John Tollerton, a Yorkshire millionaire, and becomes a great favourite; Mr. Joseph W. Worley gives a commendable impersonation of Harold Sefton, the villainous nephew of Squire Somerset; as Antonio Orsini, Mr. Robert W. Lynn makes a typical Italian artist; Sir Thomas Jones, a retired pork butcher, is humorously portrayed by Mr. John Cullen; Mr. James P. E. Hussey is well suited as Augustus, the nephew of Sir Thomas; Mr. James Stevenson, jun., plays well as Squire Somerset, and the same remark applies to Mr. William Annesley as Harry Somerset. Miss Trissie Humphries arouses the sympathy of the audience as Mildred Marsden, the fiancé of Harry Somerset; Miss Hilda Franks is distinctly good as the aristocratic Lady Jones; Miss Esther Ohlson is well adapted to the character of Cynthia, the artist's model; and Miss Florence Garner deserves praise for her rendering of the persecuted Ruth Mayfield.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Miss A. F. Hermann's company in *None but the Brave* is here this week. Captain Frank Forrester meets with an excellent representation at the hands of Mr. George Herbert; Mr. Stanley Bedwell is seen to advantage as Lal Ray; Mr. George Herbert is well placed as Zeke Whittier; Mr. Charles E. Sutton is successful as Major Euriquez de Vampas; and Mr. Bert Ratcliffe is prominent as General Sylvarez. Mr. Eric Hudson is a realistic villain as Emmanuel de Solis; Mr. John Bolton as Pablo causes much fun; Miss Francesca Strickland wins the sympathies of the audience as Nellie Whittier; Miss Madge Devereux proves herself a capable exponent of the part of La Tarantina; and Miss Amy F. Hermann as April Showers, is full of energy.

GLOUCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—*A Noble Brother* is the bill of fare this week, the principal character being taken by Mr. Charles Carte, who as Jerry the Tramp has a part that allows him full scope for his undoubted ability. Miss Doris Brookes wins approval by her rendition of the heroine Nana Leigh; Mr. Arthur Gilroy capably personates the villainous Henry Travers; Mr. Maurice Jones submits a clever performance of Colonel Richard Leigh, and Miss Kate Cameron is good, especially in her dancing, as Rosie Ranide. Jack Elsworth has an affective representative in Mr. J. Andsell Wilson, and Miss Alice Ballard is noticeable as Mrs. Leigh; Mr. Alexander Haviland is commendable as the Strange Preacher, as is Miss N. Faithful as Claire Florence. Mr. Payne Reynolds as Moss, a policeman, and Mr. Gerald Weston as Mr. Pipps complete the cast.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale—A return visit is being paid by Mr. C. Watson Mill and company with the picturesque melodrama *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Mill gives an effective study as the burglar, Jim Murley; Mr. Gilson Brooke is admirable as Railton; Pharosaphus is ably played by Mr. Milner Noble; Mr. Percy Horton is excellent as Guise Strange; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter capitally depicts the Hon. Reggie Verincourt, and Karnaphus and Eric Melville are capably represented by Mr. Henry Rutland and Mr. Alfred Maurice. Miss Rosalind Tate gives a vividly realistic picture of Risca Mallison; Doris Melville is efficiently represented by Miss Cissie Podmore, and Miss Beatrice Reynolds submits a clever character study as Marion Isaacs.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—An exceptionally strong programme has been provided for this week. Miss Fanny Wentworth is first favourite with her capital musical sketch; W. Salmon does wonderful things as a trick cyclist; the Sisters Judge win loud applause with their performing cockatoos and parrots; Viviane pleases with her dancing, and the Avolas excite astonishment with their dexterity in throwing double somersaults from perpendicular poles. Comedy is provided by the New Hulines, Miss Jessie Albini, Emma Don and her black and white quartette, and Dan Gregory. Up-to-date pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—This week's attraction here is *The Swiss Express*, played by Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company. The funny performance of Mr. Charles Renad as James and of Mr. Frederick as John is too well known and appreciated to need further comment. A capital piece of acting is submitted by Mr. Herbert Lewis as Dr. Gull; a first-class representative of Rollingstone is found in Mr. George Martin, and Mr. Owen Remonde ably fills the rôle of Dudley Green. Miss Jessica Ford makes a captivating Virginia, and is applauded for her singing and dancing; and all the other parts are well filled. The Edene Troupe of vocalists and dancers makes a successful appearance.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Mr. Skivington has brought an excellent company here this week. Renyon, champion cyclist, assisted by Violet Whitworth's Cycling Girls, heads the bill, and gives a most interesting performance; Lozelle gives a very clever gymnastic display; the Brothers Dean give a very fine dance turn; Wyndham and Waters, comedy vocalists, are very funny; Burnetti, character musician, is very good; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, sings nicely, and the Zaras, acrobats, are seen in a first-class turn.

GREENOCK PAVILION.—Proprietors, The Greenock Pavilion, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Barrett and Knowles top the bill here, and their performance is very enjoyable; excellent turns are also given by Ada Twibell, burlesque artist; Lottie Siegenberg, quick-change artist; the Terres, in a clever knockabout act entitled *Acrobatic Pastime on the Promenade*; Ted Young, comedian; Mayon and Marle, comedy duologue artists, and the Webb Brothers, musical comedians.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Miss Mary Austin has paid another welcome visit, and has presented two plays during the week, the favourite drama *The Cotton Spinner* and W. S. Gilbert's comedy *Pygmalion and Galatea*. In *The Cotton Spinner* Miss Austin played with her customary success the part of Mary Prescott, and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds once more gave a pleasing representation of Arthur Northbury; whilst Mr. John S. Haydon's delineation of the Lancashire cotton spinner John Prescott proved as popular as ever.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Daring acrobatic feats have been accomplished by the Borghetti Troupe, whose work is characterised by exceptional neatness; Ben Hur has proved a great attraction, his exhibition of strength and physical development being very interesting; Bert Marsden has caused much laughter by his comic mimicry; whilst comedy was also presented by the Bros. Harrison, Dan Pollard, and Carlo and Maie, the last-mentioned couple including a wire performance. The Dagodets contributed pretty dances and songs, and Howard Reynolds gave popular ballads.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Harry Freeman's engagement has proved very popular, his comedy being of a quiet but highly entertaining character. Much laughter was also caused by Harry Tate's *Motoring* sketch; Les Ltrams have given an excellent gymnastic performance, including something special in the way of head-balancing. Another sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, given by Mr. Flockton Foster, was also productive of amusement; whilst others who contributed were Carl Verdi, a versatile instrumentalist; Billy Burns, a singing collier; Oakley and James, comedy artists; and Ruth Lytton, a charming Scottish comedienne.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—That delightful comedy, *The Little Michus*, is here this week, and is being artistically presented by Mr. Geo. Dance's company. Foremost in an exceptionally strong company is Mr. Leslie Holland, whose conception of General Des Ifs is exceedingly funny. Mr. Gerald Clifford is an excellent Gaston Rigaud, and sings with taste and judgment; Mr. D. FitzGibbon scores as Aristidevert, and Mr. Cecil Clayton makes the most of his opportunities as Bagnolet. Miss Alice Coverick as Marie Blanche, and Miss Gracie Sinclair as Blanche Marie, are both charming, and sing in a manner that wins unstinted applause; they are equally successful as dancers. Miss Flo Hylton is a winsome Guardian. Mdlle Marjirie, who sustains the captivating rôle of Mdlle. St. Cyr, is a marvellous dancer.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—*The Penalty of Crime* is being played here by Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company, and the performance, taken as a whole, is very creditable.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—Alethea is delighting audiences here with her wonderful contortionist feats. Another prime favourite is Frank Coyle, whose whimsicality and quaint singing are greatly appreciated. Dunningarto performs some astounding sleight-of-hand tricks, Nat Watkins (the peculiar comedian), Hick's Clerks (vocalists, comedians, and dancers), together with the Bros. Ashley in their comedy boxing act, and Violet Stockelie and May Moore-Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, submit turns well above the average.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard. — *Veronique* is filling the house nightly here, and is brilliantly played by Mr. Geo. Dance's company. The music is delightful. Miss Rita Leonhardt, in the part of Helene de Solanges, has a pretty soprano voice, and acts admirably; as Florestan, Mr. Roland Bottomley is excellent, his vocal items calling for loud applause; Miss Florence Alwyn is distinctly successful as the Countess, her song, "The Garden of Love," being deservedly encored; Agatha finds a highly capable exponent in Miss Florence Lee, who acts cleverly, her singing of "The Apple Tree" being much appreciated; Miss Neste Laurel as Denise is well placed, her contribution, "My Little Hubby," being most pleasing; Mr. Ellis Holland introduces a deal of humour into the part of Coquenard; Loustot finds an admirable representative in Mr. Ivan Berlyn; Mr. Tom Shelford as Seraphin contributes successfully; and much praise is due to Mr. Leonard Leslie for the admirable work of the orchestra.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The Eight Mascots contribute a pleasing turn of dancing; the Arthur Saxon Trio of strong men have few rivals; Frank Maura is a clever equilibrist; the Mayvilles in their smart lilliputian novelty act are much appreciated; George Formby is most successful in his items; and Charles Coborn once more proves himself to be an artist of ability in his excellent songs. The Redferns are smart banjoists and dancers; Maxwell and Frances provide a capital turn; and the pictures are quite a feature of the programme.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's company in *Somebody's Sweetheart* paid a return visit in the early part of the week. As Lulu Miss Dot Reeve, who made herself a prime favourite here in pantomime at Christmas, was delightful, her singing and acting alike being admirable. As Zora Miss Cordelia Knight acted with *verve* and sang well; Martin Blabbs as portrayed by Mr. W. H. Kirby was extremely funny. On Mr. Kirby's shoulders the success of the piece depended, and he kept the house in roars of laughter. Mr. E. H. Bertram is good as Stanton Ashleigh, his singing of Mascheroni's "Soldier's Song" being worthy of special note; Mr. Percy Maitland as the villainous Stephen Leverton acted with energy, being well supported by Mr. Geo. P. Lester as Lem Lee. Speciality dances were introduced by the Three Gibson Girls. On Thursday Mr. Robert Parris and company paid a return visit with *A Fight for Millions*.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The principal attraction for the week is the wonderful exhibition of acrobatic cycling by the Cumberlands. Ralph Moore, "the boy Patti," is the possessor of a rich soprano voice; Cliff and Kean, in a smart singing comedy and novelty dancing act have a good reception; Fraser and Haley, harmonising lady vocalists, sing with engaging sweetness; Happy Attwood is popular; the contortionist feats of Mephisto are done with ease and dexterity. Frank Whitely, a perfect master of the bones; and the Bioscope are other attractions.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland: Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scuit.—On Monday Mr. A. B. Cross and company paid a return visit with *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross has thoroughly identified himself with the rôle of Pete, and plays the part convincingly; Miss Minnie Watersford is powerful as Kate Cregeen; Mr. Sydney C. Kearns does well as Phillip Christian; Mr. A. D. Leyland gave a good sketch of the avaricious Cæsar Cregeen; and Ross Christian is effectively played by Mr. George Marriott. Miss Mona Spearing is well placed as Miss Christian, and Miss Nancy Mitchell is an excellent Nancy. On Thursday Mr. Forbes Robertson's company opened with *The Light that Failed*.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing. — The attractive actress Miss Florence Hill opens the programme here. An extravagant burlesque is laughingly performed by Charles Vandyke and comapny; Mr. Jack Foley, comedian, gives a good turn; the sorightly burlesque artist Miss Louie Herman finds plenty of admirers; Valvero proves himself remarkably smart as a novelty painter; Mr. Harry Desmond is successful as a comedian; Miss Marie Reeve obtains a flattering reception; the bioscope exhibits a great variety of interesting and up-to-date pictures. The entertainment concludes with a screaming absurdity, *Sensations*.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. A. Hamilton Warden's No. 1 company is appearing here in the domestic drama entitled *A Woman's Past*. The piece is exceptionally well mounted. The impersonation of David Heath by Mr. Stanley Carlton is very natural; Mr. Charles Sandford treats the rôle of Frank Dellanoy quite sympathetically; Mr. Hamilton Warden puts plenty of healthy vigour into his embodiment of Clement Harper; a sturdy and convincing rendering of the despicable Uriah Craven is given by Mr. Oswald Cray; Bessie is admirably depicted by Miss Maisie Hanbury; Miss May Dallas makes a charming Dorothy Heath; the highest praise can be awarded Miss Olive Adair for her conception of the unthankful part of Clara Darrel.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Provincial Theatres Co.; General-Manager, Mr. C. E. Bradley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke.—Mr. J. H. Clyndes and company are here with *A Royal Revenge*, a musical play brimful of exciting incidents. Mr. Clyndes' portrayal of the adventurer Estevan Alvarez in the prologue is very fine, and in his later rôle of Pedro De Castro Marquis of Santiago, his rendering is artistic and powerful. Mr. Herbert M. King plays the King of Spain skilfully; Mr. Arthur Chisholm is a capable exponent of Manuel Mondega; Mr. Fred Rivers as Azar Ben Musid, afterwards Count Ulric Uzeda, is decidedly good; Mr. Leslie Parker as Friar Dominic scores; and Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon as Michael Sancha the inn-keeper and Miss Celestine Brandon as Paquita are responsible for the comedy, their dancing and singing being vigorously applauded. Miss Enid Edoni's impersonation of Inez Alvarez is followed with great interest; Miss Aimée Grattan plays Cora Casilda in a graceful and sympathetic manner; and Miss Evelyn Derwent's Mother Superior is excellent.

HOYLAND.—THE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Geo. S. King.—On Friday last, at the above theatre, a benefit was given by kind permission of the management for Mr. Sam Guest, late proprietor of Hoyland Theatre. On Monday Mr. Evan Roland's *The Guilty Man* company opened to a good house. Mr. Harold Lewis is a manly George Seymour; and as James Redman, Mr. A. D. Adams is all that can be desired; much amusement is caused by Mr. Edmond O'Grady as Esau Hebron, and Mr. Evan Roland as Paddy Crowe; Miss Lily Lewis is a charming Audrey Priestly, and Miss Muriel Inglis gives an excellent rendering of the trying character of Nell Radford; Sukie Barton is well represented by Miss Sybil Haughton.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company is playing *La Poupée*, and in the hands of the thoroughly capable cast engaged, the comic opera is as enjoyable as ever. The singing is notably good, particularly of the numbers falling to Alesia (daintily represented by Miss Dot Stephens), to Lancelot (cleverly played by Mr. W. M. Everard), and to Father Maximo (played with distinction by Mr. Walter Belfour). Mr. Fuller Allen and Mr. Arthur Dennis lend adequate support as Chanterelle and Loremois; Miss Edith Hunter has the right note of maternal solicitude as Mme. Hilarius; Mr. Fred Seymour plays Hilarius with irresistible humour. The chorus is good, some finished part singing being contributed by four members of the male section. Scenery and dresses are beyond reproach.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson. The combination here is proving a great draw. At the top come the Ritchie Trio of trick cyclists in their unique performance; Miss Maggie Grimshaw is a smart little male impersonator; and Donna and Cliffe prove to be a pair of clever young singers and dancers. Mr. Walter Hast and Miss Peggie Lennie appear successfully in a dainty and original interlude called *The Sea Nymph*; Redfern's Nippers are seen in their sketch *Bedtime*; Cliff Ryland creates unbounded mirth with his string of funny stories; Miss Nellie Martell is an expert dancer; the sketch *Did He Deserve It?* is cleverly played by Misses Violet Carr and Lydia Hart, Mr. James Willard, and Master Willie Atom, not forgetting the fine mastiff dog "Tiger"; and the Hippodrome pictures are also in the bill.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The enterprise and foresight of Mr. Morton have been thoroughly justified by the large audiences which have this week assembled to witness the new allegorical play *When It Was Dark*, presented by Mr. Walter Maxwell's talented and well-selected company. Mr. Leslie Carter, who, in the prologue, impersonates Satan, has a powerful and resonant voice, which is most impressive. In the play Mr. Carter fills the rôle of Constantine Schuabe with the utmost skill, and acts throughout in a most realistic manner. Mr. H. Athol Forde is well placed as Sir Robert Llewellyn, and plays this difficult rôle with great care. An admirable representative of the Rev. Basil Gortre is found in Mr. Rupert Lister, who presents the heroic parson in a thoroughly convincing manner. Miss Margaret Damer shows great ability, and gives an artistic and finished portrayal of Gertrude Hunt. The Helena Byars of Miss Hope Mayne is also a marked success. Mr. Frank Melrose, Mr. Stanley Lathbury, Mr. Herbert Chown, and Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips are excellent in their respective parts.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The sparkling musical comedy *Morocco Bound*, under the personal direction of Mr. Arthur Branscombe, is here this week. Mr. John Wilkinson sustains the rôle of Squire Higgins in a droll and humorous manner; Mr. Paddy Duprez is equally successful, and gives a clever performance as Spoofah Bey; Little Tony is a distinct acquisition in the part of Lord Percy Pimpleton, his eccentricities being most amusing; and Mr. Frank Barclay is capital as the Grand Vizier. Miss Margery Gray and Miss Dolly Doyle are well cast as the Hon. Misses Sportington; and Miss Gipsy Tonseau as the Countess de la Blague is all that could be desired. Other members of the company who contribute to the general success are Mr. Vernon C. Booth as Vivian, Mr. Walt. Westwood as Josiah Higgins, and Mr. Herbert Shine as the butler.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Morton's, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in the sensational drama *Her Forbidden Marriage* is proving a successful attraction here. Mr. Albert Ward plays the hero, George Maddison, in a creditable manner; and Mr. Lionel d'Aragon in the villainous rôle of Charles Devereux is quite successful. Mr. Eric Campbell plays forcibly, and makes a good impression as Sir Geo. Lancaster; Miss Isla G. Vane, who impersonates the heroine, Lucy, gives a very pleasing and sympathetic rendering; and Miss Eugenie Magnus interprets the rôle of Lady Lucretia Lancaster in a manner deserving of great praise. As the Mother Superior Miss Barbara Gott makes a strong appeal to the audience, and contributes a very capable performance. A good deal of amusement is caused by Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttut, and Miss Sybil Hammersley as Pattie Lovejoy.

NEW PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Jno. S. Barnett.—The Novellos and the Uessems are the two principal turns here. Lidden and Hayward in a musical absurdity, *The Midnight Express*, take well; Baker and Lynn are an amusing turn in a sketch *The Brainless Boy*; a good quartet of singers and dancers are the Stuarts; La Tostia, Florrie St. Clair, Jessie Merrillees, T. C. Callaghan, and Frank Seeley all contribute in a successful manner.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Tom McIverney, the wrestler, is drawing big houses. Margaret Ismay and Piccannies are very popular; Cullen and Carthy provide an excellent turn; Maude Lord, Bob Hamilton, Sisters Terry, Harry Walker, Will Walker, and Carina Sisters render a good account of themselves.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—After a long absence Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer is paying another visit here with a well selected company in the following plays:—*Mary Queen of Scots*, *Nell Gwynn*, *Hamlet*, *School for Scandal*, *Sapho*, and *Jane Shore*. *Mary Queen of Scots* was chosen for the opening night, and Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer played the title-rôle admirably, hearty applause greeting her from all present. Mr. Montagu Lane exhibits great ability as Earl of Leicester, whilst the part of Sir Edward Mortimer is represented in good style by Mr. Matthew Boulton; Mr. George Munro as Earl of Shrewsbury, and Mr. Leonard Lorraine as Earl of Kent, are very praiseworthy exponents; Sir Amius Paulet loses nothing at the hands of Mr. Robert Pittard; Miss More Dunphie is effective as Hannah Kennedy, nurse to Mary; Mr. Sydney Bland is entrusted with the part of Lord Burleigh, to which he does great justice, and as Elizabeth, Queen of England, Miss Katherine Herbert presents a very fine performance.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Robert Grieve, singing ventriloquist, heads the programme here; Messrs. Denny and Weston are clever comedians and dancers; Tessie Vandean, vocalist; Nora McEvoy, serio; T. W. Lenner, comedian; and Florrie Wright, comedienne, also appear with success.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—The play called *The Bank of England* has been performed here during the week. Mr. Charles Lester played the part of the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, in a cool and calculating manner. He was well supported by the other members of the caste, which included Mr. Walter Bentley, an orthodox villain, Mr. Henry Compton, Mr. Percy Braithwaite, and Miss Phyllis Orme and Miss Ellen Mosley. The piece was well staged.

HIPPODROME (St. Nicholas-street).—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—At this place of amusement Mr. Gus Hindell contributes a descriptive song in good style, and Wal Grove and Jenny Chalmers render a song and dance sketch; a young American baritone, named Percy Hannan, shows good vocal powers in his various songs; Miss Nelly Coleman, termed the female Dan Leno, justifies her claim to that title; and Mlle. Lumière gives a serpentine dance of a novel character; the Philline Brothers display some clever hand balancing, and the Four Massanos gain applause in their eccentric musical business.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. G. Jefferson.—This week's attraction is a juvenile pantomime company in *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss May Gibson is good as Silver Star, and Miss Maggie Adair is quite at home as Evil Heart; Miss Kittiy Trewhitt makes an ideal Prince Charming, Miss Mona Townshend is a capital Will Scarlet, Miss Dodds does full justice to the part of Beauty, Master Will Kay makes the most of the Baron Mumps, and Master Freddie Bentley and Fred Ellis are funny as Dressalinda and Marigolda. The parts of Flip and Flop are well sustained by Master Paddy Mill and Master Tot Hunter. Excellent dances are contributed by La Bella Sylvia, Dolly Brough, and the Margueritta Quartette.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. L. F. Sanderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Wallace.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Los Granadas in an original comedy act; Dan Merrett, drummer; Winnie Scott, vocalist and dancer; Gillin, ventriloquial humorist; James Lowery, the original singing furnace man; Vowles and Byran in a comedy act; Walter Payne's biophotoscope; England's premier burlesque trio in their latest success, *The New Man*; Devoy, Hurst, and Ricks, and the Negro Trio.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred D'Arcy's company opened here on Monday night with *The Executioner's Daughter*. Mr. W. S. Stevenson was excellent as Kretch; Mr. Juan de Alberti as Felix Marino was the ideal melodramatic villain; and Mr. Roy Milton was equally commendable as Paul Rovel; Mr. Duncan Bell was good as the executioner, and Mr. Willie Hickes was particularly useful as Tom Holmes. Miss May Rosine, as Sally King, was the cause of much laughter; Miss Beattie Moore gave a pathetic rendering of the cripple step-daughter; Miss Amy Robson did well in the unthankful rôle of Felice, and the heroine was ably portrayed by Miss Dorothy Riddle.

**KEIGHLEY

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Pantomime still reigns at this popular house, the successful run of *Jack and Jill* which terminated on Saturday being followed by Mr. Fred Karno's finely staged and amusing production of *Cinderella*. The title-rôle is played by Miss Lulu Louden, who captivates the audience from the first. Miss Annie Purcell is a refined Prince Alexis, and sings sweetly, being especially successful in her "Glow-worm" song. Miss Lilian Lea is a vivacious Dandini, and makes the most of her opportunities. As Baron Pennywise Mr. Alex. Keith keeps the house merry with his dry humour, and is ably assisted by Mr. Fred Winn and Mr. Austin Lenton as his two ugly daughters. Mr. William Gourlay is original in the part of Pepper the Page, giving quite a burlesque melodramatic touch to the part. The Flying Ballet is a distinct attraction, and Miss Alma Mary gives a charming pas-seul in the first part of the pantomime.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—*Miss Lancashire, Limited*, is a new musical farce, and in the hands of a capable company has attracted large audiences to this theatre this week. The central figure is Mary Thompson, a Lancashire lass, and in this rôle Miss Florence Baines displays much ability. The vocal work of Miss Jennie Hallworth as Eva Lancashire is also very good; Mr. David Donaldson acts with conviction the part of John Higgins; and other big parts are capably presented by Mr. Patrick Evans, Miss Mabelle Clinton, and Miss Hattie Groves.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerad Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Richard Sawade presents here his wonderful animal show, and the turn is much enjoyed. There is no more popular entertainer visits here than Albert Whelan, and this clever sifflеur and mimic has again received a warm greeting. The return of Jake Fiedman with his humorous contribution, *The One-Man Opera*, is also very welcome; Palles and Cussick are a comical pair, their burlesque boxing act being especially funny; an expert and daring trick cycling act by the Aurora Troupe is unique in its way; Terley secures marked favour with her novel and lifelike impersonations; a clever comedian, Fred E. Terry, is in the bill; the Rinaldos have a comic acrobatic speciality; and the Howards again please with a fine musical turn.

Tivoli.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Dr. Walford Bodie, the famous electric specialist and entertainer, is on a return visit, and the wildest enthusiasm is manifested over the remarkable cures and wonderfu mesmeric feats accomplished by him. A good variety company supports, Tom Norman Mills doing specially well with a military scena. J. A. Dunn, comedian; Bella Skene in vocal scena; Signor Bandoni, the one-man band; Lambeth and Harris, sketch artists; and Helen Henri, operatic vocalist, are also appearing with success.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A remarkably fine exposition of rifle-shooting by Lillian and Vera is the main attraction this week, and arouses much enthusiasm. The farcical sketch *Barmaids* by Harry Lowther and company is vastly amusing, as also is the eccentric comedy turn by Larry Lewis. Anna Kenwick, a clever comedienne and danseuse, proves a popular favourite; Beatrice Renee secures notice for a similar attractive turn; Craig, Roze, and Craig do novel gymnastic feats in great style; whilst Ray and Miles, comedy jugglers, and Barney Stuart, actor-vocalist, also have a big reception.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The energetic new management here are making excellent headway with the redecoration of the front of the house, which promises to be extremely pretty and artistic. This week's attraction is provided by a first visit of Mr. Percy Hutchison and Miss Emma Hutchison's company in *Public Opinion*. Mr. George Giddens, in his original character of Horace Wibsey, is to be highly complimented on a very clever and amusing portrayal, Mr. William Hargreaves is seen to considerable advantage as the Hon. Mr. Justice Mulley, and as Sir Babington Mulley, Mr. George Mallett is capital. Mr. Ernest Ruston is excellent as Spencer Traughton, Miss Emma Hutchison as Lady Diana Caldershaw makes a welcome appearance and is a conspicuous success, Miss Lilian Hallows is attractive and clever as Pansy Bligh, and Miss Mary Mallalieu is very pleasing in the rôle of Phyllis Dagenham. Both Mr. Harold West as Viscount Poffley and Mr. Templer Powell as Lord Percy Kilgour sustain their parts in a most satisfactory style. The one-act comedietta *The Stratagem* precedes, Miss Lilian Hallows, Mr. Harold West, and Mr. Templer Powell all acquitting themselves admirably. The staging is well done.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—This theatre is now beginning to present a much smarter and attractive appearance in consequence of the redecorations, etc., that are being rapidly proceeded with. *Home, Sweet Home* is being presented here this week by Mr. Frank Lindo's excellent company. In the part of Stephen Armitage the author makes a striking impression, and the same remark applies to Miss Marion Wakefield as Joan. Mr J. W. Henson is very good as David Armitage, and Mr. Wilson Coleman as Lucas Lyle and Capt. Gerald Gambier as the Duke of Ancaster are successful. Miss Daisy Rochefort is to be highly complimented on her portrayal of Dora, Miss Hettie Webster plays well as Sybil Fay, a music-hall star, and others who give meritorious performances are Miss Mary Denver, Mr. Sydney Bryant, Mr Geo. Overs. Mr. Ernest E. Owen, and Mr. T. Lewis. Mr. Tom Lewis introduces his "bones" speciality in the first act.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—The drawing powers and immense popularity of Vesta Tilley are the special features of this week's enjoyable programme, which is full of clever people. It is no exaggeration to say that no lady artist is more beloved here than Miss Tilley, whose appearance is the signal for a rousing reception. She renders her songs in as dainty and artistic a style as ever, and is not allowed to retire before she contributes four, and then the audience crave for more. The Five Bellatazers win unstinted applause for their unique, clever, and smart acrobatic feats; Amann and Hartley give the sketch *The Naughty Professor* to the accompaniment of hearty laughter; Dravee, Frisco, and Hambo are most amusing in their comedy juggling act. Stewart and Morgan, in *Leaving Ireland*, introduce some melodious singing, which is well received; the Mannons, in their absurdity *Uncle Yank*, create great merriment; the Sisters Finney, in their exhibition of swimming, diving, etc., in a tank, are seen to great advantage; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden play well in their amusing sketch *A Desperate Remedy*; and W. H. Downs, the coloured tenor, also entertains with success.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—A capital bill here is headed by Marie Santoi and her merry Japs, who are most entertaining in an elaborate scena *A Japanese Tea Garden by Night*, in which some pretty and well rendered songs are introduced. The dresses are smart. Geo. M. Schilling, who has walked round the world, gives a graphic description of his experiences, with a series of lantern pictures. Fred Bronte, actor-vocalist, sings his songs in good style; the Sisters Brenton are capital duettists and smart dancers; Walker and Lake are amusing patter comedians; Lil Esplin, character comedienne, is well received; Charles Ray creates much laughter, and Roose, a clever contortionist, also lifts a couple of chairs with his teeth.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake's company is this week occupying the boards here with the pantomime *Cinderella*, which is full of fun and frolic, and is meeting with success. Mlle. Du Roche is an excellent principal boy, and is loudly encored for her popular songs. Miss Ivy Dawn is a charming Cinderella, singing her songs sweetly. The Brothers Lang make a great hit as Flip and Flop, their patter and amusing antics creating roars of laughter. Mr. Walter Griffin and Little Freddie Graham are amusing as Cinderella's sisters. Mr. Clifton Hall does well as Demon Dischord, his vocalism being much enjoyed. The Sisters Le Graham are greatly appreciated for their singing and dancing; the Sisters Silza go through a daring trapeze performance in good style; Messrs. Harland and Robinson, musical specialists, are loudly applauded; and Marlow, juggler, is very smart. The scenery and dresses are good.

Ohmy's Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—The Bellong Brothers are an immense and sensational attraction here this week with their great balancing act; the Sisters Rizarelis give a daring display on the revolving trapeze; the Mayon Troupe of acrobats are deservedly applauded; Miss Ena is very clever on the tight wire; Mr. Cattle is greatly appreciated for his ladder performance; Misses Ada, Lily, and Mr. Claude Ohmy are loudly applauded for their feats of horsemanship; and the irrepressible August and September as usual play a prominent part in the evening's performance. Some good humorous and sentimental films are exhibited on the Bioscope.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*Florodora* is among the musical comedies which have come to stay, and the popular piece has been warmly received this week at Mr. Buchanan's Leith theatre. A goodly company, organised by Mr. Bannister Howard, gives an enjoyable rendering of the well-known work, everything being carried through in a bright and attractive manner. The drolleries of Anthony Tweedlepunch are irresistibly displayed by Mr. Daley Cooper, who secures hearty recalls. Mr. R. C. Dutton as Lord Abercoed sings delightfully, and Mr. Stanley White is excellent as Cyrus Gilfain. The songs allotted to Dolores are charmingly sung by Miss Leonora Grieve, who uses a sweet and tuneful voice to advantage. Miss Edith Housley gains well-merited applause for her impersonation of Lady Helyrood, and another cultured vocalist is found in Miss Lily Gullick, who makes a sprightly Angela Gilfain. Arthur Donegal and Leandro are ably represented by Mr. H. St. John and Mr. Oxlee.

LINCOLN.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—*Napoleon the Great* is being presented here by Messrs. Granville and Barker. Napoleon is well portrayed by Mr. Hugh Montgomery; Mr. F. W. Thorne is good in the humorous rôle of an armourer who invents a bullet-proof coat; Mr. Phil Harper is a manly Jules Meuron; and Mr. Henry Earlesmere makes a sinister rascal of Colonel Lavarennes. Miss Leslie Warner as Marie Walewska and Miss Maud Russell as Leonie Marbœuf are also commendable.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—Crowded houses twice nightly are testifying approval of Mr. Frank Macnaghten's latest bill of fare. A welcome is accorded Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire mill girl; Speedwell's lightning portraits; and Arthur Hartley's marvellous leaping have hosts of admirers; and the equilibrism of Les Hemis is also a great success. The Five Casino Girls score as a brass band; George Grogie is good as a bucolic comedian; the Smythsons make for fun in *A Tea House Flirtation*; and a capital programme is wound up by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

LIVERPOOL.—Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. Montgomery, jun.—The drama *The Great Awakening* is paying a first visit to this theatre. Miss Maud Hildyard undertakes with satisfaction her original part of Lola Selby; in the dual rôle of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton, Mr. Bernard Copping acts with discretion; Mr. Julian Hartleigh makes an excellent Guy Rogan; that capable actor, Mr. James E. Page, shows his ability as Richard Wilson; Miss Nina Blake Adams is successful in the character of Molly Merton; while Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass and Miss Isa Bellington as Selina Worts handle the comedy in a most creditable manner.

Lyric Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—An attractive programme is topped by Rosina Casselli with her tiny performing Mexican dogs; the Three Romans, gladiatorial marvels, are loudly applauded; Allis and Cassati give an original and highly amusing turn; the Waldrons are old favourites here; Tennyson and Wallis come in for a good reception, and others who add to the evening's entertainment are Gracie Lawn, Lily Black, and Gilroy and Cross.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt and his company are here this week with *The Temptress*, which has proved a strong attraction. Miss Blanche Steele in the title-rôle plays with considerable dramatic force; Mr. Frederick Ross, as Lucas Denbigh, makes a capital villain; Mr. Robert Wilton presents a finished type of clergyman; Sir Oswald Fordyce is in the good hands of Mr. C. James Ashworth; credit is due to Mr. George D. Daiper for his Philip Welford; and the lighter parts are ably presented by Mr. Oscar Power as John Gregory, Mr. Tom E. Sinclair as Bob Tanner, and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Rhoda Brown. Miss Mabel Scudamore played sweetly as the heroine, Marion Fordyce.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—This theatre is noted for the introduction of new plays to Liverpool, and this week we have a well-written one with the title *A Gambler's Daughter*, presented by Adria Hill and R. Ayrton's company. The work is well staged, and was received with warm approval, the story being a most interesting one. In the dual rôle of Mildred and Miriam Grant (mother and daughter) Miss Hill played with much pathos as the grief-stricken mother, and with liveliness as the happy girl of after years; Mr. Ayrton's picture of the good-hearted Desmond O'Dare earned for that able artist hearty recognition; Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner made an excellent villain, Stephen Brand; Mr. Alfred Sanders caused much amusement as a typical Jew; the rôle of Ralph Gillman, the rich American, was well placed with Mr. Harry Rutland; Mr. Frank Wheatcroft gave every satisfaction as Captain Stanhope, and Miss Ida Fane roused much merriment as the negress Zeb.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Principal in the bill here this week are George Gray and Co. with *The Road to Ruin*, which has afforded considerable satisfaction. The Spessardy troupe of trained bears and ponies are a capital turn, their remarkable tricks being watched with great interest; W. H. Fox ("Paddiwhisky") scores at the piano; Hays and Sunits as duettists and dancers provide a good turn; some capital singing and dancing come from the Three Sisters Slater; Florence Esdaile sings sweetly; Cora Caselli is a clever comedienne and dancer; a smart musical act is given by the Korries; and McPhee and Hill also appear.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A large and diversified programme is given here this week. At the top is Harry Lamore, the silent comedian, who performs many clever and amusing tricks on the slack wire; the Harvey Bros. provide a humorous sketch in the boxing line; an acceptable dramatic episode, *The Right Road*, is submitted by Warden-Reed and company; George Barron is extremely eccentric; the quickly-produced pictures in oils by Vandinoff elicit loud applause; a deal of smart patter came from George Penn; Gus Lennard, as "Hermann the second," contributes some clever conjuring tricks in an amusing style; Anthony performs others in all seriousness; from Harry Allister came several smart character impersonations; a most enjoyable turn is that given by Walton and Miss Ella, with their trained dogs; the Passparts, as fancy and comedy dancers, are good; and Estio Leuigy, eccentrics, also appear.

New Parthenon.—Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—At the top of the bill here this week are the Two Kelsos, the favourite Irish-American knockabout comedians, fresh from pantomime. They had a cordial reception. Jack Hylton, an eccentric comedian of ability, comes with fresh business; Ventom Swift, the "Piccadilly Coon," proves very amusing; Herbert Madden, a favourite character vocalist, is a good turn; the Sisters Poole (Ada and Letta) are a pair of neat singers and dancers; and Chrissy Handley is a pleasing comedienne and dancer.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Mr. Percy Boucher and his able dramatic stock company continue to do good business at this popular East End house. This week *Brought to Justice* has been staged, the principal parts in which are undertaken by Mr. Boucher (Bob Lucifer), Mr. Harry Tresham (Holmcroft), Mr. Herbert Cecil (Luke Brierly), Mr. E. D. Allen (Jonas Swallow), Mr. Cecil Ravenswood (Colonel Duncan), and Miss Beryl Ravenswood (Beatrice Hetherington).

Paddington Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The greater portion of the programme here this week is occupied by the Irish sketch, *The Coward's Revenge*, presented by Mr. W. Lee and company. It is in eight tableaux, and well staged. Bird and Arnold have some delightful illustrated songs; and the Adderley Bros. present an interesting original speciality *The Military Band*.

Park Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Included in an attractive bill here this week are the Zouaves, with their capital show of lightning drill and wall scaling; Charles R. Whittle, a favourite comedian, has several excellent songs; Miss Lottie Bray gives a most acceptable turn as comedienne, banjoist, and dance artist; some clever juggling is done by Mlle. De Vena; a smart exhibition as an athlete and gymnast is provided by Alec Aubrey; the Hayes Bros. create a deal of merriment with their cross-talk, and are a pair of accomplished dancers; and F. S. Hulme sings several good songs.

Haymarket.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Heading the bill here this week are Tom White's Arabs, including Pimple, with their attractive comedy act; Percy Boucher's sketch company presents *The Wolf*; Harry Hunter does well with his playing on the guitar and banjo; some really smart conjuring is shown by Henri Bekker; Joe Conway gives satisfaction as a new comedian; and Miss Ida Dorrie, comedienne, also appears.

Westminster.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Mongomery.—Foremost here this week are Starr and Leslie, with their smart comedy act; the popular comedian, Will Hebden, makes a welcome reappearance with his latest successes; some laughable work is performed by Franch Bros., the eccentric acrobats; Lilian Rigby sings and dances neatly; the Bros. Mellot sing pleasing duets; and Tam Glen, Scotch comedian, and Ida Allen, comedienne, also appear.

Olympia.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Hengler's water novelty *A Village Wedding* has proved so attractive that it is still kept in the programme. May Edouin and Fred Edwards have created great laughter with their sketch *A Bachelor's Dream*; Tom and Marie Motramo have an excellent musical act *Do You Reverse?*; the remarkable sand dancing of My Fancy has called forth great applause; Tina Clementa's dogs and ponies go through a clever performance; as jugglers on globes the Goltz Trio want a deal of beating; some pleasing singing and dancing are supplied by the St. Julian Sisters; Collins and Rice have a smart speciality *The Survival of the Fittest*; and Beaty and Blanche render popular duets and dance neatly.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is this week staging the tuneful and melodious musical comedy, *A Country Girl*. Miss Florence Burdette cleverly assumes the rôle of Nan, and sings with good effect; the part of Marjorie Joy is attractively presented by Miss Eileen Guilbert, her vocalism being exceedingly good; Miss Madge Campbell gives a vivacious rendering of Madame Sophie, and Miss Vera Vizard is well received as the Princess of Bhong. Barry is acted with an irrepressible buoyancy and humour by Mr. Jonnie Clegg; Mr. Bernard Vaughan's impersonation of the Rajah of Bhong is most entertaining; and Geoffrey Chaloner has an excellent exponent in Mr. J. Mansell Stringer. Mr. W. O. Billington, Mr. W. Besley Beltram, and Mr. A. Metcalfe all do well in their respective parts; and the capable chorus is under the direction of Mr. C. W. Nightingale.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week *The 10.30 Down Express* is attracting large audiences on its initial visit here. The scenery and effects are particularly fine. Mr. Stanley is very amusing as Sam Wagstaffe, and is well supported in the lighter scenes by Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy; Jack O'Malley finds a manly exponent in Mr. Chas. Burdon, and Mr. George Arthur is powerfully cast as James Inderwick; Mr. Geo. Beverley (Seth Coombes) and Miss Evelyn M. Walton (Letitia Leigh) are responsible for excellent character sketches; and Miss Elsie Capell makes a pleasing and sympathetic Bessie Leigh. The appearance of the railway engine excites great interest.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—The Anglo-Russian drama *Under the Czar* is being presented here this week by Mr. Jarman's company. Captain Johnson is well represented by Mr. Gerald Smythe; Nicholas Yeroslaff (Chief of the Russian Police) is in the capable hands of Mr. Bertram Ross; Zakhan-Kovesky, Major of the Russian Police, is well interpreted by Mr. W. H. Riley; Paul Ignat is admirably portrayed by Mr. Louis Weston; Zara Bhura is well taken by Miss Lucy Murray; Siomka in the hands of Miss Linda Riley is all that can be desired; and Sonia Gregorovitch is pathetically represented by Miss Cathleen Cavanagh.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gattey.—Miss Hettie Jeffries and company are appearing here this week in *The Curate*. The character of the Rev. John Audley was represented in an earnest and sincere manner by Mr. Arthur Mervyn; Mr. C. Spencer made a humorous Simon; Mr. Whitmore Ledger was frequently applauded for his clever rendering of Gilbert Westwood; Miss Hettie Jefferies was seen to advantage as Dick; Miss I. Norman as Mabel Verner revealed talent of a high order; Miss Agnes D'Aragon acted cleverly as Mrs. Muggs; the Katinka of Miss W. Stuart was good; Mr. F. Stuart as Sergeant Snipe, gave a capable portrayal; and Mr. Chas. Coventry as Gregory Verner was capital.

MAIDSTONE.—Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—The following are here this week: the Two Bees, in their Indian scena; Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in *Fun in a Railway Station*; Miss Venie Clements, comedienne, on a return visit; Zola and Felina in a clever animal act; Theodore Jones and Co., in operatic sketch; Robert Raffin, juggler; and Miss Lily Stewart comedienne and dancer.

Corn Exchange.—Secretary, Mr. J. W. Beslee.—The C. W. Poole's Myriorama Co. is drawing large audiences here this week. The pictures are better than ever, and the programme includes Miss Kitty Woodward's canine circus; the Avandale Quartette of vocalists; Harry Stewart, quick-change artist; Miss Graham's performing cockatoos; and Leonard and Mac, comedians.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmonstone Shirra.—A visit of Mr. Huntley Wright in *The Mountain-Climber* drew a good house here on Monday, this being an attraction presented by Mr. Charles Frohman to take the place of the late successful pantomime. But the really satisfactory feature of the evening proved to be the opening piece, *The Little Father of the Wilderness*, in which the well-known comedian demonstrates his ability to act a pathetic rôle with an effect that might not easily be equalled, much less surpassed. Mr. Huntley Wright, in the part of Pere Marlotte, transcends his usual mannerisms, and becomes something infinitely greater than a comedian. The longer piece provided others beside Mr. Wright with opportunities to shine, about the most prominent being Miss Kate Mills as Mrs. Montague Sibsey. The company includes also Mr. W. R. Staveley, Mr. Eric Maturin, Mr. Montague Elphinstone, Miss Christine McGill, and Miss Dora Barton.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead: Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Beaudyn, Livesey, and Hardy's company are the attraction here in a melodrama entitled *A Soldier's Revenge*. Mr. Montague Beaudyn gives a skilful rendering of Ironhand, the avenger, and Miss Irene Munroe is very good as Ruby Avondale. Mr. R. Foulis makes an effective Mardyke, and is well supported by Mr. Harry Lloyd as his villainous nephew. Mr. Howard Hardy is successful as the dashing young Royalist, Walter Clifford; Mr. Edward Carter is well suited to the part of Sir Wilfred Avondale; Miss Gloria Hill plays cleverly as Judith; and Mr. Tom Robertson imparts vigour and force to the character of the Protector. The play is very well staged.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A pleasant piece called *Two in a Trap* precedes the performance here this week of *The Freedom of Suzanne* by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. The first-named item is well played by Mr. Edward Bonfield and Miss Violet Ley, while Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox's entertaining comedy is quite effectively rendered by Miss Beatrice Lindley, Mr. Herbert J. Bentley, Mr. F. G. Thurstans, Mr. William Mallalieu, Mrs. Mallalieu, Miss Emily Patterson, and other talented members of the cast.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Mr. Leigh Lovel and company are here this week in Captain Robert Marshall's farcical romance, *The Duke of Killicrankie*. The well-known piece is capitally presented, the central parts being filled by Mr. Lovel, Miss Octavia Kenmore, Mr. Guy Cary, and Miss Naomi Neilson. The staging and dresses are very pleasing. *The Queen's Messenger* precedes.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Dr. Carl Herman, the hypnotic entertainer, heads the bill here this week, and another prominent turn is Charles Bignell, the popular London comedian. Excellent business is contributed also by the Paul Hesse Trio in an acrobatic pot-pourri act; Carney and Armstrong as "the Pro and the Baggage-man"; Gertrude Mason, an accomplished vocalist; the Cavalottis, Italian instrumentalists; Harley and Melton, in a clever act; Bert Williams, ventriloquial humorist; and the Three Bostonians, singers and dancers.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmunds's company are pleasing local audiences by a rendering of *The Golden Ladder* at this theatre. The long cast is throughout a very able one, those having most opportunities to distinguish themselves being Mr. Harry Cullenford, Mr. Joseph Rolands, Mr. J. Milne Taylor, Mr. Harry Belford, Mr. Eric Thomson, Miss Eva Moss, Miss Nellie Graham, Miss Janet Wakeling, Miss Jessie Gillette, and Miss Holly Hazelwood. The general effect of play and staging is excellent.

St. James's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Messrs Chesney, Sanderson, and Elma's company are playing here this week in *The Power and the Glory*, a drama which pleased a good house on Monday night. The principal parts are in the hands of Mr. A. Fitzmaurice and Miss Bessie Elma, both of whom act in highly capable style; while good work is added by Mr. Reginald Fox, Mr. Arthur Rodney, Mr. Douglas Hutchins, Miss Mary Lovett, Miss Flo Florence, and Miss Fanny Olive. The story and the staging are alike interesting and sensational.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter De Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Kate Carney, the well-known coster comedienne, heads the bill here this week, and presents at alternate houses each evening *Our Laundry* and *'Liza Johnson* with success. An excellent turn is also given by Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, who meets with a deserved big reception; the Daunton-Shaw Troupe, the "Monarchs of the Wheel," are capital in a daring novel and humorous act; the Flying D'Osta Trio are marvellous Continental ring performers; Frank Hartley is a remarkably clever boy juggler; the Martini Brothers are clever and amusing in their bounding table act; Mamie Iris is a pleasing comedienne and neat dancer; and G. W. Foster and Charles Lilburn, comedians, also contribute to the programme. The Animated Pictures are good.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Collins.—Alf Gibson, the quaint and immobile comedian, tops the bill here this week, and is well appreciated. D'Arc's Marionettes are also high in favour for their clever imitations of a galaxy of well-known stars. Other excellent turns are contributed by Conway and Leland, the lively monopedes; Lively Lily Langtry, a very vivacious comedienne; Mlle. Olive, a skilful lady juggler; the Selbinis, in a wonderful acrobatic pot-pourri act; Herr Grais' Baboons in a highly trained performance; Lilian Lowe, an accomplished vocalist; and Harding and Ah-Sid, American eccentrics. The bioscopic pictures are sensational.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The Fishing Cormorants remain one of the attractions here this week. J. F. McArdle, fresh from his success at the Royal pantomime, presents with much success a funny sketch entitled *A Nightmare*; Ella's Lions are subdued to a remarkable extent, making it possible for the lady to do some really daring acts: the Five Olracs are first-rate "rag-time" acrobats; Arthur Sutcliffe is a capital comedian, who sings two songs; the Five Julians are pleasing dancers and singers; and good turns are provided by Johnny Alexander and company in a comedy sketch, and Jeannie Mackay, Scotch vocalist. Pinsuti's glee, "The Parting Kiss," is well rendered by the choir, and "Mamma, buy me a Baby," is nicely sung by pretty Miss Ida C. Morgan, assisted by the choir. The Bioscope Pictures are very enjoyable.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Some novel and graceful dancing is submitted here by Mildred Howard de Grey, who dances in bare feet, and with very picturesque effect. Tom Costello's humour, in a series of comic songs, is vastly amusing; Ida Brophy sings and dances cleverly; Harry Luck is heard in eccentric songs; the Ashers (Agnes and Mille) give their neat sketch, *The Earl and the Girl*; Kitty Campbell is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Stan Aubrey is an amusing comedian; Kloof and Ramsey give a capital burlesque musical turn; and Lilian Doreen, the charming vocalist, sings several songs in really beautiful style. Raymond's Vivagraph completes the programme.

King's, Longsight.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Some beautiful part singing is done here this week by the Original Celtics, who also introduce their novel silver-toned one-stringed phonoviolas in harmony with pleasing effect. Amy Anderson and company are seen to advantage in that capital coster scena, *The Banana Stall*; Angelina, the lady Cinquevalli, is a really excellent juggler; La Petite Voltaire is an exceedingly clever juvenile comedienne; Arthur Slater, well-known as the "White Whistler," is good; Yorkshire Tom is a capital farmyard mimic; Marie Blythe has a very sweet voice, and uses it well; George Hyam, comedian, proves very popular; and Dobito and Buxton sing some gems of old-fashioned melody in fine style.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An interesting and clever act, *The Lilliputians*, is given here this week by Mlle. Haydee and assistants, and the various realistic impersonations are much enjoyed. The drolleries of Little Dando are also well received; the very adroit juggling and balancing of Ernesto obtain much applause; the Brothers Herslebs are good knock-about comedians; T. E. Johnstone, light comedian, is also good; the Marconis give an interesting exhibition in "electric wonders"; the Four Jumels offer a pleasing musical act; Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, is appreciated; and Bert and Dora sing in a pleasing manner.

Hippodrome (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Percy Honri in his latest protean musical success *Concordia* is the attraction here this week, and meets with a well-deserved flattering reception, the sketch being considerably above the average, and excellent throughout. Henry Carlton and company in a short sketch, *One Night Only*, evoke much laughter; Harry Taft, comedian and whistler, and Moto, musical eccentric, are also well received; Drum and Major are smart patter-comedians; the clever juggling of Mozzetto is highly appreciated; the Franko Midgets are said to be "the smallest conjurers in the world"; McCann is a capital comedian and roller-skate dancer; and Frances Manners contributes an acceptable musical scena entitled *In the Good Old Days*. The bioscope this week depicts "The Poacher's Revenge," which is good.

MANSFIELD.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Jennings.—Large and appreciative audiences attended this popular playhouse on Monday, when Mr. Charles Macdona's company presented the musical play *The Toreador*. The title-rôle was taken by Mr. J. Colcough Fagan in a capable manner; Mr. Richard Telford as Sammy Gigg caused roars of laughter; Miss Avis Grahame as Mrs. Malton Hoppings was most effective; Pettifer was well portrayed by Mr. Tom May; Mr. F. Hulme Sharp as Sir Archibald Slackett, performed his part with credit; as also did Mr. Chas. M. Heslop as Augustus Trail; the Governor of Villaya was in the capable hands of Mr. Hy. Arthur; as Dora Selby Miss Sadie Neville did well; and as Nancy Staunton Miss Alice Nixon found many admirers; Miss Florence Spurgeon played her part of Donna Teresa with intensity.

MARGATE.—The Hippodrome.—Sole proprietors, Messrs F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—This week's programme includes Lockhart's remarkably clever troupe of four performing elephants, introduced by Capt. Taylor (who, by the way, is a native of Margate), and his unique show has been drawing big houses. The other turns are the Bodina Trio of instrumentalists, who play well; Tom Leo, comedian, who is very quaint; H. A. Moore, actor mimic; Vincent, acrobatic table expert and lightning Arab tumbler; and Shawlene, sifflеur, mimic, and tramp impersonator. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope provides plenty of merriment with a variety of amusing pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's *A Traitor Prince* company is here. In the title-rôle (Prince Kao Dalmirez) Mr. G. M. Moulanini displays marked ability; as Lieut. Frank Derrick Mr. Francis Everard acts with earnestness and force; Mr. Victor Kae gives a capital study of the half-caste Cara. Mr. Ernest Duval is amusing as Billy Bright; Mr. Jerold E. Reid is very droll as the Hon. Bobby Vavasour Dalrymple; and Mr. A. W. Norman gives a creditable performance of Richard Vane. Miss Nita Langford is excellent as Vashti, the snake charmer; Miss Kitty Thomas is entertaining as Pansy Blossom, and Miss Clara O'Grady makes a motherly Mrs. Blossom.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. J. F. Preston is this week presenting *The Rogues of the Turf*. Mr. J. F. Preston figures to distinct advantage as Joe Flaxman; Mr. Ernest R. Allen is excellent as Arthur Somerton; the Captain Clifton of Mr. Fred Emery is a vigorous rendering; Mr. Arthur Prescott does well as Sir Gerald Heathcote; Mr. H. Macro is a typical Jew as Joseph Solomon; Miss Madge Nelson scores a dramatic success in the rôle of Nellie Flaxman; Miss Hilda Shirley plays with distinction as Lady Heatchcote; and Miss Lalla Stanhope is pleasing as Phyllis Wurzel.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company, in the comedy *Mr Hopkinson*, is here this week. In the name-part Mr. Edward Rigby has full scope for his comedy powers, and acts with an admirable sense of humour; Mr. Charles Esdale gives a capital portrayal as the Duke of Braceborough; and Mr Cecil Burt is a decided success as the Earl of Addleton. Mr. Vaughan's conception of the character of Lord Gawthorpe is marked by distinct ability; Mr. G. Desmond is a vivacious Hon. Otho Dursingham; as Mr. Smethurst, Mr. Johnson gives a capital interpretation; Miss Blanka Stuart plays the character of the Duchess with marked skill; Miss Russell is a graceful Lady

F. Ingram as Toby Turvey and Mr. John Brooks as Luke Ramsden both proved themselves to be successful artists.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Appearing here this week is *The Orphan Heiress*, which is being presented by a capable company under the direction of Mr. W. Reuben Payne. Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle is seen to distinct advantage as Lawrence Gordon; the callous nature of Douglas Kingston is forcibly depicted by Mr. Charles Boult; Mr. Henry Willis acquits himself well as Lord Aynsley; and George Handel presents a life-like impersonation of the minister. Two pantomime favourites in this district—to wit, Mr. T. H. Solly and Miss Cora Duncan—are responsible for some excellent comedy; Miss Rosalie Heath sustains with much charm the rôle of Mabel Aynsley; Miss Constance Medwyn portrays in a successful manner the part of Edith Mowbray; Miss Edith Halford as Olive Kingston impersonates this arduous rôle in praiseworthy style, and Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is happily placed as Lady Aynsley.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—The position of honour in this week's programme is worthily assigned to Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant's illusions. Firstly they introduce their magic kettle act, and the fortunate habitués of the stalls have had only to "call in" their gargles, and their demands have been freely and gratuitously executed. In conclusion they submit their latest illusion "The Burmese Gong," an act that creates the utmost bewilderment; the Lukustinna Troupe in an equilibristic and balancing performance again secure a large share of applause; the Trapnell family execute all their tricks with neatness and grace; the Colede Losse Dus execute some clever and amusing balancing feats on the slack wire; and the sand dancing of Bijou Russell interspersed with some amusing comedy proves enjoyable; Virto, assisted by Irene and Venita, again submits a refined musical act; Morton and Elliott are paper-tearers of extraordinary ability, and James Fawn, comedian, Mattie Wilkes, the Creole Singer, and the Two Bostons all contribute successfully.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The premier attraction in this week's programme is a ludicrous farce by Lew Lake and company. Austin Rudd's parody on "The Wooden Hut" is funny in the extreme; Barton and Franklin submit their speciality act, consisting of singing, dancing, and music; that popular extempore comedian F. V. St. Clair claims attention with his songs; Rowland Hill's efforts to amuse are thoroughly appreciated; as a burlesque actress Daisy Morell is popular; Lil O'Gorman is an acceptable vocalist and dancer; Leslie Race is a diverting comedian; Ailsa Douglas, vocalist, is cordially received, and the Barrascope continues to be a popular item.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*After the Ball*, a new musical comedy, is being played here by Mr. Chas. Carey's company. Mr. Victor Widdicombe as Colonel Joseph Monit, displays real humour; and Mr. Walter Ringham, as Halliwell Menit is good; and Mr. Gus Danby does well; while the Martin of Mr. Buckstone Clair is an extremely clever illustration of quiet humour. Miss Nelly James (Kitty) dances prettily; and there is an element of humour in the characters of Nancy (admirably portrayed by Miss Irene Moncrief, the Nellie Mather of Miss Nellie Groves, and the Ruth Gay of Miss Nellie James.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Chung Ling Soo, the famous Chinese conjurer, mystifies enthusiastic audiences here nightly with his clever tricks. Carrie Laurie's Juveniles provide a turn that is manifestly popular; Terry and Lambert win a warm reception with their finely-rendered duet; and the O'Learys, acrobats, perform some intricate gymnastic feats; while the Paxton trio provide a similar turn of great merit. The Dumond Ministrels, singers and instrumentalists, is a turn of a high order; the Mariano Sisters give a thrilling exhibition on the trapeze; and the Edgar Forrest Sketch Combination cause much laughter with their domestic scene.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. Herbert Hollister and company are here this week in *The Lights of London*, in which Mr. Arthur Cornell gives a masterly presentation of Harold Armytage. Miss Jeanne Burgoyne is a sympathetic Bess; and Mr. Riddell Robinson a sinister Clifford Armytage. Mr. Herbert Hollister submits a commendable rendering of Seth Preene; Miss Violet Temple as Mrs. Jarvis, Miss Gladys Murray as Shakespeare Jarvis, and Mr. W. E. Passmore as Jarvis, are good in their respective parts. Miss Lily O'Dempsey is responsible for a pleasing rendering of Hetty Preene.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—A clever dramatic sketch, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*, tops the bill here; and at the other end is the comical sketch, *The Butler Knows*, by the Brown and Kelly combination. The Katos are again here with their pleasing show. Kate Lynd, a chic comedienne; Grace Langley, a charming serio; and the Sisters Hula, duettists and dancers, give good turns. George Martinengo introduces a performance on the 'cello, which is well received; Mark Merry, comedian; and Charles Dixon, comic; and the Palace pictures complete the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A rich musical treat has been provided here this week by the engagement of the Moody Manners Opera Company, which opened on Monday with *Faust*. As Marguerite, Miss Ethel Cadman was in every way successful, her singing and acting being of the highest order; Miss Rosina Beynon made an excellent Siebel; and Miss M. Goodwin was a satisfactory Martha. As Faust, Mr. Charles Carter was worthy of the highest praise; Mr. George Neilson acquitted himself admirably as Mephistopheles; Mr. Frederic Erle made an effective Valentine; and Mr. L. Alexander was trusty and reliable as Wagner. The orchestra and chorus also rendered valuable aid. *Lohengrin*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Carmen*, and *Maritana* are also in the week's programme.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—N. T. Kioto, the clever Japanese equilibrist, is having a cordial reception here; Picitt and Lizette, in *A Christmas Dream*, are very smart; the Lovelaces, song illustrators, are greatly appreciated; the Seymours, speciality artists, have made a great hit; Messrs. Doyle and Gibson, comedians and dancers, gain a large share of public favour; and Miss Annie Webster, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Harry Levaine, patter comedian; and the bio-photoscope meet with their usual success.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—Melodrama once more occupies the boards of this theatre, Mr. Charles H. Phelps opening on Monday with *One Woman's Wickedness*. Mr. Phelps, who is also the author of the piece, acts powerfully in the character of Jem Craggs; as the hero, Philip Beaufort, Mr. Alfred Geo. Fry plays with dramatic force; Mr. Harry Tilbury in the rôle of Limpy Larry is full of fun, and is well backed up in his comedy scenes by Miss Arline T. George as Jenny Jiggles; in the thankless part of Janet Raymond Miss Belle Tilbury plays in an effective manner; Miss Amy Dalby is the possessor of a sweet voice, and portrays Lilian Craggs charmingly.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. George Dance's own company in *The Orchid* is here this week, and has been well patronised. Miss Magery Moore charmingly enacts the part of Lady Violet Anstruther; whilst Miss Phil Gumpel humorously performs as Caroline Vokins; Miss Sissie Brand is successful as Zélie Rumbert; and Miss D. West-Collins as Thisbe is excellent. Miss Maud Davis is praiseworthy as Countess Anstruther; and Miss Trilby Collier as Josephine Zaccary, Mr. Sinclair Holden as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, met with a hearty reception; and Mr. Vyvyan Wakeman is very good as Dr. Ronald Faussett. Mr. Chas. Seymour gives a dignified representation of Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. Albert Sealy as Zaccary does well; and Mr. Graham is very lively as M. Deaville. Mr. Harry Walsh as Meakin is funny, and excites much hilarity.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—Mr. and Mrs. Lucas are here this week performing *Scenes from Dickens*, and are much appreciated. Morris Cronin and his troupe of modern jugglers give a clever turn; Shean, Fox, and Shean are very funny in *The Fighting Tramp*; the Three Zaracs are successful in their burlesque triple bar act; whilst the Three Ladderites give a most daring performance. Richard Corbin and his troupe of performing dogs show some amusing tricks; and Fred Cary is a popular comedian. Harry Ray and Lilie Calden, in their comedy act, sing and dance well; and the Hippo Bio continues very interesting.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal commenced their welcome visit by a presentation of *A Scrap of Paper*, and on Tuesday the delightful play *Dick Hope* was given. In the title-rôle Mr. Kendal is admirable, his suggestion of this weak character struggling against his besetting sin being thoroughly impressive. Mrs. Kendal plays Marjorie Lyall with exquisite touch, and a tenderness and fascination that win all hearts. Mr. Bassett Roe finds a congenial part in John Hemming, acting with force and vigour; Mr. Percy Crawford gives a capital impersonation of the light-hearted Gilbert; and Mr. Ernest Hendrie imparts originality as the curate. Mrs. A. B. Tapping as the solemn, precise old lady, Henrietta Turtle, is a capital character study; and Miss Marie Lohr embodies Gwendoline Giles with natural and attractive vivaciousness. Miss Jessie Moore is altogether satisfactory as Clara Hope; and Mr. W. M. Rutherford cleverly portrays the servant Jephson. During the week were also given *The Elder Miss Blossom*, *The Housekeeper*, and *The Ironmaster*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—A return to pantomime has been made this week, and the presentation of *Dick Whittington*, by Mr. Edward Marris's company, finds hearty favour. Owing to the indisposition of Miss Madge Merry, the part of Dick is taken by Miss Winifred Preece, a young and attractive artist, who quickly made many friends by her bright and vivacious manner and enjoyable singing. Miss Lottie Vincent essays the rôle of principal girl with marked success, her singing of "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you" being especially appreciated. The humorous work of Mr. Walter Wade as Jack Idle deserves every praise, and he wins enthusiastic plaudits for his vocal abilities. Mr. C. Kashma contrives to bring out a lot of fun as Captain Kettle; and Mr. Arthur Pearce makes a droll Emperor of Morocco. The rainbow and fire dances of Miss Effie White are well appreciated, as also are the Thalian Glee Singers; the Sisters Vincent, singers and dancers; Les Sprays, speciality dancers; and the Kashmas. The success is further helped by Misses Poppie Howard, Josephine Hylton, and Messrs. Wm. Kashma, W. H. Ball, and Walter Nugent.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—*The Throne of Terror* occupies the boards this week.—The fierce, dictatorial, and callous nature of Robespierre is brought out by Mr. Wm. J. Miller with a vigour and intensity that are entirely convincing; Miss Augusta Tullock gives the fullest expression to the overbearing Victorine D'Almonte; and Mr. W. Williams ably performs his part as a spy. Mr. Roy Milton combines fervour with judgment in his portraiture of Captain Eugene de Lisle; and the misfortunes of the old Comte de Roquefort are admirably depicted by Mr. A. W. Thompson. Miss Katherine Maude Davies invests Marguerite di Roquefort with sympathetic interest; and Miss Irene Vane acts with taste as Sister Lucette. The comedy element is well furnished by Mr. Bert Ellis (Joujou) and Miss Russell (Peppietta).

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—The principal attraction this week is A. C. Lilly and company in their popular sketch, *Drummed Out*, which is proving a great attraction. The next position on the bill is occupied by that clever actor-vocalist Arthur Lennard, and the enthusiastic applause which greets his every appearance amply testifies to the esteem in which he is held by Nottingham audiences. The agility and cleverness displayed by the Marlo-Dunham Trio of acrobats leads one to suppose that they have indeed brought their performance to perfection. Terry and Bentley, very clever at cross-talking, as well as at dancing, and possessing various other minor accomplishments, are responsible for an excellent turn; Madame Alice Simmons has a remarkable soprano voice, which has evidently been well trained; and Miss Lizzie Fletcher also sings very sweetly in simple sentimental ballads. The Sisters Aindon are a couple of interesting musicians; and the Silvas, as firemen, balancing themselves on a ladder, deserve special mention. The programme is brought to a conclusion by some clever bioscope pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Plenty of change is provided here this week by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company, who have successfully presented alternately *A Wife's Triumph*, *Sapho*, and *Trilby*. In *A Wife's Triumph* on Monday night the interest of the audience was maintained throughout. As Frank Wilson, Mr. Abbott acts in good style; Mr. W. H. Garbois supplying a meritorious Ellis Jordon. Mr. Douglas C. Phelps is a typical Yorkshire Squire; Alice Wilson finds an able exponent in Miss Kathleen Stewart; Miss Ada Abbott presents an interesting study of Bessie Dewhurst; and Miss Elsie Jones makes a commendable Little Frank.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—Mr. George Dance's company, under the management of Mr. J. Alban Newton, is paying us a visit this week with *Lady Madcap*. In the title rôle Miss Vera Vere throws plenty of life and go into the part; Miss Kathleen Romayne makes an interesting and fascinating Gwenny Holden; and Miss Peggy Primrose has won all hearts by her delightful performance of Susan, her graceful dancing being a never-ending source of pleasure. Mr. Alex. Chentrens is a great favourite as Count St. Hubert, his cultivated singing and melodious voice meeting with keen appreciation; Mr. Bay Russell as Bill Stratford and Mr. Fred Payne as Posh Jenkins furnish as amusing a pair of scamps as one would wish to see; Colonel Layton and Lord Framlingham find capable exponents in Messrs. Grant and L. du Cane; Mr. Vincent Erne is highly amusing as Corporal Ham; and Mr. H. B. Surrey scores a tremendous success with his quaintly humorous performance of Oroya Brown. A large and efficient chorus and the brightest of dresses and scenery add to the pleasure of this most successful play.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident Manager, Mr. J. Roberts Jones.—Miss Elaine Verner's company is here this week in *Saints and Sinners*. A large audience greeted it on the opening night, and enthusiastically applauded the fine acting of Mr. Harding Thomas as Jacob Fletcher, the minister. His soul-stirring utterances in the vestry scene held the audience with rapt attention. The part of George Kingsmill was admirably interpreted by Mr. John J. Hooker; Mr. W. Cronie Wilson was seen to advantage as Capt. Eustace Fenshaw; and as Samuel Haggard Mr. F. Lyndon was well placed, Lydia was capably represented by Miss Ada Clarke, her every appearance being cordially received; Miss Elaine Verner fully deserved the warm approval accorded her in her charming portrayal of Letty Fletcher. *The Middleman* was presented on Wednesday.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The Compton Comedy Company is delighting crowded houses this week. On Monday evening was staged *Davy Garrick*, in which play Mr. Edward Compton assumed the title-rôle for the 1303rd time. *The Desperate Lover*, a new one-act comedy, was given as a curtain-raiser. *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Money*, *The School for Scandal*, and *New Men and Old Acres* are also billed.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Breed of the Treshams* was presented at the Royal on Monday, and was enthusiastically received by a large audience. Mr. Henry Belding in the leading part of Lieutenant Reresby (The Rat) gave a rendering of the rôle that would do credit to Mr. Martin Harvey himself; while the vacillating and selfish character of the Hon. Clement Hungerford received correct interpretation at the hands of Mr. Hamilton Deane; Mr. Oswald Linguard made a noble and dignified Viscount Dorsington, and Mr. Geo. Traill as Col. Sir Henry Curwen also found favour with the audience; Mr. Cecil Klein in the character of the impetuous but chivalrous Hon. Francis Tresham was quite at home in a part more difficult to play than at first appears; lesser parts were ably filled by Messrs. C. T. Doe (Col. Bagshaw), M. Wetherell (Capt. Stanhope), W. Blake (Capt. Rasleigh), and Geo. Jackson (Lieut. Willoughby). The ladies do not play a very prominent part in the piece, but we were especially pleased with the maidenly rendering of the Hon. M. Hungerford by Miss Florence Tresillan, and the part of the camp-follower Batty by Miss Celestine Bertram.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—A now well-known domestic drama, *Home, Sweet Home*, occupies the boards at the Grand this week. Miss Irina Farington as Joan is a great favourite with the audience and receives material assistance from Mr. Edward Lloyd as Stephen Armitage; Sybil Fay in the hands of Miss Pattie Bella, is a well-sustained rôle; and mention must also be made of little Miss K. Saunders, who plays Dora. Mr. Green Taylor as the Hon. Percy supplies the lighter element in most acceptable fashion.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Michell.—Mr. J. W. Morton's company is this week presenting two attractive musical comedy dramas, namely *The Rajah of Rajapore* and *The Sporting Girl*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. S. Field.—Amongst a bevy of star artists Burke and McVoy carry off premier honours for their funny yet clever sketch entitled *Fun in a Saloon*; while the Revell Troupe work hard in a turn of a similar nature; the Zampas furnish one of the smartest bits of step-over dancing ever seen at the Palace, and Mr. Reg. Bolton, an old pantomime favourite, comes in for a hearty reception for his quack-doctor stump-speech; Miss Yolande Noble captivates the house by her "Won't you spoon with me?" song; Ahrensmeyer, the Cowboy hypnotist, performs some apparently wonderful feats of mesmerism; and the opening turn furnished by Carr and Rose is a vocal effort of a high order. Vernon's animated pictures have lost none of their customary attractiveness.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The new romantic play *The Midnight Wedding*, with Mr. Alfred Paumier playing lead, is the attraction here this week. Miss Annie Saker gives a charming representation of the Princess Astrea; Capt. Rudolph Von Sarsbruck has a powerful exponent in Mr. Sidney Lynn; Mr. Frederick W. Freeman is seen to advantage as the repentant Crown Prince Leopold; Mr. Clinton Baddeley scores a great success as Lieut. Eugene Von Strelsburg; Mr. W. S. Hardy gives a refined performance as Father Gerard. The three comrades, Sergt. Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo, are admirably portrayed by Messrs. Fred Constable, Reginald Payne, and Algie Spalding respectively. Miss Ada Champion is well suited as Kathie.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth.—This week we are favoured with a visit by Mr. William A. Armour's Original No. 1 Company in *What a Woman Did*. Mr. Edward Rawlinson does justice to the part of Conrad de L'Orme; Mr. William A. Armour acquits himself creditably as Raffaelle Duroc; Mr. Fred Rignold is amusing as Peter Pippin, and Fritz von Hoegitheim is capably played by Mr. Jim Woods. Miss Adelaide Clare makes the most of the part of La Papillon; Miss Bertha Clifton scores a success as Nannette; Mr. Ivan Lester as Verlaine and Mr. Herbert Ashton as Artois deserve mention; Miss Dora Price plays successfully Elsie de L'Orme.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—This week *Claudian* is the attraction here, being presented by Mr. William Maclaren and company. The exacting part of Claudian is most effectively rendered by Mr. Maclaren; Miss Lily C. Bandmann ably supports him as Almida, her impersonation being an exceedingly graceful one; Thariofalus the Tetrarch is well placed in the hands of Mr. Wilson Howard; Mr. George R. J. Austin plays the part of Agazil vigorously and well; and Belos and Edessa are amusingly acted by Mr. C. T. Chaloner and Miss Carlotta Anson.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company are located here for the week, playing Mr. Walter Melville's sensational piece *The Female Swindler*. Mr. H. C. Cooper gives a clever embodiment of John Coulson; Mr. H. Newburn makes a villainous Geoffrey Warden, alias Captain Stanton; Mr. Bernard Dunstan portrays capitally the receiver Abraham Mikestein; Mr. Luke Foster, in the quadruple rôles of Lord Hitchett, Billy Binks, the Scotchman, and the Washerwoman, is very successful; Mr. W. Shaw is good as Detective Dixon; Miss Florrie Kelsey plays May Andrews pleasingly; and Miss Grace E. Leslie as Lu Valroy, otherwise Miss Darwin, gives a realistic impersonation.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Large audiences have been in evidence here this week, the programme being more than usually attractive. Hope and Wayho are applauded for their cleverly-rendered scenes from Dickens; Ada Parker, coon songstress, makes a favourable impression; McCann's intelligent terriers and greyhounds are a source of merriment in their amusing tricks; Dot Hardy, comedienne, meets with a flattering greeting; Andrews and Thompson are a pair of good class musicians; France and Stewart, in comedy sketch, *A 100 to 1 Chance*, are responsible for an exciting and humorous item; the Three De Veres, novelty acrobats, are amusing and clever with their balancing feats; and Spencer and Marks, speciality artists; Woolmer Young, vocal comedian; and some interesting pictures by Payne's bioscope fill the bill.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—*Oliver Twist*, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, affords an excellent attraction here this week. Mr. Stanley Drewitt gives a masterly impersonation of Fagin; Bill Sikes has a realistic representative in Mr. W. H. Kemble; Mr. W. Rotherham ably sustains the parts of Mr. Grimwig and Monks; Mr. Fred Penley acquits himself well as Mr. Brownlow; Mr. Cyril Cattley is quite satisfactory as Harry Maylie; Mr. Arthur Klein cleverly depicts Barney; Mr. Charles Clark (the Artful Dodger), Mr. R. C. Hunter (Charlie Bates), and Mr. J. Johns (Tom Chitling) capably fill their parts. Miss Dorothy Marsdin in the title-rôle is natural and effective; Miss Alice Maude is a pleasing exponent of Mrs. Maylie; Rose Maylie is agreeably portrayed by Miss Helen Clement; and much praise is due to Miss Edith Anton Laing for her convincing embodiment of Nancy. The play is admirably staged.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Sydney Dench is presenting this week a powerful drama entitled *The Rich and Poor of London*. Miss Dora Dench as May Braithwaite wins the sympathies of the house; Mr. Sydney Dench as Spider Jack keeps the house amused by his droll manner; Mr. Walter Foster ably sustains the rôle of Mark Stanley; Mr. Robert Hall shows dramatic ability as Dr. Leonard Morton; Miss Lillian Burns as Polly Philpot is successful; and Miss Emily Woodleigh capably fills the rôle of Auntie Shrimp.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—The chief attraction here this week is Mr. Harry Tate's company in the quaintly amusing sketch *Fishing*, which creates hearty laughter; Bertha Stuart is an accomplished ballad vocalist; Ruby Dahl sings with much charm while manipulating her living marionettes; Herbert Betts evokes hearty laughter with his comic songs; the Esmonds are capital eccentric comedians and dancers; the Mimosa Trio sing and dance pleasingly. Other good turns are Bert Weston, comedian; Phillips and Merritt; and Thurston, mimic. Humorous bioscope pictures complete the entertainment.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—This week we are favoured with a first-class melodrama in a return visit of *The Way of the World*. Mr. Herbert Skardon gives a realistic touch to the part of Cecil Montague, while Captain Fred Slade is a clever study by Mr. Victor Gordon. Mr. Clarence Temple deserves special praise for the admirable handling of Matthew Mayon. The humorous side is unfolded in irresistible style by Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff, and Mr. Dick Seddon is thoroughly well suited to the part of Joe Sparrow. Miss Sydney Crowe, who is now quite a favourite here, displays great talent in her vivacious impersonation of Adela de la Roche, and Miss C. Bellamy makes a sweet and pleasing Kate Montague; as Polly Bell (champion strong woman) Miss Violet Vivienne is seen to great advantage.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Judge Parry's clever farcical comedy *What the Butler Saw* is creating immense merriment this week. The production is under the personal direction of Mr. Lionel Rignold, who impersonates the observant Butler in a highly amusing manner. Mr. Charles Fawcett plays the part of the captivating Jack Barrington in gallant style; Miss Ada Blanche makes a bewitching Mrs. Barrington; Mr. Reddick Anderson is excellent as the aristocratic hydro. proprietor; and Mr. George Ascott as the irascible General Dunlop, Mr. Harry H. Rignold as Abraham Weinstein, Mr. Alec Alves as the stagestruck Vere de Bogyns, and Mr. Roy Byford as Professor Shale extract the maximum of humour from their respective characters. Mr. George Bealo as Sidney Clifford and Mr. Frank Elton as the Doctor both act well. Miss Marie Daltra as the Maiden Aunt, Miss Edith Blanche as Mrs. Fleming-Smyth, and Miss Annie Goward as Mrs. Hake are all very amusing. Miss May Hart takes the juvenile part of Sophonisba in good style, and Miss Grace Richardson as Nora, Miss Phyllis Gibson as Miss Clarissa Dunlop, and Miss Minnie Willett as Miss Selina Dunlop act pleasingly.

ROCHDALE. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—A delightful performance of *The Cingalee* was given here on Monday evening. Mr. Lauri De Frece as Chambhuddy Ram was mainly responsible for the humour of the play, his quaint mannerisms and clever mimicry keeping the audience convulsed with laughter. Miss Gladys Guy as Peggy Sabine was delightfully piquant, her clever acting and spirited vocalism making her a warm favourite. Mr. Frank Crimp was heard to great advantage as Harry Vereker; Mr. Bertrand Gates made a dignified and imposing noble as Boobhamba; and Mr. Coop Edmunds as the susceptible Sir Peter Loftus and Mr. Ethelbert Edwards as Bobby Warren were both successful in their efforts. Miss Marjorie Clarke has a pleasing voice, and acted the part of Lady Patricia Vane to perfection, and Miss Winnie O'Connor was a charming Nanoya. The scenery and stage effects were exceptionally bright and pleasing.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee.—A capital array of talent is here this week. Les Valdos, the Continental eccentrics, are highly amusing; Sandes and Vincent, in grotesque comedy act provide plenty of fun; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud submit some pleasing vocalism; Alec Kennedy, actor-vocalist, makes a most favourable impression; and Gilbert Bros. (tight-rope performers), C. Hampson (eccentric), Miss Lily Hope (the Dutch girl), and Vernon's Bioscope complete the programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Mr. Chas. Parker's Six Æolians are accorded a most gratifying reception here, and their contributions in a high-class comedy act are enthusiastically received. Julian Mack keeps the audience in merry humour with his original jokes and patter, and other successful turns are submitted by Capita, living marionette; Katie Moore, comedienne; Wee Mona, the little nipper; Ariel and Astarte, in gymnastic pot-pourri act; Cissie Curlette, mimetic vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company during the first three nights of this week presented the comedy *Merely Mary Ann*. Miss Margaret Fareleigh as Mary Ann gave an effective rendering of the part; Mr. Harold Standing as Lancelot proved himself to be an efficient and capable actor; as Peter Mr. J. Cranstoun Nevill was amusing; and Miss Ruth Haslewood as Mrs. Leadbatter was well placed.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Poor Must Live*, which has been here several times, drew a large house on Monday, when Geoffrey Fulton's principal company commenced a week's engagement. Mr. Geoffrey Fulton plays with much power as Clifton Manville; and Donald is well presented by Mr. Harold C. Macartney; Miss Olive Fulton acts the part of Olga D'Eyncourt with dignity and power; Mr. Shaun Glenville as Hooker Holdsnitch is comical, and with Miss Alice Buckland as Moya Darling supporting him, much laughter is caused; Miss Molly Wynne makes a good Dick Sully; Miss Violet Hammersley is a charming Dorothy; Miss Marguerite Thorne is well placed as Sal Darling, and Mr. Charles O'Connor as the Earl of Marshwood and Mr. Arthur Trail as Sam Sully also do good work.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The marvellous blind pianist, Mendel, has an excellent reception; the sensational act *The Reckless Miner* by the Four Avocas is well received; and other clever turns are provided by the Tysons (musical speciality artists), Charles Cooray (white coon vocalist), the Mackays in *Dry Comedy and Wet Paint*, Lily Lassah (comedienne and dancer), Gilbert Girard (mimic), Gertrude Hunt (juvenile comedienne), Will Fredo (comedian), the Sisters Walmsley in their scena *From School to Stage*, and Ben Nevis (a clever dancer).

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Dawson Dewick with his quaint patter and songs heads an excellent programme this week. The other turns include Welda and Wynne (smart jugglers), Linton on the wire, Lorrisons (American song and dance), Tod Lowan (comic), Kendrick and Laura (good duettists and dancers), Fred Casburn (comedian), the Brontes in *The New Slavey*, and *Indian Pastimes*, by Ara, Zebra, and Vora.

SCARBOROUGH. — PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Ketchingman.—The management have again an up-to-date programme this week, amongst the prominent entertainers being Fred and Maud Vypond in the sketch, *The Honeymoon*. The Prinellas in a musical cornfield and farmyard scene introduce a country flirtation in which the usual occupants of the farmyard play an effective part. Joe Gill, comedian, is well received, and Worth and Stuart, comedy entertainers, give a pleasing turn. Bert Delmar and Edith Van Dane are effective in their original comedy act; Wisper, comedy juggler, delights the audience with his various tricks; Madge Elliott is a smart dancer; Adee and Agwin in *The Antics of a Road Repairer* introduce a novel turn; and Tom Colwyn, comedian, is funny. A. G. Candler, musical director, and his orchestra render pleasing overtures.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Sarony and Co.; Lessee, Mr. G. Zalva.—This popular place of amusement has now opened for a fortnight under the management of Mr. R. Silvester, and packed houses are the order of the day. Some excellent turns are seen, amongst which are the Four Rosaires, who give a marvellous acrobatic exhibition. Z. Boleros in a triple bar act distinguished himself; Connie Barrie, a ballad vocalist renders her selections well; Harry Sanderson, contortionist, gives a high-class exhibition; the Silvester Sketch Co. cause amusement in *The Asylum Cook*; Prof. Hulbert, ventriloquist, gives a good show; De Lil is an adept in the art of conjuring; and a special feature is Mr. R. Silvester's Animated Pictures.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is proving a strong attraction here this week. Miss Mabel Kesler presents a vivacious Dick Whittington, and Miss Annie Brevitt is an imposing Captain Dash. Alderman Fitzwarren receives an excellent comic interpretation from Mr. Dan Lyndon; Alice being prettily impersonated by Miss Percy Fame. Betsy (Mr. Harry Rowe) and Jack (Mr. Gus Granville) keep the fun rolling in conjunction with Messrs. R. Kempton and H. Pastor as McFlip and O'Flop Other parts deserving mention are Polly Perkins (Miss Linda May) and Miladi Loo (Miss Louie Yates). Amongst the specialité turns are Miss Mabel Kessler, a clever cornet, post horn, and bugle soloist; Mr. Harry Wright, extempore vocalist, and the Dandies quartette of dancers, who do some good work; Miss Peggy Fame, danseuse, gives a capital turn, as also does her canine champion, Peter, the black pug.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Ediscope and Barnum's electric animated pictures and variety company constitute a pleasing change here this week. Lulu, a lady instrumentalist, is very popular and successful in her illuminated garden scene; the Two Allies are smart English and Japanese jugglers; M. Aerice, a gymnastic equilibrist, contributes an original act; Lyons is a smart and amusing ventriloquist; Vie Verney is a whistling comedian of considerable ability; Miss Queenie Vane a pleasing comedienne and big-boot dancer; the Two Ver-Vains are duettists and dancers, who win much favour; and as a versatile comedian Phil Rabey wins considerable success.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—This week Dan Thomas and company are paying a welcome return visit with *Aladdin*. Miss Daisy Yates makes an ideal Aladdin, and sings her allotted numbers with favour; Miss Rose Conroy is successful as the Princess; Mr. Ernest Cass is excellent as the Emperor, and possesses a fine bass voice; the Bros. Daniels as Slip and Slop cause plenty of fun; Mr. Dan Thomas fully maintains his popularity as the Widow Twankey; and as Abanazar Mr. Fred Lake is a decided success. A comic football match between Dan Thomas's eleven and a local team is arranged for the benefit of the local Sick Nursing Society, under the directorship of Mr. Fred Leighton, the popular manager.

THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil. Reymond.—There is a good all-round company here this week, and crowded houses are the rule. Mr. F. Godfrey is a clever comedian and reciter; Mr. Gus Daniels is well received for his clever descriptive songs; Miss Rosie Lemaire gains loud applause for her well-rendered songs and finished dancing; and the Maynard and France Co. rivet the attention of the audience with their well-played dramatic sketch *A Living Lie*; Miss Lillie Thomas is a clever little serio comedienne and dancer; and the Elshaw Co. cause roars of laughter with their comedy sketch, *A Terrible Mistake*, which sends the audience home in the best of humours.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. Louis Calvert

entertainers; Mr. Ted Saunders, comedian; Miss Blanch Marion, soubrette; Rumbo Austin and his Comical Navvies; Mr. Fred Southern's company, sketch artists; and Prof. PaMister's animated photos with up-to-date pictures.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifford's company is here this week with the military drama *On Circumstantial Evidence*. Mr. A. M. James plays admirably the part of Sir Lawrence Kinloch, M.P.; Mr. Milton Curtis makes a manly and capable Jack Ogilvy; Mr. Chas. Clifford is good as the villain of the play; Mr. S. Long presents a soldierly appearance as General Garibaldi; Miss Dot Beresford is a smart little Tim; Miss Rose Faith plays with expression and power as Olga Brandoni; Miss Maud Camfield is an attractive Violet Ogilvy, and Miss Pollie Denville makes a bright and pleasing Polly Smithers, her character songs being capitally sung.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Plays may come and plays may go, but *Proof* still holds its own. It is presented by Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's No. 1 Company. The piece brings out the strong points of Mr. Gerald Kennedy, who takes the part of Pierre Loraine; Miss Lucy Prittie-Tydd as Adrienne, and Mr. William Dexter as Lazare are praiseworthy; Miss May Grimshaw is good as Valentine; Mr. Wilford Bailey does excellent work as Chamboran, and Mr. Terence Nerrey as the Duke. Miss Dorothy White as the Duchesse, Miss Phena Powell as Mme. Deprets, and Mr. G. Garnet-Vane as Victor are well suited.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—Mr. Mouillot's own company is this week appearing in *Old Heidelberg*. The cast includes Mr. Robert Minster (Karl Heinrich), Mr. J. Nelson Ramsay (Dr. Juttner), and Miss Irene Lavington (Kathie), all of whom do splendidly. Capable support is rendered, and the staging is excellent.

Palace.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—A company of all-round excellence is appearing here. First favourite is Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company, in a sketch *The Orange Girl*, which meets with cordial appreciation; Dickenson and Johnson are clever ornamental swimmers; Sorry and Austin prove a talented couple; Otto and Olga, instrumentalists and mock operatic artists; Goodfellow and Gregson, expert dancers; Will Lytton, comedian; and Blanche Marion, comedienne, are all satisfactory.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; District Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Aldin.—Prinz's lions are the attraction here, and a very clever performance is witnessed; Virginia, with her skilful coons, brings down the house; Adey Spencer, a smart little artist; Cordite and Buffalo, in their unique rope speciality; Kisbey, the comical call boy; Fred Lincoln, comedian; and Dale and O'Malley, cross-talk comedians, also successfully appear.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles are presenting this week *The London Fireman*. Mr. Edward L. Garside is good in the difficult rôle of Hal Curtis; Viscount Fleming is well taken by Mr. Oliver Birrel, and Mr. Joe Rockley is a smart Captain Langton. Mr. Charles Preece, as Nixey Stinger, or Bill Stinger, is inimitable, and with Miss Nellie Garside as Polly Bramble causes much merriment; Miss Nellie Waddington plays the part of Countess Fleming in a dignified manner; and Grace Curtis finds a clever exponent in Miss Florence M. Daly; Miss Nellie Shirley is responsible for a pleasing portrayal of Ida Curtis.

Pier Pavilion.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Last week's skating fancy dress carnival proved the most successful of the season, over 40 competing for valuable prizes.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—Mr. C. M. S. McLellan's powerful and interesting play, *Leah Kleschna*, was presented here for the first time on Monday by Mr. Charles Frohman's capital company. The title-rôle was undertaken by Miss Pearla Gardner, who depicted the character with natural artistic effect; Kleschna, the accomplished burglar, was very successfully portrayed by Mr. George Ingleton; Mr. Cyril Rawdon displayed dramatic power in the part of Schram; Mr. Langhorne Burton's conception of Paul Sylvaine left nothing to be desired; Mr. Leslie Lees as General Berton played in a praiseworthy manner, and the remaining characters were all cleverly enacted.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—The attractive combination of variety artists engaged here this week is headed by Charley Harvey, who meets with a warm reception. Another good turn is supplied by the Three Brothers Seaborne, head and hand balancers; the programme includes Carl Muller (dancer), Jack Rae (comedian), Harry Bent (mimic), John Ross (vocalist), the Sisters Selwyn (duettists and dancers), Victoria Dagmar and Clown (acrobats), and the Bio-tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—A strong attraction is provided here in *Two Little Vagabonds*, as represented by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company. Mr. Henry Hare furnishes a powerful and artistic portrayal of George Thornton; the Captain Darville is forcibly delineated by Mr. Sidney Vautier; Mr. John F. Traynor submits a capital character sketch as Bill Muggins; Miss Grace Heywood deserves praise for a charming and interesting assumption of Marion Thornton; the Misses Freda Ettrick and Helen Grenville are well placed in the important rôles of Dick and Wally; Miss F. Russell Spiers is a praiseworthy Barbara Scarth; and an able exponent of Biddy Mullins is seen in Miss Marie Pritchard. Mr. Dunstan Haye commendably performs John Scarth. Other parts deserving mention in a lengthy cast are Dido Bunce, the Cough Drop, and Sister Randall, enacted by Messrs. Ernest K. Nelson, Fred Archer, and Miss Muriel Clay.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr George F. Thompson.—Mr. Fred Karno's capable company of comedians in *Mumming Birds* is here this week, and are receiving unstinted applause. Rauschle, impersonator of popular people, has made a great hit; Sybil St. Elmo, operatic ballad vocalist, is well received; the Knick-Knacks are clever comedy artists and dancers; Charles Vincent, comedienne; Max Merlin, the human crocodile; Ruth Doris, comedienne and dancer; and the American Bioscope complete an excellent bill.

Tivoli.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—The programme here is headed by Frank Elliston and company in a laughable sketch, entitled *Aunt Matilda*; Billy Williams, comedian, renders diverting songs; Maggie Rimmer, a charming comedienne and dancer, is an old favourite here; Marie Gibson, soprano vocalist, is heard to advantage; applause is also awarded to Charlie Cranston, comedian; Sisters Volbecque, comedy vocalists; and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is paying a return visit this week with *The Drama of Life*. In the rôle of the remorse-stricken Harry Beech, Mr. George M. Newall finds ample scope to display his undoubted dramatic abilities; as Sylvia Beech Miss Kate Hallam is fully equal to all demands, and displays pathos and passion with rare discrimination; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton as the despicable Walter Beech submits a sound performance; Miss Cissie Carter is charming as Billy; and Miss Florence French as Lady Jane is acceptable. As the hag, Betty Black, Miss Nellie Birchenough gives a good account of herself. Capital comedy is supplied by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Sir Dobson Wilde; whilst Messrs. Arthur Wright, Maxwell Payne, Sydney Fiennes, and Edward Van Biene all render capable assistance.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Miss Maggie Morton's company was here for the first three nights with *The Temptress*. Mr. Otto Minster as Phillip Welford was well received; Mr. W. Bradford was a capable Lucas Denbeigh; Mr. Chas. V. Bern as Francis Fitz-Fluke was humorous; and Mr. F. Morton Wright as Bob Tanner and Mr. M. S. Cumming as Pedro Gonzales were successful in their parts. Miss M. Carrington was a pathetic Marion Fordyce, and Miss Roma Tremayne as Stella acted with power and ability. For Thursday Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *The Christian* was billed.

Borough Hall.—Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama and Variety Company opened here on Monday to a packed house. The company includes Mr. Felix De Marce with his performing ponies and dogs; Miss May Finch, vocalist; the Veronas, lady dancers, and Nash and Nash, comedians. The pictures, which are in every way up to date, were well received.

STALYBRIDGE.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Mundill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eugene E. Hardie.—Mr. John Walters has renewed his acquaintance with his former patrons, and his appearance on Monday was the signal for a loud outburst of applause. His company is giving representations of the pantomime *Cinderella*, Miss Kitty Rafferty appearing in the title-rôle. Miss Chester is charming as the Fairy, and all the other parts are excellently sustained.

ST. HELENS. — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Limited.—Proprietors, the St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—This week Messrs. G. M. Polini and Fewlass Llewellyn's company is occupying the boards here in *The Coal King*. As Tom Roberts, Mr. Lauderdale Maitland proves himself to be a talented artist; Mr. Joseph Millane is good as the villain Harford; Mr. Robin Shiells makes a capital Sir Reginald; and Mr. C. R. Stone is an excellent Jim Williams. Miss Gertrude Valentine is natural and painstaking as Grace Shirley; Mad Ann has a competent representative in Miss Joan Wellman; Miss Hetty Cornwallis is very good as Araminta Green; and the three colliers are well enacted by Messrs. A. Gradshaw, H. Nelson, and Harry Bellain.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, W. Sley. and F. Willmot; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Heading the programme here this week is Miss Bonnie Goodwin and her Apollo piccannies; the Campeons are clever comedy duettists; Miss Ivy Leafe is a smart comedienne; the Gladenbecks are good hand balancers; Mr. Chris. Masters is the possessor of a fine baritone voice; Burg, Hand, and Wise are successful in a comedy acrobatic act, as are Robbins and Collier in the sketch *The Lady and the Porter*.

STOCKPORT. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Revill.—The first visit of *The Earl and the Girl* is a genuine attraction here this week, crowded audiences having witnessed the representations by Mr. Wm. Greet's company with evident pleasure. Mr. Reginald Switz is boisterously funny as Jim Cheese, and Mr. Alec Fraser as Dick Wargrave fills the part with much ability. As the Hon. Crewe Boodle Mr. Stanley Harrison is excellent, and Mr. Frank Cane ably portrays the character of Durham, the American solicitor. Miss Mary Fraser makes a charming Elphin Haye; Miss Marie Morison is a stately Virginia Bliss; Miss Florence Wise is amusing as Liza Shoddam; and Miss Maud Adams is a most attractive Mrs. Shimmering Black.

Empire, Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. William Black.—The Six Yulians in a marvellously clever acrobatic performance are the chief attraction here this week. A. J. Rebla as a comic juggler is distinctly funny; Harry Rogerson as Sleepy Sam is greeted with much favour; Onda and Leon, comedy bar performers, are amusing; and Mlle. Magna is most pleasing in her artistic poses. Del and Hal, sketch artists; the Twin Sisters Edwards, vocalists, dancers, and drummers; Maude Kaye, coon vocalist and dancer; and Rodin, in a comedy cycle act, comprise the remainder of the programme.

STOKE. — Hippodrome. — Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—A capital programme is submitted this week. The Two Lavails, in their speciality aerial performance, are excellent; Arthur Kenny contributes a wonderful cycle turn; the Four Hearns, in their acrobatic display, are much appreciated; Vernando introduces a novel ventriloquial sketch; Matt Wilkinson and company, in their sketch *The Registry Office*, are most diverting; the Three Temples sing admirably, and are much appreciated; Fred Villiers is an actor-vocalist of undoubted ability; Violet Beatrice is a comedienne of excellence; and the pictures are most interesting

STOURBRIDGE. — Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Roy Jackson is paying a return visit with the drama, *The Hand of Iron*. Mr. Jackson very cleverly undertakes no fewer than five different characters; Mr. G. Lambton as Edmund Singleton creates a good impression; and Miss Violet Lesborough is an excellent May Sutherland. Miss Kittie Douglas plays well as Marie Duroque; while Mr. Frank Haynes as Hiram Lincoln provides plenty of humour.

SUNDERLAND. — Avenue Theatre.—Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—A strong attraction is provided here by Mr. George Dance's company in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Kenneth Wynne appears as the Hon. Harry Vereker; Mr. Helier Le Maistre does justice to the rôle of Boobhamba; Mr. G. J. Williams makes the most of Sir Peter; and Mr. Roy Sydney is satisfactory as Bobby Warren. As Chambhuddy Ram Mr. Johnny Osborne is most amusing. Miss Nellie Wigley is an imposing Nanoya, singing her various numbers with charm and grace; Miss Cissie Sephton puts plenty of life into her interpretation of Peggy Sabine; Miss Emilie Mayhew is graceful and dignified as Lady Patricia; and Miss Violet Holmes is pleasing as Angy Loftus, contributing some good acrobatic dancing. The Misses E. Stahl Annie Crisp, Ger. Foster, and May Curtiss are excellent as the quartette of Tea Girls.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hemingway.—Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company is appearing here in the powerful drama, *A Great Sensation*. Miss Beatrice Isaacson displays strong histrionic ability in the rôle of Eva Dale; Mr. Sydney N. Hallows is fully equal to the demands of the part of Jack Damer; Mr. Roland Hope plays well as Henry Escombe; and Mr. William Ames is good in the rôle of Wiley Jones. Mr. Fred Dalton is excellent as Stephen Damer, and Mr. J. H. Firman scores as Brinko Bates. Mr. Alfred Richards ably enacts that of Robin Dale; Miss Grace Baring adequately portrays the part of Sidonie; and Miss Dot Scilby's Ria leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Vic Raymond makes the most of the Flower Girl Waif; and Miss Ruby Carlton is successful as the maid, Hortense.

Palace of Varieties.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Stringer, Treasurer, Mr. A. Browne.—The bill this week includes Zaro and Armo, who submit some clever work on the horizontal bars; Harry Grey, comedy artist; Edwin Boyde, comedian; Olive Armidale, comedienne; the Two Neros, in a drawing-room act; Gus Gauntlett, comedian; the Great Northern Troupe of International Dancers; Eva Nelson, comedienne; the Albert and Edmund's Comedy Troupe, in an absurdity, entitled *Two Up a Tree*; and the now inevitable Pictures.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company, in *The Two Hussars*, is making a return visit here. Mr. Wilson Benge gives a breezy and masterful performance of Harry Alford; Mr. Fred J. Webb as Paul Villiers is to be congratulated on a fine portrayal of the heavy part; the Sergeant McFinnie of Mr. G. Paradise is a perfect piece of character acting; Mr. Louis Nanton as Trooper Robert Runn infuses a large amount of excellent comedy into the part; Miss Sadie Smith as Will Gunstock plays with much feeling; and Miss Danvers Smith is good as Marie. Miss Lallah Price works hard and successfully as Mollie Cutts.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Local playgoers have looked forward with keen interest to the visit of Mr. Ernest Carpenter's successful pantomime *Goody Two Shoes*, which has been transferred in its entirety to this town from the Theatre Royal, Bristol, opening on Monday to a crowded audience. It is an excellent "show" under the stage direction of Mr. Trueman Towers, and a word of praise must be given to Mr. Edwin Jacobs for his capital arrangement of music and the large, well-trained chorus under his baton. The company is a strong one, with an admirable leading boy in Miss Harriet Fawn, who renders her songs most tastefully; the title-rôle is charmingly undertaken by Miss May Fallowfield, whose vocal efforts are also much appreciated. As Jack and Jill, the Misses Louie and Nellie Lunelle are delightful, and make a great hit with their dances; while Miss Florence Melville as Robin Goodfellow and Miss Minnie Love as Zorah are both exceedingly winning. A strong feature of this production is the great supply of good, honest fun contributed by such clever comedians as—Mr. Dave O'Toole, an ideal Dame Durden; Messrs. Harrigan and Holt, with excellent business, as Toddy and Budge respectively; Mr. Leo Fallowfield as Sunny Jim, and Mr. Alec Kendal as Don Q., the latter clever artist gaining well-deserved applause for a particularly clever clog dance. At the conclusion of Monday's performance Mr. Ernest Carpenter was called before the footlights to receive the congratulations and cheers of his former friends and patrons.

TON-Y-PANDY. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. Harry Starr's company is paying a return visit with *Otto the Outcast*, and was received with a hearty welcome. Mr. Harry Starr acts and sings in his usual artistic style as Otto; Mr. Arthur Esdail is very successful as the Marquis Marcella de Laporte; Daddy Brunean is suitably placed in the hands of Mr. D. C. Clarke; Mr. E. Firth shows great capability as Roderique d'Estalur, whose several disguises prove very effective; Cerinne Jarbeaw is admirably portrayed by Miss Madge Blundell; and an engaging Lara is found in Miss Katie Morris. Two sacred concerts were given on Sunday by the celebrated Besses o' th' Barn Band, who provided some exceptionally fine items.

TORQUAY. — Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Managing Director, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Miss Emma Hutchinson and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's principal company presented *On the Love Path* to a crowded and very appreciative audience on Monday evening. In the title-rôle, Mr. Hutchinson is seen to great advantage, and plays with great naturalness and verve; as Charity Concannon, Miss Lilias Earle acts with ability and charm; Mr. George Mudie makes an excellent Uncle; Mr. Frank Hill is very clever as Peter Concannon; and Mr. T. W. Rawson plays the villain to perfection. Miss Margaret Marshall, Miss Hilda Honiss, and Mr. Frank Elliott compete a very capable cast.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House. — Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gunnell.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy* has been well received this week. Miss Dorothy Desmonde's song, "You're not the only rosebud," and the mirror illusion dance by the Misses Mabel Blake and Ada Carol, as well as the plantation scene in the second act, by Mr. Will Brereton and Miss Nellie Harcourt, assisted by a juvenile troupe of dancers, may be specially mentioned. Miss Desmonde gives a charming impersonation of the title-rôle, and Mr. Cecil W. Parke is admirable as the hero of the piece; Mr. Will Brereton gives a breezy sketch of the bluff circus proprietor; and Mr. H. C. Ward, as the rival for Dorothy's affections, keeps a firm grip of the audience, and is well supported by Mr. Frank Howard as Feastertone Haugh and Mr. Alf. Bretton as Hawkins. Miss Norah Caronne as the other niece who shares Dorothy's fortunes throughout the plot displayed much vivacity, and Miss Nellie Harcourt takes the part of Judith with much skill, and proves a capable vocalist. Mr. George Hearson, and Mr. Walter Boyce, who plays the General in the prologue, also deserve mention.

WAKEFIELD.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. E. C. Jazon's pantomime *Aladdin* is here this week. As Aladdin Miss Marie Braham is full of dash, and sings in good style; Miss Daisy Lane gives a charming rendering of the Princess; Miss Effie Morde is an attractive Pekoe; Miss Florrie White a captivating Caramel; Mr. Cyril Carle does well as the Emperor of China; and Mr. Edwin C. Jazon gives a quaint and mirthful impersonation of Abanazar. Messrs. Mantell and Oval provide merriment as Ping and Pong; and Mr. Pete Vane is able as Gin Sling. Miss Beatrice Sinclair is admirable as the Slave of the Lamp; and Miss Pattie Holden wins favour as the Gem of the Ring. Specialities are introduced by Messrs. Mantell and Oval in a comical cycling turn.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Sêlwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—Mr. Whit Cunliffe, comedian, pays a return visit, and is encored nightly for his catchy songs; Madge Vido and Will Vido are a pair of clever dancers; La Belle Lily and Albert contribute a smart gymnastic act; Mark Lane, comedian, sings well; and William Quinn, singing and dancing pedlar boy, wins applause. Vesta Fay, male impersonator, merits favour; and Tom Herman's military spectacle, *For King and Country*, is applauded.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—An enjoyable programme is being presented here this week. Selma Braatz, the lady juggler, submits some clever work; Fyne and Hurley are seen in a funny little "coster and dude" incident; Clown Barker and Miss Mozsika, with their dogs, introduce some clever tricks; Cooke and Miss Rothert, a pair of North American humorists, give an amusing turn; Gracie Moore sings ballads, which are beautifully illustrated; the Bohemians, comedy musical artists; the Sisters Urma, graceful and charming trapeze artists; and the usual animated pictures are also in the programme.

Grand Theatre, Ltd. — General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Miss Winifred Chalmers company is here this week with the new melodrama, *The Master Criminal*. Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Telford Lestage is successful; Mr. Albert Sember is well placed as Philip Manners; Gentleman Jim finds an admirable representative in Mr. J. W. Gallagher; Mr. Harry Cooke is funny as Tommy Dale; Miss Winifred Chalmers sustains the rôle of Cecile in a charming manner; and a capable rendering of the parts of Mabel Manners and Winifred Manners is given by Miss Kate Sumerville and Miss Ivy Rochefort.

WALTHAMSTOW.—King's Theatre.—One of the finest productions seen at this house for a considerable time is *An Abandoned Woman*, by Miles Wallerton and Frances Gillerton, played by a talented company under the direction of Mr. Harry Foxwell. Mr. Harry Foxwell himself gives a deliciously humorous picture of the ubiquitous and genial constable Paddy Doyle; Mr. Harry Harrop is altogether delightful as the cheeky young scamp Sammy Sharp; pleasant to look upon and full of fun. Mr. Wolston Foster gives a fine account of the hero, Captain Herbert Seaton, speaking his lines with a vigorous boldness; Mr. George Gormley is duly reserved and concentrative as the artist Robert Saunders; a fine, full-blooded villain is the Phillipe Malvoisin of Mr. W. J. Butler, whose very appearance is sufficient to strike awe into the hearts of the innocent. Miss Doris Gilham is very fine as the wicked Ninan Malvoisin, looking the part to perfection, and playing with much power; a stately and dramatic representation of Eleonor Dean is given by Mrs. Harry Foxwell. Other parts are satisfactorily played by Messrs. Harrison Tate, Fred Norburn, Harrison Forbes, and Pat Quinn. Miss Ruby Roma, Miss Lily Addison, and Little Frances Maddocks.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney-Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—The admirable programme put forward this week by the indefatigable Mr. Arthur J. Barclay is drawing crowds of interested spectators and listeners. Clark and Hamilton again cause roars of laughter with their excellent fooling as the lady and the tramp; Miss Carlotta Levey makes a first appearance here this week, and with her fine appearance, distinguished manner and good voice, immediately ingratiates herself with her new public; Miss Levey's song, "Do a good turn while you're able" appeals immensely to the popular parts of the house, but not more so perhaps than the ditty in which she advises everyone to "put a little bit by for a rainy day." Mr. Dusty Rhodes makes a hit with his humorous gags and constant flow of amusing patter, while his few snatches of song make one wish that he would use his singing voice a little more. Park's Eton Boys are as tuneful as ever, their songs and choruses being capitally rendered; Mr. Park's pianoforte accompaniment is deserving of all praise. Miss Gladys Mavius is quite an established favourite here, and her novelty this time is her appearance in full Highland costume. Her singing is as vigorous as ever, and her dancing rouses enthusiasm. Mr. Chas. Morritt once more proves himself one of the most adroit of illusionists, some of his tricks being remarkably clever and performed with a neatness of touch that is all his own; Dutch Daly is still an inimitable patterer and an accomplished concertina artist; the Five Bon-Bons appear in a clever pantomimical trap scene, some of their trick jumping being neat and clever. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays some beautiful pictures.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Messrs. Arthur Whittaker and Gifford Stacey's company is here this week in the stirring play *The Hands of Sin*. Mr. Cyril W. Mackay scores as Captain Bruce Glenister; Mr. Elliot Bull submits a careful reading of the heavy rôle Captain Stephen Glenister; and a humorous Dr. Ulysses Murphey is Mr. Arthur Willerby; Mr. Clive Ross is well placed as Major Strong; and Mr. E. H. Dobell makes the most of the Hindoo Kumar Nana. Miss Ethel Murray, as Zephan, sister of the Hindoo, displays rich histrionic abilities; and a charming Dena Strong is Miss Lilyan Last; Miss Darcy Snowden is a successful Sylvia Glenister.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The Elliotts and Seven Savonas are the big turn here this week; Tom Brantford is an original comedian, and his sketch of the *Original One-Man Band* is very amusing. Tom Hayes is a young comedian who should develop into a star; and Miss Florence sings several capital songs; Brindall and Cooper score with their witticisms and funny songs; and Senorita Elonia is a graceful gymnast. The Royal Bioscope pictures are excellent.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Coleman Davies's company, in the successful comedy drama entitled *No Escape*, is appearing here this week for the first time. Mr. Davies sustains the rôle of Major-General Geoffrey Arlington in an effective manner, and as Sergeant Arlington Mr. G. Thorpe submits a vigorous impersonation. An artistic embodiment of Horace Hardcastle is presented by Mr. J. Wilton Richards. Excellent comedy is provided by Mr. Terry Davies in his representation of Vandyke Collodion. Miss Ada Gower is admirably suited to the part of Ethel Arlington; the rôle of Molly Muggs is ably managed by Miss E. Udall; and as Betty Guzzle, Miss Nellie Navarro comes in for a good share of applause. On Wednesday evening the drama *Money Makes the Man* was staged.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore. The first visit of *The Orchid* is being heartily welcomed by all lovers of musical comedy, and played by Mr. George Dance's principal company, it is seen to the best advantage. Most of the fun is provided by Mr. Tommy Neldon, who gives a droll sketch of Meakin; Miss Dorothy Firmin, as Lady Violet, sings with taste and piquancy; Josephine finds a charming interpreter in Miss Elsa Brull; Miss Madeline Maude acts with great care the part of Caroline; and Zelie Humbert has a capable exponent in Miss Florence Wakeman. There is a smart bit of acting by Mr. E. Nainby in the character of the French Count; Mr. Gilbert Randes (Guy Scrymgeour) and Mr. W. Griffin (Dr. Ronald Faussett) play in a finished style; Mr. Arthur Helmsley gives a fine display of dancing, and acts Zaccary cleverly; the Thisbe of Miss Daisy Kersey is all that could be desired; Miss Edith Johnson is well placed as the Countess Anstruther; Mr. Gordon Beggs is especially good in his caricature of a well-known statesman.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company, in the musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, is an agreeable change to the patrons of this house. The part of Sergeant Brue has a capital exponent in Mr. Arthur Reynolds; the numbers allotted to the character of Gerald Treherne are excellently rendered by Mr. Arthur Stroud; Miss Lilian Middleton is attractive in the rôle of Aurora Brue; Michael Brue has an able exponent in Mr. E. Percy Rogers; Crookie Scrubbs is impersonated to the life by Mr. Charles McLagan; and Lady Bickenhall is played in pleasing manner by Miss Midge Clarke.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Leo Tell, who is appearing here, is certainly one of the finest mimics ever seen in this district; Barton and Ashley, in *Canal Boat Sal*, receive a hearty welcome; Valazzi, juggler, equilibrist, and athlete, is astonishing all in his sensational performance "sloping the slope on a cannon-ball"; the Darrell Trio take exceedingly well in their banjo and pianoforte selections; and Agnes and Arthur Lynch, in illustrated songs, provide a good turn; as do Lambert and Glover, whose farcical duologue is most enjoyable. Lilian is a marvellous trick cyclist; and Ruby Bijou dances well. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are, as usual, attractive and up to date.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama is paying its annual visit here this week. The Carls give an extremely comical sketch, entitled *Fun in a Café*; Mlle. Bartenelli is a marvellous gymnast; Funny John O'Rourke is an eccentric humorous comedian; the musical dancing "dots," Eileen and Maynie, are clever; Mr. Herbert G. Berry scores as a descriptive vocalist; the Boultons, as speciality artists, are entitled to unstinted praise; and Captain Carl Howlett's marionettes gain much applause.

WIDNES. — Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. Jas. Kiddie's own company is here in the pantomime *Cinderella*, which has been toured with much success. The production is in ten elaborate scenes, the palace and ballroom settings being particularly ornate and pleasing. Miss Adele Roze is charming in every way as Cinderella, and her entrance in the illuminated silver carriage drawn by four ponies is the signal for enthusiastic applause. Miss Zena Panz is an extremely pleasing Prince Perfect, singing and acting in finished style. Miss Susie Bevan is a good Dandini, and Miss Fanny Hartland as Lord Stiff, with Miss Pollie Kiddie as Viscount Napper are attractive dandies. Mr. Wm. Verto handles the part of Hilario in finished fashion, and Mr. J. H. Weston is thoroughly sound in his delineation of Malicio., the Spirit of Mischief. Mention should also be made of Miss Rose Parazeer, whose work as Sunbeam is notable. The comedy is very strong. Mr. Dick Thomas is much at home in the part of the Baron Shiphalotte; the antics of the Ugly Sisters (Messrs. Sydney Benson and W. G. Wesley) nightly bring down the house. Mr. Frank Dunlop is funny as Pimples. On Friday evening the popular proprietor of the company and theatre took his annual "benefit."

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. Fred Karno's Comedians in the pantomime sketch *His Majesty's Guests* pay a return visit. A large audience on Tuesday evening followed the performance with evident pleasure. Mr. Dick Kitchen is exceedingly funny as Sergeant Lightning, his quick changes in the second act being skilfully managed; Mr. Frank Morton gives an interesting representation of Lord Easem, his singing being greatly appreciated; Miss L. Castelle sing effectively in the part of Lady Maud Easem; Miss May Vernon is delightfully piquant as Dolly, Miss Kitty Brunton is amusing as Miss Manly, and the part of the acrobatic Selina is well filled by Mr. Tommy Manardo. Mr. W. Simpson is smart as Fritz, and Mr. Charles Usher is well suited to the character of Mr. Miffin; Mr. Fred Rigby scores as Bunker, and Mr. Eugene Aram, as Harry, and Mr. E. C. Lilley, as Mr. Minks, are also seen to advantage

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Drector, Mr. John Worswick.—The chief item this week is the performance of John Marx, the modern Hercules, whose weight-lifting feats, &c.—including the lifting of 25 men on a platform, the whole weighing 4000lb.—are truly extraordinary. Hall and Earle are excellent acrobatic comedians, and Horace White, ventriloquist, who accompanies the songs of the mechanical dolls on the pianoforte, is also a very popular artist; the Vekeys are clever banjoists, and another good turn is furnished by Arthur Croxon, who gives a one-man village concert. The Narows submit an excellent acrobatic and knockabout act, and Lottie De Abbey is a very pleasing vocalist, who gives capital imitations of the singing of eminent lady vocalists. Tom Moore, comedian, meets with a rousing reception in his songs and patter; Merton and Rydon, vocalists, are also much applauded; and Tom Lloyd, eccentric comedian, is by no means the least entertaining of a good list of performers. To celebrate the second anniversary of the opening of the Hippodrome, an afternoon performance was given on Wednesday, when George Robey, the well-known comedian, along with the other artists, was announced to appear.

WINDSOR.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Eglington.—*The Prodigal Son* is the attraction here this week. Miss Marion Forrester as Margaret Marsden gives a sympathetic rendering of the part; Miss Nellie Hook as the Pet of the Regiment displays distinct ability, her singing being much admired; Miss Nora Bedford is successful as Nelly Burke; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne plays powerfully as the Prodigal Son; the part of Captain Fanshaw is well sustained by Mr. W. A. Buckstone; and the part of the villain is safe in the hands of that excellent actor, Mr. John Bryce. The house is kept in roars of laughter by Mr. John Chamberlain and Miss Rosie Kearns, as Larry M'Gehan and Mary the housemaid. Others worthy of mention are Mr. H. Lowe as Bill Burke, and Mr. Frank Dudley as John Fanshaw.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company is this week presenting *The Walls of Jericho*. The part of Jack Frobisher is played in a powerful and masterly manner by Mr. Herbert Bunston; Mr. George A. Brandram makes an admirable Hankey Bannister; Mr. Laurence Hanray cleverly depicts the part of the Marquis of Steventon; and Harry Dallas has a good exponent in Mr. Sydney Hamilton. Miss Florence Jackson is responsible for the part of Lady Alethea Frobisher, which character she portrays in an excellent and charming fashion; Miss Molly Carton is smart and capable as Lady Lucy Derenham; and Miss Lydia Busch is seen to advantage as Lady Westerby.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The Poluski Brothers, who appear in a new entertainment, entitled *Wibbles and Wobbles*, are the leading attraction this week. Other items of note are Kit Keen, coloured comedian; Bonnetti and Lorrie, comedy jugglers; Miss Gertie Gitana, in an up-to-date scena; Harris and Worth, comedians; Doody and Wright, Australian comiques; and Blarney and Kennard, vocalists, dancers, and patterers.

WORCESTER.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Secretary, Mr. F. le Wards.—*Passion's Power* is a stirring melodrama abounding in good situations. In the hands of Miss Austen and Mr. Edmond's capable company it is admirably presented. Miss Stella Carmichael is responsible for a powerful impersonation as the Countess; Miss Sheppard is a bright and piquant Zorah Varno; Mr. Wm. Clayton is a distinguished figure as Prince Kandos; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan's interpretation of the part of Michel Laski is a

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—*The Triangle*, a play in four acts, by Rupert Hughes, was produced at the Manhattan Theatre on the 20th inst., under the direction of Mr. Walter N. Lawrence. The title refers to one of those tripartite affairs in which a man and his wife and another man are implicated. A conventional "society play" for three acts, *The Triangle* has a last act with sufficient originality and dramatic strength to lift it above the commonplace, and justify a detailed description. Persis Van Duyn, prompted by her mercenary-minded mother, refuses to marry Harvey Forbes, an impecunious young officer, whom she loves, and becomes the wife of Willie Enslee, a young "swell" with plenty of money, whom she secretly despises, he being weak in mind and body. The discarded suitor rises in the world, and when she meets him again, Mrs. Enslee, who has little heart and less principle, ignores her husband, and becomes, as far as her lover is concerned, to all intents and purposes a single woman. But that inquisitive old lady, Mrs. Grundy, begins to interest herself in their conduct, and Forbes decides that it will be best for them to part. Enslee, in the meantime, hears gossip at his club which puts him into an ugly humour. Arriving home, he broaches the subject to his wife; but as she displays an extraordinary anxiety about his dressing for dinner, he obeys, and leaves her. A few minutes later, however, when the lovers are enjoying their appointed *tête-à-tete*, and embracing each other for the last time, Mrs. Enslee is horrified to see the portières moving in a way which suggests that there is a listener behind them. When he drags the curtains aside, Harvey Forbes is confronted by an irate husband with a pistol in his hand. The wife faints, and Forbes stands still, throws out his chest, and tells the husband to shoot. But Enslee's nerve fails him, and Forbes edges nearer, and snatches the revolver from his hand. Then he departs with the pistol in his pocket. The butler announces dinner. "Are we going to take the servants into our confidence?" Mrs. Enslee asks when she revives. "I think you may rely on my breeding," her husband replies, bowing with punctilious politeness, as she precedes him to the dining-room. The curtain falls for two minutes, and then the drama begins. Husband and wife seat themselves opposite each other at the well-appointed table, over which a powerful light is suspended, which brings their faces into bold relief, the room itself being in comparative darkness. Course after course is brought in, only to be carried away untouched. In the presence of the butler and two uniformed flunkeys Enslee discusses the opera, his wife forcing herself to reply. But the servants go through their accustomed routine with scrupulous formality, until Enslee can stand it no longer. "Get out!" he commands. Then he begins to talk of what he has heard at the club. It was an old friend who told him that his wife was reported to be more friendly with Harvey Forbes than the law allowed. "And what did you do?" is the ready rejoinder. "I told him he was a cad." "But didn't you strike him?" And Enslee bows his head in abject shame, as he admits that he didn't strike him. The sneer on his wife's face maddens him. "I've been cursed from birth with a weak body. Fate gave me wealth, but all it has bought for me is a woman who betrays my honour. I was afraid to strike that man at the club, and I hadn't the nerve to shoot your lover just now; but I've got pluck enough to take my revenge, for all that." And, so saying, Enslee dispatches his wife with a carving-knife. Her scream of anguish summons the butler, and, as he bends over her, she gasps into his ear that she and her husband quarrelled, and she killed herself. Enslee is kneeling at her feet, and she murmurs with her last breath, "At least you must admit that I die like a thorough-bred." Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk, who flits from play to play, creating parts which one remembers when much else is forgotten, scored once more as the weakling, Enslee. Miss Charlotte Walker was sincere and natural as the wife. Mr. William Morris played Harvey Forbes with manly earnestness; and Mr. William Bramwell distinguished himself in a prominent rôle.

"THE TITLE MART," a comedy in three acts, by Winston Churchill, is the new attraction at the Madison-square Theatre. Mr. Churchill is the author of several novels which have been dramatised with not very successful results; but he was not responsible for the stage versions of his stories, the work having been done by other hands. Now the novelist has written a play for the first time. He calls it an Anglo-American comedy, and it is said to have been written "for diversion and practice in play-writing." The purpose of the play is to depict and satirise the social machinations of a wealthy American woman, who wishes to marry her daughter to a titled Englishman. The daughter rebels, preferring to choose for herself, and, in so doing, she chooses well, and marries a title after all. Mr. John Blackwell, the father, is a simple soul, of the "self-made" sort, with an immense fortune, a contempt for social forms, and a sneaking fondness for cock-fighting. His daughter, Dorothy, has a taste for athletics, a sense of humour, and a surprising ignorance of the older English authors. The English contingent is composed of the young Marquis of Tredbury, penniless, but of excellent principles; his wealthy friend, Reginald Barking, M.P., whose fortune rests upon a well-known brand of crockery; and Lady Marjory Ticknor, who lives as a perennial guest in comfortable American houses. The scenes are laid in an Adirondack camp. Lady Marjory informs the Marquis that the girl he is going to marry is an unattractive hoyden; so the Marquis and his friend suddenly make up their minds to try the old familiar trick of exchanging identities, just to see what it will bring forth, and the misunderstanding that arise provoke much laughter, the situation being further complicated when the real Marquis mistakes the daughter of the house for an actress, and falls desperately in love with her. The young people are mystified through the first two acts, and the older ones through the last act; but truth triumphs in the end, of course, and the American mother realises her ambition without sacrificing her daughter's happiness. Mr. Frank Gilmore appears as the Marquis, Mr. Arthur Hare as his friend Barking, Mr. Murray Carson as Lawyer Pepys, a quiet man of the world; Mr. Sam Edwards as Mr. Blackwell, Miss Dorothy Revell as the daughter, and Miss Ffolliott Paget as the title-hunting mother. The play is well acted by all concerned, and has proved fairly successful.

AT the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Saturday evening, amidst a scene of indescribable enthusiasm, the curtain was lowered for the last time on *Mother Goose*, which, in a long speech to the crowded audience, Mr. Hart admitted had proved the most successful pantomime that he had produced for many years. During the evening there was a veritable carnival of flowers, these and other gifts being literally showered upon the ladies of the company. A very handsome leather travelling-bag was presented to the musical director, Mr. Harry Rushworth, by the members of the company. Mr. James Richardson, the courteous acting-manager, was the recipient of a beautiful silver clock; and the genial stage-manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle, was presented, by the staff of the theatre, with a handsome gold Albert chain and locket. Other presents were distributed lavishly by Miss Daisy Jerome, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the company, the audience joining heartily.

DEATH OF MR. KENNEDY MILLER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Kennedy Miller, the acting-manager of the Queen's Theatre, Dublin. For some time he had been in failing health, and about six months ago retired from active work in connection with the theatre. A melancholy fact in connection with Mr. Miller's illness was that, with customary generosity, the proprietors of the Queen's gave him his annual benefit on the night of February 26, but for the first time since the feature was established a leading member of the company, Mr. Dane Clarke, had to come before the curtain and return thanks for the cordial support given the performance. Mr. Kennedy died at an early hour on Saturday morning last at the age of forty-five.

Mr. Andrew Kennedy Miller, who was a Scotchman by birth, began his professional career about twenty-five years ago at the Prince of Wales's, now the Grand, Theatre, Glasgow. After leaving that city he went on tour with *New Babylon* as acting-manager for a short period, then toured as agent-in-advance with a pantomime company, afterwards going a long tour with Mr. Fred W. Sidney's company in a farcical comedy, entitled *Muddles*, combining the duties of acting-manager and advance agent, being engaged then by Mr. Sidney for his season at the Royal, Glasgow, where he became acting-manager. Here he was unfortunate enough to get a chill, which finally developed into rheumatic fever, causing him to resign and take a three months' sea trip, from which he returned to find a contract awaiting him to rejoin Mr. Sidney as advance agent for a long tour of *Queen's Evidence*. Mr. Miller then joined Mr. Sidney Cooper's *Robinson Crusoe* pantomime, and next toured the principal cities of the United Kingdom with the King of Siam's band An engagement with John H. Haverley's

MR. KENNEDY MILLER.

minstrels followed, and later on Mr. Miller had a fresh experience, joining the late Dr. Lynn, the well-known conjurer. After this he again joined Mr. Fred W. Sidney for a long tour of Boucicault's last comedy, *The Jilt*. He then joined the late Miss Mabel Hayes as acting-manager, remaining with her over two years. During this time he met Mr. J. W. Whitbread, and an arrangement to write a new play for Miss Hayes led to a business connection, which continued up to the time of his death. After terminating his engagement, Mr Miller went into management on his own account, arranging with Mr. Whitbread to tour his play *Shoulder to Shoulder*, and afterwards producing the same gentleman's drama *The Irishman*, which has been toured in America, Canada, and Australia. *The Irishman* was followed by a long list of plays by the same author. In 1899 Mr. Miller accepted an engagement as manager of the Queen's Theatre, Dublin. During his tenure of management of the theatre in association with Mr. J. W. Whitbread, the respected lessee, the best traditions of the Queen's were maintained with the highest efficiency. In private life, as a friend and associate, his genial, kindly manner and unvarying disposition to aid every good work of charity made his name something of a household word. Over and over again, when amateur and other entertainments were given at the Queen's for benevolent objects, their success was due largely to his ceaseless activity, good advice, and practical knowledge of stagecraft.

The deepest sympathy will be felt for his widow and daughter in the sad affliction which has befallen them.

THE FUNERAL.

The remains of the late Mr. Miller were interred in St. George's Burial Ground, Drumcondra, Dublin, on Tuesday. The funeral left deceased's late residence, 1, Belvedere-avenue, and was largely attended by members of the theatrical profession and the general public, thus testifying to the esteem in which the late Mr. Kennedy Miller was held. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. D. C. Greene, B.D. The chief mourners were Mrs. Kennedy Miller (widow) and Miss Miller (daughter).

The coffin bore the inscription—

ANDREW KENNEDY MILLER.
Died March 4, 1906.
Aged 45.

Among those attending the funeral were Messrs. J. W. Whitbread, Dane Clarke, Arthur Odell, Oscar May, Joseph White, F. MacArthur, J. F. M'Namara, E. Hollywood, A. Cregan, George Marsh, Bernard Daly, James C. Caffrey, Michael Kenna, T. O'Brien, Thomas Fagan, Thomas Bailey, Mervyn Brown, Chas. G. Freear, P. M. Levenston (Queen's Theatre), Charles Hyland (manager Gaiety Theatre), Charles Grattan, Edgar Haines, George H. Noble, Joseph Lyons, Fred J. Connor (of Douglas, Isle of Man), Bernard Goulding, J. Maxwell Neilly, and many others.

Wreaths were sent by "Madge and Molly," "J. W. Whitbread," "Ellis Jones," "Staff of the Front of the Theatre," "Members of his Company," "Randall M'Donnell," "Mr. and Mrs. Johnson," "Mr. and Mrs. Gillard," "One of the Oldest Members of His Company, Dane Clarke," "Corrigan and Wilson," and others.

OUR lady readers can with confidence be recommended to pay a visit to the Portman Dress Agency, 46, Baker-street, W., if they are contemplating any additions to their wardrobe, and wish to secure the very latest style, combined with excellence of material, at considerably less than one-third the usual West End prices. Add to this the fact that the selection can be made from a great variety of Paquin, Worth, and Masson Templier's (of Paris) finest productions, and we feel certain they would be pleased with their visit. The establishment can be reached with ease from any point of London either by 'bus or rail to Baker-street station. Catalogues will be forwarded on application, and the firm make a rule of sending any garment desired on approval on receipt of deposit.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS"?

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Florence Warden, Produced on Tuesday afternoon, March 6, at the Great Queen-street Theatre.

M. de Marennes .....MR. P. L. JULIEN
Baron von Salzwedel .....MR. E. W. THOMAS
Sir Hilary Dax .....MR. W. GRAHAM BROWNE
Mr. Grier .....MR. W. T. LOVELL
M. de Brive .....MR. G. E. JAMES
Mr. Brown .....MR. ST. CLAIR BAYFIELD
Waiter .....MR. L. MAGER
Angélique de Marennes .....MISS FRASER
Solange de Marennes ....MISS AIMÉE DE BURGH
Miss Turner .....MISS JOSEPHINE RAE
Rose .....MISS EVELYN MARTHÈZE

Miss Florence Warden has done some exceedingly clever work as a novelist, and it was therefore with considerable curiosity that a large audience assembled at the Great Queen-street Theatre to see a piece from her pen. Unfortunately any anticipations of a success for it were doomed to disappointment, for *Parlez-vous Français?* proved to be too crude, artless, and uninteresting a comedy to have the slightest chance of attracting audiences. The plot can soon be told. Sir Hilary Dax, a young English baronet who is staying at an hotel in Paris, has fallen in love with Mlle. Solange de Marennes, who is apparently staying in the hotel with her father, her aunt, Mlle. Angélique de Marennes, her English governess, Miss Turner, and her *fiancé*, the Baron von Salzwedel. Solange's engagement is unknown to Sir Hilary, and when he proposes for her hand in writing, his best French is so imperfect that the offer is construed as for the hand of the aunt (Angélique), a gushing lady of uncertain age. When Sir Hilary is seen to be in earnest in pressing his suit, which is favoured by Solange, the Baron is furious at the turn things have taken. Everything is done by the father of the girl, M. de Marennes, to prevent the young people seeing each other. Sir Hilary has a friend in Mr. Grier, a solicitor, who hits upon a peculiar scheme for assisting him. Grier, after some inquiries concerning the Baron, persuades both him and M. de Marennes that Sir Hilary is insane, and that their best course is to humour him by making a pretence of consenting to his engagement to Solange, at the same time recommending that they should push on the preparations for her marriage with the Baron. In the last act, which takes place on the day appointed for the wedding, after a good deal of tedious business, the Baron is arrested as a forger by a detective brought over by Grier, and the way is cleared for the marriage of the happy couple, the parental consent being easily obtained now that M. de Marennes is freed from the baneful influence of the Baron, to whom he has been indebted for a large sum of money.

Mr. W. Graham Browne, who produced the comedy as Sir Hilary Dax, worked energetically and with conscientious care to make the part interesting, and raised several laughs by Sir Hilary's absurd attempts at making love in very imperfect and badly-pronounced French. Mr. W. T. Lovell was easy and natural as the solicitor Grier; the Baron von Salzwedel was quite the conventional foreign nobleman of the stage, and on these lines Mr. E. W. Thomas played exceedingly well; and Mr. P. L. Julien made M. de Marennes the ordinary explosive Gaul of extravagant farcical comedy. Miss Aimée de Burgh was an engaging and arch representative of Mlle. Solange de Marennes, and is gifted with a sense of humour. Miss Josephine Rae was duly severe as the English governess Miss Turner; Miss Fraser was sufficiently gushing as the elderly spinster Mlle. Angélique de Marennes; and Miss Evelyn Marthèze made excellent use of her opportunities as the maid. A friendly audience called for the author at the conclusion of the comedy, and Mr. Graham Browne, coming forward to the footlights, stated that Miss Warden was not in the house, but that he would convey to her the audience's kind expressions of favour.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Play, in Five Acts, by W. G. Wills,
entitled
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

This ever-popular play was enthusiastically received by a large audience on the opening night of its present visit, the piece being admirably acted all round, liberally staged, and capitally managed. Miss Edith Cole repeats her inimitable performance of the Empress Josephine, and when we say that she is, if possible, better than ever, we are merely voicing the opinion of the audience. Mr. Frank Lister is a powerful and convincing Napoleon, and is responsible for much of the evening's success. Mr. F. Joynsen-Powell has an excellent conception of the crafty and much-feared Talleyrand. We must congratulate this excellent artist on a very clever performance. The Marquis de Beaumont has an excellent representative in Mr. George W. Cockburn; Mr. George Howard is very good as General Augereau; Mr. T. P. Haynes is an amusing Grimaud; and the other male parts are well sustained by their respective exponents. Miss Elizabeth Watson makes a decided success as Marie Louise, and looks handsome and dignified; Miss Clara Earle, as the warm-hearted and warm-tempered Stephanie de Beauharnais, is altogether charming; Miss Loyal Frere is well placed as the Gouvernante of the King; and Master Herbert Hollum is an interesting and clever representative of the little King of Rome. The numerous smaller parts are in good hands.

CREATORE AT QUEEN'S HALL.

At Queen's Hall, on Monday evening, Creatore and his band, who have caused so great a sensation in America, made a most successful opening night. Creatore is quite a youthful conductor, being only thirty-four years of age, and formerly was celebrated as a solo performer. For some years he was a teacher in his native city Naples, and in 1900 he went to America, where his name has become a household word. The audience at Queen's Hall on Monday night seemed at first somewhat amused at the original method of the new conductor, who walks about and uses hands, arms, and even fingers in the control of his fine band. But amusement quickly gave place to admiration, and the applause after a really fine performance of Thomas's overture, "Mignon," was long and unmistakably genuine, the famous "Pollacca" in this overture being rendered in a delightfully crisp and brilliant manner. We may here mention that the conductor is unsparing in the matter of rehearsals. The band was heard also in the *Tannhäuser* march, although in this case hardly at their best, but the charming minuetto (for reeds only) of Boccherini was admirably played, though the absence of the stringed instruments was felt. The famous sextette, "Che mi Frena," from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, was another success for the band, the solos being capitally given by Signori Pierno, Gallo, Marino, Nestorini, Falcone, and Greco. Madame Barili was the solo vocalist, and revealed a soprano voice pure and fluent, although not of any great power. She was encored in Arditi's waltz song "Parla" (beautifully accompanied by the band), and might have responded, in justice to her abilities, with something more artistic than "The Mocking Bird is Singing on the Tree." Also included in the programme was the prelude to *La Traviata*, and a grand selection from *Carmen*. It is needless to say that many encores greeted the new conductor.

CHAT WITH MR. HARRY PAULTON.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

It is sometimes instructive, and always interesting, to hear the views of an actor of long experience as he contrasts the condition of things professional in his early days with those of the present time. In this respect, at least, Mr. Harry Paulton, the well-known comedian, who recently concluded an engagement in the Christmas production of *Noah's Ark* at the Waldorf Theatre, is well qualified to speak.

"Players nowadays," says Mr. Paulton, "are inclined to tell the public too much, although I don't know whether the public want it or are interested in it. There is a good deal of unnecessary information as to how this is done or why that is done, and a reason is given for everything, though to what purpose I fail to see. An old manager of mine, Mr. Wilde, who was interested in the Haymarket Theatre with Mr. Buckstone before I met him, used to say that he didn't like the actors going about and making themselves known at all. On one occasion he remarked that if it were possible he would have his actors locked up in a box until such time as it was necessary for them to go on the stage, so that the public should never see them privately nor get to know them."

"But at the present time, Mr. Paulton, the public want to recognise an actor off the stage."

"Yes; and personality counts for much in these days, especially in the case of a man who has been seen on the stage actually as himself. And, after all, I think that, for popularity's sake, it is a pity for an actor to disguise himself.

"Again, the eternal cry of 'No plays.' I have got dozens of good plays, but no one can get a play entertained. You needn't talk about the great unacted being unable to get a show when

Photo. by Hana.

MR. HARRY PAULTON.

experienced writers are not allowed a chance. Acceptances of pieces are only confined to a select few. I invariably write in conjunction with my son. He is in America just now, presenting his own play *The Princess Beggar*, and he finds he can always do better there than here. Although he is intensely English, he is compelled to go to America, as there is nothing to be done here."

"Then, do you recommend America for the British playwright as well as for the British actor?"

"I do. I think that America is undoubtedly the best place for an English actor to go to. I was out there for six years, and came away ten years ago, and now wish I'd stayed in the country. America is worth a thousand of Englands for actors."

"And yet one sees big crowds outside our theatres nightly."

"Quite so; but even in that respect America stands far before us. In England you go to a small town where you absolutely play to starvation business, and yet in a place of the same size in the States you would do well. And look how many small towns there are in this country without a theatre at all."

"Is it that we are too old-fashioned?"

"Not so much that; but we are terribly handicapped by the Nonconformist people in England. If you met with their counterpart in America you would find that they have not the same prejudice that folk have here. If you enter a little town in the United Kingdom where there is a population of anything from ten to twenty thousand, not one-fourth of them can be counted theatre-goers; in fact, the large majority of the inhabitants would not go into a theatre at all."

"But, Mr. Paulton, people here seem to patronise music halls more than theatres."

"I admit that. In America more people go to theatres, and the 'legitimate' houses stand far in front of the variety. When I was in the States the music halls scarcely amounted to anything at all, although I believe they have grown considerably since. I was rather surprised at reading an article on this very subject a few days ago in a halfpenny morning journal notorious for the inaccuracy of its contents. The writer of the article argued that people wanted to be amused, therefore they did not want serious plays, and he put that forward as a reason why the music halls were doing so much better than the theatres. Did you ever come across such fatuous reasoning in your life? Cannot people be amused at witnessing a good drama or a good comedy? Are people only amused when they laugh?"

"After all, isn't it mainly a question of the fickleness of the public tastes?"

"Tastes are certainly at a very low level, and I will go further than that, and say that to my mind they show an absolute failure of the School Board education, because I am of the opinion that the amusements of the people ought to be a fair indication of their intellect. I can remember when I was a youngster seeing the working-men going off to see Shakespearean plays after leaving their works or factories. Of course, smoking may have assisted in the popularisation of the music halls."

"From the performer's point of view, do you object to smoking?"

"I should be sorry to see smoking made permissible in theatres. If men are constantly striking matches and lighting their pipes while a serious piece is in progress it is impossible for them and others to follow the story with any degree of accuracy.

"There is one very great hardship," concludes Mr. Paulton, "that the music halls inflict on theatres. You may have a very successful piece running in the provinces, and you may find that a boiled down version of it, called a sketch, is being played in a variety establishment not so very far away from where you are engaged to appear. The worst of it is that you have no remedy against the sketch-producers whatever. They do not require to have their sketches licensed by the Lord Chamberlain And, then, their sketch or their burlesque is generally such a mangled abortion of your work that your reputation is seriously injured."

NEW MUSIC.

Chappell and Co., New Bond-street, publish "Fascination," valse tzigane, by F. D. Marchetti, a graceful waltz, not wanting something of the "fascination" suggested by the pretty girl shown on the title-page. Paul Rubens has a song, "Once upon a time," which, if not reaching the highest standard of this clever musician, is singable and attractive, and his admirers will be sure to like it. "In the heather, my lads," words by Frank L. Moir, music by Hermann Löhr, has the breezy effect suggested by the title. Mr. Ernest Newton has composed to the verses of Clifton Bingham a bright and pretty song entitled "The Magic Month of May." It expresses the untiring delight all poets and enthusiasts have felt in the revival of Nature after the dreary sleep of winter. "At the Window" is a setting of Tennyson's lines by Mr. Richard Walthew, a young musician who has already made his mark as a composer of original and striking melodies. In this instance the air is pleasing, and there are some musicianly effects introduced in the accompaniment. "Marjorie," written by Samuel M. Rich, and composed by John Ansell, has an echo of the German volkslied, which will help to make it popular, and the easy compass will please the amateur. "Love's in the world" is a song by Bothwell Thomson, who is also the composer of "Is it raining, little flower?" Both are simple and melodious. "Your life and mine," by Noel Johnson, is a song in which Marie Hedderwick, the author of the words, rejoices in the fact that the lover and the lady are "blended in one at last." The sentiment and the music agree very well. "Dans le Bois," by Coralli Windeatt, is a valse lente with an illustration of a dashing young lady riding in advance of her cavalier under the shadow of the woods. "The Gibson Girl," by Maurice Depret, is a waltz adorned with a Gibson Girl of the most modern type, who we suppose to have been dancing to the rather graceful music. Liza Lehmann is always welcome. The composer of the "Persian Garden" is quite herself in this pretty song, "Tell me." "St. Agnes Eve" is a setting of the mystical verses of Tennyson by Richard Walthew. Mr. Walthew has caught with considerable felicity the spirit of the poem. "I think" is the title of a new song by the popular Guy d'Hardelot. The words of Walter E. Grogan describe how a lover hopes to find in the sweet smiles of his fair one consolation for the gloom of winter and other dreary things. A pretty waltz by Edmund Eysler has the attractive title "Kissing is no sin." "Life's Garden," by Ellen Cowdell, has some rather pleasing suggestions embodied in simple yet graceful music. "A Sea Rhapsody" will please if only for the plaintive music of Noel Johnson, who has so often charmed us in the concert-room. "Love's Last Word" is a waltz by Octave Crémieux, which displays some ingenuity in the music. "Effearante," by Ph. R. Meny, has a dashing figure for its title-page, a young lady who would find plenty of partners in the ball-room. "The Shepherd of the Sea," music by Joan Trevalsa, words by Nora Chesson, is a fanciful comparison of the sea to the life of a shepherd. Chappell and Co.'s "Dance Album" is one of the best collections for the ball-room ever published. "The Orchid" Lancers, by Ivan Caryl and Lionel Monckton, a waltz from *The Country Girl*, lancers by Ivan Caryll from *The Girl from Kay's*, a waltz from Arthur Sullivan's *Gondoliers*, and many other attractive dances, conclusively show the high merit of this album.

Mr. Louis Honig, an esteemed professor of music at Richmond Hill, Surrey, has found an attractive theme for a song in "Loved Richmond." Mr. Honig is a poet as well as a musician, and he sings the praises of Richmond in a thoroughly sympathetic manner. He has won the approval of the chief members of the Royal Family and a host of aristocratic and clerical admirers. The fact that he has already announced the "ninth thousand" shows how the song has caught on, and also proves that he has done justice to his theme. Sir John Denham, in his "Ode to the Thames," describes the beauteous surroundings of Richmond Hill in a similar strain. Sir John concludes his poem with the memorable lines—

"Though deep, yet clear; though gentle, yet not dull;
Strong without rage; without o'erflowing, full."

Mr. Louis Honig has written other songs which have been popular, but "Loved Richmond" will probably take the lead, the subject being so universally admired.

A WARNING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It has come to my knowledge that some individual is representing himself as agent in advance for this company who has no claim to do so. I, therefore, wish to notify to resident-managers, landladies, &c., that Mr. W. E. Bentley is our only authorised agent, and he does not arrive in any town before the Tuesday previous to our visit.—Yours truly,

ERNEST H. PATERSON.
General-Manager, Mr. Charles Macdona's *Are You a Mason?* Company, Theatre Royal, Bradford.
—March 7, 1906.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—Your correspondent, in his report of Miss Jessie D'Alton's panto., *Beauty and the Beast*, at County Hall, Salisbury, last week, omitted to mention yours truly, BERT SERONY, Alderman, and Vosco, comedy conjurer, People's Palace, Portsmouth, March 6.

MR. FRED J. CONNOR is back again in the Emerald Isle, enjoying a quiet rest, after being on the Continent booking some of the latest Continental novelties for his popular hippodrome at Douglas, Isle of Man, for the coming season.

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KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

On a previous visit this merry American musical comedy found many admirers in Hammersmith, and on the return appearance of the "Prince" and his amusing companions on Monday the theatre was crowded in every part. The comedy is bright and laughable, the music sparkling and melodious, the faces pretty and the costumes handsome, and success was again assured. Mr. Stuart Alexander undertakes the title-rôle with distinct ability, his singing and acting alike giving satisfaction to the audience. Hans Wagner, the Cincinnati brewer, is played by Mr. Edwin Adeler with all the necessary unctuousness, and the result is an impersonation of great comicality. Mr. G. Villiers Arnold is a pleasant Lieut. John Wagner; and Lord Shrimpton is satisfactorily enacted by Mr. Lawrence Wensley. The Hotel Concierge François is capitally rendered by Mr. Alfred Selby, whose dancing is of incalculable assistance to the piece. Cook's courier and Sergeant Brie, the gendarme, are capably fulfilled by Mr. Madison Rich and Mr. D. O. Uglas. Miss Nellie Cozens is a fascinating and vivacious Mrs. Madison Crocker, her acting and excellent singing meeting with popular approval. Miss Mildred Baker sings admirably as Edith Adams; and Nellie Wagner has an engaging personality in Miss Mabel Osborn. Miss Nell Emerald scores heavily as Sidonie, the French maid; and Jimmie, the bell boy, is smartly represented by Miss Meg Hamylton. The Heidelberg boys are all good singers, and the world-famous American girls meet with universal approval, the Gibson Girl of Miss Christine Rayniski calling forth loud applause. The chorus is particularly animated and full of energy, and the orchestra, under the guidance of Mr. J. A. Robertson, performs its duties conscientiously. The scenery by Mr. Walter B. Spong deserves every praise.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE TALK OF THE TOWN."

Mr. William Greet's company furnishes an excellent rendering of the attractive musical comedy, *The Talk of the Town*, and North Londoners have confirmed their reputation for great discriminative power by turning up in goodly numbers throughout the week, enthusiastic demands for encores testifying to their appreciation of the efforts of the company. The piece is full of life and melody, is prettily mounted, superbly dressed and smartly played. Well and worthily were the plaudits bestowed upon Miss Joan Keddie for her rendering of Ellalaine Lewin. She is a winsome, sprightly actress and dancer, and a pleasing vocalist. Mr. Arthur Harold, as Reggie Drummond, is especially happy; he has a fine voice, which he uses with the best effect in his musical numbers. On the night of our visit Mr. William Cromwell, who undertakes the part of Jerry Snipe was away indisposed, but his understudy, whose name we were unable to obtain, did very well in the part, his singing and dancing gaining well merited applause. Miss Louie Tinsley acts with the skill and experience of the ripe comedienne in the part of Geraldine Snipe, and brings down the house with her quaint rendering of the "Young men what whistles down the lane" and "Romeo." Miss Katherine Harrington is a dignified Lady Nightingale, and her two daughters Marjorie and Mabel, are charmingly impersonated by the Misses Helen Gordon and Jessie Winter Mr. Price Evans is suitably cast as Colonel Nightingale; and Mr. Ernest Arundle successfully undertakes the rôle of the Duke of Topford. Mr. Leslie Owen is a smart Captain Hambledon; and Mr Geoffrey Allsopp causes laughter in his impersonation of 'Arry Biff, heavy-weight champion. Miss G. Melville is very dainty and *chic* as Madame Modiste, and sings her numbers with effect, being especially successful in her Dutch song and dance The Brothers English, in the hands of Messrs. Tom Graves and A. Gambier Melford, who get through an incredible amount of work, are very funny. Mr. A. T. Hendon capably undertakes the part of Private Belzey; and Mr. Charles Earldon is a spirited American solicitor. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, who possesses a charming voice and pretty manner, uses both to advantage, and she had to give an encore for her dainty rendering of "My Little Eskimo." The orchestra, specially augmented by musicians carried by Mr. William Greet under the bâton of Mr. Percy E. Fletcher, and the chorus, which is powerful and efficiently trained, render valuable aid.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Play,
"THE GIRL FROM KAY'S."

Mr. George Dance's company has been drawing good houses here with *The Girl from Kay's*, and on Monday night received a warm welcome from a large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Emily Taylor—who is remembered here for her good work in Mr. Sounes's pantomime two years ago—is very well suited as Norah Chalmers, acting with an air of naïveté and innocence which is quite delightful, and singing the several songs allotted to her with great success. Miss Beatrice Poole made a charming Winnie Harborough, submitting a clever portrayal of the impetuous but good-hearted "girl from Kay's," and singing with considerable expression. The maid Ellen found a vivacious and untiring representative in Miss Mabel Dent, whose coquettish manner and clever dancing soon made her a firm favourite; her rendering of "Hiawatha" secured perhaps the most determined encore of the evening. Miss Lily Beaumont acted easily and naturally as Mrs. Chalmers. A lion's share of the work fell of course on the shoulders of Mr. H. C. Barry, whose Max Hoggenheimer proved one of the funniest characters seen at this theatre for some time. Mr. Barry's humour strikes one as being entirely unforced; he is a comedian to the tips of his fingers, and kept his audience in a continual ripple of laughter, his happiest effort being perhaps the really excellent fooling with the "gollywog" in the second act. As Harry Gordon, Mr. J. S. Durant proved himself a very capable *jeune premier*, and sang in good style, his song, "I don't care," being loudly re-demanded. Mr. Reginald Grey was sufficiently fatuous as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle; Mr. Robert Rivers submitted an amusing portrayal of Theodore Quench, K.C.; Mr. Tom Seymour made quite a character-study of the hall porter; and Mr. Jamie Dallas did well as Mr. Chalmers. The chorus was tuneful and well up to its work, the mounting and dressing were exceptionally good, and the play "went with a bang" from start to finish.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Those among the patrons of the Dalston Theatre who have a fancy for musical comedy have a good opportunity this week of gratifying that particular taste, for Mr. Charles Frohman's company is appearing there in *The Catch of the Season*. The personage specially distinguished in this amusing society story as being "the catch of the season"—the Duke of St. Jermyns—is represented by Mr. Frank Lincoln, who gets on remarkably well with the many young ladies who are only too anxious to share his title. The Cinderella of the piece, Angela, has a charming representative in Miss Maie Ash. The songs, "I was only teasing," "I will be a good little girl," and "Molly," as sung by Miss Ash, prove as popular as ever. Miss Ida Mann, as the match-making Lady Crystal, lends realism to the piece; and the same may be said of Miss Hilda Stewart as the Duchess of St. Jermyns. Other ladies in the cast include Miss Alice Lethbridge, Miss Hettie Muret, Miss Lillian Wessen, Miss Ethel Quarry, and Miss Belle Napier. Mr. E. H. Kelly as Lord Dundreary adapts himself well to the part; and, in contrast to such a free-and-easy individual, is the over-ridden Sir John Crystal, well played by Mr. Julian Cross. Others who help materially in sustaining the interest of the representation include Mr. Alfred Lloyd as Mr. William Gibson, Mr. Augustin Symonds as Higham Montague, Mr. Powis Pinder as Lord Yatton, Mr. Richard Lawson, Mr. Harry Eversleigh, and Master Grata, the latter representing Bucket, a page.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Comedy Drama, in Three Acts,
by Richard Ganthony, entitled
"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."

The promise of prosperity given at the opening of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's administration of the Crystal Palace Theatre was plentifully borne out on Monday, when the house was well filled with an appreciative audience drawn from the immediate neighbourhood. A powerful attraction for the week is provided in *A Message from Mars*, the popular play which did so much to revive the fortunes of the old Avenue Theatre and has won fame in at least two continents, and entertainment of the most agreeable kind is furnished chiefly by virtue of the funny dialogue and the appealing sentiment of the piece. The company engaged in its presentation is that of Mr. Frederick Mouillot, who is travelling the play by arrangement with Mr. Frank Curzon. Mr. Cyril Austen Lee sustains the very arduous part of the selfish and conceited Horace Parker, and bears himself with a due sense of his responsibilities. He is the cause of much laughter by his delivery of the droll lines which fall to him, and his awakening to a sense of altruism is made very affecting. Though a little too emphatic in his enunciation, Mr. Lee's expression is remarkably effective, and every point in the dialogue is skilfully made. The Martian Messenger is played with notable distinction by Mr. William H. Brougham, whose fine physique lends the necessary impressiveness to the part, while his sonorous voice gives added power to his lines. A sound piece of dramatic work is done by Mr. Bruce Lindley as the tramp. Appearance and gesture are in complete accord with the part, and the worth of Mr. Lindley's acting, in which humour and pathos are furnished in due proportion, is recognised by frequent cheers. Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson makes a good appearance in the part of Arthur Dicey. He possesses an admirable speaking voice, but the American accent is assumed so irregularly in the part as to rob it of a good deal of character. An excellent exponent of the aunt, Miss Parker, is found in Mrs. Edward Saker, a veteran actress, who makes the most of the rôle; and the name, so well known in theatrical circles, is well sustained by Miss May Saker, who plays Minnie Templar with much grace and delicacy. Mr. Eustace French gives a well-defined sketch of Sir E. Vivian, the astronomer; and Mr. Leslie Tyler is a commendable exponent of the solicitor, Mr. Fergusson. Miss Joan Meredith makes a prepossessing appearance as Mrs. Clarence; and Mr. Percy Tyler is an effective Dr. Chapman. A quaint performance of Polly is given by Miss Teresa Vanbrugh, Miss Elsie Walton plays with simple pathos as a flower-girl, and Miss Peggy E. Yeoman is a vivacious and well-spoken Bella. Mr. Harry Reynolds gives an excellent impersonation of the policeman, Mr. Harold M. Davidson and Mr. Louis Cabaret are well placed as Sir Roland Wright and Mr. Shillingford, and a humorous portrayal of a manservant is given by Mr. Harold Lloyd. The eccentricities of Joe, the coster, are broadly outlined by Mr. James Mayall, the little girl is impersonated by Miss Minnie Halstan, and Master Leonard Neville as the "Emperor," Miss Kate O'Neill as a poor woman, Mr. Willie Wrench as the injured man, and Mr. Harry Brooks, Mr. F. G. Fitzgerald, and Master Teddy George all do well. The play has an elaborate and complete setting, the weird "dynamic" effects being realistically obtained, and the pleasure of the audience was testified throughout, the curtain having to be raised four times at the end of the second act.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Frederick Melville,
entitled
"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."

The latest of the Melvillian dramas, *The Beast and the Beauty*, has been chosen by Mr. Norris to fill the bill here this week, and, though only produced at the Standard Theatre last autumn, its qualities are evidently known to the New Kent-road theatre-goers, for on Monday night it drew a house filled to its utmost capacity. As Jack Barrymore, the "Beast," Mr. Fred B. Davis works hard throughout. In his various scenes as the young debauchee he scores heavily, while later, when, in his misfortune, the better qualities of the character are developed, he completely wins the sympathies of the audience. As the Earl of Roman, his "prehistoric father," Mr. Bernard J. Nell enacts a character which is almost pathetic in its repulsiveness. The villainy of Henry Beuve, known as "Lord X.," is well brought out by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, who in appearance and manner is admirably suited to the rôle. Mr. Roland Adair creates a strong impression by his forcible acting as Ned Samson, a fighting man. Mr. Harry Wimpenny as Dick Soames, a "ruffian," is realistic, and when participating in the boxing-ring scene he causes roars of laughter. The characters in this scene are well sustained by Messrs. Will Coste, Will Howard, Bill Ruggles, Tom Franks, James Peerless, Walter Tempest, and Ernest Williams. As Tom Chicken, an aspiring light-weight champion, Mr. Will Corrie does well. Mr. Gilbert Heron in the small part of Father Paul, a priest, is excellent. As a solicitor Mr. William Ravenscroft is satisfactory. The other male parts are safe in the hands of Messrs. Harry Seaton and W. H. Gainsford. Miss Alice Bowes as Violet ("Beauty") acts with great feeling, and her appearance and manner charmingly realise her description. In the arduous part of Delilah Vane Miss G. Thierry shows conspicuous ability. Miss Mamie Rendle is an effective French housemaid, and Miss Jessie Danvers is successful as Minnie, a "maid of all work."

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 5,
the Farce by W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker,
entitled
"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

This week, Mr. Cyril Maude's company, in *Beauty and the Barge*, is at the Pavilion, and opened on Monday evening to a large audience, who were not slow to recognise the many humorous situations in which this capital farce abounds. The piece is excellently represented, and has been staged with an amount of completeness that elicits general admiration. Mr. Harry Ashford never misses an opportunity, and provides ample fund for amusement by a clever performance of Captain James Barley, which is productive of continuous laughter and applause. A capital piece of character acting is presented by Mr. Charles Goold as Tom Codd; while a neat sketch of the old gardener, John Dibbs, is given by Mr. J. Wheatman. Lieutenant Seton Boyne is acted in a breezy and manly style by Mr. Percival Knight; and Mr. Percy Marmont is distinctly good as Herbert Manners. Mr. Walter Pemberton scores a hit and distinguishes himself as the irascible Major Smedley; and a quaint impersonation of George Porter, creating much laughter, is given by Mr. Charles Caffrey. Miss May Fairclough materially contributes towards the success of the play by her delightful reading of the vivacious Ethel Smedley; and a fascinating exposition of Lucy Dallas is seen in Miss Mary Pemberton, who looks exceedingly well, and plays with much discretion. Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite admirably sustains the part of Mrs. Porter; and Miss Mary Griffiths does all that is requisite as Mrs. Baldwin. Miss Ethel Stalman is pleasing as Mrs. Smedley; and Mr. Forrester Harvey is a suitable Augustus. The remaining characters are in the careful hands of Messrs. Fred Lake, Arthur Flinders, Fred Paul, Boothroyd Fairclough, and H. Richford. The farce is preceded by *That Brute Simmons*, in which Messrs. J. Wheatman, Fred Lake, and Miss Harriet Trench display conspicuous ability. The manager for Mr. Cyril Maude is Mr. Thomas Phillips.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Play, by Owen Hall and Sidney Jones,
entitled
"THE GEISHA."

Mr. Mouillot's principal company is filling the bill here this week. This is by no means its first visit to this theatre, where it has already become popular, including as it does several old favourites. Among them are Miss Florrie Saunders, Mr. Edward Carlton, and Mr. Lionel Braham. A large audience was present on Monday evening to hear *The Geisha*, and all the popular numbers were encored. O Mimosa San has a very charming representative in Miss Bessie Allayne, whose dainty manner and sweet voice soon made her a big favourite. Nearly all her songs were rapturously re-demanded. No more captivating and mischievous Molly Seymour than Miss Florrie Saunders could be desired. She is more vivacious than ever, and her singing of the "Monkey on the Stick" delighted the audience very much. Mr. Edward Carlton is more grotesque than ever as Wun Hi, being excellent in the part, and really funny. He keeps his gags very much up to date, and sings and dances with tireless energy. The dry humour of Mr. Lionel Braham as the Marquis Imari is greatly enjoyed. He is intensely humorous, and plays the part quite on his own lines. Mr. Cyril Thompson cuts a manly figure as Reggie Fairfax, and he was in fine voice on Monday when singing "Jack's the Boy" and other songs. Lady Constance is well depicted by Miss Aubrey Ashton; Miss Blanche Brown is very smart as the little midshipman; Miss Violet Kenyon plays Juliette in dainty fashion; Mr. Edgar Ward is good as Captain Katana; and Takamine, the Governor's factotum, is neatly played by Mr. G. D. Phillips, who also sings well. Messrs. Lockridge, Hoare, and Hull are smart as the officers of H.M.S. Turtle, and the Misses Brocklebank, Gilbert, and Ruby Latham are most fascinating as the lady visitors. There is also a bevy of pretty geishas. The orchestra and chorus, under the direction of Mr. F. G. Knowles, render excellent service. The play is prettily staged, and the dresses are exceedingly picturesque. *The Greek Slave* was given on Friday.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Drama, in Four Acts,
by Arthur Shirley and George Conquest, entitled
"THE WORK GIRL."

Lovers of sensational drama should certainly pay a visit to the Shakespeare Theatre this week, where an excellent company, under the direction of Mr. John M. East, is presenting *The Work Girl* The plot is of the simplest, but full advantage has been taken of the thrilling episodes to make each scene thoroughly realistic, and the interest of the audience is fully sustained throughout the performance. Miss Kathrine Clarke quickly wins the sympathy of the audience by the pathetic rendering of her parts, firstly as the wife of the ruined gambler, Frank Belton, and afterwards as his daughter Claire. She is to be congratulated for an excellent portrayal of a rather trying part. An earnest and convincing performance is given by Mr. Fred Victor in the rôle of the gambler, Frank Belton, who gains much applause; and a finished impersonation of the villainous Silas Sephton is presented by Mr. Alfred Harding, whose vindictiveness gains in effect by the coolness and resourcefulness of his acting. Mr. Geo. Delaforce as the rascally Loo Genesis contributes an excellent character study, and is responsible for most of the humour in the piece. The callous Evelyn Sephton is faithfully portrayed by Miss East Robertson, who achieves a great success. Mr. Harry Gribbon as Keeley Randall gives a meritorious performance, his delineation of the rôle being in every respect admirable. Mr. Talbot Holmwood as Edgar Drayton and Mr. Sidney Sherston as Tom Courtney are thoroughly efficient in their respective parts; and Mr. Harry Briston makes the most of the part of the sea captain, Richard Bracknell. Some excellent work is put in by Mr. Harry Buss in the rôle of the coster, Natty Nobbs, and he is ably assisted by Miss Nellie Sheffield, who, as Jenny Wibbles, acts with much vivacity, and contributes greatly to the success of the play. Praise should also be accorded Miss Emily Levettez for a good performance in the rôle of the hypocritical Madame Le Marshe.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 5, the Drama in Four Acts,
by Walter Melville, entitled
"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Islington once again has the opportunity of witnessing one of Mr. Melville's dramas, his latest effort being this time the attraction. Mr. Douglas Bruce's company, by whom the play is presented, is a very capable one, and the performance, which was witnessed by a crowded house on Monday, went admirably. Mr. Wingold Lawrence gives a rendering of Jack Hill which commends itself highly to the audience. Mr. Herne as the Rev. John Everton submits a fine impersonation, acting with much feeling and dignity. Mr. Frank Adair plays the repulsive part of Captain Caversham in a thorough style, and is very successful. Mr. Albert H. Clarke as Sutton is good. Mr. H. Asquin as Punch carries the light-comedy part through spiritedly and with the happiest results. Miss Ida Mavius as Molly is quite excellent, her performance being quite up to the high level her previous appearances here have led us to expect. Miss Marie McAulay as Marion Franklyn is also to be congratulated on an intense and effective piece of acting. Miss Ethel Bracewell is very pleasant and unaffected as Rose Seymour, and made a good impression. Miss Daisy Maynard is a capital partner in the comedy business, and causes much amusement. The large number of smaller parts are all in good hands, and the scenery and mounting are on a very elaborate scale.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 5, the Drama in Four Acts,
by Sutton Vane, entitled
"THE SPAN OF LIFE."

Mr. Arthur Carlton's capable company soon made their way into the good graces of Mr. William Bailey's indulgent Marylebone playgoers on Monday evening last. As Richard Blunt Mr. Sanderson Moffatt played with an energy and determination that soon made its mark, his efforts meeting with warm appreciation. Mr. R. S. Trelawney enacted Dunstan Leech in that easy, confident fashion which is always associated with an actor of resource; Mr. Edwin T. Kisby was well placed as Joshua Gurnet; and Mr. Walter Dale as Nutty Brown quickly became a warm favourite, his easy-going methods being much admired. The important rôle of Kate Heathcote was sustained by Miss Phyllis Hamilton in a sympathetic, womanly way, and nothing but praise can be given for her treatment of the part. Miss Kitty Russell was well to the fore as Shrove Tuesday; Miss Harriett Russell scored as Mrs. Jelf; Miss Phyllis Graham was pleasing as Cecil Jeff; and Miss May Moffatt played in an intelligent way as little Cecil Blunt. The piece was well staged and mounted, and the acting all round was decidedly good.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Play, in Four Acts, by the late Wilson Barrett,
entitled
"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

That *The Sign of the Cross* has not lost any of its powers to attract was clearly proved by the crowded state of the Brixton Theatre on Monday. The drama is performed by Mr. William Greet's excellent company. A fine conception of Marcus is presented by Mr. William Grant, who acts with dignity and distinction, and is well rewarded by abundant applause. No daintier or more charming Mercia could be imagined than that of Miss Marie Leonhard, whose quiet disposition and modest manner are valuable in the part. Mr. Boyd Pearson, as Nero, gives a fine impersonation of this cowardly and nervous Emperor. The brutality of Tigellinus is brought into prominence by Mr. Charles Aldred; and Licinius is made sufficiently repulsive by Mr. J. Wetherall. A humorous portrayal of the bibulous Glabrio is given by Mr. Frank Wood. Mr. Harry Jones makes the most of his opportunities as Philodenus, the pet of the ladies. The two spies, Servillus and Strabo, are well played by Mr. H. T. Harris and Mr. B. Russell; and an excellent Vitarius, Captain of the Guard, is presented by Mr. E. Yaldwin. The Empress Poppœa is charmingly enacted by Miss Nellie Bonsor; and Dacia and Berenice are attractively impersonated by Miss Alma Bolton and Miss Cissie Carlton. Miss Ivy Millaris gives a sympathetic and touching portrait of the boy Stephanus. Favius and Titus have good representatives in Mr. William Fleet and George Stanton. During the evening Miss Lillian Dacroy introduces some sweetly sung and pretty songs; and Miss Dorothy Stafford, as Thea, executes a special dance.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled
"LADY MADCAP."

Seldom is a better company seen on tour in the provinces or suburbia than Mr. George Edwardes has mustered in *Lady Madcap*, who, as impersonated by Miss Marie Studholme, is captivating Coronet habitués this week. The bright, lively music, pretty scenery, and clever if ingenuous plot, adorned with coruscations of wit, and magnificently mounted and costumed, will ensure a happy hearing and a hearty welcome wherever *Lady Madcap* ventures. Mr. Arthur Longley hits off the mannerisms of Mr. G. P. Huntley effectively, and as Trooper Smith is screamingly funny. Mr. E. Statham Staples is a miniature marvel of drollery as Corporal Ham, of the East Anglian Hussars; and Mr. Robert Hale enacts the part of Stoney Stratford with brisk incisiveness and point, and his dancing is admirable, and original as well. Miss Marie Studholme is a bewitching little madcap, and her vivacity and high spirits are quite infectious and stimulating to a degree. Her dancing is delightful, and she realises her part of Lady Betty to perfection. Miss Mabel Russell as Susan is a dainty little lady who is sure to make her mark in this kind of piece. She is very smart and *chic* in dress and deportment, and her acting and dancing are delightful in the extreme, being full of careless charm and abandon. Miss Vina Sevening looks pretty and graceful as Gwennie Holden, Lady Betty's friend, which is about all she is required to do. Miss Ethel Griffics is well in the picture as the flirty and fascinating Mrs. Layton, the colonel's wife. Mr. Ernest Mahar is excellent as the impulsive Comte de St. Hubert, and his rendering of French songs is most agreeable; whilst his Gallicising of such popular favourite ditties as "My Irish Molly O," "Bill Bailey," &c., constitutes one of the "hits" of the evening. Mr. Oliver J. Round is amusing as Posh Jenkins, Stoney Stratford's confederate; and the singing of Mr. J. Edward Fraser as Captain Harrington is admirable. Messrs. W. E. Richardson, B. H. Eustace, H. Parkes, and others do good service. Mr. Bert Barton stage-manages, assisted by Mr. P. Davidson; and the chorus includes an exceptionally smart set of girls and men. Mr. T. Sutton conducts the augmented orchestra; and Mr. Thos. J. Courtly acts as general-manager for Mr. George Edwardes.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, March 5, the Comedy, in Four Acts,
by Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

Mr. Brandon Thomas's ever-popular play is being given here this week, and Monday's audience must be counted one of the largest assembled in Mr. Soune's theatre since the opening night. Mr. Stanley Cooke as Lord Fancourt Babberly affords immense delight, not a dull moment intervening whilst he is on the stage, and he keeps his onlookers in a constant state of merriment. Mr. C. B. Keston is admirable as Sir Francis Chesney, and Mr. Walter Beaumont is a first-rate Stephen Spettigue. Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham are well looked after in the capable hands of Messrs. Hastings Lynn and Richard B. Mason. Mr. Sydney Compton is acceptable as Brassett, the college scout. The parts of Kitty and Amy are sustained in a bright and captivating manner by Miss Marian Ripley and Miss Dorothy Deacon respectively Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez has a graceful and polished exponent in Miss Ruth Suffield, who extracts the utmost from the character. *Charley's Aunt* is preceded each evening by a play in one act, entitled *Fourchette and Co.*, in which Miss Ruth Suffield, Mr. C. B. Keston, Mr. Sydney Compton, and Mr. Ellis appear to advantage.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, March 5,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

Large crowds are frequenting the above popular South London house this week to see *The Prodigal Son*. The present company, which is under the supervision and direction of Mr. Arthur Collins, gives an excellent rendering of the picturesque and pathetic play, which so ably points the lesson that "men may rise on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things." The piece is beautifully mounted, and as far as possible all the original effects which were produced at Drury Lane have been retained. The audience were most enthusiastic throughout, there being a special call for the principal characters at the end of each act. Miss Lily Hall Caine makes a most favourable impression, first as the sweet girl wife Thora, and then as the light-hearted child Elise. Miss Caine's dual performance is of the greatest value to the success of the production. Mr. Henry Renouf gives a forcible and manly rendering of the true-hearted Magnus, and his brother Oscar is very cleverly played by Mr. Norman Partriege. The part is by no means an easy one to play, but in the last act Mr. Partriege made a great impression, and his scenes with his mother and his little daughter drew the tribute of tears from many eyes. Miss Alma Murray, who appears as Anna Magnusson, gives a sweet and pathetic performance, which recalls memories of many past noteworthy representations on the part of this accomplished actress. Mr. Howard Russell is another old favourite, and he appears to much advantage as Dr. Olssen. Miss Mima Renouf gives an amusing representation of the garrulous old aunt Margret Neilsen, and affords a welcome relief by her comedy to the more sombre portions of the play. Miss Cecil Cromwell makes a stately and handsome Helga Neilsen, earning the execration of the "gods" by the clever way in which she impersonates the evilly-disposed woman. Mr. Herbert Hewetson plays capitally the difficult part of the unscrupulous Neils Einsen, and Mr. Henry George is a dignified Governor-General of Iceland, his scene in which he first discovers the baseness of his younger son being especially well rendered. Mr. Fred Grove as the Pastor and Mr. Frank Collins as Oscar Neilsen are both excellent. Mr. Collins also undertakes with great ability the arduous duties of stage-management. Mr. Henry Temple acts as business-manager.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 5,
the Comic Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"PEGGY MACHREE."

Good houses have been the rule this week at the Royal County, where Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company has been making very creditable appearances in that tuneful and amusing comic opera *Peggy Machree*, a form of stage play that always has a charm for residents in the riverside town. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the artists taking part in it, or upon the manner in which it is staged. Premier honours are due to Miss Claudia Lasell, who plays the part of Lady Margaret O'Driscoll, and wins great favour both for her acting and her singing. Miss Blanche Astley also scores a success as Molly, a part that she invests with artistic attractiveness. Mr. Leslie Stiles is a great favourite in the part of Barry Trevor; and Mr. Dan FitzGerald succeeds in keeping the house well amused as the mirth-provoking Michael; Mr. Melroy Cooper also makes a very creditable appearance as the Scotchman; and Mr. John Marley is a very good Sergeant Brampton. Others who deserve particular mention are Miss Doris Kelvey, as Madame de la Cour; Miss Dorothy Garden, as the Hon. Emily Pryor; Miss Madge Avery as Moira Cafferty; Miss Marion Cecil as Alino; Mr. Ralph Lynn as Sir Lawrence Borthwick; Mr. Marc Macdermott as Captain de la Cour; and Mr. J. Herbert Willis as Lawyer Keene. It may be added that the chorus and an augmented orchestra are ably controlled by Mr. K. Ernest Irving.

CARLTON THEATRE, GREENWICH.

Monday, March 5, the Drama in Four Acts,
by Arthur Shirley, entitled
"I DEFY THE WORLD."

Mr. Julian Malvern is appearing here this week with his clever company, which includes that admirable artist Mr. Lewis Gilbert, who repeats his powerful and highly interesting performance of Leon Darville. *I Defy the World* without Lewis Gilbert would be like *Hamlet* without Hamlet. Mr. Gilbert is excellently supported by Mr. Charles M. Julian, who is very funny as Samuel Wozzle, and must be warmly congratulated on his excellent performance. Mr. Horace Booth is a finished and clever representative of the Count de Beaulieu, Mr. Dunlop Stewart is excellent as Najac, Mr. Creagh Hunt is a manly and earnest exponent of the character of Andre, and the other male parts are all well looked after by their respective representatives. Miss Trixie St. Albans is an attractive Pauline Delaporte, Miss Maud Lilian is a bright and clever Marie Wozzle, Miss B. Coats makes little Fanchette a very interesting and lovable little person, and Miss Maud Malvern brings her skill and ripe experience to bear with excellent effect on the part of Blanche Darville (Leon's faithless wife).

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 5,
Loder's Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"THE NIGHT DANCERS."

A performance of *The Night Dancers* was given by Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company at the Standard last Monday. This opera is a new one in Mr. Turner's répertoire, and should prove a decided attraction wherever performed. It contains all the elements of comic opera mingled with dramatic incidents of a powerful nature; it is also in parts pertaining to the original and mysterious, and was received on Monday with great enthusiasm by a large and delighted audience. Music of a high grade of excellence characterises the opera, and, with the careful handling it received, proved a source of delight to all. Mr. J. W. Turner, although suffering from the effects of a severe cold, skilfully portrayed the part of Albert, acting and singing in a manner worthy of warm praise. Mr. Sidney Clifford gave an able representation of the Duke of Silesia, and acquitted himself with great credit. Mr. John Ridding made a droll Fridohn; Mr. George Ridling did all that was required of him as Godfrey; whilst Mr. Sidney Appleby made a satisfactory Max. Miss Marie Burnett supplied a charming impersonation of Bertha, and sang well; and Miss Jessie Dennis played with decided ability as Mary. The Giselle of Miss Alice Boaden showed careful study. Her music was tastefully rendered, and her whole performance proved a decided success. The chorus and orchestra did remarkably well under the bâton of Mr. T. Lawton; and the special scenery and effects employed in this opera were all excellent examples of their kind. Other operas for the week are *Martha, Carmen, Faust, Daughter of the Regiment, Lily of Killarney, The Waterman*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Comedy, by Owen Hall and
Liza Lehmann, entitled
"SERGEANT BRUE."

Mr. Frank Curzon's principal company is playing at the Fulham Theatre in the Strand success, *Sergeant Brue*. There are some exceedingly capable artists in this company, and the piece is handsomely mounted. The bulk of the work falls to the impersonator of the title-rôle, Mr. Percy Clifton, who is a capital representative of the worthy Sergeant. He worked with untiring energy, while his dancing was excellent and his acting really admirable. Mr. George Barrett, also, as Crookie Scrubbs, was another great success. In make-up, in voice, manner, and expression, he was a perfect type of the incorrigible rogue, and whether he was prominently at the front of the stage, or modestly in the background, he was all the time worth watching, for, with his rich sense of humour and his inexhaustible supply of byplay, he was always doing something to move laughter. As Michael Brue Mr. Charles Hanbury had to be simply natural as a contrast to the eccentricities of his parent, and he gave a pleasant rendering of the part, with one or two excellent songs. Mr. A. E. E. Edwards was the magistrate, Mr. Crank, and acquitted himself well, notably in the police-court scene, where he was particularly amusing; whilst Mr. Harold Montague was impressively peremptory as Inspector Gorringe. Mr. Harry Soutar, who was responsible for the stage-management, did well all that was needful as the solicitor, Habisham. Miss Violet Dene had much to do as Lady Bickenhall, the philanthropic lady who is the object of the sergeant's adoration. She was graceful and natural throughout; but perhaps her best bit of acting was that in the Court scene. Her songs went well, specially the one concerning "Instinct." The same may be said of Miss Constance Lait as Aurora Brue. She possesses a voice of unusual compass, which was heard to great advantage. Miss Constance Berkeley was a satisfactory representative of Brue's servant, Daisy. The chorus of gilded youths and society ladies rendered more than one song and dance in good style; and Miss Mabel Weir with Mr. Ivor Harvey took part in a graceful *pas de deux*. The augmented orchestra was ably conducted by Mr. Ernest Hurman.

"UNITED STATES."

A Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts,
by Charles Hannan,
Produced at the Opera House, Crouch End, on Monday Evening, March 5,

Sir Pinkerton Pinkerton ....MR. HARRY HILLER
Rolf Pinkerton .....MR. A. P. KAYE
Ruth Rutland .....MISS MINNIE GREY
Violet Rutland .....MISS GWEN BURNAY
Clementina Pinkerton .....MISS HELENA RIGBY
Jack Morrison .....MR. BERT MORLEY
Colonel Dama .....MR. F. THORPE-TRACEY
Sandy Macpherson .....MR. NORMAN CLARK
Janet Macpherson .....MISS LOTTIE MOSS
Waiter .....MR. ERIC VAYNE

Mr. Charles Hannan, who will be remembered as the author of *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance*, in his latest dramatic work has done at least one thing, and that is to give an actor of more than mere promise an opportunity of showing us how clever he really is in a part suited to him. The actor to whom we refer is Mr. F. Thorpe-Tracey, who appeared in the rôle of Colonel Dama, and also stage-managed the new production. To Mr. Thorpe-Tracey's exceedingly delightful performance we shall refer later.

Mr. Hannan calls his play a farcical comedy, and that description prepares us for the absence of anything very serious in the way of a plot. Sir Pinkerton Pinkerton, a cantankerous old baronet, has a son Rolf and is the guardian of two young ladies. Both his wards are very attractive in appearance, one possessing the advantage of a long banking account and the other being practically penniless. He wishes to marry his son to the heiress, Ruth Rutland, who is really in love with a young surveyor, Jack Morrison; while, as is usual in such cases, the baronet's son has lost his heart to the dowerless maiden, Violet Rutland. To chaperon these two young ladies, Sir Pinkerton has engaged a distant relative, Miss Clementina Pinkerton, a middle-aged spinster of somewhat skittish propensities. By a little diplomacy on the part of the younger members of his family, Sir Pinkerton is induced to set out for Scotland with his family circle. At Euston Station, a valetudinarian soldier, Colonel Dama, home on leave from India, intrudes into their carriage, which he immediately renders unendurable by the fumes of eucalyptus, and he has to be forcibly ejected. Owing to a too-pronounced flirtation between Rolf Pinkerton and Violet Rutland, the baronet interrupts the journey at Carlisle. This just suits the young people, because Jack Morrison is engaged surveying in the district, and is residing at the Macpherson Arms, an inn kept by Sandy Macpherson and his wife Janet. Rolf Pinkerton comes upon the scene and arranges with Morrison to bring the two girls and their chaperon on a picnic to the neighbourhood. They all arrive at the Macpherson Arms, and Colonel Dama, who has been smitten by the charms of Miss Clementina Pinkerton, unexpectedly turns up, having pursued them on a bicycle. He makes advances to the heart of Clementina, a citadel whose conquest he finds quite easy. To facilitate matters, a duplicate Gretna Green marriage is arranged between the two young couples, and Jack Morrison departs to make the necessary arrangements. The irate Sir Pinkerton, taking a lonely walk, arrives at the Macpherson Arms, and is led to suspect the presence of his delinquent relatives. Then complications arise. Rolf Pinkerton and the titular Aunt Clementina are forced to declare themselves man and wife in the presence of the proprietor of the inn and his wife, who at once point out that by Scots law this is a binding marriage. It is, of course, hardly worth quarrelling with the author over this legal anachronism.

The two later scenes are at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Carlisle. Here the mercenary landlord of the Macpherson Arms comes in just after a laughable scene between Rolf and his "aunt," or wife and submits to receive hush-money from Rolf as regards the marriage. A series of highly amusing incidents ensue, culminating in the discovery by the colonel that he has been forestalled in his matrimonial intentions towards the fair Clementina. His preparations for his immediate departure for Edinburgh, in company with his inseparable supply of eucalyptus and his disappointed hopes, occasions great merriment. Finally the discovery that the consanguinity of Rolf and his pseudo aunt Clementina was more real than they had believed, leads to the straightening out of matters generally and the pairing off of the various couples in the way most desired.

As we have already indicated, Mr. F. Thorpe-Tracey's portrayal of the part of Colonel Dama was a really excellent piece of comedy acting. The manner in which he sustained the vocal difficulties of a martyr to nasal catarrh was excruciatingly funny. In fact, he was the life of the piece. It is a kind of character which has often been seen on the stage, but rarely, we should imagine, has it been presented with such persistent fidelity. Mr. Harry Hiller was an exceedingly pronounced type of irascible and suspicion-haunted parent; if anything, on the night of the production, he was a little too forcible, though no doubt he has since remedied this slight defect. On the whole, the rôle was capitally acted, and the spirit of the part well realised throughout. Rolf Pinkerton had an excellent representative in Mr. A. P. Kaye, who gave us an admirable study of an impulsive but larkish youth. Mr. Bert Morley had a good part in Jack Morrison, and did it full justice. His smart appearance fittingly coincided with the requirements of the character, and he seemed to thoroughly appreciate the humour of the various embarrassing situations. Mr. Norman Clark was scarcely convincing as the Scots land lord. We have travelled in various parts of that whisky-consuming country, but have never encountered the peculiar dialect in which Mr. Clark gave utterance to the various expressions of sententious parsimony which is supposed to be characteristic of the aborigines of that hyperborean region. And, incidentally, we might point out to the author the absurdity of the Macpherson Arms being unprovided with the national beverage, as, according to its landlord, the sole liquid refreshment which it can furnish is the beer of the Southron. But, apart from Mr. Clark's dialectic deficiencies, he displayed in his handling of the part a considerable amount of pawky humour. Among the women, Miss Helena Rigby easily led with her entertaining interpretation of the rôle of the amatory spinster, Clementina Pinkerton, whose years had rendered her only too willing to surrender her state of single-blessedness. Miss Minnie Grey and Miss Gwen Burnay played in adequate fashion the parts of two charming young ladies; and Miss Lottie Moss and Mr. Eric Vayne, as Janet Macpherson and the waiter respectively, made excellent use of their limited opportunities.

Taking the piece altogether, there is in it the elements of a really laughable farce; but we think that Mr. Hannan will see the advisability of somewhat elucidating his plot and making a more connected story. There is plenty of fun, and the situations only require emphasising to produce a really admirable comedy.

United States was preceded by a curtain-raiser, entitled *The Setting of the Sun*, by the same author. The story of this playlet has been fully dealt with in these columns before, and it is sufficient to say that it concerns the transference of a young soldier's affections from an elder sister to a younger. It is a pathetic and well-conceived little drama. Mr. A. P. Kaye was blunt, manly, and straightforward as Harry Lane, and Mr. Bert Morley as the old clergyman acted with quiet reserve and culture. Pretty and affectionate as the younger sister was Miss Minnie Grey; while Miss Gwen Burnay acted with feeling and delicate pathos in the part of Janet Moorfield, who sees the dream of her life brought to naught by the unwitting influence of her own loved sister.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. FRED GROVE.

Mr. Fred Grove says:—"It is difficult to know where to begin with an account of my career. I started in the professional world in a dance between the pieces in a country theatre; I was a sort of demon, and the dance was of the wild, eccentric order, popularised by Stead, 'the Cure.' I afterwards did a little of what has since been called "legmania" business—that was in the days of burlesque—which I take the liberty of saying required quite as much playing as the musical comedy of to-day, for the rhymed couplets needed intelligent study to deliver properly. Perhaps the reason for the decline of that class of entertainment is that the burlesques wanted more application on the actor's part than the later dramatic developments. I have played in tragedy, farce, comedy, musical-comedy, and pantomime. I have been by turns tearful, dignified, elocutionary, malignant, mildly humorous, and broadly comic; pantomimic (comically and tragically).

"One grievance I have against managers is that they have no belief in an actor's versatility. If I first play a comic part with a manager, he will never after entrust me with a serious one. 'I can't see you in that part,' he says; 'the low-comedy part is in your line. I cannot imagine you in the serious one.' The next manager who uses me for a serious part says exactly the same thing of a comic one. Two or three parts seem to have more in my way than others; notably Sir Geoffrey Champneys and Middlewick in *Our Boys* (but no manager who employs me for one believes it possible that I can play the other), Jacky (*Never Too Late to Mend*), and Eccles (*Caste*)."

Mr. Grove has played at most of the London theatres—Drury Lane, His Majesty's, Haymarket, Criterion, Vaudeville, Strand, Globe, Opéra Comique, Wyndham's, the New, Duke of York's Court, Gaiety, Adelphi, Princess's, Royalty (especially in two unfortunate but clever plays, *The Frog* by Alec Nelson and *The Court of Honour* by Lart and Dickenson), the Great Queen-street (while it was the Novelty), Terry's, and the Lyceum. He has played with—amongst the giants of the past—Charles Mathews and Barry Sullivan; with those of the present—John Hare, Henry Neville, George Alexander, Cyril Maude, Hermann Vezin, Howard Russell, Mrs. John Wood to name no others.

Since Mr. Grove was last interviewed in *The Era* he has played the Marquis (*Don Cæsar de Bazan*), Jabez Thomas (*Driven from Home*), Old Toddenham (*My Soldier Boy*), Tony (*Man in the Iron Mask*), Ingot (*David Garrick*), Mes Bottes (*Drink*), Carbury (*The Lady of Ostend*), Gregory Goldfinch (*A Pair of Spectacles*), Sir Alexander Shendryn and Prince Perovski (*Ours*), Beau Farintosh (*School*), Admiral Flamank (*A Golden Wedding*), Sergeant Tanner (*Adventures of Mrs. Brown*), Ah Sen (a Chinaman in Stayton's clever *Dispatch Bearer*), Adam Pembleton (a fine farcical comedy part, and one after his own heart, in *The Little Intruder*), Bob Chaffers (with Arthur Roberts in *H.M.S. Irresponsible*), Etienne (*The Girl from Maxim's*), Concierge (*Sapho*, with Olga Nethersole), Inspector Messiter (*Magistrate*),

MR. FRED GROVE.

Professor Babbitt (*A Night Off*), Pontifex (*Brixton Burglary*), Justice Hare (*East Lynne*), Ebenezer Savage (*A Woman Tamer*), Selim Pettibone (*A Kiss in the Dark*), M. Cauchy (*Marshal Ney*), Johnstone S. Grain (*En Voyage*), Dr. Oliver (*My Sweetheart*), Sampson Brass (*Little Nell*), Fanfaronade and De Courgement (*Belphegor*) Potter (*Still Waters*), Otto (the German waiter) and McEldon (the Scottish engineer) (*The Flood Tide*), Kostoloff (*Lower Depths*), Mr. Jessup (*Lady Fortune*), a French footman and a workman (*The Philanthropists*), Dr. Beckle (*All Fletcher's Fault*), Harry Collier (he had often before played Tom Dibbles) (*Good for Nothing*), Pat Mahony (*Victim of Villainy*—a very good specimen of provincial melodrama), Terence Reilly (with John Hare in *Little Mary*, an engagement of which Mr. Grove was naturally very proud), Samuel (one of the old gardeners in that pretty piece that deserved a better fate, *Prunella*); he doubled a comic sailor and a serious soldier in a play that he believes will be heard of again—it was so good and novel—*From the Unseen World*, by Creagh Henry, and as his name appeared in the bill under two cognomens the critics failed to detect him, and he had pretty things said of him under both—by no means an unusual occurrence with him; the Rev. Samuel Smedge (*Merely Mary Ann*), this following as it did *Little Mary*, "his heart was true to Poll." By the way, it was his good fortune to be in *The Prodigal Son* at Drury Lane, in which the original singer of that celebrated song, Mrs. John Wood, appeared. This was his fourth engagement at old Drury, and in Mr. Hall Caine's drama he played "the stranded derelict," as Eric Arnusson, the old ruined gambler, was called. Reverting to the strict chronological order, Mr. Grove was Professor Fluence in Arthur Shirley's comical and successful sketch *A Happy Medium*, at the New Theatre. At a benefit performance at His Majesty's he played Robin with George Alexander in *If I Were King*; this, and a reading of Gratiano in *Othello*, closes the list of his new parts to the end of 1905.

Mr. Grove has now rejoined *The Prodigal Son* for its spring tour of the suburbs. He is playing his original part and doubling it with the Pastor. His last spring tour was also a parson (Smedge), and, oddly enough, also a part originally played by Mr. George Raiemond. This brings his list of parts up to a respectable total of over four hundred.

PRESENTATION.—There was a scene of much enthusiasm on the 2nd inst. at the St. James's Theatre, Manchester, when Mr. Michael Connelly, musical director for Mr. Eade Montefiore's *Cinderella* company, was presented by the ladies and gentlemen of the company with a handsome silk gold-mounted umbrella, a massive silver sovereign purse and match-box, and a handsome pipe in case. All assembled on the stage at the presentation, singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

CHAT WITH MISS NORA HASTINGS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

The many admirers of Miss Nora Hastings, the talented reciter and teacher of elocution, would like to see her take to the stage in real earnest if she could only be persuaded to relinquish the work in which she is at present engaged. It is not too much to say that Miss Hastings has earned and won a considerable measure of success on the concert platform and at amateur performances. She has played with Miss Bella Pateman, Mr. Hermann Vezin, and Mr. James Fernandez, and among the different parts in which she has been seen, heard, and admired may be mentioned Lilian, in *New Men and Old Acres*; Lotty, in *Two Roses*; Juliet, in *Romeo and Juliet*; Pauline, in *Lady of Lyons*; Beatrice, in *Saved*; Mrs. Harcourt, in *War to the Knife*; Grace in *The Chimney Corner*; Constance, in *Won at Last*; Mrs. Beaumont, in *Uncle*; Alice Barlow, in *Hundred Thousand Pounds*; Nelly, in *Our Nelly*; Lady Isabel, in *East Lynne*; Helen, in *The Hunchback*; Kate Garstone in *The Lancashire Lass*; Violet, in *Grimaldi, or the Life of an Actress*; Esther, in *Caste*; Galatea, in *Pygmalion and Galatea*; Cordelia; and Lady Teazle.

Photo by Jenkins.

MISS NORA HASTINGS.

For Miss Hastings' work in her various characterisations the critics have had nothing but praise. She has the power of impressing her audiences; there is fire, feeling, and colour in her acting of the more tragic rôles, and she possesses admirable emotional qualities. Then, again, her beautiful, well-modulated voice, admirable elocution, and facility of gesture impart distinctive character to her parts, whether they be grave or gay. She makes a charming Juliet, her study of the Veronese maiden having been strongly commended. Everyone who has seen her portrayal of the ragged and heart-broken Kate Garstone, in *The Lancashire Lass*, is delighted with her artistic restraint in the display of emotion.

Miss Hastings has been before the public now for three years, and she has in that short period earned no small fame as a reciter at high-class concerts. She is extremely earnest, painstaking, and with her natural talent and sympathetic yet resonant, voice, and remarkable gift for explaining herself by facial expression, she has won success upon the platform. Her pupils—as we have already said, she is a teacher of elocution—have, whenever they have appeared in public, been most favourably criticised. Miss Hastings has been a hard worker all her life, and whatever position she may have gained is the outcome of plucky, strenuous endeavour. She is one of the busiest of women, and it is not infrequent for her, after travelling all night from a provincial town, to give several lessons, and then appear in the evening before a London audience. What little relaxation she allows herself from her many engagements and extensive correspondence she takes upon the river, where she may occasionally be seen skilfully handling the sculls or manipulating a punt pole. She has more than once rendered valuable aid to people in difficulties on the water.

We hope it will not be long before Miss Hastings goes a step further in her professional work, and enters upon a career in the theatres.

PLAYERS IN THE PROVINCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I read Mr. Charles Carte's letter in your last issue with great interest. No doubt it is possible that the Royal road to fame has been opened by Mr. Tree and his colleagues.

Why waste years and tears practising one's art in the school of experience—in quite unpleasant places sometimes—when all one need do to become a West End actor is to pay a small fee, and take a course of lessons at an "academy"?

I wonder how many able, experienced provincial leading men and women would be glad to play small parts or understudy their inferiors in talent for a chance of a "show" in the West End.

I wonder if any West End manager will ever be bold enough to engage a company of provincial actors of ability, and give them a chance in the West End. Would a company consisting exclusively of such actors bear comparison with one recruited from an Academy such as I have alluded to?—Yours faithfully,

ROBERT CASTLETON.

10, King-street, W.C.

THE mistaken idea that a sharp cold in the head is a healthy thing, and prevents the appearance of other maladies, is to be rejected. A cold is itself a malady, like any other physical indisposition, and must be energetically combated. A neglected cold frequently leads to the severest complications, and for this reason every cold should be carefully treated from the first day of its appearance. The remedy to be used is Formawn, which at the last congress of German naturalists and medical men was laid before the assembled professors and men of science, and medically described as an absolutely ideal remedy for colds. Formawn is a condensed product of Formaldehyde and Menthol. The method of use is very simple. For slight colds Formawn Nose Wool suffices, which is sold at a moderate price in small boxes. In the case of severer colds Formawn-vapour (supplied in the shape of pastils) should be inhaled by means of the Formawn Inhaler. The peculiarity of the effect of Formawn is that the remedy produces an almost instantaneous relief in the head and in the nasal passages. The effects are quite startling.

MR. HERMAN MERIVALE, the novelist and playwright, who died at Chiswick on Jan. 14, has left estate of the gross value of £2,832 9s. 6d., of which the net personalty has been sworn at £2,690 14s. 10d.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. JOHN BURTON.

Mr. John Burton ventures ot think that his theatrical career is unique. His father and grandfather were both actors and managers. He first appeared when an infant in arms, as Cora's child in *Pizzaro*, and he has played every line of business, from super to star lead, and held every position "behind" from call-boy to producer. He has also occupied every post in "front" from programme boy to manager, and acted in every type of theatre, from a portable to a first-class West-End London house. He has run his own company and paid salaries out of his own savings. Moreover, Mr. Burton has maintained himself since the age of fifteen by his own exertions in the profession without any pecuniary assistance, and up to now has been fortunate enough to avoid any monetary indebtedness. When call-boy at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, he saw the great little Robson, Mme. Celeste, and Walter Montgomery. During that season *The Colleen Bawn* was produced, and ran for three months—not bad for a provincial theatre in the old "stock" days. Mme. Celeste tipped him half-a-sovereign, but Robson only gave him two shillings and sixpence.

In the provinces Mr. Burton was the original Geoffrey Wynyard (*Dan'l Druce*), Mr. Barnes (*Barnes of New York*), Haldane Gully (*Flying from Justice*), and, on tour, Gouroc in *Paul Kauvar*.

He was acting-manager at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, for twelve months, during Mr. Courtneige's control of that house, and has stage-managed three pantomimes for the Milton-Rays. With the exception of a successful and profitable season at Bombay he has never been out of these islands, though he has had offers both for America and the Cape. As a youth he played small parts for one week with G. V. Brooke, shortly before that great tragedian was lost in the "London." He considers Mr. Phelps the best actor he has ever seen, and Mr. Chippendale the finest "old man" of his time.

Stock seasons at Newcastle under E. D. Davis, Sheffield with Mrs. Pitt, Nottingham with Mrs. Saville, Belfast under J. F. Warden, Bradford under Charles Rice, and Aberdeen under Wm. Gomersal permitted him to support such famous artists as Samuel Phelps, Charles Dillon, Barry Sullivan, Wm. Creswick, J. L. Toole, and Henry Irving. His principal touring engagements commenced with nearly three years with Pitt and Hamilton, whose répertoire ultimately exceeded forty pieces. He was about the same period of time with Miss Alleyne, two consecutive years under Edward Compton, and twelve months with the *Caste* company (T. W. Robertson, jun.). He had three engagements with the late Osmond Tearle, at least half-a-dozen tours with *Paul Kauvar*, and over two years with H. J. Montague's répertoire company, playing, amongst other parts, Iago, Cassius, and Richard III. with conspicuous success, and also appearing as Touchstone and Tony Lumpkin with some degree of credit.

While very proud of his classical work, he does not wish to be considered as a legitimate

MR. JOHN BURTON.

actor exclusively, because fully seventy-five per cent. of his professional labours have been in drama, comedy, and pantomime. His hobbies are dabbling in self-taught French and a little bicycle riding.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The chamber concert given at the Royal College on Friday evening, March 2, commenced with a careful, and in many respects able performance by Mr. Arthur Beckwith, Miss Vera Warwick-Evans, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans, of Mendelssohn's Quartet for Strings in E minor. Mr. Edgar Macgregor's skilfully executed piano solo "Winter," a descriptive composition by Clement Harris, greatly pleased the audience, and the violoncello solo, "Elegie," by G. Fauré, admirably played by Miss Marion Harrison, aroused so much enthusiasm that the extremely youthful artist was at the close recalled no fewer than five times. The instrumental portion of the programme concluded with Brahms' Trio for Piano and Strings in C major, the students taking part in this fine work being Mr. James Friskin, Mr. Herbert Kinze, and Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans, who displayed ability in their interpretation of the first and third movements especially. The songs given were H. R. Bishop's "Should he upbraid," neatly sung by Miss Frances Ireland; "Verrath," by Brahms, sung by Mr. Edward G. Mercer, who is the fortunate possessor of a really fine bass voice. Other songs given were "Morning Hymn" (Henschel) and "Chanson de Route" (Puget), rendered with good taste and expression by Miss Agnes Coates. The accompanists were Grace de Rozario.

BEWARE OF THE IMPOSTOR!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I trouble you to put a warning note in your paper? It has come to my notice that a young man is going round London, calling on theatrical and music hall artists, and stating that he is my son, and, on the strength of this, is borrowing (or attempting to borrow) money for his "fare home." I understand his usual tale is that he has just arrived from some foreign port, and is short of his fare to Bury. I have no son, neither have I any idea who this young man is who is using my name.—Yours faithfully,

OTTO C. CULLING.

Theatre Royal, Bury, March 5, '06.

MR. F. T. STUDD, the popular ventriloquist and mimic, will hold his annual Bohemian Concert on Monday next at the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, at 7.30, when the élite of the concert profession will appear.

"THE HINDUSTANEE;
OR, JONES AT JONESIPORE."

Musical Comedy Burlesque,
by A. F. Allen Tower and Leon Wood,
Produced at the Empire Theatre, Oxford,
on Monday, March 5.

King Kawfee .....MR. PERCY BERESFORD
Cing-i-Cing .....MR. OWEN FORD
Dr. Theophilus Cody Jones .....MR. ARTHUR E. BEHAN
Hari Keede .....MR. HARRY LAWN
Slit-wea-Sand .....MR. TREVOR FERGUSSON
Grit-an-Wit .....MR. WILL THORNE
Frit-I-Sac .....MR. GEORGE POULTON
Pong-i-Ping .....MR. YUNG LI
O-So-Ni-Cee .....MISS DOLLY ROSS
Fattamosa .....MISS MAY TRUEFITT
Flie-Su-Sa .....MISS CISSIE BEHAN
Mi-Mo-Sa .....MISS EDITH MASON
Daffodil .....MISS KITTY BEHAN
Asfodel .....MISS KITTY LINGARD
Lotus .....MISS JEAN DOUGLAS
Chrysantheme .....MISS MABEL VERNE
Iris .....MISS MARY LOCKRIDGE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The play deals with the adventures of the eccentric Dr. Theophilus Cody Jones, Q.D., A double S., of Pentonvilly, who takes a voyage on the good ship Hesperus, and is wrecked at Kawfeeberry Bay. Capt. Keede, a pirate, arrives, with his men, with the avowed object of carrying off King Kawfee's daughter, the Princess O-So-Ni-Cee. The shipwrecked doctor meets the Princess's cousin Fattamosa, who straightway falls in love with him. Their amorous dalliance is interrupted by King Kawfee's crafty Lord Grand Factotum, Sing-i-Sing, who learns that the newcomer is a physician, and as such is a decided acquisition, as King Kawfee has for weeks suffered from the toothache, which he himself has failed to cure, thereby losing prestige. He has also long coveted the hand of the Princess O-So-Ni-Cee, and both he and the Pirate King determine to claim the Princess as a reward for the introduction of Jones to the King; but upon his arrival His Majesty confounds them by conferring the hand of the Princess on Jones. Sing-i-Sing, however, has in his possession a drug which gives all the appearance of death, and he administers it to the Princess. By the law of the land the Royal Dead must be burnt, but only at dawn, and until then must lie in the Royal Mausoleum. This is to be an opportunity for Keede to carry off the supposed corpse. He himself will then revive her, and they will sail away. By some mischance the plan miscarries, and Sing-i-Sing scuttles the pirate ship to prevent them leaving the island. There is therefore nothing left but to fight, and the Pirates achieve an easy victory. The King gives in, being assisted thereto by a witty and topsyturvy interpretation of the law, and all ends happily.

The music is pretty and melodious, and Mr. Leon Wood on the whole has achieved success. In Act II. there is a topical duet for the King and Jones which is bright and vigorous. The play was considerably handicapped, and suffered more or less at the hands of its interpreters, who evinced great nervousness. Owing to the indistinct manner in which the lines were delivered the dialogue, generally speaking, failed to grip the attention of the audience, especially in Act I. Mr. Percy Beresford did well as King Kawfee, and Mr. Arthur E. Behan, to whose indefatigable efforts what measure of success was attained is due, achieved distinction as Dr. Theophilus Cody Jones. Mr. Owen Ford was hardly an ideal Cing-i-Cing, neither did Mr. Harry Lawn convey a pirate's robustness as Hari Keede. Miss Cissie Behan as Flie-Su-Sa and Miss Kitty Behan as Daffodil scored immensely with their clever songs and dances, and were encored. Miss Dolly Ross was fairly successful as O-So-Ni-Cee, and Miss May Trueitt will be well suited as Fattamosa when her evident nervousness has worn off. Special scenery was painted by Mr. L. Hicks.

RESULTS OF THE AVENUE ACCIDENT.

In the Court of King's Bench, on Saturday, two actions for rent for the Avenue Theatre, which was demolished through the recent disaster at Charing Cross, were decided. In the first case, Mr. Lush, K.C., said that the plaintiffs, Emily Ann Scott and another, were the lessees of the freeholder, having a long term of eighty years from 1880, and the defendant, Mr. Lennox, was the admitted assignee of a lease which the plaintiffs granted to the Theatre Syndicate, Limited. As a matter of fact, there had been a sub-lease granted to Mr. Curzon, who had, in his turn, subleased to Mr. Maude. The rent was £2,000 a year, £750 being payable in advance quarterly. The covenant in the lease upon which he relied was "If and whenever the theatre premises shall be closed by order of any superior authority, or be destroyed by fire, or so damaged by fire that the same cannot continue to be used as a theatre, the said annual rent shall, as from the date of such closure or fire, be suspended, and cease to be payable until the theatre shall have been reopened and completely rebuilt." He submitted that a physical demolition, other than by fire, did not excuse the defendants from the payment of rent. It could not be said that the South-Eastern Railway was the superior authority. He submitted there was no defence.

Mr. Roskill said he relied upon another covenant in the lease, which said: "At all times during the said terms of existence do comply with all works and requirements, other than of a structural nature, which the London County Council or its successors may hereafter order, or by notice require the owner or lessee to execute or comply with, provided always that nothing herein contained shall be corstrued as to throw on the lessees or their assignees any obligation to comply with any order of the L.C.C. to make any structural alterations or additions, but in any such case the cost and expense of structural alterations shall be borne by the lessors." On Dec. 8, at the instance of the L.C.C., a magistrate made an order requiring certain walls to be taken down because the structure was in a dangerous condition. He submitted that his client was exonerated from complying with that order, and that the obligation of executing the work was upon the plaintiffs.

Mr. Justice Lawrance said the real question was whether this theatre was closed, as a matter of fact, by the order of some superior authority, or closed by the falling of the roof of the Charing Cross Station. Under all the circumstances, the conclusion he had come to was that judgment must be given for the plaintiffs. Judgment was then given for £750, with costs, but his lordship granted a stay on the usual conditions.

In the second action, Mr. Lennox sought to recover £1,210, rent due from Mr. Curzon. Mr. Gore Brown argued that it did not matter whether the theatre had been so injured as to make it improper to use it as a theatre; it was still a theatre, provided the outside walls remained. As to the roof of the theatre, they knew perfectly well that some of the finest theatres in the world never had roofs, such as theatres in Italy and Greece, and the Paris Hippodrome.

Mr. Justice Lawrance said there was no provision in the lease for the suspension of the rent except on the closing of the theatre by a superior authority or fire, and he therefore had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that there must be judgment for the plaintiff for £1,210 and costs.

A stay of proceedings was also granted in this case on the usual conditions.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham has selected Wednesday, the 21st inst., for his revival of *The Candidate*, in which the part of Lord Oldacre gives employment to his most artistic qualities. Miss Mary Moore, who has lately enjoyed only indifferent health, will not be included in the cast, neither will Miss Marion Terry, who goes to the Lyric to play in Mr. H. B. Irving's production of *Jeunesse*. The company which will present *The Candidate* at Wyndham's Theatre will, however, be a powerful one, including Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. Yorke Stephens, Mr. Henry Kemble, Mr. Edmund Maurice, Miss M. Talbot, and Miss Sybil Carlisle.

Miss Ellen Terry will shortly achieve her fiftieth year of professional work, and no more popular event could be conceived than the celebration of the jubilee of the famous actress. It was on April 28, 1856, at the age of eight years, that Miss Terry made her début, sustaining the part of Mamillius in *A Winter's Tale*, the play in which she is very appropriately to appear a few months later at His Majesty's. Apart from her undying work in association with the late Sir Henry Irving, Miss Terry more recently gave distinction to Mr. Tree's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and her acting in *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire*, which formed the success of the last spring season at the Duke of York's, furnished a remarkable instance of her perennial freshness and vitality. Everyone, it is assured, both in and out of the profession, will be anxious to combine in testimony of love and friendship towards so fine an ornament of the stage and so estimable a lady.

Miss Lena Ashwell has secured the Savoy Theatre in which to embark on her managerial enterprise in London. By arrangement with Mr. J. H. Leigh, she begins her season at Easter in a comedy entitled *The Bond of Ninon*, by Miss Clotilde Graves. The change from the emotional order of rôle in which Miss Ashwell has won fame to that of comedy is a marked one, but her artistic gifts and her rapid rise in the dramatic scale would prepare one for her success in any character, however divergent. The action of the piece takes place at Paris in the year 1662, when Louis XIV., who plays a prominent part in the story, had just attained his twenty-fourth year. The heroine is Ninon de L'Enclos, for whose hand there is a keen competition among the gallants of France, and the hero a young soldier of fortune who comes to Paris in order to establish his claim to title and property, which have been unjustly taken from him. Though essentially a comedy, Miss Graves's play is well supplied with a number of thrilling incidents.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, finding that *Nero* is too heavy a production to take on tour without curtailing the scenery, has decided to present himself to his provincial admirers in a double bill, consisting of *Business is Business* and *The Man Who Was*. With two such characteristic creations of the popular actor's art country playgoers will have every reason to rest content.

The students of the Academy of Dramatic Art will give their annual performance at His Majesty's on Monday afternoon, April 2, when selections from Shakespeare's works, including *As You Like It* and *The Merchant of Venice*, will alternate with excerpts from modern comedies. There will also be an exhibition of stage dancing. On the following afternoon the wordless musical play, *L'Enfant Prodigue*, will be included in the programme.

Mr. John Hare has fixed on *A Pair of Spectacles* to succeed *The Alabaster Staircase*, the revival taking place at the Comedy Theatre on Wednesday. As Benjamin Goldfinch, Mr. Hare will be seen in one of his most approved impersonations, and Miss Kate Rorke and Mr. Charles Groves will appear in their original characters Mr. A. E. Matthews will also be included in the cast.

Mr. Lewis Waller entertained his first-nighters to tea on Saturday afternoon, the cheering beverage being served from four to half-past five to everybody in the foyer of the Imperial Theatre. Music also contributed towards whiling away the hours of waiting until *Brigadier Gerard* was ready. popular ballads and musical comedy selections being rendered on a powerful gramophone. *Brigadier Gerard* now playing much closer, Mr. Waller announces that from Monday next the curtain will rise at 8.30, instead of 8.15.

A portrait of the late Sir Henry Irving, from a Frenchman's point of view, is one of the most interesting pictures in the exhibition now being held by the International Society of Sculptors, Painters, and Gravers at the New Gallery, Regent-street. It is a small canvas, the work of Sebastian Lepage, and lent by Miss Ellen Terry. Sir Henry is seated, against a black background, and his expression is that of Irving as his intimate friends knew him—humorous, genial, keen, and lovable.

Mr. Martin Harvey makes his first bow to a Leicester audience on Monday as Sidney Carton, in *The Only Way*, which play will be repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday, *The Breed of the Treshams* doing service on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with a single performance of *A Cigarette-makers's Romance* on Saturday afternoon. The advance booking at the Opera House, which will be the scene of Mr. Harvey's artistic operations, has been among the biggest ever known. On Tuesday week Mr. Harvey will present *Hamlet* for the first time during the present tour, at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. Mr. Norman O'Neill, whose incidental music to the tragedy won so much favour, has written a further "entr'acte," which will be heard at Birmingham for the first time.

Mr. E. S. Willard, whose tour in America is having the most gratifying results, was captured recently by a Baltimore interviewer, who put the hoary question, "How do American audiences compare with those of your own country?" "Generally speaking," replied the eminent actor, "it is much more satisfactory to play to American audiences. They are, for one thing, much more responsive, and that is a very great consideration, for it is impossible to get the best results from the stage unless the audience does its share towards the encouragement and animation of the actors. People who go to the theatre to be entertained should be willing and ready to contribute their part of the entertainment, for a lifeless or placid audience will get a colourless, perfunctory performance. Sympathetic cordiality and tributory enthusiasm on the part of an audience have a wonderfully stimulating effect on the actor, and that is the inspiration of success.

"With Americans," continued Mr. Willard, "the theatre is a feature of their intellectual and social life, and as a rule they go to the theatre with a definite interest in the entertainment. I am speaking of the better educated classes. I doubt if there is much difference between one country and another in what you may term the mass of theatre-goers. But even there," he added, with a twinkling eye, "I ought to admit a distinction in favour of American audiences. Cheap seats do not seem to breed impoliteness among theatre patrons in this country. America has no such institutions as a 'booing' gallery, or a jeering pit. One part of a house is as decorous as any other here, and those who do not care for a performance quietly quit the theatre, or, if they remain, do so without making any demonstration to mar the possible enjoyment of others."

Mr. Cyril Maude will play Pangloss in *The Heir-at-Law* at the Waldorf, where the revival will take place for a series of matinées on Tuesday, the 20th inst. The cast will also include Mr. E. W. Garden, Mr. G. M. Graham, Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Percival Stevens, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Mr. E. C. Matthews, Mr. Ralph McKie, Mr. William Calvert, Miss Mary Brough, Miss Janet Alexander, and Miss Madge Crichton.

Miss Florence Lloyd, the leading lady of the Strand Comedy Company, touring in Australia, was profoundly anxious to descend the mine of the Waihi Company, but there was a rule that ladies were not to be admitted to the underground workings of the mine, the reason being that one or two female visitors had fainted in the cage. Miss Lloyd thereupon secured at the mine office a disguise consisting of a "dungaree suit" and slouch felt hat, and, thus attired, joined the rest of the party, consisting of Messrs. H. J. Wilde, A. Mallalieu, and W. Craufurd-Brown, and proceeded to No. 1 shaft, where in due time the cage with its living freight went down to the depths below, descending to No. 8 level, the lowest in the mine.

After traversing the foot-wall of the great Martha reef the visitors came back to the cage, and ascended to No. 7 level, where they were met by a shift boss, who, after a quick glance or two at Miss Lloyd, remarked sharply to the leader of the party, "That's a woman. Women are not allowed down here, you know." "Can't you see," the leader replied, "that she's a man?" However, there was no time to argue, and in due course the party ascended again to the surface and daylight, and the "man" of the party revisited the room at the office, and from there Miss Lloyd emerged in all the glory of feminine attire.

Miss Olga Nethersole produced *The Labyrinth*, an adaptation by W. L. Courtney of Paul Hervieu's *Le Dedale*, at the Davidson Theatre, Milwaukee, on Feb. 12, and created a great impression in the rôle of the heroine. The play, which is a protest against divorce, was received with general acclamation, even a German newspaper devoting a column to the discussion of the piece and the acting. The company, which is made up principally of English artists, also includes Mr. Hamilton Revelle, Mr. William Farren, jun., Miss Louise Moodie, Mr. Hubert Carter, Mr. Charles Quartermaine, Miss Rosalind Ivan, and Miss Cicely Richards.

New arrangements have been made with regard to Mr. J. M. Barrie's latest play, by which it will not now be produced at the Haymarket. Mr. Frederick Harrison has waived his right to the piece, which will be given by Mr. Charles Frohman in due course at the Comedy. The piece appointed to follow *The Indecision of Mr. Kingsbury* at the Haymarket is *The Man from Blankney's*, in which Mr. Charles Hawtrey will revive one of his most famous impersonations. Mr. Weedon Grossmith will be seen as Mr. Tidmarsh.

Mr. H. A. Jones's daughter Gertrude is to be married on Monday to Mr. Irving Albery, son of the late Mr. James Albery and Mrs. Albery, the charming actress so well esteemed under her professional name of Miss Mary Moore. The marriage will take place at St. George's, Hanover-square.

Mr. Otho Stuart's production of *Measure for Measure* is in an advanced stage of preparation at the Adelphi, where it is to be presented on the 20th inst. Mr. Stuart and Mr. Oscar Asche, to whom will naturaly fall the part of Angelo, are giving their own conception of the play, which will be presented in three acts, and are relying on no tradition whatever for their purpose. Mr. Asche's admiration of the comedy increases with every rehearsal. "There are scenes in *Measure for Measure*," he says, "that, in my eyes, are among the finest, the most dramatic, the most subtle, the most splendidly eloquent, that Shakespeare ever wrote. I mean, of course, those between Isabella, the nun, and Angelo, and between Isabella and her brother Claudio. Then comes the magnificent conflict in the prison scene between Isabella's purity and Claudio's love of life—ending with just the Duke's suggestion of the device that shall solve the whole distressful problem. Lastly, in the third act, we shall have all the Mariana part of the play—the plot within the plot—practically begun and ended."

Mr. William Pringle has added 30s., obtained by means of his autograph, to the Actors' Benevolent Fund. The contents of the Fund's collecting-box at the Grand Theatre, Southampton, have reached £5, and Mr. Sydney Paxton has forwarded that amount to the secretary. Miss Gaynor Rowlands has also sent 9s. 6d., which she has received in exchange for her autographs, and devoted to the Fund.

The Students' Representative Council of the University of Sheffield gave a reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Manners, in the Firth Hall of the University buildings, on Tuesday afternoon, the 27th ult. There were about 600 people present, including Mr. and Mrs. Manners, Dr. Coward, Mr. T. Walter Hall (chairman of the University Opera Week Committee), Miss Lily Moody, Madame De Vere, Mr. F. G. Belton, Miss Belton, and many others. Afternoon tea having been served, a move was made to the platform, where Mr. F. G. Belton presided, and Miss Foster presented Madame Fanny Moody with a beautiful bouquet. After some speech making, during which the students cheered themselves hoarse, the guests inspected the buildings, which were much appreciated. An interesting item of the programme was the singing by all the students of their University song, "Floreamus," which was conducted by Dr. Coward, the following special verse being interpolated for the occasion—

And then to the student how blessed is the hour
When his ear is enchanted by music's sweet power,
When Moody and Manners their gifts on us rain,
We'll make the walls echo again and again.

Three more cheers were raised by the students before they sang the Latin chorus to their song, in which Mrs. Manners joined as enthusiastically as the students.

Another "Little Stranger" has arrived. At Marlborough-street Police Court on Tuesday morning a license was granted to the manager of the Criterion Theatre to allow a child to understudy the part so successfully enacted by Master Edward Garratt in *The Little Stranger*.

Mr. Harry Brayne concludes on Saturday next a successful pantomime engagement, playing Mrs. Twankey in *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, and goes to Bury on the Sunday to resume on the following evening his old part of Jim Williams in Messrs. Polini and Maitland's *The Coal King* company, at the Theatre Royal there.

The clash of first nights which threatened to occur this evening has been avoided by Mr. James Welch, with becoming consideration, consenting to postpone his re-opening of Terry's Theatre with *A Judge's Memory* until next Tuesday. Miss Millward's production of *The School for Husbands* at the Scala Theatre to-night remains good. A further postponement is that of *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, which Mr. Bourchier, on account of the enduring attractiveness of *Brother Officers*, has put off to Thursday, April 26.

Mr. Fred W. Purcell being about to relinquish the management of the Marlborough Theatre, which was erected and opened by him in the autumn of 1903, a committee of local gentlemen representing a majority of North London playgoers, has been formed to organise the presentation of a complimentary souvenir to Mr. Purcell at a special matinée to be given at the Marlborough Theatre on March 19. A programme of remarkable strength will be presented, among the distinguished members of the profession and eminent artists who have kindly promised to appear being Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, Miss Marion Terry and full company from Wyndham's Theatre in one act of *Captain Drew on Leave*, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Eugene Stratton, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Carrie Moore, Miss Stella Gastelle, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Miss May Henderson, Mr. Johnny Schofield, Lieut. Walter Cole, Mr. Geo. Mozart, Mr. Geo. Brooks, &c. Selections will also be given from the popular musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*.

At the conclusion of the performance on Monday night, Mr. Purcell was the recipient of a testimonial, subscribed for by the staff of the theatre and a few friends and patrons in honour of his birthday. Mr. Charles Melvin, the acting-manager, in a few well-chosen words, made the presentation on behalf of the subscribers, and Mr. Purcell suitably responded.

Mr. F. R. Benson's present tour has, so far, exceeded all previous seasons, and during his fortnight at Nottingham, concluded last Saturday, he played every night to the capacity of the Grand Theatre. The business of his other companies has also been in excess of previous touring experience, which goes to prove that Shakespeare at popular prices spells success. Mr. Benson, in view of the big demands for dates made upon him, has decided to send out an additional Shakespearean company in the autumn.

"Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush" was a great success at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, last week. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (Lord Aberdeen) and Lady Aberdeen had a command performance given last Saturday night and a large and brilliant audience attended. In all the many years that Lord and Lady Aberdeen have spent in Ireland this is the first time they have visited the Theatre, and Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison esteem it a great honour that their play should have been chosen for this signal favour.

The Apollo Theatre was turned to the purposes of charity on Tuesday, when a matinée, consisting of miscellaneous items, was given in aid of the German Hospital. Mr. Lionel Brough was a tower of strength to the programme, causing roar upon roar of laughter by his funny stories. Mr. Arthur Prince's fine ventriloquial entertainment was thoroughly appreciated, and Miss Mabel Love's dancing and Miss Olive Morrell's song of "Gently," from the Gaiety *Spring Chicken*, caused enthusiastic applause. Mr. Morris Harvey did excellent imitations of popular actors, Datas revealed his powers of memory to the wondering admiration of all, the Follies met with their usual success, and among others who swelled the long and interesting programme were Madame Blanche Marchesi (who was accorded a rapturous hearing for her three songs), Miss Alice Liebmann (who executed a violin solo by Sarasate), and Master Max Darewski, the ten-year-old virtuoso, who played the piano and conducted a composition of his own.

Mr. J. D. Newton has been re-engaged by Mr. Ernest Carpenter to stage-manage *Cinderella* at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, for the pantomime season in 1906-7. Miss Kitty Clinton has been engaged to play Dandini for the same production.

"Break of Day," the drama by William Bailey, Jun., will be revived at the West London on March 19. Mr. J. F. Brandon has been specially engaged as producer.

Miss Barbara Deane, a sweet-voiced young singer, who made a great success both in *The Catch of the Season* and the revived *Blue-bell* at the Aldwych Theatre, is a protégée of Miss Ellaline Terriss, who, having discovered her fine voice, had it carefully cultivated, her present tutor being the well-known composer "Guy d'Hardelot." In *The Beauty of Bath*, Mr. Seymour Hicks' forthcoming production at the Aldwych, Miss Deane, who is cast for Dorothy Quorn, will have far greater opportunities dramatically, and has been entrusted with several members, particularly a charming vocal waltz in the second act, which Mr. H. E. Haines has specially composed for her.

The 150th performance of *Captain Drew on Leave* will be celebrated at Wyndham's Theatre on Tuesday evening, but the run of this play must terminate on Saturday in order that Sir Charles Wyndham may keep his promise to revive *The Candidate*, which will be produced on Tuesday, March 20.

"Captain Brassbound's Conversion," Bernard Shaw's three-act play, will be produced at the Court Theatre for a series of matinées on the afternoon of March 20. Miss Ellen Terry will enact the only female character in the cast, the rest of the parts being sustained by Messrs. J. H. Barnes, F. Cremlin, Frederick Kerr, Edmund Gwenn, C. L. Delph, Edmund Gurney, Michael Sherbrooke, Lewis Casson, Trevor Lowe, Norman Page, Jules Shaw, James Carew, and F. Lloyd. For their series of matinées after Easter Messrs. Verenne and Barker will revive *Prunella, or Love in a Dutch Garden*.

Mr. T. Edward Ward has just arranged with Mr. Walter Howard to write him a new play, which is to be ready about Easter, 1907, and will be produced between then and August Bank Holiday. No expense will be spared on the production.

A dramatic episode, entitled *Ashes*, from the joint pens of John T. Stansfield and M. E. Ward, was produced last (Friday) night at the Theatre Royal, Coatbridge on the occasion of Miss Ward's complimentary benefit.

In front of Ibsen's *Ghosts*, which will be performed next Sunday evening by the English Drama Society at the King's Hall, Covent Garden, there will be presented a morality play entitled *The Vision*, written by the Hon. Eleanor Norton, the music being by Mr. Reginald Clarke. As a great-granddaughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Miss Norton has not only inherited dramatic tastes, but her *vers de société* are well known in literary circles. A special feature of the performance of *The Vision* will be a Pagan dance executed by Miss Mabilia Dainell. What, we may ask, has become of the Peter the Great play originally announced to precede *Ghosts*?

Mr. James Hare, who is now enjoying a well-earned holiday at Southport, intends reviving Cyril Austin Lee's Pavilion success, *A Woman's Redemption*, this summer, the tour starting Whit-week at the Grand Theatre, Llandudno. From August Bank Holiday Mr. Hare will tour a new Russian drama entitled *A Destroyer of Men*. The success of the production last September at a suburban theatre was most gratifying, and there is no doubt a long and successful career is before the play in the provinces.

A new drama entitled *Conscience and Crime*, written by Alfred Stafford, will be produced at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, on Monday. The piece, which is in four acts, will be presented by Messrs. Murray and Stafford's company.

Mr. Charles Frohman's *Leah Kleschna* company caused a flutter of excitement on Tuesday evening at the Opera House, Southport, where they are fulfilling a week's engagement. A lovely album of photographs of the players and scenes was presented to every member of the audience, and at the termination of the fourth act they found an agreeable outlet for their enthusiasm by waving aloft these souvenirs, creating a very pretty and novel effect.

The Moody-Manners' Academy of Music pupils, at present on tour, gave a reading of *Twelfth Night* in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Wednesday afternoon, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society and the chairmanship of Dr. Marshall, vice-president. Through the kindness of Mr. Manners, the recital givers had the assistance of several members of the company presenting grand opera at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, this week, notably Madame Clementine De Vere, who sang "Come away Death," specially composed for the occasion by Mr. Cuthbert Hawley, who himself accompanied Madame de Vere, and the vocalist sang with such taste and expression that it had to be repeated. "O Mistress Mine," contributed by Joseph O'Mara, was similarly honoured. Of the Academy pupils, Miss Hilda Grundy acquitted herself creditably as Viola. In the absence of Mr. Charles Magrath, Mr. W. M. Chapman Huxton undertook the double rôle of Orsino and Malvolio every effectively.

Mr Charles Carey is scoring success everywhere with *After the Ball*, a musical comedy full of fun and melody. The excellent cast includes Victor Widdicombe, and Walter Ringham has also been specially engaged. Among the ladies, Miss Nellie Groves and Miss May Florance are meeting with big receptions, and Miss Nellie James gains great popularity with her dancing. As stage-manager, Mr. Carey is fortunate in having secured Mr. Buckstone Clair. A duplicate company will go out at Easter, and ere long a production in the West End may be looked for

Mr. Henry Doughty is sending on tour in the autumn the powerful drama, in five acts, entitled *Geoffrey Stirling*, which now bears the sub-title of *Banker and Thief*. The play had an enthusiastic reception when it was tentatively produced last summer at the Grand, Fulham.

"Mr. Popple," the merry career of which will be cut short at the Apollo on Saturday next, will continue blithely on its way on the following Monday at the Shaftesbury, to which theatre the production will be transferred in its entirety. A new song, entitled "The first post in the morning," sung by Miss Violet Lloyd, is now added to the attractions of the piece.

Mr. Stuart Alexander, the handsome *jeune premier* who plays the title-rôle in Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company with so much distinction and vocal charm, started his career under the auspices of the late Mr. Wilson Barrett exactly seven years ago, since which he has played the principal tenor parts in *Les Cloches de Corneville*, *Madame Angot*, *Lady Molly*, *La Mascotte*, and innumerable other light operas, besides doing some excellent work on the concert platform. Mr. Alexander, who is a 'Varsity man, and was originally intended for the medical profession, has achieved much fame in the world of chess.

"Cinderella," the pantomime at Drury-lane, has been an enormous success this year, and there is every indication that the second edition, with new songs, new dances, and new dresses, would have run over Easter. Unfortunately nearly all the principals have long-standing engagements elsewhere, and Mr. Collins is therefore reluctantly compelled to announce the last weeks of what has been correctly described as the success of the season.

Mr. Geo. Dance has engaged Mr. Ivan Berlyn for his old part of Loustot in *Veronique*, and the versatile actor will appear next week at the Crown Theatre, Peckham. Mr. Ardene Linden has been re-engaged by Mr. H. V. Neilson for his productions of *Measure for Measure* and *An Enemy of the People* at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

"The Song of Liberty," the three-act romantic drama by Mary C. Rowsell and H. A. Saintsbury, will shortly be produced, in its translated form, at the Folk Theatre, Gothenberg, the management of that theatre having secured the rights of the play for Sweden. The scene is laid at Strasbourg during the height of the Terror.

Mr. Fred Locke, who was being treated medically for rheumatic gout, caught a severe chill about seven weeks ago, which completely invalided him, but he is now happily in harness again, and putting the finishing touches to a new farcical comedy (with music) shortly to see the light.

Rehearsals of *The Belle of Mayfair*, as the new musical play by Messrs. Basil Hood, Charles Brookfield, and Leslie Stuart, shortly to be presented at the Vaudeville, is tentatively called, are in progress, and Miss Edna May, who is expected in London on Monday, will at once take up her part. Other rôles in the new play will be taken by Misses Louie Pounds, Maude Boyd, Ruby Ray, Camille Clifford, Lillian Digges, and Messrs. Courtice Pounds, Arthur Williams, Farren Soutar, Charles Angelo, Charles Troode, Mervyn Dene, Walter Russell, William Gregory, and T. C. Shale.

Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson are playing at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, this week, and are arousing wonderful enthusiasm. Mr. Norman received no less than five calls on Thursday night, after the drunken scene in *David Garrick*. This was the 1200th performance Mr. Norman has given of the part.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Permain (Miss Florence Le Clercq) who leave to-day by the s.s. German with Mr. Frank Wheeler's comedy company, are paying their third visit to South Africa under the same management. They have recently returned from a lengthy tour in Australasia, visiting Queensland, the Western Goldfields, New Zealand, and Tasmania. Miss Le Clercq has also visited America four times, and Mr. Permain was there with Mr. Arthur Bourchier some years ago. They hope to tour in South America before returning to England.

The "Electra" of Euripides, translated by Gilbert Murray, will be produced at the Court Theatre on Monday evening, with Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison in the title-rôle. Other parts will be taken by Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Stratton Rodney, Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. Hubert Harben, Mr. Frederick Lloyd, Mr. Lewis Casson, Miss Edyth Olive, and Miss Gertrude Scott.

Mr. Sandon Perkins, the late acting-manager of Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, was the recipient of a testimonial on the 24th ult., when the senior magistrate of the city and many other gentlemen assembled to do him honour. Letters were read from Mr. Edward Compton and the Rev. H. M. Davidson, both enclosing cheques towards the gift of Mr. Perkins. Mr. Councillor High then presented Mr. Perkins with a purse of sovereigns and a gold pendant, suitably inscribed, which had been subscribed for by a few of Mr. Perkins' friends. The recipient cordially thanked all present, and all his good friends in Dundee for their great kindness. Mr. Perkins had previously received a very handsome dressing-case from the theatre staff, both before and behind the curtain.

"Measure for Measure," which will be presented by Mr. Otho Stuart at the Adelphi on Tuesday, March 20, will be acted by Messrs. Walter Hampden, Oscar Asche, Alfred Brydone, Harcourt Williams, R. Ian Penny, H. Haviland, W. Hewitt, H. R. Hignett, M. Wilson, G. Kay Souper, J. R. Gillespie, Henry Kitts, Edmund Waller, Charles Rock, Caleb Porter, Herbert Grimwood, and Thomas Sampson, and Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Frances Lillon, Miss Kathleen Maude, and Miss Blanche Catterson.

At the Grand Theatre, Stalybridge, on Monday, Mr. John Walters, whose panto. company is appearing there, took the opportunity of introducing Mr. Frank Mundill, who had that day taken over the lesseeship of the theatre to the audience. Mr. Walters was a former lessee of the theatre, and said that he had the pleasure of laying the first brick of the foundation, and also the last tile in the roof, and it was a coincidence that on the first night of the performance by his company he should introduce his old friend, Mr. Mundill, who came from the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool. He hoped that the new management would enjoy the same courtesy and patronage that was years ago extended to himself. Mr. Mundill also addressed the audience, and said that he had taken the theatre under a ten years' lease, and as he intended to devote the whole of his time to its management, the public might be assured that improvements would not only be effected, but that companies of the highest class would be engaged.

The Rev. Forbes Phillips addressing the audience before the performance of his adaptation of *When it was Dark* at the Theatre Royal, Hull, on Monday evening. He is well known in Hull, and he felt tempted, he said, in a city associated with some very pleasant recollections of his early youth, to touch upon theological questions, and to clear away some of the misapprehension which prevailed in regard to himself. He was one of those people who took a keen interest in what was called the union of the Church and the Stage. He did not speak of the union as he would of marriage, or of the way in which, when hydrogen and oxygen united, the result was water. He believed that there should be a better understanding between the Church and the Stage. At the present time piety looked at comedy and saw an enemy, and comedy looked at piety and saw no friend, and yet if they would only look beneath the surface they must admit that laughter lay at the heart of things just as much as did tears.

In speaking of the union of the Church and the Stage he was willing to admit that there was a great deal of stand-offishness on the part of the Church, and, he thought, on the part of the Stage too. They had been studying each other's faults a great number of years, and it was now time they came together and tried to extend each other's virtues. He was one of those people who would frankly admit that he believed God meant everyone to be happy. God never meant life to be one dull monotonous round of work or of pleasure. They must realise that the two great popular educators of the people were the Pulpit and the Stage, and he thought frequently the Church got credit that might be given to the theatre. When working in the slums he often thought that the acts of heroism, good-heartedness, and charity had been picked up in the theatre At the end of the play Mr. Phillips was recalled, and, in reply to the applause, said "Thank you; I feel you have all been very kind."

The first anniversary of Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, marked a red-letter night in the annals of Mr. Mulholland's handsome theatre. Society, art, literature, and the drama were well represented, and gazing round upon the brilliant audience, the casual spectator might have imagined himself assisting at some West-End *première*. The principal members of the company were accorded hearty receptions, encores were the order of the evening, and the enthusiasm of the vast audience, which started with the opening number and culminated in a frantic demonstration of cheers and calls at the finish, was only appeased by the curtain being raised again and again disclosing the entire strength of the company.

The first meeting of creditors was held on Thursday in the case of E. G. Saunders, theatrical agent, described as of Garrick-street, W.C. In reply to the chairman, the debtor stated that his liabilities amounted to about £13,000, and he had no assets, with the exception of a number of shares in the Waldorf Theatre Syndicate, Ltd., which were held by trustees for the benefit of creditors. He hoped to lay a scheme before the creditors. A creditor remarked that, inasmuch as the debtor executed some months ago a deed of assignment, the creditors would receive no benefit from the Waldorf Syndicate shares. The chairman reported that the debtor had acted as a director of the syndicate, to which he sold his interest in a building agreement for £19,993, payable in fully-paid shares The meeting, in the absence of a representative body of creditors, was adjourned until the 19th inst.

The juveniles who play in the pantomime at Drury-lane had their turn on Thursday afternoon, when a "strictly children's pantomime," entitled *A-Lad-In and Well Out of It*," was produced in the Ballet-room of the national theatre. All the characters were played by the children of the company nightly appearing in the pantomime of *Cinderella*, and great results were achieved and reputations made. The sand dance, given by Master Jack Frost, the callboy in the theatre, who played Widow Twankey, was a masterpiece in its way. Master Teddy Gordon was the Slave of the Lamp, and all the other parts were performed by little girls, one of whom, Miss Winnie Clark, arranged all the dances.

Royal Academy of Music competitions have resulted as follows: The Macfarren Scholarship for composition has been awarded to Montague F. Phillips, a native of London. The adjudicators were Messrs. F. Corder, F. W. Davenport, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The R.A.M. Club Prize, for composition, was taken by Eleanor C. Ruddall, a native of London. The adjudicators were Messrs. Myles B. Foster, Edward German, Percy Pitt, and S. Coleridge Taylor. The Battison Haynes Prize, for composition, was gained by Ralph Letts, a native of Woodstock. The adjudicators were Dr. G. J. Bennett, Dr. Walmsley Little, and Sir Geo. C. Martin. The Goldberg Prize (baritones and basses) has been awarded to Percival F. Driver, a native of Leicester, David Brazell being very highly commended. The adjudicators were Messrs. Charles Phillips, Frederick Ranalow, and Arthur Barlow (in the chair).

Messrs. Edwin Fox and Bousfield will offer for sale by auction at the Mart, on Wednesday, the 28th inst., the freehold of the Grand Theatre, High-street, Islington. It is principally of modern construction, and is well fitted and adapted for theatrical and other entertainments; it has two main entrances, saloon and other bars, spacious stage, a fine auditorium, and four private rooms; leased for thirty years unexpired at a rent of £2,185 per annum. They will also offer for sale the leasehold, fully-licensed public-house, known as the White Swan, with shop and premises adjoining the theatre, both under-leased for over thirty years unexpired, at rents amounting to £560 per annum, and held for 67 years unexpired at rents amounting to £163 per annum. The freehold Scenic Dock and Store Room in Torrens-street, adjoining the theatre, leased for thirty years unexpired, at £58 16s. 8d. per annum, will also be offered for sale

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE BOURGEON,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Georges Feydeau, Produced at the Vaudeville, on March 1.

Heurteloup ..... M. LERAND
Marquis Laroche-Tourmel ..... M. G. DUBOSC
Musignol ..... M. L. GAUTHIER
Maurice de Plounidec ..... M. A. BRULÉ
Guérassin ..... M. BARON, *fils*
L'Abbé Bourset ..... M. JOFFRE
Comtesse de Plounidec ..... MME. JUDIC
Etiennette ..... MLLE. ROLLY
Eugénie ..... MLLE. CECILE CARON
Huguette ..... MLLE. YVONNE DE BRAY
La Claudie ..... MLLE. HARLAY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 8.—The Vaudeville, who of late have not been very fortunate with the works produced there, have at last struck oil. M. Feydeau's new venture amused the public, and seems booked for a long run. It is eminently *risqué*; so *risqué*, in fact, that we can but compliment the author on having dealt so skilfully with the dangerous situations in which the piece abounds. The plot is simple enough. Maurice de Plounidec, a young man of twenty, and the son of a widow, is destined for the priesthood. His mother is anxious about his health. His appetite is gone, he suffers from sleeplessness, and Mme. de Plounidec consults her relatives and friends to find out a remedy. Her brother, the Marquis de la Roche-Tournel, does not mince matters. "Your son," he says, "has arrived at an age—at an age—at which nature claims her rights." The family doctor, M. Vétillé, confirms this statement, and when the distracted mother finally appeals to the Abbé Bourset, an enlightened and kind-hearted priest, the latter expresses the same opinion, although in more measured terms. Whilst these consultations are going on, Maurice, an expert swimmer, has gone down to the sea shore. He is lucky enough to save a pretty woman from drowning, whom he carries to the house. Her name is Etiennette, half-actress, half-coquette, and the Countess recognises in her the damsel who, a few hours before, had called on her concerning the hire of a villa, and whom she had refused as a tenant. The mother considers this rescue as an indication from Providence, and relents towards the half-drowned lady, who, however, receives a shock when her gallant rescuer turns up in his mother's drawing-room in ecclesiastical dress. The acquaintance thus begun at the seaside is continued in Paris. Etiennette falls in love with Maurice, who visits her frequently; and, to see this young priest surrounded by charming little cocottes, looking upon him with a kind of awe, is one of the curious scenes in this curious piece. It is only when Maurice joins his regiment to do his military service that his eyes are opened to many things of which he was previously innocent. And he now grasps the situation, especially as Etiennette, the moment she sees him in uniform, throws herself into his arms. Maurice then thinks of nothing less than to make Etiennette his wife, and his mother's exhortations and his friends' advice would have availed nothing if Etiennette, a flighty but generous-hearted girl, had not shown him the folly of such a union, and counselled him to marry his cousin, who has for a long time been pining for him. M. Feydeau was fortunate in having such a splendid cast to interpret his work. Mme. Anna Judic displayed exquisite tact in the rôle of the Countess; Mlle. Rolly supplied a fascinating Etiennette; M. Joffre was remarkable as the priest; M. Brûlé impersonated Maurice with much finesse; and MM. Lérand, Dubosc, Gauthier, and Mlles. Caron, de Bray, and Harlay, were also excellent.

THE Ambigu brought out a historical drama, called *Pour la Patrie*, by the Marquis de Castellane. Anyone, even a nobleman, is allowed to write rubbish; but what induced M. Grisier, the manager of that playhouse, to produce it? What, indeed? Curious and amusing reasons are assigned for this, which, however, are not of my domain. Yet, in one respect, M. de Castellane has beaten the record, for it is, I think, the first time an audience roared with laughter at a melodrama. It may not have been flattering to the author; but they could not help themselves. Anything more *naif* cannot be imagined. As to the acting, it was on a par with the writing.

"SACHA,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, by Mme. Régine Martial, Produced at the Gymnase, on March 5.

Mania ..... MME. ANDREE MEGARD
Hélène ..... MLLE. SUZANNE MUNTE
Jeanne Duclos ..... MLLE. LICENEY
Louise ..... MLLE. DANTEZE
Ludorf ..... M. ARVEL
Alexandre de Villiers ..... M. ALERME
Maurice ..... M. RAMEIL

Mme. Régine Martial, the well-known actress, has made her début as a playwright with a sombre piece, wherein we are shown a woman whose love for her son leads her into crime. To guard herself against the reproach that Hélène, her heroine, is unnaturally cruel, the authoress has taken the precaution of presenting her to us as a Russian, because the Russians are supposed to be different from the rest of humanity. Hélène certainly has strange notions on things in general, and her maternal loves takes a peculiar form. Thus, one day her son Alexandre—surnamed Sacha—whilst a little boy, seeing the reflection of the stars in a pond, insisted on someone fetching one of them out of the water. To please the child, the mother at once ordered one of her servants to throw himself into the pond, and fish out one of these beautiful shining things. The child thought it capital fun, but the servant caught a chill and died. When the story begins, Sacha is twenty-one, and his mother wants him to marry Jeanne, a rich American girl. Unfortunately, Sacha has fallen in love with Mania, one of his mother's friends. Hélène has noticed that Mania and Sacha are on very good terms; but she does not trouble much about it, because she knows that Mania is not constant in her affections, and that, therefore, this love-idyll is not likely to last long. This time, however, Mania is seriously caught; so seriously, in fact, that when Hélène insists on her son marrying Jeanne, the two lovers decide to run away. Hélène is informed of their plan, and we assist at a violent scene between Hélène and Mania, wherein the latter declares that she will not give up the boy she loves. And the irate mother then seizes a revolver, fires, and puts an end to the love affair and to the piece. Mania, mortally wounded, generously tells Sacha, before dying, that whilst handling the pistol she accidentally shot herself. This is, therefore, the second life Hélène sacrificed for her son. Let us hope it is the last. The work was fairly well acted.

L'Irrésistible, M. Auguste Germain's four-act comedy, produced at the Nouveautés, is perhaps somewhat lacking in brightness, but the story is pleasantly told, and the last scene is really charming. Robert d'Ayrac, a handsome, middle-aged man, major in a cavalry regiment, has married a very young and pretty girl, Antoinette Martois, and their happiness would have been complete but for Mme. Martois, the mother-in-law, a terrible creature. That lady thinks her son-in-law much too old for her daughter, and she considers the couple ought not to share the same room. When she hears that she will soon become a grandmother, she becomes so indignant that she carries off her daughter to her country seat. A few weeks later Robert comes to see his wife, and, to his surprise, sees that his erratic mother-in-law has assigned him a bedroom far away from Antoinette. Among the guests at the country-house is a very pretty woman, Hedwige, married to the Prince de Tresmes, an idiotic individual. The Princess falls in love with the handsome Major, and almost tells him so. But Robert is proof against her seductions, and prefers to pay his wife secret visits in the dead of the night, with the help of a rope-ladder. Robert returns to Paris, and one evening is fortunate enough to stop a runaway horse. The lady inside the carriage happens to be the Princess; and this time poor Robert succumbs. Nine months later the Prince de Tresmes is overjoyed that his wife presents him with a son and heir. As to the Major, he leaves with his regiment for Algiers, and Antoinette, of course, follows him. And when Antoinette says good-bye to the Princess she gives her to understand that she knows all that happened between that lady and her husband. "I felt rather upset," she said, "but at the same time a little proud, for it proves my good taste in marrying him!" The piece was spiritedly acted by the capital Nouveautés company.

"THE INDECISION OF MR. KINGSBURY."

100TH *PERFORMANCE.*

Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox has won an enviable reputation as an adaptor from the French—a reputation quite equal to that of the late Tom Taylor—and he has much enhanced it by his skilfully-written English version of M. Georges Berr's *L'Irresolu*, entitled *The Indecision of Mr. Kingsbury*, which attained at the Haymarket its 100th representation on Saturday evening, when a large and distinguished audience laughed heartily at the freshness of its fun and the real comicality of some of its situations. The author has quite succeeded in giving the comedy an English atmosphere, and it gains strength by its occasional vein of sentiment. Its success, which is now so well established, is largely due to the company engaged by Mr. Frederick Harrison, which gives an admirable representation.

To his sketch of the incurably vacillating Mr. Arthur Kingsbury, Mr. Charles Hawtrey has added many finishing touches since the first night, and the light-hearted gaiety, the complete irresponsibility of the part, are most artistically emphasised in the earlier acts. Whatever the indecision of Mr. Kingsbury may be on many matters, there is something very decided about his affection for his wife, and in the third act, wherein her extravagance and folly reach their highest point, Mr. Hawtrey, by his fine restraint, brings out this trait of the character most effectively. Nothing could be more sincere or convincing either than Arthur Kingsbury's interview with his mother in the last act. Here, indeed, the actor touches the highest point of his greatness in the part. Some playgoers who might, with Sir Peter Teazle, be inclined to "damn sentiment" when associated with Charles Hawtrey, would be agreeably surprised at the quiet force of his acting in the scene to which we have referred.

Its success, too, is largely due to Miss Fanny Brough, who, by the delicacy, the subtlety of her art, gives rare expression to the sentimentality of the character of Lady Helena. Not less successful, either, is she in the final interview with the irrepressible Fouchard, one of the best-written episodes in the comedy. Never was woman more diplomatic than Lady Helena, and Miss Brough's high-bred manner, her air of complete sincerity, and her crisp utterance, give the utmost dramatic value to the incident.

Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox, who seems to have made a speciality of what we may term Anglo-French parts, plays Paul Le Petit Fouchard with a light and agreeable touch. The frivolous nature of the character is never lost sight of, and the accent and manner are perfect, as well as the inflexion. It is altogether a very clever study of a by no means easy part.

Miss Nina Boucicault, one of the cleverest of our actresses, may be said to practically carry the third act of the comedy upon her shoulders. Surrounded by a frivolous entourage of "smart" people, Mrs. Kingsbury gives full rein to her love of folly, and the rendering of the special song composed for her is an admirable piece of comedy. In Stella's indignant outburst at the end of the act there is a flash of tragedy, and a sincere note is sounded in the young wife's interview with her undecided husband before the parting. In the last act, the actress handles the part with remarkable tact, and contributes altogether one of the finest pieces of acting we have seen upon the London stage for a long time.

Mr. Wilfred Draycott gives genuine pleasure by the light touch he imparts to the character of the secretary, surely one of the most resourceful and complacent we have ever met on the stage. Mr. Knowsley is intensely amusing in his courtship scenes with Miss Jane Chatterleigh, and Mr. Draycott adds no little to the success of the piece by his impersonation.

Mr. E. Holman Clark as the representative of the Earl of Cardiff, who apparently possesses the Nonconformist conscience, is amusingly dour, and his behaviour when an unwilling spectator of the cake-walk is extremely funny.

His efforts to amuse are exceedingly well backed up by Miss Caroline Ewell, whose comical old ladies are always excellently sketched by this droll actress.

Mr. H. Laurent has succeeded Mr. Sydney Valentine—who now devotes himself to stage-management—in the part of Colonel Chatterleigh, and is amusingly splenetic in the old colonel's political outburst in the first act, being also genuinely comical in the last act.

Miss Maud Wynter, in the character of Jane Chatterleigh, acts with considerable tact in the scene wherein Jane proposes to Hugh Knowsley, and is both bright and engaging.

Mr. Welton Dale is responsible for a few laughs in the character of the lazy and somnolent William, the parts of Henry and James being smartly handled by Mr. Courtenay Foote and Mr. Edmund Hollick.

Miss Florence Tempest, as Nellie Tudor, plays exceedingly well, suggesting admirably the ebullient manner and the Bohemian style of the burlesque actress. Miss Gwynne Herbert gives an effective sketch of the middle-aged mother, Lady Sarah Middleton, who belongs to the smart set, and wishes to be still thought quite a girl. Miss Hilda Antony is winsome and attractive as Miss Cora Middleton, and Mr. A. T. Jetney and Miss Fanny Wise are amusing as the darkies, Washington and Anastasia Mandeville. Mr. Cecil Rose does well as Tommy Tynemouth, and Mr. Louis Goodrich, Mr. Arthur Applin, and Miss Mona Harrison are seen to advantage in small parts.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening last, Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson concluded a successful fortnight's engagement at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, with his two dramas, *Revenge* and *Death or Glory Boys*, on which occasion Mr. Harris Fineberg, the proprietor of the theatre, presented him with a valuable diamond ring.

PRESENTATION.—At the Queen's Theatre, Keighley last Saturday evening Mr. Fred L. Arthur, late manager of the Queen's, Liverpool, was presented with two magnificent large bronze statuettes, one being a female figure, representing Agriculture, and the other a male figure emblematic of Navigation, which had been subscribed for by many friends in Keighley, where Mr. Arthur was located before being transferred to the city on the Mersey. The ceremony took place in the presence of a crowded audience, among those present being the Mayor of Keighley and several Town Councillors, as well as Messrs. Carson and Kendall, Mr. Arthur's employers.

MISS MATTHISON AND THE "O.P's."

Miss Edith Wynne Matthison delivered a very remarkable address to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion on Sunday last. The lecture was admirably written, and was delivered with a fire and fervour which thrilled her hearers to the core, and raised them to a high pitch of enthusiasm. In the part of her lecture which was addressed to actors and actresses Miss Matthison said:—

To the player, then, first will I address myself. Is there no room, think you, for worship in dramatic art to-day? And by worship, here, I do not mean that particular form of worship whose proper object is religion, but rather that sacred sense of joy, of praise, of uplifting, of election in *Art*, which remained to the Greeks, even in the "atheistic" days of Euripides. Believe me, we shall never have any noble and abiding dramatic work done in England until this spirit is poured out in fullest measure upon the rising generation of actors and actresses. The older generation had it; the sacred flame has been brought down to us, even to our very doors. Many honoured examples, of course, occur to me at this moment; but the name of One suggests itself inevitably, clear-shining above all: One whom the Lord God has called to play his part upon a vaster stage than ours. But it is to the players of *my* own generation I particularly speak. I have no right to speak to others. We have been dull, neglectful, touched by the canker of ambitions, and the petty emulations of this world. Let us remember that we are *not* the creatures of this world, but God's sacred artists, sent out aflame with worship and understanding, to interpret the human heart, to discern and harmonise the tangled issues of this troubled life, to unfold destinies, to make clear the mysteries of the everlasting!

And if we awake so far to fan the fires of our waning worship, shall we not need to learn that other lesson from the ancient Greek? How else shall we be properly equipped for the mighty work that lies before us? Shall we not need poetry, the spirit of imagination, the cleanly manage of ourselves body and soul, with keen joy of movement and rhythm in the heart? It will be a toilsome task to come up to the measure of the stature of those ancient giants of the race; but it must be done, and done by the younger generation, if we wish not Art to become a mockery and a byword in the world!

And, lastly, there must be judgment, ordered judgment, as the *dominating spirit manipulating passion*. Perhaps this concerns us most immediately of all. The penny novelette theory of art, as a blind frenzy of the soul, compacted of hysteria and unbridled passion, is the most pestilential heresy of our day. It is as destructive in Art as it is in Life. It has never been shared by the really mighty artists of the world. Those royal souls have held their way unmoved, commanding the main-springs of their lives and work with a valorous and lofty sanity—the masters of their passion—not its slaves! And judgment has been the secret of their kingship—judgment all-forceful, because all-seeing; strong in its control of others, because the captain of itself! Without it Art is a delirium, and the baseless fabric of an evil dream!

Photo. by Window and Grove.
MISS E. WYNNE MATTHISON.

And if these obligations rest upon the player, no less are they binding upon the public. Great Art—as great Life, great Social Order, great Religion—is impossible without a great people to love and foster it. Therefore, to those who so often complain that there is no great dramatic art in England to day, I would reply:

There will be no great art at *all* in England until the people of England awake to worship, to poetry, to judgment, and the things that make for life. They must cast out the devil of Pleasure from their midst, and welcome instead the fire-winged Angel of Joy, whose name is only another word for worship; for, indeed, the real alternative is not whether the stage shall minister instruction in the place of entertainment—that is a very parochial point of view; but whether creatures made in the image of God shall place joy before pleasure, whether they shall delight in the grown things of life rather than the puerilities of mental childhood—ay, or still worse, the senilities of that second childhood whose names are Cynicism and Unbelief!

And with Worship they must tune their souls to lofty harmonies: the Spirit of Poetry must arise from the dead, and men must sing again in their hearts. They must crucify the lusts of place and power, the foul savageries of war and money-getting, if they would learn the sweetness of high song. Poetry lies dead among us, and it is Commerce who has slain her—Commerce, who was ordained of old to bless the world, and make straight the paths of peace!

And Judgment! How shall there be judgment in a house divided against itself? Believe me, as we shall have no true worship in Art until men learn to cherish joy; no true poetry until they seek the things of peace; so shall there be no true judgment until peace and joy go plighted together in a nation builded in righteousness, based upon the imperishable foundations of Love and Truth.

This will require a new order, a new world—something better than the makeshift we all so complacently accept; and already, if we be not blind, we may mark the signs of its birth within the heavens; if we be not deaf, hear the distant trumpets of its coming. Perchance in that new world—it is not so far off—we shall see great work done on the stage. Then, when men shall turn them, healthful and refreshed from labour, to enjoy the fruits of their own industry—not wresting them from the weak and pitiful hands of others; and they shall learn to give honour to the makers of abundance, not to the powers of darkness and destruction, to the ravages of fierce beasts of prey!

NEW PLAYS AT THE SAVOY.

Miss Gertrude Kingston gave a special matinée at the Savoy Theatre on Thursday afternoon, when the programme consisted of a couple of new tragedies and Mr. Bernard Shaw's comedietta, *How He Lied to Her Husband*. The first piece to be presented was

"PARIS AND ÆNONE,"
A Tragedy in One Act, by Laurence Binyon.

Paris ..... MR. MATHESON LANG
Corythus ..... MR. DOUGLAS PAINE
Helen ..... MISS ROXY BARTON
Pyrgo ..... MISS BEATRICE BRAMAH
Melissa ..... MISS MAUD CRESSALL
Ænone ..... MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON

The almost mythological story of the nymph of Mount Ida has been in this play enlarged upon by Mr. Binyon. Ænone, in a long speech, is heard sorrowfully declaiming the conduct of Paris, whose base abandonment of her for the beautiful Helen is pathetically told. Into her presence comes the chief subject of her thoughts. He has been mortally wounded by the arrow of Philoctetes, and he now wishes to invoke her unquestioned skill in the healing art to keep him yet a while upon this earth. But Ænone inexorably refuses, even in his sad plight, to take pity on him. She will not use her magical powers even to save him from death, and she leaves him to die. Helen appears after the body of her hero has been removed. Later she is joined by Ænone. In the distance, through the trees, they watch a mighty glow of light flare and flicker. What does it mean? Helen wonders if it can be that Troy is ablaze. Ænone knows better than that. It is the funeral pyre of Paris.

The character of the dying Paris was delineated with an appropriate spirit of mournfulness and regretfulness by Mr. Matheson Lang. Miss Gertrude Kingston furnished a pathetic figure as Ænone, and her delivery of Binyon's difficult blank verse, in parts rather too long—the fault of the author—was admirable in the poesy of her expression. Miss Roxy Barton looked transcendently beautiful as Helen of Troy, and acted in the final scene with feeling and pathos. We think that the author's lines could be with advantage cut down considerably.

The second item on the programme bore the title of

"THE FRIEND IN THE GARDEN,"
A Play in One Act, by E. F. Benson.

Lord Accrington ..... MR. DENNIS EADIE
Footman ..... MR. FLORANCE
Jack (Brother to Lady Accrington ..... MR. THALBERG-CORBETT
Lady Accrington ..... MISS IRENE ROOKE
The Friend ..... MISS ETHEL WYNNE-MATTHISON

Grim death has no fears for Lady Accrington's brother Jack. With Omar Khayyam, he believes, "I myself am heaven and hell." And yet this Jack is disgusted with life. For the past three years his has been an unhappy life—apparently it was at the beginning of that period that love and a woman left him. His sister, Lady Accrington, is fond of practical jokes, and she decides to play one upon her melancholic brother. Just before she is supposed to set forth upon a motor drive to a ball, she comes to her brother attired in a beautiful white silk dress. She is surpassingly handsome, but yet in her light snowy garment to him she symbolises death, and he tells her so. He goes so far as to say that he would welcome a visit from the Angel of Death, as he regards death as merely a very pleasant thing. She decides that she will appear to him in such a rôle that very night while he is sitting in the garden. He divines her intentions, however. After all the others have retired to bed, he remains in the open air. Very few minutes elapse before there glides up to him the figure of a woman shrouded from head to foot in white. She speaks seriously to him. She says she is Death. He regards her jokingly, believing, of course, that it is his own sister. But after a few minutes he is assured to the contrary. The face is uncovered so far as the cerements will permit—and Death—the Friend—stands before him. She pleads with him. Will he go with her or will he stay behind? She actually lures him on, until at last he exclaims that he will follow her into the great unknown, but before she accepts him as a follower she insists that he shall forgive everybody, even the wife who had abandoned him. He sits down in his chair once more. She kisses his brow. It is the kiss which signalises the severance of the silver cord and the breaking of the golden bowl. Death vanishes as silently as she came. A few seconds later another ghostly figure enters the garden and tells the sleeping man that she also is Death. But she receives no reply. Bending forward and looking keenly into the fact of her brother, Lady Accrington—for the "apparition" in the clothes of the grave is she—discovers that he is dead. With a shriek she rushes into the house and—the curtain falls.

The Friend in the Garden is ably written, but one does not fully realise the purport of its allegory. Miss Ethel Wynne-Matthison acted with rare expression and convincing sincerity the part of the moral-bearing Friend—Death. Mr. Thalberg-Corbett was dignified and thoughtful in the rôle of Jack; and Miss Irene Rooke, as a contrast to the morbidity of the lines of the other actors, was vivacious as Lady Accrington. Mr. Dennis Eadie played in good style the character of an aristocratic man of the world.

The concluding portion of the afternoon's entertainment was Mr. G. Bernard Shaw's delightful one-act comedietta, *How He Lied to Her Husband*. Mr. Granville Barker gave his amusingly droll portrayal of the youthful and self-confident lover, and Mr. A. J. Poulton brilliantly realised the part of the husband; while Miss Gertrude Kingston, in the rôle of the wife, showed us what an admirable actress she is in a part suited to her.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert on Wednesday evening, March 7, presented several interesting features, the programme opening with Mendelssohn's "Seventeen Variations Sérieuses," for the piano, played in an artistic manner by Miss Eva Norton. The song, "Come, Margarita, come," by Sullivan, was, on the whole, given expressively by Mr. J. H. Ironmonger, who must, however, guard against a tendency to force the voice, thereby producing faulty intonation. A very able harp solo was performed by Miss E. Coles, who chose "Autumn," by Thomas. Miss Leah Phillips has ample vocal resources, but something more than that is required in so difficult a song as Gounod's "Légère Hirondelle." A painstaking performance of a piano solo, "Concert Etude in C sharp" (Moszkowski), was given by Miss Ethel M. Spring, and a very clever pupil of Madame Waldahoff, Miss Lilian Branston, was heard to great advantage in her mandoline solo, "Fantaisie de Ballet," by De Beriot. Several other students gave examples that may be mentioned favourably, such as Miss Ethel Mitchell's singing of Blumenthal's "Life," Miss Ettie Hale, for her pianoforte solo, and the Misses Mabel, Dorothy, and Ethel Mitchell in Trios "Ave Maria" and "Chorus of Water Nymphs" (Wallace), arranged by Mr. Isidore de Solla. To give variety to the concert Miss Beatrice Roberts, a pupil of Mr. Allen Beaumont, was set down for a recitation of "A Pastoral Play," by Anstey. Miss Kate Richards performed the duties of accompanist; and Mrs. Charles Smith had, as usual, the charge of the lady students.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER VOGEL IM KAFIG,"
Drama, in Five Acts, by Stefan Grossmann, Produced at the Schiller O., March 2.

Der Strafaustalts-Director ..... HERR HOLTHAUS
Senie Frau ..... FRAULEIN BUENGER
Hansa ..... FRAULEIN SILTEN
Verwalter ..... HERR ROLAN
Dr. Klarmont ..... HERR OTTO
Pfeiffer ..... HERR SCHMASOW
Schindler ..... HERR IWALD
Toepfl ..... HERR KIRCHNER
Dullmoser ..... HERR HUEBENER
Lewy ..... HERR MEINHARDT
Junge ..... HERR REMBE
Landgerichtsrat ..... HERR KOSTLIN
Verteidiger ..... HERR AUZINGER
Spira ..... HERR WIENE
Engelbrecht ..... HERR MENKE
Diener ..... HERR HERTWICH
Köchin ..... FRAULEIN HARTMANN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 8.—This is the first work of a young Vienna author, and it was produced simultaneously with Berlin at Jarno's Lustspiel Theatre at Vienna. At each place it met with a very cordial reception, the author—who naturally preferred to be present at the production in his native city—being called frequently before the curtain in response to hearty applause. That there are numerous faults in the play, both in conception and development, no thinking person could deny, but they are the faults of youth and inexperience. Through all the crudities the traces of genuine and individual talent are visible, and it is a safe prophecy that Herr Grossmann will do better things yet. The scene is laid in Austria, and for the greater part of the time the action passes in prison. The much-to-be-pitied hero is a young fellow of twenty-three, named Schindler, who is doing time—under extenuating circumstances—for killing his faithless sweetheart. He is cursed with a violent temper and passions, but his character—the author tells us—is not bad, and he is vastly superior to the criminals with whom he is obliged to consort. He is made wretched by their brutal taunts, and keeps himself as much aloof as possible. Hansa, the daughter of the prison governor, takes an interest in the white-faced, silent, young fellow, and gives him a blackbird in a cage, for him to tame as a solace in his misery. When he has become deeply attached to his feathered companion, one of the ruffians, who shares Schindler's cell, maliciously lets the bird fly. Once again the demon of fury overpowers the unhappy Schindler; he strikes the man down, and the warder, who comes to interpose, meets with the same fate. Neither is killed, but Schindler—whose term was just up—receives a second sentence and is led back to the prison. The overseer, who pities him, manages to get special privileges for him, among them a cell to himself, and Hansa promises him another bird; but Schindler, in a fit of despair, takes his life. There is a considerably overdrawn scene passing in the Law Courts, where the judge and jury are depicted as so inhuman that one feels inclined to think Herr Grossmann has a grudge against Austrian justice. Many of the characters, however—particularly the different types of criminals—are admirably drawn. The interpretation was exceptionally good, Fräulein Silten, Herr Iwald, Herr Holthaus, Herr Rolan, and Herr Otto giving perhaps the best renderings. The mounting was thoroughly adequate.

THE "Dramatische Gesellschaft" gave a matinée performance at the Kleines Theatre on Sunday, the programme consisting of four one-act plays or—according to the bill—"four variations upon the theme Woman." The first, *Die Sirene*, by Karl von der Heydt, cannot be taken seriously. It is a particularly dilettante piece of workmanship, with which it was a mistake to commence the performance. Two King's sons are shipwrecked on a desert island. One of them finds a "sea-maiden" on the beach, gives her food and drink, and falls a victim to her evil fascinations. The "syren" sets one brave Norseman against the other until one kills his friend, and she rejoices in the sight of human blood. Efficient acting could not save the piece from its inevitable fate.

"EIN ANDERER ENOCH ARDEN," a "grotesque," by MM. Arthur Morrison and Herbert Sargent, came next, meeting with a very different reception. It has been done into capital German by Herr F. W. Freund, although—personally speaking—I would have preferred another title. The piece will be remembered in England under its original title of *That Brute Simmons*. The little piece is brimful of broad humour, and the audience laughed from beginning to end. It was brightly acted by Herr Marr, of the Lessing, who gave the part of Ford, and Fräulein Valetti and Herr Beckmann, of the Lustspielhaus company. Enthusiastic applause resulted in recalls for the artists, and the audience was evidently disappointed at not being permitted to see the authors.

THE third piece, a drama, entitled *Der Zenge*, by Richard Fellinger, has enough material in it, judiciously treated, for half a dozen plays. A man commits perjury to save his guilty friend, not for the friend's sake but for that of the wife, with whom he has carried on a liaison for years. This, too, was very well acted, and the reception was a cordial one.

THE last play of the four—*Die Retterin*, by Alfred Nossig—contains a strongly dramatic kernel. The action passes in Paris in 1815. Count Armand has been condemned to death. His wife compasses his escape from prison, herself remaining in the cell in his place. While waiting she finds a love-letter written to her husband by another woman, and she learns too late that she has sacrificed herself for a villain. The piece would doubtless have made a better impression with a better cast, and had the audience not been tired in consequence of over-long entr'actes.

RICHARD BEER-HOFMANN'S interesting play, *Der Graf von Charolais*, which had such a successful run at the Neues a year or two ago, is about to be revived at the Deutsches under the management of Herr Reinhardt. The cast will be the same excellent one as at the première, Herr Reinhardt himself giving the name-part.

GLUCK'S opera, *Orpheus und Euridice*, is in rehearsal at the Royal Opera, and will be produced in its entirety during the Easter week. The second part was done by the Emperor's commands at two gala performances in connection with the recent wedding festivities.

THE New Royal Opera (formerly—and still popularly—known as Krolls) has been leased for the summer months by Herr Koebke, who will give the customary season of operetta and light opera. There is always a hot contest for the possession of this theatre for the summer, the beautiful and extensive grounds forming a much appreciated resort during the entr'actes.

THE enterprising Schiller having given the first part of Bjornson's mystic drama, *Ueber unsere Kraft* with a good deal of success, part two has now been produced. It was extremely well acted and staged, and its reception was as cordial as that of Part I., which is saying a good deal.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your issue of to-day's date your correspondent for Ashton gives another turn the premier position on the programme. We enclose a day bill to prove that it was headed by yours faithfully, CHARLES BALDWIN'S COMEDIANS, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne, March, 4, 1906.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday last Mr. Edwin C. Jazon, proprietor of the *Aladdin* pantomime company, presented Councillor Henry Masterman, the popular manager of the Theatre Royal, Castleford, with a beautiful silver-mounted briar pipe and case as a slight token of esteem and respect.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Fool's Revenge, Sadler's Wells, Oct. 1859.
Fool's Trick, St. George's Hall, June 20, 1891.
Football King, Elephant and Castle, July 13, 1896.
Footlights, Theatre Royal, Doncaster, Sept. 25, 1872.
Footmarks in the Snow, City of London, Oct. 14, 1867.
For a Child's Sake, Cambridge, Jan. 2, 1899.
For a Life, Queen's, Manchester, July 19, 1886.
For an Old Debt, Bayswater, Feb. 26, 1895.
For Auld Lang Syne, Lyceum, Oct. 6, 1900.
For Better, for Worse, Whitby, Sept. 6, 1890.
Forbidden Fruit, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, June 7, 1869.
Forbidden Love, Duke's, May 21, 1877.
For Bonnie Prince Charlie, Shaftesbury, Jan. 29, 1897.
For Bonnie Scotland, Glasgow, Oct. 12, 1897.
Forced from Home, Duke's, Feb. 2, 1880.
For Charity's Sake, Comedy, Jan. 29, 1891.
For Claudia's Sake, Vaudeville, July 2, 1891.
For Dear Life, Victoria, June 2, 1873.
Foreign Policy, Terry's, June 3, 1893.
Foreman of the Works, Standard, March 8, 1886.
For England, Queen's, Manchester, Feb. 27, 1893.
For England's Sake, Haymarket, July 10, 1889.
Forester's Daughter, St. George's Hall, Nov. 13, 1867.
Foresters, The, Lyceum, March 17, 1892.
Forester King, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield, Sept. 19, 1892.
Forest Keeper, Drury Lane, Feb. 13, 1860.
For Ever, Surrey, Oct. 2, 1882.
For Ever Mine, Theatre Royal, Darlington, June 21, 1889.
For Family Fame, Royalty, March 25, 1895.
Forged Cheques, Her Majesty's Theatre, Richmond, Dec. 7, 1883.
Forge Master, Theatre Royal, Lynn, Oct. 23, 1884.
Forger, The, Elephant and Castle, Nov. 13, 1886.
Forgery, Ladbroke Hall, April 10, 1888.
Forget and Forgive, Charing Cross, Jan. 5, 1874.
Forget-me-Not, Lyceum, Aug. 21, 1879.
Forgive Us Our Trespasses, Brighton, June 1, 1896.
Forgiven, Globe, March 9, 1872.
For Good or Evil, Royalty, June 18, 1894.
For Gold, Opera House, Leicester, April 10, 1882.
Forgotten, Grand, July 5, 1889.
For Her Child's Sake, Theatre Royal, Windsor, Nov. 24, 1880.
For Her Sake, Olympic, June 22, 1888.
For Himself Alone, Ladbroke Hall, April 7, 1888.
For Honour's Sake, Britannia, Oct. 1, 1873.
For King and Country, Gaiety, May 1, 1883.
For Lack of Gold, Cheltenham, Dec. 2, 1880.
For Life, Theatre Royal, Bath, May 6, 1871.
For Life Through Thick and Thin, Alexandra, March 7, 1868.
For Love, New Holborn, Oct. 5, 1867.
For Love of Prim, Court, Jan. 24, 1899.
For Love or Money, Vaudeville, April 16, 1870.
For Love's Sake, Her Majesty's Theatre, Richmond, Dec. 11, 1883.
Forlorn Hope, Britannia, May 8, 1871.
For Mildred's Sake, West Norwood, May 8, 1895.
Formosa, Drury Lane, May 26, 1891.
Formosa; or, Railroad to Ruin, Drury Lane, Aug. 5, 1869.
For Old Sake's Sake, Edinburgh, May 7, 1898.
For Old Virginia, Grand, June 4, 1891.
For Queen and Country, Neath, Dec. 26, 1890.
Forsaken: An Everyday Story, Victoria, March 27, 1869.
For Sale, Standard, Feb. 3, 1869.
Forte Thieves, Folkestone, Oct. 29, 1889.
Fort Frivolous, Theatre Royal, Weymouth, Oct. 11, 1880.
For the Colours, Manchester, Aug. 14, 1899.
For the Cross, Navan, July 16, 1898.
For the Crown, Lyceum, Feb. 27, 1896.
For the Czar, Strand, Nov. 3, 1896.
For the Honour of the Family, Comedy, June 10, 1897.
For the King's Sake, Kingston, Jan. 9, 1897.

SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The forty-third meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association was held at their offices, Robert-street, Adelphi-terrace, on Tuesday. There were present Mr. Walter Hann (in the chair), Messrs. E. G. Banks, Rd. Douglass, G. J. Dodson, Rd. H. Halley, Geo. R. Hemsley, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, G. Herbert Wallis, H. Warner, H. Woolls, and H. Lawrence Harris (hon. secretary). The minutes of the forty-second meeting, held on the 12th ult., were read and confirmed. On the nomination of Mr. E. G. Banks, seconded by Mr. H. Woolls, Mr. Wm. Harford was unanimously elected an honorary member. The resolution passed at the seventeenth meeting of the committee, held on Jan. 23, 1905, with respect to fines was rescinded, and it was unanimously resolved that in future members failing to pay instalments of subscription within twenty-eight days after same shall become due shall not be reinstated until they have paid arrears with a fine of 6d. for each month same shall be overdue. It was unanimously resolved to give up the offices on the 24th inst., and after that date to hold the committee meetings at the Adelphi Hotel at 7 o'clock on the last Tuesday in each month. The next committee meeting will be held at the offices at 8 o'clock on Monday, the 19th inst., and the following one at the Adelphi Hotel on Tuesday, March 27. The next monthly social dinner will be on the same evening at the Adelphi Hotel at 8 p.m., and as the number of diners is limited to fifty it is requested that early application be made to Mr. Harris, at 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, for remaining tickets. Application by post must be accompanied by remittance and stamped addressed envelope for reply.

A conference of London Scenic Artists was held at the offices of the Association on Monday evening last. The chair was taken at 8 o'clock by Mr. Walter Hann. There were also present Messrs. Geo. R. Hemsley, Geo. J. Dodson, H. Warner, Chas. E. Markham, Staines Prem, F. B. Mullen, W. Raphael, H. Woolls, H. W. Owen, E. J. Hirst, Richard Douglass, E. G. Banks, R. H. Halley, S. H. Paterman, R. C. McCleery, Ernest Hann, H. Crepin, Bruce Smith, P. Small, and H. Lawrence Harris (hon. sec. Scenic Artists' Association).

"NAUGHTY NERO; or, EPISODES IN THE HIS-TREE OF ROME."

"A Respectful per-Version of the Version played at His Majes-Tree's Theatre."
Written by Adrian Ross, Music by Augustus Barratt,
Produced at the Oxford Music Hall on Thursday, March 8.

Characters:

Naughty Nero ..... Mr. Arthur Roberts
Aniseedus ..... Mr. Stanley Damerell
Rule Britannicus ..... Miss Frances Kapstowne
Acteress ..... Miss Eleanor May
Poppy ..... Miss Yates
Agrippineapple ..... Miss Ruby Celeste

Mr. Tree's production of Mr. Philip Stephens's drama *Nero* at His Majesty's Theatre has already been followed by two stage travesties, the latest being produced at the Oxford on Thursday night. Mr. Adrian Ross is the author of the book, a sufficient guarantee of neat and skilful workmanship, while bright and appropriate music has been composed by Mr. Augustus Barratt. The new burlesque is in four short acts, the fifth having been "hacked out." In the first scene—Palace of the Sneezers—quite an elaborate chorus precedes the entrance of Nero, who is hailed with acclamation as the new Emperor of Rome. He at once proceeds, as leader of the Labour Party, to sing a topical ditty, "I'll bring in a Bill for that," in which he announces his intention of introducing a legislative enactment according to which "at forty every man will draw a pound a week as pension." Then enters Nero's mother, Agrippineapple, who accuses her son of being too fond of playing. "It's improper! And there's that Acteress—you'll have to drop her!" After a comical duet with his mother, Nero in tragic tones exclaims:

Now I am Cæsar! All the world I rule,
And I can start a great Dramatic School!
I wink my eyes—there's thunder in the flies!
And if I frown—the wings will tumble down!
I lift a lash—there comes a lightning flash!
And if I curse—I do it in blank verse!
I shall go mad! Ha, ha! That's what it will be!
Ha! Who comes here? It's Dolly Baird as Trilby.

Acteress makes her appearance as a "Gibson Girl," exclaiming:

"Whether an actress I may be indeed,
I do not know—the jury disagreed."

Nero falls asleep, and before him pass Svengali, Hamlet, Falstaff, and Fagin—"the ghosts of all the parts that he has murdered." Nero and his mother quarrel, and the latter is told to leave Rome at once; whereupon she calls him a mountebank whose father "sang on Southend Pier as pierrot." A burlesque of the Banquet scene follows, and Britannicus, having imbibed a warm port with a dash of snow in it, dies, and a dummy figure is thrown down the steps. Nero, at his villa at Baiae, meets Poppy, and they plan the murder of Agrippineapple, who becomes the only passenger on board a County Council steamer. She is thrown overboard, but swims ashore. However, Aniseed does not fail at the second attempt, and the three trumpet calls announce the death of Agrippineapple. The last scene represents the roof of the palace, with a distant view of Rome, with the Lyceum and Aldwych in place of the Forum. The city is seen in flames while Nero plays the fiddle, and another chorus brings the burlesque to a merry conclusion.

Mr. Arthur Roberts as Naughty Nero gave a close imitation of Mr. Tree, catching exactly the tone of his voice, and also mimicking with ludicrous effect the well-known actor-manager's gestures. Only occasionally did Mr. Roberts speak in his ordinary manner. Miss Ruby Celeste as Agrippineapple made no attempt to imitate Mrs. Tree, but nevertheless played the part extremely well, speaking her lines in pointed and impressive style. Mr. Stanley Damerell was also good as Aniseedus. Miss Yates as Poppy spoke her lines with a broad North-country accent that was highly effective. Miss Eleanor May was a handsome Acteress. Miss Frances Kapstowne did well in the part of Rule Britannicus. Mr. Albert Gilmer deserves every credit for the manner in which the burlesque was produced, some of the scenes vieing with the original in the completeness of the stage pictures.

The prize ring, sparkling with diamonds, offered weekly by the proprietors of *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday* to the winners in the Pantomime Popularity competition, was awarded at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, to Miss Rose Moncrieff, who appeared in the pantomime there, the result being decided by public ballot. There was a crowded attendance, and the presentation, which was made by the "Friend of Man" himself, was the cause of much enthusiasm. Mr. Henry Eglington, the manager, personally attended to the arrangements in front.

Presentations.—Mr. Fred Acton, on the last night of Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's pantomime *Dick Whittington*, presented on behalf of the company and staff to Mr. Frank Denman-Wood, a diamond ring; and Mr. Frank Denman-Wood, on behalf of himself and wife, presented to Mr. Acton a gold fountain pen and silver sovereign purse.

MASKELYNE AND DEVANT'S MYSTERIES.

Marvels for the million are always available at the Emporium of Magic now established in St. George's Hall, and the tireless brain of Mr. Maskelyne is ever busy in the preparation of something fresh and novel. His latest creation is that of a mystery so profound that no name can be discovered for it, and it figures in the programme as "A Trick without a Title." The new illusion is quaintly introduced by Mr. Maskelyne, who declares it is founded on the old legend of witchcraft by which a person laid under a fell charm could be subjected to any sufferings inflicted on his effigy. The trick is performed with a man, an iron frame, and a small box, but the box is quite unlike that used in the trick for which the old Egyptian Hall was famous. It is brought on to the stage in pieces, and put together in full view of the audience. The iron frame used in the trick is so constructed that the man is securely fastened by bars passing over his neck, waist, arms, and legs to a long iron bar extending from the back of his head to his heels. Thus secured he is put in the box, which is then suspended in mid-air. A few seconds are allowed to elapse, during which the performer goes through a process with a doll held in his hand, and when the box is opened the man is seen to have turned himself upside down, although he is still bound as securely as before. Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant offer a prize of £50 for the best title for the new trick, and it seems it would be easier to gain the award than to elucidate the mystery, which leaves the audience gazing in speechless astonishment.

A recent addition to the diversified entertainment, which is attracting crowded audiences, is the "Alleged Humour at the Piano," submitted by Mr. Barclay Gammon, who rushes through a number of amusing stories without pausing to take breath, and the laughter of his hearers is equally continuous. Mr. Gammon, who thus makes his first appearance at a public place of amusement, has a rich fund of humour, and his "patter" is full of refined drollery. He plays a piece called "Vive L'Entente Cordiale," in which the national melodies of France and England are quaintly and cleverly mixed up. A countryman's description of an oratorio is also made very comic, and in response to an inevitable encore he tells a piquant tale of a church verger and a policeman, which is irresistibly funny.

The evening is begun by the dexterous display of M. Gintaro, the accomplished Japanese juggler, and later C. Tamamoto electrifies all by his wonderful feats on a perpendicular rope. The mystic kettle continues to pour out a generous meed of exhilarating beverages, and *Shades of Shifters* gives a peep behind the scenes that is just as highly relished.

Mr. David Devant is heartily welcomed when he appears with his bag of magical problems, which are so neatly done and accompanied by such deliciously droll "patter," and his séance of mental magnetism, in which he leads his sleeping sister, Miss Dora Devant, by devious paths towards the accomplishment of the actions silently suggested by the audience, gives rise to long but abortive speculation. The Burmese Gong gives the signal for some astounding changings of persons and places, and miniature dramas embellished with extraordinary illusions are still furnished in the perplexing playlet *The Enchanted Hive* and the new version of *The Mascot Moth*, which embraces in addition two of the best-known Indian tricks. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. F. Cramer, adds subtle effects of music to the performance, and is likewise heard in some admirable selections.

THE TIVOLI, GLASGOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In your variety gossip last week you assert that Mr. Armstrong was in no way connected with the conduct of the Tivoli, Glasgow, whilst under my management, which is not correct. Mr. Armstrong was responsible for nearly the whole of the bookings, which failed to draw. Hence the liquidation of the company, which he directed until I took his place in November, 1904, up to which time there were no profitable weeks, but one long heavy list of losses amounting to about £10,000. This bankrupted the theatre before I joined. I improved the business, showing several hundred pounds on the profit side in a few weeks, when I introduced some novelties of my own—a beauty show, a Venus masquerade, fun on the pole, and other contests. The Queen's was *on a paying basis* when he took it over, for it showed a net profit of nearly six hundred pounds whilst under my control. I ran a dramatic season of nine weeks (with which Armstrong was not connected) at the Tivoli, but lost money, as the house does not hold enough in the popular parts to ever pay with drama. I sold my interests to Mr. P. Mackay Findlay, with whose variety season I had no connection of any kind.

The new system with which you are crediting Mr. Armstrong was mine, as all those who did business with me know. I sincerely hope he will do well with the Tivoli, as it means another hall open to performers and more money in circulation.—Yours faithfully,

S. KING ALEXANDER.

40, Claremont-street, Glasgow, W.
March 6.

It appears from the fifty-seventh annual report of the Prudential Assurance Company for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, that in the Ordinary branch the number of policies issued during the year was 75,293, assuring the sum of £7,211,427 and producing a new annual premium income of £395,029. The premiums received during the year were £4,123,318, being an increase of £154,302 over the year 1904. The claims of the year amounted to £1,812,618. The number of deaths was 7,437, and 7,775 endowment assurances matured. The number of policies in force at the end of the year was 773,051. In the Industrial branch the premiums received during the year were £6,139,050, being an increase of £159,715. The claims of the year amounted to £2,261,748. The number of deaths was 238,220, and 3,344 endowment assurances matured. The total number of policies in force at the end of the year was 16,065,258: their average duration is eleven years. The assets of the company, in both branches, as shown in the balance-sheet, are £59,464,376, being an increase of £4,104,871 over those of 1904. Since the completion of the valuation the actuary has reported that in his opinion a general increase of *two-and-a-half per cent.* could, with safety, be granted under the principal Industrial branch table if provision were made for an increase in the liability of £750,000. The Board have accordingly revised the tables as from March 1, 1906, and have made provision to meet the increased liability by the transfer during the current year of £750,000 from the reserve fund to the life assurance fund in the Industrial branch, leaving this reserve fund at £1,000,000. This revision affects nearly thirteen million policies, and of this number over ten million policies receive an immediate increase in the sum assured. With the deepest regret the directors reported the death of Mr. Edgar Horne, their late respected chairman, who was one of the founders of the company, a director for fifty-eight years, and chairman for twenty-eight years. Sir Henry Harben has been elected chairman in his place.

The Theatre Royal, Margate, reopens under the management of Mr. E. Michael next week with *The Duchess of Marlborough*. The house has been renovated, and it is proposed to return to the old style of stock companies

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

At a meeting of stage employees, held last week in the Workmen's Hall, Stratford, Mr. William Johnson, general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, presiding, it was decided to form a branch of the National Association, and a committee was elected to carry out the necessary arrangements. A further meeting will be held next Thursday, when all employees connected with the theatres and music halls in the district are invited to be present.

Mr. F. Fox, who for many years has been master-carpenter at the Alhambra Theatre, has, we understand, been relieved of the duties of that position, and will receive a pension from the company. Mr. Fox is over seventy years of age. He has been succeeded by Mr. Williams, who lately held a similar position in one of the Liverpool theatres.

At a meeting of stage employees on Sunday in the Freemasons' Arms, Long Acre, held for the purposes of considering the arrangements for the annual theatrical regatta, Mr. George Poynton-Applebee, the electrical engineer at the Gaiety Theatre, and himself a winner of many prizes at these sports, occupied the chair. There was a good attendance. Mr. Callaghan was elected secretary, and Mr. R. Kinney assistant-secretary. The regatta will take place on Whit-Sunday, June 3, at Putney.

The financial statement for the past year of the carpenters' branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees is excellent reading. The balance in hand on December 31, 1905, was £180, nearly £40 in advance of last year. The gross balance is allocated as follows:—To General and Management Fund, £67 6s. 9d.; Funeral Fund, £75 9s.; Benevolent Fund, £37 17s. 11½d. Total, £180 13s. 8½d.

After the performance of the successful pantomime *Mother Goose* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Monday night, Mr. J. M. Chute, in accordance with his annual custom, entertained the working staff at supper, the gathering taking place at the King David Hotel. Mr. Chute was the chairman, and there was a large attendance, including several of the principal members of the pantomime company. Mr. H. Wilson proposed the toast of "The Manager," to which Mr. J. M. Chute replied. Mr. Chute then gave "The Working Staff," referring specially to the departments with which Mr. H. Owen, Mr. H. Momber, Mr. Bawn, and Miss Shapcott were concerned, and followed with the toast of the musical director (Mr. George Chapman), the stage-manager (Mr. H. Turner), the scenic artist (Mr. Jackson), and the acting-manager (Mr. F. S. Green), all of whom acknowledged in felicitous terms the chairman's laudatory remarks, and at the same time paid a tribute to Mr. Chute's many good qualities. "The Pantomime Company" was submitted by Mr. H. Turner, who cleverly played upon the names of the principal members of the company. Mr. Wilkie Bard and Mr. Griffiths, jun., replied, the latter on behalf of the ladies. Mr. Fred Griffiths gave "The Visitors," to which Mr. Fred Irwin responded. First-class musical selections were given during the night, and "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem concluded a very successful gathering.

The annual general meeting of the Heads of Departments Association took place on Thursday evening, when Mr. James Cullen, the President, presided over a good attendance. The financial statement, which appeared recently in this column, together with the auditors' report, was accepted. Mr. H. A. Horspool, electrician with the *Sherlock Holmes* company, and Mr. Papworth, electrician at the Tivoli, were elected members. The result of the election of officers for the ensuing year is as follows:—President, Mr. James Cullen, master-carpenter, St. James's Theatre; vice-president, Mr H. Powell, poperty master, the Prince of Wales's Theatre; treasurer, Mr. C. Porter, master carpenter, Terry's Theatre; hon. sec., Mr. G. H. Dyball, stage-manager, the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties; organising secretary, Mr. William Johnson; auditors, Mr. A. Earnshaw, electrician, the Paragon Theatre, and Mr. Philip Sheridan, electrician, the Crown Theatre. Committee: Mr. Poynton-Applebee, electrician, the Gaiety Theatre; Mr. T. Morgan, property master, the Comedy Theatre; Mr. T. J. Sheridan, electrician, the Waldorf Theatre; Mr. W. G. Wilton, property master, the Vaudeville Theatre; and Mr. R. Chantrell, property master, the Haymarket Theatre. The representatives appointed to the National Committee were Mr. J. Cullen, Mr. G. H. Dyball, Mr. C. Porter, Mr. H. Powell, Mr. Chantrell, and Mr. Wilton. The representatives appointed to the Sports Committee were Messrs. J. Cullen, G. H. Dyball, T. Morgan, Philip Sheridan, and W. G. Wilton.

Mr. A. Palmer and Mr. J. Reed attended the meeting as a deputation from the Carpenters' Branch to submit a proposal that a central employment agency be established for the benefit of all sections of the working staff and the convenience of heads of departments. The proposal led to an interesting discussion, and was warmly approved by the meeting. It was announced that Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., had accepted an invitation to be present at the fourth annual dinner of the association on April 8, when Mr. H. B. Irving will preside. It was decided that the price of tickets be the same as last year. The tickets will be issued next week, and may be obtained on application to the hon. secretary.

A meeting of the representatives appointed in connection with the Theatrical Sports Committee will be held next week. Any suggestions relating to the sports which are sent to Mr. Wm. Johnson, 29, Wellington-street, Strand, will be placed before the Sports Committee.

"The St. Louis Animated Pictures" are this week drawing crowded houses to the Corn Exchange, Colchester. The Chronophone talking and singing pictures (L. Gaumont and Co.'s patent) are proving a great attraction, and are encored nightly. Amongst the pictures being shown are Mr. Hamilton Hill singing "The fireman's song," Mr. R. G. Knowles in his latest success, "The Twin Duet," from *The French Maid;* "The Swing Song, from *Véronique*, &c. The ordinary pictures are all excellent. Amongst those being shown are "The Sailor's Wedding," "A Cruiser in a Storm," "Grandpa and Butterfly," "The Prince of Wales in India," and "Father's Holiday." The whole show goes with a swing, and the "St. Louis Pictures" and Messrs. Gaumont and Co.'s Chronophone have undoubtedly launched upon a successful career.

Cornelie Prielle, the well-known Hungarian actress, died some days ago at Budapest at the age of eighty. For fifty years she was a conspicuous figure on the Hungarian stage, and was considered one of the finest actresses of her time.

RIDDLE STOWER'S
ENGLISH and AMERICAN
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Absolutely Painless Extractions, 2/6.
Special terms to the Profession.
Ici on parle Francais. Man Spricht Deutsch.
Oui si parla Italiano.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 12.

Alexander Opera Company.—T. Royal, Hebburn.
After the Ball.—Exeter.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
Are You a Mason?—Grand Theatre, Hull.
At Cripple Creek.—Pier, Eastbourne.
At Duty's Call.—Grand Theatre, Nottingham.
At the World's Mercy.—Blyth.
Bandmann-Palmer.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Beauty and the Barge.—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
Benson, F. R. (B).—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Royalty, Glasgow.
Bramley, Esmond.—Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. Royal, Worcester.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Stratford.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Catch of the Season.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Keighley.
Christian, The.—Opera House, Sunderland.
Christian, The (Howard).—Nuneaton & Loughboro'
Cingalee.—Burnley.
Cingalee (S.).—Carlisle.
Claudian.—Lyceum, Ipswich.
Coal King.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Compton Comedy Co.—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.
Cotton Spinner.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Country Girl.—Peterborough.
Country Girl (Dance).—Bury.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Colchester.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Grand T., Croydon.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Dundee.
Earl and the Girl.—Grand T. Swansea.
Eternal City.—County T., Kingston.
Face at the Window.—P. O. W., Salford.
False Wife.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Female Swindler.—Metropole, Birmingham.
Fight for Millions.—T. R., Sunderland.
Florodora (N.).—Century T., Motherwell.
Florodora (S.).—Grand T., Derby.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Frivolity.—New Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Gay Parisienne.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Girl from Japan.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Huddersfield.
Golden Ladder.—O. H., Buxton.
Great Awakening.—Grand T., Birmingham.
Greatest Scoundrel Living.—Stratford.
Grip of Iron.—O. H., Burton.
Her Fatal Past.—New T., Kirkcaldy.
Her Lost Self.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Met. T., Glasgow.
Honour thy Father.—T. R., Whitehaven.
I Defy the World.—T. R., Norwich.
Indian Mutiny.—Grand Theatre, Islington.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Kennington Theatre.
Kitty Grey.—T. R., Aldershot.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Tamworth and Rugeley.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Northampton.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—T. R., Portsmouth.
La Poupee (Ralland).—O. H., Dudley.
Laughter Land.—O. H., St. Helens.
Leah Kleschna.—Court T., Wigan.
Life of a Showman.—Grand T., Woolwich.
Life's Sweetest Sin.—T. R., Rotherham.
Little Bread Winner.—Star T., Liverpool.
Little Michus (Dance).—T. R., Cardiff.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—T. R., Bradford.
London Fireman.—T. R., Windsor.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., South Shields.
Lucky Durham.—Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.
Man's Enemy.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Manxman.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Martin Harvey.—O. H., Leicester.
Master Criminal.—Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.
Message from Mars.—W. Pier, Brighton.
Midnight Mail.—Wakefield.
Midnight Wedding.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.
Money Makes the Man.—St. James's, Manchester.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Moody Manners (A.)—T. R., Glasgow.
Moody Manners (B.).—Grand, W. Hartlepool.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Theatre Royal, Oxford.
Mr. Smith.—Blackpool
Mr. Smith.—Halifax.
Napoleon the Great.—Grand Theatre, Doncaster.
Norman V. Norman.—Theatre Royal, Darlington.
Oliver Twist.—York.
On the Love Path.—O. H., Leeds.
One of the Best.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Orchid (2).—Grimsby.
Orchid (3).—Ashton.
Orphan Heiress.—Grand T., Newcastle
Passion's Power.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Path of Thorns.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Peggy Machree.—Theatre Royal, Chatham.
Poor Must Live.—New Theatre, Consett.
Power of Gold.—Opera House, Gloucester.
Price of Her Soul.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Prince of Pilsen.—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
Prodigal Parson.—Grand Theatre, Halifax.
Prodigal Son.—Wedgwood T., Burslem.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Public Opinion (N.).—Opera House, Southport.
Revenge.—Royalty, Chester.
Rogues of the Turf.—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
Romany's Revenge.—Harrogate.
Royal Divorce.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Royal Divorce (N.).—Lyceum, Eccles.
Royal Revenge.—Grand T., Chorley.
Sailors of the King.—Queen's T., Longton.
Saints and Sinners.—P. H., Mountain Ash.
See-Saw of Life.—T. R., Bath.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Stratford
Sign of the Cross.—Lyric Theatre, W.
Silver King.—T. R., North Shields.
Sin of Her Childhood.—O. H., Coventry.
Sins of a City.—Treherbert and Maesteg.
Spring Chicken.—Court T., Liverpool.
Still Alarm.—Rotunda, Liverpool.
Sunday.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Swiss Express.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
Temptress, The.—Prince's, Accrington.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Rugby and Nuneaton.
Throne of Terror.—Hippodrome, Mansfield.
Toreador.—Hyde
Traitor Prince.—Star T., Swansea.
Two Hussars.—T. R., Lincoln.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Irving Theatre, Seacombe.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Greenock.
Under the Czar.—Metropole, Devonport.
Veronique (Dance).—Peckham.
Village Blacksmith.—O. H., Stockport.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—Empire T., Oldham.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—Coronet Theatre, W.
Warner, Miss Grace.—New T., Aberdare.
Way of the World.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Wearin' o' the Green.—T. R., Pontypridd.
What the Butler Saw.—T. R., Nottingham.
When It Was Dark.—T. R., Edinburgh.
When Woman Hates.—Grand T., Nelson.
White Chrysanthemum.—Grand T., Southampton.
Wilkie, Allen & Co.—T. R., Barnstaple & Bideford.
Willard, E. S.—Olympia, St. Louis.
Woman's Past.—Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Blackburn.
Wrecker of Men.—Lowestoft.
Youngest of the Three.—Empire T., Southend.
10.30 Down Express.—Alexandra, Sheffield.

Mr. Isidore de Lara's new opera, *Sanga*, has been successfully produced at Nice. The interest of the story centres round a mountain, which dominates the lives of those living on its slopes, the old Greek idea of Nemesis being forcibly illustrated. The construction of the drama is novel. In the second act only one character appears, that of Sanga, and the third act ends in a cataclysm engulfing the whole of the characters. The music is said to mark a distinct advance in the composer's career, the orchestration being admirable and far beyond anything achieved in his former works.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

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is an admirable food, the nicest and most nutritious beverage for the breakfast table. It is made in a moment with boiling water or milk, and its sustaining qualities are
COCOA
Invaluable to all.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. MOONEY.—*It is against our rule to give the age of members of the profession.*

C. J. GRAY.—*" A Dictionary of the Drama," by W. Davenport Adams, but only the first volume (which includes A to G) has been issued.* Peril, *a comedy in four acts, by Clement Scott and B. C. Stephenson (who wrote the play under the assumed names of Saville Rowe and Bolton Rowe), was produced at the old Prince of Wales's Theatre, Tottenham-street, on Sept. 30, 1876. It was adapted from Sardou's play* Les Intimes.

E. R. TAYLOR.—*Half-yearly volumes, without a title-page. The issue for Sept. 2, 1905, started the 69th volume.*

L. T.—*The play you mentioned is not being performed at the present time either in London or the provinces.*

M. A. H.—*(1)* The Ticket-of-Leave Man *was produced in 1863, with Henry Neville, Horace Wigan, Mrs. Stephens, and Miss Raynham in leading parts. (2) Her farewell of the stage was at a matinée given in her honour at the Shaftesbury Theatre in July, 1889.*

GEO. T.—*You had better consult a solicitor.*

F. A.—*(1) The late Henry J. Byron. (2) At the Vaudeville Theatre.*

E. EDWARDS.—*Pat Feeney died on May 13, 1869, at his residence in the Kennington Park-road, and was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CARLTON.—Cicely Holland (wife of Arthur R. Carlton), of a fine daughter, on Sunday, March 4. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

CORNELL—WILTON.—March 5, at St. Luke's, Chelsea, by the Rev. E. Loftus Macnaghten, B.A., Benjamin Arthur Cornell to Olive Dorothea Græme Wilton.

KURRY-YOHLE.—On March 3, James Kurry (comedian), to Adeline Yohle (vocalist), by special licence, at Darlington.

MILLER—GRAYSON.—March 25, 1905, at Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, by special licence, Andrew Kennedy Miller to Margery Grayson.

DEATHS.

BLOOM.—Sunday, March 4, aged 53 years, the beloved father of "Wisper" (Wisper and Beattie Bloom).

CLIFFORD.—On March 2, at Boston, Lincs., Marie Clifford (Mrs. R. G. Seaton), as the result of a burning accident.

"Sleep on, beloved—sleep
And take thy rest."

CLIFFORD.—On March 2, 1906, at Boston, Lincs, Marie Clifford (Mrs. R. G. Seaton), as the result of an accident.

GROVES.—March 4, at Blackpool, Walter Groves, comedian, aged forty-one.

KENDALL.—March 3, Mrs. Kendall, aged 54, the beloved mother of Marie Kendall. Never to be forgotten by her loving daughter.

MAY.—March 7, Annie Eliza, dearly beloved wife of Joe May, Ellison Arms Hotel, Gateshead. Her end was peace.

MILLER.—Died, March 3, 1906, Andrew Kennedy Miller, theatrical manager, of 1, Belvedere-avenue, North Circular-road, Dublin. Inserted by his loving wife and daughter.

MILLER.—On March 3, 1906, Andrew Kennedy Miller, theatrical manager, late of the Belvidere Avenue, Dublin, aged forty-five.

SKINNER.—March 3, W. Skinner, stage manager at the Empress, Brixton.

IN MEMORIAM.

BROWN.—In loving memory of Henry Brown (Shakespearean Jester), who died March 4, 1902. Not forgotten by his sorrowing wife and children.

KEITH.—In loving memory of our dear father, Charles Henry Keith, who died March 16, 1895. Gone, but never forgotten by his loving children.

MACKINTOSH.—In loving memory of Eleanor Mackintosh, who died March 14, 1905. Ever remembered by her cousin, MARIA TURNBULL.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 5,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM."

At Mr. Robert Arthur's excellent theatre one can always rely on finding something dramatic or musical, but always artistic. This week the musical play, *The White Chrysanthemum*, is being presented by Mr. Frank Curzon's company, which partakes of the character of all his combinations, namely, the best. Mr. F. Pope-Stamper acquits himself creditably both in acting and singing, more especially in his duets with O San. Lieut. Chippendale Belmont, his friend, familiarly known as Chippy, is rendered with a thorough sense of humour by Mr. Davy Burnaby, starring particularly in his song, "You can't please everybody always." Sin Chong, Reggie's servant, is the obsequious Oriental to the life, and Mr. O. E. Lennon does all that is possible with the part, keeping the audience continually amused. Mr. F. W. Ford imbues the part of Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage, Reggie's father, with the right amount of parental authority, singing the few songs allotted him with considerable success in spite of an evident cold, his song of the "Latest News" going splendidly. Mr. Harry Paulton is, as usual, extremely funny as Private Perks, and causes many a hearty laugh, his duet with Sin Chong being loudly encored. Of the ladies, Miss Ruth Lincoln, a great favourite in musical comedy, acts and sings charmingly as Sybil Cunningham, otherwise O San, the Chrysanthemum, her song descriptive of that favourite bloom, being delightfully rendered. Miss Isabelle Dillon is piquant and vivacious as Cornelia Vanderdecken, her chief success being "Not the only pebble on the beach." Miss Maud Harvey does all that could be done with the young Widow, Betty Kenyon, the audience thoroughly appreciating her song, "A useful hint." Sybil's Japanese maids and the Admiral's escort are excellently sustained by the remaining members of the company. A word must be said about the artistic and realistic scenery by Ernest Han, the scene of a bungalow on the seashore being perfect in detail. The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey, acquit themselves admirably.

MR. EDWIN JACOBS, the popular conductor of the Theatre Royal, Bristol, was on Friday evening, the 2nd inst., presented by Mr. Dave O'Toole with an article of jewellery which had been subscribed for by the whole of the company behind the footlights, Mr. O'Toole at the same time remarking that he had never in the course of all his travels met a more capable and conscientious conductor than Mr. Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs had another presentation on Saturday evening, the closing night of *Goody Two Shoes*. Mr. Trueman Towers, stage-manager, also had a presentation on Saturday evening, in the shape of a large and handsome kit-bag, subscribed for by the whole of the company.

SORE THROAT OR HOARSENESS
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The late Mr. Sims Reeves, the world-famed Tenor Vocalist, wrote: "'Condy' used as a Gargle clears the voice and braces up the uvula."

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"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

Abel, Mr. George
Aida, Miss B.
Akimoto, Mrs. S.
Alen, Mr. George
Alexandra, Mr. A.
Ando, Mr. M.
Andre, Miss Olga
Anson, Miss C.
Anthoney, Mr. H.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arthurs, Mr. B. J.
Ashmeade, Mr. Louis
Attwood, Mrs. H.
Baker, Mr. John
Baldwin, Mr. Chas.
Banfield, Miss Iris
Bard, Miss Grace
Barham, Mr. G. M.
Barlow, Miss Billie
Barnes, Mr. Herbert
Barrow, Mr. C. Kenneth
Beatty, Miss Maude
Beaven, Miss Susie
Bereinger, Miss E.
Bounds, Mr. Arnold
Boyd, Mr. Austin
Branscombe, Mr. A.
Brough, Miss F.
Bunce, Mr. H
Bunce, Mr. Thomas
Burdell, Miss Marie
Burgess, Messrs.
Burgoyne, Miss Jennie
Carling, Mr. Tom
Challis, Miss Flo
Chipperfield, jun., Mr.
Coleridge, Mr. W. L.
Collins and Hawley
Conway and Leland
Copland, Mr. Max.
Cregg, Mr. Frank
Creighton, Miss Maud
Cyrus and Maude Messrs
D'Arcy, Mrs.
Davis, Mr. A.
Day, Mrs. Hannah
Deares, The
Dearlove, Mr. Mark
Delmonico, Signor
De Roys, The
De Veres, The Three
Diamond, Mr.
Dunbar, Mr. Thos.
Dunningarto, Mr. H.
Dunroy, Mr. A.
Dutton, Mr. C.
Eckark, Miss Kitty
Eno, Mr. Tom
Espinosa, Mr. Ed.
Etherdo, Mr. Harry
Evans, Mrs. Bensley
Fealy, Miss Maude
Featherstone, Miss Vane
Finney, Mr. James
Forster, Mr.
Forster, Mr. Luke
Frank and Austin
Franks, Miss Bessie
Garden, Mr.
Gerrard, Capt. A.
Godwin, Mr. Will
Goodfellow and Gregson
Gregory, Mr. Wm.
Griffiths, Bros.
Grovini, Miss M.
Gunning, Mr. H. H.
Haigh, Mr. Jesse
Haines, Miss Madge
Hallie, Mr. Dave
Hamilton, Miss Edie
Hamilton, Miss Phyllis
Harley, Miss Lilly
Harris, Mr. Wm. T.
Harrison, Mr. George
Haviland, Mr. Wm.
Hawthorne, Mr. John
Hawthorne, Miss Lola
Hayter, Mr. Frank L.
Hedge, Mrs
Heron, Mr. Gilbert
Hoggan-Armadale, Mr.
Holden, Mr. J.
Holmes, Mr. Preston
Hope, Mr. Stanley
Howard, Mrs. L.
Howard, Prof.
Hughes, Miss Annie
Hunsley, Mr. Godfrey
James, Mr. Hayden
Jesson, Mr. Sam
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Julians, The Eight
Kelly, Mr. Edward H.
Kempton and Murdoch
Keyes, Mrs. L.
Kramer, Paul
Kronemann Bros
Lancaster-Wallis, Mrs.
Lannons, The
Lee, Miss Minnie
Lennie and Hast
Leon, Mr. Frank
Letters, Mr. Will
Lewis, Mr. F.
Linde, Herr
Lingard, Miss
MacEwen, Mr.
MacKinnon, Mr. A. W.
Manchester, Mr. Harry
Manderville, Miss Flo
Martifi Troupe
Masters, Mr. Dennis
Maynard, Mr. Harry
Money, Mr. A.
Monte, Mr. J.
Moore, Miss Carrie
Morgan, Mr. Clement F.
Morris, Miss Lilian
Morris, Miss Sylvia
Murray, Mr. Thomas
Myra
Neilson, Mr. Lauri
Nicholls, Mr. Harry
Norman and Leonard
Norman, Mr. N. B.
Oliver, Miss Ethel
Ouseley, Mr. G.
Padley, Mr. Bob
Paulinetti and Piquo
Payne, Mr. H. M.
Poluski, Mr. Will
Powel, Mr. G.
Powell, Mr. A.
Preston, Miss J.
Race, Mr. Leslie
Ramier, Mr. Ed.
Ray, Miss Belle
Reekie, Mr. Lister
Rene, Miss Ida
Reno, Sisters
Richard, Prof.
Ringham, Mr. Mark
Rockett, Mr. Edwin
Ronald, Mr. Tom
Rossiter, Miss M.
Ruby, Prof.
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Russell, Miss Nellie
Samuelson, Mr. M. L.
Savaros
Scarth, Mrs.
Scott, Miss Maidie
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Scott, Mrs. Walter
Seddon, Mr. J.
Sellin, Miss E.
Sevening, Miss Nina
Shrapnel, Mr. Leonard
Simmons, Miss Edith
Simpson, Mrs.
Southgate, Mr. R. E.
Sutherland, Mr. Harry
Temple, Mr. Fred
Terria Duo
Terry, Mr. Fred
Thomas, Mrs. R.
Thorpe and Coe
Toreadores, The
Trentanivi, Mr. Alfredo
Trevor, Mr. Theadore
Twichin, Mr. Fred
Vandyke, Mr. Chas.
Vivian, Mr. Arthur
Von Holst, Mr. E.
Vypond, Mr. Fred
Wadle, Mr. Harry
Wade, Miss V.
Wardrooer, Mr. Henry
Ward, Mr. Hugh
Warren, Mr. Arthur
Warren, Mr. Walter A.
Warsaw, Mr. Dave
Warwick, Sisters
Westwood, Mr. Walter
Williams, Miss Jessie
Willoughby, Mr. George
Wimpenny, Mr. Arthur
Woodward, Capt.
Worswick, Mr. J.
Worth, Miss Beatrice
Wylie, Mr. Lauri
Wyndham's Sketch Co.
Yeamans, Miss Lydia
Yeates, Mr. C.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Lionel Brough—Saturday, March 10.
Edward Terry—Saturday, March 10.
Charles Pell—Saturday, March 10.
Daisie Cook—Saturday, March 10.
Gertrude Le Sage—Sunday, March 11.
Little Betty Rochester—Sunday, March 11.
Bert M. Megson—Sunday, March 11.
Colin Hazlewood—Sunday, March 11.
Arthur Patmore—Sunday, March 11.
John L. Toole—Monday, March 12.
Edith Rosenthal—Monday, March 12.
August Manns—Monday, March 12.
Harry Gribben—Monday, March 12.
F. Wybert Clive—Monday, March 12.
Annie Saker—Tuesday, March 13.
Chas. Waterfield—Tuesday, March 13.
Alexandra Dagmar—Tuesday, March 13.
Oswald Lingard—Wednesday, March 14.
Maude Lambert—Wednesday, March 14.
Miss Ethel Donna Ryland—Wednesday, Mar. 14.
Leslie Stuart—Thursday, March 15.
Mrs. Kendal—Thursday, March 15.
Lily English—Thursday, March 15.
Ruth Edwin—Thursday, March 15.
Harry Paulton—Friday, March 16.
Edith Blande—Friday, March 16.

MR. CHAS. LACEY, who has had an experience of twenty-three years as "advance," has been appointed advertising manager of both the Theatre Royal and Royal Opera House, Leicester, which places are now under the control of Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton.

THE first edition of the telephone card used by Mr. T. Harris, of the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co., was so much appreciated by customers in the theatrical profession, that he has produced a revised one on a much larger scale. As it is his intention to keep this telephone card, which he has copyrighted, up to date, he will feel obliged for notification of omissions, errors, or alterations.

MR. EDITOR,—Your report for Salisbury last week says:—"The Two Dandies, coloured comedians, kept the audience in roars of laughter." It should be yours truly, THE TWO DANIELS.

IN our report of the Wallsend Theatre fire last week, it was stated that the scenery of *Jeanie Deans* was burnt. It was, however, the full plant of scenery, properties, and wardrobe belonging to *The Voice of the People*, valued at £300, that was destroyed. It had only been stored there three weeks, and was to have been removed on Monday last. Messrs. Dan F. Roe and F. B. Woulfe only purchased the piece last year, and it is most unfortunate that they should lose it so soon. The property was not insured.

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All Artists are notified that they must send their full bill matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1.0 o'clock, Mondays. All Artists engaged must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at the option of the Management.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual for 1906, 1s. 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. This useful little work, which brings nearly up to date the calendar of dramatic events which is so excellent a feature, is, as usual, full of stories over the signature of prominent stage lights. To those interested in the business of the theatre the work has become a necessity by reason of its valuable record of the progress of the drama.—Financial Times, Jan. 22, '06.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
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Mr. ALLEN BEAUMONT'S DRAMATIC CLASS.
will take place
in the THEATRE,
FRIDAY, March 16th,
at 6.30 p.m.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ART. Principals, CAIRNS JAMES, ERNEST D'AUBAN; President, GEORGE EDWARDES, Esq. Complete course of studies for the light opera and dramatic stage. Private and class lessons in all subjects. Pupils may join at any time. THREE "GEORGE EDWARDES" OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS awarded yearly. The winners obtain one year's complete tuition and an engagement under Mr. Edwardes's management. Next Examination will be held April 26. Particulars on receipt of stamped envelope.—Apply, Secretary, 77, New Oxford-street, W.C.

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NEW ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PIECES PRODUCED AT THE LONDON THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

NEW ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PROVINCIAL THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PARIS THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.

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NAME.	DATE.
Adams, the Late Miss Annie	May 20, 1905.
Allan, Mr. Charles	December 2, 1905.
Arnold, the Late Mr. Chas.	May 13, 1905.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Barrett, Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barry, Mr. Lennox	March 4, 1905.
Bawtree, Mr. Arthur	March 18, 1905.
Berlyn, Mr. Ivan	November 4, 1905.
Beside, Late Miss Elizabeth	February 3, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1905.
Booth, Mr. Junius	September 16, 1905.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	Oct. 21, 1905.
Bostock, Mr. E. H.	September 30, 1905.
Brand, Miss Tita	April 1, 1905.
Bromwich, Mr. F. Dudman	March 11, 1905.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown, Mr. Frank	May 27, 1905.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Callan, Late Mr. H. J	June 17, 1905.
Carlton, Mr. Arthur	Nov. 11, 1905.
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Casson, Late Mr. Walter	Nov. 11, 1905.
Castleton, Mrs. Robert	July 15, 1905.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906
Churchward, Mr Hedley	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1906.
Clarey, Late Mr. H. O.	February 24, 1906.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Late Mr. Henri	Dec. 9, 1905.
Collette, Mr. Charles	November 4, 1905.
Conquest, Mr. Fred	Dec. 9, 1905.
Cooper, Miss Florry	Nov. 11, 1905.
Coote, Mr. Bert	August 12, 1905.
Corelli, Miss Hilda	April 15, 1905.
Crane, Mr. Harry J.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Craven, Late Mr. H. T.	April 15, 1905.
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Aug. 5, 1905.
Cruikshanks, Mr. Charles	May 6, 1905.
Cullen, Mr. James	October 7, 1905.
D'Alcorn, Late Mr. Henri	June 10, 1905.
Daltra, Miss Marie	July 22, 1905.
Daly, Late Miss Maria	Nov. 11, 1905.
Davis, Mr. Tom B.	June 24, 1905.
Denmeade, Mr. and Mrs.	July 1, 1905.
Denton, Mr. St. John	March 18, 1905.
De Rohan, Miss Daphne	September 2, 1905.
Dewick, Mr. Dawson	April 22, 1905.
Dixon, Miss Ella	July 22, 1905.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr. James E.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Earnshaw, Mr. Arthur	November 4, 1905.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Ellis, the Late Mr. Percy	July 29, 1905.
Emery, Miss Pollie	July 1, 1905
Fanchette, Miss Amy	April 15, 1905.
Flinn, Madame Kate	July 29, 1905.
Forde, Mr. H. Athol	August 26, 1905.
Fordyce, Miss Vera	March 18, 1905.
Fulton, Miss Mary	March 18, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Giles, Mr Edwin F.	January 7, 1905.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1905.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Gunn, Miss Haidee	September 30, 1905.
Gwynne, Miss Daisy	October 14, 1905.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harcourt-Williams, Mr E.	July 9, 1904.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Dec. 9, 1906.
Howard, Mr. Frank	April 1, 1905.
Howard, the Late Mr. W.	August 12, 1905.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jenoure, Miss Aida	June 24, 1905.
Johnson, Mr. William	December 16, 1905.
Jones, Miss Marie	April 1, 1905.
Jones, Miss Gladys Rose	September 16, 1905.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1906.

CHORUS AT THE CRITERION.

It was quite a new sensation which Miss EDITH WYNNE MATTHISON gave to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion on Sunday—the spectacle of a fair and enthusiastic votary of the drama fervently proclaiming her faith in it, her devotion to it, and her high sense of the honour which accrues to the humblest servant of a noble calling. Miss MATTHISON carried her hearers up with her to a high altitude, where the air was perhaps too rarefied for the lungs of some of her audience. Yet so infectious was her enthusiasm, so powerful was the influence of her electric earnestness, that for the moment all were with her, heart and soul, in her lofty estimate of the art of which she is such a delightful exponent.

Miss MATTHISON'S theme was the Greek Chorus, which she, very naturally, somewhat idealised, in company with the Greek drama of which it was a part. "It must be remembered," said Miss MATTHISON, "that the theatre was the St. Peter's or the Westminster Abbey of ancient Athens; the drama was a religious rite; the Actors were celebrants; and Worship was an integral part of the production. Nor is this a matter for great surprise, seeing that the whole history and origin of Greek drama was worship of the god DIONYSOS, the giver of wine and enthusiasm. Our dramatic history followed very similar lines, originating in the Mysteries and Miracle plays of the mediæval Church."

This may be literally correct; but it is essentially misleading. The Greek religion was a very different thing from the Roman Catholicism of the Middle Ages. The former was a poetic expression of the Joy of Life, not an attempt at realising a condition of righteousness. It was so different from all that we conceive of a religious rite, that the "worship" to which Miss MATTHISON alludes—the sacred tipsiness of the Mænads—would seem to mediæval Christianity nothing but a scandalous debauch.

The Chorus represented the common mind of the nation, and the general sympathy of all mankind. It put the feelings of the ideal spectator into "beautiful language," and formulated his crude reflections into fine poetry. Miss MATTHISON is rather severe on modern *entr'acte* music. The Greek Chorus was not at all an equivalent of the modern musical orchestra. The Chorus occupied the local position held by the pit in the pre-stall period, and there it performed its dances, moving backwards and forwards during the choral songs. Opposite the middle of the stage, reached by a flight of steps, was a kind of altar called the Thymele; and the leader of the Chorus took his place on the top of this, so as to see what was passing upon the stage, and converse when necessary with the characters in the play. Can we imagine Mr. "JIMMIE" GLOVER jumping up on his conductor's stool at intervals in the performance of one of MR. HALL CAINE'S dramas, and making sententious comments on its personages and its incidents?

Miss MATTHISON was very complimentary to the Greeks in her lecture, but rather hard upon the moderns. The fact that Grecian audiences had not the bad habit of going out between the acts is easily accounted for both by the fact that the performances were "open-air" ones, and by the practice mentioned by Miss MATTHISON of "handing round wine and confectionery among the audience" instead of its having to go out to buffets. It is all very well to represent the Greeks as sacred and serious personages, wrapt in the contemplation of great tragic art; but they liked their "bit of fun" as much as any moderns, and their ginger was decidedly "hot i' the mouth." The very Chorus which Miss MATTHISON describes as so elevated in its spirit had to be "muzzled" when it came under the licentious influence of the Old Comedy; and a law had to be enacted which, as HORACE says, "put it into a disgraceful silence as soon as it was deprived of its right to injure." As for ARISTOPHANES—whose plays, be it remembered, were produced under the same system of subsidy as the most gloomy drama of ÆSCHYLUS—he was so gross and so scurrilous that very little idea of "religion" can possibly be associated with his memory; and what his contemporaries were like was proved by his boast that he was much more sparing than his rivals in the use of obscenities. "All this was lifted out of the merely personal and individual," says Miss MATTHISON, "by the State taking upon herself the control, the direction, and the support of dramatic productions"; but surely, with all allowance for national and temporal differences, the *Lysistrata* is not more moral or elevating than the pleasant musical plays in which Miss MATTHISON at one time took such a successful share. With all the faults that may be found with our SHAKESPEARE-worship, the nation that, however imperfectly, admires his works, and makes it possible for them to be played year after year, and again and again, need not be ashamed to compare itself with a public which in the end preferred to SOPHOCLES the sophistical EURIPIDES, who, by the way, made the Chorus an unessential ornament, with episodical songs having no reference to the action, quite in disobedience to the canon of ARISTOTLE, who said "the Chorus must be considered one of the actors, and as a part of the whole; it must co-operate with the action." We, at least, should never have allowed to continue a convention so absurd as that of actors wearing masks, even after the better way had been shown us by the bold and successful innovation of a ROSCIUS.

But all carping criticism was silenced by the sight and hearing, so keenly enjoyed by the audience at the Criterion on Sunday last, of a young and gifted actress, inspired by that noble enthusiasm which every artist should feel in her work, preaching in words of high and musical eloquence the doctrines of devotion to Art, of self-culture and self-control, of noble endeavour and great hopes. The time may come when many of Miss MATTHISON'S dreams shall become realities; and when, with our subsidised theatre and our classic drama, we shall revive the ancient glories of the Greeks—even the much-misunderstood Chorus. In the translation of a passage from *Antigone* which she introduced, Miss MATTHISON said:

Much is there marvellous, but naught more marvellous than man. Over the foaming sea in winter's wind he goes, moving among the waves that roar around. That greatest of the gods, the everlasting and unwearied earth, he wears away, wheeling his ploughshare through it year by year, forcing the mule to trace his furrow. The flocks of nimble birds he snares and makes his prey, the herds of savage beasts, and ocean's watery spawn, with netted coils—this ever-crafty man. He masters by his arts the creatures of the fields and of the hills. He brings the stiff-maned horse under his binding yoke, and stubborn mountain bull. Speech, too, and wind-swift thought, and social dispositions, these he learned; and how to avoid uncomfortable frosts.

If Miss MATTHISON could only tell managers this secret she would be conferring on them a priceless boon. How to avoid uncomfortable "frosts" is, indeed, what every *entrepreneur* would like to know.

"BRIGADIER GERARD."

A Romantic Comedy, in Four Acts,
by Arthur Conan Doyle,
Produced at the Imperial Theatre, on Saturday, March 3.

The Emperor Napoleon ..... MR. A. E. GEORGE
Talleyrand ..... MR. EDWARD O'NEILL
General de Caulaincourt ..... MR. J. H. IRVINE
Colonel Guèrin ..... MR. ERIC SCOTT
Major Bron ..... MR. OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Major Olivier ..... MR. FRANK WOOLFE
Captain Sabattier ..... MR. S. B. BRERETON
Captain Pelletan ..... MR. K. F. FOSS
Lieutenant Legros ..... MR. G. ASPARD
Sergeant Boncle ..... MR. C. MCGUINNESS
Trooper Oudin ..... MR. F. HENDRY
Mons. D'Albert ..... MR. SHIEL BARRY
Mons. Bassompierre ..... MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Pierre ..... MR. TOM HESSLEWOOD
Constant ..... MR. PATRICK DIGAN
Lafitte ..... MR. T. NUTYON
A Russian Chamberlain ..... MR. S. MARCUS
Waggoner ..... MR. H. AINGER
First Valet ..... MR. W. LEBURN
Second Valet ..... MR. P. MILWARD
A Mameluke ..... MR. F. DANBY
Trumpeter Papilette ..... MR. JOHN BYRON
Captain Gerard ..... MR. LEWIS WALLER
Agnes ..... MISS HELEN LEYTON
Comtesse de Roquelaure ..... MISS EVELYN MILLARD

Brigadier Gerard is a play which might easily have been misunderstood by an English audience. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's hero is a near relation of General Marbot, of the celebrated Memoirs. He has the comical vanity, the buoyant "swagger," which were traditional in the Napoleonic period, and were excused by the real valour of the soldiers of the Empire. The author calls his piece a "romantic comedy." Those who have lost their taste for tales of improbable adventure, for Dumas-like wonders and inventions, for alarms and excursions, for deeds of daring and extraordinary accidents, should avoid seeing *Brigadier Gerard*; but the great majority, with whom such fare is still "hot i' th' mouth," will greatly enjoy this alert, energetic, and exciting piece. And to enjoy it, one must give one's-self up to the spirit of the thing, and allow one's-self to be carried away by its bold exuberance. It is not, and it is not intended to be, analytic or intellectual; its hero is a man of action, and the play is frankly, winningly active and adventurous.

The story, in such a piece, is of prime importance. As everyone who has read "The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard" knows, the dashing hussar of Chamberont was the man whom Napoleon usually selected for any difficult duty requiring fearless courage, implicit obedience, and small subtlety. The hussars of Conflans are quartered in a farm-house near Fontainebleau, where Napoleon, whose army is retreating after the campaign of 1814, has his headquarters. These hussars are to be reinforced by the remains of the hussars of Chamberont, the captain of which, Gerard by name, is famous for his reckless audacity, and for his "tall" stories about his exploits. Olivier, the major of the Conflans hussars, a brutal bully, plans to draw Gerard out, and induce him to make himself ridiculous. When the captain discovers the trick, he challenges all the officers, beginning with Olivier, who eagerly accepts the chance of humiliating the newcomer. At this juncture, Napoleon, by the agency of a certain Colonel Guèrin, intrusts Gérard with the task of going to Paris, and obtaining certain important papers, which a faithful Napoleonist lady, the Comtesse de Roquelaure, has obtained from the archives. So the captain has to miss his duel, and appear to be a poltroon.

It happens that Gerard has already fallen in love with the charming Comtesse, whose life he once saved in a carriage accident. In Paris, Talleyrand is, as usual, sitting on the fence, prepared to throw in his lot either with the Allies or the Emperor, as policy may dictate. Gerard, in civilian attire, has a chat with the Comtesse's maid, and is directed by her to wait in the park outside till summoned by a signal. The Comtesse returns, and the precious papers are forcibly secured by Talleyrand's secretary and his agents. When, at last, Gerard is summoned, he swears to regain them at any cost.

The next act reminds one of the most audacious extravagances of Dumas, of Don César falling down the chimney, and of other inventions in old-fashioned French romantic drama. In Talleyrand's private salon stands a Russian cabinet, which the Prince of Benvenuto is about to return to the Emperor. We expect that much use will be made of this cabinet, and Sir Arthur does not disappoint us. First of all, Gérard, who is induced by a simple device to let himself be tied up à la the Davenport Brothers, is gagged and put into it, to be forwarded to Napoleon at Fontainebleau. The Comtesse comes in, hears Gérard's inarticulate cries, and releases him from his confinement. He conceals himself, and when Talleyrand, who returns, is engaged with the Comtesse, Gérard springs upon him, ties and gags him in turn, and locks him in the cabinet, going off disguised in the Prince's cloak.

There is more in this cloak than meets the eye; for, in a secret pocket in it, the artful diplomat carries the all-important documents which Gérard wants to get hold of. So, when the captain returns to Napoleon, he is in the odd position of having succeeded in his mission without knowing it. But an agent, sent by Talleyrand to make the best of matters, "lets the cat out of the bag;" and Gérard, who has been driven from the Emperor's presence with abuse, is praised by his chief, who makes him the Brigadier of the Conflans Hussars, the egregious Major Olivier—whom we should like to have seen punished by at least a thrust through the arm—having to acknowledge Gérard's supremacy as a swordsman.

Told in print, some of this tale seems quaint and childish enough; but admirably acted, and put on the stage of the Imperial Theatre with all possible care for accuracy in accessories, it sent the first night audience on Saturday into a state of demonstrative delight. We all know what Mr. Waller can do with a character of the Dumas Musketeer kind; and Gérard is only a variant on D'Artagnan. Taking the character for what it is, it could hardly have been more judiciously handled than it was by Mr. Waller on Saturday, for he infused a good deal of English solidity and strength into it which is not to be found in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel. This was all for the best, for it must be confessed that the Gérard of the book is, and is meant to be, not a little absurd. Sir Arthur, in dramatising his book, has toned down the Brigadier's extravagances considerably; and Mr. Waller has caught the author's idea, and has carried it out very successfully. He plays the part in just the right vein—the dashing, swashing vein of the military hero of romance. He bears himself with fine gallantry, and his energy is always cleverly controlled. The representatives of Napoleon and Talleyrand have, as usual, to make those characters theatrically effective at all costs. There is probably no historical warrant for De Caulaincourt's moralising to Napoleon at Fontainebleau on the evils of unrestrained ambition; but it is believed that Lannes, on his death-bed, treated his master to a bitter homily on the subject, and Sir Arthur certainly has a right to imagine the aristocratic servant of the Emperor indulging in similar reflections—especially when things are going badly. Mr. A. E. George plays the part of Napoleon in a marked style, which creates a strong impression, all the famous traits of the Emperor's character—his brusque tyranny, his rudeness to women, and his rare touches of charm—being ably indicated. Mr. Edward O'Neill gives us many of the characteristics of the real Talleyrand, but of course has to sacrifice the sarcastic comedy of the epigrammatic diplomat to the necessities of melodramatic situation. He makes the compromise very adroitly, and retains—for which much thanks!—the Prince of Benvenuto's "presence," polish, and personal dignity. Mr. J. H. Irvine is excellent in every way as General de Caulaincourt; and Mr. Eric Scott is equally satisfactory as Colonel Guèrin. The rôles of the hussar officers are capitally cast and sharply distinguished. The chivalrous Colonel Bron is well represented by Mr. Owen Roughwood; and Mr. Frank Woolfe, with his stalwart figure and forcible features, makes his mark decidedly as Major Olivier. Mr. S. B. Brereton's Captain Sabattier is quaint and natural; and the rest of the Conflans men have quite competent representatives. A very incisive embodiment of the character of Mons. d'Albert is contributed by Mr. Shiel Barry, whose quick acuteness is both telling and praiseworthy; and Mr. Frank Cochrane contributes a sound and well-considered performance as Mons. Bassonpierre. Mr. Tom Heslewood hits off the callous spy, Pierre, quite intelligently; and Mr. T. Nutyon makes the most of his brief opportunity as the indignant French farmer, Lafitte. Mr. S. Marcus plays the Russian Chamberlain with easy confidence and a touch of quiet humour; and Mr. H. Ainger is bluntly characteristic as the Waggoner. Mr. John Byron enacts Trumpeter Papilette with natural and unobtrusive drollery; and Miss Helen Leyton is very pleasing as the Comtesse's attendant, Agnes. Miss Evelyn Millard has not too many chances as the Comtesse de Roquelaure, and the rôle is well within her capacity; but she employs her finished technique very valuably, looks remarkably picturesque, and makes the Comtesse as fair and feminine as can be desired. The attitude of the house was enthusiastically favourable, and the applause was so loud, and the demand for Mr. Waller's appearance so persistent, that he was obliged to briefly thank the audience for their warm reception of the play.

Good photographs in two positions of the late George Le Brunn, with his autograph, can be obtained at 1s. 6d. each from Arthur Weston, photographer, 16, The Poultry, E.C.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Hugh J. Didcott writes:—"As it has been freely circulated in this week's daily papers that Miss Marie Lloyd is appearing shortly in Mr. Paul Rubens' successful musical comedy *Mr. Pepple*, which I learn is to be transferred to the Shaftesbury Theatre, will you please allow me to say that such is not a fact? It is only fair to the various managers of the variety theatres at which Miss Lloyd is engaged during this year to state that there is no foundation for such a report, and that she (in common with myself) is at a loss to understand how this inaccurate statement has originated."

An interesting turn is announced by Mr. Frank Glenister at the London Pavilion next week. Miss Jose Collins, daughter of Miss Lottie Collins, is to make her début on the stage of that popular West End house, whereat her mother scored some of her most notable successes in her earlier career, before she was snapped up for Gaiety burlesque. Miss Jose is a handsome girl, and is said to possess a large share of hereditary ability.

Miss Vesta Victoria has scored a great success upon her *third* visit to America. Mr. Percy Williams, with whom she is fulfilling her present engagement, says she has made the greatest success of any English artist. She will be welcome back to London at Whitsun.

Messrs. Fred and Michael Abrahams are again the proprietors of the Queen's Palace, Poplar, and can lay claim to the distinction of being the oldest music-hall managers in London. When Mr. Fred Abrahams came to the Metropolis from Nottingham, where he had been running the Polytechnic Music Hall, he took possession of the Oriental, High-street, Poplar, then a music hall, and ran it as a theatre. This was in 1867. Here the late Mr. G. H. Macdermott played heavy parts in the stock company at a salary of one guinea a week, being brought to London by Mr. Michael Abrahams. Later the establishment was enlarged, and renamed the Queen's, Poplar. Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland, who is the nephew of the proprietors, will be the new manager of the Queen's, which opens at Easter on the two-houses-a-night principle.

The new tube railway from Baker-street to Waterloo, reaching as far as Kennington-road, which opens to-day, with stations at Oxford Circus, Trafalgar-square, and Piccadilly Circus, will be an immense convenience to amusement lovers, both in North-west and South London, as it "touches" some of the most important theatres and music halls in the West. His Majesty's, the Haymarket, the Comedy, the Prince of Wales's, and the Criterion Theatres, with the London Pavilion and the Empire, are served by the Piccadilly-circus station; and the Trafalgar-square station may be said to be close to the Coliseum, the Duke of York's, the New, Wyndham's, the Alhambra, the Hippodrome, and other establishments.

The Variety Artists' Federation was established on February 18 last. It is affiliated to the International Artists' Lodge. Its objects, briefly stated, are to abolish abuses detrimental to the interests of the profession, to establish an old-age pension fund, to give free legal advice and protection to all members, and in the event of the death of a member to make a levy of 3d. or 6d. on each federated variety artist to defray the funeral expenses and assist the widow or children. The entrance fee is 2s. 6d., and the weekly subscription 6d. Mr. W. H. McCarthy is the hon. treasurer *pro tem.*, and all fees and donations should be forwarded to him at the Vaudeville Club, 98, Charing Cross-road, W.C. Donations ranging from £100 to £1 1s. have been received from the leading members of the profession.

Mr. Charles Hector has resigned his position as general manager of the London, Collins's, and the Cambridge—the L.C.C. halls, as they are called—and is succeeded in that position by Mr. Wade, late of the Metropolitan. Mr. Hector carried away with him a handsome silver cigar case, suitably inscribed, presented to him by Mr. Reynolds on behalf of the staff at Collins's.

In consequence of the previously announced title *Variety Fair* being vested in others, Mr. Arthur Shirley's 100th piece, to be produced at the Coliseum on Monday, has been renamed *The Troubles of Tuffin*. The following well-known artists will be found in the cast:—Geoffrey Tuffin, Mr. M. R. Morand; the Second Mrs. Tuffin, Miss Millicent Marsden; Connie, Miss Clarissa Talbot; Percy, Mr. Charles Trevor; Algy, "the man about town," Mr. George Lashwood; and Vincent Crummles (1906), Mr. William Morgan. The Boisset Pantomimists, the Ten Loonies, Miss Millie Hylton, Mr. Eugene Stratton, Miss Belle Davis and her piccaninnies, also share the adventures of Mr. Tuffin. Miss Decima Brooks, who until recently was appearing with Mr. Seymour Hicks at the Waldorf Theatre, has been specially engaged to sing "My Daisiest Daisy" with Miss Ella Shields.

The offer recently made by the management of the Alhambra of a grand gala performance in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the prevailing destitution in Japan—an almost inevitable aftermath of our noble ally's strenuous struggle for security—has not only been accepted by our First Magistrate, but is to enjoy the patronage and presence of the Japanese Ambassador. The date will be shortly announced.

Mr. Joseph Howell, whose testimonial matinée at the Tivoli is announced for the 26th inst., has received a handsome cheque from the directors of the Alhambra, where he held the position of acting-manager and treasurer for eleven years. An influential committee, of which the chairman is Mr. G. A. Payne, assures the success of this well deserved benefit. It includes Messrs Joseph Wilson (hon. secretary and treasurer), Albert Gilmer, Charles Beecham, Jack Edgar, Frank Glenister, Fred Miller, Fred McAvoy, Edward Swanborough, Frank Weeks, Henry Tozer, Richard Warner, Count Max Hollender, Frank Allen, George Ashton, Henri Gros, Joe Lyons, J. L. Graydon, T. Ernest Polden, Oswald Stoll, Tom Barrasford, Joseph Davis, Walter de Frece, Arthur Collins, Willie Clarkson, Alfred Butt, A. J. Barclay, George Barclay, H. Woodford, George Scott, Herbert Blackmore, and a number of others.

The Oxford announces its thirteenth anniversary for Friday next, when the fine programme will include George Robey, G. H. Chirgwin, Bert Gilbert, Ernest Shand, Will Evans, Queenie Leighton, Billy Farrell, Victoria Monks, Alexandra Dagmar, Violet Elliott, Kelly and Gillette, Joe Elvin, Eugenie Fougere, Price and Revost, Dolly Harmer, Fred Russell, and Arthur Roberts in *Naughty Nero*. This annual is one of the most interesting events of the year in the variety theatres.

Miss Nellie Wallace, we are pleased to hear got through her rather serious operation on Monday last at Ipswich, and is now on the high road to a speedy recovery.

Since Mr. Fisher produced his now famous "Miniature Operas" at the South London, there is scarcely a hall without some operatic item on its bill, truly a great compliment to this gentleman's ingenuity. We are glad to note that he brings his "Pocket Opera Company" to the Empress, Brixton, next week.

The Prince of Wales Theatre of Varieties, Grove-street, Edinburgh, opens on Monday next, under the management of Messrs. Leckie and Hardie, with Mr. J. W. Hardie as general-manager. Everything will be done to ensure success.

Mr. T. P. Duignan, who for the last two years has been associated with Signor Pepi as manager of the Blackpool Hippodrome, has been appointed by the proprietors general-manager for the ensuing season. His numerous friends will wish him every success.

The annual meeting of Warden, Ltd., was held on Tuesday in the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Belfast, Mr. H. C. Kelly presiding. The attendance included about twenty shareholders. The report of the directors and the statement of accounts for the year were adopted. A dividend on the Preference shares for the six months ending July 31, 1905, was authorised, and Mr. Wm. M'Ildowie was appointed a director in the room of Mr. Fred Mouillot, resigned. A resolution was passed appointing a committee of shareholders, consisting of Messrs. Robert Walsh, Samuel Ross, and Neeson, to investigate the affairs of the company, and to report to a meeting to be held two months hence.

For some months work has been proceeding on the site of the old Star Theatre in Bilston-street, Wolverhampton, a building intimately associated with things theatrical in the town. The old house, with its accompanying licenses, was acquired by Messrs. Butler and Co., and no expense has been spared in constructing the new Hippodrome. Although it will not be opened until Easter Monday, an idea of the sumptuous and costly nature of the decorations and furnishings can be given. The colour scheme is carried out in crimson and white, picked out in gold, and the wall paper is the most expensive procurable, being equal in price to silk hangings. The latest thing in tip-up chairs and the most perfect arrangement in things sanitary are to be introduced.

The general idea of the house is, as already suggested, more on the lines of a theatre than a music hall, and as a theatre licence has been obtained, legitimate pieces may be staged if desirable, and the vexed question of stage plays in the music halls will not trouble the management. There are stalls, pit, dress circle, and gallery, each supplied with a cosy and comfortable bar. An attractive canopy is to be erected at the entrance to the dress circle, whilst the entrance hall itself is to be on artistic and spacious lines. There are four boxes, and the hangings to these, as well as the material for the curtain, are of gold appliqué work.

Messrs. Butler and Co. have let the hall to Mr. Walter de Frece, husband of Miss Vesta Tilley, and the manager will be a gentleman who has been engaged in a similar capacity at Cardiff. The majority of the well-known "stars" of the variety world have been booked, and we understand that Miss Vesta Tilley will top the bill on the opening night.

Dr. Walford Bodie finished last week at the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, after a two-weeks' unprecedented success. On the Saturday night both houses were packed at early-door prices. The Doctor brought on the stage a large number of his most successful cases, treated by him on his last visit to the Lyric, who had been all discharged from the leading London hospitals. Each case as it was introduced brought down the house, the audience cheering again and again. At the conclusion Dr. Bodie was presented with several cheques, which he used in paying for new boots to the new patients, and medicine, &c. Police-constable J. Chesters, No. 94, D Division, came forward and presented Dr. Bodie with an illuminated address on behalf of himself and many admirers, for the wonderful cure of his son, who had been paralysed nine years.

This week the Doctor has returned to the Tivoli, Leeds, and is beating his old record, the vast hall being packed nightly to overflowing. Mr. Barrasford on Tuesday night came from his private box during Dr. Bodie's demonstration, and complimented him, stating as a guarantee of good faith to the audience that Dr. Bodie had worked with him at various periods for the last fifteen years. Mr. Barrasford was loudly cheered. The Doctor has again captured the hearts of the Leeds community.

As the result of the great Bodie matinée given at the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, last week, over £40 will be handed over to local charities.

The Grand Palace Theatre of Varieties, Colchester, which is now under the management of Messrs. Mouillot and De Frece, will open again on Monday. It will be run on the plan of two shows a night, and one of the leading turns in the first week's programme will be Lockhart's Elephants.

Miss Kitty Woodford proved herself very popular with her Canine Circus and Orchestra at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, last week, her clever and pretty performance being the talk of the town. On Thursday afternoon (by request) Miss Woodford consented to give an exhibition with a few of her pets to the juvenile inmates of the General Hospital. Needless to say the performance was much appreciated, and greatly delighted the little ones. On Saturday night, at the conclusion of her turn, she was presented with a handsome clock, artistically mounted on a dog's back, as a souvenir, the gift of Mr. Urquhart, of the Castle Hotel, a well-known prominent citizen of th town.

Mr. Gus Elen, who is playing to packed houses on a successful provincial tour, is motoring to each town in which he is engaged. Lately he has had his car re-upholstered and repainted, and it is, practically speaking, new. In it he has travelled 14,500 miles. He will commence a fortnight's holiday on the 19th at Fordingbridge and Dulverton, where he hopes to enjoy some trout fishing.

Under distinguished patronage a highly-successful matinée performance was given at the Brighton Hippodrome on Tuesday in support of the Brighton Police-aided scheme for clothing destitute children. The artists who assisted included Miss Nellie Beryl, Miss Rosalie Jacobi, Miss May Mars, Miss Haidée Wright, Mr. Charles Bertram, Mr. Ernest Carpenter, Mr. James Coward, Mr. Vivian Foster, Mr. Shandos George, Mr. Arthur Glenroy, the Lowenwith Brothers, Mr. P. Yelland Padovan, Mr. Harry Ford, Mr. Carson Hicks, Les Louberts, Elverton, the Donatos, the Musical Jees, Miss Diana Hope and Co., Mr. Harry Lawson, Tate and Tate, Hunt and Thomas, Mlle. Von-Etta, Amy Elcock, the Mackweys, the Arleys, and J. W. Rickaby; and the police band, which was under the direction of Mr. W. J. Fleet, played pleasing selections. Mr. W. B. Gentle, Chief Constable of Brighton, gave an interesting sketch of the good work done by the Borough Police in connection with the scheme. The Mayor of Brighton (Alderman Colbourne) presented Mrs. Barrasford with a beautifully illuminated address as a recognition of her kindness in granting the use of the Hippodrome gratis for the benefit of the scheme. That lady gracefully responded, and announced the receipt of a telegram from her husband, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, whose name was included in the address, expressing the hope that the matinée would prove successful.

Mrs. Bennett, who has recently been delighting her transpontine admirers at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, has been engaged by Mrs. Clement Scott to appear in Mr. Cecil Raleigh's bio-dramatic sketch, *The Diamond Express*.

Miss Peggy Pryde (Mrs. George Pearson) has just undergone a very severe operation at Miss Ryan's Surgical Home, Knatchbull-road, Camberwell. We are pleased to hear that she is getting on very nicely. Mr. Pearson wishes to thank the popular lady's many friends for their kind enquiries.

There was a great crowd of friends and Terriers at Liverpool-street Station, on Friday, the 2nd, to see Mr. Slade Murray off to Australia. Amongst those present were Messrs. Joe Lawrence, J. E. Dunedin, C. Cornish, W. Welsh, E. Brett, A. Dodson, P. Madden, and Harry Lester (Secretary).

Another big crowd assembled at Waterloo on Saturday to witness the departure of the Dunedin Troupe to America. The anthems of the Order were sung with gusto by Messrs. C. Gardener, W. H. Atlas, Harry Lester, B. Woodger, P. Madden, A. H. Hopter, and H. Fouraher. Also on the platform were the Creo Brothers, Minting, Mr. Potter, Mr. Elmo, Miss Alicia Maine, Miss Simmons, Miss Coombs, and Miss Shackleford.

All variety artists will regret to hear that Mr. W. Skinner, the stage-manager of the Empress, Brixton, passed away on Saturday evening at 9.20. The deceased was held in high esteem amongst the members of the profession, and was only last week presented with a purse of gold from several artists, headed by Mr. Joe Elvin. Mr. Alec Hurley also presented him with a diamond pin. Mr. Skinner opened at the Empress as stage-manager when Mr. E. V. Page directed the fortunes of the hall, and Mr. Nelson Francis, the present manager, was treasurer and secretary. He was for many years at Drury-lane, and also with Mr. Isaac Cohen. He leaves a widow, at present seriously ill, and a daughter, Mrs. John Lawson, to mourn his loss. The interment took place at Tooting on Thursday.

Mr. Charles Wilmott, the author of several Britannia pantomimes, has written, and Henry E. Pether has composed, a charming ballad, entitled "The Rose of My Heart." The morceau will shortly be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day. The verses, which enshrine a truly beautiful idea, are set to a melody which will yet further enhance the reputation of the composer of "Rainbow."

The effects of various unusual foods on the human system has ever been a subject for scientists to dwell on in treatises, but shortly Mr. Fred Earle will deal with the question in comic song. In his forthcoming ditty, "Birdseed," the comedian (who is supposed to be a dealer in domestic pets and small live-stock generally) will relate how, at different times, his absent-minded wife cooked for him by mistake the foodstuffs intended by Nature for bird, beast, or fish, and what ensued thereon. The song is by Edgar Bateman and Henry F. Greenfield. Mr. Earle is now singing, with the greatest possible success on his present provincial tour, a song written and composed by Harry Wincott, and entitled "What a Funny Place to Have One."

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received a cheque for £5 from Mr. J. Macready Chute, being part proceeds of the charity matinée at Bristol; also the sum of £1 10s. from Messrs. Fortune and Granville, and 11s. 6d. from Mr. Arthur Barclay, Walthamstow Palace; also collections by Mr. J. Rowley £1 11s., Harry Kilburn £1 0s. 6d., Dan Thomas £1 9s. 6d., Gwennie Hasto 18s., Ethel Dore 5s., and W. J. Churchill 5s. The president and committee beg to publicly thank these ladies and gentlemen for their kind efforts on behalf of the fund, which is very much in need of contributions.

Mr. Tom Brantford, the well-known comedian and mimic, should have appeared on Thursday for examination at the Wandsworth Bankruptcy Court. He attributes his failure as a jobmaster to motor-car and electric tram competition. As the debtor wrote from Manchester saying he had a professional engagement there, the case was adjourned.

Mr. Harry Mountford and Miss Maude Walsh (Mountford and Walsh) leave Waterloo Station this morning at 11.30 o'clock for South Africa. Their friends will meet at 11 o'clock to give them a "send-off" and to wish them *bon voyage* and success.

Mr. Charles Penrose, who recently made such a success on the London halls, has been suffering from severe throat trouble, but resumes work on Monday. Messrs. Francis and Day have secured the publishing rights of his humorous song, "Oh! Who says so?"

Miss Gipsy Wolff and her piccaninnies are still scoring a great success on the Continent. Re-engagements were offered at the Hansa Theatre, Hanover, and again at the Apollo, Berlin, where the clever little lady remains for another five weeks.

Miss Maude Courtney sailed on the 7th as a saloon passenger on board the R.M.S. Majestic. Miss Courtney will remain in America until the end of April. On May 7 she reopens in this country on the Moss and Stoll tour.

Miss Marie Kendall will have the sympathy of a wide circle of professional friends in the loss of her mother, who passed away on Saturday at the age of fifty-four.

The 453rd meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon at the offices of the Association. Mr. Joe O'Gorman (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. Charles McConnell, Albert Le Fre (vice-president), Jeff Vendome, Wal Pink, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A number of letters were read and dealt with. One of these was from Mr. Frank Gerald stating that, as a member of the committee, he was strongly opposed to the return of Mr. George Gray's cheque for £1,000, as, though the committee had deemed Mr. Gray's scheme as a whole impracticable, yet several of his suggestions had been carried into the new organisation, the V.A.F., and, further, in the event of the latter becoming affiliated with the M.H.A.R.A., which had already occurred in connection with the I.A.L., the loan of £1,000 without interest might be very serviceable. If his suggestion met with the approval of any member, he would ask him to put it in the form of a motion.

The chairman said that the question of the return of Mr. Gray's cheque had been adjourned from the last meeting, and again there was only a small attendance. Mr. Le Fre said he did not see that any harm could be done by retaining the cheque. It was a good sporting offer on Mr. Gray's part. He suggested that the matter should be further postponed. Mr. Wal Pink said that some portions of Mr. Gray's scheme were excellent, but other proposals were, he thought, impossible. He believed that was the feeling of the majority of the members. It was agreed that the consideration of the question should be further postponed. The secretary reported that forty-seven new members had joined during the week, and the financial statement for the same period showed an amount of £45 11s.

The annual ball of the Grand Order of Water Rats will be held as usual at the Trocadero on Tuesday, March 20.

The numerous friends of Mr. Frank Gerald will be sorry to hear that he met with a serious accident on Thursday evening, the 1st, at Chelsea Palace. During the performance of *Captain Starlight* his famous mare Wiapera stumbled and fell upon him. The favourite equestrian actor is slowly recovering at Teddington.

The fourth annual benefit matinée, on the 1st inst., at the Bedford, Camden Town, in aid of the North-West London Hospital, drew a large house. Among the audience were Sir William Collins, M.P. for West St. Pancras, and the Mayor and Corporation of St. Pancras, who attended in state, a guard of honour being formed by the 17th (North) Middlesex Rifles. Mr. Alfred Craske, the secretary of the hospital, read a telegram from Mr. B. Pearce Lucas, the managing-director, who was unable to be present in consequence of the death of his mother. Mr. A. F. Lovesy, the manager, in a speech was able to announce the generous donation of two guineas from Miss Marie Lloyd.

Frank Lester and company will appear at the London next week in Fritz Zorn's new farcical sketch *In the Cupboard*. The little piece met with an enthusiastic reception on its production at Collins's a fortnight since, and as a consequence has promptly been booked for the Shoreditch house. Mr. Frank Lester will again portray Gulper, and will be supported as before by Miss Mary Thorne, Miss Ina Rozant, and Mr. Fred Dobell.

Mr. Will Bennet, the popular Press representative of the Coliseum, entertained a merry party on Saturday, the twenty-first (?) anniversary of his birthday. The hieroglyphical cards of invitation, full of "spirited" and graphic comedy, were designed by Louis Smythe, well known in Carmelite House. On Tuesday, Mr. Will Bishop, the well-known director of the Coliseum stage-dancing, also had a birthday—"age unknown." On the card of invitation, drawn by Mr. B. Brown, of *The News of the World*, Mr. Bishop, cigar in mouth, wearing a short skirt, is doing the "rocks" on a champagne bottle, the orchestra being conducted by the aforesaid Bennet.

Messrs. Chadwick and Sons will sell by auction on the 27th inst. the scenery used in the realistic panorama for the voyage on the Mediterranean at the Earl's Court Exhibition, a graphic portrayal of the Roman Forum, shown at the same exhibition, two Gatling guns, seven ship's boats, eight genuine Venetian gondolas, a valuable miniature railway, and other surplus effects belonging to the London Exhibitions, Ltd.

Mr. Charles Collette, who concludes a most successful return engagement at the London Pavilion, will appear on Monday and during the week twice a night at the Chelsea Palace in his brilliant comedy sketch *Tea for Two*, supported, as heretofore, by the charming young actress Miss Helen Perry.

It is with deep regret that we hear of the tragic death of Miss Marie Clifford at Boston (Lincs.), who was burned to death there on March 2. The unfortunate lady was in the habit of reading in bed, and it is supposed that she was reaching across to the candle by her bedside when her nightdress sleeve became ignited. She was taken immediately to the cottage hospital, but succumbed to her terrible injuries. Her charming disposition made her exceedingly popular with everyone in the profession, and she will be regretted by all who knew her. The deceased lady was a remarkably clever pianist, and was one of the first to introduce ladies' orchestras into this country, having toured for years with her Spanish ladies' orchestras.

The funeral took place on Monday and was attended by her husband, Dr. Seaton, her sisters Edith and Gertrude, and numerous friends. The coffin was literally covered with lovely flowers, including wreaths from her husband, her mother, her sister Edith, her sister Gertrude, George Saphrima, the members of Dr. Seaton's company, and others.

Mr. G. H. Chirgwin has sent to Miss Nellie Wilson a very kind letter and a guinea for the Music Hall Home Fund. It will be pleasantly remembered that Miss Wilson made the record collection for the Fund last year.

Mr. Dan Conroy, who has finished a four-months tour with consderable success, returns to town on Monday.

Mr. Mark Melford's fictive creation has been plagiarised in a remarkable manner by fact! On May of last year Mr. Melford invented and wrote a sketch called *The Phantom Footpad*, in which an absent-minded Roman Catholic priest, returning home late at night, is hustled in the darkness by a passing stranger. Immediately he misses his watch from his pocket, and recalling the rumour of a reputed footpad, hurries back, and, overtaking the retreating man, claps his pipe-case to his head and demands the watch. In evident terror the supposed robber hands out timepiece, and decamps. The Rev. Father arrives safely home, chuckling with satisfaction, only to find his own watch safe in his writing-desk.

Six months later, the following appeared in a contemporary:—"Chicago has recently experienced a remarkable number of highway robberies, with the result that many persons have taken to carrying revolvers for self-protection. One of the favourite haunts of the footpad is a long subway running under the lines of the North-Western Railway. Mr. Hobart Allen, a business man, was recently returning through the subway on his way home late at night, and had almost reached the end of the tunnel when a man suddenly pushed by him and took to his heels. Mr. Allen felt for his watch and found it was gone. He turned and gave chase to the thief, whom he succeeded in overtaking in the tunnel. Drawing his revolver he shouted, 'Hand over that watch, or I will blow your brains out.' The man made another attempt to escape, but Mr. Allen followed and forced him against the wall, saying, 'I'll give you another chance.' Without further words the fugitive handed him a watch and again ran off. Mr. Allen went home and told his wife of his adventure. She replied, 'Why, your watch is on the dressing-table. You left it there this morning.' Mr. Allen is still looking for the unfortunate man whom he robbed."

Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant's programme at St. George's Hall gives an opportunity for more than usually bright and effective dresses. Mr. David Devant's three assistants, who vanish and re-appear at the sound of his wonderful gong, are now seen in Burmese costumes—a vast improvement on the ordinary unromantic English clothes they used to wear. The two Japanese performers vie with each other in brilliant colouring and rich embroideries, Mr. M. C. Tamamoto going through his extraordinary feats on the wire in vivid poppy-red satin, and Mr. Gintaro juggling in the brightest canary-yellow silk. Even the Mascot Moth has changed the colour of her dainty drapery and fluttering wings, and looks more mysterious than ever in faint pink gauze. Miss Dora Devant gives her thought-reading experiments in a long black robe, and Miss Cassie Bruce shows, in a peach-coloured evening dress, that a strictly up-to-date fashionable frock can still be as pretty as a picture.

The monthly committee meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held on Wednesday next at the York Hotel.

Mr. Lyndon Greenwood, who was recently assistant-manager under Mr. R. L. Adken, has now been made manager of the Islington Empire in succession to the latter gentleman.

Mr. Jack Woolf, the new manager of the Queen's, Poplar, will be pleased to see friends and artists at Wonderland any Sunday after 6 p.m.

The anniversary number of *The New York Clipper*—a fine example of the printer's art—contains a page of portraits of the principals of the American music-publishing houses, and includes likenesses of Mr. David Day and Mr. Fred Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Labola (Rose Cabani) sailed for Australia on Friday morning by the s.s. Omrah to fulfil an engagement with Mr. Harry Richards. They will be away for about six months, and send greetings to all friends. The engagement was booked by the energetic Pacey and Reeves.

Miss Jessie Albini has acquired for early production a smart and catchy number, entitled "Now She's a Goddess of Fortune," which is from the joint pens of Messrs. Bert M. Megson and Illingworth Moorwood.

Miss Daisy Dormer, aptly described by Mr. Oswald Stoll as the daintiest of coon impersonators, has been suffering from a severe cold, and has not been able to appear at the Palace or Metropolitan this week. She has now recovered, and opens at both places on Monday with her latest sucess, "I Want a Girl," by George Collins and Edgar Bateman. The song is published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Barrett and Knowles were presented at the termination of their successful pantomime engagement at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, last Friday, with a full complement of golf requisites by the Glasgow Rangers F.C. and a few private friends.

Some remarkably clear and interesting pictures are being exhibited on the Palace bioscope, illustrating winter sports at Adelboden, Switzerland. Every form of out-door recreation obtainable in a Swiss mountain resort during winter is shown, including ski-ing, tobogganing, curling, and skating, the last-named sport lending itself to a very exciting game of musical chairs on the ice, in which several dozens of English girls and young men are engaged. In consequence of the great popularity of Miss Millie Legarde's song, "How'd you like to spoon with me?" she has been specially re-engaged for the coming week.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who has been suffering from a severe cold, was compelled to cancel her engagements both at the Metropolitan and at Ealing this week by the orders of her medical adviser. The popular American soprano has for some time been suffering from the strain imposed upon her by her continuous engagements, and it is probable that in the near future she will follow out the suggestion of her doctor, and take a short sea voyage to the Canary Islands in order to completely recruit her health.

Dolly and Madge McCalla, who recently made a success as the Babes at the Camden Theatre, are winning favour nightly at the Camberwell Palace with "Carrie from Camden Town," and "The Bamboo Bungalow," both published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

Mr. Tom Pacey offers his handsome motor-car for sale. It is an eleven horse-power Clement, with Tonneau body, is upholstered in white leather, with Mechlin tyres, and seats five. It has been specially built, and the only reason for selling it is that the owner has bought a four-cylinder of the same make. The price is £200.

Miss Dolly Harmer has been deputising with great success at the Tivoli both for Little Tich and Miss Jessie Preston.

We regret to announce that Mr. Walter Groves, the well-known comedian, died at Blackpool on Sunday at the age of forty-one years, after an illness which seized him shortly before Christmas. For many years Mr. Groves has played principal comedy parts in pantomime all over the Kingdom. He was engaged with Mr. Robert Courtneidge at the Grand Theatre at Glasgow last Christmas, and it was in consequence of his indisposition at the time that he visited Blackpool with the hope of benefiting by the change. But he unfortunately became worse, and hæmorrhage of the lungs setting in, he passed peacefully away on Sunday evening. At one time Mr. Groves achieved considerable success with a small sketch, *Artful Jim*, with which he toured the provinces, and among other comedies in which he played were *The Artist's Model* and *A Night Out*. He was also the original Sergeant Lightning in the popular music-hall sketch *His Majesty's Guests*. He was a native of Manchester, and leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss. The funeral took place at Brooklands Cemetery on Thursday.

The annual Charity Carnival, now quite an institution in Sunderland, was held on the 28th ult. The venue this year was again the Avenue Theatre, kindly granted by Mr. Chas. E. Machin, who has been a warm supporter of this cause since its inception. During the morning a band paraded the principal streets of the borough, and collecting boxes added materially to the funds. At the matinée held in the theatre, the members of the companies engaged at various theatres and halls in the adjoining towns of Newcastle and South Shields, as well as those from the local "houses," brought up the number to close upon forty "turns." The audience was a large and highly-appreciative one, and the whole of the amount realised, without any deduction, goes to the fund. It is hoped that this year's total will not fall far short of that of former years, during which period the promoters have succeeded in raising no less a sum than £1700 for local and theatrical charities.

As an incentive for emulation prizes were offered to the ladies who assisted as vendors and collectors, the principal presents being awarded as follows:—Outside collectors.—First prize, a fine white fur stole, Mrs. Hemingway (wife of the manager of the Theatre Royal); second prize, silver photograph frame, Mrs. Elliott (wife of Mr. "Billy" Billy Elliott, *Cinderella* Co.). Inside collectors, &c.—First prize, a travelling clock, Miss M. Rees (principal boy *Cinderella* Co.); second prize, a gold bangle bracelet, Mrs. Hemingway. Book collectors.—First prize, a dressing case, Miss Meredith (*Cinderella* Co.); second prize, hand bag, Miss Mitchell (*Cinderella* Co.).

Mr. Bert Harrow ("That's Me"), who is playing the principal comedy part (Simple Simon) with Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth's *Little Red Riding Hood*, terminates a most successful run of eleven weeks to-day.—George Hyam and Nellie Rose have just concluded a successful pantomime engagement as principal comedian and Princess with the Marvellous Pardoe's *Cinderella*. They are re-engaged.—Owing to the success of Mr. D'Arcy Clayton's "Gipsies" last week at the Bournemouth Winter Gardens, where they drew crowded houses, Mr. Dan Godfrey has booked them for two return weeks early next year.—Mr. Syd Herman, the popular Hebrew comedian, has just secured a good number in "Casey's Wedding Night," a Hebrew song.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

After a postponement of a week or two Mr. Alfred Butt produced at the Palace on Monday the musical comedietta by Edward Ferris, entitled

"MADAME LINGERIE."

Sir Edward Broke .....MR. FRED EASTMAN
Billie .....MR. CYRIL KINGSLEY
Nathaniel Gluckenstein ....MR. HARRY GODFREY
Lady Broke .....MISS VIOLET LORAINE

It forms a bright and cheery addition to a programme of which the main feature is comedy, and in the way of mounting we have seen on the variety stage nothing more complete and up to date than Mme. Lingerie's show-room, which is tenanted by prettily-dressed customers and show-room girls. The book is from the pen of Mr. Edward Ferris, whose lyrics are neatly written. The anonymous composer is also responsible for some melodious numbers. The lady of the title, who belongs to society, has gone into business as a costumier, the reason of this step being possibly that she is separated from her husband, Sir Edward Broke, who makes his appearance at his wife's establishment as an unrecognisable motorist and in other disguises. Lady Broke, or Mme. Lingerie, is apparently quite content to accept the marked attentions of her cousin Billie without troubling herself about Sir Edward; but the advent of a broker's man promises unpleasant proceedings, from which she is saved by Sir Edward's announcement that he has been left a large fortune by a relative in America. Miss Violet Loraine, who made such a hit in the Palace *revue*, has in Lady Broke a part that exactly suits her capabilities. She carries herself with a distinguished air, is smart in her acting, and sings with considerable archness and expression. Miss Loraine models her style on the best lady exponents of musical comedy, and wins admiration by her charm and cleverness. She has a capital number in "Don't tell me," the lines of which are animated by sly humour, and she scores also in "The smartest girl in town." Her success in the duet, "You're just too sweet," is shared by Mr. Cyril Kingsley, who displays cultivation and a sympathetic voice in the part of Billie. The opportunities of Nathaniel Gluckenstein, the broker's man, a part that is effectively played by Mr. Harry Godfrey, might be increased. Mr. Fred Eastman, a humorous and resourceful comedian, has a topical song that should become the hit of the production, and makes the most of his chances. The dresses are as pretty as their wearers, and that is saying a great deal. Mr. Butt may be congratulated on the production, which increases in favour nightly. The choruses go extremely well under the direction of Mr. Herman Finck, whose orchestra does complete justice to the music.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who came so rapidly to the front as a humorist in "The Scene-Shifter's Lament," has returned to the Palace with a new monologue, entitled "The Labour M.P." This should work up into a great success when elaborated with a few more amusing gags. A sketch which has come to stay in London is *The Would-be Actors*, which was fully described in our columns last week. Miss Lilian Rosebery and Mr. Carter Livesey, the one as a melodramatic heroine and the other as a Yorkshire stage-manager, are intensely funny, and they receive excellent support from Mr. Albert Mason, who cuts a comical figure as the extremely inoffensive and mild-mannered villain. Mr. G. H. Chirgwin's engagement has been lengthened, much to the delight of Palace patrons, with whom he is an immense favourite. Mr. Johnny Fuller as the cat on the wire astonishes by his agility in the early portion of the evening; Estellita is a young and attractive Spanish dancer, who follows in the footsteps of La Tortajada, Guerrero, and other Iberian performers; Mr. Arthur Prince is still *facile princeps* in the technique of the ventriloquial art; and Mr. J. P. Ling is an entertainer possessing considerable comic ability, which is shown in his imitation of an inebriated amateur reciting Longfellow's "The Wreck of the Hesperus"; and Mr. Michael Braham opens the programme with his performing dog. We have recently fully commented on Miss Millie Legarde's success in the American song, "Woudn't you like to spoon with me?" Mr. Herman Finck's fine orchestra and the Biograph are other attractions in an excellent programme.

THE LYCEUM.

One of the best items in the current programme at the Lyceum is Mr. Frank Dix's new farce, entitled *The Lady in Red*, which has already received the favourable verdict of provincial audiences. The dialogue is very bright and telling, while the complete absence of vulgarity is a pleasing feature of the new production. Indeed *The Lady in Red* is quite a model of the kind of piece most likely to find favour with a variety theatre audience, the fun being briskly sustained from beginning to end. The plot turns upon the nocturnal adventures of a married man, who gives as an excuse for returning home at breakfast-time that he lost his way in the fog. He also came to the assistance of a young lady, who was his companion in a cab ride. The thick fog, however, proved too much for the driver, and he, too, lost his way. The lady was dressed in red, but the gentleman failed to get a glimpse of her features. He narrates the adventures of the night to the page boy, William, who expresses a doubt whether "the missus" will believe the story. Presently, William announces the arrival of the lady in red, much to the consternation of her late companion in the cab ride; and fearing that his wife will make her appearance at any moment, the newcomer is compelled to beat a hasty retreat for the time being. Eventually, however, the ladies meet, and Dora greets Cora, the lady in red, most affectionately, for she is no other than her sister. But before this happens William makes himself ill by swallowing a quanity of benzine which he mistakes for whisky, and also suffers considerable damage at the hands of "the missus" for attempting, at the request of his master, to keep her a prisoner in her bedroom. The part of William is played by Mr. Tom Craven, who gives an exceedingly laughable embodiment of the unfortunate youth. His catch phrase, "I don't think I shall like this place," causes a laugh every time he gives utterance to it. Mr. Craven is well supported by Mr. Picton Roxborough as the much-worried husband; while the ladies' parts are also capitally played by two artists whose names do not appear on the programme.

Lovers of good music welcome the selection from the opera of *Faust*. Miss Dora Barrington, as Marguerite, makes excellent use of her charming soprano voice; Mr. Scarborough, who appears as Faust, is a good tenor vocalist; and Mr. G. A. Fox, baritone, is an imposing Mephistopheles. Ford and Barris, legmania dancer and organist, are the two lads who a few weeks ago were performing in the streets of London when they attracted the attention of Mr. Thomas Barrasford, who at once booked them for the principal halls in the United Kingdom. Ford is a very smart dancer indeed, and his performance evokes loud applause. In connection with this turn a street-dancing competition is being given at the Lyceum this week, the competitors including boys and girls as well as adult aspirants for prizes. Coram, a ventriloquist who has recently come to the front, continues to afford much amusement with his single figure, which is very cleverly worked. Mr. Harold Hughman is an American mimic, who scores with his imitations of a quarrel between a bull-dog and a terrier, the sawing of wood, the rooster, pouring out liquid from a bottle, &c. The New York Comedy Four win favour both as comedians and vocalists, and they are heartily recalled. The Eight Champions are a bevy of good-looking young ladies, who excel as dancers. Miss Lily Lena, comedienne, sings with much spirit and charm "A most particular girl," and another ditty; and Mr. Tom Collins, swell comedian, is well received. The special engagement of Diabutsu, the champion ju-jitsu wrestler, has aroused a considerable amount of excitement, and the competitions have been watched with keen interest. The extra turns have included a lady ballad vocalist, and Mr. Harry Brown, a negro comedian, whose ditties, "Nobody" and "I'm satisfied," are given with much humorous expression and oddity of manner. Pictures of the crimes of Paris, reproduced by Raymond's Bio-tableaux, is another interesting feature of the current bill, which also includes the name of Mr. Martin Conway, comedian.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Comedians of the front rank are to be found in Mr. J. C. Coe's attractive bill at the Hammersmith Palace this week, a decided laughing hit being made midway in the entertainment by the popular droll, Mr. Phil Ray. His ludicrous "make-up," accompanied by the usual expansive smile provoked merriment on his first appearance, and his quaintly-rendered song, "Only Seventeen," amused greatly. Many were the jokes and stories with which he entertained, especially appealing to the gentler sex apparently being his remarks concerning connubial bliss. Mr. Ray gives his auditors no time to ponder over his jests, which is, perhaps, occasionally as well, but rattles on in his own irresistible fashion; and his numerous absurd antics also add to the drollery of his turn. A verse on Mr. Winston Churchill and some humorous references to the Member for Battersea were also included in his laughter-compelling interlude, which was of such an acceptable nature that he was enthusiastically recalled at its conclusion. A reception of an equally complimentary description was that accorded Mr. Mike Whallen, "the comet of many tales," who in a quietly humorous way retailed several amusing anecdotes concerning his friend Maloney. The versatile comedian's extempore verses on members of the audience were also immensely popular, his complimentary allusion to a lady artist seated in the stalls on Monday evening being loudly cheered.

The George Power combination worked hard and were entirely successful in their efforts to create laughter in the farcical sketch *Matrimonial Bliss*; and the burlesque business of the Sivronis likewise proved most entertaining. The gentleman of the duo presented a most grotesque figure as a Scotsman, and indulged in a novel and clever dance that was loudly acclaimed. Operatic selections were pleasingly rendered by his lady partner, and added greatly to the success of the turn. Mr. Bert Brantford extracted all the possible humour from his two selections, "I didn't know what to say" and "I wouldn't mind changing his place," his quietly quaint style creating amusement; and Miss Leah Laurie, a smart little comedienne, scored her greatest success in "The Duchess of Camberwell Green," in which she impersonated a "donah" who has lately acquired wealth, and apparently means to enjoy herself. Miss Laurie also won approbation for her ditty "You're the girl I'm looking for," and her reception was decidedly cordial. Miss Amy Russell, handsomely costumed, contributed a cultured rendering of "Idle Dreams," and secured abundant applause for her singing of the popular and tuneful number, "Molly, I love you"; and the Kanes (Reggie and Cis) submitted a much-appreciated musical interlude.

Especially enjoyable was the entertainment submitted by Harry Reynolds' American Minstrel Quintette, a smart troupe of "niggers" that speedily became favourites. One of the darkies gave a pleasing rendering of a pretty ballad, "When the fields are white with daisies," and the "bones" of the combination created loud laughter for a really funny rendering of the song "My Brother Joe," the laughing chorus being decidedly infectious. Numerous conundrums and humorous remarks also afforded amusement to the audience, who were especially lavish in their appreciation of the harmonious rendering by the quintette of a medley of old-time coon and other songs. Altogether a most successful interlude, and a pleasing variation from the usual music-hall turn. *Dick Dare, M.P.*, the dramatic playlet of the bill, was admirably presented by the well-known combination headed by the accomplished actor Mr. Fred Maxwell and Miss Lois Du Cane, and gave evident pleasure to the audience; a clever troupe of dogs was introduced by Mme. Collard, who is to be warmly congratulated on the ready manner in which her canine pupils go through their performance—a novel and much-applauded one; and Mr. Fred Curran, comedian; the Garganis, comic gentlemen acrobats; Mr. Victor Travers, eccentric comedian; and the Edisonograph, showing all the latest pictures, also contributed to the enjoyment of the evening. Mr. J. H. Cleve directs an excellent orchestra; and Mr. Lewis Vincent, the courteous manager, ably assists his popular chief.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

The Andos, who figure conspicuously in this week's programme at this popular place of entertainment, are described as "happy little Japs from the land of the chrysanthemum and the Rising Sun." The troupe consists of three male performers, and two young girls, who take only a minor part in the act. One of the men ascends a ladder, which is so constructed that one of the poles and the rungs can be easily removed. On the single pole which is left standing, the performer accomplishes a remarkable bending feat, which elicits much applause. The same artist also performs a somewhat similar feat with one of the girls linked like a human sash round his body. Then preparations are made for the sensational achievement with which the turn concludes. A stout rope stretches from the stage to the gallery, and up this incline a strong, active member of the troupe slowly makes his way. He grips the rope with his toes, and carries only a Japanese parasol. Nor is there any net placed underneath the rope-walker. His arrival safe and sound in the gallery is greeted with a loud burst of applause. After a short pause, he makes a rapid descent to the stage, where the force of the impact is broken by his companions and one of the attendants.

The well-known Boisset Troupe are appearing here this week in the farcical sketch, entitled *The Bricklayers*, one of those remarkably successful productions which are always regarded as a strong feature of a variety programme. These festive working-men, whose stage mission is to play rather than to work, are able to keep the audience entertained all the time they are in occupation of the stage. The rapid succession of laughable incidents, from the moment that the curtain rises until the end of the sketch, prevents any suspicion of dullness; while the doings of the comic workmen engaged on the half-finished building seem to be funnier each time we witness the piece. The art of pantomime is very cleverly employed in *The Bricklayers*, and every member of the company assists loyally in the task of creating merriment. Another turn which has triumphantly stood the test of time is that of Rezene and Robini, whose droll performance never fails to evoke the laughter of an audience. One of the twain receives the buffets of his companion with the most perfect equanimity, and the frequent appeal to the audience, "Shall I?" being invariably answered in the affirmative, is the prelude to further chastisement, and more merriment on the part of the onlookers.

The juggler's art has an expert exponent in Mr. Walter Bellonini, whose neatness of execution is conspicuous throughout his performance. He juggles with a variety of articles, and has the valuable assistance of a youth, who watches his doings with an astonished air that is very comical. Mr. Bellonini also possesses a clever little dog, who knows his business thoroughly. As an effective conclusion to the turn, Mr. Bellonini and his assistant engage in a brisk encounter with broadswords for the possession of the Union Jack. Flinging away their steel weapons, they close, and, after another smart contest, the younger proves the conqueror. Amongst the comedians engaged is Mr. Harry Conlin, who makes his appearance as a dame, wearing a straw hat adorned with oranges, and holding a muff made out of a hollow loaf, which the lady explains the mice have been at. Mr. Conlin's funny patter has its intended effect. Miss Rosie Coleman wins favour as a decidedly smart sand-dancer; and Mr. Ernest Heathcote scores with a comic ditty, "The sun was shining brightly at the time." Mr. Frank Darwin makes a good impression as a ballad vocalist; and the same remark applies to Miss Gertrude Bradshaw, who possesses an excellent soprano voice. The pictures shown on the American Bioscope bring the programme to a conclusion. Mr. John Christie as acting-manager, and Mr. Kennedy Johnson as his assistant, continue to give careful attention to the front of the house. Mr. Walter Johnson is the conductor of the excellent orchestra at this palatial establishment.

CHELSEA PALACE.

An unerring eye has been brought to bear in the selection of the programme this week at Chelsea, where the efforts of Mr. Henri Gros to establish the palatial hall firmly in the favour of those who dwell within the bounds of that historic borough have been crowned with complete success. Full houses have been the rule, and the bountiful array of well-selected items has aroused unlimited enthusiasm. A fine rendering of the overture by the orchestra, led by the master hand of Mr. Angelo Asher, is followed by the captivating singing of Miss Florrie Bray, the burden of whose lay is the flirtations of "Mary on the Pier at Brighton." Different methods of saying "Good-bye," including those of a coster and of a mother to her son, are also portrayed, and Miss Bray's success is undeniable. Mr. Frank Cass causes laughter with "How long will you be, love?" a refrain which is fitted to many appropriate situations, and he makes a still more effective appeal to the audience with a song about "Sons of Harmony," which begins with a reference to "Ole King Cole," and merges into well-known Scotch and Irish airs. Mr. Cass sings well, and there is a pleasing variety about the turn, which is applauded uproariously.

The sketch *The Little Charwoman* introduces Miss Nannie Goldman as the cleaner of a theatre, who volunteers to take the place of the "star" of the musical comedy, who has fallen ill. In that character Miss Goldman impersonates a flower-girl, a German fräulein, and an evening paper boy with rare skill, singing and dancing to perfection. Able support is given by Mr. W. Hollies as the theatre manager, who shares in the various excerpts from the piece, and the sketch causes great laughter. A fascinating style and a cultured voice are possessed by Miss Madoline Rees, who pleases all with her song of "Ida, the Circus Rider," which is set to a lilting and characteristic melody. "When love comes knocking at the door," a pretty ballad, is also sung by Miss Rees, who puts so much tenderness and expression into it that the approval of the audience becomes enthusiastic. The Bolingers still pursue their artistic occupation of painting with rags a basket of flowers, a seascape with a yacht in full sail, and a windmill scene taking rapid shape under their deft hands. An encore is insisted upon, and the result appears in a cleverly-executed picture of the hero Nelson.

No more popular duettists exist in the music halls than the Leonards, who contrive to be ever fresh in voice, style, and business. The "entente cordiale," is celebrated in a duet in which they appear as a British naval officer and a gay Parisienne, the topical references securing continuous applause. The tuneful song "My Irish Ivy" gives the talented couple an opportunity to blend their voices most agreeably, and to furnish a dance the neatness, regularity, and attractiveness of which could not be surpassed. A sensation is caused by the whistling of Mr. Charles Mildare, who is able to bring the mellifluous notes of the nightingale realistically to the ear. The thrush is also closely copied, and the imitation of a parrot is a source of great merriment. Undeniable recalls are lavished upon the clever silfleur, who in response gives a solo on the ocarina, the instrument continuing to play regardless of the fact that it is withdrawn from the lips. The Follies furnish their fanciful entertainment, which has already gained the gracious approval of the King and Queen, and now wins the applause of Chelsea. Mr. H. G. Pelissier, who heads the troupe, has some neat topical hits in the song "What a very great improvement that would be!" and a clever piece descriptive of a burlesque love tragedy is played by another of the comedians at the piano. The singing by the contralto of "I want somebody to love me" is thoroughly appreciated, and the rendering of a sentimental duet by the tenor and soprano is also well enjoyed. An effective conclusion is supplied by the travesty of a Wagnerian opera, in which the exertions of the troupe cause unrestrained mirth. Mr. Tom Edwards, who conducts a ventriloquial entertainment with his newsboy Curly, is also in the bill. All will rejoice to learn that Mr. Edward Swanborough, the esteemed manager, who has had a serious illness, is well on the road to recovery. Meanwhile the best interests of the hall are looked after by the acting-manager, Mr. J. Norman Berlin.

THE RICHMOND THEATRE.

The pretty theatre here maintains its reputation for wholesome variety fare, and is receiving quite a full share of patronage. This week special mention is due to the Mozondas, a clever couple, who indulge in songs dealing with money, golf, and other vagaries. The acrobatic feats of the male member are clever, and the combination is one calling for especial mention. A breezy comedian is Mr. Jack Heath, his ditty bearing the refrain "Send 'em along to me" being very amusing. He is received with every show of favour, and creates an excellent impression. Unique, original, and excellent are the imitations of Mr. Wilson Hallett, his stories (he is a ready raconteur) being hugely appreciated; and his "Children at Home" is, in its way, a gem. The prettiest item of his performance is his interpretation of "Daddy," as rendered by the little ones, which is vociferously re-demanded. A dashing principal boy is Miss Daisy Silcott, who sings firstly of "Love" from a humorous point, and then of "Woman"; both selections win great favour, and a word may be added on the excellent way she "dressed" both excerpts. The Eastern magician, Ariff Hemet—all the way from Turkey—amazed the audience with some sleight-of-hand tricks. Mr. Bob Dare and Miss Molly Malvern appear in a sketch, entitled *May and December; or, Marrying for Money*, all the fun it was possible to extract being got out of it by this clever couple, whose final dance was the hit of the piece. Another excellent and eccentric top-boot dancer—Mr. Arthur Stacey—promptly establishes himself as a favourite, and well merits the applause showered on his efforts. *Casey's Court*, a queer, dramatic pot-pourri, gives opportunity for a crowd of juveniles to display their talents. A typical London court, with its conglomeration of gutter children, have caught on the "professional" fever, and, led by Dame Cassidy, they play, sing, dance, conjure, and fool around generally. The little ones are very clever, and the interlude is vastly amusing. Vernon's Bioscope is a great favourite here. "The Would-be Millionaire's Dream" being distinctly funny. A really admirable orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Norfolk Megone, contribute selections, *The Prince of Pilsen* and *With Might and Main*, both nicely done. Mr. K. Draco, the new business-manager in front of the house, is making many friends by his courtesy to everyone concerned.

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicolls and company create a mild sensation with their episode entitled *The Battle of the Belles*. Kendal Groat is ably portrayed by Mr. Fred Moule, and Mr. C. Robinson gives an excellent account of himself as Hector Rodney. As Kendal Groat Miss Madge Trevelyan proves herself a capable actress; Miss Ada Lucelle as the heroine Lawrie Linden is successful; Mr. E. D. Nicolls and Miss Ada Frank are responsible for the comedy element; Mr. Arthur Elvey, rightly described as the up-to-date tipster, has some good songs. In his second item he is seen as a turf tipster, giving selections nightly which are supplied by special wire from Mr. R. S. Sievier, the well-known proprietor of a sporting journal. Mr. Elvey is to be complimented on the success he attains.

Miss Dorothy Veld is a dainty little comedienne, and her efforts as vocalist and danseuse are well appreciated. The Sivronis are an amusing comedy duo, the facial contortions of the male partner creating roars of laughter. The Hoxtonites are severe critics of coster character, and they do not fail to recognise the ability of Mr. Will Bacchus, whose impersonations are most natural. Miss Daisy Pearl is a pleasing serio, rendering "Molly, the jolly little lady" in great style, the gallery boys exercising their vocal powers on the chorus. The Guyons appear in their musical dramatic episode *His One Great Sin*, illustrating the curse and unhappiness caused by intoxication.

Fresh from his pantomime triumphs as Dame at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes Mr. Will Johnson. He is indeed humorous, his song "I know why" being intensely funny, and he is recalled again and again. Leo Lester presents a good pantomime sketch entitled *Sports*, in which a troupe of well-trained dogs are made up as various animals, and go through some clever tricks, reflecting great credit on their trainer. Occupying a star position are Mr. Ernest Leicester and company in *The V.C.*, by Sutton Vane. Mr. Leicester has the assistance of a first-class company, and secures several curtain calls. Some good pictures are shown by Raymond's bio-tableaux, the selected ones on the night of our visit being "Teddy Brown's Brown Hat" and "A Fox Hunt in the Midlands." "Brave Boys" is the overture given by Mr. Carl Hamlin's model orchestra, "Freedom March" making a good interval selection. Mr. J. McCarthy has made himself a popular manager among the Britannia patrons.

BARNARD'S, GREENWICH.

Mr. Bert Dent, as usual, submits a well-selected and liberal programme—made more enjoyable by the unfailing courtesy of everyone connected with this popular establishment. First on the programme come Austin and Austin, who meet with warm recognition for their skill as chair pyramidists and manipulators. Monsieur Footitt, the equilibrist, follows, with a clever performance, which evokes loud applause. Next on the list is Miss Florence Vincent, a delightful ballad vocalist, who gives a very pleasant rendering of "Bid me good-bye" and "Sing me to sleep." Morley and Percival present a capital sketch, entitled *Turtledoves*, which deserves and obtains much appreciation. After a brilliantly rendered selection by the band, entitled "Casino," the Arundels appear in their successful boxing sketch, entitled *The Office Boy*. There is some really funny business, and this turn is very popular. Keen, Henry, and Hill, in *A Modern Marguerite*, are received with considerable favour; Amy Elvira wins loud applause for her bright and clever rendering of "Susie Anna's motor-car," "How nice," and "My Lady Molly." Gravetta and Parr are highly popular in their impersonations of celebrities, including Lord Kitchener, Souza, Lord Roberts, General Buller, and Queen Victoria. Their clay modelling, juggling, and ventriloquism prove their versatility.

Mr. George Courtney and company make a successful appearance in a sketch entitled *Texas*. Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston, who are prime favourites, are rewarded with loud laughter and prolonged applause for their clever contribution, entitled *Practical Joking*. An extra turn was provided on the night of our visit by Mr. Will Harvey, who was well received in "I've been looking in the pubs all day." Will Poluski, billed as "the latest London comic," is well applauded in his songs, entitled "Hi! hi! hi!" "Chinese Crackers," and "Chloe." Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, exhibiting some interesting and novel pictures, brings a capital programme to a successful close. The new musical director, Mr. W. Skerry (late of the Middlesex) is becoming a general favourite here.

MISS JULIE MACKAY
AT THE EMPIRE.

With a breeziness and freshness characteristic of America, an imposing and artistic stage presence, gesture of the most dramatic style, and a series of songs notable for their effectiveness and musical charm, Miss Julie Mackay, the popular vocalist, opened a week's engagement at the Empire Theatre last evening in the presence of an extremely large audience. It is some years since Miss Mackay made her first appearance in Dublin as a "principal boy" at the Theatre Royal in a very satisfying pantomime, and the cordial reception given her last night showed that the impression she made then was not of an ephemeral character, for immediately the number opposite her name on the programme appeared on the proscenium the audience burst into applause, which was not concluded until Miss Mackay had been several minutes before the footlights. Her opening song, "Ashamed of his poor old dad," a pathetic melody, dealing with a very human topic, was given with decided taste and feeling, and then she was heard with the old-time ring in a semi-ragtime setting, bearing the title, "I am going back to Baltimore." This was received with the happiest marks of approval, and, in response, she gave another dramatic composition, "Good-bye, my lady love," with increased success. The haunting and powerful chorus of this number was taken up by the audience with vigour, and at its close the clever artist was called before the curtain with such enthusiasm that she found it necessary to prolong her performance. There were lusty calls for some of the old songs, and with the old kindly desire to please, Miss Mackay gave her charming cosmopolitan study, "A little bit of orange peel," which, it will be recalled, was one of the features of her performance at the Theatre Royal. The enthusiasm of the audience knew no bounds at the close of this song, and as the result of frequent recalls she provided a smart composition to her own accompaniment on the piano, dealing with her efforts to teach a certain young "Willie." Again she was brought to the footlights, and in reply to calls from a large number of the audience, she gave in characteristic style an exquisite rendering of her great success, "I can't tell why I love you." Even then, after a most varied and entertaining performance, Miss Mackay was unable to get away, and it was not until she had made a brief speech of thanks that it was possible to lower the curtain. The complete performance of Miss Mackay was one more demonstration of her remarkable versatility, and it proved again that she has few equals on the halls as a lady entertainer. Her deep resonant contralto voice is as satisfactory as of old, and her artistic qualities place her very far ahead of the generality of performers in the same line of business.—*Dublin Evening Mail*, Tuesday, March 6, 1906.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, CARLISLE.

The new Palace Theatre of Varieties was formally opened on Monday, when the first public performance was given. This handsome and imposing building occupies a convenient and important site in Botchergate, which is one of the busiest and most densely populated parts of the city. It is built on an area of 1,500 square yards at a cost of £10,000, and the proprietors are the Carlisle Palace Theatre Company, Limited. The main entrance is through an arcade of shops, with which it is connected by a covered verandah, and the gallery and pit are approached from King-street. The interior presents a remarkably handsome and imposing appearance, and is modelled on the latest and most approved style of theatrical architecture. The shape and arrangements are excellent, and the admirably raked floors allow an uninterrupted view from every part of the building. The sitting accommodation is—circle 300, stalls 100, pit 600, and gallery 400, and four exits are provided for each part of the house. The staircases are entirely fireproof, and there is a plentiful supply of hydrants. The heating and ventilating systems are excellent, and enable the patrons to sit in comfort whatever the vagaries of the weather. Electric light is used throughout, and is supplied by two separate cables, eight miles of wires were used in the fitting, and the lighting is equal to 1,500 eight-candle power lamps.

The decorations and ornamentation are rich, elegant, and tasteful. The fine proscenium, which has an opening of 30ft., is flanked by two private boxes, which are artistically decorated and in complete harmony with the ceiling, balcony, and gallery fronts. These are composed of modelled plaster, the design is chaste and pretty, and as the prevailing colours are gold, cream, and pale blue, the general effect is particularly bright and attractive.

The stalls, grand circle, and circle are provided with tip-up seats of a most comfortable character, and were supplied by Messrs. Brookfields, of Stafford, who also seated the pit. The stage is 60ft. wide and 30ft. deep, and there are eight dressing-rooms, which are situated quite close to the stage in a semi-detached two-storeyed building; they are comfortably and conveniently fitted and well lit.

The building was designed by Messrs. Owen and Ward, the well-known theatrical architects of Birmingham, and most of the contracts for the construction and equipment were placed with local firms. Signor Pepi, of the Hippodrome, Blackpool, Barrow, and the Tivoli, is the managing-director, Mr. A. E. Nicholls, of Blackpool, has been appointed acting-manager, Mr. J. D. Askew is stage-manager, and Mr. Henry Hinchcliffe, I.R.A.M., conductor of the orchestra.

The opening of the Palace created an intense amount of interest; crowds collected in the vicinity of the entrances long before the advertised time for "Early doors," and by seven o'clock every part of the house was packed by an enthusiastic and expectant audience. The beautiful curtain, which represents a Maypole dance, and is a very fine piece of work, was greatly admired. Punctually to time the curtain rose and the stage was found to be occupied by the directors and officials of the Palace. Miss Georgina Leonard advanced to the footlights and sang a verse of the National Anthem, the audience upstanding and joining heartily in the refrain. After tremendous cheering, Mr. Councillor Long, one of the directors, addressing the audience, said he wished to extend to them a hearty welcome to a building which he hoped they would consider a credit to the city. The main portion of the work had been done by Carlisle tradesmen, and the architects were highly satisfied with the result. The directors were anxious to provide the best entertainment obtainable, and in securing the services of Signor Pepi as managing-director they had every hope that his experience and business ability would enable them to secure turns which would meet with the patronage and appreciation of the playgoing public of Carlisle.

Mr. Long then introduced Signor Pepi, who thanked the audience for their patronage, and said he was pleased to see so many ladies present.

Mr. Ward, the architect, also spoke. He thanked the contractors for the able and expeditious way in which they had carried out the work, and pointed out that though he had now been concerned in the building of twenty-five theatres in different parts of the country, the Palace, Carlisle, had been built more speedily than any other he had been connected with, having been completed in less than six months.

The programme was then proceeded with. Miss Marion Scott had the honour of opening the performance, and sang "Put a little bit away for a rainy day" in charming style. The hearty applause evoked was renewed when she was presented with a handsome bouquet. Mr. Barney Vox delighted his audience with his clever and amusing ventriloquial entertainment. Ike Scott and Son followed with their amusing nautical sketch, which they supplemented with their equally funny representation of a policeman's "daily day." Mr. Tom Stuart contributed an artistic and dramatic character-sketch of Wilfred Denver and Gaspard. Miss Georgina Leonard sang a couple of songs to everyone's satisfaction. Lieut. Albini's Mysterious Lady act proved interesting and entertaining; his amusing patter with his "committee of inspection" creating roars of laughter. The Bros. Redmond, smart and thoroughly up-to-date acrobatic comedians, made a big hit. The ever-popular Bella and Bijou, who topped the bill, gave three clever sketches, in each of which they scored heavily. Vernon's Bioscope completed a most interesting and well-varied programme. The house is run on the two-houses-a-night system at popular prices, and judging by the attendance and enthusiasm during the first week seems assured of complete success.

Among those present were Messrs. Tom Shaw, Ernest De Vere, Fred Higham, Will Oliver, C. Henderson, W. Sley, W. Edelsten, J. Fioni, T. Cavill, W. Wigglesworth, Charles Chapman, C. Stevens, and many friends from Manchester, Blackpool, Barrow, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. Signor Pepi received hundreds of wires wishing him every success from friends in all parts of the country.

"SCOTTISH HOMES AND PASTIMES."

At the Park Palace, Liverpool, on the 2nd inst., a spectacle, entitled *Scottish Homes and Pastimes; or, New Year's Eve in the Highlands*, was produced for copyright purposes. The curtain rises upon a view of Loch Lomond by moonlight, where a party of revellers are enjoying themselves, and indulging in their time-honoured songs and dances. The proceedings start with a vigorous rendering of the Highland fling by three open championship winners of Scotland, whose efforts were deservedly applauded; then in rapid succession followed solos, a torch-light reel, choruses, Scotch sword-dancing, &c., the whole performance lasting about twenty minutes. There were twelve artists engaged, all of whom looked well in their picturesque attire, while their work was most creditably performed. Included in the vocal numbers were "Robin Adair," with voice accompaniment, "Annie Laurie" (a capital quintet), &c., the principal artists being Miss Blanche De Verne (soprano), Mr. F. W. Adlington (tenor), Mr. W. Horton (baritone), Mr. P. A. Taylor (basso), and Mr. J. Bree (basso); while the dancers were the Argyle Troupe and Miss Lillian Victoria. The spectacle is certainly something out of the ordinary, and should prove an acceptable item in any variety programme. Mr. James Marks, the manager of the Park Palace, was the producer.

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Belfast Theatrical Charities (per Fred W. Warden)	400
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Dr. Walford Bodie	100
Wm. Morton	63
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannering	25
Johnny Holland	21
P. Madden	21
G. H. Chirgwin	21
Charles Weldon	20
Nellie Wilson	10½
Bros. Webb	10
Andie Caine	3
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1
Rozel	1
Nellie Nora	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	2½
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Givani Cristie	1	Jeane Priver	2
Geo. Vickery	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Erna Harrison	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Mina Fisher	1
Will Collins	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Danl. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charlee Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydora, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	½
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlyn	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Collected by Mr. James Brady, 9s.

Ernest Ball	1	J. Woods	1
Ethel Dunford	1	M. Anderson	1
"Zaid"	1	Sam Jones	1
E. W. Manning	1	James Brady	1
D. J. Banks	1		

Collected by Miss Maud Mortimer, 34s.

G. Norton	1	Alf. Bishop	1
W. J. Churchill	5	W. H. J.	1
H. Calver	1	Billy Closs	1
Bert Burnell	1	A Friend	1
Billy Barlow	1	James Chippendale	1
J. H. Whittaker	2	L. C.	1
Jack Davenport	5	Frederick Ross	1
Walter Gillman	1	Maude Mortimer	5
Boris Fridkin	5		

Collected by Barrett and Knowles, 25s.

George F. Ide	1	Madge Sinclair	1
Harry Barrett	1	Louie Mavis	1
Jack Knowles	1	Malcolm Scott	1
José Collins	1	J. P. Wilson	1
Birdie Sutherland	1	K. A. Hutchison	1
Alice Russon	1	Bob Potter	1
Paul Knox	1	W. B. Barratt	1
Harry Laudy	1	Arthur Sutcliffe	1
Bessie Featherstone	1	Billy Ireland	1
Syd May	1	Uncle Scott	1
Alice Belmore	1	P. C. Murray	1
Dorothy Ide	1	Max Rose	1
Jeanie Christoe	1		

Collected by Mr. Charles Beanland, 22s. 6d.

Chas. Beanland	1	Harry Tomlinson	1
Anon	1	Henris	1
Boys	1	Mrs. Fred Cary	1
G. Cerney	1	E. S. Salambo	1
Belmonts	2	C. M. J.	1
F. Armstrong	1	Harry Du Gros	1
E. Korrie	1	Eddie Stidder	1
A Friend	1½	Tom Bonnetti	1
J. Zedora	1	Gus Rickard	1
J. C. Skelsey	2	Harry Trevor	1

Collected by Ernie Mayne, Esq., 9s.

Ernie Mayne	1	Daisy Dormer	1
St. John Madley	1	Lina Vercli	1
Geo. Formby	1	Robert Pender	1
Drew and Alders	2	Maggie Pender	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, £1 17s.

Bob Selvidge	2½	Barney Dixon	2
Fred Fowler	2½	Mrs. Selvidge	1
Martin Conway	1	Frank Gee	1
Joe Waldron	1	Will Gee	1
B. Nicholls	1	Mrs. Martin Conway	1
F. Borland	1	Fox	1
Harry Dent	1	Mr. Clemart	1
Fanny Harris	1	Mr. Charles Weldon	1
Miss Walker	1	Baby Conlin	1
John Tiller	1	Griff	1
John L. Tiller	1	Summerton	1
Mrs. Conlin	1	Juno Salmo	1
F. W. Balchin	1	Bessie Cohen	1
Mrs. Balchin	1	Harrogate Friend	1
Harry Conlin	1	Sidney Bacon	1
Carlton	1	Harry Elliston	2

Collected by Harris and Worth, 15s.

Harris and Worth	2	Mabel Higson	1
Chas. Russell	1	M. Mamie Iris	1
Billy Keene	1	Syd Dooley	1
Fred Dry	1	George Coopers	1
Will Letters	1	Carrie Mack	1
Johnny Worman	1	Les B. Americaines	1
Mr. Rutt	1	W. J. Williams	1

Collected by Mr. T. C. Callaghan, 10s.

T. C. Callaghan	2	Mike Cray	1
W. Dane	1	Griff	1
J. Waldron	1	Alpha	1
A. H.	1	Florrie St. Clair	2

Collected by Mr. Ernest Shand, £1 2s.

K. Vesey	1	P. Davies	1
Ruby Forbes	1	Gladys Dare	1
Meg Hampton	1	L. Kinross	1
Ethel Dunbar	1	M. Mollov	1
Enid Errol	1	Alexandre	1
H. C. B.	1	N. E.	1
Brabourne	1	Hughes	1
Herbert	1	Ernest Shand	1
T. W. Wood	1	Ditto	1
A. Linton	1	La Même	1
Bee Duppa	1	Idem	1

Collected by Sandford and Lyons, 24s.

Neil Kenyon	1	Ted Fields	1
Harry Zietz	1	Morny Cash	1
Albert Le Fre	1	Mrs. Morny Cash	1
Lil Hawthorne	1	Madge Daly	1
Geo. McNally	1	John Worman	1
John McNally	1	Tom E. Gilbey	1
Arthur Haytor	1	Dave Poole	1
Colin Coop	1	Chas. Parker	1
E. T. S.	1	Vivian Munro	1
Geo. Miller	1	Willie Edelsten	1
Dave Miller	1	Geo. Abel	1
Mr. Smithers, M.B.C.	1	Will Letters	1

Collected by Mr. Frank Dunlop, 20s.

Mdlle. De Rose	2½	Frank Dunlop	2½
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Fanny Hartland	2½
Dick Thomas	1	Houpla	1
Jack Kershaw	1	Steve Cooke	1
Syd Benson	1	Geo. Burton	1
Geo. Hecla	1	Miss Adele Roze	1
Rose Parreyer	1	Miss Zenapana	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, Esq., 14s.

Fred Herbert	1	C. W. Porter	1
R. Millett	1	Roma and Romani	1
Hughes and Elliott	1	The Rubens	1
T. E. Dunville	1	Hanvarr	2
Jim Howard	1	Anna Lee	2
Ronald Bayne	1	Gus Dallon	1

Collected by Mr. Chas. Clifford, 8s.

Charles Clifford	1	Kate Moffat	1
George Essmann	1	T. Hulbert	1
Oldbury Brough	1	H. J.	1
Graham Moffat	1	Georgie Butler	1

Collected by Swan and Vesta, 5s.

Swan and Vesta	1	Oscard Armino	1
Primavesi	1	Charles Danton	1
Fred Wood	1		

Collected by the Danbys, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 25s.

Kioto	5	Peter Thompson	5
The Danbys	5	Wallace Childs	1
Bill Bill	1	William Attfield	1
Geo. Collins	1	George E. Mudd	1
Pink Pyjamas	1	Fred Danvers	1
Anon	1	Billy Pakeman	1
J. Templar Ellis	1		

Collected by the Bowery Boys, Grand Theatre, Leeds, 25s. 6d.

Bowery Boys	5	Fred Cowman	1
Harry Conlin	1	Alf Howard	1
Fred E. Terry	1	G. H. Elliott	1
Fred Fowler	1	J. W. Rowley	5
Carlton	2½	Fred W. Balchin	1
Rose and Calvert	1	Hilda Jacobsen	5

Collected by Miss Nellie Wallace, 25s.

Bert Williams	1	W. F. Munroe	1
Bert Woodward	1	Emma Don	1
Arthur Danbys	1	Three Seabornes	1
Richardson Taylor	1	Kate Lynd	1
Nuttall Cross	1	C. Stewart	1
George Abel	1	Norton Greenop	1
James Stewart	1	W. H. Liddy	1
Chas. Dixon	1	Nellie Wallace	10

Collected by Miss Maud Beaumont, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 16s.

Kioto	5	Mr. Peter Thompson	5
Geo. Collins	1	Mr. J. W. Childs	1
Mr. Liddy	1	Miss Maud Beaumont	2
Anon	1		

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, 6s.

Geo. Rapley	2	Rosie Archer	1
Woolmer Young	1	Clyo and Rochelle	1
Macdonald Trio	1		

Collected by The Clevelands, 23s.

F. Cleveland	1	J. Sary	1
Mrs. Cleveland	1	A. Knight	1
A. Silbon	1	J. D. Hunter	1
Dale and O'Malley	1	Dave Bentley	1
D. Tubb	1	Fred C. Dew	1
H. Vivian Fisher	1	F. B. Farrant	1
Florrie Cleveland	1	R. Whiteley	1
J. Wood	1	B. De Vere	1
Tom Branson	1	Harry Weldon	1
C. Carey	1	Minnie Duncan	1
W. E. Urquhart	1	Arthur E. Godfrey	1
H. Bauerman	1		

Collected by Mr. Imro Fox, 17s.

Max Copland	1	Mr. T. F. Dun	1
Arthur Dandoe	1	Harry Lauder	1
Imro Fox	1	Alice Russoll	1
Dan Crawley	1	J. C.	1
Paul Knox	1	Mrs. Imro Fox	1
Carl Hertz	1	Alfred Carpenter	1
Mrs. Carl Hertz	1	Conn and Conrad	1
Mr. J. Craig	1	C. C. Bartram	1
Mr. Frayser	1		

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CHAT WITH MISS BILLIE BARLOW.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Miss Billie Barlow, who has just terminated a highly successful pantomime engagement at the Sheffield Theatre Royal, is, as everybody knows, an artist whose singing of light and bright songs has given her quite a position by herself. She tells us that she is now going in more particularly for patter business in her performances. "It is a little out of my ordinary work," she says, "but I find that the public like it. All the same, I have heaps of new songs in preparation."

Where has this clever lady not been to, and what has she not seen? As an actress she made her first mark at the Gaiety, in *Adonis*, with Mr. H. E. Dixey, and, later, in *Monte Cristo*, at the same house, where she also played in *Dimity's Dilemma*, *Blue Ribbons*, and other pieces. One of her first pantomimes in England was *The Babes in the Wood* at the Newcastle Theatre Royal, at the termination of which production she went into the halls. She secured from Mr. Rice all the British rights in his song, "English, quite English, you know," which she sang with "Bubbles" at the Alhambra, Pavilion, Tivoli, and Oxford—four halls a night. Then Miss Barlow went to Australia to play, among other parts, the title-rôle in *Randolph the Reckless*, remaining in the Antipodes ten months, where the company had a very delightful time. Returning to England, she opened again at the London music-halls, these engagements being followed by her appearance in a Bradford Christmas production of *Aladdin*.

In 1900 Miss Barlow signed to go out to South Africa under the management of Mr. Edgar Hyman, to open in Johannesburg, but, in consequence of the war, it was arranged that the contract should be postponed, and she went right on to Australia, where she showed at Sydney under the management of Mr. Harry Rickards at the Tivoli Theatre. A little later she appeared in Melbourne in Mr. G. B. Phillips's pantomime

Photo by Beaufort.

MISS BILLIE BARLOW.

of *Puss in Boots*. Subsequently she paid a visit to South Africa, with the primary intention of seeing the battlefields, particularly those in the neighbourhood of Ladysmith. Then it occurred to her that she might as well sing a bit, and she accepted an offer made by Mr. Leonard Rayne to play in Pietermaritzburg for one night, and in Durban for two weeks. A series of exciting experiences followed. Miss Barlow collected together a few artists and formed a small company, with which she travelled throughout Zululand, doing variety performances and *petites comédies*, and visiting East London; Queenstown, where the bushmen in the exuberance of their spirits shot off the hands of the town-hall clock; to King Williamstown, where General Brabant and his famous Horse were quartered; to Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage, Graaf-Reinet, where the performances were held in a feather-shed; to Middelsburg, General French's headquarters; and so on to Rosmead Junction. At the latter place the entertainment was given in a goods shed to an audience composed of officers and "Tommies," the former being so glad at the prospect of a little diversion from warlike operations that they insisted on doubling the prices. The little party next travelled to Stormburg and to Burgersdorp, which was strongly held by the Boers at the commencement of hostilities.

"Naturally enough," says Miss Barlow, "the country then being under martial law, the conditions under which we worked were certainly not of the most comfortable order, but no one made a complaint. In fact, we rather enjoyed the novelty of that state of affairs. At one place where we stayed the men of the company were ordered to shoulder rifles, while the ladies acted as nurses," —duties which suited Miss Barlow admirably.

Upon her return from the South African tour she opened in London, and then had an engagement for the whole of the Moss and Thornton ground in the provinces, where she delighted her audiences by her rendering of "The way to sing a song," illustrating the various types of vocalists, such as the coon singer, the military songster, and the pathetic ballad-singer. Back again in town, she appeared as Dandini in the pantomime of *Cinderella* at the Crystal Palace.

Miss Barlow in her delightful Streatham home has a remarkable collection of South African mementoes, among them being most of her permits and passes obtained during the late war. The company had to get a permit if they wanted to have anything to eat or to drink or to travel from one place to another. Her curiosities include Zulu shields, sjamboks, assegais, knob-kerries, boomerangs, snakes' skins, and a beaded mouche, or dress of a Zulu lady, such dress being but a very slight addition to the lady's natural endowments. She is an enthusiastic photographer, and while in South Africa made good use of her camera. She is also very fond of cycling, motoring, and painting, and has carried out some very pretty ideas in the way of coloured photographs. She does not believe in idling time away, and is always to be seen engaged in some useful occupation. As a conversationalist, her various experiences in different continents would make an interesting volume, should she at any time in the future contemplate appearing in a different public capacity from that with which her name is at present so popular.

THE BARRING CLAUSE.

The following is the official text of the reply from the Moss' Empires and Associated Stoll Companies, to the Artists' Memorial from the Conference of Delegates elected from the various Music Hall Societies :—

Re Paragraph 1.

In your memorial the number of artists you no doubt justly claim to represent indicates that were we to sacrifice our business in the way you suggest, and yet preserve its existence, the end you propose—namely, the general benefit of the artists—would not be much furthered. To prove this, assume that we control thirty theatres, each taking ten turns per week, the same ten turns visiting one or other of all the houses. This involves the employment of 300 different turns by all these houses over a period of thirty weeks, and a further 300 turns over a period of twenty-two weeks. Assuming those 600 turns to average three artists each, 1800 in all, this leaves a balance of 8200 of the 10,000 memorialists to work either within or without our barred area in any one year. Suppose our barring clause were relaxed, what purpose would it serve in the way of benefiting the vast number not employed by us when it would practically liberate 1800 artists to oust the 8200 out of part of the possible employment now left open to them?

Re Paragraph 2.

That the position of the artists has suffered great deterioration within recent years is surely an unintentional misrepresentation of the facts. It must be notorious that never before could so many artists find so much employment on such a high scale of remuneration. It is further an obvious fact that the vast improvement in the structures used as variety theatres—an improvement effected by the expenditure of millions of pounds capital, obtained from the public through the confidence inspired by enterprising managers, whereby performances could be presented under altogether better conditions both for performers and patrons—has been far and away the most material cause of the increased popularity of music-hall entertainments to which you refer. And now that it has become the rule on the part of the public to expect a music hall or variety theatre to be a beautiful house, the innovation has lost the novelty that constituted a large part of its attractiveness, and it is the freshness and novelty that can be preserved for carefully selected artists by exclusiveness of their services that individual houses must depend upon to maintain a degree of popularity sufficient to afford ordinary business stability. If artists would continue to encourage originality and discourage deliberate imitation of one another's acts they would do more to preserve variety theatres as a remunerative field of employment than by pleading for the services of artists selected for advance booking to be rendered more common than existing barring conditions will allow.

Re Paragraph 3.

The increased number of performances has enabled more houses to open or continue open than would otherwise have been possible, and thereby has provided more engagements for artists. There is no ground here for a relaxation of barring conditions to increase the scope of employment of some artists and to just that extent limit the scope of employment of others.

Re Paragraph 4.

The stringency of the barring conditions of individual managements has been regulated by experience, and must become more rather than less severe as competition grows keener. Managements must either not book ahead at all, or, if they do, they must protect themselves both by preserving the freshness of particular artists in a particular locality and guarding themselves against making it easy for unfair competition at impossibly low prices of admission starting against them with the very artists whom they have on their books for later dates at salaries which their own successful business at reasonable prices of admission would allow them to pay with profit, but which become altogether too onerous when (1) the prices of admission have to be reduced to meet the competition; (2) the patronage of the locality is divided up between two houses; and (3) the services of the artists have been in parts at least temporarily played out. Just as managers book ahead to obtain the advantage of the barring clause, so artists should refrain from booking ahead who consider that they suffer from it.

Re Paragraph 5.

If it be true that cases of absolute want have been directly attributable to a barring clause, and to nothing else in the circumstances of those cases, this is to be deplored. But it is certain that there would be a far greater number of cases of absolute want if relaxation of the barring clause were allowed to reduce the comparatively prosperous properties to a state of precariousness.

As to the engagements which the artists in want are said to have had to refuse, those engagements probably went to unbarred artists in equal need of them.

Re Paragraph 6.

It is clear that existing contracts cannot be relaxed, and, as to future contracts, artists are as free as managers to enter into them or not, according to whether they are in truth a hardship or the reverse.

Re Paragraph 7.

"Undue interference with the rights of free labour" is a high-sounding phrase with no application whatever to the case in point; and we regretfully contend that the granting of your request would not only not have the effect you describe, but would seriously injure the enterprises placed in our charge, do an act of injustice to the profession, managers, and investors by placing every property in a condition of instability greater than at present, and inflict greater hardship than now exists for large numbers of artists by providing more engagements for the few and fewer engagements for the many.

Appended is the rejoinder of the Executive Committee of the Variety Artists' Federation to the above reply :—

28, Wellington-street, Strand, W.
March 6, 1906.

TO THE DIRECTORS, MOSS' EMPIRES, LTD.,
23, York Place, Edinburgh.

Dear Sirs,—The members of the Conference of Music Hall Societies (who are now the Executive Committee of the Variety Artists' Federation) having carefully considered your reply to their memorial asking for a limitation of the barring clause in music hall contracts, beg to offer the following observations in answer to your criticisms of the various paragraphs of that memorial :—

Re Paragraph 1.

First of all, we take exception to your statement in criticising Paragraph 1 of our memorial that we are suggesting you should "sacrifice your business" by agreeing to a reasonable limitation of the barring clause. What we have asked does not involve any such sacrifice on your part; it is simply that you should revert to methods in dealing with your artists which have worked so successfully in the evolution of the music halls from "pot-houses to palaces," and that you should not sacrifice us in your efforts to crush your trade rivals. We are fully conversant with the fact that the barring clause is directed not so much against artists as against your rival proprietors, and that the large Syndicates, by booking years ahead and then barring seek to make it impossible for the smaller proprietors to secure sufficiently attractive items to keep their halls open. Artists strongly object to being made to suffer in this contest between trade rivals in which they have no actual concern, although their sympathies are naturally in the direction of keeping as many halls open as possible. If the barring clause is successful in what is undoubtedly its ultimate object—viz., the ousting of the smaller proprietor—the result must be that in towns where three or four halls now exist providing work for thirty or forty turns per week there will be only one hall giving work for but ten turns.

With regard to your further observations on Paragraph 1, it is difficult to follow your reasoning, which appears to have but little bearing on the statement it professes to controvert—viz., that the barring clause in music hall contracts in its recently extended form is inflicting a great amount of hardship on performers. It is not difficult to prove our contention that the barring clause *does* inflict a great amount of hardship; the ever-increasing demands made on the relief funds of our various societies, and the reasons given for those demands, bear eloquent testimony to this fact. For instance, the closing of the smaller halls as a direct result of the barring clause, and as set forth in the preceding paragraph, must be not only a hardship, but a calamity to the general body of the profession. Again, say, an artist signs a contract to play at your halls at a date two years ahead. Unless he is fortunate enough to book towns which are outside the area covered by your contract (and that is by no means an easy thing to do now), he must remain idle all those intervening months. A week's work is offered him at Bolton in January, 1907, but he has a contract with you for Manchester some twelve, eighteen, or twenty months ahead, and he must not accept that week at Bolton. He *wants* work, he is *willing* to work, and he can *have* work; but because he holds that date with you all those months ahead he is not *allowed* to work, and must either prey on his fellows, starve, or seek the shelter of the workhouse. We say that such a contingency to be even possible is a terrible hardship and a rank injustice, and it has yet to be demonstrated that the law of this land will sanction such a gross interference with the right of a man to earn his own living and to provide sustenance for those dependent upon him.

Then surely it is an unintentional misrepresentation of facts when you assume to take your own figures with which we are not quite in agreement, that only 1800 artists are barred by you per annum. It has evidently escaped your notice that not only artists actually working at the moment on your tour are barred, but also those artists who hold contracts with you in very many cases for eighteen months and two years ahead. You are probably barring just as many artists who are off the tour *pro tem.* as those who are on it at the present moment. This means between 3,000 and 4,000, and leaves 6,000 or 7,000 to be accounted for, and not, as you state, "to work either within or without our barred area in any one year." We propose to account for these by pointing out another fact—viz., that the Moss' Empires, Limited, is *not* by a very long way the only syndicate applying the barring clause. The Adney Payne Syndicate, the Barrasford Tour, and the MacNaughten Tour, not to speak of other smaller tours, bar you because you bar them. If the same argument is applied to these other tours as we have applied to your own the 10,000 memorialists are easily accounted for, and it becomes patent that by far the greater proportion of them are periodically thrown out of work, through being under one bar or another.

We deny that the relaxation of the barring clause would result in the ousting of one section of the profession by the other section. There is not a performer, however small his salary, who is not convinced that his position would be improved by the reduction of the barring clause to fair limits.

Re Paragraph 2.

With respect to Paragraph 2, our contention that the position of the artist has suffered deterioration during recent years is not a misrepresentation, but an absolute fact. The operation of the barring clause has reduced the average artist's earning capacity at least one-third by practically putting an end to the system of working turns, and by preventing him accepting engagements when offered. If he is barred ten to twenty miles from the large centres, it is impossible for him to fill in all his dates. Proprietors who would willingly engage him have to send abroad for turns to fill their programmes, and the English artist stands idly by. Engagements which hitherto extended to six or eight weeks in London and two weeks in the provinces are now cut down to one week, and whereas a few years ago one performance per night and an occasional *matinée* was all that was required, now, with few exceptions, the twice-a-night system is established in all your halls, with one, two, or three *matinées* in addition. This means that we do a fortnight's work—often more—in a week, and, in most cases, *at the same salary as before*. Not only that, our expenses are increased. Dresses and properties are worn out twice as quickly; we have railway fares and baggage-men to pay every week, instead of alternate weeks; and our "freshness" and novelty is desiccated twice as quickly as of old. A point you do not criticise in the paragraph is, "they had to give the twelve, thirteen, fourteen, or fifteen performances for the same salary they received for six or seven hitherto." When you first instituted *matinées* in connection with the "twice-a-night" system, you paid for them. Your next contract called for one *matinée* free, and we understand your latest contracts include all *matinées* free, which means that at your discretion the artist shall give eighteen performances per week. With regard to remuneration, it may be true that a few big stars have been able to force their salaries up on account of their enormous drawing power, although the manager would not pay it if he was not sure he would recoup himself; but with regard to the lesser lights—and it is for them we speak chiefly—the tendency has been all the other way. With the exception of a few "carefully selected artists," we deny that the performers in general, under the existing barring clause, obtain more engagements or more remuneration than they did previously, and yet they are barred exactly in the same way as the "carefully selected artists," resulting—facts prove it—in their being out of work many weeks in the year.

Your refusal by inference to give the artists credit for the increased popularity of music hall entertainments is surely a little ungenerous; and with respect to your statement that "the improvement in the structure of variety theatres has been far and away the most material cause of that increased popularity," it is hardly necessary to argue that it is the performers on the stage who attract audiences week by week, for after a person has once visited a theatre to admire its construction he is hardly likely to repeat his visit for the same reason. So whilst we are grateful to you for the vast improvement in the structures, we cannot agree that that is the main factor in increasing the popularity of the music hall. A fact worth remembering is that among the millions of pounds capital you speak of a proportion is the hard-earned savings of the artists, who stand to lose it if the result of your granting our just requests should be what you would have us believe. And yet they are quite willing to take the risk with their eyes wide open. It is, we believe, a fact that the confidence of the shareholders at a recent meeting was hardly as enthusiastic as enterprising managers might desire. As you practically admit that the novelty of a beautiful house is but attractive for a short period, we come back to the artist, whom you claim must be "preserved" by the barring process to make him what we claim him to be —viz., the real reason of the popularity of the music hall.

We have suggested a six-months bar in the provinces and a three-months bar in London, which you insinuate would mean ruin to your enterprises if granted. Why, then, may we ask, if the "freshness" and novelty of an artist must be "preserved," how comes it that the *same* performers are often seen again at the *same* hall in London

formances has enabled more houses to open and keep open may be met by the argument that giving the public greater facilities to attend one theatre may have (and indeed has) had the effect of withdrawing patronage from and closing another theatre, thereby reducing the number of turns required in that particular neighbourhood. And what is the use of more houses opening, or continuing open, if the barring clause prevents artists from appearing in them?

Re Paragraph 4.

With regard to Paragraph 4, your statement that the stringency of the barring clause must become more, rather than less, severe has, we regret to see, the appearance of a threat. Booking ahead is undoubtedly the cause of the existence of the barring clause, and the fixed intention of killing competition which you term "unfair" is the cause of booking ahead. The artist would be better off if booking ahead were limited to six months, and the manager would benefit by the fact that artists would of necessity have to keep their acts fresh and up to date to secure engagements, whereas with two or three years booked ahead he may get lazy and stale, and yet the manager must pay him his salary all the same. And it is a fact that if a novelty comes along the manager has to put it on top of a heavy programme, probably leaving out some other artist who has been previously engaged, and who gets paid his salary for walking about. This fact cannot fail to interest shareholders. In Paragraph 2 we have shown the fallacy of your claim to preserving an artist's "freshness" by aid of the barring clause. Your advice to artists to refrain from booking ahead if they suffer from it is kind, but impossible so long as you and other managers insist upon booking ahead. Suppose an agent comes to you and wants an engagement for, say, Brown. Your offer him the tour for 1908. Brown refuses because it is too far ahead. He waits a year, and his agent applies to you again. You reply that he can have the tour for 1909. How, then, is Brown going to catch up with you? If he were not barred it would not matter, he could go elsewhere; but you will not let him.

Re Paragraph 5.

With reference to Paragraph 5, you state that it is certain that there would be a far greater number of cases of absolute want if relaxation of the barring clause were allowed to reduce the comparatively prosperous properties to a state of precariousness; but we would point out that if artists were afforded greater facilities for accepting work by a limitation of the barring clause there would of necessity be less distress, and we would direct your attention to the very significant fact that, when the barring clause was kept within reasonable limits, your business was better and your dividends greater than they are now the clause has been unfairly extended. If you doubt that the artist suffers through being barred, why, then, Clause 9 of your contract? which says:—

". . . and the artist's remuneration having been assessed . . . with the object of compensating the artist for any loss which the artist may suffer through being debarred from appearing during such periods in the said districts. . . ."

The pitiable part of this clause is that the remuneration, as you know, has not been assessed in 95 per cent of cases, and is the same as it has been for years; and so the artist has to sign, if he wants to work at all, what both you and he know to be absolutely untrue.

With reference to your remark that engagements which barred artists have to refuse probably go to unbarred artists in equal need of them, we would point out that it is but poor consolation to a starving man to know that the bread he so badly needs is being eaten by someone else.

Re Paragraph 6.

If, as you say, contracts cannot be relaxed, it must be remembered that there are many acts that the artists have done, and still do, for the managers which are not within the scope of their contracts. It will be only natural, then, for the artist to keep to the strict letter of the contract also. The artist is just as much a necessity to the manager as the manager is to the artist, and no manager, however enterprising, would be likely to retain the confidence of his shareholders if the artists accepted the advice tendered, and refrained from entering in future into contracts which in truth are indeed a hardship.

Re Paragraph 7.

We agree that "undue interference with the rights of free labour" is a high-sounding phrase. It was intended to be so. No doubt the sheriff in the Marie Kendall case had the same thought in his mind when he spoke of the contract as interfering with the "bread and butter" of the artist.

We contend that the granting of our request *would* have the effect we desire; that it would increase the prospects of the enterprise in your charge, which the shareholders would like to see; that it would mean better dividends for the shareholders of the Moss' Empires, Limited, as a tremendous amount of costly litigation would be avoided; that the injustice to the profession exists now; and that many managers are quite willing to accept our proposals.

In conclusion, we respectfully beg you to reconsider our request. Such a very important matter deserves something rather more than the casual treatment it has up to now received. At any rate, we desire to place it on record that the artists have tried by every means in their power to bring about an amelioration of their grievances by conciliatory means, and that the responsibility for any trouble that may ensue as a result of their efforts to free themselves from the incubus of the barring clause cannot with justice be laid against them.

Signed (on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Variety Artists' Federation),
W. H. MCCARTHY.

To the Directors, Moss' Empires, Limited,
23, York-place, Edinburgh.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In view of the difficulty of obtaining the concessions that have been applied for by the recent Music Hall Artists' Memorial *re* the barring clause (especially from Moss' Empires and Associated Stoll Companies), it appears to me that a very good solution of the whole question is this. Let the barring system be imposed according to the salary named in each agreement. Salaries up to a certain amount should not be restricted. After that, a sliding scale could easily be arrived at and agreed upon. The bigger the salary, the greater the stringency. Of course, a limit would have to be made. This idea appears to me to be one that would meet the wishes of both proprietor and artist, and would not fall so heavily on the smaller-salaried artist as at present. It could also be arranged to work fairly for the "stars" as well. This suggestion will, in all probability, be condemned by some; but the only thing I see against it is that artists will be able to form a fairly accurate idea of what each is getting. That may be so, but even that will have its advantages. Some (I'll say the minority) will then not be so guilty of "terminological inexactitudes" over salaries, an item so grossly exaggerated. However, I do not think that salaries are so much increased on account of barring as we are led to believe. For instance, does an artist who is worth, say, £50 to £60 or £70, receive a contract for £100 because he is barred for two years or more, as the case may be? I maintain he is paid £100 because he can draw that amount (and more) to the pay-box. No proprietor or manager is going to pay an artist £30 or £40 per week more than he is worth, simply because he "bars" him playing at rival establishments. I do not say there has never been such an instance; but just because I have not heard of one, neither do I know anyone that has heard of one, I do not say, "There is a doubt about it."

—Faithfully yours, FRED WOELLHAF
(of the Woellhafs).

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Your excellent leading article of the 3rd inst. is judicial and judicious. It pours oil on the waters. But is it exhaustive? Possibly it may tend towards better feeling betwixt artists and their employers; but how about the goose that lays the golden eggs? The public pays the piper, but does it call the tune? Who wants to see a sketch twice? Audiences, London audiences, remarkable as they are for good nature, endure what they can't cure. They know quite well that time costs money, that a bad sketch—good ones are so rare as to be out of the reckoning—is cheaper than two or more good turns. People won't come twice to the same sketch; and that feeling extends to the house where the sufferer has been. He keeps away, and so do his friends. For the silence of the sitter finds relief when he is among his friends. Everybody knows that multitudes of theatres and music halls are in excess of the really paying public want. But is that difficulty met by an entertainment cheap and nasty? No amount of indifferent variety from week to week will secure paying audiences. Years ago, I, for one, and many others were willing enough to take a five-shilling place, and sometimes we paid three half-crowns, more than once, to hear poor Dan Leno, especially when the other numbers had against them good names, paid for at their worth. But now, how is the competition met? Cliques of management rule the roast. The combine can do just what it cares to do. It won't pay the good artist. But it can't secure the paying audience. Well, as to artists. Those whose shows don't depend on English speaking are, the best of them, away on the Continent, where audiences appreciating art and beauty would resent the outrage of a sketch. And, now, just a word from the financial point of view. Who cares to buy music hall shares at prices low down, and on the down grade? And that's the way we look at it, for I am

A BROKER FOR MANY SHAREHOLDERS.

MR. W. F. FRAME will be the Scotch comedian at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, next season in pantomime. Mr. Frame has not been seen in pantomime for ten or eleven years.

AT the last meeting of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund Committee, it investigated thirty-two applications for relief, and granted assistance in thirty-one instances.

MISS KATIE LAWRENCE has been scoring during the week at the Palace, Camberwell, with a very amusing "chorus" song, entitled "Arthur," written and composed by Alf. J. Lawrance and Tom Mellor.

"FIREFLY" is the title of a charming new "chorus" song just published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, and is already being extensively asked for. Band parts and permissions can now be obtained of the publishers. It is written and composed by Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford.

THE latest addition to Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's "sixpenny pops" is G. H. Elliott's "Only Coon without a Gal," written and composed by Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford. Mr. David Day has also secured for publication two more of this popular artist's numbers, namely, "My Orange Gal" and "Caroo," by the same author-composer.

PORTSMOUTH COLISEUM.

Active preparations are now being made for the immediate erection of the Portsmouth Coliseum, in Greetham, Marylebone, and Sussex streets. The Portsmouth Corporation have approved the plans, which have been prepared by Messrs. Frank Matcham and Co., of 9, Warwick-court, Holborn, London, W.C., the well-known architects, who designed the London Coliseum, London Hippodrome, and a large number of successful theatres and music halls throughout the country. The Portsmouth Coliseum, as its name implies, is a colossal building, measuring no less than 225ft. deep by 116ft. in width, with frontages to three streets; whilst, by the formation of a private way at the back, the building will stand upon an island site. Full advantage has been taken of this almost unique situation to arrange the entrances and exits to accommodate the audiences at the two performances, which it is intended to give each evening, in such a way that the outgoing public do not clash with the incoming, which is a very important consideration, when the number of people to be dealt with is borne in mind.

The building fairly bristles with exits, there being no fewer than fifteen, giving a combined total of over 90ft. of available exit, which will enable the building to be cleared in from two to three minutes.

The theatre throughout will be fireproof, being constructed of steel and concrete. The galleries will be carried on the cantilever principle, which obviates the use of columns, and allows a clear and uninterrupted view of the stage from all parts.

The theatre will have two tiers, designed on entirely novel lines, embracing many new features, and it may be said to represent the "last word" in theatre-building.

The auditorium is 85ft. wide by 80ft. deep, and on the ground floor contains stalls and pit, the whole of these seats being of circular formation, so that each seat faces directly to the stage.

At the rear of the pit is a raised promenade, from which a full view of the stage can be obtained.

The main entrance vestibule is in Greetham-street, and is of spacious dimensions, and contains the pay offices for the stalls and circle, which are approached by wide stone staircases, richly carpeted, leading directly to the waiting-rooms, which are a special feature in the building, affording comfortable accommodation under cover, instead of the patrons having to line up in queue formation outside in cold and damp weather, creating an obstruction to the footways and thoroughfares around the theatre. These waiting-rooms, which will be most comfortably furnished and fitted with settees and chairs, are provided to every part of the house. An advance-booking office is also provided, by means of which seats can be booked and reserved at all times.

There is no doubt these innovations will go a long way to ensure the popularity of the new theatre.

The pit floor, instead of being on a general rake with the stalls floor, is to be raised, thus giving the occupants of this part of the house an improved sight, and at the same time securing the privacy of the stalls by making the division between the two more decided. This arrangement admits of a subway being formed, leading directly from the main front vestibule to the centre of the stalls, from which point all the seats can be readily reached. The seating of the theatre has received careful consideration from the architects. The stalls and circle will have richly upholstered, patent tip-up seats, which, when not in use, or are vacated, allow a free and unobstructed passage-way between the seats leading to the main gangways, which intersect the seating at regular intervals, so that any seat can be reached with ease. The pit and gallery seats will be upholstered, so that the acme of comfort is provided at reasonable prices.

The general scheme of decorations of the interior will be Oriental, of rich and elaborate design, artistically treated, and art paintings introduced into the ceilings and wall-panels. The drapery hangings and upholstering of the private boxes and the proscenium opening will be specially designed to correspond. The theatre will be illuminated by electric light, which will be worked into the decorations, so that the most brilliant effect is obtained.

Every possible precaution has been taken for the safety of the public. All the staircases, galleries, roof, floors, &c., are of concrete construction, and the walls throughout are of brick; and all the decorative work is of non-inflammable material.

The sanitary arrangements will be on the most approved principles, lavatories for both sexes being provided on all floors.

The building will be heated by means of low-pressure hot-water, through radiators, so that an equal temperature is obtained in all parts.

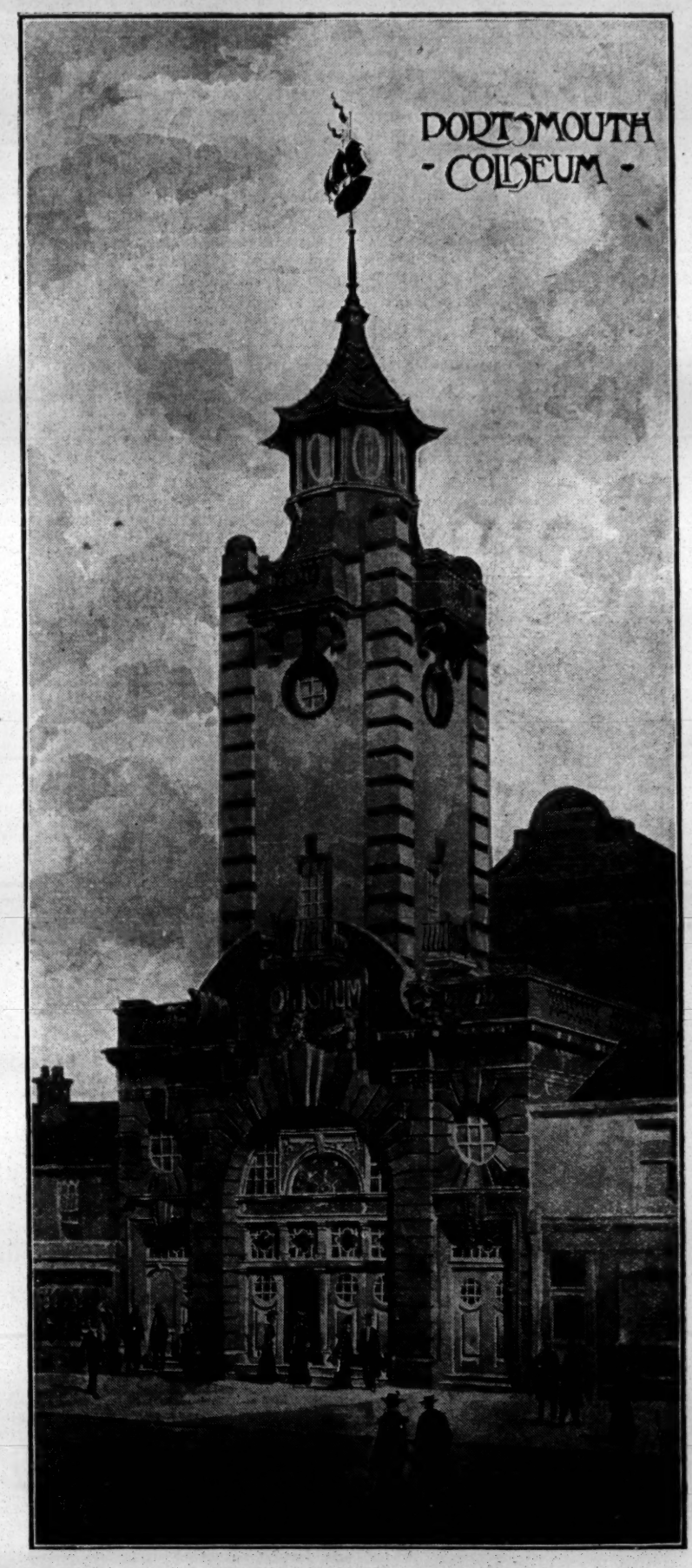
The ventilation has been fully considered, the foul air being carried out by extract flues and induced currents, and fresh air will be brought in by air ducts, and diffused.

Hydrant extracteurs are provided in accessible positions on all floors, both on the stage and in the auditorium.

The stage is separated from the auditorium by a double asbestos automatically-operated fireproof curtain, fitted to the proscenium opening, and arranged for lowering either from the fly, stage, or the stage-door.

The dressing-rooms form a complete and separate block at the side of the stage, from which they are cut off by a stout brick wall. All the dressing-rooms are fitted with tables, mirrors, hooks for hats and cloaks, carpeted and fitted most comfortably, and hot and cold water laid on to the lavatory-basins in each room.

The stage is 90ft. by 40ft., and will be fitted with all modern appliances for working the scenery, &c., and for obtaining the latest lighting effects.



THE PORTSMOUTH COLISEUM.

SKETCH PROSECUTION.

The vexed question of stage plays in music-halls has been revived again by the Theatrical Managers' Association, and on Saturday, at the Marylebone Police Court, Mr. Bodkin appeared on behalf of that body to prosecute the New Bedford Palace of Varieties, Limited, of 93 and 95, High-street, Camden Town, for unlawfully using their hall for the public performance of a stage play entitled *Old Lamps for New* on various dates, without the authority of letters patent, or the licence of either the Lord Chamberlain or the London County Council.

Mr. Bodkin referred to the strict regulations imposed on theatrical managers by the Lord Chamberlain, and said that in view of the considerable profits made by the illegal performance of stage plays in music halls, to the great detriment of theatres, his clients had determined to put a stop to it. Since November, 1903, there have been eleven prosecutions, all of which had been successful, so that it must be well known that the performances were illegal.

The play now in question was really *Aladdin* concealed under the name of *Old Lamps for New*, and only in January a conviction was secured at Hastings for the performance of the same play at the Hippodrome there. In spite of that, the play was produced at the Bedford twice each night for a week. The performance occupied an hour and five or ten minutes; there were seven scenes, and eight or nine speaking parts, and it consisted of a substantial theatrical performance in the nature of a pantomime. Mr. John Handford Ryley, an experienced actor who had been to see the piece, was present in Court, prepared to say that it was unquestionably a stage play. Counsel added that in previous prosecutions the maximum time occupied by the performance was thirty-five minutes.

Mr. Plowden said he thought the length of the piece made no difference in the offence.

Mr. Bodkin contended that it did, because in all these cases it had been pointed out that sixteen years ago a Parliamentary Committee recommended that music halls should be allowed to produce sketches not occupying more than forty minutes, and with not more than six principal performers. Yet the Music Hall Association had not taken any steps to effect a change in the law.

Mr. Plowden: I should have thought that the test was the success of the piece. Very often these long, laborious pantomimes produce ennui.

Mr. Walter Payne, for the defence, denied that the name of the play had been changed to conceal it, or that no attempt had been made to legislate. During the whole of last year, the Theatrical and Music Hall Associations were in communication, with the result that a Bill was drafted to carry out the points thought to have been agreed upon. Difficulties, however, arose, and the theatrical managers were asked for suggestions; but none were ever made, and the matter dropped. This piece, of course, formed only a part of the entertainment. As a matter of fact, if the Act were construed strictly, nine-tenths of the programme in every music hall in London would be found to offend against the law.

Mr. Plowden, in giving his decision, said the theatrical managers were perfectly justified in availing themselves of their rights under the statute if they thought they were unduly prejudiced. In this case it was a matter of aggravation that there had been eleven other prosecutions, and the defendants must have known that in putting this play on the stage, they rendered themselves liable to prosecution. He therefore fined the defendant £25 in all.

MISS ETHEL WALKER, the well-known society entertainer, now on tour with Mr. Albert Chevalier, went to Birmingham last Monday evening, and had an enthusiastic reception. Her topical verse anent Mr. Joseph Chamberlain fairly delighted the audience, and in addition to the applause evoked she was the recipient of two beautiful bouquets.

MR. F. WARDEN-REED and company have been presenting this week at the Hippodrome, Liverpool, *The Right Road*, for the first time in the Mersey city, and the production has met with a cordial reception. After finishing the Barrasford tour, Mr. Warden-Reed plays for one week at the London and Collins's, and then starts on the Macnaghten tour.

LATENT TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the various letters in your paper on "Latent Talent," and I should like to draw the attention of your readers to one important fact, and that is the question of "the turn" you may have the fortune or misfortune to get on a programme, and how it materially affects the discovery of latent talent. For instance, agent A goes to manager B, and says, "I've found a wonderful young comedian. His salary is very reasonable, and he is out next week; perhaps you can place him?" Manager B engages him on top of a big company, and puts him on first turn, expecting him to do well. When the rising comedian does *not* "pull the house down," he (manager B) writes to agent A, and says he doesn't think much of his idea of talent. Whereas, if he had given the said artist a legitimate chance, he would probably have done exceedingly well, and *might* from that very hour have become a star artist. You may remember some instances yourselves where the rearrangement of a programme discovered latent talent. I don't think any comedian, or even any "speaking act," can be expected to do really well, or do justice to his business, if put on as "first turn"; and that is the reason why a lot of really first-class artists remain undiscovered—because a great many turns go round week after week on the various tours, and always have the misfortune of being first or second turn. And once you get the name of being "all right for a first turn," your chance of improving your position monetarily or on the programme is very small indeed. Therefore, if managers paid a little more attention to the way they arranged their programmes, and occasionally gave the smaller turns a chance, then *they would find* (1) that their turns would *go* better, (2) their Palaces and Empires would *do* better, and it would very often lead to the discovery of "Latent Talent." FREDDIE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I myself am one of the younger members of the music hall profession, and have always been fairly successful in the provincial halls. Wishing to get a chance in London, I put my name down for an extra turn at a Thursday matinée at a certain variety hall in the East-end, where the Thursday matinée is worked chiefly by extra turns. I arrived there in good time, and waited and waited. During my wait the burly, pompous manager came up, and asked who I was. I told him. He said, "Oh, well, mine's a brandy-and-soda, and cigar," and away vanished my last shilling. Then I was pushed on in a front scene, and I started to warble about the woes of a family man, when judge of my surprise at seeing the curtain come down in front of me before I had a chance of showing my capabilities as a vocalist, dancer, and cod conjurer. This was my experience as an extra turn in a London music hall.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES ELTON.

March 5.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am the daughter of Jenny Russell and the late Dick Dunn, two old performers, whom no doubt some of your readers will well remember. I have been a music-hall performer since quite a little girl. As a child artist I fulfilled with every possible success engagements at the Trocadero, the Canterbury, Collins's, and all the principal halls, having worked with all the biggest star artists, including the late Geo. Leybourne, the Two Macs, Arthur Corney, the late Dan Leno, Baby Victoria (now Vesta Victoria).

After fulfilling my London engagements I went abroad for some years with my parents, working all the best establishments on the Continent. I am now back in England again. I have been to several agents and managers, but cannot possibly get a look in anywhere, as they say they do not know my act. My present show is far better than the act I worked years ago, and yet I cannot get anyone to represent and book my turn. I am forced to be idle and out of work week after week. The late Dan Leno highly complimented me on my act on several occasions, and I have performed before some of our most critical provincial audiences.—Yours faithfully,

MARION BOSANQUET
(Low Comedy Artist and Speciality Dancer).
25, Fairfax-road, Colchester.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have read with interest the letters *re* "Latent Talent," and would like to call your attention to a few of my own experiences. I may say I have been connected with different branches of the profession for over twenty years, and have had an act on the halls for fifteen years.

Just over two years ago I was advised to change the same to a comedy act, which I did, and produced it with pantomime in the provinces as a trial. The manager of the pantomime, after production, complimented me on the same, and asked me to keep it in for the remained of the tour, which I did with unbounded success. Since this time we have played a considerable number of halls, including Walham Green and Standard—the two halls in one week—and at each hall have made a big hit, especially at the Standard. Yet I cannot get engagements. The act has never failed in any hall yet played. I cannot get on the syndicates, although I have offered to take a week at a small salary as a trial, but have failed to get any answers to my letters. At the same time, I occasionally go to a hall where I see acts that are a disgrace to any hall, and I hear that they are getting double the salary I ask. You can imagine how annoying this is to old performers, who have brought their act up to date and spent their money to produce something away from the ordinary old-time shows, and yet are left out in the cold. Everyone, including the Press, who sees my act says it is novel, funny, and away from others. Agents have promised to do their best, but very little has come of it. Yet a proprietor will book an act of coloured people supposed to be Africans, who do a sort of war dance and make a hideous noise on instruments of torture called tom-toms.

When will our English proprietors and managers give the Britisher a chance? I am certain the public would be better amused and shareholders' dividends go up by giving performers of ability engagements instead of the bluff Continental and other foreign acts that are invading the British Isles. Mr. Nelson's remark applies exactly to me. The better you go the less chance you have of a return date. I am not asking for a free advertisement, so I enclose my card for reference, and sign myself UNFORTUNATE.

[Some correspondence on the subject is held over.—ED.]

HARDY, the American Blondin, has been engaged at the Alexandra Palace for the Easter Holidays, and makes his appearance with new business on the high rope wire.

THE management of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, proposed to hold a hippodrome season, and an application was made in the Dublin Rolls Court on Monday by the Star Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, to restrain the Dublin Theatre Company, which owns the Theatre Royal, from presenting a performance of a dangerous nature, in which it was intended to introduce an elephant. The applicants urged that the theatre was licensed solely for dramatic and operatic purposes, and that the proposed performance would expose them to unfair competition. The Master of the Rolls held that there was no right to sue in that Court on the record as it stood, and refused the motion. The elephant was within the precincts of the Court during the hearing.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The petition of the Showmen's Guild against the proposal of the local authority to abolish Shipdham Fair is worded as follows:—

Re SHIPDHAM FAIR.

To the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Sir,—The Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild a trade society, representing the interests of travelling showpeople and fair-ground traders, respectfully submit that the proposal of the local authority to abolish the annual pleasure fair is detrimental to their business, and will prevent them using Shipdham for purposes of trade during the course of their Norfolk circuit of fairs.

We submit further that the preamble of the Act for the abolition of fairs and markets places most serious conditions upon public bodies before the provisions of the statute can be carried out.

We venture to say that not one of these most serious reasons exists at Shipdham. Local showmen and members of our Guild have written to us to assure us that the fair is well conducted, and much enjoyed as a time of necessary recreation.

We therefore, Sir, beg that the fair be not abolished without giving us a further opportunity of defending it.

Signed on behalf of the Executive,

George Sanger, President.
T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain.

To this petition the following official reply was sent:—

Home Office, Feb. 21, 1906.

Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to say that the same shall receive due attention.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
M. D. Chalmers.

The Rev. T. Horne.

The lodging of the petition was followed by the sending to the Home Office of a letter from a Norwich showman supporting its statements as to the good conduct of the fair; and there for the present the matter rests. We can only trust that the Home Secretary will give, as we confidently anticipate he will, all consideration to the interests of a body of traders so universally respected as the travelling showpeople, and that regard will be paid to the strong local desire for the retention of the people's fair.

Whilst dealing with Norfolk matters, it will cause regret to many of our readers to hear of the death of Mr. Henry Baxter, the highly-esteemed and well-known collector of tolls for Norwich Fair.

The following letter has been sent to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee of the London County Council:—

5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Dear Sir,—At a largely attended meeting of London showmen, tenants at holiday times of the open spaces controlled by the London County Council, I was requested to seek an opportunity of laying before the committee dealing with the regulations recently issued to their tenants, the very serious nature of the inconvenience and hindrance to their trade and business that the regulations entail.

I refer specifically to the Rule forbidding living-vans on the open spaces. I would venture to suggest that the committee receive a small deputation of representative showmen and myself, to respectfully submit reasons against the regulations.

I have been told that a movement, hurriedly set on foot last Easter with a similar intention, ended in comparative failure, because of the extreme difficulty when once the show business has commenced of gathering together a representative number of showmen.

It is felt that the failure of that effort may have prejudiced the committee, both with regard to the importance of the question, and also as to the earnestness of the people concerned, in seeking a modification of the regulations in question.

On behalf of the Showmen's Guild, permit me to say that we heartily desire to co-operate with everything done by the Council for safeguarding the public health, and for the uplifting and betterment of the show business and the popular amusements of the people.

I visited both Hampstead Heath and Wormwood Scrubbs last Easter and Whitsuntide, and I most willingly testify to the admirable arrangements of the County Council, and the thoroughly hearty manner in which these thoughtful provisions were appreciated and enjoyed by the vast crowds of London workers seeking open-air amusement and recreation at holiday times.—Yours ever, for God and for good,

T. Horne,
(Hon. Chaplain, the Showmen's Guild.)

To G. L. Gomme, Esq., the Clerk, London County Council, Spring-gardens, S.W., Feb. 13, 1906.

The Clerk to the County Council has sent the following courteous reply:—

London County Council,
Spring-gardens, S.W.
Feb. 14, 1906.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., and to inform you it shall receive attention.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. L. Gomme, Clerk to the Council.

Rev. T. Horne, *The Era*, London.

County Hall, Spring-gardens, S.W.,
March 6, 1906.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the Parks and Open Spaces Committee of the Council will be pleased to receive, on Friday, the 16th inst., at 3.30 p.m., a deputation from the Showmen's Guild on the subject of the regulation prohibiting the use of dwelling-vans in connection with shows at Wormwood Scrubs, Blackheath and Hampstead Heath. I am at the same time to point out that the regulation was made after very careful deliberation, and that the Committee do not at present see sufficient reason for any departure from it.

In accordance with the Council's established practice, the deputation should not consist of more than ten members, and only one member of the deputation will be at liberty to address the Committee.

I shall be glad if you will kindly inform me whether the proposed deputation will be able to attend at the time above stated.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. C. GOMME,
Clerk of the Council.

The Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain of the Showmen's Guild, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

The President of the Guild, Lord George Sanger, will probably marshal the deputation and be its spokesman, and with him the Rev. T. Horne and F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., hon. treasurer of the Guild for London, and probably the following London showmen:—Messrs. William Biddall, Alf. Ball, William Bedford, Swales Forrest, H. Forrest, Fred Gray, and C. Wilson.

Well within this eighth-million belt of eager working life lies the old town of Bury. Here at Bury March Fair, every year on the 5th of the month of storms, the Lancashire round begins. Nine times out of ten the fair is held in a gale of wind or storms of hail and snow, yet still the showman, with a brave heart, sets up his tent and starts with optimistic zeal the season, and the good folk of Bury welcome their old servants, the itinerants of the fair ground, with never-failing heartiness.

Speaking of Bury, Leland, the quaint traveller and historian of the sixteenth century, says:—

Byri on Irwell water, iv or v miles from Manchestre, but a poore market. There is a Ruine of a Castel by the paroche Church yn the towne. It belonggid, with the towne, sumtime to the Pilkengtons, now to the Erles of Derby. Yerne sumtime made about it. [Introduced in the reign of Edward III., and had attained such importance in the reign of Elizabeth, that an Aulnager, or Measurer, was stationed here to measure the cloth produced.] Pilkengton had a place hard by, at Pilkengton Park. During the reign Elizabeth, Camden—1582-6—mentions it as "a Market Town not less considerable than Rochdale." In the reign of Charles II. Blome—1683—records, "Bury is a market town of no great account on Thursdays." The lord of the manor was anciently the chief man in all affairs of the parish; his manorial court, or court leet and view of frank-pledge, with the court baron was held, by prescription, three times a year, the steward of the manor or his deputy presiding. The old court-house stood near the Market Cross, and in it many trials were heard by the steward and the jury, whose powers were greater than those of the magistrates of this day; yet their verdicts were lenient, such as a fine, the pillory, bridle, stocks, and the cat-o'-nine-tails; but they have not been exercised for some years. By the Reform Act of 1832, Bury secured Parliamentary representation, its population then being 19,140. The figures at the last Census were 58,128. The market day is Saturday, and fairs are held under a very ancient grant on March 5, Octave of David; May 3, St. Philip and St. James-tide; Sept. 18, Holy Cross-tide. A cattle fair is also held on the second and fourth Mondays in each month.

The present market inspector, Mr. H. Cass, is an old friend of shows and showmen, and everything is done that kindly thought and forward provision can arrange for the good of the large crowd of showmen who commence their season at Bury.

It will be remembered that last Christmas and New Year considerable satisfaction was felt by North Country showmen at the enlightened policy of the Corporation of Hartlepool in allowing shows and stalls to stand in the High-street Market-place.

A correspondent of the showman world has sent us a report of a recent discussion in the Borough Council concerning this matter. We lay it before our readers with this remark only, that Councillor Sherwood has been misinformed—that no complaint or remark of the nature he refers to has appeared in our columns:—

The committee recommended:

That the market keeper be paid a commission of 10 per cent. on the takings of the market to date, and also that such be a scale for payment in future.

Councillor T. W. Watson asked if there was any need to prepare for the future? He understood that the shows did not intend to come to Hartlepool any more, as there had been difference of opinion as to what they should pay for stands.

Councillor Sherwood remarked that this was a serious question. They had to meet certain charges on the part of the working classes, both in their workshops and in the streets—he was satisfied that the suggestions were merely rumours—that certain interested persons who were members of the Council, and who traded in Northgate and other places, were using their influence with the Council to destroy the open market in High-street. These rumours had got such a hold that the time was come when they should have something to say in open Council as to how the market was conducted. They were told the charges were excessive. He had had the opportunity of going through similar charges made by other Corporations, and he found that, with the exception of Hexham, the charges for stands in the market-place were much higher than obtained in Hartlepool. At Hartlepool they resolved to raise the price from 3d. per square foot to 1d. per square foot, because they found that proprietors of shows were not content to use High-street on the day only for which they hired stands, but stayed there until they were ready to go on elsewhere, no extra charge being meanwhile made by the Corporation. This the committee considered was not fair play, and they decided to impose a charge for a stand in the street, whether the shows were open to the public or not. This resulted in the charges being increased, and the consequence was that one week a certain show proprietor went night after night on to his platform and informed the public that he was paying charges which were excessive and above any other town in the kingdom. And he (Councillor Sherwood) believed that the persons interested had inserted Press notices in *The Era* and other papers, alleging that the charges at Hartlepool were so excessive that they could not pay their way in Hartlepool, and thus they were helping to damage the town. He wanted it under stood that these statements were entirely incorrect. The committee's object was not to make money out of the market. His own object was to raise the rateable value of the houses in the street, and also to provide some place where people could congregate and "knock about" on Saturday nights. The Labour men, continued Councillor Sherwood, were very keen that the market should "go," and he himself had had no reason to doubt but that the whole of the committee, whether they were interested in the trade in Northgate or otherwise, were working with a view to making the market the unqualified success it undoubtedly had been.

Replying to Councillor T. W. Watson, Alderman Rowe said the increased charges had not yet come into operation.

Alderman Horsley agreed with Councillor Sherwood, and argued that if showmen used the street for the accommodation of their caravans for a whole week, they should be made to pay rental. He thought the committee had done right in making the rules and regulations they had.

Councillor Hart also averred that the committee were doing everything they could to make the open market a success, and confirmed Councillor Sherwood's statement as to the charges for stands at Hartlepool being lower than in other market towns. It was, he submitted, very wrong of people to say that the committee were trying to damage the market.

Councillor Robson said he did not like the charge to be made against the Northgate tradesmen that they were trying to injure the market without entering his protest. So far as he was concerned, there had been more money taken in the shop with which he was connected since the market was opened on a Saturday than ever there was before. (Hear, hear.)

Councillor Tate characterised the allegations as absurd and "tommy rot," and not worth talking about.

The Mayor said that the protests which had been made would, he was sure, be well ventilated through the Press.

At Turner's Fair Field, Feckenham-road, Astwood Bank, Mander's Cinematograph Exhibition has been paying a two-days' visit.

A sale of fifteen cart and nag horses takes place at Knighton, near Inkberrow, Worcestershire, on March 16, and on March 20 a sale of horses and colts will be held at Sheldon.

The Cricketers' Field, Banbury, has been occupied by Mr. A. Tiller's Mannikins and Bioscope Exhibiton. Mr. Tiller received a hearty welcome, the Bloxham brass band parading the town. There was a crowded house, and the performances were highly appreciated.

At Alcester Mander's Giant Cinematograph has given some first-class entertainments.

Mr. Waller Jeff's New Century Living Pictures have been at the Public Hall, Redditch, for three nights. Mr. Jeff's pictures are also proving very popular at Victoria Rooms, Clifton.

The public interest in the hire-purchase case which has been heard this week in the King's Bench Division, is reflected in the newest Warmack film, entitled "A Life for a Life; or, The Harshness of the Hire-purchase system." Another new film is called "A Lucky Pig," and depicts a very comical episode in the life of a porker.

Within a radius of ten miles from the heart of Manchester, "that city of cotton twists and twills," there is a population of over eight millions of people. It is this vast aggregation of teeming life that makes the great Lancashire round or circuit of fairs and wakes so great a factor in the business of the world of shows. These people work hard, and they spend freely, and right merrily do they seize upon the time of the local fair to cease work and breathe awhile and rest from the whirr and strain and machine-sped life.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

By the Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain to the Showman's Guild.

"DUKE DIAMONTO."

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To the outsider one of the mysteries of show life is the perfect comradeship and freedom of intercourse existing between all grades and classes of people engaged in the business; the sharp, and at most times harsh, lines of division between master and man in ordinary workaday life scarcely exists on the road. This is clearly shown in the almost invariable use of the Christian name between man and man.

Another mark of this intimate brotherhood and community of interest is the nickname, that hall-mark of universal acceptance in the hearts of the whole people with whom we claim fellowship and daily communion. These nicknames are almost invariably given to denote some conspicuous trait in the character of the individual. Is the showman of a breezy disposition—well set up in physique, hale and hearty, lusty of lung and cheery of speech — speedily he is hailed as "Captain." Has he a smart, well-groomed military way with him, then we find him commissioned with military honours, "Colonel" or "General." Is he a man with a distinguished air—then he is "Gentleman George," "Lord John," or "Sir Rupert." Does he bear the outward and visible signs of having sprung from the yeoman class—then he is hailed as "Squire William" or "Farmer John." If he be a little disputatious and given to talkee-talkee outside business hours, then he is known as the "Lawyer."

We do not here touch upon the equally interesting question of professional nomenclature, why every boxer is a Professor, every conjuror a Fakir, a Sahib, a Mahatma, Llama, or Hindoo Prince, or why the charming ladies of the circus arena are De Veres, Montgomerys, or Mollinbrooks. These are mysteries only known to the initiated and the elect; our only point is that the nickname is usually a mark of honour and acceptance in the world of shows.

Enrico Montallo, the Spanish conjuror, had a weakness for diamonds, and his rise and progress in the show business was marked by the number of diamond rings on his fingers, diamond studs and pins on his shirt-front, and diamond waistcoat buttons. Yes, they were real sparkling gems of the first water, he wore a moderate fortune on his fingers, and a duke's ransom when arrayed in his professional get-up on the show front. Small wonder, then, that he was known as the "Duke Diamonto," and, as even great men have little vanities, he rather liked it, and played up to the part.

In a friendly sort of way he had been warned of the way in which he repeatedly tempted fate by openly wearing his big diamonds at all times. "It is a good advertisement," he shrewdly replied; "they come as much to see the diamonds as to see the show. I give them a good show, and they go home and say, 'That hanky-panky man with the diamond buttons is worth seeing.' I should not mind even if someone did make a grab at them. It would be a big puff for me and the show." So the "Duke" was credited with sense and method in his diamond mania.

Montallo's show was wintering on a piece of ground in the East End, one of London's busiest thoroughfares, where the toilers most do congregate, and where good business will invariably reward a clever show. With Montallo in the performance were his wife, a Frenchwoman, and her nephew, Pierre François, both exceedingly clever at the business. The Montallos had no children of their own, and so Pierre was to them more son than nephew, he was their pride and highest hope, and fully did he justify their love and care, for a better son never blessed loving parents than Pierre François was to his doting aunt and uncle.

With all Montallo's love of display there was a certain amount of reserve about him that even his wife and nephew had never understood, a mystery and a puzzle in character and history that he sedulously kept even from them. "I am only just what you know me to be, sweet wife. You married me as a showman. Well, let it rest at that; a showman I am, and will be, please God, to the end of the chapter. Let the buried past lie in its grave. Why call back the ghosts and goblins? Let them rest."

Many a time did Madame, with pardonable pertinacity, seek to break down this wall of the past; but all to no avail. He would not say a word about his early days, his parents, or his home.

"It is not every conjuror," he gaily remarked, "who is a man of mystery to his people and to the wife of his bosom. What matters the past, sad or bad, so long as we live and glory in the happy present? So worry not your mind over that, Sweetheart."

The East-End of London is in very truth the Far East of our much mixed and strange civilisation. What deep mysteries come to baffle us, and to show our utter futility day by day in the crowded East of London town—mysteries that tax the vigilant energies of the expert investigator of crime, and baffle the criminologist in his most certain science of logical deduction.

This was abundantly manifested in the tragic death of Montallo, the conjuror. The daily Press with one consent treated the murder of the showman as a fit subject for its most cynical and sensational sermonising on the well-worn theme, "Vanity of vanities; and all is vanity"; but the vanity of the penny showman is the worst vanity of all. "To wear diamonds in the East End of London, where was the sense of it? A very child in the things of this life would know better than that," and so on and so on *ad nauseam*.

Poor Madame Montallo and her nephew were tormented by eager journalists to know to a penny the value of each gem. It was the diamonds, and not the sorrow of the grief-stricken wife and nephew by her side that interested these members of the public Press eager for the latest news.

Thus one of the evening papers told the tale of the crime:—"A showman, whose eccentric display of huge diamonds as studs, coat buttons, bogus foreign orders, stars, &c., and with every finger cumbered with diamond rings, has met with the inevitable consequence of his temerity. Murdered and pillaged of his diamonds, the dead showman exhibits to the whole world the oft-told lesson—but, alas, how little heeded by the lovers of vain display!—the mistake of tempting Providence (and ever-ready thieves) by lavish display of gems and jewellery. How could it be expected that such a temptation would escape its fell power in the starving and criminal East End? Whilst joining in the universal expression of sympathy with the family of the murdered man, we cannot allow the opportunity of pointing out that the moral of the sad tragedy should not be lost or forgotten."

The police were quite contented to take the surface view of the matter—"murdered for his diamonds." What an easy solution of another East End murder—the overworked guardians of the public have enough daily horror of thick darkness about them not to worry over an event that bore its own tale so openly written on its face—"murdered because in his vanity he decked himself in diamonds"—"a showman and his craze for gems"; and so in the public mind the matter was ended and done with.

Madame Montallo and her nephew Pierre knew full well, and his comrades of the fair-ground knew, that the outside show of the man was merely a part of his business equipment, and that vanity played but a small part in the character of the warm-hearted and clever showman; they knew of the deeper well-springs of life, the kind heart, the ready sympathy, the joy of life, the devotion to home and duty; it might please the world to dwell upon the outward and visible signs of supposed eccentricity; they knew better. The superficial observers of human affairs always err in this respect. The Showman World knew the real man, and so Montallo was laid to rest honoured and respected by his confrères of the road.

After the funeral, the conjuror's wife, going through the business matters of the show, found many things that cast light on the past life of her husband; these papers and memoranda she laid aside for later inspection. Her greatest discovery, and one that she wisely determined to tell only her nephew of, was the finding, stowed away at the bottom of a locker, of the case containing the real diamonds. The set he wore when foully done to death were paste, exactly like the originals, yet only paste. This discovery set Pierre thinking, and doubt took possession of him. Was his uncle killed for his diamonds?

With his aunt's full consent, we went carefully through the family papers, and she supplied, as far as she could, missing links in the chain of his reasoning. Madame Montallo knew very little of her husband's life prior to their marriage, and the only mysterious thing about the pile of letters that Pierre carefully collated and set out in order of time, was the reference to a certain Spanish town or village in the province of Castile, indicated by three stars and a cross, thus—* * * †.

Many interesting hours of labour did the youth give to the enterprise of finding the key to the evident cryptogram of his uncle's correspondence. One thing was clear—that the letters had been preserved for some important purpose, and that, disconnected and self-contained as they appeared to be, in reality they formed one complete message.

At last Pierre found the key, and the message of the letters told the romantic story of Montallo's youth and early manhood. After careful thought both wife and nephew determined to regard the secret of their dead as inviolate, and to take no steps to make it known or to rouse further curiosity. So the matter would have rested, as far as human will would determine it, but the mills of God grind surely, though at times they grind but slowly, "murder will out," and the stern arbiter of fate was bringing to deserved punishment the perpetrator of the crime that laid the showman low.

* * * * *

Another sensation had taken the popular fancy, the meteor-like rise into notoriety and a sort of flashy fame of Don Gomez de Vagarres, miner and millionaire. The smart papers revelled in recounting the prodigality and freak extravagances of the latest thing in millionaires. Among other details of the millionaire's life told by the ready pen of the industrious interviewer were stories of his poverty-stricken early life. How he and an elder brother were left as lads the joint heirs of a large estate in the mountain passes of Castile. So encumbered was their patrimony that the brothers determined to seek fortune in other lands and give the property time to redeem itself.

One of the brothers, after twenty years of hard life in the mines of Nevada, died, the surviving brother returned to his ancestral home, and there made the discovery that led to fame and fortune. The wealth that neither he nor his brother could win in foreign lands was actually beneath his feet, and stored in the barren mountains that hitherto had yielded no revenue to the Vagarres family. The land was a veritable El Dorado of the richest and most easily-worked iron ore, and various other minerals of a valuable kind.

It was Don Gomez's knowledge of mining that led to the discovery of the mineral wealth hidden beneath his ancestral lands. So rich was it that on proof of its value he had no difficulty in finding a wealthy syndicate to take over the speculative side of the matter and to float the company that made him a millionaire; and now Vagarres was spending his money and booming himself as the prodigal millionaire from Spain.

At the very height of his fame he received a visit from one who merely sent up a visiting-card with these significant words written across it: "A messenger from the dead." For a few moments he stood perplexedly turning over the strangely-worded card, then said to his man, "Show the gentleman into my study, and say I can give him but a few minutes, as my time is very much taken up to-day"; and then, with a second thought, he added, "See that we are not interrupted."

The visitor made himself known to the millionaire as Pierre François, showman, and the nephew of the murdered Don Enrico Vagarres, of Evas del Montallo, in the Castilian Mountains. Very deliberately, and keenly watching the effect of each word, did the showman thus announce himself to the astounded millionaire.

Vagarres with a tremendous effort controlled himself sufficiently to say: "You, the nephew of my brother, and a showman! What strange story is this you come to tell?"

"A far stranger story than you anticipate, murderer!" was the instant reply; then, with a quick movement Pierre placed himself between the astonished millionaire and the door, exclaiming the while: "I insist that you hear me to the end. You are not the brother of my murdered uncle, but the usurper of his heritage, and if not the actual murderer, the instigator of his death."

With a yell of rage the Spaniard flung himself upon Pierre, but the younger man very speedily mastered his assailant and forced him into a chair.

"Now, it is useless for you to attempt to add another crime to the long list already laid at your door. This is the story I have come to tell you, and you must listen to the bitter end. Thirty years ago Don Enrico Vagarres and his younger brother Don Gomez sought fortune in foreign parts, leaving their family estate to recover by time the heavy debts incurred by their father's extravagancies. At the silver mines in Western America the younger brother died, after twenty years' hard and fruitless toil. Ten years before this Don Enrico, not caring for the hardships of miner's life, returned to Europe, and after various vicissitudes became a travelling showman, taking for his professional name Montallo, the name of his birthplace.

"The brothers for ten years kept up a correspondence in cryptogram form, so that any of their letters going astray might not lead to their identity. There is evidence full and complete of every change in the fortunes of the younger brother, and the details of the time and manner of his death in the cryptographic correspondence of Don Enrico now in my possession.

"My uncle was done to death by hired assassins at the Dock side in East London. Within six months of his death you blossomed forth as his long dead and buried younger brother, and established yourself as one of London's many millionaires."

"Stop, stop!" cried the now utterly amazed and beaten Spaniard. "I confess all; I am in the toils. There is no escape, and I know that from you I shall get no mercy. Gomez was my companion for eight years before his death. In a moment of confidence he told me his true name and the story of the brothers' resolve and their quest for fortune. After his death I came into a little money by the death of a relative. This took me to my native Spain. Out of curiosity I visited Evas, and to my utter amazement was universally recognised as one of the long-absent brothers. This I allowed to pass out of a mere whim at first, but finding that it gave me great acceptance amongst the Castilian gentry I kept up the fiction.

"Then came the fatal temptation. Being an expert miner, in my wanderings over the estate I found manifest signs of great mineral wealth. This inflamed my cupidity, and I came to England confident that nothing stood between me and the assumption of the name and fortune of Vagarres. At the very moment of my triumph I discovered the existence in London itself of your uncle, a prosperous showman. I was in the grip of the demon of avarice, and the lust of wealth inspired murder. I it was who compassed your uncle's death. Now you have heard my confession, and this is the end."

Taking a tabloid from his waistcoat pocket and passing it rapidly into his mouth, he said to Pierre: "You are able enough to see that your aunt receives her just rights. From the moment that I found that the diamonds he wore were not real ones I have lived in a very hell of fear. Now it is over. I have fully prepared for this, but did not expect it so quickly. You—you will find—in the—in the—"

Here the murderer pointed with rigid, outstretched arm to the bureau. Then with a gasp he fell back into the chair dead.

* * * * *

All the details of the remarkable crime came out at the inquest, and of necessity the public had to modify its hasty verdict as to the vanity, real or imagined, of "Duke Diamonto."

At Astwood Bank Mr. James Mander's grand cinematograph exhibition is showing all the latest pictures, and Captain Delaware gives his daring performance in a den of lions.

Jenning's Alexandra Theatre is at the Royal Hotel Yard, Redditch, this week, and the following programme has been given: *The Village Vagabond, The Ticket of Leave Man, The Woman from Prison, Jealousy, The Colleen Bawn, The Female Detective, The Ship on Fire,* and *The Dumb Man of Manchester.*

Future fixtures in the West of England include: March 31, Stourbridge; May 1, Ludlow and Tenbury; May 12, Stow-on-the-Wold; June 21, Kidderminster; June 22, Shipston-on-Stour; June 25, Bromsgrove; June 26, Pershore; July 5 and 6, Worcester Races and pleasure fair on Pitchcroft; July 13 to 18, Headless Cross and Great Cherry Wakes; Aug. 4 to 8, Redditch; Sept. 28, Studley; Oct. 1, King's Norton; Oct. 3, Alvechurch; Oct. 5, Evesham; Oct. 9, Alcester; and Oct. 12, Stratford-on-Avon.

What would have been doubtless a most interesting item at Messrs. Hancock's Winter Gardens, Plymouth, namely, a singing competition, unfortunately fell through; but their patrons were nevertheless well rewarded by a "grand spectacle" by the whole company engaged, and some fine animated pictures, amongst which were "The Derby Day" and "Lord Sanger's Grand Circus Parade."

Mr. William V. Morris, of 34, Grand-parade, Cork, writes to inquire the names and addresses of makers of road living vans. Now that his want is here made known we feel sure he will soon receive the required information.

At Wallsend.—W. Kaye's Buff-Bill's circus, J. Hancock's gallery and shooter, T. Carter, &c.

Alnwick Hirings.—Mr. Walter Murphy's 60 h.p. motors doing good business; J. Cotterall's living pictures; G. Gray, jun.'s, fun of fair concerns; and a host of others.

Washington, co. Durham.—Richardson Bros.' last style of 60-h.p. motors; C. Robson, gallery and shooter, coker sheets; J. Jackson, Emmas, swings, coker sheets; Hartshorn, going concerns in sweetmeats, &c.

Jarrow.—Mr. W. Headley's flying motors; Chipperfield, wild beasts; Payne, living pictures; Johnson's circus; Newsome, shooting gallery, throwing games, &c.; Rosher, Shaw, T. O'Brian, Hoffman, &c.

Byker.—Wingate's bicycles; W. and B. Murphy, gondolas; G. Gray's juvenile swings, roundabouts, overboats, &c.

At Hebburn.—W. Cowie's roundabouts, gallery, coker sheet, swings, &c.; G. Halliday, with all the fun of the fair.

West Stanley.—A. Payne's roundabouts and gallery; W. J. Firman, Emmas, dollies, cokernuts; H. Stephens, shooters, &c.

At Rover's Football Ground, Eastville, Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie continues to attract a large concourse of people at each show.

During a circus performance at Abertillery on Wednesday, a gust of wind snapped the pole of the tent, part of which fell upon some boys. One of these, named James, was found to be suffering from a fractured skull; another, named Carter, from injuries to the side and spine; and several others were less severely hurt.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Allow me a small space in your valuable paper to take up a topic that has been partly discussed through other papers, but I know not what the results have been—the question of drawing for positions.

I think it is known throughout the show world that up to the present this is the only system to stop competition. On every ground in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, every class of the show fraternity, from the large roundabouts to the small stall-holders, draw for positions and pay a uniform rent. We have this year a reduced scale of prices, the lowest that has yet been attained. If the small stall-holder, showmen, and roundabout proprietors would put petty jealousies on one side and unite this question of competition could be dispensed in less than one month. I may say that this question has been discussed in our general meetings, and in the past years people who have come to the North for our large fairs have been allowed to pay their contributions and receive the same privileges as our members; but when our members have gone into Yorkshire or Lancashire or Scotland they are treated in a very different manner, having in some instances to pay more rent, and then only get a position after everyone else is built up, so we in the North have decided that no person or persons who have not paid their contributions before March 17 will be allowed to draw with our members in the North on any grounds, and will have to take the positions after our members have drawn. But I hope in the near future that someone will step to the front and be the mediator, and so unite all classes of the show world, and adopt some system to stop the competition between lessee and lessee, showman and showman, stall-holder and stall-holder. Then the show world will benefit, and there will not be the complaints that they have not been able during the summer to pay their way, and prepare for the long winter months when trade is bad. I should like everyone who thinks that the above suggestion will meet and end part of the present troubles to speak out his views at once, so that all classes of the show world will be able to curtail the expenses in ground rents, &c., and prepare for the winter that will come. I must close this time.—Yours faithfully,

T. HARTSHORN,
Secretary to the North of England Society.

Please note this letter applies to our Easter fair on the Leazes, Newcastle, which is being let by Mr. Walter Murphy, 102, Holly-avenue, Newcastle, as well as all our grounds.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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	UNITED KINGDOM.	FOREIGN.
One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

The Offices of "The Era" are
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post, FREE OF CHARGE.

NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and Subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,
THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

IN case of the non delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers, with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 9, 30, May 7, 21, 28, June 11, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
April 2, 30, May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, Aug. 20, 27 on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Aug. 6, 13, 20, Sept. 3, 10, 24, Oct. 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7 (race week), 14, June 11, 25, Aug. 6, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
April 2, 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 27, Sept. 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, May 7, June 11, Aug. 13, Sep. 3, 17, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 16, May 7, Aug. 27, Sept. 3, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
June 11, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 30, on.
Wanted. First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for two and three weeks. Please state subject, and where can be seen.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Wolverhampton, April 2, 16, May 7; Reading, April 2, 30, May 21; Huddersfield, April 9, 16, May 7; Chester, May 7 (Race Week), May 14; Northampton, April 16, May 7; Leamington, March 26, April 2, 16. Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD; GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
March 26, April 2, 9, 23, 30.
May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, onwards, with exceptions.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26 and April 2, for Bedford. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, 21, 28, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, through disappointment, Strong Dramatic Co., for March 19.
Share or certainty.
Wire or write, LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Strong Companies, for April 16 (Easter), 23, May 14, and Whit;
Share or Certainty.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Musical and Dramatic Companies, for March 26, May 21 and 28, also Whit week; only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Under entirely new management.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, March 19, unexpectedly vacant (wire), also 26 (Musical preferred), April 9, 23 (Musical), 30, May 7, 14, 21, and 28 (Musical), and on, with exceptions. Add., FRANK MUNDILL.

AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Attraction for April 2, 9, 23, May 14, 21, 28, and Whit Week.
All communications to
CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 30, through disappointment.
Wire, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, a First-class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also June 4 (Whit Week).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 26, 27, 28, April, 2, 3, 4, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit Week.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

GAIETY THEATRE, BURNLEY.
WANTED, Big Dramatic Companies, April 9 and 23, through disappointment. Address, JAMES E. CULLEN, Cattle Market Hotel.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 23, August Bank Holiday, 13th, 20th, 27th, and Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., First-class Pantomime for Christmas, "Forty Thieves," "Sinbad the Sailor," or "Robinson Crusoe." Apply, Owner and Manager, Mr. JAS. KIERNAN.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions (Musical preferred), for April 9, 16, 23. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

THEATRE ROYAL, JARROW.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for April 30, Whit week, and June 25 (Race week).
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

NEW HIPPODROME THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, First-class Companies and Musical Attractions, March 19, 26, April 9, and onwards, with exceptions. This theatre, stone building, and everything up to date. One of the best in the provinces. Communications, J. MORRELLA.

OPERA HOUSE, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, vacant May 14, 21, Whit Week, and onwards, with exceptions. Few Autumn Dates still open. Apply, ARTHUR WILLOUGHBY.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Company, for April 9.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, for Lyceum Theatre, Heywood (stage enlarged), good sound Musical Attractions or Drama, March 26, April 9, 16, 23, and 30.

WANTED, Good Companies, Musical preferred. Vacant April 5, 19, and 26. Address, MANAGER, Globe Theatre, Deal.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant March 19, May 21, June 4, July 30.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant, April 2, 9, 23, 30.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant April 2, 9, 23.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant, March 19, 26, April 9, 23.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant March 12, 19, 26 (3 nights), April 2.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant March 12, 19, 26, April 2.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 30, May 7, 14, 28.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant April 9, 23 (3 nights), May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant March 12, April 9, 23, 30.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant March 19 (3 nights), April 9, 23, 30.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 2 (3 nights), April 9.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant April 23, 30, May 7, 14.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Dec. 26, 31, Jan. 7, 14.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Vacant April 9, May 14, on.
Also a few Autumn Dates for High-class Attractions only.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
Vacant April 9, May 28, June 4, for Good Drama, New to the Town.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Vacant April 9, 16, May 7.
Best Dramatic and Musical Attractions only. Share or Certainty at either Theatre.
Address,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
LORD GEORGE SANGER, Sole Proprietor.
Manager, HENRY BOWMAN.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Season Dates. Bookings and pencillings include "The Blue Moon," "Prince of Pilsen," "Earl and the Girl," "Walls of Jericho," "The White Chrysanthemum," "Freedom of Suzanne," George Dance's Companies, and all the Leading Touring Attractions.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, as above.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 30, June 11, also Strong Musical Attraction, June 25, open dates in Aug. and Sept.; First-class Pantomime, Feb. 4, 1907.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Merthyr, through obliging Brother Manager, Good Company, March 19; also wanted, for Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, Good Company, April 2, and Whit.
Wire, re Dates,
WILL SMITHSON, Merthyr.

WANTED, Hippodrome Theatre and Opera House, Mansfield, Good Companies, April 9, 23, 30, and onwards, only First-class Companies entertained. Crowded Houses nightly to witness Barr's "Cinderella" Panto. March 5, Macdona's "Toreador" Opera Co. Com., MORRELLA and JENNINGS.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, June 11, 18, July 2. Apply, T. W. ROWE.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Big Attractions, April 9, May 28, also for a few Autumn Dates.
Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

CARDIFF.—KING'S THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction, for April 16, share or certainty.
Apply, FRANK BATEMAN.

THEATRE ROYAL, HALIFAX.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 2, 30.
OTTO C. CULLING, T. R., Bury.

GRAND THEATRE, HALIFAX.
WANTED, Company, April 9, twice nightly.
OTTO C. CULLING, T. R., Bury.

THEATRES ROYAL, BILSTON & WEDNESBURY
WANTED, Sound Attractions, March 26 (three nights each theatre), Bilston, Easter week, May and Whit week vacant both theatres, various Autumn Dates. HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for April 23, 30, and onwards, including Whit. Week. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Musical preferred, April 30, May 7, 21, 28, June 4.
Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Strong Drama, Easter, Sundry Dates Open onwards.
J. EDWARD WHITTY.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, Good Companies, May 7, 14, June 11, 18, 25, July 2.
F. J. ROBINSON, T. R., Darwen.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
(The West-end Theatre of Hastings.)
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 30, onwards, with exceptions. Apply, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS, as above; or Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly. Telephone, 6534 Gerrard.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
April 9, 16, 30, May 7, 14.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
May 7, 14, 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED.—Good No. 1 Companies can now without fear be assured of good management and good business. No Suburban Theatre commands so many good advertising boards on railway stations as the above. Good lighting; good band; efficient staff and personal management. No vacant dates this Spring; a few good Autumn dates still open.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

NEW ROYAL, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 26, April 2, and Easter.
N.B.—This Theatre has been recently rebuilt by Mr. Howard at a cost of nearly £3000. Lighted throughout by electricity, and one of the prettiest and best-managed Theatres on the East Coast, and a splendid fill-in between Cambridge, Yarmouth, Norwich, and Lowestoft.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Company, Easter, and a few good Season Dates.
N.B.—The only Theatre in the Isle of Wight, and commands a population of 80,000.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, March 19, Kilmarnock and Ayr (3 nights each);
March 19, Clydebank and Kirkcaldy (3 nights each);
March 26, Clydebank;
April 2, Glasgow;
April 9, Newcastle.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant May 14, 21, June 4 (?), and on.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 14, and June.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Company, April 16 (Easter), and 23, Exceptional Dramas only Booked. "Silver King" and "Rogues of Turf" only Dramas booked this season.
SPA THEATRE, WHITBY.
Wanted, Good Companies, Bands, or Pierrots, July 16 and 23, Aug. 27 (?), and Sept. 10 (3 days).
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
7, Hilltop-road, West Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, and 14.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, August 20, and onwards. Last week, Osmond Tearle Repertoire Co.; this week, "Ben-My-Chree" (return); next week, "His Majesty's Guests" (return). Address, GERALD HARDING.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 5, 6, 7, and Easter. W. PAYNE.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Musical Comedies Good Dramas, nothing too big. Share or Certainty, April 9 16 (?), 23, on.
E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, owing to Transfer, a Good Attraction, Musical preferred, for April 2. Address,
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical preferred, April 2 (Holiday date), 9, 16, and on. Dumfries, Vacant March 12 and 26, on.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 2, 9, 30, May 7, 28, and June 4.
Apply, STANLEY ROGERS,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. DEWHURST.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical or Dramatic, new to Leigh, for the following Dates:
April 2 and 30, May 7, 14, and onwards, with exceptions.
Good Opera Co. write.
Liberal terms for High-class Attractions.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 23, 30, May 7, 14, and August.
Address, HORNER, Victoria O. H., Burnley.

WANTED, Good Dramatic Companies, April 16, May 7, 14, 21, onwards.
MORTON, Empire Theatre, Cradley.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, PRESTON.
WANTED, Good Dramatic Company, April 2.
Address, SAWYER and WOODRUFF.

WANTED, for Theatres Royal, Aston, Smethwick, and Chatham, Good Co.'s, April 23, May 14, 21, and dates in June and July.

WANTED, through breach of contract, Good Co., April 19, six nights. W. K. GAITLEY, Theatre, Macclesfield.

WANTED Big Attractions, March 26, April 9, 30, on, Grand, Chorley; also March 26, April 2, 16, Radcliffe.
Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, MURTON, S.O., DURHAM.
Lessee, Mr. JOHN GIBB.
WANTED, Strong Drama or Good Panto., first in, for New Theatre, April 16, 23, and 30, onwards. Pop. 13,000. Hold 900. No other Amusement within 4 miles. Re dates, write CHARLES A. DUNN, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attractions, May 21, 28, June 11 (?), July.
Good Solid Attractions certain of Big Business.
JAMES BELL.

WANTED, Comedy and Musical Plays, for Theatre Royal, Inverness. Season opens Sept. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

WANTED, Good Attractions, April 5, 6; 9 10, 11; 17, 18, 19, 20. Seatings about 1400. Wire, PHILLIPS, Coliseum, Aberystwyth.

NEW PAVILION,
EASTBOURNE PIER.
April 2.
April 2.
April 2.
WANTED, First-class Company.
Wire or Write,
G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

FROME, SOMERSET.
WANTED, Known:—F. E. Douglas can arrange for Good Fit-up Co.'s and Entertainments, Frome and District, Easter Week Vacant, three towns, 2 nights each; also dates, March, onward. Terms, shares. Address, 16, Portway, Frome. Population of Frome 12,000 to 13,000.

WANTED, Strong Society Play, for Special Two Weeks. Short Cast. Miss MAUD MAY, Simonside, South Shields.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 13, 20.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14 Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 6, 13,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2, Sept. 24.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Spring, 1907.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 9, 16, 23, 30.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 9, 16, 23, 30.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 23, 30, May 7, Aug. 6.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.
WANTED, for this Powerful Attraction, weeks of May 21 and 28. Wire, to-day, KELLY, Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.; next week, New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for the Scala Production, week of May 14, in or around London.
Wire, KELLY, Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.; Next week, New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Known, no Vacant Dates this year.
CHALMERS MACKEY,
This, King's Theatre, Ebb Vale;
Next, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, Six Nights.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 30, May 28, June 4.
"SAILORS OF THE KING,"
April 2, 16. Now booking autumn.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Queen's Theatre, Longton.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 30, May 21 (three nights).
J. W. CORDINER, Theatre Royal, Colchester.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

Mr. GEORGE E. MUDD'S TOUR of "A BUNCH OF VIOLETS" CO., from the Haymarket Theatre, London.
WANTED, Good Theatres, South Coast preferred, June 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August Bank Holiday Week. Mr. Norman Partridge as Sir Philip Marchand. Bookings include Grand Theatre, Blackpool; T. R., Dover; Opera House, Buxton; Opera House, Harrogate; and Grand T., Llandudno. For vacant dates, apply, GEORGE E. MUDD, Business-Manager, G. T., Nelson.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Easter Week, Easter Week.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Vacant March 26, March 26, Easter Week, for this Moneymaker. Cast includes Mr. and Mrs. KIMBERLEY. Wire for both plays to F. G. KIMBERLEY, this, Bilston; next, Wednesbury.

WANTED, Theatres for E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO., "THE GRIP OF IRON."
Vacant Whit Week and various Autumn Dates.
"THE BOOM OF BIG BEN,"
Vacant April 23, May 28.
Apply, G. DENHAM, Opera House, Burton.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
WANTED, April 2, to follow T. R., Bradford.
EUGENE BERTRAM;
to-day, Plymouth; next week, Worcester.

"BILLY'S LITTLE LOVE AFFAIR."
WANTED, April 16 (Easter week), to follow Grand Theatre, Croydon; also Aug. 6, 13, Sept. 10. FRANK G. BAILY,
1, St. Aubyn's-road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, April 16, for this really remarkable and powerful holiday attraction, April 23, and onwards, with exceptions, Whitsun. J. H. CLYNDES, Grand Theatre, Chorley.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, May 21, June 25, on.
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME,"
by Alfred Stafford.
WANTED, for the above First-class Production, March 26, to follow Radcliffe;
April 2, 23, to follow London;
May 14, and few onwards, Midlands or South. Entire scenery carried. Magnificent plant of pictorials by Messrs. Stafford and Co., David Allen's, &c. All communications re dates, address, MURRAY and STAFFORD, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, March 19 (3 nights), Whit, on.
March 19 (3 nights), Whit, on.
Cast Second to None Touring. Wire, E. A'DELL, To-day, T. R. Yeadon; next, O. H., Harrogate.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, April 2, in or near London. April 2. 30th Week of Present Tour.
May 7, 14, 21, and Whit., Midlands.
FRANK AYRTON, Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

"NO WEDDING BELLS FOR HER."
WANTED, First-class Theatre.
May 7 unexpectedly Vacant for this enormous monetary and artistic Success.
Apply, FRANK BATEMAN,
King's Theatre, Cardiff.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
The Dramatic Mascot Scores again at Aldershot. Managers invited to see this production next week at Grand, Woolwich.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for the following Dates: Aug., Nov. 19, Feb. 4, 1907, onwards, with exceptions. SANTE, T. R., Aldershot; Grand, Woolwich.

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Wanted, March 26, in or near London Suburbs.
MCNEILL, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

WANTED, Easter Date, Mr. H. Austin's "Old Comedies" Co., "School for Scandal," "Heir-at-Law," "Rivals." Brighton West Pier, April 2. Wire or write, DONALD ARTHUR'S Agency, 434, Strand, W.C.

"THE TRUMPET CALL."
WANTED, Autumn and onwards, First-Class Company.
Communications, CHARLES F. COOKE, 43, Woburn-place, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Easter, and August Bank Holiday, for Miss Hildyard, in "THE GREAT AWAKENING."
Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISE.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
Vacant
April 16, July 23 (?), 30, Aug. 6.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"DARKNESS."
Suggested by and founded on
"When it was Dark."
"DARKNESS."
"DARKNESS."
Founded on
"When it was Dark."
Monday, March 12,
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.
Managers cordially invited to witness this Production. Full particulars next week.
Vacant,
April 9, 16, 23, May 7, June 11, 18, July 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, for this Great Attraction, August 20 (first vacant date), Aug. 27, and few later.
Beautiful new special effects and printing.
O. H., Tunbridge Wells March 12;
T. R., Worthing, March 15.

WANTED, for MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEO. KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON," by Chas. Darrell, produced Jan. 1, and secured by the following Managers for immediate dates:—Messrs. Broadhead (all theatres), W. D. Forsdike, T. Sergenson, McLeod Loader, Chas. E. Machin, Hugh Robertson, J. and F. Coulson, J. F. Elliston, C. P. Cooke, L. Carson, Milton Bode, C. W. Poole, W. Morton, T. Edwardes, Geo. Mudd, and Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff, &c., &c. Wanted, April 9, only Vacant Date until Aug. 20.
Address, GEO. KIRK, to-day, Grand, Derby; next, T. R., Bolton.

PAUMIER AND HOWARD'S TOURS.
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
by Walter Howard.
ANNIE SAKER,
ALFRED PAUMIER.
Brilliant company of artists.—Liverpool Echo.
WANTED, Dates, 1907, Jan. 28, Easter, on.
No vacant dates this year. Address,
ALFRED PAUMIER, King's T., Cardiff.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, March 26 (follow Seacombe), April 2, 9 (precede Ton-y-Pandy, Easter), April 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
Wire for March 26.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, O. H., Porth; next, Workmen's Hall, Abercynon.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR.
"THE CONSCRIPT."
Miss Violet Carlyle as Nadia.
WANTED, Good Theatres, July 2, 9, 23 (Midlands), and onwards. Bookings include Derby, Sheffield, St. Helens, Dewsbury, Hull (Alex), Luton, Mexborough, Barnsley, Great Yarmouth, Swansea, Lincoln, Rugby, Oxford, and a host of pencillings. First-class production guaranteed.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
Mr. Montefiore's Modernised Musical Version.
WANTED, April 9 (Tyneside), 30, May 7, North or Midlands. This fine old classic still a successful draw. Two troupes of Dancers; Musical Specialities. All-round good Company and Production. Mr. Wm. Rokeby as Badger.
Bookings: Theatre Royal, Glasgow, Belfast, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Bury, Rochdale, Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham, &c.
EADE MONTEFIORE, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

"OUR BOYS" and "CASTE."
WANTED, Special Weeks in Leading Suburban and Provincial Theatres on equitable terms. First-class Company carefully selected and rehearsed. Can also arrange to play "The Heir-at-Law," and other Old Comedies. Mr. CHARLES OTLEY as MIDDLEWICK, and ECCLES, played by him with the Greatest Success, Grand, Fulham (four visits), King's, Hammersmith, Marlborough, Holloway, Shakespeare, Clapham, Gaiety, Dublin, &c. C. OTLEY, 13, Champion-grove, Denmark Hill, S.E.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
by Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, April 2, April 2, London or South.
H. HOLLISTER, New Theatre Royal, Croydon.

"HOME, SWEET HOME,"
The Great Domestic Play, by Frank Lindo.
WANTED, April 30 (?), between Blackpool and Sheffield, both return; also May 28, between Portsmouth and Stratford, both return. Over 20 return dates booked this year. Apply,
FRANK LINDO, to-day, T. R., Leicester; next, Avenue, Kettering (third visit).

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, for this High-class Costume Drama, March 19, April 2, 16. Wire,
MILLER, King's, Nottingham; or, O. H., Mansfield.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, April 2.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Stratford, E.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Stratford, E.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, "Mason," March 19, Easter; "Gay Parisienne," April 2; all North. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

LINGFORD CARSON'S DRAMATIC COS.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Theatres, for this Financial Success, Vacant April 23, May 7, 14, also Whit week.
Address,
LINGFORD CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by the late F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 6, Dec. 24, 31, and intermediate. FRANCES DELAVAL, Gaiety, Burnley.

"THE PLUCKY NIPPER."
WANTED, Good Theatre, March 26, follow St. James', Manchester, April 2, 9. Wire, wire, for March 26. Everything carried. EDWARD SURREY; to-day, T. R., Middleton; next, T. R. Batley.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, April 2 Easter, and May 7, a Five Years' Solid Success. Also,
"THE SORROWS OF SATAN." A Superb Cast. Crammed with Effects. Either or both plays.
LOIE ESMOND, T. R., Edmonton (fourth visit).

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, April 23 and 30.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT; to-day, Lyric, Hammersmith; March 12, Grand, Islington.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS,
"EAST LYNNE" and "LIFE."
WANTED, April 16, May 14, 28, on, Powerful Company of Known Artists. This Version of "East Lynne" is Licensed and Fully Protected. Splendid Pictorials, and Good Agent. Wires, HERBERT BARRS, Kendal. March 12, H. M. Theatre, Barrow.

A. HAMILTON WARDEN'S TOURS.
"A WOMAN'S PAST."
Forty-eighth consecutive week of Tour.
WANTED, March 22 (3 nights, South), and April 16 (Easter, South or Midlands).
A. HAMILTON WARDEN, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-Class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also few Autumn Dates vacant.
Apply, FRED GRANVILLE,
Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Dates for various Attractions, as hereunder:—

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. W. Reuben Payne's Company,
Spring tour (opened Feb. 5, Grand, Falkirk, and terminates Whit week, South Shields), complete, August Bank Holiday, various onwards.

"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company.
April 9 (Midlands), various on (Northwards).

"SAINTS AND SINNERS" and "MIDDLEMAN,"
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 10, various, on (North).

"THE WORLD'S VERDICT,"
Specially Cast and Beautifully Mounted, will resume tour shortly.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Mr. Arthur Carlton's Company,
Aug. 6, various onwards.

Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Please Note: Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, for this most Successful Play, April 23, 30, May 7, on, with exceptions, First-class Company, all new scenery, a production second to none. Address,
Lingford Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, March 26, April 9 and 16, May 7, also Whit Week,
only Vacant Dates till Autumn.
Address,
Lingford Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."

Miss Maud Hildyard and powerful Company.

WANTED, Wanted, Big Theatre.
Easter Week
Easter Week
Easter Week
Wire,
Mr. Ernest Dottridge,
Empire Theatre, Oldham.

"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
April 2, onwards.

Wire,
F. Martin Morris,
Grand Theatre,
Wolverhampton.

PETER THOMPSON'S
"BABES IN THE WOOD"
PANTOMIME.

WANTED, First-Class Theatre, for 1906 and 1907 Production.

This most genuinely funny and successful Pantomime of last season (1905 and 1906) was produced at the Royal Court Theatre, Wigan.

Refer H. J. Worswick, Esq., also following Managers of other Theatres visited: George E. Mudd, Esq., Grand T., Nelson; Charles Revill, Esq., T. Royal, Stockport; J. W. Haworth, Esq., Victoria T., Broughton; Stanley Rogers, Esq., Her Majesty's, Carlisle; E. H. Page, Esq., New Prince's, Blackburn; J. Edward Whitty, Esq., T. Royal, Batley.
Peter Thompson,
88, Monton-road, Eccles, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, having Large Stage, and Large Holding Capacity, for Production, Christmas, 1906, of
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"LITTLE CINDERELLA"
and
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Address,
James Kiddie, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."
Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, said of this Pantomime that it was being played to the shrieking delight of the little folk and the approving applause of the elders.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Xmas. Large Stage absolutely essential.
Apply,
Samuel James,
Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

WANTED, "Private Secretary," Open Dates, Sept. 17 and 24, Nov. 1 (3 nights), 12, and Dec. 24, onwards.
Apply, Eugene C. Stafford, c/o French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
WANTED, April 2, 16, and on. Sidney Dench, Prince's, Preston; next, T. R., Middleton.

WANTED, Dates, March 26 and April 2, Lena Stanton Company, in "Robinson Crusoe" and "Bonny Boy Blue," First-Class Company.

All coms., wire to-day, Avenue Theatre, Kettering; next week, T. R., Ilkeston.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, April 2, 23.
No Greater Success Touring.
Wire for April 2, 23. Wire.
James Bell, Theatre, Darlington.

Messrs. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
No Vacant Dates till August 6.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 27, Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 1. All coms.,
John B. Shinton, P. O. W. T., Mexboro'.

ALEXANDRA GRAND OPERA CO.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for Easter Week,
Good Theatre,
Holiday Resort.
Wire, Place, Theatre, Stanley, Durham; next, Theatre, Hebburn.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Full Company, including Good Stage-Manager, for short Stock Season, commencing May 21; rehearse week previous. Lowest Summer terms, and give address for next three weeks to Harry Esden, O. H., Northampton. Please mark envelopes "Stock."

"THE TRUMPET CALL."
WANTED, Artists for the above. Address letters, Charles F. Cooke, 43, Woburn-place, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, for Musical Comedy, Autumn Tours, Artists in all Lines, also Musical Directors, Acting- and Stage-Managers. Apply, C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Young Light Comedy Lady; must sing and dance well, rehearse March 20. Age, height, refs., and photo. (imperative), Counsell, Empire, Swansea.

WANTED, Young Amateur Lady, to Understudy in First-class Company, on Tour. Will be thoroughly Coached in various Parts. Address with photos. (stamped envelope for return), and full particulars, A. Hamilton Warden, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Musical Comedy. A young lady can be received for Small Part. Small premium, returned in salary.
Box 2,925, "The Era."

"THE GRIP OF IRON" CO.
WANTED. First-class Heavy Man. Apply, with full particulars, photo., height, lowest terms, George Denham, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Powerful Leading Man, and Chambermaid, for sketch. London hall, week March 19, possibly longer, joint preferred. Those in neighbourhood of Sheffield write. Lowest terms and all further particulars, Henry Watson, Grand Theatre, Sheffield.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Experienced, Tall, Leading Juvenile Gentleman, to rehearse March 26. State height, recent references, terms, Mark Blow, Pier Theatre, Eastbourne.

WANTED, tall Responsible Gentleman, capable of Juveniles, to Double. Terms for long tour, Hall-Menzies, Elizabeth Villa, Beehive, Ilford.

WANTED, Rehearse, Tuesday, Smart Young Actor, for Paul Judson, "Power of Gold." Particulars, Frank Ayrton, 47, Wellington-street, Gloucester.

"SAPHO."
WANTED, Recognised Leading Gentleman, for Jean, rehearse and open immediately. Address, stating exact height, last two references, salary, &c., to James Bell, Theatre, Darlington.

"THE LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE."
WANTED, Heavy Gentleman, tall, must dress well, and thoroughly know his business. Send terms, refs., photos., &c., G. Carlton Wallace, T. R., South Shields.

WANTED, First-class Actor, Capable of Leading Heavy Parts; must struggle. Actual height, lowest terms, photos., and last two refs., with addresses of same, which will be applied for, Winifred Maude, Opera House, Treherbert.

WANTED, Young Gent., for Dram. Sketch, and Lady for Musical Comedy Sketch; thorough tuition. Write, L., 16, Renfrew-rd., Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, for Early Autumn Tours, Smart, Attractive Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, good appearance and good voices absolutely essential. Apply personally and immediately, Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, at Once, Good Amateurs, for Drama and Comedy. Write or call, Lester and Leyton, 79, Judd-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, for fashionable Summer Resort (private ground), Tenor, Light Comedian, Baritone, Pianist, able to sing, all big répertoire; young, refined. Terms, photos. (no interviews). Hopkins, Coliseum, London. Also young, sober Pianist Entertainer, for principal hotel, live in hotel, fine Summer Engagement for right gentleman.

WANTED, Gent. (Pantomimist) to play part of Dog in Sketch. Apply Saturday, between 5 and 7, Robert Cameron, 18, Brook-street, Kennington.

WANTED, Good Bass Vocalist, young, good reader and soloist, used to quartettes. State compass of voice, and lowest salary for few weeks' Tour; if suitable, long engagement in Autumn. Box 2,932, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady, Soprano, and Pianiste, for concert party, long engagement, seaside. State lowest terms. Box 2,920, "The Era."

WANTED, Twelve Ladies, Dramatic; Twenty, Instrumental. Vocal. See "Amusement," 6d. everywhere, post 7d. Call. Correspondents. Lady Secretary. Edwin Drew, 7, Whitefriars, London.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Daphne De Rohan and Mr. Fred Evered have a few Vacant Dates left for their brilliant Musical and Dramatic Entertainment, in Pier Pavilions, Gardens, Spas, &c. Terms, Certainty or Share.
Engagements already booked include Folkestone, Southsea, Bournemouth, Southampton, Torquay, Bradford, Glasgow, Ostend, Paris, Dieppe, Berlin, and Lucerne.

Address, Mr. N. Bennett,
Wall Tyning, Bitton, near Bristol.

WANTED, Known, a well-known Leading Lady of large Experience, possessing great Emotional Powers and Versatile Ability in every Branch of Acting, wishes to invest £30 in really First-class Attraction (Drama or Comedy). To play and be starred in Leading part, and to receive nominal percentage on weekly gross receipts. References to be exchanged. Apply, first instance, Box 2,927, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady, Soprano, with Seaside Concert Party.
Boden, 8, Henry-road, Finsbury Park, N.

WANTED, by Fredk. A. Wilshire, humorous entertainer at piano, and accompanist, summer engagements, would join party. Perm. Add., Hanham, Bristol.

WANTED, Refined Humorist, for High-class Concert Party, summer season; must have good répertoire. State very lowest terms. Box 2,919, "The Era."

WANTED, by Contralto, Engagement in Concert Party for Summer. Can accompany. Refs. M. N., 17, Melton-road, West Bridgford, Notts.

WANTED, Known, Professional Guitarist and Neapolitan Singer, Re-engagement, will take any Engagement. At Liberty now. Testimonials. J. C. Albini, 30, Montpelier-place, Brompton-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement, in Drama, to play Small Parts and assist Baggage. Lloyd, c/o 3, Lincoln-terrace, Hawksley-road, Nottingham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for Six London and Provincial Pantomimes,
Season 1906-7,
Principal Boys and Girls, Big Comedians, Dames, Specialities, Double Comedians,
and all Lines.

Apply by letter, marked "Panto.," to
Somers and Warner,
Oxford Buildings,
1, Tottenham Court-road, W.

WANTED, for American Tour, forty weeks, fares paid, Lady Duettists, Extra Ladies, speak lines, dance. Photos. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

THE STALYBRIDGE SCENIC STUDIO.
Lessee and Manager, Frank Mundill.
WANTED, Known, I am prepared to undertake Contracts (large or small) for making and painting Scenery, high-class work and best materials. Send post-card for terms. Frank Mundill, G. T., Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, that at Sykes' Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Manchester, a large stock of new and secondhand Scenery always for sale. Contracts solicited. Only high-class work executed; best materials used. Send us a trial order.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist. Engagement or Contract, town or provinces. Refs. Add., 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, by Alfred Ford, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract. Managers requiring a few Scenic Effects painted for Weekly Productions, can arrange for two or three days per week. 110, Wenlock-street, New North-road.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, high-class work, and best materials, at reasonable prices. Studio and workshop, 107, Waddon New-road. Charles Sayer, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, or Contracts. Repainting or Touching-up; experienced, quick. Moderate charges. Address, Brush, 5, Homer-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, to Travel with Lord John Sanger and Sons, Ltd.; must understand Book-keeping (D.E.), and have highest references as to character and ability. Apply, stating salary, age, with references and photo., to Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Manager, with West-end experience in Concert Direction
and High-class Variety Agency.
State qualifications to
Box 2,306,
c/o Bates, Hendy and Co., 81, Cannon-street, E.C.

WANTED, Smart, Experienced Manager, to take charge of old-established Agency, small capital as security required. Principals only dealt with. State (confidential) salary required, with references. Only those smart and willing to work need apply; others save stamp. Box 2,933, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Assistant Manager, London production; good Salary; smart Amateur entertained. £30 deposit; security required. Box 2,905, "The Era."

WANTED, a First-Class Business-Manager, for Arthur Saxon and Co.'s unrivalled Strong Act. Apply, A. Saxon, 28, Gorton-rd., Reddish, Lancs.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, learn duties Acting-Management and Understudy. No premium. Apply, stating age, height, &c., photo., envelope for return, Box 2,926, "The Era."

CHAMBERS' and REGENT'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Advance Agent, for Fit-up, to Open immediately; also Good Pianist, quick sight-reader, to open Easter. Apply, E. Regent, Saturday, Town Hall, Skipton; Monday, P. O., Bingley, Yorks.

WANTED, Property Master, able to make, and control Staff. Must be a worker, and used to discipline. Apply by letter to Stage Department, Cranbourn mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, an Electrical Engineer, one who is thoroughly accustomed to Theatrical and Music Hall work, to take sole control. Apply, Jack Woolf, Wonderland, Whitechapel.

WANTED, a smart, young, sober Bill-poster, to Travel with Circus Agent, and look after horse and van, to commence Monday, March 19. Long engagement and good salary to suitable man. Write, with references, to
G. A. Rampling, Post Office, Great Grimsby, till Wednesday, March 14.

WANTED, Practical Bill-poster, to combine props, willing to work and make himself useful. Permanency. James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Smart Bill-Poster, combine Window-billing, care Horse and Trap (travelling). Fred Lewis, Circus Agent, 8, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Advertiser, position as Stage-Manager in Music Hall, London or Country. Six years' experience. Highest references. Apply, Box 2,903, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Experienced Business-Manager, and Wife (juvenile lead), would be willing to invest in touring company, in return for engagement of guaranteed length. Letters only, Geoffrey French, 21, Claverton-st., S.W.

WANTED, Situations, by Two Practical Bill-posters, good refs., last two situations 8 years. Apply, P. Burgoyne, 5, West-st., Newport, Mon.

WANTED, by Advertiser (30), Situation with Professional Lady. Home or Travel, thoroughly domesticated; would also act as Dresser. Small salary. References. Write, A., 21, Wynne-road, Brixton.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, the One Hundred and Eleven Gentlemen who Answered the Advertisement for Conductorship, at the Grand, Bolton, to Know that a decision will be arrived at on or before next Wednesday. Those not receiving reply, please accept silence as polite negative.
J. F. Elliston, Bolton.

WANTED, Leader for Shepherd's Bush Empire, to commence at once. Apply, stating age, salary required, with copies of testimonials, to Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Young Violinist, youth preferred, one with a good knowledge of the Violin, for Enlistment in one of the Smartest Cavalry Bands in the British Army.
Apply by letter,
stating age, ability, and all details, to
B. E., c/o Hawkes and Sons,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

WANTED, First Violin and First Cornet, for suburban variety. Write only,
Mr. Fennell, 26, Clemence-street, Burdett-road, E.

WANTED, Violinist, also Cornet, to Collect, for long summer engagement; must be thoroughly competent and reliable. Terms, references, Box 2,913, "The Era."

WANTED, to commence March 19, Good Second Violin; must be used to Varieties. Terms, age, and references to Chas. Elphinstone, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, for Big Musical Comedy Act, Solo Cornet, good Second Cornet, Clarionet, and Euphonium; must be good readers and reliable and steady men, between 20 and 30; those with some stage experience and residing in London preferred. Apply to Leo Carle, 18a, Morat-street, Brixton, between 2 and 4 p.m. (except Sunday) Bring own Instruments. Open at Easter.

WANTED, Good Cornet Player, for Good Line Infantry Regiment.
Apply, Boosey and Co., 295, Regent-street, London, W.

WANTED, for Sir R. Fossett's Circus, to join Monday. Good Solo and Second Cornet, and Trombone. Wire, Cook, Fossett Farm, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, First-Class Solo Cornet, for long Summer Season (Seaside); also Oboe. State terms, age, and reference. Box 2,929, "The Era."

H. and F. POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, to Open Monday next, at the Theatre, Crook, Trombone, wear evening dress, and assist fitting when travelling. Terms 30s. Wire, Poole, Theatre, Blyth.

LORD JOHN SANGER and SON'S, LTD., TENTING SEASON.
WANTED, through disappointment, Good Euphonium, open Mon., 12, Reigate, Surrey. Terms, 32s. 6d. weekly and £10 Bonus. Wire, Bandmaster, 32, Charles-street, Glossop.

WANTED, a good Pianist, for Auction Mart, read at sight, good accompanist, and not afraid of work; good wages. Edwards and Page, Neath.

C. W. POOLE'S NO. 1 MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Double Drummer, with Effects to open March 19; must wear Uniform and assist with fittings when travelling. J. R. Poole, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Double Drummer and Effects; permanency to suitable man. State age, references, and lowest terms, Graham-Falcon, Grand Theatre, Luton.

WANTED, for Tenting Circus, Double Drums and Effects. Terms, 30s. Apply,
Leader, Post Office, Rhymney, South Wales.

BAND 3rd R.W. KENT REGIMENT.
WANTED, Pensioners under 45, and 12-years men under 35 years of age, for the above Band. All Instruments may write in. A good offer to good men.
For full particulars, apply,
Bandmaster, Barracks, Maidstone.

WANTED, Musicians, for Orchestra, at Alhambra Palace, Morecambe, 10 days Easter, 7 days Whitsuntide, and 10 weeks' season. Send lowest terms and refs. to Frank B. Beard, 101, Balsall Heath-rd., Birmingham.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

Solo Clarionet, Flute, Euphonium, Cornet.
WANTED, Small Military (District Council), Efficient Men only. Apply, terms, refs., Bellerby, Mus. Dir., Ilkley.

WANTED, First-class Strings, Londoners, Seaside, Week, and Sun. Evg., Operatic Players, long engt., really good men, fair terms; also smart Orch. Pianist. Box 2,914, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Small Brass Band, for Parade, and assist in fittings, 3 days and week stands. Lindsay Worth, 133, Coplaw-st., Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, at Liberty now, Composer, Arranger, Violinist. Address, 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, in London, by experienced Composer, Arranger, Oboeist. Good references. Address, Box 2,898, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Composer, Smart, Reliable, Experienced, and thoroughly up to date, disposable to arrange any score, classical or otherwise, piano accompaniments, &c., &c. Box 2,921, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Jules Guitton, Musical-Director, Composer, and Arranger, at Lib. Address, 51, Fairland-road, Mathew's Park, West Ham, E.

WANTED, Known, Conductor (Pianist), Disengaged, experienced, London suburbs, theatre, music hall. Box 2,918, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Forshaw Kershaw, Conductor and Solo Pianist, at Liberty through misunderstanding; thoroughly experienced, any Business. Just concluded Pantomime. Refer Messrs. Adeler and Sutton. Can join at once. Wire or write, 11, Wellington-road, New Brighton.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, Summer Engagement, at Liberty Easter, thoroughly experienced any business; good refs. Address, Leader, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement in London, by thoroughly experienced Leader (Violin, &c.), at Liberty March 25. Apply, H. C. Holbrook, 20, Cupar-road, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Known, Caffyn Baxter, Conductor (piano), Composer, Arranger, open for musical comedy or permanency; songs composed and orchestrated. 17, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Archibald Evans, Musical Director, at Liberty March 19. Offers invited, London only. Address, 32, Oxford-st.

WANTED, Known, Leader, Disengaged, Good Reader and Arranger, portable, or minor theatre, in or near Glasgow. New Century Hotel, Holm-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, by First-class Leader (or a First Violin), Engagement, any Business. At Liberty March 19. Box 2,924, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Violinist, Good, immediate engagement, for a few weeks, any business. Address, Box 2,907, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First Violin, will be at Liberty shortly. Good ref. A. E. Wilks, 57, Herbert-rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist, any business, can combine Clarionet.
Violinist, 9, Taylor-street, Darlington.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by the Principal Second Violinist, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co. Address, Lewis, Orchestra, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Violin, combine Clarionet, good refs., well experienced, age 23. J. W. Hemingway, 92, Quay-rd., Bridlington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good First Violin or Viola, any Business. Nicholls, 12, Bowdler-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, by Leader, Cornet, Engagement, circus business; good répertoire of circus music; Liberty at once. T. Reynolds, Red Lion, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

WANTED, by Good Solo Cornet, Engagement, any Business. Good refs. Address, W. Adams, Gayton House, Redfern-road, Willesden Junction, N.W.

WANTED, by First Cornet Player, Employment; ex-army man. Good references. Please state terms. Lately left. Gossip, 9, Union-place, Osborne-street, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, for Summer Season, First or Second. Excellent testimonials. Frank Baker, 2, Sunnyside-road, Sandgate, Kent.

WANTED, Summer Engagement (Orchestra or Military Band), as Second Cornet; steady, reliable, age 25. Terms low; 5 years' experience. Good refs. Adams, 142, Doggett-road, Catford.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Clarionet, Theatre or Variety. Best refs., and thoroughly experienced. T. Crawshaw, 89, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, good orchestra, 20 years' experience, excellent refs., reliable. Address, C. Mantle, 31, Milton-street, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, by Clarionet (diplomé), Theatre or Hotel Work, in London, first-class refs. Box 2,906, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by Clarionettist, for about one week at Easter.
Clarinet, 15, St. Ann-street, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, competent, reliable, good refs., any Business, London or suburbs. Address, Clarionet, 8, Hardwick-street, Rosebery-avenue, London, E.C.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Clarionet, any Business, military or orchestral, experienced, reliable, and good refs. Clarionet, 167, Millbrook-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, through reducing orchestra, any business, well experienced, good refs. A. Miller, 30, Wise-st., Dresden, Staffordshire.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Experienced, Permanency, any description, well used to variety. Write, Clarionet, 10, Maurice-rd., Wallsend-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet, Engagement, any business; highest references. Can join at once. Apply, John Orr, 1, Grosvenor-ter., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, Trom., or Euph., together or separate, any Business. Refs. Clart, 163, Gt. Knollys-street, Reading.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass and Bombardon, orchestral or military, genuine refs. E. J. Elliott, 15 Hardwicke-rd., Halton, Hastings.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by up-to-date Double Bass Player (four-string), Disengaged May 7 or earlier; experienced in Opera, Theatre, Variety and Military Orchestra; steady and reliable; highest credentials. Basso, Mrs. Barber, 7, Solon New-road, Clapham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Bassoonist, permanent or season; good refs., &c. 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, William Corner, 81, Blomfield-road, Shepherd's Bush, Bass, Guitar Player; perfect, and good sight reader.

WANTED, Engagement, Tenor Trombone, Orchestra or Institution, where work is found. Good refs. Edmonds, 156, Adrian-terrace, West Brompton.

WANTED, by experienced Trombone, Summer Engagement. Good refs; sober and reliable. Beamish, 64, Townfield-lane, Liscard, Cheshire.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. Cassells, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist and Violinist, Summer Engagement, with Ladies' Orchestra, 'Cello Soloist. Harvey, 4, Belsize-parade, Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Evening Engagement in London, Sundays excepted. Highest references. Address, 'Cellist, 126, Kyverdale-road, Stamford Hill, N.

WANTED, Known, Solo 'Cellist, and thoroughly experienced Orchestral Musician, Disengaged March, desires High-class Hotel Engagement, full Summer Season. Box 2,845, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Viola Player. George C. Gross,
35, Bath-lane-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Viola, Re-engagement, any Business; good refs. Apply, Alfred W. Montague, 65, Goldsmith-row, Hackney, London.

WANTED, by Oboe, steady and reliable, Short Summer Season during Vacation. E. Clarke, Oboeist, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Oboe, Summer Engagement, Orchestral or Military, late Soloist Royal Marines; excellent refs. G. Williams, 27, Paisley-street, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, Summer Season, Oboe and Viola (would combine), any business, good experience. Apply, Box 2,910, "The Era."

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Engagement as Harpist, Solo or Orchestral. Re-engaged by R. Arthur, Esq., Christmas, '05-6, Court T., Liverpool. At Liberty March 10.

WANTED, Engagement as Harpist (combine Violin), in First-Class Hall, North or Midlands preferred, thoroughly experienced; highest references; or would entertain good offer for Summer. Address, Box 2,912, "The Era."

WANTED, a Shop, as Harpist, any Line, Town Band preferred.
Address, Harpist, 32, Bethel-street, Norwich.

WANTED, Seaside Summer Engagement (Season), Flute, Piccolo (Soloist), Military, String, well known, reliable. References. Penfold, 27, Thistlewaite-road, Lower Clapton.

WANTED, by Flautist, Summer Engagement, steady and reliable, Boehm and Carte system flutes. Flautist, Opera House, Perth, Scotland.

WANTED, Engagement by First-Class Flute and Piccolo Soloist; excellent references; good répertoire of Solos; young and steady.
T. Hurn, 9, Upper Aberdyberthi, Swansea.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by experienced Flautist, Solos, 3½ years in present engagement. J. Slade, 17, Ormonde-terrace, Regent-street, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Known, a Brilliant Solo Pianist and Accompanist (Gentleman), who has fulfilled Two Seasons at Leading Pier, desires Summer Engagement, in similar Capacity, or with high-class Concert Party (costume or otherwise).
Arthur Le Strange, 31, Villia-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Pianiste, late of Modern Marvel Co., excellent testimonials. Add., Miss Therese Lindsay, Melrose, Scotland.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist, exper. Var. Dram. Bus., Orch. or Self, Reader Excel. refs.; steady, reliable. 22, High-street, Barton-on-Humber.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist, good reader and accompanist. Choruses or songs run through at short notice. K. Hall, 5, Elmstone-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist-Harpist, any business; good experience; references. J. Sinclair, 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by a First-class Pianist and Reader, capable for Conductor, compose and arrange. After March 17. Letters to George van Weezel, 10, Sydenham-buildings, Bath.

WANTED, Known, Smart Young Pianist (Double-handed), at Liberty for Summer Seaside Engagement. Highest refs. Apply, Sydney R. Axford, 9, Church-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, for Summer Season, by competent Drummer and Tympanist, all Effects. Good refs. W. Hayes, 165, Breck-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Drummer and Clarionets, permanent engagement. Will P. Gordon and H. Wordsworth write? Box 2,822, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, now at Liberty, variety preferred. Drums, 94, Graham-rd., Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer and Tympanist, Theatre or Music Hall, thoroughly experienced; highest refs. Drums, 50, Flood-street, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums, &c., at Liberty Sat., 10th. Excellent references. E. Brightwell, c/o Broadfoot, 156, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow.

Managers of Hotels, Restaurants, and Piers.
WANTED, Known, if you want a big attraction for your establishment, engage at once the celebrated Gardenia Orchestra (four to thirty performers). All Artists and Soloists. Great Success at a well-known Pier last season, and tremendous Success on the Continent. To secure this fine Band, write at once. Box 2,873, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by the Original Blue Austrian Band, for Seaside or Exhibition, &c.; also Small Band, for Hotel, &c.; and Ladies' Orchestra. Save 10 per cent. and write to Musical-Director, 53, Philpot-street, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Ladies' Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-terrace, Kensington. Quartet engaged Johannesburg, January to July.

WANTED, Engagement, to provide Large or Small Orchestra, by Licentiate, R.A.M. Highest possible recommendations. Address, L. E., Cremona, Mountfield-rd., Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, by the Austro-Hungarian Band, Seaside Engagement; excellent township testimonials; splendid uniforms; large and varied Selection of Modern Music. Box 2,823, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Family Band of Five, at Liberty Shortly, any business, three years last engt. Box 2,909, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Ladies' Military Band, Conductress Miss Rose Telfer) open to offers.
Apply, 10, German-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency. Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. Williams, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. Jesson, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. Lees, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.

WANTED, for Present and Future Dates, the Greatest and Best Talent in England, Nothing too Big, Money no Object for Startling Novelties. Note.—Also wanted, for the Grand Opening of Ohmy's Grand Circus, Southport, for April 2, April 2, April 2. All must state when last appeared in the town of Southport. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand New Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH.

WANTED, Easter Monday, Artists all Lines, not Musical or Cyclist; new to Blyth preferred; also Leader Violin, small Band. TUDOR, as above.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S ROYAL SUMMER CIRCUS, ABERDEEN.

WANTED, for Easter Monday, Equestrian, Acrobats, Clowns, Gymnasts, and other Celebrated Circus Artists. Please apply, JOHN HENRY COOKE, Circus, Edinburgh.

BOSCO'S TENTING CIRCUS.

WANTED, to commence Easter Monday, for Long and Comfortable Tenting Season, Artists of all Classes, including Good Animal Acts, Acrobats, and New and Novel Acts of Every Description, Useful Families, &c.. &c. Lowest terms and full particulars to Bosco, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Artists in every Branch, immediately. Animal Acts preferred. CLEMPERT'S Hippodrome, Higher Broughton, Salford. Telegrams, "Clempert, Manchester."

WANTED, for Robert Fossett's Circus, Contortionist, also Gymnast that can do Trapeze and Triple Bars, also Stud Groom and Tent-master; must be experienced. Address, Ravensthorpe, Northampton.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S "SPAN OF LIFE" CO.

WANTED, Troupe of Acrobats, Single Acrobats may apply. SANDERSON MOFFAT, To-night, West London Theatre; next week, T. R., Dover.

WANTED, for March 12, Bar Performers and Acrobats, or any Big Act that can be done in a Circus Ring. Wire, CROCKETT, Circus, Sutton, Surrey.

WANTED, a Smart and Funny Tumbler, age about 17. When writing, state weight, also lowest terms. A good engagement for anyone suitable. Address, Box 2,916, "The Era."

WANTED, a Good Tumbler. State all you do, and salary. Address, Box 2,902, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, for Triple Bar Act, one used to Knockabout preferred. State particulars. Box 2,899, "The Era."

WANTED, a Boy, good Tumbler, age 15 to 17. State height. Apply, VANDELL, 171, Scholes, Wigan.

WANTED, for Harry Cadle's "Casey Court" Circus on Music Halls, Boys and Girls in all lines, used to Circus business, over 14, and small for age. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Miss Pinder, Novel Equestrienne, with her performing horse, riding dog, and flight of pigeons. Miss Pinder is the only lady doing this turn on any stage. Will be at Liberty from March 19, also for Easter, fêtes and galas, with John Irvin, foot equilibrist. We thank Agents for Offers. Address 144, High-street, Deptford. S.E.

WANTED.—Frank Anderson, the Eccentric, just concluded fourth engagement with Mr. Oswald Stoll, Vacant March 19. Perm., 41, Lavan-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, March 19, Mayeno Trio, 2 Ladies, 1 Gent., gymnasts, acrobats, tight wire, 3 distinct numbers. Usual success, Ohmy's Circus, Leigh. Next week, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

WANTED, Directors and Agents to see The Clement Trio, Stage Comedy Flying Trapeze Act. Doing Four Different Kinds of Double Somersaults. Free March 19, 26. Monday next, Broadhead's Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte (Lady and Gent.), Gymnastic Pot-pourri Act, March 19, 26. Address, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, the Maros, Comedy Bar Performers, Liberty 12th, 19th, 26th. Address, 126, Porter-street, Hull. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Tenting Season, Cameo Troupe, Acrobats, Risley, Double Entrée, Boxing, and Singing Clown. 1, Upper Duke-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Cardoe, Comedy Contortionist. This, Empire, Paisley. Vacant Monday, onwards. Wire for a sure Success. Wire.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, Equilibrists and Acrobats, March 12, 19, and tenting season. Wire, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes, after Monday. Address, THORNE, Doncaster.

WANTED, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, March 12 and 19. Wire, Hippo., Yarmouth; after Sunday, Albany-ter., Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Le Mere's Original Clown Cricketers are at Liberty for Easter Monday, April 16 (distance no object). Good reliable game guaranteed. Particulars, 14, Astbury-road, Peckham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man, Amateur Gymnast, cripple, in troupe. G. BROOKER, 2, Stratford-villas, Camden-sq., London, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Mounter, with First-class Troupe of Acrobats, can Tumble, &c.; Straight or Comedy. Address, BOB, Theatre Royal Dover.

WANTED, Known, First-Class Bearer and Catcher, at Liberty to join Troupe. S. WELSBY, 79, Sulketh-street, Southport.

WANTED, by Coloured Man, join Troupe. Can tumble, or willing to assist. Q. ALEXANDER, 386, John Williamson-street, South Shields.

WANTED.—A Well-known Artist would thoroughly teach a young man the contortion business. Terms moderate. Box 2,911, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Joe Hastings, Champion Jumper, and King of Ringmasters, Expert Extemporaneous Lecturer, just concluded 10 weeks' engagement, Palace, Swansea, probably at Liberty for tenting. Com., Theatre, Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tent-master, thoroughly experienced, at home or abroad. JOHN WARD, 1, Jubilee-place, Regent-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Steady Respectable Groom seeks situation in Tenting Circus or Menagerie, tall, aged 30. good team driver. References. Disengaged. DAVIDSON, 12, Hampton-place, Brighton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANHOPE and Co., 63, Regent-st., W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, March 19, South Wales, Variety Artists all Lines, also other dates. Lithos., Memos. T. R. GANNON, Agent. West-grove, Bristol.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First Class Artists in All Lines,
For Immediate Dates, Easter, and Later.
For Immediate Dates, Easter, and Later.
For Immediate Dates, Easter, and Later.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

1686 Royal. Telephone.
"Fioni, Liverpool." Telegraphic Address.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, Variety Artists all Lines, immediate and future dates. Terms, &c., J. CUMMINGS, 66, Whitevale, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

NEW HIPPODROME THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD.

WANTED, March 19, 26, April 9, Variety Artists, Funny Sketches, Comedians, Sisters, Comic Knockabouts; all must be new to Mansfield. Communications, J. MORRELLA.

SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, March 19, and onwards. Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Hippodrome Theatre and Opera House, Mansfield, Variety Artists, all Branches, Comedians, Sisters, Serios, &c., for 3 nights (March 8, 9, 10). Wire, MORRELLA, Mansfield.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Comedy Star Artists, in all Lines.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, for Hippodrome Barrow, Artists in all Lines, for present and future dates; must state when last in Barrow. R. SILVESTER, Miners' Theatre, Ashington, Northumberland.

Al Fresco.

WANTED, Pierrot Artists. Apply, Box 2,900, "The Era." Fred Thornley write up.

ARTHUR AISTON'S PIERROTS AND CADETS.

WANTED, for Above, Artists in all Lines, for Chester and Prestatyn, including Pianist (must sing), to commence June 4 (rehearse previous); must have good Répertoire of Songs, Sketches, and Concerted Numbers. Lowest terms, latest photograph (stamp), or no notice will be taken, to ARTHUR AISTON, 92, Grosvenor-street, All Saints', Manchester.

WANTED, Good Gala Artists for Aug. 2. State terms. MANAGER, Victoria Hall, Newtown, N. Wales.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, Broadstairs Band and Entertainment Committee require High-class Company of Concert Artists, Five in number, Two Performances Daily. Applicants please quote terms for from June 2 to 30, and from July 1 till end of September. ARTHUR HOLT, Broadstairs.

WANTED, Star Artists, Novelties, Wanted, Comedians, Acrobats, &c. Big Tops and Bottoms, Seaside and Town. Rigoku Troupe write. Photos., bookings, &c., YATES'S Agency, Church-avenue, Weaste, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, Two Weeks, March 26, April 2, 9, 16. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Good Pierrot Artists, for Troon, N.B., young, sober, gentlemanly, and talented, commence June. Address, LINDSAY WORTH, 133, Coplaw-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Sharing terms, Theatre Royal, Dover, July 9, Big Business certain. Letters, KARDOC, 28, Liverpool-st., Dover.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Big Specialities and Star Acts write, nothing too big. Will old clients send revised list of bookings, &c., as the business will be carried on as usual? Address, Mrs. FRED HARCOURT'S Variety Agency, 133, Mosslane East, Manchester. Telegrams, "Magician, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions, for immediate Dates. Send full particulars, J. W. JOHNSON, Variety and Speciality Agent, 86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, Al-fresco, Long Season, young, refined, for Pier. Full particulars. Dan Dugard write. Commence Easter. Box 2,928. "The Era."

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big, stars, on shares or salary, March 26. GEO. SAPHRINI, Lessee and Manager, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists, for Galas, Gymnasts, Acrobats, or anything suitable, for June, Apply, C. R. PULLAN, Agent, 25, Dragon-parade, Harrogate (late of Bradford).

WANTED, for Clempert's Hippodrome, Higher Broughton, Salford, Artists in every Branch, immediately, Animal Acts preferred. Letters as above. Telegrams, "Clempert, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions, for immediate and future. Nothing too Big, Nothing too Good. Send absolute lowest terms, full list of bookings. Remember, Nothing too Good. DUNNING, Hippodrome, Maidstone.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines. WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for March 19. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Tom Owen's Pierrot Shows, start June 4. Leon Lennard write. 21, Stanley-terrace, Swansea.

WANTED. — Artists who have successfully appeared under

Watch this Space.	the management of T. M. Sylvester are par-ticularly requested to watch this space. Then apply to T. M. SYLVESTER, 63, Regent-st., London.	Watch this Space.
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COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME CO., LTD.

WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that, from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contract will be recognised unless Signed by the Secretary and Manager.
T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager.
G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted. Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that TOM CLAXTON'S English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, All the Greatest Stars in the Profession. Acts New in Dublin for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland. Direct or through Agents. All communications to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09144.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.

WANTED, for Easter Holidays (nine days) and Season, Whitsuntide, onwards, Stars in all Lines, Comedy Acts, Novelty Acts, Comedians, Comediennes, Big Specialities, Anything New, Anything Good, Direct or through Agents.

All communications to T. P. DUIGNAN, General Manager, Hippodrome, Blackpool.

WANTED for March 19, 26, June 4, Stars in all Lines. Stars in all Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. State Towns at Liberty for. Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks. CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., March 12, 19, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Variety Turns, Whitsuntide, onwards, big building, absolute lowest Summer Terms or no notice taken. ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER, Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Turns for March 14, 17, 21, and 24, George Theatre, Crawley. Manager, BARRETT STEWART.

WANTED, Duet, Patter, or Novelty Turn; good price paid for First-class Work. BROS. B., 38, Crookham-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Turns, the bigger the better. I can place you. BEN NEVIS and Co., G.P.O., Carlisle.

WANTED, a Few Single and Double Turns, for Boston, March 19, for Leoni Clarke's Combination. Add., Two Brewers Hotel, Northampton.

WANTED, Big Speciality Turns, March 19, share or salary. Sensational acts write. Particulars, DILLON, Institute, Marske-by-the-Sea, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for Blackpool, Morecambe, and other Seaside Towns, Easter, Whit Week, July 2, onwards, Big Specialities, Comedy Acts, Bar Performers, Comedy Musical Acts, Novelty Jugglers, Sensational Cycle Acts, Acrobatic Acts, in fact anything that is New and Novel. WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, the Biggest Specialities and Sensational Novelties, Easter week, April 16, for Clough Hall Gardens, Harecastle, Piers, Gardens, Fêtes, Galas, &c. Terms, Bookings, Lithos. EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

BRADFORD AL FRESCO PAVILION.
Proprietors, POPPLEWELL, BENTLEY, and KILDUFF.

WANTED, Refined Speciality Acts, that can work to piano, no ladies in tights or décolleté dresses required, for the finest pitch in England; stage opening 36ft., gas footlights, headlights, and lime boxes; covered-in stage and dressing-rooms, with every convenience; pavilion holds 2,000 people; over 100,000 paid for admission in four months last season. Open Easter till end of Sept. Terms, and where to be seen working next six weeks, to WALTER S. BENTLEY (not an Agent), 9, White's-view, Bradford. No Interviews.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAUX,
15, Hotham-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Immediate and Further Dates, the Biggest Acts in the Market, Novelties, Star Comic Acts, Comedians, &c., of Repute, for next Monday. Wire. Send full list of booking, lowest terms (no fancy prices paid). Also Good Acts for Combination, March 19. Low terms required. All friends write again.

WANTED, Big Acts for America. All particulars to FRANK LYNNE, 121, West 42nd-street, New York City, U.S.A.

WANTED, Good Gala Acts, for Easter, also June, July, August. Terms, lithos., bills, perm. add., WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, August Bank Holiday, intermediate dates, best of Sensational Acts all Lines. Lithos., Memos. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, I can place the Biggest Acts. ATLAS, Agent, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager, Morecambe, Blackpool, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester; also Two Star Turns, Easter (nine days), April 12 to 21 inclusive.

WANTED, Wanted, the Best of Talent, in all Lines, for quick Dates. Address, DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.

WANTED, Good Variety Combination or Good Entertainment, for three nights, April 12, 13, and 14. Address C. M. JULIAN, General Manager.

WANTED, First-class Variety Attractions, Six Nights, March 19. Address, WILL SMITHSON, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
Owners, Messrs. CARLTON and DUCKWORTH.

WANTED, Complete Show in itself, Non-Dramatic, for Easter Week, one of the finest Holiday Dates in Wales. Apply, SAM DUCKWORTH, Theatre R., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Big Comedy Number, Monday Week; also Artists, in all Lines, for immediate weeks. Lowest terms, lithos., and full particulars, bookings, &c., to DAY'S Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, London. Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London." Telephone, 6915 Gerrard; 1,500 Central.

WANTED, Wanted. Wanted, Good Comedy Four, April 9 and 16, June 4, August 6; also Comedians, Soubrettes, and Novelties, for July, August, and September. Send list of Bookings and Terms. LESLIE Agency, Manchester, S.E.

PALACE THEATRE, CORK.

Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, March 26, April 2, and onward, Big Specialities, Illusions, Comedians, Cycle Acts, Jugglers, Bar Acts, Musical Shows; must be Refined, or absolutely useless. No Sketches. Call Monday, March 12, Captain Max Gruber's Elephant, Horse, and Pony, Arthur Stacey, Florence Deighton, Brothers Hersleb, Mdlle. Dora, The Blind Man, Vasey and Ramsey, Bertha Stuart, Charles Morritt. Rehearsal at 2 o'clock.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

Telephone No. 288.
"Telegraphic address, "Zalva, Scarboro'."

GEO. ZALVA'S INTERNATIONAL AGENCY.
Residential Offices: The Hippodrome, Scarboro'. Sole appointed Agent for the Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes.

WANTED, for 9 days, commencing April 12, and following week, Good Top of Bill (North), Comedy Acts, and Turns of every Description for Immediate and Future Dates. Good Equestrian Act wanted, for Four Days, commencing Good Friday; must be Up-to-date, or useless. Lancashire. Quote absolute lowest terms and full bookings.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Big Tops of Bills, Drawing Cards. Price no object. March 19, 26, on. HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY, Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool. Telephones, 0231 and 0231A.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Big Star Number for the Provinces April 16 next, must be something exceptionally attractive. Price no object to the right number. RICHARD CASS'S Agency, 30, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

Artists for Summer Season, 1906.

WANTED, Smart Soubrette and Contralto, 16 weeks, to commence April 14, Pier Tour; also Light Comedian and Entertainer at Piano, to accompany; also two Really First-Class Military Bands, for July, August; and any good, refined Specialities, for Seaside. Sole Bookings for several places. All must quote lowest terms, refs., where can be seen next three weeks, and enclose photo. to Mr. BERT DELMAR, Artists' Business Representative, Richmond Theatre, Surrey.

WANTED, Troupe of Lady Dancers and Vocalists, young, pretty, and thoroughly versatile, for Short Tour (North), Young Contralto, also Serio. Send absolute lowest, photos., GEORGE P. FENTON, King's New Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, Ladies (twenty), for Scena; good voices and figures essential; must be smart. Preference given to those with knowledge of Dancing. Height 5ft. 5in. Apply, Monday, March 12, 2 o'clock sharp, to ERIC DARE, Percy Hall, 3, Percy-street, Tottenham Court-road, W.

WANTED, Smart Serios, to write in for Monday, March 19, 2 weeks' comfortable engagement. Wire or write, HARRY SWANN, Red Cow Hotel, Cambridge.

WANTED, Lady Serios, Sisters, Quartette, Vocalists, and Dancers, March 19. Send particulars to DILLON, Institute, Marske-by-the-Sea, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Serio Comedienne or Sisters, Good Dancers and Players of Banjo, &c., preferred; also Refined Funny Turns, for a Long Tour through Scotland, commence August. Apply, CONCERT AGENT, c/o Thomson, Piano Warehouse, Govan-road, Glasgow.

NEW HIPPODROME THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD.

WANTED, Monday Next, March 12, Good Comedians, Serio, or Sisters. Wire, J. MORRELLA, 50, Cedar-rd., Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.

WANTED, a Smart Young Comedian and Eccentric Dancer, must have good voice and be a really A1 Dancer, with good répertoire of Coon and Comedy Songs, for Al Fresco and Music Hall work, all the year round engagement. State age, lowest salary, and all particulars, with photo. Box 2,931, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Comedian and Pantomimist, to join a First-class Sketch, Knockabout, &c. Address, terms, reference, &c., to HALES, 127, Westbrook-street, Manchester-road, Bolton.

WANTED, Conjurer, Ventriloquist, and Humorist, or Troupe that can give two hours' show; must be refined show. State lowest terms for 17 weeks' season, commencing Whitsun, also one week Easter. Those requiring big salary save stamps. Small hall. Professor BEAUMONT, King's Head Hotel, Llandudno.

WANTED, Ventriloquist, doing another turn, for Cinématograph Tour; Lady Pianist wanted. G. SINCLAIR, 46, Brailsford-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, for Harry Cadle's "Casey Court" Companies, clever Boys and Girls, in all lines, must be small and over 14. Full particulars, CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, for Music Halls, Amateurs and Beginners, thorough tuition, free. No charge, only on engagements. Write, BOB GRAHAM, Raleigh, Salford-rd., Streatham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Two Coloured Lads, about 16 years old, that can tumble; good Baritone Singer, to take part in sketch; also Actor. CLAUDE GINNETT, jun., Hippodrome, Southampton.

WANTED, Real Black Boy, age over 14, for London. Apply at once, WEATHERSBY'S Agency, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

WANTED, Experienced Operator, for Bioscope. State terms and References. No travelling. D. GILLIN, 55, Effingham-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Sylvesto, 19th, 26th, through halls closing, June 18th. Wire or write, Palace, Glasgow. Agents, DE VERE and HART.

WANTED, by Dolly and Madge McCalla, March 12, 19, 26, all April. This, Palace, Camberwell. Perm., 81, Flaxman-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Hilda Beresford, at Liberty March 26, for Illusions, Hamilton's Excursions. Town Hall, Falkirk, Scotland.

WANTED, March 12 and 19, by Lily Turner, Versatile Vocalist. Wire, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Florrie Claribel, Tyrolean Songstress, Serio and Ballad Vocalist, Vacant Monday next, 19th and 26th. Wire, Theatre, Long Eaton.

WANTED, March 12, on, by Babs Lloyd, Star Artist; also Nellie Vann, Original Comedienne and Dancer. Wire quick, Hippo., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Truro, Duettists and Dancers, vacant for March 12, and on. Also open for Panto. 1906 and 1907. 31, Old Hall-street, Middleton, Manchester.

WANTED, by Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Operatic Vocalists, March 26, between Blackburn and Hull; April 23, follow Tottenham. Next, Theatre, Barnsley.

WANTED, March 19, on, through hall closing, for the Original Harry Kardoc, the World's Greatest Manacle Monarch, in his Up-to-date Act. Beware of Imitators. See Card. Wire for a Sure Drawing Act.

WANTED, by Reg. Wood, Handcuff King, Season Engagement, Side-show or Pier. The late Dr. Lynn's Famous Box Trick, that was exhibited at Earl's Court Crystal Palace, &c. Permanent address, Chorlton, Manchester.

WANTED, March 19, on, by Cambo, the Musical Man Monkey, and his Clever Dog Joe, Beautiful Garden Fit-up, &c.; also Ventriloquist. Two separate and distinct acts. Address this week, Lyceum Theatre, Long Eaton; next week, Aquarium, Scarborough.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Funny Musical and Talking Comedian, Funniest Single Act on the Stage, Liberty. 16, Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, by Clifton Hall, Vocalist, March 26, April 9, 16, May 14, 21, 28. Summer settled, Scotland. Monday, T. R., Barnsley.

WANTED, March 12 and four following weeks, by Ventom Swift, the Piccadilly Coon, Eccentric Dancer. This week, Parthenon, Liverpool. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Ted Waite, Eccentric Vocal Comedian, Liberty Monday, Wire, Grand Theatre, Bolton, for a Sure Success.

WANTED, March 19 and 26 to follow Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow-on-Tyne, Will Pettitt, Swell Coon Banjoist. Terrific Success. Wire.

WANTED, Known, T. C. Jaques, Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, Liberty Mon., March 12. Wire, Queen's Varieties, Glasgow.

WANTED, by J. H. Carney, Character Comedian, Mimic, and Dancer, at Liberty Mon. next, also 19th, an Original Act. Address, 30, Ney-street, Green-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Chas. E. Ernest is vacant March 26, April 2, 9, original, Vocal, Comedy, and a Master of Musical Mimicry. The Human Orchestra. Managers please note.—An Act that stands alone, and a draw. Wire or write, Bohemia House, Fenwick, Ayrshire, N.B. The Twentieth Century Vocal phenomenon.

WANTED, March 19, 26, and on, by Dan Agar, Eccentric Comedian. Tom Prichard, Esq., says: Don't miss this rising comedian. This and next, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, March 19, onwards, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey (a real novelty), elaborate garden fit up, and novelty instruments, also Ventriloquist if required. Address, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Frank Anderson, "The Eccentric," just concluded Fourth Engagement with Mr. Oswald Stoll, vacant March 19. Perm., 41, Lavan-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday, and following Monday, by Percy Johnson, burlesque college boy comedian, sure success. Wire or write, 25, Poole-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, F. H. Dundas, Actor Vocalist, big success Moss and Stoll Tour, wants Monday. Wire, Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

WANTED, Known, J. H. Goodin and E. Goodin, Illusionists, shortly at Liberty to accept Engagement for Stage or Side-show, with or without Own Illusions. Five years with the late Fred Harcourt. Address, 31, Croft-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Bookings, Three Distinct Turns, High-class Conjuring, Second Sight, and Bioscope, latest pictures. Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green.

WANTED, Piers, &c., Easter, onward, by well-known illusionist, with or without own combination, share or salary. Box 2,904, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Shamrock Green, Comedy Conjurer, Vacant. I always drive on in my wheeler. Com. GALLIGAN, 13, Horseman's-row, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Fricker, World-renowned Thirty-day Trance and Hypnotist, gives Lessons by post or personally. 91, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, by Smart Boy, Speciality Step Dancer and Comedian, age 14 (small), two years New York Nippers, twelve months "Fatal Wedding," offer of re-engagement for Autumn. AUBREY, Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Algar, Boy Hercules, in a Novel Exposition of Phenomenal Strength; also The Albys, Comedy Jugglers and Combination Club Manipulators. Vac. March 19 and 26. Perm. add., 10, Edward-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday next, The Monckton, in excruciatingly funny Musical Comedy Acts, "A Woman's Curiosity," &c. 34, Sidney-st., Stockton.

WANTED, Monday onwards, The Mannikins, Living Marionettes, Harry and Maud, also Double Singing and Dancing Turn. Public Hall, Stocksbridge, near Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Pearce and Ward, Comedy Couple. This, Empire, Paisley; Vacant Mon. (North preferred). Wire, Two Acts if required. Wire.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act, March 19. Great Success, Holborn Empire. Wire, Empire, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Comedian and Dancer; and Ida Dalton, Serio and Dancer, Liberty Monday next. Wire, 30, Henry-st., Dublin.

WANTED, Monday, Dave Wallace, Great Eccentric Comedian; Marie Tilley, Comedienne, Speciality Dancer; two Star Performers. Wire, 25, Fairfax-road, Colchester.

WANTED, Known, Harlem Bros., Rifle Manipulators, Novelty Acrobats, unapproachable Sand Dancers, at Liberty April 9, 16. Next week, Park Palace, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Dale and D'Argan conclude to-night, Second Season, Big Success, Thomson's Pantomime, Re-engaged 1906-7. Summer Dates vacant, Halls and Galas. Perm. address, 6, Dolly-lane, Leeds.

WANTED, Known.—Look out, they're coming. Who? The Two Leos (Dan and Steve), in their Scotch Comedy Act "The Rival Window-Cleaners," with their little Wooden Hut, Knockabout Comedians, Instrumentalists, and Burlesque Boxers. Vacant Monday next till May. 2, James-street, Southsea, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Grimaldis, March 12, onwards. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London.

WANTED, 12th and onward, by Doyle and Massey, Comedians, just concluded Successful Tour with Moore Kennedy Panto. Wire, Theatre Royal, Aston.

WANTED, Dates, by Athi and Saunders, in their Comedy Speciality, "On Duty." Good Agent wanted. Coms., City of Varieties, Leeds.

WANTED, by Duncan and Morton, Comedians, Liberty March 12, only Vacancy. Wire, Hippo., Grimsby.

WANTED, March 12, 19, by Wheeler and Wilson, Comedy Acrobats, two distinct acts. 16, Kitchener-road, Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Clark and Gold, in their Astronmore Act, Return to the Continent, Marseilles; to follow, Nice, Monte Carlo, and Rome.

WANTED, by the Albano Troupe, March 12, 19, and 26. The Albanos are the Greatest Refined Musical Speciality now on the British Stage. A Success Everywhere. Manager, Henri Albano, the Celebrated Solo Harpist, and the World's Greatest English Concertina Soloist. Wire, Wire, Wire, Wire. A Draw, A Draw. 38, Macdonald-street, Wavertree, Liverpool.

To Proprietors and Managers.

WANTED, Known, that the Renowned Jackson Family, the Smartest, Cleverest Musical Show on the Variety Stage, arrive in England June next, have a few vacant dates previous to their Tour through America August next. Address all letters, JACKSON, 23, Spring Valley-gardens, Edinburgh.

WANTED, March 12, by Lieut. Albini and his Marvellous and Mysterious Lady in Black wonder. Wire, Palace Theatre, Carlisle.

WANTED, Monday next, and later dates, Four Abadroffs, Big Successful Comedy Act. 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, March 19, for Scottie's Waifs and Strays. Best Staged Act on the Halls. March 12, Hippo., Hull.

WANTED, by The Kyasyas, in their picturesque Genuine Sensational Teeth and Hirsute Speciality Act, March 19, 26. Metropole Theatre, Hoyland, Yorks.

WANTED, March 19, 26, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two first-class acts. Monday, Theatre, Ashington.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, March 12, 19, through being barred, Gillin, Ventriloquist and Edison Bioscope. Wire, Albert Hall, Jarrow. Oct. 15, Palace Theatre, London.

WANTED, March 12 and 26, Electrifying Bounders, Los Granadas. Summer dates, for Galas and Sports. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Success succeeds Success. Miss Marion Hall, in her New Comedy Sketch, "A Guilty Pair." This, Middlesex, Cambridge; Disengaged next. Going North March 26. Vacancies April, on. Sketch or Single Turn. Address, The Middlesex.

WANTED, March 19, for Matt. Wilkinson's Laughing Success, "The Registry Office." Hippo., Stoke; next, Palace, Attercliffe.

Important Announcement.
The
Native Choir from Jamaica
(specially brought to this country by Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G.),
Four Coloured Ladies and Six Coloured Gentlemen. A novel, artistic, and charming entertainment. From 30 minutes to 2½ hours. An extensive and versatile répertoire. Certain success anywhere.

WANTED, Known, a few Dates Vacant. Now at Pier Pavilion, New Brighton. Booklet and Press Opinions on application.
Apply, Messrs. Jones and Douglass,
21, Water-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Motherland, Liverpool." Telephones, 5650 and 2449 Central.

WANTED, Known, Claude Ginnett, jun., Original "Rejected Remounts." Vacant April 2, 9, 16, May 7, 21, June 11, onwards. Address, Hip., Southampton; Margate and Gravesend to follow.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah and his Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals. This week, Bury; next week, Empire, York. Vacant March 26, April 2.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant March 12.
Wire, Hippodrome, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Monday, also 19th, through obliging, by E. Wilkes, and his famous dog Woof. Wire, 13, Saville-street, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Rosini's Toy Menagerie of Performing Dogs, and Gipsy and her Fortune-telling Dog, two distinct turns, at Liberty March 19 and April 2. Add., Tivoli, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Evening Parties, At-Homes, &c., Attended, Entertaining Colour Experiments in Chromoscopy. Mystic Thirteen, Chromocartomancy, and Flora Clairvoyance. Booklets, Fees, &c., free, from
Mr. Wm. Heald,
36, Richmond-road, Bayswater, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Le Clair's Bioscope, and Troupe of Dogs, including Spot, in his Sensasional and Daring High Ladder Act. Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, Known, Bioscope Operator desires Engagement for whole time or evenings; competent with limes and A. and C. currents. T. M., 50, Grove End-road, N.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Tom Orton,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.

Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, Tom Orton, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Move with the times, or get left.
WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time Send for catalogue and testimonials,
Minerva Automatic Co.,
120, York-road, King's Cross, London.

The Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-road, King's Cross, London.
WANTED, to thank the many Customers who have placed their Orders for the Ball-punching and other Automatic Machines for Spring Delivery, and would respectfully ask those who contemplate ordering to do so as quickly as possible, to prevent risk of disappointment.
Members of the Showmen's Protection Association.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount

WANTED, Known, Professor Retené supplies Shooting Galleries, Side-shows, and Novelties for Gardens, Piers, and Pavilions. Latest Novelty, the "Willow Pattern Plate" Shooting Gallery, right up-to-date, a good Money-taker (duly registered). Spaces wanted in good places. Address, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

Auctioneers.
WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for particulars.
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, 56, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for 22 Ammunition, Rifles, &c. Absolutely the cheapest market.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Cheapest and Best House Job Linoleums and Oilcloth. Ward, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Stacey and Co., Settles-st., London, E., showmen and travellers' supplies, all kinds. Several good novelties. List free.

WANTED, Showmen, Market People, to Sell Doncaster Butterscotch and Fortunes, 3s. per gross. Graham, 7, Banbury-street, Watford, Herts.

WANTED, Side Shows, Novelties, Marionettes, Conjurer, sharing or rent, Crystal Palace, season, start Easter, halls provided. Manager, 5, Denning-rd., Hampstead.

WANTED, Big Novelties, "Native Village," large Seaside Town, anything that can take money. Manager, 28, Chapman-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, to Open Monday next, Chrisp-st., Poplar, to follow Norman's 16 Dahomey Warriors, here three weeks, a Good Novelty, on shares. Wire, Norman, Chrisp-street, Poplar.

WANTED, at Once, Novelties, of Every Description, for shop business, shares, or will let same. F. Durland, Exhibition, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, Shows, of any kind, with good flash, open Monday. Mr. Jackson, Showman's Hippo., 20, Old Market-st., Bristol.

WANTED, Novelties, Two Good Shops Gloucester and Stroud. Wire for Monday. Saxo, Exhibition, Barton-street, Gloucester.

WANTED, Good Novelties, for Shop Front and Double Show; wanted Cadey's address.
Apply, C. Chaplain,
95, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, &c., for New Exhibition, now open, 273, Argyle-st., Glasgow. Good salary to suitable people. State lowest terms, first instance, to Captain Medecia, 273, Argyle-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, to open on Monday, March 12, on Shares, must be Refined and Competent. Waxwork Exhibition, High-street, Sheerness.

WANTED, Operator, with own Films, Ladies for Parade. Good Illusion for Sale. Drum wanted, cheap. 55, Colchester-avenue, Manor Park, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Good Natural History Lecturer,
of
smart appearance and steady habits.
Send copy references,
Director,
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Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Duncan's Dogs, Unthan, Lennie and Hast, Robb Gilmore, Bioscope, Sylvesta, Nellie Dunbar, The Folkestones.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Willy Williams, Tatten Hall, Will Johnson, Will Sergeant, Will Poluski, jun., Alice Maple, Jenny Hartley, Chummie La Mara, Lola Patey, Goodfellow and Gregson, Park's Eton Boys, Lachie Thompson's Top-weights, "The Little Charwoman," Pueblo and Cropp, Arthur Rigby, Bioscope, Jack Heath.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
J. E. Coyle, Fred Elton, Chas. Norton, Bert Brantford, Kathleen Gray, Dot Hardy, Leah Laurie, Sisters Geretti, Joe Elvin and Co., Goodfellow and Gregson, Strolling Players, Haig and Novell, Felina and Gratta, Hans and Lux, Mike S. Whallen, Bioscope.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"OVER A CUP OF TEA."
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Artists are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3 o'clock.
Yukio Tani, Harry Lauder, Victoria Monks, Mike Whallen, the Three Prestons, the Lurins, the George Power Co. in "Matrimonial Bliss," Rita and Roma, Stirling and Love, Leslie Bros., Sisters Redfern, Kelly and Gillette, Little Cliffe, Lucy Weston, and Ruffell's Bioscope.
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Two Performances Nightly.
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(Signed) MILUD BEN HADJ IBRAHIM,
The Original.
Birmingham, March 10, 1906.

CALLS
FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1906.

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Howard and Harris, Alfred Cyclo, Raymond's Pictures, Vay's Juveniles, Bosanquet, Ted Saunders, Walker and Lake, Helen Charles, Frances Haskoll.

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PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
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N.B.—All Billing Matter and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit must be addressed to "King's Chambers, Angel-street, Sheffield."

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Harry Ford, Levarni, Nina Elmo, Elverton, Marie Santoi, Musical Jees, Chas. R. Whittle, Wyndham and Waters, Donatos, Two Dixons, Pictures, Whit Cunliffe.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Tom Craven and Stephen Adeson in "The Lady in Red," Leslie Race, Annie Laurie, Anthony, Warden-Read and Co., Tally Ho Trio, May Moore Duprez, Kitty Clover and Co., Three Seabornes, Pictures, Hunt and Thomas.

EMPIRE, BRISTOL.
"Red Riding Hood," Les Louberts, Helen Martin, Tate and Tate, the Sivronis.

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George Robey, Casselli and James, Marie Wilton, the Donovans, Richardson Taylor, the Passports, Mulvey and Miriam, Lily Flexmore, Dave O'Toole, Pictures, the Aeolians.

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Six Bros. Luck, Mlle. Saverny, Hartbert-Orelly Bros., Modjesko, Three Kraggs, Mlle. Myriel, Macdonald and Huntingdon, Mons. Dufor, De Phillipis, Alice et Nina, Mlle. Roland, Pictures, Eight Lancashire Lads.

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Grand Variety Company.

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Grand Variety Company.

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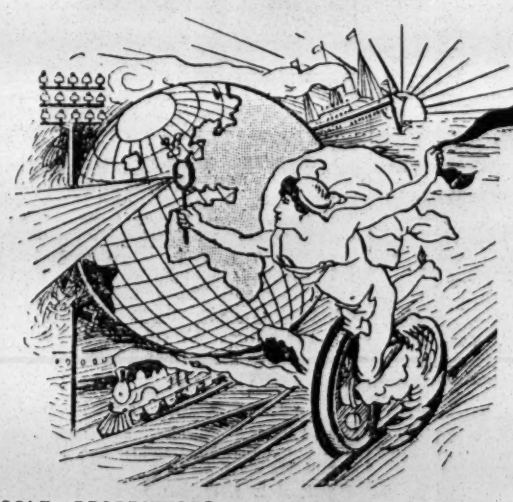

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ALEXANDER, MISS HANID, Address, 2, Warrington-gardens, Maida Vale, W.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company. Palace, Hammersmith.

ALLSOPP and BEKWITH. Here we are again! Still at it, but not Cake Walkers. This, Gaiety, Chatham; next, Grand, Gravesend.

ANTILL, GEO., the Man of Original Ideas. Big Success Empire, Holborn. Eccentric songs wanted. 12th, the Euston.

ARA, ZEBRA, and VORA, In their Latest Novelty, "Indian Pastimes." Next week, Hippo., Ashton, near Manchester.

ARCHBUTT, GLADYS, Comedienne and Rag-time Dancer. Just concluded 4 weeks' at the Palace. Vac. March 12.

ARIZONA TROUPE, Tumblers, Benders, Jugglers, Foot Equilibrists and Japanese Top Spinners. Bedford M. H., London.

ASHLEY, BROS. "Next, Please." Palace, Halifax; 12th, Palace, Blackburn. Fortune and Granville, and G. Barclay.

ATHI and SAUNDERS, in their New comedy speciality "On Duty." Now booking 1907. Coms., City of Varieties, Leeds.

ATHLONES, THE, Refined Athletes. Next week Hippo., Hastings. At Lib. a few weeks through disappointment.

ATLAS, the Beautiful MISS VULCANA and GWENNIE ATLAS, the Society Athletes. Empress, Brixton.

ATORAS, Athletic Comedy Athletes. June 4 vacant, for two weeks. Communications, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

ATTWOOD, HAPPY, Thanks, Milton Bode, Ernest Dottridge, T. Hargreaves, Harry Burns, for Contracts.

AUBYN, ALF, New production March 26, Camberwell. Great title, "Bert." Perm. add., Hastings.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, and his Troupe of Navvies. Palace, Bradford.

AYTOUN, GEO., Variety Agent. Stars write, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London."

BACCHUS, WILL, Coster Comedian. Great Success. This, Britannia, Hoxton; next, Ipswich.

BANCROFT, HARRY, Enormous Success Hippo., Hounslow. Monday next, March 12, E., Portsmouth.

BANDON, SID, Commence Empire, Stockport, after Twenty Weeks' Illness. Norbury House, Droitwich.

BANDONI, Original Concertina King, One Man Band. Second week Dr. Bodie's Co., Tivoli, Leeds.

BANZAI-PAREZ TRIO, Musical, Next week, Public Hall, Staines. Perm., 151. Knutsford-road, Warrington.

BAPTISTE, LES FRERES, Refined Comedy Jugglers. Vacant Panto., 1906-7. Theatre Royal, Bellshill, N.B.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone, 84, Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

BARD, GRACIE, Juvenile Comedienne. Hippo., Grimsby; Monday, Hippo., Southampton. Colchester and Wolverhampton to follow.

BAROUX and BION, Conclude Foresters. Monday, Palace, Bow.

BARRETT and KNOWLES, Pavilion, Glasgow. Agents, Tom Shaw and Co. Are we? Not likely.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, (Violet and Daisy). The smart refined pair. March 12, Middlesex and Bedford.

BARTLETT, ROSIE, Next, Alhambra, Brighton.

BASS and GUINNESS, Comedians and Dancers. Thank O. Culling, Esq., for Contract. Offers invited. Panto., 1906-7, O. H., Jersey.

BAWN'S AGENCY, 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. 'Phone, 1178 Battersea. Tels., "Orderless, London."

BAYNE and HOPE (RONALD and EVELYN), in "An Emperor's Divorce." March 12, Palace, Lancaster.

BEATRICE, SISTERS, Duettists and Dancers, Victoria Theatre, Tredegar. Vacant Monday. Wire. Sat., 35, Florence-st., Islington, N.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, just finished Ten Weeks' Successful Tour, Principal Boy. Re-engaged 1906-1907.

BELL, CHARLES H. (late Karno's Co.), is "Moving In" Nightly, with Herbert Darnley's Co., March 12, Empire, Birmingham.

BELROSE and DE VELIN, Speciality Duettists and Soloists. At Liberty. Immediate Dates. Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

BENDON, The Ventriloquial Comedian at Scotch Concerts. 301, Cathcart-road, Glasgow.

BENET, MR. HARRY, Proprietor Alhambra, Sandgate. Artists communicate Fred Durrant's Agency.

BENNETT and MARTELL, the Original Team. Pier Pavilion, Southport.

BENSON, BESSIE, Smart and Up to Date, in a Refined Singing and Dancing Act.

BENT, HARRY, the Mimic; also CARLOTTA LUNN. Pier, Southport, Mon., Haymarket, Liverpool. Regards to Thurston.

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. Telegrams, "Yeltneb, London." 'Phone, 12706 Central.

BERNARD, GEO., the Real Goods. Managers, Agents, Friends, &c., please note new Perm. Add., 141, Dunsmuir-grove, Gateshead.

BERT and DORA, Comedy Artists. This, Hippo., Queen's Park, Manchester; next, Hippo., Salford. Wanted, March 19 and 26.

BEST, CHAS. F., as MacBunker, the Mountebank. Address, Care of "The Era."

BEVERLEY, NORA, Vocalist, Vacant March 19 141B, Rye-lane, S.E.

BIOSCOPE, BENDON'S, Everything Up-to-date. 301, Cathcart-road, Iasgow.

BLANCHE and DIACOFF, World's Premier Cyclists; India, India, India. Address, C/o 86, Hornsby-rd., Bombay.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Comedians, with Dog. Conclude to-night E., Wolverhampton. Vac. 12, 19. Wire, 9, Gill-st., L'pool.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. Monday, Palace, Plymouth. G. and F. Peel.

BLUNT, ARTHUR, Herbert Darnley's Co. This, E., Stratford; Next, E., Birmingham. Perm., 36, Forest-rd., N.E.

BLYTHE, MARIE, the Popular Comedienne, March 12, Hippo., Rochdale. Agents, S. M. Hyman, Ltd.

BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD, The Manor House, Macduff. N.B.

BODIE, DR. WALFORD, Address, 163, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL & MADGE), Instrumentalists and Comedy Artists. This, H.M.T., Walsall; next, Hip., Manchester. G. Foster.

BOLTON, JUDGE, Ventriloquist, Negro Comedian, Punch and Judy, for Fêtes, Galas, Flower Shows. 41, Prince's-road, Hull.

BONITA, World's Champion Girl Rifle Shot, and CARLOS, the Human Target. Touring Australia. Per Ad., Cathedral Hotel, Melbourne.

BONNETTI and CORRIE, E., Wolverhampton; next, P., Hammersmith. The greatest of all Eccentric Juggling Acts.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Tivoli Theatre, Cape Town. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, the 20th Century Wonder.—Vide Press. This week, Holborn Empire, return; March 12, Palace, Lincoln.

BOSTOCK, N. C., and NELLIE ELLIENE, the Most Successful Singing Turns. Macdermott; 10, Silver-st., Bloomsbury.

BOSWELL, A. P., the Comedy Furniture Shifter. This, Circus, Bury. Vacant Monday. 7, M-M-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

BOULTONS, THE, and MDLLE. BARTENELLI, Poole's Myriorama, Bath. Vacant July for Galas.

BOWERY BOYS, THE (Three), Knockabout Boxing Comedians. A good Comedy Act. Vacant, 26th. Monday, Grand T., Stockton.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Palace, Attercliffe. Monday, Palace, Grimsby (second return).

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy. Permanent, 8, Lime-street, Hull.

BRADY, JAMES, a Comic Singer, vide Oswald Stoll. Permanent, 27, Warrender-street, Leeds.

BRAY, LOTTIE, Usual Success, Park Palace, Liverpool. All coms., G. H. Bray, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Refined Duettists and Expert Dancers, Usual Success, Pavilion, Leicester. March 12, Grand, Sheffield.

BRETT, HARRY, Comedian, of Albert Chevalier's Recitals, at Lib. one week, April 9. Wants London only. Public Hall, Gravesend.

BREWSTERS, THE, Novel Speciality Act. Pabellón Soriano, Barcelona, Spain.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA). Thank friends for handsome present and flowers. Prince's, Bradford.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN, PAPA, Agent, 8, Cleveland-house, Hackford-road, S.W. Telegraph address, "Jibbers, London."

BROWN and ROBINSON, (Butler and Josey) as Cavaliers. March 12, Empire, Swansea.

BUDDEN, EDGAR, The Laurels, East Molesey. Duchess, Balham, next week.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE, "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Palace, Bow, London, E.

BURGESS, WILL T., and CO. "Found Faithful," "The Hour of Temptation." Offers invited. 3, Goswell-road, E.C.

BURNELLS, Conclude To-night Eleven weeks' successful run P. O. W., Birmingham. Open March 11, E., Liverpool.

BURNS'S, HARRY, AGENCY, Empress, Hartlepool, and at London and Manchester.

BURNS'S, HARRY, AGENCY, 344, Bury New-road, Manchester. And at Hartlepool and London.

BURTON'S AGENCY, Sheffield. A Willing Helper does not Wait until he is Asked. Deeds are Fruits, Words are but Leaves.

BUSH, MISS SADIE, Contralto Vocalist, Fairy Godmother, Griffin and Drake's "Cinderella," March 12, T. R., Barnsley.

BUTT, T., Comedy Tramp Juggler, &c. For terms apply, 41, New Hall-street, Burnley.

CADLE'S AGENCY, 105 and 106, Strand. Telephone No. 1975, Gerrard.

CAINE, ANDIE, Sylvan Villa, Filey. In harness next week.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey, &c. Address Aquarium, Scarborough. Vacant March 19.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjurer. No more "Oblige Me" Contracts. March 12, Gaiety, Oldham.

CARL and CARR, Refined Comedians. "Fun outside the Workhouse." New scenery, Gaiety, Dundee; next two weeks, Empire, Oxford.

CARLTON, HENRY, The Comedian, in his Famous Comedy, "One Night Only." Broadhead Tour. Queen's Park Hip.

CARMEN, HARRY, DAISY LANE, Conclude to-night their success in E. C Jazon's "Aladdin" Co. Central Hall, Sheffield.

CARR and ROSE, the Humorous Singing Duo, not the Best Singing Act, but Better than those who say they are. Pal., Bristol.

CAVALLOTTIS, THE, Instrumentalists. Always welcome to the public. This, Metropole, Manchester; next, Hip., Preston.

CHANT and CHANT, Comedy Duo. Success Theatre, Ashington. Mon., Empire, Dundee. Thanks Mr. Silvester.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE and EDIE). Dainty and Clever. Big Success the Bedford. Monday, Empire Stockport.

CHESTER & LEE'S MARIONETTES Conclude to-night, Abergavenny. Monday, Trades' Exhibition, Cheltenham.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, LIMITED, 13, Oxford-street, Manchester. 'Phone 08904. Wires, "Amusements, Manchester."

CHIRGWIN, London until July 2, Plymouth.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, Enormous Hit in "A Trial Trip." Hippodrome, Maidstone. Next, Palace, Walthamstow.

CLEMPERT, JOHN, Proprietor, Hippodrome, Al Fresco Entertainer, and Variety Agent, Devonshire-st., Hr. Broughton, Manchester.

CLIFF and KEAN, This week Empress, Hartlepool. Next, Tivoli, S. Shields. Thanks Rosen and Bliss for contracts.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist on Tour. 15, Priory gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLLIN and IRENE, Second Sight Experts and Illusionists, March 12, Palace, Swansea (Return).

COLLINS, GEO., the Quaint Comedian, 14, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, London, S.E. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN. 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington, S.E.

CONROY, OLIVER, Starring Palace, Blackpool. Monday, another return, Westminster, Liverpool.

COOKE, STEVE, Refined Character Comedian, Vac. Easter, April 16, on. Perm. Add., 175, Essex-rd., Islington, London.

CORA, SISTERS, Circus, Bury, on Tour until May 21, "I only live for you," and "The lady soldier band," by J. Bates.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. March 12, London Coliseum.

COSTELLO, THE BROTHERS, Comedy Acrobats and Legmania Artists. This, Victoria Hall, Southampton.

COUNSELL and MILLS This Week, Empire, Cardiff; Next Week, Empire, Swansea. Somers and Warner.

COWPERS, THE, "Missus' Double." Re Dates, Coliseum, London, W.C.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Care of "The Era."

CRANKS, COMICAL CYCLING, Trick, Comedy, and Staircase Jumping Cyclists. Vac. 12th, 19th, 26th. 19, Alexandra-rd., Manchester.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Co., Mar. 5, Empire, Edinburgh.

CROFT, WAL, the Quaint Scotch Comedian. Add., c/o A.A., 10, King-st., Covent Garden, W.C.

CULLANE'S, FRED, COMEDY TRIO, including the Original Boxing School Girl, in the "Ladies' School." Hippo., Eastbourne.

CULLEN and CARTHY and LITTLE CLULEY; Big Success Hippodrome, Hull. Monday, Palace, Manchester.

CURRAN, FRED, Premier Parody Singer. Monday, Lyric, Liverpool. No Vacancies. Geo. Foster.

CURRY, PERCY, Idle Jack; ADA JENNER, Captain Cable, in Francis Laidler's Record Success, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

CUSTANCES, THE, in their Bright and Sparkling Comedy Duologue, "A Game for Two." Coms., re dates, 104, Salisbury-st., Bedford.

DALE and VALE, Another Successful Return, Sadler's Wells. Monday next, the Surrey (Return).

DALTON'S AGENCY. Artists for immediate and future dates. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

DALY, MADGE, Taking one Week's Rest. Address letters, 55A, Booth-street, East, All Saints, Manchester.

DANBYS, THE, North Pole Explorers. Return Palace, Sunderland.

DANIELS, THE TWO, "The Darkies." One of the Funniest Acts Lib. March 19. 63, Sherbourne-rd, Birmingham.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, the Successful Singer. "Fill up the Bowl of Friendship," by Reuben More. Next, Gaiety, Chatham.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). March 12, Empire, Burnley.

DAVENTRY, SISTERS (DOLLY and May). Harmonizing Duettists and Coon Vocalists. Liberty, Mar. 19. Next week, P., Oldbury.

DAY, JAS., the Mysterious Postman with Straight Jacket and Post-box. Coms., 354, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE, March 12. Palace, Bradford.

DEANE, MISS MONA, Vacant April 4 on. This, Blackpool; next, Liverpool Add., 1, Salisbury-street, Liverpool.

DE DIO, MDLLE., The Originator of the Fire Dance. Continental Tour. Ronacher's, Vienna. Mang., P. H. Boggis

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Cockatoos. King's Opera House, Longsight, Manchester.

DELEVINES, THE, in New and Original Comedy. "The Bell Inn." Empire, Swansea.

DENHAM, MILLIE, Big Success, This week, Alhambra, Brighton. Monday, Sadler's Wells. Thanks to Mr. Baugh, Palace, Bow.

DENT, BERT, Manager, Barnard's Palace Greenwich, S.E. Palace Buffet open on Sundays.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., the Lady Foli; J. H. HAWTREY, Actor Vocalist. Palace, Lancaster.

DEVERENNE, the Great Mystery, Nail Walker, and Balancer, wants future Dates. 31, Higher Wharf-st., Ashton-under-Lyne.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. This, P., Lancaster; next, Hip., Preston.

DEWICK, DAWSON, Big Success Hippodrome, Salford. Monday next, Hippodrome, Hulme.

DE ZELLO, The Aerial Juggler. Address, care of "The Era."

DILLON, CHARLIE, Comedian, Vacant Monday, Three Weeks. Address, 18, Canterbury-st., Islington, Liverpool.

DILLONS, BOUNCING, Comedy Gymnasts. Immediate Dates Open, Salary or Sharing. Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Very Successful, Palace, Northampton. All Letters, 69, Roan-street, Greenwich, S.E.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Refined Vocalists, King's, Longsight; Mon., Hippodrome, Hulme.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, Return to Sadler's Wells March 12. Rapidly booking 1907.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, the Factory Nightingales, Originality and Ability. Monday, Return, City Varieties, Leeds.

DONNA and CLIFF, Monday next, Liverpool. Address, 42, Hayter-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.

DORMER, DAISY, next, Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue, and Metropolitan. Claxton.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, Juvenile Dutch Comedienne and Acrobatic Clog Dancer. Poole's Myriorama, Hall by the Sea, Margate.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Comedienne. Gigantic success. Empire, S. Shields. Mon., Mar. 12, Empire, B'ham.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Big Success, Empire, Kilburn. Next week, Cambridge.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Comedienne and Dancer. Coms., E. Stebbings, Manchester. 11, Arnold-street, Liverpool.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Comedians. This, Hippo., Grimsby. Liberty Monday. See Wants.

DUNEDIN TROUPE, on Tour. Ringling Bros.' Circus, America. Jas. E. Donegan, Man.-Dir.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaintness, with an acknowledged style of my own. "Shops," by E. A. and W. L.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN, Monday, Hippodrome, Maidstone. First-class Artists required. See "Wanted" column.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast. Only Act of its Kind. Vacant for Fêtes and Galas. Perm. Add., 30, Gt. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELLA'S, MISS, Best existing Lion Show. Duchess, Balham.

ELLERTON, ALF, Songs, &c. Dunville's "Nurse"; Reece's "Weazle." Latest for Sheridan, Leonards. 90, Vassall-rd, Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. March 12, Palace, Northampton.

ELLISON, J. W., Great Success of "Seagull," by Collins and Rogers. Mon. next Palace, Attercliffe. Walter Bentley.

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne. Hippodrome, Birmingham; next week Hippodrome, Liverpool (return). Coms., Day's Agency.

ELTON and ELMA, Comedy Bar Act. This week, Hippodrome, St. Helens. Monday, Lyric, Liverpool.

EMLYN-JONES and CO., in their New and Original International Sketch, March 12, York. 34, Red Lion-square, W.C.

EPLETT, KATIE, FRANK ZARA, Comedienne, Dancer. Comedian, Raconteur. Monday, Standard, Pimlico, S.W.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian, Thanks for offers coming Al Fresco Season, cannot accept owing to Music Hall Bookings. Stebbings.

ERNEST, CHARLES E., the Modern Master of Mimicry, Bohemia House, Fenwick, Ayrshire. Liberty March 26, April 2, 9.

ESDALE BROS., Continued Success on Stoll Tour, This, Empire, Swansea; Next, Empire, Newport. Blinky still Drives.

EUSTACE, FRED, "Our Curate," "La Belle Parisienne," "The Amber Light," "Our Jack."

FALCONS, THE, Comedy Acrobats. Always a Success, Next Week, Hip., Preston.

FAME, PEGGY, Concludes Twelve Weeks' Record Panto. Success. Mon., Tivoli, Grimsby. No Time Vacant.

FANSHAW, WILL, Comedian and Dancer, Liberty 26th, Concludes Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow. Write, 2, Jubilee-st., Liverpool.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Original Lancashire Singing Collier, with "Bluebell" Co. until Easter. March 12, T. R., Rugby.

FAWN, MISS ADA. Tricky London Serio and Burlesque Actress. Monday next, March 12, Hippo., Attercliffe.

FERGUS, C. H., Comedian, in Songs, patter and dancing, a clean smart turn. Lib. March 19, &c. Wire Theatre, Coatbridge, N.B.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park-Keepers. Permanent, Five Vaults, Hope-street, Salford.

FIELDS and LEWIS, Burlesque Stars. Great Success, Holborn Empire. March 12, Empire, Portsmouth. Vacant 19th.

FIMANS, THE, Vaudeville Act. Fast Booking 1906.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS. HAROLD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. March 12, Empire, Liverpool.

FLORENCE, MDLLE., Famous London to Brighton Globe Runner. Few Vacant Dates, May and June, Galas, &c. Next, T. R., Torquay.

FLORIZELL, MDLLE., Stands Alone. All letters, 1, Fenwick-street, Warwick-street, Manchester.

FORD, MISS RAY, Refined Comedienne. Address, 71, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

FORMBY, GEORGE, An odd fellow with an odd style. Next, Gaiety, Birmingham; Mar. 19, Northampton.

FORREST, EDGAR, COMEDY COMPANY. This week, Empire, Newport. Monday next, Empire, Nottingham. Barclay.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FOX and MELVILLE, Song Illustrators, Palace, Lancaster. Letters, C/o F. V. St. Clair, Hest Bank, Morecambe.

FRANKS, WILL, Vocal Comedian, On tour. Free for Seaside, June 4. 1, Rosamond-place, C.-on-M., Manchester.

FRASETTIS, LES, Duchess, Balham.

GALE, ETHEL, Blind Comedienne; HARRY CARTER, Comedian. Vac., March 19, on. Coms., 94, Boston-st, Hulme, Manchester.

GANNON, NELLIE, HARRY WRIGHT. "There you are." Two Turns Unbeatable. Monday, Tivoli, Grimsby.

GANTHONY, ROBERT, Great Success, Stoll Tour. Address, Poplars, Richmond, Surrey.

GATLEY, ADA, in her Up-to-date Combination Speciality. A few Vacant dates. Address, 149, Waldegrave-rd., Preston, Brighton.

GEE, FRANK, GEE, FRANK. Many thanks for 3 weeks Barring Clause.

GERETTI SISTERS, Double Trapeze Wonders. Free Whitsun and Easter. Add., 3, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, S.W.

GERONDE, THREE SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. Mar. 19, E., York. Hip., Stockton, to follow. At lib., April 2.

GILBERT, TOM, Character Comedian. All Coms., 8, Gray-street, Lincoln.

GILBERT'S DOGS and CATS Conclude Alhambra, Belfast. March 12, Hippodrome, Paisley. Liberty for Galas.

GILMORE, ROBB, The Talented Grotesque Comedian. Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

GLENN, MARY M., The Premier Vocalist, Perm., 170, Cambridge-street, Glasgow.

GLENNIE'S MARIONETTES, Few immediate dates open. Town Hall, Methil, N.B.

GRAHAM'S, DAISY, Performing Birds. Gorgeous Electric Fit-up, Liberty July 2, 9, and 16. Poole's Co., Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANTLEY, C., Eccentric Entertainer; L. COLEMAN, Charming Soprano, T. Royal, Coatbridge; Prince's T., Bradford.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Versatile Comedians, "In a Restaurant." A Refined, Smart, and Clever Act. Palace, Dundee.

GRAY, GEORGE, Stoll-Moss Empires. Stoll-Moss Empires.

GREEN, GORDON, and GREEN, "Our New Slavey" Trio. Vacant, near here only. 106, Fairholme-road, Croydon.

GROSVENORS, THE (Three Sisters), Operatic Vocalists, conclude Panto., March 24. Vacant March 26, April 23.

GROVINIS, On Tour. Address, care of "The Era."

GUNN, WALTER, Vocal and Swell comedian. Next week, Empire, Paisley, N.B. Coms. to E. Stebbing, Manchester.

HAIG and NOVEL, Palace, Camberwell. Empire, Leicester-square, shortly.

HALL, CLIFTON, Vocalist, Demon King, "Cinderella." Liberty March 26. Monday, T. R., Barnsley.

HALL, EDITH, in Own Sketch, "Playing at Poverty," by Wilfred H. Benson. Address, care of "The Era."

HALLAM and STANTON, Refined Entertainers, in "A Broken Journey." Albert Hall, Edinburgh.

HANDEL and LEE, Musical Speciality. Liberty April 9. Address, 48, Well Close View, Leeds.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Palace, Sunderland.

HARRIS and WORTH, Grand, Bolton.

HARROW, BERT, and MARION WALKER. Prin. Com. and 2nd Boy, "R. R. Hood." Dis., Mon., 12th, 28, Highbury Park, N.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY WONDERS, Jumping Speciality. MAGGIE WALSH, Singing Mill Girl. Two Acts. Palace, Southampton.

HAVERLEYS, THE, American Song-Illustrators. All coms., 15 Albert-sq., Clapham-rd., S.W. Open London, The Surrey, Mar. 19.

HAYDE, Address, March 12, Hippodrome, Preston.

HECTOR, the Wire King. This week, E., Dublin; Mar. 12, E., Belfast. Vacant March 26, April 2.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius. Success, Grand, Stockton. Monday, Hippo., Hull.

HENRIETTE, the Incomparable Vocal and Musical Entertainer. A genuine soloist. This, Palace, Oldbury; next, P., N. Shields.

HENRIS, LES, M. and MDME., Elegant Equilibrists and Gymnasts. The Original Henris, Palace, W. Hartlepool.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Address, 8, Lyme-street, Camden-road, N.W.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist, Palace, Greenock. Next week, Tivoli, Manchester.

HERMAN, SYD, Hebrew Comedian; LIL DRESDEN, Vocalist, in pure Hebrew Comedy. Mon., Royal Albert, Canning Town.

HESS and LISBON, At liberty March 12, 26. Wire Hippodrome, Accrington.

HILL, MISS ELSIE, "Fanny's Flat." Perm. address, 5, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton.

HILL and LANE, March 12, Gaiety, Oldham. Graydon's Agency.

HILL, ROWLAND, "The Man in Skirts." Algie's Hippodrome, Carlisle.

HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Star Male Impersonator. Hit of the Programme this week Oxford, Middlesbro'. Mon., Tiv., Shields.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Performers. Liberty March 12, 19, 26. Perm. Address, 47, Nuttall-street, Liverpool.

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HOPKINS, TED and MAY, Continued Success, Collseum, W.C.

MISS LAURA WALKER
as Kate, in "The Village Blacksmith" Co.
March 19, T. R., Barnsley.

MISS ADA WATSON,
Princess Soo Soo, Mr. G. Dance's "A Chinese Honeymoon." March 19, T. R., York.

MISS DAVIES WEBSTER,
Disengaged.
38, Flanders-mansions, Bedford-park, W.

MISS FRANCES WETHERALL,
Disengaged.
6, Rectory-chambers, Church-street, Chelsea, S.W.

MISS ETHEL WEYBURN,
Joan Trevelyan, "Sweet and Twenty."
March 19, Opera House, Blackpool.

MISS KATHLEEN WILLOUGHBY,
Disengaged. Juvenile Lead or Light Comedy.
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MISS DRUSILLA WILLS,
Aberdeen.
Address, 28, Biddulph-mansions, Elgin-avenue, W.

MISS GRACE WILSON,
Permanent address, 25, Flanchford-road, Ravenscourt Park, W.

MISS LUCY WILSON, Pianist and Contralto, Dis. Concludes with Mr. J. H. Savile. 29A, Southfield-road, Bedford Park, W.

MISS MARIE WRIGHT,
Comedienne. At Liberty.
67, Oxford-road, Gunnersbury, W.

MR. FRED ACTON,
Character Comedian. Easter Panto., T. R., Belfast. 35, Mytton-street, Hulme, Manchester.

MR. FRANK ADAIR,
Disengaged after Easter.
Address, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

MR. CHARLES ALDRED,
Mr. William Greet's Co. At Lib. May 21.
Address, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

MR. ALEC ALEXANDER,
Heavy Lead, "See-Saw of Life."
March 19, Prince's, Portsmouth.

MR. STUART ALEXANDER,
Title-rôle with Geo. Musgrove's "Prince of Pilsen" Co., Kennington Theatre, S.E.

MR. A. HYLTON ALLEN,
6, Worsley-road,
Hampstead, N.W.

MR. ALEO ALVES,
Vere de Bogyns, "What the Butler Saw."
March 19, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG,
Compton Comedy Co.,
March 19, King's T., Glasgow.

MR. WILLIE ATOM, Small Comedian (4ft. and a fraction), Comedy Boy Parts a Speciality. Address, 26, St. George's-rd., Brighton.

MR. CYRIL AUSTEN - LEE,
Horace Parker, "A Message from Mars."
Brixton Theatre, S.W. At liberty shortly.

MR. & MRS. GEORGE R. J. AUSTIN
(Miss Marie Florence).
Summer Offers invited. T. R., Chatham.

MR. WILFORD BAILEY,
Principal Character Comedian, "Proof" Co.,
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MR. THEO BALFOUR,
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Address,
160, Earl's Court-road, S.W.

MR. and MRS. H. H. BARRINGTON
(Miss Florence Lovell).
Mar. 19, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. J. J. BARTLETT,
"'Twixt Axe and Crown," Mrs. Russ Whytal's Tour. Theatre Royal, Manchester.

MR. CHARLES B. BEDELLS,
Supporting Miss Florence St. John in "My Milliner's Bill," Metropolitan, Edgware-road, W.

MR. STANLEY BEDWELL
At Liberty Now and Autumn, for Lead,
March 19, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

MR. HENRY BELDING,
Lieut. Reresby in "The Breed of the Treshams." March 19, T. R., Blackburn.

MR. IVAN BERLYN,
Loustot in "Veronique."
Address, County Theatre, Kingston.

MR. PASCOE BIOLETTI,
Dis. March 25. Re-engaged special week, "Romeo and Juliet," Grand T., Birmingham.

MR. WILSON BLAKE, "Breed of the Treshams." Disengaged Easter, Light Comedy or Character. T. R., Blackburn.

MR. J. S. BLYTHE,
Disengaged.
12, Avington-grove, Penge, S.E.

MR. CHARLES BOULT,
Douglas Kingston, "The Orphan Heiress,"
March 19, New Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

MR. CLIFFORD BOWN,
Mr. Tree's "Oliver Twist" Co.
Disengaged May 21. Grand T., Southampton.

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(Lillian Murray),
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"The Coal King" Co.
March 19, Theatre Royal, Bury.

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MR. JOHN CABOURN,
at Liberty.
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MR. VERNON WILLOX CADOGAN,
Bertram Hannaford, "Walls of Jericho," Mr. Arthur Bourchier's Co. Crown T., Peckham.

MR. and MRS. HARRY CANE.
H. C., Re-engaged by Mr. Willard, America; Mrs. C. Disengaged. 22, Linden-gardens, W.

MR. LESLIE CARTER,
At Liberty for Leading Business April 9.
March 19, H. M., Theatre, Aberdeen.

MR. ALBERT CAVANAH,
General Manager, Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren's "Proof" Tour. March 19, Theatre R., Sheffield.

MR. HAROLD CHAPIN,
Disengaged March 24.
Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE CHILD
(Frances Bruce). G. C. as The Vicar, in "One of the Best." March 19, T. R., Leicester.

MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE, Disengaged for Pantomime, 1906 and 1907.
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Principal Comedy (Barry), C. Macdona, Esq., "Country Girl" Co. 6, Aldanis-road, Dewsbury.

MR. C. F. COLLINGS,
Disengaged March 26.
Address, 14, Berners-street, W.

MR. SYDNEY COMPTON,
as Brassett, in "Charley's Aunt."
Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

MR. WILFRID COMPTON,
"The Breed of the Treshams" tour. Dis. shortly. Char. or Com. Mar. 19, Royal, Blackburn.

MR. MARTIN COMSTOCK,
He of Management Fame. Offers from June 9. Lyric, Hamersmith, W.

MR. FRED CONQUEST,
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MR. TOM W. CONWAY,
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Joyce "A Pair of Spectacles."
Comedy Theatre, W.

MR. BERNARD COPPING
Lead. MISS ISA BELLINGTON, Comedy,
Miss Maud Hildyard's Co. Lyric T., Ham'smith.

MR. J. W. CORDINER,
March 19,
Theatre Royal, Croydon.

MR. HARRY J. CRANE,
Invites offers for April 16, onwards.
198, Barry-road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.

MR. HENRY CROCKER,
Sir Peter Teazle, &c., Compton Comedy Co.
March 19, King's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. W. CRONIN - WILSON,
Captain Fanshaw,
"Saints and Sinners" on tour.

MR. JULIAN CROSS,
Theatre Royal, Halifax, March 19.
Address, 13, Eglantine-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

MR. CLIVE CURRIE,
Address,
His Majesty's Theatre.

MR. ARTHUR CURTIS,
Disengaged.
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MR. and MRS. T. W. DUNSCOMBE
(Miss Marie Tennant),
March 19, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

MR. & MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS
(Miss Bella Power), Maj. Stretton and Lady Charlotte, "The Cotton Spinner." T. R., Bilston.

MR. PERCY EMERY, Leads, F. Southern's Co., King's, Nottingham. Thanks Messrs. Bailey, West London; also Messrs. Curry.

MR. EDWARD FENTON,
"A Traitor Prince" Co.
March 19, Opera House, Dudley Port.

MR. and MRS. ARTHUR FERRISS
Com. and Cham'ds, Disengaged March 17.
March 19, 3, Hattersley-st., Burnley (Perm.).

MR. HUGH FLEMING,
Advance Director, George Musgrove's "Prince of Pilsen" Co. Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. HERBERT FORD as
"The Silver King."
Disengaged April 30.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT FORSYTH
(Mariette Hyde), Disengaged.
107, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE.
Address,
39, Trinity-street, North Shields.

MR. KEITH FRASER,
Young Marlow.
Disengaged, Mar. 17. 10, King-street.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
As Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co.
On Tour.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Title-rôle "The Prodigal Parson."
March 19, Goole (3), March 22, Harrogate (3).

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones), Disengaged Spring, Joint or Single. 86, St. George's-road, Peckham.

MR. J. D. GEDDES,
Carsdale, in "Two Little Drummer Boys."
Mar. 19, New Century, Motherwell.

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
Mr. Arthur Collins's "Prodigal Son" Co.
March 19, King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Leading Man and Producing Plays for J. C. Williamson, Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
See Page 2.
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Engaged by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler.
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MR. CLARENCE HAGUE,
Lead, Heavies. Disengaged.
Address, 78, St. George's-road, S.E.

MR. HUBERT HARBEN,
The Messenger, in "Electra."
Court Theatre. At Lib. March 24.

MR. A. C. HARDIE,
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.
Disengaged end of run of "Cymbeline."

MR. FRANK HARDING.
Address, all Coms., 21, Argyll-mansions, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W. T. No. 2077, Ken.

MR. REGINALD HARGREAVES,
at Liberty for Responsibles.
Letters, Wavertree, Wanstead, Essex.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER,
Disengaged March 26.
Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
Disengaged.
13, Western-road, Ealing, W.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
Business Manager, "The Earl and the Girl."
Mar. 19, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Gt. Grimsby.

MR. T. P. HAYNES,
Specially engaged by W. W. Kelly, Esq.
Grand Theatre, Croydon.

MR. JERROLD HEATHER,
Starring as Lieut. Fred Rokeby, R.N.,
in "When Woman Hates," Queen's, Leeds.

MR. GRAHAME HERINGTON,
Disengaged Spring. Principal Comedian,
and Stage-Manager. 36 Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. DALZIEL HERON, Returning
from South Africa March 23. At liberty.
Address, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR. A. T. HILTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES,
Guiderius, in "Cymbeline."
At Lib. Easter. Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD. All Business communications to be made direct to Mr. CECIL BARTH, 8, Melina-place, St. John's Wood, N.W.

MR. FRANCIS HOPE. A comedian
Worthy of the West End.—Referee. Disengaged June. Grand, Blackpool. BLACKMORE.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE HOWARD
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(Suburban Tour), March 19, Grand, Croydon.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD
(Miss Carlotta Anson).
'Claudian" Co., Opera House, Chatham.

MR. ERIC HUDSON,
At Liberty March 24. Offers invited.
March 19, Queen's, Swindon. Six Nights.

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Producer and S.M. of "Claudian." New
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Stage Managing Stock Season.
Terris Theatre, S.E.

MR. THEO JONES and ADA MANSFIELD, Touring "Jack Sheppard" Scena.
Vac. April 2, 9. March 19, Hippodrome, Rochdale.

MR. F. JOYNSEN - POWELL,
"A Royal Divorce" (Scala Production)
Suburban Tour. 49, Waldemar-av., Hurlingham.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Paul Martin in "The Duffer."
Prince's Theatre, Manchester.

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MR. CECIL KINGSLEY,
Billy, in "Madame Lingerie."
Palace Theatre, W.

MR. J. POOLE KIRKWOOD,
Mr. Leigh Lovell's Co.
March 26, Opera House, Cheltenham.

MR. ARTHUR KNIGHT, at Liberty,
Heavies, Character, Stage or General
Manager. 42, Cannon-street, St. Albans.

MR. FRED KNIGHT,
Miss Alice May's Sketch,
March 19, Britannia, Hoxton.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE,
Address, 10, King-street, London, W.C.
Perm. address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price). Disengaged March 26.
3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. PAIGE LAWRENCE as Tom
Norman in "Her Second Time on Earth."
Ayr and Kilmarnock, N.B. Disengaged Easter.

MR. EDMUND LEA,
Waldorf Theatre.
Address, 105, Rusthall-avenue, Bedford Park, W.

MR. CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
Lead, "Her Luck in London" Co.
T. R., Bolton; next, T. R., South Shields.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 4, Beaumont-crescent, West Kensington.

MR. BERNARD J. LIELL and GEORGETTE THIERRY. At Lib. Easter.
"The Beast and the Beauty" Co. E. T., Southend.

MR. FRANK LILLIPUT,
Short Comedian. At Liberty.
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MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Billing "An Enemy of the People." Dis. for autumn. Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "The White Chrysanthemum" Co.
Coronet Theatre, W.

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MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
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Own Tour, "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route, or Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN,
Disengaged.
Ad., 1, Rochdale-place, Mount Florida, Glasgow.

MR. AUBREY MALLALIEU,
Light Comedian. Meynell-Gunn Australian Tour. Address, Princess's Theatre, Melbourne.

MR. and MRS. W. MANFREE (Amy Wood) and AMY MANFREE, "Silver King" Co. Disengaged April 30. O. H., Middlesboro'.

MR. JERROLD MANVILLE,
Disengaged.
105, Allison-road, Harringay, N.

MR. D. LEWIN MANNERING
Playing Burgomaster Stockman in "An Enemy of the People." G. T., Manchester.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
Tommy Flipper, "'Appy 'Ampstead." At Liberty in April. 18A, Hartswood-road, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend" Co.
March 19, New Theatre, Consett.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN, Advance Manager. Mr. Cyril Maude's "Beauty and the Barge" Co. Mar. 20, Grand, Fulham, S.W.

MR. ROLANDO MARTIN,
Rehearsing New Production
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MR. HENRY W. MAY.
All Kinds of Music Composed and Orchestrated. Pantomimes, &c. Add., C/o "The Era."

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MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel.
"Napoleon the Great" Co. P.W. Theatre, Salford.

MR. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS,
Disengaged. Heavy Lead. Disengaged.
"The Blorenge," Taunton.

MR. EDWARD MORGAN, Character,
Comedy, Musical. Dis. Termination of Panto., March 24. Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

MR. & MRS. KENYON MUSGRAVE,
Friar Lawrence and Lady Montague, Grand, B'ham; at Lib. March 26. 25, Pk.-mans., Vauxhall.

MR. and MRS. J. D. NEWTON (Miss Kitty Clinton). Specially engaged for new production. Grand Theatre, Edinburgh. Mar. 19.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
Heavy Lead, "The Prodigal Parson."
March 19, Goole (3), Harrogate (3).

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON,
Lead, "The Luck of Life" Co.,
Theatre Royal, Stalybridge.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
Daly's Theatre,
W.

MR. ROBSON PAIGE, Engaged by Forbes Robertson, Esq. MABEL SYRINGA, at Liberty BLACKMORE, or 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

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(Miss Mabel Rees), Disengaged, for Character and Comedy. 1, Stockwell-avenue, Brixton, S.W.

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Address. 18, Trinity-road, Birmingham.

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MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Monks, in "Oliver Twist" (Mr. Tree's Co.),
March 19, Grand Theatre, Southampton.

MR. FRED PENLEY,
Mr. Brownlow, in "Oliver Twist" (Mr. Howard's Co.), Harrogate (3), Brighouse (3).

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MR. THOMAS PHILLIPS, General
Manager, Mr. Cyril Maude's "Beauty and the Barge" Co. March 19, Broadway Theatre, S.E.

MR. WILLIAM PIMM,
Isaacs, "A Rogue's Daughter." Thanks Offers. 89, St. Thomas's-rd., Victoria Pk, N.E.

MR. FELIX PITT,
Disengaged, April 23. On Tour with Andrew Melville, Esq., T. R., Cambridge.

MR. & MRS. DONALD PRICE-EVANS
(Miss Marcella Hudson).
"The Talk of the Town" Co., Stratford, E.

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MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNOR.
Business Manager for Mr. Bert Coote.
Address all communications 150, Oxford-street, W.

MR. T. RENAUD-LOCKWOOD,
Lord Robert Ure, "The Christian,"
March 19, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

MR. and MRS. SIDNEY RENNEF,
S. R., Davy, "Sunday" Co.,
Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

MR. PERCY RHODES,
On Tour as Paul Sylvaine in "Leah Kleschna."
At Lib. April 23. 54, St. Maur-rd., Fulham, S.W.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
Weinstein and Stage Management, "What the Butler Saw." T. R., Newcastle.

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MR. WALTER ROBERTS,
Rudolph Laski, "Passion's Power,"
March 19, T. R., Glossop (six nights).

MR. LEONARD ROBSON, Cius Lacius, "Cymbeline," Queen's T., Disengaged Easter. 115, Grosvenor-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE,
Address,
Belmeath, Upper Dorset-road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. L. Andrews.—The boards of this house are occupied this week by Miss Grace Warner's company in *The Scarlet Clue*. Mr. George Gordon is capable as Michael Stanton; Mr. Reginald Brown is effective as Harry Esmond; Mr. J. E. Tomlinson is a decided success as Crazy Jim; and Mr. V. T. Raymond as Billy the Rotter, and Mr. Horace Moseley are deserving of special praise. The part of Sal Sacriet could not be in better hands, than those of Miss Grace Warner, her acting throughout being exceedingly powerful. Miss Grace Jones appears to much advantage as the heroine, Elsie Dane; and Miss Ellen Beverley as Miss Tabitha Esmond does full justice to her part.

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—The sensational drama *A Path of Thorns* is being presented here to large audiences. Mr. William Fazan acts powerfully as John Edmunds; Mr. Chris Mason is successful as Sam Hallett; and Miss Evelyn Shaw puts much humour into the part of Jane Adelaide. Miss Marion Ryder makes a capital Lucy; and among the other members of the company who deserve mention are Mr. Frank Gordon as Jim Price, the burglar; Mr. Harry F. Wright as Dr. Gaye, Mr. Gilbert Fenn as the Rev. Frank Selby, Miss Kitty Lofting and Miss Emil Leslie as the sisters of Sam Hallett, and Miss Muriel Dean as Edmunds' wife.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Valazzi gives a remarkable balancing, juggling, and leaping performance, and Mr. Jack Lorimer, the noted Scottish comedian, deservedly continues to increase in popularity. The Chevalier Cliquot contributes some sensational sword-swallowing feats, and Harris's Nippers are highly successful, particularly as boxers, in the sketch *A Promising Pupil*. Miss Edith Muir and Mr. Hubert Bartlett act very cleverly their respective parts in an extremely amusing comedietta *A Bit of String*, and Mr. Alix Lukos is heartily applauded for his life-like impersonation of a number of stage celebrities. Miss May Moodie plays skilfully on the piccolo; the Llewellyns are as cordially received as last week; Mr. Carl Howard, the "crazy conjurer," causes much laughter by his funny antics; Miss Nancy St. John dances and sings very acceptably; and a smart display is given by Francisco in his juggling speciality. Vernon's bioscope show includes a striking series of pictures entitled "A Tragedy of the Sea."

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessees, Messrs. A. Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. George W. Ventom.—The boards here are occupied by Mr. Cecil Clayton's pantomime company in *Cinderella*. Miss Eva Rosslyn makes a smart Prince Charming, being ably seconded by Miss Annie Rose as Dandini. Miss Norah Waylett as Cinderella is charming, her songs being very pleasing; Mr. Herbert Colley is good as the Baron, as also is Mr. Reg. Kloof and Mr. Arthur Loman as the Ugly Sisters. Mr. A. Evremond as Pimples adds to the amusement of the house; speciality dances by the Sisters Clancy and the Cinderella troupe of acrobatic dancers are very pleasing.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The attraction provided here this week is Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company in *The Temptress*. Mr. Frederick Ross furnishes a powerful and artistic portrayal of Lucas Denbeigh; Mr. G. D. Darker displays undoubted ability as Philip Welford; Sir Oswald Fordyce is a good performance by Mr. James C. Ashworth; Mr. W. H. Hallatt submits a capital character-sketch as Pedro Gonzales; Mr. Oscar Power must be complimented upon his John Gregory; Mr. A. Carruthers is particularly amusing as Fitz Fluke; Mr. Tom E. Sinclair deserves praise for his Bob Tanner, and the little part of Rev. T. Finch is a praiseworthy performance by Mr. E. Apandle. Miss Blanche Steel gives an interesting assumption of Stella; Miss Mabel Scudamore is an able exponent of Marion Fordyce, and Miss L. Chambers is well placed as Rhoda Brown.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—An excellent bill is provided this week, headed by Barton and Ashley, who meet with a warm reception; Ray and Miles, comic jugglers, are very good, and another good turn is supplied by Tennyson and Wallis; Craig, Rose, and Craig must be complimented upon their turn; George Edney (actor-vocalist), Eva Dawn (comedienne), and the Hippodrome pictures are other attractions.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—New scenery, new dresses, and costumes, and an attractive chorus are some of the features which enhance the performance of *Kitty Grey*, played by Mr. C. St. J. Denton's company. Miss Hilda Guiver is again a success as Kitty; a good portrayal of Lady Binfield is given by Miss Marie West; Messrs. H. Garden and R. Hyett are well-placed as Plantagenet and Sir John respectively; Mr. Lauri Lisle does well as Illyria; and Messrs. Stanley Ravenscroft and Allerton Turner are Comte and Ponbrichet; and Misses N. Lauraine and S. Page are capable as Mrs. Bright and Sadie.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Mr. Geo. Dance's premier company, with the favourite musical comedy, *The Orchid*, is here this week. Mr. Tommy Neldon as Meakin, the gardener, is extremely droll. Miss Dorothy Firmin sustains with much grace the part of Lady Violet Anstruther; honours also fall to Mr. Fern Pounds as Guy Scrymgeour, Mr. W. Griffin as Ronald Faussett, Mr Geo. Begg as Aubrey Chesterton, and Mr. E. Nainby is admirable as the fiery French Count. The amorous Caroline is excellently impersonated by Miss Madeline Maud, and Josephine is played by Miss Elsa Brull.

The Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—A feature in this week's bill is the first appearance of Miss Lottie Rhona, from New South Wales, animal trainer. Her troupe of Australian dogs and sheep perform some really wonderful tricks under her direction. Miss Amy Anderson and Co. appear in some amusing scenes from London life—*The Banana Stall*; Herbert Bettis, comedian, does well; Florrie is a clever child singer; Fanny Robina is a big favourite; the Franko Midgets are described as the smallest conjurers in the world. There are also good turns of a varied character by Ruby Dahl, in her latest novelty, *The Merry Mannikins*; Billy Bint, a capital comedian; Ara, Zebra, and Vora, in their novelty, "Indian Pastimes"; Marconi's Electric Wonders is a big sensation; and "A Trip to Oxo Land" is depicted on the Bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Max Goldberg's picturesque historical drama, *Lady Godiva*, under the direction of Mr. F. B. Woulfe, opened a week's engagement here on Monday. As Tom O'Coventry Mr. F. B. Woulfe is admirable, and his portrayal of the part stamps him as a resourceful and clever actor; Leofric in the hands of Mr. Ernest Lodge loses none of the force and dignity which are required; Mr. James Duncan is very good as Algar; Mr. Ernest Hamilton is seen to advantage as Unwolf Unwolfson; good service is rendered by Mr. Harry Benson as Robin Shacklebolt, and Mr. C. Lingham as Edgar the Nameless. The highest praise must be accorded Miss Josephine Colona, who in the title-rôle plays with charming grace; Miss Gwen Stewart is a winsome Lady Aldyth, and Miss Edith Loraine does well as Elfrida.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—The programme this week is headed by Miss Ada Fawn, burlesque actress; other turns are supplied by Mr. J. W. Ellison, comedian; Miss Violet Beatrice, Irish colleen; Mr. Cyril Carle, actor-vocalist; Mr. E. C. Clayton, with a varied and interesting series of pictures; Matt Wilkinson and company in a laughable sketch entitled *The Registry Office*; Mlle. Thelma, clay modeller; and the Ralston Bros., comedians.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—There is an excellent combination of variety talent here this week. Dr. Carl Herman gives a clever and amusing performance; Daisy Almer meets with a good reception; the Five M.P.'s in their grand and thrilling military musical act are greeted with applause; and Charlton gives a clever exhibition of conjuring; the Three Rolands are eminently successful as strong men; Professor Holt is a facile ventriloquist; Mr. Frank Lisbon is amusing as the skating tramp, and the Three Bostonians in their singing and dancing act, Alfred Siegel (wrestler), the Swiss Mountaineers, and Wild, Wille, and West, as the "Bounding Navvies," complete the bill.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—*The Ticket-o'-Leave Man* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Alan Wilkie and company before an appreciative audience. Mr. Wilkie as Robert Brierly brought out vividly the sterling qualities of a much-wronged man. He was well supported by Miss Ine Cameron in the part of the wife. Mr. George Lambton as Jim Dalton and Mr. Edwin Ling as Melter Moss, with Mr. Clifford Rogers as Hawkshaw the detective, held the interest of the audience. Miss Dorothy Barrington did ample justice to the part of Sam Willoughby, and Miss Barbara Pigot and Miss Lizzie Maddocks cleverly undertook the respective characters of Emily St. Evremond and Mrs. Willoughby.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's company is here in *The Way of the World*. Mr. Herbert Skardon is an interesting Cecil Montague; Miss Cissie Bellamy plays Kate Montague with sympathy and charm; the villainies of Captain Fred Slade are skilfully presented by Mr. Victor Gordon, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Clarence Temple as Matthew Malyon; Adela de la Roche is cleverly played by Miss Sidney Crowe; and the piece is efficiently lightened by the clever humours of Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff, Mr. Dick Seddon as Joe Sparrow, and Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly Bell.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Dorothy Howard and company are presenting here this week a musical version of *East Lynne*. In the character of Lady Isabel Miss Dorothy Oswald displays fine emotional acting; Mr. Herbert Barrs is capital in the part of Archibald Carlyle; and Captain Levison is admirably acted by Mr. Arthur E. Pringle. The musical numbers by Mr. Herbert Fuller and Miss Lillie Kennie are a great success.

Tivoli.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—At the top of the bill here this week are Lee and Kingston in a comedy act entitled *Practical Joking*. Baker and Balfe give a capital musical turn; Herbert Rule is a droll comedian; Bromley and Fontein submit a novel sketch; and Kribb and Cribb (comedians), the Two Errols in comedy tumbling, and Jack Hilton (comedian) complete the list.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—On Monday the management inaugurated a four weeks' season of drama, the first attraction being the sensational play *Gipsy Jack*, played by Mr. Henry Bedford and his company. Mr. Bedford himself appears as Gipsy Jack, a heavy task, which he carries through with the most successful results. The villainous character of Gerald Skinner is acted by Mr. Alec Alexander with unflinching coolness, and Mr. Cecil B. Churton as the curate, Francis Harvey, is well placed. Miss Mary Masters is the heroine, Dorothy Dexter, and with Miss Bessie Bedford as May Harvey secures the favourable verdict of the audience. Miss Frances Foley portrays Hagar, a Romany witch, with some effect. Nan, the secretly married wife of Skinner, is in the hands of Miss Ada Antley. The comic interest is brought to the fore by Mr. Sid Bedford (Joe Banks), Mr. J. H. Damer (Charley Bates), and Miss Jennie Riley (Jennie Huggins). Others in a long list of characters who sustain the interest in unfolding the plot are Mr. George W. Hewetson (Sir John Dexter) and Mr. Walter H. Domoney (Mr. Skinner, sen.).

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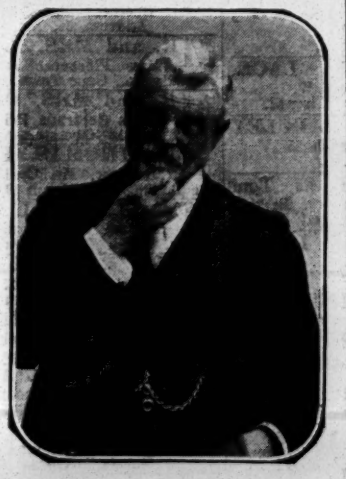

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PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—Originality always has its reward, and the first visit to Bath of Amber Austa in her eccentric coon songs and dances has gained for the clever artist a big reception nightly. King and Benson, the American entertainers, are great favourites, their duets and business gaining them genuine recalls; W. E. Haines is a "dandy" comedian, who renders his songs with the happiest results; Speedwell wins much applause for his marvellous painting act, *Art in a Hurry*; Charles Jerome specialises a pretty dusky song and dance, "Letty," with success; Davis and Davis, comedians, vocalise well, and tell stories smartly; the Smythsons create many a laugh in their sketch, *A Tea House Flirtation*; and Blanche Marion, comedienne and dancer, has admirers. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are showing "The Blind Man and His Child" and "Grandpapa and the Butterfly," both capital subjects.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes, jun.—The usual Lenten visit of Poole's Myriorama is being fulfilled this week. The variety turns announced are all good, and an additional attraction is the splendid animated pictures which are exhibited.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—*The Plucky Nipper* is here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Bonwin Carlton is effective; Mr. William Heilbronn plays a heavy part with deliberateness and force; Mr. Edward Stream as the hero of the piece is manly and vigorous; Mr. Edward Surrey gives a clever representation of a ne'er-do-well, and Miss Ethel Whiteley submits a quiet and unassuming study of Iris Fenwick.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards here are occupied by H. J. Byron's comedy, *Our Boys*, under the direction of Mr. M. Russell Rosse. Mr. Thomas Thorne gives an admirable impersonation of Middlewick and Mr. Norman Clark makes an excellent Sir Geoffrey Clampneys, whose son, Talbot, finds a clever exponent in Mr. R. Calvert Hawes; Mr. J. A. Bentham as Charles Middlewick leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Ethel Halle as Violet Melrose unites the natural gifts of a pleasing personality with gracefulness of manner; Miss Lily Cavenagh makes a charming Mary Melrose; Miss Rachel de Travis adds considerable humour to the piece in her interpretation of Clarissa Champneys, and Miss Edith Hesketh is a conspicuous success as Belinda.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company opened here on Monday with the comedy drama, *At Cripple Creek*, which met with a capital reception. Mr. Hilliard Vox was a manly representative of Joe Mayfield, and the villainous character of Martin Mason was realistically portrayed by Mr. Walter Thornton. A remarkably clever child actress—Baby Betty—impersonated Little Tatto, her songs and dances being enthusiastically received. Miss Ella Dixon was a charming representative of the part of Belle Gordon, and Miss Daisy Carlton was simply delightful as Maggie Mason. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile was the bully Manuel Alverez to the life, and a word of praise is due to Mr. Chas. D. Pitt for his capital impersonation of Wahketah. A finished character-sketch of Dynamite Ann was submitted by Miss Vera Fordyce, and other rôles were sustained by Messrs. Albert Rogers, Will Hook, Chas. Watson, Tom Sharp, A. Cooper, and A. Kennett.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—The Gotham Comedy Quartette head the bill here, and their success on Monday was undoubted. The Athos Troupe create quite a sensation with their acrobatic feats, and the Three Laurels appear to much advantage in their acrobatic speciality, *Fun on a Ping-Pong Table*. The D'Osta Trio command success with their marvellous ring act, and Mr. Harry Bedford is a humorous comedian with capital songs. Also appearing are Leighton and Mona, in their musical comedy act; Mr. Will Driscoll, comedian and dancer; Mr. Sam Lee, comedian and mimic; and the attractive Palace Pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading feature this week is Mr. Fred Karno's company in *Moses and Son*. Mr. Fred Kitchen as Perkins is the life and soul of the piece, and various rôles are charmingly interpreted by Miss Leah Morris, Miss Janet Reeve, Miss Kate Forster, and Miss Rose Abrahams, and Messrs. Herbert Landeck and Anthony Gordon are also capital in their parts. Mr. Russell Wallett (fresh from local pantomime triumphs) has made a big hit with his female impersonations; the Royal Six, dainty vocalists, also appear; and a welcome return visit is being paid by that smart ventriloquist, Mr. W. H. Clemart. Hector, wire walker, is also included in the attractive programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Farcical Tabloid company heads the bill, and is appearing with much success in the rollicking sketch, *Kiss Your Father; or, the Irish Doctor*. A great hit has been made by that clever character-actor, Mr. Barney Stuart, and the new pictures exhibited by the Alhambra Bioscope are a decided acquisition to the programme. Mephisto executes some wonderful contortionist feats, and Miss Grace Taylor, comedienne, sings "My Irish Molly" in good style. Also appearing are Mr. Harry Cotton, comedian; Miss Molly Doon, a charming comedienne; the Calcotts, clever musical artists and fine dancers; and Vincent, a clever acrobatic table expert.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr. Charles Carle is presenting *A Noble Brother* here this week with a good sprinkling of burlesque dialogue. The famous character-actor in his impersonation of Jerry, the tramp, is full of fun and pathos. Miss Doris Brookes portrays Nana in a charming manner, and Miss Alice Ballard is a reasonable Mrs. Leigh; a trio of performers, Mr. Max Madden (Colonel Leigh), Mr. Arthur Gilroy (Henry Travers), and Mr. J. A. Wilson (Jack Elsworth) lend valuable aid.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company in Mr. Thomas Raceward's play, *Sunday*, received an enthusiastic welcome on Monday night from a crowded house, who followed with keen interest the many strong points incidental to the development of the plot. The title-rôle is impersonated with great skill by Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, who plays a somewhat difficult and arduous part with a finish denoting a long familarity with the task. Colonel Brinthorpe has a clever and forcible exponent in Mr. Leonard Pagden, and Mr. Cecil Duncan does all that is possible with the very uphill character of Arthur Brinthorpe. The "boys" are capitally represented by Messrs. William Lockhart, Sydney Rennef, T. Norman Walter, and Arthur Vezin, who deservedly participate largely in the honours of the performance, and Mr. Ernest A. Douglas gives good support as Tom Oxley. Miss Rosalind Ross is in every respect an excellent Mrs. Naresby; Miss Juliet Hardinge is worthy of commendation for her effective portrayal of a Nun, and Mr. Ernest Harrison is efficient as Abbot.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. J. L. Shine and his very capable combination in the excellent sketch *Hogmanay* form an attractive feature. Mr. W. J. Churchill, comedian, is appearing with great success, and Mr. Henry Abdy's canine hippodrome is a capital specimen of animal training; the Arundels, speciality artists and boxers, give a good turn, and are well received, and a strong and comprehensive company also includes Miss Bessie Featherstone, an accomplished serio, Will Van Allen (the tramp musician), Mlle. Marvelle's troupe of performing cockatoos and macaws, Mr. Mack Ollive and Miss Daisy Baldry (in a taking siffleuse act), Miss Flo Warner (vocalist), and Mr. Bob Hutt (comedian).

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Aladdin* consummates its gloriously successful three months' run to-night (Saturday), and that the pantomime has not outstayed its welcome may be mentioned from the fact that full houses have been conspicuous to the end. Last night Mr. Harry Tate received such a benefit that the popular motorist, golfer, and angler-in-farce had not the accommodation wherewith to place a quarter of his admirers, promising only from the tickets, which, on the day of issue, were at a premium already. Mr. Philip Rodway received the compliments of a full house at his benefit on Monday, as well as presents and other expressions of goodwill from his directors, his friends, artists, and the public.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Twixt Axe and Crown* has been received with the utmost possible favour for the many dramatic delights it so truly affords. In the rôle of the Princess Elizabeth, Mrs. Russ Whytal has the crowded audiences at her beck, being graceful and appropriate in gesture, silvern of speech, and of a queenly presence. Miss Elsie Chester as Mary Tudor has moulded her efforts into an impressive and charming embodiment; Mr. F. Lumsden Hare leaves a most excellent impression as the Earl of Devonshire; Mr. Charles Combe portrays the Bishop in faultless style; Mr. J. J. Bartlett depicts the cunning and duplicity of Simon Renard with much art, and Miss Mabel Knowles, Mr. Alfred Fisher, and the rest of the cast represent their respective characters to the full

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*The Great Awakening* intervenes for one week, after which *Romeo and Juliet*, which has been playing here for three successive and successful weeks, will, to meet a popular demand, be restored to the bill. Meanwhile *The Great Awakening* has shown Miss Maud Hildyard to the fullest advantage as the reckless and unscrupulous Lola, and other powerful studies have been forthcoming from Mr. Charles Vivian as James Selby, Mr. Bernard Copping as Sir Henry and also Jack Merton, Mr. William Vaughan as Guy Rogan, Mr. Ernest G. Batley as Captain Harry Lambert, and Miss Nina Blake Adams as Molly Merton. The comic interludes have been well taken by Mr. Willie Scott and Miss Isa Bellington, and the piece is well staged.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Blue Beard* retires to-night (Saturday) after a popular run of three months. Every seat that it was available to book for this concluding performance has been taken long ago, and the proceedings promise to be of a particularly lively, gratifying, and enthusiastic nature. Last night, Miss Minnie Jeffs, the popular hero, was afforded the compliment of a benefit.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*The Female Swindler* holds the stage here, played by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, and patronised by the usual full houses that attend this successful drama on tour. Miss Grace E. Leslie continues to shine most radiantly in her graphic drawing of the titular rôle, Lu Valroy; Mr. Henry C. Cooper suggests the tenacity of Coulson, the detective, with admirable effect; Mr. Hugh Mewburn portrays the evil character of Geoffrey Warden in a most realistic fashion; Mr. Bernard Dunstan acts with much success as the receiver, Mikestein; Mr. Paul Beckett as the lover, Harold Travers, acquits himself well; and Miss Florrie Kelsey wins much favour for her graceful manner as May Andrews. Mr. Luke Forster scores in various guises, and Mr. W. Shaw as Dixon and Miss Amy Maitland as Mary Ann Mee are successful.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Bank of England* pays a welcome visit here with Mr. Geoffrey de Mowbray's company. Mr. Chas. Lester gives a capital portrayal of the criminal investigator, Sherlock Holmes; Mr. Walter Bentley sustains the criminal rôle, Stephen Hartley, in a masterly manner; Mr. Harry T. Wood as Eric Dane is acclaimed for his manly acting; Miss May Richardson acts with rare feeling as Margaret Dare, and Miss Ada Collins is favourably received as Sylvia Barraclough; Miss Phyllis Orme keeps the house in a ferment of mirth and admiration as the American widow; Mr. Chas. Goff scores most decisively as Sprouts, and Miss V. Wood and Mr. Henry Compton give good support.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Proof* is submitted here with perfect success by Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company. The play is well-staged and dressed, and the acting is all that it could be desired. Mr. Gerald Kennedy as the sorely-tried Pierre acts with fine emotion and wins keen sympathy; Mr. William Dexter receives the compliment of loud hisses for his life-like presentment of the arch villain, Lazare; Miss Lucy Prittie-Tydd, first as the victim Madeline, and later as Adrienne, the daughter, acts charmingly; and Mr. G. Garnet-Vayne as Victor, Mr. Terence Nerry as the Duke, Mr. Wilford Bailey as Chamboran, and Miss May Grimshaw as Valentine act in an acceptable manner.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The most popular turn of the bill is filled by an old favourite, Tom Costello, while the sketch *Moving In*, as presented by Herbert Darnley's company, is highly amusing. Gracie Graham is a fascinating comedienne, as is also Amy Young. Other popular turns are G. W. Foster, the Finneys, Hays and Suits, Rohda Bros. and Athas and Collins in a comedy-scena entitled *For Four Bob*. The bioscope depicts the life of a New York policeman.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Lelia Roze, who comes direct from the Prince's pantomime, is presenting her musical scena *A Dressing-Room Dream*. The Northern Troupe of International Dancers are smart; the Haytors well sustain their popularity; the Ashers, with *The Earl and the Girl*; Harry Grey, comedian; Cassie Walmer, sand dancer; Austin and Cowan, vocalists; Chas. Austin and George Formby, comedians, add to the mirth of the evening.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Sketches are in high favour this week. Tom Craven and Stephen Adeson's company is seen in *The Lady in Red*; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas have a smart sketch in *My Birthday*; Miss Hunt possesses a rich soprano voice. Kitty Glover and company are seen in *Mistaken Identity*, and Warden and Reed in an up-to-date duologue, *Married or Photographed*. May Moore Duprez, the Jolly Dutch Girl, is more rollicking than ever; the Tally-Ho Trio sing with effect. Amie Laurie, a clever comedienne; Anthony, in his smart illusions; the Three Seabournes, acrobats; Leslie Race, and the Barroscope complete the programme.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—In the strong bill here the principal item is Spessardy's performing bears and ponies. The Eight of Hearts, a troupe of dancers from the Prince's pantomime, meet with success; some clever dances are given by Viviana; Conway and Leland are amusing one-legged comedians; Fred Lincoln is full of humour; and Helene and Emilon are expert gymnasts.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Huntley.—Patrons of this place of amusement are this week enjoying the first visit of Mr. Esmond Bramley's Shakespearean company. The week's engagement opened on Monday with *Richard the Third*. The impersonation of the title-rôle was undertaken by Mr. Cyril Este, whose rendering was universally admitted to be excellent. Mr. Baliol Holloway was seen to advantage as Henry, Earl of Richmond, and George, Duke of Clarence; the Duke of Buckingham was cleverly portrayed by Mr. F. Owen Chambers, and an equally praiseworthy rendering was that of Sir Richard Catesby by Mr. A. L. Evans. As Lord Stanley Mr. C. Doyle proved himself a worthy exponent; Lady Anne, a most difficult rôle, was capably handled by Miss Millie Ford, and great praise is due to Miss Maude Garth for her delineation of Queen Elizabeth. Prince Edward and Prince Richard were in the capable hands of Miss May Beatrice and Miss Nightingale. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was played to a large audience, and on the remaining nights *Twelfth Night*, *David Garrick*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Romeo and Juliet* were presented.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Worst Woman in London* is drawing good audiences to this place of amusement. The company all round is a good one, including as it does Miss Florence Dalton as Frances Vere, "the worst woman in London." Miss Dalton is an actress with excellent dramatic gifts, and her forceful portrayal of the character has nightly gained her much applause. Mr. Wallace Campbell acts with dignity the part of the much-wronged hero, Jack Felton, and he is ably supported by Miss Effie Bartlett, whose representation of Ruth Milford possesses the sweetness that is necessary to the part. Vincent Lyle, the villainous accomplice of Francis Vere, is in the capable hands of Mr. Paul B. Sewers, and Mr. Leonard Booker plays the part of the ruined gambler, Philip Armstrong, with great success. Mr. H. H. Barrington as James Milford and Mr. H. W. Moule as Hugh Drayton are both good in their respective parts, and the lighter side of the drama is well sustained by Mr. Percy Dawsone as Bob Goldfinch and Miss Florence Lovell as Matilda Parker. The minor parts are also well filled, and the staging of the piece is excellent.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Drama has for this week given place to variety at Mr. Page's popular theatre, and an excellent company is appearing each evening, the two houses-a-night system, having been adopted. The star turn is given by Miss Daisy de Roy, who is an old favourite with Blackburn audiences. Her songs are as fresh and entertaining as ever, and she has been warmly received by her numerous admirers. J. W. Hall, a comedian who is also known in this town, scores a big success, and amongst other turns is an excellent acrobatic performance by the Cumberland Troupe.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The entertainment at the Palace this week is of the high standard which usually characterises the performance at this place of amusement. It is impossible to individualise, so even in merit are the respective artists. Donaldson Bros. and Ardel are here again with their amusing sketch, *A Zoological Garden*, and their fifteen minutes' turn proves to be as funny as ever. Narow Bros. are comic cyclists, who keep the audience divided between laughter at their eccentricities and admiration of the difficult feats they perform. George M. Schilling, an American athlete who has walked round the world, tells the story of his experiences in an entertaining manner. Tiller's Eight Mascots—who are deputising for Ben Albert, comedian, who is unable to appear through illness—sing and dance very prettily. The Bros. Ashley appear in their boxing act, *Next, Please*; Hick's Clerks entertain the audience with song and dance; Johnny Walker is an amusing comedian; and Violet Stockelle is a dainty comedienne. The picture entitled "The Train Wreckers," shown by Raymond's Biograph, is especially good.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Blackpool Amateur Operatic Society is in possession here this week with *The Pirates of Penzance*. The utmost credit is due to Mr. Shelford Walsh, under whose supervision the opera is produced.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Mr. Smith* is the attraction here this week. The title-rôle is exceedingly well handled by Mr. Stephen T. Ewart. Mr. Russell Norrie submits a clever portrayal of the Earl of Oxted; Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway ably assumes the part of the Duke of Angleland; Mr. Charles Pilling Baird is suited as the Hon. Dudley Dysart; and Mr. H. Carter Blight makes a good Jack Berkeley. The fun is supplied by Mr. Fred Darrell as Herr Diedrich Anheuser. Miss Elspeth Dudgeon as the Duchess of Angleland, Miss Rosamond Rokeby as Lady Mary, and Miss Fyfe Alexandra as Ruth Anheuser likewise win favour.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Miss Florence St. John is the principal star here this week, and in *My Milliner's Bill* brings down the house nightly. No less successful is Jock Whiteford, the new Scotch comedian. His impersonation of an enthusiast at a football match is surely one of the funniest turns on the music hall stage. Bert Dansie, Barley and Barley, Revington and Gordyn, Beatrice Willey, Fancourt and Rubie, and Millie Howell are also here.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—*At the World's Mercy*, a musical drama, presented by Mr. Carr Loates and a good all-round company, has met with a favourable reception here. Mr. Loates, the author of the piece, undertakes the chief rôle of Captain Frank Manley with success. Specialities and songs are introduced which tend to brighten up the drama.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL (LIMITED).—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil are this week presenting their drama, entitled *Her Luck in London*. A capable company is engaged for the production, Miss Mary Neil sustaining with much ability the character of Nellie Harborne.

GRAND THEATRE (LIMITED).—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The company engaged here is a strong one, and includes Miss Dolly Elsworthy's company in *The Orange Girl*, Miss Elsworthy portraying the character of Nell Gynne, with Mr. Frank Liston as Charles II. Other turns are Tom Lloyd, eccentric comedian; the McKays, comedians, &c.; Bird and Arnold, in illustrated songs; Jenny Reeve, comedienne; T. E. Johnstone, actor-vocalist and comedian; Ruby and Laws, in a quick-change musical comedy sketch, *Cora's Visitors*; the Morton Trio, vocalists and comedians; Mark Leslie, coon impersonator; Zaro and Arno, comedy bar performers; Edward Ind, vocalist; Harris and Worth, talking and singing comedians, and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert E. Wilson.—Miss Hettie Jeffries and company are here this week with *The Curate*. The part of Gilbert Westwood is in the capable hands of Mr. Whitmore Ledger; Mr. Arthur Mervyn gives a manly and refined rendering of the Rev. John Audley; Miss Hettie Jeffries gives a clever impersonation of Dick the Trumpeter; the character of Gregory Verner is ably sustained by Mr. Percy Conningsby; Miss Rosa Mervyn is a pleasing Mabel Verner; and Miss W. Stewart gives a capital performance as Katinka Vodsky. The humorous element is capably handled by Mr. Clifford Spencer as Simon Peter Muggs and Miss Agnese D'Aragon as Mrs. Muggs. The Bioscope between the acts is highly appreciated by the audience.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*Old Heidelberg*, with its fascinating atmosphere of German student life, forms the attraction this week, and, as presented by Mr. Mouillot's company, delighted a large audience on Monday. The part of Karl Heinrich is played by Mr. Robert Minster, who has a fine stage presence, and realised the character admirably; Miss Irene Lavington was very charming in the rôle of Kathie; of Mr. J. Nelson Ramsey's performance as Dr. Juttner it is impossible to speak in terms other than of praise, and Mr. Lionel Gadsden as Lutz contributed a clever character-study; mention should be made also of Mr. Willis Searle as Kellermann, Mr. Eric Phillips as the Staatsminster, and Mr. Wallace G. Court as the Saxonia student.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in the comic opera, *The Little Michus*, provides a special attraction here this week. The production has been eagerly anticipated, and a large audience on Monday night was completely captivated by the dramatic charm, the irresistible humour, and the magnificent staging of the opera. Full justice is done to André Messager's pretty music, and the acting all round is excellent. Much laughter greets the ludicrous situations contained in the plot, and Mr. Eric Thorne as the limping, bombastic General des Ifs, simply keeps the audience in an ecstasy of laughter. Mr. Leonard Mackay glides easily through his part of the fickle Aristide Vert; Mr. Arthur Royd is a picturesque and sufficiently dignified Gaston Rigaud; Mr. Jack Cannot's Bangolet is a very diverting effort; as Pierre Michu Mr. Eardley Turner is good, and Mr. Willie Warde, jun., as the funny Market Man makes the most of his opportunities; as the motherly Mme. Michu, Miss Elsie Cameron is excellently placed; there is a delightful buoyancy in the acting of Miss Iris Hoey as Blanche Marie, and Miss Mabel Green as Marie Blanche, the two graceful and charming sisters; and the exquisite dancing of Miss Ivy Louise in the part of Mlle. St. Cyr is a feature of the delightful opera, which is ably conducted by Mr. Harold Vicars.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The record run of *Dick Whittington* is announced to end with the present week, and benefits are the order nightly, extra turns being provided on each occasion by the smart and resourceful members of the company.

THE EMPIRE (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—A programme full of merit is presented here this week. The Uessems furnish an acrobatic turn of a striking order, in which head-balancing is a leading feature of their equilibristic work; barefoot sand dancing is another novelty gracefully accomplished by that charming exponent of the art, "My Fancy"; the well-known comedian, Palles and Cussick, reappear with their customary success; a novel performance is submitted by Tina Clementa's wonderfully trained dogs and ponies; the Goltz Trio, on globes, do some clever juggling; *The Cuckoo* is an amusing sketch in which Charles Kitts and Rhoda Windrum appear successfully. There is much skill, energy, and daring displayed by the Riogoku Family of Japs in their wonderful risley performance; illustrated songs, "In Dreamland," and "The Homeland of my Heart," are pretty features submitted by Gracie Moore; in her musical sketch, *The Slavey's At Home*; Elsie Roby is clever and entertaining, and some excellent films are shown by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Adeline Yohle, soprano, renders favourite English ballads with grace and charm, and the King's College Boys with individual vocalism and rousing chorus contribute successfully to an excellent evening's entertainment. On the trapeze, and in a performance as a contortionist, Alethea is charmingly easy and graceful. A very remarkable acrobatic and pedestal performance "*à la* Risley" is submitted by the smart and clever Dayton Family; Gray and Welford are capital comedians and funny in a smart boxing act; Rumbo Austin creates a lot of boisterous fun with his amateur acrobats; a fine turn is submitted by those clever acrobats and vaulters, the Bros. Huxter, and the films shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux are very interesting.

BRIDLINGTON.—NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Henry Hague.—In connection with his ninth annual exhibition, the enterprising and popular manager of this favourite resort has secured some exceptionally good talent. Mr. Charles Allan's fine orchestra renders twice daily a well-selected programme of music which delights large audiences. The Olympian Quartette —Messrs. Cornish, Sampson, Slocum, and Slocum—have brought part singing to great perfection; Salida and Vone, American burlesque artists, are clever, their "rag time" dances being always encored; Billy Richardson is a smart stump orator; La Tosca gives a fine show of living studies of celebrated pictures.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. William Greet's company opened here on Monday with *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. William P. Grant gave a highly successful impresonation of Marcus Superbus, and Miss Marie Leonhard made an earnest and charming Mercia. Mr. J. Boyd Pearson submitted an excellent portrayal of Nero; Mr. Frank Wood was very humorous as the bibulous Glabrio; Miss Alma Bolton as Berenice, and Miss Cissie Carlton as Dacia, merit warm praise; Miss Ivy Millais was sympathetic as Stephanus; Mr. Charles Aldred acted with convincing force as Tigellinus; Miss Nellie Bonsor presented a good enactment of the Empress; Mr. Harry Jones was effective as Philodemus; and the remaining characters were ably sustained. At Thursday's special London matinee Mr. Lewis Waller and his Imperial theatre company gave a performance of *Brigadier Gerard*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—Mr. John Lawson is here this week with a triple bill, supplemented by variety turns. In *The Monkey's Paw* Mr. John Lawson is realistic as Mr. White, whose wife is ably represented by Miss Cissie Lawson, and Mr. E. S. Vincent is effective as the Old Soldier. In *The King's Messenger* Mr. John Lawson submits a very fine portrayal of Lord Draconsmere, and Mr. Bailey Cohen achieves distinct success as the villainous Milano. Miss Ethel Gordon Paull's acting as the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozier merits unstinted praise, and Miss Cissie Lawson is graceful as Lady Muriel. The Hebrew episode *Humanity* is presented with its accustomed success. Mr. John Lawson as Jarot Silvani and Mr. E. S. Vincent as John Cuthbert carrying off the chief honours. The variety turns are introduced by the Brothers Tarrant, amusing patterers; Miss Ethel Gordon Paull, an artistic soprano vocalist; the Sisters Velasco, Spanish dancers; and Miss Louis Belrose, vocalist. The programmes for the week also included *The Bride for a Living*, and *Mr. Todd of London*.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—An excellent company is here this week. Hulo Hodgson and Harry Lowther and company are very entertaining in the farcical comedy *Barmaids*; Spry and Austin (George and Florrie) are a capital pair of vaudeville artists; Binns and Binns, as vagabonds in comedy and music, are highly successful; Will Crackles sings and dances himself into great favour; Margaret Ashton, the American girl, is a charming vocalist; Rosie Bartlett is a refined singer; Culcitt makes a great hit in his travesty on Chang-Ling-Soo; Harley and Cole acquit themselves admirably in the song scena *Let Bygones be Bygones*; Florence Schubeth, burlesque artist, is well received; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. G. H. Elliott wins hearty applause for his coon songs and dancing; Vandinoff is a clever lightning picture painter in oil-colours; the Sisters Marion are pleasing juvenile duettists; the Sisters May are dainty vocalists and dancers; Jennie Johns is a vivacious soubrette; Rastus and Banks, coloured coons, contribute a very clever turn; Sam Morrison is a pleasing vocalist; Spencer and Marks, "the stage-struck waifs," are entertaining; Annie Brown sings in good style; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company is here this week with *A Message from Mars*. Mr. William H. Brougham gives a fine and very impressive impersonation of the Messenger; Mr. Cyril Austen Lee sustains the character of the selfish Horace Parker with complete success; Miss May Saker makes a graceful and charming Minnie Templar; Mrs. Edward Saker is admirably suited as Miss Parker; Mr. Bruce Lindley submits a capital study as the Tramp; and the remaining characters are satisfactorily sustained, the play is well staged, and the mechanical effects are realistic.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. J. Sallmayer.—Beauté, who had lost 23¾lb. in twenty-four days, concluded his long fast here on Monday afternoon, when a great crowd assembled to see him eat his first meal after his prolonged trial. Beauté remained on view in his chamber until yesterday (Friday). The other attractions here include afternoon and evening displays of the Aquariograph animated pictures.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—There was a packed house here on Friday evening, the 10th inst., when Mr. Wilkie Bard had his well-deserved benefit. The pantomime went capitally, Mr. Wilkie Bard was, if possible, even more comical than ever in the title-rôle. Mother Goose, all the company did their level best to make the performance a record one, Little Tich came down from London and much amused with his comicalities, Miss Lil Hawthorne was greatly applauded for her song "Good-bye, little girl," Mr. Horace Mills amused with "I would, I would," and Happy Fanny Fields did a new turn, and seemed to beat her well-known record for vivacity. Most of the artists did new or extra turns, and the whole evening was very enjoyable. Mr. Wilkie Bard's reception was something to be remembered. Monday started the last week of the pantomime, which many consider to be the best ever produced at this theatre. Certainly the attendance throughout has been remarkable, and the artists, including Mr. Wilkie Bard, Happy Fanny Fields, Miss Lily Morris, Miss Nina Wood, Mr. Edward Lewis, Miss Kathryn Comber, Messrs. Rich and Rich, Miss Nellie Stratton, Miss Flora Gordon, Mr. Marriott Edgar, Mr. John Donald, Mr. Fred Conquest, Mr. Charles Wakeman, and the Bros. Griffiths have all worked very hard and successfully with their respective parts. The mounting is exceptionally fine, the costumes are both rich and tasteful, and the superb ballets, the speciality dances of the Tiller Superba Troupe, and the careful and experienced stage-management of Mr. Henry Turner have resulted in an artistic and financial success reflecting credit on all concerned. Miss Fanny Fields' well-deserved benefit is fixed for Friday the 16th inst.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—The attraction this week is *A Soldier's Revenge*, the drama being liberally staged, and well played by Messrs. Beaudyn, Livesey, and Hardy's No. 1 company. Mr. Montague Beaudyn presents a fine powerful exposition of Ironhand; Miss Irene Munroe plays very effectively as Ruby Avondale; Mr. Robertson Foulis acts well and consistently as Sir Marsden Mardyke; and other important parts are satisfactorily taken by Miss Gloria Hill Mr. Harry Lloyd, Mr. Howard Hardy, Mr. Tom Robertson, and Mr. Edward Carter. The comic element is in the capable hands of Miss Annie Glunn, Miss Jane Massey, Mr. T. R. White, and Mr. Harry Momber.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The leading attraction here is Mr. John Tiller's excellent pantomime sketch *Red Riding Hood*, which is staged very effectively in eight scenes. The company is a highly-competent one, and pleasing songs, choruses, and expert dances are introduced *ad lib*. The variety company includes the Sivronis, capable burlesque artists; La Louberts, in a refined comedy act *Uninvited*; Tate and Tate, amusing eccentrics; Helen Martin, a pleasing vocalist; and Harry Vardon, a capital ventriloquist. The performance concludes with a new series of animated pictures projected by the Barrascope.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—A capital dramatic sketch entitled *The Maniac*, which is well staged, and carefully played by Mr. Sidney Bacon's company, is here. The Bara Troupe are skilled performers on a variety of instruments; Albert Le Fre presents successfully a novel mélange "That's what you see on the Halls"; Maggie Bowman and Tom Morton have a good comedy act introducing singing and clever dances; Fred Carr and Ada Rose present a laughable duo *A Domestic Episode*; the Revell Troupe appear in a successful absurdity *Mischief*, with a mechanical trap scene; Arabella Allen's ability in sketches from Dickens is greatly appreciated; and Jack Charman, vocalist, obtains considerable appreciation. The performance concludes with a display of Vernon's animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred. Watson.—*The Hindoo's Revenge* was produced here on Monday last to a good house by Messrs. Arthur Whittaker and Gifford Stacey's company. Particulars will be found in another column.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A hearty reception is accorded here to Mr. George Dance's company in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Frank Crimp is an excellent representative of Harry Vereker; Mr. Bertrand Gates makes much of the part of Boobhamba; Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is a handsome Bobby Warren; and Mr. Coop Edmunds is very good as Sir Peter Loftus. Mr. Lauri de Frece as Chambuddy Ram keeps the audience roaring with laughter, and Miss Gladys Guy is an able assistant in the fun as Peggy Sabine. Miss Marjorie Clarke as Lady Patricia received an encore for her charming singing, and Miss Winnie O'Connor makes a very pleasing Nanoya. Miss Essie Perrin as Angy is worthy of praise for her dancing. The beautiful scenery,

King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—For the first time in Cardiff was presented on Monday night the new romantic play, *The Midnight Wedding*, admirably acted by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company. The important parts of Princess Astrea and Paul Valmar were skilfully interpreted by Miss Annie Saker and Mr. Alfred Paumier.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Mr. T. E. Dunville heads the list here, and is just as amusing and quaint as ever. The Sarnthaler Troupe of Tyrolean vocalists and dancers present their picturesque turn with much success; Abel and Welsh, the remarkable acrobats, gain applause for their clever performance; Arthur Gill, the original yokel, provides endless fun; and Mr. Ian Colquhoun sings a couple of gems from grand opera and national melody; Clown Barker and Miss Rozsika with their dogs, Marie Weston (singer, dancer, and banjoist), Dainez and his comedy circus, the Hoydas (in comedy acrobatics), and the American Bioscope, with its ever-acceptable and instructive pictures, complete the programme.

Carlisle.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, Trustees of Mr. R. S. M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week in *The Cingalee*, which evoked great enthusiasm on the opening night. Mr. Kenneth Wynne has a capital voice which he uses most effectively in the numbers allotted to the Hon. Harry Vereker. Mr. Helier Le Maistre makes an imposing figure of Boobhamba, and his vocal efforts met with unqualified approval. A capital sketch of the irascible Sir Peter Loftus is contributed by Mr. G. J. Williams, who gets a lot of fun out of the part. The chief laughter provoker, however, is Mr. Johnny Osborne, who, in the part of Ram, finds ample opportunity to display his versatility as an eccentric comedian, his every appearance creating roars of laughter. Mr. Roy Sydney is quite a success as Bobby Warren. Miss Cissie Sephton gives a bright and attractive interpretation of Peggy Sabine; her duets with Ram are cleverly worked, and quite deserved the success they scored. Miss Emilie Mayhew as Lady Patricia acts in excellent style, and sings agreeably. The title-rôle is taken by Miss Nellie Wigley, a graceful and talented young actress, whose rendering of "My Cinnamon Tree" is one of the hits of the night. Miss Violet Holmes dances a pas seul cleverly. The chorus is strong and effective, and, as usual with Mr. Dance's companies, the dressing and staging are not the least admired portion of a thoroughly enjoyable performance.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Interest in the New Palace is quite maintained, and the capital programme submitted by the enterprising Signor Pepi this week is proving not a whit less attractive and successful than that of the opening nights. The New York Nippers, who top the bill with their popular sketch *Bedtime*, are a smart troupe of lads whose combination clog-dance met with hearty applause. Miss Mabel Hind contributed a bright Japanese turn; H. L. Bell and Lily Pearl's sketch *A Bit of String* is an amusing trifle, remarkably well put on; Bob Hamilton, a versatile comedian, delights the audience with his concertina solos; Florence Esdaile, a charming and clever vocalist, possesses a voice of wonderful compass, which she uses with fine effect in "The Soldiers' Chorus"; Lord, Murray, and Lord contribute a gymnastic turn of a novel and interesting character, their ball-punching bringing down the house; the Sisters Caselli are expert and agile dancers; and Sandford and Lyons provide the most popular turn of the night, their make-up and clever dancing and cross-talk being alike conspicuous for originality and crispness. Vernon's Bioscope, with new films, complete an enjoyable entertainment.

Algie's Hippodrome. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr C. Algie.—Abdullah's troupe of twelve Arabs, direct from the Alhambra, Paris, are creating quite a sensation here this week with their wonderful tumbling and pyramid balancing act; Rowland Hill, the curious comedian, soon gets on good terms with the audience, his funny songs and sayings keeping them convulsed with laughter; a novel and original musical act is supplied by Zanfretto and Napio, the musical knife-grinders; Miss Daisy Morrell scores a distinct success in a couple of ballads; and other excellent turns include Miss Fanny Humber, instrumentalist and dancer, Clive Watts, Miss Lil O'Gorman, Jack Rae, a clever tramp gymnast, Cinizelli, acrobatic comedian, and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

Cheltenham.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Dandy Doctor* is paying a return visit this week. Mr. Edmond Russell as the frisky millionaire and pseudo doctor Melchisadeck Brown, Mr. James Danvers as Colonel Pendrel, and Miss Norah Melton, a very clever comedienne, as Jane are chiefly responsible for the unflagging fun of the production. The real doctor is agreeably represented by Mr. Stanley S. Gordon; Miss May Yates as the Colonel's pretty daughter is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; Miss Rosie Chandler as Marie Murton does well, giving in the second act a remarkably smart and graceful acrobatic dance; Mr. Ben Rowe and Miss Holden submit an example of the genuine cake-walk.

Chesterfield. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is meeting with success here in the sensational drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Albert Ward, as George Maddison, makes a manly hero; Mr. Lionel d'Aragon is a success in the villainous character of Charles Devereux; Mr. Eric Campbell plays with force the part of Sir Geo. Lancaster; Miss Isla G. Vane gives a sympathetic rendering of the heroine Lucie; Miss Eugenie Magnus as Lady Lucretia Lancaster deserves great praise; Miss Barbara Gott as the Mother Superior gives a capable performance; the comic element is in the hands of Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttutt and Miss Sybil Hammersley as Pattie Love-Joy.

Chorley (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Clay.—Mr. J. H. Clyndes and company are here with *A Royal Revenge*, a capital musical romantic play, exceedingly well staged. Mr. J. H. Clyndes, in the dual characters of Estevan Alverez and Pedro de Castro, gives exceptionally good renderings; Mr. Herbert M. King capitally sustains the part of the King of Spain; and Mr. Arthur Chisholm artistically renders Manuel Mondega. As Azan Ben Musid and the Count Ulric Uzeda Mr. Fred Rivers is effective; Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon and Miss Celestine Brandon give excellent interpretations of Michael Sancha and Parquita Marcella respectively; Miss Enid Edoni successfully undertakes the part of Inez Alvarez; Miss Aimee Grattan gives a charming conception of Cora Casilda; and Miss Evelyn Derwent capably presents Mother Maria Teresa.

Clydebank.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan.—This week we are having a return visit of *Frivolity* presented by Mr. John Leopold's company. Mr. Watson Hume, a clever comedian, undertakes the part of Oliver Buckwheat in a manner that calls forth much applause. He is ably assisted in his funniosities by Mr. Barry Lupino as Sammy Vermiglio; Mr. John Leopold, jun., gives a smart impersonation of Daniel Teething; Mr. Wilfred Vaughan is highly entertaining as Jules Vermiglio; Mr. Tom Leopold does good work as Professor Fumble, and so does Mr. Willie Leopold as Tickle. Mr. Wm. Skelly is well suited as Nick; Miss Marie Ault makes a capable Madam Cobweb, and Lucy Buckwheat is smartly acted by Miss Amy Hall.

Colchester.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare Devil Dorothy* is this week paying Colchester its fifth visit. On Monday a good house gave it a hearty welcome. In the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Desmonde sang charmingly and was repeatedly encored, and Mr. Cecil W. Parke as George Fielding also contributed to the success of the piece; Mr. Will Brereton as Silas Crimp and Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith were both welcome; Mr. Henry C. Ward and Mr. Alf. Stretton made a villainous couple, well worthy of the attention of the upper house; and Mr. Frank Howard as Featherstone Haugh and Miss Nora Caronne as Ruth were well placed; Miss Mabel Blake and Miss Ada Coral should be specially mentioned for their clever dancing.

The Hippodrome (late Grand Palace of Varieties).—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece.—This handsome and commodious pleasure house has now been acquired by the above gentlemen, and the first performances under their direction took place on Monday evening. A capital programme was gone through, and the local public appear to appreciate the manner in which they are catered for. The foremost turn was the renowned troupe of elephants bearing the name of the late Mr. Lockhart, and now under the direction of Captain Taylor. A comic acrobatic act, entitled *Fun in a Café*, by the Seven Wulfrunas was much applauded, as was the sand dancing of Frank Cumminger, the latter being an old local favourite; keen interest was manifested in the clever ball manipulating of Elie Raqlus, and an original ventriloquial sketch was given by Frederic Neiman; the Brothers Levett executed some clever vaulting and leaping; the Twin Sisters Melba acquitted themselves very creditably as duettists and dancers; and the humorous pictures on the Bioscope were much applauded.

Consett.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton and company are presenting the modern drama *The Poor must Live* here this week Mr. Chas. O'Connor is very good as the Earl of Marswood, and as Donald Mr. Harold Macartney is a complete success. The part of Clifton Manville is presented ably by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton, and Sam Sully by Mr. Arthur Trail. Miss Molly Wynne is an effective Dick Sully and Miss Alice Buckland a winsome Moya Darling. Miss Margaret Thorne is an excellent Sal Darling, and as Hooker Holdsnitch Mr. Shaun Glenville is funny. Miss Violet Hammersley as Dorothy Murdock gives entire satisfaction, and as Olga D'Eyncourt Miss Olive Fulton is exceptionally clever.

Cork.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The star turn is Captain Gruber's elephant, horse, and pony. They give an interesting perfomance. Arthur Stacey scores with a song, and his dance in top boots; Florence Deighton possesses a good soprano, and uses it with effect. The Brothers Hersler are excellent comedy acrobats; Mdlle. Dora is a skilful player of the oboe; Vasey and Ramsey present an eccentric comedy act, which wins applause; Bertha Stuart, Scotch character vocalist, is a pleasing ballad vocalist; Morritt, magician, gives an exceptionally clever turn.

Coventry.—Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—The varied turns at this popular house are all well received. The Mackways, the eccentric knockabout comedians, give an amusing comedy act; a hearty welcome is accorded Michael Nolan, the Irish comedian; the Toreadors give an amusing burlesque act, entitled *A Spanish Bull*; Vernon and Voyce introduce a vocal scena, entitled *Jack Sheppard*; the Cecilian Quartette give successfully "The Wandering Savoyards"; Miss Lena Verdi scores with some capital impersonations of well-known musical artists; Miss Agnes Heizel is a good comedienne, the Biograph pictures, as usual, concluding.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—The drama, entitled *The Sins of Her Childhood*, is exciting considerable interest at this house, and is being played by a capable company under the direction of Mr. J. A. Campbell. Miss Mary Fulton is seen to advantage as the repentant Mary Haysel; Mr. Gordon Robey performs creditably as Thomas Haysel, whose son Stephen is in the capable hands of Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes; Mr. Chas. Fancourt is responsible for the Rev. Alan Grey; while Mr. Fred Lloyd does justice to the part of Captain John Thornton. Miss Annie Megson is amusing as Eliza Muggins; little Edith supplies a good impersonation of Eric Dugdale, and Hannah Spry is embodied by little Dot Moss, whose specialities are much admired.

Cradley Heath.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—This week we have a very welcome visit of Miss Emma Litchfield's No. 1 London company under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland with an original drama, entitled *A London Actress*, written by Miss Emma Litchfield, who herself takes the part of Hilda Mannering in an easy and debonair manner that wins constant applause. She is ably supported by her manager, Mr. Stuart Cleveland, who as Moses Mendoza gives a clever interpretation of our old friend the Jew money-lending sharp. Mr. John C. Carlyle is entrusted with the part of Sergeant-Major Clive Crawford, and he fully justifies the selection for the character. Miss Maud Steeples plays the part of Phyllis Crawford with grace and feeling, and she is well looked after by Biddy Malone, a part well enacted by Miss Nellie Fern. The fun is in the hands of Mr. John Hitchins and Miss Millie Mayward, who as Pat Maloney and Rosie Blythe are well received. Mr. Arthur F. Dudley supplies a careful study as Lieutenant Kingstone, R.N., and Mr. Geo. H. Doyle gives a dignified rendering of Captain Mannering, R.N. Miss Theo Henries is well placed as Mrs. Skinner, and so is Miss Maud Saxby as Nellie.

Crewe.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—The first visit of Mr. George Dance's company in *The Orchid* is giving great satisfaction here this week. Miss Constance Hamilton plays the part of Lady Violet Anstruther in charming style; Miss Maud Jay is a dainty Josephine Zaccary, Miss Hilda Vining a humorous Caroline Vokins, and the Zelie Rumbert of Miss Nancy Taylor is well sustained; Miss Kitty Smythe is an aristocratic Countess Anstruther, and Miss Beck a capable Thisbe. Mr. Colin Campbell, as Meakin, is both clever and amusing; as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, Mr. Ion Maxwell displays talent, and Mr. W. Garland is an admirable Dr. Faussett; Mr. R. Corray acts with distinction the rôle of Mr. Aubrey Chesterton, and Mr. T. A. Fisher scores a success as Comte Raoul de Cassignat; Mr. Berwick is successful as Zaccary, and the same may be said of Mr. H. Blezard as M. Deauville.

Croydon.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—The week's attraction here is Mr. Louis Calvert's well-selected company in *Dr. Wake's Patient*. Mr. Arthur Willoughby does ample justice to the rôle of the Earl of St. Olbyn; Mr. Herbert plays with warmth and finish as Duff Wynterden; Mr. Alfred Phillips renders sterling services as the Bishop of Selby; Mr. Douglas Vigors acts with good judgment and tact as Dr. Forrester Wake; Mr. Alfred Wellesley submits an excellent character-sketch of Andrew Wake; and useful aid is given by Messrs. H. P. Owen, Cecil Yapp, Maurice Wilson, Henry Marton, and Thomas Pegg as Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Brown, Prescott, Antony, and the waiter. Miss Olive Terry is delightfully fresh and sincere as Lady Gerania Wyn-Charteret, Miss Ina Pelly distinguishes herself as the Countess of St. Olbyn, Miss Beatrice Webb is a charming Harriet Bronson, Miss Amy Fanchette just touches the right note as Mrs. Wake, Miss Lidia Rachel is capital as Mrs. Murdoch, Miss Dorothy Gordon does well as Janifer, and Miss Amy Townsend is a picturesque gipsy. Mr. Leonard Gautier deserves congratulations for his admirably-managed orchestra.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Herbert Hollister's company is here with the ever-green *Lights o' London*. Mr. Arthur Cornell gives a manly rendering of Harold Armytage; Mr. Herbert Morgan acts with ability as Squire Armytage; Mr. Riddell Robinson is powerful in the rôle of Clifford Armytage; Mr. Herbert Hollister is commendable as Seth Preene; Mr. Reginald Holmes scores as Cutts; Mr. George Wallace makes the most of Philosopher Jack, and Mr. W. E. Passmore is capital as Jarvis. Miss Jennie Burgoyne wins sympathy as Bess; Miss Violet Temple is invigorating as Mrs. Jarvis; Miss Gladys Murray deserves praise as Shakespere Jarvis, and Miss Lily O'Dempsey is appropriate as Hetty Preene. Smaller rôles are in capable hands, and the mounting is creditable.

Darwen. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robinson.—Mr. W. H. Kirby and company are appearing here this week in a musical comedy *Somebody's Sweetheart*. Mr. Kirby, who is a favourite with Darwen audiences, was accorded another hearty reception, and though he has been seen to better advantage, still he keeps the house in roars of laughter by his funny interpretation of the part of Valet. Stephen Leverton, a part rather on the heavy side, is admirably impersonated by Mr. Percy Maitland; Mr. E. H Bertram is good as Stanton Ashleigh, and sings in an able manner; Mr. G. P. Lester scores in the rôle of Lem Lee; as does also Mr. Hoyland Shea as Old Joe. Miss D. Reeve makes a charming Lulu and Miss Cordelia Knight portrays Fora in an able manner. The Three Gibson Girls are a trio of clever speciality dancers.

Derby.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 Company occupies the boards here this week with *Florodora*. The company is a capable one. As Tweedlepunch Mr. Gus Danby is a host in himself; Miss Gwladys Elvey makes a charming Dolores, her songs being well received. As Frank Abercoed, Mr. Edward Crosland is in every way praiseworthy; Cyrus Gilfain has a capable exponent in Mr. Edward Chester; and the Arthur Donegal of Mr. Harry Perry is a capable assumption. Miss Florence Hersee makes a delightful Angela; Miss Kate Leicester plays well as Lady Holyrood. Some admirable dances are introduced by the Misses Lilian Coe and Freda Fenn. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. J. G. Hahn.

Palace.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—An attractive star turn here this week is Hetty King, male impersonator. Her acceptable songs and smart style gained her an enthusiastic reception on Monday. Frank Bros., grotesque acrobats and equilibrists, are exceptionally clever; Frank Bertram and company appear in a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *The Chaperon*; Kloof and Ramsay, musical novelty burlesques, merit special mention; Royal Temples, pleasing operatic vocalists, are cordially received; Kendrick and Laura are praiseworthy speciality singers and dancers; and Harry Walker is an entertaining comedian. The Palace bioscope contributes several interesting films to a capital all-round programme.

Dewsbury.—Theatre Royal.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—Mr. Wm. Greet's *The Earl and the Girl* company is here. As Jim Cheese Mr. Alfred Donohoe carries off chief honours, his performance being one of much merit; Miss Hylda Dugdale as Elphin is a sprightly dancer; Mr. Leslie Gaze as Dick Wargrave succeeds admirably; and Miss Beatrice Anderson also plays well as Mrs. Shimmering Black.

Hippodrome and Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon. — The artists engaged here this week include Tom Stuart, actor-vocalist; the Freans, comedians; Sheilah McLeod, comedienne; De Ora, a fine aerial gymnast; Revill Hall, potpourri songster; the Princellas, sketch artists; D. W. Watson, cornet and horn soloist; and the Weimars, in a musical turn. The Harriscope is still in evidence.

Doncaster.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company presented *Napoleon the Great* here on Monday. The title-rôle was skilfully sustained by Mr. Hugh Montgomery; Colonel Lavarennas was exceedingly well rendered by Mr. Henry Earlesmere, who was ably assisted by Mr. Phil Harper as Colonel Jules Meuron. Mr. Bartlett Garth was admirable as Paul Laczinska, and much stands to the credit of Mr. Frank M. Thorne as the result of his embodiment of Pierre Pomponnet. Mr. Wilson Brown was popularly acclaimed as Garboro. As Marie Walemska, Miss Leslie Warner was dainty; Miss Maud Russell made a great success of Madamoiselle Levine Marbœuf, and Miss Marie Harcourt evoked lively admiration as Marcelle Chaupin. Miss Florence Thorne gave an intelligent and acceptable rendering of Maro Dumont, and Miss Adelaide Cromer, as Lizette, was well placed.

Dover. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—This week Mr. Arthur Carlton is presenting, for the first time in Dover, Sutton Vane's drama *The Span of Life*. Mr. Sanderson Moffatt gives a notable performance as Richard Blunt. The heavy lead is skilfully handled by Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Dunstan Leech; Mr. Walter Dale is humorous as Nutty Brown; a powerful piece of acting is contributed by Mr. Edwin T. Kisby; Mr. J. Petersfell gives a fine sketch of the kindly Arab, Azrek, and Mr. Edward Sheen is good as Inspector Ferguson. Miss Phyllis Graham as Cecil Jeff loks well, and acts prettily; and Miss Mary Moffat is a charming little Cecil Blunt. A capital bit of character-acting is contributed by Miss Kitty Russell as Shrove Tuesday. Mrs. H. Russell takes full advantage of her opportunities as Mrs. Jeff, and Miss Phyllis Hamilton is responsible for a most capable rendering of the part of Kate Heathcote. In Act III. a clever three-bar act is introduced by the Almo Troupe of Acrobats, which is enthusiastically encored nightly.

The Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Empire Palace Co.; Manager, Mr. P. G. Wraith; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Stanfield.—Mlle. Carlotta de Monson and company is still here, this week playing a bright little comedietta, called *Playing the Game*. Later on in the evening another sketch is played by Mr. Carlisle and company, entitled *A Noble Sacrifice*, founded on an incident of the Boer war. Marie Joyce's latest song, "Only wait till to-night," is exceedingly popular; Bob Downs is humorous, and Dan Pedley, eccentric comedian, is a big success; Hettie Leaver is an excellent vocalist and dancer; and an amusing turn is contributed by Ward and Wylie.

Dublin.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—A crowded house on Monday night welcomed the return visit of *The Freedom of Suzanne*, presented in finished style by Miss Emma Hutchison and Percy Hutchison's company. Miss Beatrice Lindley achieves complete success by her portrayal of Suzanne Trevor, and much amusement is created by Mr. F. G. Thurstan's impersonation of Fitzroy Harding. Mr. Herbert J. Bentley, as Charles Trevor, is particularly good; and Lady Charlotte Trevor is ably represented by Miss Emily Patterson. Mr. William Mallalieu is excellent as Sir Horace Hatton, and Miss Charlotte Meade is effective as Miss Fanny Minching. Mr. R. Hawley West's Lord Datchet, Mr. Townsend Whitling's Captain Harry Cecil, and Mr. Archie Selwyn's Tony Heston are admirably enacted, and Miss Violet Ley's Lady Isabel Bury, Miss Annie Stalman's Mrs. Tustall, and Mrs. Mallalieu's Mrs. Putman also merit praise. *Two in a Trap* procedes, and is well received.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Monday night inaugurated the second week of the Hippodrome season, when a strong programme was presented to a full house. The principal feature is little Max Darewski, the boy pianist, whose delightful performance was deservedly encored. Another clever turn is provided by the Tokio Troupe of Japanese performers, and the musical extravaganza, *Little Dick Whittington*, is well received. Miss Clara Walters, trick pianist and danseuse, makes a decided hit, and the nautical sketch, *The Little Stowaway*, is excellently produced. Miss Alice Hollander is an accomplished contralto vocalist, and Harry Rogerson's original scena meets with success, as do also the Brothers Bright, gymnasts; Billie Tucker, ball puncher; and the animated pictures.

Empire.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Marsh.—The attraction here this week is the Empire Comedy Four, whose humorous vocalism is nightly applauded; Miss Olive Marston, comedienne, scores brilliantly with her latest successes; and O'Gust enhances his reputation as a mimic. The Three Missouris are favourably received, and the Sisters St. Julian are charming duettists and dancers; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz are acceptable comedy artistes; and Mezzetti and Mora are a diverting pair. Seeley and West are as popular as ever, and the Lashmars are capital speciality artistes; Bert Woodward does a good bicycle act, and the Empire pictures are up to the usual standard.

Tivoli.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The patrons of this establishment are well catered for this week. Topping the bill we have the Alexandroff Troupe of Russian singers and dancers, who meet with a cordial reception. Will Onda and company in his new novelty *Motor Maniac* causes much laughter, and Nash and Noel, versatile comedians and dancers, are a good turn. The Westwoods are a smart pair of comedy cyclists, and Lilian Rigby sings and dances in a pleasing manner; the Davenports, magicians and illusionists, score, and good comedians are found in Tom Yorke and George Prince. The Brothers Onda appear with success as comedy acrobats, and Minnie Mace, comedienne and dancer, and the Wallys, comedy jugglers, complete the programme.

World's Fair.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—This week's company here includes:—Madam Hypa, thought reader; Percy Anderson, conjurer and ventriloquist; Alec Johnstone, comedian and dancer; Leopold Llama, American musician; Alfred Fudge, vocalist; Marcella, midget queen; and Eragraph, or living pictures.

Samuels' Exhibition Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The following are appearing here.—Tessie Vandean, comedienne; Two Sunbeams, International dancers; Harry Osborne, eccentric comedian; Sisters Grenville, vocalists and dancers; and Hyam Merry, comedian.

Dudley.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's principal company in *La Poupée* is being well received here this week. The piece is finely staged. A special feature is the excellent singing, especially that of Miss Dot Stephens, who acts the difficult part of Alesia in a charming and clever manner; of Mr. Wm. Everard as Launcelot, and of Mr. Walter Balfour as Father Maxime, another well-rendered character. Nothing better could be desired than the Loremois and Baron Chanterelle of Messrs. Arthur Dennis and Fuller Allen respectively. Miss Edith Hunter, as Madame Hilarius, is much appreciated, and Miss Doris Dickens prettily represents Henri.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Deputy Acting-Manager, Mr. Rhodes Wells.—The principal attraction at this house is that of the Four Charles in a marvellous transformation and head-balancing act. Other enjoyable turns are given by Miss Elsie Earle in her latest successes; Arthur and Ashby in *Phantasies of the Phiz*; James Shingleton, singing collier; Grace Langley, comedienne and dancer; and Harry Le Roy, comedian and patterer.

Dundee.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Duchess of Dantzic* is being played here for the first time. The company is a very excellent one, under the management of Mr. Geo. Dance. Miss May Glenn, a talented artist, admirably fills the difficult rôle of the Duchess; Mr. Gilbert Yorke gives a capital character-study of Napoleon; Miss Maggie White is a bewitching Renée de Saint Mezard; Miss Buena Bent as Lisette and the Misses Violet and Maisie Blyth as the sisters of Napoleon acquit themselves with grace and distinction. Mr. L. F. Griffiths assumes the difficult part of Francois Lefebyre, and is entirely successful; Mr. Arthur Paterson is well suited in the character of Papillon, and Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy acts with dignity in the part of Vicomte de Bethune.

Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Mr. J. H. Milburn is an old-established favourite here, and is again at the top of the bill. The Two Neros give a marvellous exhibition as contortionists; the Two Kays produce a pretty song scena *An Eastern Maid*; the Arleys, trick cyclists, are clever; and Bert Kemp shines as a lightning cartoonist; E. W. Selman returns with new songs, and the others include the Du Gros Trio, Grapho and Jackson, and the Bransbys. The pictures by Vernon's Bioscope complete an enjoyable evening.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—This week the Elster-Grime Opera Company is the attraction. On Monday the ever-popular *Maritana* was produced before a house crowded in every part. The Elster-Grime company is an excellent one in every respect. Mr. Payne Clark and Mr. F. S. Gilbert undertook the rôle of Don Cæsar de Bazan at the first and second houses respectively, and both gentlemen are to be congratulated on their artistic singing and capital acting; Mr. Michael Kemble made a fine appearance as Don Jose, his vocal efforts being received with much enthusiasm. Miss E. Lynham as Maritana gave a carefully-studied rendering; Miss Edmee de Dreux displayed a rich contralto voice, and acted well throughout as Lazarielo; Mr. Partridge and Mr. Gilbert King as the King of Spain displayed much ability. The week's bill includes *La Fille de Madame Angot*, *Il Trovatore*, *Faust*, *Bohemian Girl*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

Empire Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mr. P. P. Bell, a local comedian, is a great attraction here this week; Chant and Chant are a lively pair; the Rushforths are in their second week, and again score with illustrated songs; the Moncktons, in a comedy sketch, *A Woman's Curiosity*, are very successful; and Seel and Lees introduce some smart acrobatic work; King Leo again presents his ventriloquial entertainment, and Alice Campbell, descriptive vocalist and skipping-rope dancer, displays much ability. A fine show of animated pictures completes a good bill.

Dunfermline. — Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Lessee and Manager Mr. W. E. Potts.—This week Mr. Charles Majilton and company are appearing in the spectacular musical comedy, entitled, *The Trippers*, which is full of laughable situations, and is greeted with hearty applause. Mr. Majilton as the Mystery is a decided success; Mr. Jim Bond is very good as the McChuckle, a Scotsman; Mr. Herbert Ashmore is well placed as Quintin Quibble; Mr. Fred Wilson makes a capable Algie; and Mr. Ben Storey does ample justice to the double part of Slamit and Bill Bloggins. Miss Nora Christie is an acceptable Alice; Miss Louie Stewart is a delightful Daisy; Miss Carrie Foy acquits herself with credit as Maud; Misses Maddie and Amy Majilton give a good account of themselves; and Miss Jenny Hughes is successful as Lavinia.

Eastbourne.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Creatore and his American band were billed to appear here on Wednesday evening. The vocalist was Madame Barili.

Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is appearing here in *Under Two Flags*. Much hard and trying work falls to the share of Miss Molly Pearson, who plays with much force and feeling, and is a most interesting Cigarette. Miss Lucy Carr is a satisfactory Lady Beatrice, and the same lady does excellent duty as Lavina, singing and dancing in bright style. Miss Mabel Ormonde does well as Princess Corona, and Miss Joan Stean helps as Countess Olga. Mr. Mark Blow repeats his successful rendering of the part of Louis Victor; Mr. Arthur Elwyn is an incisive and forceful Black Hawk, and Mr. Charles Brooke an equally efficient Lord Royellien. Mr. F. L. Lawrence is a capital Lord Rockingham, and Mr. C. Young Fixott as Rake is responsible for much merriment and some excellent singing and dancing. Mr. Sydney Richards is a happy and pleasing Captain Claude, Mr. Willie Osborne is an effective Ezra Baroni, and Mr. Theodore Hill is a good Barklie. *A Sailor's Sweetheart* is being staged during the latter part of the week.

The Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—A pleasingly varied bill finds a place here this week. Miss Lily Langtry in her own smart inimitable style, whirls the audience into a hurricane of fun and frolic with her new and cleverly-rendered songs. Mr. Charles Vandyke and company stage their sketch *Nicodemus* in a most elaborate manner, and provide plenty of merriment. Mr. Charles Bignell is a successful comedian, with plenty of zest, and he secures the co-operation of the audience in his choruses; Valvero is a commendable lightning painter, and he has novel effects; Little Salvino is a particularly clever juvenile in his saxophone musical show; Avon and Crest are comedy artists who amuse in song, dance, patter, and legmania business; Miss Florence Hill sings and dances and pleases the audience; and Miss Lily Webster is applauded as a vocalist.

Ebbw Vale.—King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Responsible - Managers, Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Wood.—Mr. Hugh Dempsey's variety company is in possession for the week. The bill is topped by the Saxon Trio, Mr. Arthur Saxon giving a marvellous display of weight-lifting; Herman Maxim, the wrestler, submits a clever exhibition of the Græco-Roman style of wrestling; Mr. Hugh Dempsey contributes some well-rendered songs and a well-executed Hungarian top-boot dance; Mr. Walter Daw's Comedy company creates great amusement in the absurdity, *A Warm Reception*; and a series of excellent pictures are shown by M. Mellne's Bioscope.

Edinburgh.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company began a week's engagement here last Monday in *When it was Dark*. We have not had the advantage of reading Mr. Guy Thorne's story, but the adaptation of the work by the Rev. Forbes Phillips is hardly a convincing drama. The prologue with the lurid figure of Satan chained to a rock savours somewhat of a pantomime opening, although it must be said that the strong writing of one or two of the succeeding scenes redeems the earlier portion of the play. The actors are all competent artists, and do their best to put life into rather unbending material. Mr. Leslie Carter, as Satan in the prologue, and Constantine Schuabe in the play, acts with power and ease, and delivers his lines with striking elocutionary ability. The Rev. Basil Gortre is played with finish and force by Mr. Rupert Lister, and the Sir Robert Llewellyn of Mr. H. Athol Forde is an admirable bit of work. Miss Margaret Damer, as Gertrude Hunt, contributes a graceful and pathetic sketch, and Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips acts with care as Katherine Moberly. Mr. Stanley Lathbury doubles in excellent style the parts of Lord Caistor and Ionides; Miss Florence Read is quiet and artistic as Anna, and Miss Ida plays well the small part of Margaret. The play is beautifully staged. The absence of the Rev. Forbes Phillips, owing to illness, on the Monday evening necessitated the reading of his speech by a deputy.

Royal Lyceum Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. G. T. Minshull.—*The Gay Parisienne*, which, in the matter of popularity, may be styled the *Charley's Aunt* of musical comedy, continues to fascinate large crowds of admirers. Mr. Charles Macdona once more sends the piece round, and the general excellence of his company is indicated by the cordiality with which the production is received. Miss Nellie Hodson is smart and chic in the familiar rôle of Julie Bon-Bon, with a sufficiently volatile adorer in the Pompier of Mr. Charles Sequin; Mr. Tom Conway develops the humour of Ebenezer Honeycombe in exuberant fashion, and Mrs. Honeycombe is well played by Madame Ilma Norina. Tom and Nora find interesting representatives in Mr. Lester Carry and Miss Lucia Collins. Mr. C. Adeson makes a characteristically fiery Major Fossdyke; Mr. Rudolph Kloss is quite at home as Amos Dingle; and Messrs. Graham Wentworth and Ernest Marriott are entertaining in the rôles of Algernon P. Ducie and Percy Tooting. Miss Gwennie Harcourt repeats her former success in her character part of Ruth, and Miss Ducie Sanderson is an admirable Gretchen, contributing a clever speciality dance.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and his company are here this week with Sir Francis Burnand's farcical play, *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally*, in which Mr. Brough keeps the audience thoroughly amused by his clever rendering of Captain Jocelyn. Mr. Percy Marshall also helps the fun along in the quaint character part of an ancient mariner, which he plays excellently. Miss Evelyn Ommundsen is charming and winsome as the wife; Miss Dorcas Crosbie is good as a proverbial kind of mother-in-law, and Miss Vera George makes an attractive husband-hunter. The cast in other respects is a creditable one, Mr. Henry Hampson, as a tippling waiter, being specially humorous. The little drama, *At the Risin' of the Moon*, put on as a curtain raiser, is well played by Mr. P. Marshall, Mr. Charles Groves, jun., Mr. Harold McNay, and Miss Dais

Sapho, and *East Lynne*. On Monday and Tuesday the first-mentioned piece was the attraction. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott gives a realistic representation of Frank Wilson; Mr. W. H. Garbois as Ellis Jordan makes an excellent villain, being ably assisted by Mr. Weedon Ross as Julius Hartmann; Mr. Douglas C. Phelps deserves praise for his handling of Robert Dewhurst; Miss Ada Abbott cleverly brings out the good traits in the trying character of Bessie Dewhurst; Miss Kathleen Stewart is pleasing as Alice Wilton; and Miss Elsie Jones impersonates Little Frank in a praiseworthy manner. The humour of the piece is well sustained by Mr. Edward Keene as Ben Bradford, and Miss Marjorie Tennant as Margery Crib. *Sapho* was staged on Wednesday and Thursday and *East Lynne* on Friday.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened a fortnight's engagement here with an excellent production of *The Huguenots*. Mr. Joseph O'Mara sang with dramatic intensity the music of Raoul, and Mme. De Vere shared the honours as Valentine. Mr. Charles Magrath as San Bris and Mr. William Dever as De Nevers were of immense value to the cast. Miss Lucy Lever as Marguerite of Valois sang in cultured style, and as Urbano the page Miss E. Alvord was specially good in her solo, "Nobil Signor." Mr. Charles Manners' grand voice was heard to advantage in the part of Marcelle. The opera was mounted with that completeness that we now expect from the Moody-Manners Company. On Tuesday the novelty of this visit was given, Tschäikowsky's *Eugene Onegin*, with Mme. Fanny Moody, Mr. Charles Manners, Mr. Lewys James, and Mr. Wilson Pembroke in the leading parts. Performances of *Trovatore*, *Tannhäuser*, *Carmen*, *Marriage of Figaro*, and *Maritana* complete the week.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson commenced the second week of their engagement here with an exceedingly bright and lively performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The Falstaff of the cast was Mr. George R. Weir, and in appearance, voice, and bearing he gave an excellent idea of the amorous knight. Equally successful was Mr. Benson's impersonation of Dr. Caius, the fun being fast and furious while he was on the stage. The acting of Mrs. Benson as Mrs. Ford and of Miss Tita Brand as Mrs. Page was gay and spontaneous, while in appearance and style these ladies made an agreeable contrast. Miss Elinor Aickin was an amusing Mistress Quickly, and the part of Ann Page was attractively represented by Miss Katherine Boyce, the Robin of Miss Leah Hanman being also a good performance. The parts of Fenton and Pistol were cleverly doubled by Mr. George Buchanan. As Ford Mr. Cyril Keightley acted with cosiderable spirit, and as Page Mr. B. A. Pittar showed good elocutionary talent. Character was given to the parts of Shallow and Slender by Mr. Percy D. Owen and Mr. H. O. Nicholson respectively, other good assumptions being the Sir Hugh Evans of Mr. Clarence Derwent, the Host of Mr. Philip Sanders, the Bardolph of Mr. Harrison, and the Nym of Mr. Stanley Howlett. The other plays on the bill for this week are *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

GRAND, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—Monday evening witnessed a most successful opening of the second week of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company's visit, when Wagner's *Lohengrin* was presented in a style of excellence and completeness worthy of high praise. Mr. Eugene Gossens held the bâton, and his augmented band and the chorus gave a fine response to his lead. But it was with the strong cast of the principals that the success of the performance was achieved. Despite slight indisposition, Mr. Charles Victor gave a very fine impersonation of Telramund, his acting and singing being marked with elegance and style. In the rôle of Henry the Fowler Mr. Arthur Winckworth was entirely reliable, and Mr. Frank Arthur as the Herald sang and acted in his accustomed able manner. The Ortrud of Miss Hanna Mara gave great pleasure, the fine voice and finished art of this singer being quite a feature. Miss Grace Nicoll was charming as Elsa, the "Dream" song being given with fine effect, her whole performance adding largely to her repute, and marking her as a future favourite in Glasgow. In the title-part Herr Julius Walther made the character an outstanding one alike dramatically and vocally. He was recalled at the close of each act—deservedly—as were the other principals named. On Tuesday *Trovatore* was staged; on Wednesday, owing to the requests of many patrons, *Fidelio* was given in place of *Faust*; and for the later evenings *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Maritana* were the attractions.

PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—An alteration in bookings enables the management here to put on a very good production of *East Lynne*, with Miss Lillian Herries as the much-tried Lady Isabel. Mr. Stuart Willson gives a fine rendering of Archibald Carlyle, and Mr. J. Knox Orde duly emphasises the scheming villainy of Sir Francis Levison. Miss Lily Roselle is excellent as Barbara Hare and Miss Jenny Macintyre again brings out the humorous possibilities of Cornelia Carlyle in good style. Mr. T. J. Ashmore as the aristocratic Lord Mountsovern, Mr. Max Copland as the irascible Justice Hare, and little Miss Barker as Willie also deserve special mention.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here in the popular drama *Her Second Time on Earth*. Miss Hilda Beverley as Dora Grey is seen to great advantage, and acts with sincerity throughout. Other characters worthy of mention are those portrayed by Messrs. George Gaisford, Henry Lonsdale, William H. Porter, and Miss Dorothy Hildebrande, while the indispensable comic parts of the play are in the able hands of Miss Dora Hargreaves and Mr. Willie Reid.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in the clever new drama *The Woman Who Gambles* has moved down here from the Princess's, where it created a most favourable impression, and is proving equally successful with Govan playgoers.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—A marvellous and thrilling sensation is provided in the turn of Volta, the human battery, who handles the deadly electric current in a marvellous manner. Julie Mackey comes provided with some new and taking songs, and also obliges with one or two of the old favourites; Wal Croft, the clever Scotch comedian, gives an enjoyable turn; Victor Newman contributes two striking impersonations, one of Tree as Svengali, and the other of Irving as Mathias, both wonderfully life-like; the Matweef-Hugoston Troupe of Russian Dancers and Acrobats give a clever turn; Driscoll and Beattie appear in a lively sketch; the Four Trees shine in song and dance; Walter Stanley, comedian, is well received; and Herr Grais with his trained baboons provide an exceedingly clever turn.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal turn this week is Joe Peterman's company in *The Belle of the Orient*. Then in the way of magical tricks Prince Fee Lung excites wonder and admiration, while Harry Gifford is a vocalist who gives effective sketches of character. Bessie Travis's ventriloquial dummies are cleverly manipulated; Ridwell is a good baritone vocalist; Johnny Gilmore is also an effective singer; Flem and Brock are a comical pair; the Greys give expression to some fine operatic duets, which are a pleasant variation from the usual variety turns; and the Ucques are graceful and daring in their gymnastic feats. The bioscope completes an interesting programme.

PAVILION, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The bill for this week is headed by Imro Fox, from the Royal pantomime, whose sleight-of-hand always excites wonder and admiration. Miss Lily Hope is a pleasing mimic; Trav and Rich are amusing comedians; the Four Jumels discourse pleasant music on various instruments; Mamie Iris is a nice little comedienne; Barrett and Knowles, also lately in the Royal pantomime, are loquacious and witty patter comedians; the principal turn is a sketch called *The Phonograph Girl*, in which more pantomimists from the theatres appear, including Miss Ida Gladstone as Lady Somerville, Miss Jeannie Christo, who makes a charming phonograph girl, and Mr. Arthur Dando as Crookleshanks; and the Brothers Martini are clever acrobats.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan.—A novel performance is that of Drowza, the mechanical talking head, a really wonderful bit of machinery. A decided hit is made by W. H. Rawlins and company in the capital sketch *Mashing the Missus*; the Brothers Ethairien are smart comedians; Mason and Bart in a triple bar act are very amusing; Holden's Mannikins prove a very attractive turn; the dancing of Jimmy Shields, one-leg comedian, is appreciated; Goggin and Davis are clever in their acrobatic absurdities; Fielding and Hull in *An Officer's Flirtation* are meritorious; and Minnie Fenton, Scotch comedienne is a good extra turn.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Richard Waldon and Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Harry Lamore the comedian on the loose wire, provides a most enjoyable and clever turn. Ted Young and Ada Twibell receive the welcome of old favourites, and have good catchy songs; Fred Earle's eccentric ditties are well received; Ailsa Douglas is a pleasing vocalist, with a taking manner; F. V. St. Clair, the well-known song writer, makes a hit with his latest topical songs; Harry Lawson's songs are much enjoyed; Alice Ormonde is a clever comedienne; Sylvesto, the lady contortionist, gives her speciality turn; tnd the Animated Pictures complete a good programme.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—Tom Davies's Trio display wonderful skill in their cycling act; the Teiraz perform on the wire with skill and daring; Harry Glynn and company cause considerable amusement in their sketch *After the Honeymoon;* the Four Royal Welsh Singers prove highly acceptable; the Sisters Walmsley are clever in song and dance; Tom Lowan has some good songs; Evelyn Taylor's male impersonations are vigorously encored; and Eugene and Willie in comedy musical act and Louis Herno, coon impersonator, complete a good bill.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager Mr. B. M. Armstrong.—The variety turns at this hall are the same as at the Queen's, but in addition the management provide some interesting boxing contests each night, and the combination of athletics and variety talent seems highly popular.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Cingalee* was here the first three nights of the week. Mr. Tom Payne handled the part of Chambhuddy Rham in a masterly manner, and, in conjunction with Miss Minnie Muir as Peggy Sabine, scored with some excellent songs and dances; Mr. A. Wortley Drewitt as Harry Vereker was prominent; Mr. F. Sutton as Boohamba filled the character with distinction and power; and Mr. Eric Fenton was well placed as the peppery Sir Peter Loftus. Mr. Scott Cullen as Bobby Warren gave a good portrayal; Miss Eva Stephens as Lady Patricia Vereker pleased with her acting and singing; and Miss Cyntha Norman as Angy Loftus contributed some clever dances. Miss Edith Harmer as Nanoya gave a delightful performance. Miss Maggie Morton's company appeared in *The Temptress* on Thursday and Friday.

GLOUCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Mr. Frank Ayrton's company is here this week with the drama *The Power of Gold*. Mr. Charles Whitlock gives a thrilling embodiment of Hadji Zambra, a Malay doctor, and a powerful enactment of his accomplice Lady Brandon is presented by Miss Lilla Wilde. Paul Jutson is well played by Mr. Tom Ronald, and his brother Mark Harley is ably acted by Mr. Albert Sefton. Mr. Frank Ayrton proves himself a capital comedian as Sammy Smudge, and Miss Madge Seymour assists in the laughter-making with Mr. Ayrton in song and dance as Norah Donnelly. Miss Georgina V. France plays in clever style as Meg Judson, and Little Mabel impersonates a street arab successfully. Mr. Arthur Turton is prominent as Dr. Stephen Saunders, as is Miss Hettie Laytise as Sister Marie.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Jno. E. Tomlinson.—This week Mr. James Stephens and Repertoire company are presenting *The Heart of London*, *Our Boys*, and *For Wife and Fortune*. This excellent company opened to a good house on Monday with *The Heart of London*. In the part of Sherlock Holmes Mr. C. York plays powerfully, making his points in a quiet yet telling way; the part of Dr. Watson is admirably sustained by Mr. James Hart; Mr. Taliesyn G. Davies gives a clever study of Renton Bashford; Mr. James Stephens delights the house with his highly amusing portrayal of Jim Smash; and Miss Lucie Victor as Liza Plumpip is a general favourite. Miss Amy Lloyd Earle plays with grace an tenderness the part of Mary Bashford; Miss Mabel Lewis Cluer submits a charming portrayal of Kate Bradford; and Mr. Frank Landon is a capital Jack Bradford.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—This week the Pender Troupe are here scoring heavily in their pantomime absurdity, *Hands up, or the Bold, Bad Highwayman;* Little Violet is a clever juvenile actress, and the Sisters Desmond bright character duettists; Lillie Lassah, a diverting comedienne and dancer; Allsopp and Beckwith, in an original laughable burlesque, *I'm Coming Upstairs*, and George Bishop, a good comedian, are other attractions.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is here this week with the well-known drama *Driven from Home*. Mrs. Frances Ruttledge shows her versatility by her able assumption of the rôles of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherley the younger; Mr. Felix Pitt is excellent as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. Hubert Humphreys capably depicts Walter Hatherleigh; and Mr. Jas. C. Harcourt provides a clever study as Willie.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is here this week with *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Henry Rogers finely portrays the villainous Legree; Mr. J. Carr submits a capital piece of work as Uncle Tom; Mr. J. H. Renny ably fills the rôle of Phineas Fletcher; an excellent representative of Mr. St. Clair is found in Mr. Stanley Howard; and Mr. Leslie Beaufort acts well as George Harris. Miss Hettie Johnson is a satisfactory Eliza, and Little Eva is nicely played by Little Minnie. Miss Annie Watson is very amusing as Topsy, and all the other characters are in safe hands. The plantation festival, which takes place in Act IV., is a pleasing item, and the chorus singing is excellent.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Atroy, juggler and hoop manipulator, heads the bill here, and gives an interesting performance; Harry Wenburn, comedian, is well received; the Four Aces, and Midget, comedy artists, are applauded; Brothers Dean, dancers, are retained for another week, and provide capital entertainment; Viola, lady instrumentalist, gives some clever selections; Mystery Gauze, Indian female impersonator, does a good turn; and Ike Scott and Son, comedy artists, are very amusing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Lessees, The Greenock Pavilion, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The principal turn here this wek is provided by Walton and Ella, with their marvellous animal performance ,and the exhibition is thoroughly appreciated. Arthur Gilbert, comedian; Sibb and Sibb, trapeze artists; Lilian Warren, singer of illustrated songs; Mdlle. Sylvia's local tableaux; George Penn, raconteur; and the Clayton Twins, assisted by Misses Wood and Willis, in their amusing sketch entitled *Pepper and Salt*, are all first-class turns.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—*The Orchid* has made its second appearance here, presented in bright fashion by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. Bertie Wright, who now takes the part of Meakin, is the life of the piece, his impersonation of the droll little gardener being greatly diverting. Miss Chrissie Ralland is quite satisfactory as Lady Violet, and sings sweetly, whilst the same remark applies to Miss Mamie Stuart, who appears as Josephine. Miss Florence Vie is responsible for quiet but effective humour as Caroline Vokins, and Miss Ruby Garman as Thisbe and Miss Elsa D'Usez as Zelie are also prominent among the ladies of the company. Mr. William Benson's burlesque of the duelling Frenchman, Comte Raoule, is an excellent piece of comedy acting, and Mr. Jack V. Fairley as Mr. Chesterton, Mr. Alfred Bennett as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, Mr. C. Stone as Dr. Faussett, and Mr. Harry T. Butler as Zaccary also contribute to the success of the piece.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Marie Loftus has not failed to please the Palace audiences, who have expressed their approval in no unmistakable fashion. Her songs are, without exception, smartly written, and, sung in Miss Loftus's inimitable style, were greatly entertaining. Kioto, a Japanese artist, has shown some quite original feats of equilibrium; Weiland, besides proving a clever juggler, has introduced good comedy work, including amusing stage effects; a gymnastic performance by Aeriel and Astarte was well received; and others appearing were Nellie Chandos (comedienne and dancer), the Two Rubies (dancers), Lee and Arden in a sketch, and Frank Boyce (comedian).

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The audiences have been most enthusiastic over the appearance of the Dandies, who give a refined act, including operatic selections, light comedy, and general vocal business. Daring acrobatic feats were presented by the Trantz Troupe, the lady members being especially notable; a capital sketch, *A Daughter of Pleasure*, was given by J. G. Grahame and Zerlina Harrington, the plot being of a more than ordinarily interesting character; Harry Wright's impromptu verses caused much fun; and other good turns were contributed by Yorick and Yorick (comedians and tumblers), Ferris and Farnley (patter comedians), and Peggy Fame (comedienne).

GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robt. Perkins.—On the 9th inst. this hall reopened with Messrs. Fred Little and Fred D'Arcy's company in *The Executioner's Daughter*. The piece was well mounted. Miss Dorothy Riddell played artistically as Annette; Miss Amy Robson gave a vividly realistic picture of Felice; and Miss Beattie Moore drew the sympathy of the audience as Christiani. The comedy element was supplied by Miss May Rosine as Sally King and Mr. Willie Hicks as Tom Holmer. Mr. J. De Alberti cleverly and effectively depicted the villainous Felix; Mr. Duncan Bell played Roche with convincing earnestness; and Mr. Stevenson ably sustained Kretch, Mr. Roy Milton meriting praise for his conception of Paul Rovel.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Mr. Smith* is being presented here this week by Mr. Walter Reynolds's powerful company. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart gives a clever assumption of Earle Godwyn Smith; Mr. Sydney Price is well placed as the Earl of Oxted; Mr. William Dunlop is a distinct success as the Duke of Angleland; and Mr. Rupert Stutfield plays his discriminating friend to perfection. The ladies are all charming. Miss Mary Relph as the Duchess of Angleland and Miss Ethel Milton as Lady Mary Hildergate sustain their respective rôles with credit, while a word of praise is due to Mrs. Alfred Davis, who is a most affable Mrs. Smith.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Good wholesome melodrama is being staged here this week by Messrs. Garrod and Northway, whose *Prodigal Parson* company is doing good business. As the Rev. Tom Godley, the hunted down and drunken parson, Mr. W. V. Garrod never fails to elicit sympathy; Mr. Alfred Northway is regarded with abhorrence as the hypocritical churchwarden, Enoch Jaggins; and an adequate amount of humour is infused into the story by Mr. Clarmont Gaskell, whose interpretation of Phil Drive, the parson's handy man, is a remarkable piece of comedy character acting. Miss Bertha Kingston displays emotion in the difficult part of Fern Godley, while Miss Gladys Conover is a charming blind child.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—A capital all-round entertainment includes Ivan Tschernoff, in his marvellous sporting-yard circus; Ruby Bijou is a dainty dancer, and wins applause; and Lilian (trick cyclist), the Darrell Trio in their refined musical act, Agnese and Arthur Lynch (with American picture songs), Lambert and Glover (farcical duologuists), and Tiny Arnold (the smallest artist in the world) are accorded hearty receptions; while Winifred Ward is clever in her male character conceptions.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Charles Howard.—Following *Veronique*, we have Mr. Charles Frohman's company in the successful musical comedy, *The Catch of the Season*. As Angela Miss Maie Ash is distinctly successful, her singing and dancing being much appreciated. Mr. Frank Lincoln makes a most amusing Duke of Jermyns, his performance contributing largely towards the success of the piece. As the stammering Earl Mr. E. H. Kelly is admirable. As the page Bucket Master Grata is well placed. Miss A. Lethbridge as Angela's half-sister dances cleverly. The Eight Gibson Girls are very successful in their portion of the evening's entertainment.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Much interest is centred this week in the appearance of Madrali, the Terrible Turk, and his company of champion wrestlers. Lind, the Parisian Surprise, contributes a turn of much excellence; Selma Braatz, the lady juggler, is clever; Alec Aubrey in his gymnastic exhibition is far in advance of most members in this line; the Olive Trio in their musical sketch *Auntie* sing nicely; Mlle. De Vena in a club-swinging turn is capital; the Clarkes banjoists, contribute a pleasing selection; Pat Rafferty sings two songs; and a splendid picture is shown depicting train wreckers.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock.—Messrs. E. A'dell and Chabot's company opened a three nights' engagement on Monday with the drama, *The Romany's Revenge*. Miss Eva Elwes scored quite a success in her dual impersonation of the half-sisters, Lilian Hope and Elspie, the gipsy. As the gipsy boy, Zamet, Miss Ethel Ashleigh was pathetic; Mr. Evelyn A'dell was, on the whole, good, though once or twice he was a little too intense; Mr. G. Austin, as Archibald Heath, gave a fine character sketch; and as the despicable scoundrel Dave Renard, Mr. Harry C. Robinson was excellent. The comedy honours were shared by Miss Fannie Wallace as Polly Pluck, and Mr. David Hamilton as Bobbie Bloom. These two artists added greatly to the evening's enjoyment. As Warder Stone Mr. Chas. Leicester was well placed, and Mr. Alfred Harvey as Caleb Kral was also good. On Thursday evening Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company completed the week's bill of fare with Wilson Barrett's great drama, *The Golden Ladder*.

THE KURSAAL.—Manager and Musical Director, Mr. C. L. Naylor, M.A., Mus.Bac.; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—On Saturday evening the Thespians gave an enjoyable entertainment with a black and white minstrel performance. In the first half of the programme the chief successes were made by Misses Violet Dixon and Ladas Ismay (dancers), Lilian Payne (contralto), A. Newman, Tom Coleman, Walt. Ogden, Ted Thomas, and Fred Carlton. Mr. Carlton's rendering of the popular "Wooden hut" fairly brought down the house. The entertainment concluded with Messrs. Robert Oglesby and A. E. Grimshaw's Spanish operetta, *El Escribana*.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—On Monday Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company appeared for the first time in Hastings in Wilson Barrett's play *Lucky Durham*. A very interesting souvenir of the play was presented to each lady of the audience by the touring management. Mr. Edmund Kennedy played the rôle of John Durham most convincingly; Miss Louise Gourlay played as Mrs. Durham with great delicacy and charm; Mr. Arthur Leigh as the Hon. Reginald gave a delightful character study; Mr. A. E. Walker as Mr. Vallerton, and Mr. Benson North as Lord Mountfallon materially strengthened the action of the play by their respective impersonations; Miss Gertrude Robins was a delightful Helen Vallerton, and Miss Florence Dulhunty as the Hon. Margaret was artistic and pleasing in her presentment of a difficult rôle. Miss Frances Wolviston was well placed as Lady Mountfallon, and played the rôle with the necessary hauteur and diplomacy. Mr. John Hartt made a successful Tasker.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Ewing.—A good company here includes Miss Edna Shelma, costume vocalist, who is much appreciated. The Sisters Valli are clever in their musical mélange; a skilful turn is given by the athletic Athlones; Mr. Frank Dunlo proves himself a superior comedian; a very amusing comedy sketch is given by Ross and Lewis; some interesting and up-to-date pictures are exhibited by the Hippodrome Bioscope; a marvellous lady illusionist and sleight-of-hand artist is seen in Mlle. Von Etta; Miss Belle Harcourt, comedienne, is well received; and a laughable sketch is introduced by Mr. and Mrs. Payte.

PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Messrs. Darey and Little's company is here this week with *The Executioner's Daughter*. Mr. Duncan Bell plays Roche very forcefully; Mr. Juan di Albuti is an ideal villain; Mr. V. R. C. Morris is noticeable as Paul Rovel; Mr. W. S. Stephenson plays Kretch very admirably; Mr. Willie Hicks is a commendable Tom Holmes; and Mr. Stapleton Roche is amusing as Ormonde. The title-rôle is played by Miss Ina Grant with much effectiveness; Miss May Rosine sustains the humorous rôle of Sally King with distinction; Miss Evelyn Robson gives a good rendering of Felice; and Miss Beattie Moore is pathetic as Christina

HEYWOOD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Jones.—*The Babes in the Wood* is the attraction this week. Miss Jessie Lindsay plays Robin Hood spiritedly, and Miss Lizzie Leraine is good as Robin's sweetheart. Miss Florry Anderson and Miss Gertrude Bingham as Allan and Helen sing and dance pleasingly. The parts of the Babes are made the most of by Lily Belle and Madge Bingham. Mr. Eddie Clay and Mr. Fred Fosco show how humorous pantomime robbers can be; Mr. Harry Lilly as the Baron and Mr. Phelps Leo as the Friar were commendable.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Provincial Theatres Co.; General-Manager, Mr. C. E. Bradley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke.—Mr. Chas. March in *The Gamester of Metz* is paying a return visit. Mr. Walter H. Wilson displays skill in the part of Paul Baldot; Mr. Fred Aldworth as General De Monparasse is decidedly good; Mr. John B. Murray's Captain Badaire is an excellent rendering; Mr. W. G. Dudeney in Louis Badaire has a good part, to which he does full justice; Mr. Wilfrid Prothero as Ferdinand du Basson is excellent; and Mr. Victor Knight as Goliath is responsible for plenty of genuine comedy. The part of Lucia Baldot is sympathetically played by Miss Una Lane; Miss Cissy Haighton as Gwendolin Pearson ably assists Goliath in creating roars of laughter; and Miss Eva Lyndhurst as the Countess Baldot plays a blind old lady to perfection.

HOYLAND.—THE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—On Monday night Prof. Inman Hocking and his combination opened to a crowded house. Prof. Hocking, in his electric healing act, gave an interesting exhibition of the cure of paralysis, &c., and he also provided great amusement in a hypnotic scene. Sylvester and Sansome are good in the *Maiden and the Tutor*; the Kysayas, hair and teeth weight-lifting experts, perform some astounding feats; Bobbie Greives, ventriloquist, is excellent; and Gordon Vincent, comedian; Teddie May, actor-vocalist; Lily Gaston, male impersonator; and Miss Vinne Loftus, comedienne, also contribute.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Mr. George Dance's principal company is playing *The Girl from Kay's*. Miss Beatrice Poole is an attractive Winnie Harborough; Miss Emily Taylor plays with simple directness as Norah; and Miss Mabel Dent is full of life as the maid Ellen. Mr. J. S. Durant is distinctly clever as Harry Gordon and Mr. Reginald Grey amusingly inane as Fitzthistle; Mr. Tom Seymour is pomposity itself as Joseph the hall porter; and Mr. H. C. Barry as Hoggenheimer brings to his aid a ripe experience and gift for comedy. The singing of "Under the Bamboo Tree" by a trio and chorus in Act II. is worthy of mention for the beautiful purity of tone produced by the members of the trio.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—A fine bill is headed by the Musical Johnstons, whose xylophone playing is exceptionally skilful. In addition are Miss Mabelle May, comedienne and dancer; Kimberley Boys, comedians and dancers of originality; the Lyons Trio in their highly diverting pantomime sketch; Chas. Stevens, character vocalist; Mr. Frank Elliston and his company in the funny sketch *Aunt Matilda*; Alf Gibson, the quaint comedian with a peculiarly vibrant voice and original method; and the Hippodrome Pictures.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*Sowing the Wind* is being presented here by Mr. Leigh Lovel's capable company. Mr. Lovel proves himself a gifted actor in the character of Mr. Brabazon, a talented Rosamond is found in Miss Octavia Kenmore, Mr. Frederick Sargent is a manly Ned Annesley, and Mr. Henry Osman, as Mr. Watkin, is well suited; Mr. Arthur McCulloch's impersonation of Lord Petworth is all that can be desired; and Mr. J. Poole-Kirkwood, as Sir Richard Cursitor, is quite at home in the part; Miss Celia Gordon gives a creditable study of the Hon. Mrs. Fretwell, and Miss Ethel Savill, as Maud Fretwell, is equally successful.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. Chares Macdona's company in *Are You a Mason?* is paying a return visit. Mr. E. H. Paterson is a mirth-provoking Amos Bloodgood, Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is to be congratulated on his performance as Frank Perry, Mr. Allan Pollock is exceedingly good as George Fisher, and Mr. Richard Purdon, Mr. Percy Bell, and Mr. Howard L. Tracy are all deserving of praise. A meritorious performance is given by Miss Adelaide Grace as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood, Miss Mabel Young is admirable as Mrs. Perry, and the two sisters are charmingly presented by Miss Rita Ward and Miss Mabel Jowett.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Morton's, Ltd.; Resident Director, Mr. George Morton.—Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company is presenting *The Branded Woman* for the first time in Hull. Miss Rence Glendower in the title-rôle wins much applause. Mr. James Stillwell is seen to advantage as Philip Maurice, Mr. Paul E. Teulon plays in a convincing manner as Louis Duroc, and Mr. Edward Fryer ably depicts the villainous Baron Hauber. Miss Katherine Barnett acquits herself well as Marie, Miss Edith Wild, as Rudolph, is worthy of notice, and capital comedy is provided by Mr. Beckett Bould, as Dick Brown, and Miss Kitty McPherson as Jacqueline, the maid.

THE PALACE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Barnett.—Fred Karno's comedians present their exceedingly funny sketch, *The Mumming Birds;* James Stewart extracts a great amount of fun as a tramp at the piano; Daisy Mayer's songs and dances meet with favour, and other capable artists include David Poole, the Howards, Chris Richards, George Tacius, Bert Byrne, Morgan Sisters, and Herbert Shelley.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham.—A big favourite is J. W. Rowbyn, who has to respond with encores; Scottie's Waifs and Strays appear in a unique sketch, Lottie Siegenberg is smart in *The Slavey at Home*, Roma and Romani are favourite musical artists. Other artists who take well include Blind Henderson, Hughes and Elliott, George Barron, and Carlile and Walker.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Large audiences are this week witnessing *The Toreador*, which is being presented here by Mr. Chas. Macdona' company. Mr. Richard Telford, as Sammy Gigg, creates roars of laughter by his ludicrous antics; Mr. F. Hulme Sharp makes Sir Archibald Slackett a distinctly humorous individual; Mr. Chas. M. Heslop is a capital Augustus Trail; Mr. Tom May works hard and successfully as Pettifer; Mr. J. Colclough Fagan is an impressive Carajola; Nancy Staunton has a charming representative in Miss Alice Nixon; Miss Sadie Neville is a captivating Dora Selby; Miss Leah Howard makes a bright and vivacious Susan; Miss Florence Spurgeon displays fine vocal and histrionic powers as Donna Teresa; and Miss Avis Grahame achieves distinction as Mrs. Malten Hoppings.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Miss Lena Stanton's company is here in the pantomime entitled *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Stanton is the Robinson Crusoe, her style and acting giving evident pleasure to the whole house; whilst Miss Minnie Melbah deserves great praise as Polly Perkins. Mr. George Melbah as Friday adequately interprets his part; as Sunny Jim Crusoe Little Keeno is much admired; Mr. Bruce Green plays with much freshness as the Dame; and Mr. Will Terry, who represents Little Willie Carlisle Atkins, is a quaint comedian. Spiff and Spoof are well embodied by Messrs. G. Bignell and R. Waller; Mr. Dennis Lyndon scores as King Kopp-em. The specialities introduced are: La Belle Esma, in a wire act; J. and Ginger, singing ventriloquist; the Orient troupe of lady acrobatic dancers, and the Musical Melbahs.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Duncan and Morton are a capable pair of comedians and dancers; Prof. Earle is a skilful illusionist; Tessie Vandean, serio, is retained from last week; Fred Burnaby sings high-class songs in a baritone voice; Fred Lawrence, vocal comedian, has a good reception; Ernie Dalton is applauded as a comedian and dancer; and Maudie Kendall, comedienne and dancer, completes the programme.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. C. E. Jennings.—Mr. William Maclaren and company are here in *Claudian* this week. Mr. Maclaren gives a fine study of the chief character, and he receives effective assistance from Miss Lily C. Bandmann, who renders the part of Almida with much charm and tenderness. The rather ungrateful part of Charlogalus the Tetrarch receives full justice at the hands of Mr. William Howard, while the blacksmith finds an efficient representative in Mr. George R. J. Austin. Others assisting in the success of the cast include Mr C. T. Chaloner, Mr. Weston Hubbard, Miss Gladys Frank Harvey, and Miss Dora Frank Harvey.

HIPPODROME (St. Nicholas-street).—Proprietor, Mr E. H. Bostock.—A striking turn in this week's programme was the appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas in some studies of Dickens characters, which afforded much pleasure, and seemed to be highly appreciated by the audience. Selections from "Martin Chuzzlewit," and "Bleak House" were cleverly rendered, and afforded a pleasing feature of the bill of fare. Another attractive item was that of Morris Cronin and his troupe of jugglers, who accomplished some unique feats with great neatness and ease. Richard Corbin's performing dogs made a decided hit in their show, and the Ladderites deserved praise for their skill and dexterity. The Three Zaracs proved themselves clever artists in the triple-bar performance, while Shean, Fox, and Shean were responsible for a sketch entitled *The Fighting Tramp*.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—M

elicit applause. Mdlle. de Rose, lady baritone, sings nicely; Mdlle. Angeline, lady juggler, is smart; and Rayne and Hope in a dialogue, "An Emperor's Divorce," is another attractive item. Mr. J. H. Hawtrey, character vocalist, and Walter Payne's animated pictures complete the bill.

LEAMINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's Répertoire Company is appearing here with conspicuous artistic success this week. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* was successfully undertaken. Mr. Maclaren in the rôle of Shylock gave a vigorous, impressive, and scholarly display, and Miss F. Glossop Harris was a sweet and womanly Portia; Mr. R. Wilson's Antonio, Mr. Francois Cellier's finished sketch of Bassanio, Miss Mona Limerick's dainty Nerissa, Mr. Stafford Dawson's diverting Gobbo, and other excellent portrayals went to make up a performance of much merit. On Tuesday *Romeo and Juliet* was given, with Mr. Maclaren and Miss Gertrude Gilbert in the title-parts. *Hamlet*, *The Corsican Brothers*, *As You Like It*, and *The Three Musketeers* are also billed for performance during the week.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*On the Love Path*, by Mr. C. M. S. McLellan, is the attraction this week. The company sent out by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison is a very capable one. Mr. Hutchison is seen in his best form as the impulsive Arthur Taunton; Miss Lilias Earl does well as Charity Concannon, the Chicago beauty; the solicitor Gripleigh is finely played by Mr. George Mudie; and Mr. Frank Hill evokes continual amusement in the rôle of Peter Concannon; Mr. T. W. Rawson and Miss Hilda Honiss also do well. The amusing curtain raiser, *His Landlady*, with Mr. George Mudie, the author, in the principal rôle, is much enjoyed.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Pantomime has at last given way to more serious matter, and *Ben-my-Chree* is rendered twice nightly by Mr. Arnold Bell and his company. The part of Dan Mylrea is played by Mr. Bell with power and conviction. He is ably supported by Miss Frances Campbell as Mona. Mr. Frank Fountain's rendering of Davy Fayle is a welcome relief to this otherwise somewhat heavy play, and humorous help is furnished by Mr. John Henley, as Hommy Beg the ancient servant. Mr. Cuthbert Imrie makes an impressive bishop, and the other parts are ably filled by Mr. John Belton as Ewan Mylrea, Mr. Frank Carlile as the Deemster, and Mr. Frank C. Robson as the Governor of the Isle.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—That fine military drama, *One of the Best*, is to be seen here. The hero, Dudley Keppel, is presented in fine style by Mr. Frank Fenton; Miss Elsie Roberts makes a charming heroine, and Mr. Escott Robson, Mr. Lionel West, and Miss Ethel Roydale cleverly enact their parts; the military element is in the capable hands of Mr. Cyril Melton, Mr. E. S. Earle, and a capital company.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Gus Elen, the famous coster star, takes the lead here and scores his usual big success; at the bottom are the Novellos, with a characteristic Eastern acrobatic show; McPhee and Hill are responsible for a finished gymnastic turn; the Stuart Quartet do some good dancing; Baker and Lynn and Lidden and Hayward each subscribe good things in the way of comic sketches; T. C. Callaghan and Frank Lynne lead the comedians in a smart and amusing style, and Florrie St. Clair, comedienne, also contributes pleasing items.

Tivoli.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Dr. Walford Bodie occupies the boards here for another week, and, as on his last visit, is drawing record houses. As a proof of his curative powers, a lad who was paralysed and well known in Leeds as a newsboy was brought upon the stage. He had been treated by Dr. Bodie on his last visit to Leeds, and still enjoyed the use of his once paralysed limb. Dr. Bodie is supported by a good allround variety company, among which are Signor Bandoni, the one-man band; Bella Skene, burlesque actress; Gipsy Nan and her thought-reading dog, and Nellie Lindsay, who delights with her singing.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—Wrestling is again the feature here, some strenuous bouts having been witnessed between Tom McMerney and several doughty opponents. A capital variety company supports, of which Daisy Silcott, comedienne; Tom Parker, comedian; and Blake and Granby, comedy artists, are clever and popular entertainers.

Coliseum.—That popular entertainer, Carlton, fresh from his grand pantomime triumphs, is presenting a capital entertainment here, including the Four Kweeries, with a mystery show; the Howards, necromancers and thought readers; Fred Fowler and Katie May, local pantomime favourites; Lilian Payne, vocalist; Tom Brantford, mimic; Princess Leah, tight wire performer; Maud Edwards, a skilful lady ventriloquist; and Tom Dawson, blind comedian.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—Crowded and fashionable audiences accord Mr. Martin Harvey nightly a cordial welcome on this his first visit to Leicester. *The Only Way* was selected for presentation on Monday, being followed on the last three nights by *The Breed of the Treshams* and a matinée performance of *A Cigarette Maker's Romance*. Mr. Martin Harvey as Sidney Carton created an impression that will long be remembered in Leicester; Mr. Charles Glenny is in every way excellent as Ernest Defarge; and as Charles Darnay Mr. P. Anstey is also to be highly complimented. Mr. Fred Wright, sen., is a success as Doctor Manette, and both Mr. P. Alexander as Mr. Lorry and Mr. Reeve Denbigh as Mr. Stryver are very good. Miss N. de Silva, in her original part of Mimi, acquits herself in a manner which leaves nothing whatever to be desired; and Miss Coleridge as Lucie Manette plays with decided ability. Praise should also be accorded to Miss Frances Ivor as The Vengeance, Miss Bessie Elder as a Citizeness, Mr. Charles Cameron as the President, and Mr. George Cooke as the Public Prosecutor.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. [illegible] R. Beaumont.—The boards are held here this week by Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *A Modern Adventuress*. Miss Kate Fronde as Violet Meredith is a conspicuous success; Miss Alice Defoe plays exceptionally well as Vivette Delby; Miss Ivy Chandos is both popular and amusing as Sally Hodges; Mr. Leonard Montgomery as the Yorkshireman, John Crompton, is well to the front with a good character-sketch; and Mr. Leonard Aardale is seen to considerable advantage as Pietro Donelli.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—The principal attraction here this week is a return visit of Mr. A. C. Lilly and company in *Drummed Out*. At the other end of the bill is Arthur Lennard, who is the recipient of a most flattering reception. He is a very fine actor-vocalist, who has good songs which he well knows how to render. The Marlo and Dunham Trio give a clever and finished display on the horizontal bar; the Silvas, the firemen on the ladders, are seen to great advantage in their sensational balancing feats; the Sisters Aindon score with an enjoyable and pretty musical speciality; Terry and Bentley, in the comedy sketch *The Hunt* display versatility; Madame Alice Simmons is heard to considerable advantage; Lizzie Fletcher, vocalist, also entertains with success. The American bioscope is projecting the usual up-to-date pictures.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—A capital programme is presented here. Dickinson and Johnson prove popular in their ornamental swimming and tank performance; Bishop and Hanlon, knockabouts, create great merriment and score a success; the Sisters Lunelle, soubrettes and dancers, are always sure of a cordial welcome; Fred Harrison, the funny Chinaman, goes well with a good turn; Will Lytton, comedian, is well received; Joe Humphries is a capital vocal comedian; the Swift Trio of comedy cyclists are entertaining; and Ted Farrar, the Lancashire comedian and dancer, also appears.

LEIGH.—Ohmy's Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. King Ohmy; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Prince.—A good programme is submitted here this week. Miss Victoria Dagmar is a graceful and daring gymnast; Mons. Kavados in a juggling act is well received; Mr. Claude Ohmy goes through some clever tricks on the wire; the Rookbey's in a comic gymnastic act are very good; the Three Seymons give an entertaining performance as jugglers and acrobats; and the comic sketches by August and September are greatly appreciated. The Bioscope is entertaining with a series of pictures.

LEITH. — New Gaiety Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*Two Little Drummer Boys* is a production which appeals strongly to lovers of military drama, and its presentation by Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kimberley's touring company has drawn large houses this week to the Leith playhouse. The play is well acted by a capable cast, including Mr. Edward Bikker, who does well as General Kingsley, Mr. Andrew Money an excellent Captain Darrell, and Mr. Harry Lyndon a humorous Timothy Trimmer; with Miss B. Shirley as a very effective Alma Kingsley, Miss Edie Macklin, a lively Molly Meadows, and Miss M. Eversleigh, a sufficiently realistic drunken Meg. The name parts are pleasingly filled by Miss May Smart and Miss Eva Norman. Able support is also rendered by Mr. William Vane, Mr. Charles Gallier, Mr. Philip Redgrave, Mr. F. Imbert, Mr. Frank Hoyd, and Mr. Harry Greenburn, in the respective rôles of Captain Carsdale, Lieut. Kingsley, Major Kilkerran, Corporal O'Quirke, Jem Barker, and the Rev. John Rivers; and a drum and fife band, as well as occasional songs, add to the attractions of an enjoyable entertainment.

LICHFIELD.—St. James's Hall.—Mr. W. L. Dobell's company appeared here on Tuesday night in *The Mockery of Marriage*. Mr. S. Wardley, as Dick Kenyon, Mr. Conrad Heywood, Jack Stanley, Mr. A. Temple, Seth Pearce, and Mr. Dobell as Toby Wright were the principal members of the cast. Miss C. Brownpot was the Rose Vernham; Miss Norah Baker, Mary Ann Barnicoat; and Miss Maria Ellis, Alva Kenyon. The interpolated song by Miss Brownpot revealed an excellent voice of sympathetic quality. *East Lynne* was played on Wednesday night.

LINCOLN.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—*The Two Hussars*, presented by Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge, supplies a stirring series of military scenes, which rouse much enthusiasm.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—To another capital bill Howard and Harris supply a bright musical and medley act that is as genuinely funny as it is clever. Helen Charles sings charmingly and mimics faithfully, and Will Vay's Juveniles are a thorough success. Cyclo is a daring wheelman; Ted Saunders imitates R. G. Knowles and John Lawson interestingly. Frances Hasholl receives a great ovation for her illustrated songs, Walker and Lake sing and patter acceptably, and with Bosanquet's brilliant violin work, and Raymond's pretty Bio-Tableaux, there is, to use a hackneyed phrase, not a dull moment.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The dramatic season at the leading theatre was inaugurated on Monday evening with *The Spring Chicken*. Mr. George Gregory soon became popular, his every appearance on the stage provoking boundless merriment; Miss Irene Verona made an admirable Mrs. Girdle, delivering her lines with effect, and singing agreeably; as Rosalie, Miss Gertrude Glyn was vivacious and sweet; Mr. L. W. Harris afforded satisfaction as Gustave Babori; an exceedingly funny Felix was presented by Mr. C. D. Cleveland; Miss Gertrude Gilliam played carefully as Baroness Papouche, and Miss Rita Everard fitted the rôle of Dulcie Babori.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—*The Still Alarm* always proves popular in Liverpool, and its visit this week to the north end house has resulted in good business. The company presenting it is that of Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond. The former gentleman played his original part of Jack Manley in his usual capital style; Miss Maud Warburton was a sweet Elinore Fordham, Mr. Cecil Du Gue handled the rôle of John Bird with effect, Miss Hettie Zillwood was a merry Carrie Wilbur, and Mr. Fred Osmond was satisfactory as Doc Wilbur. Pleasing specialities were provided by the Brigade Quartet and the Lyric Comedy Four.

Lyric Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—An entertaining programme here is headed by Henry Roxbury and company in the musical mélange *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. The acting is good all-round, and the humour is delightful. The Black and White Zouaves, who bottom the bill, are exceedingly well received; Fred Curran delights the audience with his numbers; Annie Nelson, a Liverpool favourite of the concert platform, sings with artistic finish; Little Uno is good; Captain Ralston's naval act is well received; and Elton and Elma also contribute successfully.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Much public patronage has been bestowed upon *The Little Bread Winner*, presented at the popular Star during the week. Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is a particularly good one, and the scenery somewhat above the average. Mr. David Gordon holds the part of Richard Lawrence with every credit, Miss Maud Hastings as Margaret Daventry gives him good support, Mr. J. A. Campbell makes an admirable Lord Dorrington, the pathetic part of Meg is charmingly portrayed by little Emmie Thomas, Miss Lissa Young makes a delightful companion as Bobby Trott, Miss Maud Buchanan is graceful as Kate Cherry, and Mr. Allen Charles presents a laughable Charles Prior.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—Continuing their policy of introducing new plays to Liverpool, the management of this theatre have this week presented for the first time in this city *Miss Lancashire, Ltd.*, which has been received with shouts of laughter. Miss Florence Baines and her company have had a most cordial reception. In the title-rôle that lady had a part which seemed to suit her to perfection; Miss Jennie Hallworth was a neat Eva Lancashire, Mr. Richard C. Hicks proved eminently amusing as the solicitor Fox, Mr. Payne Fleteher created great laughter as the fighting farmer Thompson; he was well supported by Miss Pattie Groves as the wife. Credit is also due to Mr. Horace Pollock for his humorous picture of the illiterate butler, and Mr. David Donaldson made the most of John Higgins.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Lessees, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—In consequence of the artists engaged here in the very successful pantomime *Babes in the Wood* having to leave for other engagements, the management are compelled to withdraw the production on the 24th inst. The pantomime could easily be run for several weeks longer, so great has been its popularity. On Tuesday the Bros. Egbert took a benefit, Mr. George Bastow had one on Friday, and a special performance of the pantomime was given on Thursday for the benefit of local charities.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Top of the bill here this week is R. A. Roberts with his clever sketch *Dick Turpin*, the smartness of his changes in character eliciting great applause and admiration; Miss Millie Lindon, after a brilliant season of pantomime at the Royal Court Theatre here, had a most cordial reception; Big Ben Brown and Little George Le Clerq provoked much amusement with their *Black Justice*; Jennie Mackay sang with sweetness several Scotch songs; the Fitzroys are a good turn as society gymnasts; Gittis and their dog are amusing; Stephens and Rennior are smart duettists and dancers; Charles Lilburn shows much originality as a comedian; the Picquays have a novel entertainment, including an upside down sand dance; Mora and Lola present a novelty musical act; and Irving Jones, the funny little black man, gives an amusing turn.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Harry Ford, the popular comedian, is at the top of the bill here this week, while other excellent artists in the same line who also appear are Whit Cunliffe and Charles R. Whittle. The result of having such talent on the same programme has been that crowded audiences have proved the order of the week. And the rest of the bill is also excellent. Marie Santoi and her merry little Japs present a lovely illuminated scena, *A Japanese Tea Garden by Night*; the Musical Jees have an amusing sketch, *The Scarecrow*; Wyndham Waters, with their vocal comedy act, *The Professor and the Pupil*, are both clever and funny; the Donatos, the one-legged clowns, displayed surprising agility; Elver ton, the spinning marvel, was an item of interest; some smart work as baton swingers, banjo, song and dance artists was performed by the Two Dixons; and others who appeared were Levarni on the tight-wire, and Nina Elmo, comedienne.

New Parthenon.—Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—Bert Williams, a smart novelty ventriloquist, heads the bill here this week, his show being an interesting one; as a comedian, Fred O'Malley provides an excellent turn; Billy Brown renders some taking songs, and this week has specially given "St. Patrick's Day"; as a comedienne and dancer, Millie Carson affords every satisfaction; the Two Sparks are expert lady drummers, and Dan Lyndon shines as a comedian. Brown's Bioscope has some admirable pictures.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Good business continues to be done here by Percy Boucher's stock company, the play selected this week being *A Woman of the People*, in seven tableaux. Mr. Boucher handled well the part of Remy, and was strongly supported by Mr. Harry Tresham (Bertrand), Mr. E. D. Allen (Dr. Appiani), Mr. Cecil Ravenswood (Dr. Barthiell), and Miss Beryl Ravenswood (Adele). Some fine pictures are shown by Brown's Bioscope.

Paddington Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—The principal part of the programme here this week is taken up with the dramatic sketch, *A Woman's Sin*, played by Mr. W. L. Lee and company. Mr. F. S. Hulme, a talented actor-vocalist, makes a welcome reappearance, and Jake Euston, Creole speciality comedian and dancer, submits an acceptable turn.

Park Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Marks and Weisker's Scotch spectacle *Highland Games and Dances* is in big type here this week, and has proved attractive. The original Arleys with their gymnastic pot-pourri, introducing well-trained dogs, have afforded much pleasure; Alma Obrey, Australian character comedienne, provides an interesting turn; as an eccentric comedian, Mr. H. O. Wills is very funny; the male impersonations of Miss Thirza Hirst are a pleasing feature; the Harlem Bros. are able speciality artists, and Adderley Bros. are good as duettists and dancers.

Haymarket.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Heading the bill here this week is the sketch company of Ernest Montefiore presenting *The Little Colonel*. Rappo and Ella are smart equilibrists and acrobats, as Irish comedians and dancers Brindall and Cooper are a good turn, Harry Bent is a novel mimic and has a neat trifle "A peep into the music hall," Nellie Rose sings and dances well, and others who appear are Carlotta Lunn (comedienne and ballad vocalist) and George Hyam (comedian).

Westminster.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—A capital all-round entertainment is given here this week by Amann, comedian, and Rivilli, equilibrist, which has been loudly applauded; Oliver Conroy, eccentric character comedian, has won popularity; two Liverpool lads, Davies and Roberts, give an amusing entertainment as dancers, players on the tin whistle, spoons, and a street organ; some smart mimicry is shown by Fred Horsfall; Zano Bros. are clever comedians on the triple bar, the Bonanzas display much ability as hand-balancing acrobats and staircase performers, and Maude Kaye also appears.

Olympia.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—There is a particularly strong programme here this week. Foremost is the "Human Bullet" from the London Hippodrome, the act being watched with breathless interest; Miss Kellerman, who attempted to swim the English Channel, gives an interesting turn, showing many ways of entering the water; Hengler's water novelty, *A Village Wedding*, puts in a last week; some exceedingly smart work is done on the bicycle by A. D. Robbins; James Fawn and J. W. Rickaby are a couple of excellent comedians; the Wally Hoste Trio of acrobats, comedians, and jugglers provide a pleasing entertainment; Sinclair and Parr have a neat vocal entracte *Keeping an Appointment*, and others in the list are Ryan and Hall (acrobatic comedians), and Arthur Melrose (whistling comedian).

LLANELLY.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Messrs. Chesney and Sanderson and Miss Bessie Elma's company in *The Power and the Glory* is here this week. Miss Elma is very good as Kate Goodluck, alias Muriel Criterion; Mr. A. Fitzmaurice as Harry Goodluck, a young sailor, is most successful, as also is Mr. Reginald Fox in the part of Harold Hartree. As Ferdinand Crayle, the swell mobsman, Mr. Richard Webb is well placed; Mr. Douglas Hitchings scores as Johnnie Dyce-Morris; Mr. Chas. F. Johnson as Forward of the gang puts in some excellent work; Miss Mary Lovett is a sympathetic Lizzie Medwin; Miss Fanny Olive as Lady Gwendoline wins approval; and Miss Flo Florence as Linda, a blind girl, is clever.

LONG EATON.—Lyceum Theatre.—Quite a big house received Mr. J. W. Morton's company in *The Rajah of Ranjanpore*, a racing and musical burlesque, with sparkling business. The Sisters Howard (Queenie and Amando) are clever singers and dancers. The situations are often amusing, centring on the doings of Ernest Travers, disguised as an artist, and an adventurer, both in love with Primrose, the daughter of a retired pickle merchant. Miss Nell Ascott takes this part with success; Mr. P. Piercy Watson is the real Rajah; Mr. James Sterling is the adventurer; and Mr. Henry Sinclair scores as the showman.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Hall Caine's drama *The Christian* is being played here by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's capable company. Mr. Alfred Goddard displays ability and power as the Hon. John Storm, and Miss Laura Walker's impersonation of Glory Quayle leaves little to be desired. Mr. Colin Johnston does well as Archdeacon Wealthy, and Mr. Harry Colbeck makes a favourable impression as Father Lamplugh. In the rôle of Lord Robert Ure Mr. Percy Twyman is good, as is Mr. Duncan Yarrow as Horatio Drake. Mr. Jack Hames shines as Mr. Lorimer, and Mr. Charles Stafford is a capable Brother Paul. Miss Florence Radcliffe is clever as Polly Love, and Mrs. Callander has an excellent exponent in Miss Violet Vivian.

LOWESTOFT. — Marina.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—*A Wrecker of Men* is being admirably performed here this week by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. As the burglar, Jim Murley, Mr. Mill presents a careful study, and is most effective throughout; Mr. Gilson Brooke is suitably placed as Railton, and Mr. Milner Noble submits a capital rendering as Pharosophus. Guise Strange finds a good exponent in Mr. Percy Horton; and others worthy of mention are Messrs. N. Carter Slaughter (the Hon. Reggie Verincourt), Henry Rutland, and Alfred Maurice. Miss Rosalind Tate submits a capital piece of acting as Risca Mallison, and Miss Cissie Podmore is thoroughly efficient as Doris Melville. A fine character-sketch is presented by Miss Beatrice Reynolds in the rôle of Marion Isaacs. *The Sorrows of Satan* is announced for the latter end of the week.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Evan Roland and company are playing here this week in *The Guilty Man*. Mr. Alfred D. Adams as James Redman submits a sound performance. Mr. Harold B. Lewis finds ample scope to display his undoubted abilities as George Seymour; Mr. Edmund O'Grady as Esau Hebron is successful; Mr. Leonard Anthony as General Seymour gives a dignified portrayal; Mr. Hill Cremer as Sir Lawrence is well received; Mr. Evan Roland as Paddy Crowe is humorous; and in, conjunction with Miss Sybil Haughton as Sukie, makes a laughable couple; Miss Lily Lewis as Aubrey Priestley is charming; and Miss Muriel Inglis as Nell Radford is fully equal to all demands.

MAIDENHEAD.—Town Hall.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—W. F. Jury's Imperial Bioscope company, here for a week, is delighting crowded houses. The pictures are wonderfully clear and free from flickering, and the subjects are varied and well selected. Mr. James W. Hortin sings illustrated songs most acceptably; and Musical Ritter has an amusing way of demonstrating his thorough command of several musical instruments.

MANCHESTER.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—That very charming sentimental play, *Sweet and Twenty*, is being given here this week by Messrs. Glenister and Wood-Ingram's company, by arrangement with Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman. The pretty story it unfolds gives the cast opportunities for unusually delicate acting, and the performance, as a whole, is both enjoyable and refined. The part of Joan Trevelyan is played with gracious tenderness by Miss Ethel Weyburn, and some fine work is put in by Messrs. Stephen Wentworth and Lionel Glenister as the Brothers, and Mr. Drelincourt Odlum as the Rev. James Floyd; while the minor rôles are filled satisfactorily by Miss Dorothy Carrington, Miss Isabel Grey, Miss Zeta Russell, Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram, and Mr. Gus Wheatman. A comedietta precedes.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, as presented here on Monday by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company, proved a very interesting and absorbing drama. The principal characters in a well-balanced company are rendered with great success by Miss Marie McAulay, Mr. Frank Adair, Mr. Wingold Lawrence, Mr. Henry Herne, and Miss Ada Marius; while others deserving of commendation are Miss Ethel Bracewell, Miss Madge Maynard, and Messrs. Albert H. Clarke and C. Hammond Asquin. The magnificent staging and numerous properties are on an elaborate scale, notably the Carlton Hotel scene, which alone contributes much to the success of the piece. The play had a good reception, arousing great interest and amusement.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company, in the original version of *East Lynne*, is the attraction here this week. The drawing powers of this lachrymose play seem unabated, and if tears are induced, laughter also reigns, by virtue of the recurrent witticisms of the famous P.C. Bullock, which personage, represented by Mr. Lloyd Townrow, does much toward producing something like a balance of interest. The principal parts are in the hands of Mr. Alfred Beaumont (Archibald Carlyle), Mr. Eric Mayne (Francis Levison), and Miss Julie Kennard (Lady Isabel); but among the remainder of the cast, Misses Ethel Hardacre, Violet Thorold, and A. Byron are deserving of particular praise. The performance is, however, good throughout.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A very good programme here comprises *Man v. Motor*, in which Davies and Gledhill astonish the audience; Horace Sade, speciality dancer; the Three Clarions in a musical sketch; Arthur Slater, whistler; the Ringlings, American eccentrics; Ernesto, smart juggler and equilibrist; Gus Harris, Hebrew delineator, in *The Synagogue*; and Fred Casburn, comedian, who, however, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, played by Mr. Fredk. Melville's company, is the week's sensation here. The principal characters are ably portrayed by Miss Beatrice Horner, in the title-rôle, and Mr. Philip Darien as Jack Merriman; while a large proportion of comic element is supplied by Mr. Tubby Edlin, Mr. Henry Williams, Mr. Stuart Roberts, and Miss Nellie Jackson. Miss Margaret Watson does well as an Italian girl. The play is well staged and attractive.

St. James's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Mr. Coleman Davies and company are here this week in an interesting and amusing comedy-drama, *Money Makes the Man*. Mr. Coleman Davies has a fine part as Podophylin, and he is capitally supported by Mr. Terry Davies, Mr. S. Forth, Miss Ada Gower, and the various members of a capable cast. The week's programme includes three performances of *No Escape*, by R. C. Davies.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter De Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A short, but sensational item is provided here this week by Wizard Stone and Irene Stone, who, in "The Globe of Life," an immense steel cage, defy the laws of gravitation on bicycles and a motor-cycle, the latter going at a rate of forty miles an hour. Malcolm Scott, "the woman who knows," gives popular samples of his sarcastic patter; Cullen and Carthy, comedians, sing, talk, and dance well; the Brothers Zampah, one-legged equilibrists, give an exceedingly smart show; Leo Tell, the mimic, amply sustains his unique reputation as a reproducer of animal and other sounds; the Carina Sisters contribute a fine musical turn; Hettie Chattell sings her character songs in clever and acceptable style; and Kent and Keith are smart duologue artists. The Palace pictures show a sensational series, called "The Train Wreckers."

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—A big attraction here this week is Mrs. Brown Potter and company in *Mary, Queen of Scots*; *and the Murder of Rizzio*, a dramatic historical episode presented in an excellent manner and well received. May Edouin and Fred Edwards are seen to great advantage in *A Bachelor's Dream*, Miss Edouin being particularly clever; Sable Fern, "the dandy cowboy," sings, "Iona, of Arizona," in a very pleasing style; and much applause is gained by Stewart and Morgan for their harmonious rendering of popular Irish melodies. Fyne and Hurley are exceedingly funny, and create no end of laughter with their *Coster and Dude* incident and burlesque boxing; W. H. Downs, the coloured tenor, sings well; the Sisters Finney are seen in an artistic aquatic exhibition; Drawee, Frisco, and Hambo are amusing comedy jugglers; Sam Soda improvises in a creditable way; and an incident in the life of Sherlock Holmes is vividly depicted on the bioscope.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The big turns here this week are provided by Richard Sawade's lions, dogs, bears, and tigers, who go through a thrilling performance; and Tarro Myaki, who is demonstrating nightly his claims to be considered the champion jiu-jitsu wrestler of the world. This capital programme is made up also of the Five Bollatzer Sisters, in a unique act; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Findon, in *A Desperate Remedy*; the Bohemians, instrumentalists; the Mannons, in *Uncle Yank*; Sable Fern, the dandy cowboy; Amann and Hartley, in *The Naughty Professor*; and two vocal items by the choir; all of which are highly pleasing. The bioscope reproduces a recent important football match.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Fanny Wentworth, the well-known society entertainer, is here this week, and is very successful in her original sketches at the piano. Another popular turn is that of Daisy Jerome, a talented comedienne, who sings three songs in her usual effective manner, and is ably assisted by the Little American Belle. Florence and Lilian contribute a delightfully artistic musical act; Fred Herbert, topical vocalist, makes a hit; and Fred Carey, comedian, is extremely funny. Other enjoyable items are those of Les Valdos, in clever knockabout act; the twin sisters Edwards (Clara and Lucia), vocalists and dancers; Alec Kennedy, actor-vocalist; and Raymond's vivagraph. Nellie Randall did not appear on the night of our visit.

King's, Longsight.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls and company are to be seen here this week in a highly-amusing sketch entitled *The Battle of the Belles*, which causes much laughter. De Henau uses his toes instead of his fingers in a surprising fashion; Arthur Holland is a good vocal comedian with pleasing style; Violet Thorne, a promising juvenile, has a sweet voice; Aladina introduces some highly-trained cockatoos; Harry Thurston successfully impersonates several music-hall artists; the Five Saxonias give an enjoyable musical act; Francis Manners sings "In the good old days," and J. C. Laurie is a funny comedian.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Henry Carlton and company offer here this week an amusing absurdity entitled *One Night Only*, and are received with evident satisfaction. Witty Watty Walton is also here, and causes much laughter with his *Casey at the Goal* and newer quips. Moto, eccentric musical comedian, plays cleverly; Mozzetto is a smart juggler; McCann does some good roller-skate dancing; La Petite Voltaire sings prettily; Wallace Whitney and Clifton and Gibson contribute amusing patter and songs; and Beattie Foster presents low-comedy characters satisfactorily. "A Spanish Bull Fight" is shown on the bioscope.

Hippodrome (Hulme). — Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Clement Trio, in a novel trapeze act, head the bill here this week, and are well received; Dawson Dowick sings and patters very amusingly; and some exceptionally clever business is done by Marstro and Oretta, eccentric equilibrists and tumblers. The quaint humour of Harry Nelson, comedian, provokes much laughter, and Oakdene introduces a clever and original ventriloquial scena. Other good turns are provided by the Andreassen Bros.; Phillips and Merritt, comedy duo; Dobito and Buxton, vocalists; and the Lorrisons, comedy couple. The pictures are excellent.

MANSFIELD. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Jennings.—*The Throne of Terror* is being presented here by Mr. Wm. J. Miller and company. In the character of Robespierre Mr. Wm. J. Miller displays his powers as an actor to the fullest extent; Mr. W. Williams as the spy is good; Capt. Eugene de Lisle is well played by Mr. Roy Milton; Mr. A. W. Thompson as Comte de Roquefort plays his part admirably; Victorine D'Almonte has an admirable exponent in Miss Augusta Tullock; Miss Katherine Maude Davies impersonates Marguerite de Roquefort with much feeling.

Victoria Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Fox.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company occupied the boards here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Monday, when *The Merchant of Venice* was given, the character of Antonio was in the capable hands of Mr. G. F. Hannam-Clark; Mr. Frank Darch as Bassanio played with power; and Mr. Arthur Phillips as Shylock played with great intensity. Miss May Webb made an artistic Portia; Miss Katherine Reynolds was effective as Nerissa; Jessica was capably presented by Miss Christine Laws; and Mr. F. Manning Sproston made an admirable Lorenzo. Gratiano, in the hands of Mr. John Cairns, caused great amusement.

MARGATE.—The Hippodrome.—Sole proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Crowded houses are again the order at this popular place of amusement. The Brothers Venola are a clever pair of gymnasts; J. C. Crawley proves himself an exceptionally smart vocal and instrumental mimic; whilst a pleasing feature in the programme is *My Mountain Maid*, a capital little scena, excellently written, composed, and acted by Miss Vi Caryle. As a droll comedian, Chas. Sloman causes much amusement; Mahatma delights the audiences in her novel and mystic entertainment. Roars of laughter are caused by Keith and Merson in their acrobatic hunting absurdity, *The Meet*. The Hippodrome pictures are again both instructive and amusing.

Hall-by-the-Sea.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—The "Chas. W." Poole Myriorama is here this week. Some capital variety turns are given during the evening by the following artists: Daisy Graham, with her collection of trained birds; Little Dorretta, song and acrobatic dance artist; Harry Stewart, American protean change artist; Kitty Woodford, comedienne; the Avondale Quartette; Leonard and Mac, eccentric side-walk patterers; Cecil F. Couper, descriptive vocalist; Kitty Woodford's Canine Circus, and a series

by an efficient, all-round company. Mr. Stanley Cooke again undertakes the rôle of Lord Fancourt Babberly, and proves as diverting as of yore; the Stephen Spettigue of Mr. Walter Beaumont is an excellent character, and Mr. S. B. Keston lends valuable assistance as Sir Francis Chesney; Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney and Mr. Richard B. Mason as Charley Wykeham keep the fun going merrily, and Mr. Sydney Compton is of valuable assistance as Brasset. Miss Ruth Suffield, Miss Marion Ripley, and Miss Dorothy Deacon are all reponsible for charming impersonations. The farce is preceded by a one-act play, entitled *Fourchette and Co.*

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Mr. Charles Frohman presents Mr. Huntley Wright here this week in the farce *The Mountain Climber*. Mr. Huntley Wright as Montague Sibsey, posing in the eyes of an adoring wife and family as a famous Alpine climber, is irresistibly amusing; Mr. R. W. Staveley is exceedingly clever as Samuel Midgham; the Dr. Charles Midgham of Mr. Montague Elphinstone is a truthful impersonation of the faithful lover; Mr. Eric Maturin interprets the part of Arthur Lydbrook with praiseworthy success; Mr. T. McCausland Stewart and Mr. J. Sebastian Smith as Sidney Ketton and Watson Frimley act in an able manner; Mr. Algernon Newark and Mr. Scott Craven supply good studies of Swiss guides. Miss Kate Mills is very happy as Mrs. Montague Sibsey, and Miss Christine McGill and Miss Dora Barton as Alice and Betty are excellent. *The Little Father of the Wilderness*, which precedes the chief piece, gives Mr. Wright an opportunity of showing in the part of Père Marlotte (a Jesuit priest) that he is quite as clever an exponent of sentiment as of comedy.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—A version of *Sapho* by Mr. Birkett Winning occupies the boards here this week. Miss Annie Bell in the title-rôle acts with great power and feeling; Mr. Pringle Roberts gives a talented rendering of the part of Jean Gausin; Mr. Francis Serle as Cesaire le Fenat is excellent; Mr. H. Langford as Eugene Flamant plays with praiseworthy ability, and Mr. Archie Helsby as Caoudal and Mr. Laurence Kingsley as Paul Dechelette give finished portrayals. Mr. Chas. M. Daly and Miss Florence Graham as Father Legrand and Machaume respectively are responsible for a good deal of fun. A word of praise is due to little Miss Doris Graham, who acts naturally as the child Joseph.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Miss Nettie Ware and Millar Anderson's company in the sensational drama, entitled *When Woman Hates*, is fulfilling a week's engagement at the popular Byker house. Mr. Jerrold Heather is a finished and clever representative of Fred Rokeby, and a commendable impersonation of the villainous Godfrey Lawton is forthcoming from Mr. Millar Anderson; Mr. Charles Herbrantre is brought into prominence by an earnest rendition of Sir Henry Rokeby, and the Irish humour of Pat O'Brien as played by Mr. Frank Litchfield is acceptable. Miss Dorothy Lupone creates a favourable impression as Nell Rokeby; Miss Mabel Mannering sustains with skill the rôle of Cora Daintry, and Miss Maud Townsend contributes an excellent study as Marie Rokeby; Miss Eleanor Papera as Sally Potts and Miss Helen Richmond as the daughter cause infinite amusement.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—After his success in the Royal pantomime, Dan Rolyat prolongs his stay in Newcastle for another week, and his engagement at the Empire has proved vastly popular. His first effort is an amusing number, entitled "Sufficient," intermingled with some extraordinary tumbling feats, and then he describes in his quaint style his adventures as a football referee, which resulted in a well-deserved encore. The Aurora Troupe display wonderful daring and ability as trick cyclists; Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, proves his versatility with an acceptable concoction; "Il Trovatore" and "Violets" are the selections La Tostia skilfully renders on the mandoline; Terley, plastic figure performer, is an act that deserves success if only for its novelty; Sybil St. Elmo sings with much charm and expression; Katie Butler warbles a low comedy song. Fred E. Terry (comedian) at once claims attention, the Rinaldos (comic balancers) hit the popular fancy, and the Bioscope reappears on the programme with an extremely funny picture.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Large audiences here this week have greeted George Robey, who returns after a brief absence, and proves vastly amusing in old and new favourite songs. A distinctly meritorious act is given by the Aeolians (six in number) whose vocalism is exceedingly enjoyable; Mulvey and Miriam meet with a rousing reception in their studio speciality, and an excellent ventriloquial act is submitted by Richardson Taylor; Lily Flexmore's dancing exhibition elicits loud applause, and the Donovans, sentimental vocalists, score a well-deserved success; the Passports are a notable turn, Dave O'Toole is a clever comedian, and the Barrascope is the concluding item.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Beerbohm Tree's company is here with *Oliver Twist*. Mr. Wm. Mackintosh plays Fagin with remarkable power, and a wealth of unobtrusive power; Mr. Cecil A. Collins acts Bill Sikes with ability; and Miss Hutin Britton's Nancy has a note of pathos which specially appeals. The Mr. Grimwig of Mr. Clifford Bower is truly humorous; Mr. Miller Davis gives a good study of Giles; and Miss Hilda Dick is a sweet Rose Maylie. Mr. Harvey Bratan as Harry Maylie is attractive, Mr. Ashton Pearce does well as Monks, and Miss Gertrude Lang is a pathetic little figure as Oliver Twist. Other characters are excellently played by Messrs. Tom Macfarlane, Edgar J. Coyne, Christmas Gorse Max Montesole, Ben Lewin, Somers Bellamy, Miss Edith King, Miss Elsie Carter, Miss Betha, and others.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Heading the bill here are the Sleodes, who provide a most laughable turn; the Kellinos pay a welcome return visit, and are applauded in their thrilling performance. Payne's Little Vagabonds are a smart troupe; the Cape Girls are expert dancers; and Kyoto does some wonderfully clever conjuring feats, while May Geraldine sings a taking song. Howe and Asdie, in their sketch, *Up in a Balloon*, get through some clever knockabout work; and Esdale Bros. present a turn that is appreciated

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. George Dance's company, under the management of Mr. J. Alban Newton, has furnished a delightful entertainment in the merry musical piece *Lady Madcap*, in which Miss Vera Vere makes a spirited Lady Betty. Miss Kathleen Romayne is a pleasing and piquant Gwenny Holden, Miss Peggy Primrose gains well-deserved applause for her acting and dancing in the part of Susan, Miss M. Johnstone is a charming Mrs. Layton. Mr. Alex Chentrens makes a hit in the part of Count de St. Hubert; Mr. Bay Russell in the part of Bill Stratford is a most amusing scoundrel, whilst Mr. Fred Payne as his pal, Posh Jenkins, is a comical scoundrel. The R.A. Hussar officers are well represented by Mr. Lyall Grant, Mr. Fred C. Leister, Mr. Robert Cranny, and Mr. E. Whitelock; Lord Framlingham finds a good representative in Mr. Louis Du Cane; Mr. Vincent Erne causes much amusement as Corporal Ham, and Mr. H. V. Surrey is highly successful as Oroya Brown.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—John Grun Marx, "the king of all strong men," displays abnormal strength in weight-lifting, the Motramos are paying a return visit in their pleasing and comical musical act, Musical Silvo gives an expert performance upon novel instruments, Rosie Walters is successful in her song "Fishing." Beatty and Blanche are tuneful duettists and capable dancers, Ida Kathrena presents a doll scena with effect, Nina Carlton is a pleasing comedienne, Ada Maude makes an imposing appearance as a descriptive vocalist, and the Palace pictures are new and interesting.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week are occupied by Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company with *The Silver King*. As Wilfred Denver Mr. Herbert Ford gives an excellent portrayal of the character; Miss Daisy Scudamore is an artistic Nellie Denver; Mr. Edward J. George scores his usual success with his capital impersonation of Jaikes; and Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is clever as The Spider; Mr. Arthur Wright gives a satisfactory interpretation of Elijah Coombe, Mr. James L. Power achieves much success as Henry Cooket, Mr. W. Thompson makes the most of Cripps, Mr. E. Arnold Palmer is a capable Geoffrey Ware, and Mr. Byron Pedley is well placed as Samuel Baxter. Miss Amy Manfree displays much ability as Cissy, Miss Amy Wood proves equal to the demands of Tabitha Durden, Master Jack Evans plays prettily as Ned, and the remaining parts are all in capable hands.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The company engaged here includes the Four Juggling Geraldos, who introduce a clever act, Mr. Ben Hur, described as the "ideal athlete," performs some marvellous feats, and Miss Emma Don and her black and white Comedy Quartette meet with a cordial reception; Mlle. Henrietta in her vocal and musical entertainment is much admired; Miss Ada Whittoh (male impersonator) is clever, Mr. J. E. Wilkes (vocal comedian) goes well, and the Bio-photoscope continues.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—A large audience assembled here on Monday to witness the performance of *Her One Great Sin*, by Miss Blanche St. Albans' and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company. The company shows no weaknesses, and the drama is beautifully staged. As Grace Warhurst, Miss Blanche St. Albans plays in a skilful manner; Mr. Sam Arthur scores a success as Reuben Warhurst. In the character of Squire Thornhill, Mr. J. Leicester Jackson proves himself a villain of the deepest dye; Mr. Fred Hodson, in the character of Jerry Jumble, causes much merriment; much credit is due to Miss Nellie Lambert as Nancy Winpenny; Mr. Chas. E. Lambert and Miss Louie Walton give clever character-studies of the parts of Dan and Bet Hundle; Miss Maudie Lambert, as little Grace, proves herself a talented child actress; and as Charlie, a flower seller, Miss Phyllis Damian is all that can be desired.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here this week in *I Defy the World*. Mr. Lewis Gilbert admirably performs the part of Leon Darville, whilst Mr. Charles Conway ably embodies Laroche; Mr. Dunlop Stewart and Mr. Dalston J. Bosher ably assist in their representations, and Mr. Charles M. Julian is amusing as the Cockney tourist; Miss Maud Malvern acts well as the faithless wife, and Miss G. Coats is a pleasing Fanchette.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—The Eight Zinlians give a clever Risley performance; Mlle. Lucretia is a pleasing dancer; the Maples are good duettists, whilst Curtis and Vanity are entertaining as comedy duettists; Mlle. Lumière, assisted by Mr. D. J. Birteno, gives a capital turn with electrical effects; Fred Clements is a successful humorist, and the Grigson Trio create much fun in their absurdity, *The Dummy*; George Helm and Emmie Cozens also render a humorous sketch, entitled *The Doctor and the Patient*. The Hippo Bioscope continues attractive.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*What the Butler Saw* pays its first visit here, and the rattling comedy went merrily along on Monday night to the accompaniment of hearty laughter. Mr. Lionel Rignold as Pink is the very essence of humour, and continually provokes his audience to unrestrained hilarity. Miss Ada Blanche is a host in herself, and the character of Mrs. Barrington gives every chance to her comedy talent, which the house is not slow to recognise; Mr. Charles Fawcett contributes an irresistibly droll sketch of the volatile, slippery, and easy-going Jack Barrington; Mr. Reddick Anderson aptly assumes the well-bred and aristocratic mannerisms of Sir Charles Foden, and the irascible General Dunlop is capitally depicted by Mr. George Ascott; Mr. Harry H. Rignold is well suited as the Jew, Weinstein, and Mr. George Beale plays easily as Sidney Clifford. Miss Grace Richardson makes a winsome and graceful Nora, and Miss Marie Daltra scores in the trying part of Miss Foden.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*At Duty's Call*, a thrilling episode of the Soudan, is well presented by Mr. John Gerant's company. In the part of Harold Allison, so long played by him, Mr. Gerant acts with intensity and vigour; and as Captain Allison, Mr. Frank V. Fenn submits a careful study; the General Gordon of Mr. Ernest St. John is sharply defined, effective, and convincing; Mr. Eric V. Rees ably portrays the slave Hassan, and Mr. J. F. Lewis makes an admirable Abdallah. Miss Marie Menzies is tender and charming as Dora Drummond; Miss Georgina Hamilton is sufficiently forcible in her rendering of Salema, Mr. Harry Ugar gives a humorous portrayal of Terry O'Halloran, and Jack Spencer becomes a lively character in the hands of Mr. Gywn Richardson. A bright and merry lady's maid is seen in Miss Harlington, and the little drummer boy is capitally played by Mr. Ivan Mavis.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edgar O. Waller.—Following on the lines of Mr. Macnaghten's London houses, two performances nightly are now given, and the inauguration on Monday last proved a great success. Fred Southern and Co. appeared in a small piece, entitled *Only a Trooper*, which found instant favour. Mr. Southern was well supported by Misses Gipsy Alexander, Ada Frank, and Messrs. Percy Emery, Frank Delmere, Courtney Robinson, and C. H. Handon. Hearty laughter was obtained in the comedy sketch *The Private Hotel*; specialities were also introduced by the Delomes, Kit Keen (comedian), Tony Iveson (a smart performer on the piano), Sisters Rene (duettists), Geo. Victor (vocalist), and Raymond's Bio-tableaux of animated pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—Chung Ling Soo is drawing immense houses nightly, and the dexterity of his unique conjuring tricks is the delight and wonderment of all; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten is always sure of a welcome, the youngsters fairly revelling in their singing and comical patter; the Edgar Forrest Sketch Combination provides several merry moments, and laughter is abundantly provided by Terry and Lambert, the American humorists; a gymnastic display by the Paxton Trio calls forth high praise for its neatness and finish; the Dumond Minstrels are accorded hearty applause for their singing and instrumental turn; the Sisters Mariano submit some daring and clever trapeze feats, and an acrobatic item by the O'Learys proves a smart performance.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company presented *The Christian*, and was accorded a good reception. Mr. Alfred Goddard's vigorous portrayal of John Storm makes an excellent impression; Glory Quayle is delineated in a meritorious manner by Miss Laura Walker; Lord Robert Ure is capably presented by Mr. Percy Twyman; Mr. Harry Colbeck makes an impressive Father Lamplugh; Mr. Duncan Jarrow is good as Horatio Drake, and a capital Polly Love is found in Miss Florence Radcliffe. The piece is excellently staged. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Mr. Chas. Macdona's company with *Three Little Maids* occupied the boards.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hulse.—The attraction for the week is Alfred Sutro's successful play, *The Walls of Jericho*, represented by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, under the direction of Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux, which received a hearty welcome at the hands of a good house. Mr. Herbert Bunston as Jack Frobisher, the man who "made his pile" in Queensland, has a good part, of which he makes the most; and his chum, Hanky Bannister, as played by Mr. G. A. Brandram, is a capital study of the man who has "struck ile"; the excellent acting of Miss Florence Jackson and Miss Molly Carton as Lady Althea Frobisher and Lady Lucy Debenham, adds greatly to the success of the play; and Miss Lydia Busch, as Lady Westerby, is well to the fore. The company all round is an admirable one, and the minor parts are ably filled by Messrs. Hamilton, Percy, Baleine, Heywood, Gibbon, Walters, Fletcher, and Norris; and Mesdames Edwin, Cuthbert, O'Neill, Frances, and Emden.

COLISEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. J. Ball.—The patrons of this theatre are being entertained with Miss Mary Austin's company in *The Cotton Spinner*, an old favourite here. The Rayograph displayed a good assortment of pictures for half-an-hour before the play began. The scenery and dresses for the production are pretty, and the drama is well acted. As the Lancashire Cotton Spinner (John Prescott), Mr. John S. Haydon acted in a fine style, and Mr. Edwin F. Fysher ably portrays the part of the aristocratic Lord Northbury, Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds acting Arthur Northbury, his son, in a capable manner. Miss Mary Austin plays with her usual care as Mary Prescott, and is a great success; Miss Enid Ross and Miss Bella Power as Constance Harrington and Lady Charlotte Needy are very good, and the other parts are all in capable hands. The piece is produced under the direction of Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Howgate.—The bill here is headed by Haley's Prize Juveniles, among whom are Dot and Spot, the smallest duettists appearing in public, the latter had to respond to repeated calls; Lily Lonsdale sang well, and her efforts were thoroughly appreciated; Starr and Leslie did a good turn of singing and club swinging. Baroni and Kemp gave a skilful quick-change performance. The Steinway Quartette were very good in "Songs of the Sea"; C. Diamond and Miss Beatrice gave a musical turn with the harp and saxophone; Ernie Myers, with his patter, caused roars of laughter, and the Cabiacs, in a good acrobatic performance, and Miss Violet Morgan, mimic, also appeared.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—Miss Edie Gray and her white coons top the bill and sing various humorous selections in a pleasing manner; Hill and Lane appear in an acrobatic sketch, "Home Lessons"; a novel turn is given by Ford and Barras, the dancing of the former being exceptionally good. A dancing competition is taking place nightly, prizes being given by the management. Grace Merton (vocalist), Will Souls (laughing comedian), Loudoun Cameron (who does a good sleight-of-hand show), and the Sisters Russell (Ida and Lil) also appear. The Dottoscope was very good as usual with a new series of animated pictures.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company, in *Mr. Hopkinson*, is proving a great attraction here this week. Miss Helen Russell makes an interesting Lady Tyra; Miss Blanka Stewart is a handsome and attractive Duchess; and Miss Frances Davie is admirably suited as Eliza Dibbs. Mr. Edward Vaughan is very effective as Lord Gawthorpe; Mr. Charles Esdaile is the aristocratic Duke to the life; Mr. George Desmond is just the easy and well-bred Mr. Dursingham that the part demands; Mr. Cecil Burt contributes a capital sketch of character as the Earl of Addleton; and Mr. Edward Rigby fairly convulses the house with his droll impersonation of Samuel Hopkinson. *The Impossible Trio* makes an interesting curtain-raiser, and is also well performed. A violin solo by Miss Evelyn Tyser is introduced, and met with marked favour from the house.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—A great attraction is provided by Jack Cromo's burlesque *Dainty Dolly Varden*. As Sir Rotter de Rot Mr. Clarence Ibbotson proves himself a capable and versatile artist, while Messrs. Carl and Carr are a fund of amusement as Johnny Stout and Billy Green. Mr. Jack Cromo gives a humorous and finished representation of Dame Varden, Miss Edna Cragge sings and acts delightfully as Boy Blue, and Miss Flo Melville is admirable as Tom Tucker. Miss Amy Randolph presents an effective portrayal of Dolly Varden, while Miss Lilla Kedwards is graceful and winsome as Marjory Daw. Some clever and picturesque dances are contributed by the Four Sydney Girls. The scenery, which is above the average, is pretty and effective.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—A return visit before disbanding of Mr. Savile's pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty* is evidently a very welcome one to local playgoers, as it loses none of its vitality by further acquaintance. The exponents of the different characters repeat excellent work. Miss Ethel Wilson as the Prince has a pleasing manner, and delights her appreciative listeners, while Miss Marie Adair acts with grace and vivacity as the Princess. Superlatively good are the trio of comedians—Mr. Peter D. Bermingham as Jake M'Craw, Mr. Willie Garvey as Belinda Butterscotch, and Mr. George Hestor as Count Crankiwitz. Mr. Dan O'Connor is unflagging in his efforts as King Henpeckina, and Mr. Arthur Ferriss is brisk and racy as Prince Tommy. Miss Alma Evelyne wins golden opinions for her vocalisation and deportment as Queen Henpeckina; Miss Florence Lister submits a clever portrayal of Furiana, and sings extremely well; Miss Kitty Jones is a decided success as Benevolentia, and renders her songs in brilliant style; and bright and vivacious impersonations are furnished by Miss Ettie Cinders as Ladida and Miss Annie Wright as Pipette.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—This week the programme here includes Read and Wright (Tom and Elsie), comedy top-boot dancers; Walter Gunn, vocal comedian; Halma, juggler; Lily Wright, comedienne and dancer; Jack Macormack, Scotch comedian; Funny West, comedian; and Prof. McArthur, magician.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Charles Edwardes presents Alexander Loftus and company in *The New Barmaid* here this week, and the popularity of this musical comedy is drawing excellent houses. Mr. Joseph Montague in his original character of Bertie White, as played by him over two thousand times, and Miss Elsie Ellinger in the title-rôle, are the outstanding features of a most enjoyable representation. Dances are given by Miss Lottie Stone's Trio, and the cake-walk is presented by Miss Violet Osmund and Mr. Frank Melroyd.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—The attraction here this week is the reappearance of Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *The Country Girl*, which is again proving very popular. Miss Eileen Guilbert is charming and capable as Marjorie; and as Nan, Miss Florence Burdette gives a clever and artistic impersonation. Miss Madge Campbell makes a vivacious Sophie; and Miss Vera Vizard is successful as the Princess of Bhong. Miss Broughton as Lady Anchester, and Miss Florence Brewster as Mrs. St. Quintin make the most of their opportunities; Mr. Johnny Clegg acquits himself admirably as Barry; and as Sir Joseph Verity, Mr. W. O. Billington is clever and amusing. Mr. W. Besley Beltram is well placed as Douglas Verity; and Mr. J. Mansell Stringer is successful as Geoffrey Chaloner. Mr. Bernard Vaughan gives a dignified impersonation of the Rajah of Bhong; and Mr. A. W. Metcalf does well as Lord Anchester.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Langdon Lee.—Musical comedy is always a draw at Plymouth, and *The Earl and the Girl* forms no exception to the rule. Mr. William Stephens, in the low-comedy part of Jim Cheese, keeps the ball of fun merrily rolling, while Mr. Percy Carr's appearance as Dick Wargrave is no less acceptable on account of his fine rendering of the songs falling to his lot. Miss Aimee Grey as Elphin Haye plays "Zanibar" in first-class fashion, while Daisy Fallowfield in the hands of Miss Florence Imeson comes in for tumultuous applause for the "Sammy" song. Miss Dot Carey as Liza, the dog-trainer's sweetheart, makes a fitting counterpart in the low-comedy business, and Miss Gladys Fontaine as the Strong Lady in pursuit of Wargrave is responsible for some hearty laughter

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—*The Octoroon* is being staged here this week. Mr. Edward Lloyd plays Salem Scudder in satisfactory fashion; Mr. Richard Bosco is quite at home as Wah-no-tee, the Indian chief; and Mr. Gordon McLeod as the villain Jacob McClosky secures the applause generally accorded a good exponent of the part. Miss Irina Farington as Zoe, the Octoroon, soon wins the sympathies of the audience; and Miss Evy Durell is an excellent Mrs. Peyton.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. W. H. Michell.—*Under the Czar* is the attraction here. Mr. B. H. Ross as Nicholas Yercloff takes part in some exciting situations in creditable fashion; and is ably supported by Miss Kathleen Cavanagh as Sonia Gregorvitch; the villain (Major Koresby) is capably presented by Mr. W. H. Riley. The humorous element is supplied by Messrs. Brien and Weston and the Misses Riley and Murray.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—One performance alone, that of Paul Cinquevalli, more than compensates for the time and money expended in a visit to the Palace. This accomplished artist performs feats of juggling with billiard balls, cues, glasses, and a steel cannon-ball with a dexterity and rapidity that are positively astounding; Bliss and Bliss have some very good patter and byplay, and Harry Maxim (comedian) gives a couple of songs in racy style; Horton and Linder perform some amusing yet clever feats on the parallel bars, and Boyd and Gilfain submit an attractive musical number. The remaining turns of the Three Sisters Chester, La Danseuse, and Vernon's pictures quite justify their inclusion in a high-class programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company is here in the Irish musical costume play, *The Wearin' o' the Green*. Chief interest in centred in Mr. Chalmers Mackey's admirable assumption of Barney O'Hea. Norah M'Grath is delightfully portrayed by Mrs. Chalmers Mackey; Mr. Charles Homer displays undoubted ability as Shamus M'Dermott; Mr. David McFarlane takes every advantage of his opportunities as Connor Marrin; Miss Nina Flensburg capably impersonates Biddy McGinn. On Friday *The Colleen Bawn* was successfully staged.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Edwardes' well-selected company is here this week, playing to crowded houses that bright and lively musical play *Lady Madcap*. Miss Marie Studholme makes a delightful Lady Betty Claridge, her dancing and unbounded vivacity quite captivating the audience. Miss Mabel Russell is a graceful and very smart Susan; Miss Nina Sevening makes an imposing Gwennie Holden; and Miss Ethel Griffies plays Mrs. Layton excellently. Mr. Arthur Longley, as Oroya Brown ("Trooper Smith") is clever and highly amusing; and Corporal Ham is portrayed with admirable drollery by Mr. E. Statham Staples. Mr. Ernest Mahar's impersonation of Count de St. Hubert is a fine piece of impulsive acting; Mr. Robert Hale takes the part of Bill Stratford very ably; and Pooh Jenkins is well undertaken by Mr. Oliver J. Round. The scenery and appointments are excellent.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The exciting drama *An Abandoned Woman* is this week being played by Mr. Harry Foxwell and company. Miss Doris Gilham, in the rôle of Ninian Malvoisin, acts with great success; Mrs. Harry Foxwell is very pleasing and consistent in her impersonation of Eleanor Dean; Mr. J. Butler is seen to advantage as Philippe Malvoisin; Mr. Wolston Foster is admirable as Captain Herbert Seaton; Mr. Harry Foxwell is a typical Irishman in his portrayal of Paddy Boyle L99; and Sammy Sharp is taken in excellent manner by Mr. Fred Park. The remaining parts are all creditably played.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The Moran and Marreece Quartette head the bill here for the week, and give a capital show, their electrical musical lightning transformation gaining them plenty of applause; Harry Bancroft, actor vocalist, is in good form with several taking songs; the Ten Dixie Girls, in a romantic scena entitled *The Silver Coon*, sing and dance themselves into popular favour, and win an enthusiastic recall; Emmie Ames, descriptive comedienne, does well, and is cordially received; Sam Altus, with his eccentric comedy juggling, creates plenty of merriment; Fields and Lewis, burlesque artists, are amusing; Victor Travers, eccentric comedian, is exceedingly droll; Gena Manon, soubrette, favours the audience with some capital selections; Howard and Collinson cause plenty of laughter in their absurdity *The Porter and the Parcel*; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with some pictures of more than usual excellence, completes the programme.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—This week Mr. E. Lockwood's company is presenting *Sergeant Brue* here for the first time, and the popular musical comedy has met with a cordial reception. Mr. Arthur Reynolds displays genuine humorous ability in the title-rôle. Michael Brue has an excellent representative in Mr. E. Percy Rogers, and Miss Lilian Middleton is a truly charming Aurora Brue. Mr. Arthur Stroud acquits himself well as Gerald Treherne; Inspector Gorringe is smartly embodied by Mr. Clarence Napier; Mr. Henry Chichester is quaintly diverting as Mr. Crank; and Mr. Chas. McLagan's droll impersonation of Crookie Scrubbs creates much merriment. Miss Midge Clark acts and sings with very pleasing effect as Lady Bickenhall. A special word of praise is due to the chorus, and the music is spiritedly interpreted by the augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. Norman Latham.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield are presenting here this week a new drama entitled *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Miss Marie Dagmar gave a powerful impersonation of Elinor D'Arville; Mr. Fred C. Somerfield in the difficult rôle of Will Maynard showed great dramatic ability; Miss Amy Connaughton was seen to advantage in the part of Florette de Vere; Mr. Jackson Hayes as Geoffrey Langdon deserves great praise for his sympathetic rendering of that part; Mr. T. G. Vane as Leonard Vimbart and Mr. Ford Elvin as Peter Miles created much merriment; and Miss Muriel Alleyne as Lilly Lorrimer won the entire sympathy of the house. Others who contributed to the success of the performance were Miss Maude Grayson as Phœbe and Mr. Chas. E. Warne as James.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—The chief attraction in this week's enjoyable entertainment is the new eccentric sketch, *Casey's Court*, which is received with hearty laughter and applause. Walter Curtis scores a great success with his comic songs and patter; Menotti gives a skilful and daring cycling display on a wire; James De Voye's educated horse Billy exhibits almost human intelligence; the Cavalottis are versatile and tuneful instrumentalists; Mlle. Haydee's Lilliputians afford much merriment; and other good turns are provided by Lade Henderson (character vocalist), Vera Mayne (Canadian statuesque comedienne), and the Falcons in a strong act. Amusing bioscope pictures complete the programme.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Boothman.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton have brought an excellent company here this week in *When a Man Hates*. Mr. Arthur Hinson himself clearly and powerfully impersonates the villainous Pietro Danelli; Mr. Gerald Byrne as the half-witted Paul takes his part perfectly, and wins pity and sympathy from all; Mr. Travis Green as Detective Smart is truly smart and clever; Mr. Graham Arthurs ably fills the rôle of Lawrence Hastings; and Mr. Frank Bruneil is decidedly funny as Peter Simple. The part of Sir Rupert Treherne is safe in the hands of Mr. Pleon Gains. Olga Gwynne is depicted with refinement of style by Miss Leila Zillwood; Miss Lydia Andre as Letty is dainty and pleasing; and Miss Florence Zellwood does well as Dolly Dimple.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—At this place of amusement during the past week Mr. A. Hamilton Warden's company has been appearing successfully in the effective four-act drama, *A Woman's Past*. Powerfully played, and elaborately staged, the show has also capable acting to commend it. Miss Maisie Hanbury fulfils the rôle of Bessie in distinctly clever style; and Mr. Oswald Cray enacts the character of odious Uriah Craven in capital fashion. Mr. Stanley Carlton does well as David Heath; and Mr. E. Victor adds greatly to the success of the production by his impersonation of Jack Crawford.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Messrs. Beardmore, Power, and Byrne's powerful company is here this week in *Man's Enemy*. Mr. Augustine Knight as Harry Stanton gives a highly-finished portrayal, and Mr. John Power as Tom Drake gives a powerful display. Miss Daisy Halling is most successful as Sarah Drake; Miss Amy Rudd as Polly Harris is very clever and amusing; and Miss N. Cowling as Grace Lisle is also thoroughly capable, her songs being charmingly rendered. Mr. H. Payne Warburton as General Stanton also displays great ability and Mr. J. Newton-Cowling gives a clever impersonation as Isaac Barrett.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—*Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush* is being presented this week in admirable style by Messrs. Durward, Lely, and William Mollison's company. The character of Lachlan Campbell is played in the most powerful and impressive manner by Mr. William Mollison; Mr. Kendal Chalmers is excellent as Tammas Mitchell; Mr. F. M. Paget is a typical Scotch laird; Mr. Archie W. Chappell plays the part of Lord Hay with spirit and manliness; Mr. Allen Thomas acts with much dry humour as Doctor Maclure; Mr. Durward Lely, as the Free Kirk Minister, plays with much ability; Mr. Alec F. Thompson is exceedingly amusing as Wee Posty, the mail carrier; Miss Alice Francis is graceful as Kate Carnegie; Miss Evelyn McNay plays very sympathetically as Flora Campbell; Miss Josephine Woodward, as Margaret Home, and Miss Edith Blair-Staples, as Annie, sustain their parts well; and the two juvenile characters are cleverly impersonated by Miss Martha Stewart and Miss Jennie Fitzgerald.

ROCHDALE. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Coal King* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland submits a powerful impersonation of the straightforward and manly Tom Roberts; Mr. Robert Shiells in the title-rôle is well placed; Mr. Joseph Millane cleverly portrays the unscrupulous Walter Harford; and Mr. Wilfred Graham is all that could be desired as Dick Shirley. The humorous element is entrusted to Mr. Charles R. Stone as Jim Williams and Miss Hetty Cornwallis as Araminta Green, both creating much amusement. Miss Joan Wellman depicts with telling effect the part of Mad Ann, and Miss Gertrude Valentine charmingly enacts the rôle of Grace Shirley.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee.—The Pichel troupe of Risley acrobats perform some wonderfully clever feats; Marie Blythe, comedienne, is

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—A most enjoyable programme is headed by Joe O'Gorman with his songs and witty patter; Julian Mack, comedian, is very amusing; the Five Whiteleys are exceedingly smart acrobats and wire walkers; the McClaine Trio, in song and dance, are funny; Bijou Russell is a very expert sand dancer; Emie White's kaleidoscope, &c., dances are very pretty. Other good turns are by Guy Ryder, whistling comedian; Maud Esmond, comedienne, Reg Bolton, eccentric comedian; and Fred Land, comedian.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Percy Honri, the concertinist, scores heavily with his dream fantasy *Concordia;* much laughter follows the antics of Esmond, Verona, and Esmond in their absurdity, *As You Were!* Harry Taft, whistling comedian, is much applauded; Bert and Dora, duettists, Charles Russell, lunatic comedian, Edna, whistling girl, Gilbert Bros., good tight-rope performers, Lillie Mayfield, good dancer, the original Celtics, in musical comedy, and the Mimosa Trio, charming song and dance artists, also appear and please greatly.

Scarborough. — People's Palace and Aquarium.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The management here is providing a strong programme this week, headed by "The Demon Chef," which is a clever and novel show, fowls, rabbits, &c., being produced in the most mysterious manner. The Dunvilles have made an excellent impression with their musical comedy act, and received well-deserved applause; Poole and Poole have many novel features in their turn, including table-dancing; the singing and dancing of Daisy Davenport are clever and refined; Charles Carole, white coon vocalist, has a well-trained voice, and in "The Lily of the Nile" is a great success; Cambo, the musical man monkey, keeps up his reputation by giving a good musical treat; R. C. Note is a popular comedian; Alex. Milne, ventriloquist, is very smart; Vernon's Bioscope shows excellent pictures, amongst them being "The Train Wreckers," &c.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Sarony and Co.; Lessee, Mr. G. Zalva.—Mr. R. Silvester's variety and animated picture entertainment concludes this week, and is an entire change from the popular programme submitted last week. Prince Ishmael an Eastern magician, assisted by Madame Valerie, heads the bills, and performs some very mysterious and highly entertaining tricks, including the Hindoo Basket Mystery, and many other Eastern illusions; Madame Roza has a clever troupe of fifteen performing dogs; W. H. Smart, on a return visit here, is a clever comedian, and his style is highly finished; Kitty Leine, a serio and top boot dancer, is very nimble, and sings a capital song. The management are again making a speciality of animated pictures, and the stage effects materially assist in enhancing a first-rate variety entertainment.

Seacombe.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week, with the *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Henry Hare acquits himself well as George Thornton; Captain Darville is done justice to by Mr. Sidney Vautier; and John Scath is carefully embodied by Mr. Dunstan Haye; Mr. John F. Traynor plays strongly as Bill Muggins, alias the Gaffer; Mr. Ernest K. Nelson, and Mr. Fred Archer score as Dido Bunce, and the Cough Drop. Mr. W. T. Harris puts as much dignity as ever into his part of the Footman; and Sister Randall is excellently played by Miss Muriel Clay; Miss Grace Heywood wins universal sympathy by her clever rendering of Marion Thornton; and Miss F. Russell Spiers gives complete satisfaction as Barbara Scarth; Miss Marie Pritchard takes full advantage of the comic possibilities in the rôle of Biddy Mullins; Miss Freda Ettrick has a good grasp of the character of Dicky; and Miss Helen Grenville retains her power of moving the more sensitive auditors to tears by her well-known pathetic rendering of Wally.

Seaham Harbour.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. Charles H. Phelps's company is paying a return visit with *One Woman's Wickedness* and *The Ticket of Leave Man* (Friday night). In the first-named piece, Mr. Alfred Geo. Fry submits a capital study of Philip Beaufort; the scheming Paul Rogue is powerfully drawn by Mr. Bernard Webb; Jem Crags, a convict, affords ample scope for the abilities of Mr. C. H. Phelps; Mr. Frank Bellwood does well as John Fossett; Algernon is sketched with much originality by Mr. Harry Tilbury; Mr. Hylton Warde is highly amusing as Limpy Larry; Janet Raymond's cruelty is thoughtfully depicted by Miss Belle Tilbury; Lilian finds a charming exponent in Miss Amy Dalby; Jenny is successfully played by Miss Arline T. George; and as Aunt Crasy, Miss Florence Lloyd does well.

Sheerness.—The Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—The performances here still maintain their usual standard of excellence. Gus Garrick, who occupies the premier position of the bill, creates lively humour with his up-to-date songs and smart patter; Princa Yarta, lightning painter, submits a clever turn, and is liberally applauded; Parker and Barr, speciality comedians, who are deputising for Andrews and Head, meet with well-deserved recognition; the negro eccentricities of Will English keep the house in a continual roar of laughter; Mr. Dan Filmer, comedian and dancer, is also well received; Miss Mabel Carlton, comedienne, and Miss Lily Stewart, serio and dancer, also successfully contribute; Ruffell's Bioscope pictures still remain an indispensable feature of the bill.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—A capital all-round bill presented here for this week includes a welcome return visit of those evergreen favourites, Miss Louie Hurman, burlesque actress, and Mr. Jack Foley, eccentric comedian, fresh from their recent pantomime successes; the Audleys, comedy sketch artists, in the laughable act *Only an Actor*, are eminently successful; Steeley and Dowton, duettists and dancers, are also well received; Mr. Will Denvil, comedian and dancer, and Miss Rosie Lemaine, serio and dancer, are likewise deserving of praise.

Sheffield. — Lyceum Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The amusing comedy *The Duffer*, was played on Monday for the first time in Sheffield by Mr. Louis Calvert's company under the direction of Mr. William Gifford. The piece was carefully mounted and well played by Miss Margaret Montrose as Lady Amelia, Miss Mabel Taylor as Miss Hillier, Miss Nellie Griffen, Miss Florence Adale, Mr. Whitford Kane, Mr. F. Pennington-Gush, Mr. Kingsford Pearce, Mr. L. Lorel, and Mr. E. H. Wynne, who, in the title-rôle, kept the house in a state of continual merriment.

Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—*Niobe* and *Dandy Dick* are being acted this week by local amateurs.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The popular and success domestic and sensational drama *The* 10.30 *Down Express* is again being played to well-pleased audiences by Mr. Horace Stanley's company. Mr. Charles Burdon is a manly and energetic Jack O'Malley, Mr. George Arthur proves a success as James Inderwick, a lady well known to Sheffield playgoers is excellent as Peggy, Miss Elsie Capell does well in the part of Bessie Leigh, and the other characters have all capable representatives. The railway scene is managed in a realistic manner.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The Empire still maintains its high prestige as the favourite resort of all lovers of bright, artistic, and healthy amusement. The star turn this week is the famous and undefeated wrestler Hackenschmidt, and, naturally, big business has been the rule. What may be termed the legitimate part of the programme has been contributed by the following clever and well-known performers:—The Arthur Lloyd company in a farcical sketch, Drew and Alders, the talented and original comedians and tumblers, Colby and May, the Darrells, Mr. Ted Cowan, Mr. Harry Brown, Roze and Calvert, the New Macs in a funny act, and Miss Gwennie Hasto, the graceful dancer.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Engaged here are Prof. Pallister's Animated Pictures, Mr. Edward Ranier's company, the Sisters Bretton, the Guyons, Veronique, Miss Edna Latonne, and Miss Alice Maud's company in a good dramatic sketch.

Shrewsbury.—Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark's talented company was here the first three nights of the week with *Blue Bell in Fairyland*. Mr. Lawrence Emery was a smart Dickey, Mr. David Cruickshank a dignified and capable Mr. Joplin, Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart, a pair of droll and clever comedians, as Will and Wont. Mr. Shirley Lea was clever as Policeman 1c; Mr. Percy Farrimond as the singing collier fairly brought down the house with his finely-rendered songs; Mr. Stanley Crisp was an agile cat; Miss Minnie Blanchard was a sweet fairy and danced gracefully; Miss Jessie Blanchard was a jovial Mrs. Hearty; Misses Connie Emerald and Marie Edmonds were a winsome pair as Blue Bell's sisters; Mr. Harry Pleon, jun., was clever and entertaining as First Bootblack, and the important title-rôle was most effectively and artistically played by Miss Gladys Cooper. Mr. Fred Fallen was a picturesque Sleepy King; Mr. Shirley Lea was good as the Reigning King; Miss Muriel Juin looked well and sang sweetly as the Reigning Queen; Miss Rubie Carter was a most accomplished dancer as Will o' the Wisp; Miss Connie Emerald was quaintly pleasing in her songs and dances; and Miss Marie Edmonds also danced and sang effectively.

Southampton. — Grand Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—This week, Mr. Frank Curzon's company is attracting good audiences with *The White Chrysanthmum*. Many old favourites are included in the cast, and the comedy is well received. Mr. F. W. Ford is excellent as the Admiral; Mr. Davy Burnaby is exceedingly funny as Lieut. Belmont; Mr. F. Pope Stamper sings and acts admirably as Lieut. Armitage; fun, fast and furious, reigns while Mr. O. E. Lennon (Sin Chong), and Mr Harry Paulton, jun. (Private Perks), occupy the stage; Miss Ruth Lincoln is highly successful in the title-rôle; and Miss Isabelle Dillon captivates the house with her portrayal of Cornelia Vanderdecken; Miss Maud Harvey (Betty Kenyon) also scores.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—A novelty in the programme is the production of an original scena, *A Day in Birdland*, by Chas. Mildare, a notice of which appears in another column. The Hartley Wonders are marvellous jumpers, and win applause; the Society Quartette of vocalists, dancers, and comedians also find much favour; G. W. Hunter, the droll raconteur, and Will H. Fox, "Paddywhiski at the Piano," both do well; and the captial all-round bill is further contributed to by Maggie Walsh, the Paolias (gymnasts, &c.), and Chas. Ray, (comedian).

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; District-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Aldin.—A strong attraction here is the London idol, Miss Vesta Tilley, who this week makes her first appearance here. This talented little lady sings four songs at each performance, and then the audience clamour for more. She is an artist to her finger tips, and to say she scores a success is putting it very mildly. for the vast audiences nightly give her a rousing reception. A very strong show is given by the Willfords, head and hand balancers; Fred Gilbert scores with his ladder act; and others who do well are Frank Hartley, schoolboy juggler; Wal Robbins, a study in black and white; Gracie Bard, comedienne; and Claude Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts*

Southend-on-Sea.—Empire Theatre.—Sole Owners, The Southend Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. H. F. Maltby, is producing his romantic costume play, entitled *The Youngest of Three*. The costumes are pretty and the scenery is good. Mr. H. F. Maltby is eminently suited as George Wendover, Gerald is cleverly played by Mr. W. H. Hargreaves, and Mr. A. E. Wyn Weaver as Philip Rodford is capable; and Samuel Johns is effectively impersonated by Mr. Ralph Hutton; Mr. Ernest Noble gives every satisfaction as Paul and Joshua Pynne. Miss Mabel Mellor as Annie Dulley is exceptionally good; Florence is pleasingly taken by Miss Mara Maltby; Miss Beatrice Marsdene is responsible for a clever characterisation of Lucy; and Jane is ably taken by Miss Nancy York.

Southport.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is this week presenting Mr. R. C. Carton's amusing comedy, *Public Opinion*, which was played for the first time at this theatre. Foremost in the able cast is Mr. George Giddens, in his original part of Horace Wibsey, with irresistible humour. As Lady Diana Caldershaw Miss Emma Hutchison shows a thorough grasp of the rôle of the society lady, which she portrayed with excellent effect. Mr. Ernest Ruston played particularly well as Spencer Traughton; Mr. William Hargreaves depicted the Hon. Mr. Justice Mulley with a fine appreciation of the character; and the same may be said of Mr. George Mallet as Sir Babington Mulley. Miss Lilian Hallows made a vivacious Pansy Bligh; Miss Mary Mallalieu did well as Phyllis Dagenham; Mr. Harold West was extremely humorous as Viscount Poffley; and Mr. Templar Powell gave a clever representation of Lord Percy Kilgour. The play was preceded by a comedietta, entitled *The Stratagem*.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—A good programme is being submitted here this week to appreciative audiences. The items include Bennett and Martell, in their absurdity, *The Shipwreck;* Billy Richardson, stump orator; the Strads, musical sketch artists; Adie and Agiven, in the *Antics of a Road Repairer;* W. H. Morgan, quaint comedian; Maidee Scott, comedienne; Rean and Relbut, vaudeville entertainers; Kid Johnson, refined athletic and club manipulator; and the Bio-Tableaux.

South Shields.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—*The Love that Women Desire* is being played by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. The heroine, Sybil Thornburn, has a pleasing and artistic representative in Miss Lydia Donovan; Mr. David G. Noble gives a breezy and manly exposition of the persecuted hero, Philip Carnaby; the Squire Abingdon is in the capable and experienced hands of Mr. J. O. Stewart; the villain, Richard Abingdon, is strikingly interpreted by Mr. C. Quinton Fulford; Frank Hardy is powerfully handled by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace; Miss Alice N. Livesey, as Madge Abingdon, contributes a commendable exposition. The comedy element is amply supplied by Miss Maud Stuart, as Pattie Swift, ably assisted by Messrs. John Hignett and Arthur Rich, as Dennis O'Rourke and P.C. Sowerberry; Maraquinha, the Indian Queen, is well performed by Miss Clarissa Bamford.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The Lukishima Troupe of Japanese artists in a typical eastern entertainment, display extraordinary dexterity and skill as acrobats; Morton and Elliot are old favourites; Virto appears with wonted success in his clever musical act, assisted by Irene and Venito; the Two Bostons, of bull-fighting fame, are favourably appreciated; Nina Gordon is a pleasing mimic; the bill also includes Fred Bronte, Lily Esplin, Silly Billy Elliott, and the American Bioscope.

Tivoli.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. R. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—A capital bill of fare is provided this week including Dandy George, and his dog Rosie, in a clever turn; Cassilli and James, banjo experts, are capital in various imitations; Flo Hilton, male impersonator, is applauded; Frazer and Haley, refined duettists and dancers, score successfully. Other able contributions are by the Slinging Singer, Cliff and Kean, singing and dancing act; Mueller and Coyne, comedy duo, and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

Stafford.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr James Elphinstone.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' juvenile pantomime company is here for the week with *Cinderella*. Prince Charming is capably rendered by Miss G. McQueen, and Marie Hardacre is good as Dandini. The Fairy Godmother is prettily portrayed by Miss Kitty Chester; Miss Kitty Rafferty is a charming Cinderella; the Baron of Mr. A. M. Benson is humorous; and Messrs. Moon and Morris give an acceptable impersonation of the Ugly Sisters.

St. Helens. — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—*Laughter Land* is being played here by the Craggs' company of comedians. Mr. Harry Rousby causes much laughter as Marlow; Mr. H. B. Lewis is an excellent Professor Sylvanus; Mr. G. Westmacott is successful as Sir Vincent, as is Mr. C. Edwards as Trentham. Miss Louise Millward leaves nothing to be desired as Clothilda, and Clarisse has a competent representative in Miss Amy Hastings. The Cragg Family astonish all with their graceful and marvellous business.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, W. Sley, and F. Willmot; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—A capital bill of fare is submitted here this week, consisting of Rebla, a clever and funny juggler; Sandy and Carl, comedians; the Brothers Bellong, smart gymnasts; Mr. Charles Williams, "the Scotch Nigger"; Allis and Cassati, versatile artists; the Royal Zerbinis, entertaining in a musical scena; Mr. Herbert Maden, a good character vocalist; and the Hayes Brothers, two diminutive comedians, who have made a great hit.

Stockport. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Village Blacksmith*, which Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is presenting here this week, is brimful of exciting incident and situations. Mr. Sam Livesey as John Strong, the village blacksmith, gives a manly impersonation of the part, and as Capt. Leo Mr. Joseph Carter acts the villain admirably. Billy Twigg has a pleasing and able representative in Mr. Geo. V. Campbell, and Mr. Edwin Maydew fills the part of Lucas Marlow most effectively. Miss Laura Hansen acts with charming grace as Kate Strong, and Miss Cassie Edwards gives a sympathetic impersonation of Ruth Perkins. Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins and Mrs. T. C. Livesey as Sal Parkins are both excellent, and a special word of praise is due to little Miss Bertha Hanbury for her admirable acting as Harry Strong.

Empire, Ltd. — Acting-Manager, Mr. William Black.—The New York Comedy Four, who are the chief attraction here this week, are appropriately styled the "humorously harmonious"; Princess Pauline, comedienne, is an artist of real ability; Winona and King are smart rifle experts; Robins and Collier are clever and amusing in their sketch, *The Lady and the Porter;* and Sid Bandon, character comedian, is successful; whilst Merton and Ryder, vocal speciality artists, the Charnleys, duettists and dancers, and Elsie Claire, ballad vocalist, are favourably received.

Stoke. — Hippodrome. — Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller. The Borghetti Troupe of acrobats head the bill here this week. The Wilsonia cycle treadle is quite novel, the race between the Bros. Hughes being an interesting item. The Three Henres are smart jugglers, the Bros. Harrison are amusing comedians and dancers, the Sisters Tinsley provide a capital turn, the Two Whites in their comedy act are excellent, Nina May is a good ballad vocalist, and Fred Hallam is deserving of much credit as a comedian. The pictures are capital.

Stourbridge. — Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Cassidy, with their excellent company, are this week playing *In Holy (?) Russia*. Mrs. J. R. Cassidy submitted an admirable portrayal of Renee Rubinoff; Mr. Arthur Stratton as Colonel Richard Forrest proved a capital exponent of the part; and of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as Micky Nolan was most acceptable. Miss Beatrice Western gave a praiseworthy performance as Catski Lavotski; while others who contributed to a successful performance were Messrs. Tom G. Warry, Louis Norman, Carl Rovinelli, Joe Cuthbertson, and Miss Alicia Stratton.

Sutton-in-Ashfield.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.— Mr. Gus. Lemaine's *Aladdin* Co., is here this week. Miss Marie Harding is a pretty and princely Aladdin; Mr. R. Williams as Abanazar, Mr. Arthur Collins as the Emperor and Miss Florrie Gibson as the Princess are all distinctly good. The specialities include Leon and Leoni, in a musical act, Robert Williams, sword expert, and Ethardo, comedy juggler.

Swindon.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Ernest Carpenter's pantomime *Goody Two-Shoes* terminated its successful run on Saturday last with two record houses, and was followed on Monday by that popular musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*, presented by Mr. E. Lockwood's company, under the general management of Mr. Thomas McKenzie. The piece was handsomely staged under Mr. Harold Godwin's direction, and went with a capital swing under the baton of Mr. Edwin Thornton. It would be difficult to speak too highly of Mr. J. Harold Carson's admirable impersonation of the Sergeant, while Mr. Albert James worked with untiring energy and skill as the notorious Crookie Scrubbs, their endless supply of rich humour keeping the house in roars of hearty laughter. Mr. Frank Wilson acquitted himself capitally as Michael Brue, his vocal efforts meeting with considerable approval, while Mr. Fred Laceby was particularly amusing as the magistrate, Mr. Cranks. The fine work of Miss Reydon Dallas as Lady Bickenhall was natural and pleasing, and Miss Gertie Fawcett was delightful as Aurora Brue; these clever artists rendered their songs excellently, and both were deservedly encored. Of the minor parts, Miss Amy Vivash as Daisy and Mr. Harold Godwin as Inspector Gorringe did well.

Torquay.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. A. Pearse.—Mr. John A. Thomson's No. 1 Company in the pantomime *Dick Whittington* opened to an appreciative house on Monday. Miss Ida Kessenly made a captivating Dick, and the singing and dancing of Miss Ella Wilmer were much applauded. The Princess of Miss Ella Rose was very good, and the performances of the comedians were specially noteworthy, each doing well in his particular line of business. Mr. Harry Harcourt was the Dame, Mr. Ross Warren, Fitzwarren; Mr. Fred Anderson, Pimple; Mr. Edwin Idle, Jack, and Mr. Syd Morrell, Capt. Bunting. Mention must be made of the exceedingly clever turn by Mlle. Florence on the rolling ball, which she manipulates with great ease and ability.

Tunbridge Wells. — Opera House. — Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—Mr. A. B. Cross's company in *The Manxman* is here this week. Mr. Cross gives a powerful interpretation of Pete; and Miss Minnie Watersford proves an irresistible heroine; Miss Nancy Mitchell gives a humorous study of Nancy; and Miss Mona Spearing is successful as the aunt, Miss Christian; Mr. Sydney Kearnes gives a well-portrayed study of the Dempster, Philip Christian, and the comedy of the piece, especially in the last act, is well sustained by Mr. G Marriott, jun, as Ross, Mr. E. Cartell as Morty, and Mr. F. J. Pitt as the Professor; while favourable mention should also be made of Mr. Wilson Roberts as the Doctor, Mr. A. J. Moss as the Postman, Mr. W. Horgan as the Constable, Mr. H. E. Marton as Jorrique, and Miss K. Livesey as Bella Kelly. For the week-end, Mr. Arthur St. John's company is appearing in *The Taming of the Shrew*, supported by Miss Ida St. John and a strong company.

Wakefield.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company in the drama *The Midnight Mail*, is paying a return visit this week. Mr. George Harvard gives a capital impersonation as the engine-driver, Harry Steyne; Mr. Fred G. Evison is good as Billy Brewer; Mr. L. P. Wentworth acquits himself well as Hassan Padisha; Mr. Dobell Lyle as Donald Craig and Mr. Austin Mortimer as Leonard Royle respectively are effective. The part of Mary Steyne is portrayed with skill by Miss Grace Lester; Miss Mildred successfully fills the rôle of Nancy Steyne; and Miss Hilda Merrilees is a charming Lady Phyllis Eustace.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—The Seven Savonas have been a great attraction with their new musical scene *The Palace of Orpheus*, their excellent musical abilities, coupled with their magnificent show, receiving much approbation. The same artists, as the Elliotts, also give a clever exhibition of cycling feats. Miss Bessie Willow, comedienne, recently principal boy in the theatre here, sings in good style; the Sisters Hula are a couple of smart duettists and dancers; Juan and McQue, comedians, are responsible for a funny act; the Two Leons, duettists; Mlle. Melita, dancer; and Mitzi, juggler, complete the bill.

Walsall.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.,; Joint-Managers, Moss Empires' Co., Ltd., and the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Unthan, the armless wonder, who heads the bill here this week, gives a marvellous performance with his feet; Robb Gilmore, comedian; Sylvester, contortionist; the Folkestones, in their screaming pantomimic absurdity, *Swimming the Channel;* Lennie and Hast, in a fantasy, *The Sea Nymph;* Nellie Dunbar, comedienne; Duncan's Collie Dogs, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

Grand Theatre. — Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company is proving a great attraction here this week with *Passion's Power*. Mr. William Clayton is very successful as Prince Kandos; Mr. Frank Radcliffe makes a lively General Zuran; Mr. Walter Roberts is very good as Rudolph Laski; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan does well as Michel Laski; Miss Ruth Shepperd well sustains the part of Zorah Varno; and Miss Stella Carmichael makes a delightful Countess Delaunay. The comedy element is well sustained by Miss Lowe Dare as Lucie and Mr. Ernest Dare.

Walthamstow.—Palace.— Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—To judge from the state of business at this house during the present week, the interest in wrestling as a stage amusement shows no sign of abatement. The welcome accorded to Mr. Yukio Tani, the Japanese exponent of the art, on Monday night was of the warmest description, and when he met an opponent who kept him busy for over nine minutes the enthusiasm was great. The Sisters Hall are pleasing vocalists; Little Cliff, who is not a stranger here, once more proves himself a miniature comedian of rare ability, while his dancing is so neat and clever as to evoke loud applause; the Anartos, musical comedians, contribute some funny patter, and play various instruments with much skill; Miss Venie Clements gives some capital reproductions of the manner in which different classes of song are sung, finishing with her artistic impersonation of "baby" singing to her "dolly"; Miss Dora Martini is one of the most graceful gymnasts we have seen for a long time; Datas again astonishes everyone by his marvellous memory for dates; Pete and Juno, two coloured gentlemen, patter and sing merrily, and do some very clever quick-step dancing; Mrs. Clement Scott's company appears in Mr. Cecil Raleigh's bio-drama, *The Diamond Express*. Mrs. Bennett plays with considerable power as the heroine, and she is well supported by Mr. Frank E. Petley, Mr. Harry Crane, and Mr. Francis Charnier.

Warrington.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Potter is to be congratulated upon securing for the numerous patrons of the Royal Court Mr. George Dance's company in *The Orchid*. Mr. Harry Walsh as Meakin is always amusing and entertaining; as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour Mr. Sinclair Holden hits off exactly the inanity of the young exquisite. Mr. J. F. Val plays capitally as Zaccary, and an exceedingly clever leg-mania dance is loudly applauded. Mr. Charles Seymour makes an excellent representative of the orchid-loving statesman, and Mr. Vyvyan Wakeman serves as Dr. Ronald Faussett. Mr. George Asaf submits a clever burlesque of a fire-eating Frenchman in Comte Raoul de Cassignat, whose seconds are ably played by Messrs. Hunter and Hallam. Miss Margory Moore is a dainty and winsome Lady Violet Anstruther; Miss Trilby Collier as Josephine Zaccary gives an animated performance, using a pleasing voice with good effect; Miss Morris renders Thisbe, the private secretary, in light fashion; and Miss Susie Brand acts charmingly and looks handsome as Zelie Rumbert. Miss Phil Grimpel happily plays Caroline Vokins. The Countess Anstruther is well played by Miss Helen Dunscombe.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—The Three Romas head the bill here this week, and their exposition of Roman gladiators is a rich treat; Henri Bekker is an exceptionally smart conjurer; Gracie Lawn is a refined comedienne; and Gilroy and Gross are good dancers and witty comedians. The Four Mill Lads surprise all with their charming vocalisation. Other turns are Andy Higginson, comedian; the Sisters Poole, duettists; and the Royal Bioscope Pictures.

Wednesbury.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby.—On Monday evening, Mr. F. G. Kimberley's company in the sensational melodrama *A Sister's Sin* opened here to an appreciative audience. Mr. Kimberley's descriptive portrayal of Lary Murphy, proves highly commendable; and as Harold Raymond, Mr. William Vane submits a capital rendering; Mr. Ernest Fare does well as George Oakley; a good impersonation of Ikey Moses, the Jew, is given by Mr. Ernest Frere; Mr. Harold Lyndon, in the comedy part of Theophilus Hope, is loudly applauded; Billy Smart is artistically impersonated by Mr. G. E. Liddle; Miss Lottie Addison proves a great favourite as Minnie Hastings; the rival lovers, Floss Perks and Nell Stubbs are characteristically rendered by Miss Edie Macklin and Miss Alice Granville respectively; Miss Violet Langley, as Charzel, the gipsy, is a decided success; and as Redempta, Miss Violet Langley is all that could be desired; Mrs. Will Cranston's songs, "Il Bacio" and "Dear Heart" are received with enthusiasm; and Mr. Will Cranston displays great ability in his rendering of "Moonbeams."

West Hartlepool.—Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—The annual visit of the Moody-Manners Opera company is one that gives general satisfaction. *Faust* was given on Monday by this exceptionally talented combination. Mr. George Neilson, in the rôle of Mephistopheles, sang the numbers allotted to him in a style that gained for him every possible mark of appreciation. As Marguerite, Miss Ethel Cadman, who possesses a charming soprano voice of extensive range and purity, was repeatedly recalled for her efforts. The rôle of Faust had a capable exponent in Mr. Charles Carter; Miss Rosina Benyon was conspicuously successful as Siebel, and Mr. Marshall Vincent gave a capital rendering of the rôle of Valentine. Wagner had a creditable exponent in Mr. G. Gorst, and Miss M. Godwin was especially effective as Martha. The repertoire for the week includes *Tannhauser, Carmen, Bohemian Girl, Traviata,* and *Maritana*.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The Balsamos, in a comedy gymnastic act, evoke applause; Frank Coyle, comedian, is gaining a host of admirers, a conspicuous hit is made by Cadie and Seymour, the Albert and Edmund's Comedy Troupe work hard and successfully in their sketch *The First Mrs. Banbury*, Smaun Sing Hpoo, the miniature man and ring performer, creates something like a sensation with his appearance and performance, and others who contribute to a strong programme are Myles and May, Les Henri, and the Bioscope.

Empress.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—D'Arc's Marionettes hold the place of honour here this week. The clever and lifelike manipulations in imitation of a number of celebrities of the halls cause wonder and merriment. The Gladenbecks in their clever hand-balancing and ring speciality act are on a return visit, as are also the chic and graceful Maggie Rimmer and the sweet-voiced Martine in illustrated song. The act by Carney and Armstrong, *The Pro. and the Baggageman*, is provocative of much merriment, and turns are contributed by Charles Cranston, comedian; Marions and his cats, and the Bioscope pictures.

West Stanley.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatres Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here this week with *The Drama of Life*. Mr. George M. Newell as Harry Beech depicts the conscience-stricken man to perfection; Miss Kate Hallam as Sylvia Beech is winning and pathetic; Mr. E. M. Hamilton as Walter Beech is a capable actor; Miss Cissie Carter does capital work as Billy; the part of Lady Jane is in the able hands of Miss Florence French; Miss Nellie Birchenough gives a forcible delineation of the hag; Mr. Harwood Roberts as Sir Dobson Wilde is responsible for laughter.

Victoria Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Raws; Managing-Director, Mr. D. Williams.—Mr. E. Oswald Brooks's fine drama, *The Trail of the Serpent*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Henry P. Kenn as Sir Gerald Kingston, a retired officer, plays his part exceedingly well; the younger Kingston is in the able hands of Mr. Hobson Asche; Mr. Wilfred Cheetham as Ralph Hammond is creditable; Miss Ethel Stuart as Rachael, the gipsy girl, is a pleasing actress; Miss Gladys Newcombe and Miss Marjorie May, as Rose Wilson and Ethel Maynard, are two smart and winning performers; and Mr. Booth Conway as Gipsy Jake, Mr. Geo. Harris as Ben Chucks, and Mr. T. E. Dudley as Bully Tom, ably play their respective parts.

Whitehaven.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—A return visit is being paid here by Mr. Morton Powell's company, in the domestic drama, *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. D. B. Watson is well cast as Jack Halyard; and Mr. Clavering Craig still sustains his old part as Duncan Bly. As Gabriel Garth, Mr. J. W. Evelyn works hard; and Miss Mabel Coleman as Lillian Garth and Miss Winnie Donovan as Mercy Merry are both good in their respective characters.

Wigan.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—*Leah Kleschna* is being presented this week to Wigan playgoers by a strong and well-balanced company. Mr. George Ingleton as the cunning and scheming Kleschna fills the part with subtlety and natural force. Mr. Percy Rhodes gives a fine impersonation of Paul Sylvaine, and Mr. Cyril Rawdon is very good as Schram. Mr. Pat Newall makes a capital Raoul Berton, and Miss Pearla Gardner takes the part of Leah Kleschna fairly well, but she does not give rein to the undoubted talents she possesses. Others who contribute to the great success of the performance include Mr. Leslie Lees, Mr. Gissing Walters, Miss Ido Vinnall, Miss Mary Barton, and Miss Lilian Loche.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Drector, Mr. John Worswick.—Alec Hurley and company, in the *Costers' Beano*, &c., create some amusement; the Five Digby Girls, vocalists and dancers, meet with a good reception; and other acceptable turns are provided by Dent and Harris, comedy sketch; Chas. Somers, comedian; the Raymond Trio, instrumentalists and dancers; Alice Digby, comedienne and dancer; the Katos, comical kidgets; George Fairdurn, comedian; Tom Carron, comedian and dancer; Marie Gros, comedienne; and Kelly and Bush, comedians, patterers, and dancers.

Wolverhampton. — Grand Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—*The Girl from Japan* is the attraction here this week. Mr. George Hudson fills the part of Lord Allenbury in capital style; Mr. Charles Lupton does well as Sir Mulberry Flinnington; Mr. Percy Baverstock is a successful General Baugh; Mr. Ernest Spalding is effective as Rev. John Smith; and Mr. W. H. Moore is a versatile and efficient Horatio Binks. As Violet Miss Dorothy Glenton is chic and possesses a good voice; Miss Mabel Kerridge is a smart and sprightly Polly Perkins; Miss Jeannie Holmes is efficient as Lady Flippington; and Miss Josephine Ellis displays excellent dancing abilities in the part of Maud. The play

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

FEB. 1. *His House in Order*, comedy, in four acts, by A. W. Pinero—St. James's.
" 1. *La Petite Fonctionnaire*, a comedy, in three acts, by Alfred Capus—New Royalty
" 3. *Die Stutzen der Gesellschaft* (*Pillars of Society*), drama, in four acts, by Henrik Ibsen (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
" 3. *The Younger Generation*, play, in one act, by Netta Syrett—Terry's.
" 5. *Un Conseil Judiciaire*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Jules Moineaux and Alexandre Bisson—New Royalty.
" 6. *A Question of Age*, comedy, in three acts, by Robert Vernon Harcourt—Court.
" 6. *The Convict on the Hearth*, play, in one act, by Frederick Fenn—Court.
" 7. *Jimes*, monologue, by Bertha Graham (Amateur Players' Association)—92, Victoria-street, S.W.
" 7. *Our Picnic*, duologue, by Bertha Graham (Amateur Players' Association)—92, Victoria-street, S.W.
" 7. *Touchée*, duologue (Amateur Players' Association)—92, Victoria-street, S.W.
" 9. *Les Surprises du Divorce*, farce-comedy, by Bisson and Mars (original of *Mamma*)—New Royalty.
" 10. *A Gilded Fool*, comedy, in four acts, by Henry Guy Carleton (Nat. C. Goodwin's Season)—Shaftesbury.
" 12. *When It was Dark*, play, in a prologue and four acts, adapted by the Rev. Forbes Phillips, from Guy Thorne's novel of the same name—Royal County Theatre, Kingston.
" 12. *Every Inch a Man*, drama, in four acts, by Edward Thane—King's Theatre, Hoxton.
" 12. *Resurrection*, play, in a prologue and five acts, adapted from Tolstoi's novel, by Henri Bataille (originally produced at the Paris Odéon, Nov. 14, 1902; English adaptation, by Michael Morton and Henri Bataille, produced at His Majesty's Theatre, Feb. 17, 1903)—New Royalty.
" 12. *The Gardeners*, song-play, in two acts, words by Frederick Fenn and Jetta Vogel, music by Richard H. Walthew (students' performance) — Guildhall School of Music.
" 14. *The Little Stranger*, farce, in three acts, by Michael Morton (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, Feb. 8, 1906)—Criterion.
" 15. *La Marche Nuptiale*, play, in four acts, by Henry Bataille (originally produced at the Paris Vaudeville, Oct. 27, 1905) —New Royalty.
" 16. *Nachtasyl*, play, in four acts, by Maxim Gorky (original of the play by Laurence Irving, entitled *The Lower Depths*—Great Queen-street Theatre, Nov. 30, 1903) (German Theatre)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
" 17. *The Lady Forger*, farce (produced by amateurs)—Bijou, Bayswater.
" 19. *Le Détour*, play, by Henri Bernstein (Mme. Simone Le Bargy) — New Royalty.
" 19. *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, historical drama, by Tom Taylor (revival)—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
" 21. *The Alabaster Staircase*, comedy, in three acts, by Robert Marshall—Comedy.
" 23. *Das Erbe*, play, in four acts, by Felix Philippi (German Theatre) — Great Queen-street Theatre.
" 25. *A Maker of Women*, play, in one act, by Edith A. Browne (produced by Dramatic Debaters' Society)—Royalty.
" 25. *Miss Vere D'Arsay*, play, in one act, by F. M. Mayor (produced by Dramatic Debaters' Society)—Royalty.
" 25. *The Death of a Soul*, by Robert Kelso (produced by Dramatic Debaters' Society)—Royalty.
" 26. *The Hour of Her Triumph*, drama, in a prologue and four acts, by William Hibbert—Lyric, Hammersmith.
" 27. *Faith*, play, in one act, by John Henry Lofting (produced by amateurs)—Cripplegate Institute, E.C.
" 27. *Pan and the Young Shepherd*, pastoral play, in two acts, by Maurice Hewlett, music by H. W. Hewlett—Court.
" 27. *The Youngest of the Angels*, play, in one act, by Maurice Hewlett—Court.
" 27. *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, comedy, in three acts, by Ernest Denny—Duke of York's.

REVIVALS.

FEB. 17. *She Stoops to Conquer*, comedy, by Oliver Goldsmith (Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Winifred Emery)—Waldorf.
" 22. *An American Citizen*, comedy, in four acts, by Madeleine Lucette Ryley (originally produced in London at the Duke of York's Theatre, June 19, 1899)—Shaftesbury.

PROVINCES.

FEB. 1. *Violet the Dancer*, romantic musical drama, in five acts, by Walter Thurlstone—Theatre Royal, Goole.
" 5. *The Impossible Trio*, farce, by Austin Hurgon—Grand, Croydon.
" 9. *When It Was Dark*, play, by S. Buchanan Rogerson, founded on Guy Thorne's novel, of the same name — Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.
" 12. *The Stratagem*, comedietta, adapted by Kinsey Peile, from the German of Emil Pohl—Grand Theatre, Croydon.
" 13. *Bridge*, episode of modern society, by Graham Hill—Theatre Royal, Canterbury.
" 16. *Home from the Honeymoon*, sketch, in two scenes, by Arthur Jefferson—Metropole, Glasgow.
" 17. *The Foreign Butler*, comedietta, in one act, by H. K. Campbell and G. C. Scurfield (copyright performance)—Her Majesty's, Carlisle.
" 19. *Don Paulo*, musical play, in two acts, lyrics by Walter Forder, music by Joseph T. Gowing—Assembly Rooms, Agricultural Hall, Norwich.
" 21. *Her Wild Oats*, a Thames-side comedy, in four acts, by John Bickerdyke and W. Gavazzi King—Corn Exchange, Wallingford.
" 21. *Measure for Measure*, Shakespeare's comedy, arranged for representation by G. R. Foss (Oxford University Dramatic Society)—New Theatre, Oxford.
" 22. *The Duchess of Marlborough*, historical play, in three acts, by Charles H. Meltzer—Theatre Royal, Canterbury.

PARIS.

FEB. 2. *Les Hannetons*, comedy, three acts, by Brieux—Renaissance.
" 7. *La Grimpette*, three-act play, by Georges Berr and Marcel Guillemand — Palais Royal.
" 14. *Les Plumes du geai*, play, in four acts, by Jean Jullien—Molière.
" 14. *Le Parvenu*, one act, by Darien and Méviste—Molière.
" 14. *Je suis ministre*, vaudeville, one act, by Mme. Cambry—Molière.
" 15. *La Piste*, comedy, three acts, by Victorien Sardou—Variétés.
" 15. *Polichinelle*, one-act comedy, by Mlle. J. Paul-Ferrier—Variétés.

BERLIN.

FEB. 1. *Loulou*, three-act farce, by MM. Soullé and de Gorffe—Trianon.
" 2. *Œdipus und die Sphinx*, five-act play, by H. Von Hofmannsthal—Deutsches.
" 9. *Der Herr der Hann*, volks-opera, in three acts, by H. Kirchner—Des Westens.
" 23. *Czar Feodor Ivannovitch*, tragedy, in five acts, by Count Tolstoi (Moscow Künstler Theatre season)—Berliner.

DEATH OF THE HON. G. COPPIN.

News of the death of the Hon. George Selth Coppin, said to have been the oldest theatre manager in the world, comes from Melbourne. The deceased, who passed away on Tuesday last, was born on April 8, 1818, in the village of Steyning, in Sussex. A stage-struck lad, he wandered about the villages and hamlets of the South of England as a strolling player in barns and "fit-ups," until, destitute and thrown on his own resources, he worked his way out to Sydney, where he arrived in March, 1843. His early experiences in Australia were far from rosy, and he spent a wandering life between Sydney and the two chief towns of Tasmania. It was in Launceston that he first organised his own theatrical company, and in 1854, while on a visit to his native land in search of dramatic talent, he met that eccentric genius, Gustavus Vaughan Brooke, who was playing at Birmingham, and arranged a tour in the principal cities of Australia and New Zealand.

It was at the old Queen's Theatre, Melbourne, on February 26, 1855, that Brooke made his first appearance before the Australian public, playing Othello to the Desdemona of Miss Fanny Cathcart, the Emilia of Mrs. Charles Young and the Iago of the late Mr. Richard Younge. Having built a theatre at Adelaide in 1846 and acquired a large fortune, Mr. Coppin lost it in copper mining. Then he went through the Bankruptcy Court, and after a turn at the gold diggings, he took up the management of the Great Malop-street playhouse in Geelong, on very slender capital, in 1852. Good luck awaited him there, so that in two years, on returned to Adelaide, he surprised his creditors by inviting them all to a dinner and paying every penny of his debts. While in England during 1854 he performed several "starring" engagements as a comedian in town and country. Returning to Australia, he was elected to the Legislative Council for the South-Western Province in 1858; in 1874 he was returned for the important constituency of East Melbourne, and he left his name on the Statute Book as the founder of the Post Office Savings Bank. In 1889 he entered the Upper House for Melbourne Province.

In the year 1854 Mr. Coppin became manager of the Olympic, a new theatre in Melbourne. It was opened in 1855 with *The Lady of Lyons*, with Coppin as Colonel Damas to the Claude Melnotte of Brooke. He subsequently turned the theatre, which was locally known as the "Iron Pot," into a bathing establishment, where people could obtain a Turkish bath—a novelty at that time. But the experiment proved a failure.

Mr. Coppin, in addition to being a good Bob Acres and Tony Lumpkin, appeared in many comic and character parts when Brooke was the "star." Friends have computed that the ill-fated tragedian was the possessor of £50,000 when, in conjunction with the veteran who has just passed away, he bought the lease of the Theatre Royal at Melbourne and the freehold of Cremorne Gardens, Richmond, about two miles from the city. In addition, the partners had a place called Astley's Amphitheatre. Subsequently the partnership was dissolved, but in 1864, when the Australian manager was in England after fulfilling a lengthy engagement throughout the United States with the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, he saw Brooke, and induced him to undertake another two years' engagement in the Colonies. That was never fulfilled, for on January 11, 1866, the steamship London foundered in the Bay of Biscay, and the unfortunate actor was drowned.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Wednesday evening the students of the Guildhall School gave a concert in the theatre of the Institution, a large audience being present. The first number in the programme was a duet, two pianos, Andante with Variations (Schumann). This was interpreted by Miss Ethel Fowler and Miss Katie Deslandes in a careful and intelligent manner. Miss Alice Stroud displayed a voice of fine quality in two songs by Finden, "Far across the desert sands" and "Allah, be with us," the former song proving the most attractive. A violin solo of special interest was given by Mr. A. Tschaikov, who gave ample evidence of most careful training in "La Folia—Variations," by Corelli-Léonard; and Mr. Frederic S. Simmons was also successful in his piano solo of Schumann's Finale to Sonata, Op. 22. A somewhat commonplace song of Adams, entitled "Roses," was well rendered by Mr. A. W. Jay. A clever recitation of "The Trumpeter's Betrothed," with music by Thomé, was given by Miss Ethel Major (pupil of Mr. Allen Beaumont); and Mr. F. J. Massey played a composition of his own, A Capriccio in D flat for Pianoforte, which was bright and effective, and revealed great promise for the young composer, who played his work admirably, being warmly applauded by the audience at the close. In Cowen's song, "Love me if I live," Miss Nellie Hickman's efforts were slightly marred by uncertain intonation. Leslie's setting to the poem of E. A. Poë's "Annabelle Lee" was delightfully sung by Mr. Bernard Turner, the (tenor) prize-winner of 1901. Other clever instrumental items were the solo violin Andante from Concerto in B minor by Saint-Saëns, ably performed by Miss Mabel Constance James, and the solo pianoforte "Hexentanz" by McDowell, skilfully played by Miss Emmeline Forster. A song of Dell'Acqua's, entitled "Villanelle," was given with ample vocal power by Miss Nellie Brown; and the concert concluded with a duet for two pianos, Grand duo Concertant by Lazare, the executants being Miss Ettie Hale and Mr. Francis W. Sutton. Miss Jenny Hyman performed the duties of accompanist. All the lady performers were under the charge of the lady superintendent, Mrs. Charles P. Smith.

A pianoforte recital was given at the Guildhall School of Music on Wednesday afternoon by the pupils of Mr. John Francis Barnett, and in more than one instance the young performers did ample justice to their able professor. The programme commenced with a careful rendering of Schumann's duet for two pianos, Andante and Variations, Op. 46, by Miss Frances Cox and Mr. Wallis Bandey. A composition by Mr. J. F. Barnett, entitled "Musical Landscapes—'Wild Flowers,' 'The Forge,'" proved very attractive in the hands of Miss Florence Haskoll. Miss Jessie Attwell revealed due appreciation of the beauties of Chopin in her playing of the composer's Fantasie in F minor; and Miss Frances Cox was much applauded for her performance of Kreisleriana, Op. 16, Nos. 2 and 8 (Schumann). Miss Dora Beeson played Mendelssohn's "Variations Sérieuses" with intelligence; and Mr. Walter Lawrence was awarded hearty marks of approval for his able rendering of Chopin's Fantasie—Impromptu and "St. Agnes Eve" by J. F. Barnett. Mr. Wallis Bandey gave a painstaking performance of Brahms's Sonata in F minor—Scherzo, Intermezzo, and Finale; and Master Mitia Levin was recalled several times to the platform after his spirited performance of Liszt's Rhapsody, No. 2, the only fault that could be found being a certain heaviness of touch unusual in so young a player. Other students of merit were Alice Edwards, who gave Impromptu in G flat by Chopin, Dora Beeson, and Jessie Attwell.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS GLADYS WALTON.

Miss Gladys Walton is the daughter of the late Mr. George Walton, who for a long time toured his own musical company in South Africa, and of Flora Hastings; and the niece of Alfred Hemming (of Douglas), of Witty Watty Walton, and of Fred Walton, so has naturally been connected with the profession from childhood. Indeed, at the early age of ten, she stage-managed and played the title-rôle in a production of *Hamlet* to an admiring audience of school fellows; but, alas! a stern schoolmistress, not approving of such "ungodly ideas," the performance concluded abruptly.

Miss Walton started her professional career proper in 1900 by playing Bella (and understudying Minnie) with Morell and Mouillot's *Message from Mars* company, remaining with it for two years. An engagement as Olive Skinner, in *The Silver King*, with Messrs. Polini and Melford, followed. She next went to South Africa with Messrs. Sass and Nelson's Comedy Company, playing ingenues and small parts, and understudying lead, in such pieces as *If I Were King*, *Mice and Men*, *Old Heidelberg*, *Monsieur Beaucaire*, *A Royal Family*, *A Royal Rival*, *Country Mouse*, *The Manœuvres of Jane*, &c.

On the termination of the season, by arrangement with Mr. Sass, certain members formed a company to tour the smaller towns, going as far north as Umtali, and within two days of the Victoria Falls. She was engaged to play lead, among her parts being Muriel Mannering, in *The Second in Command*; Mrs. Tudway, in *Lord and Lady Algy*; Minnie Gilfillian, in *Sweet Lavender*; and May Edwards, in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*. The company naturally encountered many difficulties and curious adventures, on one occasion,

Photo. by the Bower Studio.

MISS GLADYS HASTINGS-WALTON.

at Middleburg, playing in a little tin theatre in the midst of a soldiers' camp, and being driven to and fro in an ambulance waggon. Mr. Sass, returning to South Africa, Miss Walton rejoined him, and played, among other parts, Fisher, in *Admirable Crichton*; Charlotte Parratt, in *Quality Street*; Tiffin, in *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*; Jannifer, in *Dr. Wake's Patient*; Keziah, in *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*; and various parts in some of the old comedies.

When the Sass and Nelson company finally left South Africa, Miss Walton was retained by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler to join Mr. Wm. Haviland's company, with whom she had a very comfortable five months' tour, playing Theodosia, in *Resurrection*; Sophie Chaponiere, in *Leah Kleschna*; and Carolina Wilhelmina Amelia Skeggs, in *The Vicar of Wakefield*. The tour finishing, she returned home last January. Although she went for only six months she remained abroad three years.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 12,
the Japanese Opera, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

Mr. Mouillot has done well in arranging a visit of this popular opera, and, interpreted as it is by artists of excellence, it is as enjoyable as ever. The many taking numbers are received with all the accustomed applause, and the quaint dialogue, pretty scenes and dresses, and charming chorus, have lost none of their attractive powers. Miss Bessie Allayne is a delightful O Mimosa San, and sings very sweetly; Miss Violet Kenyon is a bright and clever exponent of O Juliette Diamante; Miss Florrie Saunders is a charming representative of the typical English girl, Molly Seymour; and Miss Aubrey Ashton deserves much praise for her graceful impersonation of the Lady Constance. A word of praise is due to Miss Elsie Brocklebank, Miss Marie Gilbert, Miss Ruby Latham, Miss Daisy Brown, Miss Daisy Irvine, and Miss Maude Lloyd, for the interpretation of their respective parts. Reginald Fairfax, in the capable hands of Mr. Cyril Thompson, is a very popular person, and his popularity is shared by Mr. S. Lockridge as Dick Cunningham, Mr. Hyton Hoare as Arthur Cuddy, and Mr. Stephen Hall as George Grindstone. Miss Blanche Brown is a brisk and pleasing Tom Stanley; Mr. Edgar Ward is an impressive Captain Katana; Mr. G. D. Phillips is good as Takemine; Mr. Lionel Braham is capital as Marquis Imari; and Mr. Edward Carlton scores heavily with his amusing performance of Wun-Hi.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for THE ERA by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters:—

PATENT ILLUSTRATED 24,027.—Theatrical appliances. Patentee, I. N. Lyons, 51, St. Mary-axe, London. Apparatus for raising and lowering scenery, consists of a shaft, driven by worm gearing from a motor, carrying two loose pulleys, connected by crossed and open belts to pulleys on a shaft. Ropes attached to the scenery, and to counterweights passed over a grooved drum on the shaft. The pulleys are thrown into action by a clutch carried on a pivoted arm actuated by chains. The driving apparatus may be duplicated, and, in case of breakdown, eyes carrying ropes are attached to the counterweight and scenes.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

THE ENGLISH DRAMA SOCIETY.

Dramatic societies have generally done well when they have refrained from producing new plays but have based their efforts on the work of professional authors and actors. One could not have better evidence of this than in the two plays presented on Sunday evening by the English Drama Society at the King's Hall, Covent Garden. One was Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*, a morbid, though skilfully-written play, skilfully acted; while the other, *The Vision*, was a very poor thing which the author, the Hon. Eleanour Norton, daringly described as "a morality."

The following was the cast of
"GHOSTS."

Mrs. Alving .....MISS MADGE MACINTOSH
Oswald Alving .....MR. ARTHUR GOODSALL
Pastor Manders .....MR. LUMSDEN HARE
Engstrand .....MR. ARTHUR CURTIS
Regina Engstrand .....MISS ISABEL ROLAND

For the general peace of mankind it is perhaps as well that people are too much taken up with their everyday affairs to spend much time ruminating in those gloomy retrospects which are ever associated with hereditary taints. There is scarcely a family vault in which may not be imagined a ghost of this kind. It is a terrible picture that Ibsen draws in his play, and it is difficult to see what purpose is served by the story it tells.

The piece was superbly acted. Miss Madge MacIntosh, in the part of the woman whose life is made up of ghostly fancies, played with such a dramatic forcefulness and naturalness that her Mrs. Alving seemed a convincing reality. Very appropriately did her appearance coincide with what the author must have intended his creation to be. The tired, careworn look of the eyes, the expression which indicated a foreboding the voice dared not utter, and the signs of a tormented soul were fully manifested by Miss MacIntosh's interpretation of the part. An admirable piece of character-drawing was furnished by Mr. Arthur Curtis in the rôle of the hypocritical Engstrand, and his imitation of the voice that sounded like an accumulation of long-drawn sobs was sustained with excellent effect. As Pastor Manders, Mr. Lumsden Hare showed us a supersanctimonious clergyman, his portrayal of the rôle being correctly conceived. Mr. Arthur Goodsall had some heavy work in the chraacter of Oswald Alving, but he realised the tragedy of the part, and in magnificent style threw himself into the intense passion of the unhappy son who, through being damned at birth, feels that life has no further charms for him. Miss Isabel Roland gave a pleasing performance of Regina.

It is not necessary to waste many words on
"THE VISION,"
A Morality by the Hon. Eleanour Norton.
Characters.

Innocence .....MISS ISABEL ROLAND
Wisdom .....MISS INA ROYAL
Passion .....MR. ESME PERCY
Pleasure .....MISS MABILIA DANIELL

It is little less than a sacrilege to place *The Vision* in the same category with our grand and dignified Old English Morality plays. The Hon. Miss Norton's work is sadly lacking in simplicity and sincerity, and the construction and writing give evidence of slipshod treatment and a mind inadequately equipped to deal with such a subject. We will content ourselves with giving the lady's own synopsis of the play, as printed on the programme: "Innocence, whilst Wisdom is absent, is tempted by Passion, but Heaven answered her prayer for help, in which she sees herself an outcast of Pleasure and deserted by Passion. She is awakened by the chanting of Angels, and sees Wisdom, who is returned in true loveliness."

The part of Innocence was played with true maidenly modesty and thoughtfulness by Miss Isabel Roland, and Miss Ina Royal acted with earnestness and dignity in the rôle of Wisdom. Mr. Esmè Percy was gay, gallant, and persuasive as Passion; and Miss Mabilia Daniell, as Pleasure, ably indicated the baser joys of an earthly existence.

Both the plays were produced under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck.

PLAYERS IN THE PROVINCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Mr. Robert Castleton's letter has broken a dream I had. I dreamed that a great man entered London, a Mr. Crœsus; and a number of provincial actors, hearing of this, gathered together, and as one body fell on their knees and prayed aloud: "Great one, hear our prayer! Oh, rescue us! Oh, rescue us! Oh, rescue us! Rescue us from the Theatre Royal cinder-heap. We are actors, and for years have tried to be artistic, and against all odds. Though we have spent years at our work we are still young men; but why should we be doomed to spend our live where art is not? Oh, great one! we have tried to be artistic, we have persuaded ourselves that a tinfoiled cigar-box was a golden casket. We have striven to depict, with due appreciation, a poet's work—amid the aroma of fried fish and chips. We have pointed to our 'vast estates' in front of a scene that waggled like dirty drapery. We have declined to shriek up to steam forge-hammers and railway trains, but have made our points effective by artistic methods. We have posed as wealthy men in palaces, where the furniture suggested a marine store; we have, for art's sake, used perhaps a sigh to gain some pretty effect. Meanwhile, rude boys have thrown stones on the corrugated roof of the 'Temple of Thespis.' Great one! for art's sake have we borne these things. A great London actor once said: 'Wherever you are be artistic.' Would he were with us at the T. R. Tripe Emporium. Oh, great one! 'tis hard to say 'Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by —— "Pies, all hot' (this, of course, being an interruption by a boy plying his trade in the 4d. fauteuils). We have tried to be artistic. We can be artistic. Why then, should we be condemned to vent our art amid smoke and smell, draught and dirt, ills and ignorance? Oh, rescue us! Oh, rescue us! Oh, rescue us!"

And lo! the prayer was heard, and this great one—this Mr. Crœsus—picked out some provincial actors and took them to London, and hired a theatre for them, and, being of great wealth, commissioned a well-known dramatist to write a play for them; and no actor had part written specially to suit him, and everything was done to help them. The scenery was solid, the doors did not wave like fairies' wings, and the drawing-room carpet had no holes in it. No pitfalls at deportment's door.

And the first night arrived, and with it a large and fashionable audience. And lo and behold! the play was a success, and the actors also. That young actor who smoked a pipe and wore a cap in the daytime played the part of a young nobleman, and lo! he looked and spoke as one. His clothes *did* fit him, and strange, he did not appear to be ill at ease in them. And the actor who played the aristocratic old man looked and spoke and moved as an aristocrat. And even in the drawing-room scene—provincial actors though they were—they did not knock the furniture over. And the London audience was amazed, and when the performance was over little crowds gathered together and spoke of their astonishment, and one person said: "Who are the Johnnies?" and the reply was: "They are not Johnnies, they are actors." And a number of West End managers, hearing this, speedily engaged more provincial actors, and took them to London.

At this I awoke. It was a dream!—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES CARTE.

Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at Spring Gardens.

THEATRES COMMITTEE.

The Council proceeded to the appointment of the several committees for the ensuing year. The Theatres and Music Halls Committee, consisting of twelve members, was appointed as follows:—Lord Monkswell, Sir William J. Bell, Sir Algernon E. West, Lieut.-Colonel Rotton, and Messrs. Jocelyn Brandon, T. Davies, H. J. Greenwood, I. H. Mitchell, B. S. Straus, D. S. Waterlow, Howell J. Williams, and W. B. Yates.

THEATRE SCHOOLS.

The Education Committee reported that a school had been opened at the Aldwych Theatre for the instruction of the children engaged at the theatre, and they found that the room set apart for the children is on the top floor, access being gained thereto by ascending a fire-resisting staircase from the street. The room is in good condition and repair, is about 18ft. long, 15ft. broad, and 10ft. 6in. high, and is efficiently heated by means of a radiator and hot-water pipes. There are twenty-five boys and girls on the register, whose ages range from ten to thirteen years. As regards the instruction given, the school is inefficient owing to the circumstances in which it is carried on, and, in order to make the school efficient, it will be necessary to employ another teacher. The committee recommended—

> That the managers of the Aldwych Theatre school be required to render efficient, by obtaining the services of an additional teacher, the school which is being conducted by them for the instruction of children engaged at the theatre, by removing the coloured muranese glass and substituting clear glass therefor, and by providing four additional electric lights in the schoolroom.

The committee further reported that at the Drury Lane Theatre a school is held for the instruction of the children engaged in the pantomime. The room set apart for the children's instruction is at the top of the building, access to which is gained by ascending a fire-resisting staircase having a separate entrance from the street. The room is 21ft. 6in. long, 16ft. 6in. wide, and 9ft. high to the wall-plate, with an open roof in addition. As regards the instruction given, the committee understood that the school is inefficient owing to the circumstances in which it is carried on, and that in order to make the school efficient it will be necessary to employ another teacher. They recommended—

> That the managers of the Drury Lane Theatre school be required to render efficient, by obtaining the services of an additional teacher, the school which is being conducted by them at the theatre, for the instruction of children engaged in the pantomime.

Agreed to.

PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee, in their report, recommended that no objection be taken to the proposed arrangements with regard to the provision of granolithic steps at the Putney Hippodrome, and the proposed arrangements for ventilating and heating the premises, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with: (1) That the district surveyor be satisfied as to the construction of the steps; (2) that the ducts and shafts be constructed in fire-resisting materials, and that the openings to them be protected by wire gauze, to prevent paper, rubbish, &c., being thrust into them; (3) that the radiators in the parts of the premises to which the public have access be protected by wire guards, strongly stayed and securely fixed in position; (4) that the tables next the radiators in the dressing-rooms be constructed of hard wood; (5) that the electrical arrangements in connection with the exhaust fans be to the satisfaction of the Council; and (6) that the regulations of the Council with regard to heating, &c., be complied with.

The committee also recommended that no objection be taken to the construction of a heating chamber in the stage basement, and the provision of four radiators on the stage, of the Royalty Theatre, Dean-street, provided the regulations of the Council with regard to heating be complied with.

Approved.

"PARIS IN LONDON."

On the reception of the report of the Improvements Committee, Mr. F. Dolman asked the chairman whether, in view of the contradictory reports circulated in the newspapers, he could give any definite information regarding what is known as the "Paris in London Scheme" and the Aldwych site

Mr. Hubbard, in reply, said that his committee hoped to be able to present a full report at the next meeting.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The committee reported that they had passed votes of thanks to their chairman, Mr. Walter B. Yates, and to their vice-chairman, Mr. H. J. Greenwood, for their services during the past year.

ON the 2nd inst. there died, at the age of eighty-eight, James John Hasker, the oldest actor in Australia. He was pantaloon in old-time Christmas pantomimes, old man in many a first-class production, notably in the Charles Matthews season.

NEXT day, the 3rd, Daniel (Dan) Fitzgerald, one of the Fitzgerald Brothers, circus proprietors, died in Melbourne at the age of forty-six. He was popular with persons of all ages and classes. Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, his brother, barrister and ex-M.P., was with him when he died, and the profession is turning out in large numbers for his funeral at Waverly this morning. The other brother and partner is at present in India.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 12,
the Drama, by G. R. Sims and Robert Buchanan,
entitled
"THE ENGLISH ROSE."

After some weeks of comedy, musical and otherwise, Mr. Mulholland has determined to devote a portion of the present season to melodrama, evidently in the belief that a change is good for his patrons. He could not have put forward a more excellent type of drama than *The English Rose*, which, according to the programme, had quite a long run at the Adelphi Theatre, and has been played over 3,000 times in the Colonies and America. Needless to say, a crowded house witnessed the play on Monday evening, and the charmingly-told story, as interpreted by Mr. J. M. East's very capable company, met with every sign of popularity. Mr. W. S. Hartford gave a sound and dignified representation of the Knight of Ballyvenny. Harry O'Mailley, the hero, was played with energy and sympathy by Mr. Horace Hunter; and Mr. Laurence Leyton distinguished himself by an evenly balanced impersonation of Father Michael. Mr. Frank Harrison rendered yeoman service as the irascible Sir Philip Kingston; and Shaun Daly was in the capable hands of Mr. Edward Boddy. Mr. Oscar Adye enacted the villainous and scheming Captain Macdonnal in his usual gentlemanly style. Sergeant O'Reilly was a truly amusing police officer, as undertaken by Mr. George Delaforce; and Mr. Edward S. Coleman, as the car-driver Nicholas Dickenson, acted very humorously and caused hearty laughter. Randel O'Mara was carefully and judiciously handled by Mr. C. F. Collings. Miss Marie Wright, a great favourite in Hammersmith, scored very effectively as Patsie Blake. Miss Eily Malyon's Ethel Kingston was an emphatic success, and her acting showed what rapid progress she has made in her profession. Louisa Fergesson was vivaciously impersonated by Miss Nellie Sheffield, and Miss East Robertson obtained much commendation for her sympathetic rendering of Bridget O'Mara.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 12,
the Comedy, in Four Acts, by I. Zangwill,
entitled
"MERELY MARY ANN."

Despite the cold a good house assembled on Monday to welcome the appearance of Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's chief company in Mr. I. Zangwill's comedy, and followed with genuine interest the pathetic progress of the "slavey" heroine, from the squalid lodging-house to the high life opened to her by the sudden acquisition of fortune. As the sensitive and gifted Lancelot Mr. Harold Standing worthily followed the lead of the original exponent of the rôle, and made all his points without effort, well seconded by Mr. J. Cranstoun Nevill, who, as his old student companion, Peter, supplied the relief needed by the cheery reading of his part. Miss Margaret Fareleigh, in the title-rôle, was excellent all through, and succeeded in investing the difficult character with agreeable sentiment. The gradual improvements in appearance and manners, wrought by her love for the musicianly lodger, were so artistically brought about, that her final emergence into society seemed by no means improbable. The Rev. Samuel Smedge of Mr. Dudley Stuart was a neat bit of acting, and his unctuousness was much appreciated. The Mrs. Leadbatter of Miss Ruth Hazlewood was a familiar portrait of the London lodging-house harpy, and her giggling and would-be refined daughter, Rosie, was well acted by Miss Pauline Emeric. Herr Brahmson, the alien music publisher, was broadly outlined by Mr. Wm. Collard, and the minor parts were well filled. The performance was a consistent success, the curtain having to be raised more than once after each act. For the last three days of the week *She Stoops to Conquer*, with Mr. David James and Miss Muriel Godfrey-Turner in the principal parts, was announced.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 12,
the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"THE LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."

Mr. George Testo Sante has been here this week with his company in the above-named exciting drama, which proved much to the taste of the large audience assembled on Monday night. The play which, as its name implies, is written round the principal character, provides Mr. Sante, as the showman, with many opportunities for the display of his histrionic ability, as well as his muscular powers. As a good example of the former special mention may be made of the scene with Marais in the second act; while Mr. Sante's physical endurance was well evidenced in the circus scene, when he defied the efforts of two horses to break from his grip. Mr. Logan Darra submitted a careful portrayal of Hendrick Marais, and soon earned the hearty detestation of the house. Mr. Edward Warden was very successful as the Rev. Cyril Arliss, a parson of the muscular Christian type; and Mr. Charles Osborne showed considerable skill as Sir Noel Hartland, afterwards Stickers, the bill poster. Mr. Fred Vaughan gave a strong representation of Ned Chuckers, and a good deal of amusement was caused by Mr. Frank Sante as the "Human Lathe," and by various other "freaks," &c., comically played by Messrs. Arnold Price, Gus Porter, Charles Sam, Will Henderson, and R. Lever, and Miss May Neilson. Miss Amy McNeil was responsible for a convincing and sympathetic rendering of Agatha Winter; the child Lynette was brightly played by Miss May Warden; and Marais's son, Dickie, found a capable exponent in Master Harry Warden.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 12,
the Farce, in Three Acts,
by W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker, entitled
"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

Mr. W. W. Jacobs' amusing stories, founded on "down the river" life, have made him a very popular author, and therefore, as might be expected, a good audience were present at this theatre on Monday evening, when Mr. Cyril Maude's company appeared in that clever farce, *Beauty and the Barge*. Everybody was delighted with the excellence of the whole production. The company is a particularly well-chosen one, and the mounting of the play admirable. The scene on the river bank with the fully-rigged barge is a well-arranged set, and was the cause of general admiration. Mr. Harry Ashford appears as Captain Barley, and he gives a most finished and breezy delineation of this amusing old salt, whose geniality and affability carry him through his various encounters with the opposite sex with such success. It is a character drawn in Mr. Jacobs' best style, and splendidly realised by Mr. Ashford. Another character which strikes one is that of Tom Codd, as played by Mr. Charles Goold, whose make-up is a real study, and deserving of commendation. That quaint old man, John Dibbs, the gardener, is neatly sketched by Mr. J. Wheatman. The voluble and peppery Major Smedley is skilfully portrayed by Mr. Walter Pemberton, who is careful not to overdo the part. Mr. Percy Marmont is decidedly good as Herbert Manners; and Mr. Percival Knight gives a manly rendering of Lieutenant Seton Boyne. Miss May Fairclough makes a most delightful Ethel Smedley, her brightness and simple charm being quite invigorating. Miss Mary Pemberton is a charming Lucy Dallas, and one wishes she had more opportunities. Miss Ethel Stalman is seen to advantage as Mrs. Smedley; and Miss Mary Griffiths plays the pompous Mrs. Baldwin in a diverting fashion. That elegant person, Mrs. Porter, is hit off excellently by Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite; while Mrs. Porter's diminutive but assertive husband, George, is depicted in a most humorous fashion by Mr. G. Caffrey. Mr. F. Harvey makes a hit as Augustus, the third hand of the Heart and Hand. Ted and Bill are well represented by Messrs. Fred Lake and Fred Paul; and Messrs. Flinders, Fairclough, and Richford complete an excellent cast. That clever little play by Arthur Morrison and H. C. Sergeant, *That Brute Simmons*, precedes the farce, and Miss Harriet French and Messrs. J. Wheatman and Fred Lake appear in it with great success.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Tuesday, March 13,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by J. W. Whitbread,
entitled
"LORD EDWARD; OR, '98."

An accident to the fireproof curtain, to which reference is made in another column, prevented the representation here on Monday of Mr. J. W. Whitbread's drama, *Lord Edward; or, '98;* but on Tuesday everything had been put right, and a large audience enjoyed the piece. Full of dramatic situations, it was followed with intense interest. As Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Mr. Ernest E. Norris has a part well suited to his powers, and scores a distinct success. He has a rousing reception on his first appearance in the play, and, as "one of the noblest figures in Irish history," he repeatedly works up the audience to a state of great enthusiasm. Mr. Alfred Harding as Francis Maagan, a barrister-at-law, "the informer," a character so indispensable in an Irish drama, completely identifies himself with the part. Mr. Wellesley Smith as the rollicking dare-devil Thady is responsible for a capital piece of character acting. His success is shared by Miss Georgie De Lara as Katie Malone, whose arch coquetry and vivacious fun is conspicuously successful. As Francis Higgins, an attorney-at-law, nicknamed "The Shamade," Mr. Howard Templeton is sufficiently hard and callous. As Lord Edward's faithful adherent, Neilson, Mr. Edwin Bennett makes the most of his part. The other male characters of the piece are all well sustained. Miss Kathleen Russell is a majestic Pamela, and plays throughout with dramatic power. Little Florrie Green must be complimented on her impersonation of little Teddy; Miss Alice Spry gives importance to the rôle of Madame de Sillery; and Miss Gladys King as Lady Louisa Connolly, Miss Olive Duncan as Mrs. Moore, and Miss Clara Moore as Miss Moore, are excellent. The play is carefully staged, and the dresses and uniforms are very effective.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 12,
the Play, in Five Acts, by C. M. S. McLellan,
entitled
"LEAH KLESCHNA."

Lovers of the drama have not failed to appreciate the appetising fare that is provided for them this week with a visit of Mr. Chas. Froh man's company, in the well-known sucessful play, *Leah Kleschna*. Mr. Robert Pateman as Kleschna gives a powerful interpretation of the burglar, bringing out the traits of his character very forcibly, especially his tyrannous nature. Miss Haidee Wright plays Leah very sympathetically and convincingly, depicting the various phases of a trying part in a manner that evidences great histrionic ability. Schram is well played by Mr. E. H. Brooke, his dogged devotion to Leah, in spite of his snarls and sneers, being ably represented. A clever performance of the dissipated Raoul Berton is given by Mr. Cyril Harcourt, and his impersonation of the drunken man is very successful. The Paul Sylvaine of Mr. Graeme Campbell is an excellent performance; his quiet, determined manner is very impressive, and unqualified praise must be given for a well-thought-out study. Mr. Roland Daniel deserves great praise for his humorous and clever character study of Valentin Farre, a French journalist; and he is ably assisted in his efforts to create amusement by Miss Dorothy Sidney as Sophie. The small part of General Berton is creditably undertaken by Mr. Kenneth Rivington; Miss Ethel Marryat and Miss Haidee Hemsley, as Madame Berton and Clare Berton, in their respective parts, play smartly; and the smaller but indispensable characters of Johann, Anton Pfaff, Reichmann, Baptiste, Frieda, and Charlotte, are successfully undertaken by Messrs. G. Fairburn, Wm. Wilson, M. M. Loomis, J. Harding, and Misses Cecile Leith and Alice Davis.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 12
the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

A rare dramatic treat is provided this week at the above theatre, where a powerful company, under the supervision and direction of Mr. Arthur Collins, is presenting the famous drama, *The Prodigal Son*, which attained such a success at the Drury Lane Theatre. An excellent company has been engaged, and the representation is illustrated by magnificent scenery. A leading feature of the play is the presentation, by Miss Lily Hall Caine of the sweet-natured and innocent Thora. Thoroughly grasping the character, Miss Caine quickly wins the sympathy of the audience by her pathetic impersonation, notably in the scene where Thora—goaded beyond endurance by the neglect of her husband and her sister's cruel taunts—loses her self-restraint and breaks into a passionate outburst which proves too much for her highly-strung temperament, and causes her death. This is an intensely affecting scene, and moves many of the audience to tears. Miss Caine also undertakes the part of Thora's daughter Eline, and gives a very natural representation of a young girl. Another notable performance is that of Miss Alma Murray, who plays the part of the mother, Anna, with zest and sincerity, and acquits herself artistically. Miss Cecil Cromwell is admirably placed as the passionate and selfish Helga Neilsen, and gains much applause for a spirited rendering. Warm praise must also be given to Miss Nimi Renouf for an excellent portrayal of the blunt, outspoken Margaret Neilsen. A polished and convincing performance of the weak-minded prodigal, Oscar, is given by Mr. Norman Partriege, who faithfully portrays the varying emotions of the part with considerable skill. Mr. Henry Renouf contributes a capital embodiment of Magnus, giving altogether a very powerful delineation. In the rôle of Stephen, Mr. Henry George acts with a dignity that fully impresses the audience, and Mr. Frank Collins, who is also responsible for the stage management, gives an excellent delineation of Oscar Neilsen. The part of Doctor Olsen is creditably sustained by Mr. Howard Russell and Mr. Herbert Hewetson is eminently satisfactory as Neil Finsen. Valuable support was also given by Mr. Phillips as the Sheriff, Mr. Fred Grove as the Pastor, Mr. Bryan Daly as Director of the Casino, Mr. P. Gromer as Eric Ainasson, and Miss Fisher as Mme. Pandher.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

On Monday, March 12, a Dramatic Episode
in One Act, by W. Lestocq, entitled
"A BAD PENNY,"
and the Farcical Comedy, by Charles Selby,
entitled
"A FEARFUL TRAGEDY IN SEVEN DIALS."

Variety is the keynote of the programme at the Crouch End Opera House this week. Firstly, the dramatic episode entitled *A Bad Penny* is well played by a small, but talented company. Miss Minnie Grey enacts the part of May Hyde in her usual bright and winning fashion, Mr. T. Thorpe Tracey (as Richard Hyde) presents an interesting picture of a besotted old vagabond, and as Charles Hyde, Mr. Fred Castleman gives a capital and intelligent study of the well-bred country gentleman. Mr. A. P. Kage as Harry Goodwin makes a manly and attractive young lover. *A Fearful Tragedy in Seven Dials*, though showing signs of age, does not, however, fail to amuse, and the efforts of Mr. Thorpe Tracey (as Timothy Slumpington) and Mr. A. P. Kage (as Muggleton Mulligatawney) are highly appreciated. Mr. Fred Castleman's James Twigley is excellent, and Miss Minnie Grey again does good service as Mrs. Slumpington.

Between the two pieces Violet Harvey, who possesses a tuneful voice, pleases the audience with "Rosie Brown," and other ditties; Angelo, the Lightning Painter, produces in a marvellously short space of time speaking likenesses of well-known personages; and clever Kitty Beresford dances and sings, her repertoire including "The Ladies' Parasol," "The Motor Car," and "You never can tell," all of which are received with much applause. The Jalvans are Oriental entertainers, who spin tops and juggle in a disconcerting and wonderful manner. He of the sterner sex indulges in quaint singing and dancing whilst performing his business. The Ongars, who dance the Gollywog, Dutch, Spanish, and Russian dances, receive an ovation which is well deserved. They are perfect masters of the terpsichorean art. Almon, the clever hand-balancer, is well received, and Walter James, a fine baritone, gives "The Toilers" in pleasing fashion.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

Another welcome visit was paid by the Kendals to the Kennington Theatre this week. On Monday night *Still Waters Run Deep* held the boards; and on Tuesday *Dick Hope* was given. Mr. Kendal's clever and finished piece of work in the title-rôle is the most excellent feature of the play, his acting as the poor inebriate, who for a year masters his craving for drink for the sake of the woman he loves, and on the last day nobly breaks the contract so as to leave her free to marry another being powerfully dramatic. Mrs. Kendal is charmingly sweet and natural as Marjorie Lyall, and wins all hearts by her sympathetic portrayal. John Hemming finds an excellent exponent in Mr. Bassett Roe, an actor of great experience and capability. Gilbert, John Hemming's younger brother, was taken in the necessary juvenile manner, and was a creditable effort on the part of Mr. Percy Crawford. Mr. Ernest Hendrie is lightly humorous as Reginald Lillithwaite; and Jephson, a servant, is made the most of by Mr. W M. Rutherfurd. Clara Hope is neatly portrayed by Miss Jessie Moore; and Henrietta Turtle, a lady of the woman's rights type, is made sufficiently assertive by Mrs. A. B. Tapping. Miss Marie Lohr look pretty and acts well as Gwendoline Giles. The scene of Marjorie's Garden in Acts I. and III. is very beautiful, and aroused general admiration.

FULHAM THEATRE.

On Monday, March 12,
the Play, adapted by George Fleming from
Rudyard Kipling's Novel, entitled
"THE LIGHT THAT FAILED."

This week there is a particular attraction at the Fulham Theatre in the shape of a visit from Mr. Forbes Robertson's company, in *The Light that Failed* and *Mice and Men*. The first-named piece, played on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, was received with great favour by crowded houses. In itself *The Light that Failed* is not an exhilarating piece; there is too decided an air of gloom and misfortune about it for that; but, at any rate, it serves well enough to provide Mr. Forbes Robertson with the opportunity of displaying some uncommonly fine acting. He takes, of course, his original part of Dick Helder. With numberless subtle little touches, the approach of the dreaded darkness is most skilfully foreshadowed, and the way is prepared for the terrible scene when he first becomes fully conscious of his fate. In this, as in all his work, Mr. Forbes Robertson shows all that thoughtful attention to detail, and all that thoroughness and finish by which his work is always marked. In the scenes with Maisie, too, the unselfishness, love, and tenderness of the character were wonderfully brought out. The part of Torpenhow, the faithful friend, could not be in better hands than those of Mr. Ian Robertson. Mr. Charles Weir was a fine representative of "Nilghai"; and the other knights of the pen were well played by Messrs. V. Steel, Frank Bickley, J. H. Beaumont, and W. Pilling. Mr. Herbert Dansey gave a capital sketch of the vivacious Cassavetti; and Mr. J. H. Ryley contributed a careful study of the garrulous Beeton. Miss Gertrude Elliott played Maisie with her usual charm. In the earlier scenes, this character—that of an artist so enamoured of her own work and ambition as to be deaf to the voice of love—is not an engaging one; but in the later scenes, the artist gives way to the woman, and as this change takes place Miss Elliott rises splendidly to the occasion, and the pathos of the closing scenes made a deep impression on the house. The Bessie Brooke of Miss Auriol Lee was a clever study of a less sympathetic character. Miss Gertrude Bibby acted with much grace and tenderness as the Red-haired Girl; and Miss Minnie Griffin was quite satisfactory as Mrs. Haines; Miss Dorothy Paget played the part of a model, and Miss Esme Hubbard was bright and lively as the French Bonne. As a prelude to *The Light that Failed*, Miss Clara Alexandra entertained the house with some weird negro songs and amusing stories, of which the most effective seemed to be the Negro Sermon and the account of the horse race. These sketches were something of a novelty, and being very cleverly done, met with considerable favour.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 12,
the Play, by Alfred Sutro, entitled
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux's company is appearing this week at the Coronet in the great Garrick success, *The Walls of Jericho*, a play which caused a great sensation in London by its daring and scathing attack on the manners and methods of "the smart set." All the scenes evolving the gradual but overwhelming revolt of the sturdy man from Queensland, Jack Frobisher, against the insincerity and vice of the society in which he moves, until at the final blast of truth the walls of this insecure edifice crumble to the ground, are eagerly followed by a rapt audience. Mr. Edward A. Warburton gives a powerful and virile impersonation of "fighting Jack" Frobisher, of Queensland, reduced to nerveless inanity by society cant and humbug, gradually reasserting his dominant faculties, and he acts with force and conviction. Mr. Alfred S. Barber is excellent as the good-natured miner "Mad Jim," alias Hankey Bannister, who, having "struck lucky," is anxious to marry and assume a proud position in society. Miss Amy Ravenscroft is entirely charming as Lady Alethea, and aptly depicts the butterfly nature of the woman who is yet capable of "rising from the ashes of her dead self to higher and to nobler things." Miss Nona Wynne is delightful as the irresistibly attractive *ingénue*, Lady Lucy, whose girlish inexperience so humorously peeps out between the lines of her set speeches. Mr. Cecil Brooking renders invaluable aid as the pompous, money-grabbing, self-seeking, impecunious Marquis of Steventon, and very funny is his fruitless attempt to pulverise the rebellious Jack Frobisher. Lady Westerby has a very graceful and sympathetic exponent in Miss Helen Haye, and Miss Jean Harkness, Miss Mary Weigall, and Miss May Brooke all cleverly portray types of society in the "smart set." Mr. A. W. Tyrer essays the thankless part of Harry Dallas very creditably; and Mr. V. Willox Cadogan scores as the irrepressible bore, Bertram Hannaford. Other small parts are satisfactorily rendered. Mr. A. H. Leveaux undertakes the stage management, and Mr. Ernest F. Mehrer assists Mr. Edward Lytton at the front of the house.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 12,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by Hall Caine,
entitled
"THE ETERNAL CITY."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is appearing at the Kingston playhouse this week in this fine production, which created such a favourable impression upon the occasion of its first appearance in the riverside town some time ago. The company appearing this week is a thoroughly capable one all round, all the principal parts especially being well filled. Chief honours are earned and awarded to Miss Marie Polini, who plays the part of Donna Roma with distinct success. Miss Polini appeared at the Royal County a few weeks ago in *Oliver Twist*, taking a part of a very different character, and her Kingston friends that she made on that occasion have not been slow to show their appreciation of her fine acting in a much more serious rôle. Mr. E. Stanton Sharpe is cast for the part of the Baron Bonelli, which fits him admirably; and Mr. Henry Deas makes a high-souled and earnest David Rossi. A fine piece of acting is also submitted by Mr. George Cartwright as the sculptor's assistant, Bruno Rocco. Valuable assistance is given by Mr. J. Fortescue as Pope Pius XI.; by Mr. L. St. G. Lowther as the Commendator, Angelelli; by Mr. Court as General Morra; by Mr. Herbert Legerton as the spy, Charles Menghelli; and by Mr. E. Stidwell, who makes an admirable Felice. Other parts are equally well placed, and the staging and dressing of the production is all that can be desired. The play is being produced under the direction of Mr. D. Lewin Mannering.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 12,
Auber's Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"FRA DIAVOLO."

Every success has attended Mr. Turner's season here this year, and immense enthusiasm has been shown by the audience at each of the many and varied performances given. In *Fra Diavolo* Mr. J. W. Turner played the title-rôle with great skill, and with his exceedingly fine voice supplied an interpretation worthy of warm praise. Mr. Charles Le Sueur puts some good work into his impersonation of Lorenzo, and met with distinct approval. Mr. John Ridding infused a large amount of drollery into his delineation of Lord Allcash; Mr. Sidney Clifford embodied the part of Giacomo capably; Mr. Richard Cummings put considerable humour into his portrayal of Beppo, and scored a great success; whilst the part of Matteo was well represented by Mr. George Ridding. Miss Marie Burnett rendered a good account of herself as Lady Allcash. Miss Kitty Brownless's interpretation of Zerlina met with a hearty reception, and her music was sung in an artistic and finished manner. The exceptionally good chorus and orchestra did capital work under the able direction of Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas upon this week's programme were *The Lily of Killarney*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Maritana*

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, March 12,
the Play, by W. G. Wills, entitled
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

Mr. Clarence Sounes is introducing for the first time at Poplar *A Royal Divorce*, with company, scenery, dresses, and effects, as played lately at the Scala Theatre. The piece is attracting large audiences nightly. The remarkable performance of Miss Edith Cole as the Empress Josephine is greeted with the utmost enthusiasm. In all her scenes Miss Cole has perfect control over her emotions, and no point of the actress's powerful impersonation is lost upon the audience. Miss Cole is ably supported by Mr. Frank Lister, who submits a clever delineation of Napoleon. He handles the character with firmness throughout. Talleyrand is cunningly played by Mr. F. Joynsen-Powell; and the part of the Marquis de Beaumont is well looked after by Mr. G. W. Cockburn. Mr. George Howard is acceptable as General Augereau, and Mr. St. George-Frere is well placed as Marshal Murat. A humorous portrayal of the Genappe innkeeper, Grimaud, comes from Mr. T. P. Haynes, whose efforts are well appreciated. Miss Clara Earle is delightfully sweet as Stephanie, and Miss Irma Foldi is a taking Blanche d'Hervas. Marie Louise receives an impressive delineation from Miss Elizabeth Watson, and Master Herbert Hollom appears as the little King of Rome.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 12,
the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled
"EAST LYNNE."

By special arrangement with Mr. Arthur Leigh and Mr. J. Pitt Hardacre, the adaptation from Mrs. Henry Wood's popular novel, "East Lynne," known as the Bullock Version, is being presented at the Pavilion this week, and is meeting with considerable success. As Lady Isabel and Madame Vine, Miss Katherine Clarke evinced much artistic skill, and invested the character with an amount of emotional power, which had its due effect upon the audience. Mr. Fred Victor played with true feeling, and gave a very consistent rendering of Archibald Carlyle, being manly and unaffected throughout; while Mr. H. D. Brame contributed excellent support as Lord Mountsevern. A sound and natural impersonation of the scoundrel, Francis Levison, is given by Mr. Frank Harding, who is perfectly cool and easy in the part, the suggestion of the man's absolute selfishness being depicted with remarkable effect. Mr. Harry Barford is diverting, and creates unbounded amusement by his quaint and humorous representation of Bullock; and Mr. Alfred Holles gained appreciation for his portrayal of Lawyer Dill. Mr. Charles Langley appeared to advantage as Justice Hare; and Mr. Fred Boustead, who must be warmly congratulated for his efforts, distinguished himself as Richard Hare, his talents meeting with due recognition. An admirable exponent of Barbara Hare was found in Miss Cissy Farrell; and Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem, whose work is always well done, was the recipient of hearty applause for her homely rendition of Cornelia Carlyle. Miss Daisy McNiel was natural as Little Willie, and displayed exceptional intelligence and point; while Miss Kitty Cardigan was smart as the French maid, Susanne. Miss Clarice Shirley was successful as the faithful Joyce; and Miss Milly Murray was a capable Wilson. The revival was capitally staged and mounted.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 12,
the Play, by Walter Melville, entitled
"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

The four-act play by Mr. Walter Melville, entitled *A Girl's Cross Roads*, which has obtained such world-wide reputation, both for the sensational nature of the story, and for the moral lesson taught, is meeting with an enthusiastic reception at the Dalston Theatre this week. Originally produced at the Standard, Bishopsgate, the piece is now once more being played near its old home. The presentation at the Dalston is good all round. Miss Beaumont Collins sustains the trying character of Barbara Wade, whose career illustrates one undesirable cross-road which a girl can take. Barbara's failing is drink, and nothing could be more wierdly effective than the scene in the last act, where, while indulging in a mournful rendering of the ditty, "do not forget me," she passes away to her account. The stage effects lend an additional sense of terror to this scene. Nellie Meadows, a farmer's daughter, who takes the wayward cross-road, is cleverly impersonated by Miss Nannie Meade. The "correct" road is travelled by a young schoolmistress, Constance Cornell, capably represented by Miss Elsie Saxile. John Meadows, an old farmer, who eventually brings his daughter's career of wanton gaiety to a close by shooting her, finds an effective representative in Mr. Charles Franmore, whose parental troubles secure much sympathy. Mr. Frank R. Robertson, the hero of the piece, Jack Livingstone, is powerful and pathetic. Toby Turvey, Livingstone's servant, as played by Mr. Fred Ingram, is amusing; and the same may be said of Miss Lena Delphine's rendering of Tilly Vane. The evil genius of the play is Cuthbert Lumley, and Mr. Roy Fortescue does all that is necessary to render the character effective. Mr. Courtney Bellenden is Dr. Weston, Jack Livingstone's friend; and Mr. John Brookes provides a sketch of colonial character of the undesirable type as Luke Ramsden, from Australia. The cast also includes Mr. David Borone, Mr. George Wilson, Mr. Harold Vernon, Mr. W. Johnson, Mr. Bert Hedges, Miss E. Crossley, Miss Nellie Butts, Miss Kate Walton, Miss Gibbons, and Miss Nellie Noble. The piece is well staged.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 12,
the Drama, in Five Acts,
by Henry Pettitt and George R. Sims, entitled
"MASTER AND MAN."

Mr. Ashley Page and Miss Marion Denvil are again here with their strong company in the above domestic drama. They have become quite favourites with the Rotherhithe audiences. The play from beginning to end is full of incident, and is followed with keen interest. Mr. Ashley Page takes the part of the hero, Jack Walton, a young engineer, and acts in manly style. Robert Carlton, an ironmaster, the villain of the play, is exceedingly well played by Mr. S. Mafer Jones. Mr. John Sargeant presents a powerful sketch of Humpy Logan, and great credit is due to him for the manner in which he sustains the part. Mr. Tom Tayler give a fine rendering of the rôle of Jim Barleigh. Mr. Johnny Chippendale is comical, and gives life to the play in the part of Tom Honeywood. Mr. C. A. Chandler is well suited as Crispin St. Jones, and causes much laughter. Miss Marion Denvil makes a charming Hester Thornbury, and acts with great power. Miss Matsie Everett adds much to the fun in the part of Letty Lightfoot. Miss Maud Harris shows herself to be a clever child actress in the part of Little Johnny, Hester's child. The remaining characters are well up to the standard. The scenery is good, especially in the fourth act, scene 2, the interior of the ironworks.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 12,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

This essentially American musical composition is making a decidedly favourable impression at the Stratford Borough Theatre this week. What story there is is frequently lost in the flood of turn and incident; but this is of little consequence when the fun and movement are vigorously maintained, and with its tuneful music, lively interpolated items, and beautiful mounting and dressing, the piece has all the elements which make for success. Pride of place in Mr. George Musgrave's excellent company is easily earned by Mr. Edwin Adeler, who as the volatile Hans Wagner provokes unlimited mirth by his droll doings and sayings. Mr. Stuart Alexander acts and sings in manly and pleasing style in the name part; and Mr. G. Villiers Arnold is a buoyant and breezy exponent of Lieutenant John Wagner. Mr. Lawrence Wensley plays with a most effective dry humour as Arthur de Willoughby Rossmoss; and Mr. Alfred Selby contributes some neat and exceedingly clever dancing as the nimble and alert François. Miss Nelly Cozens is a charming Mrs. Madison Crocker, and her fine vocal efforts afford much pleasure. Miss Mildred Baker wins great favour as Edith Adams; and Miss Nell Emerald makes a piquant and chic Sidonie. Nellie Wagner has a graceful exponent in Miss Mabel Osborn; and Miss Meg Hamylton is a popular Jimmie. The large and well-trained chorus render the concerted numbers with admirable precision, and the augmented orchestra is under the able guidance of Mr. J. A. Robertson.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

Monday, March 12,
the Comic Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"VERONIQUE."

It is not a matter of surprise that the above popular comic opera is attracting excellent audiences on its first visit to Peckham. The name of Mr. George Dance, under whose direction the company is presented, is a sufficient guarantee that the fullest justice is done to the production. The opera is received with much enthusiasm, many of the numbers being redemanded. Miss Rita Leonhart makes a vivacious and pretty Veronique, singing her various charming items in excellent style. Mr. Roland Bottomley is a stalwart and tuneful hero as Florestan de Vallancourt. Both Miss Leonhart and Mr. Bottomley are heard to much advantage in the two vocal gems of the opera, "The Swing Song" and "Dear little donkey." Mr. Ivan Berlyn, who has appeared at Peckham both as Quilp and "the Man Bird," in *Because I Love You*, shows his versatility by a clever rendering of the widely different part of the eccentric Mons. Loustot. Mr. Ellis Holland extracts a good deal of fun out of the part of the middle-aged flirt Coquenard. Miss Florence Lee both acts and sings charmingly in the rôle of Madame Coquenard. Miss Pattie O'Hanlon is seen to much advantage as Aunt Benoit, showing considerable comedy power, and scoring well with her pretty ballad in the third act. Mr. Tom Shelford materially helps the humorous aspect of the piece as the groom Seraphin. Miss Neste Laurel is good as Denise. There is a large and efficient chorus, the orchestra being under the able bâton of Mr. Leonard Leslie. Mr. Harry B. Earle is the business-manager. The scenery is very effective, especially the view of the sylvan glade in the second act, with the river winding its way among the apple trees.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 12,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by George Daventry,
entitled
"THE INDIAN MUTINY."

The habitués of the Grand are certainly enjoying a great amount of variety in the dramas that are being presented to them week by week. The current attraction is Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company in the above drama. Picturesque, stirring, and well mounted, *The Indian Mutiny* makes a strong bid for public approval, which is certainly forthcoming. Mr. George Steel as Lieutenant Manley acts well and with a humorous touch that is very effective. Mr. Cyril Harrison, as Captain Manley, is also to be commended on a good performance. The part of Major Ingleby is sustained with success by Mr. John Davidson, who also deserves a word for his efficient stage-management. Mr. George Scally, as Terry O'Brien, is amusing in a poor part; Miss Kate Bruce, as Mrs. Ingleby, portrays that singular lady with good effect; Miss Lillie Grey, as her daughter, is bright and vivacious in a part of limited opportunity; and Miss J. Melrose Millet, as Ghuznah, impersonates the Indian girl cleverly. Mr. J. S. Shedden, as Abul Khan, is dignified and impressive; Mr. Ernest Keand, as Ra Goonga, gives one of the best performances of the evening.

"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."

A New and Original Romantic Drama, in Four Acts, by Alfred Stafford, Produced at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, on Monday, March 12.

Simeon Wolfton ..... MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE
Mark Wolfton ..... MR. W. R. WINNING
Tom Cranleigh ..... MR. R. F. STACEY
Bill Markham ..... MR. J. MYRON-HOWARD
Nobby Rutter ..... MR. JOHN A. STIMSON
Captain Daintree ..... MR. H. RENSHAW
Inspector Jack Harkins ..... MR. P. WELLS
Laurie Johnson ..... MR. L. BLACK
Jim Simpson ..... MR. JOHN WARD
Agatha ..... MISS MAUDE ELLIOTT
Belle Redvers ..... MISS MILDRED CLAY
Polly ..... MISS ELSIE MESNER
Jane Nestor ..... MISS JENNY GIBSON
Evelyn Crake ..... MISS CHARLOTTE LUPTON
Mary Hazlecroft ..... MISS LILY PRESCOTT

This new romantic drama by Mr. Alfred Stafford has a clearly-told story, and is full of stirring incidents. Briefly, the plot is as follows:—Belle Redvers, a wealthy young lady, and Tom Cranleigh, her cousin, are left a fortune by their uncle on condition that they marry each other within a stipulated period. Belle Redvers loves Tom, but his affection is given to Mary Hazelcroft, who returns his love. Mark Wolfton, a ne'er-do-well, endeavours to marry Mary, who has a modest fortune, which is the real attraction to him, he being pressed for ready money to meet the demands of Bill Markham and his associate, Nobby Rutter. Mary, determined that Tom shall not lose the fortune left conditionally, decides to marry Mark Wolfton, although she has no love for him. Simeon Wolfton, Mark's father, an avaricious, miserly old man, discovers that someone has forged his name to several cheques, and on his son's wedding day finds that he is the criminal. Throwing all affection for his son to the winds, he allows the Bank to prosecute, and at the same time alters his will so that Mark shall not receive a penny of his money. In order to destroy this new will the son attacks his father, stunning him as Tom enters to announce the death of Mary's father. Tom is accused of the crime, and circumstances point to his guilt. Bill Markham, who in reality is the son of old Money Marrs (Tom and Belle's uncle), has, conscience-stricken, turned over a new leaf, and endeavours in every way to atone for the past; whilst Frank Wolfton progresses rapidly in his career of crime, even turning up a couple of years later at the head of a gang of freebooters in South Africa. They attack the homestead where Mary and Belle are residing, they having left England after the miserable events of two years previously. They are accompanied by the now reformed "Bill Markham" and a senile old gentleman called "Daddles." He is really old Simeon Wolfton, with his memory a complete blank, as the result of his son's murderous attack in England. The military approach at the end of the act, and, in order to escape falling into their hands, Mark Wolfton actually kills his father, who obstructs his path, having suddenly regained his reason. A year later we find the leading characters back in England, and under the impression that Mark Wolfton was killed in his wild attempt to escape the law in South Africa. They are soon undeceived, he being in hiding at the Old Mill. Agatha, the former housekeeper to Simeon and the mother of Mark Wolfton, is killed while endeavouring to save him from being captured. The missing will made by Old Money Marrs, together with that signed by Simeon Wolfton, is brought to light by Nobby Rutter, who had three years previously purloined them whilst on a futile burglarious expedition at the Old Mill. The last will gives a satisfactory adjustment of money matters, and the piece ends with the sensational death of Mark Wolfton. There is a strong vein of comedy threaded through the drama, which materially aids the plot, whilst relieving the heavier parts of the drama.

Several incidental musical numbers greatly added to the undoubted success of the first performance. The characters are well sustained all round. Mr. J. Chippendale gives a fine portrayal of the eccentric and miserly old man, Simeon Wolfton; Mr. W. R. Winning supplies a vigorous rendering of the arch villain; Mr. R. F. Stacey portrays a typical hero; whilst Mr. Myron-Howard is highly effective as the conscience-stricken Bill Markham. Miss Lily Prescott is charming as Mary, who sacrifices her own love in the vain hope of serving her friend Belle Redvers and the man she loves; Miss Mildred Clay is a bright and winsome Belle Redvers; and a striking and realistic performance is that of Miss Maud Elliott as the gipsy housekeeper, Agatha Lee. The comedy element is capitally sustained by Miss Elsie Mesner, who introduces several humorous songs, and Mr. John A. Stimson, who is really funny in his rendering of the nondescript Nobby Rutter. Messrs. Murray and Stafford have provided most effective and elaborate scenery, which has been especially constructed and admirably painted, under the supervision of their stage-manager, Mr. John A. Stimson. The entire production has been under the personal direction of the author, Mr. Alfred Stafford. Judging by the crowded audience and the way the new drama was received there is every prospect of a long and prosperous run for *Conscience and Crime*.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, March 12, the Musical Play by Seymour Hicks, composed by Herbert E. Baines, entitled "THE TALK OF THE TOWN."

Mr. William Greet's company is this week presenting at the Alexandra *The Talk of the Town* The piece is handsomely mounted and dressed, many of the dresses worn being those used in the original production at the Lyric. Mr. William Cromwell, who plays Jerry Snipe, is a hard-working and clever comedian, and his work is the mainstay of the production. Another excellent performance is the Mrs. Snipe of Miss Louie Tinsley, which is a most finished and artistic little sketch of character. Mr. Arthur Harold plays and sings easily and naturally as Lieut. Reggie Drummond, and Miss Joan Keddie is a dainty and delightful Ellaline. A good deal of fun of a somewhat extravagant sort is provided by Mr. Tom Graves and Mr. A. G. Melford as the brothers English. Miss Evelyn d'Alroy is a charming June who makes the most of her chances; and the remaining parts in a long cast are filled with varying success by the ladies and gentlemen to whom they are allotted.

PRESENTATION.—The conclusion of the pantomime of *Cinderella* at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, on Saturday, was marked by the presentation to Mr. F. Teale Lingham of a solid silver tea and coffee service, a gold hunter stop-watch and chain, and a purse of gold, gifts from the directors, proprietors, and staff of the theatre and many friends in Newcastle as an appreciation of his courteous and successful management of the theatre. The presentation was made by Mr. Herbert Ralland, who said that had the testimonial been open to Mr. Lingham's theatrical friends in the United Kingdom he would have had to have a barrow on the stage to carry the tokens of their esteem. In returning thanks, Mr. Lingham said the gifts testified in no small measure to the numerous friends in front and behind the curtain who had combined to make his position there that night one of the most memorable events associated with his many years of management of the Theatre Royal, with which and the staff he hoped to be associated for many years to come.

"THE HINDOO'S REVENGE."

Drama, in Four Acts, by S. Lewis-Ransom and H. A. Saintsbury, Produced at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, on Monday, March 12.

Captain Bruce Glenister.. MR. CYRIL W. MACKAY
Capt. Stephen Glenister, R.E... MR. ELLIOTT BALL
Dr. Ulysses Murphy .... MR. ARTHUR WILLERBY
Maj.-Gen. Sir V. Strong, K.C.B.. MR. CLIVE ROSS
Diana Strong ..... MISS LILYAN LAIT
Sylvia Glenister ..... MISS DAISY SNOWDEN
Warren Bruce ..... MR. FRANK RIDLEY
Count Polskoff ..... MR. HAMILTON TRAVERS
Peterson ..... MR. C. W. HAMONS
Kumar Nana ..... MR. E. H. DOBELL
Zephan ..... MISS ETHYLE MURRAY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This play, originally called *The Hands of Sin*, and now rewritten and revised, deals with the adventures of two half-brothers, one of whom, Captain Stephen Glenister, while engaged in an engineering expedition to the northern frontier of India, had associated himself with a Hindoo maiden, Zephan, through whom some important documents and plans had been sold to Russian officials, and in these transactions he had passed himself off as his half-brother Bruce. Stephen appears to have returned to England without having notified Zephan, who meditates revenge. His mode of life has run him into debt, and among his creditors is Dr. Murphy, who has returned at the same time to England.

The first act opens in Bruce Glenister's chambers in St. James's-street, where General Strong acquaints him of the discovery he has made that someone has been giving information to the enemy as to the frontier forts, &c., and that there will be trouble, as he and Bruce and Stephen were the only persons by whom the deed could have been done. Shortly after, Dr. Murphy comes in, and demands £500, the amount of I.O.U.'s he holds from Stephen, who proposes a scheme by which they can obtain the money, and more, by defrauding Bruce, a proposal which the doctor will not entertain. Bruce generously offers to settle the debt, and writes out a cheque, but the doctor tears up the cheque, preferring to keep the I.O.U.'s. Stephen, wishing to get some papers that are locked up in Bruce's desk, drugs his wine with an Indian decoction intended to simulate death. Bruce becomes unconscious, and the doctor, coming in, pronounces him dead. Kumar, Zephan's brother, who had come to get satisfaction from Bruce Glenister, arrives, and finds that Bruce is only under the effect of the drug which his sister had given Stephen, and the Hindoo restores Bruce by means of an antidote. Stephen steals the papers, and throws the whole blame on Bruce, who determines to remain disguised until he can clear himself. He pretends to be an undertaker, and measures Kumar, who has taken his place, for a coffin, and afterwards both Kumar and Bruce disappear. Diana Strong, an up-to-date young lady with a fondness for amateur detective work, determines to unravel the mysterious disappearance of the body and the pseudo-undertaker, and with the Doctor as her lieutenant has some amusing adventures, during which the Doctor and she fall in love with each other. Stephen has some interviews with the Russian Count Polskoff as to the disposing of the further documents, and Kumar dogs Stephen's footsteps, keeping him in sight until Zephan arrives. Stephen persuades Sylvia, Bruce's sweetheart, to go with him to an old granary, where he says Bruce is to be found, and tries to get Kumar to throw the girl into the river, but he refuses, and Stephen shoots him. He transfers the job to Bruce, who is disguised as a tramp, but, Zephan appearing, Stephen rouses her jealousy, and she is going to kill Sylvia when Bruce is discovered, and Zephan is made to believe that Bruce killed Kumar. She is about to wreak vengeance on Bruce when the tables are turned by the appearance of Diana and the Doctor.

In the last act, which takes place in a private room at the Columbia Hotel, Bruce impersonates a Russian Count with whom Stephen's treacherous negotiations were conducted, and by this means obtains from Stephen certain documents for which he hands him £5000 in forged notes which had previously belonged to Stephen. The real Count then enters, and Stephen realises that he is outwitted. Zephan, while pretending to be friendly, induces him to drink, and administers a drug by which he will remain inanimate for two years, hearing and seeing everything, but being unable to breathe or move, till death eventually ensues.

This play went very well for a first performance, and kept the audience engrossed in the story. Mr. Cyril W. Mackay is an excellent Captain Bruce Glenister, undertaking the several disguises very cleverly. The villainous Captain Stephen Glenister is a finished performance by Mr. Elliott Ball. Mr. Arthur Willerby makes an amusing Irish doctor. Mr. Clive Ross is a fine old stern General Strong. Miss Lilyan Lait plays the part of the independent and spirited young lady (Diana Strong) with charming grace. Miss Ethyle Murray carefully portrays the Hindoo Zephan. Mr. E. H. Dobell is successful as Kumar Nana. Miss Daisy Snowden is well suited to the character of Sylvia. Mr. Frank Ridley (as Warren Bruce), Mr. Hamilton Travers (as Count Polskoff), and Mr. C. W. Hamons (as Peterson) give adequate support.

"UNITED STATES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As an impression seems to exist that the Scots marriage law is out of date, will you allow me to state that whilst my unpretentious little play *United States*, reviewed in your columns last week, is intended solely to amuse, it is an actual fact that the declaration of marriage before witnesses to this day forms a legal and binding ceremony in Scotland.

It is only some five or six years ago since my father married a respectable but impecunious couple by Scots law at his own residence one Sunday morning. That marriage was in every sense legal and satisfactory to everyone concerned, although in his capacity of Justice of the Peace he was the only person besides the young couple present at the ceremony.

Several years ago I made use of one of the most interesting cases I have ever come across in this connection as a basis for a little one-act play, *A Fragment*, in which Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird appeared in Glasgow upon its first production. It was well received, both by Press and public, which would have been impossible in that critical city (nor would I have dared to present it) had there been the slightest question as to Scots law. The actual case is so peculiar as showing what may occur in Scotland that I venture to relate it:

A Scottish gentleman contracted a Scots marriage by declaration before witnesses in Venice. He and his wife always believed themselves to be legally married, but when, years later, the question of their heir's succession to a large estate arose, it was contended, and rightly, that a Scots marriage is null and void unless contracted upon Scotch soil. A clever counsel, however, discovered that at the time of the marriage the gentleman was in Venice upon Government Service, and for that reason took his soil along with him. Therefore, though actually in Venice, he was legally in Scotland, so the marriage held.—Yours truly,

CHARLES HANNAN.

London, March 12, 1906.

A NOTABLE WEDDING.

Many of the most eminent members of the dramatic profession were present at the marriage of Mr. Irving James Albery and Miss Gertrude Arthur Jones, which was solemnised at St. George's, Hanover-square, on Monday. The bridegroom is the son of the late Mr. James Albery, a popular playwright, and Mrs. Albery, better known to a legion of admirers as Miss Mary Moore, and the bride is the third daughter of the famous dramatist. Within the church the chancel was decorated with two tall palms and with groups of white and green foliage at either side of the entrance, while on the altar were clusters of white lilies. Mr. Bronson Albery officiated as best man, and the bride was given away by her father. Miss Gertrude Arthur Jones looked charming in a Josephine dress in white mousseline de soie, the skirt falling in long, straight folds from a girdle of cloth of silver, placed high, in modern imitation of the Empire style. It was finished with a raised embroidery of leaves and bows, and had tapering lines of single pearls between the wreaths of leaves. The white silk muslin yoke was sewn with silver. A tulle veil, embroidered at the hem, was worn over an Empire diadem of real orange blossom, and the bride carried a bouquet of white roses and lilies. Her court train of white velvet was suspended from both shoulders, and was carried by her little brother, Master Oliver Arthur Jones, who wore a page's suit of white cloth, with a collar of Irish crochet. The four bridesmaids were Miss Jean Pearson, Miss Freda Watson, Miss Constance Faber, and Miss Haidee Helmsley, who were dressed in pale green ninon de soie, the skirts being finished with several full flounces above a

[*Photo by Ellis and Walery.*

MISS GERTRUDE ARTHUR JONES (MRS. ALBERY).

deep bias band of soft satin. The bodices were full, and had boleros of Irish lace and waistbands of soft satin drawn through dull gold buckles studded with pale green, the yokes being of gauged net and Irish crochet. They wore hats of Irish crochet with wreaths of shamrocks round the crowns, the stiff round brims edged with pale green satin and with veils of pale green gauze falling on the hair at the back. Each wore a jewelled brooch, the gift of the bridegroom, and carried a sheaf of white lilies, tied with pale green ribbon.

The Venerable Archdeacon Sinclair was the officiating clergyman, assisted by the Rev. David Anderson, vicar of St. George's, Hanover-square, and the Rev. E. Grose Hodge gave the address. The choir sang "The voice that breathed o'er Eden" as the bride passed up the aisle, and later the 67th Psalm was chanted. After the address the hymn "O perfect Love" was given by the choir, with Lady Arthur Hill's setting, a boy chorister singing the solo part. The Benediction, pronounced by the Archdeacon of London, was followed by Stainer's sevenfold Amen. While the register was being signed the organist played the "Lohengrin" bridal music, and as the bride and bridegroom left the church the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March rang out.

Miss Mary Moore, who was present at the ceremony, wore a Princesse dress of fine white embroidered cloth, over which was a short braided and embroidered bolero. A Russian sable collar with long ends was worn, and a broad-brimmed, round crowned, white horse-hair hat, on which was a wreath of small pink roses, blue flowers, green leaves, and little bows of bright cornflower-blue velvet. A shower bouquet of pink picotees was carried. Mrs. Henry Arthur Jones wore a cream-coloured cloth dress, embroidered deeply round the hem with a raised design in silk, and the bodice was also embroidered. A three-cornered hat of Tuscan straw, embroidered in gold, was trimmed with white ostrich tips, and a bouquet of pink carnations was carried. Among those also present were Miss Winifred Emery, who was in dark purple, with a black velvet coat and grey furs. Her high-crowned, wide-brimmed hat was of leaf-green straw and satin, and was trimmed with purple ostrich feathers and soft satin ribbons, also purple. Miss Vane Featherston, dressed in brown, wearing a brown fur and cream-coloured lace cape, and a pretty hat to correspond, was a distinguished figure of the gathering, among which was also Mr. George Grossmith, who brought a daughter.

The presents, both numerous and handsome, were on view at a reception held after the ceremony by Mrs. Henry Arthur Jones, at 38, Portland-place. Mrs. James Albery gave the future residence and furniture, as well as a cheque, to the bride, Mrs. Henry Arthur Jones the household linen, and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones some fine antique furniture. The bridegroom's present to the bride consisted of jewellery and a set of sables, and the bride reciprocated with a fitted dressing-case and a jewelled pin. From Sir Charles and Lady Wyndham came a massive double silver inkstand, from Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft a silver rose bowl, and from Mr. and Mrs. Forbes Robertson entrée dishes. Among other theatrical notabilities invited to the reception were Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. and Miss Kendal, Mr. George Grossmith and Miss Grossmith, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Esmond, Mr. and Mrs. Dion Boucicault (Miss Irene Vanbrugh), Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier (Miss Violet Vanbrugh), Mr. and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mr. and Mrs. Pinero, and Mr. and Mrs. Weedon Grossmith. Mr. and Mrs. Irving Albery later in the day left for the Continent. The bride's travelling dress was of pale pastel blue cloth made in Second Empire style, and embroidered in black, cream colour and moss green, with large roses. The bodice had a collar edged with green, and drawn through a round dull gold buckle and a yoke of cream-coloured net. The hat of blue chip, the shade of the gown, had a thick ruche of blue tulle round the crown and blue ostrich feathers falling over at the back. The set of Russian sables given to her by the bridegroom completed the costume.

"DARKNESS."

A Play, in Four Acts, Founded on Guy Thorne's Novel, "When It was Dark," by S. Buchanan Rogerson, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Monday, March 12.

The Rev. Basile Gortre .... MR. T. A. SHANNON
Constantine Schawbe .... } MR. H. K. AYLIFF
Lucifer ..... }
The Rev. Mr. Byars ..... MR. HENRY J. BUTLER
Sir Robert Llewellyn .. MR. EDWARD VALENTINE
Hon. Charlie Gayfly .... MR. ARTHUR LENVILLE
Harold Spence ..... MR. GEOFFREY CHATE
Mr. Ommaney ..... MR. FREDERICK BIRON
Nunc. Wallace ..... MR. HENRY HILLER
Ionides ..... MR. D. M. STORMONT
Ali-Al-Murad ..... MR. LESLIE STANHOPE
Ibram ..... MR. H. TUCKER
Hassan ..... MR. C. F. DANCE
Alphonse ..... MR. ALF. R. GRAY
Helena Byars ..... MRS. MORTON POWELL
Gracie Goldere ..... MISS ETHEL RAINFORTH
Lady Llewellyn ..... MISS ISABEL TAYLOR
Gertrude Hunt ..... MISS V. ST. LAWRENCE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A fairly large audience assembled to witness this production on Monday, at the Theatre Royal, Manchester. The main outlines of the story may be briefly told. Constantine Schwabe, a Jew millionaire, has conceived the idea of destroying Christianity by bribing an eminent archæologist, Sir Robert Llewellyn, who owes him a large sum of money, to go to Jerusalem for the purpose of forging some documents, which are to be found in a tomb, stated by the documents to be that in which Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus hid the body of Christ, who had therefore never risen from the dead. Schwabe's object arises from sheer wickedness, and the desire to be "master of the world." The link between this abnormal conception and current Christianity is one Gertrude Hunt, a modern Magdalen, who is the mistress of Llewellyn, and whose interests are taken in hand by the Rev. Basile Gortre, an earnest young curate, and his affianced wife, Helena Byars, the daughter of his vicar. During Sir Robert's absence the struggle in this woman between good and evil shows a decided tendency towards good, though Schwabe exerts his Satanic influence, and the archæologist, on his return, makes a strenuous endeavour to keep her in his hands. In the meantime, the plot against the idea of Resurrection has succeeded, with harrowing results. All Christendom is thrown into chaos; men and women lose their heads, and make a rapid descent to the level of the beasts; industries are stopped, famine threatens, and the rule of a hitherto unimagined anarchy is imminent. Suspicion arises in the mind of the curate, and, with a sure instinct, he commissions a particularly anguished young journalist, Harold Spence by name, to trace the so-called discovery to its source in the Holy Land. Gertrude Hunt also he makes aware of his suspicions, and suggests, with a nice delicacy, that she shall return to the arms of Sir Robert Llewellyn, for the purpose of cajoling him in his ecstacy to make a clean breast of his share in the fraud. This is done, and Spence, the journalist, is simultaneously successful in acquiring proofs from the hand of a Greek accomplice named Ionides. The sequel, of course, is the discomfiture of Schwabe, and the restoration of order. The difficult part of Gertrude Hunt found a clever exponent in Miss V. St. Lawrence. Allowing for the fact that this accomplished lady was frequently handicapped by the highly-coloured sentiment of her part, there were many moments in her acting when she held the audience under a spell of silence, and many others when she showed her ability to bring out character in her lines. In the last scene, in which she dies, she touched a really high level, which must have been much more impressive in a play worthy of the effort. Mr. H. K. Ayliff gave dignity and telling emphasis to the part of Schawbe. An effective impersonation of the Rev. Basile Gortre was given by Mr. T. A. Shannon, who supplied a natural delineation governed by a quality of restraint, which added manliness and conviction to his utterances. As Helena Byars Mrs. Morton Powell gave a lively and sincere performance. Mr. Geoffrey Chate as Harold Spence gave a harrowing depiction of the impressionable young journalist. Of the remainder, Mr. Frederick Biron acted quietly and well as the editorial Mr. Ommaney; and Mr. Henry J. Butler gave a good idea of the Rev. Mr. Byars. Mr. Arthur Lenville as the Hon. Charlie Gayfly and Miss Ethel Rainforth as Gracie Goldere are not necessary to the action, but their scene at the opening of the second act deserves mention as a rather clever and entertaining "music hall-y" interlude. In response to the demand of the audience Mr. Guy Thorne appeared at the fall of the curtain, and announced that he thought the play reproduced some of his ideas in "a rather remarkable manner." The scenery provided by Mr. Morton Powell is excellent.

"THE YOUNGEST OF THREE."

A Costume Play, in Four Acts, by H. F. Maltby, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, On Thursday, March 8.

George Wendover ..... MR. H. F. MALTBY
Gerald Wendover ..... MR. W. H. HARGREAVES
Philip Radford ..... MR. A. E. WYN WEAVER
Samuel Johns ..... MR. RALPH HUTTON
Loke ..... MR. W. REGINALD FAVELL
Hickey ..... MR. MORTIMER
Paul ..... MR. ERNEST NOBLE
Joshua Pynne ..... MR. ERNEST NOBLE
Perkins ..... MR. SAM CLEGG
Anne Dulley ..... MISS MABEL MELLOR
Florence Dulley ..... MISS MARA MALTBY
Lucy Dulley ..... MISS BEATRICE MARSDENE
Jane ..... MISS NANCY YORK

This romantic costume play of the Regency period opens at the home of the Dulley's, Rose Cottage, Upleigh. Anne and Florence Dulley (sisters) are discussing the love affairs of their early youth, and are priding themselves upon the care they have bestowed upon their younger sister, Lucy, and their success in preventing her from becoming enamoured of any ineligible person. They possess an Elizabethan settee of beautiful design which, on account of its rarity, has been much hunted after by curio-hunters. Gerald Wendover visits the house for the purpose of seeing it, and obtaining permission from the two sisters, Anne and Florence, to sketch the settee, he is disturbed during their absence by the entrance of Lucy. Gerald, having recently returned from London, is immediately struck by the ingenuous, simple nature of the girl, and is soon interesting her with descriptions of London life as he had seen it. The act ends with a promise made by Gerald that he will call again.

In the second act, after a lapse of two months, Gerald is informing his father that he had gained the hand of Lucy. This declaration results in a stormy scene between father and son. The elder Wendover, a fine type of an old English gentleman, is hurt at being ignored by his son in this affair, and also on account of what he considers a lowering of their social dignity in the proposed alliance. A friend, Phillip Radford, joins Mr. Wendover in imploring Gerald to give up the match, but his plea has no effect. Threats and entreaties alike proving fruitless, Mr. Wendover, sen., and Radford determine to call upon the Dulleys on their way to the Meet and inform them that the match must be broken off.

Gerald, overhearing the decision, rides furiously across country, and arriving before his father at the house of the Dulleys, prevails upon Lucy to elope with him that afternoon.

In Act III. we find Gerald and Lucy in the parlour of The Bowl of Punch, Pendlebury. Everything had thus far favoured their elopement, but an accident to their chaise causes them to take shelter at the inn. No other conveyance being forthcoming, and a storm having come on, they are compelled to make the best of their surroundings. Unfortunately the storm causes the followers of the chaise also to take refuge at the same inn, the result being that the runaways are detected. A heated and stormy scene takes place between father and son, which would have culminated in blows but for the intervention of Lucy, who, to save further trouble, determines to return home, while arrangements are made for Gerald to be sent to India with Philip Radford, who is returning thence after the expiration of his holiday.

In Act IV. we find Lucy and her sisters regretting the non-arrival of news from India. Mr. Wendover, sen., is announced, and immediately states that he has received word that his son is dead. He expresses his regrets at having parted the two young lives, and proclaims his intention of making Lucy his heiress. While expressing mutual sorrow Radford enters, and soon tells how the news received by Wendover is false. Gerald, who had been taken as dead with fever by an Indian servant, had happily recovered, and was at that moment in Rose Cottage. Happy reunion, and curtain.

The piece, on the whole, was excellently played by Mr. Maltby's company. Mr H. F. Maltby deserves especial commendation as George Wendover; Mr. W. H. Hargreaves gives a manly delineaton of the character of Gerald; Mr. A. E. Wyn Weaver is excellent as Philip Radford; Mr. Ralph Hutton gives a fine interpretation of the bucolic Samuel Johns; Mr. Ernest Noble, as Paul and Joshua Pynne, provides the necessary fun in capital style; Miss Mabel Mellor, as Anne Dulley, submits a good character-study of the jilted woman; Miss Mara Maltby pathetically portrays the feelings of Florence Dulley. Too much praise cannot be allotted to Miss Beatrice Marsdene for her sympathetic rendering of Lucy, the part throughout being well played. Miss Nancy York also does capital work as Jane.

A Considerate Earl

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's revival of *The Candidate* will be the theatrical event of the week, and the audience at Wyndham's Theatre on Wednesday is sure to be a brilliant and representative one. Sir Charles will repeat his superb performance of Lord Lancelot Oldacre, and an interesting engagement is that of Mr. Rutland Barrington for the part of Barnabas Goodeve. Miss Helen Ferrers will play Lady Osterley, and the cast will be completed by Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. Yorke Stephens, Mr. Edmund Maurice, Mr. Bertram Steer, Miss Sybil Carlisle, Miss June Van Buskirk, and Miss Lilias Waldegrave.

Mr. Arthur Collins' sojourn in the Engadine, when he had Mr. Hall Caine for a near neighbour, has resulted, as it was hoped, in another autumn drama from the same pen as that which provided the attraction at Drury-lane last year. Mr. Caine has this time selected his novel of "The Bondman" for dramatic treatment, and the action of one act will take place in the sulphur mines in Sicily, where a spectacle of an extraordinary kind is promised. Mr. Hall Caine and Mr. Collins both propose to visit Sicily in search of "local colour," so that the realism invariably associated with Drury-lane production is assured.

Mr. Cyril Maude, who has been credited with the intention of visiting America, is earnest in his desire to contradict the report, which has no truth whatever. *She Stoops to Conquer* finishes at the Waldorf on Friday, and on the following day *The Heir-at-Law*, which is to be revived on Tuesday afternoon next, will be placed in the evening bill. *Shore Acres*, the drama by James Hearne, which attained such phenomenal success in America, will be Mr. Maude's next production at the Waldorf, the handsome theatre which he seems to have placed in an impregnable position in public favour.

A souvenir worthy of the production and of the theatre was presented by Mr. Beerbohm Tree at the fiftieth performance of *Nero* at His Majesty's on the 9th inst. The souvenir takes the form of a book of pictures drawn by Mr. Charles A. Buchel of the chief personages in the play, the delicate tints of the illustrations giving marked effect to the characteristics of each. Mr. Tree begins the series, and is pictured in Nero's most impressive aspect; Mrs. Tree is drawn as a soulful and intense Agrippina; and the classic features of Miss Constance Collier are made very attractive in the pictorial presentment of Poppæa. Mr. Basil Gill as Otho and Mr. C. W. Somerset as Tigellinus are both well-defined portraits; and Miss Dorothea Baird is given a sweetly engaging expression as Acte, well in keeping with the original. Excellent drawings also are those of Miss Phyllis Embury and Mr. Esme Percy as Octavia and Britannicus, and Mr. Lyn Harding as Burrus, Mr. Robert Farquharson as Anicetus, and Mr. J. Fisher White as Seneca are also realistically reproduced.

Mr. Tree, in a prefatory note, acknowledges his indebtedness in the production of the play to Mr. Percy Macquoid, who assisted in designing and overlooking the costumes; to Mr. Coleridge Taylor for the care bestowed on the music; and to Mr. Comyns Carr for distinguished assistance in regard to the staging. A genealogical table showing the Roman Emperor's descent from Caius Julius is also supplied, and an interesting essay on "Nero and his Ancestry," written by Mr. Tree, and reproductions of contemporary coins add to the value of the work. The name of Carl Hentschel and Co., who produced and published the brochure, ensures an artistic souvenir, which is certain to be preserved among many cherished collections.

Mr. J. L. Toole's birthday on Monday was marked by the customary expressions of goodwill from many friends, who sent flowers and other presents innumerable. Mr. Toole, who still resides at Brighton, is enjoying as good health as may reasonably be expected, and was greatly rejoiced at the many tokens of esteem which he received. The age of the veteran comedian has given rise to some perplexing statements on the part of our contemporaries, one sprightly "halfpenny" giving seventy-four, while another, more staid and elderly, put it at seventy-five. Still another year, of course, should be added, Mr. Toole having now reached the ripe age of seventy-six. Despite his infirmities, he still indulges in his little joke. Recently a theatrical gentleman who is famed for, and boasts about, his vast appetite dined with him and ate plentifully. After the last course the aged comedian signalled to a waiter, to whom he whispered (pointing to a large palm that decorated the centre of the table), "Take it away —*he'll eat it!*"

Telegrams of congratulation were sent by Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, Mr. G. Farquhar, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Mr. B. Brodie, Miss Brough, Mr. T. Craven, Mr. E. H. Kelly, Mr. Frank Lincoln, Mr. H. Westland, and the Dickens Fellowship Dramatic Club, of which Mr. Toole is president. Flowers were sent by Mr. George Shelton and Mrs. Cecil Beryl, among many others, and numerous letters testified to the esteem in which Mr. Toole is held by playgoers all over the country, a communication from the Glasgow Artists, bearing the signatures of the president, the vice-presidents, and some sixty others. A large coloured photograph of Mr. Toole was a present from Mr. Addison, and tokens of affection took the shape of shawls, trinkets, and other gifts.

Mr. Walter Stephens, in pursuit of his project for the establishment of a subsidised theatre, addressed the following letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—"12, Haymarket, London, W., March 10, 1906.—Dear Sir,—I beg to write and ask, as the mover in a scheme to found a national répertoire theatre in London, whether you can advise and recommend His Majesty's Government to grant an annual subsidy, in connection therewith, of the sum of £50,000, provided I and my friends and also members of the public guarantee a proportion of the funds, and who would be interested in its permanent establishment. I need hardly add that the necessity of such a theatre in our midst is of vital and national importance not only in the interests of our great dramatic art, but also in the moral welfare and artistic education of the people, who, I am assured, would be ready and eager to aid so important a scheme, which seeks the support already accorded by His Majesty's Government to its sister arts!—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Walter Stephens."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer sent the following reply:—"Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W., March 12, 1906.—Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 10th inst., I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say that, regard being had to the large number of objects of much more pressing national importance for which funds are required, the Government would not, in his opinion, be justified in asking Parliament to subsidise a scheme for a National Repertory Theatre at the expense of the taxpayer.—Yours faithfully, John Bradbury."

Miss Topsy Sinden is a welcome importation into the cast of *The Beauty of Bath*, which will be produced at the Aldwych Theatre on Monday. The scene of the new piece is laid in London, and a company of no less than eighty persons will combine in its presentation.

"His House in Order," which this afternoon attains its fiftieth performance at the St. James's, is to be produced in America in the autumn under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman, the theatre chosen being the Empire, New York. The rôle of Hilary Jesson, the part in which Mr. George Alexander has made a success so pronounced, will be played by Mr. John Drew, whose artistic work in London in association with Miss Ada Rehan will be well remembered.

Miss Ellen Terry's dramatic jubilee on April 28 will be the occasion of a national celebration, for the organisation of which a committee, comprising the names most eminent in the profession, has been got together. Up to the present the executive includes Mr. George Alexander, Mr. William Archer, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. H. Granville Barker, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, Mr. E. Distin-Maddick, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Charles Frohman, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Carl Hentschel, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. H. J. Loveday, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Otho Stuart, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. J. E. Vedrenne, Mr. James Welch, Mr. Lewis Waller, and Sir Charles Wyndham.

The Touring Managers Association have decided to form themselves into a club, to be known as the Touring Managers Club. Convenient premises have been secured in those of the old Savage Club, in the Adelphi, and all theatrical proprietors, acting-managers, and people interested in matters dramatic will be admitted as members. Mr. J. Bannister Howard is the treasurer, and will be pleased to supply any particulars.

Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's "Sir Henry Irving: a Biography," will be published on Monday by T. Fisher Unwin. It is based upon a biography which was published many years ago with the approval and encouragement of the great actor, who revised and corrected all the earlier sheets. This has now been rewritten and brought down to his death. There are thirty-six illustrations, including portraits of Sir Henry in his most famous rôles.

Visiting Leicester for the first time this week, Mr. Martin Harvey has met with gratifying success. From the Opera House numbers of disappointed playgoers have been turned away nightly, whilst those who have watched the favourite actor's several performances have given him rousing receptions. With Miss de Silva and company he will on Monday inaugurate the dramatic season at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, *Hamlet* being presented on Tuesday.

Mr. Harvey has just decided to change the name of his re-written Eugene Aram play *After All* to that of *Eugene Aram; or, After All*. This piece, owing to its marked success wherever performed, will in future take a prominent place in the répertoire. *The Rapparee Trooper*, B. M. Dix and E. G. Sutherland's light comedy, will be produced by Mr. Harvey at the Newcastle Royal during the week commencing April 23.

"The Dairy Maids," whose début is due at the Apollo Theatre on the 14th of next month, will be found by some inscrutable means to be reminiscent both of *Charley's Aunt* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. The reconciliation of the themes of two pieces which have so little in common does not appear on the surface to be an easy one, but as no less than six writers have been engaged in the task, much may be expected. The book is written by Mr. A. M. Thompson and Mr. Robert Courtneidge, Mr. Paul Rubens and Mr. A. Wimperis have provided the lyrics, and Mr. Paul Rubens and Mr. F. Tours are responsible for the music. The action of the new play, which is in two acts and three scenes, is divided between a dairy farm, a naval mess-room, and the gymnasium of a girls' school.—*Mr. Popple—of Ippleton* makes his exit from the Apollo this evening, only to open at the Shaftesbury on Monday.

On Saturday evening last the curtain was rung down on *The Queen of Hearts* pantomime, the most successful, perhaps, that Mr. Robert Arthur has had at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. The packed audience were most enthusiastic, and presents of magnificent boxes and bouquets of flowers were made to Miss Millie Lindon, Miss Maud Darling, Miss Gwen Howard, and Miss Olga Audre. Many floral offerings were also thrown on to the stage. In response to a strong demand, Mr. Robert Arthur came forward, and, in the course of a few words, thanked the public for their cordial appreciation of his finished pantomime, and the artists and staff for their work in having made it a success.

The paragraph which appeared last week regarding the presentation to Mr. F. L. Arthur, manager of the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, contained a printer's error which conveyed the impression that that gentleman had relinquished his position. Mr. Arthur is still manager, and one of Messrs. Carson and Kendall's most respected servants.

We regret to learn that Miss Thirza Norman (Mrs. J. H. Leigh) has been compelled, under the advice of her doctor, to take a complete rest for some months, owing to nervous breakdown.

Miss Irene Moncrieff, who plays Nance in Mr. Charles Carey's *After the Ball* company, met with an accident to her leg while performing at the Lyceum Theatre, Newport, and in consequence has to return to London for a short rest.

Mr. F. R. Benson and his principal company will conclude on Saturday, the 17th, an enormously successful fortnight at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow. On the following Monday they open at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh. The schools of Glasgow have been enthusiastic in their attendance at the various performances, more particularly patronising *As You Like It* and *Julius Cæsar*.

Miss May Florance, after a short rest, has now resumed her part of Ruth Gay in *After the Ball*. During her indisposition the character was ably undertaken by Miss Roze Alma. Miss Florence Smithers has now taken up the part of Nancy, the sixty-year-old baby, in this musical comedy. This infant, it may be said, is not in the least like the "Little Stranger" London has so warmly welcomed, and Miss Smithers's appearance in the rôle of a baby is irresistibly humorous, especially when, in the last act, the precocious youngster pairs off with an overfed colonel in the person of Mr. Victor Widdicombe. The piece is going remarkably well on tour.

Miss Maidie Scott has been engaged by Mr. J. F. Elliston as principal boy in pantomime for 1906-7. If Miss Scott is as successful as she was in *Aladdin* this season, Mr. Elliston will have no cause for regret.

Messrs. Northway and Garrod have just added to their extensive plant of printing for *The Prodigal Parson* an attractive advertisement, in the shape of sixty photo. frames. In Manchester a week ago, thirty-four situations from the play were photographed by Mr. Percy Guttenberg, and are striking examples of up-to-date photography.

Mrs. J. E. Thurlow, who has experienced a large share of ill-fortune since the death of her husband, is now recovering from a severe attack of influenza, and hopes shortly to be ready for an engagement.

The amateur actor is seldom overburdened with modesty, but for cool assurance the following extract from a letter, addressed to Mr. W. Payne Seddon, by the secretary of a dramatic society in Armagh, would be hard to surpass:—"Dear Sir,—Pray forgive me for troubling you, but I feel sure that the proposition I am about to make to you will appeal to your business instincts, and you will forgive my trespass on your time. You may perhaps remember my writing you some time ago, *re* scenery, for *Our Boys*, to which you were good enough to reply quoting terms. Unfortunately, having to pay full copyright fee (£5 5s.), we were unable to afford to purchase your set-piece. We made drawing-room sets ourselves, which suited first-rate, and were cheap. As to the piece itself, we have never played any that has proved such a success as *Our Boys* has proved to be. The piece was played before a great number of the people who are consistent supporters of your companies, and they are unanimous in declaring the production equal to anything that has ever been produced here. During the past few years we have made short tours to some of the Ulster towns with some of our best pieces. We have determined to extend our field of operations, and we believe we have got the play best suited for that purpose. We are fully aware that in opening up new places we have got to risk something to make a name, and we therefore beg to submit the following proposition to you, viz.:—That you run the piece through some or all of your towns, same as any other of your companies, taking a certain portion of the profits, or paying a round sum for the tour; our object is not so much to make money as a love for the trip so long as we are insured against loss. Of course, in making a proposition of this kind you naturally want a guarantee that the performance is not in any way inferior to any of your productions; in fact, you don't want anything amateur. I can assure you I would never dream of making such a proposal were our efforts not equal to any professional production. In conclusion, allow me to observe that I think *Our Boys* would pay to tour with again. Should you not feel inclined to take any risks we will endeavour to go as far afield as our means will allow."

Mr. Seddon's reply is one in which humour and sarcasm are nicely blended. It reads as follows:—"Dear Sir,—I thank you for your proposition and compliments to my business instinct, which I am carefully considering. Meanwhile, your kind reply to the following questions would greatly assist me to arrive at a conclusion. (1) Would not such a performance as you describe give my patrons a distaste for professional companies? (2) As no man is a prophet in his own country would it not be more profitable to commence in South Africa or the States, and work your way home? (3) Can you suggest any assurance company which would insure you against loss (or accident), as you suggest? (4) Would it not be cheaper to go fishing?—Yours faithfully, W. Payne Seddon."

Mr. Robert Dodson, the venerable chairman of the Strand Board of Guardians, died on the 8th inst., in his eighty-fourth year. Mr. Dodson will be remembered in the profession as the father of that clever young actor, Mr. Alfred Kendrick.

The New Grand Theatre, Mansfield, the building of which is being greatly accelerated, is situate on the main electric tram route in Main-street, in the centre of the town. The proscenium opening will be 28ft.; stage depth, 40ft.; width, 60ft., and 40ft. to flies. Large dock doors will open direct from stage to side street, and the biggest productions travelling can be accommodated. The theatre, which will be lit by electricity and duplicated by gas, will be opened in August, and will be booked in conjunction with the King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

"Cinderella," at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, finished up last Saturday with such a send-off as has seldom been vouchsafed to any other pantomime in the history of the theatre. The public gathered outside the theatre at an early hour in the afternoon, a drenching and continuous rainfall notwithstanding, and when the doors opened speedily filled the house to overflowing, their enthusiasm increasing, until at the end they absolutely refused to quit the theatre till the producer and manager of the house, Mr. J. F. Graham, had favoured them with a speech. Floral tributes were bestowed on the lady artists, and presents given to the gentlemen.

Mr. John Hastings Batson, an actor of long standing and wide experience, met with an accident on the 13th inst., from which he providentially escaped with comparatively little injury. He was engaged last week at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, and after playing a game of billiards at a neighbouring hotel on the evening referred to, was about to leave the house by way of a dark passage, at the end of which he mistook a door for the one he had entered by. It unfortunately opened on to the steps of a cellar, down which Mr. Batson fell a distance of over 18ft. The severity of the fall was modified by the fact that he came down on his back, but he sustained a terrible shock, and is still in the doctor's hands.

The Council of the Actors' Association regret that an error appeared in the report recently issued to members, to the effect that Mr. Malcolm Morris had retired from practice. This, however, is not the case. Mr. Morris was obliged to resign his appointment as consulting surgeon to the Association owing to the pressure of other engagements.

Mr. H. B. Irving with praiseworthy industry has finished his translation of *Jeunesse*, and will produce it at the Lyric on Saturday, March 31. Mr. Irving, by the courtesy of Mr. Tree, who has released her from her engagement at His Majesty's, is enabled to have the inestimable assistance of his wife, and Miss Dorothea Baird will consequently form one of the cast. The company will be completed by Mr. Leslie Faber, Mr. W. T. Lovell, Mr. D. McCarthy, and Miss Marion Terry.

Miss Edith Cole and the Scala Theatre Company, with Mr. W. W. Kelly's *A Royal Divorce*, will be the attraction at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, next week. The suburban tour of this production opened with a capital week's business at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, where all previous records for the play were outdistanced.

The morality play *Everyman* was revived at the Coronet Theatre on Thursday afternoon, under the direction of Mr. William Poel, who was responsible for the original production by the Elizabethan Stage Society three years ago. Mr. Poel is to be complimented on the way he staged the piece, which was well cast, the acting all round rendering the play very impressive.

The New Stage Club will produce at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, on April 5, a translation by Lady Barclay of *La Révolte*, the play by Villiers de l'Isle Adam, first given at the Paris Vaudeville in 1870. *The Fool of the World*, by Arthur Symons, will also be in the programme.

Dickie Clare, the popular comedian, who at Easter finishes an eight months' successful tour with Mr. Fredk. Melville's *Between Two Women* company, has secured the sole rights of a new farcical comedy, by Fred Locke, author of *The Trip to the Highlands*. Mr. Clare's new venture is called *Lucky Liza*, and will be produced early in May.

Mr. Lewis Waller gave a reading of *Julius Cæsar* at the Imperial Theatre on Monday afternoon, before a large audience of members of the British Empire Shakespeare Society. Standing at a desk placed on a green-carpeted daïs amid a Gothic interior, Mr. Waller read all the male parts, and Miss Evelyn Millard and Miss Madge McIntosh, who were seated in chairs, were responsible for the lines of Portia and Calpurnia respectively. Mr. Acton Bond read the stage directions, and the crowd of Romans was represented by ladies and gentlemen, seated with their backs to the audience. The reading, which was given in modern dress, was highly successful, and great satisfaction was expressed.

Miss Laura Hansen was presented with a handsome bouquet by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Livesey on the 9th inst., the last night of her playing Kate Strong in *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Livesey kindly released her to allow her to be present at the first performance of *The School for Husbands* at the Scala Theatre, where she is engaged by Miss Jessie Millward to understudy her as Lady Belinda Manners.

An interesting event in connection with the Playgoers' Club will take place on Sunday evening, March 25, for which date the Ladies' Concert is announced. The evening will be divided into two parts, the first of which will be passed at the Waldorf Theatre, kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. Shubert, where many well-known artists will entertain the members at a grand concert; whilst later in the evening the club will return the compliment by entertaining their friends at supper at the Hotel Cecil.

Mr. A. J. Harding, at very short notice, owing to the indisposition of Mr. David James, appeared with gratifying success as Benjamin Goldfinch in *A Pair of Spectacles* at the New Theatre, Cambridge, last Thursday and Friday evenings.

Mr. W. B. Redfern, of the New Theatre, Cambridge, was so satisfied with Mr. Russell Rosse's production of *She Stoops to Conquer* last Saturday, that he at once arranged with Mr. Rosse to play an entire week of old English comedy in the full May term next. Miss Muriel Godfrey-Turner, who created a most favourable impression by her rendition of Kate Hardcastle, will play the principal lady rôles, which will include Lady Teazle and Pauline Deschappelles.

Pending the production of *Geoffrey Stirling* in the autumn, Mr. Henry Doughty is negotiating for the rights of a well-known farcical comedy, which he purposes touring during the summer months.

Mr. Geo. R. Sims' new play *For Life—and After*, dramatised from his recently published novel of the same name, is to be produced by Hardie and Von Leer at Easter. The plot deals with the conviction, and its consequences, of an innocent woman upon a charge of murder, and recalls a *cause célèbre* upon which, after a lapse of many years, public opinion is still sharply divided. The company will include a number of well-known artists.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard has no cause to regret having taken over the Crystal Palace Theatre. Since the start business has been very gratifying, large audiences being the general rule. The attraction next week will be *The Geisha* and *The Greek Slave*. Mr. Howard has practically completed his autumn bookings.

Manuel Garcia, the famous teacher of singing, inventor of the laryngoscope, and one of the most remarkable figures in contemporary musical circles, is a hundred and one to-day, and enters upon his 102nd year in the full possession of his health and faculties. Last year a banquet and the presentation of his portrait, painted by Sargent, marked his hundredth birthday, but this year the veteran virtuso will receive the congratulations of his many friends in the country, far away from disturbing influences. Mr. Garcia's interest in teaching is as keen as ever, and even now he gives an occasional lesson.

"A Queen of Villainy" is the distinctive title of a drama by Ridgewood Barrie, which has already been produced under the still more impressive name of *A She Devil*, and will have its first London representation at the Greenwich Theatre on Monday. The lady upon whom such high rank is conferred is known as Cora Granville, and will be played by Miss Edith Blande.

Mrs. Lewis Waller, who is in Algiers, suffering from acute nervous breakdown, was represented by counsel on Tuesday when her action against J. E. Hutton, Ltd., in reference to a motor-car which was ordered by her from them for her own use in a tour, was mentioned to Mr. Justice Ridley. Counsel said he had an affidavit from a doctor in Algiers which stated that the plaintiff was not in a fit condition to undertake a journey to England. He applied that the case stand out of the list till next sittings. His lordship allowed the case to stand out, but, on the application of opposing counsel, said the case should not be placed at the bottom of the list.

Creatore, the wonderful young musical conductor whose band has created little short of a sensation at the Queen's Hall, will continue his recitals on Monday and the four succeeding evenings, matinées being given on Wednesday and Friday. Creatore is only thirty-four years of age, and several years ago was celebrated as the greatest solo performer in Italy on his chosen musical instrument. For some years he was a teacher of several bands and orchestras in his native city, Naples, and the surrounding villages. In 1900 he went to America, where his name has become a household word among the highest musical circles.

The Shaftesbury Livery Stables in Lisle-street, Leicester-square (close to Hippodrome), have been most successful in catering for the various places of entertainment requiring horses for their equine effects. These stables have supplied all the horses for the performance of *The Charioteers* at the Coliseum for the last sixteen weeks, and have been highly complimented on the same. We understand horses for theatrical and other purposes can be obtained at Lisle-street Stables at any hour of the day, and competent attendants are also available at all times.

Mr. Norman V. Norman will shortly produce the play adapted by Messrs. Freeman Wills and Frederick Langbridge (authors of *The Only Way*, &c.) from Stanley Weyman's powerful romance "Count Hannibal." The action is laid in the reign of Charles IX. of France, and part of it during the Massacre of St. Bartholomew. Miss Beatrice Wilson will play the leading part, Clotilde de Vrillac, and Mr. Norman the Count Hannibal de Tavannes.

Mr. Astley Weaver is the latest successful entertainer to precede a West End success. After an appearance at the Comedy Theatre in front of *The Alabaster Staircase*, Mr. Frohman has retained his clever and up-to-date musical monologue as a prelude to *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*. All Mr. Weaver's songs and sketches are from his own pen, and enthusiastic curtain recalls have been accorded him at the Duke of York's.

Miss Theresa Osborne has been engaged by Mr. Ernest Norris for the leading part in *Tommy Atkins* for tour.

Mr. Charles Frohman is credited with the intention of having two more playhouses built in New York, one to be called the Barrie Theatre, in honour of the English novelist and playwright, whose works are so successful in America as elsewhere. Mr. Frohman's admiration for Mr. Barrie is shared by many, but few could afford to give such striking expression to it.

A Committee meeting of the Actors' Orphanage Fund was held at 18, Russell-street, Covent-garden, on Wednesday last, when the following members were present:—Mr. E. S. Cox-Sinclair (in the chair), Mr. Cyril Maude (president), Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mrs. Edward Compton, Mrs. E. S. Willard, Miss May Warley, Mrs. Mangles, Mrs. Fred Wright, Mrs. Gay, Mr. C. C. Cruikshanks, and Mr. E. H. Bull (secretary). The annual meeting of the Fund will be held on Friday, May 18, at the Garrick Theatre, by the kind permission of Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Cyril Maude taking the chair. The garden party will be given as usual at the Royal Botanic Gardens on Friday, July 6.

Mr. Alfred Goddard has been specially re-engaged by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow to play his old part of Lieut. Charles Clive in the successful drama *A Sailor's Sweetheart*.—Mr. Frederick Victor has been engaged to play Mr. Lewis Waller's part in *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner* on tour.

At the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday, shortly before the time for commencing the performance, the fusing of the electric light resulted in partial darkness. The large audience was somewhat alarmed, but any possible chance of a panic was averted by the excellently trained staff, and also by the coolness of the orchestra, who continued playing with unabated vigour, notwithstanding the fact that their lamps were affected by the accident. It soon transpired that the difficulty was concerned with that modern bugbear of most stage-managers, the fireproof curtain, which resisted all efforts made to raise it. A few breezy words from Mr. E. E. Norris, the general manager, soon put the audience in possession of the facts, and on his advice they reluctantly left the theatre. On Tuesday night the refractory curtain gave in, and Mr. J. W. Whitbread's eminently successful drama. *Lord Edward, or '98*, was presented.

Miss Edna May, who arrived in London on Tuesday, was specially honoured by President Roosevelt before her departure from America. The President invited her to White House, gave her his best wishes and a signed picture of himself, and added, with becoming gallantry, that it was not often that such an attractive lady came to see him in the rain. Mrs. Roosevelt, too, paid a visit to the theatre, and presented the charming actress with a bouquet of violets and lilies. On her arrival Miss May started at once on rehearsals for *The Belle of Mayfair*, which is shortly to be produced by Mr. Charles Frohman at the Vaudeville.

Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison played the title-rôle in the translation by Professor Gilbert Murray of *The Electra* of Euripides, revived at the Court Theatre on Tuesday evening, and gave a performance replete with grace and artistic resource. Miss Edyth Olive resumed her former part of Clytemnestra, and Mr. J. H. Barnes that of the old man, Agamemnon's servant. Mr. Henry Ainley took up the character of Orestes, and gave a masterly rendering of the rôle.

At the Anglo-French Association's "L'Entente Cordiale At Home" at the Grafton Galleries, on Saturday afternoon, Miss Fogerty spoke on the subject of "Rogues and Vagabonds," in allusion to the mediæval bands of troubadours and strolling players. The Rev. H. Russell Wakefield, rector of Marylebone, occupied the chair, and in the discussion which followed said he had been struck by the difference which there was between the "rogue and vagabond" of the reign of Queen Elizabeth and the actor and actress of the present day. It appeared to be the main duty of the actress now that sooner or later she should become a member of the peerage. It was an excellent ambition, no doubt, but he was not quite sure whether he would not, if he had to choose, rather be one of the strolling players. He personally was so much indebted to the dramatic profession for all the lightening, and broadening, and sometimes the instructing of life which it accomplished, that he should be very sorry if they considered that there was anything so great and grand as their work itself.

Mr. Blake Adams, who made such a hit as Captain Barley in *Beauty and the Barge* on tour, is an actor born and bred. Of Scotch family, his very first recollections are of life "on the road," accompanying his father, Mr. Adam Alexander, and his mother on their different tours, and going to school in any town where a stock season gave them the opportunity of staying some time. He received his principal education at Banchory, in Scotland, and, after playing all the usual child parts, was put into an architect's office, with instructions to forget the footlights and devote himself to his new profession. He did his best, but there are some men "cut out" to be actors—men, however, who have never been stage-struck after the manner of the young amateur—and Blake Adams is one of them. So, after spoiling many sheets of drawing-paper, he determined to walk out of the front door of the office and find his way to the stage-door of a theatre.

Mr. Adams confesses to having had a great belief in his own importance at one period of his career. It was before he had entered his teens, when he was very proud of being engaged by the well-known actor, J. G. Taylor—his godfather, by the way—to play a good part in a piece that was produced at York. The piece was a success, and Master Blake was so proud of his share of the applause that he hurried away from the theatre as quickly as he could to boast of his triumph at home. He well remembers saying to himself, as he ran along, "I'm an actor! Everybody knows me! I'm going to be rich and famous!" On reaching a toll-bridge he was rudely wakened from his dream, for the bridge-keeper sternly demanded a halfpenny. The boy's lodgings were only a few seconds' walk from the opposite side—he could see the lights in the windows—and he mentioned this fact to the man, for he had not a farthing in his pocket. Still being refused, he proceeded to give the bridge-keeper a vivid, highly-coloured description of his recent success, but it was all of no avail. The diminutive Garrick had to take a long tramp to find a free bridge, and confessed, on reaching home thoroughly tired out, that a halfpenny in hand would have been of more value than any amount of praise and applause in the distance.

Mr. Blake Adams tried his luck, not long ago, on the music-hall stage, appearing in a sketch of his own called *The Last Pitch*. In this he was assisted by his wife, professionally known as Miss Mona Robins, a charming actress, who made her *début*, before she went on the regular stage, as a dramatic reciter in Edinburgh. She is also Scotch, and their one little son is nicknamed "Church-and-Stage" Adams, as one of his grandfathers was a minister and the other is an actor. Mr. Blake Adams has played so many parts that he has never had the patience to make a complete list of them. His *forte* is character and comedy, and Mr. Cyril Maude, at the time when he engaged him for Captain Barley, was quite right in saying that such a clever, versatile, and cultured actor ought to be seen in London far more frequently.

"A JUDGE'S MEMORY."

A Comedy in Three Acts, by Brandon Thomas,
Produced at Terry's Theatre,
on Tuesday, March 13.

Mr. Frazer ..... MR. JAMES WELCH
Lord Harrowfield ..... MR. JAMES FERNANDEZ
Capt. McNeil Frazer .. MR. THALBERG CORBETT
Hon. Trevor Tattenhall ..... MR. SAM SOTHERN
Mr. Nash ..... MR. G. F. TULLY
Mr. Warburton ..... MR. FRANK DENTON
Young ..... MR. JOHN W. DEVERELL
Kirk ..... MR. GORDON TOMKINS
Dugald ..... MR. LEOPOLD PROFEIT
James ..... MR. M. FLORANCE
Lady Harrowfield ..... MISS WALLIS
Marjorie Brabazon ..... MISS BEATRICE TERRY
Lady Judith O'Hara .... MISS MARGARET BUSSE
Jones ..... MISS ETHEL HOLLINGSHEAD
Mrs. Frazer ..... MRS. E. H. BROOKE

It is always dangerous to dabble in a language which one does not know thoroughly; but a certain Scotch word may illustrate our description of Mr. Brandon Thomas's play. That word is "daiker"; and we understand that it means to dally along, to stroll, perhaps to wander. *A Judge's Memory* undoubtedly "daikers." It might almost be said to "daiker" dreadfully; but, after all, we are not all possessed with the desire for rapid motion which is the craze of the present period, and, judging from the cordial reception which the piece had at Terry's Theatre on Tuesday evening, there are many to whom a more devious and deliberate method of progression is quite pleasant, and who are by no means in a hurry to arrive at a destination or a *dénouement*, especially when walking in company with so genial and kindly a companion as Mr. Brandon Thomas. From the outset, this disposition to "daikering" is obvious. The hero of the piece, Mr. Charles Frazer, is a confirmed "daikerer." He has full scope for the indulgence of his habit in the first act, the scene of which is a solicitor's office. Here, Frazer, with a certain amiable prolixity, tells the story of his life. He and his brother Jim, the descendants of a great Scotch family, fell into poverty when children, and were adopted by a benevolent costermonger. Jim organised a burglary; and Charles, who was caught in possession of the "swag," bore the blame of his brother's crime, and was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Jim went to Singapore, became rich, and, dying, left to Charles a large fortune. Grief at Charles's sentence killed his wife, who expired after giving birth to a boy. This child was brought up in ignorance of his parentage, and was sent into the Army, eventually becoming Captain Neil McNeil Frazer, of the Scots Guards.

This is the situation when the "daikering"—we cannot call it "action"—of the play commences. Charles Frazer has rebuilt the home of his ancestors, Invermuichty Castle, and yearns to see his soldier son. They meet at the office of a friendly solicitor; and it transpires through the cheery confidences of Lady Judith O'Hara, an impulsive Irish girl, that Captain Frazer is in love with Marjorie Brabazon, the granddaughter of Lord and Lady Harrowfield. Now, his lordship was formerly Mr. Justice Hoggett; and it was he who sentenced Charles to his six years' "stretch." It is evident that if the identity of the wealthy Mr. Frazer with the ex-convict be discovered a great obstacle will be placed in the way of the union of Marjorie and the Captain. As a side-issue, we have the loves of Lady Judith and the Hon. Trevor Tattenhall, whom his father wishes to wed Marjorie. Lady Judith suggests that he shall propose to the young lady, obtain her refusal, and thus satisfy his parent. After this and other digressions, we return to the plot. Lady Harrowfield, who happened to be in Court when Charles was tried and sentenced, never forgets a face; and, after some hesitation, she ends by identifying Frazer, who can only throw himself on her mercy. His pathetic appeal for the happiness of the two young people softens the stony heart of her ladyship, and she brings herself, after an effort, to consent to the alliance.

The leading part of Charles Frazer is one well calculated to employ the peculiar powers of Mr. James Welch. Frazer retains the mispronunciations of his "coster" days, and endeavours, unsuccessfully, to cover and cloak them by using phrases from the Scotch language, lessons in which he takes from his valet, Dugald. He is a humble, loving, diffident personage; and Mr. Welch, with a white wig agreeably curled, a bent-in foot suggestive of gout, and a generally apologetic air, presents a picture which remains in the memory. The entire absence of self-esteem in the little Cockney, his passionate affection for his splendid son, and his unfailing kindliness are admirably indicated by Mr. Welch, whose make-up is particularly neat and judicious. He acts with real earnestness and intensity at the climax, when Frazer begs Lady Harrowfield to have mercy on the lovers. Mr. James Fernandez's Lord Harrowfield is a capital conception, the shrewd, genial, portloving ex-Judge being depicted in the rich and mellow tones of an old family portrait. Mr. Thalberg Corbett, as Captain Frazer, is a manly, well-bred, and stalwart specimen of an English officer in a "crack" regiment; and he acts with a quiet force and well-controlled energy which make his embodiment very effective. Mr. Sam Sothern as the Hon. Trevor Tattenhall gives us one of those impeccable performances of inanely aristocratic parts which have made him so popular with London playgoers, and do him so much artistic credit; and Mr. G. F. Tully is every inch a solicitor as Mr. Nash, Mr. Frank Denton doing useful work carefully as Mr. Warburton, and Mr. John W. Deverell being bright and intelligent as Young. Mr. Gordon Tomkins is a stately butler; and Mr. Leopold Profeit, by his exceHent imitation of the Scotch accent, his spirited rendering of a song which is introduced in the second act, and his nimble step-dancing, does much to embellish the easy deliberation of the play. Mr. M. Florance is efficient as James; and Miss Wallis, as the Gorgonian Lady Harrowfield, hard as nails and stiff as steel, bears herself with all the grim dignity required. Her only opportunity for earnest work is in the last act, when Lady Harrowfield wavers between justice and mercy; and it need hardly be said that of this opportunity Miss Wallis, like the ripe and accomplished actress that she is, takes the fullest advantage. Miss Beatrice Terry's delicate refinement, polished grace, and gentle breeding make her a very acceptable exponent of the character of Marjorie Barbazon; and Miss Margaret Bussé rattles off Lady Judith O'Hara's merry nonsense with a fire and fluency which are both animating and diverting. Miss Ethel Hollingshead is commendable as Jones; and Mrs. E. H. Brooke, whose appearance was greeted with warm encouragement, makes an amiable Mrs. Frazer. There was a hearty call for Mr. Brandon Thomas at the conclusion of the performance on Tuesday; and *A Judge's Memory* appeared to please the majority of those present.

"THE SCHOOL FOR HUSBANDS."

A Comedy, in Four Acts, by Stanislaus Stange,
Played for the first time in London at the
Scala Theatre on Saturday, March 10.

Betty ..... MISS FRANCES WELSTEAD
Roger ..... MR. J. W. MACDONALD
Captain Lovel ..... MR. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE
Lord Drinkwell ..... MR. J. T. MCCALLUM
Lord Playmore ..... MR. GEORGE UNWIN
Sir John Manners ..... MR. FRANK COOPER
Lady Manners ..... JESSIE MILLWARD
Clarissa Huntleigh ..... MISS DOROTHY MINTO
Prince Assam ..... MR. PHILIP CUNINGHAM
Lady Airish ..... MISS MONA K. ORAM
Lady Speakill ..... MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND
Lady Tattle ..... MISS MAUD LESLIE
Lord Foppington ..... MR. T. WIGNEY-PERCYVAL
Jocko ..... HAZEL WEEKS
Warrant Officer ..... MR. CYRIL WOLSELEY
Constable ..... MR. STEPHEN LANGTON

It was fortunate for Mr. Stanislaus Stange, the author of *The School for Husbands*, that the piece was played for the first time in London under the protection of such an old favourite as Miss Jessie Millward. It does not matter in the least whether Mr. Stange's chronology and local colour be correct or incorrect, or how much or how little he may have "conveyed" from Wycherley or Congreve into his piece; what does matter is that he has fallen between two stools. The idea of *The School for Husbands* is decidedly good. But it is treated in the wrong way. The essence of the Restoration Comedy—as Macaulay remarked, and reams of sophistry will not impair the truth of the observation—was its heartlessness. It was addressed to "the town"; and everybody knows what "the town" in the time of Charles II. was. *The School for Husbands* has the shallowness of the Restoration Comedy without its polish, and its artificiality without its art. It is bedizened with a number of old ornaments taken from the masterpieces of Restoration—familiar catch phrases, odd tricks of speech and affectations; but it is no more like Restoration Comedy than the imitation Chelsea sold in the cheap dealers' shops is like the "real old-time article."

There is no reason why, when an author puts his characters into knee-breeches and panniers, he should Wycherly-ise them as well. Men and women were much the same in the reign of Charles II. as they are at the present day; it was only a fashion and convention to represent them as all shallow and vicious. Mr. Stange would have done much better to have treated his theme naturally and sentimentally, in the modern English or American manner. Moderns like more heart in the treatment of marital relations. Lady Manners, in *The School for Husbands*, is "neither one thing nor the other"; neither the loving, tender, humorously clever wife of modern comedy, nor a brilliant half-callous "sparkler" of the Millamant class. Now and then she gives hints of real love for her husband; but on the whole the author's treatment of the character is superficial. And it is fatal to be superficial unless you can put plenty of polish on the surface.

But the subsidiary inventions—the errors of identity, the fop carried off by bailiffs in mistake for the jealous husband, the scuttlings behind screens and in and out of doors, are vivacious and various, if sometimes almost childish in their simplicity; and as we have said, the root idea is a good one. Lady Manners is devoted to her husband, Sir John, who neglects her for the society of drunkards and gamblers. She learns that a relative in India has left her £300,000. This gives her a free hand; and she resolves to teach Sir John that "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." She dashes out into the wildest extravagance; and, of course, Sir John—who knows nothing about the legacy—imagines his wife is ruining him by her expenditure. He becomes jealous, too, at the admiration she excites in the breasts of various gallants; and a somewhat trivial incident connected with a certain snuff-box, which Lady Manners has promised to present to the man she most admires, gives Sir John an excuse for much indignation and a duel. Lady Manners lets things come to the point of an "execution on the house"; and then she explains to her husband the lesson she has been teaching him. He professes repentance, and promises reform; and they "kiss and forgive."

Miss Jessie Millward's *forte* is, and always has been, sweet sincerity; and she did all she could to correct Mr. Stange's mistake by putting nice touches of feeling into her reading of the rôle of Lady Manners. But it was uphill work; and when she got amongst the author's "imitation Congreve" she really had no alternative than to fall back upon her technique, which, as everyone knows, is that of a ripe and accomplished actress. There is a scene in the piece in which, developed sentimentally, sincerely, and with delicacy and deliberation, Miss Millward would have made the best in the play—the explanation in the last act, in which the wife enjoys her triumph. Miss Millward's attitude, seated at her mirror with her back to her embarrassed husband, with an occasional roguish side glance, suggested possibilities of delightful comedy. But the *dénouement* was brought about mechanically, and the author did not give the actress a chance. It was the same with that fine actor, Mr. Frank Cooper. Let him have force and feeling to depict, and there is no actor who can do better. But what could Mr. Cooper make of a personage like Sir John Manners, a vapourer without dignity and a gallant without wit or grace? Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, who had to look a model of military beauty in a light-brown wig and regimentals, fulfilled that part of his contract capitally, and acted throughout with a moderation and ease which were highly acceptable. Mr. J. T. McCallum and Mr. George Unwin were excellent in every way as two roysterers. Miss Dorothy Minto was delightfully arch and simple as a gay young lady who is made love to by an ultra-elocutionary Indian Prince. His stately style was done full justice to by Mr. Philip Cuningham, who presented a fine appearance, and spoke his lines with sonorous solemnity. Mr. T. Wigney-Percyval gave a highly finished and carefully elaborated representation of Lord Foppington, quaint, ornate, and fantastic; Miss Mona K. Oram and Miss Maud Leslie took great pains with the parts of Lady Airish and Lady Tattle; and Miss Dolores Drummond did what was possible with the rôle of Lady Speakill. All the artists, however, were more or less handicapped by the defects of the play, which is not likely to have a long run—in London at any rate.

AT the Irish concert to be given at the Crystal Palace this evening, Henry Austin will recite "An Irish Wake," by Robert Buchanan, to which he has had special music for pianoforte and organ set by Hubert Bath. The composer will accompany the reciter.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The second bi-monthly meeting of the members of the Actors' Association was held on Thursday, the 8th inst. Among those present were Messrs. F. G. Bayly, F. Rawson Buckley, F. Clive, C. F. Collings, Burton Cooke, Herbert Dickeson, Henry Doughty, A. E. Drinkwater, F. G. Dunn, Clarence Hague, Robert Milsted, F. Morland, Simon D. Ord, Edmond T. Sayers, A. M. Seaton, C. Aubrey Smith, Adnam Sprange, and Wallace Stranack, and Mesdames Gladys Ffolliott, Eleanor Gilbart, Agnes Imlay, Marjorie F. Lind, Phyllis Manners, Doris Regan, Kathleen Russell, Mary E. Smith, Eugenie Vernie, and M. Davies Webster, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, secretary.

Mr. A. E. Drinkwater was elected chairman upon the proposition of Mr. Adnam Sprange, seconded by Mr. C. Aubrey Smith. The secretary read the minutes of the first bi-monthly meeting, which were confirmed.

The secretary read his letter to Mr. Quinton McPherson, of Feb. 13, '06, and also an extract from a letter from Mr. McPherson, Feb. 18, '06, as follows: "I much regret the Council have been unable to approve of the propositions passed by the members at the bi-monthly meeting in January, but I shall endeavour in my new position as councillor to bring these matters to their notice in perhaps a more favourable light."

Mr. F. Rawson Buckley proposed, and Mr. Frank G. Bayly seconded, the proposition that, in view of the excessive expenditure in postage, notices to the members be advertised in *The Era* and *Stage*, instead of circularising. It was agreed this course be recommended to the Council.

Miss Gladys Ffolliott proposed, and Mr. A. M. Seaton seconded, the proposition that candidates for membership must be personally known to the proposers and seconders. This was agreed to as a recommendation to the Council.

It was proposed by Mr. Robert Milsted, seconded by Miss Gladys Ffolliott, and agreed as a recommendation to the Council, that a time limit of eight minutes be fixed at future annual general meetings for the making of speeches.

Mr. F G. Bayly asked why ordinary members who were desirous of speaking at the annual general meeting were cried down by members of the Council. It was suggested that it was a question of time, and that perhaps the adoption of a time limit for speeches would mend matters.

Mr. C. F. Collings asked for information in connection with insurance, and was told by the secretary that the insurance company made it a condition that only those members were covered who had paid their subscriptions for the current year.

Mr. C. Aubrey Smith proposed, and Mr. Frank G. Bayly seconded the proposition that acting-managers, on a salary list, having no financial interest in a company, and not being actors, be admitted to membership. This was put to the meeting, and, on the first count, it was declared the voting was equal. On the second count it was declared that the proposition was lost.

Mr. Simon D. Ord proposed that any member of the Council, as soon as he become an acting-manager, or manager of his own company, should cease to be a member of the Council. After some discussion, this proposition was withdrawn.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

A meeting of the "special" committee of the Association took place on the 8th inst., when there were present Messrs. Clarence Blakiston, C. Hayden Coffin, C. Aubrey Smith, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. C. Aubrey Smith was elected chairman of the committee for the ensuing year. A question as to copyright in professional photographs was discussed, and certain directions given. Suggestions were made as to payment for rehearsals, and a scheme was drawn up for the consideration of the Council.

The finance and general purposes committee met on Saturday last, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), William Devereux, A. E. George, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Miss Vera Leslie's scheme for reduction of the subscription to the Association was considered. Miss Leslie being present, a portion of the scheme was withdrawn, and ultimately it was agreed that the remainder should be presented to the members at the next bi-monthly meeting, for discussion. A question of finance was settled, and the secretary received instructions.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday last, when there were present:—Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, W. Graham Browne, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Quinton McPherson, Algernon Syms, Spencer Trevor, Fredk. Volpe, and Hubert Willis, Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Kate Bishop, Beatrice Lamb, Kate Phillips, and Saba Raleigh, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). A member attended before the Council, and having stated the nature of claim, the hon. solicitors were requested to apply for payment of salary in lieu of notice. Proceedings taken by the hon. solicitors to enforce paymcnt of a member's claim for damages for breach of contract were approved. A case of alleged insanitation in a provincial theatre was discussed, and the secretary reported that he had sent a copy of the plan of the premises to the hon. medical officer of health. A case of alleged bogus management was considered, and the secretary was directed to file the papers for future reference. The hon. solicitors reported that they had advised members on points submitted. The reports of the "special" committee and the finance and general purposes committee were received. Camilla Dalberg, Florence St. John, Daisy Humphreys, and Harold Weston were nominated for election to the Association. A former member was nominated for reinstatement.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 12, the Drama, in Four
Acts, by Fredk. Melville, entitled
"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."

This drama of Mr. Frederick Melville's is one that appeals strongly to the masses, and Marylebone playgoesrs turned up in full force to Mr. William Bailey's comfortable theatre this week. A telling representation of the Rev. Philip Carton was given by Mr. Hugh Metcalfe, who portrayed the manly parson in vigorous, lifelike style; whilst Mr. C. W. Standing enacted Harry Millard in similar fashion, his elocution being clear and his bearing excellent. Mr. Arthur B. Murray was full of resource as the Earl of Millard, and quickly secured the sympathy of the house; Mr. Louis Hector as the rascally James Durwood made the most of his opportunities, and triumphed accordingly; Mr. J. W. Walters did well as Jacques Spado, Mr. George R. Montford gave a highly creditable performance as Major Strangeways, and Mr. Dickie Clare's ample comedy powers found full scope in the character of Jack Pringle. The important rôle of Carmende Savereux was sustained by Miss Winifred Pearson in a most convincing way, and the success she achieved was quite deserved. Miss Lulu Bowes attracted much attention and sympathy as the blind boy, Miss Lilian Earle displayed high spirits and vivacity as the lively Pollie Popp, and Miss Marjorie Murray was the recipient of much careful attention and kindly encouragement by reason of her tender womanly rendering of Violet Thornton.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"ANTIGONE,"
Play, in Three Acts, by Sophocles,
Adapted by K. Vollmoeller,
Produced at the Kleines,
March 10, 1906.

Antigone ..... FRAU BERTENS
Ismene ..... FRAULEIN NEVES
Kreon ..... HERR EVERTH
Euridike ..... FRAULEIN GRUNING
Haimon ..... HERR HARTBERG
Tetrefias ..... HERR ABEL
Wächter ..... HERR LICHO
Bote ..... HERR LETTINGER
Chorführer ..... HERR LUX
Bacchanten Chorführer ..... HERR WALTER
Second Chorführer ..... HERR SCHRADER
Third Chorführer ..... HERR HELMER
Sprecherin ..... FRAULEIN BRATT
Second Sprecherin ..... FRAULEIN BAUER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 15.—The production of this play was announced some days earlier, but had to be postponed on account of Frau Bertens' indisposition. It met with a very cordial reception, the applause increasing from act to act. It is surely the most human of all the Greek master's works, while it is absolutely modern in many of its phases. Herr Vollmoeller has translated and adapted the play in excellent manner; the verses are sonorous and fluent, and the points well preserved. The third act was unquestionably the finest, producing a profound impression, which was considerably aided by the introduction of Mendelssohn's music. Frau Bertens gave a most convincing impersonation of the title-rôle—the sister whose love for her brother makes light of death. Herr Everth, Herr Lettinger, and others also gave good renderings of their respective parts, and the mounting was thoroughly in keeping.

THE Moscow Artistic Theatre company are doing excellent business at the Berliner. The performances are well-rounded, and, no matter how little the hearer understands of the language, he cannot fail to grasp the meaning and be moved by it. There is something very fascinating in the acting of these Russians, and it is no wonder the theatre is filled nightly, while our own actors may learn much from them. Tschechow's drama *Uncle Wanja* was given with much success last week. It has been done here in German, and was at the time detailed in your columns. New to Berlin was the four-act play *Three Sisters*—by the same author—which was given on Saturday, and received with cordiality. The chief attraction, however, remains Gorki's *Nachtasyl*, which is so well known to Berlin audiences through its long run at the Kleines, that all the points can be followed and appreciated without difficulty. The interpretation, too, is a very fine one, the rôles of the actor, Luka, the Baron, Wassillisja, and Nastja being exceptionally well rendered by MM. Artem, Moskwin, Katschloff, and Mesdames Muratowa and Tschechow-Knipper respectively.

AT the Royal Schauspielhaus, Brachvogel's tragedy *Narziss* was revived after a long interval last week. This was chiefly due to the fact of the work having first seen the light at that theatre fifty years ago, so that the occasion was a jubilee such as Berliners delight in. It is a one-rôle piece, the name part affording brilliant opportunities for any actor, and all the remaining characters being mere padding. The rôle of poor Narziss Rameau has been played by every actor of note upon the German stage, including Barnay and Sonnenthal. Herr Heine gave it this time, with all the characteristics which have gained him a high place among his compeers and in public estimation. The performance was admirable all round, but I fancy the attempt to make the piece popular again would be fruitless.

OUR Royal Opera is still in search of a tenor, and a number of artists have been singing on approval. One of the most successful is Herr Herold—hailing from the Court Opera at Copenhagen—who sang the part of Don José in *Carmen* on Monday evening. His voice is a robust yet very sweet one; he can sing loudly, without shouting, which is a thing a German tenor can rarely do, and his acting is equally satisfactory. Besides Herr Herold, only Fräulein Destinn, who sang the name-part, is deserving of mention. Her conception of this rôle has greatly improved since last I heard it, and her singing is a genuine treat. The remainder of the cast was—for an Imperial opera house—about as bad as it could be, and again one is tempted to ask when the weeding-out that is so necessary will begin.

AT the New Royal Opera, Rossini's ever-popular *Barber of Seville* was put in the bill on Sunday, the conductor being Richard Strauss. Frau Erika Wedekind, from Dresden, sang the part of Rosina with much success, although her voice is not what it used to be. Herr Tittmann-Lischnewsky, of Cologne, made a hit as Figaro; his voice is beautiful, but it needs more training, and his acting is that of an amateur. The remaining parts were satisfactorily sustained.

MAXIM GORKI is residing in our midst, being the recipient of as many honours as he will permit. His health leaves much to be desired, and he eludes all the gentle suasions of the interviewer. One evening last week Herr Gorki witnessed the performance of his *Nachtasyl* in German at the Kleines. As soon as the audience espied him, he was treated to a storm of applause, which he acknowledged from his box with evident pleasure. The Russian dramatist has allowed himself to be prevailed upon—under very advantageous conditions—to give a series of readings from his own and other Russian works, the first of these taking place last Saturday afternoon in the Deutsches Theatre. Herr Gorki wore his native peasant's "kittel," and was greeted by the crowded house as a hero. His reading is not particularly expressive or impressive; but it was followed by close attention, and gained him cordial applause.

HERR BEER-HOFMANN'S interesting play *Der Graf von Charolais* met with an enthusiastic reception at the Deutsches on Thursday evening. The play, it may be remembered, was produced at the Neues a year or two ago, under the management of Herr Reinhardt, the present lessee of the Deutsches. It was, for the chief part, the original cast, and again Herr Kayssler delighted his audience by his most sympathetic impersonation of the name-part; while the Desirée of Fräulein Hoeflich is as excellent a piece of acting as ever.

SIGNORA FRANCESCA PREVOSTI is with us once more, giving a season at the Theatre des Westens. The popular cantatrice met with a genuinely hearty welcome on her appearance in *Traviata*, her Violetta being perhaps the most successful rôle in her somewhat limited repertory. The star was satisfactorily supported, and, under Kapellmeister Büchel's conductorship, all went smoothly.

THE Opera House has been very frequently honoured lately by their Imperial Majesties' attendance. On one occasion *Der Roland von Berlin* was put in the bill by the Kaiser's wish, the work having otherwise passed into the things that were. The 200th performance of *Die Meistersinger*—a remarkably fine one, as might be imagined—was also attended by their Majesties, as well as *Das Mädchen von Navarra* and Lortzing's *Zar und Zimmermann*.

HERR KADELBURG'S latest farce, *Der Weg zur Hoelle*, has reached its seventy-fifth well-nigh consecutive performance at the Lustspielhaus, and there is every reason to believe it will run for another seventy-five nights. A similar piece, of which I hear capital things, is Philip Berges' *Das Letzte Mittel*. This was produced with tremendous success at the Schauspielhaus in Hamburg, and is to come on here before long.

"CASANOVA," a new three-act operetta by Herr Kapeller, words by Herren Tandler and Sterk, will be produced at the Central Theatre to-night, under the conductorship of the composer.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"L'ATTENTAT,"
Play, in Five Acts, by Alfred Capus and Lucien
Descaves, produced at the Gaité on March 9.

Marcelle ..... MME. JANE HADING
Cécile ..... MLLE. MIDRIS
Tante Césarine ..... MME. KERWICH
Julia Dorfeuil ..... MLLE. G. SERGY
Mère Touquet ..... MME. DENON
Agathe ..... MLLE. GIESE
Aricie ..... MLLE. MIDEAU
Montferran ..... M. COQUELIN AINE
Marescot ..... M. JEAN COQUELIN
Bizot ..... M. DESJARDINS
Lazare Marescot ..... M. ROGER VINCENT
Postel ..... M. PERICAUD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 15.—When it became known that MM. Capus and Descaves were collaborating on a play, the news caused some excitement in the theatrical world. A finer combination than Descaves, the great thinker, and Capus, the delightful mondain philosopher, could not well be imagined. We were, however, disappointed. Their joint effort gave us a clever piece, but it is not the kind of work we expected from two such talented men. Moreover, despite the very strong cast, comprising Mme. Jane Hading and Coquelin *aîné*, the new piece was not well interpreted. The scene of the first act is laid at the house of Marescot, an ex-communard, and now a bookbinder. Marescot has a son, Lazare, imbued with anarchistic ideas, who curses fate that made him poor, with no other prospects in life than to become a small employee, and marry, perhaps, little Céline, his cousin. He is ambitious. He would like to lead a brilliant existence, and secure the love of that handsome woman, who, of late, has been several times to his father's shop. Suddenly luck begins to smile on Lazare. Montferran, the millionaire, the socialist deputy, pays a visit to the old communard Marescot. The truth is that Montferran is anxious to get up a strike fund, and in order to raise the money organises theatrical performances in the populous quarters of the capital. Marescot is an influential man in his district; and Montferran, who wants him to use his influence on his behalf at the coming elections, flatters the old man and engages Lazare as his secretary. Lazare is delighted, but little Cécile is sad, for she foresees trouble. Montferran has a mistress, Julia Dorfeuil, an actress, who is to play the principal rôles in the performances he is organising. He does not love Julia, but entered into that liaison without thinking of the consequences. And the consequences are serious, for his wife has gone to shop with one of her aunts, and wants to apply for a divorce. Lazare then makes the startling discovery that the beautiful woman to whom he has lost his heart is Montferran's wife, who resumed her maiden name when she left her husband; and he hears that she consented to stay legal proceedings till after the elections so as not to interfere with her husband's prospects. Lazare is jealous of Montferran, and his jealousy soon blossoms into hatred. On the night of the theatrical performance in aid of the strike fund Montferran offers a supper to Marescot and to the artists who appeared in the piece. Montferran is not pleased with the way the public received him. The audience had no sympathy with the Socialist millionaire, and taunted him with his wealth and his motor. Everybody is out of temper. Julia makes fun of old Marescot, who takes up his hat to go home, whereupon Montferran begs Lazare to remonstrate with his father, and ask him to stop. Lazare, who has gone to fetch his father's overcoat, gives a sarcastic reply, and a violent discussion breaks out between Montferran and his secretary. A revolver drops from the overcoat Lazare is holding; and the young man picks it up and points it at his employer. At that moment Marescot rushes in and seizes his son's wrist. We hear a shot. Was it an accident? All we know is that Montferran is wounded and that Lazare is arrested.

Montferran's wound is not dangerous. He was hit in the arm, and the bullet can be easily extracted. To Montferran this attempt to murder him is a lucky windfall. His wife, the beautiful Marcelle, has come to nurse him, and forgives him. Moreover, he can now pose as a victim of an anarchist plot, which will increase his position in the political world. Bizot, the examining magistrate who has charge of the case, has his doubts about the matter, and scents a mystery; and his suspicions are confirmed by Cécile, who informs him that Lazare is madly in love with Mme. Montferran. "I do not believe a word of it," says Montferran; but when his wife tells him that Lazare made her an ardent declaration he becomes alarmed. If a word is breathed in Court about this love affair he will be covered with ridicule. And, thanks to his wonderful powers of persuasion, he succeeds in convincing the examining magistrate that it is a political affair. He also makes Lazare's counsel share the same view, and even Lazare prefers to pose as an anarchist than as a disappointed lover. When the case comes on for trial, Montferran pleads so strongly for Lazare, "the victim of poisonous literature," that the jury acquits him, and Montferran is cheered by the mob for so generously forgiving the man who attempted his life. As to the latter, this affair has taught him a lesson, and he will marry the pretty Cécile, and become a bookbinder like his father. The interpretation, as I said before, was not good. Mme Hading positively radiated beauty, but she failed to impress us in any way as the suffering wife of the socialist deputy. M. Coquelin was still more unsatisfactory. That artist of late has taken to "declaiming" every word he utters, a habit by which he will ruin any play wherein he is called upon to play the leading part. M. Jean Coquelin is adopting the same tactics as his father, and his constant striving after effect seriously interferes with his work. M. Vincent, as Lazare, was excellent, and the rôle suited him to the ground. Special praise is also due to Mlle. Miéris and Mlle. Sergy.

Paris cu le bon Juge is the title of a two-act operette by MM. Robert de Flers and G. A. de Caillavet, just produced at the Theatre des Capucines. It is the story of the shepherd awarding the prize to one of the three goddesses; but the new version is that Venus is anxious to secure it, not as the Goddess of Beauty, but on account of her virtue. For whilst Juna and Minerva try to bribe Paris by not resisting him, Venus is prude, and keeps him at a distance. And it is only after Paris promises to award the apple to her that Venus consents to show him the same favours as her Olympian sisters. Minerva and Juna are astounded at this result, and come to the conclusion that they are behind the times. Venus alone is up to date.

PRESENTATIONS.—Mr. Carl Fredericks, at the termination of the Midland Syndicate's pantomime *Cinderella*, was presented by Mr. Herbert Barrs, the general-manager, with a handsome dressing-case and a massive silver-mounted walking-stick from the comedians. Mlle. Cordelia (Mrs. Carl Fredericks) was also the recipient of a handsome diamond brooch from Mrs. Herbert Barrs. Mr. Fredericks was re-engaged to stage-manage Mr. Barrs' 1906-7 production.

PRESENTATIONS.—At the termination of Messrs. Little and Darcy's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, Mr. Will White, F.O.S., the general-manager, was presented with a portmanteau by the Daunton Shaw troupe; silver clock and calendar by the Three Sisters Silcott; silver-mounted umbrella by Messrs. Malone and Conley; silver-mounted cigar-case by Mr. Frank Stebbing, of the Three Henriques; silver-mounted pipe by Mr. and Mrs. George Rapley; and case of brushes by Mr. James Ferguson.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

For the King, Theatre Royal, Windsor, Jan. 21, 1899.
For the Old Love's Sake, Gaiety, Hastings, March 17, 1884.
For the Sake of a Name, Shoreham, June 1, 1888.
For the Sake of a Woman, Pavilion, Sept. 24, 1900.
Forty Robbers, Wood Green, Oct. 1, 1892.
Forty Thieves Down to Date, Stonehouse, June 16, 1890.
Forty Thieves, Gaiety, Dec. 24, 1880.
Forty Winks, St. James's, June 2, 1862.
Fortune Hunter, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Sept. 27, 1897.
Fortune of War, Criterion, May 19, 1896.
Fortune's Fool, Theatre Royal, Stratford, July 28, 1890.
For Valour, Theatre Royal, York, Oct. 16, 1891.
Forward to the Front, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Oct. 1, 1888.
For Wife and State, Lyceum, Edinburgh, Oct. 19, 1883.
Foster Sisters of Wicklow, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, July 31, 1882.
Foul Play, Holborn, May 28, 1868.
Found at Last, Theatre Royal, Leamington, Feb. 27, 1899.
Found at Sea, Victoria, April 19, 1863.
Found Brummy, Princess's, Sept. 21, 1874.
Found Dead in the Streets, Grecian, April 14, 1873.
Found Dead in the Street, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Aug. 30, 1869.
Found Drowned, Victoria, Dec. 4, 1865.
Found Dying, Elephant and Castle, May 21, 1877.
Found Dying in the Street, Barnsley, March 21, 1870.
Foundered Fortune, Elephant and Castle, Dec. 15, 1890.
Found in a Four-Wheeler, Royalty, April 24, 1866.
Found in Exile, Opera House, Leicester, June 11, 1888.
Found in London, Theatre Royal, Barrow, March 3, 1879.
Foundling of Fortune; or, Next of Kin, Victoria, April 20, 1867.
Foundling of Notre Dame, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, Aug. 7, 1876.
Foundlings, The, Sadler's Wells, Oct. 8, 1881.
Foundling, Terry's, Aug. 30, 1894.
Found Out, Liverpool, Jan. 20, 1888.
Found, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, April 9, 1869.
Foul Weather, Royalty, Glasgow, May 30, 1881.
Four by Honours, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, Oct. 27, 1879.
Four Cousins, Globe, May 27, 1871.
Four Kings, Britannia, April 14, 1873.
Four-Leaved Shamrock, Effingham, Sept. 14, 1863.
Four Little Girls, Criterion, July 17, 1897.
Four Seasons, Marylebone, Aug. 11, 1860.
Four Stages of Life, Surrey, March 31, 1862.
Fourteen Days, Criterion, March 4, 1882.
Fowl Play, Burlesque, Queen's, June 20, 1868.
Fox Chase, The, St. James's, May 11, 1864.
Foxglove; or, The Quaker's Will, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, May 2, 1883.
Fox versus Goose, Strand, May 8, 1869.
Fra Angelo, Haymarket, Aug. 30, 1865.
Fra Diavolo; or, The Beauty and the Brigands, Strand, April 5, 1858.
Fra Diavolo the Second, Philharmonic, Aug. 28, 1882.
Frailty, Tyne, Newcastle, July 3, 1893.
Francillon, Lyceum, July 30, 1888.
Francois the Radical, Royalty, April 4, 1885.
Franco-Prussian War, Theatre Royal, Hanley, Aug. 12, 1872.
Frank Charrington's Return, Ladbroke Hall, Feb. 26, 1897.
Frankenstein, Gaiety, Dec. 4, 1887.
Frasquita, Gaiety, May 29, 1893.
Fraternisation, Adelphi, July 16, 1855.
Fraud and Its Victims, Surrey, March 2, 1857.
Freda, Strand, July 19, 1887.
Fred Frolic, His Life and Adventures, Britannia, June 17, 1868.
Fred Walters, Theatre Royal, Great Grimsby, April 13, 1877.
Freedom, Drury Lane, Aug. 4, 1883.
Freedom of Suzanne, Criterion, Nov. 15, 1904.
Free Labour, Adelphi, May 28, 1870.
Free Lance, Britannia, Oct. 20, 1902.
Free Lance; or, Who Wins, Alfred, Aug. 2, 1869.
Free Pardon, Olympic, Jan. 28, 1897.
Freezing a Mother-in-Law, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Dec. 17, 1879.
French Exhibition, Strand, April 1, 1867.
French Girl's Love, Britannia, Feb. 12, 1872.
French in Algiers, Astley's, April 13, 1857.
French Law, Athenæum, March 15, 1893.
French Maid, Theatre Royal, Bath, April 4, 1896.
French Spy, Morton's, March 5, 1900.
Fretful Porcupine, Adelphi, April 20, 1867.
Friar, The, St. George's, Dec. 15, 1886.
Friend Felix, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Dec. 1, 1875.
Friend in Need, St. James's, April 23, 1860.
Friendly Foe, Ladbroke Hall, April 15, 1895.
Friendly Hints, Acton, Dec. 9, 1889.
Friend of the Family, Bayswater, Sept. 27, 1894.
Friend of the People, Haymarket, Feb. 17, 1893.
Friend or Foe, Tyne, Newcastle, March 23, 1891.
Friends, Lichfield, Feb. 17, 1887.
Friends and Foes, Bayswater, May 22, 1889.
Friendship, Alexandra, May 31, 1873.
Friendship, Love, and Truth, Surrey, March 14, 1868.
Friends or Foes, St. James's, March 8, 1862.
Friend Waggles, Strand Theatre, April 15, 1850.
Frightful Accident, Strand, March 5, 1860.
Frightful Hair, Haymarket, Dec. 26, 1868.
Frilled Petticoats, Gaiety, Oct. 28, 1871.
Fringe of Society, Criterion, April 30, 1892.
Fritz, Our Cousin German, Adelphi, Nov. 30, 1872.
Fritz's Folly, Theatre Royal, Barnsley, May 4, 1896.
Frivoli, Drury Lane, June 29, 1886.
Frivolity, Alexandra, Liverpool, Aug. 6, 1883.
Frog, Royalty, Oct. 30, 1893.
Froggie Goes to Eton, Ealing, April 23, 1892.
Frog He Would a Wooing Go, Marylebone, Dec. 24, 1875
From Beneath the Deep, Pavilion, Feb. 28, 1876.
From Cross to Crown, Chester, April 7, 1897.
From Father to Son, Opera House, Liverpool, Oct. 2, 1882.
From Grave to Gray, Olympic, Dec. 4, 1867.
From Gulf to Gulf, Avenue, June 29, 1892.
From Life to Death, St. George's, May 22, 1875.
From Scotland Yard, Accrington, Aug. 16, 1897.
From Shore to Shore, Wolverhampton, April 30, 1891.
From Stem to Stern, Surrey, April 15, 1876.
From the Jaws of Death, Pavilion, Dec. 7, 1893.
From the Vanished Past, Upton Park, April 30, 1888.
From Village to Court, Princess's, June 5, 1854.
Frou Frou (American), St. James's, May 25, 1870.
Frou Frou (French), Princess's, May 2, 1870.
Frou Frou, Theatre Royal, Brighton, March 14, 1870.
Frozen Deep, Tavistock House, Jan. 6, 1857.
Frozen Stream, Britannia, March 4, 1871.
Fugitives, The, Grecian, Nov. 8, 1858.
Fugitive, The, Barrow-in-Furness, Aug. 1, 1887.
Fuhrmann Henschel, Comedy, Oct. 19, 1900.
Full Particulars of that Affair at Finchley, Strand, Oct. 14, 1861.
Fun in a Fog, Drury Lane, Oct. 5, 1872.
Funnibone's Fix, Surrey, March 27, 1880.
Funny World, St. George's Hall, March 26, 1894.
Fun on the Bristol, Theatre Royal, Manchester, May 15, 1882.
Future Mrs. Skillimore, Ramsgate, June 5, 1897.

Gabriel Grub, Lincoln, March 15, 1880.
Gabriella, St. George's Hall, Nov. 25, 1893.
Gabrielle, Gaiety, March 5, 1884.
Gabriel's Plot, Her Majesty's Theatre, Richmond, April 17, 1871.
Gabriel's Trust, Vaudeville, July 4, 1891.
Gaffer Jarge, Comedy, Jan. 11, 1896.
Gaiete, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, Oct. 26, 1874.
Gaiety Girl, Prince of Wales's, Oct. 14, 1893.
Gain, Elephant and Castle, June 14, 1880.
Galatea, Prince's, Bristol, Oct. 9, 1887.
Galatea; or, Pygmalion Reversed, Gaiety, Dec. 26, 1883.
Galley Slave, Theatre Royal, Hull, Nov. 22, 1880.
Galway go Bragh, Drury Lane, Nov. 25, 1865.
Gambler, The, Royalty, Dec. 5, 1891.
Game, Royalty, Glasgow, March 9, 1888.
Gamekeeper, Brighton, May 16, 1898.
Gamekeeper's Wife, Prince of Wales's, Southampton, Sept. 22, 1890.
Game of Cards, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, Jan. 10, 1898.
Game of Life, Surrey, Nov. 14, 1863.
Game of Life and Death, City of London, Dec. 1, 1856.
Game of Love, Wallack's, New York, Sept. 13, 1855.
Game of Romps, Princess's, March 12, 1855.
Game of Speculation, Lyceum, Oct. 2, 1851.
Gamester of Metz, West Hartlepool, July 31, 1897.
Gammon, Vaudeville, July 13, 1881.
Ganymede and Galatea, Gaiety, Jan. 20, 1872.
Garden Party, Haymarket, Aug. 13, 1877.
Garibaldi, Surrey, July 9, 1860.
Garibaldi Excursionists, Princess's, Nov. 8, 1860.
Garibaldi in Sicily, Adelphi, April 22, 1867.
Garrett Angel, Marylebone, Aug. 11, 1867.
Garrick Fever, Olympic, June 11, 1855.
Garrick's Sacrifice, Harrogate, Sept. 9, 1897.
Garrick; or, Acting in Earnest, Princess's, Edinburgh, Aug. 22, 1874.
Garryowen, Victoria, May 21, 1877.
Gascon, The; or, Love and Loyalty, Olympic, Feb. 21, 1876.
Gasman, The, Oriental, April 14, 1873.
Gaston Boissier, Bushey, Jan. 9, 1893.
Gauntlet, The, Royalty, Jan. 20, 1894.
Gavotte, Steinway Hall, April 1, 1890.
Gay Cavalier, Theatre Royal, Manchester, Sept. 15, 1879.
Gay Chaperon, Bootle, Nov. 22, 1894.
Gay City, The, Royalty, June 12, 1871.
Gay Deceiver, Royalty, Feb. 3, 1879.
Gay Grisette, Theatre Royal, Bradford, Aug. 1, 1898.
Gay Husband, Eastbourne, May 31, 1886.
Gay Lord Quex, Globe, April 8, 1899.
Gay Lothario, St. James's, Jan. 31, 1891.
Gay Musketeers, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, April 18, 1870.
Gay Parisienne, Opera House, Northampton, Oct. 1, 1894.
Gay Pretenders, Globe, Nov. 10, 1900.
Gay Widow, Court, Oct. 20, 1894.
Gay Widower, Vaudeville, March 11, 1892.
Geisha, Daly's, April 25, 1896.
Geisha and the Knight, Coronet, May 22, 1900.
Gelert, Kilburn, Feb. 3, 1896.
Gelmina, Covent Garden, June 4, 1872.
Gemea, Britannia, March 29, 1880.
Gem of a Girl, Brentford, June 24, 1886.
Geneva Cross, Adelphi, Oct. 17, 1874.
Genevieve, Alexandra, Liverpool, April 6, 1874.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

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As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Marsh.—On March 8, the wife of G. Alexander Marsh (Miss Carrie Baillie), a son.

MARRIAGES.

Albery—Jones.—March 12, at St. George's, Hanover-square, Irving James Albery, son of the late James Albery and Mrs. Albery (Miss Mary Moore), to Gertrude Arthur Jones, daughter of Henry Arthur Jones.

Breen-Meadows.—March 8, 1906, at Liverpool, Tom Breen, son of the late Frank Breen, to Connie Meadows (Wood), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wood.

Lawrence—Fisher.—On Feb. 25, at Trinity Church, Bootle, Liverpool, by the Rev. James Bodel, Ernest, second son of Joseph Lawrence, London, to Clara Ethel, eldest daughter of G. Gregory Fisher, Barrister-at-law, London.

Approaching Marriage.

Mead—Hay.—An announcement recently made of the approaching marriage of Mr. Charles Mead with Mrs. S. E. Hay is of interest to the profession, Mr. Mead being the erstwhile well-known athelete and many years captain of the Reigate and Red Hill Cycle Club, whilst Mrs. Hay is the well-known clever impersonator of Sybella in "Claudian," having been for a long time associated with Mr. William Maclaren's company. It was while on tour that the happy couple met, and the friendship then established has matured into purely a love match of the good old-fashioned order. The wedding is fixed to take place at 12.30 on the 24th inst., at the Parish Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar-square, and is by special licence. About 300 invitations have been issued, and a reception at 1.30 till 5 takes place at the "Alexandra" Room, Trocadero Restaurant, after the ceremony. The happy couple leave Victoria by the 9 p.m. train for the Riviera, and on returning home will establish themselves at the Marlborough, 710, Holloway-road, N., which house Mr. Mead has recently purchased, and where old friends of both may rely upon a hearty welcome and the hand-grasp of true friendship.

DEATHS.

Broome.—Willie Broome, age 4 years, the beloved son of Walter Broome, Stage-Manager, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

Cartwright.—March 6, at Wolverhampton, John (Jack) Cartwright, aged 67 years, for 42 years head waiter at the old and new Empire. R.I.P.

Coppin.—March 12, at Melbourne, George Selth Coppin, theatrical manager, in his eighty-eighth year.

Fitzgerald.—Feb. 3, at Melbourne, Australia, Daniel Fitzgerald (of the Fitzgerald Bros.), circus proprietor, aged 46.

Hasker.—Feb. 2, at Sydney, Australia, James John Hasker, Australian actor, aged 88.

Russell.—March 12, suddenly, at his home, Ballaquane, Peel, Isle of Man, aged 46 years, Edward Haslingden Russell, eldest and sole surviving son of Sir Edward Russell.

Swinerd.—March 14, aged 51 years, the wife of Henry Swinerd, of the Royal Artillery, Woolwich. A loving wife and devoted mother.

In Memoriam.

Gillette.—In loving memory of Ada Gillette (née Ada Watson), who passed away March 18, 1904.
Forget her? No, we never will;
We loved her here, we love her still.
Her memory is as fresh to-day
As in the hour she passed away.
—From her loving mother.

Loftus Leyton.—In loving memory of my darling sister Rosie, who fell asleep March 17, 1902. Always remembered by Olive.

Macintosh.—In loving memory of Eleanor Macintosh, daughter of Solomon and Mary Macintosh, who died at the Carnival, Glasgow, March 14, 1905.
"We miss them most who loved them best."

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 19.

Abandoned Woman.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
After the Ball.—Jersey.
At Cripple Creek.—Pier, Eastbourne.
At Duty's Call.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
At the World's Mercy.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
Bandmann-Palmer.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Beauty and the Barge.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Benson, F. R. (B).—Dumfries.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Beside the Bonny Brier Bush.—Pav., Eastbourne.
Bramley, Esmond.—Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Branded Woman.—T. R., Smethwick.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. Royal, Blackburn.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Stratford.
Carl Rosa Opera Company.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Catch of the Season.—Grand T., Halifax.
Chinese Honeymoon.—York.
Christian, The.—New T. R., Birkenhead.
Christian, The (Howard).—O. H., Coventry.
Cingalee.—St. Helens.
Cingalee (S.).—Sheffield.
Claudian.—T. R., Chatham.
Coal King.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Compton Comedy Co.—King's T., Glasgow.
Conscience and Crime.—O. H., Radcliffe.
Cotton Spinner.—T. R., Bilston.
Country Girl.—Watford and Reigate.
Country Girl (Dance).—Wigan.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Croydon.
Driven from Home.—New Theatre, Cambridge.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Grand T., Hull.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Sunderland.
Duke of Killicrankie.—T. R., Hull.
Earl and the Girl.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Eternal City.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
Face at the Window.—Theatre Royal, Hyde.
Faithful Friend.—Avonne T., Kettering
False Wife.—Queen's Theatre, Keighley.
Female Swindler.—Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.
Fight for Millions.—Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
Florodora (N.).—Kirkcaldy.
Florodora (S.).—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
Frivolity.—T. R., Jarrow.
Gay Parisienne.—Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.
Girl from Japan.—County Theatre, Reading.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Wolverhampton.
Golden Ladder.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
Great Awakening.—Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.
Greatest Scoundrel Living.—Theatre R., Stratford.
Grip of Iron.—Grand Theatre, Nottingham.
Guilty Man.—Central T., Northwich.
Her Lost Self.—Grand Theatre, Luton.
Her Luck in London.—T. R., South Shields.
Her One Great Sin.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Honour Thy Father.—Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
I Defy the World.—Maidstone and Deal.
In Holy Russia.—T. R., W. Bromwich.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
Kitty Grey.—Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Cheadle and Wellington.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Derby.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—P.O.W., Birmingham.
La Poupee (Ralland).—New T., Dudley.
Laughter Land.—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
Leah Kleschna.—Camden Theatre.
Leah Kleschna.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Life of a Showman.—Grand Theatre, Brighton.
Life's Sweetest Sin.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Little Bread Winner.—Athenæum T. Lancaster.
Little Michus (Dance).—Northampton.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Tyne, Newcastle.
London Fireman.—Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.
Love that Women Desire.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Man's Enemy.—Theatre Royal, Colne.
Manxman.—T. R., Stafford.
Martin Harvey.—Theatre Royal, Birmingham.
Master Criminal.—Theatre Royal, Shotton.
Message from Mars.—Brixton Theatre.
Midnight Mail.—Theatre Royal, Leeds.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Bristol.
Miss Lancashire, Limited.—Muncaster, Bootle.
Money Makes the Man.—T. R., Norwich.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Moody Manners (A.).—T. R., Glasgow.
Moody Manners (B).—T. R., Stockton.
Mother's Love.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Mr. Smith.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Mr. Smith.—Empire T., Oldham.
Napoleon the Great.—P. O. W., Salford.
None But the Brave.—Queen's T., Swindon.
Norman V. Norman.—Grand T., Blackpool.
No Wedding Bells for Her.—Grand T., Byker.
Oliver Twist.—Harrogate.
On the Love Path.—T. R., Bradford.
One of the Best.—T. R., Leicester.
Orchid (2).—Pavilion Theatre.
Orchid (3).—Rochdale.
Passion's Power.—T. R., Glossop.
Path of Thorns.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Peggy Machree.—Grand T., Woolwich.
Poor Must Live.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Plunger, The.—Queen's, Fleetwood.
Price of Her Soul.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Prince of Pilsen.—Kennington Theatre.
Prodigal Parson.—Goole and Harrogate.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Sheffield.
Public Opinion (N.).—T. R., Cardiff.
Queen's Vengeance.—Empire T., Cradley.
Revenge.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
Rogues of the Turf.—Grand T., Halifax.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Croydon.
Royal Divorce (N.).—Court T., Warrington.
Royal Revenge.—New T., Ilkeston.
Sailors of the King.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Saints and Sinners.—King's T., Ebbw Vale.
See-Saw of Life.—Prince's, Portsmouth.
Sentenced for Life.—T. R., Edmonton.
Sign of the Cross.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Silver King.—O. H., Middlesbro'.
Sin of Her Childhood.—Long Eaton.
Sins of a City.—T. R., Gloucester.
Spring Chicken.—Grand T., Leeds.
Still Alarm.—Queen's T., Longton.
Sunday.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Sweet and Twenty.—O. H., Blackpool.
Swiss Express.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Temptress, The.—Prince's T., Preston.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Bedford and Ipswich.
Throne of Terror.—Court T., Bacup.
Toreador.—T. R., Worcester.
Traitor Prince.—Dudley Port.
Two Hussars.—Theatre Royal, Darwen.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Queen's, Liverpool.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Gaiety T., Leith.
Under the Czar.—Metropole, Birmingham.
Veronique (Dance).—Clapham.
Village Blacksmith.—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—Theatre Royal, Preston.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—Crown Theatre, Peckham.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Way of the World.—Standard Theatre, Hetton.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
What the Butler Saw.—Theatre Royal, Newcastle.
When It Was Dark.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
When Woman Hates.—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
White Chrysanthemum.—Coronet Theatre.
Wilkie, Allen and Co.—T. R., Torquay.
Willard, E. S.—Olympia, St. Louis.
Woman's Past.—Theatre Royal, Worthing.
Worst Woman in London.—Star T., Liverpool.
Youngest of the Three.—West Pier, Brighton.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Crewe.

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The PUBLISHER,
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5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Frederick Ross.—*As far as we have been able to ascertain, the title has not been used.*

W. S. B.—*At the Alhambra, in* 1879.

J. V. K.—*The first performance in France of M. Saint-Saëns's* Samson and Delilah *took place at the Théâtre des Arts, March* 3, 1890, *when the part of Delilah was played by Mlle. Bossy, Samson by M. Lafarge, and the Priest by M. Mondaud.*

N. Y.—*Miss Edna May made her first professional appearance in New York in the chorus just before the production there of* The Belle of New York.

Geo. R.—Bonnie Dundee *was produced at the Adelphi, March* 10, 1900, *and ran only a few weeks.*

Templar.—Arrah-na-Pogue *was first produced in London at the Princess's, March* 22, 1865. *It had previously been played in Dublin in* 1864.

Paola.—*Stephen Phillips's play,* Paolo and Francesca, *was produced at the St. James's, March* 6, 1902. *D'Annunzio's Italian play,* Francesca da Rimini, *was produced by Signor Duse at the Adelphi, October* 10, 1903.

C. P.—H.M.S. Pinafore *was first produced at the Opera Comique, May* 25, 1878.

Oliver.—*When* Gringoire, *a one-act musical drama, adapted from the French of Theodore de Banville by W. Halcomb, was produced at the Oxford Music Hall in* 1902, *the cast was as follows:—Louis XI., Craig Henry; Oliver le Daim, Arnold Lucy; Mme. Nicole, Maggie Hunt; Jeanette, Marie Stephens; Gringoire, Homer Lind.*

J. Jarvis.—The Other Fellow, *a three-act farce adapted by Mr. Fred Horner from MM. Feydeau and Desvallières's* Champignol Malgré Lui, *was produced at the Court, September* 9, 1893.

C. Wm. Crowe.—*Yes. See the accounts of the prosecutions by the Theatrical Managers' Association from time to time appearing in the newspapers.*

F. E. P.—*The addresses you require are as follows: Dramatic Debaters, Hon. Sec., Miss Edith A. Brown, 26, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, W.; Pioneers, Hon. Sec., Mr. Harold Veasey, Trafalgar-buildings, Northumberland-avenue, S.W.*

F. J. Harding.—Joan of Arc *was produced at the Queen's Theatre, Long Acre, on April* 10, 1871, *and ran until the following Sept.* 1. *The cast was as follows:—Raoul de Goncourt, Mr. John Ryder; Etienne de Vignolles, Mr. Rousby; Father Isambard, Mr. George Rignold; Count de la Tremouille, Mr. W. Ryder; Jacques d'Arc, Mr. W. D. Gresham; Pierre d'Arc, Mr. A. Lindsay; Charles VII., Mr. Charles Harcourt; Guillaume de Beler, Mr. R. Cathcart; Robert de Baudricourt, Mr. W. Howard; Nicholas L'Oisileur, Mr. Vollaire; Regnauld de Chartres, Mr. Keel Webb; Joan d'Arc, Mrs. Rousby; Isabelle d'Arc, Miss G. Pauncefort; Queen Marie of Anjou, Miss L. Thorne.*

L. M.—(*1*) *No. With regard to questions* 2 *and* 3 *we have no information.*

Florence Luck.—*Yes, the experiment was tried at the Lyceum some years ago, and then proved a failure.*

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Andre, Miss Olga
Anson, Miss C.
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Hope, Mrs. E.
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Linde, Herr
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Lynn, Mr. A. H.
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Manchester, Mr. Harry
Martifi Troupe
Mason, Mr. Fred
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Moore, Miss Carrie
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Morris, Miss Sylvia
Mowbray, Miss Ethel
Moxon, Miss Cissie
Murray, Mr. Thomas
Myra
Neilson, Mr. Lauri
Nicholls, Mr. Harry
Norman and Leonard
Oliver, Miss Ethel
Osborne, Miss Nina
Ouseley, Mr. G.
Parker, Mr. H.
Paull, Mrs. W.
Paulinetti and Piquo
Percys, The
Plumpton, Mr. Ernest
Poluski, Mr. Will
Powel, Mr. G.
Powell, Mr. A.
Preston, Miss J.
Proctor, Mr. J.
Race, Mr. Leslie
Radcliffe, Mr. Stanley
Ramier, Mr. Ed.
Rastus and Banks
Reed, Miss Verna
Reed, Mr. Fred
Reekie, Mr. Lister
Rene, Miss Ida
Reno, Sisters
Richard, Prof.
Rockett, Mr. Edwin
Rossiter, Miss M.
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Ruby, Prof.
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Savaros
Scott, Miss Maidie
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Searelle, Mr. Luscombe
Seaton, Dr.
Seddon, Mr. J.
Sellin, Miss E.
Sevening, Miss Nina
Shine, Mr. John L.
Shrapnel, Mr. Leonard
Siegenberg, Miss Lottie
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Smith, Mr. W. H.
Somerville-Ellis, Mr. J
Steen, Prof. Chas.
Stelling, Miss P.
Svengalis, The
Temple, Mr. Fred
Terria Duo
Thomley, Mr. Fred
Toreadores, The
Trentanivi, Mr. Alfredo
Trevor, Mr. Theadore
Vay, Mr. Will
Von Holst, Mr. E.
Vypond, Mr. Fred
Waddington, Mr. T.
Wade, Miss V.
Wadle, Mr. Harry
Wardroper, Mr. Henry
Ward, Mr. Hugh
Warren, Mr. Arthur
Warren, Mr. Walter A.
Warsaw, Mr. Dave
Watts, Mr. W.
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HOCKEY.

The return match of the *Ugliest Woman on Earth v. Between Two Women* was played at Glasgow on the 22nd ult., when the "Uglies" again won by 11 goals—Tubby Edlin, 9; Davenport, 1; Cross, 1—to none. The following were the teams:—

"Uglies."—Miss Margaret Watson, Miss Nellie Jackson, Miss Rita Milman, P. Darien, L. Cancellor, W. Wallace, A. Davenport, F. Cross, J. Edwards, W. Besley, and T. Edlin.

"Between Two Women."—Miss Marjorie Murray, Miss Lulu Bowes, Miss Lilian Earle, H. Metcalfe, L. Hector, C. W. Standing, C. Wallis, N. Graham, A. Boxall, R. Clare, and G. R. Montford.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES" CO. HOCKEY CLUB.—Miss Mannering's team *versus* Mr. Anderson's team: Won by the former by seven goals to three. For the winners Mr. Jerrold Heather scored four goals, Miss Mabel Mannering two, and Miss Maud Townsend one. For the losers Mr. Millar Anderson scored two goals and Mr. Chas. H. Hughes one.

MISSES CECILIA FOWLER'S AND WINIFRED BRADLEY'S LADIES' XI. v. J. LEONARD'S GENTLEMEN'S XI.

Played near Henbury, on Saturday, March 6. The following were the teams:—

Misses Fowler and Bradley's XI.: Miss Fowler (captain), goal; Miss Rosie Davis and Miss Alice Gibbs, backs; Miss Lillie Belding, Miss Lucy Norris, and Miss Nellie Bailey, half-backs; Miss Gracie Leonard, Miss Minnie Leonard, Miss Winifred Bradley, Miss Kit Montgomery, and Miss Amy Bernard, forwards.

J. Leonard's XI.: M. Leonard, goal; E. Bowman and S. Coombes, backs; F. Worth, B. Davis, and A. Cameron, half-backs; J. Leonard (captain), T. Always, B. Green, A. Lucas, and A. Thompson, forwards.

Referee, Miss May Fisher. Result: Misses Fowler and Bradley's XI., nil; J. Leonard's XI., 3 goals. S. Coombes, A. Cameron, and F. Worth scored for the gentlemen's eleven.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice for Middlesbrough you say I play the part of Esther Coventry charmingly. May I, in justice to the lady playing the part, and also to avoid what, from a mistake of identity, might in future cause business inconvenience to both of us, state that my engagement in Miss Elsie Roberts's *One of the Best* company terminated after March 3?—Yours faithfully, MARGARET DAVIES WEBSTER, 38, Flandersmansions, Bedford Park, W., March 10, 1906.

MR. G. G. JEFFERSON has resigned his post as acting manager for Mr. Robertson at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, in order to assist his father, Mr. Arthur Jefferson, at the Metropole, Glasgow, Agency. Mr. Jerold E. Reed has been appointed acting-manager in Mr. Jefferson's place.

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Wiwick, Mrs.	2 2 0
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Renad, C. and F.	2 2
Low, Miss L. and C.	2 2 0
Radcliffe, Miss Beatrice	2 2 0
Power, Mr. S. O'Neil	2 0 0
Nutting, Godfrey	2 0 0
Beit, A.	2 0 0
Bull, Mr. E. H.	1 1 0
Raleigh, Mrs. Cecil	1 1 0
Mangles, Mrs.	1 1 0
Gay, C. M.	1 1 0
Warley, Miss May	1 1 0
Buckle, J. C.	1 1 0
Nicholls, Harry	1 1 0
Ferrers, Miss Helen	1 1
Rivington, Miss C.	1 1 0
Matthison, Miss E. Wynne	1 1 0
Warden, Miss Gertrude	2 2 0
Abrahams, Mrs. Walter	1 11 6
Cruickshanks, Charles	1 1 0
Mayhew, Mrs. Henry	1 1 0
Featherston, Miss Vane	1 1 0
Lancaster, Miss Nora	1 1 0
Fox, Miss	1 1 0
Willard, Mrs. E. S.	1 1 0
Bessle, Miss	1 1 0
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Addison, Miss Carlotta	1 1 0
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Ellis, Alfred, instead of flowers for the late Sir Henry Irving's grave, per G. Alexander	1 1
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Barber, Mrs.	1 1
De Mensiaux, Mlle.	1 1 0
Crawford, Alfred	1 1
Broughton, Miss Phyllis	1 1 0
Ward, Miss Geneviève	1 1 0
Mayne, Mrs.	1 0 0
J. R. Mills	1 0 0
France, Miss C.	1 0 0
McPherson, Quinton	1 0 0
Nicholls, Harvey	0 17
Greet, Miss Harriett	0 10
Austin, Miss May	0 10
K. V.	0 10 0
Webster, Miss M. Davies	0 10 0
Garten, Mrs.	0 10 0
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Sidebottom, E., interest on money left	0 6 0
Cazalet, Rose	0 5 0
Kemble, Miss Eugenie	0 5 0
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Miss Agnes Ingreville	8 17 11
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Madeline Le Strange, from members Milton Ray's Company	3 3 6
Mrs. E. H. Bull	2 15 11
Mlle. Mensiaux	2 11 0
Actors' Association	2 5 1
Minshull G. T., Lyceum, Edinburgh	2 4 6
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Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
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Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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"HOW'D YOU LIKE TO SPOON WITH ME?"
Sung by Miss MILLIE LEGARDE.

"OYSTERS AND CLAMS,"
Sung by Miss AMBER AUSTA.

'DO A GOOD TURN WHEN YOU'RE ABLE,"
Sung by Miss CARLOTTA LEVEY.

"SHE'S MY BEST GIRL," and "MY LATCHKEY,"
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1906.

THE STAGE AND POLITICS.

The rather sudden withdrawal of Captain MARSHALL'S comedy, *The Alabaster Staircase*, from the stage of the Comedy Theatre raises the question whether the drama in England will ever become a vehicle for the discussion of social and political questions. In France the play of politics is forbidden; but the play dealing with the defects and abuses of the social system flourishes exceedingly. They have pieces written to expose the weaknesses of every part of society, pieces which are sermons—sometimes medical sermons—in disguise. And the success of these plays at the Paris theatres proves that the French playgoer is ready to take his higher education in dramatic form; just as the failure of Captain MARSHALL'S comedy suggests the reluctance of the English public to mix up politics with amusement. In novels, a "purpose" is not so much objected to. Many of CHARLES READE'S works were, obviously and avowedly, attacks on social abuses; and his "purpose" was boldly declared by him from the commencement. We may be met by the remark that *It's Never Too Late to Mend* was presented with vast success on the stage; but that its "drawing power" depended on its strong situations, and not on its social sermonising, is proved by the lasting popularity of the drama long after the "solitary system," the "crank," and the "punishment jacket" had been abandoned in our prisons. The nearest approach to downright political playwriting which we remember was when the late Mr. WILLS wrote his *Charles I.*, and someone else put on a Cromwell drama at a rival theatre. Passages in the Puritan play were loudly applauded by one section of the audience, while another part made a vigorous attempt to hoot down the democratic sentiments.

Captain MARSHALL'S play "took away the breath" of the most experienced playgoer. It was an open attack on party politics, on the system of government by two cliques drawn either from the aristocracy or the plutocracy, on inefficient officials, and on one-sided and meanly interested opinions on vitally important social subjects. But, admirably written as the dialogue was, a certain uneasiness was noticeable in the audience as the tendency of the pit and gallery to applaud the very "advanced" sentiments of the converted Premier was observed. Curiously enough, while the principal character was attacking the party system on the stage, it was the spirit of the system which was working dead against the success of the play in the auditorium. For the essence of party is antagonism. That is why the discussion of politics is tabooed in society; with a pugnacious race like our own it inevitably leads to combat. We cannot conduct an election without exaggeration, unfairness, and one-sided speeches. And in most of our politics there is the sort of unreality which is created when both sides feel that the whole thing is a farce, played ostensibly for the benefit of the country, but really for that of the actors who sustain the principal parts. The weaker our convictions, the noisier we are in the expression of our prejudices. Consequently, when a body of people gathered together in a theatre for an evening's enjoyment, in a frank and honest frame of mind, are confronted with a question of politics, they feel very uncomfortable. Like boys caught bathing, they are taken off their guard before they have had time to put on their opinions.

It is different, of course, when a play of social satire is presented to a picked audience at what may be called a semi-private theatre. The "house" is usually one in spirit with the author, and only goes to have its opinions cleverly echoed in dramatic form. *Widowers' Houses*, for instance, had an enthusiastic reception at the Royalty because it was played to an audience quite in harmony with Mr. SHAW'S views. Besides, its theme was then almost outside the pale of practical politics, and its hopeless pessimism prevented it from offence. It will be remembered that the young man who begins by being indignant at the dowry of his proposed bride being derived from the rents of the worst class of "slum" property, alters his tone entirely when he discovers that part of his own comfortable income springs from the same source. The only person who has preached advanced views frankly and freely is Mr. CECIL RALEIGH, whose *Great Millionaire* was a protest against the despotic power of capital, and contained passages of sternly socialistic spirit. In fact, the piece was one of the most remarkable combinations of clever construction and high thought that have ever been put on the Drury Lane stage. We do not believe, however, that its sentiments would have saved it from failure if its dramatic and sensational qualities had been less effective.

The time may come when large social questions, as distinguished from mere party cries, may be dealt with on the stage; but it will only be when some great wave of hope and feeling comes along, and when politics are carried by it up to a much higher level than in the past. And then we may have a drama dealing with deep realities, not in the bitterly ironical and paradoxical spirit of Mr. SHAW, but with the full heart which comes of Hope and sympathy with human aspirations. But it must always be remembered that in Art the artistic interest inevitably dominates. It is useless for a drama to be deep, or intellectual, or philanthropic, or full of noble inspirations, if it is not as good as a drama as it is as an argument or a demonstration. The difficulty of reconciling the two elements is very great; and the artist who succeeds in doing so may claim to be a master of his craft. *The Alabaster Staircase* failed quite as much because of Captain MARSHALL'S inexpertness in handling his theme as on account of the extraordinary sermon which was preached to the equally extraordinary Cabinet by Mr. HARE in the character of Sir John Abbotsford.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A MEETING of the working staff members of the late Dramatic and Musical Fund was held on Sunday evening in the Freemasons' Arms, Long Acre, to consider what should be done with regard to £500, referred to by Mr. Tree, president of the fund, at the Heads of Departments' dinner on April 2 last, and, also, by Mr. Edward Terry in his letter to *The Era* in August last. The fact, also, that the promised balance-sheet has not yet been made public, as was promised by Mr. Terry in the letter referred to, is arousing some comment. The late committee of the fund have received no further communications from the solicitors or accountants entrusted with the winding up of the affairs of the fund.

MR. H. G. HATCH, formerly master carpenter of the Princess, Glasgow, and late of the Ealing Theatre, is now in charge of the stage department of the Holborn Empire. Mr. Mills, of Manchester, is electrician in charge. A new experiment in supplying electric light is being tested at this handsome variety house. A light and power installation has been put in, and worked under a system which shows some very astonishing results in the way of economy. The system has already proved satisfactory in several provincial theatres.

A PRELIMINARY meeting of the representatives appointed to constitute the Sports Committee was held on Thursday evening at 29, Wellington-street, Strand. Mr. J. Cullen presided. Amongst those present were Mr. A. Palmer, master carpenter the Comedy Theatre; Mr. T. J. Sheridan, electrician, Waldorf Theatre; Mr. A. E. Wood, Shaftesbury Theatre; Mr G. W. Wilton, property master, the Vaudeville Theatre; Mr. T. Morgan, property master, the Comedy Theatre; Mr. P. Thomas, Alhambra; Mr. P. Sheridan, the Crown Theatre; Mr. H. Porter, Wyndham's Theatre; Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. C. Thorogood, and Mr. W. Johnson.

IT was decided to invite Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mr. H. R. Kimpton, and Mr. Lionel Belmore to join the committee. Mr. G. H. Dyball was appointed hon. treasurer and Mr. W. Johnson hon. secretary. It was proposed that the sports take place on a Tuesday in June. Several interesting suggestions with regard to the distribution of the possible balance to be derived from the sports were deferred to the next meeting, which will take place on Thursday next at six o'clock.

THE staff of the Victoria Theatre, Kettering, held their annual dinner on Friday night last at the house of the popular manager, Mr. H. C. Fowkes, when about forty sat down to a good spread. A most enjoyable evening was spent in harmony, Mr. W. Fowkes presiding at the piano, and Mr. Flemming taking the chair. The evening concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the manager, who in reply complimented the staff on the interest they took in their work.

A PLEASANT REVIVAL.

On Wednesday, March 14, at the Comedy Theatre, the Comedy, in Three Acts, by Sydney Grundy, entitled
"A PAIR OF SPECTACLES."

Mr. Benjamin Goldfinch .....MR. JOHN HARE
Uncle Gregory .....MR. CHAS. GROVES
Percy .....MR. IVO DAWSON
Dick .....MR. A. E. MATTHEWS
Lorimer .....MR. EVELYN VERNON
Bartholomew .....MR. J. H. BREWER
Joyce .....MR. HORTON COOPER
Another Shoemaker .....MR. DONALD MACLEAN
Mrs. Goldfinch .....MISS KATE RORKE
Lucy Lorimer .....MISS MINNIE MATHER
Charlotte .....MISS HELEN LUCK

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good," and the failure of *The Alabaster Staircase* to attract the public to the Comedy Theatre has given Mr. John Hare's many admirers an opportunity of seeing him once more in his inimitable impersonation of Benjamin Goldfinch in *A Pair of Spectacles*. The piece is too well known for any comment on its qualities to be required at this date. It is one of those comedies which appeal to everyone's experience; and the trustful and generous Benjamin, and the "hard-as-nails" Gregory, are persons who are met by the man of the world every day of his life. The pleasure of seeing them on the stage, their points raised to the highest power by graphic caricature, may be tasted by "the very humblest" intellect, and even "the ranks of Tuscany"—*i.e.*, the advanced and sophisticated playgoers and critics—can "scarce forbear to smile" at the innocent humours of the work, which goes as merrily as ever. Often as we have seen Mr. Hare in the part of Benjamin Goldfinch, we have never known him to play it better than he did at the Comedy on Wednesday. If anything, he has improved his treatment of the softer and more sentimental passages, which he treats with even more tenderness and pathos than he did when *A Pair of Spectacles* was produced at the Garrick Theatre in the February of 1890. It will be remembered that Mr. Hare, after this notable production, had the honour of appearing in the piece before the King and Queen—then Prince and Princess of Wales—at Sandringham, and was presented by the Prince with a silver cigar-box, bearing in the lower right-hand corner the head of a hare looking through a pair of gold spectacles. In the 1890 cast Mr. Hare was supported by Mr. Charles Groves and Miss Kate Rorke, who were happily available for the present revival. Mr. Groves's Uncle Gregory has long been established in the warm favour of the playgoing public; and none would wish for the slightest alteration in this irresistibly amusing embodiment. The part fits Mr. Groves like a glove; he feels the humour of it deeply; he dresses it with a solicitude which is itself humorous—the badly-cut coat, carelessly worn and creased after a railway journey, is full of character—and in tone, in accent, and in gesture the creation is absolutely complete. Miss Kate Rorke plays Mrs. Goldfinch with a mixture of sensibility and common sense that makes her depiction of the wife entirely agreeable and unimpeachable. Mr. Ivo Dawson deserves special praise for his very neat, smooth, and well-restrained representation of Percy. He hits off the cowed quietude of the young man very cleverly. Mr. A. E. Matthews's Dick is an unimpeachable sample of comfortably-conditioned, well-bred youth; Mr. Evelyn Vernon plays Lorimer with remarkable tact and skill; and Mr. J. H. Brewer supplies a very effective and elaborate character-study of the fawning, canting shoemaker, Bartholomew. Miss Minnie Mather, despite certain little mannerisms, puts much pleasing sentiment into her performance as Lucy Lorimer. *A Pair of Spectacles* was preceded by the episode, in one act, by Albert E. Drinkwater, entitled

"AFTERTHOUGHTS."

Philip Deane-Nichol .....MR. EVELYN VERNON
Mike Toddy .....MR. GILBERT HARE
Hodges .....MR. FORBES DAWSON
Margaret Deane-Nichol
MISS BEATRICE FORBES-ROBERTSON

The piece is accurately described on the programme. All our readers may not remember the story. Mr. and Mrs. Deane-Nichol, recently married, are living at Henley. Mr. Deane-Nichol is a barrister. The lady wants to have her own way in everything; objects to her husband running up to town alone; and even refuses to comply with his request to close and fasten the French windows of her morning-room to guard against the entry of tramps and thieves. It is mentioned in conversation that a friend of the husband's, who is fond of "slumming," is in the habit of going about disguised as a wastrel. The wife, left alone in her room, receives a visit from a real criminal, whom she takes to be this friend, and treats with every courtesy and kindness, offering him whisky and cigars. Mike Toddy, as the burglar is called, discovers that the master of the house is the counsel who "restored" him "to his friends and his relations" on a certain occasion when he appeared in the dock, and had a very narrow escape; so he goes off quietly and peaceably. The wife is so scared by her little adventure that she determines in future to take her husband's advice—especially about French windows. The performance was made notable by Mr. Gilbert Hare's effective and picturesque rendering of the part of Mike Toddy. His make-up and attire were very artistic; and he acted with characteristic intensity and grotesque earnestness. Mr. Evelyn Vernon played Philip Deane-Nichol easily and well; Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson was animated, arch, and expressive as the wife; and Mr. Forbes Dawson of course spoke his few lines well as Hodges. The little piece was warmly applauded.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Hubert Henry Davies—Saturday, March 17.
Phyllis Broughton—Saturday, March 17.
Manuel Garcia—Saturday, March 17.
Alan Macey—Saturday, March 17.
Mabel Engelhardt—Saturday, March 17.
Pat Doherty—Saturday, March 17.
G. W. Hunter—Saturday, March 17.
Amy St. John—Sunday, March 18.
F. R. Adair—Sunday, March 18.
Marie Walford—Sunday, March 18.
Muriel Alleyn—Sunday, March 18.
Nellie Wallace—Sunday, March 18.
Joe Lawrence—Monday, March 19.
Fred Daly—Monday, March 19.
Susie Melrose, Monday, March 19.
Henrik Ibsen—Tuesday, March 20.
Mrs. Bennett—Tuesday, March 20.
Rose Lupino—Tuesday, March 20.
Martin Comstock—Tuesday, March 20.
Frank A. Gordyn—Tuesday, March 20.
Alice Maple—Tuesday, March 20.
G. Ross-Carr—Tuesday, March 20.
Lady Hallé—Wednesday, March 21.
Bella Pateman—Wednesday, March 21.
Norman E. Partriège—Wednesday, March 21.
Harry Randall—Thursday, March 22.
Harry Brett—Thursday, March 22.
Sir Charles Wyndham—Friday, March 23.
Gilbert Hare—Friday, March 23.
Sydney Grundy—Friday, March 23.
Robson Paige—Friday, March 23.
Minnie Leslie—Friday, March 23.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The directors of the Palace Theatre have arranged for Mr. Alfred Butt to make a short tour of some of the most important cities in the United States, with a view to satisfying himself as to the English value of some of the turns which have been lately strongly recommended from the other side. Mr. Butt sailed on Wednesday for New York, leaving the management of the theatre temporarily in the hands of Mr. Fitzroy Gardner.

Miss Carrie Moore, who "created" the part of Millicent in *The Blue Moon* at the Lyric when that musical comedy was produced on Aug. 28 last, will, before she appears in the new musical play by Mr. Robert Courtneidge and Mr. A. M. Thompson, try her fortune as a comedienne at the Palace, where she will open on Monday.

Mr. Arthur Wimperis, who shares with Mr. Paul Rubens the pleasing responsibility of writing the lyrics for *The Dairy Maids*, to be produced early in April, is author of many of the best items in the capital répertoire of the Follies. Mr. Wimperis is as skilful with a pencil as with a pen, having met with considerable success as a caricaturist. He is one of the many young men connected with the profession who did good service in South Africa during the late war.

Mr. B. P. Lucas, who is the proprietor of the Hastings Hippodrome, has recently acquired the Empire, Bristol, which was opened under the auspices of the Newson Smith Syndicate on Nov. 6, 1893. Mr. Lucas, who is the managing director of the Bedford, Camden Town, will open the house on the two-houses-a-night principle on Easter Monday, April 16. Mr. A. F. Lovesey, the general-manager of the Bedford, will journey down to the Western city to assist at the inauguartion of Mr. Lucas's latest enterprise. The bookings will be in the hands of Mr. Harry Day. The Bristol Empire was reopened by Mr. Tom Barrasford in April, 1901.

Mr. Joe Elvin is leaving town for a short tour, and will return to his beloved London with a new sketch, *Trespassers, Beware*, by Wal Pink, the author of so many of the droll concoctions in which Mr. Elvin figures so successfully.

Mr. Tom Edwards, the clever ventriloquist, who tops a varied and interesting bill at Hackney Empire next week, is the son of J. Edwards, a well-known steeplechase jockey and successful trainer, and was born twenty-six years ago. Tom intended following in his father's footsteps, but didn't. He started stockbroking in Birmingham instead, but found it too dull. He then joined a circus, and has been in turn a circus performer, pierrot, and smoking-concert and drawing-room entertainer. He has always, however, been a ventriloquist, and intends shortly to enlighten the public by publishing his book, "Ventriloquism in Theory and Practice; its Acquirement and Adaptation."

The jolly fraternity of the Water Rats will have its annual ball at the Trocadero on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. The reception will be at 11 p.m., dancing begins half an hour later, supper will be served at 1.30 a.m., and carriages may be ordered for 5 a.m. The Vaudeville Club will join in the festivities. Mr. A. Bond Sayers, the conductor of the London Pavilion band, will direct a special orchestra, and everybody will have a high old time.

The Variety Artists' Federation is exhibiting all the energy of youth, and the promotion and strengthening of the new society are being discussed in every town of importance where variety theatres are among the places of entertainment. Over a hundred meetings were held on Friday, when the objects and aims of the newest music-hall organisation were discussed.

"Miniature Marie," we regret to hear, is lying seriously ill at 7, Arundel-street, Piccadilly-circus, suffering from appendicitis. At first it was thought a dangerous operation would have to be performed, but her physician has dispensed with that extreme measure, and the patient is progressing as well as can be expected. She has unfortunately had to cancel all her engagements.

We are given to understand that a new syndicate is about to be formed for the purpose of acquiring four or five music halls. The managing-director of the new enterprise will probably be Mr. Jesse Sparrow, who has lately resigned his position of manager to the Camberwell and Walham Green music halls.

Joan of Arc was the heroine of the play of that name produced at the old Queen's Theatre, Long Acre, on April 10, 1871, and the subject was treated as a scenic monologue in 1891 at the old Oxford by Mr. C. R. Brighten, the then manager, who secured Mr. Frank Lindo to recite the proem. Miss Harriet Vernon then appeared as the inspired village girl of Domrémy, and looked simply magnificent as the leader of the French troops that besieged Orleans. Round the historic figure of the Maid of Orleans Mr. William Glenney, author of *The Orange Girl* and *The City of Shadows*, has written a sketch for Mr. George de Laclaire, and there is also talk of another production at a West End hall founded on the same theme.

Mr. Edward Swanborough is now happily recovering from a serious illness, and went out for a short time yesterday. He hopes to get back to his duties at the Chelsea Palace on the 26th inst., when he may be sure he will have a warm welcome from his many friends.

"The Lady in Red" is repeating at Birmingham the success it scored at the Lyceum last week, and Mr. Tom Craven has received offers from all quarters, even from America, for the popular sketch, so cleverly written by Mr. Frank Dix and so excellently played by Mr. Craven and company, who preserve the excellent traditions of farce acting that obtain in the West End.

The late manager of the London, Collins's, and the Cambridge (Mr. Chas. Hector) is to be testimonialised. The list was opened last Saturday by Mr. A. Barnett, of 34, Compton-terrace, Islington. Among the subscribers are Marie Lloyd, £2 2s.; Joe Elvin, £2 2s.; and a guinea each from Harry Randall, Wal Pink, Arthur Rigby, Jack de Frece, Paul Pelham, May Henderson, Will Evans, and Clarke and Hamilton.

Although the costumes in *Naughty Nero*, at the Oxford, are necessarily more grotesque than picturesque there are two at least that are pretty enough to hold their own, even when compared to dresses in a serious production. Miss Ruby Celeste appears in one, copied from the robes worn by Mrs. Tree, of deep red silk, with yards and yards of train, and angel sleeves of chiffon of the same colour. When Agrippineapple is thrown into the river from a Roman County Council steamboat she makes a quick change into a smart little Parisian bathing-suit of pale blue, and prepares for her final departure from the scene of action by donning a toque, boa, and muff of white fur. Acteress looks very pretty in a clinging dress of striped silk gauze, with touches of silver. Poppæa, or Poppy—from Lancashire—has her white muslin frock decorated with poppies and wears a wreath of the same flowers. Mr. Arthur Roberts's appearance is a triumph of detail, from the wreath of vivid green parsley "jewelled" with tiny carrots to the tip of the golden boots. Naughty Nero rarely discards his white silk hat, and his costume of gold brocade is studded with giant emeralds.

The South Coast Hippodrome Syndicate, Ltd., was registered on March 1 with a capital of £1,000 in £1 shares. Its object is to carry on the business of music-hall and theatre proprietors, caterers for public entertainment, etc. There is to be no initial public issue. The first directors (to number not more than seven) are to be appointed by the signatories. Registered office: Norwich House, Southampton-street, Holborn, W.C.

Happy Fanny Fields, the very clever exponent of Gretchen in the Bristol pantomime *Mother Goose*, lately paid a visit to Eastville Workhouse, and, after kindly expressions of interest in the treatment of the old people, left £5 for extra tea, &c. A vote of thanks was in due course accorded to Miss Fanny Fields.

A site has been acquired in the centre of Merthyr for the purposes of a palace of varieties, and the building will be begun immediately plans have been finally passed. It is expected that the opening will take place in August next under the management of Mr. T. N. Sylvester, who is already managing other establishments at Maidstone and Coventry. There will be two performances each night.

Mr. George Andrews, who has been appointed by Mr. Oswald Stoll as the acting-manager of the Leicester Palace Theatre, entered upon his duties last week. Mr. Andrews has had much experience in matters professional, which should fit him for the position he has undertaken. He was manager on tour for Sousa's Band, and has been some little time with Mr. Stoll.

Patrons of the Wolverhampton Empire Palace will in future miss one of the features of the local music hall. "Jack," the shrewd and genial waiter, was more than an interesting personality; he was an institution. Honoured by everyone, and popular with all, it is hard to realise that no more will he be seen in the position he occupied for forty-two years. After about a fortnight's illness he succumbed to kidney disease on Tuesday.

The Brothers Egbert took their benefit at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, on Tuesday, when a house packed in every part, gave further testimony to their great popularity in Liverpool. Both the Everton and Liverpool Football Club teams and directors were present, also the Liverpool Order of Blue Pigeons. The following artists kindly gave their services for this night only:—Mmes. Millie Lindon and Alma Obrey, Messrs. Harry Ford and James Fawn. Messrs. Egbert, who presented each of the ladies with a beautiful bouquet, submitted a new speciality, which brought down the house. Altogether it was a great night for them. They will appear in Edinburgh in pantomime next year.

Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady on Tuesday heard a motion by Mr. Easton, a debenture-holder, against the Brighton Coliseum, Ltd., for judgment in default of defence. The plaintiff held all the debentures of the company, amounting to £1,500. These were issued subject to a first mortgage of £12,000, which covered all the assets except a few loose chattels and the equity of redemption, which were said to be of little value. The receiver had entered into a contract with the mortgagees, under which the latter agreed to pay plaintiff £290 for his rights. His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, and sanctioned the sale.

Mr. Charles S. Kitts and Miss Rhoda Windrum produced last Monday week at the Empire, Birmingham, their new sketch, entitled *The Cuckoo*, which met with an enthusiastic reception. The lady and gentleman mentioned were well supported by the three members of their company.

An original scena, *A Day in Birdland*, written and composed by the late George Le Brunn, was successfully produced at the Palace, Southampton, on Monday, by Chas. Mildare, assisted by Miss Edna Werner. The scene is laid at a country hostelry, the Thrush, a charming rural landscape setting off the background. Here, Mr. Mildare, with gun, and accompanied by his prize English setter dog, "Sentinel," arrives to meet his lady love, who is late in keeping her appointment. To while away the time, Mr. Mildare sings a trio of pretty songs, "Dear little skylark," "The mocking bird is mocking me," and "You know, little girl, that I am waiting," in addition to imitating with marvellous accuracy the skylark, mocking bird, nightingale, parrot, canary, thrush, &c.. He keeps up a running accompaniment with the parrot until the lady (Miss Edna Werner), charmingly costumed, arrives, and the pair walk off for a country ramble. The scena is a distinct novelty, and was received with enthusiastic applause.

After the benefit performance at the Empire, Old Market-street, Bristol, on Friday evening, when Mr. Frank Weston, the manager, was the recipient of a handsome illuminated address and other testimonials of the esteem in which he is held, Mr. Weston was entertained at a complimentary supper at the Crown and Dove Hotel, Bridewell-street. Mr. David Crombie (chairman of the Presentation Committee), was a most genial chairman, and the company, which was large and enthusiastic, included a number of ladies and the members of the Presentation Committee, Mr. Horace Livermore, Mr. F. J. Welchman, and Mr. Geo. Gascoigne.

The address presented to Mr. Weston was as follows:—"To Frank Weston, Esq., manager of the Bristol Empire. We, the undersigned, on behalf of your many Bristol friends, artists, and staff, being desirous of marking our appreciation of the splendid business ability, unfailing courtesy, and kindness of heart which you invariably display in the important position which you hold, take this opportunity to present you with a token of our respect and regard. We therefore ask you to accept this address and the accompanying purse of gold as an expression of our good wishes to you in your future life, and we sincerely hope you will be spared for many years to enjoy good health and happiness.—Yours faithfully, David Crombie (Chairman), Percy Condick (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer)."

The usual monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the York Hotel, York-road. Mr. Pat Carey (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Frank Heath (hon. treasurer), W. Waimatta, Tom Carney, W. Brisco, W. West, J. Mulcaster, and R. T. Baines (secretary). A draft of the annual balance-sheet which was submitted showed that the society was in a satisfactory financial position, the income having steadily increased during the past few years. It was resolved that the balance-sheet should be printed and circulated amongst the members. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Miss Florrie Gallimore, the original singer of the late Mr. George Le Brunn's last song, "Remember me to mother, dear," is still singing that tuneful number at all her provincial engagements, with the greatest possible success; and the trade sales of the song, which is published in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" series, are exceedingly large.

The Monte Carlo Publishing Co., of Berners-street, have this week accepted for publication two songs, written and composed by George Arthurs and Kenneth Lyle, entitled "Good-bye, my pretty Flo" (a mock-sentimental ballad) and "Sad, sad, solemn-looking eyes," which latter is being exploited on the halls by Mr. Milner Verren.

What promises to be one of the most startling tabloid dramas ever conceived will be produced at the London Hippodrome on Monday, when *The Flood*—described as a miniature Johnstown disaster, which took place in 1901—will be produced by its inventor, Mr. Frank Parker. *The Flood* will not contain such appalling episodes as the latter, but it will be realistic enough to satisfy the greediest appetite for sensation.

In the midst of a rural mountain scene of lightness and festivity a terrible storm arises, and all that was bright and happy is plunged into Stygian darkness. In one fell catastrophe the whole village—human beings, horses, cottages, everything—is swept away by a deluge of real water through the bursting of a dam on the top of a mountain. Such a scene of indescribable terror has never been placed upon any stage. The "flood" is realised by the flow of 300,000 gallons of water from the Hippodrome tank. The book has been written by Arthur Shirley, with music by Clarence C. Corri.

The cast is as follows:—Harry Darvill, Mr. Hal Forde; Wilkins, Mr. Bert Gilbert; Zambarro, Mr. Cecil Morton York; Peter Peel, Mr. J. Windham Guise; Rosie Tynge, Miss Simeta Marsden; Lucie Gray, Miss Aimee Roberts.

The Putney Hippodrome (Limited) has been registered with a capital £27,000. The first directors are G. R. Thurlow and F. W. Gunner.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten, who is globe-trotting, has just left Port Said on his journey to the East, and reports himself to be wonderfully well. He desires, through our columns, to be kindly remembered to the profession, and hopes that on his return the barring clause will be settled.

One of the most attractive turns at the Lyceum during the week has been that of Mlle. Ghita Corri, who has been appearing in her new and original vocal scena entitled *Waiting*. In this scena Mlle. Corri takes the character of an English girl dressed in the costume of the period (1770), singing Millard's charming song with the above title, which is enthusiastically applauded. Even greater is her success when in the costume of a Spanish cigarette-maker she sings the florid air "Carmena."

The generosity and the camaraderie of music-hall artists are revealed in the eloquent figures of the subscription list of the Music Hall Home Fund, which up to the present time amounts to over seventeen hundred shillings. There are still many indefatigable collectors getting their cards filled. The amounts will be thankfully received and duly announced in subsequent issues of the paper by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, at *The Era* offices.

Miss Josie Collins, who made a successful début at the London Pavilion on Monday evening, is only seventeen years of age, and is the elder daughter of Miss Lottie Collins, who used to delight the frequenters of the popular Piccadilly house in the eighties. The daughter has an excellent preceptor in her mother and her stepfather, Mr. J. W. Tate, the well-known composer, who has collaborated in so many successful music-hall numbers with Mr. J. P. Harrington. The débutante, who is decidedly pretty, has two excellent songs in "My Tiny Firefly" and "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you."

Dancing of the Taglioni school has not been popular at the variety theatres for some years—principally for lack of clever exponents. It is refreshing, therefore, for any lover of ballet in its most artistic form to watch Espinosa and Neilson at the London Pavilion in the revival of an ancient *pas de deux*. It is a marked success. The British public are probably tiring of the graceless attitudes of the cake-walk.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford, lessee of the Lyceum and a large number of provincial music halls, is arranging to give a series of special performances in each of his establishments in aid of those dependent on the men who have been killed in the Courrière disaster. The first performance will be given at the Paris Alhambra during next week, and is intended to relieve the immediate wants of the wives and families. The towns in which concerts are to be arranged under Mr. Barrasford's direction are Brighton, Leeds, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle, and London.

Miss Margaret Ashton has this week been appearing at Brighton, where she has met with extremely cordial receptions. The popular American soprano has introduced Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford's new song "Redbreast," which is proving a very great success. Miss Ashton leaves England next week for a three-weeks' sea-voyage by order of her medical adviser.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £5 from Mr. Geo. Bell as part proceeds of the Charity Carnival at Sunderland; also the sum of £2 11s. 8d. as the result of Mr. Fred Miller's efforts with his pence box collections at the Canterbury during the last month. Mr. Wilkie Bard has also collected the following amounts at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol: J. M. Chute, £2 2s.; Fred Griffiths, £1 1s.; Wilkie Bard, 10s. 6d.; Rich and Rich, 10s.; Arnott Edgar, 5s.; Gertrude Bawn, 1s.; Arthur Bawn, 1s; and Mr. F. Dunlop has forwarded 2s. The president and committee thank these ladies and gentlemen for their kind efforts on behalf of the fund, which is in very straitened circumstances.

At the last meeting the committee investigated 32 applications for relief, and granted assistance in 31 instances.

Mr. R. H. Douglass is undoubtedly one of England's premier monologists, and has a most original system of working. He keeps a complete diary, and by a close study of it never repeats the same monologue twice at any particular hall. Among the happy sketches of which Mr. Douglass is the author and performer may be mentioned "A Pantomime in Ten Minutes," "Merry Margate," "Where to go," "A Comic Opera Rehearsal," "How to Write a Song," "In Court," "Popping the Question," "Geography made Easy," and 410 others equally amusing. Coming of an old theatrical family, his earliest recollections are of the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch. He played juvenile parts in several Adelphi dramas and other pieces until a dozen years ago, when he introduced a one-man act at the halls. Since then he has travelled extensively, having visited Australia and South Africa quite recently. Mr. Douglass has gained success in pantomime, having played in and produced half-a-dozen shows for Mr. Robert Arthur.

Few singers of her sex have achieved the triumphs in modern variety accorded to Josephine Sabel. She scored a great triumph in Paris partly because she knows how to sing "coon" songs in French. She conceived the idea of doing so last spring while at the Ambassadeurs, on the Champs-Elysées. Now, translating "coon" songs into French is no easy task, despite the fact that Miss Sabel is as much at home in that language as in English. To make it a success, she had to call to her assistance the veteran leader at the Ambassadeurs, and together they put into colloquial Parisian quite a number of songs. The results were far beyond her expectations, as the numbers made a hit from the start. Miss Sabel is booked for three hundred weeks ahead, which will carry her well through 1909.

Mr. George Robey, who has proved such a success in the Royal Court (Liverpool) pantomime *Queen of Hearts*, had a benefit on the evening of the 9th inst., when, at the fall of the curtain, a handsome rose bowl was presented to him by the council of the Liverpool Theatrical Gala Committee in recognition of his pantomime stay in the city. It may be mentioned that the medical and theatrical charities have greatly benefited by Mr. Robey's action, a football match, which he inaugurated, alone bringing in £405, the whole of the printing, advertising, and other expenses of the event—a somewhat large sum—being defrayed by the popular comedian. Liverpool will not soon forget him.

Mr. W. W. Rutherford, M.P., in the presence of the audience, handed Mr. Robey the gift, other gentlemen present being Mr. Lewis Peake (chairman of the Gala Committee), Mr. Tom Bush (treasurer), and Mr. T. S. Ashmole (secretary). Mrs. Robey, who appeared with her husband in a laughable sketch, received from the council a beautifully mounted umbrella.

On Saturday the following artists left Southampton on the "Walmer Castle" to fulfil engagements in Johannesburg and Cape Town:—Meier and Mora, Claire Romaine, Edgar Romaine, Douglas and Ford, and Mountford and Walsh. Amongst the artists who arrived home on the same day were Frank Coyne, Carrie Joy, Morcashani, the Alaskas, Mudge and Morton, and Papinta.

Little Thomas, the well-known corner-man of the Mohawk-Moore and Burgess Minstrels, holds his annual Bohemian concert on Monday evening at Stanley Hall, Junction-road, N. The veteran will be supported by a host of well-known artists, including some of his old comrades.

Mr. Charles E. Colby, who appeared some years ago at the Tivoli and other London halls in a ventriloquial entertainment, that was much brightened by the performance of Miss Allie Way (recently deceased), has taken a new partner, Miss Lily E. May, and the pair are appearing with considerable success on the Moss tour.

Chirgwin is such a popular favourite at the Palace that one is not in the least surprised to hear that Mr. Alfred Butt has lengthened his present engagement to a period of nine weeks. The famous White-eyed Kaffir's solo on his one-stringed fiddle is now much enhanced in tone and artistic expression by a funnel attachment, similar to that of the Stroh violin.

The native choir from Jamaica, consisting of ten coloured ladies and gentlemen, who were specially brought from the West Indies by Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G., finished their engagement at the Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, on Saturday to record business. Next week the choir appear at Port Sunlight, in the immense auditorium belonging to Mr. W. H. Lever, M.P., after which the combination is booked at West Kirby, Hoylake, Aintree, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Ilfracombe, Tynemouth, Blackpool, and many other places.

The numerous friends of Miss Maud Mortimer will be pleased to hear she is rapidly recovering from her recent operation. She finds it impossible to reply to all kind enquirers, but assures them she is none the less grateful.

The practice of giving extra turn matinées at the halls was first introduced by Mr. Fred Baugh at the Foresters' some three years ago. The idea has since taken root with other managements.

How loops are sometimes looped was described by a lady looper to Mr. Justice Darling in the Court of King's Bench on Tuesday. She essayed the feat and fell, being badly injured. Alleging that Madame Madeline Barber, who employed her, had been guilty of negligence, she brought an action against her to recover damages.

In summing-up, Mr. Justice Darling said that in this highly civilised country we allowed girls to engage in such dangerous performances as "looping the loop." Occasionally they fractured their skulls, and then one was told it was a necessary feature of this engaging performance. It was not the defendant's fault that this sort of thing was permitted; she was not, so far as they knew, a member of the County Council or of the Home Office, but an entertainer, who was not responsible for accidents, unless she failed to take proper precautions. If she did fail, she was responsible civilly, and if people allowed this kind of risky entertainment and did not take proper precautions they might be held responsible criminally. The jury found that the apparatus was defective, and assessed the damages at £250.

Zarmah, who is appearing this week at the Empire, York, with his zoological statuary of wild animals, has secured a long engagement abroad, and has only two vacant dates previous to leaving England on April 10.—Mr. Henry Carlton, comedian, who is at present fulfilling his third engagement with Mr. Wm. B. Broadhead, Manchester, has received a tempting offer for a short tour in New Zealand, and will probably leave for Wellington at the end of February, next year.—Ferris and Farnley open at the Hippodrome, Huddersfield, on Monday, and return to town on April 2 at the Middlesex.

Dr. Walford Bodie, who is repeating his former triumphs at the Tivoli, Leeds, is now in his second week, and creating a furore nightly, the large building being packed to the doors nightly. His marvellous electrical experiments are the wonder of all beholders. On Wednesday afternoon at the matinée about 200 medical students came in force, armed with sticks, with the intention of upsetting the programme, but the Doctor, who is nothing if not up to date, was prepared for them, having arranged for a large number of plain-clothes police. When the students commenced shouting on the Doctor making his appearance, the inspector and his men charged them. They offered a stout resistance, but in about seven minutes all the ringleaders and others were ejected from the building. Dr. Bodie then proceeded with his demonstration, introducing over fifty cases cured by him last year.

A recent number of the New York *Music Trades Review* contains the following item of news:—"Francis, Day, and Hunter, the Anglo-American publishing house, have completed the removal of their offices from 3-5, East 28th Street to 15, West 30th Street, New York, where they will occupy the entire third floor. The new premises are admirable in every way, in point of location being just off Broadway, and are cosy and comfortable and inviting. The furnishings and decorations are in excellent taste, and the American branch of this old-established English house is now prepared in every way for handling their growing business *à la mode*. The roomy, well-lighted private office of Frederick Day, general manager, is a welcome change to his former quarters, and he is now enabled to arrange his various branches on a systematic working basis. Sam Gross will manage the professional department; William Francis, jun., the printing department; and F. C. Collinge, the band and orchestra department. The firm will represent Francis, Day, and Hunter's English catalogue, excepting such numbers as are now controlled under preceding contracts. Their own publications already include meritorious issues, and they will publish the *Orchestral Journal* for high-class music only, the 'Shoo-fly' goods being excluded."

So impressed was Mr. Thomas Barrasford with the excellence of the dancing of the winners of the Street-dancing Competition at the Lyceum last week, that he engaged the first three competitors to appear at that house during this week. The latest additions to the variety stage are a Covent Garden porter named George Cairns, Tom Lynch, and a little girl named Eva Holmes. Dancing to the strains of a barrel-organ, all three made a successful professional début.

Mr. Frank Lynne, who opened at Proctor's Theatre, New York, on March 5, made an instantaneous success with his quaint comedy songs. He has already been inundated with offers to remain in the States, but, owing to his English bookings, he will be compelled to return here in April. He is, however, busy booking return dates for next year through his American agent, Mr. H. B. Marinelli.

Mr. George Gray desires to warn both music hall and theatrical proprietors and managers against an unscrupulous person who is using his name for the purpose of obtaining tickets.

The Fisher Pocket Opera Company, appearing at the Empress, Brixton, this week, has given the greatest delight to Brixtonian lovers of high-class music. The performance is a distinct change from the sameness which often prevails at the best of our variety theatres. The Opera Company has been re-booked for the Moss-Stoll tour next year, and fulfils two special weeks with this management at the Coliseum, Glasgow, opening on Monday next.

Mr. Lyndon Greenwood, the new manager of the Islington Empire, has had a varied experience in the theatrical world. While in his teens he was bitten with stage fever, and salved his ambition by "fretting" for many hours on the boards. Then he became a manager, and in 1899 went in that capacity with Mr. W. J. Holloway (known as the Irving of South Africa) to that country on tour. On returning to England he secured an engagement with Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, and directed her provincial tours for two years. His first experience in the halls was as acting-manager of the popular establishment in Upper-street. In this capacity he remained about a fortnight, and was then promoted by Mr. Walter Gibbons. The entrance to the Islington Empire has been recently refurnished.

Mr. Ryder Slone and Boy Glen have returned from Australia, per Britannia, after a seventeen weeks' successful engagement in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Both artists were very successful, public and press being loud in praise. Mr. Slone makes the gratifying statement that Australians are very interested in the Old Country, the doings in the music-hall world especially. The popular comedian was, among other things, interviewed by a local paper on the barring clause. He had an interesting voyage out, the cutting up of a 40ft. whale by the propeller of the Ortova in the Red Sea being not the least exciting He also had the unique experience of seeing a bush fire and witnessing one of the greatest racing sights in the world—the Melbourne Cup.

A special matinée was given at the Holloway Empire on Thursday in aid of the Great Northern Central Hospital. The hon. secretary, Mr. H. Glenton-Kerr, in a short speech, said that the upkeep of the hospital amounted to £16,000 a year, and that, as only £1,600 had been subscribed during last year, it was necessary to arrange for a special matinée to wipe off some of the debt of last year. The proceeds of the performance were about £200. Among those who contributed to the entertainment were the Stavordale Quartette of instrumentalists, Mr. George Mozart, Mr. Phil Ray, and Mr. Harry Tomps (comedians), Miss Marie Collins, Rezene and Robini, Mr. W. W. Donovan (cornet solo), Mr. Charles Warner, Datas, the human encyclopædia, the one and only Chirgwin, Madge and Dolly McCalla (clever juveniles), Mr. R. H. Douglas, Mr. Mike Whallen, the original Sisters McNulty, Bonnie Goodwin and her piccaninnies, Professor Fuller's wonder "Astarte," Miss Mary Price-Owen (a charming elocutionist), Miss Rosie St. John and company in a scene from Shakespeare, and Miss Victoria Addison and company in the one-act play *Mingled Threads*. The Bioscope showed some special up-to-date pictures.

At the meeting of the International Artists' Lodge on Sunday at the Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, a letter was received from the London solicitor of the Lodge with reference to an appeal case. This matter was detailed by the President, and a discussion ensued thereon. The case was compared with others, the President putting an instance before the meeting:—Two members of the I.A.L. had a contract with a Continental theatre, and the agent who made that contract instructed the artists not to scratch out anything contained in it, as the manager was a decent man, and there would be no trouble with him. Some time later the artists received an offer for a South African engagement, and wrote to the Continental manager asking for a postponement of their contract. They received a communication from the agent saying that the manager was quite willing to grant a postponement if the artists would accept a later date at about half the salary and pay the agent about 10 per cent. on the original contract and 10 per cent. on the second contract. This the artists did not agree to, and wrote to the management, saying that they would fulfil their original date. Whereupon they received a wire from the management saying that their contract was cancelled, the real reason being that the manager had heard that a similar act was playing in an opposition house. Thus the artists lost their South African engagement (four to five months) and also the Continental one. Artists should be warned not to accept the cautions of agents, and to scratch out every objectionable clause, especially paragraph 7.

A member then related a case he had had with the same manager when he was forced to arbitrate with the latter, as he (the artist) had shown his contract to the agent, who had informed the manager that the artist was publishing it. In another instance the artist's engagement was cancelled after three days. The speaker then suggested that the Lodge should strongly reprehend such actions.

The President replied that the best weapon was publicity, and pointed out the danger incurred by performers in not striking out the two weeks' cancellation clause, explaining at the same time the obvious reasons why this clause is inserted by the managers. He also declared that the artist had not published his contract by showing it to the agent. The exigencies of his business demanded that he should show it to the agent so that the latter should know where and when the artist was engaged, in order to prevent useless offers from the same or too distant managers. At the same time he declared that an indiscriminate use of information imparted to the agent by artists could be regarded as a breach of faith.

Various other members related their experiences with regard to the cancellation clause, and a guest present remarked that often the artists themselves were at fault for the trouble they got into as they were not sufficiently alert and observant. The artists should try to be good business men as well as good artists. The President then explained in detail the construction and meaning of a contract. Questions were asked thereon, and the meeting then closed.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

The leading attraction at the Islington Empire this week is the farcical absurdity, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, played by Mr. Lew Lake and company. The comic burglar is a well-known stage character, and no one is inclined to treat him very seriously. In the sketch just mentioned there are a couple of these gentry, and their doings on the occasion of their visit to a Bloomsbury flat are of such a comical character that the audience never cease laughing all the time that Jerry and his companion have possession of the stage. The sketch concludes in sensational fashion with a terrific fight on the house-tops between the two burglars and the police, two or three of whom are rendered *hors de combat* ere the desperadoes are captured.

Mr. George D'Albert is again seen at the hall with which he was at one time so closely associated as a leading member of the Mohawk Minstrels. Since that period Mr. D'Albert has developed into a versatile comedian, who is always well received at the variety theatres. He opens with a comic song, "She hasn't been the same girl since," and then assuming a frock-coat and a serious air, Mr. D'Albert sings a ballad, "The truth or a lie?" each verse of which tells a story that shows how in many cases a lie is quite excusable. Mr. D'Albert renders the song in such a style as to thoroughly impress the audience, and he is recalled with the utmost enthusiasm. The couple known as the Schaffers give a musical entertainment which presents some novel features. Made up as a clown, the gentleman plays a solo on the ocarina, and with the assistance of his lady partner extracts music from a number of disks which rapidly rotate and present the appearance of large sunflowers. Melodies on other strange instruments are also played, and finally the couple, with bells attached to head, arms, and legs, give a duet. Mr. Edwin Brett and Miss Emmeline Orford are seen in their bright little vaudeville, *The Two Love Birds*. In this they represent a city man and his wife, who plays the part of his lady typist. The sketch is enlivened by the introduction of songs; and in one of these they embody first a rollicking schoolboy and girl, then the same two young people when they have reached years of discretion, and finally they appear as an old grey-haired married couple who are "sweethearts still." That charming comedienne, Miss Amy Clevere, is one of the most attractive turns in the bill. She sings "I can't come out" in her usual fascinating style, and this is followed by her dainty song and dance, "My little Lulu." Miss Clevere is the nightly recipient of a most cordial welcome. Mr. Will Musgrove scores as a comedian with a couple of telling songs. Dressed as a big boy, he is specially successful with his ditty, "It's a good job I had mother with me." Mr. Will Goodwin continues to win applause with his popular song, "If those lips could only speak," in which the pathetic note is effectively touched. The Three Sisters Silcott sing with eminently satisfactory results, "Kiss me good-bye," and also do well with a vigorous song and dance of the coon type. Cline and Clark, black and white comedy artists, give an attractive exhibition of their abilities as singers and dancers; and a domestic subject, "The New Maid," a series of highly amusing pictures, is shown on the bioscope. Mr. Lyndon Greenwood, who has recently been appointed the manager here, is well qualified for the appointment by reason of his previous experience in connection with the management of theatrical companies. The orchestra is under the charge of Mr. A. Petersen, and the distinguishing feature of the overture, "Salut d'Amour," this week is a well-played 'cello solo.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

A bill of the usual excellence was submitted for the delectation of the patrons of this popular hall on the night of our visit, and the very large audience present gave voice to their entire satisfaction with the good fare set before them by loudly applauding each turn as it appeared. The unique feature of this week's programme is the appearance of the Russian giant, Machnow, who, from the height of his 9ft. 2½ins., gazes down on the audience with a benevolent expression on his countenance, and some little time is taken up by Machnow's walk round all parts of the house, where he is preceded by the popular and courteous manager, Mr. Ernest Bridgen. Many of the audience appear to take pleasure in shaking hands with the giant, whose great height, handsome uniform, and quaint military salute make him a very striking figure.

Miss Madge Carlyle is a very charming vocalist, and sings her song, entitled "Just Idle Dreams," in very pleasing fashion. A gentleman and two ladies, billed as Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe, present an entertainment of great beauty and brilliancy, entitled "In Electra's Bower," which consists of a pretty little story told in pantomime, of some excellent dancing by the three artists named, and of some of the most prominent features of the flying ballet. The stage is a picture of gorgeous coloring in electric lights. This turn is an unqualified success. Miss Ethel Ra Leslie next appears, and looks very pretty in her handsome dress of the powder period. She has a clear, sweet voice, and sings pleasantly—her rendering of "When Love Dies" is enthusiastically received. A bright little entertainment is contributed by Geoffreys and Benson, whose rehearsal of Romeo and Juliet for private theatricals evokes loud laughter. The gentleman wounds his wife's feelings by telling her that she cannot act. She retires, vowing revenge, and presently returns in the character of an Irish maid-of-all-work (with a dirty make-up), who so upsets her employer's sense of comfort and decorum that he is very glad to find that it is only his wife, who has assumed the character to prove her histrionic gifts. This trifle is admirably acted by both artists, and is called "Spoofed."

The Violas—or White Mahatmas—give a wonderful second-sight act; a clever equilibristic turn is provided by the Maningos, who are billed as the Pocket Equilibrists; Miss Josephine Sabel has a well-deserved popularity, and her reception is most flattering. She sings in her own inimitable style "A Gal from Dixie" and "A Bit of Blarney." The remarkably clever quartette of gymnasts the Four Skandias, are also on the programme. The performance concludes with some new and interesting pictures on the bioscope, those relating to Victor Hugo's story "Les Misérables" being good enough to make one wish for more. Those illustrating the football match between Woolwich Arsenal and Manchester United are received with enthusiasm. The pictures conclude with a comic series, entitled "That awful Mother-in-law." We must not omit a word of praise to the fine orchestra, so ably directed by Mr. Louis La Rondelle.

ROYAL ALBERT.

It must be a task of no little difficulty to cater for an audience mainly composed of working folk, for the programme must be good and the charge for admission moderate, the money at their disposal for amusement being very limited. That Mr. Charles Relf, the experienced proprietor of the comfortable and commodious Canning Town hall, accomplishes this is proved by the liberal patronage so long accorded the Royal Albert, and the satisfaction that is everywhere expressed. An item in the bill that always secures favour is the dramatic sketch; and an excellent specimen is *The Soldier's Wife*, the playlet for the current week, admirably presented by Mr. J. P. Dryden and his specially selected company, including the popular actor Mr. Algernon Syms. The names of the characters and their interpreters are not given on the programme; but the head of the combination gave an effective and finished portrayal of the second villain, Mr. Algernon Syms making a gallant and in every way satisfactory hero, Fred Lonsdale. The lady who represented "the soldier's wife" acted with sincerity and conviction; and all the other parts were ably undertaken, the comic rôle of the Irish sergeant being humorously played, and a very popular personage with the audience. The sketch, which was adequately staged, evidently gave entire satisfaction, the principals all being recalled at its conclusion.

Especially appreciated was the laughable interlude submitted by Lister, Dido, and Lister, a hard-working trio who impersonate a schoolmaster and his two incorrigible pupils. Absurdly funny are the replies given by the boys to questions in geography, arithmetic, &c., put them by their stern and spectacled tutor; the chastisement suffered by one of them especially making for mirth. One of the trio, in appearance and manner calling to mind a comedian of the front rank, is an eccentric of decided smartness and ability; and all three are to be commended for the brightness and humour of their turn, which concludes with an harmonious and loudly applauded rendering of "Excelsior." Singing and dancing of an acceptable nature are contributed by Stuart and Stuart, the gentleman of the duo being an expert acrobatic dancer, his lady partner, an accomplished and enthusiastic little lady, distinguishing herself by her rendering of a tuneful coon song and some clean high kicking, and an attractive and arduous exhibition of the "light fantastic." Miss Lillie Dresden was listened to with pleasure in her singing of the ballad "Always" and another pretty number, but was handicapped by a severe cold, which prevented her from giving a third selection, an attempt at which called forth sympathetic applause from the audience.

The New Recruit, the comedy gymnastic act of the Two Mezzettis, was responsible for some of the loudest laughter heard during the evening. Admiration was frequently expressed at the clean and expert manner in which the taller of the twain executed many difficult feats on the triple bars; and his partner, every whit as clever as a gymnast, supplied the comedy relief as the "new recruit," which, in this case, was real fun. Screams of merriment were the result of his many unsuccessful efforts to enter the "canteen"; and his antics throughout were always droll and unforced. The happily associated and ingenious couple were loudly acclaimed at the conclusion of their entertaining and skilful turn. An engaging and smart little comedienne, Miss Sadie Seymour, warbled in a bright and telling manner of "Polly Maloney," and also won appreciation for her song in praise of the "Work-girl." Her third selection, "The swellest swell coon in town," was accompanied by a dance of much dexterity and attractiveness, and pleased greatly. Other turns in Mr. Relf's varied programme are Syd Herman, the popular Hebrew comedian, in song and story; Frank Keegan and company, in their clever knockabout cycle act "Everyday Cyclists"; the Redferns (Ruby and Elsie), expert lady banjoists, vocalists, and dancers; Frank Ricksman, with the marvellous sound-magnifying "Columbia" cylinder graphophone; and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope. No more orderly audience could be found within the walls of a variety theatre than that under the watchful eye of the genial and tactful chairman, Mr. Walter Leaver; and the orchestra, under the careful direction of Mr. R. A. Howell, acquit themselves admirably

THE SOUTH LONDON.

The vast auditorium of the old-established hall in the London-road was chock-full on the occasion of a visit this week, when a huge audience was to be found deep in the enjoyment of the entertainment. There is certainly plenty to engage the attention in the programme presented by Mr. Frank Weeks, who, it is well to recall, was associated with the earliest days of the hall since the application there of the two-houses-a-night system. A whole show in itself might be presented by Boswell's Stage Circus, in which educated ponies, dogs, and donkeys figure in an extraordinary way. After a game of see-saw, indulged in by some pretty little ponies, a handsome chestnut is put through a liberty act, the graceful evolutions of which are heartily applauded. The introduction of a revolving table, on which a dog performs a hurdle act, is the cause of mirthful excitement, boys from the audience being invited to try their skill. Their frantic efforts to maintain their equilibrium on the swiftly careering surface are very droll, and the excitement is increased when the velocity of the movement sends them spinning to the ground. They are only saved from violent contact with the stage by a rope attached to their waist, but the boys, probably influenced by the prospect of money prizes for the most successful attempt, seem to enjoy the sensation, and the satisfaction it gives to the audience is unmistakable. A one-wheel omnibus and the vagaries of a cantankerous donkey also afford food for merriment, in which the whole audience continuously indulge.

One Billy Farrell, a coloured comedian who claims the distinction of having created the "cake-walk," is certainly, despite his stalwart figure, sufficiently light upon his feet for all purposes, as is agreeably evident in the neat dance with which he supplements his singing of a song of "Stella." Dryly humorous anecdotes, with many eccentricities of delivery, follow, and there is further cause for laughter in the refrain, "You don't need nothing for yer nerves," which is appropriately fitted to the words of a clever song. The first view of the funny features of Mr. Phil Ray is the signal for laughter, which is uncontrollable during his delivery of his stock of quaint patter. "Only seventeen," sung in his inimitable style, is Mr. Ray's one and only complete number, but his snatches of song, his mock recitations, and his indignation towards the cachinnating "Carrie" produce their customary effects.

New successes are introduced by Miss Daisy James, who sings "The shades of night began to fall," in which the embarrassments due to the dimness of eventide are amusingly detailed. "Don't take the trouble to call" is a song in which love's young dream is blighted by the ambiguous wording of a note which, innocent enough in itself, suggests indelicacy to the faithful swain. The refrain is set to a pretty tune, in which the audience were constrained to join heartily, and Miss James rendered the song with all her customary archness and vivacity. The Brontes are responsible for a great access of laughter in the duologue *A Saucy Maid*, in which a quaint slavey exacts a proposal of marriage from her young master by impersonating a music-hall star with whom he is in love. Mr. Bronte acts well as a smart young officer, and his partner does a neat transformation from a slavey to a serio. Dancing forms the feature of Forest and King's entertainment, some pretty evolutions being performed by a dainty maiden, while her companion evolves humour out of a series of acrobatic actions which are cleverly executed. Miss Bertha Winder, the youthful champion lady clog-dancer, gives finished specimens of her art; the melodious contralto of Miss Violet Elliott is heard in a cultivated rendering of "The Deathless Army"; and contributions to the programme are also made by Mr. Will Musgrave, comedian, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, which reveals a funny picture of *A Tramp's Dream*.

MR. FRANK GERALD has almost entirely recovered from his recent accident, which occurred during his performance in *Captain Starlight* with his famous mare Wiapera. This week he has been gaily riding her as Dick Turpin, in *The King's Highway*.

DR. WALFORD BODIE
AND THE LEEDS STUDENTS.

THE DOCTOR TRIUMPHS.
REMARKABLE CURES.
A £1,000 CHALLENGE.

Dr. Bodie, the bloodless surgeon, had a very hearty reception at both "houses" last night at the Leeds Tivoli Music Hall, after the Majuba-like proceedings of the afternoon.

In his introductory remarks he said he had been warned that there was likely to be a demonstration that afternoon, the students having apparently been annoyed at the ejection of some of their number from the hall on the previous Wednesday afternoon for unseemly behaviour. The doctor expressed the opinion that the facts regarding the disturbance had been exaggerated. The outbreak, he said, was confined to one corner, and the young men, armed with sticks, were forcibly ejected by the police, whom he publicly complimented on the way in which they discharged their duties in the face of odds. Attempts were made, he understood from his manager and members of the staff, to insult the inspector and the men under his charge, and if the police did use the students a little bit roughly, they had been compelled to do so in self-defence.

MIGHT HAVE CAUSED PANIC.

He looked on the conduct of the students as a very serious offence in a packed hall. Had he not been able to keep cool the result might have been a serious panic, attended by loss of life. Their offence he considered as serious as that of a man shouting "Fire!" He hoped the magistrates would make an example of the ringleaders, and that no distinction would be made between these

DR. WALFORD BODIE.

young "bloods" and persons in a lower scale socially. The disturbance lasted, he said, only a very few minutes, and afterwards the audience gave him a splendid reception. Furthermore, some of the students coming to blame stayed to praise after witnessing the performance, and behind the scenes shook hands with Dr. Bodie for his excellent work in curing paralysis.

£1,000 CHALLENGE.

Dr. Bodie's challenge of a thousand pounds, to be given to the Infirmary if a medical man or any other person can prove that he has not been successful in many instances in curing cases of paralysis sent away as incurable from the Infirmary and other institutions, is still open, but up to the present no one has come forward. The truth is that Dr. Bodie has living witnesses of his skill in Leeds to-day.

In response to a telephonic communication, a representative of the "Yorkshire Evening News" personally interrogated some of Dr. Bodie's "cures" between the two shows last night, and received ample confirmation of the genuineness of the art of bloodless surgery in the case of paralysed people. The cases investigated were operated upon by Dr. Bodie on his first visit to the Tivoli last year, and the patients in their gratitude were not slow (writes our representative) last night to point out how lasting the cures had been.

SOME CURES.

A little girl named Annie England, of Abbey-street, Kirkstall-road, skipped about the wings with the irons in her hand, as though she had never known what it was to be a cripple. She was paralysed for two years, and sent away from the Infirmary and the Dispensary as incurable. Dr. Bodie's treatment has restored her to health.

A remarkable cure was that of David Markson, of Stamford-street, ten years of age. He slept in his irons for three years, and had to stand to take his meals. He attended the Leeds Infirmary for three years. Coming under the influence of Dr. Bodie, little Markson had the joy last Guy Fawkes Day of throwing his crutches on the bonfire.

A girl named Schneider, living with her parents in Bell-street, another out-patient at Leeds Infirmary, was cured by Dr. Bodie, and her former supports were chopped up to make "piggies" for her brother.

A well-known newspaper lad named Edward Jackson, living in Ward's Fold, had a paralysed hand for years, but at the local Infirmary and the Women and Children's Hospital nothing effective could be done for him. Thanks to Dr. Bodie, he lifted in my presence last night a 56lb. weight with three fingers of the hand that was formerly paralysed.

Alice Maud Townsley, aged 14, of Mercy-street, Wellington-lane, wore double irons, and attended the Infirmary for seven years. She needs no irons now.

To see Violet Hurley, of Pemberton-street, Dewsbury-road, skip across the stage with a girl's rope, it seemed hard to realise that she had been paralysed for four years. But so she told me, and there was a world of gratitude in her eyes as she looked up at Dr. Bodie. She had also attended Leeds Infirmary.

A REMARKABLE CASE.

The last case investigated was perhaps the most remarkable. It was that of a young man named Arthur Pollard, of Kelsall-avenue, 20 years of age, who had been paralysed from birth in the vocal and other chords. Last Thursday night he underwent treatment at the hands of Dr. Bodie, and so successful was it that he ejaculated quite clearly, "Are we downhearted?" With the exception of a little nervous twitching at the mouth at starting, Pollard's articulation is now perfect.

These were but a sample of the cases I saw around me.—Extract from the Leeds *Evening News*, March 15, 1906.

LA BELLE ATALANTA, having finished an exceptionally prosperous tour of forty weeks in the United States, will arrive in Liverpool on Saturday, opening shortly at the London Pavilion.

THE PARAGON.

We have heard a good deal of the absurdities of woman's suffrage as exhibited recently outside the Prime Minister's residence, but it seems to be left to the George Power company to give us a demonstration of the practical application of this much-debated system. Here we see one result of woman's suffrage from the point of view of the household. We are introduced to a lady who rules her husband in much the same way that naughty children are ruled. This husband attends to the washing while his masterful spouse, dressed in the latest style, watches on, and indulges in caustic comments and occasional chastisement. Another female friend takes the hint, and endeavours to treat her husband in similar fashion. The little sketch is most farcical, and is played in the liveliest possible manner. Mr. Mike Whallen, who is described as the pacha of many tales, is immensely droll with his Irishisms, and he is as popular as ever with his funny anecdotes. Another prominent feature of the programme is the turn of Mr. Harry Lauder, who, as usual, with his whimsical Scots patter and singing, provokes intense merriment. He first entertains the house with his song, "I love a lassie," the chorus of which is heartily followed by the gallery. Upon his second appearance he gives us an idea of what it means to be "fou." Tightly clutching a property rooster and an umbrella, he staggers about the stage, and then proceeds to explain his condition in a highly comical recital of adventures among bibulous pals. Finally, he falls back helpless upon a couch, amid a perfect outburst of laughter and applause.

Sterling and Love have a remarkably original and clever act. The gentleman is an accomplished instrumentalist, and the lady possesses a capital voice. Apparently—on the stage at least—they are man and wife—and a curious domestic situation arises owing to the former objecting to his wife's vocalism, and the lady disliking his brass music. But the quarrel is of the pleasantest description, and the act, which is the outcome, is a most delightful one. The lady renders in enchanting style several ditties, her "I love you dearly" and "Soldier boys" being specially praiseworthy. As to the gentleman, in his performances on the post-horn, cornet, and drum he displays considerable skill. That athletic couple, Kelly and Gillette, give an excellent account of themselves both on the springing billiard-table and off. Particularly smart is the double somersaulting in the air by the "tramp," but, really, there is not a dull moment all the time these admirable grotesque gymnasts are upon the stage. Little Cliff makes himself a great favourite with his quaint rendering of "Good-bye, Mr. W.," and his wonderful dancing brings him unlimited applause. Nothing but commendation can be bestowed upon his terpsichorean efforts, which are quite of the nature of feats. Rita and Roma submit a humorous entertainment, which is keenly appreciated. Their duets go exceedingly well, especially that entitled "Mr. Montague." Miss Lucy Weston is a sweet singer and dainty dancer, and the Lurins (Frank and Alice) provide an agreeable show in their "Abode of Love" item. Charming Miss Victoria Monks entrances everybody with her exquisite vocalisation of "There is only one I love" and "Ain't yer gwine to say a-doo?" Both the melodies are of the catchy order, and this, combined with Miss Monks' distinctive characterisation, make them exceptionally attractive.

The Redferns excel as banjoists, vocalists, and dancers. Very acceptable is their instrumentalisation and singing of "If I'm to be your Cherokee." Farcical comedy is a line of business in which the Three Prestons distinguish themselves. The act is full of ridiculous antics and sayings, and very energetic they are in bringing out the amusing points in the turn. To say that the Prestons are uproariously funny is to give but a slight idea of their mirth-compelling qualities. Two more instrumentalists enter the field in the persons of the Leslie Brothers. First we are treated to a smart performance on a cornet and another instrument of the horn order, then some absurd fingering of the pianoforte, afterwards a string of amusingly executed harmonies on the bassoon, the oboe, the trombone, and a number of tin cans, and finally ending in a few lines from the "Battle of the Boyne," played simply by the application of the hands to the face. The Leslie Brothers are astonishingly clever people. Yukio Tani is here once more, and the youth of the East End once more cherish ideas of becoming learned in the science of Japanese wrestling. The conditions under which Mr. Tani issues his challenges are sufficiently well known as not to require recapitulation by us. Three bouts are announced, and the result in each is the same—so far as the actual victory is concerned. Mr. Tani's first and second opponents are defeated in less than two minutes, the third contestant showing better form, and keeping the battle up for six and a half minutes before being vanquished. A series of fine pictures depicting the Sultan of Morocco and his Army are shown by means of Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

FORESTERS'.

Mr. Lew Lake is still going strong with his "colossal comedy company of cunning conspirators and crafty coppers" in the sketch, entitled *The Bloomsbury Burglars*. Mr. Lake himself plays the part of Nobbler, in which his delightful farcical qualities find ample opportunities. Mr. Bob Morris is also extremely comical as the window-cleaner; and the absurd dignity of the flunkey is capitally sustained by Mr. Ernest Webb. Miss Kitty Wilmore is an amusing schemer in the rôle of Miss Edith Arlington, and the quieter character of the artist has an able interpreter in Mr. Harry Lavers. The sketch is crowded with quips and cranks and laughable antics, and is certain to hold the stage for some time to come. The Brothers Redmond submit a smart acrobatic act, which contains not a little of the funny element. The little scene, in which one tells the other, "Willie, come here," is extremely mirth-provoking, and the various feats of the lively couple are hugely appreciated, especially their knockabout business, which can always be relied upon to suit an East End audience. Miss Dorothy Veld, a comedienne of distinct merit, sings in most pleasing style her coon song, "Good night, Evangeline," and creates an excellent impression in the house.

When one witnesses what is called "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" cinematographically presented, one wonders why Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous work was not dealt with in this way before. However, the idea based, we presume, on the famous detective tales, has now been taken up by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux Company. The story we get is that of a millionaire's child being kidnapped by bandits, the tracing of that child by a detective, the capture of the latter by the pirates, and the saving of his life by the child itself. The pictures are most interesting and well-defined, and the film, which is a long one, should find great favour with music-hall habitués. We think, if it could be done, some very attractive scenes could be arranged more on the precise lines of Conan Doyle's life of Sherlock Holmes, a short résumé of the plot being given on the programme. Miss Florrie Beck, the talented comedienne and dancer, has a "way wid her," as the Irish would say, that at once makes things easy between her and her audience. She treats us to an enchanting bit of vocalism with her song "The way of the world," and her dancing compels one's admiration. Another lady who combines charm of manner and appearance with a capital voice is Miss Rose Elliott, whose interpretation of two songs, "Just the same" and "What's the good of worrying father?" forms an agreeable feature of the programme.

Mr. Edward Sillward and company are seen in their sketch, entitled *Satan*. From the name one might imagine that the lord of the lower regions figured prominently in the playlet. But that is not so. Satan is the nickname of a man-monkey, who in saving the life of a girl meets with his own death. The end is very pathetic, the character of the intelligent animal being played with a realistic touch by Mr. Sillward. This gentleman stands pre-eminent as an imitator of that animal which is the nearest approach to man in appearance, and whatever he does in this direction is always well done. Other sketch artists are Mr. and Mrs. Royston Dene and company, who are presenting their dramatic trifle, *His Birthday*. A father and mother are waiting in expectation the arrival of their son, in honour of whose birthday they have prepared a banquet and arranged to entertain a party of friends. Suddenly a knock is heard at the door, and a clergyman enters to tell of the news of the death of the youth. The different parts are played in sympathetic manner, and the little piece holds one's attention from beginning to end. The whimsical George Brookes comes on the stage to sing his well-known and extremely popular "Fireman" song, and he makes a hit too with his second number, "Every day in the week," in which he humorously details various things that go on during each of the seven days.

THE GRANVILLE.

At the Granville Theatre of Varieties, Walham Green, a good all-round variety show is provided this week, with no particular "star" attraction, though such names as Arthur Rigby, Billy Williams, and Park's Eton Boys are safe to draw a good house. The Goldman, Holles company present the only sketch of the evening in their well-known musical mélange *The Little Charwoman*. The King is coming to a certain playhouse, when the dire news arrives that Miss Dolittle, the leading lady, has had a motor-car accident, and cannot appear. Hastily the manager and his factotum telephone all the place to try to secure a substitute, but there is not one available. Then Eliza Jenkins, "the little charwoman," steps into the breach, and offers to do the part, and so well does he acquit herself as flower girl, Dutch girl, a belle Americaine, and paper boy, that she is promptly engaged at a big salary as the "star" of the company. All work well, and with zest and ability, to make the sketch a popular success. Goodfellow and Gregson are a droll pair, and the man, with his quaint methods and up-to-date wheezes, and the girl, with her dainty dancing and bright, pert manner, gain a great success. Mr. Fred Elton comes out with flying colours in his musical sketch *On Board an Ocean Liner*. His songs, "There's only one way to go," sings with the words transposed to another tune, "How I sat on a tack" and "A visit to a music hall" are rendered with any amount of "go," and his turn is much appreciated. Mr. Will Poluski, jun., proves himself a droll comedian and dancer in his songs, "Hi-ti-ti iddy i" and a parody on one of Eugene Stratton's coon songs. The animated pictures by Vernon's Bioscope deal chiefly with the affairs of our friends across the Channel, and very amusing they are. "An Affair of Honour," "How Baby Caught Cold," "The Gaieties of Divorce," and "The Misadventures of a Hat" are all laughably illustrated.

Mr. Billy Williams is a comedian whose bright, breezy manner at once appeals to his audience, and his songs, "Johnny, put your trousers on," "I wouldn't wear another wooden leg for you," and "All coats look alike to me" meet with a rattling reception, and repeated encores greet his efforts. Miss Chummie la Mara sings in fine voice "Hurrah for the boys in blue" and "If the girl loves the fellow and the fellow loves the girl." Park's Eton Boys are a remarkably well-trained and sweet-voiced quintet, and their united rendering of "Excelsior" and the individual contributions of "Gweneviere," "Sweet Eileen," "Beware," and "The girl and the lazy coon" are most artistic and finished performances. Mr. Will Johnson, in "I know the way," and more especially in his song and patter descriptive of wooing and wedding, is immensely droll, and contrives to tickle the fancy of the audience throughout. Miss Lola Patey sings very prettily "Hush, don't wake the baby," and a yodelling song. Mr. Arthur Rigby gains many a laugh by his quaint disquisition on woman's rights, and in his ever-popular skit "The march of the married men" he causes roars of laughter and applause. Mr. Tatten Hall is a very capable comedian, and in his songs "How I went a-hunting" and "Bertie of Bond-street," who feels fearfully wicked when he's "once had a small lemonade," in which he has the valuable assistance of a young lady as barmaid is exceedingly droll and smart. Miss Alice Maple is a capital exponent of the calisthenic art, Pueblo and Cropp, are clever creole speciality artists, and Lachie Thompson's top-weights also do good service.

MARIE LOFTUS.

PHENOMENAL SUCCESS AT GRIMSBY.

Marie Loftus has appeared before Grimsby audiences before, but successful as she has been, she is proving even more popular this week at the Palace. For fully half-an-hour she remains on the platform, and everyone regrets when she leaves at the end of that time. She sings the old favourite, "He kissed me once, how ashamed I was," the story of a country wench's excursion to London, and the very funny song, "Imagination goes a long way." But her principal piece is the sketch, "Singers past and present," which explains itself. In cumbrous crinoline she sings an old-time song, in very juvenile costume she impersonates a child. In a smart frock of stars and stripes she gives a Yankee song, and in a staring costume of green and red she sings of Old Ireland. Her burlesque of a music hall nutshell drama is very funny. She comes on as the heroine, but, suddenly turns, and appears as the villain, with frock coat and top hat. As the dialogue becomes animated, the rapid changes effected by simply turning towards one side of the stage or the other become very amusing. At the conclusion she fell on the floor engaged in a fearful struggle to the death with herself. Her Indian song is very picturesque. She comes in from the back of the stage on a canoe, and sings and dances, and her assistant presents a lively Indian dance.—*Grimsby Telegraph*.

THE chief attractions this week in Hanley are Maarali at the Grand, and *The Catch of the Season* at the Theatre Royal. As one of the local managers wittily observed: "*The Catch of the Season* at one place, and the catch-as-catch-can of the season at the other."

MR. PETER CONROY, who was for nine years musical director at the Canterbury, has been appointed by Messrs. Abrahams to a similar position at the Queen's, Poplar, when it re-opens its doors at Easter. Mr. Conroy, by accepting office under the Abrahams régime, renews a very pleasant association that terminated nineteen years ago. His wide experience as a composer and conductor will be a guarantee of orchestral efficiency at the Queen's.

MR. PAT DOHERTY is by way of taking a trip to Boston and New York by a White Star liner on May 11 next, from Liverpool. The Irish M.P., like a true Irishman, is proud of being born on St. Patrick's Day, and one way he has of celebrating the anniversary is to send a cheque for the Music Hall Home Fund.

SEVENTEEN HUNDRED SHILLINGS

FOR

"THE ERA"

SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Subscribed to date, 1,763½ shillings.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charities (per Fred W. Warden)	400
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Dr. Walford Bodie	100
Wm. Morton	63
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannering	25
Johnny Holland	21
P. Madden	21
G. H. Chirgwin	21
Mr. Pat Doherty	21
Charles Weldon	20
Nellie Wilson	10½
Bros. Webb	10
Andie Caine	3
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1
Rozel	1
Nellie Nora	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	2½
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Givani Cristie	1	Jeane Priver	2
Geo. Vickery	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Erna Harrison	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Mina Fisher	1
Will Collins	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Danl. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Marquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydora, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	3
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlyn	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Collected by Mr. James Brady, 9s.

Ernest Ball	1	J. Woods	1
Ethel Dunford	1	M. Anderson	1
"Zaid"	1	Sam Jones	1
E. W. Manning	1	James Brady	1
D. J. Banks	1		

Collected by Miss Maud Mortimer, 34s.

G. Norton	1	Alf. Bishop	1
W. J. Churchill	5	W. H. J.	1
H. Calver	1	Billy Closs	1
Bert Burnell	1	A Friend	1
Billy Barlow	1	James Chippendale	1
J. H. Whittaker	2	L. C.	1
Jack Davenport	5	Frederick Ross	1
Walter Gillman	1	Maude Mortimer	5
Boris Fridkin	5		

Collected by Barrett and Knowles, 25s.

George F. Ide	1	Madge Sinclair	1
Harry Barrett	1	Louie Mavis	1
Jack Knowles	1	Malcolm Scott	1
José Collins	1	J. P. Wilson	1
Birdie Sutherland	1	K. A. Hutchison	1
Alice Russon	1	Bob Potter	1
Paul Knox	1	W. B. Barratt	1
Harry Laudy	1	Arthur Sutcliffe	1
Bessie Featherstone	1	Billy Ireland	1
Syd May	1	Uncle Scott	1
Alice Belmore	1	P. C. Murray	1
Dorothy Ide	1	Max Rose	1
Jeanie Christoe	1		

Collected by Mr. Charles Beanland, 22s. 6d.

Chas. Beanland	1	Harry Tomlinson	1
Anon	1	Henris	1
Boys	1	Mrs. Fred Cary	1
G. Carney	1	E. S. Salambo	1
Belmonts	2	C. M. J.	1
F. Armstrong	1	Harry Du Gros	1
E. Korrie	1	Eddie Stidder	1
A Friend	1½	Tom Bonnetti	1
J. Zedora	1	Gus Rickards	1
J. C. Skelsey	2	Harry Trevor	1

Collected by Ernie Mayne, Esq., 9s.

Ernie Mayne	1	Daisy Dormer	1
St. John Madley	1	Lina Vercli	1
Geo. Formby	1	Robert Pender	1
Drew and Alders	2	Maggie Pender	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, £1 17s.

Bob Selvidge	2½	Barney Dixon	2
Fred Fowler	2½	Mrs. Selvidge	1
Martin Conway	1	Frank Gee	1
Joe Waldron	1	Will Gee	1
B. Nicholls	1	Mrs. Martin Conway	1
F. Borland	1	Fox	1
Harry Dent	1	Mr. Clemart	1
Fanny Harris	1	Mr. Charles Weldon	1
Miss Walker	1	Baby Conlin	1
John Tiller	1	Griff	1
John L. Tiller	1	Summerton	1
Mrs. Conlin	1	Juno Salmo	1
F. W. Balchin	1	Bessie Cohen	1
Mrs. Balchin	1	Harrogate Friend	1
Harry Conlin	1	Sidney Bacon	1
Carlton	1	Harry Elliston	2

Collected by Harris and Worth, 15s.

Harris and Worth	2	Mabel Higson	1
Chas. Russell	1	M. Mamie Iris	1
Billy Keene	1	Syd Dooley	1
Fred Dry	1	George Coopers	1
Will Letters	1	Carrie Mack	1
Johnny Worman	1	Les B. Americaines	1
Mr. Rutt	1	W. J. Williams	1

Collected by Mr. T. C. Callaghan, 10s.

T. C. Callaghan	2	Mike Cray	1
W. Dane	1	Griff	1
J. Waldron	1	Alpha	1
A. H.	1	Florrie St. Clair	2

Collected by Mr. Ernest Shand, £1 2s.

K. Vesey	1	P. Davies	1
Ruby Forbes	1	Gladys Dare	1
Meg Hampton	1	L. Kinross	1
Ethel Dunbar	1	M. Molloy	1
Enid Errol	1	Alexandre	1
H. C. B.	1	N. E.	1
Brabourne	1	Hughes	1
Herbert	1	Ernest Shand	1
T. W. Wood	1	Ditto	1
A. Linton	1	La Même	1
Bee Duppa	1	Idem	1

Collected by Sandford and Lyons, 24s.

Neil Kenyon	1	Ted Fields	1
Harry Zietz	1	Morny Cash	1
Albert Le Fre	1	Mrs. Morny Cash	1
Lil Hawthorne	1	Madge Daly	1
Geo. McNally	1	John Worman	1
John McNally	1	Tom E. Gilbey	1
Arthur Haytor	1	Dave Poole	1
Colin Coop	1	Chas. Parker	1
E. T. S.	1	Vivian Munro	1
Geo. Miller	1	Willie Edelsten	1
Dave Miller	1	Geo. Abel	1
Mr. Smithers, M.B.C.	1	Will Letters	1

Collected by Mr. Frank Dunlop, 20s.

Mdlle. De Rose	2½	Frank Dunlop	2½
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Fanny Hartland	2½
Dick Thomas	1	Houpla	1
Jack Kershaw	1	Steve Cooke	1
Syd Benson	1	Geo. Burton	1
Geo. Hecla	1	Miss Adele Roze	1
Rose Parreyer	1	Miss Zenapane	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, Esq., 14s.

Fred Herbert	1	C. W. Porter	1
R. Millett	1	Roma and Romani	1
Hughes and Elliott	1	The Rubens	1
T. E. Dunville	1	Hanvarr	2
Jim Howard	1	Anna Lee	2
Ronald Bayne	1	Gus Dallon	1

Collected by Mr. Chas. Clifford, 8s.

Charles Clifford	1	Kate Moffat	1
George Essmann	1	T. Hulbert	1
Oldbury Brough	1	H. J.	1
Graham Moffat	1	Georgie Butler	1

Collected by Swan and Vesta, 5s.

Swan and Vesta	1	Oscard Armino	1
Primavesi	1	Charles Danton	1
Fred Wood	1		

Collected by the Danbys, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 25s.

Kioto	5	Peter Thompson	5
The Danbys	5	Wallace Childs	1
Bill Bill	1	William Attfield	1
Geo. Collins	1	George E. Mudd	1
Pink Pyjamas	1	Fred Danvers	1
Anon	1	Billy Pakeman	1
J. Templar Ellis	1		

Collected by the Bowery Boys, Grand Theatre, Leeds, 25s. 6d.

Bowery Boys	5	Fred Cowman	1
Harry Conlin	1	Alf Howard	1
Fred E. Terry	1	G. H. Elliott	1
Fred Fowler	1	J. W. Rowley	5
Carlton	2½	Fred W. Balchin	1
Rose and Calvert	1	Hilda Jacobsen	5

Collected by Miss Nellie Wallace, 25s.

Bert Williams	1	W. F. Munroe	1
Bert Woodward	1	Emma Don	1
Arthur Danbys	1	Three Seabornes	1
Richardson Taylor	1	Kate Lynd	1
Nuttall Cross	1	C. Stewart	1
George Abel	1	Norton Greenop	1
James Stewart	1	W. H. Liddy	1
Chas. Dixon	1	Nellie Wallace	10

Collected by Miss Maud Beaumont, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 16s.

Kioto	5	Mr. Peter Thompson	5
Geo. Collins	1	Mr. J. W. Childs	1
Mr. Liddy	1	Miss Maud Beaumont	2
Anon	1		

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, 6s.

Geo. Rapley	2	Rosie Archer	1
Woolmer Young	1	Clyo and Rochelle	1
Macdonald Trio	1		

Collected by The Clevelands, 23s.

F. Cleveland	1	J. Sary	1
Mrs. Cleveland	1	A. Knight	1
A. Silbon	1	J. D. Hunter	1
Dale and O'Malley	1	Dave Bentley	1
D. Tubb	1	Fred C. Dew	1
H. Vivian Fisher	1	F. B. Farrant	1
Florrie Cleveland	1	R. Whiteley	1
J. Wood	1	E. De Vere	1
Tom Branson	1	Harry Weldon	1
C. Carey	1	Minnie Duncan	1
W. E. Urquhart	1	Arthur E. Godfrey	1
H. Bauerman	1		

Collected by Mr. Imro Fox, 17s.

Max Copland	1	Mr. T. F. Dun	1
Arthur Dandoe	1	Harry Lauder	1
Imro Fox	1	Alice Russoll	1
Dan Crawley	1	J. C.	1
Paul Knox	1	Mrs. Imro Fox	1
Carl Hertz	1	Alfred Carpenter	1
Mrs. Carl Hertz	1	Conn and Conrad	1
Mr. J. Craig	1	C. C. Bartram	1
Mr. Frayser	1		

Collected by Mr. Alexander, 38s.

Topsy Robina Julian	10	Clara Alexander	1
Johnny Alexander	10	Bob Ralston	1
Harding	2	Ernest Selbini	1
Victor Selbini	2	Lillian Lowe	1
Leola Selbini	2	L. J.	1
Rumbo Austin	2	J. Olrac	1
Alf Gibson	2	C. Olrac	1
Harry Gregory	1		

Collected by Miss Ra Leslie, 35s. 6d.

Ethel Ra Leslie	1	St. Helens	1
Phyllis Gibbon	1	C. A. Trevitt	1
Florrie Chester	1	E. Holt	1
Boswells	2	V. Thompson	1
F. Travis	1	L. de Lacey	1
Dan Conroy	1	Miss Brown	1
Frank Evans	1	Mrs. E. Lucas	1
Edinburgh	1	J. Welwyn	1
H. E. Garden	1	Rêné Willoughby	1
Mr. and Mrs. Brown	2	La Tostia	1
Strolling Players	1½	Gertrude Bradshaw	1
Arthur Lee	1	Frank Darwin	1
Ray Wallace	2	Boskelby	1
Vera Thompson	1	Harry Jefferson	1
Lilian Leslie	1	Flo Peirce	1

Collected by Mr. Edward Johnson, 20s.

Bert Johnson	1	"Curly"	1
Will Johnson	1	H. Elton	1
Ed. Johnson	1	Little Ganty	2½
Daisy Martell	1	Madge May	2½
Tom Groves	2	E. Addler	1
H. Sheffield	1	C. C. Bartram	1
J. L. Sheffield	1	W. Ethairien	1
E. de Hague Body	1	Fred Astley	1

Collected by Mr. Will Johnson, 35s. 6d.

Powis Pinder	1	Mrs. Fred Hall	1
Will Johnson	1	Bertha Northam	1
Daisy Martell	1	Les Four Papillons	2
Ed. Johnson	1	Miss Mildred Baker	1½
Bert Johnson	1	Capt. Taylor	1
H. Berlin	1	Fanny Wright	1
Winsley Russell	1	Capt. Gray	2
Tim	1	New York Comedy Four	4
G. V. Arnold	1	G. Messer	1
Geo. Danvers, jun.	1	H. Jno. Burgess	1
May Gurney	1	Mr. Hadsley	1
R. Verdi	1	Will Holmes	1
B. Albert	1	Mac	1
Gilbert Laye	1	Chappell	1
Leonard Hornsey	1		
Fred Hall	1		

Collected by Mr. Lawrence Barclay, 26s.

Lawrence Barclay	5	Lily Lingard	2
Will Poluski	3	Esta Stella	2
Jack Lorrimore	2	E. W. Avery	1
Larry Lewis	1	Rich. Waldon	1
The Monkey	2	Sisters Hall	2
W. Harte	2	Annie Thomas	1
Arch. McDougall	1	Jas. Miller	1

Collected by the New Macs, 20s.

Mrs. T. McNally	1	Mr. Albert Mellor	1
Mr. J. J. McNally	1	Mr. Fred Donaldson	1
Mr. Geo. Mac	1	Mr. Tom Ardell	1
Mr. Jno. Mac	1	Dr. Syntax	1
Miss Jessy Dorrell	1	Mr. Robert Potts	1
Miss Annie Dorrell	1	Mr. Will Gibson	1
Mrs. Morny Cash	1	Mr. J. H. Taylor	1
Mr. Morny Cash	1	Mr. Forbes Russell	1
Mr. Geo. Sandford	1	Mr. Gilbert Martinengo	1
Mr. Geo. Lyons	1		
Mrs. Albert Mellor	1		

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE M.H.A.R. ASSOCIATION.

At the 454th meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A., Mr. Charles Coborn occupied the chair, and those present included Mr. George Gray, Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. Bob Leonard, Mr. H. Griff, Mr. Charles Pastor, Mr. Harry Blake, Mr. Arthur Reece, Mr. Fred Russell, Mr. Jeff Vendome, and Mr. Charles McConnell, and Mr. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, some discussion rose on Rule 49 and its application to a certain case. The correspondence was then taken, and a letter read from Mr. Clemart, from Belfast, protesting against the retention of Mr. George Gray's cheque. The reading of the letter did not reveal any recognition of Mr. Gray's constant efforts to champion the cause of the artist, and to assist in the promotion of schemes intended for his benefit. The question arose of a change of agency at Maidstone and Coventry, and to the meeting were submitted the names of two gentlemen who would be willing to accept office if asked to do so. The sum received during the week was £59 6s. 6d.

The discussion concerning the retention or return of Mr. George Gray's cheque for £1000 was then resumed. It will be remembered that the question was considered at the meeting of the Association on Tuesday, Feb. 27, when Mr. Gray pointed out that, in view of the plebiscite taken on his scheme and the 600 favourable replies, he was of opinion that the matter was one for the Association as a body—in other words, that it should be dealt with at a general meeting. Mr. Gray urged a similar argument on Tuesday, when it was again pointed out to him that the question had been left with the executive committee. He asked for the reasons why the cheque was to be returned, and if his schemes for the philanthropic betterment of the Association were impracticable and impossible, how was it that several of them had been adopted by the Variety Artists' Federation? He complained of a certain statement which characterised his scheme as a mere electioneering circular.

Mr. Harry Blake said that the scheme as such was not impracticable, but it was so for them. Supposing that they were to use the £1000, and at the end of three years £500 was absorbed, there was no way shown of how to pay it back. As a matter of fact, it was out of the question for them to borrow any money.

Mr. Frank Gerald thought that 600 votes was a sufficiently strong mandate for the Association to take up Mr. Gray's scheme. The Variety Artists' Federation had adopted its main points, and that association was to be affiliated to every music-hall society in existence. With that hope before them, he thought that to refuse the cheque would be both unbusinesslike and most ungenerous, and would throw a doubt upon the genuineness of Mr. Gray's offer. He pleaded for the retention of the cheque a little longer.

Mr. Fred Russell thought that the adoption of Mr. Gray's scheme by the Association would make of it a Trades Union, and it might jeopardise the railway concession. It would be much better for a new society to take it up. At the same time he felt—and the members of that committee were almost entirely with him—that Mr. Gray was actuated solely by a desire to benefit that Association.

Eventually Mr. Harry Blake moved, and Mr. Bob Leonard seconded, the following resolution as amended by Mr. Fred Russell:—"That Mr. George Gray's cheque be returned to him with very hearty thanks for his generous offer, the committee being of opinion that it would be easier, safer, and better, for financial and administrative reasons, to carry out the majority of the proposals put forward in Mr. Gray's scheme through the medium of an independent society, such as the new Variety Artists' Federation." The resolution was carried.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the meeting.

THE BARRING CLAUSE.

THE MOSS EMPIRES' REJOINDER.

The following is the official rejoinder of the Moss Empires and Associated Stoll Companies to the Variety Artists' Federation, which reached that body on Thursday:—

Re Paragraph 1.

Your mere statement that no sacrifice would be involved we cannot accept. It is not consistent with our knowledge of this business or your own views, as expressed in various parts of this discussion. To ask us to revert to methods in dealing with our artists which have worked so successfully in the evolution of the music halls from "pot-houses to palaces" is simply to ask us to maintain the barring clause in accordance with experience of our needs.

An indispensable condition of the development of the "palace" was the birth of the barring clause, and this condition cannot be abandoned without reversion to the "pot-house." Your desire to revert to such methods is forgetful of the salaries to artists that then prevailed. Even in the time of fairly developed "pot-houses" a programme of ten turns could be obtained for £31 that would now cost £262. These are actual figures. The older members amongst you will know this to be true. The younger members and those hailing from other countries may need the enlightenment to enable them to think twice before striving to pull down the "palace" for the "pot-house," even though the former should contain that dreadful barring clause.

Your assertion "that you are fully conversant that the barring clause is directed not so much against artists as against rival proprietors" indicates a very shallow view of the matter. Our barring clause is directed against neither artists nor rival proprietors, but is dictated by the public to ensure the sufficiency of exclusiveness and attractiveness in our programmes that will maintain a sufficiency of public patronage to keep our houses reasonably—not excessively—remunerative.

Your assertion that, by booking years ahead and then barring, we seek to make it impossible for the smaller proprietors to secure sufficiently attractive items to keep their halls open merely amounts to saying that you wish the attractive artists "played out" as quickly as possible by appearing more often in one town, and thus have the whole profession brought down to the level of those whom you, not very generously, imply are *unattractive*, which would starve the "palaces" through lack of attractiveness, either down to the erstwhile "pot-houses" or to utter extinction, so that even a worse condition than the dreaded "ousting of the smaller proprietor" might ensue—namely, the ousting of both the smaller and the larger. But the absurdity of the contention of any oustings in the operation of the present general conditions is shown in the fact that more artists are now finding employment at larger salaries than ever before.

An interesting commentary on the suggested iniquity of "syndicates booking years ahead" are the communications from both artists and agents, almost amounting to personal insults, when their desires for "return tours," or "full tours," or "tours in 1908, 1909, and 1910" are not complied with. Also when artists boldly advertise, as a great feather in their cap, that they have been booked for "three tours."

In reference to your "further observations on Paragraph 1," we regret "it is difficult" to follow our reasoning. It would be easy if you took a comprehensive view of both sides of the question. The fact that some performers suffer hardship and apply to your relief funds, from various causes, does not prove the barring clause responsible.

The closings of smaller halls, which you call "a calamity to the general body of the profession" are strangely few in places where we have theatres, and any such have been rather due to the great increase in artists' salaries than to other causes. To demonstrate how an artist may apply for relief, yet not be hampered by a barring clause, though "he *wants work*, he is *willing* to work, and he can *have* work," we cite an actual case of a comic singer, who, though in applying for an engagement stated that his wife and himself were on the point of starvation, refused an offer of £7 (greater than a "star's" salary in "pot-house" days) for the following week. He had the grace to write a more dignified letter a week or two afterwards expressing regret at not having accepted this offer.

It is regrettable that the week's work at Bolton in January, 1907, cannot be accepted owing to a barring clause, but no doubt between now and then the artist will arrange to play that week elsewhere, especially if he looks for his "offers" outside the radius barred instead of inside. Manchester is here instanced as unduly severe in its barring effects, yet instead of only the three or four halls instead of one—which earlier in this paragraph you reckon the ideal state of the relaxed barring clause—there are a dozen, though there used to be only two.

We fear it is you who misrepresent the figures. When we named 1,800 out of your 10,000 as the number barred by us, taking it for granted that you had some knowledge of the operation of the barring question, we thought you would know that we had stated the case against, not in favour of, ourselves. Any alteration of those figures must be to reduce, not increase, them. Artists on our tour at any given time may be barred, but that does not affect them, for they are actually working. Artists going over the tour take six months, more or less, to do it. Then they are free to go anywhere unless they hold a return contract. But 75 per cent. of those who are rebooked play the tour again in about a year—some less, some more—which makes the next tour *start* about six months later than the end of the prior tour, so that the bar affects them really no more than you admit it ought to in your relaxation proposal. It is, therefore, only the balance of about 25 per cent. of a year's bookings—that is, about 450 artists—who come under a more stringent bar, and these obviously have no need to do so unless it suits them *at the time that they make the contract*. To turn round a year later, and find or think they could have done better if they had not signed that contract, after having improved their position by the kudos of having it in their possession, is a course of conduct that is not considered reasonable by some artists at least, and certainly by all ordinary people.

As to the interval between the tours, those that are fortunate enough to be under the bar of the Adney Payne Syndicate are fortunate enough to be in possession of Adney Payne contracts, whilst those who are not have hundreds of places to go to without infringing our contracts. Artists might be instanced not able to give us more than nine weeks out of two years, but who, nevertheless, were not booked at any houses barred by our contracts.

Despite all the iniquities of the barring clause that have been flaunted before them, artists and agents for them are more anxious than ever to book ahead, and they know well that to book ahead there must be a barring clause, otherwise a manager can have no object whatever in so ensuring them future work; and they know, moreover, that if managers should not book ahead, thousands of artists would be left scrambling for engagements at short notice, with salaries reduced to dry-bread rates by competition among themselves; that they would have to live from hand to mouth, with nothing to look forward to, no savings from good times to tide over bad, no relief funds to apply to—truly a reversion to the "pot-house" days. Some artists vainly think that the competition amongst managers might save them from this outcome of not booking ahead, but no amount of competition among "pot-houses" had that effect until it took the form of booking ahead and barring. Then artists demanded higher pay for the exclusiveness of their services, managers paid it because such exclusiveness made the artists attractive, and then variety business began to sprout up out of the mud. It is from knowledge of inevitable reversion to such a state of things that managers with insight do not choose to take advantage of the great drop in salaries that would result were they to cease to book ahead. Much as they wish salaries lower, they do not wish them so low as freedom to perform anywhere kept them in days gone by, because standard requirements of "palace" and "pot-house" are different. It is true, as you remind us, we are "*not* by a very long way the only syndicate applying the barring clause," which only proves the truth of its necessity in general experience. But if, as you say, all the syndicates and larger and smaller tours bar artists, and yet are supplied with artists whilst still "the greater proportion" of artists are periodically thrown out of work, does not that merely prove the tumble down of salaries that would result from no booking ahead, and therefore no barring, or partial booking ahead and partial barring? for would not these "periodically out-of-works" then always be in competition (to take any salary offering) with the present in-works that could not then have been booked ahead? The revival of "pot-houses" would not help matters, for that would only regulate salaries (and, incidentally, performances) to the "pot-house" level. Your mere denial that the relaxation of the barring clause would result in the ousting of one section of the profession by the other section is not a disproof. It would either oust one section or reduce the whole, with the exception of an exceptionally talented few, to a state of precariousness they little dream of; whilst even that favoured few would find their popularity and prosperity short-lived unless they *voluntarily barred themselves* from premature return engagements, which several in our experience have had the good sense to do when, in an emergency, they were asked by us to return too soon.

Re Paragraph 2.

The amount of salaries paid to artists, the general cry against the increases raised by managers, and our individual experience all stigmatise as absurd the contention that the position of the artist has suffered deterioration. That every artist cannot have all he wants because there are other interests than his own in the variety world is no sign or proof of deterioration in his position. It is common in any calling.

Your arguments throughout are a plea for the few artists, but not for the many. If some artists could work more turns, and is prevented by his other engagements, some other artist gets the work. If one artist cannot accept an engagement that is offered, another artist can. If an artist cannot afford to bar himself from the prohibited radius (we know of ten miles, not of twenty) of large centres,

or continuing open if the barring clause prevents artists from apearing in them?" The use is that, though the barred artists may not, the unbarred artists may appear in them. Here, again, you make it quite clear that you want some artists to get all the work and other artists to get none.

Re Paragraph 4.

There is nothing in the nature of a threat in stating a condition of a contract before it is entered into, as there is no compulsion on any artist to enter into any contract with any manager for a date ahead, and it is only in contracts for dates ahead that a barring clause can have effect. You misinterpret our attitude if you interpret it as in any way threatening. Our whole point is that you are mistaken in your view of the barring clause as a detriment instead of a help to the general prosperity of artists, agents, and managers, taken as a body, interested in the maintenance of variety business as a great industry above and beyond such level as that upon which individual interests may clash.

From this paragraph it is clear that you deprecate booking ahead. In your admission of the necessity of a modified barring clause you imply a necessity of booking ahead. In applications from artists generally and their agents angry letters almost demand engagements ahead! This contradictory position points indubitably to the fact that every special case must be decided as it arises, the two sides to each contract regulating it by their needs and judgment.

You say you cannot take our advice not to book ahead if you suffer from doing so, because other artists will take the engagements if you (or Brown) do not! Again you make it quite clear that you begrudge to some artists, desirous of them, engagements that you want yourselves, provided that you keep the power to take all the other work also.

Re Paragraph 5.

We believe our contention to be sound. It has been further dealt with above, in reply to your "palace" and "pot-house" paragraph. Our profits have not been reduced by any tightening of the barring clause. The barring clause has not been tightened. Our dividends would not be increased by allowing artists engaged ahead to appear at other houses running in the same town, whilst to do so would deprive of engagements other artists who now appear at those houses.

The artists, you say, has to sign an engagement *ahead* if he wants to work at all. But he at least has time to see that the salary is satisfactory. What if it were for an immediate date, and half-a-dozen other turns were tapping at the door for the engagement? What would be his condition then?

The concluding sentence of this paragraph of yours only indicates that you are really contending that the variety stage profession is overcrowded.

Re Paragraph 6.

Artists will certainly follow our advice not to enter in future into contracts which are a hardship, but they will not for that reason decline to enter into *our* contracts. This is proved by the eagerness with which our contracts are being solicited. Though it may be a difficult matter to satisfy everyone, it is a study of this management to give as much all-round satisfaction as possible. So much so that the acrimonious spirit displayed by you in this paragraph is not reflected in the conduct of the individual artists towards us.

Re Paragraph 7.

Your various references to law and legal proceedings indicate the same familiarity with exceptional cases and disregard of general principles that characterise your views upon the barring clause.

We contend that the granting of your request would not have the effect that you desire; that this effect can only be obtained by driving large numbers of artists out of the profession; that when such artists are driven out the business will starve for want of fresh talent; that, in fact, your expectations have grown beyond the scope of even the resources of the highly evolved "palaces" if you think that the artists on whom the management depend to keep them open can appear against them without doing them harm.

It is obviously untrue to say that this important matter has been treated by us in a casual manner. Whatever you desired to place on record, there are at least now on record some considerations on this subject that should give artists food for reflection that the barring clause cannot be trifled with, even though is be an occasional harship, lest such interference strike at a real cause of the material improvement in variety theatres, and bring about a wish that "well enough" had been let alone.

Let each artist, as each manager, consider what he is signing, and, when he has signed, stand by it.

For the rest, let every artist devot time and thought to his performance when he is off, as well as when he is on, the stage, and a good many who now pretend to suffer from the barring clause will soon find themselves on that eminence which you agree can be reached in spite of it, and from which its terrors may be looked upon with equanimity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—This morning, after I had read your paper of last week, I went to my broker about some music hall shares of mine. He said, "I've been trying to sell, and I may be able to do so by negotiation. You know what that means. But dealers won't make newspaper prices. There's no demand; I can't sell my own shares." "Well," I said, "and no wonder. Have you read the correspondence concerning the barring clause?" Then the cat came out of the bag, for he replied: "Of course I have. There's a letter of mine, which I would not have written if there were a market. And you, and other shareholders, are so far to blame that you have been led by the nose to suit interests that batten upon you. Part of last year's diminished dividend at a certain hall was paid (£2,000 of it) from reserve fund; and the year before, by way of encouragement to shareholders, the directors of the same hall voted £500 as a solatium for the miseries of their management. This sort of dead-take-in will go on and prosper as long as shareholders put up with systematic clique combinations, aiming at, and securing, a feathering of nests from which the addled eggs are distributed." The correspondence of *The Era* is, to say the least of it, very instructive—especially so for shareholders. All of them who read can understand the trenchant reply of Mr. W. H. McCarthy. The case of the artists is, from every point of view but one, conclusive. Its language is as admirable as the facts and reasoning from them is convincing to everybody but directors. In this case, as in most others, how well it has been said that eloquence is in the audience. The utterance of the artists, if it had been accompanied by Apollo on his lyre, would not get a hand from any combination of proprietors. In February of last year, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw exposed in an able article of the *Grand* Review how theatres were worked, and his criticism also fits the bedecked bodies nourished at music halls at the expense of shareholders.—Yours faithfully,

A MUSIC HALL SHAREHOLDER.

THE Five Vernons, zylophone experts, arrive home from America in the middle of April. They write us from Denver, Colorado, that they have enjoyed their trip immensely. They have had some interesting experiences, and some exciting bear hunting amongst the Rocky Mountains in the neighbourhood of Denver which they will never forget. They played seven weeks in New York, also the Orpheum Circuit, the latter being a very comfortable engagement for English performers, and one which took them out to beautiful California. On this circuit they were with Arthur Prince and Miss Ida René.

ALLY SLOPER visited the Kilburn Empire and Theatre Royal on Friday, the 7th inst., to make a public presentation to Mr. Dave Hyman, the manager. There was a crowded and enthusiastic attendance.

MISS DOLLY HARMER has just secured from the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., a new song, entitled "Quality Corner," of which she intends making a big feature during her forthcoming engagements.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., has published a song, "I'm not going to say goodbye." This has an ear-haunting refrain, and should create a veritable furore. It has already been secured by the Misses Gladys Mavius, Ella Retford, and Nina Moore.

TERRIERS' DINNER AND BALL.

The above function, which took place on Sunday last at The Horns, Kennington, proved to be one of the most successful events ever given by this deservedly popular fraternity. At ten o'clock 144 Terriers, ladies, and friends sat down to dinner with Terrier H. Cory Woodrow in the chair, supported by President Jesse Sparrow. The tables were beautifully decorated, and with the charming colouring of the ladies' dresses the hall presented a very attractive appearance. After grace had been said the company did ample justice to the following menu, especially those who had been travelling all day, some Terriers coming two and three hundred miles rather than miss the affair:—

Consommé Julienne.
Mock Turtle.
Boiled Turbot. Sauce Hollandaise.
Roast Sirloin of Beef.
Horseradish.
Peas. Beans. Spinach.
Surrey Chicken en Casserole.
Chips. Salade.
Terriers' Pudding.
Bombe Glacé.
Dessert.

During the dinner the Chairman received and read the following telegrams:—From Cork: "Sorry absent; wish all present enjoy themselves. —George Preston." From Cardiff: "Hope the supper's good and the ball better. A howling time for all.—Barkingly yours, Abel, Welsh, Sarnthaler." From Littlehampton: "Success to the Terriers. Hope you have good gathering. Bow-wow.—Douglas White."

The health of "The King" having been drunk, the Chairman proposed prosperity to the Association, the toast being responded to by the President and the Secretary. Mr. Fred Neiman responded for "The Ladies," Mr. Frank Nilen for "The Visitors," and Messrs. Fred Ginnett, C. C. Bartram, Douglas Stuart, and Mr. Hoyle (L. and S.W.R.) replied respectively for the kindred Associations, The Rats, the Artisten Loge, and the M.H.A.R.A.

After the dinner the hall was cleared, and a photograph taken, then the company settled down to dancing. Mr. Leon Bassett's fine orchestra furnished an attractive programme of nineteen items, the proceedings not terminating till a very early hour. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gage, Mr. and Mrs. Neiman, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lester, Mrs. Dan Leno and son, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hutt, Mr. and Miss Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Conlin, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Messrs. Frank Weeks, G. P. R. Burgess, Griff, B. Whiteley, Leon Bassett, W. S. Bassett, Tom Packer, H. Searle, H. Busbridge, Sam Stockton, J. Traynor, Burt Shepard, R. Brinkley, Charles Pastor, Bros. Obo, W. Croxson, H. Adams, Joe Laurence, Spot, J. F. Lidle, F. Gee, L. Du Voison, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aarons, Rupert Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Webb, Harry Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Benn, Mr. and Mrs. Will Johnson, Mr. and Miss Ringham, Mr. and Mrs. C. Gardener, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Miss Elsie Baker, Miss Flossie Gardener, Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn Cook, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Ada Norman, Jack Moore, Charles Jerome, E. Johnson, Alec Davidson. Mr. Charles Garden ably officiated as M.C.; whilst Messrs. T. Packer, Will Johnson, B. Hutt, M. Ringham, and H. C. Woodrow lent valuable assistance as stewards. The catering was in the expert hands of Mr. F. Köhl.

MR. F. T. STUDD'S CONCERT.

Four hours of solid amusement were provided in the palatial King's Hall of the Holborn Restaurant on Monday, when Mr. F. T. Studd took his annual complimentary Bohemian concert, and was accorded most satisfactory support. Well-known names figured in a programme of more than a hundred items, among them being Little Thomas, the veteran Mohawk minstrel, who had a hearty welcome. He dilated in verse upon the virtues and vagaries of "Woman," and also sang "Some of Each," a concoction of genuinely comic rhymes, which created loud laughter, and won an enthusiastic demand for an encore. Mr. Walter Howard, son of another famous minstrel, lately dead, played a selection of airs on the banjo which gave great pleasure. Mr. Studd, himself a ventriloquist of considerable skill, was loudly acclaimed when he appeared midway in the programme in company with his old lady and gentleman, with whom he carried on one of those amusing disputes to which ventriloquial puppets are prone. Mr. Studd made his lady figure sing a song, in which he used a falsetto with great taste, the old gentleman also revealing the possession of a good tenor voice. Mr. Studd, who was heartily recalled, thanked the audience for patronising him so well on the occasion of his second big concert. The excellence of the artists who had appeared so far was undeniable, and he thought they were in for a very good evening, a prediction which, we may add, was thoroughly realised.

The programme was begun by the I.D.K. Minstrels, who gave a popular selection, and among the earlier turns was Mr. Clifton Barrett, who tendered a droll musical sketch called "Electionitis." Mr. Ronald Bagnall also performed at the piano, illustrating a love song with a number of popular choruses, well connected by "patter." Miss Eva Routledge sang a ballad in a rich contralto, and Miss May Haddan was heard with manifest pleasure in a song which revealed the possession of a cultivated soprano. The style of Mr. Harry Ford was neatly copied by Mr. Fred Wilson in "The Railway Porter"; Mr. Hickman Smith used a rich and mellow baritone voice with advantage in "Peg Away"; and Mr. Walter Fullerton caused roars of laughter in his description of a "Seaside Boarding House." Miss Dorothy Payn, who has an admirable delivery, told some funny stories, and gained great commendation for her imitations of animals, which, however, seemed to us to be a little overdone. Mr. Charles Conway gave imitations of widely-divergent characters under a felt hat, and revealed no little dramatic power in a representation of Svengali, from "Trilby," and in that of Fagin, from "Oliver Twist." Pictures from Dickens were also drawn by Mr. Reginald Prince, who gave an admirable impersonation of Uriah Heep from "David Copperfield," but was not quite so impressive as the burglarious Bill Sikes. A humorist of unmistakable ability was forthcoming in the person of Mr. George O'Hagan, who has a voice of far-reaching power and a style of uncommon drollery. He was irresistibly funny in "Poor Old Man," a song in which much depends on its rendering, and succeeded in making the audience very merry throughout. Miss Marie Westcott gave "The Magic Month of May" in cultured style; loud applause awaited Miss Edith Trew's singing of "Il bacio"; and Miss Gertrude Macaulay also won hearty commendation in a tuneful ballad. A travesty of a village concert was supplied by Mr. Chas. Lennox; a ventriloquial performance was submitted by Mr. Alan Stainer; Miss Norman Grant, a talented comedienne, secured unbounded applause for a clever act; Mr. Max Templeton was equally successful in a lightning sketch; the Grosvenor Orchestra gave a fine musical selection; and contributions to the programme were also made by Mr. Henry Stockwell, Miss Jessie Jolly, Miss Carmen Morena, Mr. Marco Delmar, Mr. Joseph Blascheck, Miss C. Lewisohn, the Stanford Quartet, and Mr. Herbert J. Collings. The chair was well and ably filled throughout the evening by Mr. T. Harrison Roberts, and the concert, part of the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the *Illustrated Bits* fund for the Balaclava heroes, was a gratifying success.

CHAT WITH MR. ALFRED CRUIKSHANK.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Mr. Alfred Cruikshank, who commenced his music-hall career some eight years ago, is a remarkably versatile artist. His act at present consists of jokes, comic songs, and pathetic ballads, and he plays his own accompaniment on the 'cello and banjo. He also composes most of his songs and melodies, nearly every one of which has attained considerable popularity. He has been rebooked wherever he has once appeared, and always holds a star position at the different halls in which he is announced to perform. Several offers for South Africa, Australia, and America have been made to him, but at the moment his home prospects are far too inviting for him to entertain proposals to leave England. He is booked "solid" up to the end of April, 1907, holding contracts for the best halls in London and the provinces, including a three months' engagement at the London Hippodrome, where he opens on Dec. 17.

Mr. Cruikshank tells us that he owes much of his success on the variety stage to his early training in the circuses. He was practically born and bred in the business. His father, the late Mr. W. C. Cruikshank, was a well-known circus jester, who worked most of the circuses in the last generation, including the celebrated Hengler's and Newsome's. The subject of this sketch was born in 1875, in Dundee, while his father was actually appearing at Newsome's Circus. His earliest appearance was as a child in a pantomime of *Cinderella*. In those days all the children of the members of a circus company used to take part

[*Photo by Robertson.*
MR. ALFRED CRUIKSHANK.

in the productions for the purpose of gaining experience. Mr. Cruikshank's first act of any importance was a wire-walking one, which he did in connection with his two brothers, the trio forming the Cruikshank Family. Commencing by practising on a wire fixed across two chairs about a couple of feet from the ground, Mr. Cruikshank gradually became proficient in the art, which he performed, along with juggling tricks, till about sixteen or seventeen years of age. Having sustained several unfortunate injuries from falls—particularly a rather serious one in East London nearly twenty years ago—he left his line of business, for which, by the way he had no real liking, and determined to make a name as musical jester, as his father had done. Eventually he relinquished the wire and seceded from his brothers, who then became known as Zalva and Alva. His father had retired some years previously, and was keeping the Angel Gardens, Norwich, once a famous pleasure resort and gala ground.

Mr. Cruikshank's first start as a musical jester was made with George Ginnett's Circus, which he joined at a little town in Wales about fourteen years ago. He stayed with this circus two or three seasons, "tenting"; but, being ambitious, he moved from one management to another, and gradually attained the highest position it was possible to reach in his line as an all-round clown.

In regard to touring circus life, Mr. Cruikshank says: "You must be prepared to rough it a little; but it is a healthy vocation, and it certainly affords the sort of training to make a good artist. When 'tenting' you are invariably up at three and four o'clock in the morning, according to the distance you have to travel. Of course, as Miss Vesta Victoria sings, 'It's all right in the summertime—in the summertime it's lovely.' And this brings me to a rather amusing episode of our circus adventures. We found that one of the drawbacks of travelling without a caravan was the difficulty of securing suitable lodgings in the various places where we stopped, and one season my father decided to run his own caravan. During the time we were performing at Astley's Circus he bought a living waggon, a little prehistoric, perhaps, but suitable for our purpose none the less. Next he purchased a horse at the Elephant and Castle sale rooms. Now, every circus horse has a name, and as soon as our animal made its advent in the stables all the boys nicknamed it 'Narrow,' a title most appropriate to its appearance. One morning, with this trusty steed and the waggon, we started upon what proved to be a most eventful journey. We were loudly cheered upon our departure by the circus company, who no doubt envied our courage in setting forth upon a trip of forty miles borne not too swiftly along by the now notorious 'Narrow.' We had got about ten miles out of London when 'Narrow' went lame through a sand crack, spavin, greasy heel, or some other complication usually found in horses knocked down for seven pounds. As we passed through the villages small boys indulged in impertinent remarks. I tried to persuade father to abandon the journey, but he said that 'Narrow' would be all right when he got warmed to his work. By this time we were eighteen miles from London My mother was preparing dinner as we were going along, and we were to pull up at the roadside for our meal after ascending a steep hill which we perceived in front of us. We had never tested 'Narrow's' abilities as a hill-climber, so father put him at it pretty hard, while I ran behind to scotch up the wheel in case the animal stopped. Half-way up the incline 'Narrow' gave up work for that day, and commenced to jib and back furiously. The waggon was suddenly overturned on the hill, and when I rushed up to render what assistance I could there was a rare conglomeration of eatables which had been prepared for our dinner, household articles and smashed crockery piled around the two victims—my father and mother—inside the caravan. Luckily we were near a village, and procured assistance. Mother went to London by train, and father and I brought the wreckage back and sold it for one-fourth of its value. 'Narrow' was taken to the place from whence he came and sold for three pounds ten. After this experience we decided that it was better to take the lodgings offered in the villages and towns."

"FOR LIFE—AND AFTER."

BY GEORGE R. SIMS. LONDON: CHATTO AND WINDUS.

To the general public, Mr. George R. Sims is no doubt better known as a journalist and dramatist than as a novelist; but his fertile invention and ready pen have also been very successfully employed in this department of literature, as several works of fiction testify. His latest novel, "For Life—and After," is marked by all those qualities which one naturally expects to find in the author of such popular plays as *The Lights o' London*, *The Romany Rye*, and a score of others. An interesting and dramatic story is told with the skill of an experienced craftsman; and all the leading characters are carefully drawn and life-like. The novel opens with a murder committed at a riverside cottage at Henley. Strong circumstantial evidence points to a woman as the person guilty of the crime. She is tried, convicted, and sentenced to death; but there are circumstances in the case which have such weight with the authorities that the woman, Marion Grey, escapes the extreme penalty of the law, the sentence being commuted to penal servitude for life. After fifteen years of prison life the woman is set free, and the rest of the story relates principally to her efforts, with the assistance of a shrewd detective, to prove her innocence. It will be seen that the plot of the story recalls to mind one of the most painful and dramatic cases ever heard in a Court of law. In a book by "Dagonet" it would be curious if there was not a strong flavour of the humorous, and in the characters of Mr. and Mrs. Grimper, the proprietors of a puppet-show, there is a suggestion of the Jarvises in *The Lights o' London*. The following is a picture of the Grimpers at home:—

"When Grimper had finished his second cup of tea, he sat back in his easy-chair and watched his wife as she took the puppets of the Punch and Judy show from a box by her side, and, deftly removing their old garments, clothed them in the new, which she had at last found an opportunity of finishing.

"'There, Joe!' exclaimed Tilda; 'I think the family will look all the better for the change.'

"Joe Grimper looked at the array of puppets waiting for their new clothes, and exclaimed, with a grin—

"'It's a big family to clothe, Tilda; thank goodness it doesn't eat.'

"'What do you think of Joey?' said Mrs. Grimper, holding that ill-used comrade of Mr. Punch's up for Mr. Grimper's inspection.

"'Think of him? He won't know himself. He'll give himself airs, and want his part written up.'

"Mrs. Grimper laughed. 'Well, Joe,' she said, 'it was time they had new clothes. They were all right in the winter, but the sunshine has begun to show 'em up dreadful. They'd ha' looked shabby at a meeting of the unemployed, and we've got a Primrose League garden-party booked next week. They do look nice, Joe, don't they? I'm quite proud of 'em.'

"'So am I, my dear.'

"Joe Grimper rose and took the newly-dressed puppets up one by one, and expressed his admiration at his wife's skill. Joe always had the idea that his wife looked upon the puppets as her babies. Their happy married life had not been blessed with children, and Joe sometimes fancied that his loving, tender-hearted wife's maternal instinct, denied its natural outlet, had solaced itself in her affection for these little creatures of paint and wood, who had been associated with their joys and sorrows through the whole of their married life."

A QUESTION OF TITLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I see by *The Era* that a song is published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter entitled "Firefly." I used this title for a song I wrote and composed nearly twelve months ago, and Mr. J. F. Graham, of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, had it with a view to placing same in his pantomime, 1905-06. So if there is such a thing as retaining the right of a title of a song, that right belongs to me.—Yours faithfully,

F. WARDEN-REED.

Birmingham, March 15.

MR. WALTER MUNROE has once again scored with a typical Irish ditty, "Bridget MacCarthy," which he is singing nightly. This song, published by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., should appeal to all lovers of Irish melody, which is generally "Moorish."

THE Alhambra will augment the present attractions of *Parisiana* on Monday by two bright new scenes of the Parisian boulevards as they exist to-day. Imitations of the boulevards are to be found at Brussels and Vienna; but the boulevard and the boulevardier are essentially Parisian, and Mr. Charles Wilson reveals a close acquaintance with them in these "extra editions." On the same evening Mr. Charles Urban, restless and indefatigable in his pursuit of novel subjects, will change the "Urbanora" programme to "In a Burmah teak forest," showing the marvellous feats performed by elephants before H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD has offered the use of the Lyceum on a Sunday evening for the purpose of a conference between proprietors, managers, and artists, concerning the barring clause.

IT is Mr. Cecil—*not* Cyril—Kingsley who plays so capably the part of Billie in *Madame Lingerie* at the Palace. The music of this bright production is from the pens of Messrs. James Glover, Otto Cantor, and others.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, FEB. 6, 1906.—Messrs. Brough and Flemming inaugurated their 1906 season at the Criterion with *Quality Street*. Miss Beatrice Day gave a charming portraiture of the old maid, Susan Throssell; Miss Winifred Fraser was a bright, attractive Phœbe; and Mr. Robert Brough's Captain Brown was breezy without being boisterously obtrusive Miss Bessie Major was Patty, rustic, and redolent of hay-fields; Mr. Edgar Payne was the Irish recruiting sergeant; Mr. Carter Pickford a sufficiently conceited Ensign Blades; and Master J. Papps a fine specimen of the species "bad boy." Smaller but well-acted parts fell to Misses Emma Temple, Kate Gair, Mary Milward, and Gordon Lee. The manager is Mr. Allan Hamilton. The new scenery was by Mr. Harry Whaite.

THE Meynell and Gunn Strand Comedy Company, in its last week, experimented with *There and Back*, scoring an instant success. Mr. J. J. Dallas had a congenial part as Henry Lewson, and the sterling English comedian scored all through the piece. The marvellous mendacity and wondrous resourcefulness of the cornered excursionist created intense amusement. Miss Florence Lloyd—albeit, provided with a not over-prominent part—as Marie Antoinette Smith made herself the centre of every scene she appeared in. Miss Maud Chetwynd was delightfully full of life as Mrs. Lewson; and Miss Florence Redfern made an almost *ingenue* part of Mrs. Waring. A clever bit of character acting was Miss Norah Delaney's servant Jane; and in quite another direction Mr. Tom Cannam made a fine part of Robert, the Scotch waiter. Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu as William Waring, Mr. Johnson Weir as Uncle Grinling, and Mr. Gregar McMahon as Jock McCrae, were all equally good. The company goes next to Queensland, *vid* the Hunter River District.

MR. CHARLES HOLLOWAY concluded his Criterion season with a revival of *The Two Little Vagabonds*, in which Miss Beatrice Holloway repeated her previous success as Dick. To-morrow the company leaves for New Zealand.

"VERONIQUE" is Mr. J. C. Williamson's latest and greatest success. Crowded audiences applaud the pretty musical comedy. Miss Florence Young, Mr. George Lauri, Miss Blanche Thomas, Mr. Haigh Jackson, Mr. W. S. Percy, and the rest of the company are all well received.

"SINBAD THE SAILOR" is running to splendid business, and Mr. Anderson will keep it on the Royal stage until the 16th, after which it will give place to *La Fille Du Tambour Major*. *Apropos* this opera, I met in Sydney yesterday Miss Minnie Hope, the Claudine of the original Australian production in 1881.

THE TIVOLI has a new sensation in the bicycle turn of Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, certainly the best of its kind ever engaged by Mr. Harry Rickards. The result is wonderful business, in spite of the hot weather. Mlle. Ada Cerito, another importation, gripped public favour with both hands, her songs being loudly cheered. The Sisters Warner also had a favourable reception; and the Jackson Family repeated their wonted successes. Baby Watson is a veritable mite—a *real* baby, with old-fashioned quaintness. The Scottish Meisters, Leeds and Lemar, Post Mason, Olive Lenton, and the Cathedral Choir are all here.

THE URBANORA BIOSCOPE.—Mr. Rickards's venture at the Queen's Hall is going well, Miss Hilda Lane's capital singing, and Messrs. Rochefort and Hart's songs, adding to the attractiveness of the show.

MELBOURNE, FEB. 6, '06.—PRINCESS'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson). — There are no signs of falling off in the attendances which nightly assemble to witness the production of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, *Utopia, Limited*. On Saturday evening another excellent audience heartily enjoyed the quaint humour and fascinating music of the piece. Next Saturday evening *Patience* will be revived for a short season.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—The stirring story of Western life, *Sunday*, drew an immense audience to this theatre on Saturday evening. Sunday is the character in which Miss Tittell Brune first captivated the hearts of Melbourne playgoers, and, in consequence, the audience were most demonstrative in their applause when this clever little lady made her re-appearance in the part. Her acting throughout was delightfully fresh and natural. Of the four foster-parents, Mr. J. B. Atholwood's Davy stands out, being especially good, and showing careful attention to detail, both as regards dialect and costume. Mr. Dudley was well placed as Lively; while Mr. Harcourt and Mr. Hastings were seen to advantage in the characters of Towser and Jacky. Miss Vaughan invested the part of Mrs. Naresby with a quiet dignity and sweetness which won all hearts. Miss Ferguson as the nun was again on the side of the angels. The brothers, Colonel and Arthur Brinthorpe, were ably portrayed by Messrs. Redgrave and Mervale. *Sunday* will run for two weeks only, *La Tosca* being in active preparation.

OPERA HOUSE (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—The already strong programme presented to patrons of this theatre was further strengthened on Saturday evening by the Eight English Primroses, who provided the sensation of the evening, entitled "Danse des jambes en l'air." There is nothing at all objectionable about the performance, which was loudly applauded. Mr. Arthur Albert appeared in two new songs; Grimmins and Gore gave a laughable sketch; while the numerous other artists contributed interesting numbers.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

At Messrs. Hancock's Winter Gardens, Plymouth, this week, a boxing contest is nightly in progress, which is proving most attractive in the garrison town.

Oxford May Fair takes place on May 3 in the Cattle Market-place. Among the attractions will be John Jennings's steam gallopers and those of James Jennings, Buckland's steam circus, and Dolloway's roundabouts. There are plenty of swings, cokernut sheets, shooting saloons, and throwing games, but not many side-shows.

The fairs ahead for next week are Gomersal Feast, Upper Ottery, Okehampton, Retford, Clitheroe, Heywood (Lancs.), Leigh (Dorset), and Odiham; in Scotland, Dumfries and Galashiels; and in Wales, Corwen.

With Gomersal, the Yorkshire round of spring fixtures commences. The population itself is some 16,000, but it is in the heart of a teeming industrial district, and is within five miles of Bradford. It is admirably served by the London and North-Western Railway, and, granting fine weather, gives an excellent start to the Yorkshire round. Okehampton is twenty-five miles from Exeter, has a population of 3,000, and is situated on the London and South-Western Railway. It enjoys privileges under several old charters, one being granted by James I., another by Charles II.; but it is now incorporated under the Municipal Acts. General markets are held every Saturday, and great markets once a month.

Retford, a market town in Notts., has a station on the Great Northern and Great Central systems. There are 4,000 inhabitants, and a large outlying agricultural district, whose busy workers frequent Retford for market and pleasure purposes. There are considerable paper mills, iron foundries, and rubber works. The market day is Saturday, and the market inspector is Mr. R. Gibson, the Town Hall. Clitheroe, a municipal borough and market town in Lancashire, is a centre of the now flourishing cotton industry, and there are also paper mills and limestone quarries. It is twenty-five miles from Manchester, and is well served by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The market day is Saturday, and the superintendent of markets, to whom all applications for ground should be made, is Mr. R. Hartley.

A capital spring fair round, under the management of Mr. Wm. Mitchell, begins at Heywood Mid-Lent fair, dated for the 23rd, with the following fixtures:—Castleton, on the 30th to April 3; Accrington, April 5-10; Tyldesley, April 20-24; St. Helens, May 4-15; Ashton-in-Makerfield and Wigan Carnival to finish the round.

Showmen should make a note of John Collins's advertisement with regard to his spring fair round, the big Easter fair fixture at Queen's-road, Manchester, and the numerous fairs on his list.

It is with the greatest possible satisfaction that we inform our readers of the settlement by friendly negotiations of the matters in dispute between the Corporation of Pontefract and the Showmen's Guild. It will be remembered that the Corporation sought powers of a very comprehensive character, under which the business of showmen would have been subjected to restrictions and limitations at the option of the local authority. Amongst other things, they might fix the hours during which the fair might remain open, and by building clauses, vexatiously interfere with the erection of booths or stalls, and they sought powers to impose a penalty of £20, and a daily penalty not exceeding £5, against anyone exhibiting a show or portable entertainment on any land within the borough without the licence of the Corporation. These matters cut at the very root of the liberties and business privileges of travelling showmen, and it was determined to oppose the Bill with all the forces at the command of the Showmen's Guild.

Following the usual procedure, negotiations were opened with the Corporation, and at the same time the right of appeal to Parliament was safeguarded by the lodging of the necessary petition against the Bill. It is only fair to the Corporation of Pontefract to state that, through its courteous town clerk (Mr. W. Haddock), every disposition was shown to understand the showmen's case against the Bill, and the Guild executive officials dealing with the matter had every confidence that a workable understanding would be arrived at.

At a conference, in which the Parliamentary agent, F. Millar, Esq., T. Watson Wright, Esq. (Guild solicitor), and the Rev. T. Horne, took part, the various clauses affecting the show business in the Pontefract Bill were thoroughly discussed and a decision arrived at, which was communicated through the town clerk to the Parliamentary Committee of the Corporation of Pontefract. The following is the official reply:—

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT.
Town Clerk's Office, Pontefract.
March 12, 1906.

Pontefract Corporation Bill.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 2nd inst., my Council are willing to accept the amendments suggested on behalf of your clients, and I hereby undertake to give effect to the same.—Yours faithfully,

W. Haddock.

T. Watson Wright, Esq., Solicitor, Leicester.

The petition against the Bill, signed by George Sanger (president), W. Clark (vice-president), and T. Hurst (secretary of the Showmen's Guild), will now be withdrawn, and, as we have before intimated, all parties concerned are to be congratulated on the settlement of the matters in dispute, and that great credit is due to the officials, both of the Corporation and the Guild.

The shows and roundabouts at Bury fair were of the usual high-class character, headed by Colonel Clark's electric Coliseum of varieties and animated photography; Haydon's temple of mystery and magic, the second sight experts; Braham's trained birds and lady conjurer, White's and Vesti's novelty booths, and the fine art galleries of Messrs. W. Wright and R. Warwick. There were also the motor-cars of John Green, W. Mitchell, jun., and J. Conolley; the overboat sets of W. Shuttleworth, R. Starkie, and Mrs. J. Cornwell; the miniature horses of Messrs. J. Sharpe, J. D. Humphrey, and J. Starkie. The flying ostrich sets of Mrs. Holden and Ben Mitchell; steam yachts by Wm. Mitchell, sen., and Mrs. Holden; H. Williams's steam railway; and whirling-the-whirl sets, by Messrs. E. Holland and F. Harrison; park swings by W. Shuttleworth. The Winchester ranges and rifle saloons were provided by Messrs. George Cornwell, H. Williams, J. D. Humphrey, J. Sharpe, Mrs. Cottam, and Mrs. John Cornwell. Cokers, throwing games, doll frames, &c., were furnished by Messrs. Forshaw, Jewell, Deeks, C. Horton, E. Horton, J. White, Crick, Lorenzo, Slater, Shorrocks, Boss Jones, Lynch, Finn, Redfern, Marsh, Street, and others.

The South Shore Fairground, Blackpool, was the theme of an animated discussion at a recent meeting of the Corporation of "Showland-by-the-Sea." The Building Plans Committee, in their report, had approved of some show and stall erections on the fairground. Councillor Dickinson, in moving that the resolution be referred back to the committee, said the erections of tea-houses and stalls, and a "haunted cabin" were nothing more nor less than about two dozen wooden buildings. The extension of the fair ground, he said, was highly detrimental to the interest of South Shore and the town generally, and there had been numerous complaints from residents in the neighbourhood. The people who were developing the fair ground, he continued, had no interest in the welfare of the town, and did not care a penny what happened. Alderman Ward seconded the referring back of the plans, and Alderman Howarth protested that, if a large ratepayer wished to put up a wooden building, even for a greenhouse, the Building Plans Committee objected to it.

Alderman Fish, as a resident of South Shore, expressed pleasure at the proposed improvements, and said he was surprised that anyone should object to them. Councillor Eaves strongly criticised the attitude of those opposed to the improvement, and classed them as interested parties. The fair ground was a boon to the town, and more especially to the tramways. A few years ago the place was a disgrace, but now it had been transformed, and even the borough surveyor had admitted enjoying himself down there with his children.

Councillor Hampson thought that if they lent their assistance to the scheme, instead of harassing it, the fair ground would grow into a sort of Earl's Court. The Mayor observed that no Sunday trading would be allowed. Alderman Heap regretted that the proposal did not provide a proper permanent solution to the building difficulty. Councillor Bamber said he had visited the fair ground, and enjoyed it thoroughly. He had ridden on the "razzle-dazzle," and he added, amidst a roar of laughter, "I believe I went on twice, because I had a free pass." The amendment to refer the matter back was defeated by a large majority.

We print the County Council regulations affecting the open-air amusements of the people on the open spaces under the control of the Council. Without venturing on any detailed comment, we feel that the question of prohibiting living-vans is one of paramount importance, and that all the rest of the restrictions must stand or fall on this main issue.

GAMES AND RECREATIONS AT BANK HOLIDAY TIMES

AT

Blackheath, Hampstead Heath, and Wormwood Scrubs.

The Council has made arrangements that, under the regulations set out below, the following facilities for public enjoyment may be provided at certain open spaces at holiday times, viz.:—

(*a*) Roundabouts on Wormwood Scrubs and Blackheath. [Only such persons as are able to satisfy the chief officer of the Parks Department that they own one or more roundabouts will be allowed to participate in the allotment of licences for roundabouts.]
(*b*) Swings, cocoanut shies, and shows on Hampstead Heath, Wormwood Scrubs, and Blackheath.
(*c*) Refreshment tents, vans, stalls, and barrows on Hampstead Heath, Wormwood Scrubs, and Blackheath (see No. 12).
(*d*) Ponies and asses on Wormwood Scrubs.

1.—Persons who may desire to occupy sites at holiday times at the open spaces on which the amusements, etc., set out above are allowed, are required to make application for the necessary licence on or before 1st January in each year.

2.—The licences shall be revocable at any time at the pleasure of the Council, and shall extend to the following days only:—Good Friday and Saturday following, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, August Bank-holiday, and Boxing Day.

3.—All applicants shall be required to pay the licence fee at the time of making application.

4.—In the event of there being more applicants as regards any place than there are sites to allot, allotment shall be by ballot, and the fees paid shall be returned to those applicants who have not been successful in the ballot.

5.—All persons who may receive licences for any shows will be required to submit to the chief officer of the Parks Department for approval any advertisements or pictures which they desire to exhibit in connection with their shows.

6.—The fee payable for a licence in each case is as follows:—

Steam roundabout	£10 0 0
The charge for use of a steam roundabout is not to exceed 2d. for each person for a period of five minutes.	
Set of swings (six boats)	£1 10 0
Set of swings (nine boats) ..	2 0 0
The charge for the use of a swing is not to exceed 1d. for each person for a period of five minutes.	
Cock-shy space, about ten yards in width	£1 0 0
Refreshment tent	1 10 0
Refreshment van or stall, exceeding 7ft. by 3ft.	1 0 0
Show, for 25 square yards	1 0 0
.. each extra square yard ..	0 0 6
The area to be occupied by any one show, other than a wild beast show, must not exceed 100 square yards.	
Ponies or asses .. .. each	£0 10 0
Refreshment barrows or small stall	free.
Skipping-rope and board	0 10 0

7.—Persons who may desire to take refreshment barrows not having more than two wheels on to Hampstead Heath, Wormwood Scrubs, or Blackheath must apply for a space to be allotted and must obtain a licence, for which no charge will be made. Dimensions of barrows or stalls must be given in the application.

8.—Persons who may receive licences for shows will be required to cover with sheets the sites allotted to them. [This order relates to shows such as bottle-breaking, etc., from which the refuse is to be collected in sheets so as not to prove a source of danger to the public.]

9.—The position of each stand shall be marked on a plan and numbered, and the numbers shall be attached to the licences for the year.

10.—The use of living vans is prohibited.

11.—No gutting, cleaning, washing, or cooking of fish is allowed.

12.—No tea or coffee stalls are allowed at Wormwood Scrubs.

13.—No person will be allowed more than one licence of the same kind.

14.—The licences shall apply only to the place for which they are issued.

15.—No licence shall be transferable. Any licence which is used by any other person than the one to whom it is issued will be cancelled.

16.—Vans, carts, and barrows of every description must be kept within the area indicated in the licence.

17.—Any licence for the use of a steam whistle, organ, or like instrument is granted only on the understanding that the licensee agrees to discontinue the use of such instrument if called upon by the chief officer of the Parks Department so to do.

G. L. Gomme,
Clerk of the Council.

County Hall, Spring-gardens, S.W.,
31*st October*, 1905.

The lad James, who was so seriously hurt in the circus accident at Abertillery last week, succumbed to his injuries, and at the inquest the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attached to anyone. The funeral took place on Monday last. Two beautiful wreaths were sent—one from the proprietor, Alexandra, and one from the artists, a sympathetic act, which was much appreciated. A representative of the circus attended the funeral.

At Jennings' Theatre, Redditch, this week, the following plays have been performed: *My Sweetheart, Called Back, Leah, the Forsaken, The Factory Girl, In the Silent Night*, and *Dick Whittington*.

Horse sales during the month are fixed for the following dates:—March 21, sale of twelve cart horses and colts, at Haselton, Andoversford; March 22, horse sale at Cheltenham; March 23, sale of twelve horses at Ipsley Court, Redditch; March 21, 22, and 23, sale of 600 horses at Wrexham; March 29, sale of 250 horses at Worcester Cattle Market.

Among coming events are flower shows at Cookhill, Astwood Bank, on Aug. 8, at Winchcombe on Aug. 15, at Northleach on Aug. 23, and the Oxfordshire Agricultural Show at Henley-on-Thames on May 16 and 17.

The whole body of travelling show people will hear with profound regret of the death at Ystalafera, Wales, on Sunday last, of Mrs. Henry Scard, the wife of the well-known proprietor of Wadbrook's Electrograph, and daughter of the founder of the show. Mrs. Scard has been in failing health for some time past; but it was not anticipated that her complaint was beyond the reach of medical skill, particularly as the patient was in the prime of life, and had always enjoyed, until a year ago, the best of health. Our sincerest condolences to Mr. Scard and his family in their time of sad bereavement.

Wisbech, a very important fixture on the East Anglian round, had a very large aggregation of shows and machine novelties. George Kemp's theatre of cinématograph varieties, and similar concerns by Messrs. G. T. Tuby and E. Farrer, Prince Samouda with temple of magic, Harry Hughes with Olympian games, Westrop with fine art show, and Mrs. Hughes' Academy Royal constituted the exhibition list. G. T. Tuby's two sets—the switchback gondolas and the motor-cars—P. Collins, Ltd., combined set, Waddington's big boats, and Mrs. Wyatt's park swings made up the machine novelties. The shooting concerns were provided by Messrs. Cheeseman, R. Holmes, Cooper, Westrop, and Parkins. The cokers and throwing games were by Mrs. Roberts and other caterers.

In the *Daily Mail*, under date March 10, we are informed that a tax of £5 on all travelling vans used as dwellings is proposed by the Tonbridge Rural Council. We are also told that the Council is seeking the assistance of other local authorities with a view to restricting the number of these itinerant residences. The movement is also said to have received considerable support in the County of Kent.

The attention of the Showmen's Guild has been drawn to this paragraph by a London showman, who says "that the movement must be very strongly opposed by van-dwellers, not only because of the injustice of the proposed tax, but also because it would give them the right to refuse to tax them if they thought fit, which seems to me to be the object of these enemies of van-dwellers." Whilst we are not disposed to attach very serious importance to the taxation proposals of an insignificant rural council, our correspondent may rest assured that the further progress of this movement will be vigilantly watched and keenly opposed by the Executive of the Guild.

Subscriptions to the Showmen's Guild, 1906, include those of George Polkey, Ltd. (Birmingham), £2 2s.; J. Hardman, Esq. (Preston), £1 1s.; Lorenzo Crick, Esq., 5s.

EALING HIPPODROME.

This week, as usual, a full budget of fun and melody is presented to the patrons of the Ealing Hippodrome. The audience here is always an appreciative one, and on the night of our visit Mr. Harry Maynard had been but a few moments upon the stage ere smiles, rapidly developing into laughter, came from all parts of the house. The artist's first number, "When men are all gone what dreadful things will happen," caused much merriment, the ladies being particularly interested. A second song, "John Bull has a handy card to play," was given by Mr. Maynard in naval uniform, and he certainly made a handsome son of the sea. Edmond T. Sayers and company, in their farcical episode, *A Glass of Port*, exploit some amusing situations. Two husbands exchanging mutual confidences, unwittingly betray to their better-halves, carefully hidden behind a screen, secrets which had better have been concealed. The briskly played *Episode* evokes considerable merriment. A military sketch never fails to elicit the sympathetic attention of an English audience, and Mr. George Leyton's scena, *The Boys of the Chelsea School*, is both musical and martial. Trooper John Ford lends most able support, and a distant chorus by twenty-four boys is exceptionally well rendered. The appearance of the veteran trooper, now in his seventy-third year, but showing still the upright figure of the soldier, is the signal for loud and continuous applause, and copies of the song, sold for his benefit, find many purchasers among the audience.

The Sisters Leigh, vocalists and speciality dancers, submit a neat skipping-rope and tambourine dance, and their *pas de trois* is most spirited and effective. The Goldini Trio, announced as marvellous "carpet spinners and pot pourri acrobats," are responsible for some remarkable manipulation of what seems to be most unpromising material. Pieces of carpet, silk curtains, flags—all were laid under contribution by the lady and gentleman of the troupe, who also showed how cleverly twenty or thirty salvers could be kept spinning at one time. The youngest member of the trio displayed skill and grace in her pot pourri of acrobatics.

Mr. Charles Chard is always on good terms with the front of the house, the amusing way in which he apologises for everything he touches, or fancies he touches, being really funny. His song, "I have no reason to complain, I am a shareholder in the earth," is a mirth-provoking number, and well merits the hearty recall the artist invariably receives. Gladys Mavius failed to appear, but was replaced by Miss Gertie Gitana, a young lady gifted with a most charming personality and vocal talent, her voice being flexible and of extensive range. She is a capital Tyrolean singer and an excellent dancer.

The Britisher, a story of the late Filipino insurrection, is written by Leonard Mortimer, who himself fills the rôle of Pensive Pete. The playlet, which has been but recently reviewed in these columns, proves a most attractive feature of the entertainment. The exciting incidents are well depicted, the distant clatter of a cavalry regiment being highly realistic. The only scene is a beautiful picture by Messrs. Ryan and Charles Douglass, which forms a fine background to the varying episodes. Donna Inez Marcellino rescues Pete from impending death, and implores him to lead her Filipinos, but, failing to shake his fidelity, gives him unconditional liberty. The band, under the direction of Mr. W. Neale, adds materially to the success of the programme.

Mr. Charles F. Reed has been appointed by Mr. Walter Gibbons to succeed Mr. Harry Bawn in the general-management of the Gibbons circuit. Mr. Reed has had considerable business experience in the offices of Mr. Richard Warner, and is well known to the profession.

Carr and Rose open on Monday at the South London after six months' provincial tour with *Catching the Catch of the Season*, written by Mr. Walter Gilbert.—After a successful run of eleven weeks at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, the Burnells are appearing at the Empire, Liverpool.—Miss Queenie May, after her successful tour, opens at the Chelsea Palace on Monday, March 19.

Miss Lucy Weston on Monday produced at the Canterbury a quaint parody on "Comin' thro' the rye," from a milkmaid's point of view, which has been specially written for her by Mr. John P. Harrington.

"THE TROUBLES OF TUFFIN."

Farcical Extravaganza, in Two Acts and Eleven Scenes, written by Arthur Shirley, music by Walter Slaughter, lyrics by Roland Carse, dances by Will Bishop, produced at the Coliseum On Monday, March 12.

Geoffrey Tuffin	Mr. M. R. Morand
Mrs. Tuffin	Miss Millicent Marsden
Cormic	Miss Clarissa Talbot
Percy	Mr. Charles Trevor
Lewis & Margaret Ann	Mary and Ted Hopkins
Turnova and Gounda	Cheek and Jowl
Head Porter	Harry Gardner
Second Porter	F. Zeitz
Old Woman	L. Dawe
Cabby	J. Lomas
Sneak Thief	A. Black
The Inevitable Small Boy	Master Greig
Stage Manager at Eldorado	William Morgan
Call Boy at the Eldorado	A. White

Mr. Arthur Shirley, for his hundredth play, has very ingeniously provided the framework of a capital variety show at the Coliseum, and when the fun in *The Troubles of Tuffin* has been worked up a bit it should be a bright and exhilarating production. Geoffrey Tuffin is a country squire whose notions of sport apparently coincide with those of Nathaniel Winkle, who on a certain historic occasion was cautioned by Sam Weller as to his shooting or he would fill "that 'ere bag with one shot." Tuffin, at his country villa at Hockley-in-the-Hole, hears of the escape of a wild animal from a travelling menagerie. With his future son-in-law, Percy, he starts to shoot the beast. Instead of doing so he succeeds in killing a man, or imagines that he has. From this moment he is a prey to terror, and makes a hurried departure (in disguise) from his fancied pursuers. We meet him in the next scene, the booking-office of the North-East South-Western line, where he meets a theatrical manager in search of a lost pantomimic and acrobatic troupe, the Turnovas. Happy thought! He, with his family and friends, will pretend to be the missing artists. He actually rehearses at the Eldorado, and in the last scene appears as Nero in Mr. Chris. Davis's parody of Mr. Tree's production at His Majesty's. The part is played by Mr. M. R. Morand, a capital comedian, whose comic display of terror in the scene at the railway station is a quaint incident in the extravaganza. His performance in the travesty which concludes the excellent entertainment has likewise much improved, and he has become quite a *persona grata* at the beautiful house in St. Martin's-lane. And while speaking of his droll conception of the universal genius of the Roman Empire, we must not omit to praise the charm and sly humour of Miss Millie Hylton's Poppœa.

As we have said, *The Troubles of Tuffin* quite fulfils its purpose as the framework of a variety show, and at the railway station we have some boisterous fun of the harlequinade variety, followed by a really capitally-written concerted number, "A porter's lot is not a happy one," to which quite a Gilbertian touch is given by Mr. Roland Carse, the lyric writer of the establishment. The melody, by Mr. Walter Slaughter, is also exceedingly catchy. Another variety turn in the Railway Station scene that makes a great hit is that submitted by Miss Belle Davis and her Pick-Chicks, whose display of buck-dancing is wonderfully clever. In the troupe is a diminutive mulatto comedian who is a perfect marvel as a bâton twister, and gains a most enthusiastic reception.

The cast of *The Troubles of Tuffin* has in Miss Millicent Marsden, who plays the rôle of Mrs. Tuffin, a capital actress and a charming singer, and her chances might be increased with advantage. Lewis and Margaret Ann, as the Welsh servants, have an original interlude of patter, in which they impersonate a comic courting couple, who are continually jangling. The turn, which is decidedly fresh and amusing, is concluded by the twain singing in praise of "the girls from Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea," to the famous tune of the "March of the Men of Harlech"; and the porters are most effectively played by Harry Gardner, F. Zeitz, and L. Dawe. A. White is an alert and clever acrobatic call-boy; Mr. William Morgan is duly fussy and splenetic as the stage-manager at the Eldorado; Mr. Charles Trevor is a characteristic Percy; and Miss Clarissa Talbot a fascinating Cormic.

A bright, particular star of the "varieties" is Mr. George Lashwood, who has just returned from a triumphant engagement in Birmingham. Mr. Lashwood has a special setting in which to sing his now celebrated song "My latch-key." As the intending Benedict, he enters the door of a luxuriously furnished apartment accompanied by a few friends, who with him have enjoyed the last night of his bachelorhood. Mr. Lashwood gives an excellent interpretation of the lament over the reveller's dumb friend, who may be said to be as true as steel. In a second number, "My best girl," Mr. Lashwood appears with a chorus of ladies, and his success is shared by a pretty little maiden, who impersonates the heroine of the song, and does a very charming cake-walk, which adds much to the delight with which the selection is received. Mr. Lashwood has undoubtedly made a hit.

The ten Loonies are responsible for the most laughable interlude in the entertainment, and their indescribably funny entertainment, which is chock-full of extravagant buffoonery, goes with a roar. Never were acrobatics and music more happily allied.

Mr. William Morgan, who created the part of the stage-manager at the Eldorado in *The Troubles of Tuffin* at the London Coliseum, was unable to appear on Tuesday through indisposition, and the ever-ready Mr. Marshall Moore, the Coliseum stage-director, took up the part at a few minutes' notice, and played it quite satisfactorily.

Miss Vesta Victoria is again making a great hit in the States, and the editions issued by Mr. Fred Day in New York of the popular lady's songs—notably Leigh and Pether's "Waiting at the Church" and Murray and Everard's "It's al right in the summer time"—are commanding extensive sales.

It is definitely settled that Miss Blanche Ring will sing "Is your mother in, Molly Malone?" in the musical play entitled *His Majesty*, about to be produced "across the pond." The song, which is published by Mr. Day, is already familiar to British audiences, thanks to the roguish drollery of Mr. Walter Munroe.

A meeting took place on March 5, in New York, of the principal American music publishers, Mr. Fred Day, of the Anglo-American publishing house of Francis, Day, and Hunter, being present. The object of the meeting was to discuss the fixing of a standard price for music.

Duncan and Morton have just concluded a ten-weeks' successful pantomime tour with Herbert Barrs' *Cinderella*, and are re-engaged at a big increase for 1906-7.

Mrs. George Thursby, of Thursby and Alexander, has undergone two operations—one very serious—but is progressing favourably. She is lying at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham-road.

Miss Gertie Gitana (known a year or two ago as Little Gitana, of "Dolly at Home" fame) is introducing to London audiences a new entertainment. She is due to appear on Monday at the Lyceum and Holborn Empire.

"THE PHANTOM FOOTPAD."

Sketch, written by Mark Melford, produced for the first time at the Bedford on Monday, March 12.

Father Quayle	Mr. Mark Melford
Sir George Corrie, Bart.	Mr. Benjeman
Lady Mercy	Mrs. Mark Melford
Roy	"Jackeydawra"

Mr. Mark Melford, who has happily recovered from his recent gun accident, has a fertile imagination, as has been proved again and again both in his theatrical farces and his music-hall sketches. In its day *Turned Up*, one of the most successful farcical comedies produced during the latter part of the nineteenth century, made thousands laugh; and we have had on the variety stage no more successful sketch than that really droll concoction entitled *Between the Turns*. It may, therefore, be truly said that Mr. Melford is an exceptional author, and he also possesses an exceptional talent for realising his own comic creations. He is responsible for nearly a half-hundred music-hall playlets, and so prolific is he in ideas, that it is fair to presume that one day he will produce his hundredth work.

His latest novelty, *The Phantom Footpad*, has been rejoicing the hearts of the good folks of Camden Town at that popular hall near the Cobden statue, which is known as the Bedford. In the piece named the clever author presents a psychological problem with quaint possibilities. The plot, briefly told, is as follows:—An absent-minded Roman Catholic priest, named Father Quayle, returning home late at night, is hustled in the darkness by a passing stranger. Immediately missing his watch from his pocket, the good father recalls the rumour of a reputed footpad, hurries back, and, overtaking the retreating man, claps his pipe-case to his head and demands the watch. In evident terror the supposed robber hands out the timepiece, and decamps. The Rev. Father arrives safely home, chuckling with satisfaction, only to find his own watch safe in his writing desk. The comic significance of this amusing error is deepened by the fact that the innocent, but terrorised, victim of the priest's imagination is discovered to be Sir George Corrie, who is engaged to Lady Mercy, the good father's ward. A very strange coincidence is that Mr. Melford's seemingly improbable story has been plagiarised by fact, and that a similar incident occurred in Chicago.

The sketch is exceedingly well acted, and should win a success wherever it is presented. Mr. Melford himself appears as the priest, Father Quayle, and acts in that airy, insouciant, quiet, but most effective style that has secured for him such an excellent reputation as a comedian. Aggressive humour is only too successful on the variety stage; but Mr. Melford is one of the brilliant exceptions, and his restrained method and clever accentuation by facial expression and pantomime of comic business are factors in his artistic equipment which never fail in their effect. Mrs. Melford makes a pretty and interesting ward as Lady Mercy, though she might be afforded greater opportunity. Mr. Benjeman as Sir George Corrie gives able support as the baronet who is taken for the footpad, and serves as an admirable foil to Mr. Melford. "Jackeydawra" is the fanciful name given to the young lady who plays the domestic Roy, and who displayed a considerable command of humour.

Among the most successful turns at the Bedford is Miss Katie Lawrence, a very popular artist with the North-West Londoners, who are delighted with her excellently written song, that is enriched with some telling political verses. Miss Lawrence meets with an ovation. Dolly and Madge McCalla, the two clever juveniles who have recently made such a hit as the Babes in the pantomime at the Camden Theatre, are meeting with hearty receptions nightly in their capital numbers "Carrie, from Camden Town," and "The Bamboo Bungalow." They are charming little girls, and dance very daintily. The Philippi Brothers present an amusing act, entitled *Shunting*; Miss Diana Hope and company are seen to advantage in *The Doctor*, and the programme also includes Mr. Gus Hindell and Ruffell's Bioscope, the latter a much-appreciated feature of Mr. B. P. Lucas's capital programme. Other turns announced are Flo Luck, Sisters Bartholomew, Will Percival, and the Arizonas. On Monday evening a remarkable performance was given by the Craytors, a combination of force representatives which gives excellent effect to the admirably illustrated adventures of an inebriated reveller before and behind the curtain of a music hall.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(from our own correspondent.)

KIMBERLEY, Feb. 19, '06.—The D'Oyly Carte principal répertoire opera company finished up here on Saturday, entraining on Sunday at 1.30 a.m. for Bloemfontein, where they open the new theatre on Monday with *The Mikado*. During the week, *Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Princess Ida*, *The Gondoliers*, and *Patience* have been staged, these popular works having been presented on a scale of magnificence and completeness hitherto unknown on the Diamond Fields. The houses, while not so large as the merits of the company deserved, have been extremely enthusiastic, double and triple encores having to be given. Mr. Fred Billington, who for twenty-five years has been playing "Barrington" parts with this company, has added fresh laurels to his reputation by his admirable work, his Pooh Bah and Wilfred Shadbolt being especially noteworthy performances. Mr. C. H. Workman, in Grossmith rôles, has evinced wonderful versatility and cleverness in his work, and is entitled to a very high place indeed in his profession. Mr. Albert Kavanagh, who has already visited these shores on two previous occasions, is another capable artist whose performances it is always a pleasure to witness. Mr. Pacie Ripple, well known in Australia and America, put in some good work in his various tenor parts, though obviously "off-colour." Mr. Reginald White and Mr. Leicester Tunks are also deserving of high commendation, being well worthy of their places in the present strong combination. Of the ladies, Miss Jessie Rose is *facile princeps*, her sweet singing and vivacious acting having made her a primo favourite here, as well as at home. Miss Nancie Freyne, the *primâ donna*, also scored, though greatly handicapped by reason of a cold. Miss Theresa Rassam handled the contralto parts with considerable cleverness, using her voice with fine effect. Miss Mabel Graham's work, too, is not without merit, her singing being particularly charming. As for the chorus, it would be impossible to praise their work too highly, which, with Mr. François Cellier conducting, will long afford pleasant recollections to the people of Kimberley

Hicks's Clerks will appear in their new production, *A Day at the Seaside*, on Monday next, at the Standard, Pimlico.—The Haverleys (American song illustrators) have just returned to town after a successful thirteen weeks' provincial tour, and commence their London engagements at the Surrey.—The Stuart Quartette, in their smart costumes and expert dances, are winning a gratifying success on the Moss tour.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, 1¼; Empire (15s. paid), 1¼; ditto (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pav. Ord., 4; ditto Pref., 4⅛; London Coliseum, 1; Metropolitan, ⅞; Moss Empire, 3⅜; ditto Pref., 3⅜; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 10s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5⅛; Varieties Consolidated Theatres, 15s.

"PROS." FROM THE PROVINCES.

The threatened invasion of London by variety artists from the country was accomplished at the Lyceum on Wednesday, when Mr. Thomas Barrasford redeemed his promise to give "latent talent" a chance to manifest itself in the sight of a town audience by devoting an afternoon to the endeavours of fifty artists new to the metropolis. The music-hall public was numerously represented in all parts of the house, and for full four hours, during which the entertainment was continued, were ever ready with appreciation and applause, that stimulant to artistic impulse which is of such importance in the making or marring of a performer. Some of the débutants failed to realise that what might be new in the provinces is often far from fresh in London, and to that illusion was in many cases due the destruction of long-cherished hopes and aspirations. There were frequent occasions when the selection submitted was of so indifferent a nature that the performer was subjected to the process of what is colloquially termed "guying," and, whenever that happened, the unceremonious descent of the curtain ruthlessly cut off any further effort. The experienced variety-goer could call to mind the appearance within the radius of many worse "turns" than some of those who faced the audience on Wednesday afternoon, but no great heights of talent were reached, and the position of London's stars remains as firmly fixed as ever.

First mention in the review of the entertainment is due to those of the higher order of merit, among whom may worthily be classed a young couple called Stirling and Cashem, who sang a duet accompanying themselves on the mandoline, and afterwards indulged in an interchange of topical conundrums. Both the young lady and her partner sing and dance well, but in the latter department the gentleman excels, and a specimen of the clog-dance with which he carried off the Championship honours was accorded an ovation. Favour was also won by Jack and May Mackenzie, who presented a sketch in which sentiment and comedy are agreeably combined. The little piece is in two scenes, and deals with marriage for love or riches. An impecunious brewer's clerk mistakes a young lady for an heiress and is himself taken for a millionaire. The pair get married, and the error is duly revealed, to the violent indignation of the lady, who proves a veritable Tartar; but affection ultimately prevails, and they agree to make the best of the match. The playlet was spiritedly acted, and the hard-working performers were heartily recalled. A praiseworthy feature of the afternoon was the intrepid trapeze performance of the Donnas Trio, one of whom sits on a chair balanced on the bar, meanwhile supporting one of his colleagues on the shoulder and another on his foot. Their novel tricks with a ladder on the trapeze are similarly marvellous, and the daring feats well deserved the praise accorded. The Cecilias played the xylophone and other instruments expertly; Miss Pattie Doole gave an artistic violin solo, which was rightly rewarded; and Mamie Cannon tendered imitations which revealed conspicuous talent. A meritorious performance at the piano was given by Rubenstein, and a quartet, whose name we were unable to catch, combined fun and melody, singing several concerted pieces tunefully. A hand-balancer, to whom was allotted the number belonging to another turn, did some skilful walking on his hands, going briskly up a flight of stairs by those means, and up to the back of a chair. He was heartily recalled, and in response did the world's record hand-jump, which consisted of a series of four springs from a height of about twelve feet. Miss Beatie Benson proved to be a dainty little singer and dancer, and won well-merited approval. A promising performance was also that of Miss Violet Alwynne, who appeared as a lady Hamlet, giving signs of elocutionary ability and no little dramatic skill in the Ghost scene, and afterwards recited a fisher-girl's description of a shipwreck off Swansea. Miss Nelly Doherty, who sang "Dreaming" in a powerful mezzo-soprano, with clear articulation, also figured among the favourites. An acrobatic performance of real excellence was given by Jules and Ferond; the Belmont troupe of cyclists appeared to advantage; and Miss Louie Luck, who has a good voice and vivacious style, was also entertaining.

Curious results were obtained by a gentleman named Quicko, who essayed to do a quick-change performance, appearing first in the character of John Bull, in which he sang a song, afterwards changing to that of a workman. He might have done very well but for an awkward accident with his costume, by which part of his attire as John Bull remained attached to his leg when it ought to have been removed. Mr. James Day elicited interest by stating that he was a postman from Birmingham, and offered a modest challenge of £1,000 to anyone who could perform his box-trick. After divesting himself of a pair of handcuffs and a "straight-jacket" behind a screen, he entered a wooden tube shaped like a pillar-box, the door of which was duly fastened. The curtain of the screen was quickly drawn, but an unfortunate hitch in the modus operandi militated against its complete success. A humorous view of "The Lifeboat," pictorially illustrated on a screen, was taken by the audience, who refused to give the reciter a hearing; and two young gentlemen who looked as if they intended to be knockabout comedians, had barely time to assert in song that they were "mashers and dashers" ere the gag was applied. Mr. Henry Nordblom and company appeared in a sketch of which the rendering of "Will o' the Wisp" was the only thing distinguishable; Monti Santos, a black-faced juggler who dealt deftly with hat, sponges, and umbrella, owed it manifestly to nervousness that he was not more successful; Mr. Box Rigby displayed some humour in a song with the refrain "He does keep looking at you"; and after some other turns, many of which appeared unannounced, the long afternoon was brought to a close. The experiment was an interesting one, and, besides serving as a partial solution of a question which has lately come into prominence, afforded fine sport to many of those present.

HARRY REYNOLDS' MINSTREL QUINTETTE

AT HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Especially enjoyable was the entertainment submitted by Harry Reynolds' American Minstrel Quintette, a smart troupe of "niggers" that speedily became favourites. One of the darkies gave a pleasing rendering of a pretty ballad, "When the fields are white with daisies," and the "bones" of the combination created loud laughter for a really funny rendering of the song "My Brother Joe," the laughing chorus being decidedly infectious. Numerous conundrums and humorous remarks also afforded amusement to the audience, who were especially lavish in their appreciation of the harmonious rendering by the quintette of a medley of old-time coon and other songs. Altogether a most successful interlude, and a pleasing variation from the usual music-hall turn.—*The Era*, March 10, 1906.

MR. ERNEST SHAND has just accepted from Messrs. John P Harrington and Jas. W. Tate a specially-written new comedy song, with the whimsical title, "Rum, ti, tum, and a tiddly um," which he will produce immediately at the Syndicate halls.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

LATENT TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—*Re* the article appearing in your last week's issue anent "latent talent," your correspondent, who writes concerning so many foreign acts which are engaged at our music halls week after week, has certainly hit the right mark, and this is undoubtedly the vital point why so many of our English performers find it such an uphill struggle to get a living. With all due respect to Continental and foreign artists, why should they (the foreigners) be encouraged and brought to England to earn handsome salaries, whilst hundreds of really talented and clever English artists are not allowed the ghost of a chance to show their abilities, and to *earn* a *fair* living? Surely "*English performers*"—our *own flesh and blood*—should come first, and not be left out in the cold. At one of our leading provincial halls recently, out of a company of *ten acts*, eight out of the ten were Continental acts, the only two English performers on the bill being a comic singer and a serio-comic. One would not grumble at, say, *one*, or at the most two, acts on a programme being foreign turns, but when they monopolise practically the whole of the programme, surely the time has come for *English artists* to *wake up* and endeavour to try and remedy this state of affairs.

As one instance, what would our unemployed do, and say, were the London County Council to engage foreign drivers and conductors on our new electric tramcars? The whole nation would cry "*Shame*," and one dreads to think what the consequences would be; and if the music-hall-going public only knew how so many of our English artists are being ousted owing to so many foreign artists taking the bread out of the mouths of the English artists (keeping some of them month after month in a semi-state of starvation), I am sure they would not flock to our music halls like they do if they knew the real state of affairs. In every walk of life an *Englishman* is nearly always given first preference by an employer, and an *English* music-hall performer should be given the same chance.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

DAVE WALLACE, Comedian.

324, Albany-road,
Camberwell, S.E., March 5, 1906.

SIR,—We have followed with interest the present discussion anent the lack of opportunity offered to variety aspirants to show what they can do with a view to engagements. Without entering into the merits or demerits of the question (and perhaps there is something to be said on both sides), we wish, respectfully, to draw the attention of the profession to the following proposition. After mature deliberation we have decided to give nine special "trial turn" performances in the following towns, viz.:—Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, Nottingham, Birmingham, Cardiff (or Bristol), Dublin, and London, commencing the week after next in Liverpool, and continuing, one or two performances per week, until that list of towns is exhausted. To those performances we will invite managers, agents, and pressmen. The public will be admitted, and all the proceeds, after, of course, deducting expenses, will be handed to the professional charities. Those who desire to appear at these performances should at once apply to us for full particulars of dates and conditions. We also solicit the aid of a few experienced artists so that "bumper" houses may help on the charity funds. But the performances are primarily intended for the many who say they possess talent but cannot get a chance.

At those nine performances competent judges will pick out the best turns. Invitations will then be given to them to a grand "trial" matinée, to be held in London at the beginning of September in this year—provided, of course, they are not then in the happy condition of being fully booked as the result of their provincial trials. A London appearance, well advertised, is thus assured to the best talent.

Surely this covers the whole field! Here is a chance for the aspirant with talent, and a chance to add to the funds of our charities.

Yours faithfully,

DONALD'S AGENCY.

89, Victoria-street, Liverpool, March 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I noticed a letter in last week's issue signed by Charles Elton. I should like this gentleman to come to the Foresters and point out to me the "burly and pompous" manager who came up to him and asked him for a brandy and soda and a cigar.

I take it for granted that his letter refers to the Foresters' Thursday afternoon's matinée, where extra turns are put on, as no other hall in the East End has a matinée on Thursday.

I am certain if the curtain was rung down on the gentleman it was because his turn was unsuitable. The audience here are always exceedingly kind to any extra turn who shows any little sign of being an artist.—I am, yours faithfully,

FREDERIC BAUGH

The Foresters, Cambridge-road.
March 15, 1906.

FOOTBALL.

H. BELDING'S XI. v. EARLY CLOSERS' XI.

Played near Bristol on March 7. After the match an enjoyable smoking concert was arranged, the following contributing to the programme:—Miss Lillie Belding, Miss Ethel Bowman (violin solos), Harry Edwards (cornet solos), Alf. Mattock ('cello solos), Percy Hewlett (piccolo and oboe solos), Leonard Hamlin (harp solos), Harry Hare (piano solos, and selections on his Monarch gramophone), Ernie Belding, Syd. Carter, George Hedges, Jack Lewis, Sam Coombes, Tommy Bryan, and Harry Slade. Harry Hare presided at the piano. During the evening the Bijou Orchestra played selections from *The Blue Moon*, *The Little Michus*, and *Il Trovatore*. In the match the following were the teams:—

H. Belding's XI.: H. Belding (captain), goal; A. Hamlin and J. Lewis (backs); H. Slade, S. Carter, and A. Mattock, half-backs; E. Belding, H. Edwards, P. Hewlett, J. Aubrey, and P. Reardon, forwards.

Early Closers' XI.: E. Russell, goal; G. Hedges (captain) and W. Austin, backs; F. Hedges, W. Osborne, and H. Turner, half-backs; A. Rossiter, T. Bryan, S. Coombes, F. Jennings, and L. Hamlin, forwards.

Referee, J. Leonard. Linesmen, T. Willis and F. Thorne. Result: H. Belding's XI., nil; Early Closers' XI., 1 goal. T. Bryan scored for Bristol Early Closers.

MISS DAISY DORMER presented Messrs. Lawrance and Mellor's highly-popular song, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., at the Palace Theatre, on Monday. Park's Eton Boys have been phenomenally successful with the same tuneful number.

DON JUAN CAICEDO, who has been scoring his customary success in Cuba, has just concluded an eight weeks' engagement there. He could not remain any longer, for Messrs. Thompson and Dundy, proprietors of the New York Hippodrome, cabled to him to return at once for the opening at Chicago of the Hippodrome company. He opened on Saturday, Feb. 24, and his wonderful wire act caused intense excitement, and created quite a furore.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 7, 21, 28, June 11, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
April 2, 30, May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, Aug. 20, 27 on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Aug. 6, 13, 20, Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 8, 22, Nov. 5, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
May 7 (race week), 14, June 11, 25, Aug. 6, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
April 2, 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
April 9, 16, 23, May 7, Aug. 13, Sept. 17, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
April 16, May 7, Aug. 13, 27, Sept. 3, 17, Oct. 22.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
June 11, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 30, on.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for two and three weeks.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Wolverhampton, April 2, 16, May 7;
Reading, April 2, 30, May 21;
Huddersfield, April 9, May 7;
Chester, May 7 (Race Week), May 14;
Northampton, April 16, May 7;
Leamington, March 26, April 2, 16.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
March 19, April 30, May 21, 28.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
May 7, 14, 21, July 2, 23, 30, Sept. 17.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
April 9, 23, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, Aug. 6, onwards, with exceptions.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, for Bedford, April 9 (5 nights).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, 28, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 30, through disappointment.
Wire, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, a First-class Attraction, May 21 and 28; also June 4 (Whit Week).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Company, March 26.
Applications, with full particulars, to
JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager,
Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, good Companies, April 30, June 11, also First-class Musical Attraction, June 25 (third week), open dates in Aug. and Sept; Pantomime, Feb. 4, 1907.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April, 5, 6, 7, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit. Week.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for April 2, 9, 23, May 14, 21, 28, and Whit Week. All communications to CHARLES E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Company, for March 26, through obliging.
Wire or write, T. SERGENSON.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Company, for April 9,
April 9,
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, Known, Vacant April 9.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

WANTED, Suitable Attractions, for April 2, 9, and 23.
SIDNEY COOPER,
Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
Manager, STEPHEN PRITT.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Attractions,
April 30, May 14, 28, and June 4.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, nothing too big, Share or Certainty, April 23, 30, May 14, on, with exceptions. E. H. PAGE.

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, March 19, April 23 (five nights), May 7 and 28. Wire re Monday, 19th, DOMVILLE, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, March 26 (three or four nights), April 30, and on. Strong Attraction for Whit-week. JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

AVENUE THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 23, 30, May 14, June 4, Aug. 6, and onwards; electric light and limes just added to the theatre. FRANK PAYNE.

GAIETY THEATRE, DUNDEE (twice nightly).
R. A. P. WILLIAMS, Lessee and Manager.
WANTED, Really First-class Dramatic Attraction, April 16. State lowest certainty; must be good show.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant May 21, June 4, July 30, Aug. 6.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant April 2, 9, 23, 30.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant April 2, 9, 23.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 9, 23.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant March 12, 19, 26 (3 nights), April 2.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 2, 9.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 30, May 7, 14, 28.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant April 9, 23 (3 nights), May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES:

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant April 9, 23, 30, May 14.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant March 19 (3 nights), April 9, 23, 30.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 2 (3 nights), 9.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant April 23, 30, May 7, 14.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Dec. 26, 31, Jan. 7, 14.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

NEW ROYAL, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 2, Easter, and onwards.
N.B.—A First-class Theatre, under First-class Management, recently rebuilt as a cost of £3,000.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, Good Companies, for Few remaining Season Dates.
N.B.—The only theatre in the Isle of Wight, and commands a population of 80,000.
3, Bedford-street, Strand.

SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE, RAMSGATE.
The recognised and old-established place of dramatic entertainment.
WANTED, First-Class Company, April 23 (one of the best dates in the Spring Season), to follow "The Walls of Jericho," and precede F. R. Benson.
Only No. 1 attraction entertained.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, Manager.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, No. 1 Companies for this Theatre, now being erected at a cost of £10,000.
Stage depth, 40ft.; width, 60ft.; flies, 40ft.
Modern brick and stone building, situate in main street in centre of town (adjoining New Public Library and Museum), and on main electric tram route.
Will open August, 1906.
E. GRAY,
King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

KING'S THEATRE, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5 (3 nights), Easter, April 23.
Now booking Autumn.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 9, 30, May 7, 21, 28 and June 4.
Apply,
STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
The West-end Theatre of Hastings.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Vacant June 18, Aug. 20, &c. Apply, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS, as above; or Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for April 23, 30, and onwards, including Whit. Week. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Known, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, Vacant April 2, Vacant April 2, also Easter Week. Only first-class companies entertained, musical comedy preferred. Wire, W. C. DORNTON, Business-Manager.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attractions, April 9, and a few Autumn Dates. Apply,
MARK H. LINDON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LONGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 2, 9, May 21.
Address, H. SHERRIFF HOWARD, Gen.-Manager.

WANTED, Strong Attractions, for April 9, 23, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Companies, April 16, May 7, 14, 21, onwards.
MORTON, Empire Theatre of Varieties, Cradley.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for April 23, week, musical show preferred.
WADDINGTON, Theatre Royal, York.

THEATRE ROYAL, GLOSSOP.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, April 16 (Easter week), also owing to misunderstanding, April 23 and 30. Address, SYDNEY SPENSER.

WANTED, Big Attractions, March 26 (?), April 30, on, Grand, Chorley; also April 2, 16, June 4, 11, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Opera House, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, May 14, June 11, 18, 25, and July 2. F. J. ROBINSON, T. E., Darwen.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant May 14, 21, June 4, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 14 and June 18, 25.
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
Vacant May 28.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Vacant, April 2, 9, and 16, 23, and on, with exceptions.
WANTED, First-class Companies.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic Address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Company, April 16 (Easter), and 23, Exceptional Dramas only Booked. "Silver King" and "Rogues of Turf" only Dramas booked this season.
SPA THEATRE, WHITBY.
Wanted, Good Companies, Bands, or Pierrots, July 16 and 23, Aug. 27 (?), and Sept. 10 (3 days).
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
7, Hilltop-road, West Hampstead, N.W.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, First-Class Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
Vacant May 14, 21, 28, June 4;
Also a few Summer Dates for Good Drama.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
Vacant May 28, June 4.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE,
Vacant April 16, May 7, 28.

Address,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

FULHAM, April 9.
MIDDLESBROUGH (OPERA HOUSE), April 30.
THEATRE ROYAL, NEWCASTLE,
COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL, and
KENNINGTON THEATRE, May 7.
THEATRE ROYAL, NEWCASTLE, May 14.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for above Dates. Apply,
Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
April 23, May 7, 28, June 11, 18, July 16, Oct. 15, 22, Nov. 1 (3 nights), Nov. 5, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
April 30, May 7, 21, June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 23 (3 nights), Oct. 22, 29 (3 nights), Nov. 5, onwards.
Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, May 14, and onwards, with exceptions, musical preferred.
HARRY FISCHER.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
April 23, May 7, 28.
Silence a polite negative.
Apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

WANTED, Hippodrome, Theatre, and Opera House, Mansfield, Musical Attractions and First-Class Companies, April 9, 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions. This is an up-to-date theatre, now in full tide of success. Electric cars pass the doors from all parts.
J. MORRELLA and T. JENNINGS, Proprietors.

OPERA HOUSE, DUDLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 2, 23, and 30, May 14, 21, and 25, August, onwards, with exceptions.
J. MAURICE CLEMENT.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 16 and 23. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
WANTED, March 26, April 9, 23, 30, May 7, and on, with exceptions.
FRANK MUNDALL.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 23, August Bank Holiday, 13th, 20th, 27th, and Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., First-class Pantomime for Christmas, "Forty Thieves," "Sinbad the Sailor," or "Robinson Crusoe." Apply, Mr. JAS. KIERNAN.

LOWESTOFT MARINA THEATRE CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 2 (Drama) June 4 (Musical preferred). E. A. SMITH.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Strong Drama, Easter, Sundry Dates Open onwards.
J. EDWARD WHITTY.

ODD FELLOWS' HALL, DEAL.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for next August and September, Seaside Season. A few good Dates left. Apply, JAS. C. WHITE.

WANTED, Known, Aberystwyth Royal Pier Pavilion, now Booking Summer Season, 1906. Best Companies only. Vacant Dates, apply to J. H. ROWE, Manager.

GARRISON THEATRE, TIDWORTH CAMP, near SALISBURY.
WANTED, Good Company, Thursday next, March 22 (through transferring, to oblige), 3 nights. Address, MANAGER, Theatre, Bordon Camp, Hants.

BORDON AND TIDWORTH CAMPS.
WANTED, Good Company, March 26 (week), Good Companies, with good printing, do excellent Business, Good Terms to Right Shows. Address, MANAGER, Theatre, Bordon Camp, Hants.

WANTED, Strong Society Play, for Special Two Weeks, Short Cast. Miss MAUD MAY, Simonside, South Shields.

FROME, SOMERSET.
WANTED, Known.—F. E. Douglas can arrange for Good Fit-up Co.'s and Entertainments, Frome and District, Easter Week Vacant, three towns, 2 nights each; also dates, March, onward. Terms, shares. 16, Portway, Frome.

WANTED, Sound Attraction, Easter. Wire immediately,
SHERWOOD, Theatre, Wakefield.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
North Company.
WANTED, for this powerful Attraction, weeks of May 21 and 28. Wire, to-day, KELLY, New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.; next week, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for the Scala Production, week of May 14, in or around London.
Wire, to-day, KELLY, New Prince's T., Poplar, E.; next week, GRAND T., CROYDON.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
Mr. HARRY CULLENFORD as KARL.
Miss VIOLET CARLYLE as NADIA.
Supported by a Star Cast.
WANTED, Good Theatres (Midlands preferred), July 9, 23, Aug. 6, and onwards. Pictorials number 23 varieties. New scenery. New uniforms. Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 13, 20.
Walter Melville,
Oakley House, 14 Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 6, 13,
Walter Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
Fredk. Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
Fredk. Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2, Sept. 24.
Fredk. Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 9, 16, 23, 30.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre,
April 9, 16, 23, 30.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 23, 30, May 7,
Aug. 6, Nov. 12.
Douglas Bruce, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 30, May 28,
June 4, 18.
"SAILORS OF THE KING."
First Vacant Date Aug. 6.
Charles Harrington, Victoria T., Burnley.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Known, no Vacant Dates this year.
Chalmers Mackey,
This, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd;
March 19, Grand Theatre, Swansea (six nights).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 30,
May 21 (three nights), June 18, 25.
J. W. Cordiner, Theatre Royal, Croydon.
See Companies Advertisement, Page 2.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, May 21, June 25, on.
E. Carter Livesey,
Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, "Private Secretary," Open Dates, Sept. 17 and 24, Nov. 1 (3 nights), 12, and Dec. 24, onwards.
Apply, Eugene C. Stafford, c/o French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, Easter, April 16, Easter, onwards, with exceptions,
for this Remarkable Attraction.
J. H. Clynes, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, April 2, and Easter.
Fifth Year of Tour. Also,
"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Splendidly Cast. Special Scenery and Printing.
Crowded with Mystic Surprises and Effects.
Loie Esmond, Theatre Royal, Windsor (Return).

"OUR BOYS" and "CASTE" No. 1 COMPANY.
WANTED, April 2 and special weeks on, Mr. Charles Otley as Middlewick and Eccles, good business certain with these pieces adequately played. Can also arrange for "The Heir-at-Law" and other old Comedies, equitable terms. C. Otley, 13, Champion-grove, Denmark Hill, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for March 19, "Mason"; April 2, "Gay Parisienne" (both North). Communicate, Chas. Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS.
"EAST LYNNE," "LIFE," &c.
WANTED, May 28, June 4, 11, 25, on (to follow Leeds and Hull), Strongest Company Touring, new copyright version of "East Lynne." Wires, Herbert Barrs, H. M. T., Barrow. Write, T. R., Workington.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, April 2, in or near London. April 2 31st Week of Present Tour. 5 sets carried —5. Printing by Allens, Stafford, &c. May 7, 14, 21, and Whit, Midlands. A few Summer Dates South. Frank Ayrton, Maesteg (3), Treherbert (3).

"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."
Produced with Unqualified Success on Monday last at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.
WANTED, March 26, owing to error (wire at once); also April 2 (3 nights), April 16, and some others. The following speaks for itself:—
To Messrs. Murray and Stafford.
Gentlemen,—Allow me to congratulate you on the excellence of your production. "Conscience and Crime." I have never seen a smoother first night. You have been particularly fortunate in securing a company of such all-round excellence. The play is undoubtedly above the average, and the scenery is splendid. You opened well here, and I think if you came back again you would do even better. Wishing you all possible good luck.—Yours faithfully, Harry J. Snelson.
Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, Mar. 15, 1906.

Wire, To-day, Queen's, Fleetwood.
Monday, 12th, OPERA HOUSE, RADCLIFFE.

"COAL KING" CO.
WANTED, Theatre, for April 23, through Extension of Tour. Address, Polini, 93, Pengeroad, Anerley, London, S.E.

WANTED, Good Theatre, for Easter, for "Country Girl" (unexpectedly vacant. Com., Chas. Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE.
WANTED, Xmas week, on, with exceptions. Fred Bulmer, Theatre Royal, Stratford, E.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, March 26, April 2, 9, Easter. Fred Bulmer, Theatre Royal, Stratford, E.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
WANTED, April 16, and on. Sidney Dench, Gaiety, Clydebank.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
London Managers invited to see this production at Pavilion, March 26; Stratford, April 2; Poplar, April 9.
WANTED First-class Theatres, Aug., Nov. 19, Feb. 4, onwards, 1907. Sante, Grand, Woolwich; Grand, Brighton.

"THE BRANDED WOMAN," by F. Wybert Clive.
WANTED, Aug. 27 (?), Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 15, Nov. 26. James Stillwell, T. R., Smethwick.

"THE KING'S SECRET," by Charles Whitlock.
WANTED, June 4, and on, with exceptions. James Stillwell, T. R., Smethwick.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, April 23 and 30.
Address, Frank E. Burdell.
Grand, Islington; next, T. R., Aldershot.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, having large Stage and Large Holding Capacity, for
JAMES KIDDIES'
JAMES KIDDIES'
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
and
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
For Production, Christmas, 1906.
Address,
James Kiddie, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

"THE PLUCKY NIPPER."
WANTED, April 2 (follow Radcliffe, return, precede Chorley return), April 30 (follow Cradley, third visit), May 7, 14, 21. Wire, wire, wire, for April 2. Edward Surrey, to-day, Theatre, Batley; next, St. James's, Manchester.

"THE HEIR-AT-LAW."
AUSTIN'S OLD COMEDIES CO.,
WEST PIER, BRIGHTON, April 2.
WANTED, Easter Date. Wire or write, Donald Arthur, 434, Strand, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Dates for various Attractions, as hereunder:—

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. W. Reuben Payne's Company,
No vacant dates till Autumn.

"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company.
April 16 (Midlands), various on (Northwards).

"SAINTS AND SINNERS" and
"MIDDLEMAN,"
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 10, various, on (North).

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Mr. Arthur Carlton's Company,
Aug. 6, various onwards.

Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Please Note: Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
April 2, onwards.
F. Martin Morris.
This Week, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton;
Next Week, County Theatre, Reading.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Best Theatres,
Aug. 20 (First Vacant Date),
Aug. 27, Sept. 3, and few later.
Fifth Year of Tour, and Success Continued.
T. R., Stratford, E., March 19.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, March 26, April 2, 9, 16, May 7.
Address, Lister-road, Liverpool.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Attraction, May 21, only Vacant Spring Date; a few Autumn Dates open.
Address, Frank M. Thorne, P.O.W., Salford.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
By Walter Howard.
Paumier and Howard's Principal Company.
ANNIE SAKER.
ALFRED PAUMIER.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for Vacant weeks, 1907. Nothing Vacant this year.
Apply, Alfred Paumier, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
Mr. Montefiore's Modernised Musical Version.
WANTED, April 30, May 7, North. This fine old classic still a successful draw. Two Troupes of Dancers; Musical Specialities. All-round Good Company and Production.
Mr. Wm. Rokeby as Badger.
Bookings: Theatre Royal, Glasgow, Belfast, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Sunderland, Bury, Rochdale, Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham, &c.
Eade Montefiore,
Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

"BILLY'S LITTLE LOVE AFFAIR."
WANTED, April 16 (Easter Week); also Aug. 6, Sept. 10, and on.
Frank G. Bayly, 1, St. Aubyn's-rd., Upper Norwood.

WANTED, Theatres for
"LUCKY 'LIZA,"
A Farcical Musical Play, in three Acts, by Fred Locke, Author of "A Trip to the Highlands." Company of funny Comedians, Dancers, &c. Vacant May 21 and 28 (Scotland); Whit Week, and June 18 (North), July 2 and 9 (Midlands.
Address,
Pickie Clare, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E

THE NATIVE CHOIR FROM JAMAICA.
Four Coloured Ladies and Six Coloured Gentlemen.
Specially brought to this Country by Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
A Few Vacant Dates Only.
Apply at once
for this
Delightful, Artistic, and Novel Entertainment, and a Sure Draw Anywhere.
Just Finished at Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, to Record Business.
This week, Institute, Aintree, Liverpool: next week, Auditorium, Port Sunlight, for W. H. Lever, Esq., M.P.
For Dates and Terms, apply to Messrs. Jones and Douglass, Sole Agents, 21, Water-street, or 9, Chapel-street, Liverpool.
Telephones, 5650 and 2449 Central.
Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

WANTED, Theatres and Halls, for Big Co., Variety, 10 turns. Programme submitted on application. Thanks Mr. Dew return contracts, T. R., Dover. Harry Kardoc, 28, Liverpool-st., Dover.

WANTED, March 26, Easter, onward, Theatres, Galas, or Sports, Los Granadas, Electrifying Bounders. Wire, Empress Theatre, Brixton, London.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Artists for Musical Comedy, in all Lines, for Early Autumn Tours. Also Chorus; must be young and pretty, good voices. Also Eccentric Dude; must sing and dance well. Apply, C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, excellent Leading Lady, ditto Gentleman, Heavy Man, Character Comedian, Juvenile Lady, long London Season, open April 2. Lowest terms, age, height, refs., photos. Leonard Mortimer, Highbury, 162, Clapham-road, S.W. Letters only. No callers.

WANTED, thoroughly Experienced Heavy Lady, tall, handsome appearance; must dress part well Terms, refs., photos. (stamped envelope). fullest particulars, A. Hamilton Warden, T. R., Worthing.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS.
WANTED, really Smart Chambermaid (rather Petite), must Sing and Dance well, to Rehearse March 28. Twelve months' engagement to suitable artist. Lowest Terms, Photos., and Two Refs. Herbert Barrs, Theatre Royal, Workington.

GEORGE GRAY'S
"ROAD TO RUIN" and "FIGHTING PARSON."
WANTED, young and thoroughly experienced Juvenile Lady. Letters only, with photographs and references, to G. Gray, Empire, Stratford, E. Also few other Vacancies.

MURRAY AND STAFFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, at Once, Strong Juvenile Lady. Photo. and all particulars, O. H., Radcliffe.

WANTED, a Light Comedian, who can play the 'Cello, for a Summer Engagement of twelve weeks certain. Write to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

FRED GRANVILLE'S
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE" COMPANY.
WANTED, good Heavy Man, rehearse Wednesday at Sunderland. Address, Carthage Calcleugh, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.
Monday next, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

"NO WEDDING BELLS FOR HER" CO.
WANTED, Gentlemanly Heavy, must dress part well; also Low Comedy Chambermaid. Photos. where not known, age, height, and absolute lowest terms. Rehearse Glasgow, March 27. Add., Frank Bateman, Grand T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Gentleman, Heavy Lead, Juvenile, Acting-Manager, Rehearse March 26. Interviews London. State terms, height, references. Mark Blow, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Robust Character Actor, to double Comic Policeman and A.S.M. Photos., references, full particulars, and actual lowest terms, to Miss Maud Hildyard, Lyric T., Hammersmith.

WANTED, experienced Juvenile Gentleman, tall. Terms, references, photos. (stamped envelope), fullest particulars, A. Hamilton Warden, T. R., Worthing.

WANTED, Juvenile Actor, to play Mark Livingstone in "The Streets of London." Rehearse Edinburgh, Thursday. Tour opens 26th. Eade Montefiore, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Gentlemanly Young Man, of smart appearance, about 17, slight, about 5ft. 4in., for Dude Part. Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand.

WANTED, Two Gentlemen, One Lady, Amateurs, London suburban stock company; weekly pieces. Must give a few weeks. Box 2,956, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Amateur Lady and Gent., for Sketches, Instrumentalists or Vocalists preferred. Summer Tour, South Coast. A good opportunity to gain experience. Tuition. Ashley Beale, 84, Kennington-road London.

WANTED, Young Amateur Lady, for Sketch; must be young. Salary to commence, full particulars, and photos., to Wade, Barnard's Music Hall, Chatham.

WANTED, Rehearse at Once (London), Comedian, small part, sketch. H. Leslie Bell, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, 20 Chorus Ladies, also Tenor, or Light Baritone. Apply, Kirkland (12-2), Hampton Court Palace, Crampton-street, Newington Butts.

WANTED, for Early Autumn Tours, Smart, Attractive Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, good appearance and good voices absolutely essential. Apply personally and immediately, Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED First-Class Baritone, able to accompany well, for High-Class Concert Party, 16 weeks. Lowest terms, age, height. Durand, Montpelier-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, by Young Lady, an Engagement as Singer and Accompanist, for Summer Season, Masked Troupe preferred. Doreen Hawthorn, Gainsford, Enfield.

WANTED, by Contralto, Engagement, in Concert Party, for summer, can accompany. Refs., M. N., 17, Melton-rd., West Bridgford, Notts.

WANTED, by Young Lady, with Good Voice, Engagement, in Musical Comedy, Comic Opera, or Grand Opera. Miss L., 6, Raymede-street, Notting Hill.

WANTED, by the I.D.K. Minstrels, April 16, Engagement at Pier or Seaside Hall, large or small Troupe; Sunday Concert if required. Apply,
Manager, 185, Upland-road, East Dulwich.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIME,
"ALADDIN."
WANTED, Full Company of Principals, Ballet, and Chorus Ladies, for Easter Production, April 13 to 21, inclusive, rehearse three days previous, at the
GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.
Fares paid to and from Liverpool to Douglas.
Address, stating absolute lowest terms,
to save time, references, and full particulars, to
James Kiddie,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

EDWIN C. JAZON'S PANTOS., 1906-'07.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, including Principal Boy and Girl ("Cinderella" and "Aladdin"). References, age, height, and photos. (where not known); also permanent address, and where can be seen playing during next four weeks.
Jazon, P. O. W. T., Nuneaton.

WANTED, for London and Provincial Pantomimes for '06 and '07, Principal Boys and Girls, Comedians, Dames, and all Lines. Apply by letter, with photos. and all particulars, to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, for Pantomimes, next Xmas, Artists, in all Lines, Chorus, &c.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, that at Sykes' Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Manchester, a large stock of new and secondhand Scenery always for sale. Contracts solicited. Only high-class work executed; best materials used. Send us a trial order.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, high-class work, and best materials, at reasonable prices. Studio and workshop, 107, Waddon New-road. Charles Sayer, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Smith, jun., Artist, Figure, Animal, Landscapes, and Flowers, Gilding, Writing, and Decorations. Address, 66, Stanbury-road, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Contract for Scenery of every description, workmanship guaranteed at reasonable prices. J. Turner, Scenic Artist, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

To Music Hall Investors.
WANTED, Gentleman, to Complete Syndicate, to Build Hippodrome, manufacturing town, North, population 80,000, site and nearly all money ready, 15% assured. Write,
Taylor,
59, Sheringham-avenue, Manor Park, London.

WANTED, Assistant-Manager for Tour of Musical Comedy, well-known management, experience not essential, invest £50-£100. Also Advance Manager. Address, Manager, c/o L. E. Townroe, Esq., Solicitor, 26, Budge-row, London, E.C.

WANTED, Good Librettist, to Collaborate, high-class Operetta, Coliseum production. Coms., strict confidence, Box 2,970, "The Era."

Mr. JOSEPH W. WORLEY'S CO.,
"A FAITHFUL FRIEND,"
By Lewis G. West.
WANTED, Smart Agent in Advance, at Once. This, Carlton T., Greenwich;
next, Avenue T., Kettering.

WANTED, few more travelling Representatives, for Donald's Variety Agency, 89, Victoria-street, Liverpool. State connections, experience, references

WANTED, Experienced Carpenter, and Wardrobe Mistress, open end March. State terms, age, height, recent refs. Mark Blow, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Practical Carpenter, to combine Baggage and play small part, tall. Photos., height, references, to be applied for, and actual lowest terms, to Miss Maud Hildyard, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

WEST'S "OUR NAVY AND OUR ARMY."
WANTED, for five weeks, Colston Hall, Bristol, commence April 9, Good Top Window Billers, Sticks, Sobriety, and References indispensable. State Age. J. R. Poole, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Smart Wardrobe Mistress, able to Cut Out and Make, for Répertoire. Apply, giving Age, Experience, References, and all Particulars (Photo. desirable), Martin Sands, T. R., Torquay.

Animated Pictures.
WANTED, Known, Permanent Situation offered Young, Steady Man, to travel (by responsible person), wages £2 weekly; must invest £100. State present employment, references, and age, to Box 2,955, "The Era."

As Manager or General-Manager.
WANTED, Known, Gentleman, 37, is open to offers, thoroughly efficient; at present engaged as Manager of large Variety Theatre (twice Lightly). Address, Box 2,952, "The Era."

WANTED, Position as Resident-Manager in Good Provincial Theatre; 20 years' practical knowledge, both stage and front. References if required. Apply, Box 2,937, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by a Practical Stage-Manager, Carpenter, and Electrician; excellent refs. Wire or write. G. B., 9, Colebrook-street, Southwark S.E.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by a reliable and experienced Business-Manager, disengaged Easter; late Manager Moody-Manners.
Langley Wyatt, 112, Canterbury-road, London, N.W.

WANTED, Re-engagement by E. Walpole, Advance Representative, Theatres or Fit-up, just concluded Panto. Tour; experienced; references. Post Office, Ton-y-pandy, Glamorganshire.

WANTED, Known, Chas. H. Barclay, Advance Agent, Disengaged for Spring and Autumn. Address, 100, Albert-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Resident Master Carpenter, and could assist stage manage, own tools, good refs., London preferred, bench hand, age 30, abstainer, willing, experienced. Box 2,962, "The Era."

WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour; good references. Address, 42, Walcot-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, a Resident Engagement, Tour or Contract Work, by G. Hayes, Practical Carpenter and Scenic Artist. Theatre Royal, Colchester.

WANTED, Situations by Two Practical Billposters; good references; last two situations 8 years. Apply, P. Burgoyne, 5, West-street, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Known, Billy Brown, late Groom to Mr. Sam Watson and the Great Bale Troupe and M. Caban, desires Engagement. Address, Rose Cottage, Cathedral-street, Norwich.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL.
General-Manager, T. P. Duignan.
WANTED, Leader, Flute, and First Cornet, for Easter, April 12 to 21, also June 4 and Season; thoroughly conversant in Variety Business. State age, experience, also references, &c. A. Parker, Musical-Director, O. H., Burnley.

WANTED, First-Class Leader Violin, used to Variety, open Monday, March 26; references essential.
Harry Burns,
Empress, Hartlepool.

WANTED, for Liner, Violin (First, Ripieno), Violoncello, and Pianist (doubling viola or second violin preferred), sea experience not absolutely necessary, but must be accustomed to small orchestra, and good sight readers. Box 2,943, "The Era."

WANTED, a good First Violinist, also Double Bass, for Town and Promenade Band. Colwyn Bay, Summer Season, commencing at Easter. Lowest Terms, Age, and Refs. Wm. Underwood, Bandmaster, 3, Lord-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, Bassoon, and Horn Player, for Season of Six Months. Apply, J. Vince, Conductor, Hastings Corporation Band.

WANTED, Good Cornet, to Commence 26th inst. Terms, shares. Apply, Secretary, Ceylon Band, Castle Hotel shades, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, First-Class Solo Cornet, well up in Variety business and Transposing; permanency for really good man. Worswick, Hippo., Wigan.

WANTED, Clarionet Player, permanent, well up in Varieties. Lowest terms, references. Open Monday, 26th. Apply, Murgatroyd, Palace, Halifax.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASYLUM,
FULBOURN, NEAR CAMBRIDGE.
WANTED, Male Attendant, Bombardon Player preferred.
Apply, stating age and height,
and enclosing copies of testimonials,
to the Superintendent,
at the Asylum.

WANTED, Euphonium. Terms, shares.
Address, Secretary, Town Band,
Warwick Hall, Warwick-place, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Viola Player,
for Tour (3 months).
Box 2,971,
"The Era."

CHAS. W. POOLE'S No. 1 MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, immediately, Flautist, must wear Uniform and assist with Fittings. State Age, References. J. R. Poole, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, to open March 26; must be good. Permanency to good man; evening dress. G. Mitchell, M.D., Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, First-Class Orchestral Pianist, must accompany and play with Orchestra; also First Violin, Clarionet, Trombone, Tympani, Seaside Season, North, eighteen weeks. Send full particulars, references (which will be applied for), terms (twice daily), to Box 2,950, "The Era."

WANTED, Pianist; must read at sight, and understand Variety Business, to Open Hippodrome, Grimsby, March 26. R. Silvester, Miners' Theatre, Ashington, Northumberland.

WANTED, Pianist, Vocalist preferred, good arranger, for Irish Tour, at Easter, one used to Minstrels. Apply T. Kay, Court Theatre, Galway.

WANTED, First-class Pianiste, to Travel with Auction Mart, one who has travelled with Auction Mart preferred. Can open at once. Wire or write, Rowley, Auction Mart, Cricket Field, Fareham, Hants.

WANTED, Lady Trumpeters, for Long London Engagement. Wire, Davis, 122, Warwick-street, London, S.W.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.,
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Double Drummer; must have Tympanis, Glockenspiel, and Xylophone, and all effects; also Violin, Viola, and French Horn. State age, reference, and lowest terms. Long summer season. Address, Box 2,965, "The Era."

WEST'S "OUR NAVY AND OUR ARMY."
WANTED, for four weeks, commencing April 16, Colston Hall, Bristol, Clarionet, Flute, Second Violin, Trombone, and Drums. Stage Age and Refs. J. R. Poole, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, for Yorkshire Artillery Training at Tynemouth, from June 11 to July 21, Solo Cornet. First Clarionet, 'Cello to combine other Military Band instrument, Euphonium, Brass Bass, Baritone, Trombone, Brass Drum; must have own instruments except Drum. Men served before preferred. Apply to T. Elliott, Bandmaster, above corps at Scarboro'.

BOSCO'S CIRCUS, IRELAND.
Easter Monday, April 16.
WANTED, First-class Musicians, of every Description, for Tenting, Ireland. All letters, Sam Jones, 129, Linaker-street, Southport.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, at Liberty now, Composer, Arranger, Violinist. Address, 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Jules Guitton, Musical-Director, Composer, and Arranger, at Lib. Address, 51, Fairland-road, Mathew's Park, West Ham, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, any Business. Nicholls, 48, Longden-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, Summer Engagement, at Liberty Easter, thoroughly experienced any business; good refs. Address, Leader, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly Experienced Leader (Violin), in London, at Lib. March 26, total abstainer. Harry C. Holbrook, 20, Cupar-rd., Battersea.

WANTED, by First-class Leader (or as First Violin), Engagement, experienced, any Business. At liberty March 26. Box 2,960, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Sydney Davies, Musical-Director, Composer, Solo Violinist. Disengaged, smart, reliable, Resident or Tour. Address, 15, Kendall-road, Colchester.

WANTED, Engagement, well known, experienced, practical (Variety and Theatrical) Conductor, Controller, brilliant Violinist; abstainer; library. References. Fleming, 28, Inverkip-street, Greenock.

WANTED, by Leader, Engagement, steady, good reader and arranger, portable or minor theatre, variety experience, commence at once. 133, Holm-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Easter Engagement, by The West-End Trio (Pianoforte, Violin, and Violoncello). May be engaged with Concert Party. Apply (also for other dates), Manager, 3, Dunster gardens, Brondesbury, London.

WANTED, Engagement by the Lyndon Trio (Ladies), Violin, Piano, and 'Cello, First-Class Hotels, &c. Box 2,946, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, two Young Ladies, Good Contralto and Solo Violinist desire Engagement in Ladies' Orchestra or Concert Tour, &c. (Contralto also good accompanist at sight); must be good class. 12, Montrose-av., Redland, Bristol.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First Violin, will be at Liberty shortly. Good ref. A. E. Wilks, 57, Herbert-rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by the Principal Second Violinist, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co. Address, Lewis, Orchestra, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist (pupil of Frye Parker, F.R.A.M.); experienced in Orchestral Work. Box 2,947, "The Era."

WANTED, by First Violin or Principal Viola, Summer Engagement (Pier or Gardens), experienced; good refs. Address, Oakley, c/o A. W. Gilmer, 32, Paradise-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist, any Business. Variety Theatre preferred; good stock of music. Address, J. Carpenter, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Good Violinist, for Boat, shares; good reader, and répertoire, abstainer. Letter only. Harp, 12, Market-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist. Leader or First Violin, any Business. J. C., 266, Liverpool-street, Cross-lane, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Orchestral Summer Engagement, in Café, Hotel, or Good Seaside Orchestra, from July 1, by Lady Violinist, splendid soloist, and orchestral leader. Every experience. Near or in London preferred. Box 2,936, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist, orchestral or soloist, tour or permanent, good appearance. Box 2,959, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, First and Second Cornets, Clarionet, Horn, together or separate, all thoroughly good; any business; refs. Through termination Contract Torquay Municipal Band. Williams, 40, Victoria-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet, any business, experienced.
Wm. Fletcher, 95, Hornby-street, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, Military or Orchestra, sober, reliable player. First-class refs. and testimonials. Friswell, 45, Sydner-rd., Stoke Newington, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Solo Cornet, March 26, Theatre or Summer Season; references here. W. H. Child, Cornet, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet, Engagement, any business; highest references. Can join at once. Apply, John Orr, 1, Grosvenor-ter., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionettist, any Business, experienced and reliable. Excellent refs. Address, Charles Mantle, c/o Mr. Ursell, 148, Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, at Liberty, Theatre or Variety. Best refs., and thoroughly experienced. T. Crawshaw, 89, St. Stephen's-avenue, Shepherd's Bush, London W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet, any Business, Military or Orchestral, experienced, reliable, and good refs. Clarionet, 187, Millbrook-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet. £2 Premium for Berth as Musician. &c., on ocean going boat, experienced, age 30. Wood, 23, Warren-st., Fitzroy-square, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, experienced, or deputising, any business. Apply, Bassist, 1, Honeybrook-rd., Clapham Park, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Bassoonist for Summer; good refs., &c. 50, Merrion-street, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Four String Double Bass Player, up-to-date; highest credentials; reliable. Basso, 7, Nolon New-road, Clapham.

WANTED, by Double Bass, experienced, Engagement, Summer or Permanency, first-class refs.; steady. W. H., 29, Palatine-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Solo Euphonium, any Business, well experience String or Military; total abstainer; at Liberty. Spendley, 11, Priory-street, Colchester.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Experienced Trombone, good refs., strictly sober, reliable. Dis. about Easter. Beamish, 64, Townfield-lane, Liscard, Cheshire.

WANTED, to Join, Good London Military Band, with B flat Saxophone, play baritone parts. Saxo, c/o 108, Paradise-road, Clapham.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLS, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist and Violinist, Summer Engagement, with Orchestra or Concert Party, 'Cello Solos. HARVEY, 4, Belsize-parade, Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, by Viola, Re-engagement, any Business; good refs. Apply, ALFRED W. MONTAGUE, 65, Goldsmith-row, Hackney, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Viola, combine Piano, experienced accompanist and Orchestral Pianist, advertiser well known, London preferred. Box 2,951, "The Era."

WANTED, by Oboe, Summer Engagement, Orchestral or Military, late Soloist Royal Marines; excellent refs. G. WILLIAMS, 27, Paisley-street, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement or Deputising in London, by good experienced Oboist, excellent refs. BOONE, 77, Wandsworth Bridge-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, by Experienced Oboeist, Engagement, any business, excellent testimonials, can join immediately, also summer. Address, JACKSON, 2, Church-st., Cambridge.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Harpist, Summer engagement, Pier, or First-class Hotel. Finished 3 months, Court Theatre, L'pool. Address, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, by Flautist, Summer Engagement, steady and reliable, Boehm and Carte system flutes. C. HOLDING, Flautist, Opera House, Perth, Scotland.

WANTED, by Flautist, any Business, Orchestra or Military, Boehm and Carte system Flutes. Abstainer. FLAUTIST, 156, Manor-place, Walworth.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo, Boehm Instruments; 15 years last place. T. RICHMOND, 33, Peel-street, Darlington.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist, any Bus., exper. Var., Dram. Business, good reader; steady, reliable; excellent refs. Any dis. 184, Tong-street, Dudley Hill, Yorks.

WANTED, by Harry Ewing, Brilliant Pianist, First-class Seaside Summer Engagement, thoroughly experienced all business. Write, 73, Holgate-road, Meadows, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement, Season or Part. Late Newman's, Southend. PERCY BACON, 11, Crogsland-road, Kentish Town.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Pianist-Harpist, any business; good experience; references. J. SINCLAIR, 30, Empire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady Pianist, accomplished Soloist and Accompanist, having concluded long Engagement with high-class Trio, wishes similar re-engagement or pier concerts. Box 2,961, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, a Brilliant Solo Pianist and Accompanist who has fulfilled Two Seasons at Leading Pier, desires Summer Engagement, in similar Capacity, or with high-class Concert Party (costume or otherwise). ARTHUR LE STRANGE, 31, Villa-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Good Summer Engagement, as Tympanist, Drums, Glocken, Xylophone Soloist (Orchestra or Military), experienced. GEORGE H. GELDARD, Queen's Theatre, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, variety preferred, join at once. DRUMS, 94, Graham-rd., Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, by the Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, Engagements for Halls, Exhibitions, Hotels, Piers. Apply, CONDUCTRESS, Volthurst, Boundary-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands. Apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to July; Margate, April, May.

WANTED, Engagement, to provide Large or Small Orchestra, by Licentiate, R.A.M. Highest possible recommendations. Address, L. E., Cremona, Mountfield-rd., Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Engagements, by well-known Band (Military or Orchestral), smart uniforms, splendid répertoire, excellent testimonials. BANDMASTER, 123, Drew-road, Silvertown.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Family Band of Five, at Liberty shortly, any business, three years last engt. Box 2,909, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, for Small Brass Band, for Tenting Season; good Répertoire; used to Circus Business. Address, ROBT. TAYLOR, 68, Smith-street, Bolton, Lancashire.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, LEIGH.

WANTED, at once, the Best Talent in England, for above Circus; also Wanted, for the Opening of Ohmy's Grand Circus, Southport, April 2, Startling Sensations, Big Novelties, Riders, Clowns, &c. All must state when last appeared in Southport. Address,
KING OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Leigh, Lancashire.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Acrobats, Japanese Acts, Gymnasts,
Dog and other Animal Acts,
Musical Clowns, Comic Skaters,
Triple Bars, and other Specialities,
for one week, 18th June, 1906;
also required,
Full Two-Hour Entertainments,
Concert Parties, Operatic Scenas,
Ladies' Orchestras,
Ventriloquists, Comedians, Musical Acts,
Illusionists, and other Artists.
Memo.—All will be required to play Two Shows daily. We also require
Long Switchback, Water Chute, Aërial Railway,
Electric Floor, Automatic Machines,
Swings, Roundabouts, Art Gallery,
Side-shows of every Description,
on share or rental.
To commence June, finish Sept, 1906.

All applications and particulars to
FREEAR & SON, 39, Dame-street, Dublin.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL SUMMER CIRCUS,
ABERDEEN.

WANTED, for Easter Monday,
Equestrian, Acrobats, Clowns,
Gymnasts,
and
other Celebrated Circus Artists.
Please apply,
JOHN HENRY COOKE,
Circus,
Edinburgh.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME,
CARLISLE.

WANTED, for present and future dates, Specialities and Novelties of every description. Address, C. ALGIE. N.B.—Artists kindly note all Contracts are stamped.

WANTED, for Wilder's Fête and Gala Season, July 2, 9, Aug. 6, 13, Aerial Novelties, Acrobats, and up-to-date Gymnastic Performers, Single and Double Acts. Full particulars, terms, and sample lithos., to 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

BOSCO'S TENTING CIRCUS.

WANTED, new Novelties, for Tenting, Ireland, Specialities of every description, nothing too big. Will Manchester, Comedian, please write. Bosco, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Juvenile Circus Performers in all lines, over 14 and small for age.
POWELL, 109, Clapham-road.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, for Galas, Gymnasts, Acrobats, or anything suitable, for June.
Apply,
C. R. PULLAN, Agent,
25, Dragon-parade, Harrogate (late of Bradford).

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Ring and Stage, tenting season. Useful family of riders, &c., write; also good clown and agouste. Add., C. CABAN, Hippodrome, Reading.

WANTED, a Smart and Funny Tumbler, age about 17. When writing, state weight, also lowest terms. A good engagement for anyone suitable.
Address,
Box 2,916, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Billy the Educated Horse, at Liberty one week, April 2. First vacancy for two years. Address, DE VOYE, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Talking Donkey, always successful, F. and H., Poole's Myrioramas. Coms., North Shields. BUER and SON.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Funny Musical Clown, Talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty, Tenting. Home or Abroad. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, English and Continental Clown, after fourteen weeks with Hengler's Cirque, Glasgow, has now just concluded Gilbert's Hippodrome, Yarmouth, and opens Monday, March 19, Birmingham, on Moss Tour.

WANTED, Known, Le Quips, Clown and Comedian, with A1 Comic Entries, Liberty for Summer Season. Permanent. 42, Milbourne-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, March 19, Mayeno Trio (two Ladies, one Gent.), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, Terrific Success, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge. Wire, Wire, for Monday. First only vacancy this year. Thanks to Managers and Agents for Offers. Have settled for Summer Season.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Smartest of all Lady and Gent. Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Acts, March 19, 26.
Wire, Palace, Grimsby; after Saturday, Pottery House, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lo Lo, in her graceful Trapeze Act and Teeth Expert, Touring with Crockett's International Coliseum.

WANTED, Tenting Season, Cameo Troupe, Acrobats, Risley, Double Entrée, Boxing, and Singing Clown. 1, Upper Duke-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Austin and Austin, Eccentric Acrobatic Chair Pyramidists; also Footit, Le Premier Foot Equilibrist; two distinct specialities, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, 14, Leslie-road, East Finchley.

WANTED, Known, Davilla, also Esk, Smartest Boy Tight-wire Walker Breathing, Liberty for Season. Forest View, Honney-lane, Waltham Abbey.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, Equilibrists and Acrobats, March 19, 26, and Tenting Season. Wire, THORNE, Doncaster.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Sylvesto, Speciality Contortionist, Monday, 19th, 26th, June 18. Wire, Palace, Glasgow; or Agents, HART and CASS.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Novelty Acrobatic Juggling Trick Cyclist, few immediate dates vacant, halls, circus, galas. Permanent, 106, Bigland-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Le Mere's Original Clown Cricketers are at Liberty for Easter Monday, onwards. Good, reliable game guaranteed. Distance no object. Particulars, 14, Astbury-road, Peckham, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement with Acrobats, do tumbling, hand-balance, knowledge of top and second mount. GRAHAM, 65, Warden-road, N.W.

WANTED, by boy 16, Situation with Trick or Comedy Cyclists, good Comedy Rider. Address, CYCLIST, c/o Gass, 17, Grosvenor-road, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Elephant Trainer. ROBERTO, 89, Stanley-road, Stratford, London, E.

WANTED, Engagements, by Lieut. Lemprière and his Charming Lady Pupils, for parachute descents, together or separate. LEMPRIERE, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Secretaries, to Engage Lieut. Lemprière, the popular, reliable Aëronaut, for balloon ascents and parachute descents. Address, Handsworth, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

NORFOLK THEATRE, LITTLEHAMPTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. DAN RANDALL.
WANTED, Variety Artists, Summer Season.

LITTLEHAMPTON AND EASTBOURNE
PROMENADE CONCERTS.
Nineteenth consecutive season.
Messrs. DAN RANDALL and FRED SPENCER.
WANTED, Refined Variety Artists and Specialities, all Lines, Season twenty weeks. Send terms to DAN RANDALL.

WINDMILL GARDEN CONCERTS.
Messrs. DAN RANDALL and FRED SPENCER,
Littlehampton.
WANTED, Variety Artists, Refined, for Summer Season. Send terms to DAN RANDALL, Littlehampton.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, Variety Artists all Lines, immediate and future dates. Terms, &c., J. CUMMINGS, 66, Whitevale, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, March 26, and onwards, variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply, J. J. SCOTT,
Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, April 2. State lowest terms. NORTH, 9, Tolson-street, Dewsbury.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 63, Regent-street, W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Hippodrome, Barrow, for Immediate and Future Dates. Bioscope Operator write. All turns must be refined; must state when last in Barrow. Lowest terms. R. SILVESTER, Miners' Theatre, Ashington, Northumberland.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

Al Fresco.

WANTED, Pierrot Artists. Apply, Box 2,900, "The Era." Fred Thornley write up.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, April 2, 16, 30, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Freaks write. Also Living Novelties, April 23.

CAVALRY THEATRE, ALDERSHOT.

WANTED, Artists, Doubles and Singles, for above; old friends write. Thanks for congratulations; too numerous to answer all personally. HARRY SAUNDERS, Manager. Pianist write.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for March 26, REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines. H. A. JORDISON, Managing-Director, Empire Theatrical Agency, Ltd., St. James's Hall, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Artists, in all Lines, Nothing too Big, Nothing too Big, for Seaside Towns and Galas.

Souplessi and Pollo Jerome communicate.

Artists free Easter,
Communicate at once,
with fullest particulars,
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.

Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, the bigger the better, immediate and future dates; big Musical Act wire for March 26. Old clients keep me posted. JAZON, Prince of Wales' T., Nuneaton.

WANTED, Refined and Gentlemanly Pierrot Artists, for Ayr; must possess good voices and extensive répertoire of Sensible Songs, Concerted numbers and Humorous Interludes; must also be young and dress well; sobriety strictly essential. Lowest terms and photos. ERNEST HAMPSON, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, First-Class Artists of all descriptions, for present and future dates. Say lowest terms, and send full list of bookings or useless; nothing too big, nothing too small, but must be good.
Letters only.
DUNNING'S Agency, 7, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities and Star Acts write, nothing too big. Business carried on as usual. Address, Mrs. FRED HARCOURT'S Variety Agency, 133, Moss-lane East, Manchester. Telegrams, "Magician, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists, March 19, 26, for Hugh Dempsey's "Stars of the Night." Big Acts on Sharing Terms wire. King's T., Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, Variety Artists and Acts of the first grade, nothing too big; immediate dates. DONALD'S Agency, 89, Victoria-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, of all Kinds, nothing too big. Those artists who wrote before, please write again. Contracts waiting for Lily Arthur, Sauteron, the Champion Jumper, Lade Henderson, &c. Address,
BILLY HENDERSON, 29, Brixton-road, S.W.

COURT THEATRE, BACUP.

WANTED, following Artists to attend Rehearsal, Monday:—
Dr. C. Hermann, Bostonians, Charlton, Mountaineers, Three Rolands, Seigel, Five M.P.'s, Lisbon Holt, Daisy Almer, Wild Willie West, Dr. Hermann's Combination.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

DR. CARL HERMANN'S COMBINATION.
LYCEUM, STAFFORD.

WANTED, the following Artists to attend Rehearsal at usual time, Monday, March 19:—Dr. Carl Hermann, Three Bostonians, Prof. Holt, Cavalottis, Bob Hartley, Cytoza Bros., Lilian Wild, Willie and West, Hermascope.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Proprietors, SMITH and LEE.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Three Delaires, Jolly Criss Cross, Vernon's Bioscope, Angelina, T. Jones and Co., H. Hayton, Two Mazanares, Four Mill Lads.

WANTED, for March 26, June 4 and 11,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., &c., March 19 and 26, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.

WANTED, Good Variety Combination, or Good Entertainment for Three Nights, April 12, 13, and 14.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU.
15, Hotham-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, for immediate and future dates, the Biggest Acts in the Market, Novelties, Star Comic Acts &c. Send full particulars, bookings, and lowest terms, photos., lithos, &c. All friends write again.

WANTED, Big Acts for America. All particulars to FRANK LYNNE, 121, West 42nd-street, New York City, U.S.A.

WANTED, Known, I can place the biggest Acts.
ATLAS, Agent, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Big Comedy Number, Monday Week; also Artists, in all Lines, for immediate weeks. Lowest terms, lithos., and full particulars, bookings, &c., to
DAY'S Variety Agency,
Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, London.
Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London."
Telephone, 6915 Gerrard; 1,500 Central.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
March 26, April 2, 9, 16, for the North,
Every Line in the Business.
Address,
BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager, Morecambe, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Pk., Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Tops of Bills, Drawing Cards.
Price no object.

March 26, on.

HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY,
Head Office,
Empress Theatre,
Hartlepool.
Telephones, 0231 and 0231A.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Big Tops and Bottoms, for Immediate and Future Dates. List of bookings, &c. Cleveland Comedy write. YATES'S Agency, Church-avenue, Weaste, Manchester.

WANTED, good Acrobatic Dancers, able to do Skipping Rope and Step Dancing. Send age, height, photos., and reference, to SYDNEY T. RUSSELL, Alexandra Theatre, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Lady Wrestler, also Pupil. Send photo., lowest terms, till Monday, SAXO, Athletic Exhibition, Barton-st., Gloucester; after, Exhibition, Stroud.

WANTED, Smart Boy, age 15-17, to assist Conjurer, one who can tumble or posture a little preferred. Particulars and Salary required. Box 2,967, "The Era."

WANTED, Big Specialities and Star Turns, for March 19, onwards, nothing too big, unknown Acts please save stamps. Artists seen by appointment only. Address, JOE BROWN, Esq., 58, Chicksand-street, London, E.

WANTED, the Biggest Specialities and Sensational Novelties, Easter, onwards.
The Bigger the Better.
Terms, Bookings, Lithos.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Easter, Whit, Week, and July 2, onwards,
Big Specialities,
Good Comedy Acts,
Vocal Numbers,
Performing Animals.

Give Full List of Bookings,
and
Absolute Lowest Terms,
also Permanent Address.

GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
The Hippodrome,
Scarboro'.

Telephone, 288.
Telegraphic Address, "Zalva."

And Kindly Note,
It is impossible to answer all.

WANTED, Refined and Novel Specialities, for Bradford, Al-fresco Pavilion,
Open Easter to end of September.
Weekly Engagements only.
Full up for Comedians,
Vocalists, and Pianist.
No interviews.
WALTER S. BENTLEY,
9, White's-view, Bradford.

WANTED, for Costume Concert Party, 21 weeks certain, a First-Class Refined Musical Sketch Artist or Humorist with speciality; Low and Light Comedians already booked, so business must be different. Full particulars, terms, and photo. if possible, to
RANDAL, 98, Musard-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, a Smart Young Gentlemanly Comedian for Alfresco Season, commencing Whitsuntide, Bridlington. State Age, Past Experience, and Lowest Terms. First letter to C. BEANLAND, 21, Bloom-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Good Character Comedian, to Sing preferred. Age, lowest terms, and full particulars, HARRY STARR, Lyceum Theatre, Pentre, S. Wales.

WANTED, Young Man, to speak few lines, for Comedy Sketches; must be able to do Back, Forward, or Lion's Leap. KELSO, Alex. T., Widnes, Lancs.

WANTED, Clever Boy Singers, Comedians, Dancers, Acrobats, over 14 and small for age, must be experienced or possess fine voices. Letter only, KING, Hippodrome, Bury.

WANTED, Good Cinématograph Turn, for April 2, one week, near London. Send lowest terms, Box 2,949, "The Era."

WANTED, Operator, at once, for Bioscope, must understand Electric and Limelight, with or without own machine. Sober and Experienced Man only need write. Also Good Bill Poster and Window Biller. Write, R. SILVESTER, Miners' Theatre, Ashington, Northumberland.

WANTED, Cinématograph Operator, for Tour, knowledge of arc and limelight essential; must be steady and reliable, one with knowledge of photography preferred. Apply, Box 2,944, "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Everyone to Know that Mdlle. Von Etta, the World's only Lady Illusionist, is continuing her run of genuine artistic successes. Starring this week, Hippodrome, Hastings; next week, Hippodrome, Boscombe. Von Etta's Palace of Electricity, pronounced by one and all to be the most costly and magnificent stage set extant. Von Etta's Act, a series of bewildering magical problems, including quick-change costumes, all expensive creations, perfect and beautiful in detail. Don't miss this big star act. Top any bill.
For Dates, address,
T. M. PAUL, or
HARRY DAY'S Agency.
Magnificent Plant of Colour Printing in Hand, by Culliford, Ltd., London.

WANTED, Known, Rose Vane, Descriptive Vocalist, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, Empire, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Nellie McMerry, brilliant serio, at Liberty Monday.
Wire, Empire, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Songstress, Vocalist, and Dancer, vacant Monday next and March 26. Wire Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

WANTED, Known, Beatrice Bonnie, Comedienne, splendid appearance; vacant next two weeks. London Pavilion; after to-night, 7, Clifford-street, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Hettie Coventry, Smart Acrobatic Dancer, late of Brewster Troupe, Renad's "Swiss Express," and the McGoverns. 37A Church-st., Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, Ethel Gale, Marvellous Blind Comedienne, who does her business totally unassisted; Harry Carter, Comedian; Double Turn if required. Wire, 94, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, April 2, 9, and 16, by Lilian Warren, the Popular Pictorial Songstress, to follow Stockton-on-Tees. Address all coms., 133, Moss-lane East, Manchester.

WANTED, by Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Operatic Vocalists, April 23, and summer. Offers for piers invited. Next week, Prince's T., Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Truro, Harmonising Duettists. Managers write for vacant dates to 31, Old Hall-street, Middleton, Manchester. Next week, Hippo., Preston. Thank Mr. Broadhead for Tour.

WANTED, March 19, 26, Lillie and Martin, Duettists and Speciality Coon and Champion Top Boot Dancers of the World, just finished two years with Christadulo Company, on the Continent. Wire, 51, Agnes-street, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, April 30, May 21, June 11, 25, Kyoto, Original Japanese Comedy Act; also May Geraldine, Dancing Comedienne. Monday, Empire, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Comedian and Dancer, and Ida Dalton, Serio and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, 30, Henry-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next, by Clyo and Rochelle, Laughable Comedy Act.
Wire, 78, King-street, Southport.

WANTED, Monday, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Dialect Comedian, &c.; also Lil Dresden, Vocalist. Wire, 102, Brook-street, Kennington, London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, 19th and 26th, the great Melia, Irish Comedian and the World's Champion Dancer, open to Dance all comers for £500 a-side. Backers, W. Wilson, Esq., and G. Zammit, Esq. Wire 51, Agnes-street, Waterloo-road, London. S.E.

WANTED, by F. H. Dundas, Actor-Vocalist, Monday, also 26th. Big Success, Moss and Stoll Tour. Wire, 3, Gladstone-street, Leicester.

WANTED, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, Monday next, March 19, and 26. Wire 84, Rochdale-road, Bacup, Lancs. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, Jimmy Shields, Comedian, also April 2. Wire, Coliseum, Glasgow. After Saturday, 167, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday, by Will Harvey, a genuinely funny musical and vocal comedian. Wire, Star and Garter Hotel, Great Hampton-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, wire for C. H. Fergus, wire for (late Harry Jennings), Comedian, in Songs, Patter, and Dancing, the Hit of the Programme this week, Liberty Monday, wire, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge, N.B., or 56, Buccleugh-street, Glasgow. All telegrams answered by return, and I guarantee success for Monday or later dates.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

Important to Proprietors, Managers, and Agents.
WANTED, Known, the Renowned and only Real John Bull Comedian on the British Stage, is at Liberty from May 7, onward. Notice.—The Echo, Friday, Feb. 9, 1906: Hippodrome, Wakefield.—Every turn is a speciality, and topping the bill is Mr. Norman Mills, who impersonates the real John Bull. As a vocalist, impersonator, and elocutionist, Mr. Mills has few equals, and certainly no superiors. Norman Mills is a man of many parts, and a world-famed versatile comedian. The Hit of Every Programme. Tremendous Success, Park Palace, Liverpool, Feb. 26. Last two weeks, Gigantic Starring Success, Tivoli, Leeds. Next two weeks, Hippodrome, Birmingham. All coms., re dates, DONALD'S Agency, 89, Victoria-street, Liverpool. Many thanks to E. H. Bostock, Esq., for return dates and contracts, Hippodromes, Norwich and Ipswich; also Captain E. H. W. Wright, for contracts, for Empire, Portsmouth. Thanks to Fred Willmot, Esq., for buncn of contracts. Good luck to all.

The Twentieth Century Vocal Phenomenon.
WANTED, Managers to Know that Chas. E. Ernest, the Master Mimic, is Vacant March 26, April 2, 9, 16, an Act that stands alone. Original, Vocal, Comedy, Refinement, and Unique numbers. The talk of every town I visit. Managers please note.—The "Human Orchestra," an Act that draws. Wire or write for this novel Star Comedy Speciality. Perm. address, Bohemia House, Fenwick, Ayrshire, N.B.; or to WM. AINSWORTH, Manager, Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees. Hurry up! This Act does not go a-begging. Managers of Pier Pavilions communicate. Have a few Summer Dates vacant.

WANTED, by Will McIvor, "a Vocalist with a Voice," April 16, 23, 30, also Summer vacancies. See Cards. 26th, P., Cork.

WANTED, Monday, also 26th, through Disappointment, Palette, lightning artist, smoke painter, and marvellous dog, Max. Wire, 28, Amberley-st., Bradford.

WANTED, Bookings, Three Distinct Turns, High-class Conjuring, Second Sight, and Bioscope, latest pictures. Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green.

WANTED, Piers, Halls, &c., for First-class Magical Act, Easter, onwards, with or without own combination. Box 2,958, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen, Comedy Duo, and World's Greatest Dancers, the hit of the Lyceum Programme, cheered to the echo, called again and again. Out of 50 artists, the only turn to get a curtain. Vacant March 19, 26, April 2. Offers, RICHARD CASS Agency.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Grimaldis, March 26, onwards. Address, March 19, Gaiety, Birmingham.

WANTED, April 23, 30, on, by Dale and D'Argan, in their Novelty Comedy Act. 179, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Clark and Gold, in their Astronmore Act,
Return to the Continent, Marseilles;
to follow, Nice, Monte Carlo, and Rome.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act, Monday next. A star turn. Success everywhere. Wire, Empire Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Dates, Two Clarkes, Acrobatic Speciality Globe Performers; also Comical Beano, with mechanical donkey; roars of laughter. 2, in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, by Harland and Rollison, only Vacancies April 9, 23, May 7, 14. Sail for New York May 30. Address, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

WANTED, Monday next, also 26th, by Mac and Hill, Comedians, Patterers and Dancers, any distance. Wire, Mac, George Theatre, Crawley.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Maddison Bros., Comedians and Burlesque Boxers, finish to-night Palace, Greenwich; a sure success. Wire, 98, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for the Summer, Al Fresco, two Specialities, Comedy, Acrobatic, Hoop and Glass Acts, no fancy offers. J. JUSTIN, 71, Commercial-road, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next and March 26, by Searle and Eyre, Comedy Duo. Success this week, Greenwich. Wire, 36, King-street, Covent Garden.

WANTED, April 30, onwards, North, by Abex, Miniature Hercules, Mdlle. Florence, Famous Globe Walker. 179, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, The Three Eldorados, Acrobatic and Smart Buck Dancers. Address, 10, Queen-street West, Sunderland.

WANTED, by Abadaroffs, March 26, through Transferring, Sunderland, Monday next, Ohmy's, Leigh, Lancs. Perm., 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by the Albano Troupe, March 19 and 26. The Albanos are the Greatest Refined Musical Speciality now on the British Stage. A Success Everywhere. Manager, Henri Albano, the Celebrated Solo Harpist, and the World's Greatest English Concertina Soloist.
Wire, Wire, Wire, Wire.
A Draw, A Draw.
38, Macdonald-street, Wavertree, Liverpool.

To Proprietors and Managers.
WANTED, Known, that the Renowned Jackson Family, the Smartest, Cleverest Musical Show on the Variety Stage, arrive in England June next, have a few vacant dates previous to their Tour through America August next.

Address all letters,
JACKSON,
23, Spring Valley-gardens, Edinburgh.

WANTED, 19th and 26th, Stavordale Quintette, Refined Speciality. Wire, "Stavordale, London." Write, 29, Ouseley-road, Balham.

WANTED, Monday next, and Onward, by Gilroy, Ventriloquist, and Boston Bioscope. Wire for Monday next, these Two Big Acts. GILROY, 55, Effingham-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Society Ventriloquist and Illusionist, Easter, onward. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, Monday, also 26th. Wire, Sat., Theatre, Ashington; then, Union-rd., Macclesfield.

WANTED, Monday next and 26th, by Gillin, Ventriloquist, with or without Edison Bioscope. Wires and letters, GILLIN, Ventriloquist, Rotherham.

WANTED, Engagements, by Karl Birvell, F.O.S., Ventriloquial Marvel, splendid fit-up, and figures, life-size, big act. Wire, Queen's Hall, Chasetown, Walsall, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Swift Trio, Comic Novel Cyclists, vacant April 2, 9, 16. Monday next, Palace, Lincoln.

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Security, Security, Security.
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Enterprising Managers and Proprietors desirous of a Good Show, write Bounds,
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Good Positions for Side Shows, &c.
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Enclosure now being erected for same.
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Best Fair in Midlands.
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PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Chung Ling Soo, The O'Learys, Paxton Trio, Sisters Mariano, Terry and Lambert, Forrest Co., Dumond Minstrels, Bioscope, Rob Gilmore.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Drummed Out," Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Sisters Aindow, The Silvas, Terry and Bentley, Sawade's Animals, Frank Danby and Co., Bioscope.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Village Wedding," Marlo and Dunham Trio, Alice Simmons, Brown and Le Clerq, Rich and Rich, Elsie Robey, Cora Caselli, Annette Kellerman, Illustrated Song, Bioscope.

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Programme for 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock Performances:—
"The Troubles of Tuffin," George Lashwood, Eugene Stratton, Belle Davis and Piccaninnies, The Boissets, Ten Loonies, Millie Hylton, M. R. Morand, Millicent Marsden, Ted and May Hopkins.

Programme for 6 o'clock Performance:—
"La Mascotte," "Fenella," "Aladdin's Lamp," American Comedy Four, Five Olracs, Ella Shields, Jordan and Harvey, Will Cornish, Bioscope.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Karno's "Moses and Son," Sisters St. Julian, Frazer and Mac, Chas. Lilburn, W. H. Clemart, Royal Six.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Bella and Bijou, Harry Clifford, Goggin and Davis, George Ridgwell, Matweef Hugoston Troupe, Katie Holloway, Prince Fee Lung, Flem and Brok, Empire Comedy Four.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Harry Tate, Beattie Bloom, Chris Richards, Katie Butler, Bioscope, Wisper, La Tostia, Fred E. Terry, Aurora Troupe.

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Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Madge Grey, Marco, Staffords, Agnes Hanson, Cyril Carl, Pictures, "Angling for an Heiress," Gilbert Gerard, Terley.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Laurie's Kindergarten, Hector, Harry Tomlinson, Rinaldos, Bioscope, English and Penley, The Sleedes, Lady Fauntleroy.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Edwin Boyde, Mike S. Whallen, Marriott Edgar, Harry Freeman, R. W. Bentley, Katie Bell, Millie Lindon, Ethel Loftus, Three Silcotts, Dora Lyric, Belle Braham, Mueller and Coyne, Condon and Preston, Pete and Juno, Forrest and King, Duncan and Godfrey, Walter Wade, Bioscope.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Austin Rudd, R. W. Bentley, Neil Kenyon, Ernest Rees, Nat Watkins, Gladys Mavius, Carlotta Levey, Marie Kendall, Dora Lyric, Lola Patey, Kloof and Ramsay, Boswell's Circus, Stewart and Morgan, Thompson's Top Weights, "The Little Charwoman," Pictures, Arthur Prince, Josh Dixon.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"OVER A CUP OF TEA."
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Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

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Harry Lauder, The Karno Troupe, The Follies, Ernest Shand, Florence Esdaile, Norman and Leonard Trio, Harry Rogerson, Russell Wallett, Dandy George, Mike Whallen, Carlotta Levey, Ella Retford, Orpheus, Harry Weldon, Dan Crawley.
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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1906.

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Mr. FRANK MACNAGHTEN.
Business Manager for the Circuit:
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Mr. BRANDON BLAKE.
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Dinah Morris and Coons, Alfred Cyclo, Edna Latonne, Society Quartette, Pallister's Bioscope, Bessie Knight.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Ghita Corri, Paolias, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Violet Stockelle, Myles and May, Bros. Zampah, Swift Trio, Frances Haskoll, Will Lytton.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Alec Forbes and Co., Grace Langley, Ted Farrar, Walker and Lake, Tony Iveson, Emma Don and Co., Joe Humphreys.

PALACE, BATH.
Bosanquet, Hartley Wonders, Baroux and Bion, Frances Drew, Frank Boyce, Alethea, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Ruby Bijou, Maggie Walsh.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Lily Marney, Arthur Aldridge, Ted Saunders, Darrell Trio, Vay's Juveniles, Lambert and Glover, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dickinson and Johnson, Carlton.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Smaua Sing Hpoo, Sadie Seymour, Lynch's Pictures, Lilian, Rumbo Austin, King's College Boys, Helen Charles, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Balsamos.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Barton and Ashley, Gray and Welford, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Rita and Roma, San Remo Girls, Yorkshire Tom, Harry Drew, Jack Brookes, Two Erolls.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Tschernoff's Dogs, May Moodie, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Francisco, Adeline Yohle, Lidden and Hayward, Kit Keen, Bros. Huxter, Lyons Trio.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
G. H. Elliott, Davis and Davis, Pender Troupe, Stilt Walkers, Dunningarto, Chas. Jerome, Valvero, Lee and Kingston, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Griff.

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Telephone, 7285 Central.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
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Matinées Monday and Thursday.
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Matinée every Monday.
Zetta Grey and Co., Gilbert Rogers, Bros. Obo, Astley's Circus, Bessie Spear, Bros. Redmond, Geo. Marriott and Co., Millie Denham, Ray Royal, The Carrolls, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

SURREY THEATRE.
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Matinée every Monday.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Frederica's Dogs, Billy Williams, Bros. Carpati, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Burg, Haud, and Wise, Connie Milton Jack and Evelyn, Darian Sketch Co. in "The Haunted Chamber," Les De Feos, Lady Mansell, The Haverleys.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.
N.B.—All Billing Matter and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit must be addressed to "King's Chambers, Angel-street, Sheffield."

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CALLS for MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1906.

REHEARSAL EVERY MONDAY AT ALL OUR PLACES AT 12 NOON.

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"Red Riding Hood," Harry Varden, Wyndham and Walters, W. J. Churchill, May Moore Duprez, M. J. S. Wood, Pictures, Selma Braatz.

TIVOLI, LEEDS.
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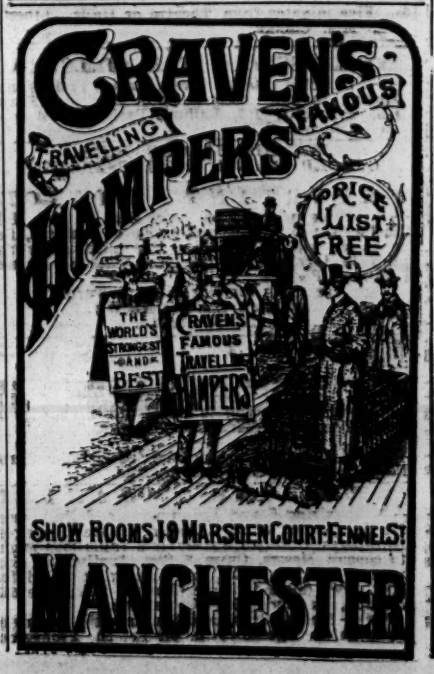

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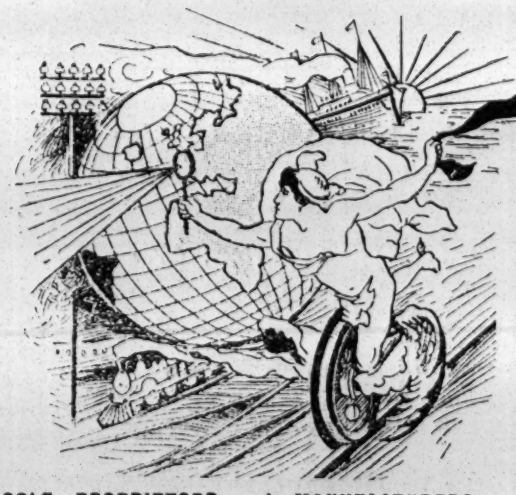

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HALLAM and STANTON, Refined Entertainers, in "A Broken Journey." Hippodrome, Bury.

HAMPSON BROS., in their Clever and Refined Comedy Act, entitled "Old dates for New." Hippo., Hulme.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Empress, Hartlepool.

HARLAND and ROLLISON have Four Weeks Vacant, April 9, 23, May 7, 14, America June. Monday, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

HARRIS and WORTH, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

HARRISON, FRED, The Funny Chinaman. King's Theatre, Nottingham. Agent, Fred Neiman.

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HARTLEY, FRANK, Juggling Schoolboy. Hip., Southampton. Next week, Hip., Boscombe. Thanks G. Barclay, Esq., for contracts.

HARTLEY WONDERS, Jumping Speciality. MAGGIE WALSH, Singing Mill Girl. Two Acts, Palace, Bath.

HAVERLEYS, THE, American Song-Illustrators. All coms., 15 Albert-sq., Clapham-rd., S.W. Open London, The Surrey, Mar. 19.

HAYDE, Hippodrome, St. Helens.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian, Conclude to-night, City Varieties, Leeds. Monday, March 19, King's Theatre, Nottingham.

HECTOR, the Wire King. This week, Empire, Belfast. Next, His Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius. Usual success, Hippo., Hull. Monday, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

HENRIETTE, the Incomparable Vocal and Musical Entertainer. A genuine soloist. Touring. Coms., care of "Era."

HENRIS, LES, M. and MDME., Elegant Equilibrists and Gymnasts. The Original Henris, Palace, Northampton.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Collins's. Coms., 8, Lyme-street, Camden-road, N.W.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist, Tivoli, Manchester. Next week, Palace, Northampton.

HERMAN, SYD, the Hebrew Dialect Comedian. Big Hit of "My Irish Iky Mo." Vac. Monday, 102, Brook-st., Kennington, S.E.

HILL and LANE, March 19, Gaiety, Chatham.

HILL, ROWLAND, "The Man in Skirts." Palace, Glasgow.

HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Star Male Impersonator. Big Success again this week, Tivoli, High Shields. Grand Stockton.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Performers. Liberty March 19, 26. Perm. Address, 47, Nuttall-street, Liverpool.

HINTON and WOOTON, King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

HOPKINS, TED and MAY, Continued Success, Coliseum, W.C.

HOUGHTON, G. W., "The Human Torpedo." Perm. Address, 14, Halliford-st., Islington, London.

HOUSTON, Chinese Magician Extraordinary. HELEN RESKE as the "Mystic Star of Eve." Poole's Myriorama (North Shields).

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and NELLIE). Empire Theatre, Newcastle.

HOWELL, MILLIE, Comedienne. Palace, Blackpool. Agents, Oliver and Holmes.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers; Vacant March 26, April 2. This, Wakefield. Wire or write, Hippo., Carlisle.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Vac. Monday, also 26th. Wire, T., Ashington, Sat., then Union-rd, Macclesfield.

HULME, F. S., This Week, Bottom of Bill, Paddington, Liverpool; Next week, Manchester. "Chips," "Dear Old Home."

HUMBER, FANNIE, Concludes, Hippo., Carlisle. 19th, Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Metropolitan and Chelsea Palace.

HUTT, MR. BOB, Empire, Glasgow. Mr. Bob Hutt.

HUXTER, THREE BROS., This, P., Bradford; Next, P., West Hartlepool. P., 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE, Haymarket, Liverpool. Monday, Hippodrome, Accrington.

IVESON, TONY, Macnaghten Circuit. Monday, Sheffield Grand.

JAQUES, T. C., Comedian and Actor Vocalist. March 19, Empire, Wolverhampton. Dalton's.

JEROME, CHARLIE, The Original. Continued success of "Letty." This week, Bath; next, Palace, Southampton.

JONES, MR. THEODORE, as Jack in "Jack Sheppard" Scena. Big Hit at Maidstone. Vac., April 2, 9. Mar. 19, Hippo., Rochdale.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Palace, Aberdeen.

KARDOC, the Successful Jail Breaker, Thanks Donald's Agency. Artists engaged keep me posted. P. A., 28, Liverpool-street, Dover.

KASHMA BROS., Acrobatic Grotesques, At Lib. March 19, on. Vacant Panto., Cat, Speciality, 1906-7. 174, Kennington-rd., S.E.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE.
Address,
C/o Mrs. Eadie, 2, Apsley-place, Glasgow, S.S.

MR. KEITH FRASER,
Talbot Champneys, Young Marlow.
County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
As Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co.
Theatre Royal, Worthing.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Title-rôle, "The Prodigal Parson."
Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones), Disengaged; offers invited,
Joint or Single. 86, St. George's-road, Peckham.

MR. J. D. GEDDES,
Carsdale, in "Two Little Drummer Boys."
March 26, Kilmarnock (3), Ayr (3).

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
Mr. Arthur Collins's "Prodigal Son" Co.
March 26, Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Leading Man and Producing Plays for J. C.
Williamson, Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne.

MR. ERNEST CH. GITTINS,
Carl Rosa Opera Co.
En route.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
"A Sailor's Sweetheart" Company.
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Gt. Grimsby.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Engaged by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler.
Add., C/o Messrs. WHEELER, O. H., Cape Town.

MR. HAMPTON GORDON, Disengaged. Concludes 65 weeks' London Coliseum. Bass., Bar., Char., Com. 10, King-st, W.C.

MR. J. B. GORDON,
At Liberty.
10, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton, S.W.

MR. and MRS. A. CARLAW GRAND
(Miss Rollo Deas). Light Comedy.
Address, 4, Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey.

MR. FRED GROVE
and MISS EMILY GROVE, Drury Lane Tour,
"Prodigal Son." Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.

MR. CLARENCE HAGUE,
Lead, Heavies. Disengaged.
Address, 78, St. George's-road, S.E.

MR. CHARLES HALLING,
Business-Manager, Messrs. Northway and
Garrod's "Prodigal Parson" Co. Sunderland.

MR. HUBERT HARBEN,
at Liberty,
40, Perham-road, West Kensington.

MR. A. C. HARDIE,
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.
Re-engaged by Miss Hildyard for Easter.

MR. FRANK HARDING
Address, all Coms., 21, Argyll-mansions,
King's-road, Chelsea, S.W. T. No. 2077, Ken.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER,
Disengaged.
Berkeley, Chester-rd, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
Disengaged.
13, Western-road, Ealing, W.

MR. and MRS. HARRY HARRALD
(Miss Violet Wood), Disengaged. Offers Invited. 26, Woodbourne-rd., Attercliffe, Sheffield.

MR. FREDERICK HARTLEY,
Advance Manager, "Sunday" Co.
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
Business Manager, "The Earl and the Girl."
March 26, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

MR. T. P. HAYNES
Specially engaged by W. W. Kelly, Esq.
Dalston Theatre, N.

MR. JERROLD HEATHER,
Starring as Armand, "Camille"; Lieut.
Kokeby "When Woman Hates." T. R., Castleford.

MR. LAURENCE HENSLEY,
Artie, Earl of Shrimpton, in Geo. Musgrove's
"Prince of Pilsen" Co. Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. GRAHAME HERINGTON,
Disengaged. Principal Comedian and
Stage-Manager, 36, Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. CHARLES HERMANN, Having recovered from his severe illness, at Lib.
Add., C/o Golden Lion Hotel, Bolton, Lancs.

MR. DALZIEL HERON,
At Liberty.
Address, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR. A. T. HILTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES,
Guiderius, in "Cymbeline."
At Liberty April 14. Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD. All Business communications to be made direct to Mr.
CECIL BARTH, 8, Melina-place, St. John's Wood, N.W.

MR. JOHN J. HOOKER,
"Saints and Sinners" Tour,
Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE HOWARD
(Miss Clara Earle), "A Royal Divorce"
(Suburban Tour), March 25, Dalston Theatre.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD
(Miss Carlotta Anson),
"Claudian" Co., Opera House, Chatham.

MR. ERIC HUDSON,
at Liberty,
18, Gordon-street, London, W.C.

MR. REGINALD A. HUNT,
Producer and S.M. of "Claudian." New
Perm., 56, Delaware-mansions, Maida Hill, W.

MR. and MRS. HORACE HUNTER
(Miss Lily Hammersley). Dis. Lead, Heavies.
Address, care of "The Era."

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Heavies, Old Man, and Char. Offers invited.
Allan Wilkie's Rep. Co., Th. Royal, Plymouth.

MR. and MRS. F. JACQUES (Miss M. Rayner), offers invited. Spring and onwards.
Soubrette (con.), and Char. 52, Crowndale-rd., N.W.

MR. MAX JEROME,
"Saints and Sinners" Co.
March 25, T. R., Cardiff.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring the Success, "Life's Sweetest Sins."
Address, 26, Wightman-road, Finsbury-park, N.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES,
Stage Managing Stock Season.
Terris Theatre, S.E.

MR. THEO JONES and ADA MANSFIELD, Touring "Jack Sheppard" Scena.
Vac. April 2, 9. March 26, Hippodrome, Wigan.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON,
Backbite, Hastings, Captain Smooth, &c.
Compton Comedy Co., Alex. T., Greenock.

MR. F. JOYNSEN - POWELL,
"A Royal Divorce" (Scala Production)
Suburban Tour. 49, Waldemar-av., Hurlingham.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Paul Martin in "The Duffer."
Address, Grand Theatre, Hull.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. and MRS. EDGAR KENT (Miss Ada Clarke), "Saints and Sinners," on Tour.
Permanent, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Returned from America, Disengaged.
Blenheim Lodge, Teddington.

MR. CECIL KINGSLEY,
Billy, in "Madame Lingerie."
Palace Theatre, W.

MR. J. POOLE KIRKWOOD,
Mr. Leigh Lovel's Co.
March 26, Opera House, Cheltenham.

MR. ARTHUR KNIGHT, at Liberty,
Character and Management; MISS EDITH
KNIGHT. "At Duty's Call." T. R., Rotherham.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Address,
19, Dunalley-parade, Cheltenham.

MR. FRED KNIGHT,
Thanks Miss May for releasing.
Rehearsing Criterion, W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE,
Offers invited for Light Comedy.
Address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. FRANK LACY,
Garrick Theatre,
W.C.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE, Manager and Stage Dir., Mr. Mouillot's "Geisha" and
"Greek Slave" Co., Standard Theatre.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price). Disengaged March 26.
3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. EDMUND LEA,
Waldorf Theatre, W.C.
Address, 106 Rusthall-avenue, Bedford Park, W.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON,
Disengaged 28th inst.
Address, 4, Beaumont-crescent, West Kensington.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Disengaged for the Autumn.
Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. BRUCE LINDLEY,
The Tramp in "A Message from Mars."
Offers invited after Easter. Grand T., Birmingham.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "The White Chrysanthemum" Co.
Marlborough Theatre, N.

MR. EDWIN LING,
Disengaged, S. M. and Char.
Address, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY,
"The Village Blacksmith" Co.
Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Disengaged.
28, Chelverton-road, Putney.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART
would like the winner of Lincoln and Grand
National. O. H., Wakefield.

MR. and MRS. STUART LOMATH,
Lead and Character, with Frank Bateman,
Esq. March 26, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE.
Disengaged.
Address, 7, Bridson-street, Liverpool.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
(Agnes St. Clair), at Liberty.
64, Hove-avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

MR. HENRY LUDLOW,
Marquis de Beaumont, "A Royal Divorce."
Perm., c/o Canon Corfe, Truro.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
Disengaged.
7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. FRANK LYNDON, at Liberty
April 23, for Heavies and Intense Character.
March 26, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY.
Own Tour, "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route, or Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN,
Disengaged.
Ad., 1, Rochdale-place, Mount Florida, Glasgow.

MR. and MRS. W. MANFREE (Amy Wood) and AMY MANFREE, "Silver King"
Co. (4th Tour). Dis. April 30. T. R., Huddersfield.

MR. D. LEWIN MANNERING
Burgomaster Stackman, "An Enemy of the
People." Gaiety T., Manchester. Dis. April 1.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
Tommy Flipper, "'Appy 'Ampstead." At
Liberty in April. 18A, Hartswood-road, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend" Co.
March 26, Athenæum, Lancaster.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN, Advance Manager. Mr. Cyril Maude's "Beauty and
the Bargee" Co. March 27, Grand T., Croydon.

MR. HENRY W. MAY.
All Kinds of Music Composed and Orchestrated. Pantomimes, &c. Add., C/o "The Era."

MR. QUINTON McPHERSON,
Engaged by Mr. Charles Frohman.
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MR. and MRS. ARTHUR MERVYN,
Juvenile Leading Business. Arrangements
complete till autumn. Star T., Swansea.

MR. and MRS. HUGH METCALFE
(Miss V. Montgomery), Dis. Joint offers invited. Add., The Den, Queen's-rd., Wimbledon, S.W.

MR. BERTRAM MILLAR,
Address,
47, West 28th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

MR. GEORGE MILLER,
Disengaged.
Address, 409, Edgware-road, W.

MR. GEORGE MITCHELL,
Disengaged, Lead, Disengaged.
54, Liverpool-street, Salford.

MR. ANDREW MONEY, "Two Little Drummer Boys," Dis. April 23, Lead or
Heavies; Miss M. RAMSEY. T. R., Darlington.

MR. G. M. MONTANINI,
Address,
C/o "The Era."

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel,
"Napoleon the Great" Co. T. R., Workington.

MR. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS,
Disengaged; immediate offers invited.
Perm. address, The Blorenge, Taunton.

MR. EDWARD MORGAN,
Disengaged. Character, Comedy, or Musical.
Address, A. A., 10, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

MR. & MRS. KENYON MUSGRAVE,
"Romeo" production, G., B'ham, concludes
to-night. Thank Buchanan, Chute. A.A.

MR. and MRS. J. D. NEWTON (Miss Kitty Clinton). Specially engaged for new
production. Grand Theatre, Edinburgh. Mar. 19.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
Heavy Lead, "The Prodigal Parson."
March 26, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON,
Lead, "The Luck of Life" Co.,
Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
Address,
Daly's Theatre, W.

MR. LEONARD PAGDEN,
With "Sunday."
March 26, O. H., Wakefield.

MR. ROBSON PAIGE, Engaged by Forbes Robertson, Esq. MABEL SYRINGA,
at Liberty BLACKMORE, or 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. MARK PATON
(Miss Mabel Rees), Disengaged, for Character and Comedy. 1, Stockwell-avenue, Brixton, S.W.

MR. POPE PAX,
Journalist and Dramatic Critic,
Address, 18, Trinity-road, Birmingham.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Monks, in "Oliver Twist" (Mr. Tree's Co.),
March 26, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.

MR. & MRS. WALTER PEMBERTON,
Mr. Cyril Maude's Co., Grand, Fulham.
Disengaged Autumn.

MR. FRED PENLEY, Mr. Brownlow in "Oliver Twist" (Mr. Howard's Co.).
March 26, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MR. SANDON PERKINS,
Business Manager, open for offers.
Address, 36, Emperor's Gate, S.W.

MR. and MRS. FRED W. PERMAIN
(Miss Florence Le Clercq), Mr. Wheeler's
Comedy Co., Cape Town, South Africa; or A.A.

MR. W. H. PERRETTE,
Disengaged April 2.
74, Lupus-street, London, S.W.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
(Miss Gertrude Price), Mrs. Clement Scott's
Co. Address, 10, Oberstein-road, London, S.W.

MR. THOMAS J. PHILLIPS, General Manager, Mr. Cyril Maude's "Beauty and
the Barge" Co. March 26, Grand T., Fulham.

MR. SYDNEY PRICE,
Disengaged at Easter.
Grand Theatre, Derby.

MR. & MRS. DONALD PRICE-EVANS
(Miss Marcella Hudson),
"Talk of the Town" Co., Eccles.

MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE,
Rehearsing,
Vaudeville Theatre, London.

MR. and MRS. WALTER PURVIS
(Miss Lily Brammer), "His Majesty's Guests."
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

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Business Manager for Mr. Bert Coote.
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MR. and MRS. SIDNEY RENNEF,
S. R., Davy, "Sunday" Co.,
Opera House, Wakefield.

MR. PERCY RHODES,
On Tour as Paul Sylvaine in "Leah Kleschna."
At Lib. April 23. 54, St. Maur-rd., Fulham, S.W.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
Weinstein and Stage Management. "What
the Butler Saw." King's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
at Liberty. Permanent address,
34A, Aldis-street, Tooting, S.W.

MR. WALTER ROBERTS,
Rudolph Laski, "Passion's Power,"
March 26, Victoria T., Burnley. Six Nights.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON, Cius Lucius, "Cymbeline," Queen's T., Disengaged
Easter. 115, Grosvenor-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE,
Disengaged shortly. Light Comedy, &c.
Add., Beimeath, Upper Dorset-rd., Bexhill-on-Sea.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS.
Address all communications,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. HARRY ROUSBY, Comedian,
Disen. Easter. Good offers invited. Comedy or
Drama. Mar. 26, Star T., Liverpool. Six Nights.

MR. FREDERICK SANDY,
General-Manager for Mr. Andrew Melville's
"Driven from Home" Co. T. R., Attercliffe.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT,
Principal Comedy, "Great Awakening" Co.
Theatre Royal, Croydon.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN,
Tommy Keston, "The Freedom of Suzanne."
March 26, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
and Miss ALICE ARDEN (Mrs. S.),
2, Joubert's-mansions, Jubilee-place, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. EDWARD SIDNEY,
"Freedom of Suzanne" Co.,
Theatre Royal, Pirkenhead (six nights).

MR. FRED SINCLAIR,
Monday,
Hippodrome, Brighton.

MR. JAMES SKEA,
Character Actor. Crockett, "Lady of
Ostend" Co. Theatre, Lancaster.

MR. GEO. M. SLATER,
Manager and Producer.
39, Upper Gloucester-pl., Dorset-sq., London, N.W.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY.
Manager for Mr. Robt. Courtneidge,
Apollo Theatre, W.

MR. FRANK STANLEY,
Acting-Manager,
Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. E. STANTON - SHARP,
Baron Bonelli, in the "Eternal City,"
March 26, Lyceum, Sheffield.

MR. W. R. STAVELEY,
"Little Father of the Wilderness," and
"Mountain Climber," Camden Theatre, N.W.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
At Liberty, Business or Stage Management.
180, New Kent-road, S.E.

MR. VICTOR STEVENS,
All Communications,
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MR. and MRS. W. S. STEVENSON
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Offers Invited. Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

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Present arrangements
complete.

MR. ERNEST ST. JOHN,
General Gordon, "At Duty's Call."
Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

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Comedy or Character, at Liberty.
140, Acre-lane, Brixton, S.W.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident Manager (Twelth Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barriw-in-Furness.

MR. EDWARD SWINTON,
Principal Character Comedian.
Disengaged April 2. Add., P.O., Pembroke Dock.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS, Engaged by Chas. Frohman, KATE PARRY, Disengaged. Light Com., Juv., &c. Prince's, Poplar.

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MR. JAMES C. TAYLOR,
As Benvolio in "Romeo and Juliet."
Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. J. MILNE TAYLOR, Heavies, Character. Disengaged May 28. "The Golden
Ladder" Co., Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE
(Louise Hampton),
New King's Theatre, Pitfield-street, Hoxton, N.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER,
Dis., Comedy, Char., Mus., Com., Drama, or
Management. 51, Bridge-road, Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. E. W. THOMAS
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MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON,
Light Comedy, Dudes. Disengaged.
Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. CHARLES THORBURN,
General-Manager, George Musgrove's "Prince
of Pilsen" Co., Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. WALTER THORNTON
Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's
Co. March 26, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

MR. ALFRED C. TOONE,
Musical Director, "Lady Madcap,"
O. H., Leicester. Dis. April 30.

MR. DUNCAN TOVEY,
Address,
Worplesdon, Guildford.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS,
Business or Stage-Management.
Address, 57, Bridge-avenue, Hammersmith.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL,
"Breed of the Treshams." Dis. Easter.
Theatre Royal, Bradford.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD,
As Charles Surface, &c. At Liberty Ap. 9.
Letters, 1 Holland Villas-road, W.

MR. A. W. TYRER,
As Harry Dallas, "Walls of Jericho" Co.
March 26, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

MR. GEORGE UNWIN,
The Scala Theatre,
W.

MR. RICHARD VANE,
Disengaged for Leading Business. To-day,
O. H., Dudley; then, 68, Nicolson-st., Edinburgh.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN
Miss M. LEWES, New Theatre, W.C. C. B. V.
at Liberty. 25, Kathleen-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. FRED VAUGHAN,
General Business-Manager,
"Life of a Showman" Co

MR. ALBERT VERNON,
Musical Director, "Orchid" Co.
March 26, T. R., Dewsbury.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON,
"A Royal Divorce."
Dalston Theatre, N.

MR. ARTHUR VEZIN,
Care of "Sunday" Co.
Next week, Opera House, Wakefield.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS
(Miss Lucy Beaumont), "Dr. Wake's
Patient" Co. Next, Alex. T., Stoke Newington, N.

MR. ARTHUR WALCOTT,
Disengaged.
Address, 10, Bruswick-square, W.C.

MR. A. E. WALKER,
Mr. Vallerton, "Lucky Durham. This, T. R.,
Bournemouth; next, P. G. Theatre, Folkestone.

MR. EDWIN WALTON.
Address,
Playgoers' Club, 6, Clement's Inn, W.C.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM,
Metropole Theatre,
Birmingham.

MR. E. C. WARBURTON-GAMBLE,
Address, Willoughby and Ward's Co.
C/o J. J. Miller, Post Office-place, Melbourne.

MR. ALBERT WARD,
Star Lead. Disengaged April 2.
March 25, 9, Portland-street, Rochdale.

MR. HYLTON WARDE,
Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler's South African
Comedy Co. Tour. 17, Doris-rd., Norwich, or A.A.

MR. W. LEMMON WARDE,
Disengaged.
47, Algiers-road, Ladywell, S.E.

MR. FRANK WEATHERSBY,
Theatrical Agency, 3, Bedford-street, Strand,
'Phone, 3781 Cen. Tel., "Frivolous, London."

MR. WYN WEAVER,
Engaged by
Mr. B. F. Maltby.

MR. CHARLES WEIR,
Theatre Royal,
Nottingham.

MR. and MRS. ALFRED WELLESLEY
(Miss Beatrice Webb), "Dr. Wake's Patient"
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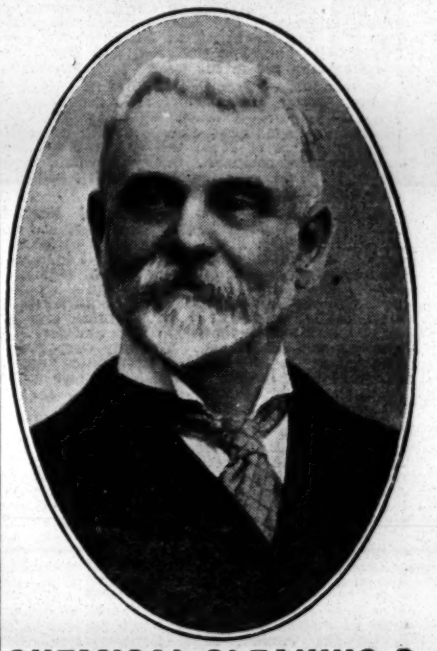

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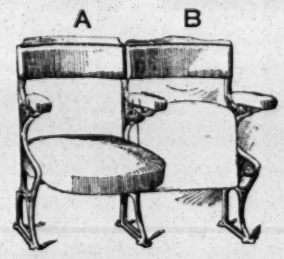

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—*When it was Dark* is presented here this week by Mr. Walter Maxwell's company. All the principals play with force and skill, and, thanks mainly to their efforts, the drama proves highly successful. Mr. H. Athol Forde makes an admirable Sir Robert Llewellyn, and Miss Margaret Damer is notably good as Gertrude Hunt, playing brightly and vivaciously at the start, and with marked dramatic power in the two last acts. Mr. Leslie Carter gives a telling portraiture of the evil genius of the piece, Constantine Schwabe; and Mr. Rupert Leslie makes a bold and manly Basil Gortre. Miss Hope Mayne acts with sympathetic charm as Helena. Other parts effectively filled are those of the Rev. Ambrose Byars by Mr. Frank Melrose, Hamilton Hill by Mr. Humphrey Warden, Lord Caistor by Mr. Stanley Lathbury, and Katherine Moberby by Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—One of the most interesting items on the programme this week is the amateur dancing competition, which has proved extremely amusing and attractive. The Arleys are clever as cyclists, and the Fordyces are heartily applauded as dancers, Miss Cissie Carlette is an accomplished mimic, and the Sisters Judge provide a capital turn with their performing cockatoos. Among the other artists who are specially well received are Mr. Bert Kemp (cartoonist), the Du Gros Trio (comedy gymnasts), the Two Neros (gymnasts), and Grapho and Jackson in a scene, entitled *In a Restaurant*. The Bioscope pictures are as usual fresh and interesting.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Arnold Bell's company opened here on Monday with his répertoire company in *Ben Ma Chree*. Mr. Arnold Bell gave a powerful impersonation of Dan Mylrea; Evan Mylrea was a very praiseworthy performance by Mr. John Belton; Mr. Cuthbert Imrie was good as the Bishop; and Mr. F. C. Robson must be complimented on his Davy Fayle. Mr. Frank Carlile was well cast as Mr. Harcourt; and Miss Lilian Earle proved herself a capable artist as Mona. *Called Back, The Shaughraun, The Octoroon*, and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* are in the week's programme.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmott, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—A smart bill is presented here this week, including the Arleys, with a particularly smart set of dogs; the Sisters Poole, Houdoun-Cameron company, George Hyman, Nellie Rose, W. H. Downs (ballad vocalist), and Maxford and O'Neill.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is giving a capital interpretation of *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. Geo. Steel as Lieut. Manley is clever; and Mr. Cyril Harrison submits a capital portrayal of Captain Manley; whilst as Terry Mr. Geo. Scully is amusing. Mr. Villiers Stanley's Nebu Singh is a finely-played rôle; and Mr. J. S. Shedden as Abul is good. Miss Lily Grey gives a talented portrayal of Kate; Miss Kate Bruce is clever as Mrs. Ingleby; and Miss Melrose Millett as Ghuzenah is capable.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—*Leah Kleschna* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Geo. Ingleton presents as Kleschna a strong, daring, and definite personality, and Miss Pearle Gardner as his daughter Leah a deeply impressive characterisation. Mr. Percy Rhodes interprets the part of Paul Sylvaine with great ability and discretion; as Raoul Berton Mr. Pat Newhall gives a careful picture of an unmitigated scoundrel; and excellent impersonations are given of other characters more or less important by Messrs. Cyril Rawdon, Leslie Lees, Gissing Walters, W. Wilson, Geo. Fairbairn, and Misses Mary Barton, Lilian Locke, Ida Vinnall, Ethel Lorimer, and Alice Davis.

The Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Included in a varied programme is Mozzetto, a clever juggler; the Andreassens, whose vagaries of a nautical kind are comical in the extreme; Oliver Conroy, who scores with patter and song; J. H. Hawtrey, actor-vocalist; Pueblo and Cropp, Creole speciality artists; Kendrick and Laura, with songs and dances; the Four Maisanos, musical eccentrics; James De Voye's educated horse Billy; Mlle. De Rose, lady baritone; and the bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—Mr. Geoffrey De Mowbray's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with Max Goldberg's drama, *The Bank of England*. Mr. Charles H. Lester is to be commended for his natural rendering of the part of Sherlock Holmes; Mr. Henry Compton gives a forcible interpretation of the scheming Stephen Hartley, Mr. Harry T. Wood is a success as Eric Dane, Mr. Charles Ninian is good as Gordon Isaacs; and excellent service is rendered by Mr. Harry Harrald as Sir Sidney Barraclough, Mr. F. Ernstone as Godfrey Dane, Mr. Percy Braithwaite as the Hon. Bertie Burlington, and Mr. Charles Goff in the comedy part of Tommy Sprouts. Miss Ellen Mosley as Margaret Dane gives a pleasing performance, Miss Ada Collins as Sylvia Barraclough fulfils the requirements of the part in a satisfactory manner, Miss Phyllis Orme is vivacious as the irrepressible American widow, Aminta J. Beane, and Miss V. Wood is good as Lucy Lockett.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—The "bill of fare" provided here includes Mr. Ben Hur, an ideal athlete and weight-lifter; Miss Maidie Scott (a pleasing comedienne), the Three Royal Temples (vocalists of a high order), the Two Whites (American comedy artists), Mr. Fred Hallam (comedian), Speedwell (in a smart show as a lightning portrait painter), Mr. Bert Williams (a good ventriloquist), and Mr. E. C. Clayton's pictures shown by the Attergraph.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. William J. Miller's company is appearing here this week in the French romantic play, *The Throne of Terror*. The rôle of Captain Eugene is played by Mr. Roy Multon in a capable manner, his sweetheart—Marguerite de Roquefort—finding a most sympathetic exponent in Miss Katherine Maude Davis. Mr. W. J. Miller gives a powerful rendering of Maximillian Robespierre, and Mr. W. J. Thompson is responsible for a well-studied piece of acting as Comte de Roquefort. Miss Rose Salisbury as Victoria D'Almonte gives a clever and effective portrayal. Some amusing scenes are contributed by Mr. Bert Ellis as Joujou and Miss Russell as Peppietta.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, in that popular play *The Village Blacksmith* is paying a return visit this week. The title-rôle is forcibly and admirably portrayed by Mr. Sam Livesey, who, as John Strong, makes a typical blacksmith; while Miss Laura Hansen as Kate Strong plays her part very commendably. Considerable ability is shown by Mr. Joseph Carter as Captain Leo, the evil genius of the play; Mr. George V. Campbell is highly amusing as Billy Twigg; Mr. Edwin Mayden is efficient as Lucas Marlow; Mr. Thos. E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins, and Mrs. T. C. Livesey as Sal Parkins, work hard, and are worthy of praise; Miss Cassie Edwards is seen to advantage as Ruth Parkins. Special mention must be made of Miss Bertha Hanbury, who, as Harry Strong, the blacksmith's child, displays remarkable ability and intelligence.

Public Hall.—Manager, Mr. G. E. Hoey.—Mr. Jasper Redfern opened here on Tuesday with a capital animated picture and variety entertainment, including the Seven Musical Savonas, the Six Cycling Elliotts; the Monckton, in their comedy musical act; the Lavelles, in their comedy acrobatic act; the Royal Raynors, demon contortionists; and Miss Amy Bellwood, comedienne and dancer.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's company in *Somebody's Sweetheart* is here. Mr. E. H. Bertram sings well and plays breezily as Stanton Ashleigh, Mr. Percy Maitland is sufficiently scheming as Stephen Lever ton, Miss Dorah Condor represents Freddie Ashleigh with much skill, and Mr. Geo. P. Lester as Lem Lee and Mr. Hyland Shea as Old Joe give good character-studies. Miss Dot Reeve is an attractive Lulu, Miss Cordelia Knight does well as Zora, and the humour of Martin Blabbs is tellingly displayed by Mr. W. H. Kirby.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and company are here this week in the thrilling drama *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Henry Rutland is very good in the dual parts of Isaacs, a money-lending Jew, and Karnciphus, a mummy; others calling for special mention being Mr. C. Watson Mill as Jim Murley and Mr. Gilson Brooke as Railton. Miss Rosalind Tate as the Serpent Woman, Risca Mallison, carries through her heartless schemes with unflinching coolness; Miss Cissie Podmore shows much ability in her handling of Doris Melville; as an eccentric servant maid, Miss Kittie Melville creates much hilarity. Others who deserve cordial recognition are Mr. Milner Noble (Pharosaphus), Mr. Percy Horton (Guise Strange), Mr. N. Carter Slaughter (Reggie Verincourt), and Mr. Alfred Maurice (Eric Melville).

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schubert.—The current programme includes Bosanquet, the accomplished violin virtuoso, and Hyam C. Travers, the well-known comedian. Alethea, the flexible and graceful contortionist gymnast, is loudly applauded; the Hartley Wonders perform jumping feats in and out of barrels with wonderful sureness; Maggie Walsh, the original singing Mill Girl, is accorded a warm reception; Baroux and Bion secure approbation for their eccentric acrobatic and comic boxing interlude; Ruby Bijou scores in her various styles of dancing; Frank Boyce, character comedian, has a success in his song "England." Raymond's Bio-tableaux are also included in the bill.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—*The Curate* is here this week. Mr. Arthur Mervyn as the Rev. John Audley gives a neat, clear, and crisp rendering of the part; Mr. Percy Conningsby plays the old farmer correctly, and Messrs. F. Stuart and C. Spencer do justice to their parts. Miss Hettie Jeffries deserves warm commendation for her admirably-studied and executed study of the boy trumpeter; Miss Agnese D'Aragon plays Mrs. Muggs with considerable skill, and Miss Rosa Mervyn is quiet, ladylike, and effective as Mabel Verner.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—The first visit of *The Three Little Maids* to this town was welcomed by a good house on Monday. Three more charming little maids could not be desired than Miss Vera Valling (Ada), Miss Cora Lingard (Hilda), and Miss Edith Colley (Edna), each artist playing her part with unusual freshness and delicacy. Miss Kate Graham-Beck excellently sustained the rôle of Lady St. Malory; Mr. Charles A. Stevenson was the life of the piece as Lord Cheyne; and Mr. Ewart Drake as Cupid the caddy provoked continuous merriment. Mr. Garnet Wilson made a good Bryan Molyneux; and Mr. Wilfred Heath's fine voice was well suited to the part of Monsieur de L'Orme. Mr. Charles Leverton submitted a painstaking impersonation of the Vicar of St. Malory.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened here on Monday with Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox's comedy in three acts, *The Freedom of Suzanne*, which met with a good reception. Miss Beatrice Lindley—a charming actress—interpreted the rôle of Suzanne Trevor in a delightful manner. As Charles Trevor, Mr. Herbert J. Bentley was in every sense successful, his fine acting being deservedly admired. Clever character-sketches of the irritating mother-in-law, Lady Charlotte Trevor, and Miss Fanny Minching were presented by Miss Emily Patterson and Miss Charlotte Mead; and much praise must be accorded Miss Violet Ley for her capital impersonation of Lady Isabel Bury; and Mr. F. G. Thurstans was very humorous as Fitzroy Harding, and must be commended for his unexaggerated impersonation. Miss Annie Stalmon's acting as Mrs. Tunstall was all that could possibly be desired; and other rôles were efficiently sustained by Messrs. Wm. Mallalieu, R. Harley West, Townsend Whitling, S. Selwyn, and Bruce Smith. The comedietta *Two in a Trap* makes a clever curtain-raiser.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—The chief attraction at this popular hall is the musical comedy extravaganza in three scenes, entitled *The Belle of the Orient*, provided by Mr. Joe Peterman and his accomplished company. Miss Jessie Wilton made a charming Ruth Verney; and Mr. Joe Peterman was successful as Ike Novinski. Donaldson Bros. and Sidell produced their zoological comedy with the happiest results, the fun being fast and furious; and Shawlene whistled cleverly. One of the finest gymnastic acts seen here for a long time is provided by the Bros. Bright; and Mr. Frank Seeley, comedian, takes well. Miss Winifred Ward (male impersonator), Eugene and Willie (musical acrobatic clowns), the Sisters Melba (vocalists), and the Palace pictures are also included in the programme.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Bella and Bijou, the accomplished comedy duo, head the bill, and have been most successful with their attractive act. The Empire Comedy Four appear to advantage in their vocal and humorous performance, and a sensation has been caused by Prince Fee Lung, the clever Chinese magician. The Matweef Hugistona, Russian vocalists, dancers, and acrobats, have made a big hit; and Goggin and Davis, a funny couple, appear in their mirth-provoking act. The fine baritone voice of Mr. Geo. Ridgewell has been heard to much advantage; and other appearing are Miss Babs Lloyd (comedienne and dancer), the Dashmars Flen and Brok, and Mr. Harry Clifford (comedian).

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alexandroff Troupe are the chief attraction here, and these accomplished Russian singers and dancers have made a big hit. Will Onda and Company provide much merriment with their capital novelty, *Motor Maniac*; and Diana Hope and Company provide a capital entertainment in their society episode, *Her Good Name*. The Davenports execute some startling feats, and deserve their title of "lightning magicians," and Miss Lilian Rigby is a fascinating comedienne. Mr. George Prince's comic songs have been hugely enjoyed; and others appearing with success are the Bros. Onda (acrobatic comedians), the Westwoods (clever comedy cyclists), the Sisters Edwards (vocalists, dancers, &c.), and the attractive Alhambra Bioscope with some new pictures.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—The boards here are occupied by Miss Mary Austin and company with *The Cotton Spinner*. Mr. John S. Haydon depicts the character of the bluff old cotton spinner in an admirable manner; Miss Mary Austin is eminently satisfactory as Mary Prescott, her acting possessing both finish and charm; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is good as Arthur Northbury, and the same remark applies to Miss Enid Ross as Constance Harrington. Miss Bella Power and Mr. Ernest C. Edwards are amusing as Lady Charlotte and the Major.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Christian* is attracting large audiences. Miss Grace Chalmers is the Glory Quayle, and acquits herself admirably; Mr. Frank Tennant gives a consistent and incisive rendering of the Hon. John Storm; Lord Robert Ure is powerfully acted by Mr. Renand Lockwood; Mr. Charles Hill is well suited as Parson Quayle, and Mr. Stanley Radcliffe is an excellent Father Lamplugh; Mr. Charles E. Dering is a good Archdeacon Wealthy, and the Faro King is well represented by Mr. Bert Conway. Miss Vashti Wellbourne as Polly Love is worthy of special commendation; Miss Molly Hayden is an admirable Mrs. Callender, and Miss May Weir is efficient as Aggie Jones.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—The reappearance of Mr. Wilkie Bard after a somewhat prolonged absence has been hailed with satisfaction. Hill and Whittaker, musical speciality artists, in a really clever entertainment, have made a big hit; and Mr. Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian, is well received; Landford and Lyons, two rollicking variety artists, are great favourites; and prominent turns are also contributed by Miss Nellie Stratton (serio), the Bohemians (comedy instrumentalists), the Boston Twins (comedians), Miss Lizzie Kirk (comedienne and dancer), Mr. Frank Leon (clog dancer), and Miss Nellie Ray (comedienne).

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—Mr. Martin Harvey's visit was well calculated to sustain the tide of prosperity that has set in here, his inauguration this week of the spring season being truly auspicious. On Monday a crowded house and a great ovation awaited the popular actor in *After All*, which was seen here on the former visit. On Tuesday interest quickened in the first appearance here of Mr. Harvey as Hamlet, which part he declaimed with matchless voice, perfect elocution, and fine erudition. Miss N. de Silva revealed sweet and gentle traits in the character of Ophelia; and Mr. Charles Glenney as Claudius, Mr. Percy Anstey as Horatio, Mr. Fred Wright, sen., as Polonius, Mr. Geo. Cooke as Rosencrantz, Mr. Leonard Craske as Laertes, and Miss Frances Ivor as Gertrude are entitled to praise. *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance* was down for Thursday evening.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Lady Midcap*, in the delightful and vivacious personality of Miss Marie Studholme, figures here on a return visit, which has been eminently successful. Miss Studholme, whose dainty ways and merry capers are enthusiastically applauded, is again well supported. Mr. J. Robert Hale could not be surpassed in the "stoney" rôle, Bill Stratford; while his ally, Posh Jenkins, is cleverly represented by Mr. Oliver J. Round. Mr. Arthur Longley does exceedingly well as Trooper Smith; Mr. E. Statham Staples clothes the rôle of Corporal Ham with infinite drollery; Mr. Ernest Mahar as the volatile Comte acts with excellent spirit; and Mesdames Nina Sevening, Mabel Russell, and Ethel Griffies possess all the graces and fascinations of their sex as Gwennie Holden, Susan, and Mrs. Layton respectively; while the other rôles are also in good hands.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Romeo and Juliet* having been restored to the bill, thus making four weeks in all, Mr. Milton Rosmer and Miss Edith Turner have resumed their parts, and, supported by the clever company already mentioned, continue to meet with gratifying success.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*The Scarlet Clue*, furnished by Miss Grace Warner and company, has been followed with much interest here. Miss Warner, in her enthralling portrayal of Scarlet Sal being the centre of attraction. Mr. Geo. Gordon is highly successful as Michael Stanton; Mr. J. Leighton Leigh doubles the rôles of the twin brothers, Harry and Jack Esmond, in a clever manner; and Mr. Jack Clarence as Sir Desmond Lisle, Mr. Horace Moseley as Croker, Mr. Raymond as Billy (with songs), and Mr. J. E. Tomlinson as Crazy Jim display much ability. Miss Grace Jones wins admiration as Elsie Dane, Miss Kathleen Cranston shines as Mother Scrooge, and Miss Esther Dean as Musette; Miss Phyllis Massey as the boy Reggie and Edith Rutland as Little Polly act commendably.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*Under the Czar*, the new Anglo-Russian drama by Mr. Fred Jarman, is represented here by the author's company. Mr. Gerald Smythe as Captain Johnson leaves no doubt as to his ability; Mr. Bertram H. Rose acts the rôle of Nicholas Yeroslaff with much skill; Mr. W. H. Riley appears as Zakhai Koresky in a praiseworthy fashion; Mr. C. P. Amalia satisfactorily realises the character of Count Nesseldorf; and Mr. Hugh Romsay as Michael Granoviski, Mr. Louis Weston as Paul Ignat, Mr. Lawrence Brien as Alexis Petroff, Mr. R. Tarrant as Victor Kleff, and Mr. F. Diamond as Anton increase the attractiveness of the piece. Miss Kathleen Cavanagh as the Russian girl, Sonia, obtains much sympathy, and Miss Linda Riley as Siomka and Miss Lucy Murray as Zara are much admired.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Silver Cross*, in which appears Mr. F. A. Marston and company, is giving much satisfaction here with its musical and other attractions. Mr. Marston submits a clever character-sketch of the old salt, Ben Adams; Messrs. H. King and Henry Dawson represent virtue and vice successfully in the respective characters of Arthur and Philip Frewin; Miss Ada Hender as the widow plays with much perception; Miss Evelyn Francis as Sunshine acts in a most agreeable style, while her songs give general delight; and Mr. Sid Bazley, who was awarded the compliment of a benefit last night, acts and sings with excellent humour as Tomkyns Quinton.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*Florodora*, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, is drawing all Aston and its environs with its seemingly inexhaustible attractions. Mr. Gus Danby represents Tweedlepunch at his very best, and his reception is commensurate with his performance, which is clever throughout. Mr. Edward Crosland fits the rôle of Frank Abercoed admirably, his fine singing and acting securing rich applause; Miss Florence Hersee as Angela sends the audience into raptures with her charming presence and exquisite acting and singing; Miss Gwladys Elvey appears with the greatest success as Dolores; and Miss Kate Leicester as Lady Holyrood and Mr. Harold Perry as Captain Arthur Donegal do full justice to their parts. Mr. Edward Chester scores as Gilfain.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Vesta Tilley is certainly the greatest draw Birmingham can have, her songs being repeatedly encored. A more enhusiastic reception no artist could desire. Park's Eton Boys are entertaining; the Riogoku Family of Japs are seen in an exceedingly smart tumbling act; Gracie Moore sings "In Dreamland" in an artistic manner; Tom Owen supplies a volume of Welsh humour; and Arthur Sutcliffe and Ryan and Hall add to the mirth of the programme. The Picquays have a novel entertainment; and the Bioscope depicts "The Missing Legacy."

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—George Robey had a big reception here on Monday. His songs "I knew I had made a mistake," "Be a man," and "I have just been elected Mayor" were loudly encored, especially the last-mentioned song; Reed and Lerne are clever eccentrics; Nellie Dunbar is a dainty comedienne; the dancing of the Six Lancashire Lasses is decidedly smart; Frank Sylvo adds humour to his juggling act; some excellent vocal selections are rendered by the Lyric Quartette; and some capital baritone songs sung by Harrison Brockbank. The Brothers Webb, musical clowns, deserve the applause they receive; and Cliff and Kean are well received.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Dr. Walford Bodie is attracting crowded houses here, his bloodless surgery being certainly little short of a miracle, while his electrical entertainment is highly amusing. Bella Skene is seen to advantage in a vocal scena; Helen Henri renders her operatic selections in an artistic manner; Curtis Leo has a magical act which is full of mystery; and Signor Bandoni, the one-man band, and Little Dolly Robson conclude a smart programme.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—A visit from Tarro Myaki, the champion wrestler of Japan, is the big attraction here. His offer of £1000 to anyone who can defeat him seems perfectly safe. Venie Clements does some clever impersonations; the Wally Hoste Trio of acrobats, comedians, and jugglers are far above the average; Arthur Melrose is a clever whistler; and Dan Gregory keeps the audience amused.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. John H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy Children. The variety turns include the Musical Keiths, who give a novel and refined entertainment on numerous instruments; next in importance is the Lizzette Troupe of lady acrobats, whose tumbling feats are loudly applauded; Mr. Bert Allex, dwarf comedian, sings some catchy songs, and his eccentric performances causes much merriment; the lady trombone soloist, Miss Annie Knowles, is favourably received; and Miss Evie Lynn, dancer, scores a distinct success. La Petite Carlina, the quick-change artist, is deserving of praise.

BLACKBURN.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—There is excellent dramatic fare provided for patrons of this theatre by Mr. Frank Bertram's company in Martin Harvey's play, *The Breed of the Treshams*. The part of the Rat is assigned to Mr. Henry Belding, whose acting in this many-sided character gains unstinted applause. Mr. Hamilton Deane as Clement Hungerford plays the part of that ungrateful villain with much cleverness; Viscount Dorsington is presented with sufficient dignity by Mr. Oswald Lingard, and as Sir Henry Curmen Mr. Geo. Traill is good. The Hon. Francis Tresham is portrayed by Mr. Cecil Klein, who makes a manly hero. He is sympathetically supported by Miss Florence Tressilian in the part of Margaret Hungerford, Miss Kathleen Morgan (Olive Bagshaw) and Miss Belle Donaldson (Helena Pierrefont) also act well. Last but not least is the clever acting of Miss Celectine Bertram as Batty.

New Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake's capital pantomime, *Cinderella*, is there this week. As principal boy Mlle. du Roche is excellent, her singing and acting both being good; Miss Ivy Down is a sweet Cinderella. Specialities are given by the Sisters Le Graham, vocalists and dancers; Marlowe, juggler, and several other good artists.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The star turn at the Palace this week is Swaun Sinq Hpoo, a miniature man from British Burmah. This little dark-skinned gentleman is twenty-three years of age, but only stands 34 inches in height. There are several other excellent turns, including Agnese and Arthur Lynch in illustrated songs, the Balsamos in a comedy gymnastic act, Helen Charles in her refined drawing-room entertainment, Rumbo Austin and his comical navvies, Sadie Seymour (descriptive vocalist), W. B. Raby (comedian), and Roywood's Biograph.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal (Limited).—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—Miss Mary Austin and E. Vivian Edmonds's company is this week presenting *The Golden Ladder*. The play is capitally staged, and enacted by a capable company. The parts of the Rev. Frank Thornhill and Lilian Grant are well presented by Mr. Harry Cullinford and Miss Eva Moss, Mr. Joseph Rowlands as Samuel Packaby, Miss Nellie Graham as Mrs. Peckaby, and Mr. Harry Belford as Jim Dixon are also notable successes.

Grand Theatre (Limited).—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good variety company here comprises the Canary Troupe in their comic juggling act *Fun in the Kitchen*; George Reeves, comedian; Miss Madge Elliott, coon soubrette and dancer; Master J. Bunting, bone soloist; Rosie Archer, lady mimic; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, in their farce *Two to One*; Cullen and Carthy, comedians; Lily Langtry, charming comedienne; Van Allen, tramp musician; Bert Dansie, character vocalist; Monte Walker, comedian; the Original Zaros, male and female acrobats and tumblers; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert E. Wilson.—Miss Florence Baines and company are here this week in *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, which is received with screams of laughter from start to finish. The principal creator of mirth is Miss Baines in the character of Mary Ellen Thompson, a Lancashire lass, a part which suits her admirably. Miss Baines is a comedienne of exceptional ability, her broad Lancashire dialect being cleverly assumed. Mr. David Donaldson as John Higgins gives a skilful rendering, and the parts of Bertha and Harry are in the capable hands of Miss Mabel Clinton and Mr. Patrick Evans respectively. Miss Jennie Hallworth gives a refined performance of Eva Lancashire, and Mr. Horace Pollock is good as the Butler.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—An excellent programme is, as usual, provided at this house this week. Mlle. Von-etta heads the bill with an original turn, "La Mysterie Indescribable," for which she wins much applause; Michael Nolan, the prince of Irish comedians, gives three of his Irish character songs in his own inimitable style; Clive and Clarke, black and white comedy artists, in their dancing act, have a great reception; a charming comedienne is Flo Cecil. Frank Hartley, the schoolboy juggler, is very smart; and others who do well are the Two Eltons (comedy bar performers) and Fred Gilbert (equilibrist). The Hippodrome animated pictures, always sure of a warm welcome, include this week the Sultan of Morocco and his army.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. C. M. S. McLellan's comedy, *On the Love Path*, is affording ample material for hearty enjoyment here, and on Monday night a large audience warmly greeted Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's excellent company in an admirable representation of the piece. In his acting as the susceptible Arthur Frederick Adolphus Taunton, Mr. Percy Hutchison is both humorous and convincing; John Gripleigh is a main factor in the love complications, and Mr. George Mudie handles the part well. Mr. Frank Elliott makes a satisfactory Gerald Marvel; Mr. Frank Hill is humorous as the Chicago millionaire, Concannon; Mr. T. W. Rawson's dramatic part of Denbigh Thrayle is filled with a marked degree of excellence, and with charming grace and repose Miss Lilias Earle represent his divorced wife, Charity. Mary Concannon is brightly represented by Miss Margaret Marshall, and Miss Hilda Harriss is charming as the artless Norah. *His Landlady* is the curtain-raiser.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The record run of *Dick Whittington* came to an end on Saturday evening, when the house was packed from floor to ceiling. Good humour was combined with the spirit of abandon, flowers literally rained upon the principal artists, and a perfect storm of applause greeted the appearance of Mr. Laidler, who, in a telling speech, returned his thanks to the audience for the unprecedented support which had been accorded *Dick Whittington*. On Monday night the regular dramatic season was commenced with a return visit of *A Modern Adventuress*. An excellent representation was given by the capable company, in which some changes are noticeable. Mr. Leonard Aardal, however, is retained for the part of the sculptor, Pieblo Donelli, a very artistic effort, and Miss Kate Froude again fills with skill and power the title-rôle. The excellence of Miss Alice Defoe's acting in the part of Vivette Delby is still a feature of the performance. The character of the Yorkshireman, John Crompton, is in the excellent hands of Mr. Leonard Montgomery; Mr. Louis Edmonde gives a good performance in the part of Harry Delby; Mr. Frank Wilton represents the Banker well, and Miss Ivy Chandos is prominent in the humorous rôle of Sally Hodges.

The Empire (Moss' Empires, Limited).—Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Ahmed Madrali, the Terrible Turk, and a troupe of International wrestlers, head the bill here this week, and form a very strong attraction; W. H. Fox in his humorous scena, *Paddywhisky at the Piano*, is as diverting as ever; the Gittis, who introduce a cleverly-trained dog, give a novel and funny entertainment; the Fitzroys, society gymnasts, are graceful and expert on the trapeze and climbing rope; with banjo accompaniment the Three Slater Sisters dance themselves into the good graces of the audience; Irving Jones, a coloured comedian, is original and quaint; McPhee and Hill elicit great applause for a sensational bar performance; Fred Lincoln, in quaint get up, contributes an acceptable song; good dancing and amusing patter by Stephen and Rennoir find favour, and Collins and Rice are entertaining in a sketch, *The Survival of the Fittest*.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Carlton, the clever and humorous card manipulator, is a special favourite here, and his reappearance is hailed with delight; Ted Saunders supplies some clever mimicry; Lambert and Glover in one of their capital duologues are successful; the Darrell Trio contribute an instrumental entertainment of considerable skill and merit; in a comedy scena, *Life in the Slums*, Will Vay's Juveniles (a smart quartette) entertain with good comedy, vocalism, and dancing; Arthur Aldridge is a tenor vocalist of merit; some clever ornamental swimming is gone through in a tank performance by Dickinson and Johnson; and Lily Marney, who is a very popular comedienne here, is paying a welcome return visit.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday with *Mr. Hopkinson*. Mr. Edward Rigby's Samuel Hopkinson was a clever character-study; Mr. Charles Esdale's Duke of Braceborough and Mr. Cecil Burt's Earl of Addleton were admirably enacted; Mr. Edward Vaughan was well suited as Lord Gawthorpe; Mr. George Desmond's Hon. Otho Dursingham was capitally played; Miss Helen Russell made a charming Lady Tyra Ingglesby; Miss Frances Davie was highly effective as Eliza Dibbs, Miss Blanka Stewart achieved great success as the Duchess of Braceborough, and the remaining characters were satisfactorily sustained. *Mr. Hopkinson* was preceded by *The Impossible Trio*. At Thursday's special London matinée, Mr. James Welch and company from Terry's Theatre gave a performance of A *Judge's Memory*.

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—Mr. George Testo Sante and company are here this week with *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Sante as the showman, Brien Leader, displays capital acting and feats of physical strength; Mr. Logan Darra is forcible as the villainous Hendrick Marais; Miss Amy McNeil makes a sympathetic Agatha Winter; Mr. Charles Osborne undertakes the parts of Sir Noel Hartland and Stickers with skill; Mr. Edward Warden is a manly Rev. Cyril Arlis, and much amusement is afforded by Mr. Frank Sante as Tommy Authere, Miss May Neilson as Angelina Mutton, and Mr. E. Turner as Ben Tic Tac.

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—A very attractive programme is sustained here this week. Herr Charles Prinz, with his highly-trained troupe of performing lions, submits an excellent and astonishing turn, in which he is assisted by Mlle. Marcella; the Eight Mascottes are admirable dancers and vocalists; Will Musgrave's comic songs gain him very enthusiastic applause; Marion Hall and company are amusing in the comedy sketch *A Guilty Pair*; Billy Hobbs is a capital coon vocalist and clever dancer; the Three Sisters Hayden are completely successful in their harmonious character songs; the Daintons are pleasing comedy artists

juggler; the Three Sisters May are pleasing vocalists and dancers; Nina Elmo, comedienne, is entertaining; Madge Roberts is an accomplished vocalist, and animated pictures, projected by the Barrascope, conclude the entertainment.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Paul Cinquevalli heads the programme, his very clever juggling act obtaining full appreciation. A smart sketch, *The Fight in the Forge*, is presented in excellent style by G. Wordley Hulse and company; Arthur Croxon scores with his "One-man Village Concert"; Horton and Linden have a good grotesque gymnastic act; Jock Walker sings Scotch songs in approved style; Percy Curry, comedian, amuses; Gus Gauntlet, character comedian, is appreciated; Eva Nelson is a pleasing character comedienne, and the Three Sisters Nelson are acceptable instrumentalists and dancers. The performance concludes with a good display of Vernon's animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LIMITED.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kimberley's company had a good reception by a full house on Monday, when they commenced a week's engagement with *A Sister's Sin*. Mr. Kimberley as Larry Murphy, with the assistance of Miss Marion Armitage as Floss Perks and Miss Alice Granville as Nell Stubbs, keeps the house in excellent humour; Mrs. Kimberley forcibly portrays Minnie Hastings; Harold Raymond and George Oakley are respectively well played by Mr. Wm. Vane and Mr. Ernest Fare. Miss Elsie May (the child soprano) as Jack became an immediate favourite with her singing and clever acting; Mr. Horace Austin as Theophilus Hope is a most amusing dude; Miss Augusta Tullock as the revengeful gipsy, Charzel, submits a fine performance; Miss Violet Langley as Redempta and Miss Dorothy Vivian as May Raymond give good support.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A sensational drama, *The Sailors of the King*, is the attraction here this week, played by Mr. Chas. Harrington's company. Mr. Henry Douglas ably represents Dick Drake, Mr. F. Vernon Travers is seen to advantage as Orrel Drake, and Mr. Charles Harrington makes a capital Admiral Drake. Mr. Fred Owen as Harris Wilkinstein and Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., as Barnet Fair are very humorous; Miss Maude Digby presents a well-studied impersonation of Rebecca Crosby, Miss Hero Hathaway is clever as Penelope Penn, Miss Maude Tremayne is an excellent Daisy Dent, and Miss Sylvia Stella an acceptable Felecia Phrynne.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culcen; General-Manager, Mr. Jas. E. Culcen.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company is attracting good houses here this week with *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The excellent programme provided here this week is headed by Emlyn-Jones and Co., whose delightful vocal efforts win rounds of applause; Maggie Grimshaw is a clever juvenile male impersonator, Bert Kemble, a smart, swell comedian, and Lord, Murray, and Lord, in a gymnastic mélange, exhibit some clever boxing; Caselli and James are well received for their banjo performance, the Four Charles, in a juggling combination, introduce a remarkably quick change; Mark Merry, as a simple fool, proves himself a clever comedian; the Emilions, in a comic acrobat act, are worthy of praise, and a clever picture, "The Train Wreckers," is projected by Urbanora.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Walter.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's *La Poupée* company is attracting large audiences here. Mr. Fred Seymour gives an unique performance of the arduous rôle of Hilarius; the unsophisticated Launcelot is cleverly impersonated by Mr. Wm. Everard; Mr. Walter Balfour as Father Maxime is warmly applauded, especially for his "Jovial Monk am I"; an entirely charming Alesia is Miss Dot Stephens, who plays her difficult rôle with dash and finish; Miss Edith Hunter is bright and pleasing as Mme. Hilarius. Other characters are creditably played by Mr. Arthur Dennis (Loremois), Mr. Fuller Allen (the Baron), Mr. W. J. O'Sullivan (Balthazar), and Miss Doris Dickens (Henri).

BURY (Lancs).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*The Coal King* is being played here this week by Messrs. Polini and Maitland's company. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland represents Tom Roberts, the mine manager: an admirable character, admirably played; Mr. Joseph Millane as Walter Harford, the villain, acts very forcibly; the part of Sir Reginald Harford is capitally undertaken by Mr. Robin Shiells; Mr. Harry Braynes is humorous as Jim Williams; Miss Gertrude Valentine gives a charming impersonation of Grace Shirley, and Mad Ann is in the competent hands of Miss Joan Wellman.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Culling has provided a good entertainment here this week including the Dayton Troupe of acrobats, Mlle. Melda (a musical turn), Miss Verdi (a very pretty mimic), Derenda and Green (humorous jugglers), Elton and Elma (knockabout bar performers), Vasey and Ramsey (speciality dancers), Lil Hartley (vocalist), and Alex. Kendall (comedian).

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—Good turns are given here this week by Henry Carlton (comedian), Hallam and Stanton (in a musical sketch), Wallace Whitney (comedian), Moto (musical eccentric), Dobito and Buxton (vocalists), McCann (roller skate dancer), and the usual Bioscope pictures.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—The first vacation piece was presented here on Monday night, when Mr. Andrew Melville's company in *Driven from Home* was hugely appreciated by a large audience. The piece is of the sensational order, and was thoroughly well played. Miss Francis Ruttledge must be complimented on the success she achieved in the parts of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh; the following also gave most careful renderings of their parts, viz., Messrs. Felix Pitt, Morley Carrol, Herbert Cecil, Harry Cornwell, Ernest Outtrim, Alic Macmillan, and Misses Florence Nelson, Doris Lorraine, Evelyn Marrable, Amy Williams, Florence Wilson, and Muriel Alleyne.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Doing good business at the Royal this week is the delightful comedy, *Public Opinion*, played for the first time in Cardiff by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. George Giddens appears in the part of Horace Wibsey with his usual success; Miss Emma Hutchison's portrayal of Lady Diana is received with much enthusiasm; Miss Lilian Hallows enacts Penay Bligh in a charming manner; Mr. Ernest Ruston as Spencer Traughton causes much merriment; Mr. Harold West is no less successful in his clever interpretation of Viscount Pomfey; Lord Percy has a smart exponent in Mr. Templar Powell; and Mr. Wm. Hargreaves as Mr. Justice Mulley and Mr. George Mallett as Sir Babington Mulley, are responsible for a great deal of laughter. *The Stratagem* is a smartly-written and well-played curtain-raiser.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's company is appearing here in *The Ruby Ring*. Mr. A. B. Tapping as the French valet, Alphonse, presents a carefully-studied delineation; Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Charles Lynton also gives a portrayal that displays much ability; and as Reginald Clethorpe Mr. Charles Leveson-Lane scores an instantaneous success. Miss Alice Farleigh's Helen Neville shows the work of an accomplished artist; while Miss Clarisse Selwynne as Jane Clethorpe gives a portrayal that lacks nothing as a finished interpretation.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—An exceptionally good programme includes "The Fire Maiden," La Berat, who does some delightful serpentine work. The popular Cruikshank is well received; the Wolkowsky Troupe of Russian Dancers provide an excellent entertainment; Brett and Orford are old favourites; the Ten Genis are particularly smart in their Risley exhibition; and capital turns are given by Alf. Chester; the Sisters Klos, in a skilful gymnastic performance; Helen Ford, a pleasing ballad vocalist; Eugen Joly, cornet player; and the Bioscope.

CARLISLE.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of Mr. R. S. M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—Mr. Walter Reynolds's successful play *Mr. Smith* was introduced to a Carlisle audience for the first time on Monday. Earle Godwyn Smith has a clever exponent in Mr. Stephen T. Ewart; Mr. Russell Norrie gives a satisfactory representation of the Earl of Oxted; Mr. H. Carter Bligh makes the most of his opportunities as Jack Berkeley; as the Duke of Angleland Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway is particularly well placed; Mr. Fred Darrell contributes an amusing and clever sketch of the brewer millionaire; Miss Fyfe Alexander piquantly plays the part of Ruth Anheuser; as the Duchess Miss Elspeth Dudgeon acts with dignity and refinement; and Miss Rosamond Rokeby makes a delightful Lady Mary, her intelligent appreciation of a charming character creating sympathy and approbation. Miss Daisy England's Mrs. Smith is an exceptionally fine performance, and the ripe experience of this talented actress finds ample opportunities.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—A strong programme has been provided for this week. Chief interest centres in the performance of Austin and Cowan, in a vocal act as uncommon as it is pleasing. Mons. Slippere, the blind pianist, is always a welcome item; Little Gantz is the chief laughter-maker; the Cumberlands give a good display of gymnastic cycling; Mlle. Roza's canine hippodrome is a popular turn; Miss Ailsa Douglas sings several ballads successfully; and Miss Madge May gives satisfaction as a comedienne. The Bros. Ashley, in a bustling knockabout sketch entitled *Next, Please*, are a prominent feature; and Vernon's bioscope completes the attractions.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. B. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr C. Algie.—A capital programme is submitted here this week. Mendel, the blind pianist, is on a return visit, and is still as popular as ever, his beautiful playing delighting large audiences. So great was the success of Abdullah's Arabs last week that Mr. Algie has retained them for this, and their enthusiastic reception nightly speaks for the excellent impression they have made. George Penn is a smart comedian; the Sisters Hula, vocalists and dancers, make a hit; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payte, society entertainers, contribute a smart sketch; Fred Curran has few equals as a singer of parodies; a taking and interesting item is the one submitted by Miss Raffin and her troupe of educated monkeys. The clever feats performed by these animals point to the very acme of training. Some excellent pictures are shown by Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Mr. Hy. Masterman.—*The Woman Who Gambles*, played by Mr. Morton Powell's company, under the direction of Mr. Walter P. Carr, enlists much interest and attention. Miss Ada Roscoe is seen to great advantage as the Countess Steinbach; Mr. Edward E. Ashby's portrayal of Count Steinbach is a complete success, and he wins much applause; the villainies of Baron Gratzlow lose none of their repulsiveness in the hands of Mr. Horatio Sinclair; Mr. Beresford Lovett scores as Lieut. Ctzarteryski; Miss Violet Sims is successful as Cora; and Miss Marie Rumuz plays well as Stella Melakorf. Much fun and humour are contributed by Mr. Charles Calvert as the Hon. Bertie Bray, Mr. Fred Prior as Peter Peteroff, and Miss Florrie Hall as Mlle. Zila. The stage-manager, Mr. Ernest H. Clarke, does full justice to the part of Chief of the Police; and Mr. C. H. Hurst is worthy of praise as M. Marinavitch.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—Here we have *Claudian*, produced by Mr. William Maclaren. The bulk of the work devolves upon Mr. Maclaren in the title-rôle and Miss Lily C. Bandmann as Almida; these artists acquit themselves admirably, and receive adequate support from a well-chosen company.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—A capital variety company is appearing here, headed by the Brothers Poluski, who always get a good reception here. Billy Farrell is another attraction; while others in the bill are Charles Jackson, Dale and Vale, Lottie Govell, Geo. Goodfellow, Jennie Gregson, and Jack Crawley; the Erascope has some fresh views.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Donne.—At the top of the bill here is the one and only Joe Elvin, who is making a big hit as the New Boy in *Obedient Billy*. Miss Lillie Lassah creates considerable enthusiasm with "Hear the pipers calling, Jenny mine"; George Gilbey ranks as one of the quaintest comic singers engaged here for some time past; the Three Sisters Leigh prove very attractive. Maude Vera, coon artist; Harry Melville, descriptive vocalist; and Hill and Lane, in *Home Lessons*, complete the variety artists. A capital concluding item is provided in pictures by the Edisonograph.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Leigh Lovel and Miss Octavia Kenmore's company on Monday opened a week's engagement in *Sowing the Wind*. Miss Kenmore gives a very acceptable study of the part of Rosamund; Mr. Lovel's Mr. Brabazon is a sound and dignified piece of acting; Mr. Watkin is impersonated with great success by Mr. Henry Osman; Mr. Frederick Sargent is the very embodiment of gallant, impulsive, ingenuous youth as Ned Annesley; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood as Sir Richard Cursitor is a convincing horsey buck of the period; Mr. Arthur McCulloch as Lord Petworth presents a good picture of an elderly roué of the 'thirties; Miss Ethel Savill has a deliciously fatuous giggle as the country miss, Maud Fretwell; and Miss Celia Gordon does well as the Hon. Mrs. Fretwell. Minor parts are ably filled by Miss Mary Maine (Bridget), Mr. Clement Talbot (Deakin), Mr. Arnold West (Glossop), and Mr. Frank Webber (Webb).

VICTORIA ROOMS.—Lessee, Mr. E. B. Shenton.—Poole's No. 1 Myriorama opened a fortnight's run here on Monday. The display of the Carls, in *Fun in a Café*, is one of the best seen here; Eileen and Maynie, the musical dancing dots, charm all; Howlett's Royal Marionettes are well received; and the new pictures delight everybody.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's powerful company in *When a Man Hates* is here this week. Mr. Arthur Hinton as Pietro Danelli gives a highly-finished portrayal; Mr. Travis Green plays Detective Smart very successfully, Mr. Gerald Byrne excellently embodies Paul, Mr. Graham Arthur is capital as Laurence Hasting, Sir Rupert Treherne is wisely entrusted to Mr. Pleon Gaine. As Peter Pimple Mr. Frank Bruneil is irresistibly droll, and is cleverly supported by Miss Florence Lillwood; Miss Lelia Lilwood is a graceful Olga Gynne, Miss Lydia Andre sympathetically presents Letty, the white angel.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan.—Mr. Sidney Dench's company was here the first three nights of the week with the drama *The Rich and Poor of London*. Mr. Walter Foster does good work as Mark Stanley; Mr. Robert Hall displays histrionic abilities as Dr. Leonard Morton; Miss Dora Dench wins much applause with her fine acting as May Braithwaite; Mr. Sidney Dench, a smart comedian, scores as Spider Jack; Miss Lillian Burns does well as Polly Philpot; and Miss Emily Woodleigh is worthy of mention as Auntie Shrimp. Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company appeared on Thursday and Friday in *The Swiss Express*.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company played *Under Two Flags* on the first three nights of the week, and on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday presented the naval drama, *A Sailor's Sweetheart*. On Monday night Mr. Mark Blow made a hit in the rôle of Louis Victor, a part he played with consummate skill. He was admirably seconded by the dashing Cigarette of Miss Molly Pearson, a study which eminently suited this charming actress. The difficult character of the Silver Pheasant was most gracefully undertaken by Miss Mabel Ormonde; Miss Ida Ernest was a sprightly maid, Mr. Arthur Elwyn was well placed as the Black Hawk, and Mr. C. Young Fixott made ample use of his opportunities as Rake.

THE HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece.—The programme this week is well balanced, and is attracting full houses. The Pasquali Brothers give an exceptionally fine exhibition of expert balancing and tumbling, and the equestrian sketch introducing Claude Ginnett's "Rejected Remounts" is very funny indeed. Natalia and Diana are a couple of clever aerial gymnasts, and Chas. Sloman is a creditable comedian; Clara Walters (a trick pianist of ability), Vi Carlyle (in a dainty little song scena), and Lilian Boanas (a ballad singer of merit) are also in the bill.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company are appearing here this week in the farcical comedy *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Harry Hampson is a really excellent Dick Whorties, whilst as Joseph Carbury Mr. Percy Marshall is very funny. Mr. Lawrence Brough as Le Baron de Longueville is an ideal Frenchman, his difficulties with the English language being highly enjoyable; and as Toby Krockitt Mr. Herold McNay is clever. Mr. Charles Groves, jun., gives entire satisfaction as John Humbert; Miss Daisy Cooke is a winsome and attractive Lady of Ostend, and as Jane Miss Vera George is excellent. Miss Dorcas Corsbie as Matilda Carbury is a typical mother-in-law, and Miss Edith Ormonde is a pretty Millie Grace. Miss Moyra Creegan as Dorothy Whorties acquits herself with commendable ability. *At the Risin' of the Moon* is an acceptable curtain-raiser. *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was billed for Friday night, when the performance was under distinguished patronage.

NEW TOWN HALL.—Secretary, Mr. T. W. Welford.—Messrs. Cooper and Edison's No. 1 variety company is here this week with the following talented artists; Madame Louie, thought-reader and clairvoyant; Sabino, musical marvel, and his little black coon; Mr. J. Hastings, female impersonator; and Mons. Grigolo, comedy boy juggler. The entertainment concludes with a highly interesting cinematograph show.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—Diabutsu, Japanese wrestler, proves himself a clever exponent of Ju-Jitsu wrestling, and challenges any man to stand up before him for 10 minutes. Lil O'Gorman, vocalist and dancer, supplies an acceptable turn; Leighton and Mona, tramp and soubrette, are humorous; Charlie Dillon, character-vocalist, sings some good songs; Bertha Stuart, over from last week, continues to please in her songs; Leslie Murray, magician, performs a number of tricks with dexterity; Marie Winsome gains appreciation as a male impersonator; Erine Plummer, ball puncher, gives a capital exhibition, and the Three Celtics submit a laughable musical comedy act.

COVENTRY.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—In a nautical scena, entitled *The Skipper's Birthday*, a number of talented artists contribute some capital songs and dances, also a sword and cutlass exhibition. Miss Millie Payne is a favourite comedienne; the Frantz Troupe of acrobats accomplish some clever tricks; the English Quartette are well received; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Courtney appear in their farcical sketch *The New Doctor*; Paul Pelham gives a dramatic monologue, *The End*; G. W. Kenway scores with some clever imitations of music-hall artists; the Sisters Charnley are duettists and dancers; Mr. Charles Mitchello is a clever comedian; and Edney and Wade are vocalists and dancers.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Christian* is proving a welcome attraction at this house. It is being presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. The cast is a particularly strong one, including Miss Grace Murille in an excellent rendering of Glory Quayle. She is ably supported by Mr. Alfred Goddard as John Storm. Mr. Percy Twyman makes a polished and well-bred villain as Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Duncan Yarrow is seen to advantage as Horatio Drake; Miss Florence Radcliffe shows capability as Polly Love; and a number of other characters are suitably represented. What might have been a serious accident happened on Monday, when one-half of the side scenery fell on three members of the company, but, fortunately, they were not injured.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. F. H. Neville and company are here this week with *A Queen's Vengeance*. Mr. F. H. Neville himself takes the part of Sir Rupert Warriner in a pleasing manner; Mrs. Walter Bentley is very good as Eleanor Queen of England; and Mr. R. Nelme Grasswell enacts the part of Henry II. of England in a masterly manner. Mr. Gifforde Reynolds as Gilbert Ormonde has a part well suited to him, and gives several capital songs. We are impressed by Miss Annie Lea's dancing in Act II., and by Miss Mildred Monteath's acting as Mistress Clifford—Fair Rosamund. As her faithful attendant Janet Jessop Miss Flora Clinton excels herself. Mr. Arthur Bell fully justifies his selection for the character of Sir Martin Clifford. Mr. Alf Russell makes a capital Bibeau, and Mr. F. Moore shows to advantage as Geoffrey Tunner.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company, in *The 10.30 Down Express*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Charles Burdon acts well the part of Jack O'Malley; and Mr. George Arthur is quite capable as the villainous James Inderwick. Mr. Alric Burton portrays with effect the rôle of Cuthbert Leigh; and Mr. Horace Stanley gives an excellent representation of Sam Wagstaffe. Mr. Claud Haviland as Huntley Mason is an ideal detective; and Mr. Tom Royden as Seth Coombes proves an able accomplice to the villain. Mr. Arthur E. Francis worthily represents the character of Bletherly Baggs; Miss Elsie Capell is an accomplished Bessie Leigh, and displays considerable talent; Miss Kate Kilpack gives a clever impersonation of Peggy Potts; and Miss Evelyn M. Walton is lifelike as Letitia Leigh. Miss Clara Santley as Olive Coombes claims recognition.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is paying a welcome return visit with *A Royal Divorce*. The scenery, dresses, and effects call for special mention. Mr. Frank Lister gives a carefully-studied rendering of Napoleon; Mr. F. Joynsen-Powell smartly plays the part of Talleyrand; Mr. George W. Cockburn cleverly enacts the rôle of Marquis de Beaumont; Mr. George Howard is well placed as General Augereau; Mr. St. George Frere is great as Marshal Murat; and Mr. T. P. Haynes is amusing as Grimaud. Miss Edith Cole acts with judgment and artistic skill as the Empress Josephine; Miss Clara Earle makes a winsome Stephanie; Miss Irma Foldi is charming as Blanche d'Hervas; Miss Elizabeth Watson is effective as Marie Louise; and the remaining rôles are in capable hands.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—The boards here are occupied by Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Mr. Walter Boyce is good as General Garston; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is praiseworthy as Captain George Fielding; Mr. Henry C. Ward is rightly placed as Captain Edward Dudley; Mr. Alf. Stretton is accurate as Hawkins; Mr. Frank Howard is seen to advantage as Featherstone Haugh; Mr. W. George Hearson deserves a word of praise as Smith; Miss Norah Caronne is first rate as Ruth Montrose; and Miss Dorothy Desmonde is bright and attractive in the title-rôle. Miss Nellie Harcourt may be warmly congratulated upon her excellent singing, dancing, and acting as Judith; and Mr. Will Brereton keeps the house agog with merriment as Silas Crump. Misses Mabel Blake and Ada Coral give a clever mirror illusion dance.

PUBLIC HALL. — On Monday and Tuesday Mr. Albert Chevalier and company presented a variety entertainment which won approval. Mr. Chevalier was ably supported by Miss Ethel Walker, Miss Winifred Ingham, Mr. Harry Brett, Mr. Arthur Brankston, Mr. Alfred H. West, and Master Bertie Baxter.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell. — Mr. George Dance's company, in *The Girl from Kay's*, is presented here. Miss Lily Edmonds as Winnie Harborough merits praise for her delineation; Mr. J. W. Hooper as Max Hoggenheimer causes roars of laughter; Miss Irene Vere, a graceful dancer, sings well in her part of Ellen; Miss Maud Leonard is energetic in the part of Mrs. Chalmers; Mr. Hart as Frank is funny; Mr. H. Jennings as the page boy acts ably; Mr. Austin Herbert as Archie Pembridge is excellent; and Mr. E. Forde as McChalmers is most enjoyable.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robinson.—Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company is here this week with a military drama entitled *The Two Hussars*. Mr. J. Stuart is good as Colonel Manners; Mr. F. J. Webb gives an excellent rendering of the heavy part of Capt. Paul Villiers; Mr. Benge, who undertakes the rôle of Harry Alford, soon wins the sympathy of the audience. Miss Sadie Smith makes a manly Will; Miss Lallah Price is funny as Mollie; whilst Miss Danvers-Smith's acting leaves little to be desired.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. George Dance's company is presenting here this week the popular musical comedy *Lady Madcap*. Miss Vera Vere plays the title-rôle with both vigour and vivacity; Mr. H. V. Surrey as Oroya Brown, or Trooper Smith as he is known, is delightfully droll; Mr. Ray Russell as Stratford, the bogus millionaire, acquits himself in first-class style; and Mr. Fred Payne plays Posh Jenkins with unequivocal success. Count de St. Hubert is charmingly accounted for by Mr. Alex Chentrens, whose vocal efforts are as novel as they are acceptable. Mr. Vincent Erne as Corporal Ham is a capital comedian and an exceptionally clever dancer; Miss Peggy Primrose is as pleasing as she is pretty in the part of Susan, and her duets with both the Corporal and Stratford are amongst the outstanding features of the piece. Miss Kathleen Ronayne is in every way praiseworthy as Miss Holden. The chorus, a powerful one, is under the conductorship of Mr. Alfred C. Toone. The piece is beautifully dressed and mounted.

PALACE.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—The Borghetti Troupe of acrobats are the attraction here this week. J. K. Reynolds, who is excellently supported by Miss Adele Rhead, in a sensational episode, entitled *The Bigamist*, is to be congratulated upon a successful performance; Silvo, a soloist on musical glasses, meets with a hearty reception. The other items include Tom Collins, character comedian; Sisters Tinsley, pleasing comediennes and dancers; Lee and Arden, an amusing comedy duo; Beattie Kent, an agreeable comedienne and dancer; and the Palace Bioscope, with several entertaining films.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Mr. Bert Albert Rutley's company is here this week with the musical comedy burlesque *An English Belle*. Miss Gerty Wasley is a graceful and captivating Alice; and Miss Jessie de Grey has all the necessary dash and go to make the part of Jack interesting. The company includes several good comedians, among whom Mr. Dan Whitley easily holds first place for his eccentric Consul. Mr. Will Redmond is a humorous Sunny Jim; Mr. W. E. Matthews as P.C. Nabim is funny in his burlesque drama; and Mr. Albert Rutley is a capable Squire Hardacre. Miss S. Sanger as Mrs. Oldfield does well; Miss Lena Roseberry is good as Dolly Fairweather; and Miss Gerty Maynard is a satisfactory Tom.

THE EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Empire Palace Co.; Manager, Mr. P. G. Wraith; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield.—Billie Taylor, the electric comedian, tops the bill this week; Ray and Franklin win success in their celebrated scena; Mitz, the juggling Jap, is responsible for an exceedingly clever turn; and the Two Rubies are capable dancers and duettists. A scena, entitled *Dick Whittington*, introduces Miss Marie Roseberry as principal boy, and includes a highly-trained cat; a charming performance is given by Melita, an exceedingly skilful dancer; the Two Leons please with their duets; and Charles B. Kay's "Beautiful tale of love" is well received.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—An attractive programme is presented here this week, the principal position being allotted to Alec Hurley and Co., in *The Costers' Beanfeast*. The Gotham Comedy Quartette causes much amusement; and George Fairburn is a mimic of no mean order. Virginia and piccaninnies sing and dance in clever style; and the Carina Sisters do a good musical act; the D'Osta Troupe of ring performers meet with appreciation; and Mr. Henry A. Moore is an accomplished actor-vocalist. Gruber's elephant, horse, and pony give an interesting show; and Frank Cumminger is an expert sand dancer. The animated pictures are entertaining.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Marsh. — Fred Karno's Troupe tops the bill here this week, and creates much laughter nightly in the sketch *Moses and Son*. The Royal Six, lady vocalists and cyclists, receive well-merited applause; and W. H. Clemart is a ventriloquist of more than ordinary merit. The musical turn of Frazer and Mac is highly amusing; and the Sisters St. Julian, duettists and dancers, are warmly received. Charles Lilburn is an up-to-date comedian; and the Empire pictures attain the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A big attraction here this week is the Four Kweeries, in an interesting illusionary act, which is well received; another excellent turn is supplied by Wieland, American comedy juggler; and the vocal items of Gracie Taylor elicit applause. Les Bollingers give an exceedingly smart performance; and Harry Maxam is a successful comedian. The Calcotis are instrumentalists of ability; and Barney Stuart is as big a favourite as ever. Other capital turns are Vincert, acrobatic table expert; Mark Leslie, swell coon vocalist; and Mephisto, contortionist.

WORLD'S FAIR.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company here includes Clarke and Artic, Continental drolls; Percy Anderson, ventriloquist; Leopold Brothers, American musicians; Mme. Hippa, thought reader; Frank Artie, eccentric comedian; and the American giantess.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The artists engaged here are Paul Vincent, sleigh bell performer; the Brothers Bailey, musical grotesques; Hyam Merry, comedian; Harry Osborne, eccentric comedian; and the Two Sunbeams, International dancers; and the Sisters Grenville, vocalists and dancers.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are appearing in Shakespearean plays here this week. On Monday Sheridan Knowles' tragedy *Virginius* was performed. To say that Mr. Tearle was in the title-rôle is sufficient to vouch for the success of the play. Principal among numerous other characters were Mr. Richard Vane, who as Appius Claudius acted the part admirably; Mr. Spencer Geach as Caius Claudius gave a masterly rendering; and Miss Esther Tearle submitted an excellent portrayal of the difficult and pathetic part of Virginia.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Deputy Acting-Manager, Mr. Rhodes Wells.—Lawrence Barclay, eccentric comedian, is at the top of the bill here, while Rubie and Elsie Redfern, vocalists and dancers, occupy the bottom, both turns being of a first-class order. The Three Seymours give an exceedingly clever original act; Mabel Hind is a very dainty comedienne with good songs and dances; Allen Hanbury, comedian, amuses the audience; Spencer and Marks, the stage-struck waifs, are very good; and Ada Maude, descriptive vocalist, is well received. The Empire Bioscope pictures are much appreciated.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company opened on Monday in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Mr. Henry Herbert as Petruchio played his part in a very creditable manner; Mr. Gerald Ames as Hortensio acted with much excellence; Mr. James Amand was smart as Tranio; Miss Dorothy Green gave an admirable portrayal of Katharine; Miss Kate Turner was winsome as Bianca. On Tuesday *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and on Wednesday *Macbeth* were played.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—A melodrama, entitled *A Path of Thorns*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. William Fazan gives a powerful portrayal as John Edmunds; Mr. F. Gilbert Fenn as the Rev. Frank Selby is the kind-hearted, outspoken parson to the life; Mr. Gordon Kay Bull as Sam Hallet is most successful with the broad Lancashire dialect; and Mr. Frank Gordon submits a capital study of Jim Price. Miss Muriel Dean is most sympathetic as Bessie Edmunds; Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Adelaide is humorous; Miss Marion Ryder does well as Lucy, her song and dance being encored; and Miss Kitty Lofting and Miss Ernie Leslie are effective as the two sisters.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Ben Harris's Nippers, the top-liners here this week, display versatility in their sketch *A Promising Pupil*; Atroy gives an astonishing juggling display; Mlle. Violi is an instrumentalist of great ability; the Sisters Llewellyn are a charming pair of vocalists; and Mystery Gauze meets with much approval. Bob de Ora gives a clever gymnastic act; and the bill is completed by Harry Zetter, comedian, Rosie Richards, and Vernon's Animated Pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The Elster-Grime Opera company remains for a second week. The operas performed during the week include *Faust*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Carmen*, and *Les Cloches de Corneville*. On Monday a fine performance of *The Lily of Killarney* was given. Miss Kathleen Emmet was well suited in the part of Eily O'Connor, possessing a charming appearance and a capital voice; Mr. Michael Kemble's powerful baritone was heard to advantage in the solos assigned to Danny Mann; Miss Edmée de Dreux was very successful as Mrs. Cregan; and Miss Lynham made an excellent Ann Chute. Mr. F. S. Gilbert played Myles-na-Coppaleen in the first house, and Mr. Payne Clark in the second, both gentlemen displaying vocal and histrionic ability. Mr. Gilbert King made a dignified Father Tom; and Mr. Harry Murphy displayed a well-trained voice. Mr. Edward Grime conducted with his customary tact and success.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A powerful drama, entitled *The Trail of the Serpent*, is being staged here this week. Mr. Wilfred Cheeham as the villain, Ralph Hammond, is a clever actor; Mr. J. F. Asher gives a fine portrayal of Gerald Kingston; Miss Marjorie May is excellent as Mrs. Kingston; and Miss Ethel Stuart also proves herself to be an actress of ability.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Durward Lely and Mr. William Mollison's company is appearing here in *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*. A very large share of praise must be given Mr. William Mollison for his sound, commendable work as Lachlan Campbell, and he holds the interest of the audience in a firm grip. Very happy and effective work is done by Mr. Allen Thomas as Doctor Maclure; Mr. Alec

novel "When It Was Dark." Mr. Powell himself appears in the character of Constantine Schawbe, and gives a capital performance. He is well supported by Mr. T. A. Shannon as the Rev. Basile Gortre, who is responsible for a very earnest representation; as Sir Robert Lewellyn Mr. Edward Valentine is forcible, and Mr. H. J. Butler capably represents the part of the Rev. Mr. Byars. Other parts are well played by Mr. Arthur Lenville, Mr. Frank Reece, and Mr. F. Biron. Mrs. Morton Powell gives a fine all-round performance as Helena Byars, and Miss Ethel Rainforth is to be complimented on her impersonation of Gracie Goldeye. The parts of Lodo Lumley and Lady Lewellyn are in the capable hands of Miss Alice Hudspeth and Miss Isabel Taylor respectively.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Eugène C. Stafford is presenting *Lucky Miss Dean* here this week to good houses. Miss Dora Gray gives a charming rendering of the title-rôle; Miss Estelle Despa is an excellent Lady Ashmole; Mr. William E. Ashcroft ably portrays the character of Frederick Ware; Mr. W. T. Elworthy is successful as Percival Chancy; Mr. Vivian Gilbert is a capital Horace Chancy; and Wilfred Ashmole is capably presented by Mr. Cyril Price-Evans. The comedy is preceded by a farce entitled *My American Admirer*.

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Esmond Bramley's company is drawing good audiences here. On Monday *Richard III.* was played, Mr. Cyril Este being in the title-part. His exposition was excellent, and won for him hearty applause. Another favourite was Mr. Balliol Holloway, who doubled the parts of the Duke of Clarence and Henry of Richmond. Mr. F. Owen Chambers was a handsome Buckingham, and Mr. Llewellyn Evans filled the part of Catesby with good effect. Messrs. Philip Gordon, Frederick Scarth, and Leonard Cheetham did well in their respective parts. Miss Millie Ford portrayed Lady Anne, and proved herself a capable actress; Miss Maud Garth's impersonation of Elizabeth made a deep impression; Misses May Beatrice and Ruth Nightingale are worthy of special comment for their acting as the Princes Edward and Richard; Mrs. Bernard Parkin was a motherly Duchess of York. On Tuesday *Romeo and Juliet* was staged, on Wednesday *The Merchant of Venice*, on Thursday *Hamlet*, on Friday *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and to-night (Saturday) *Romeo and Juliet* will again occupy the boards.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—This house is invariably well patronised, but its holding capacity is being taxed to the utmost this week, during which Mr. Tom H. Taylor is presenting *The Female Swindler*. Mr. Henry C. Cooper wins great applause for his spirited portrayal of Jack Coulson, the detective; Mr. Bernard Dunstan gives a good impersonation of the Jew Mikestein, and Mr. Paul Beckitt does well as Harold Travers. Mr. Hugh Mewburn presents a careful study of Geoffrey Warden, the villain, and Mr. A. Kenyon Gray is well placed as James Oliver. The comedy element is thoroughly looked after by Mr. Luke Forster (who also stage-manages) as Billy, Miss Amy Maitland as Mary Ann Mee. Miss Grace E. Leslie presents a very striking picture of Lu Valroy, the swindler, and Miss Florrie Kelsey is a delightful May Andrews. The scenery and effects are excellent.

GILLINGHAM. — The Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. F. Monti and Co.; Lessee, Mr. D. S. Cooper; General-Manager, Mr. Roy Cochrane.—Mr. Fred D'Arcy and Mr. Fred J. Little's company is appearing here in the powerful drama *The Executioner's Daughter*. The title-rôle is admirably undertaken by Miss Ina Grant, Miss Evelyn Robson makes a striking success as Felice, and Miss Beattie Moore as Christina, the cripple, elicits the sympathy of the audience. Mr. Duncan Bell gives an excellent representation of Roche, the executioner; Mr. Juan de Alberti is creditable as the unscrupulous Felix Marius; Mr. W. S. Stevenson submits a clever rendering of Kretch, Mr. G. Stapleton Roche as Vivian Ormonde makes a typical dude, and Mr. Victor R. C. Moore is highly commendable as Paul Rovel. Mr. Willie Hicks as Tom Holmes and Miss May Rosine as Sally King deserve much praise for their genuine comedy.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The second week of the Moody-Manners Opera company opened with a particularly fine performance of *Carmen*, to a house crowded in every part. Mlle. De Lussan repeated her well-known rendering of the title-rôle, and was in splendid voice; Mr. Joseph O'Mara was the Don Jose, and vocally and dramatically was worthy of the highest praise; Mr. Lewys James, as Escamillo sang with excellent effect; a charming and sweet-voiced Michaela was found in Miss Kate Anderson; Misses D. Irving and E. Alvord were well placed as Frasquita and Mercedes, and the large chorus and orchestra were kept well in hand by Mr. Cuthbert Hawley. Tuesday was devoted to an elaborate revival of *The Flying Dutchman*, with Mr. William Ludwig in his famous rôle, and Madame De Vere, Mr. John Child, and Mr. Charles Magrath in the other leading parts. On Wednesday Tschaikowsky's *Eugen Onegin*, the novelty of this visit, was repeated, and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Faust*, *Bohemian Girl*, and a repetition of *The Flying Dutchman* complete the week.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's *Gay Parisienne* company is fulfilling a week's engagement at this theatre. The opening performance on Monday evening was a most successful one. Mr. Tom Conway infused plenty of humour into the part of Ebenezer Honeycombe, and was ably supported by Mme. Ilma Norina as Mrs. Honeycombe; the Major Fossdyke of Mr. Charles Adeson was a very amusing performance. Mr. Adeson acted and looked the part extremely well. Miss Nellie Hodson, as Mlle. Julie Bon-Bon, gave a spirited interpretation of the gay Frenchwoman; Miss Lucia Collins as Norah, Miss James as Anna (the servant), and Mr. Lester Carey as Tom Everleigh (the barrister) all did well.

Grand, Limited. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—On Monday the Carl Rosa Opera Company entered on the third and last week of a prosperous season at this house. The opera was Beethoven's *Fidelio*, and again a very complete and masterly performance was given—indeed, the success of this beautiful work has been the most notable feature of the present visit, it having been played four times in all, and twice instead of other operas. The title-rôle was taken by Miss Grace Nicoll, who sang her music with exquisite tenderness and pathos, the other lady of the cast being Miss Ina Hill, whose voice and appearance gave charm to the part of Marcellina. Herr Julius Walther was the tenor, and gave an exceptionally fine portrayal of the touching part of Don Florestan, while the rich, melodious notes of Mr. Arthur Winckworth were heard to advantage in the part of Rocco. The Don Pizarro of Mr. Charles Victor was a strikingly dramatic conception, and the parts of Don Fernando (Mr. Frederick Clendon) and Jaquino (Mr. Arthur Hyde) were equal to the high standard of the performance of which Mr. Walter Van Noorden was conductor. *Fidelio* was repeated on Friday, and during the week *Rigoletto*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tristan and Isolda*, and *Don Giovanni* were staged.

King's, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—The Compton Comedy company is once again attracting large and enthusiastic audiences here. On Monday *David Garrick* was presented, and the tokens of appreciation were frequent. Mr. Edward Compton, as David Garrick, against displayed his ripe experience and artistic ability, and Miss Mackenzie gave a sympathetic reading of Violet Gresham; Mr. Henry Crocker was excellent as Alderman Gresham, and the Hon. Tom Tallyhant was ably interpreted by Mr. A. B. Imeson. Mr. Herbert Pigot as Rumbelow and Mr. Arnold Lucy as Sowerberry were amusing, as also was Mr. G. Wallace Johnston as Simkins. Miss Marie Hassell was successful as Mrs. Rumbelow. Miss Muriel Meek sustained well the part of Selina. The play was preceded by the one-act comedy. *The Desperate Lover*. *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Money*, *The Rivals*, *New Men and Old Acres*, and *The School for Scandal* were also presented during the week, especial interest centring in the revival of *New Men and Old Acres*, which had not been seen here for a long time.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The company, superintended by the American-Indian actress, Go-Wen-Go-Mohawk, is here this week with that talented lady playing her usual title-rôle of Wep-Ton-No-Mah, in which she gives a graphic representation of an Indian boy. A fine old soldierly figure is that of Colonel Stockton, as played by Mr. C. W. Charles; Mr. Edward Leroy, as Spanish Joe, is a highly picturesque rascal; while Mr. I. Shawcross, as Capt. Franklin, admirably embodies the wild and impecunious youth. Miss Dora Pass, as a mature spinster, electrifies the audience with her comic acting and singing, while Miss Minnie Goepel makes a vivaciously pleasing Nellie Stockton. Mr. Guy D. Hackney, as Sam White, the negro, is an amusing actor and singer, and so is Mr. Dan Ryan, as the lively Irishman, Garry Cullen.

Metropole.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is again here with the strong drama *Honour thy Father*. As Gabriel Garth, Mr. J. W. Evelyn, the manly, independent, and sympathetic farmer, makes an ideal exponent of the part, and as his wife Mrs. Clavering Craig shares a well-deserved success in the portrayal of their joint sorrows. In Jack Halyard, Mr. Douglas B. Watson is at his best, and is responsible for several telling scenes. Mr. Clavering Craig as Duncan Bly enacts a very strong and villainous rôle to the life. Mr. W. H. Melrose as Ned and Miss Lizzie Morley as Poppy are capital in some comedy scenes, and greatly relieve the tension of the play. Mr. W. M. Cameron has many touches of infinite comedy in a part bristling with opportunities. He misses none, and scores well. Mr. Claude Merton is powerful as George Bloggs in the asylum scene; his Job Merry is also capital. Miss Mabel Coleman as Lilian and Miss Winnie Donovan as Merry Merry sustain their parts in a striking way.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—This week a special production of *East Lynne* is given here, in which Miss Lillian Herries contributes a clever study of the part of Lady Isabel. Of special interest to Govan playgoers is the fact that the popular manager of this theatre, Mr. J. H. Oakden, appears as Archibald Carlyle, and Miss Lily Roselle (Mrs. Oakden) as Barbara Hare, both performances being of outstanding merit. Mr. J. Knox Orde as Levison duly emphasises the scheming treachery of that character; Miss Jenny Macintyre as Cornelia Carlyle, Mr. Max Copland as Justice Hare, and Mr. R. Cathcart as Policeman X. Rays infuse considerable comedy into the play.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Limited; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—A first-class company is here this week, the chief attraction being the engagement of the Staleys in their musical transformation speciality; W. F. Frame has had a most flattering reception; an exceptionally clever performance is given on the slack-wire by the Cole De Losse Duo (comedians); and a daring juggling act is introduced by Mlle. Olive; the dancing of Anna Kenwick is much applauded. The other members of the company include Jessie Merrilees (comedienne), Starr and Leslie (Indian club performers), Little Barney Armstrong (comedian), Harding and Ah-sid (American eccentrics), Bob Hutt (comedian), and the series of animated pictures on the American bioscope is well received.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Limited, and E. H. Bostock.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The principal item this week is a thrilling historical sketch representing the murder of David Rizzio in the presence of Mary Queen of Scots. The unfortunate Queen is depicted by Mrs. Brown Potter with intense effect. Fyne and Hurley excite fun in a little sketch called *Coster and Dude*; the Knick Knacks are a pair of amusing eccentric singers and dancers; Harry Russell and company present a funny sketch called *Binks' Blunder*. Professor Abdy conducts a canine circus, and imitates the songsters of the grove. Daisy Mayer gives some loud Yankee songs and dances with much animation; Chas. Vincent is amusingly clever, and is well received; Mlle. Marvell shows what can be done in the training of birds, and A. D. Robins performs some astonishing cycle feats. The bioscope concludes a pleasant entertainment.

Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The energetic management here have introduced what is a novelty to Glasgow, a permanent ladies' choir, who, seated in the corners of the stage, give enjoyable vocal selections, and also join in the choruses of the artists' songs when required. The innovation is being much appreciated. Annie Purcell heads a good bill, and her various songs are heartily applauded. George Leyton's military scena, in which he introduces a local Crimean veteran, is again a highly popular item. Farley, Rennie, and Farley give their smart knockabout sketch *Fun at a Railway Station*; Sid Cotterell and company cause roars of laughter with their lively farce *The Substitute*; Marguerite Ismay and her coons give a clever turn; Terras Bros. do well in an acrobatic and balancing display; the Passports are smart eccentric dancers; Conan and Doyle score as patterers; and Hughes and Elliott are smart buck and sand dancers.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan.—In place of Dan Rolyat (indisposed) an excellent star turn is found in May Edouin and Fred Edwards, in their clever sketch *A Bachelor's Dream*, which was most heartily appreciated. The Novellos present their elaborate scena *India in Europe*, in which trained elephants, ponies, and dogs ably assist the artists in their various feats. Chas. Fisher's operatic trio give an enjoyable turn, including a pretty song from *Nanon*, and terminating with a selection from *Faust*. The Sisters Finney contribute some smart swimming and diving feats; Alice Maydue does well in a coster ditty; Rauschle gives several good impersonations of famous men; Cooke and Rothert are a lively American couple, with a lot of new business; Mamie Cannon gives some neat musical imitations, and the Urma Sisters are graceful gymnasts.

Palace.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Rich. Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—The programme provided here this week includes Regan and Ryan, comedians, who occupy the place of honour, and meet with a flattering reception. Ada Fawn, serio, also makes a good appearance. The other members of a capital programme include Sid Banden, comedian; the Lowenwirth Bros., Hebrew comedians; George Barrington, musical expert; the Musical Jees, eccentrics; Keen and Waller, acrobats; Dolly. Agnes, and Maud, factory nightingales; Sibb and Sibb, trapeze artists; Muir and Bartlett, sketch artists; Rowland Hill, eccentric comedian, and the animatograph are also here.

Queen's.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—Jack Lorimer tops the bill, and adds nightly to his popularity; in Charles Chard, a comedian of much ability, he is strongly opposed, but their business is entirely different. Miss Annie Casey is a comedienne of ability with a pleasing style, while Miss Patti Yole repeats former successes as a singer and dancer. A clever novelty turn is given by Mlle. Ameda, which is particularly pleasing and graceful; as swing dancers the Bros. Deane—the White Boys—score; top-boot dances and singing mark the Lessors as sterling artists; and Edie Emden sings well, and excels as an acrobatic dancer. Ina Lorimer, who gives a series of Scotch songs, is loudly encored; the well-known trio, Ross, Taylor, and Elvio, are extremely funny in their *Slavey* sketch, which brings a well-patronised programme to a merry close.

Tivoli. — Lessee, Mr. B. M. Armstrong. — Two strong stars in the boxing line are Ben Jordan and Jabez White, who have given excellent displays nightly against all comers. The Tom Davies Trio introduce their sensational "cycling in mid-air" turn, and most of the other items in the programme are included in the bill at the Queen's.

GLOSSOP.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds are presenting here the popular play *Passion's Power*. Mr. William Clayton as Prince Kandos gives a finished performance; Mr. Frank Radcliffe as General Zuran is well placed; and Mr. Walter Roberts as Rudolph Laski supplies a natural piece of acting. Mr. Stephen Scanlan as Michael Laski gives a good delineation of the villain; Mr. Henry Howard is excellent as Patrice; Mr. Frank Gardner as Jacopo, and Mr. Arthur Loury as Prosper, are seen to advantage; Mr. Ernest Dare as Felix deserves commendation; Mr. Henry Merlin as Ivan is good; Miss Lowe Dare causes much amusement as Lucie; Miss Stella Carmichael as Countess Delaunay acts in a praiseworthy manner; Miss Ruth Shepperd as Zorah Varno submits an artistic portrayal of the arduous part. Preceding the play, and between the acts, animated pictures are shown on the Rayograph.

GLOUCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. Rea. —*The Stowaway* is this week presented by a clever all-round company, headed by Miss Winifred Maude and Mr. Victor Du Cane. The latter enacts the title-rôle in a praiseworthy manner; Miss Maude is effective as Althea Dale; Mr. Edward Avinal gives an excellent rendition of Charles Etherington; and Tom Inglis is played in manly style by Mr. Royce Carleton. A realistic impersonation of Job Hickey is given by Mr. Edward Finlay; Miss Marie Lyons as Florence Etherington is especially good in the third act; and Miss Amy Corallie acts with much sprightliness as Chucky.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Jno. E. Tomlinson.—A strong attraction is provided here this week in the return visit of Messrs. A. Northway and W. V. Garrod's company, in *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. W. V. Garrod is well fitted for the part of the Rev. Tom Godley, and plays in a natural and convincing manner; Mr. A. Northway gives a powerful impersonation of the unscrupulous schemer, Enoch Jaggins; Mr. F. Dallas plays the part of Ben Jaggins with well-marked effect; Mr. Claremont Gaskell, in the light comedy rôle of Phil Drive, keeps the house highly amused, being ably assisted by Miss May Grayce, a bright and entertaining Gretchen. Mr. W. Vincent is good as Ned Kettlepin; and Mr. Thos. Ashton makes a capital George Markby. Miss Bertha Kingston contributes a delightful piece of acting as Fern Godley; and little Gladys Conover as Myrtle Godley quickly wins the sympathy of her audience. The Radium Girls, acrobatic dancers, add greatly to the success. Songs are successfully introduced by Miss Bertha Kingston in the Biergarten scene.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is paying a return visit with the sensational drama, *The Span of Life*. Richard Blunt is ably represented by Mr. Sanderson Moffat; Mr. R. S. Trelawney is excellent as Dunstan Leech; Mr. Walter Dale presents Nutty Brown in amusing fashion; and Joshua Gurnet is capitally played by Mr. Edwin T. Kisby. Miss Phyllis Graham is admirable as Cecil Jeff; Cecil Blunt is charmingly acted by Miss May Moffatt; the rôle of Mrs. Jelf is cleverly assumed by Miss Harriet Russell; Miss Kitty Russell contributes an able character-study as Shrove Tuesday; and Miss Phyllis Hamilton gives a natural and sympathetic rendering of Kate Heathcote.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. H. B. and J. J. Wright.—By permission of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte the Greenock Amateur Operatic Society is giving performances of *Iolanthe* in aid of local charities at the above theatre this week.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—George Leyton's company, in the sketch *The Phonograph Girl*, tops the bill here, and provides excellent entertainment, being assisted by the Lottie Stone troupe of dancers. Other items of a first-class bill are Coram, a very clever ventriloquist; George Ide, a capable baritone vocalist; the Gibson troupe of dancers; the Bouncing Dillons, somersault experts; and the Glasgow Match Girl, vocalist.

Pavilion Theatre.—Lessees, The Greenock Pavilion, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The principal turn here this week is by Mr. F. V. St. Clair, song-composer and comedian, and his performance evokes loud applause; Diamond and Beatrice are a clever pair of instrumentalists; Talberto and Douglas, comedians, are amusing; Alex Luke, vocalist, sings well; the George Power company smartly play a piece entitled *Matrimonial Bliss*; Vesta Fay, male impersonator, does a good turn; and the same can be said of Mark Lane, comedian, and Nancy St. John, comedienne and dancer.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—*The Earl and the Girl* has been very well received upon its first visit here, and has been presented in highly satisfactory fashion by Mr. William Greet's company. Mr. Alfred Donohoe, in the central character of Jim Cheese, accomplishes some capital burlesque acting; whilst Mr. Percy Bronson's impersonation of Downham is an excellent study of American cuteness. Mr. Greville Hayes as A. Bunker Bliss is also successful as a delineator of Yankee character of a different type. Mr. Leslie Gaze as Dick Wargreave and Mr. Thomas Kennard as the Hon. Crewe Boodle, besides giving admirable representations of their parts, score successes as vocalists. Among the ladies Miss Hylda Dugdale acts and sings in most engaging fashion, her dainty style and appearance winning the immediate favour of the audience. Miss Lina Hicks gives a good character-sketch of Liza Shoddam; whilst Miss Winnie Plumpton as Miss Virginia Bliss, Miss Beatrice Anderson as Mrs. Shimmering Black, and Miss Ida Stratham as Daisy Fallowfield all share in the success of the piece.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Animal performances are always popular with Palace audiences, and Zarmah's lions, bears, and boarhounds have proved no exception to the rule. They are remarkably well trained, and obey the commands of the trainer with wonderful alacrity. Some very smart club juggling is presented by the Four Geraldos, who are masters of their art, their combined evolutions being especially effective; Alma Obrey's songs give considerable pleasure; and Walter Adams scores a success as a comedian. Thelma's exhibition of clay-modelling is interesting, and Vernando contributes a ventriloquial performance of a novel kind. Other popular turns are given by Bob Baxter (comedian) and Mabel la Blanche (balladist).

Curry's Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Crowded houses have been attracted by the appearance of Tom McInerney, the champion wrestler of Great Britain. Several local enthusiasts have pitted their skill against him, and capital contests have been witnessed. Tom Cannon, the well-known wrestler, has also visited the theatre and competed with McInerney. There is, in addition, a capital variety programme. Jock Whiteford gives a highly amusing delineation of Scottish humour, and comedy is also provided by Harry Bent, a mimic. Other sporting turns are given by Will Walker, ball puncher, and Lillian and Vera, expert rifle shots; whilst Major Charles gives a clever display of marksmanship. Elton and Edwin prove a couple of skilful banjoists, the Two Jagos contribute smart dances, and charming ballads are given by Carlotta Lunn.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A delightful attraction is provided here this week by Mr. Charles Frohman's talented company in the musical comedy *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. Frank Lincoln is very quaint as the young Duke of St. Jermyns, while Mr. E. H. Kelly is well placed as Lord Dundreary, and sings the various items alloted to him with much taste. Mr. Augustin Symonds is all that could be desired as Higham Montague; as the page, Bucket, Master Grata evokes much merriment; Miss Maie Ash is a vivacious Angela; Miss Belle Napier gives a meritorious portrayal of Lady Catherham, and sings sweetly. The Gibson Girls have much to do with the success attained.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Mr. John Preston's powerful company is here in the successful sporting drama, *Rogues of the Turf*. Miss Madge Nelson scores as Nellie Flaxman; Miss Hilda Shirley gives a vigorous interpretation of Marion Lady Heathcote; Mr. Dan F. Roe presents a clever character study of Arthur Somerton; and Mr. John F. Preston is convincing as the old trainer.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—An exceptionally strong vaudeville programme is presented here this week. It includes Barton and Ashley, in *Canal Boat Sal*; Rita and Roma; Jack Brooks, Handcuff King; the Two Erolls in their comedy leaping act; the San Remo Girls, comediennes and dancers; and Harry Drew, the Welsh bass.

HANLEY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company opened on Monday in the Heath-Wilson Barrett version of *East Lynne*. In the parts of Lady Isabel and Madame Vine, Miss Julie Kennard scores a distinct success; she has a good presence, and plays forcefully; Mr. Alfred Beaumont, as Archibald Carlyle, acts with great skill; Mr. George Jervis well sustains the part of Richard Hare. Mr. Justice Hare finds a capable representative in Mr. C. C. Gratton. As policeman Bullock, Mr. Alfred Tate causes much amusement; Mr. Eric Mayne plays Francis Leveson in an artistic manner; Cornelia Carlyle is admirably sustained by Miss Ethel Hardacre. As Joyce, Miss A. Byron is seen to advantage; while the children are nicely interpreted by Miss Dorothy Townrow and Ethel Rae. Miss Violet Thorold as Barbara Hare is successful. Other parts are portrayed by Mr. Spencer Goodwin, Mr. Cyril Hayward, Miss Ethel Russell, and Miss Emilie Frith.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—A capital evening's entertainment is submitted this week. Mark Sheridan heads the bill, and, as usual, convulses his audiences with laughter. The Johnsons contribute a musical treat, their xylophone playing being extraordinary, the Great Northern Troupe are dancers of exceptional ability, and their efforts meet with much appreciation; Martine and Son, in their illustrated songs, prove a most acceptable turn; the Katos are seen in a novel performance, which is interesting; Jessie Barlee and Phil Smith, in their musical sketch, *A Rehearsal*, are a host in themselves; Will Johnson is a comedian of merit; and Daisy Martell, as a comedienne and dancer, is pleasing. The pictures are capital.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock.—Local playgoers have looked forward with much interest to the visit of Mr. Beerbohm Tree's version of *Oliver Twist*, which Mr. J. Bannister Howard presented during the early part of the week. As Fagin Mr. Stanley Drewitt proved himself to be an actor of no ordinary merit. In the Prison Scene he excelled himself. In Mr. Wm. H. Kemble was found an admirable Bill Sikes; Miss Edith Anton Laing gave a skilful delineation of the unfortunate Nancy; in the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Marsdin straightway established herself a firm favourite; the part of Mrs. Maylie could not have been in better hands than in those of Miss Alice Maude; and as Rose Maylie Miss Helen Clement was a decided success. Mr. W. H. Rotherham shows his versatility by doubling Mr. Grimwig and Monks, and playing both creditably; as the Artful Dodger Mr. Charlie Clarke presented a careful character-study, embellished with a large amount of humour; in which he was ably assisted by Mr. R. C. Hunter as Charlie Bates. Two excellent portrayals are those of Messrs. Fred Penley and Cyril Cattley as Mr. Brownlow and Harry Maylie respectively. On Thursday evening *The Prodigal Parson* was the attraction, played by Messrs. Albert Northway and W. V. Garrod's company.

The Kursaal.—Manager and Musical Director, Mr. C. L. Naylor, M.A., Mus.Bac.; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. R. Yeulett.—The Thespians, under the direction of Mr. J. T. Hollins, gave a second entertainment on Saturday evening. The chief feature of the programme was Mr. Douglas Blair's imitations of well-known actors, in which he proved himself a clever mimic; Mr. A. Newman was diverting, particularly in his modernised "Fables," which he recited cleverly; Mr. Fred Carlton sang a couple of coon songs in his inimitable style; and the programme also included a stump speech by Mr. Walt Ogden, dances by Misses Vera Robartes, Ladas, Ismay, and Violet Dixon, songs by Miss Edith Hartley, Messrs. Ted Thomas, and Tom Coleman. The chorus deserves special praise. Messrs. R. P. Oglesby and A. E. Grimshaw's operetta *Amaranthus* concluded a monster programme.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Verno and Voyce, who head the bill here, are popular in their scena, *Comrades in the Cause of Peace*, and the humorous interlude, *Butcher and Baker*; J. W. Hall's parody on *Wooden Hut* fairly brings down the house; Hanvarr and Anna Lee obtain an excellent reception; the entertainment by Roose is novel and clever; Mollie Wolstenholme's fine voice gains for her flattering marks of approval; Cade Burnett, descriptive vocalist, contributes an acceptable number; and the ball manipulations by Rogers are smartly done. The pictures are more than usually interesting this week.

West Hartlepool Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—The New Sapho Syndicate, Ltd., presents Miss Annie Bell and a specially-selected company in *Sapho*, in which Miss Bell assumes the titular-rôle in a manner which calls for much praise. Mr. Pringle Roberts portrays the rôle of Jean Gaussin with creditable naturalness. Father Legrand is a distinctly humorous character part as played by Mr. Chas. M. Daly; Cesaire has a capable representative in Mr. G. Antley; and a clever and precocious child, Miss Doris E. Graham, does well in the rôle of Joseph.

Palace. — Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Almost humanlike intelligence is displayed by Ivan Tschernoff's performing ponies and dogs. The reception accorded to the piccolo solos of May Moodie is most flattering; smart acrobatic tumbling is done by the Bros. Huxter; Kit Keen contributes a pleasing selection on the bones; the juggling by Francisco is cleverly done; a delightful musical entertainment is provided by Lidden and Hayward; and the Bio-Tableaux, Adeline Yohle, and a truly side-splitting sketch by the Lyons Trio are other attractive items on the bill.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. William Greet's No. 1 company is here this week in *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. William F. Grant plays the rôle of Marcus Superbus with genuine effectiveness, and his appeal to Nero in the last act is a fine elocutionary effort. Mercia is powerfully portrayed by Miss Marie Leonhard; and Miss Ivy Millais is very realistic and emotional as Stephanas. Favius, Titus, and Melos have good representatives respectively in Messrs. Walter Fleet, Geo. Stanton, and R. Chapman; Nero's moral cowardice is ably depicted by Mr. J. Boyd Pearsons; as also are the ferocious instincts of Tigellinus and Licinius by Messrs. Charles Aldred and J. Witherall. Miss Nellie Bonser is stately as Poppœa; and the Misses Alma Bolton (Berenice), and Cissie Carlton (Dacia) play their parts very forcefully. The bibulous Glabrio is well portrayed by Mr. Frank Wood.

Hippodrome.—Resident and General-Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—A good programme is opened here by the Sisters Belmont, excellent dancers; the speciality artists, Avon and Crest, obtain a flattering reception; Percy Maye, lady vocalist, scores a brilliant success; the eccentric comedian and dancer, Dan Filmer, keps the audience in good humour; a refined musical speciality is well illustrated by the juvenile artists, May and Lilly; Gus Hindell, comedian, gives an original turn with his miniature aristocrats; Daisy de Roy, comedienne, may be complimented on her singing. A clever and successful turn is seen in a comedy act given by Burns and Burns. The bioscope, with its up-to-date films, proves very interesting.

Pier Pavilion.—Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company opened here on Monday with *Sapho*. Miss Ada Abbott, in the title-rôle, acted with great power and feeling; Mr. Ernest R. Abbott gave an earnest rendering of the part of Jean Gausain; Mr. Douglas C. Phelps as Uncle Cesaire was excellent; Mr. C. Douglas showed praiseworthy ability as Flamant; Mr. W. H. Garlois gave a finished portrayal of Henri Dechelette; Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown caused much amusement as the jealous Hettema; and Miss Marjorie Tennant played well as his wife; Mr. W. Ross was effective as Old Legrand; Miss Elsie Jones acted naturally as the child Joseph; and Miss Louise Gilmore was successful as Aunt Divonne. For the second half of the week *Trilby* was well performed by the same company.

HEBBURN. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—An excellent variety company is here this week. The bill is headed by Mr. Sidney Beacon's combination in *The Maniac*. The cast includes Mr. George Wybrow as Sammy Garret, Mr. Wm. Brandon as Jasper Woodleigh, Mr. Arthur Proctor as Chawles, Miss Josie Bickford as Sally Jenkins, Miss A. Ermon as Florence Woodleigh, and Mr. Melville Bickford (the renowned character-actor) in the title-rôle. Special scenery and effects for this production are submitted by Messrs. Jourdain and Francotte. Next Marcella gives a marvellous performance in trick cycling; and Professor Hulbert, ventriloquist; Adale Venson, the clever vocalist; Harry Lee, comedian and mimic; De Lil, conjurer; Happy Attwood and Tom Pollich, comedians, and Downey's animated pictures complete the well-arranged programme.

HOYLAND.—The Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Miss Emma Litchfield's *A London Actress* company, under the able direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland, opened here on Monday. Mr. A. F. Dudley is a manly Lieutenant Kingston; and as Sergeant-Major Clive Crawford Mr. J. C. Carlyle is very good. Mr. G. H. Doyle scores as Captain Mannering; and Mr. Stuart Cleveland is a characteristic Moses Mendoza. The humorous element is well supported by Mr. John Hitchin as Pat Maloney, and Miss Nellie Fern as Biddy Maloney. Miss Maud Steeple is a fascinating Phyllis Crawford, and Miss Tho. Henries is excellent as Mrs. Skinner. As Hilda Mannering Miss Emma Litchfield displays great histrionic ability.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The return visit of Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Sunday* is giving pleasure to local playgoers deeply interested in the joys and troubles of that witching person, "Sunday," most sympathetically impersonated by Miss Emélie Polini. Her quartette of guardians, Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky are four of the most likeable rough diamonds as played by Mr. William Lockhart, Mr. Sydney Rennef, Mr. T. Norman Walter, and Mr. Arthur Vezin. Mr. Leonard Pagden is a fine, manly Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas, as Tom Oxley, has a part in which he is particularly happy; Mr. Cecil Duncan makes Arthur Brinthorpe sufficiently despicable; Miss Rosalind Ross plays with prudent restraint as Mrs. Naresby. The mounting of the play is thoroughly adequate.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Morris Cronin and his troupe of club jugglers—who top the bill—are loudly applauded for their brilliant work. In addition are Corbin's trained dogs, a unique performance in that the animals have the stage to themselves, unattended. The Brothers Ethairien (in their highly-diverting turn *Spoofo*,) Fred Power (comedian), Ferris and Farnley (comedians and dancers), Miss Georgina Leonard (ballad singer), Ralph Moore (a boy singer with a sweet voice), and the Hippodrome Pictures are other attractions.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Eternal City*, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, is here this week. The principle feature of the play is the fine acting of Miss

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Mr. Charles Carey's company opened here on Tuesday night with the new musical comedy *After the Ball*, which was excellently received. Mr. Walter Ringham is good as Halliwell Meint, and Mr. Victor Widdicombe creates much laughter as Colonel Joseph Meint. As Nancy Miss Florence Smithers, who is a great favourite here, is the life and soul of the piece; Mr. Buckstone Clair and Mr. Norman Bowyer both do well as Martin and Dick Seymour; Miss Nellie Groves is a pretty and fascinating Nellie Mather, and is well supported by Miss May Florence as Ruth Gay. Miss Nellie James is an entertaining Kitty, and the Gibson Girls are also appreciated.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. J. W. Worley's company is here with *A Faithful Friend*. Mr. Henry Hatcham is an admirable John Tollerton and Mr. Worley forcibly portrays the evil nature of Harold Sefton. Mr. Robert W. Lynn gives an artistic performance as Antonio, and Mr. John Cullen exhibits considerable humour as Sir Thomas Jones, being well supported by Mr. James Hussey as Augustus. Miss Trisail Humphreys is distinctly successful as Mildred Marsden, and Miss Esther Ohlson is pleasing as Cynthia.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—The theatre was closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week, but on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Mr. Geo. Dance's company was billed to appear in *The Orchid*. The company is a strong one, and a rare treat is provided for the patrons of this place of amusement.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Halls.—On Monday Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened in *Are You a Mason?* Mr. E. H. Patterson was amusing as Amos Bloodgood, and Mr. H. Langdon Bruce was good as Frank Perry. As George Fisher Mr. Allan Pollock achieved success, and Mr. Percy Bell gave a clever rendering of Hamilton Travers. Miss Adelaide Grace did well as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood, and the Misses Rita Ward and Mabel Jowett were very effective as Annie and Lulu. Miss Mabel Younge contributed greatly to the success of the piece by her graceful rendering of the part of Eva, Mrs. Perry. The farce was preceded by the clever one-act drama *A Bad Penny*.

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company has paid a return visit in *Florodora*. First honours are due to Mr. Daley Cooper, who, as Anthony Tweedlepunch, was responsible for much of the success of the piece; Mr. Stanley White was a capable Cyrus Gilfain; and Mr. R. Courtier Dutton was well suited as Frank Abercoed, his singing being very pleasing; Mr. Herbert St. John was prominent as Arthur Donegal; and Mr. Edwin Oxlee was an accomplished Leandro. Miss Leonora Grieve was a charming Dolores, and gained much admiration for her spirited acting and fine singing; Miss Lily Sullick achieved success as Angela; and the Lady Holyrood of Miss Edith Housley was all that could be desired.

LANCASTER. — ATHENÆUM. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company opened on Monday with *The Little Breadwinner*, and the drama was followed throughout with keen interest. Mr. Campbell appeared with success as Lord Dorrington, Mr. David Gordon made the most of Richard Lawrence, and the villain Joseph Prior was exceedingly well played by Mr. Scott Leighton. Mr. Allen Charles did well as Charles Prior, and Mr. Walle Spinner scored as Dr. Chadwick. Miss Maud Hastings gave a clever portrayal of Margaret Daventry. Miss Maud Buchanan was decidedly successful as Kate Cherry, and the performances of Miss Lissa Young and little Emmie Thomas as Bobby Trott and Meg respectively are worthy of special notice.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Ferguson and John Porter.—Another attractive programme is arranged here, at the head of which is Florence and Lillian in a first-rate drawing-room musical entertainment. Sandy and Carl, comedy boxers, have had a good reception, and Wee Mona, child comedienne and dancer, is recalled again and again for her smart turn. Tom Stuart, impersonator, has a capital reception; and Victoria Dagmar is a clever lady gymnast. Jack Hylton, comedian, also does well. Lottie Holland, burlesque actress, and Walter Payne's animated pictures complete the bill.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's *Cinderella* company is paying a visit this week. Plenty of fun is provided by Mr. Joe English as Buttons, and Messrs. Moon and Morris as the Ugly Sisters. Miss Gerty McQueen made a capital Prince; and Miss Kitty Rafferty was a dainty Cinderella. The performance of Mr. A. Benson as the Baron, and Miss H. Deacon the Baroness, helped the success achieved.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—The successful musical play *The Spring Chicken* arrived on Monday here. Mr. George Gregory in the rôle of Mr. Girdle keeps his audience vastly amused; Miss Gertrude Glyn makes a charming Rosalie; the Mrs. Girdle of Miss Irene Verona is a very clever effort; Mr. L. W. Harris cuts a handsome figure as the wayward advocate; his fascinating client, the Baroness Papouche, is a characteristic study by Miss Gertrude Gilliam; and Miss Rita Everard acts with exceeding grace the rôle of Dulcie, the advocate's wife. Mr. Edgar Ronalds does well as the amorous clerk Boniface, the waiter Felix as personated by Mr. C. D. Cleveland is decidedly amusing, and good work is also done by Mr. Nelson Keys, Mr. Frank Hector, Miss Nellie Lonnen, and Miss Amy Bingham.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*The Midnight Mail* is presented this week twice nightly by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company, under the direction of Mr. James Willard. Mr. George Harvard acquits himself well as Harry Steyne; Billy Brewer is strikingly interpreted by Mr. Fred G. Evison, who proves himself a versatile actor in this semi-comic, semi-tragic character; Miss Grace Lester wins sympathy as the heroine Mary Steyne; Mr. Austin Mortimer is at home in the part of Leonard Royle; and Mr. C. P. Wentworth proves an able villain as Hassan Padisha. As Jasper Thornleigh Mr. Harry Emmerson gives a very natural performance, and the same may be said regarding the acting of Mr. Dobell Lyle as Donald Craig. Nancy Brewer finds an able exponent in Miss Mildred Carr; and Miss Hilda Merrilese makes a charming Lady Eustace.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—There is a return this week to stirring melodrama, Mr. Millar Anderson's company appearing in the powerful domestic play *When Woman Hates*. The leading rôle of Cora Daintry is played with intense dramatic power by Miss Mabel Mannering, and she receives excellent support from Mr. Jerrold Heather, who plays Lieutenant Rokeby in powerful style; and Mr. Millar Anderson, whose work as the villainous Godfrey Lawton is also very fine. Mr. Charles Herberte gives a capital study of General Rokeby; his two daughters are played in graceful style by Miss Dorothy Lupone and Miss Gladys Lloyd; and a very charming portrayal of the lieutenant's wife goes to the credit of Miss Maude Townsend.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—In an attractive programme the Uessems claim special recognition for their clever equilibristic and gymnastic act; My Fancy introduces novel sand dances with unmistakable success; Herbert Shelley is a popular actor-vocalist; an intensely amusing item *The Cuckoo* is submitted by that versatile pair Kitts and Windrum; and another popular comedy duo, Roze and Calvert, experience a gratifying reception. James Stuart scores with amusing business at the piano; David Poole is doing a novel ventriloquial turn with success; James Fawn, the popular comedian, is on a welcome return visit; and Bert Bryne is a second comedian. George Tacius is possessed of remarkable vocal abilities.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—Harry Roxbury and company are at the top of a good programme this week in the original musical mélange *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. As P.C. Longfellow Mr. Roxbury keeps the house in roars; Miss Ethel Bryant as Lady Carr acts, sings, and dances well. Fred Earle scores in his song "Seaweed"; the Brothers Martine, on their "rebounding table," are accomplished acrobats; Lottie Siegenberg is smart in her quick-change sketch; and Chas. R. Whittle pleases with a topical song. Alice Ormonde, Dorothy Gould, the Olive Trio, and Elverton (the spinning marvel) complete an interesting programme.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A dramatic sketch, *Did He Deserve It?* effectively played by Dottridge and Longden's company, is the leading item here. Bob Selvidge was a favourite at the Royal pantomime, and renews his triumphs here; the Falcons please with an amusing comedy sketch; the Bros. Brooks are also well to the fore with smart eccentric business; Lade Henderson scores in the vocal line; the wonderful dancing girl Viviana gives a fine exhibition of her art; and other creditable turns are done by Harry Thurston (mimic) and the Sisters Brand (comediennes).

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The musical dream play, *Bluebell in Fairyland*, presented by Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company, is the attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Gladys Cooper charms all with her talented and artistic impersonation; Mr. Lawrence Emery as Dicky is also well to the front with a clever portrayal; Mr. David Cruickshank is good as Mr. Joplin; and Mr. H. C. Morton as Will and Mr. E. Cossart as Wont create much wholesome fun. Mr. Percy Farrimond as the Singing Collier gets a capital reception; Mr. Shirley Lea as Policeman 1C. is humorous; and as the First Bootblack Mr. Harry Pleon, jun., is also to be complimented on a portrayal of merit. Both Mr. F. Allen as the Sleepy King and Mr. Shirley Lea as the Reigning King are good. The Misses Muriel Juin, Minnie Blanchard, Jessie Blanchard, Connie Emerald, Marie Edmonds, Jessie Douglas, and Ruby Carter are all successful in their parts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A capital attraction is provided here this week in the presentation of the great military drama, *One of the Best*, by Miss Elsie Roberts's company, under the personal direction of Mr. Frank Fenton, and the general-management of Mr. Leonard Maxwell. Mr. Frank Fenton makes a conspicuous success as Dudley Keppel; and as Mary Penrose Miss Elsie Roberts is also to be complimented on an exceptionally clever embodiment. Mr. George Child is good as the Rev. Dr. Penrose; Miss Ethel Royale is admirable as Esther Coventry; and as Kitty Spencer Miss Dorrie Roberts is popular and humorous. Mr. Harry Ed. Ray makes a good impression as Private Jupp, and Mr. Escott Robson as Phillip Ellsworth. Mr. Cyril Melton as Lieutenant-General Coventry, and Mr. Edward S. Earle as Sir Archibald McGregor play with distinction and histrionic ability.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—The leading items in an attractive and diversified programme here this week is Chung Ling Soo, the celebrated magician, whose deftness in performing his various tricks leaves the audience in bewilderment. Terry and Lambert, in melody, wit, and humour, score a success with a thoroughly enjoyable and smart turn; the Dumond Minstrels, Parisian street singers and instrumentalists, are entertaining; the Edgar Forrest sketch combination provide an excellent and exhilarating sketch; the Mariano Sisters give a daring and finished performance on the breakaway trapeze; Robb Gilmore is a mirth-provoking comedian, and a clever and novel dancer; the Paxton Trio of gymnasts are responsible for a neat and high-class display; the O'Learys, Oriental acrobats, are also very clever. The American Bioscope depicts "A Missing Legacy" and other pictures to the delight of all.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The great attraction here this week is the production for the first time out of London by Dinah Morris and her smart combination of versatile artists of the musical comedy *The Lost Coon*, in which elaborate scenery and effects are used. The principal part is played in a delightfully vivacious manner by Miss Dinah Morris; Sidney Morris dances very cleverly as the Lost Coon; and others in a long cast who distinguish themselves are Cissy Roosvelt, Lall Essex, Bessie Morris, Rasmus, Lily Morris, Doddie Morris, and San Géne. Marie Braham, burlesque actress, is well received; Bessie Knight, the new comedienne and dancer, is making a successful appearance; the Society Quartette of vocalists, comedians, and dancers score; Alfred Cyclo is a capital comedy bicyclist; Walter H. Pallister's American Bioscope projects the usual up-to-date pictures; and Miss Elsie Sinclair, burlesque actress and dancer, and Miss Rosie Gilmer, operatic vocalist, are also entertaining.

LEITH. — NEW GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison. — Mr. Charles Harrington's company provides an attractive entertainment with the immortal *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The good old-time drama is produced with elaborate effect by this clever combination of players, including a number of real negroes. Mr. J. Carr makes an ideal Uncle Tom; Legree and Dan Haley are done to the life by Mr. J. Henry Rogers and Mr. James Jackson; while Mr St. Clair, Loker, and the slaves Quimbo, Sambo, and Andy are well pictured by Mr. Stanley Howard, Mr. W. Eversleigh, Mr. Jack Black, Mr. Tom Miles, and Mr. J. H. Boehm. George and Eliza find sympathetic representatives in Mr. Leslie Beaufort and Miss Hettie Johnson; Aunt Chloe is carefully played by Mrs. Carr; and the Little Eva of Little Minnie is pathetically contrasted with the Topsy of Miss Mabel Bowman. Miss Ethel Mildmay should be complimented on her Cassy.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—We have this week Mr. F. B. Woulfe and company in a répertoire of plays, including *Lady Godiva*, *Jane Shore*, and *Nell Gwynne*, by Max Goldberg. In the first-named on Monday evening Mr. Woulfe was very effective as Tom of Coventry. Admirable support came from Miss Josephine Colona, a sweet Godiva; Mr. Ernest Lodge, a striking Ceofric; and Mr. James Duncan, a duly treacherous Algar. Mr. Lionel Lingham as Edgar, and Mr. Harry Benson as Robin, won favour; and Mr. Ernest Hamilton was a praiseworthy Unwolf. Miss Gwen Stewart as Lady Aldyth, and Miss Edith Loraine as Elfrida, gave satisfactory support.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—An effective turn of a character quite novel to Lincoln is presented by Mlle. Ghita Corri, in her electrical scene, *The Maiden's Prayer*, in which she sings with great taste; the Paolias and the Brothers Zampah present the gymnastic element with effect; Will Lytton's songs amuse immensely; and further variety is submitted by the Swift Trio of comedy cyclists; Violet Stockelle, a comedienne of ability; Miles and May, an entertaining pair of comedians; Frances Haskoll, with superb pictorial effects; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Mr. Huntley Wright with *The Mountain Climber* and *The Little Father of the Wilderness* has been welcomed here this week, the widely different rôles of Sibsey and Marlotte being witnessed by delighted audiences. The company, that of Mr. Charles Frohman, afforded the able comedian every support. Mr. W. R. Staveley was an excellent Samuel Midgham; the rôle of Mrs. Sibsey in the hands of Miss Kate Mills afforded the utmost satisfaction; the Misses Christine McGill and Dora Barton played sweetly as the step-daughters; as Dr. Charles Midgham Mr. Montague Elphinstone left nothing to be desired; and other principals were Mr. J. Sebastian Smith, Mr. Eric Maturin, Miss Ivy Hertzog, and Mr. Algernon Newark. The mounting of both pieces was excellent.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—Messrs. John B. Shinton and Alexander Greenwood's special company have been here this week with *The Price of Her Soul*, which has enjoyed much public patronage. Mr. Shinton held his original part of Lord Mandeville, playing with effect; Miss Ada M. Ryder made some capital points as Countess Steinmitz; Mr. Annesley Hely handled the rôle of Major Skoboloff satisfactorily; Miss Mona Gray was an excellent Olga Lanovitz; and little Ida Thompson as Vera showed much juvenile ability. The play was particularly well presented. Last (Friday) evening a new drama, *By Whose Hand?* was produced, a notice of which will appear next week.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A talented list is billed for this week. The Folkestones are answerable for roars of laughter in their funny sketch; John Grun Marx's exhibition of weight-lifting astonished everyone; King and Benson, who top the bill, delight audiences with their humorous turn; Henri Bekker is applauded for some decidedly clever conjuring; and Chris Masters, character-vocalist, Blake and Grundy in their sketch, Andy Higginson, the Hugo Troupe, Kitty Tims, and the Lyric bioscope's new pictures all add to the evening's enjoyment.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Walter Melville's powerful work, *The Worst Woman in London*, has been staged here during the week, and to it much public patronage has been accorded. Included in Mr. Tom H. Taylor's able company was Miss Florence Dalton, whose assumption of the title-part was received with great enthusiasm. Mr. Wallace Campbell handled the character of Jack Felton with every discrimination; as Vincent Lyle Mr. Paul Barry-Lewers displayed considerable ability; the part of Ruth Milford was in the good hands of Miss Effie Bartlett; Mr. H. H. Barrington made the most of James Milford; credit is due to Mr. Leonard Booker for his Philip Armstrong, and Mr. H. W. Monte was a good Hugh Drayton.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—Hardie and Von Leer's original company is here this week with *Two Little Vagabonds*. The waifs were represented by Miss Freda Ettrick and Miss Helen Grenville, whose work was followed with great interest; Mr. Henry Hare made an excellent George Thornton; as Marion, Miss Grace Heywood was most convincing; Mr. Sydney Vautier gave an admirable impersonation of Captain Darville; as Bill Muggins Mr. John F. Traynor left nothing to be desired; and other characters well portrayed were John Scarth by Mr. Dunstan Haye, Barbara Scarth by Miss F. Russell Spiers; Sister Randall by Miss Muriel Clay, and the servant by Miss Constance May.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Lessees, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—The successful pantomime *Babes in the Wood* will conclude to-night. On Monday last Master Nipper Lupino Lane and Miss Madie Andrews, the two clever Babes, had a benefit; Miss Winifred Hare (Robin Hood) took one on Wednesday, and Mr. Bransby Williams one on Friday. The dramatic season opens on Monday with *Charley's Aunt*.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—A well-filled bill has been submitted here this week. At the top are Herbert Darnley's company of comedians with the screamingly-funny sketch *Moving In*, which has provoked endless laughter. The Dandies, society entertainers, were loudly applauded for their excellent singing; Victor Newman gave a number of admirable impersonations, including that of Irving as "Mathias"; Mezetti and Mora had a clever bar act; Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, with their comical mule, aroused great laughter; Sam Soda, an impromptu reciter, proved acceptable; a funny sketch, *Fun on the Golf Links*, was provided by the Burnells; Rachael Lowe with her duck and novelty songs was well received; the Three Missouris were as humorous as ever; and others who appeared were G. W. Foster, comedian, and Athas and Collins with their act, *Four for a Bob*.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—*The Little Stowaway*, presented by Ethel Arden and George Abel, Ltd., has proved a strong attraction here this week. A capital vocal and dancing act has come from the Six Æolians; the Tally-Ho Trio contributed a pleasing turn with *The Three Buttercups*; Carden and Zesch are a couple of smart society entertainers; a deal of amusement resulted from the efforts of Bernard and Weston, comedians; Barton and Franklin submitted a capital musical programme; H. O. Wills is a comedian of no mean order; and others in the bill were Jennie Johns (soubrette) and Tate and Tate (eccentrics).

NEW PARTHENON. — Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—At the head of the bill here this week are Allis and Cassati with their remarkable amusing trifle, *A Funny Few Minutes*; Julian Mack, a comedian of ability, makes a first appearance here, and his efforts are much appreciated; as an eccentric character comedian Johnny Walker has several good points; Tom Morton sings some taking songs; Maudie Ford is a dainty comedienne and dancer, and Violet Trevanion renders several numbers in agreeable style.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The Royal Stock Company, including Mr. Percy Boucher, are this week presenting *A Fiend of a Woman* in seven tableaux. Mr. Boucher assumes the rôle of Billy Budge, and is supported by Mr. J. Moore (Dr. Nicola), Mr. Harry Tresham (George Bevan). Mr. E. D. Allen (Jim Burke), Mr. Cecil Ravenswood (Mickey O'Rorke), Miss Beryl Ravenswood (Lady Aldin), and Miss Alice Hinton (Mrs. Dixon). The bioscope pictures are a feature of the evening.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Harry Calden's sketch company are principal in the bill here this week with *Shaun*, which is in five tableaux; Ernie Leech, the singing ventriloquist, has an excellent turn; Rosie Leslie dances and sings well; and some interesting pictures are shown by the bioscope.

PARK PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—A sketch, entitled *Beneath a Mask*, presented by J. Wright, Aitken, and Co., heads the programme this week; the Bros. Bellong perform some smart acrobatic work; Clark's Nippers supply a neat turn with their speciality act of boxing, ball punching, and dancing; the Four Andys are clever and agile comedy acrobats and risley performers; the singing of the Sisters Volbeque proves very acceptable; and others on the list are Fred Pollard (comedian), and Emilie Warren (ballad vocalist).

HAYMARKET.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—At the top of the bill here this week is Tom Lloyd, comedian; the Harlem Bros. are smart speciality artists; Hess and Lisbon, the celebrated fancy and comic skaters, are as great as ever, and receive thunders of applause, their "Jumbo" policeman creating great laughter; the Bros. Adderley are clever comedians and mimics; the vocal tableaux of Ralston and Frances are much relished; Theresa Thirsk shows ability as a male impersonator, and Nipper Anthen, comedian and mimic, makes a first appearance.

WESTMINSTER. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The Four Hearnes are principal here this week with their capital show as comedy acrobats; a turn which earned much applause was that given by the Jansons, their gymnastic novelty act with a revolving apparatus being something uncommon; Achilles gave an excellent speciality athletic act; Ted Cowan had a deal of humorous patter; as a comedienne May Fallowfield gave satisfaction; and others who appeared were George H. Keith, vocalist, and George Bendon, white coon.

OLYMPIA. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—A return visit of *Butterflies in Fairyland* has been highly appreciated; the "Human Bullet" remains another week in the programme; Seeley and West, the black and white comedians, are amusing with their musical turn; O'Gust causes great laughter with his mimicry; some clever trick cycling is performed by Bert Woodward; delightful acrobatic work is executed by the Trapnell family; Herr Grais's baboons show a remarkable degree of training; some pleasing singing and dancing comes from the Dorrells, and the New Macs are able comedians.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Orchid* is here this week. As Lady Violet Anstruther Miss Constance Hamilton is very charming and clever; Miss Maude Jay as Josephine Zaccary is excellent and most successful; Miss Hilda Vining is good as the amorous Caroline Vokins; whilst as Zelie Rumbert Miss Nancy Taylor does well. As Meakin Mr. Colin Campbell is most amusing; Mr. Ion Maxwell is a good Guy Scrymgeour; Mr. W. Garland as Dr. Fausett, and Mr. R. Corray as Aubrey Chesterton, are both well placed. Mr. T. A. Fisher is a capital Count Raoul.

LONG EATON. — We have a visit at the Lyceum Theatre from Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Sin of Her Childhood*. Miss Mary Fulton has a hearty greeting in the principal rôle; the Rev. Alan Grey is admirably played by Mr. Charles Fancourt; Mr. E. St. Clair Forbes is an interesting villain; Mr. Frederick Lloyd figures to advantage as Captain Thornton; and Mr. Hugh Brady is a rollicking Barney. Little Dott Moss has a fetching song; and Little Edith plays Eric nicely.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company is here this week with *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Frank Lindo does exceedingly well as Stephen Armitage, and receives excellent support from Miss Marion Wakeford, who makes a good Joan. Captain Gerald Gambier is a successful Duke of Ancaster; Mr. J. W. Henson a capable David Armitage; and Mr. Wilson Coleman is clever as Lucas Lyle. Solomon Keary is well played by Mr. T. Lewis; Miss Hetty Webster acts with ability as Sybil Fay; and Miss Mary Denver is a good exponent of Lady Summerton.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week we have the third visit of the drama *At Duty's Call*, well presented by Mr. John Gerant's company. Mr. Gerant repeats his former success as Harold Allison; and Captain Geo. Allison finds a capable exponent in Mr. Frank V. Fenn. Mr. Ernest St. John submits a fine picture as General Gordon; and Mr. Eric V. Rees is equally good as the slave Hassan. Clever and amusing sketches are afforded by Messrs. Harry Ugar (Terry) and Gwyn Richardson (Jack Spencer); and Miss Harlington is well placed as the maid. Miss Marie Menzies presents a charming picture as Dora Drummond; and Miss Georgina Hamilton gives a powerful and well-thought-out study as Salema.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Miss Frances Delaval's company, in *Her Lost Self*, opened here on Monday. Wilfred Daventry is in the capable hands of Mr. Percy Carne Waram, who sustains the part with the desired effect; Norman Esmond is finely interpreted by Mr. Chas. Kean; Paul Kimberley is well represented by Mr. Adian Lovett; the parts of Abraham and Rachael Cohen are cleverly taken by Mr. L. W. Halfpenny and Mrs. Edmund Lyons respectively, who are well assisted by Mr. Horace Buckley as Tom Flyaway, and Miss Nell Ingram as Bridget Mahone, in the comedy element. Miss Frances Delaval as Philipine Marcel exhibits great power as an actress.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. W. K. Galtey.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. R. Ayrton's company opened on Mondey with *A Gambler's Daughter*. Mr. Robert Ayrton as Desmond O. Dare gave a powerful impersonation; Mr. Alfred Sanders scored as Solomon Solomons; Mr. Richard Pitt as John Grant acquitted himself well; as Jack Grant Mr. A. Terris gave a well-portrayed study; Miss Adria Hill in the dual parts of Mildred Grant and Miriam Grant acquitted herself with distinction; Miss Florence Cooke as Mary did well; and the Misses Harriett Loydall and Annie Broughton as Zeb and Mary respectively gave capital portrayals. Miss Sanders as Carita was prominent; Miss Amy Mills was good as Mrs. Long Tom, as was Miss Lottie Sanders as Mrs. Jake; Mr. Frank Wheatcroft as Dick submitted a neat study.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company played *A Country Girl* to a crowded house on Wednesday. Mr. J. Mansell Stringer was well received as Geoffrey Challoner; Messrs. W.O. Billington and W. Besley Beltran were excellent as Sir Joseph and Douglas Verity; Mr. Bernard Vaughan was good as the Rajah; and Mr. Johnnie Clegg was irrepressibly funny as Barry. Miss Eileen Guilbert sang and acted gracefully as Marjorie; Miss Florence Burdette made many good points as Nan; Miss Vera Vizard as the Princess was both picturesque in appearance, and excellent in her songs; and Miss Madge Campbell was sprightly as Sophie.

MAIDSTONE. — CORN EXCHANGE. — Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—*I Defy the World* is drawing crowded Louses here this week, and as played by Mr. Julian Malvern's company proves popular. The play is well mounted, and the company includes Miss Maud Malvern as Blanche Darville, Miss G. Coats as Fauchette, Mr. Lewis Gilbert as Leon Darville, Mr. Chas. M. Julian as Andre, and Mr. Horace Booth as Count Beaulieu.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—A good programme is provided here this week by the management, and includes the Sisters Desmond, duettists, on a popular return visit; William Mackay and company, in an entertaining sketch *My Son's Wife*; the Musical Schafers, in a clever instrumental act; Harry Phydora, a quaint comedian; J. Fossett and his performing dogs; Fred Alberto, comedian; and Rosie Stuart, vocalist.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmonstone Shirra.—Good old-fashioned historical drama is here this week in the shape of Tom Taylor's *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, which is being played by Mrs. Russ Whytal and a capable company. Mrs. Whytal's first visit to Manchester is made remarkable by the unqualified success with which she depicted Elizabeth on Monday night, a more powerful and refined performance could not have been desired. Excellent also was the Bishop Gardiner of Mr. Charles Combe. Considerable merit was in the delineation of Edward Courteney by Mr. F. Lumsden Hare, who was dignified and forcible throughout. Mr. J. J. Bartlett played Simon Renard with skill and care; Mr. Leslie Palmer gave a studied rendering of Sir John Harrington; Mr. C. A. White presented Sir John Parry in finished style; Mr. Ulick Burke made the most of his chances as the Earl of Sussex; and Mr. Alfred Fisher was quite satisfactory as Sir Thomas Wyatt. Prominent among the ladies was Miss Geraldine Olliffe, who gave a careful and telling delineation of Queen Mary; and Miss Mabel Knowles, who was very pleasing as Isabel Markham. Excellent scenery illustrates the play.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—*The Duffer* is here again, in the hands of a company under Mr. Louis Calvert. Mr. E. H. Wynne is excellent in the title-part; and Miss Mabel Taylor is fully equal to the demands of the part of Niobe. Mr. Whitford Kane is very good as Paul Martin; Mr. F. Pennington-Gush is a capable Charles Chester; Miss Margaret Montrose acts with grace and tact as Lady Amelia; Miss Florence Adale does very well as Phyllis Wade; and Miss Nelly Griffen is sufficiently light and amusing as Miss Bide. The remainder of the cast are commendable.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. E. Hill-Mitchelson and company are here this week in *Death or Glory Boys*, a stirring military drama. Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson (the author) plays Captain Glynn Ferrers in a suave, pleasing, and yet sinister style, much to the enjoyment of the audience; Miss Violet Carlyle acts charmingly as Nana Furgeson; and Miss Rosabel Dodd does well as the wronged woman Edith Malden. As Jack Malden Mr. Wellesley Draper has a strong part, which he renders in capable fashion; while Mr. Theo Balfour as Colonel Furgeson, and Mr. Edwin Jenner as Lieutenant Duff, give adequate interpretations. Mr. J. Russell Bogue and Miss Hettie Senior are very amusing as Nat Wilks and Jane. The staging and uniforms of the play leave nothing to be desired.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—A very interesting production of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* was staged here on Monday by Mr. Harold Y. Neilson, to whom Manchester playgoers are indebted for frequent enterprises of the kind. As Doctor Stockmann Mr. Neilson acted with characteristic power, quite realising the occasional genius of the character and its naturally sanguine temper; Mr. D. Lewin Mannering displayed fine gifts in a singularly clever rendering of Peter Stockmann, the pompous, stupid, and disagreeable burgomaster. As Asiaksen, the printer, whose policy is "moderation," a truly comic and typical depiction was given by Mr. J. F. Fox, who missed nothing in the way of make-up, deportment, or intonation. Mr. H. Gomer was remarkably natural as Horstad, the editor; and Mr. Ardine Linden played Billing in humorous style. Mr. John Detliv's Moren Kül was an entertaining character-study, successful in every word and movement. As Mrs. Stockmann Miss Katherine M. Romsey played with very nice tact and charm; and Miss Amy Sangster gave a clever and natural portrayal of Petra. A word of praise is due also to Mr. Leonard Atwill as Horster, Mr. Donald Gow as Petersen, and Masters W. Pukwick and L. Taylor as the boys.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Amy Anderson and company, in *The Banana Stall*, worthily head the bill here this week, and are much applauded. Walter Curtis, the merriment merchant, gives popular samples of his humour; the Mimosa Trio, three charming girls, are clever in song and dance; Sam Jesson's little merry-makers appear successfully in a musical sketch; Lillie Mayfield is a charming comedienne and dancer; the Three Esmonds present an entertaining grotesque absurdity; Marstro and Oretta, eccentric equilibrists, give an excellent show; Violet Thorne, juvenile vocalist, shows distinct promise; Gilroy and Gross, dancing experts, are exceedingly smart; and the Bioscope depicts "The Wedding Morn." The bill includes also Charles Russell, lunatic comedian, who did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company, in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, is transferred here this week from the Royal Osborne Theatre, and is doing excellent business.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Miss Bonwin Carlton and company occupy the stage here this week in the sensational comedy-drama, *The Plucky Nipper*, by Edward Surrey. Miss Bonwin Carlton plays the title-part with distinction; Mr. Edward Surrey gives a vigorous and pleasing delineation of Bill Burgess, a ne'er-do-well; Mr. William Heilbronn makes an excellently villainous Richard Vanbrugh; Mr. Edward Stream is commendable as the heroic Captain Leslie (with songs); Miss Ethel Whiteley is charming as Ina Fenwick, the heroine; and ample humour is contributed by Mr. Douglas Campbell and Mr. T. Hadlin as Tommy Atkins and Bill Brown, the former being especially smart in song and dance.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter De Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Carl Hertz is one of the attractions here this week,

by Picett and Lizette; Witty Watty Walton, an old favourite, is as amusing as ever; clever and entertaining are the Two Dixons (Nellie and Lily), in song, dance, and banjo playing; the Zouaves are smart in their lightning drill and wall-scaling exhibition; and Ara, Zebra, and Vora are clever acrobats. Other good turns are Nellie Graham, a neat dancer; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white; Little Rene, impersonator and mimic; Fred Casburn, comedian; Herbert Betts, comedian; and "A Policeman's Trials," depicted on the Bioscope.

MANSFIELD.—Victoria Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Fox.—On Friday and Saturday last week Miss Inez Howard's company presented the drama *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Mr. Richard Fulton filled the part of Captain Caversham creditably, and Molly Vernon was admirably taken by Miss Gertrude Evans. Mr. Sidney Dean made an amusing Dick Punch.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Jennings.—Good houses have attended here this week. Charles Coborn tops the bill, and is recalled again and again; Tom Davis and company, in the sketch *Theatrical Aspirants*, cause much amusement; Prof. Devereux's troupe of dogs give a clever performance; and Harry Dowsett, comedian; Rena and Rex, duologue artists; Belford and Mars, a singing duo; Alf Bishop, comedian; Bert Reeves, eccentric dancer; Gracie Logan, and Cinizelli also receive applause.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—With a change of management, the entire theatre thoroughly cleaned and renovated, a complete outfit of new scenery, specially painted by Mr. Jules Camus, and a stock company of experienced artists, this old house, which of late has undergone so many vicissitudes, was reopened on Monday evening with the new costume play *The Duchess of Marlborough*. The title-part is admirably played by Mrs. Cullen; Miss Eugenie Vernie sustains the rôle of the Queen capitally, the weakness of her character being well brought out; Miss Emmie O'Reilly is good as Mrs. Masham, and Mr. A. Austin-Leigh is effective as Robert Harley, leader of the Tories. The Duke of Marlborough finds a capable representative in Mr. O. P. Heggie; and other parts satisfactorily sustained are Jonathan Swift (Mr. G. W. Elton), Capt. Richard Steele (Mr. Richard Fielding), Lord Villiers (Mr. J. K. Lord), the Lady Susan Villiers (Miss Juanita Hall), the Lady Teraminta Wood (Miss Lilian Rogers), the Lady Betty Martin (Miss Violet Agnew), Col. Jack Hill (Mr. J. E. Savery), and Sir William Deval (Mr. Farrington-Stuart).

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—This week's programme is headed by Harry Champion, the quick and quaint comedian, whose songs are vociferously redemanded. Mlle. Cordite, assisted by Wild Buffalo (scout and Wild West rough-rider), proves herself a clever manipulator of the lasso, and shows marvellous skill in her lariat and rope-spinning performance. The other contributors to an all-round good programme are Walter Wallis, comedian; Flo Schuberth, burlesque artist; Johnny Johnston, the musical dandy; Grace Merton, the sweet-voiced street singer; and the Hippodrome pictures, including "Father's Holiday" and "A Sardine Factory in Operation."

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Varieties form the attraction at the theatre this week. The company engaged includes Wyndham and Kitty (wire artists), Percy Vere and Edith Royal (patterers, dancers, and vocalists), Collin and Irene (second-sight experts and illusionists), La Bella Rosa (solo instrumentalist), Wheeler and Wilson (acrobatic comedians), Darwin (the man-monkey), Gravetta and Pan (in a pot-pourri act, entitled *There's Going to be a Show*), the Revelle Troupe (in the amusing absurdity *Mischief*), and Mr. J. C. Heffron (humorist and dancer).

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Lingford Carson is this week presenting *The Power of the Cross*. Mr. H. J. Kirby gives a capital portrayal of Baron Woulfe Curzola; Mr. F. W. Goddard plays cleverly as Gerald Fairfax; as does Mr. Horace Denton as Dr. Fairfax. In the respective roles of Benjamin Hawke and David Kingsley Messrs. E. L. Hocking and O. E. Johnson display marked ability; the Timothy O'Dowd of Mr. Rd. E. Nugent is decidedly amusing; Miss Cissie St. Elmo plays with much skill the character of the adventuress Rita Lascelles; Miss Stanley Burt gives sympathetic treatment to the part of Margaret Seaton; Miss Etta Turner is a capital Dolly Gray.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Messrs. Arthur Whittaker and Gifford Stacey's company is presenting the new drama *The Hindoo's Revenge* here this week. Mr. Cyril W. Mackay as Captain Bruce Glenister and Miss Ethyle Murray in the picturesque rôle of Zephen are exceedingly good. As Count Polshoff Mr. Hamilton Travers gives a fine impersonation, and Mr. Clive Ross as Sir Victor Strong is all that can be desired. The characters of Kumar Nana and Diana Strong are cleverly impersonated by Mr. E. Dobell and Miss Lilyan Lait; whilst Miss Daisy Snowden is a delightful Sylvia Glenister.

Opera House.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's compony in *The Silver King* is here this week. Mr. Herbert Ford as Wilfred Denver gives a fine portrayal of that part; as Nellie Denver Miss Daisy Scudamore plays the character with a sweetness and pathos which appeal to the hearts of the audience; Mr. Edward George gives a fine impersonation of Daniel Jaikes; as "the spider" Mr. Hicks is well placed; and the part of Elijah Coombe is in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Wright; Miss Amy Manfree achieves distinction by her artistic portrayal of Cissy; and Master Jack Evan gives a clever interpretation as Jack Denver. Mr. James Power is a decided success as Henry Corkel, and Mr. Byron Pedley is excellent as Samuel Baxter.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—A capital programme is provided here this week. Edward Sillward and company head the bill with a dramatic sketch, which is heartily appreciated; Herbert La Martine wins hearty applause for his vocal powers and dancing; the De Lomes are exceptionally clever clog-dancers; and the Florodora Girls are smart dancers and singers. Lady Julia, the intelligent ape, and the McKays are favourites. The other turns are provided by Fielding and Hull and Horace Wheatley, the Northern favourite.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—Excellent turns are provided here this week. Harry Grey, the eccentric Australian comedian, has made a great hit; the Creo Bros. prove entertaining in their sketch *The Gipsies*; Fred and Maud Vypond create roars of laughter in their sketch *The Honeymoon*, as does Frank Coyle with his comic songs. Other interesting turns are provided by Elsie Claire, Famous Henderson, Olive Armidale, and Mabel Higson.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kimberley's company is this week appearing in *Two Little Drummer Boys*. As General Kingsley Mr. Edward Bikker contributes an exceedingly strong portrayal, Mr. J. Geddes being equally good as Captain Carsdale. Mr. Andrew Money proves sufficiently villainous as Captain Darrell; Allen Kingsley has a suitable exponent in Mr. Charles Gallier. The humorous business is in the able hands of Messrs. F. C. Imbert and Harry Lyndon as Quincy Quirke and Timothy Trimmer respectively. Miss B. Shirley is seen to advantage as Alma Kingsley. Miss Mildred Eversleigh's rendering of Margret Rivers (Drunken Meg) is decidedly above the average. Miss Edie is a vivacious Molly Meadows, and the two little drammers find capital exponents in Mesdames May Smart and Eva Norman.

NELSON.—New Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—Mr. Geo. Dance's company is here in *The Cingalee* this week. Mr. Walter Champney, in his impersonation of the part of Chambuddy Ram takes high honours; the Hon. Harry Vereker is a masterly embodiment by Mr. Courtney Comber; Mr. Hugh Webb is an impressive Boobhama; Sir Peter Loftus as presented by Mr. W. Bosco is all that can be desired; Bobby Warren is remarkably well acted by Mr. Arthur Foote; Mr. H. Dore is responsible for the part of Myamgah; the part of Nanoya is successfully played by Miss Cecile Beresford; Lady Patricia is charmingly portrayed by Miss Mona Grey; Miss Kate Yates delights everyone with her rendering of Peggy; and Miss Florence Treseder is a bewitching Angy Loftus.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Tyne Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. F. C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in the comic opera, *The Little Michus*, received an enthusiastic welcome here on Monday night from a crowded audience. In the cast are some established favourites among Novocastrians, including Mr. Eric Thorne, who is irresistibly droll as General Des Ifs. Very cleverly are his efforts seconded by Mr. Jack Cannot, whose quaint humour as Bagnolet proved very enjoyable; Mr. Leonard Mackay's opportunities as Aristide Vert are limited; however, to this rôle one of the best songs in the opera is allotted, namely "The Weather Glass," which won an emphatic encore; Mr. Eardley Turner is quietly humorous as Pierre Michu, and Mr. Arthur Royd imparts spirit and gaiety into the rôle of Gaston Rigaud. In a speciality part Mr. Willie Warde, jun., is really funny. As Blanche Marie and Marie Blanche, Miss Iris Hoey and Miss Thelma Ray both enact these parts with exemplary charm, and their singing throughout is excellent; Miss Ray also displays much ability as a violin player. Miss Elsie Cameron gets through a lot of work as Madame Michu, and scores a genuine success. Nor must we forget to compliment Miss Deborah Volar for her sweet rendering of the song, "Tra-la-la"—a very pretty number. The graceful dancing of Miss Ivy Louise is also a conspicuous feature. Messager's pretty music is done full justice to by a strong chorus and augmented orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Harold Vicars.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—This week the farce, *What the Butler Saw*, has been presented for the first time in Newcastle. Mr. Lionel Rignold as Pink the butler keeps the house in roars of laughter with his original touches and quaint cockney humour; Jack Barrington, in the hands of Mr. Charles Fawcett, is a typical Irishman, bubbling with wit and vivacity; Mr. Reddick Anderson as Sir Charles Foden gives a capital rendering of his part, and is equally good in humour and pathos; Mr. George Ascott as General Dunlop is a thoroughly peppery martinet; the Abraham Weinstein of Mr. Harry H. Rignold is a really good impersonation of a well-to-do and self-satisfied Jew, while Mr. George Beale as Sidney Clifford, an up-to-date journalist, is excellent; Mr. Alec Alves is quite a success as Vere de Bogyns, and Mr. Roy Byford's efforts as Professor Shale are praiseworth. Miss Ada Blanche, as Mrs. Barrington, is responsible to a great extent for the success of the farce, and her good humour is quite contagious; Miss Marie Daltra, as Miss Foden, gives an entertaining representation of a lady with a mission in life. The Norah of Miss Grace Richardson is a very sweet and winsome young lady.

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Drama of Life* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Geo. M. Newall, as Harry Beech, gives a powerful rendering of a somewhat difficult part; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton, as Walter Beech, interprets the villainies of that gentleman in a realistic manner; the Sir Dobson Wilde of Mr. Harwood Roberts is a capital representation of the present-day aristocrat; Mr. Walter Steele, as Richard Brenton, submits a good portrayal of an up-to-date detective; Mr. Edward Van Biene gives a polished rendering of the part of the Count de Foi; Mr. Maxwell Payne and Mr. Sidney Fiennes, as Jack Lawton and Dave Crane, are smart accomplices in the villainies of Walter Beech. Miss Kate Hallam, as Sylvia Beech, is a pathetic and realistic heroine; Miss Florence French as Lady Jane Wilde plays her part with skill and discretion; while Miss Nellie Birchenough, as Betty Black, gives a true impersonation of the ordinary lodging-house keeper; Miss Marie Pardy, as Master Robert Beech, proves herself an artist of merit.

Grand Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*No Wedding Bells for Her* is the somewhat startling title of the drama Mr. Frank Bateman's company is playing here this week. Mr. George C. Doughty carries off chief honours for his manly rendering of Dick Delver; Mr. Stuart Lomath submits a first-rate interpretation of Frank Hatherleigh; the part of Horatio Fane affords Mr. A. Balfour Mackay scope for a clever character study; and Mr. Louis Garton does well with somewhat scanty material as Montagu Blair. Miss Ida Mackay admirably impersonates the rôle of Doris Fane, and Miss Helen Owen is a skilful exponent of Maria Flail. Acceptable comedy is introduced here and there by Mr. Will Skelton as Simkins, and Miss Helen Stewart as Peggy.

Empire Theatre.—Resident Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—The first appearance in Newcastle of the famous Russian wrestler, George Hackenschmidt, has resulted in capital business being done here this week; Mason and Bart, as gymnasts on the deserted isle, execute some remarkable feats; Jake Friedman is a Tyrolean vocalist of exceptional merit, and also scores as a humorist; the Sisters Morgan impart some really funny business into their act, and are deservedly popular; as a mimic of well known music hall celebrities, Nina Gordon does well; and the cornet playing of Ralph and Nellie Howard is duly appreciated; Helene and Emilion perform a series of wonderful gymnastic feats, and the Stuart Quartette display more than average ability as vocalists and dancers; Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, remains over from last week, and the animated pictures by the Bioscope are both interesting and amusing.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss Phyllis Dare, the charming Cinderella from the Royal pantomime, makes her debut here this week on the halls, and is as fascinating as ever in song and dance. She has the assistance of Mr. Stephen Adeson, and together they make an entertaining pair. The bottom of the bill consists of a sketch, entitled *The Lady in Red*, which is done full justice to by Tom Craven, Stephen Adeson and Co. The eccentricities of Dale and O'Malley keep the audience in a continual state of merriment, Lalla Selbini wins loud applause for her clever cycling act, a cordial reception is awarded to Ted Young, a favourite comedian, and a similar remark may be applied to Ada Twibell, burlesque actress; Harry Allister gives some truthful impersonations of well-known people; the Donatos, one-legged clowns, are exceedingly smart; the Great Three Seabornes (equilibristic wonders), Fred Land (comedian), the Four Fumels (musicians), all contribute with success.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Wm. Greet's company are paying a first visit to Newport this week with *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Reginald Switz plays the part of Jim Cheese with real humour; Dick Wargrave is admirably impersonated by Mr. Alex. Frazer, who shows a capacity for restrained burlesque; and Miss Mary Frazer makes a charming penniless American heiress. Mr. Stanley Harrison gives a finished performance as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; Mr. H. B. Brandreth shows considerable force as the explosive A. Bunker Bliss; Mr. Frank Cane is humorous as Downham; and Mr. Robt. Rous is genuinely funny in the part of the Jewish solicitor, Mr. Talk; and Mr. Tom Redmond does well as Hazell. Miss Florence Wix gives a clever interpretation of 'Liza Shoddam; Miss Maud Adams shows spirit in the part of Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Maud Aston is charmingly dainty as Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss May Morrison acts admirably as the aunt, Miss Virginia Bliss.

Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—The leading item on the bill is the Great Hughes, who gives a funny burlesque of hypnotism; the Artois Bros. give a clever performance on the bars; the Rinnards provide a very creditable turn; and Walter Munroe renders a couple of songs that go well; the Delevines, in Flipp and Flopp are humorous. Tragedy, burlesque, and humour come in turn in the comedy incident by Louie Counsell and Oscar Mills; and C. J. Butler and John Josey appear in picturesque costumes of the cavaliers; the Bros. Warshaw, a pair of musical comedians, provide an excellent turn; and the Bioscope shows some interesting pictures.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. George Dance's companies are always welcome here, and the one he has sent us this week with *The Little Michus* is fully up to his highest standard of excellence. A merrier representative of the old general, Des Ifs, than Mr. Leslie Holland could not be found, and Mr. Cecil Clayton is equally good as Bagnolet. Mr. Gerald Clifford is a handsome and soldier-like Gaston Riguard, and plays and sings well; Mr. D. FitzGibbon makes a good Aristide Vert; Mr. T. E. Conover satisfactorily fills the part of Pierre Michu; the Little Michus, Marie Blanche (Miss Alice Coverick) and Blanche Marie (Miss Gracie Sinclair) are delightful delineations, full of grace and distinctive charm; Miss Florence Hylton is a bright and comical Madame Michu: Mlle. Marjorie is a conspicuous success in her high-class and artistic dancing. The chorus and orchestra are of the best, and reflect credit on the director, Mr. Victor Champion.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—Little Cliff holds the post of honour this week, and is in great favour; Fred Herbert makes a hit as a topical vocalist; Les Henris appear in an elegant equilibristic display; Harry Morris gives a taste of his quality as a character comedian; Arthur and Ashby appear in *Phantasies of the Phiz*; Maxwell and Francis present an amusing flirtation act; George Formby, "the man from Lancashire," tenders an acceptable turn; Dot Stanley is a nice vocalist and dancer; Baker and Balfe give operatic excerpts on the xylophone; and the Palace pictures provide a pleasant finale to the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A large and delighted audience assembled here on Monday evening, Mr. Walter Melville's company, in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, being the attraction. As John Meadows, Mr. Charles Franmore gave a highly satisfactory rendering of the character; and Mr. Frank R. Robertson acquitted himself in capital style as Jack Livingstone. Mr. Fred Ingram capably undertook the part of Toby Turvey; Mr. Roy Fortescue made the most of Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. John Brooks was well placed as Luke Ramsden; and Mr. Courtney Bellender as Doctor Westen met with approval. As Barbara Wade Miss Beaumont Collins displayed considerable ability, her excellent acting being greatly appreciated; Miss Nannie Meade was seen to advantage as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Elsie Savile scored as Constance Cornell.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The bill here this week is headed by Valazi, in his juggling, equilibristic, and athletic act; the Seven Sellinas, lady and gentlemen acrobats, also give a smart performance; and the Danbys, knockabout comedians, cause much laughter. The Brothers Levitt, vaulters; Miss Minnie Moran, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Wilton Allan, vocalist; Messrs. Sandes and Vincent, in their comedy act; and the bio-photoscope are also successful.

NORTHWICH.—Central Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—*The Guilty Man* is being presented at this theatre in a very creditable manner by Mr. Evan Roland's company. Mr. Harold Lewis gives a fine delineation of George Seymour; Mr. Alfred D. Adams proves an actor of talent in the difficult character of James Redman; as Esau Hebron Mr. Henry S. Dacre does well; Mr. Evan Roland is exceedingly humorous as Paddy Crowe, and his efforts to amuse are much appreciated; Mr. George Heaton is good as Captain Hardleigh; Miss Lily Lewis scores with her clever rendering of Audrey Priestly; and as Nell Radford Miss Muriel Inglis gives a fine rendering of the part. The piece is splendidly staged, and good houses are nightly obtained.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Coleman Davies and company are here this week in the comedy drama, *Money Makes the Man*. Mr. Terry Davies is good as Norman Travers; Mr. E. Thorn capably fills the part of Mat Morley; Mr. Sydney Forth is successful as John Malting; and the same may be said of Mr. George Tempest as Arthur Egerton. Mr. W. Vivian Tullock does well as Joe Moppitt; and Mr. Syd Lyons as Walkins, Mr. C. Martin as Warzel, and Mr. A. Bradley capably fill their respective parts. Mr. Coleman Davies, as Theophilus Podophylin, creates much laughter. Miss Eunice Udall deserves praise as Willie; and the same must be said of Miss Ada Gower, as Ella Gordon; Miss Nellie Navano is good as Sally Malting; and Miss Kitty Marriott makes an excellent Peggy Bouncer.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—An entertaining programme is being presented here this week. Heading the bill are Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel, and company, in *Three of a Kind*; George Rapley, comedian, is appreciated; and Richard Taylor, the whistling ventriloquist, is good in his imitations of birds; the Venola Brothers, gymnasts, show much muscle power; Stiddar and Cimbar, in their musical speciality, are excellent; Datas exhibits a wonderful memory; and Johnny Holland and Co. are funny in their laughable sketch, "The Millionaire."

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Charley's Aunt* is still a great attraction, and Mr. Brandon Thomas has got together a very good company for his play. Mr. Stanley Cooke as Babs acts the part of the Aunt in a most comical manner, being ably assisted by Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Richard Mason as Chesney and Wykeham respectively; Mr. C. B. Keston is the Colonel; and as Stephen Spettigue, Mr. Walter Beaumont has ample scope for his admirable acting; Mr. Sydney Compton makes an ideal college servant. Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue, are charmingly impersonated by Misses Marian Ripley and Dorothy Deacon; Miss Gladys Storey makes a winsome Ela Deiahay; and Miss Ruth Suffield completes the cast as Donna Lucia.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*The Grip of Iron* still retains its fascination for many playgoers, and Fred Powell's long experience in the rôle of Jagon makes his powerful representation of that complex character a great attraction; Mr. Harry Scott plays Paul Blanchard; Miss Mildred Cottell gives a tender and impressive reading of Cora Simmonet; Miss Nellie Fletcher submits a pleasing portrayal of Sophie Blanchard; Mr. Richard Ferriss does well as Lorentz de Ribas; and Mr. George Denham adds a fund of humour as Lonstalot, alias The Smiler. Miss Hilda Baynton makes a vivacious Marie Guerin; and Miss Pope Royal is good as Mlle. Delaney.

King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edgar O. Waller.—There is every indication that the two houses nightly plan commends itself to patrons here. Fred Southern and his company, including May Emery, Gipsy Alexander, Chris Redgrave, Percy Emery, Chas. Ashwell, and Frank Delmere remain another week, and give a successful rendering of the sketch, *A Life Between*, and an amusing absurdity, *His Lordship's Birthday*; Bishop and Hanlon earn much applause for their comedy business; Daisy Silcott is well rewarded for her songs; the Guoyons supply the musical episode, *His One Great Sin*; and the programme is further helped by Fred Harrison, comedian; Jack Heath, comedian; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—Kate Carney pays a visit with her new song episode, entitled, "Our Laundry," which brings out peals of hearty laughter. The smartness, neatness, and dexterity of the Kellinos always ensures the highest commendations; Payne's Little Vagabonds sing well; the beautiful Scotch collies, introduced by Duncan, attain the perfection of anima ltraining. A humorous sketch brings Amann and Hartley into prominence; and the Esdaile Bros. add to their reputation; Kyoto gains applause for his comical box; and How and Ardie show themselves clever as comedy acrobats; the singing and big-boot dancing of the Cape Girls find favour; and Miss May Geraldine sings acceptably.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Edward Ranier's vaudeville company is here this week. There is plenty of variety in the programme, which includes two dramatic sketches—*The Bank Robbery* and *The Blinding Light*. Miss Violet Moore, comedienne, gives a good turn; the Two Sages, Maynard and France, who appear in a laughing absurdity *A Perfect Lady*; Preston Holmes, musical expert and sand dancer; and the Two Willons, coon dancers, are all well received. An interesting set of pictures are shown on the bioscope.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—Mr. Walter Reynolds' company in *Mr. Smith* occupies the boards this week. As the hero Mr. Smith, Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart is very good; Mrs. Alfred Davies as the old mother has a delightful part and she plays it excellently; as the millionaire brewer Herr Deidrich Anheuser, Mr. Herbert Grahame supplies a neat character study; Miss Mary Relph, Miss Phyllis Relph, and Miss Ethel Hilton play their parts in finished style as the Duchess of Angleland, Lady Mary Hildergate, and Ruth Anheuser respectively. Other rôles are ably filled by Mr. Sydney Price as the Earl of Oxted, Mr. Wm. Dunlop as the Duke of Angleland, Mr. Rupert Stutfield as the Hon. Dudley Dysart, and Mr. Austin Spencer as Jack Berkeley.

Colosseum.—Manager, Mr. J. Ball.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, in *The Love that Women Desire*, is the attraction here. Philip Carnaby is well acted by Mr. David G. Noble; the villainous trio, Squire Abingdon and his son and daughter Richard and Madge, are ably played by Mr. J. O. Stewart, Mr. A. Wincote, and Miss Alice N. Livesey. Sybil Thorburn is effectively portrayed by Miss Lalla Stanhope; Mr. G. Carlton Wallace is good as Frank Hardy, as is Mr. H. Wallace as the Rev. Arnold Gathorne; and Miss Maud Stewart sustains the part of Pattie Swift in an able manner. The comedy parts are in safe hands, Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke, ably assisted by Mr. Arthur Rich as P.C. Sowerberry, and Miss Violet Hay as Molly, are responsible for some excellent fun.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Howgate.—Conway and Leyland, "the Merry Monopedes," top the bill here; Belloni's performing cockatoos provide a good turn; Leo Tell, mimic, has a good reception; Fred Cary, an old favourite, does well; the Sisters Terry please the audience with their Irish songs; and Lilian Lowe is a good singer. Harris and Worth, comedians, and Dent and Harris, in a sketch *Mary and the Squire*, and Great Scott, are also in the programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—A good entertainment here includes N. T. Kioto, a Japanese equilibrist. The Four Rosaires give a good acrobatic performance; and the Three Boleros score in a comedy triple bar act. Bennett and Martell (Jack and Charlie) cause roars of laughter; and Dot Hardy, comedienne, is well received, as is L. B. Athol, in his vocal scena *Dreamland*. Charlie Williams, Scotch coon comedian and big-boot dancer, is amusing; and the Dottoscope shows some excellent pictures.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorril.—This week we are having a delightful return visit from *Old Heidelberg*, delightfully interpreted by Mr. Mouillot's excellent company, under the management of Mr. Guyton Heath. Mr. Robert Minster gives an effective and natural rendering of Karl Heinrich; Mr. J. Nelson Ramsay makes Dr. Juttner a most lovable and interesting person; Mr. L. Gadsden is wonderfully well suited as the valet Lutz; Mr. A. Moore is a capital Ruder, and Mr. Willis Searle a highly amusing Kellerman. Ruder's wife and aunt find pleasing exponents in the Misses Rose Helene and Nessie Blachford, and Miss Irene Lavington wins all hearts with her delightfully fresh and buoyant performance of Kathie.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—The pantomime burlesques *Dainty Dolly Varden* and *The Sleeping Beauty* are prolonging their visit here for another week. Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as Sir Rotter De Rot and Mr. Jack Crows as Dame Varden, as before, acquit themselves admirably; Messrs. Carl and Carr have won favour as Johnny Stout and Billy Green; Miss Flo Melville is as bright as ever as Tom Tucker, and Miss Lilla Kedwards as Marjory Daw dances cleverly. Miss Amy Randolph as Dolly Varden and Miss Edna Cragge as Boy Blue repeat their successful performances. The Four Sydney Girls are better than ever.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Occupying the boards here this week is Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *Her Wedding Day*. Mr. Percy Brown acts skilfully as Harold Saxby; as Weedon Kenyon Mr. S. Herbert Humber furnishes a powerful embodiment; Mr. T. Edward Ward submits a capital portraiture of Seth Mayson; very funny and humorous is the depiction of Caccles by Mr. Fred Yarnold, and a good presentment of Jordan P. Jessop is given by Mr. Morris Maud. Miss Ward plays in a sympathetic and realistic manner the part of Madge Conway, Miss Eva Bertram as Dolly Kling is vivacious, an excellent representation of Dora is submitted by Miss Beatrice Sinclair, and Miss Vida Hazelwood is clever and entertaining as Mrs. Caccles. Other parts are creditably filled by Messrs. James Barrett, Charles Fysher, and Julian Phelps.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—A capital programme is contributed to here this week by Bill Fielder (champion boxer), Cosgrove and Burns (Tom and Ethel) (comedy entertainers), Maud Vining (comedienne and dancer), the Bransbys (Harry and Louie) (comedy and duologue artists), Bob Lethard (comedian), Mr. and Mrs. Delno Fritz (in their great fire act), and Bessie Travis (ventriloquist and pianist).

PENTRE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Roberts Jones.—Mr. Harry Starr and company are here this week in *Carl the Clockmaker* and *Otto the Outcast*. The former piece was on Monday presented to a large and appreciative audience. Premier honours were earned by Mr. Starr, who had ample scope for his versatility in the titular part. Maurice Helmore was admirably portrayed by Mr. Edwin Firth; the part of Count Ivan was well placed with Mr. Arthur Esdall; Hans Conrad was in the capable hands of Mr. Bernard Mostyn; Mr. Edward Helm sustained the part of Arthur Attwood with humour, and Mr. Tom Rusher in the rôle of Detective Tom Taylor gave an effective interpretation. As Markey Nabbs Mr. Will Hee was irrepressible, and Miss Kate Norris made the most of her opportunities as Lena Harrigail. Miss Lucie Fitzroy adapted herself to the part of Jerusha Jane Picklefinch with much effect, and Miss Madge Blundell showed excellent dramatic gifts as Madge Ryder.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Langdon Lee.—A three-act farce, *The Shop Boy*, occupies the stage at Mr. Williams's theatre, and creates plenty of fun, in which Mr. Harry Pleon is the central figure. This versatile comedian is the life and soul of the piece, being ably backed up by Mr. Paul Belmore as Frank Counterjumper and Mr. Jack McKenzie as Mrs. Septimus Green. The Alexandra Troupe of Lady Dancers make two or three appearances, and are able exponents of the terpsichorean art. Others contributing to the somewhat boisterous fun are Mr. Claud Aymond (Victor Victorine) and Miss Celia Kent as Blighted Birdie. The piece is preceded by *The Club Raid*, in which the principal characters are sustained by Messrs. Harry Pleon, Paul Belmore, Jack McKenzie, and C. Gladwell, and the Misses Celia Kent and Bessie Rignold.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—A dramatised version of Fegus Hume's *Mystery of a Hansom Cab* has been presented to the patrons of the Grand. The piece abounds in exciting incidents, and Mr. Edward Lloyd as Brian Fitzgerald, the hero, makes the most of the opportunities that fall to his lot, receiving material assistance from Mr. A. Marchant as Mr. Carlton and Mr. T. G. Warren as Felix Rolleston; Mr. Chas. Mitchell in the part of Oliver White is smart. Miss Irina Farrington as Mrs. Sampson gives a good rendering of an eccentric personage, and Miss Edith Dene works hard as Rosanna Moore.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mitchell.—*The Major* has not paid a visit to the Three Towns since it caused the memorable libel action of McQuire *v. The Western Morning News*. The title-rôle is sustained by Mr. T. C. McQuire as the hot-headed military gentleman, while the part of Angelina is safely left to Miss Ada Wallis; Mr. Harry Vernon as Jeremiah Stoney and Miss E. Tooney as Mrs. Gampwey are humorous. The company also presents another comedy, *Sweet Marie*.

Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore; General Manager, Mr. J. Field.—Paradoxical as it sounds, Dusty Rhodes is quite refreshing, his wheezes and patter putting the Palace habitués in a good humour; the McConnell Trio are responsible for plenty of merriment in their sketch *A Musical Mistake*, and Albert Le Fre comes in for a hearty reception in his melangé entitled "That's what you see on the stage." A most acceptable item is that submitted by Arabella Allen, consisting of character-sketches from the works of Charles Dickens, while Kent and Keith cleverly and humorously impersonate the various patrons at the theatre. F. A. Crisp (vocal comedian), Eily Adair (soubrette and dancer), Jack Channon (vocalist), and Vernon's pictures complete an interesting programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Fred J. Kirke's company in *Old Madrid*. Frank Lyndhurst is admirably portrayed by Mr. Fred J. Kirke; Fernando Cassillus has an able exponent in Mr. Harold Wallace; Mendoza is in the able hands of Mr. Mark Practice; Lola Sittagano is sympathetically played by Miss Louie Fountaine; Miss Lily Seymour is highly diverting as Martha Jane; and Miss Annie Brunette dramatically plays Violet Lyndhurst.

PORTH.—Poole's Opera House.—Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The attraction here this week is the pantomime entitled *Cinderella*, which is being presented by Mr. Cecil Clayton. Miss Eva Rosslyn deserves a compliment for her representation of the Prince; Dandini, his valet, has an able representative in Miss Mabel Beaufort; Mr. Herbert Colley is most entertaining as Baron Loweralotte; Mr. Reginald Kloof as Lily and Mr. Arthur Loman as Gertie score a distinct success. Miss Gertrude Gray is charming as the Fairy. She possesses a capital voice, and is well received. Miss Minnie Burrell deserves credit as the Duke; the title-rôle is successfully played by Miss Norah Waylett. The following specialities are introduced: Stifford, juggler and equilibrist; Reg. Kloof, musical expert; the Sisters Clancy, acrobatic dancers; and Miss Gertrude Gray, ballad vocalist.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. C. St. John Denton's capable company is presenting here this week the popular musical comedy *Kitty Grey*. Miss Hilda Guiver's fine presence and excellent soprano voice in the name part create a most favourable impression; Lady Binfield is also a capital impersonation by Miss Marie West. Mrs. Bright has an able exponent in Miss Nellie Lauraine; and Miss Gertrude Page does well as Sadie

as Sir Mulberry Flippington, Mr. P. Baverstock as General Baugh, Mr. E. Spalding as the Rev. John Smith, Mr. W. H. Moore as Horatio Binks, and Mr. C. L. Ludlow, as Bingle, are all well up to the mark. Miss Mabel Kerridge as Polly Perkins, Miss Jennie Holmes as Lady Flippington, and Miss Josephine Ellis as Maud sustain their parts well. Miss Josephine Ellis also distinguishes herself as première danseuse.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Cutling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—A good house assembled on Monday evening, when *The Orchid* made its first appearance here. Miss Dorothy Firmin delighted the audience as Lady Violet Anstruther, her dancing, singing, and clever acting having a charming freshness that won all hearts; Miss Madeline Maude, as Caroline Vokins, made a favourable impression; Miss Elsa Brull, with a good voice, was quite a favourite as Josephine Zaccary; Miss Florence Wakeman enacted the part of Zelie to the life; and Miss Maud Davis made a stately and imposing Countess Anstruther; Mr. Fern Pound was a decided success as Guy Scrymgeour; Mr. W. Griffin admirably portrayed the impecunious Dr. Ronald Faussett; Mr. Arthur Hemsley did some clever acrobatic dancing as Zaccary; Mr. E. Nainby as the excitable Comte de Cassignat was all that could be desired; and Mr. Tommy Neildon was irresistibly funny as Meakin, scoring heavily in the burlesque duel scene.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee.—A capital programme is submitted here this week. The Three Delaires perform many daring feats on the triple trapeze; Jolly Criss Cross both sings and dances with success; Angeline, lady juggler, is exceptionally smart in her feats; Vernon and Voyce Co., in *Jack Sheppard* submit a most enjoyable vocal turn; and Harry Hayton, comedian; the Two Manzanares, on balancing horseshoes; the Four Mill Lads, vocalists; and Vernon's animated pictures, complete the list.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—An interesting and varied bill of fare is presented to the patrons here this week. Narvow Bros., in their cycling act, perform amazing and amusing tricks; Tiny Arnold is a dainty and winsome artist, whose singing and dancing are thoroughly enjoyed; Ernie Myers, patter comedian, keeps the audience roaring with laughter with his witty patter; Lily Lonsdale is a charming soprano; and other good turns are submitted by Baroni and Kemp, lightning change artists; Phinas and Aida, gymnasts; Robins and Collier, in *The Lady and the Porter;* and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holberry Hardy.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here this week, with the interesting social drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Albert Ward is a manly George Maddison; and Mr. Lionel D'Aragon is seen to advantage as Charles Devereux; Mr. Holland Daw gives a clever portrayal of the part of Geoffrey Broughton; and Mr. Henry Milton scores as John Williams; Miss Eugenie Morgan is smart as Lady Lucretia Lancaster; and Miss Barbara Gott is deserving of mention as the Mother Superior; Little Lucy speaks her lines very prettily; and Miss Isla Garret Vayne gives a pleasing portrayal of the part of Lucy.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—Mr. James Morton's company appeared the first three nights of the week in *The Rajah of Ranjapore*, followed on Thursday and Friday by *The Sporting Girl*. In *The Rajah of Ranjapore* Miss Maggie Sinclair repeats her success on a previous visit as Eliza a housemaid, singing, acting, and dancing equally well; Miss Nell Ascott as Primrose gives a refined and talented rendering; Miss Minnie Blackmore as Edith does very well; Horatio Chicks, in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Sinclair, is full of life and go; Mr. James Stirling as Captain Hestage is excellent in his exposition; and as the Rajah Mr. P. Peircey Watson more than merits the appreciation shown of his efforts. Mr. Jock McKay as Thistles is versatile and clever; and Mr. Fred Hart as Mr. Stubbs does not miss an opportunity. Mr. M. Drury as Ted Perkins gives every satisfaction.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—A musical treat is afforded this week in the shape of Mr. George Dance's company, in *The Cingalee*. Mr. A. W. Drewitt, as the Hon. Harry Vereker, is highly entertaining, and possesses a good tenor voice; Mr. H. Webb, as Boobhama, is a pronounced success; Mr. Eric Fenton is a capital Sir Peter Loftus; a striking feature is the laughable eccentricities of Tom Payne, as Chambuddy Ram; Miss Ethel Harmer is captivating as Nanoya; Miss Hilda Field is pleasing as the vivacious Lady Patricia Walker; Miss E. Hughes deserves unstinted praise as Peggy Sabine.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Napoleon the Great* is the attraction this week, provided by Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a fine study of Napoleon; Miss Leslie Warner sustains the part of Marie Walewska with ability; Mr. Bartlett Garth forcibly portrays the Polish fanatic, Paul Laczniski; Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Pierre Pomponnet, Miss Mary Harcourt as Marcelle, and Mr. C. W. Spencer as Sergeant Choupin keep the house highly amused. Colonel Lavarennes and Col. Jules Meuron are in the capable hands of Mr. Henry Earlesmere and Mr. Phil Harper. Miss Maude Russell as Mdlle Leoni Marbœuf, and Miss F. Thorne as Mère Dumont are well placed.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*Kiss Your Father; or, the Irish Doctor* (in which Mr. Lonnen Meadows, Mr. Lewis Leslie, Miss Ada Tilley, and Miss L. Leslie appear) is a farcical sketch, abounding in laughable situations. The patter of Malcolm Scott, as the woman who knows, keeps the house in roars. The songs of the sea by the Steinway Quartette are well received; Jack Pleasants is a quaint comedian. Other good turns are provided by Fred Villers, comedy artist; Winnie Brooke and Mabel Florence, duettists and dancers; Burley and Burley, acrobatic comedians; Ada Vernon, burlesque actress; Rastus and Banks, smart coloured entertainers; and Ellis Barrieton, double-voiced vocalist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Harry Tate's *Fishing* is a very comical act which heads a bill of good things. Gus Harris, Hebrew character delineator, in *The Synagogue*, gets much applause. Other turns are by Arthur Slater, bird whistler; Les Rupertos, very good equilibrists; the Three Clarions, in the musical absurdity, *The Would-be Tenor;* Oakdene, in the singing picture scena, *The Stowaways;* Clifton and Gibson, eccentric comedians; Franko Midgets, conjurers; and J. C. Laurie, in "Walk, Walk, Walk."

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company opened here on Monday in *Sergeant Brue*. As the Sergeant Mr. J. Harold Carson scored a great success; Mr. Frank Wilson as Michael Brue played well, his songs being deservedly encored; as Crookie Scrubbs Mr. Albert James proved himself highly popular; Mr. Fred Laceby made a capital Mr. Crank; Miss Reydon Dallas in the rôle of Lady Bickenhall gave a graceful impersonation; Miss Gertie Fawcett was winning and interesting as Aurora, and Miss Amy Vivash was good as Daisy.

SCARBOROUGH.—PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Charles Morritt is the "star" turn here this week, and his performance is one of the best. With him is "the blind man," who has a marvellous memory, and is quite a human "encyclopædia." In a smart comedy act, Koe and Koe give a very good show, and are cordially received; Fred Burnaby's fine voice is heard to advantage in capital selections; Blanche Gerard is a smart comedienne, and has a good companion in her dog; Duncan and Morton put on a very taking sketch in *Stage Chums;* J. C. Morris is a really funny comedian, and earns well-deserved applause; and Vernon's Bioscope is still running with up-to-date pictures.

LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. Carpenter.—Mr. Hayden Coffin, the well-known actor-vocalist, and several other artists of exceptional talent, on Tuesday evening gave a ballad concert, arranged by Mr. Donald Arthur. Mr. Coffin was in fine voice, and in "Total Eclipse" (Samson) and "Melisande in the Wood" (Goetz), he made an excellent impression, which he excelled in "The Village Blacksmith." Mr. Ivor Warren (tenor) is a delightful and polished singer; the Baroness Pasthory was exceptionally clever in her various selections; Miss Florence Dixon sang several songs in a very artistic manner; the performance of that clever violinist, Herr Jan Rudenyi, who played two pieces of his own composition, was one of the successes of the evening; Mr. Frank Mummery made a first-rate accompanist to all the artists, and the concert, altogether, was a great success.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—Mr. William A. Armour's company appears this week with *What a Woman Did*. Mr. Edward Rawlinson gives a powerful interpretation of Conrad de L'Orme; Mr. William A. Armour plays with force the rôle of Raffaelle Duroc. Mr. Jim Woods is satisfactory as Fritz von Hœgitheim; Mr. Fred Rignold supplies the comic element as Peter Pippin; Pitou the Hunchback receives full justice from Mr. Chas. Earle; and Miss Bertha Clifton gives a vivacious interpretation of Nanette. Miss Adelaide Clare effectively sustains the part of Le Papillon, and Miss Dora Price gives a clever and satisfactory delineation of Elsie de L'Orme.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—The visits of Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer to Seaham are always welcome, and she was accorded a hearty reception on her appearance here on Monday, when *Mary Queen of Scots* was presented. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer portrays Mary with her well-known ability and with remarkable vigour. As Elizabeth Miss Katherine Herbert won marked approval; the Earl of Leicester of Mr. Montague Lane was a capable piece of acting; Mr. Sydney Bland as Burleigh acquitted himself well; Sir Edward Mortimer was effectively played by Mr. Matthew Boulton. As the Earl of Shrewsbury Mr. George Munroe was very successful; Mr. K. Fenton was a satisfactory Melville. *East Lynne, Sapho, School for Scandal, Leah, the Forsaken,* and *Jane Shore* form the week's répertoire. The management have secured a fine bioscope, the property of Messrs. Downey, whose series of pictures are being shown between the acts and for a short time preceding the rise of the curtain.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—An attractive bill of fare is submitted here for this week. Mr. Chas. Bignell creates considerable amusement with his comedy songs; the Washingtons, in their vocal and dancing act, are favourably received; Miss Flo Luck is a pleasing comedienne; the Arizonas, in their acrobatic potpourri act, are clever; Mr. Will Percival, comedian and dancer, provides an amusing turn; and Miss Belle Harcourt, a refined vocalist, contributes with pleasing effect. Ruffel's Bioscope displays some interesting animated pictures.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—Amongst the excellent company appearing here are the Audleys, comedy sketch artists, in the laughable act *I Would;* Miss Eunice Bell, descriptive vocalist, is also much admired. Other items appearing with equal success are Mr. Alec Thomas, comedian and dancer, and Mr. Fred Anson, comedian. Miss Louie Hurman, burlesque actress, and Mr. Jack Foley, comedian and patterer, are also staying for another week.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Cingalee* is again being performed here to large audiences. On Monday there was much enthusiasm, and the members of Mr. George Dance's company were all successful. Miss Nellie Wigley made a graceful and fascinating representative of Nanoya, and her songs were heartily applauded; Miss Emilie Mayhew was an aristocratic Lady Patricia, Miss Cissie Sephton a clever Peggy Sabine, and Miss Violet Holmes in an artistic dance contributed to the general enjoyment. Mr. J. Osborne as Ram kept the audience in a continual ripple of mirth; Mr. G. J. Williams also caused laughter as Sir Peter Loftus; Mr. Helier Le Maistre made a dignified Boobhamba, and Mr. Roy Sydney as Bobby Warren and Mr. Kenneth Wynne as the Hon. Harry Vereker both acted smartly and sang with excellent effect. The scenery was much admired, and there was a large and well-dressed chorus.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—After twenty-nine years, *Proof*, or *A Celebrated Case*, still retains much of its vitality, and a good audience on Monday followed with keen interest the sad story of the long-suffering Pierre Lorance, a character admirably played by Mr. Gerald Kennedy. The scoundrel Lazare was ably depicted by Mr. William Dexter. Miss Lucy Pryttle-Tydd in the dual rôle of Madeline and Adrienne, acted with emotional ability, and other parts were creditably performed by the talented members of Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Her One Great Sin* was presented here on Monday, under the direction of Miss Blanch St. Alban and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson. Miss Blanch St. Alban's Grace was a careful and conscientious piece of work, and she fully realised the character of a lovable, unfortunate woman.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The *pièce de résistance* here is *The Mumming Birds*, which was rattled through at breathless speed on Monday, and kept the crowded house in roars of irrepressible mirth. Mr. Tom Costello gave a commendable touch of real sentiment and human feeling to the programme by his impersonation of the poor old clown who finds "his occupation gone." Miss Fanny Robina brought down the house in a pithy and well-declaimed topical song; Booker and Narbis, as usual, were very entertaining in their skit, *The Interviewer*. Hays and Suits, a talented couple of singers and dancers, made a big success; the novel entertainment given by Spessardy's bears and ponies was greatly enjoyed; a humorous film by the famous Urban firm proved a revelation to local lovers of the bioscope; the Rohda Bros. did a smart athletic act; Miss Amy Russell was heartily applauded, and Miss Ruth Doris was very successful.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Miss Emma Don and her troupe are appearing this week in a musical sketch called *The Prodigal;* and other attractions are Walker and Lake (comedians), Mr. Joe Humphries (comic singer), Mr. Tony Iveson (the "tramp aristocrat"), Mr. Ted Farrar (vocal comedian), Miss Grace Langley (serio-comic), Mr. Alec Forbes and company, and Professor Pallister's biograph with funny and up-to-date pictures.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—*The Orchid* was admirably played here on the first three nights of this week by Mr. Geo. Dance's company. Miss Marjory Moore made a successful and attractive Lady Violet Anstruther; Miss Phil Gumpel as the amorous Caroline acquitted herself creditably; Miss Sissie Brand played with ability the part of Zelie Rumbert; Miss E. Morris made a capable Thisbe; Miss Helen Dunscombe merited praise as the Countess Anstruther; and Miss Trilby Collier was a smart Josephine Zaccary. Mr. Harry Walsh was a thoroughly amusing and clever Meakin; Mr. Sinclair Helden a droll Guy; Mr. Vyvyan Wakeman showed talent as Dr. Ronald Faussett; Mr. Chas. Seymour as Mr. Aubrey Chesterton worked hard and creditably; Mr. J. F. Vale infused plenty of life into the rôle of Zaccary, and the other French character parts were capably filled.

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*The Branded Woman*, by E. Wybert Clive, a melodrama of the approved type, gripped the attention of Monday night's large audience here. The piece is admirably staged by Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company, with whom is Miss Renee Glendower, who appears as the "branded woman." Hers is a complex character, and she plays it with marked ability. Mr. James Stillwell is the Philip Maurice, and with this character he doubles that of Zarka, a hunchback hypnotist. In both his representation is admirable. Mr. Edward Fryer, the Baron Hauber, accomplishes his stage-villainy in an interesting manner, being ably assisted by Mr. Paul E. Teulon in the rôle of Louise Duroc. Miss Katherine Barnett plays the part of Marie with singular charm; Miss Hilda Townsend is winsome as little Rudolph; and the humorous parts, in the hands of Mr. Beckett Bould (Dick Brown), and Miss Kitty McPherson (Jacqueline), are well brought out.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Owners, The Southend-on-Sea Theatre Co. (1905), Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Frederick Melville's capable company is presenting here the drama entitled *The Beast and the Beauty*. Jack Barrymore was cleverly portrayed by Mr. Fred D. Davies. His prehistoric father, the Earl of Loman, was ably presented by Mr. Bernard J. Liell, whilst Mr. Will Corrie as Tom Chicken deserves mention. Henry Denver, otherwise Lord X, found in Mr. Bernard Mervyn a really capable exponent, who played the rôle of the villain with ability. Mr. Ronald Adair as Ned Sampson was decidedly good. The Misses Mamie Rendle and Jessie Danvers score as Clarice and Minnie respectively. Delilah Vane was forcibly and strikingly portrayed by Miss Georgiette Thierry, whilst Miss Alice Bowes was a dignified and graceful Violet.

PIER PAVILION.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The last skating fancy dress carnival at these popular winter gardens and skating rink was held on Wednesday evening, and proved a decided success, the place being full to overflowing. There were numerous entries and keen competition for the valuable prizes offered. The American Bioscope shows interesting pictures, and the celebrated Red Band contribute the music. To-day terminates a very enjoyable season.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—The popular musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* made its first appearance here on Monday, the company responsible for the representation being that of Mr. E. Lockwood. Miss Lilian Middleton depicted Aurora Brue in a graceful and charming manner; Miss Midge Clark played the part of Lady Bickenhall effectively; Mr. Arthur Reynolds in the title-rôle and Mr. Charles McLagan as Crookie Scrubbs both acquitted themselves creditably; Mr. E. Percy Rogers is a commendable exponent of Michael Brue; Gerald Treherne is capitally represented by Mr. Arthur Stroud; Mr. Clarence Napier submits a praiseworthy portraiture of Inspector Gorringe; and Mr. Henry Chichester humorously impersonates Mr. Crank.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—A programme of more than usual attractiveness is presented here this week, the most prominent feature being supplied by Marie Santoi, in her original scena, *The Merry Geisha Girls*. Other turns include Craig, Rose, and Craig, athletes; Billy Burns, the singing pit lad; Marie Blythe, popular comedienne; Alf. Levarni, tight wire speciality act; Charles Cardle, white coon vocalist; Ray and Miles, eccentric jugglers; and the Bio-Tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—*Her Luck in London*, a drama of life, written by Mr. Charles Darrell, is being performed to good houses here. Miss Mary Neil appears to great advantage in the part of Nellie Harborne; the Ruth Harborne of Miss Ella Vane is a strong performance; Mr. Chas. A. Leicester creates a good impression as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; and Mr. Stephen Crossley is well cast as Richard Lenowen. Miss Florrie Groves makes a capable Chambermaid.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Harry Tate and company, in their funny sketch, entitled *Motoring*, delight the audience. Some wonderful feats are shown by the Auroras, a troupe of acrobatic cyclists; Chris. Richards, comedian, scores as the "man with the hat." Fred E. Terry (comedian), Wisper (comedy juggler), Beattie Bloom (comedienne and dancer), Katie Butler (comedienne), and the American Bioscope are other attractions.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—The bill here this week is headed by the Gladenbecks in their hand-balancing and ring speciality act; a humorous interlude is provided by Carney and Armstrong, entitled *The Pro. and the Baggage Man;* Star and Jerome appear, and give a capital display of sand dancing; lovers of operatic singing are given a treat by Belrose and De Velvin; and well-merited applause is evoked by Ida Ross, a Tyrolean vocalist of ability. Fenton (lightning artist and ventriloquist) and Walter Payne's Bioscope (with fresh films) are also attractive items

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—In *The Poor Must Live*, as presented by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company, local patrons are finding something which suits their tastes. Beautiful scenery and capable acting combine to produce a favourable impression. Miss Olive Fulton represents the designing adventuress Olga D'Eyncourt with much power, and in marked contrast is the exceedingly winsome picture of Dorothy Murdock submitted by Miss Violet Hammersley. Mr. Fulton sustains the rôle of Clifton Manville with success; Mr. Chas. O'Connor as the Earl of Marshwood is well placed; and Mr. Harold Macartney appears as Drummond Tredegar with much success. Mr. Herbert Clifton as Dick Sully exhibits vocal powers of a high order, his rendering of "The Holy City" being greeted with round after round of applause; and Mr. Shaun Glenville as Hooker Holdsnitch is extremely droll. Miss Alice Buckland as Moya, Miss Marguerite Thorne as Sal, and Mr. Arthur Trail as Sam Sully contribute materially to the success.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Crowded and enthusiastic audiences are being drawn here this week to witness Mr. G. Dance's principal company in *The Cingalee*. As Nanoya Miss Winnie O'Connor, who has a captivating manner and a good voice, submits a finished performance. Mr. Laurie de Frece evokes the laughter of all by his clever and humorous Chambuddy; Mr. Frank Crump, with an excellent voice, is distinctly good as Harry Vereker, and Mr. Bertrand Gates does well as Boobhamba. Miss Marjorie Clarke is particularly charming and lively as Lady Patricia; Miss Gladys Guy gives a capital impersonation of Peggy Sabine; Sir Peter has a first-rate exponent in Mr. Coop Edmunds, and Mr. E. Edwards does well as Warran.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, W. Sley, and F. Willmot; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—At the top of the bill here we have Howard and Harris in a clever and humorous act entitled *The Happy Hooligan*. Mr. Gerald Mount (an old favourite) scores as of yore as a mimic; Miss Gracie Lawn is a good comedienne, and Donna and Cliff are gifted artists. The Three Romas (smart and neat acrobats), Mlle. Hayden (with her mannikins), and Miss Lily Black (an accomplished burlesque artist) complete the list.

STOCKPORT.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The Stockport Garrick Society, a local amateur dramatic organisation with a membership exceeding three hundred, has occupied the boards here throughout the week with representations of *The Winter's Tale* and *King Lear*, which have been fairly satisfactorily given under the able direction of Mr. Ryder Boys.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Waldrons are at the head of a capital array of talent engaged here this week, and appear in *The Silly Burglar*, which is undoubtedly the most laughable sketch seen here for a long time. Those clever comedians, Ike Scott and Son, are very amusing, and the Itrams in their gymnastic perch speciality and Wallan, boy juggler, display their ability with marked success. Fred Cullane's Comedy Trio give a mirth-provoking comedietta, *The Ladies' School*, and Wat Tyler (character vocalist), Fannie Iris (comedienne and dancer), and T. E. Hughes (character comedian) meet with satisfactory appreciation.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Capital business continues at the above house, another excellent programme being presented this week. The premier position is held by Miss Hettie King, who is exceedingly successful in her various items, which were artistically rendered; Zaro and Arno in a triple-bar performance are both clever and amusing; the Franch Bros. contribute a finished acrobatic performance; Little Salvino, the boy instrumentalist, has the making of a brilliant turn, his items being cleverly rendered; Miss Janet Howard Reynolds sings her ballads admirably; the Two Travers, duettists, are capitally received; Nellie Chandos dances excellently; Frank Bertram and Co. present *The Chaperon*, which is most amusing, much of this being due to the gentleman who plays the servant. A beautifully-coloured butterfly scena is shown by the bioscope.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Gus Levaine is here for the week with the pantomime *Aladdin*. Miss Mary Harding in the title-rôle plays capably; Miss Florrie Gibson is pleasing as the Princess; Mr. Arthur Collins as the Emperor possesses a capital voice; Miss Florence Burnett is satisfactory as Electra.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. George Dance's company with the *Duchess of Dantzic* is paying a welcome return visit. Miss May Glenn gives an admirable rendering of the title-rôle; Miss Maggie White is seen to advantage as Renée de Saint Mayard, her vocal efforts being heartily appreciated; Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths, as Maréchal Fefebvre leaves nothing to be desired; and Mr. Gilbert Yorke gives a commendable impersonation of Napoleon. Mr. Arthur Paterson is rather amusing as Papillon, and Miss Buena Bent is a charming Lisette and a vocalist of merit.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd; Managing-director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hemingway.—Mr. Fred Granville's company in *For Better or Worse* drew a crowded house here on Monday. Mr. George Edwin Clive gave a capital rendering of Captain Frank Hilliard, and Major Gerald Crawshaw found an apt exponent in Mr. Ellis J. Preston. Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh infused considerable power into the rôle of Ned Earnshaw, and Mr. Willie Black caused much mirth by his clever rendering of Horatio P. Ranter. Miss Crissie Dunbar submitted a refined rendering of Olive Heathcote; and the Belle Baverstock of Miss Amy Vennimore was excellent.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—A capital programme is provided here this week. Harry Ford, comedian, is accorded a flattering reception; the Deer Family (North American Indians) in their sensational act, *Indians of the Past*, provide an interesting turn; and Marcus Boyle, comedian; Carl Howard, conjurer; Sherlock and Van Dalle, in their musical fantasy; Ada Whitton, male impersonator; Susie and Protti, speciality dancers; Hall and Earle, eccentrics; and Vernon's Pictures complete the entertainment

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Captain Clayton; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—*A Soldier's Revenge*, excellently played by Messrs. Beaudyn, Livesey and Hardy's company, fills the bill this week. The melodrama was well received on Monday evening, and Mr. Montague Beaudyn's fine performance as Ironhand the Avenger gained loud applause. Mr. Howard Hardy as Matthew Mardyke, Mr. Robertson Foulis as Sir Marsden Mardyke, Mr. Edward Carter as Sir Wilfred Avondale, and Mr. Tom Robertson as the Protector were all most capable. Miss Irene Munroe made a refined and sweet Ruby Avondale, and Miss Floria Hill was good as Mistress Judith.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners; Musical-Director, Mr. Fred Lucas.—The popular parts of this house were crowded on Monday when that new sensational drama, *None but the Brave*, effectively staged, was presented in this town for the first time. As the hero Captain Frank Forrester, Mr. Herbert Evelyn acquits himself capitally. Miss Frances Strickland does well as Nellie Whittier. Stage villainy is prominently and cleverly displayed by Mr. Eric Hudson as Emmanuel de Solis and Miss Madge Devereaux as La Tarantula, both being strikingly successful, and Mr. George Herbert is seen to advantage as an American planter, Zeke Whittier. The comedy parts are excellently undertaken by Mr. Stanley Bedwell as Lal Ray and Miss Amy Hermann as April Showers, their joint efforts causing continuous merriment.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—Mr. Arthur St. John's company were so much appreciated in *The Taming of the Shrew* that a prolongation of the visit has been arranged in a répertorie including *Jane Shore, Louis XI.*, and *The Three Musketeers*. On Monday in *Jane Shore* Miss Ida St. John gave a powerful impersonation of the title-rôle; Mr. Arthur St. John in his dual character of the Duke of Gloster and Matthew Shore made a great hit; Mr. Douglas Hamilton as Lord Hastings and Mr. Bert Elvin as Catesby were also very successful, while in the characters of Fabert, Grist, Scarsdale, &c., Messrs. V. A. Biscoe, W. J. Mackersey, Walter Clarke and Powell James must be commended. In the queenly rôle of Elizabeth Woodville Miss Kitty Bennett imparted the necessary dignity, and Miss Maud Mackersey made an imperious Lady Effingham. Miss L. Atkinson as Alison Grist and the clever representation of the youthful Prince Edward by Miss C. St. John also deserve mention.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is paying a return visit here this week in the play, *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr. George Hestor gives a fine impersonation as Sergeant Lightning, and is the life and soul of the piece; Mr. Frank Morton sustains, in an able manner, the part of Lord Easem; Mr. Charles Usher is well suited as Mr. Mirfin, and Mr. Fred Rigby makes a lively Bunker; Mr. Dick Kitchen is admirable as Fritz. Miss L. Castelle is successful as Lady Easem, Miss Dora Graham is dainty as Dolly Mirfin, and Miss May Vernon is satisfactory as Miss Manley, the New Woman.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—Mlle. Lumiere, serpentine dancer, contributes a clever turn with electrical effects. Andrews and Thompson are a couple of high-class vocalists, the Brooklands dance and sing well, an amusing sketch is produced by Matt Wilkinson and company, entitled *The Registry Office;* Miss Annie Laurie, comedienne; Miss Violet Beatrice, Irish vocalist; the Lovelaces, vocalists and song illustrators, give a pleasing entertainment; the Bowery Boys appear in a sketch, entitled *Mixed*, and Miss Mona McDonald, vocalist, and Lillian Rosella, aerial gymnast, complete the bill.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd..; Joint-Managers, Moss Empires' Co., Ltd., and the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A strong array of talent is listed for the current week. The Sleedes provide capital fun with *The Haunted House;* Hector, the wire-walker and hoop manipulator, is very good; the Rinaldos are comic equilibrists, English and Penley contribute an enjoyable turn in their laughing duologue, *Fine Mackerel*, and Harry Tomlinson (comedian), Lady Fauntleroy with her ventriloquial chatty chum, Dan, the Bluecoat Boy, and Carrie Laurie's Juvenile Geniuses, with their clever singing and dancing, are other attractions. The American Bioscope remains in favour.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A visit is being paid here by Mr. T. A. Jones and company with *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. T. A. Jones capitally renders the part of Captain Harold Marston, Mr. Oswald Douglas makes a successful Doctor Colbrooke, Mr. Robert Sawin is well placed as Kimberley Coutts, and Miss Marie Daventry charms everyone by her impersonation of Doreen Rivers.

WALTHAMSTOW.—KING'S THEATRE.—The boards here are occupied this week by Mr. Chas. H. Phelps' No. 1 company in *One Woman's Wickedness*. The play, written by Mr. Phelps, is neatly constructed and told in forcible dialogue. Mr. Alfred Geo. Fry is a fine Philip Beaufort, Mr. Chas. H. Phelps himself sustains with power the part of Jem Craggs, Lord Algernon Fitznoodle is an amusing personage as presented by Mr. Tommy Byron (with songs), and Mr. Harry Tilbury (also with songs) gives a good account of Limpy Larry. Miss Amy Dalby is a capital exponent of the heroine, Lilian Craggs and her artistic singing is much admired, Miss Frances Jessop is a good Marienne, and Miss Belle Tilbury, a highly satisfactory Janet Raymond, whose mother, Aunt Crazy, is well played by Miss Florence Lloyd; Miss Arline T. George is a bright and vivacious Jenny Jiggles.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is paying a welcome return visit here in *A Royal Divorce*. Miss Lilian Dundas plays Josephine with much charm; Miss Muriel Thompson scores as Marie Louise; as Stephanus Miss Gertrude Entwistle infuses much humour into her performance; and Miss Alice Metcalf as Manche plays a small part in a pleasant manner. Mr. Frederick Moyes as Napoleon makes the character stand out, and acts with power throughout; Mr. H. Gray Dolby as Talleyrand is well placed; and Mr. Henry Ludlow as the Marquis de Beaumont acts with force and discrimination; Mr. C. Lionel Brocknor is a soldierly General Augeren; and Mr. T. W. Ford as Marshal Murat is good. Mr. Dennis Bujan submits a clever study of the Innkeeper.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—A good turn here this week is Rebia, a clever juggler; Edie Gray's White Coons again score; and Wright and Elton are well received in the sketch *Eccentricities*. The Royal Bioscope pictures are not a small factor in the success achieved here this week. Other excellent turns are James Lowrey, vocalist; Mollie Doon, comedienne; and Tennyson and Wallis, comedians.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager and Proprietor, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's No. 1 company in *In Holy Russia* is playing to crowded houses here. Mickey Nolan is perfectly played by Mr. Cassidy, who keeps the audience continually laughing; Mr. Tom G. Warry is good as Count Gregori Petrolski; and the same remark applies to Mr. Robert Crockford as the Tsar. Mr. Arthur Stratton gives a fine representation of Colonel Richard Forrest; the part of Michael Natolski is well portrayed by Mr. Louis Norman; Miss Alice Stratton is all that can be desired in the character of Mrs. Richard Forrest; and Mrs. J. R. Cassidy gives a clever study of Renee Rubinoff.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatres Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne's company, in *The

and charming; Miss Emily Taylor is successful as Nora Chalmers; and Miss Mabel Dent is smart and pleasing as Ellen. There are many other well played parts, and a strong and dashing chorus, while the scenery is effective, and the frocks are particularly pretty.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The great attraction here is R. A. Roberts, the protean artist, who is seen to great advantage, and displays a marvellous skill in his impersonation of a number of parts under the title of *Dick Turpin*. Other items in the programme include Ernest Montefiore and Co., in *The Little Colonel*; Playfair and Nikola, the wonderful papergraphists; Tray and Rich, black and white comedians; T. C. Jaques, vocalist; Bertha Winder, step dancer; the Sisters Wingrove, vocalists and dancers; and Connie Flower, vocalist and violinist.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's *Toreador* company is doing good business here this week. Well dressed and staged the performance goes with a capital swing, and encores are numerous. Mr. Richard Telford, as the ubiquitous Sammy Gigg, is the life and soul of the piece, and keeps the house in roars of laughter with his endless funny antics; as Susan, Miss Leah Howard makes him an excellent partner, singing and dancing in good style; Miss Sadie Neville, as Dora, and Miss Alice Nixon, as Nancy, make a charming couple; and Miss Florence Spurgeon, as Teresa, displays cultivated vocal powers. Mr. F. Hulme Sharp is a very humorous Sir Archibald, and Mr. Tom May makes the most of his opportunities as the eccentric Pettifer. Among other capable members of the numerous company are Mr. J. Colclough Fagan, Mr. Chas. M. Heslop, and Miss Avis Grahame. The bright and tuneful music is well rendered by a numerous chorus and an augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. Herbert Linwood.

WORKINGTON. — Opera House. — Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—On Monday night there was a large house to witness *The Gamester of Metz* by Mr. Charles March's company. Mr. March created applause by his representation of Paul and the character aliases, his rapid changes of disguises being clever; Mr. F. Aldworth was good as the General; Mr. J. B. M. Reay as Badaire and Mr. W. G. Paget as Herve. Miss Una Lane was sympathetic as Lucia; Miss Cissy Haigton was satisfactory as Gwendolin; and Miss Eva Lyndhurst in the part of the Countess.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls. — This week the following are appearing here. Mr. George Barron, a popular eccentric comedian; Brindall and Cooper, refined vocal comedians and dancers; Miss Lily Mason, comedienne and dancer; Miss Bessie Willow, ballad vocalist; Mr. Walter Gurney, refined comedian and vocalist; the animated tableaux are also attractive.

YORK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; General-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* is being given this week by Mr. George Dance's principal company. Miss Ada Watson is delightfully fresh as Soo Soo, singing and dancing alike with great taste; Miss Minnie Leslie causes roars of laughter as Fi Fi, her impersonation being both grotesque and amusing; Miss Popsy Wilkinson is lively as Mrs. Pineapple; and Miss Edie Ross causes amusement as Mrs. Brown. As Pineapple, Mr. Foster Courtney has a part suited to his rich style of humour; Mr. L. Bullock-Webster as Tom Hatherton is racy and diverting; Mr. Jack Leslie is a lively and amusing Hi Lung; and the Emperor is in the capable hands of Mr. St. John Hammond.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Sinclair and Whiteford have a very clever sketch, entitled *Getting Even*, which is a big attraction this week, both artists being greatly applauded; Carl Bernar, modestly styled the King of Marionettes, is also a great attraction, and gives a very clever show; Rackett and Hazard are skilled trumpeters; the Sisters Gerondo are skilful dancers; and Rose Harvey's songs are generally admired and much applauded; Les Valdos have a style particularly their own, and good songs are contributed by Reg Bolton and Bert Holmes.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 19,
the Play in Five Acts, entitled
"THE MANXMAN."

This famous play has been heartily welcomed this week at Mr. Ellis Frederick's popular theatre, and the strong interest which each night's audience is taking in Hall Caine's engrossing story testifies to the excellence of the interpretation of the piece by Mr. Alfred B. Cross's company. Mr. Cross plays Pete—a part he has long identified himself with—and contributes a thoroughly sound and consistent performance, handling the part with all the required tenderness in the softer passages and rendering due prominence to the more robust phases of the character. Miss Minnie Watersford plays with much tact, expression, and feeling as Kate Cregeen, and enlists the sympathies of the audience throughout. Mr. A. D. Leyland portrays Cæsar Cregeen on appropriate lines, and Mr. Sydney C. Kearns is responsible for a fluent and easy delineation of Philip Christian. Mr. G. Marriott, jun., does well as Ross Christian, Mr. Wilson Roberts is a natural Dr. Wylchreist, Mr. Edward Cartell fulfills all requirements as Monty Missett, and Professor Mawley is safely entrusted to Mr. Frank J. Pitt. Miss Nancy Mitchell smartly enacts Nancy, Miss Mona Spearing is well placed as Miss Christian, and Miss Kitty Livesay is an agreeable Bella Kelly.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 19,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE TALK OF THE TOWN."

Another of the many attractive and entirely new bookings made by Mr. Fred Fredericks for the Stratford Borough Theatre is the engagement for this week of *The Talk of the Town*, and Stratfordians are readily endorsing the encomiums gained by the piece elsewhere. The scenic effects and dresses are both lavish and artistic, and Mr. Wm. Greet's company is well balanced and capable. Mr. William Cromwell works unflaggingly and with the utmost success as Jerry Snipe, scoring heavily in this low-comedy rôle. Mr. Arthur Harold looks and acts the part of Reggie Drummond admirably, and his vocal efforts always create applause. Mr. Ernest Arundel very smartly enacts the Duke of Topford, Mr. Leslie Owen makes the most of his opportunities as Captain Richard Hambledon, Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp plays appropriately as 'Arry Biff, Mr. A. T. Hendon is decidedly amusing as Private Belsey, and considerable mirth is provoked by the idiosyncrasies of the Brothers English as impersonated by Mr. Tom Graves and Mr. A. Gambier Melford. Miss Joan Keddie acts and sings delightfully as Ellaline Lewin, and the invitation so coquettishly expressed in her song "How'd you like to spoon with me?" causes many a thrill among the *jeunesse dorée* occupants of the stalls. A notable success is achieved by Miss Louie Tinsley, who depicts Mrs. Snipe on broadly humorous lines, her droll methods causing roars of laughter. Miss G. Melville charmingly enacts Madame Modiste, and contributes a most acceptable Dutch song and dance; Miss Evelyn D'Alroy plays with daintiness and verve as June, her "Eskimo" song being in high favour; Miss Katherine Harrington is well placed as Lady Nightingale, and the latter's two daughters have capital exponents in Miss Helen Gordon and Miss Jessie Winter. Others parts in an exceptionally long cast all receive most creditable treatment. The augmented orchestra is ably directed by Mr. Percy E. Fletcher.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—With reference to your notice of *Claudian* at the Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich, this week, the part I played is called Thariogalus, not Charlogalus, and my name is not William Howard, but—Yours truly, Wilson Howard.

BERNARD SHAW'S PERSONALITY.

Mr. James Huneker, in his book of Dramatists called "Iconoclasts" (T. Werner Laurie), makes an attempt to analyse the character of Mr. Bernard Shaw. He says:—

"In the plays we find the old Shaw masquerading, this time behind the footlights. He is still the preacher, Fabian debater, socialist, vegetarian, lycanthrope, and normally abnormal man of the early days—though he prides himself on his abnormal normality. Finding that the essay did not reach a wide enough audience, the wily Celt mounts the rostrum and blarneys his listeners something after this manner:—

"'Here's my hustings; from here will I teach, preach, and curse the conventions of society. Come all ye who are tired of the property fallacy! There is but one Karl Marx, and I am his living prophet. Shakespeare must go—Ibsen is to rule. Wagner was a Fabianite; the Ring proves it. Come all ye who are heaven-laden with the moralities! I am the living witness for Nietzsche. I will teach children to renounce the love of parents; parents to despise their offspring; husbands to hate their wives; wives to loathe their husbands; and brothers and sisters will raise warring hands after my words have entered their souls. Whatever is is wrong—to alter Pope. The prostitute classes—I do not balk at the ugly word—clergymen, doctors, lawyers, statesmen, journalists, are deceiving you. They speak in divers and lying tongues. I alone possess the prophylactic against the evils of life. Here it is: Plays, Pleasant and Unpleasant; and Three Plays for Puritans."

"But Shaw only removed another of his innumerable masks. Beware, says Nietzsche, of the autobiographies of great men. He was thinking of Richard Wagner. His warning applies to Bernard Shaw, who is a great comedian and a versatile. He has spoken through so many different masks that the real Shaw is yet to be seen. Perhaps on his death-bed some stray phrase will illuminate with its witty gleam his true soul's nature. He has played tag with this soul so long that some of it has been lost in the game. Irishman born, he is not genial after the Oliver Goldsmith type; he resembles much more closely Dean Swift, minus that man's devouring genius. When will the last mask be lifted—and, awful to relate, will it, when lifted, reveal the secret? A master hypnotist perhaps he may be, illuding the world with the mask idea. And what a comical thing it would be to find him smiling at the end and remarking, 'I fooled you, Brethren, didn't I?'

"In his many rôles one trait has obstinately remained, the trait of irresistible waggery. Yet we sadly suspect it. What if this declaration of charlatanism were but a mask! What if Shaw were really sincere! What if he really meant to be sincere in his various lectures and comedies! What if his assumption of insincerity were sincere! His sincerity insincere! The thought confuses. In one of his plays—*The Philanderer*—a certain character has five or six natures. Shaw again, *toujours* Shaw!

"Joke of all jokes, I really imagine that Shaw is a sentimentalist in private; and that he has been so sentimental, romantic, in his youth, that an inversion has taken place in his feelings. Swift's hatred of mankind was a species of inverted lyricism; so was Flaubert's; so may be Shaw's. Fancy him secretly weeping over Jane Eyre, or holding a baby in his lap, or—richest of all fancies—occasionally eating sausage and drinking beer! I met him, once upon a time, in Bayreuth. He spoke then in unmeasured terms of its beer drinkers, and added, without the ghost of a smile, that breweries should be converted into insane asylums.

"Whether we take him seriously or not, he is a delightful, an entertaining writer. His facile use, with the aid of various mouthpieces he assumes at will, of the ideas of Nietzsche, Wagner, Ibsen, and Strindberg, fairly dazzles. He despises wit at bottom, using its forms as a medium for the communication of his theories. Art for art's sake is a contradiction to this writer. He must have a sense of beauty, but he never boasts of it; rather does he seem to consider it something naked, almost shameful—something to be hidden away. So his men are always deriding art, though working at it like devils on high pay. This puritanical vein has grown with the years, as it has with Tolstoy. Only Shaw never wasted his youth in riotous living, as did Tolstoy.

"He had no money, no opportunities, no taste. A fierce ascetic and a misogynist, he will have no regrets at threescore and ten; no sweet memories of headaches—he is a teetotaller; no heartaches—he is too busy with his books; and no bitter aftertaste for having wronged a fellow-being. Behold, Bernard Shaw is a good man, has led the life of a saint, worked like a hero against terrible odds, and is the kindest-hearted man in London. Now we have reached another mask—the mask of altruism. Nearly all his earnings went to the needy; his was, and is, a practical socialism. He never let his right hand know the extent of his charities, and mark this—no one else knew of it. Yet good deeds, like murder, will out. His associates ceased deriding the queer clothes, the flannel shirt, and the absence of evening dress; his money was spent on others. So, too, his sawdust menu—his carrots, cabbage, and brown bread—it did not cost much, his eating, for his money was needed by poorer folk. So you see what a humbug is this dear old Diogenes, who growls cynically at the human race, abhors sentiment-mongers, and despises conventional government, art, religion, and philosophy. He is an arch-sentimentalist, underneath whose frown are concealed tears of pity. Another mask torn away—Bernard Shaw, philanthropist!"

Presentations.—At the close of the record run of Mr. Laidler's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, on Saturday night, Miss Esmé Gordon, the popular representative of the title-rôle, on behalf of the principal members of the company, presented Mr. Laidler with a silver cigar case, silver card case, and silver matchbox, as tokens of their esteem and high appreciation; Mr. J. W. Hemming, stage manager of the pantomime, was presented by Mr. Gilbert Rodgers, the representative of Fitzwarren (also on behalf of the company), with a gold-mounted walking-stick; and Mr. Walter Scott was the recipient of a handsome writing-case.

Mr. F. S. Gilbert, the well-known operatic artist, on Wednesday was the tenor soloist in a cantata, "The Rose Maiden," given in the Victoria Hall, Mansfield, by the Nonconformist Choral Union.

"Dick Whittington," which for the past twelve and a half weeks has occupied the boards at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, came to a close on Saturday. This was the first pantomime of which Mr. Francis Laidler, the proprietor, had undertaken the entire production, and the success which the piece has attained culminated on Saturday in a scene of great enthusiasm. Flowers and chocolates were showered upon the stage, and handsome bouquets were handed to the principals. Miss Esme Gordon (Dick Whittington), on behalf of the principals of the company, presented Mr. Laidler with a silver cigar case, card case, and matchbox as a token of appreciation. Mr. J. W. Hemming, the stage manager of the pantomime, was the recipient of a gold-mounted walking-stick, presented on behalf of the company by Mr. Gilbert Rodgers (Fitzwarren) Mr. Walter Scott, the musical director, was also presented with a handsome writing-case.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

MR. PHILIP SHERIDAN.

Mr. Philip Sheridan, the electrician at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, is an out-and-out Irishman, and proud of the fact. He is also proud of the fact that he was entrusted with the responsibility of a department when only seventeen years of age, being appointed electrician for one of the principal Irish theatres at that age, a position he has held at various theatres since that time, some twelve years ago.

Mr. Sheridan was born in Finglas, Co. Dublin, in 1876. During his school days he attended science and art classes, and took a special interest in various experiments in chemistry, electricity, and magnetism, which were carried out for the instruction of the classes he attended by the professors and masters attached to the Marlborough-street National Schools and Training College. Mr. Sheridan says, "I remember, too, in those days, when my brother and myself were on our way home from school, we would stand watching the men clean and re-carbon the street arc lamps, which, at that time, were supplied with current by means of mains slung from pole to pole. We were always delighted when one of us were able to secure one of the short ends of the carbon rods—pieces of electricity we called them—that were being replaced.

"I had a little experience of property-making, too, in my school days—that is, as far as plaster work is concerned; for I, with three or four other pupils, assisted Mr. T. W. Conway, B.A., my schoolmaster, to make the large relief of the 'Ould Sod' which is now in the Museum in Dublin, and of which there was a copy sent to the great Exhibition in Chicago in 1899. Mr.

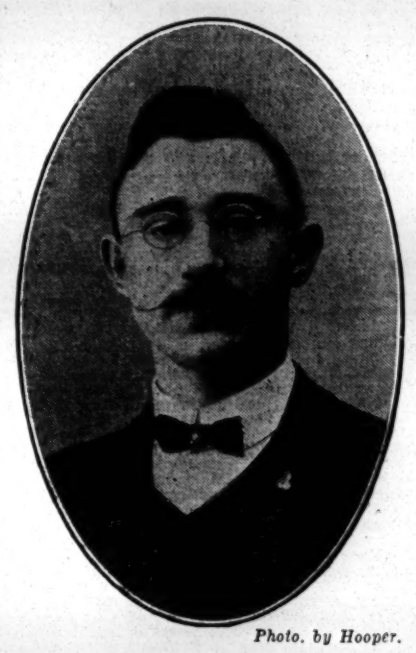

Photo. by Hooper.

MR. PHILIP SHERIDAN.

Conway did the modelling, and we pupils made the moulds and took the plaster casts of each section. These sections were joined together and mounted on a large table, measuring about 30ft. by 15ft. All the mountains, hills, &c., were raised in relief to correct scale. The map took us about two years to complete. Mr. Conway received many honours for this work, including his F.R.G.S., and I think he richly deserved them all.

"On leaving school in 1890, I was bound apprentice for five years to the Electrical Engineering Company of Ireland, Ltd., where my brother, John T. Sheridan (who is now electrician at the Waldorf), had already been employed for about a year. Some twelve months later, when but fifteen years of age, I was placed in charge of an electric plant, consisting of a large gas engine, dynamo, and a number of arc lamps, of which my employers had undertaken the maintenance in a large drapery establishment in the city. I remained in charge of that contract for about six months, and was then transferred to the Gaiety Theatre, to assist with the fitting up of the electrical installation and plant at that house, which had just been started by my firm for the late Mr. Michael Gunn.

"Little did I think at that time that a few years later I should be placed in charge of the electrical department of that theatre as resident engineer, and thus become attached to the theatrical profession, to which I am proud to belong. In 1894 my employers going into liquidation, I was engaged in succession to my brother, who had secured a large electrical contract in the provinces, by Mr. E. W. Royce, jun., at that time stage-manager and producer to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gunn, as electrical engineer, a position I held for nearly five years. During that time I extended the electrical installation practically over the whole house, fitting the stage with electric battens, lengths, &c., in lieu of gas. I designed and fitted the stage and engine-room switch-boards, and, of course, carried out the different electrical displays in the various productions.

"When Mr. Gunn, through failing health, gave up direct control of the Gaiety, I left and came to London to seek my fortune, and, within a week or so, I secured an engagement from Mr. Isaac Cohen, the managing-director of the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, as electrician for the Crown, then in course of preparation. I am still at the Crown, under Mr. Cecil Paget, who is as good a governor as there can possibly be. We have just got through the eighth pantomime, and I hope I shall be lucky enough to be here to assist with another eight."

Mr. Sheridan, in conjunction with Mr. Wade, the master carpenter, has charge of the annual staff outing, which has been of a most successful and enjoyable kind. He is a member of the Heads of Departments Association, and holds the office of co-auditor, an office of which Mr. Sheridan is also proud. Mr. Sheridan devotes his spare time to his garden and poultry, which he claims are one of the sights of Peckham.

"Susan in Search of a Husband," a four-act farce, by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, was produced for copyright purposes at the Scala Theatre on the 16th inst.

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THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

THE QUESTION OF CROWDED GANGWAYS.

The following important report was presented by the Theatres and Musical Halls Committee:—

The question of the extent to which persons should be allowed to stand in theatres, music halls, and other places of public entertainment, has always been one of considerable difficulty, and attempts have been made from time to time by the Council to deal with it. Up to the year 1901 the only way in which the Council had endeavoured to deal with the question was by framing the following rule to be observed by all persons to whom a music, music or dancing, or stage plays licence was granted by the Council—

> "All gangways, passages, and staircases, intended for the exit of the audience, must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions, whether permanent or temporary."

In the year 1901 the Council had under revision the regulations to be observed in the erection of theatres and other places of public entertainment, and complaints as to the non-observance of the rule above referred to having become increasingly frequent, it was thought advisable in the interest of public safety to make a regulation to ensure that in new buildings sufficient exit accommodation should be provided for all the persons who could be admitted thereto. This was done by requiring the width and number of exits to be in proportion to the number of persons to be accommodated, and by providing that "in calculating the number of persons which can be accommodated in any tier or part of a tier of such premises, the standing space from which a view of the performance can be obtained will be considered as well as the seated area." The rule requiring gangways to be kept free from all obstructions was maintained, but the alterations of the structural regulations had to some extent the effect of an official recognition of standing in those places of public entertainment constructed in accordance with the revised regulations. It was, in fact, thought that in spite of the Council's efforts there would be times when places of public entertainment would be crowded much in excess of the seating capacity, and it was felt to be essential that the danger attending such a practice should be minimised as much as possible by the provision of sufficient exit accommodation. It was, however, recognised to be unadvisable to even appear to give official recognition to the practice of persons standing in the intersecting gangways, and the Council accordingly on Feb. 4, 1902, inserted words to exclude the space occupied by the intersecting gangways from consideration for the purposes of calculating the amount of exit accommodation to be provided.

Greater prominence was given to the rule requiring gangways to be kept free from obstructions by decisions of the Coupcil on July 22 and July 29, 1902, that the rule should be printed on the programmes of every performance. On March 1, 1904, the Council made, for the conduct of places of public entertainment, additional rules, including the undermentioned:—

> "Persons must not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways."
> "Overcrowding must not be permitted in any part of the premises."

It should be stated that the Lord Chamberlain has made similar rules for the conduct of the theatres in his jurisdiction.

The alterations made in the structural regulations on July 30, 1901, give the proprietors of some eleven theatres and music halls built since that date some justification for claiming that they are entitled to allow standing to take place except in the intersecting gangways. Even in these cases it is probable that the prohibition of standing in the side gangways will entail little, if any, loss to the proprietors, as, for the purposes of calculating the amount of exit accommodation required, the space allotted to each person at the time the plans were approved was greater than it is proposed to require if the Council adopts our recommendation. We have, however, when recommending the Council, during the last two years, to approve plans of new places of public entertainment, stipulated either that there should be no standing in any of the gangways or that the approval was subject to any decision which might hereafter be arrived at with regard to the question of standing.

We have long felt that the position of affairs is unsatisfactory, and after consulting the Lord Chamberlain, who was in complete accord with us as to the course to be adopted, we gave instructions for the following letter to be sent to all persons holding a music, music and dancing, or stage plays licence from the Council—

County Hall, Spring-gardens, S.W.,
March 4, 1905.

Sir,

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the Council have had under consideration the question of overcrowding and obstruction of gangways in places of public entertainment licensed by the Council. You are of course familiar with the rules made by the Council with regard to such premises, under which all gangways, passages, or corridors are required to be kept free from obstructions whether permanent or temporary; no persons are allowed to stand or sit in any gangway; and no overcrowding is permitted. It appears to the committee that a rigid insistence on strict compliance with these rules might possibly be undesirable and involve unnecessary hardship in some cases.

After careful consideration the committee are of opinion that the most satisfactory way of dealing with the question, both from the point of view of the public and from that of the proprietors of places of public entertainment, will be to determine the number of persons who can with safety be accommodated in each part of the premises, and to cause these particulars to be registered on the plans in the possession of the Council, and to be exhibited in the premises. In determining the number that may be admitted to a particular part of any place of public entertainment, the committee think that not only the exit capacity but the general arrangements of that part of the premises should be carefully considered, and in no case should the number to be admitted be allowed to exceed that for which exits are provided.

In order to enable the committee to fully consider the question from all points of view, I have been directed to ask that you will be good enough to send me, as soon as possible, a statement showing the maximum number of persons whom you desire to admit at any one time to each part of the and the places (if any) in which you consider that persons should be allowed to stand.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) G. L. Gomme,
Clerk of the Council.

With few exceptions the proprietors of the theatres and music halls referred the letter to the London Entertainments Protection Association, who subsequently asked that they might send a deputation, and after considerable delay a deputation representing all the principal London music halls attended before us on October 25, 1905. The deputation did not, however, make any practical suggestion for dealing with the difficulties of the question, and the object of the speakers appeared to be to convince us that any action on the part of the Council was unnecessary and would have a prejudicial effect. The association has since suggested that the Council should make a thorough and impartial inquiry as to whether any justification exists for the action suggested by us, and that a small sub-committee of the Council should be appointed to meet a sub-committee of the association for the purpose of ascertaining the whole of the facts. It appears to us that there can be no question of the necessity for dealing with the matter. The practice of crowding places of public entertainment to such an extent as to fill the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating is one which, although unattended with any bad results in ordinary circumstances, could hardly fail to lead to disaster in the event of a fire or panic occurring. It is true that for many years past no life has been lost through fire or panic in any place of public entertainment in London, but this cannot be accepted as a proof that no danger exists, or as an adequate reason for omitting to take every practicable precaution to prevent or minimise the danger of fire or panic. The point to be considered is how to deal with the question in such a way as will, while safeguarding the public interests, inflict the minimum of inconvenience and loss on the proprietors of places of public entertainment. It has been urged that there might be instances, having in view the general arrangements of the exits, &c., where it would be safe and proper to allow some persons to stand in the side gangways. We are, however, of opinion that the only practical course to adopt is to rigidly prohibit standing in any of the side or intersecting gangways, leaving it to be determined after a careful consideration of all the circumstances of each particular place of public entertainment, whether any, and if so, what, standing may safely be allowed in any other part. We have consulted the present Lord Chamberlain, and his opinion is—

> "That the number of persons admitted to any part of a theatre should not exceed the exit accommodation provided for such part of the theatre; that the number of persons so to be admitted be arrived at and determined by the London County Council; that the audience should not be allowed to stand in the gangways between or at the sides of the seats, but if the seating accommodation is not sufficient for the number of persons admitted, they might be allowed to stand at the back of the seating accommodation, but not in such position as would interfere with the ready access to and egress from the seats."

It will be seen that the Lord Chamberlain's views accord with ours. The Lord Chamberlain has forwarded to us the replies received from proprietors of theatres in his jurisdiction, giving particulars of the number of persons who, in their opinion, might be allowed in the various parts of their theatres, and has requested that the Council will advise him as to whether the numbers suggested may with safety be allowed. We propose to accede to this request, and we recommend—

That it be referred to the Theatres and Music Halls Committee to consider and report as to the number of persons to be admitted to the various parts of the places of public entertainment licensed by the Council with a view to such numbers being registered on the plans in the possession of the Council, and exhibited on the premises in approved positions; that the number of persons to be admitted to any part shall in no case exceed the exit capacity of that part; that in no circumstances shall persons be permitted to stand or sit in any of the side or intersecting gangways, and that if standing be permitted in any other part, it shall not be in such a position or to such an extent as to interfere with the ready egress of the seated audience.

Walter B. Yates,
Chairman.

The report was not reached until after seven o'clock, and to prevent it being passed as unopposed business Mr. William Bailey gave the usual notice of opposition.

Mr. Yates, the chairman of the committee, thereupon agreed to postpone the matter until Tuesday next, to allow of a full discussion.

THE ALDWYCH SITE.

The Improvements Committee presented their report on the scheme for building by a syndicate, with a capital of a million, a theatre, concert hall, restaurant, and shops on the Aldwych-Strand site, the syndicate agreeing to pay £55,000 a year ground rent for a 99 years' lease, and to spend £500,000 in the erection of buildings.

Mr. Hubbard, chairman of the committee, in reply to Sir John McDougall, said that he understood that the Lord Chamberlain's licence for a theatre covered the liquor licence for the restaurant. There would be, he said, certain passages or corridors in which food and drink would be supplied, and there would be arrangements for a concert hall, but no application would be made for a liquor licence for the hall; it would be dealt with as an ordinary music hall, the Council retaining the veto as to where drink should be sold.

Mr. Hubbard further stated that no bar would be erected outside the theatre, and drink and food must be supplied at the tables in the restaurant in the central building and on the verandahs. As the Council knew, they had other offers from interested persons, and the committee had shown no favouritism in coming to the decision. With regard to the previous scheme, that was for the option of a lease without a deposit, but in the present case they had a definite offer for a lease with a deposit of £55,000 upon signing the agreement. There would be only one theatre instead of two, and there would be two-storey shops with one floor above, and no promenades on the roofs of the shops, as was previously proposed.

The recommendation of the committee was agreed to, with one dissentient.

CREATORE AT QUEEN'S HALL.

A second series has been given at Queen's Hall this week of Signor Creatore and his band. It was unfortunate that the weather proved so bad on Monday evening, as an interesting programme was given, which included the "1812" Overture. On Monday the first number heard was a march, "Venezia," by Carlini; followed by Suppé's Overture, "Poet and Peasant," in which Signor Creatore's band have already won golden opinions. A most determined encore was responded to by a charming little work of Brahms played with the utmost delicacy, the band also gave in the first portion of the programme, Batiste's clever "Organ Offertoire" and a lively march for the inevitable encore. Signor Pesce also had to respond to a hearty recall for his well-performed harp solo. After the interval Handel's fine and expressive "Largo" was admirably performed by the Band. An apology was made on the score of illness on behalf of Madame Barili, who was set down for an air from Donizetti's "Daughter of the Regiment," but the band made amends for this disappointment by playing the Sextet from "Lucia," the soloists being in particularly fine form. It is needless to say that in Tschaikowsky's stirring overture, "1812," Creatore was quite in his element, and simply revelled in the crashing chords and the storm and stress of this remarkable work, and shouts of applause came from all parts of the house on the conclusion of the terrific finale, Signor Creatore responding with "God Save the King."

MISS ADA HATCHWELL'S CONCERT.

Miss Ada D. Hatchwell's Australian concert at Steinway Hall on Thursday evening proved a great success, the hall being crowded. Miss Hatchwell was assisted by Miss Nora Long, Miss Eva Mylott, Mr. Edward McKeown, Mr. Cyril Monk, and Miss Madeline Royle. The concert-giver was first heard in recitations from *Henry VIII*, Act II., Scene 4 (the trial of Queen Katherine), in which character Miss Hatchwell was eminently successful; indeed, Shakespeare's heroines seem to especially suit the reciter. Rosalind's lively speech was well rendered in a short selection from *As You Like It*, Act III., Scene 5. Later on in the programme Miss Hatchwell recited "The Old Stage Queen," by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, with fine dramatic feeling, and also greatly pleased her audience in a short sketch, entitled *I Don't Care*, and "Her Letter," by Bret Harte; being encored, Miss Hatchwell responded with "Butterflies." The reciter was also set down for a comedy sketch, *I and My Father-in-law*. Mr. Edward McKeown sang "Wandering Wishes," and later on "When in the early morn," by Gounod, and Miss Eva Mylott, the happy possessor of a really fine contralto voice, was well received in Mallinson's "Danke nicht." Songs were also given by Miss Nora Long, and Mr. Cyril Monk and Miss Medeline Royle gave a duet (violin and piano) of two movements from Grieg's sonata. Miss Royle was warmly greeted in her two piano solos, "Berceuse" and Polonaise in A flat (Chopin), being encored in the latter. Miss Royle accompanied Miss Hatchwell in her recitation, "Aux Italiens," by Owen Meredith. Mr. Monk played two violin solos, one partly of his own composition. The accompanist was Miss Ruby Kettle. The concert was under the patronage of the Agent-General for New South Wales.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE VON HOCHSATTEL,"
Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. L. W. Stein and L. Heller,
Produced at the Lustspielhaus, March 19.

Baron Hochsattel .....HERR SCHOENFELD
Dorothea .....FRAULEIN HILLER
Ulrich .....HERR STROBEL
Ehrengard .....FRAU MALLINGER
Von Rosenstock .....HERR BECKMANN
Rosa .....FRAULEIN MARBA
Hedwig .....FRAULEIN WENDT
Adolf .....HERR BACH
Graf Wilms .....HERR PALFI
Adler .....HERR MARX
Gotthold .....HERR IMPEKOVEN
Fritz .....HERR RITTER
Hans .....HERR STRUVE
Koernlein .....HERR PAULMULLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 22.—A welcome novelty has taken the place of Kadelburg's harmless farce, and a lengthy run may surely be prophesied. The title is a happy one; the Von Hochsattels are one of the many German noble families with a long pedigree and not a penny to bless themselves with. Pater familias, the Baron Adalbert, having ruined himself and those dependent upon him, resides in a tiny flat on the top floor, still proud as Lucifer and riding the high horse. His wife and daughter, through honest labour, support the whole family, including Ulrich, whose fine voice is being trained for the opera. The Baron is sublimely unconscious of the sacrifices made for him, and only expresses contempt for Ulrich, who becomes a famous artist, and marries the daughter of a wealthy Jew, von Rosenstock by name. Rosenstock is a generous man; it was he who paid for Ulrich's studies, while his daughter, Hedwig, is a pearl among women. The proud Baron, nevertheless, is furious at the alliance, and declines to admit the Jew—who has been raised to the nobility—into the select circle of his acquaintances. Of course, this state of things comes to an end, and all concludes happily, otherwise it would not be a farce. The Baron learns that he has been kept all along by the labour of his women-kind, and his pride has a sudden fall. The plot alone, it will be seen, could not make the running, for that is of no account; it is the bright dialogue, the funny "situations," and the pleasant, natural characters to which the piece owes its success. In addition to this, the interpretation was capital all round; authors and artists were heartily applauded, and the audience left the theatre with smiles of satisfaction which testified to the enjoyment of the evening.

THE success of the spectacular farce at the Thalia Theatre, *Bis früh um Fünfe*, by MM. Jean Kren and Arthur Lippschitz, is so great that the management has given up all idea for the present of producing anything, else. The laughable piece has reached its 200th consecutive performance, an unparalleled event even for the Thalia, where long runs are usual. Herr Thielscher, the famous comedian, who is the most brilliant star of the cast, was overwhelmed with applause on the occasion of the jubilee, but each and all received their due share. Flowers innumerable were handed up, and authors and managers were "called" and heartily applauded.

ERNST VON WILDENBRUCH'S drama, *Die Haubenlerche* has been produced at the Luisen Theater, meeting with a cordial reception. This is one of the famous dramatist's earliest works; if I mistake not, it was the first he ever wrote, and it bears all the traces of a powerful imagination, combined with the strenuousness of the "sturm und drang" period, and the crudeness of inexperience. The piece has as many enemies as it has admirers, and that it does not interest the average theatregoers of to-day as much as it did those of twenty years ago is a fact that cannot be denied. It was fairly satisfactorily acted, excellent renderings being those of Herren Tucker, Wald, and Merker.

FRAULEIN DESTINN will leave the Royal Opera Company at the end of her contract next year, and it will not be an easy thing to fill her place. She has been with us ten years, and is leaving for a three years' engagement at the Metropolitan Opera House at New York. From a financial point of view Fräulein Destinn will better herself considerably, the salary she is to receive being nearly double the already high one she has here.

THE many friends and admirers of the eminent actor, Herr Josef Kainz, regret to hear that he is seriously ill with bronchial trouble in Munich. Herr Kainz, who had made use of a holiday from the Imperial Burg Theatre, at Vienna, to go on a short tour, was acting in the Bavarian capital at the Schauspielhaus. His family is all the more anxious as the patient was never robust, and not very long ago was dangerously ill with inflammation of the lungs. The hotel where Herr Kainz is staying is besieged with anxious inquirers, and bulletins are posted up daily.

AT the Royal Opera on Sunday Max Schilling's opera, *Der Pfeifertag*, was revived with—for the greater part—the original cast, including Herren Knüpfer, Grüning, Hoffmann, and Fräulein Ekeblad. Dr. Richard Strauss again conducted, and the reception was a very cordial one, such as the performance fully merited. On Monday a repetition of *Die Meistersinger* took place, with Herr Herold, from the Court Opera at Copenhagen, in the rôle of Walter Stolzing. The excellent singer achieved another distinct success, which will no doubt lead to a permanent engagement. Herr Hoepfl, from the Dresden Opera, was, in the rôle of Kothner, the second "guest" of the evening, while Fräulein Destinn, Frau Scheele-Müller, Herren Bachmann, Nebe, Lieban, and Knüpfer formed the remainder of the praiseworthy cast.

THE Russian company at the Berliner announced Ibsen's *The Enemy of the People* for Monday, and the demand for seats was unusually great. Owing, however, to the Kaiser having expressed a wish to witness a performance of *Czar Feodor Ivanovitch* on that evening the latter piece was—at some inconvenience—put in the bill. Both their Majesties put in an appearance, accompanied by Prince August Wilhelm, and attended by a large suite. The Kaiser was delighted with the acting and with the play, and told the directors, whom he received in the Royal box, that the latter reminded him of Shakespeare and from the former he hoped many German artists would learn.

A PERFORMANCE of Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*, with Signora Duse, was announced at the Neues for Tuesday last, but owing to the unfortunate illness of that lady it was indefinitely postponed. Signora Duse is still in Dresden, where she has been acting for some weeks.

"DER PRINZGEMAHL" celebrates its 150th performance at the Residenz this week, and is still high in popular favour. Herr Alexander, the esteemed actor-manager, has not been absent once from the cast during the whole time.

OFFENBACH'S charming opera, *Hoffmann's Erzählungen*, is still running successfully at the Komische Oper. *Don Pasquale* is given several times in the week, and *Figaro's Hochzeit* is announced for next Monday, but Offenbach's work is, without doubt, the success of the season.

THE Royal Schauspielhaus gave a performance of the ever-popular comedy *Die Journalisten* on Sunday evening. This fifty-year-old piece is as fresh as ever, and will live and flourish when many a modern work has passed away. It is one of Freytag's masterpieces, and played as it was on Sunday scores at every point. Herr Christians, who has returned from his highly satisfactory American tour, was in the cast, as were also Herren Vollmer and Kessler, and Fräulein von Mayburg. The house was filled to the last place.

MR. EDOUARD JOSE has arrived safe and well in Johannesburg, where he is at present managing the Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety Co. at His Majesty's Theatre.

CHAT WITH MISS LILIAN ROSEBERY.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Miss Lilian Rosebery can congratulate herself upon the fact that, as she says, she has never played a small part in her life. It is a bold statement to make, and one which we think few actresses, even the most successful, could venture to set forth. And therein, we should imagine, Miss Rosebery creates a record.

Yet the lady is not satisfied. She indulges in a complaint directed against herself. It is that in the beginning of her stage career she did not take advantage of the undoubted influences that were hers to command. She is the daughter of the late Mr. Robert Routledge, B.S., F.C.S., Assistant Examiner in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy to the University of London, and author of many famous scientific works, including a very useful volume entitled "The Discoveries and Inventions of the Nineteenth Century." Miss Rosebery's father was a nephew of Mr. George Routledge, the well-known publisher, and cousin to the late Mr. Edmund Routledge, whose name at one time was so prominent in theatrical circles. Miss Rosebery could scarcely have had a better sponsor at the inception of a career as an actress than the last-named gentleman. But to her credit be it said, she made no call upon him for assistance, preferring to fight the battle of life unaided except by her inherent talents. She was always an earnest and a strenuous worker. She determined that everything should be dependent upon her own efforts, and she aimed high. Her father was strongly opposed to her following the calling of a player upon the stage, but her first

MISS LILIAN ROSEBERY.

manager, Mr. E. G. Falcon, held other views. He felt assured that the young lady possessed undoubted histrionic gifts, and he backed up his convictions in a most practical manner. He gave her her first engagement, which was an important one for a *débutante*. It was the part of Lura Lee in *The Romany Rye*, which Mr. Falcon toured some twelve years ago. So satisfied was he with Miss Rosebery's work in this part that he entered into an arrangement with her to enact the principal rôles in the Drury Lane dramas he then had out on the road.

So under his excellent management she impersonated such characters as Rachel in *Held by the Enemy*, Lena in *Harbour Lights*, and Barbara in *In the Ranks*. Then came a varied experience of parts in stock and music-hall sketches, after which the lady was engaged by Mr. W. E. Langley for lead in *Hand in Hand*, and created the principal heavy part in *The Scarlet Brotherhood*. She was next taken up by the late Mr. Lawrence Daly to play heavy lead (Cissy) and title-rôle in *The Prime Minister*. Her characterisation of the latter was so much admired by Mr. Henry C. Arnold that he requisitioned her services to appear as Violet in *The Prodigal Daughter*. Then followed a couple of tours with Mr. William Bourne, a run of the halls with Mr. A. C. Lilly, with whom she has had numerous engagements, and in 1900 she was specially re-engaged by Mr. Bourne to create the leading part in the production of *The Invasion of Britain* at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow. In the autumn of that year she was seen with Mr. Milton Bode's company in *The Lights o' London*, and in the spring of 1901 took the juvenile lead in Mr. Walter Melville's *Great World of London*, afterwards returning to Mr. Bode to appear as Hetty in *The Lights o' London*, and to play heavy lead in *Tommy Atkins*. Other parts she played subsequently were those of the principal juvenile lady and title-rôle in *A Beautiful Fiend* (Beaudyn and Livesey's company), Lola Vane in *A Traitor Prince*, and Madame Sansan in *£1000 Reward*.

Quite recently she entered into partnership with Mr. Carter to produce the now successful "skit" *The Would-be Actors*, in which Miss Rosebery gives us a most amusing picture of an absurdly unsophisticated damsel who is learning to play the part of the heroine in a blood-and-thunder melodrama.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 19, the Drama, by George R. Sims, entitled
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."

The popular drama *The Lights o' London* is drawing large audiences to the Dalston Theatre this week. Mr. Herbert Hollister's company is responsible for the representation, which is in all senses of the term perfect. Mr. J. Edward Pearce is Harold Armytage, son of Squire Armytage, who during the greater part of the story is under the ban of Cain, being charged for having murdered his old father for the purpose of securing certain deeds and jewellery. Clifford Armytage, the Squire's nephew, who is responsible for much of the trouble experienced by other personages in the story, is played with due effect by Mr. Riddell Robinson, and the old Squire is represented by Mr. Herbert Morgan. Miss Jeanie Burgoyne is Bess, Harold's faithful and long-suffering wife; and the part of Marks, a lodge-keeper, is sympathetically rendered by Mr. F. V. Lloyd. A decidedly strong character, that of Seth Preene, a poacher, is capably dealt with by Mr. Herbert Hollister, and as Preene's daughter Hetty Miss Eily O'Dempsey finds opportunity for some effective acting. The Jarvis family (members of the "Temple of the Legitimate") are very popular, and Mr. W. E. Passmore as Jarvis, sen., Miss Violet Temple as Mrs. Jarvis, and Miss Gladys Murray as the highly-gifted son "Shakespeare," add much to the success. Mr. F. Dalton as Jim, Mr. H. W. Forster as Mr. Skeffington (a solicitor), Mr. George Wallace as Philosopher Jack, Mr. H. Pettitt as Percy de Vere, Esq., Mr. G. Saunders as Trotters, and Miss W. Eves as Sal, a loafer in the parks, provide interesting character sketches, while Miss Mary Rose and Miss Hilda Wollard make a couple of brisk servant maids.

AN EXPERT ON ELOCUTION.

Mr. Cairns James, Professor of Elocution at the Royal College and the Guildhall Schools of Music, and Principal of the School of Musical and Dramatic Art in New Oxford-street, gave a lecture on Wednesday, "Elocution as Applied to Modern Drama," to the members of the Amateur Players' Association, whose headquarters are at 92, Victoria-street. An object lesson in the art was supplied by Mr. James, who is a fluent speaker, and, despite his rapid utterance, so perfect was his articulation that not a word was lost. His lecture was agreeably discursive, and frequent laughter was aroused by his humorous references as well as by the mimicry with which his lecture was frequently illustrated. Mr. James, who dealt with invaluable aids to elocution rather than its strictly theoretical aspect, began by a reference to the allegations concerning the decadence of the drama, none of which he believed. Coming to the subject in hand, Mr. James said elocution in the first instance meant pure, good, correct, educated English, and the best possible speech. The first object of the speaker should be to make himself or herself heard, and every single word should be audible at the back of the gallery. With modern civilisation that essential seemed entirely to be neglected, and the conversation in the society drawing-room was seldom audible. He generally found people were careless about initial vowels, little words, and consonants. In order to acquire correct speech he would advise them to speak from a musical point of view. There was, too, a general tendency to clip important final consonants, especially in the case of sybillants. For example, the words "This seems silly" were usually rendered "Thiseemsilly." The late Sir Henry Irving, the greatest actor of the century, always insisted on the members of his company paying chief attention to the final consonants. It was remarkable how greatly the acoustics of a hall were affected by the way they spoke. The effect of what they said was greatly affected by the rate at which they spoke, and by the tones they employed. Mr. James also insisted on the value of pause, which not only enabled the speaker to take breath, but gave time for the audience to take thought.

Speech, he maintained, should be studied from a musical point of view. All the trouble about upward inflexions would be avoided if they knew how to sing them. Little children taught them a lesson in that respect, because a child puts so much emotion into his tone that the words are full of meaning. A simple sentence such as "O, Mamma, won't you take me out to-day?" served the lecturer as a typical example, which he skilfully illustrated. Mr. James further advocated the necessity of precision in speech, but never the precision which calls for notice from the audience. To acquire elocutionary perfection it was necessary that they should sing the right tune and speak the right time. It was impossible to reproduce the human voice on any instrument ever devised by man. There was nothing so subtle, so expressive, so charming as the voice, and all its tones should be developed. Every actor and actress should, to a certain extent, study music from the point of view of voice production. It helped the voice to retain its strength and purity through long exertions. His duties in teaching upwards of 250 pupils in a week often involved his working for nine hours a day at a stretch. If the vocal production was not good, no human being could stand the strain, yet his voice was as true and dependable at the end of the day as at the beginning.

Expression in words, continued the lecturer, was not enough. There should be expression by means of gesture, which was a *sine qud non* of every actor, speaker, and singer. In all gesture there were certain movements which meant certain things. There was the difference between welcome and repulsion, between love and hatred, between meekness and anger. Because gesture did not come easily and naturally to them, many people argued that it should not be studied at all. That was foolish. In ballet work the words were learnt, as well as the actions, and no gesture would be of any good unless accompanied by thought. Mr. James, who in his references suited the actions admirably to the words, gave some examples of the way in which "I love you" would be delivered by the society youth, a rough fellow from Sheffield, and an opera singer. In order to be able to dispose properly of hands and feet, they should go through a course of gesture. Dancing, stage deportment, all should be studied, as without those essentials they could not characterise. A diligent study of gesture and repose of body, therefore, were absolute necessities to the actor. Making a slight divergence from the subject, Mr. James administered a severe rebuke to certain halfpenny papers, who send youthful journalists to the theatre to criticise the efforts of men who had been twenty and twenty-five years in their profession.

After giving a word of warning to those who contemplated going on the stage, Mr. James said, in conclusion, that elocution could be practised in private as well as in public life, and should be studied in ordinary conversation. An educated person would speak without any accent at all. His birthplace was north of the Tweed, but during his long career as a character comedian he had had to play in every kind of dialect. The best way to pick that up was by the exercise of observation, a keen ear, and a keen sense of imitation, but the fact of imitating various accents need not compel them to affect any particular one.

Illustrations of elocution in song and speech formed the second part of the programme, which included a scene from Stephen Phillips's *Herod*, admirably played by Mr. James and Miss Oppenheimer, pupil at the School of Musical and Dramatic Art. Miss Oppenheimer has an expressive face and a graceful carriage, and her depiction of scorn and suppressed passion in the part of Ariamme was one rarely seen off the professional boards. Miss Kirkbride, also of the Royal College, gave the speech of Constance from Shakespeare's *King John*, and rendered *A Tale of a Stamp* with charming ingenuousness. Mr. Aubrey Millward, R.C.M., furnished an admirable example of elocution in song in two well-contrasted selections; Miss Guillaume, a "George Edwardes" scholar at the School of Musical and Dramatic Art, gave a droll rendering of Anstey's clever recitation entitled "Burglar Bill"; Mr. Brook recited "An Incident of the French Camp," from Browning; and Mr. Cairns James and Miss Agnes Thornton appeared in Constance Beerbohm's agreeable little duologue, *Charity Begins at Home*. A vote of thanks to Mr. James, moved by Miss Mouillot, the general secretary of the Association, for his "splendid lecture and delightful entertainment," was carried by acclamation.

PRESENTATION.—At the conclusion of the performance at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, on the 16th inst. a hearty send-off was accorded Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson, assistant manager of the theatre, who is leaving the town to aid his father at Glasgow in his recently developed theatrical agency. Mr. Hugh Robertson, on behalf of the "front and back staff," presented Mr. Jefferson with a gold ring and a gold medal, and said he was sorry to lose his services, but his father, Mr. Arthur Jefferson, the well-known actor and playwright, had the prior call. The recipient had performed his duties admirably. Mr. G. Jefferson acknowledged the gifts, and said he appreciated very much the several presentations that had been made him during the week. In addition to the above, Mr. Jefferson was the recipient of a gold watch from "orchestra and friends," and of a silver cigarette case and a silver-mounted, ivory-handled walking-stick respectively from the Jarrow Wednesday Cricket and Football Clubs.

CHAT WITH MR. CARTER LIVESEY.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Mr. E. Carter Livesey, author and actor, is at the present moment delighting audiences with his exquisitely droll impersonation of a Yorkshireman with an imagined predisposition for a theatrical career. The sketch in which he appears bears the title of *The Would-be Actors*, and owes its authorship to Mr. Livesey. It was produced on July 17 at Manchester with the idea of being run for a week and then withdrawn. However, such was the success attained by this latest and most laughable absurdity that it was immediately booked, with the result that Mr. Livesey has not had a week out since it commenced, and he holds contracts for dates in 1907 and 1908. Mr. Alfred Butt saw the sketch in St. Helens, and formed such a high opinion of it that he arranged for its production at the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, where it created an agreeable impression during the last few weeks. "Some of the papers," remarked Mr. Livesey, laughingly, "seemed divided on the question as to whether I was speaking in the Yorkshire or Lancashire dialect. I admit that it is easy enough for anyone to be in doubt on this point, because there is great similarity between the way in which a Lancashire man pronounces his words and the way a man from the shire of broad acres talks."

The writer undertook to lay the odds on Mr. Livesey being a Yorkshireman, and was somewhat disconcerted to learn that the subject of this sketch hails from neither of the two counties mentioned.

"I was born in Wolverhampton," said Mr. Livesey, "although I have to admit that in the whole

MR. CARTER LIVESEY.

course of my life I have not spent more than a couple of weeks in that town. I have always been a rover. Like Poor Jo, I have been a-moving on and a-moving on. At the time of my birth my parents were members of the stock company at the Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton. I have myself played the principal comedy and character parts in the entire round of 'stock.'"

In the autumn of 1893 Mr. Livesey was engaged by Messrs. Hemming and Cooper to play Tom Painter in *False Evidence* for a tour of four months, and in the following year he took out his own company with *The Coroner*, finishing at Christmas. Then followed engagements for two tours as David Teacher and stage-manager of *In Sight of St. Paul's*, and a short season at the Princess's with the same play; Baron Stoney in *The Babes in the Wood* at the Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, under Mr. Fred H. Graham's management; Jenkins and stage-manager in Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's run of *Saved from the Sea*; four tours as general-manager with Messrs. Rogers and Webb's *Ladder of Life* company, in which piece he played the parts of Sergeant Donal M'Dougal and Lieut. David Gordon; the title-rôle in Mr. J. H. Darnley's farcical comedy, *The Solicitor*; Pierre in *The Two Orphans*; and the character comedy parts in *Dr. Nikola* at the Princess's, and for a long tour. Then he was for a considerable period with Mr. George Kirk as stage-manager and principal comedian. In conjunction with this gentleman Mr. Livesey on one occasion produced *Hamlet* at a special performance before Count Hollander. He has also stage-managed and acted comedy rôles for Mr. Clifton Alderson in *A Soldier and a Man*. His next effort was the production of *The Traitor Prince*, which he still has out on tour, running it in conjunction with *The Beautiful Fiend* and *The Days of Cromwell*. Mr. Livesey is part author with the late Mr. Charles Rogers of *The Days of Cromwell*, a delightful romantic play, which has been well received wherever it has been presented. He is also the author, among other works, of *The Man-o'-War's Man*, the well-known nautical drama.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 19,
the Drama, by George R. Sims, entitled
"THE GIPSY EARL."

The talented stock company headed by those two sterling artists, Miss Marion Denvil and Mr. Ashley Page, is giving an excellent rendering this week of the favourite Adelphi drama, *The Gipsy Earl*, a play of such novel and picturesque setting, and such dramatic strength, that it is somewhat strange it is not more often seen on the boards. Mr. Ashley Page is a striking and handsome figure as Pharaoh Lee, the Gipsy Earl, and endues the part with much earnestness and fidelity. Miss Marion Denvil wins all hearts as the warm-hearted gipsy lass Naomi Lovel. She acts skilfully, and her voice throughout has the true ring of pathos. Mr. Percy Halton is satisfactory as Lord Trevanion. Mr. W. Stevens as the villain, Laban, invests the part with the needful ferocity. That clever low comedian, Mr. Johnny Chippendale, has an easy rôle to play as the village constable, Elijah Blossom. He adopts an appropriate brogue for the part, and obtains, as usual, much laughter. Jeremiah Quarles, the old gardener on the look out for a wife, becomes a very quaint and amusing personage in the skilful hands of Mr. Harry Francis, and his buxom daughter Jennie is adequately represented by Miss Mattie Everett. The two waifs, Dick and Titia, are charmingly played by Miss Francis Green and Miss Florrie Green respectively. Miss Georgie de Lara is a pleasing Alice Vandaleur, and Miss Annie Baldwin is humorous as Mrs. Tibbetts. Mr. S. Major Jones is an aristocratic Sir Jasper Roy, and plays with much feeling, and an admirable and forcible sketch of the blind Anselo Lovel comes from Mr. Richard Norton. Messrs. John Sargent, Tom Taylor, Walter Graham, and Miss Elsie Bonnet also appear to advantage in other characters. Mr. Will T. Taylor, the courteous acting manager, is making himself very popular here.

THE CARLTON, GREENWICH.

On Monday, March 19,
for the First Time in London,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Ridgewood Barrie, entitled
"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY."

Sir John Desborough, Bart...MR. ERN CARLTON
Alec.....MR. ARTHUR BEVERLEY
Kit, a Waif .....MR. LAWRENCE STEVENSON
Stephen Faucit .....MR. EDWARD HEANLEY
Reuben Hawk .....MR. ARTHUR E. MASKEL
Timothy Kodac .....MR. CHARLES ROGERS
Dick Leinster .....MR. CHARLES STIRLING
Matthew Dawes .....MR. WALTER SPEARMAN
P.C. Martell .....MR. CECIL DE-LEE
Warder .....MR. MARTIN BURROWS
Rose Delmayne.....MISS SHIRLEY DALTON
Mollie Maggs .....MISS JESSIE CRAMMONDE
Sally Chimes .....MISS AMY ROSS CLYDE
Cora Granville .....MISS EDITH BLANDE

A king of crime, a prince of rogues, and many other royal dignitaries of stage turpitude having already passed into popularity, the advent of a queen of crime was inevitable, and she has at length arrived in the person of Cora Granville, a lady whose evil deeds equal, and in some respects surpass, those of her predecessors. She was the moving spirit of a gang of gamblers and coiners of which Stephen Faucit, her colleague in crime, was nominally the head, and when the law is eventually set in operation, it is Cora's husband, Dick Leinster, upon whom the guilt is placed. Dick is sent to penal servitude, and Cora takes the opportunity of going through the marriage ceremony with Alec, the reputed son of Sir John Desborough, the real child having been stolen by gipsies when it was an infant. Alec, however, discovers that his marriage was a sham one, and publicly repudiates his wife. Cora is greatly disturbed by his conduct, and resolves to wreak vengeance upon the innocent head of Rose Delmayne, to whom Alec is betrothed. She also intends to secure the fortune of her reputed husband, and to accomplish this contemplates the murder of Sir John himself and of a boy named Kit, an outcast who is really the son of the baronet. Cora stabs the old man to death, and the crime is witnessed by Dick Leinster, her husband, who has just escaped from gaol. The boy Kit is confined in a hut close by, and overhears the exclamation of Cora as she recognises her convict spouse, and when later Kit is brought out and asked who committed the murder, he points to Alec, newly arrived on the scene, whom Cora declares is her husband. The evidence, however, is not strong enough to prove the crime, and Alec is released. Cora, to whom Faucit continues to render adequate support, has Rose Delmayne abducted and taken to a "doss-house" in the lowest quarter of Whitechapel, where she declares that Alec is condemned to death. So far is this from the truth, however, that the young man arrives to the rescue, accompanied by Kit, who receives the bullet fired by Cora at Alec. The fourth act witnesses the union of Alec and Rose and the separation of the queen of villainy and her minion Faucit, who stabs Cora during a quarrel, being himself strangled by Leinster, who is evidently determined to revenge his wrongs on someone.

Some startling situations are reached in the course of the play, which teems with vigorous lines and is embellished with comedy scenes of an unfamiliar kind. The piece, which was originally produced under the title of *A She Devil* at the Athenæum, Lancaster, on Nov. 25, 1902, is presented on a high plane of excellence by the members of Mr. P. Howard Sturgess's company, whose efforts received marked appreciation from a large audience. Miss Edith Blande, who appears in the title-rôle, invests it with becoming regal dignity, and well matches the handsome costumes which she wears. The ferocity and vindictiveness of the part are powerfully suggested, but there are gleams of sardonic humour, to which Miss Blande gives every significance—indeed, so effective is the actress in this respect that her appearance in modern comedy would be a distinct gain to that form of dramatic art. She is well and ably supported in her career of crime by Mr. Edward Heanley, who gives a buoyant touch to the heavy part of Stephen Faucit, acting with rare discrimination. His delivery, too, is well emphasised, and his rage at the constant baffling of his schemes and his final defeat is vividly expressed. Mr. Lawrence Stevenson gives a neatly varied piece of acting as the outcast Kit, making a picturesque appearance, but if he would raise his voice a little it would ensure the lines of the part being better heard. An intense and virile exposition of the part of Dick Leinster, the escaped convict, is given by Mr. Charles Stirling, who works up the interest of the scenes in which he appears very cleverly. Alec is played by Mr. Arthur Beverley, who gives the part the necessary attributes of manliness and pluck, winning many a cheer for the stirring lines which he has to deliver. Sympathy is won for the part of Rose Delmayne by Miss Shirley Dalton, who manages to make the rôle agreeable even in times of tribulation. Miss Dalton's elocution is particularly to be praised, and her spirited defiance to her persecutors wins great admiration. The essentials of mirth-making are supplied by Timothy Kodac, a tourist whose misadventures are many and various, and are drolly carried out by Mr. Charles Rogers, who is heard also in song. His efforts are admirably seconded by Miss Jessie Crammonde, an animated and refined comedienne, who makes the mirthful Mollie Maggs appear at her prettiest and best. Reuben Hawk, a poacher, has also leanings towards drollery, and the very most of these characteristics are made by Mr. Arthur E. Maskel. A study of female depravity is furnished in the part of his better-half, Sally Chimes, by Miss Amy Ross Clyde, who depicts the old hag with unhesitating realism. Mr. Era Carlton gives a capital representation of Sir John Desborough, Mr. Cecil De-Lee is a typical police-officer, and the other parts are played with care and ability. The production is effectively staged, and is under the general management of Mr. Gordon Carnegie.

OPERA HOUSE, CROUCH END.

Crouch End music-lovers have every reason to be satisfied with the excellent programme put before them by Mr. J. W. Turner's excellent English Opera company this week. An admirable rendering of *The Bohemian Girl* was given on Wednesday. All the principals are excellent artists and the chorus, in addition to being well trained, is powerful and thoroughly efficient.

Mr. F. J. Hargrave gave a capital representation of Taddeus, and his rich and powerful voice was heard to great advantage in "When other lips" and "The fair land of Poland." In addition to possessing a fine voice he is a good actor and makes an attractive lover. Count Arnheim was well played by Mr. John Ridding, who appeared to great advantage as the dignified and sorrow-stricken nobleman. His rendering of "The heart bowed down" was received with great applause. Mr. Sidney Clifford was a robust Devilshoof, and his pleasantries were much appreciated, as was also his excellent singing. Mr. Charles Le Sueur as Florestein was all that could be desired, and his representation of the droll fop was very amusing. Miss Kitty Brownlees was a charming Arline, and she not only possesses a fine voice but knows how to use it. She rendered all her songs with excellent effect, and received considerable applause. Miss Marie Burnett was suitably placed as the Gipsy Queen, and Miss Maud Esdale did well as Buda. *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Lily of Killarney*, and *Maritana* are among the other attractions for the week.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 19,
The Musical Comedy,
"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

Musical pieces still continue to win immense favour with Marlborough audiences, and the management is to be congratulated upon the return engagement of Mr. William Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl*, with its catchy music, capital songs, and clever dances. The staging and dressing are upon a lavish scale, the chorus is more than usually well balanced, and the augmented orchestra under the bâton of Mr. Evelyn Baker, a very skilful conductor, adds not a little to the all-round success. Mr. William Stephens (Jim Cheese), Mr. Percy Carr (Dick Wargrave), Mr. Will Hindson (Downham), Mr. J. C. Graves (Talk), Miss Aimee Gray (Elphin Haye), Miss Dot Carey (Liza Shoddam), Miss Gladys Fontaine (Mrs. Shimmering Black), Miss Florence Imeson (Daisy Fallowfield), and Miss Helen Langton (Miss Virginia Bliss) repeat their impersonations of twelve months ago with, if possible, an added measure of success. In place of the *pas seul*, the "Dance L'Entente Cordiale" is gracefully performed by Miss Hilda Davis (England), Miss Enid Beverley (France), Miss Beatrice Ford (America), Miss Edyth Martin (Italy), Miss Nora Manette (Russia), and Miss Geraldine Scott (Japan), and meets with very warm approval. Of the new members of the company Mr. Percy E. Wright pleasingly impersonates the part of the Hon. Crewe Boodle and Mr. G. H. Curzon displays considerable ability as Bunker Bliss. Mr. F. W. Pattrick is a suitable representative of Mr. Hazell, host of the Fallowfield Arms, and Miss Hilda Grey is equal to the requirements of Flora, Lady Rosedale. Mr. Bert Beswick has the management of the stage, and deserves the highest praise.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 19,
the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

A crowded house assembled at the King's on Monday evening to witness Hall Caine's adaptation of his widely-read story, and judging from the enthusiasm displayed, success was assured. The play was followed with extraordinary interest by the audience, who testified their entire satisfaction at the strikingly dramatic and human story with its exciting and powerful situations and incidents. The stage-setting was one of which Mr. Mulholland might well be proud, as the capacious stage of the King's was fittingly calculated to show to advantage the magnificent scenery and appointments from Drury-lane Theatre. A fine cast has been obtained by Mr. Arthur Collins for the production, every character being satisfactorily filled. Mr. Henry George, a tried and excellent actor, shines in the part of Stephen Magnusson, the Governor-General. As Oscar Neilsen, Mr. Frank Collins acts with marked ability, and Dr. Olsen is capitally played by Mr. Howard Russell. The rendering of Magnus Stephensson by Mr. Henry Renouf is perfect, this earnest young actor deserving the highest praise for his acting of a most difficult rôle. Mr. Norman Partriege scores a conspicuous triumph as the prodigal Oscar, and the loud calls after each act are ample testimony to his brilliant acting. The Sheriff is ably undertaken by Mr. Philips, and Mr. Herbert Hewetson makes the most of his small opportunities as Neils Finsen. Mr. Bryan Daly is very good as the Director of the Casino, and the characteristics of Eric Arnasson are cleverly shown by Mr. P. Gromer. Miss Aime Murray brings her ripe experience to bear in the part of Anna Magnusson, and the pathos of the character is well manifested. As Thora Neilsen, and subsequently Elin, Miss Lilly Hall Caine repeats her Drury-lane success. Miss Cecil Cromwell's impersonation of Helga Neilsen is extremely powerful, and proves her to be an actress of considerable ability, and one who will be heard of again. Miss Mima Renouf is highly amusing as Margaret Neilsen, her quaint sayings relieving the sombreness of the play to a great extent. The scenery by Emden, McCleery, and Bruce Smith, does infinite credit to their respectively excellent reputations.

GREAT QUEEN-STREET THEATRE.

On Friday, March 16, the Farce, in Three Acts, by Oscar Walther and Leo Stein, entitled
"DAS OPFERLAMM."

Bodo von Prochnow ..... Bruno Wiburger
Constantia ..... Charlotte Kelly
Adelheid ..... Johanna Becker
Hans von Prochnow ..... Ottomar Bloss
Erich von Werden ..... Hans Stock
Lehmann ..... Richard Starnburg
Hildegard ..... Grete Hahn
Fräulein von Ingelfingen ..... Ida Weiss
Von Schmettwitz ..... Ernst Reicher
Otto von Griebenow ..... Georg Baselt
Lucie ..... Margarete Russ
Wanda Bilinski ..... Helene Waldau
Franz ..... W. Schmidt

Mr. Hans Andresen is to be congratulated on his decision to continue his season of German plays for a still further period. In April we are promised a cycle of plays by Sudermann, and the enterprise should draw crowded audiences to the cosy little house in Great Queen-street. *Das Opferlamm* is a farcical comedy of the best type, in which an excellent story and ridiculous situations are agreeably combined. In brief, the story runs thus:—Erich von Werden is on the eve of his marriage with Adelheid, Bodo and Constantia von Prochnow's daughter. He has confessed to his father-in-law most of his love affairs, but one in particular he hopes has not come to his ears. Wanda Bilinski, the heroine of this adventure, a volatile young circus rider, is safe in St. Petersburg, but trouble commences when she appears on the scene, demanding 1,000 marks compensation. She is introduced to the family as the wife of Professor Griebenow, but having no knowledge of that gentleman, her account of him is unmistakably faulty. The professor arrives suddenly, and is induced to acknowledge Wanda as his wife for the space of twenty-four hours. All goes well until the professor's lawful spouse appears, and is taken for a lady help whom Frau von Prochnow is expecting, and the complications that ensue grow very hilarious. The family retire to rest, the professor being paired off with Wanda. He induces the butler by a bribe to reveal the whereabouts of his wife's room. Failing to find the apartment, however, he decides to go to sleep on the sofa, where he is joined by his wife, and afterwards discovered by Frau von Prochnow A general confession is thus inevitable, and the professor explains that he has been the scapegoat for Erich. Profuse apologies are made, and in the end Wanda renounces Erich, and everything ends happily. The piéce de résistance of the evening was undoubtedly the Professor von Griebenow of Herr Georg Baselt—a part which fitted him like a glove. His humour was irresistible, and thoroughly appreciated by the audience, and his hard work richly deserved the success gained. Hans Stock was a manly Erich von Werden, and imbued the character with the right amount of vigour. Bruno Wiburger did all that was necessary as Bodo von Prochnow, Hans von Prochnow (his nephew) was a neat piece of work by Ottomar Bloss, Richard Starnburg gave a droll rendering of Lehmann, and Franz was made the most of by W. Schmidt. Of the ladies, Helene Waldau, a well-known Berliner, gave a sparkling and vivacious rendering of Wanda Bilinski, the circus rider; Lucie von Griebenow was charmingly enacted by Miss Margarete Russ, Constantia was in the able hands of Charlotte Kelly, and the Frau von Ingelfingen of Ida Weiss was commendable. The small part of Hildegard was undertaken with exceeding grace by Grete Hahn, and, as Adelheid, Erich's fiancée, Johanna Becker was all that could be desired, both in manner and delivery. The piece was presented to a full house.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 19,
the Japanese Opera, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," and surely this must be the reason of the unimpaired vitality and continuous popularity of this pretty play, with perhaps the fact that there is a sustained interest in its slight story, and a complete exclusion of any extraneous matter or unsuitable business. The cordial reception given to Mr. Mouillot's company at the Crystal Palace this week encouraged them to put forth their best efforts, and as a result laughter and encores were frequent. In the hands of Miss Bessie Allayne, O Mimosa San was charming, the little lady being in excellent voice, and the fun and *gaminerie* of Molly Seymour, as represented by Miss Florrie Saunders, was genuine and infectious. Miss Aubrey Ashton was a stately Lady Constance Wynn, and the other ladies were well adapted to their various parts. Mr. Cyril Thompson was a gallant and tuneful Reggie Fairfax, and his additional verse anent the launch of the Dreadnought in his song "Jack's the Lad" was boisterously received and re-demanded. He was well supported by his brother officers and the irrepressible "middy," played by Miss Blanche Browne. The whimsicalities of Wun Hi, the Chinaman, lost nothing in Mr. Edward Carlton's rendering, his dancing also being specially good and securing undeniable encores. Mr. Lionel Braham as the Marquis Imari was impressive and quaint, and Mr. G. D. Phillips played his factotum, Takemine, carefully. There was an ample chorus of Mousmés, coolies, etc., and the entire production was well and suitably put on. For Friday the same company was announced to appear in *A Greek Slave*.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 19,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

The success of *The Prince of Pilsen*, which is on its second visit to the Kennington Theatre this week, is largely due to the excellent work done by Mr. George Musgrove's well-equipped company and to liberality of mounting. The audience showed their appreciation in the orthodox manner, the curtain being raised several times at the conclusion. Mr. Edwin Adeler is still principal fun-maker in his original part of Hans Wagner, the pseudo Prince of Pilson, his best song being undoubtedly "It was the Dutch," which was greatly appreciated. Lieutenant John Wagner, his son, found a manly exponent in Mr. G. Villiers Arnold, the possessor of a good voice, who scored principally in his songs, "The Violets" and "I hear the bugle blow." Mr. Stuart Alexander, an actor of fine physique, did all that could be desired as the Prince of Pilsen, all his songs, notably "Here's to the Land," "The Cigar Song," and "Sea Shells," being successful. Mr. Lawrence Wensley was good as the Englishman with a title, Arthur Rossmoss, Earl of Shrimpton. François, garçon of the Hôtel International, was successfully placed in the hands of Mr. Alfred Selby, and Mr. D. O. Uglas was good as Sergeant Brie, the Gendarme. Miss Ruby Verdi sung charmingly and acted sweetly as Nellie Wagner. Miss Nelly Cozens did good work as Mrs. Madison Crocker, an American widow. Edith Adams, Lieutenant Wagner's fiancée, found a charming exponent in Miss Mildred Baker. Miss Nell Emerald scored a distinct success as Sidonie, her song, "The Thin Ice," being piquant and witty. Miss Meg Hamylton added to her popularity in the part of Jimmie, the bell boy. The chorus, under the control of Mr. J. A. Robertson, worked hard, the glee, "Old Heidelberg," being particularly pleasing.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

Mr. Frank Curzon's principal company in the musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, have been appearing with great success at the Alexandra, Stoke Newington. The piece, it should be mentioned, has done extremely well on tour. Mr. Percy Clifton gives full expression to the laughable character of the somewhat easily "taken-in" policeman, who, so long as he can get promoted to an inspectorship, doesn't care by what questionable methods his ambition be attained. Very amusing is his rendering of "The Bobbies' Beano," and the comedy of his acting throughout is excellent. Mr. George Barrett, as Crookie Scrubbs, presents an intensely laughable picture of an ex-gaolbird, his gestures, intonation of voice, and pronunciation being well in keeping with the character of a criminal who sees the humorous side of things. Mr. Barrett's singing of a few verses which end with the line "Put me in my little cell," is alone well worth going to the theatre to hear. Miss Violet Dean, looking tall and stately, and walking with grace and ease, gives us a capital piece of quiet acting in her rôle of Lady Bickenhall. Extremely entertaining she is in the song "Instinct." Mr. Charles Hanbury submits an acceptable interpretation of the part of Michael Brue; and Mr. Harold Montague is distinctly good in the part of Inspector Gorringe. Mr. James J. Gordon is amusingly sanctimonious as the bogus clergyman, and that worthy's confederate, Captain Bay, has an able impersonator in Mr. Hugh Oliver. Miss Constance Lait makes herself highly popular as Sergeant Brue's daughter, and her rendering of a serious ballad, "Never mind the weather," is, perhaps, the most delightful vocal feature in the piece. Mr. A. E. E. Edwards furnishes an admirable study of an aged magistrate in the rôle of Mr. Crank; and the other parts receive adequate treatment from their different representatives. Mr. J. B. Watson, who is the general manager of the company for Mr. Frank Curzon, keeps a careful eye on all matters in connection with the production, and Mr. T. J. Robinson, the acting-manager of the theatre, attends to the comfort of the audience.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, March 19, the play, by Alfred Sutro, entitled
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

The popular manager, Mr. Cecil Paget, has provided a great attraction here this week in the great Garrick success of last season, *The Walls of Jericho*. The play won fame as a powerful attack—more powerful, indeed, than many a sermon—upon some of the vices and follies of fashionable life at the present time. We watch with the utmost interest the manly career of Jack Frobisher, who stands for a long time a living protest and a preacher against the unworthy society by which he is surrounded, and at last, despairing of being able to effect any reformation, he departs with his wife and child for the purer atmosphere of the Australian bush. The company, which is under the direction of Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and Wm. Leveaux, gives an excellent rendering of the play. Mr. Edward A. Warburton plays the part of Fighting Jack to the life. His vigorous denunciation of the hollowness and sham that encircle him are admirably given, and his vigorous outburst of scorn at the end of the third act is finely delivered. Mr. Alfred S. Barber presents a clever companion portrait of another "man from Queensland," Hankey Bannister, and his laugh is infectious. Mr. Barber must be complimented upon a most artistic portrayal of the easy-going, fatuous gentleman who "has made his pile," and falls an easy victim to the wiles of the extremely artful and self-seeking little *ingenue* Lady Lucy Devenham, a part demurely and delightfully played by Miss Mona Wynne. Miss Amy Ravenscroft presents a fine portrait of Lady Alethea Frobisher, a woman in whom the better side of her nature finally triumphs. Mr. V. Willox-Cadogan is excellent as the epigram-coining Bertram Hannaford, and Mr. Cecil Brooking is humorous and convincing as the self-seeking pompous old humbug the Marquis of Steventon. The villain, Harry Dallas, is played with admirable restraint by Mr. A. W. Tyrer, and the good-hearted Lady Westoby, as rendered by Miss Helen Haye, soon becomes a popular favourite All the other characters are in good hands.

GRAND THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 19, the Comic Opera
"PEGGY MACHREE."

Woolwich playgoers generally, and in particular those who are fond of good music, have been turning up in goodly numbers to witness the vagaries and vicissitudes of that delightful young Irish hoyden Peggy Machree and her companions, as portrayed by Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company. Miss Claudia Lasell being unfortunately prevented from acting by illness, her place in the cast was undertaken on Monday by Miss Marion Cecil, who, throwing herself heart and soul into her work, gave a most successful rendering of the title-rôle, her bright acting and clever singing soon making her a popular favourite, while several of her songs were loudly encored. Molly Cafferty found a charming representative in Miss Blanche Astley, whose good voice was heard to effect in several numbers, and whose vivacious dancing was one of the features of the performance. Miss Madge Avery was responsible for a good deal of laughter in a humorous rendering of the Widow Cafferty, Miss Doris Kelvey was a stately Madame de la Cour, and Miss Dorothy Garden made the most of the small part of the Hon. Emily Pryor. As Barry Trevor, Mr. Leslie Stiles was the seventeenth century naval officer to the life, acting in a commendably natural, straightforward manner, and singing with considerable feeling and expression. Mr. Milroy Cooper submitted a well thought-out character study of Alexander McDougall, his expressionless features and dry manner of speech adding to the value of his impersonation, while his one song secured undoubtedly the heartiest encore of the evening. Mr. Ralph Lynn was amusingly fatuous as the brainless Sir Lawrence Borthwick, and Mr. Marc Macdermott sufficiently stagey as the villain of the piece, Captain de la Cour. A clever sketch of Michael the Piper came from Mr. Dan Fitzgerald, and Mr. John Morley sang particularly well as Sergeant Bampton.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 19, the Play in Five Acts, by E. Hill-Mitchelson, entitled
"DEATH OR GLORY BOYS."

At the Shakespeare Theatre this week an excellent company, under the direction of Mr. John M. East, is holding the boards with *Death or Glory Boys*, a military play, which should appeal to all supporters of popular drama. The acting all round is worthy of the warmest praise, and the whole performance from start to finish is thoroughly enjoyable. An ideal heroine is found in Miss Katherine Clarke, who makes an attractive appearance as Nena Furgeson, and acts with a brightness and charm that are very pleasing. Miss Lily Hammersley gives a natural representation of the sorely tried Edith Malden, and is accorded sympathetic applause. Mr. Fred Victor is seen to advantage as the much-wronged Jack Malden, and he contributes an energetic and powerful impersonation of which it would be difficult to speak too highly. An earnest and convincing embodiment of the villainous Captain Ferrers is given by Mr. Oscar Adye, and he is well supported by Mr. Alfred Hollis, whose talents are well employed in the rôle of the rascally, but afterwards repentant, servant Carn. Mr. Alfred Harding as Colonel Furgeson submits an excellent portrayal, acting with much feeling and dignity; and Mr. Arthur Eldred as the generous-hearted Lieut. Duff is to be congratulated on a sterling performance, which greatly adds to the success of the play. Mr. Edward Coleman as Nat Wilks keeps the audience well amused, in which direction he is capably assisted by Miss Nellie Sheffield as Janet. Good support is also rendered by Mr. Edward Boddy as Sergeant Brian, Mr. Ashton Winslow as Old George, a farm labourer, and Mr. Paul Peters as Sam, a yokel.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 19,
the Comic Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"VERONIQUE."

Veronique is paying a visit to the riverside town for the first time. Mr. George Dance, whose name is a guarantee of excellence in things theatrical, has sent down a particularly strong combination, and the opera is presented in a manner worthy of its reputation. The title-rôle is played by Miss Rita Leonhardt, who adds the charms of an engaging personality to that of a voice of exceptional excellence, with the result that she has become a great favourite. Miss Florence Lee, who appears as Madame Coquenard, is also a valuable factor in the success of the production, and popular favour is also accorded to Miss Neste Laurel, whose impersonation of Denise is most meritorious. Miss Florence Aylwin acquits herself well as the Countess de Champ d'Azur. A capital Florestan is found in Mr. Roland Bottomley, who makes the most of his opportunities in the musical items allotted to him. Mr. Ivan Berlyn as Loustot and Mr. Ellis Holland as Coquenard succeed admirably in mastering the light comedy of the parts assigned to them. The part of Seraphin portrayed by Mr. Tom Shelford is also admirably played. Even in the smaller rôles the management has been successful in finding good material, and with a particularly good chorus, directed by Mr. Leonard Leslie, the chef d'orchestra, the opera goes with a fine swing. Needless to say, it is received with great favour by all parts of the house.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

John Lawson is making his first appearance here this week in a triple bill, comprising *The Monkey's Paw*, *The King's Minister*, and *Humanity*, supported by an excellent company of first-rate artists. In the first-named piece Mr. Lawson submits an admirable study of Mr. White, and capital aid is contributed by Cissie Lawson as Mrs. White, Mr. E. S. Vincent as an old soldier, Mr. G. Ommanney as Herbert, and Mr. Arthur Royston as Sampson. W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker's play is received with every mark of appreciation.

Mr. Lawson is perhaps seen at his best in Cecil Raleigh's dramatic episode, *The King's Minister*, in which he impersonates the part of Lord Draconsmere. The actor contributes excellent work in this trying rôle, and upon his strenuous efforts the success of the piece practically depends. Mr. Lawson's work elicits the warmest recognition. Mr. Arthur Royston is well placed as Milano, and Miss Ethel Paull is admirably suited in the part of the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozier. Other parts are played by Mr. G. Ommanney and Cissie Lawson.

The popular sketch *Humanity* supplies Mr. Lawson with a further opportunity of displaying his powers, and Jacob Silvani is perhaps his most favourably known rôle. He acts the part in a masterly manner, and at the fall of the curtain there was an outburst of applause which necessitated it being raised three or four times. Mr. Lawson is well supported by Mr. H. E. S. Vincent as John Cuthbert, Mr. G. Ommanney (Captain Grey), Mr. Bax Bailey (Moses Silvani), and Leah Bernarto (Mrs. Grey), The staging of the plays is highly creditable.

A variety entertainment by the Sisters Velasco, Harry Harriss, Madame Paull, the Brothers Tarrant, and Louie Belrose complete the bill. Excellent houses are the rule at each performance.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday evening, March 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Fredk. Melville, entitled
"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."

This thoroughly interesting drama was presented by Mr. Fredk. Melville's company here on Monday night, and, notwithstanding the fact that it has been on the road for three years, the scenery, dresses, and general effects are quite worthy of any West End theatre. Well staged, and performed by a really strong company, the piece goes with a swing from start to finish. As the Rev. Philip Carton Mr. Hugh Metcalfe gives a refreshingly manly rendering of the part, very different from the usual stage cleric, and scores heavily throughout. Mr. Lewis Hector as James Durwood acts with power and reserve, and together with Miss Winfred Pearson as Carmen de Savereux cleverly depicts the duplicity of their characters. A finished performance is Mr. Arthur B. Murray's representation of Henry, Earl of Millard, while the part of Harry Millard, his son, is capitally acted by Mr. C. W. Standing. In the earlier stages of the piece the powerful acting of Mr. George R. Montford as Major Strangeways thrills the house. The comic relief is indeed safe in the hands of Mr. Dickie Clare and Miss Lillian Earle, who take the characters Jack Pringle and Pollie Popp; full of life and spirit, they fully deserve the laughter and applause with which they are repeatedly greeted. Mr. J. W. Walters thoroughly identifies himself with the part of Jacques Shado, of the Vultures. As Dick Burgess, back from South Africa, Mr. Chas. McCann is effective, while Mr. N. Graham ably fills the rôle of Mr. Jorkins, shop manager. Other male characters are well sustained by Messrs. Geo. Winter, Harry Bowman, Geo. Warne, and Alfred Darton. As Violet Thornton, Miss Marjorie Murray has a thorough grip of her character, and by her tender womanliness accentuates the contrast between herself and her rival. Miss Lulu Bowes realistically carries through the arduous part of the Blind Boy. As a lady customer Miss Sybil Hare does justice to her part. Miss Agnes Winter and Miss Lottie James ably represented Miss Smith and Miss Brown.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 19, the Play, by C. M. S. McLellan, entitled
"LEAH KLESCHNA."

The attraction for this week is of a somewhat heavier order than those we have had here of late, but such a clever play as *Leah Kleschna* is very welcome, and we are glad to have an opportunity of congratulating Mr. Charles Frohman on the excellent company that is presenting it on tour. The characters are cleverly drawn, and the plot is most absorbing. In the part of Kleschna, Mr. Robert Pateman has a part which suits him admirably, and which he plays with great skill and force. It is a fine impersonation, and is in this favourite actor's best style. Not less successful is Miss Haidée Wright, who appears as Leah, a trying part indeed; but she is quite equal to her task, and plays in a most convincing manner, proving herself to be a dramatic actress of great ability. Another striking impersonation is that of Paul Sylvaine, the deputy, who has such original ideas on the theory of crime, and Mr. J. Graeme Campbell, who undertakes the rôle, is deserving of the greatest praise for his carefully studied and forcible portrayal. The faithful Schram is played by Mr. E. H. Brooke with great success. Mr. Brooke is also responsible for the excellent stage management. As Raoul Berton, Mr. Cyril Harcourt is to be complimented on the tact and skill displayed by him in that impersonation, the drunken scene in particular being well presented. Mr. Kenneth Rivington does well as General Berton, and Miss Ethel Marryat plays Madame Berton with distinction. The amusing pair of lovers, Valentine and Sophie, are capitally delineated by Mr. Roland Daniel and Miss Dorothy Sidney, who are exceedingly bright and natural. Miss Haidée Hemsley makes a pretty and engaging Claire Berton. Minor characters are capably filled by Messrs. Fairburn, Loomis, and Harding, and the Misses Cecile Leith and Alice Davis. The play is handsomely mounted, the scene depicting the lettuce fields being very picturesque. Mr. W. D. Nicoll is the manager for the company.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, March 19,
"THE WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM."

Mr. Frank Curzon's company is appearing at the Coronet this week in the Criterion comic opera *The White Chrysanthemum* with great success. A clever company has been gathered together, the members of which do full justice to Messrs. Leedham Bantock and Arthur Anderson's libretto and lyrics, while Mr. Howard Talbot's music is excellently interpreted by the leading artists and all concerned. Mr. Davy Burnaby gives a thoroughly characteristic sketch of the good-natured, well-meaning numbskull, "Chippy" Belmont, and his manner, appearance, gait, and deportment, as well as his droll, crisp originality, suit the part admirably. His ditty "I wonder" is capitally sung. Miss Ruth Lincoln as Sybil Cunningham of the title-rôle is very much in evidence, and her charming appearance and voice gain her great favour with the audience. A number of songs are allotted to her, and they are all most delightfully rendered, Miss Lincoln possessing a powerful, though sweet and melodious voice. Mr. F. Pope Stamper is a manly and alert Reginald Armitage, and his one song, "Taking things as they come," is cleverly rendered. Mr. F. W. Ford is amusing as the arbitrary and angry Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage, with a capital topical song. Miss Maud Harvey makes an agreeable widow Betty Kenyon, with song, "A Hint," and Miss Isabelle Dillon is a sprightly Cornelia Vanderdecken. Mr. O. E. Lennon is the life and soul of the company as Sin Chong, and he keeps the game alive all the time with song and dance and merry jest. His endeavours are ably seconded by Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., as Private Perks, a very droll Royal Marine. The evolutions of the chorus are admirably conducted, and are quite a feature of the performance.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 19, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE ORCHID."

That *The Orchid* is still popular not only with statesmen but with the general public was fully exemplified on Monday evening, when a good house accorded Mr. George Dance's talented company a hearty reception on its second visit to the Pavilion. The scenery and mounting are elaborate, and the beautiful dresses varied and harmonious in colour, while the admirably drilled chorus, together with the augmented orchestra under the skilful bâton of Mr. Knight Pearce render the score with a brightness and finish that are most delightful. The quaint and irresistible humour of that excellent comedian Mr. Bertie Wright finds unlimited opportunity for expression in the part of Meakin, in which he is most mirth-provoking, and moves the audience to roars of laughter by his eccentricity of manner. Mr. Alfred Bennett is decidedly amusing as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, his "Lancers" song being encored with acclamation. Mr. C. Stone merits great praise for his portrayal of Dr. Ronald Faussett, and a masterly character sketch of the duellist Comte Basque de Cassignat is presented by Mr. William Benson. Special mention must be given to Mr. Harry T. Butler for his impersonation of the professional orchid-hunter Zaccary, while his smart and clever dancing fairly brings down the house. Mr. Jack V. Fairley portrays Aubrey Chesterton with considerable credit, his "Pushful" song being given with much point. Good work is put in by Mr. Cecil Frere as Frotenbras and Mr. Buchanan Wake as Merignac, and commendation is due to Mr. F. Attree for his comical reading of the Registrar. Lady Violet Anstruther is engagingly played by Miss Chrissie Ralland, whose pleasing presence creates a favourable impression, while her rendering of the various numbers allotted to her are given with charming piquancy and effect. An interesting and entertaining Josephine Zaccary is found in Miss Mamie Stuart, who endows the part with much grace; and an attractive performance of the adventuress Zelie Humbert is presented by Miss Elsa D'Usez. Miss Florence Vie possesses a fund of unctuous humour which is well brought out in her embodiment of Caroline Vokins; and Miss Rubie Garman is satisfactory as Thisbe, scoring a success with the inevitable coon song in the second act. Miss Ida Chichester does all that is necessary as the Countess Anstruther, while capable exponents of a Commissionaire, Master of Ceremonies, and M. Deauville are found in Messrs. E. B. Davies, G. Edwards, and D. Goodban. Mr. Buchanan Wake is stage-manager, and Mr. Jack Parson manager for Mr. George Dance.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 19,
the Comedy Drama, by Richard Ganthony, entitled
"THE MESSAGE FROM MARS."

Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company, in *The Message from Mars*, is paying a return visit to the Brixton this week, and attracting large audiences. Mr. Austen Lee gives an admirable performance of the selfish and conceited Horace Parker, and creates much laughter by the positions in which his selfishness places him. The Martian Messenger is played with distinction by Mr. W. H. Brougham, his fine physique and sonorous voice assisting him in making this character of great importance. A really fine character-study is that of the Tramp of Mr. Bruce Lindley; every word and action is quite in accord with the part, and is recognised by applause. Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson is good as Mr. Dicey, though the American accent is so frequently absent. An excellent exponent of the Aunt, Mrs. Parker, is found in Mrs. Edward Saker, who makes the most of her opportunities. A charming and graceful interpretation of Minnie Templar is presented by Miss May Saker; Miss Peggy E. Yeoman is a vivacious Bella; Mr. Eustace French is well placed as Sir E. Vivian; Mr. Leslie Tyler is successful as Mr. Fergusson; Mr. Harry Reynolds causes amusement as the policeman. The remaining characters are well sustained. Some excellent selections are played by the orchestra, under the capable direction of Mr. H. Richardson.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 19, the Drama in Five Acts, by Henry Pettitt and Augustus Harris, entitled
"HUMAN NATURE."

Mr. Samuel James's excellent stock company at this theatre is presenting the above drama, and a good house mustered on Monday to witness the performance. Of the drama itself nothing new can be said; it has passed into the limited circle of popular classics, and as such will probably always be a favourite. The mounting and scenery were very complete, and in fact everything was done to secure a good performance, this desirable object, with the admirable efforts of the company, being quite realised. Mr. F. Stone was good as Frank Temple, acting in a forcible manner; Mr. J. Monkhouse as Hawkes was excellently placed, and did the part every justice; Mr. J. Morgan as Paul de Vigne was quite satisfactory, as was Mr. Frank Harrison as Mardyke. Mr. J. E. Manning merits commendation as the Rev. A. Lulworth, and Mr. Fred Waller was successful as Lambkin. Mr. A. P. Kaye as Spofkins was a resourceful and clever comedian, who made a good impression. Miss Gray as Mrs. Temple was excellent, acting with feeling and sincerity; Miss East Robertson as Cora Grey acted powerfully and with effect, Miss Eva Williams as the son was satisfactory, and Miss May Seton gave another good performance as the servant. Miss Helena Rigby as Mrs. Lambkin is to be commended, and Miss Irene Ross as Dick was good. The remaining smaller parts were all in good hands.

GRAND THEATRE, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 19,
the Play, by Tom Taylor, entitled
"STILL WATERS RUN DEEP."

The patrons of the Fulham Grand have the pleasure of once again seeing Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and their excellent company in several attractive plays. On Monday they presented *Still Waters Run Deep*. Mr. Kendal, as John Mildmay, the misunderstood husband, was not found wanting in any of the various phases of human nature which he is called upon to portray. The character of Mrs. Mildmay was excellently depicted by Miss Elsie Clarens. Mrs. Kendal, in the rôle of Mrs. Stemhold, the widowed aunt of Mrs. Mildmay, and self-installed head of the Mildmay household, is seen to great advantage, especially in her scene with Captain Hawkesley. The latter part was well embodied by Mr. Bassett Roe. Among the remaining characters the chief one is that of Mr. Potter, Mrs. Mildmay's old and weak-willed father, a part that was admirably played by Mr. E. Hendrie. Dunbilk, the business confederate of Captain Hawkesley, is played by Mr. Metcalfe Wood, Langford and Markham, Mr. Mildmay's friends, by Messrs. R. Burnett and R. Dennison, Gimlet, the detective, by Mr. F. C. Pool; and Jessop, the manservant, by Mr. W. M. Rutherford; all these artists fill the parts entrusted to them with distinction. The audience was large and appreciative. The other plays in the week's programme are *A Scrap of Paper*, *The Housekeeper*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, and *The Ironmaster*.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, March 19,
the Farce, in Three Acts, by Messrs. W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker, entitled
"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

A delightful evening's entertainment is provided by the Broadway management this week with what is billed—with justice—as the funniest play on tour, viz., *Beauty and the Barge*. It is perfectly acted, perfectly staged, and perfectly managed from start to finish. Mr. Harry Ashford is highly successful as the warm-hearted and youth-loving old barge-master, Captain James Barley, and quickly establishes himself a favourite. Mr. Percival Knight is a brisk and popular representative of the adventurous Lieutenant Seton Boyne, R.M.; Mr. Percy Marmont, a manly and interesting Herbert Manners; Mr. Walter Pemberton is capital as the fiery-tempered Major Smedley; Mr. Charles Goold makes an excellent Tom Codd; and the same may be said of Mr. Forester Harvey as Augustus. Mr. J. Wheatman is responsible for an excellent character sketch as Tom Dibbs, the gardener; and Mr. Charles Caffrey is good as George Porter. Miss May Fairclough is a clever and attractive representative of Ethel Smedley; Miss Mary Pemberton is a charming Lucy Dallas; Miss Ethel Stalman looks and acts well the part of Mrs. Smedley; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite presents a clever portrait of Mrs. Porter, of the *Old Ship Inn*; and Miss Mary Griffiths must be warmly congratulated on her artistic and amusing rendering of Mrs. Baldwin. The smaller male parts are all well acted. The performances begin with a one-act play, entitled *That Brute Simmons*, in which Miss Harriet French, Mr. J. Wheatman, and Mr. Fred Lake all appear to great advantage.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"GLATIGNY,"

Play in Five Acts and Six Tableaux,
by M. Catulle Mendès,
Produced at the Odéon on March 17.

Cigalon .....MDLLE. JEANNE THOMASSIN
Lizane .....MDLLE. MARGUERITE BRÉSIL
Emma .....MDLLE. BELLANGÈRE
Marie .....MDLLE. JULLIEN
La Princesse d'Elfe .....MDME. VENTURA
Fille-de-l'Air .....MDLLE. MIRAMON
Glatigny .....M. TARRIDE
Monsier Courbet .....M. DORIVAL
Jean Morvieux .....M. JANVIER
Le Rapin Réaliste .....M. MAXUDIAN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, March 22.—It is impossible to say whether M. Catulle Mendès's new play, brought out at the Odéon, will prove to the taste of the general public. That terrible creature, the average man, has a mentality of his own which it is not always easy to understand. But artistic and literary Paris owes M. Mendès a debt of gratitude for having shown us some delightful tableaux of Bohemian life towards the end of the Second Empire. The author has even been daring enough to put on the stage not only the well-known figure of Glatigny, but also other personages, like Courbet, Emile de Girardin, and others, with whom many men now living were well acquainted. As to the hero in the piece, those who knew him will remember him as a tall, thin, pale, sickly-looking man, with dreamy eyes and a smile that betokened good nature. Like Cyrano de Bergerac, he was a poet, and, like him, suffered because he knew he was ugly. They also had that in common that their existence was not a struggle for life, but for love. Their ambition was to be loved for themselves by some great lady, an ambition that never was fulfilled. The opening tableau shows us the young poet leaving his native village to follow a company of strolling players, he having fallen in love with Lizane, a little actress, a pretty girl without either heart or brains, the mistress of her comrade Tassin. She is unfaithful and cruel, yet Glatigny will love her till he dies. In Paris he meets the Princesse d'Elfe, the wife of an ambassador. He gives her some pretty verses, in return for which she offers him her pocket-book studded with diamonds and pearls, wherein he scribbled these verses. But the penniless poet refuses this costly gift, and begs the rose the lady wears in her hair. She gives him the flower and, anxious to help him, tells him that he may at any time exchange the faded flower for the pocket-book. Glatigny then becomes secretary to Emile de Girardin, the famous journalist, but having indulged in the joke of writing a political article in verse, he is discharged on the spot, and Lizane, afraid of poverty, at once leaves him. He runs after her, and when he hears she has been engaged in a music hall to sing the songs of "La Gemmeuse," he also secures an engagement there as an improvisator. The scene in the music hall is intensely dramatic. Lizane asks him for 3,000 francs. Why does she want the money? Glatigny is frightened. He has heard that Tassin, the girl's former lover, has just been discharged from prison and was seen outside the hall that evening. Yet he is afraid of losing Lizane, and knowing the Princesse d'Elfe is in a box, he sends her the faded flower, in return for which he receives the valuable pocket-book. Glatigny is ashamed of what he has done, but to please Lizane he would lower himself still further. The girl has finished her song. It is Glatigny's turn to come on, and he improvises a ballad in honour of love. All at once he hears in the wings two persons whisper, and recognises the voice of the wretched Tassin. He would like to rush back, but he must finish his task. He must improvise rhymes, for the public will have its three couplets. At last he can leave the stage, but it is too late. Lizane has gone away with Tassin, and whilst the unfortunate Glatigny falls into the arms of his comrades, the orchestra strikes up the music for the ballet. In the final tableau we are once more in the little Normandy town where he was born. There he finds Emma, the young woman who has never forgotten him, and is content to marry and nurse him, for he is very ill. But one night he thinks he hears voices that promise him glory and fame. He steals out of the house, and the next morning workmen bring back the body of a man they found at the foot of the hill. It is the end of poor Glatigny. The interpretation was first-class. M. Tarride certainly had not the physique of the long, lanky Glatigny, but in every other respect was really superb. Glatigny will rank among the best of that clever artist's creations. The rôle of Lizane suited Mdlle. Brésil to the ground. Cruel and fascinating, she gave us the right impression of the woman for whom the luckless poet sacrificed everything. The other parts also were well sustained, and for once the Odéon has done things well in the way of mounting.

"LA PECHERESSE,"

Comedy in Four Acts, by M. Jean Carol.
Produced at the Renaissance on March 18.

Madame Duchemin ..MDLLE. MARTHE BRANDES
Suzanne .....MDLLE. JULIETTE MARGEL
Mme. Baudreuil .....MDME. JENNY ROSE
Prudence .....MDLLE. CLAUDIA
Justine .....MDLLE. DELYS
L'Abbé Cailletot .....M. LUCIEN GUITRY
La Tours-Villiers .....M. GEMIER
Dangu .....M. ARQUILLIÈRE
Pierre Baudreuil .....M. ROUSSELLE

The new piece offered us by M. Guitry is an amusing skit on the mundane code of morality, a code the precepts of which are not shared by those outside the higher spheres. At curtain-rise we are in a small provincial town in the house of Dangu, a retired merchant, who still owns large plantations in Brazil. Dangu, a bachelor, lives with his sister, Mme. Baudreuil, a widow, and her son Pierre. Mme. Duchemin, a handsome middle-aged woman, and her daughter Suzanne have also settled in the little town of Metteville. Mme. Duchemin is much respected; she is most charitable, and, thanks to her, the priest, the Abbé Cailletot, has had a set of bells for his church. Pierre falls in love with Suzanne; they become engaged, and nothing but an unforseen incident can prevent them from becoming husband and wife. The incident crops up in the person of Baron Hector de la Tours-Villiers, a ruined nobleman, who has come to Motteville to ask his friend Dangu to find him a post. At one time possessed of a large fortune, he has run through it in a short time, and the greater part of it has gone into the pocket of Diane d'Aiguillon, a famous demi-mondaine. He is introduced to Mme. Duchemin, and, to his surprise, recognises in her his former mistress Diane. The baron is placed in almost the same situation as Olivier de Jalin in *Le Demi-Monde*, and he informs Diane that he cannot allow his friend's nephew to marry the daughter of a cocotte. Mme. Duchemin, afraid that if the engagement is broken off it will break her daughter's heart, consults her friend the old priest, who tells her that the only thing to do is to forestall the baron, and generously offers to tell everything to Dangu and implore him to let bygones be bygones. The priest keeps his word, but when Pierre hears from his uncle what has occurred, he refuses to have anything to do with Suzanne. The next day he regrets having acted so rashly, and, meeting the baron, insults him grossly. A duel ensues, and the baron, dangerously wounded, is carried half-dead to Mme. Duchemin's house, where he is carefully nursed. Suzanne and Pierre, however, are inconsolable; and thanks to the good priest everything is set right. Suzanne will become Pierre's wife, and Mme. Duchemin will marry the baron, who will take her with him to Brazil, where Dangu has secured him a post. Several scenes are spun out too much, so that a little careful pruning will be necessary. The work, however, is well written, and met with such an excellent reception that a long run can be safely predicted. M. Lucien Guitry as the priest was one of the finest pieces of acting we have seen here for a long time. The other parts, too, were excellently played.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 19, the Drama in Four Acts, by J. A. Campbell (presented for the First time in London), entitled

"THE LITTLE BREADWINNER."

Lord William Dorrington ....MR. J. C. AUBREY
Richard Lawrence .....MR. C. KING
Joseph Prior .....MR. BENSLEY EVANS
Charles Prior .....MR. C. A. CHANDLER
Doctor Chadwick .....MR. EDWIN J. COLLINS
Monty .....MR. H. WRIGHT
Detective .....MR. HENRY GOOCH
Margaret Daventry ....MISS KATHLEEN RUSSELL
Bridget O'Flanagan .....MISS OLIVE LANTY
Kate Cherry .....MISS ROSEMARY REES
Ruth Cherry .....MISS MARIE KILDARE
Meg .....LITTLE MAUD HARRIS
Bobby Trott .....MISS TINY ALBERT

Mr. J. A. Campbell's popular and effective drama *The Little Breadwinner*, which first saw the footlights on December 11 last year at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, has been visiting the popular theatres of the provinces, where the favourable verdict of a first-night audience has been most amply confirmed. The author, who wrote that successful piece *The Sin of Her Childhood*, in his latest work plays cleverly on the emotions, handles familiar incidents with the skill of a practised dramatist, and produces his theatrical effects without unduly straining after them. The characters are sympathetically drawn, and unblemished virtue and unabashed vice are well contrasted.

The action of the piece commences in the Quaker household of Lord William Dorrington, whose adopted son, Richard Lawrence, to his lordship's sorrow, is given to betting on horse races, being secretly incited thereto by Lord William's hypocritical secretary, Joseph Prior, a smooth-tongued scoundrel, who, as the dispenser of his lordship's philanthropy, betrays his trust, large amounts going to his own pocket. To widen the breach between Richard and the simple-minded and confiding Lord William, Prior fixes upon the former a charge of being the cause of Kate Cherry's moral ruin. The girl becomes Prior's chief assistant in his villainy. Lawrence is banished from home, and Margaret Daventry, his betrothed, accompanies him into exile. We find them after the lapse of eleven years in the direst poverty; for, though they have money regularly remitted to them by Lord William, it is always appropriated by the unspeakable Joseph. It is little Meg, their ten-year-old daughter, who keeps the wolf from the door by singing in the street, and when we see her in the poor lodgings occupied by her father and mother—the latter is blind—she has earned two shillings and threepence by her exertions. His lordship determines on visiting Dick and his poor sightless wife, and to prevent him seeing Lawrence alone Prior plans to drug the unfortunate hero, and to compromise his reputation by placing him in a room with Kate. Lord William still feels convinced of the guilt of Dick as the seducer of Kate, and, sympathising with Margaret and the youngster, takes them to his house, leaving Dick in a worse plight than ever. He is eventually decoyed into an empty house by Prior and Kate, where he is to be forced by starvation into signing lying documents implicating him with Kate, and clearing Prior of the misappropriation of the remittances. He is rescued from this unpleasant position, however, by the little breadwinner, Charles, and the faithful Bridget O'Flanagan. The villain is confounded by the records of his defalcations which are entered into his own pocket-book, and the confession of Kate clears the hero of the foul charge that has been hanging over him.

Mr. J. C. Aubrey, who was for years associated with heavy rôles at the popular Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, is seen to great advantage in the benevolent rôle of Lord William Dorrington. The philanthropic Quaker has excellent heart qualities, but in his business transactions he fails to reveal the most elementary principles of prudence. Mr. Aubrey gives a pathetic touch to the tender, homely scene in the second act, where the old man, brimming over with affection, encounters his daughter-in-law Margaret, who is so sorely afflicted with blindness. Miss Kathleen Russell, who plays the self-sacrificing Margaret, is well equipped for her task by a winning presence and a power of expressing emotion that never fails to reach the hearts of her audience. Mr. C. King imparts the qualities of manliness and chivalry to the hero Richard Lawrence, being especially effective in the second act. Mr. Bensley Evans, as that unconscionable and avaricious rascal Joseph Prior, is quite successful in rousing the antipathy of the lovers of melodrama in Shoreditch, some of whom have been tremendously excited during the week by his reckless persecution of the virtuously inclined. Mr. C. A. Chandler gives a light, mercurial touch to the character of Charles Prior in the first act, but becomes duly serious later on when the exigencies of the part demand it. Miss Olive Lanty as the genial and kind-hearted Bridget O'Flanagan strengthens the forces at the disposal of virtue, and is just sufficiently Irish without being aggressively so. Miss Rosemary Rees submits a powerful performance of the unfortunate Kate Cherry, and a most interesting portrayal of Ruth Cherry comes from Miss Marie Kildare. Miss Maud Harris, a clever little girl, has a very responsible part to play as "the little breadwinner," and is delightfully ingenuous in that very grateful character. She sings "Daddy" very nicely, and adds much strength to the scenes of domesticity which make the drama so attractive. Miss Tiny Albert is duly precocious and "cheeky" as Bobby Trott, Mr. Edwin Collins is an effective Dr. Chadwick, Mr. H. Wright is a satisfactory Monty, and Mr. Henry Gooch is well placed as the detective. The piece is well staged.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by William Bailey, jun., and Charles Berte, entitled

"AT BREAK OF DAY."

This concise and vivid drama is a play well known in Marylebone, and appreciated accordingly. As the Rev. Ernest Brand Mr. Bert Morley was a typical manly parson of the "fighting" school, his efforts being warmly applauded. Mr. Charles Langley enacted the rascally Arnold Fletcher with vivid force; Mr. William Allison played with marked ease as Marmaduke Manners; Mr. George Claremont scored as Detective Saunders; and Mr. Fred Damary did well as Jim Baker. Mr. Herbert Boyle was full of life and go as Jeremiah Stubbs, and kept the audience in good humour; whilst Mr. Roy Cushing as Richard Thornecroft was fairly successful in holding the attention of the house. The trying rôle of Dora Thornecroft was sustained by Miss Florence Creagh with womanly grace and charm. Miss Ella Seton was pleasing and sympathetic as Violet Brand; little Miss Bertha Baker was decidedly intelligent as Phyllis; Miss Adeline Montagu was grotesquely funny as Mrs. Amelia Reck; and Miss Hettie Graham as Henriette Stubbs was very lively and versatile. The remaining characters were all carefully played, the piece being well received.

MR. F. W. PURCELL'S FAREWELL MATINEE.

On Monday afternoon, at the Marlborough Theatre, a special souvenir performance was held in honour of Mr. F. W. Purcell, the occasion being the relinquishing by him of the management of the theatre mentioned, which, by the way, was erected and opened by Mr. Purcell on Oct. 5, 1903.

An enthusiastic house, packed in every part, testified to the popularity in which Mr. Purcell is held locally, and his feeling of regret at parting must have been tinged with a certain degree of pleasantness as he faced the audience to make his valedictory address:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—In coming before you, perhaps for the last time, on the Marlborough stage, nothing I can say can possibly adequately express the satisfaction I feel in looking at this splendid audience of representative playgoers of North London. I venture to say that there are more people in the Marlborough Theatre this afternoon than the house has ever held before. Looking back upon my catering for this neighbourhood for the last few years, I can only thank you for your kindly recognition of my efforts to provide suitable amusement for you. I have always tried to provide the best class of sound amusement, and this afternoon I flatter myself that your appreciation has shown itself by the vast numbers that have come forward at my souvenir matinée. I have also to thank those professional ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly given their services on this occasion; to those young ladies who have sold programmes, to my committee, and the entire staff of the theatre, all of whom have been indefatigable in making the affair a success, and" (addressing the audience) "I have also to thank you most sincerely, and from my heart, for your very great kindness, and in return I can only wish you great happiness and prosperity."

The afternoon's programme, as might be expected, was a very full one. There were, for instance, Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, supported by Messrs. Edmund Maurice, Yorke Stephens, and A. Vane Tempest, and Misses Marion Terry and Salberg, in the first act of *Captain Drew on Leave*. In this Sir Charles was seen at his best in the rôle of the courtier who is able to impart a whiff of the briny into his conversation and manners. Miss Mary Moore looked charming and youthful in the rôle of the coquettish Miss Mills. Then we had Mr. H. B. Irving in a recital of the joys and woes and expectations of a schoolboy, and his rendering, to say the least, was amusingly droll. Miss Marie Lloyd delighted the house with a couple of songs, "A thing of the past, old dear," and "She's a real tip-topper"; and Mr. George Mozart was as usual exceedingly comical with his act in which he presents character studies of various types to be met with in the street, such, for instance, as 'bus and cab drivers. His "Beau of the ball" song was also a merry number. Miss Stella Gastelle and Mr. Henry J. Ford appeared in a humorous sketch *A Mouse Trap*. This seems to be a skit upon that modern absurdity, the "suffragette." Jack Manners is very much in love with Kitty Clavering, and, to tell the truth, Kitty is very much in love with him, though she is trying hard to conceal the outward evidences of her passion. She pretends that she is in favour of female suffrage—whatever that may be—and she will join a woman's liberation society. She and the other members of the society fear neither man nor devil—not they! But when an innocent and harmless mouse darts along the floor, the suffragette jumps upon a chair and screams. However, Jack realises that she has not lost all her womanliness—she confesses she is not even a "new woman"—and she eagerly accepts the overtures of love which he makes. Miss Stella Gastelle was vivacious and entertaining in the rôle of Kitty, and Mr. Henry J. Ford gave a pleasing portraiture of an ardent and teasing lover.

Lieut. Walter Cole excited one's admiration as a vocal trickster, his ventriloquism and imitations of street cries being most realistic and deceiving. Mr. Percy Carr and Miss Amiee Grey appeared in their dainty scena from *The Earl and the Girl;* and Miss Florence Imeson, in another scena from the same piece, gave an admirable rendering of the "Sammy" song, the Misses Nancy Kirby, Enid Beverley, Winnie Pryce, Gladys Herries, Daisy Morland, Hilda Gray, Nora Manette, and Hilda Davies assisting in chorus and dance. Mr. Fred Terry recited in fine style some verses descriptive of the sentiments of a colonist. Mr. George Brooks, in his most whimsical manner, told us in a song that he was the "catch of the season," and later he created roars of laughter with his ditty, the chorus of which runs, "Turn on the water." Mr. Michael Braham with his wonderful dog—the latter a very "knowing card"—submitted a most pleasing exhibition of canine cleverness, and Mr. Wm. Stephens and Miss Dot Carey made themselves highly agreeable in a duet and dance from *The Earl and the Girl.*

"ASHES."

A new Sketch, by John T. Stanfield and Miss M. E. Ward, presented on Tuesday, March 20, at the Paisley Theatre, by Mr. T. E. Ward's company.

Harry Stanford .....MR. S. HERBERT HUMBER
Lady Alice .....MISS BEATRICE SINCLAIR
Susie .....MISS M. E. WARD

A new sketch entitled *Ashes* was presented to Paisley theatre-goers for the first time on Tuesday night by Mr. T. E. Ward's company as a curtain-raiser to *Her Wedding Day*. The authors are Mr. John T. Stanfield and Miss M. E. Ward, the latter of whom takes the leading part. The story opens in the chambers of Harry Stanford, a medical student who, through improvident living, is up to his eyes in debt. In order to retrieve his fortunes he is about to marry Lady Alice, an heiress, whom he is expecting at his chambers. He leaves to keep an appointment, and during his absence Susie, a young girl whom he has betrayed, calls on him to tell him of the death of their child. Finding him absent she decides to await his return. Hearing voices, she secretes herself behind a screen. Harry enters with his fiancée, who discovers the photo of Susie, and demands to know who she is. Stanford tells her a plausible story, which satisfies her, and to prove how little Susie is to him he burns the photo until it is reduced to "Ashes"—an act which is witnessed by the poor girl from her hiding-place. On the departure of the pair Susie comes from behind the screen, and, in her sorrow and despair at Harry's perfidy and the loss of her child, seizes a bottle of poison from the mantlepiece and decides to end her misery. Harry, on his return, upbraids her for coming to his rooms. She, however, taxes him with his base conduct, and tells him what has happened. His heart turns to her, but only to learn that it is too late, for she dies in his arms.

The sketch, which only occupies about twenty minutes, has many opportunities for powerful acting, and of these full advantage was taken. Miss Ward, in the rôle of Susie, acted with a charm all her own, and fairly captivated the audience. Her delineation of the various phases of her part was instinct with power and pathos. Miss Ward was ably assisted by Mr. S. Herbert Humber in the part of Harry Stanford, a part he played with true artistic skill. Lady Alice was presented in a most vivacious manner by Miss Beatrice Sinclair.

SIR HENRY IRVING.

A Biography, by Percy Fitzgerald.
London:
T. Fisher Unwin, 1, Adelphi-terrace.

Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's biography of Henry Irving is not a new work. There have been two previous issues, but the present is a new and revised account of the life of the great actor who passed away in the autumn of last year. Large additions have been made which cover a period of some ten years, and bring the work down to his much-lamented death. As the earlier portions of the volume were revised and corrected by Irving himself, the correctness of the data can be fully relied upon. Mr. Fitzgerald claims to have written quite independently and freely, and while doing ample justice to the actor's real gifts and merits, has not hesitated to point out their limits. In short, he assumes the character of the candid friend. "Praising indiscriminately," he remarks, "is no praise at all."

It is unnecessary to dwell upon Irving's early and desperate struggles to win a position in the theatrical world, or to refer in detail to the period when the actor was enabled to fulfil his ambition by a brilliant and world-famous series of productions at the Lyceum Theatre. The story has been repeated so often that all who take an interest in such matters are well acquainted with the details. Irving's reign at the Lyceum was comparatively a long one; and though his friends and admirers naturally deeply regretted his departure from the scene of so many histrionic triumphs, it was not a surprising event in this world of constant change. There was, however, one play, concerning the production of which Mr. Fitzgerald possesses the most intimate knowledge, as he was part author. This was *Vanderdecken*, produced on July 8, 1878. The performance in London of Wagner's weird opera *The Flying Dutchman* had suggested to many that Irving would make an ideal Vanderdecken. According to Mr. Fitzgerald, Irving "himself much favoured the suggestion, and after a time the 'Colonel' entrusted me and my friend Wills with the task of preparing a piece on the subject. For various reasons the plan was laid aside, and the death of the manager and the adoption of other projects interfered. It was, however, never lost sight of, and after an interval I got ready the first act, which so satisfied Irving that the scheme was once more taken up. After many attempts and shapings and re-shapings, the piece was at last ready—Wills having undertaken the bulk of the work, I myself contributing, as before, the first act. The actor himself furnished some effective situations, notably the strange and original suggestion of the Dutchman's being cast up on the shore and restored to life by the waves.

"I recall all the pleasant incidents of this venture, the journeys to Liverpool and Birmingham to consult on the plot and read the piece; above all, the company of the always agreeable Irving himself, and his placid, unaffected gaiety."

Vanderdecken, though attractive enough to the lover of romantic drama, was of too sombre a character to attract the ordinary playgoing public. But those who witnessed the drama are not likely to forget the picturesque figure of the ghostly Dutchman. Mr. Wills wrote some very poetic lines for this play, as, for instance, Vanderdecken's long soliloquy in the last act, from which the following is a brief extract:—

Ships I have seen go down, their crews
Grasping the shrouds with bony hands,
Or, hanging o'er the bulwarks, nod at me.
In their dead eyes—silent upbraiding.
Strange things move by with noiseless crawl
And lift their goblin heads to look at me.
Around my phantom ship long shadows lie.
The sharks, ghouls of the sea,
Watch me with glassy, hungry eyes, knowing
their caterer!
For when the hurricane is loosed above,
Crushing the sea to angry white, and sails
Fly from their bolts, and coward seamen quail,
Then do I rise upon my phantom deck,
Tranced at the helm, fatal decoy to wreck
And to disaster.

Mr. Fitzgerald does justice to Mr. Irving's social gifts, recalling many occasions when the Lyceum "chief" took a leading part either as a distinguished guest or as the generous, kindly host. He says—"At the public meeting or public dinner he (Irving) deported himself with much effect. There are plenty of persons of culture who have been deputed to perform such duties; but we feel there is often something artificial in their methods and speeches. In the case of the actor, we know that there is something genuine; he supplies a life to the dry bones, and we depart knowing that he has added grace to our recollections of the scene. Nor does he add an exaggeration to what he says; there is a happy judicious reserve. This was felt especially on the occasion of one pleasant festival day in the September of 1891, when a memorial by Mr. Onslow Ford was unveiled to Marlowe, the dramatist, in the good old town of Canterbury. It was an enjoyable expedition, with something simple and rustic on the whole, while to anyone of poetical tastes there was something unusually harmonious in the combination offered of the antique town, the memory of 'Dr. Faustus,' the old cathedral, and the beaming presence of the cultured artist, of whom no one thought as manager of a theatre."

As Mr. Fitzgerald points out a little later on, "Many a delightful night have his friends owed to the thoughtful kindness and hospitality of their interesting host. Such was, indeed, one of the privileges of being his friend. The stage brings with it abundance of pleasant associations; but there are a number of specially agreeable memories bound up with the Lyceum." One of the most notable of these was the occasion when Irving invited his friends to meet the Duke of Meiningen's company of players. The actor's characteristic generosity in lending his theatre and actually "getting up" a special performance in aid of an unfortunate fellow artist is also acknowledged, and the most important of these events duly chronicled.

"Irving's vein of pleasantry was as welcome as it was unpretentious," remarks his biographer. "He could tell a story or relish a humorous situation with equal effect. In company with Toole, he often contrived a droll situation or comic adventure."

Reference is made to the fact that Irving was one of the few figures that filled the public eye. "This was owing to a sort of sympathetic attraction and to an absence of affectation. He played many parts in the social scheme, and always did so with judiciousness, contributing to the effect of the situation. His utterances on most subjects were thoughtful and well considered, and contributed to the enlightenment of the case."

Mr. Fitzgerald has something to say concerning the fleeting, evanescent character of an actor's efforts. "If his success be triumphant, it is only a dream for those who have not seen. Description gives but the faintest idea of his gifts. The writer, as it were, continues to write after his death, and is read, as he was in his lifetime. But the player gone, the play is over. The actor, it is true, if he be a personality, has another audience outside his theatre. As I have shown in these pages, he can attract by force of character the interest and sympathies of the general community. . . . There was a sort of indulgent partiality in the case of Irving. He was a dramatic figure, much as was Charles Dickens. Eyes are idly bent on him that enters next. And this high position was never disturbed during his life; and though all popularity is precarious enough, he had the art and tact to adapt his position to the shifty, capricious changes of taste, and in the hackneyed phrase was more 'up to date' than any person of his time."

The volume contains a number of interesting illustrations, including as frontispiece a very fine photograph of Irving as Becket. Portraits of him in his various famous characters are also given, as well as clever drawings by Harry Furniss, Phil May, and other well-known artists.

"UNITED STATES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your last issue there is a letter from Mr. Charles Hannan referring to my criticism of his play, *United States*, published in your paper on the 10th inst. Mr. Hannan states that "an impression seems to exist that the Scots marriage law is out of date." I am quite at a loss to understand where this impression is prevalent, and to what "Scots marriage law" Mr. Hannan refers. Now, Sir, I am a Scotsman, and, as far as I am aware, the law of Scotland in regard to marriage is much the same as it has been for centuries, with one noteworthy exception. I refer to the Act of Victoria, 19 and 20, cap. 96. This Statute, passed in 1856, enacts that

No irregular marriage contracted in Scotland by Declaration, Acknowledgment, or Ceremony shall be valid unless one of the parties had at the date thereof his or her usual place of residence there, or had *lived in Scotland for twenty-one days next preceding such marriage*, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

This, I think, more than justifies my criticism that Mr. Hannan's plot was based on an anachronism.

The one point which is essential to a marriage in Scotland, in addition to this domiciliary qualification, is the *consent* of the parties. Writing or the presence of a witness or witnesses are alike unnecessary; and here I might point out that Mr. Hannan's father must have had a very vague idea of his powers as a Justice of the Peace if he believed that he in any way contributed by his presence to the legality of the marriage of the "respectable but impecunious couple" his son refers to.

Again, the consent, to be binding, must be *real and fully intended* by both parties in order to be effective. This is clearly laid down by Erskine, who states that "a declaration only is necessary, but the knowledge of both parties that they are then and there, by such declaration, contracting a marriage is essential to the validity of the contract, and at the same time *the parties must also have seriously contemplated marriage.*" This alone would have rendered utterly null and void the declaration in the play made by young Rolf Pinkerton and his aunt Clementina that they were man and wife, since, so far from the parties having "seriously contemplated marriage," the declaration was made merely to hoodwink the inquisitive innkeeper.

Mr. Hannan seems to display an even greater incapacity to grasp the subtleties of Scots law when he refers to the little play he produced years ago in Glasgow. He utterly fails to recognise the real reason which led his Scottish audience to accept the possibility of the "case" upon which his play was founded. For myself, I should be glad if Mr. Hannan could give me the reference to any Scots law report or legal text-book in which this truly remarkable case is reported or commented upon.

Now, in Scotland, as in England, the *lex loci contractus* governs the legality of a marriage. The declaration of marriage made by the lady and gentleman in Venice, referred to by Mr. Hannan, would have been perfectly valid if made in Scotland, they being domiciled inhabitants of the latter country; made in Venice, such a declaration was, I believe, worthless. It seems to have been a tremendous stretching of the privileges of an Ambassador to imagine that a Scotsman merely in Venice "upon Government" service could avail himself of the customs of his country to contract a marriage. But Mr. Hannan's Glasgow audience understood the law better than Mr. Hannan. Upon the couple's return to their native country, and on their living there by habit and repute as man and wife, they would become *de facto* married, and such a marriage would legitimatise any children who had been antecedently born. This is the actual legal bearing of the case which Mr. Hannan sets forth, and this is the reason why the Glasgow critics swallowed so utterly improbable a story.—Yours faithfully,

THE WRITER OF THE NOTICE.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.)

SIR,—I have read the criticism of the above play which appeared in your issue of the 10th inst., and also the letter of the author in your issue of the 17th inst. I agree with your critis when he refers to the irregular Scots marriage as a "legal anachronism."

It is only necessary to call attention to the Act of Parliament 19 and 20 Vic., c. 96, s. 1, as follows: "After the 31st December, 1856, no irregular marriage contracted in Scotland, by declaration, acknowledgment, or ceremony shall be valid, unless one of the parties had at the date thereof his or her usual place of residence there, or had lived in Scotland for 21 days next preceding such marriage; any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding." To show how strictly the twenty-one days are computed, I refer you to the case of Lawford (otherwise Davies) v. Davies [Law Reports 4, Probate and Divorce, p. 61.] In this case two persons domiciled in England arrived in Scotland about 4 a.m., July 1, 1870, remained there until the 21st following, and between 11 and 12 a.m. of that day contracted a marriage by declaration before a Registrar. It was held by the Court that they had not lived in Scotland for twenty-one days (in fact, exactly nineteen days and two half days), and that therefore the marriage was invalid.—Yours faithfully,

E. M. VAUGHAN-RODERICK.
Barrister-at-law.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, in order to give greater distinction to the celebration of Miss Ellen Terry's jubilee, will revive *The Merry Wives of Windsor* during the Shakespeare festival week at His Majesty's Theatre, in place of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The revival, which will be given on April 27, will allow of an opportunity of again witnessing the famous actress's exquisite rendering of Mistress Page.

MR. JOHN HARE'S success in *A Pair of Spectacles* is so pronounced that Mr. Charles Frohman and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh have decided to prolong the run of Sydney Grundy's clever adaptation over the period originally intended, and its stay at the Comedy will therefore extend into next month. A triple-bill, containing two plays by Mr. J. M. Barrie, will subsequently be presented, the more pretentious of which will be in three scenes, and will be sustained by Messrs. Louis Calvert, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Kenneth Douglas, Graham Browne, E. A. Matthews, and Matheson Lang, and Miss Eva Moore, Miss Mabel Hackney, and Miss Grace Lane. *Punch* is the title of the smaller piece, in which the talents of Mr. Dion Boucicault, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. Matheson Lang, and Miss Eva Moore will also be employed.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has removed some of the misapprehensions concerning the habits and customs of the actor-manager. "People seem to forget," says Mr. Alexander in an interview appearing in *Cassell's Saturday Weekly*, "that an actor-manager's functions do not consist merely in appearing on the stage. Why, only the other day, when passing a club in St. James's-street, I encountered a distinguished critic who, although it was 11 o'clock, greeted me with these words: 'Hullo! Are you up?' 'My dear fellow,' I replied, 'I don't only act; I have a shop to carry on.' When one is directing a theatre a multitude of articles have to be bought and looked after in the same manner as a merchant deals with merchandise. Economy has to be practised, for a production which with the exercise of care will show a profit may very probably result in loss when there has been extravagance.

"On the first night of a heavy production," continues Mr. Alexander, "there is a risk of from five to six thousand pounds at least—money spent—and a weekly expenditure of perhaps fourteen hundred pounds staring you in the face; besides which there is the knowledge that, after having given all the strength that is in you to prepare and rehearse and act, the play may not hit the public, and that failure will mean an immediate repetition of your energies, and a further outlay in the mounting of another piece. The actor-manager has not only to study his own part, which is very often the longest in the play, but he has to contend with the troubles incidental to stage-management and general supervision."

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT attended the memorial service held in the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on the occasion of the funeral of Lady Sandhurst on Saturday. Many distinguished people were present, the King being represented by Lord Suffield.

MISS MARIE ILLINGTON, who created the part of Mrs. Doring in the production of *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)* at the Apollo, has been out of the cast recently owing to the death of her husband, Mr. Gordon Maddick. She resumed the rôle on Monday, when the piece was transferred to the Shaftesbury, and played in her customary artistic style.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY concludes to-night at the Theatre Royal a most successful week's visit to Birmingham. On Monday he presented the revised version of Freeman Wills and Frederick Langbridge's play *After All* with complete success, his brilliant performance of Eugene Aram being highly eulogised. On the succeeding evening Mr. Harvey produced his revival of *Hamlet* for the first time in Birmingham, in the presence of a brilliant audience, and it is pleasant to be able to chronicle that the actor's aims in the expression of the great central figure were speedily perceived and acclaimed. Mr. Harvey has now decided to produce *The Rapparee Trooper* on April 25 at the Royal, Newcastle. Miss de Silva, as in *The Breed of the Treshams*, will appear as a boy, and Miss Kate Rooke has been specially engaged to fill the rôle of the heroine, a gay and fascinating Irish widow. Mr. Harvey's part is rich in opportunities, and the play is anticipated as likely to make a most popular addition to the Harveyan répertoire.

THE Ellen Terry Jubilee Fund is gathering force, and many influential names have been added to the committee organised by the *Tribune*. A shilling subscription has been opened, and among the people eminent in dramatic and musical professions, in addition to those of the Executive given last week, who are willing and anxious to serve on the general committee are Mr. Alfred Austin, Miss Fanny Brough, Sir Francis Burnand, Mr. Alfred C. Calmour, Mrs. Charles Calvert, Mr. Philip Carr, Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Mr. Frank Cooper, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. James Fernandez, Mr. Edward German, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Robert Hichens, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. Henry Kemble, Mr. J. H. Leigh, Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie, Miss Edith Wynne Matthison, Sir C. Hubert H. Parry, Bart., Mrs. Madeleine Lucette Ryley, Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Edward Terry, Mrs. Tree, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Miss de Silva (Mrs. Martin Harvey), Mr. R. C. Carton, Sir Edward Elgar, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Alma Murray, Miss Jessie Millward, Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Kate Rorke, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, Miss Genevieve Ward, Mr. Herbert Waring, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Lady Bancroft, Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Mr. Ben Greet, Mr. George Grossmith, Mr. Sydney Grundy, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., Mr. Arthur W. Pinero, Sir C. Villiers Stanford, and Mr. Hermann Vezin.

MISS TERRY'S sentiments with regard to the proposal are thus charmingly expressed:—"I am truly grateful, and my heart enjoys the spontaneous movement in my favour. It is a happy inspiration. It is just what I like. It gives me the keenest pleasure to see what all my friends are doing for me, and to read their good, delightful, kind-hearted letters. I do like that shilling subscription, because it enables my most valued friends to join in this charming tribute to me. The whole 'house' has always been my friend. It is, indeed, a very delightful thing to be loved by the 'house,' to find that your audience is your friend. It is needless for me, I think, to say that the whole movement is spontaneous and uninspired by me or anyone connected with me."

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE, it is said, has met with some opposition in Cleveland, U.S.A., where she has been producing *Sapho*. She was threatened in an anonymous letter that she would be pelted with eggs when she appeared in the play. Miss Nethersole called upon the police for protection, and two dozen officers were distributed through the theatre. Miss Nethersole, however, cut some of the objectionable scenes, and a disturbance was avoided.

MRS. LANGTRY, who has had a most successful tour, both artistically and socially, in South Africa, has returned to England, arriving at Southampton on Saturday.

MR. H. B. IRVING has decided upon *Mauricette* as the title of his adaptation of M. Andre Picard's play *Jeunesse*, which he will produce at the Lyric on March 31, by arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis. The leading male personage of the play is a French senator, who, with a desire to add to the comfort of his wife, whose eyesight is falling, engages a young companion to read to her. The companion is Mauricette, a pretty and accomplished young girl, with whom the senator falls in love, and a domestic problem thus arises to which Mr. Irving has given a satisfactory solution. In the cast of the play he will be supported by Miss Dorothea Baird, and by Messrs. Leslie Faber, W. T. Lovell, Dan McCarthy, Eric Leslie, and G. A. Seager; and Misses Marion Terry, Ethel Warwick, Gwladys Morris, Eileen Munro, Ada Mellon, Emeline Carder, and Evelyn Martheze.

MISS LENA ASHWELL has practically completed the cast of Miss Clo Graves's comedy *The Bond of Ninon*, with which the new actress-manager begins her season at the Savoy at Easter. The hero, a young soldier of fortune, will be played by Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. H. V. Esmond will appear as Louis XIV., and Mr. Edward Sass, in addition to producing the piece, will enact the part of an old servitor. Mr. Frank Tyars has been engaged for the rôle of a rough, good-hearted soldier, with a fine sense of family pride; and among the company figure also Miss Helen Ferrers, Miss Beryl Mercer, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Mr. Eugene Mayeur, and Mr. Harry Welchman. Rehearsals of the piece are now in active progress.

MR. ERNEST E. NORRIS, who for the last two years has done yeoman service as general-manager at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, was on Saturday night the recipient of a well-filled purse of sovereigns and a handsomely-framed testimonial signed by a number of well-known managers and members of the profession, including the Elephant and Castle stock company, and the staff before and behind the curtain. The presentation was made by Mr. Walter Melville amid much enthusiasm. Mr. Norris cordially thanked all present and his good friends for their great kindness. He was much indebted to the staff for the way they had worked under him, especially those behind, many of whom had been employees of the Surrey Theatre. At the death of Mr. Conquest, his dear old chief of former years, he had been able to take them on at the Elephant and Castle, and they had, without one exception, remained with him ever since.

MR. WALTER STEPHENS'S scheme for the establishment of a subsidised theatre was mentioned in the House of Commons on Tuesday, when Mr. W. F. D. Smith asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had been requested to grant an annual subsidy towards the permanent establishment of a national repertory theatre in connection with the scheme referred to Mr. Asquith's reply was to the same effect as his letter to Mr. Stephens, published in this column last week.

IN the Court of Chancery on Saturday Mr. George Edwardes brought an action against Mr. Henry Dallas. Counsel stated that Mr. Dallas had infringed Mr. Edwardes's right of representation in several musical comedies in various parts of the British dominions, and that he had represented that he was giving those performances with the consent of Mr. Edwardes, which was quite untrue. In default of any appearance by the defendant, he now asked for injunctions with respect to both these matters and for an inquiry of all sums of money received in connection with all performances or representations "made or given" within the twelve months prescribed by the Act. Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady assented.

DRESSES are a specially agreeable feature of Sir Charles Wyndham's revival of *The Candidate*. A gown of fine cloth in a bright shade of navy blue is worn by Miss Helen Ferrers as Lady Osterly. It is made with a pointed yoke of fine lace, the high collar of which is finished with a piping of dark blue silk; the sleeves being made of the same lace, having a tiny puff at the elbow, fastened with similar piping. Small buttons of blue cloth outline the yoke, and the front of the bodice is trimmed with silk passementerie in a conventional floral design. This passementerie also appears on the long pleated skirt, where it is employed to hold the pleats at intervals. With this gown Miss Ferrers wears a very becoming toque of emerald green velvet and shaded red roses, raised at the back on a high bandeau of emerald chiffon.

MISS LILIAS WALDEGRAVE, who plays the part of Mrs. Martlett, wears a charming dress in the second act. It is of ecru-tinted eolienne, the slightly-gathered skirt, trimmed with three rows of ecru lace, inserted in deep vandykes. The full bodice has a vest of cream lace, fastened with small diamond buttons, and outlined with some handsome embroidery in dull green and ecru shades. This embroidery also forms gauntlet cuffs to the elbow-sleeves, the stiffness of which is relieved by deep frills of cream lace. The accompanying hat is of coarse, dark-brown straw, having a dome-shaped crown, and narrow brim. A soft brown silk ribbon is folded round the crown, and massed in big bows at the back. The front and left side of the brim are hidden under sprays of shaded red roses; and the whole structure is raised and tilted very much forward on a cache-peigne of pale ecru chiffon.

MISS JUNE VAN-BUSKIRK, as Lady Dorothy Osterly, appears in the same act in a pretty young girl's frock of pale pink crêpe, the skirt of which is gathered all round, and quite clears the ground. It is trimmed with three rows of cream silk braid in graduated widths, which are repeated on the bolero bodice. The full sleeves are gathered midway between the elbow and wrist into frills of Valenciennes lace, and the bolero also has tiny cape sleeves, which are outlined with silk braid. A vest of alternate rows of white muslin and Valenciennes insertion completes a very dainty little frock.

MISS SYBIL CARLISLE, the wife of "the Candidate," has an original gown of white chiffon, mounted on white satin. The bodice is shaped like a child's overall, cut round at the neck, and left open under the arms revealing a blouse of heavy guipure lace, with full elbow sleeves. The graceful skirt is of accordion-pleated chiffon, held down by bands of guipure, ending on either side of a narrow panel which is arranged in a double box pleat. There is a sash of soft white silk, fastened at the back with a big paste buckle, from which broad ends fall to the bottom of the skirt.

A NEW musical comedy, entitled *The Gold Diggers; or, The Girls from Utah*, is to be produced at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Easter Monday. A strong cast has been secured, including Mr. Fred Eastman, Mr. Harrison Brockbank, Mr. Arthur Stigant, Mr. W. H. Powell, and Miss Godwynne Earl. Mr. Walter MacEwen is responsible for the producing.

MESSRS. VEDRENNE AND BARKER will close the Court Theatre on Friday, April 27, in order to enable Miss Ellen Terry to play in a performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at His Majesty's Theatre during Shakespeare week. On April 28, the anniversary of the day on which Miss Terry made her first appearance on the stage, the performance of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* at the Court Theatre will be treated by the management in a special manner as a commemoration performance.

MISS JULIA NEILSON and Mr. Fred Terry have been unable to secure an extension of their tenancy at the New Theatre beyond July, and are therefore compelled once again to withdraw *The Scarlet Pimpernel* in the height of its success in order to put into rehearsal the new play *Dorothy o' the Hall*, by Paul Kester and Charles Major, for production in London before their contract with the authors expires. Under the circumstances, only 20 more performances of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* will be given, the final representation being fixed for Saturday evening, April 7.

MR. F. R. BENSON'S principal company at Glasgow, where *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was played for the last three nights, proved a great success, and the present and next weeks at Edinburgh promise equally excellent results. His North company is also playing to large audiences at Dumfries.

MR. A. W. BULL, who has just resigned the managership of the King's Theatre, Nottingham, was the happy recipient on Monday last of a silver cigarette case and a purse of gold from the employees before and behind the curtain, as a token of their esteem and appreciation of his uniform kindness during the past two years.

THE Royal Academy of Music Sterndale Bennett Prize has been awarded to Marjorie Middleton Wigley, a native of Simla (India), Myra Hess being highly commended. The adjudicators were Miss Katharine Goodson, Mdme. Isabel Ley, and Mr. F. G H. Moore (chairman).

MR. HENRY TWEEDIE, who is successfully touring Mr. Charles Frohman's *Leah Kleschna* South Company, recently had a dream in which two letters played a prominent part. The following morning he related the dream to the gentleman breakfasting with him in the ordinary course of conversation. Later on Mr. Tweedie had occasion to send off some money-orders from the Wigan Post Office, and to his utter astonishment the clerk asked him if he was the gentleman living in Decconson-street, as two letters had arrived for him, and had been returned to London owing to the wrong number being put on the address.

THE ILternational Copyright Bureau, Ltd., have acquired the German and Austrian-Hungarian rights in Oscar Wilde's plays, *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* Mr. Ernest Mayer, the managing-director of the bureau, is at present at work upon an adaptation of *An Intellectual Woman*, an unproduced play by Miss Netta Syrett, and of *A Maker of Women*, the one-act play by Miss Edith Browne, which met with success upon its recent production by the Dramatic Debaters.

MISS HELENA MILLAIS, whose artistic work in *Old Heidelberg* on tour and in succeeding productions is an agreeable memory, was one of the successes of *She Stoops to Conquer*, which was the attraction for the latter end of last week at the Crystal Palace Theatre. Her rendering of Miss Neville was charming beyond measure, and quite captivated everyone.

"THE LITTLE STRANGER," the successful farce at the Criterion Theatre, reaches its fiftieth performance on Monday evening. It is interesting to note that this theatre, which was opened on March 21, 1874, celebrated its thirty-second anniversary on Wednesday last.

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS was hastily summoned from London last week to play the title-rôle in his own play of *Mr. Smith*, owing to the indisposition of Mr. Stephen T Ewart, who is suffering from an acute attack of sciatica and lumbago.

MR. F. WYBERT CLIVE, who begins a tour of *The Conscript* at Whitsuntide, is making several improvements in the old-time version of this sound success. The raft scene, so well known, will be entirely cut, and in its place a spectacular sensation introduced, reminding many of the recent North Sea fishing-boat episode, and terminating in the rescue of Karl by the British under the fire of the Russian guns New special scenery is in preparation, and Mr. Clive has also effected the purchase of a quantity of Russian equipment. The pictorial display, which numbers twenty-three varieties, has not been overlooked, and coming from Messrs. McCaw, Stevenson, and Orr, D. Allen's, and Hill, Sifken, promises to be the most effective yet turned out by these noted firms.

MR. FRANK CURZON'S company, with *The White Chrysanthemum*, has been playing to delighted audiences this week at the Coronet Theatre. This charming musical play, produced in such excellent taste, is to be seen at the suburban theatres for some few weeks, Mr. Purcell's patrons at the Marlborough Theatre having the pleasure of witnessing this Criterion success next week. The beautiful white and gold motor-car, travelled by the company, which is used on the stage nightly, has won the admiration of all on its peregrinations along the roads. Southern playgoers should feel themselves fortunate in the fact that the spring tour is given wholly over to the Home Counties, Northern playgoers not having the opportunity of seeing the piece until the long autumn tour commences in July. Altogether, the production is a truly delightful one, and should not on any account be missed.

"THE LONDON FIREMAN," which Messrs. Garside and Knowles are touring, has been played by them over 550 times, over twenty return dates having been fulfilled, and others offered well into May, 1907. The combination of experienced acting, a wholesome story, and the fact that the company is under personal direction is chiefly responsible for such felicitous results; and, since the tour commenced, there has been no occasion to change the bill once.

MR. ANDREW MELVILLE has lost no time since his arrival in Birmingham in making himself popular as actor-manager at his Metropole Theatre. He has already produced and played in two successful stock seasons with gratifying results. Mr. Melville has also taken up motoring, and, although he has up to the present not had a single mishap with his car, he has on eight different occasions taken injured people to hospitals on it. The last occurred on the evening of the 16th inst., when the conductor of one of the cable trams was thrown from the top of the car to the ground, sustaining a fracture of the skull.

"MR. POPPLE, OF IPPLETON," changed his residence on Monday from the Apollo to the Shaftesbury, where he is nightly at home to a large circle of admirers. Mr. G. P. Huntley acts with renewed buoyancy and humour as the large-hearted country gentleman; and Miss Ethel Irving continues to captivate with her wit and vivacity. Miss Marie Illington, Miss Violet Lloyd, and Mr. Kenneth Douglas are also to be mentioned in the category of chief favourites.

THE new Prince's Theatre, Poplar, opened by Mr. Clarence Sounes on Dec. 23 last, is proving a big success, being patronised by largely increasing audiences each week. It is a beautiful house, and Mr. Sounes deserves the best wishes and thanks from the inhabitants of the East End of London for providing them with such an elegant playhouse.

MR. FRANK CURZON will send *The Little Stranger*, the successful farce now running at the Criterion Theatre, to New York, where it will be produced by Mr. James K. Hackett very shortly. The play has likewise attracted some attention on the Continent, and negotiations are pending for its production in France and Germany.

MR. ST. CLAIR BAYFIELD, who is to play the leading part of Theseus, King of Attica, to Miss Florence Farr's Phaedra, in the Literary Theatre Society's production of Mr. W. Strange Moor's classical play *Aphrodite against Artemis*, at the National Sporting Club to-morrow (Sunday) night, has been engaged by Miss Lena Ashwell for her forthcoming production of *The Bond of Ninon*, at the Savoy. Mr. Bayfield is the son of a leading clerical member of the English Church Union, and before he went on the stage he enjoyed unique experience in the rôles successively of sailor before the mast, journalist, dairy-farmer in New Zealand, Government surveyor, hunter of wild horses, and gold-digger. In New Zealand he first appeared on the stage eight years ago. A year later he was engaged by Williamson and Musgrove, with whom he toured Australia for a year. He also toured Australia with Charles Hawtrey. Latterly, for two years, Mr. Bayfield served with Mr. Ben Greet in America, playing in *Everyman* and old comedies. He is the possessor of a remarkably fine and resonant voice, and of a tall, well-proportioned figure.

MR. EDWIN ADELER, who plays the part of Hans Wagner, the Cincinnati brewer, in Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company so artistically, is, like so many actors, a parson's son. Born at Abingdon, in Berkshire, and educated at the local Grammar School, Mr. Adeler, having unsuccessfully essayed a commercial career, gradually drifted on to the stage after a probationary experience on the concert platform. He has no extensive theatrical record, inasmuch as, with the exception of pantomime, his time hitherto has been fully occupied with the establishment of high-class entertainments at fashionable seaside resorts, with such success that the name of Adeler and Sutton is almost a household word with summer visitors. Mr. Adeler, who is the owner of an old-world battlemented mansion in Cheshire overlooking the sea, to which an extensive laboratory has recently been added, is keenly interested in all matters appertaining to scientific research.

THE Yorick Lodge, No. 2771, held its annual installation at the Trocadero last Tuesday, when Mr. Clarence Sounes was installed as W.M. by Mr. E. Lockwood, I.P.M. His officers for the year were: George Robins, S.W.; Duncan Tovey, J.W.; F. T. Addyman, S.D.; Athelstane Nobbs, J.D.; A. P. Oxley, I.G. Stewards: E. H. Bull, W. Payne Seddon, and W. Bradford Smith. There was a large attendance, and a most enjoyable evening (which included a very fine concert) was spent. Amongst those present representing the dramatic and musical professions were J. Bannister Howard, P.M., W. Payne Seddon, E. H. Bull, A. P. Oxley, J. Gladwin, H. Lyons, Duncan Tovey, George Robins, Alexander Watson, Clifton Alderson, and W. S. Penley.

MR. LAWRENCE WENSLEY, who plays Artie the dude in Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company with a lightness of touch which recalls memories of the late E. A. Sothern, is a grandson of James Russell, the famous Shakespearean clown, who, by the way, was the means of rescuing the late Edmund Kean from the hands of the pressgang at Hull on one occasion. Mr. Hensley, who was the first English exponent of Harry Bronson in *The Belle of New York*, despite his boyish appearance, has, in addition to playing the *jeune premier* parts in *The Casino Girl* and other Shaftesbury Theatre productions, been three times round the world as principal baritone in musical comedy répertoire companies.

MR. JOHN HASTINGS BATSON, who met with an accident on the 8th inst. at Edinburgh, falling down a flight of steps at the end of a dark passage at an hotel where he had gone to see a friend play a game of billiards, is experiencing more serious effects from the mishap than was anticipated. The shock was a terrible one, and the doctor is much troubled about him. Mr. Hastings Batson, indeed, is so weak that he can hardly hold a pen.

THE Academy of Dramatic Art Students will give a special performance at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, April 3, in aid of the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund. The programme will consist of some dances, the Trial Scene from *The Merchant of Venice*, the first act of Mr. Pinero's comedy *The Times*, and the wordless play *L'Enfant Prodigue*. Mr. Charles A. Buchel has offered to design the cover of the programme, which will be distributed by certain lady students of the academy, and Mr. Landon Ronald has kindly consented to play the piano score for *L'Enfant Prodigue*.

MR. EDWARD MICHAEL, to whom the inauguration of the Répertoire Theatre Association, at the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, was due, reopened the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday, and intends producing plays on the stock system in conjunction with his enterprise at Canterbury. An entirely new outfit of scenery has been painted for the theatre, and the accumulation of years has been removed, the whole establishment, before and behind, being cleaned by the Vacuum process.

"SHORE ACRES," the American play, by James Herne, which is to succeed *The Heir-at-Law* at the palatial Waldorf Theatre, is engaging the attention of Mr. F. G. Aflalo, author of several popular books of travel, who is to make such alterations as the change of locality from America to Cornwall necessitate. The engagement of Miss Mary Rorke for an important and congenial rôle is a popular one, and no less agreeable is that of Miss Alice Crawford, who is to represent the gentle daughter of a gentlewoman. Mr. Cooper Cliffe will also have a leading rôle, and the character which Mr. Cyril Maude has selected for himself is one that will bring into requisition the finest examples of the accomplished actor's art. One of the scenes in the play is a lighthouse, which by an instantaneous change reveals a stricken vessel going rapidly to destruction.

THE Army Council have considered the petition presented to the War Secretary by Mr. Beerbohm Tree on behalf of the Theatrical Managers' Association, of which he is president. The petition, the substance of which has already appeared in our columns, concerned the Royal Artillery Theatre at Woolwich, and pleaded that the theatre, although unlicensed, competed against those under County Council control. The Council have declined to interfere, pointing out that in a garrison town like Woolwich it would be most difficult to discriminate between soldiers and civilians seeking admission, and that on a previous occasion, when the old theatre was closed to civilians, a petition was signed by 40,000 inhabitants, praying that the restriction should be withdrawn. In future, however, the advertisements of performances at the Artillery Theatre will be confined to Government walls and buildings.

MR. PERCIVAL KNIGHT has contracted to collaborate with Norah Begbie, a cousin of the well-known writer, Mr. Harold Begbie, in a new comic opera, entitled *The Maiden of Dresden*. Mr. Knight has also written a new song for Miss Connie Ediss entitled "I couldn't think of anything to say!" Mr. Knight's new topical song, "On the top of the tree," made a great success at the Tivoli last Saturday. After June Mr. Knight hopes to return to the musical comedy world. He has been engaged by Mr. Cyril Maude since his return from the East in 1904.

MISS JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY has been specially engaged to understudy Miss Irene Vanbrugh's part in *His House in Order*, which is attracting crowded audiences to the St. James's Theatre.

THE forty-fourth meeting of the committee of the Scenic Artists' Association was held at their offices, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Monday evening. There were present Mr. W. Hann (in the chair), Messrs. W. T. Hemsley, E. I. Hirst, Harry Potts, M. Raphael, Harry Woolls, and H. Lawrence Harriss (hon. secertary). The minutes of the forty-third meeting of the committee held on March 6 were read, and signed by the chairman. The secretary read a letter from Mr. W. Harford thanking the committee for electing him an honorary member. Mr. W. O. Bond, scenic artist, of 13, Lea-road, Egremont, Cheshire, was elected a member of the Association on the nomination of Mr. Stafford Hall, seconded by Mr. Thomas Holmes, both of Liverpool. The secretary presented the cash-book and bankers' pass-book both made up to date, and the same were audited by the committee, and he also presented a statement of the subscriptions owing by members, and reported result of the circular letter he had sent, under the directions of the chairman, to all members in arrears. It was resolved to move the offices of the Association from 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, to the Adelphi Hotel, John-street, Adelphi, the following Saturday, 24th inst. The question of the appointment of trustees of the Benevolent Fund was discussed and adjourned to the next meeting. It was resolved to hold the next committee meeting at 7 o'clock on Tuesday next, March 27, at the Adelphi Hotel, previous to the second monthly social dinner, which will be held at the Adelphi Hotel at 8 o'clock on the same evening.

THE last of the Birmingham pantomimes came to an end on Saturday. At the Theatre Royal the curtain was rung down on *Aladdin* amidst great enthusiam and a profuse display of floral and other trophies presented to artists and management. The *Owl* cake won by Miss Fanny Dango was a towering piece of edible architecture. Miss Ada Reeve received numberless bouquets, and a miniature motor-car in flowers came to Mr. Harry Tate, tributes being also presented to the other artists. Mr. Philip Rodway, on behalf of the directorate, and Messrs. Walter McEwen and C. Finch Hatton on behalf of Mr. Robert Arthur, responded. At the Alexandra another enthusiastic audience witnessed the last of *Blue Beard*, the popular producer of which, Mr. Lester Collingwood, received several valuable presents. Miss Lillian Stanley (Fatima) was presented with a floral offering several feet taller than her fair self, Miss Minnie Jeffs (Selim) came in for many tributes, and the Bodega Bun, presented by Mr. Teddy Farris, was duly cut and distributed.

MR. J. M. CHUTE, the proprietor and manager of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, had the necessity of being in two places at once on Saturday evening last. As president-elect of the Hibernian Society he was due at the annual dinner at the Royal Hotel on St. Patrick's Day; but this coincided with the last night of the pantomime of *Mother Goose* at the Prince's Theatre. Having spoken at the Theatre, however, he rushed down to the Royal Hotel, and responded to the toast of "The President-elect," and then drove back to the theatre, in time to join the company in the final tableau of the pantomime.

A COMMITTEE meeting of the Actors' Orphanage Fund was held at 18, Russell-street, Covent-garden, on Wednesday last when the following members were present:—Mr. Cyril Maude (in the chair), Miss Carlotta Addison, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Vane Featherston, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mrs. Edward Compton, Mrs. E. S. Willard, Miss May Warley, Mrs. Mangles, Mrs. Fred Wright, Mrs. Gay, Rev. A. Brinkman, Mr. C. C. Cruikshanks, and Mr. E. H. Bull (secretary). Important matters were discussed relative to the administration of the Fund, and in connection with the large number of orphans now under its charge.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies will furnish unsurpassable attractions at Easter. *Public Opinion*, which has proved such a big financial success, will be represented on Easter Monday by no less than three companies—at Eastbourne, Hastings, and Buxton respectively. *The Freedom of Suzanne* will be at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, and *On the Love Path* at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow. The following week, *Public Opinion* South Company will go to Chatham, and return to the suburbs after having visited Oxford, Cambridge, and Bristol, opening at the fine theatre at Woolwich on May 14.

MISS MONA K. ORAM, who is playing in *The School for Husbands* at the Scala Theatre, had a trying experience on the "Underground" on the 15th inst. She was proceeding from her home in West Kensington to the Scala when a stoppage took place between Edgware-road and Baker-street stations. Miss Oram was perfectly aware that her understudy was not available that night, and as minute after minute passed her feelings can be better imagined than described. Fortunately, at the end of thirty-five minutes, the train proceeded on its way, and the popular actress eventually reached the theatre, and the curtain was able to go up about ten minutes after the usual time.

"CASTLES IN SPAIN" is the title at present chosen for the new opera written by Mr. Cosmo Hamilton with which the Royalty is to re-open on Wednesday. Mr. Harry Fragson, who is writing some of the music, has a very congenial character, and Miss May de Sousa, who rivalled his success at Drury-lane, will be the daughter of an American millionaire. The story, which is taken from a French play, deals with the amusing adventures of a young millionaire, one scene representing a bachelor's flat in St. James's, and the other a picturesque spot in Spain, to which country all the principals are transported. The dresses are to be of a particularly elaborate character, and in the Spanish scene a performance will be given by a troupe of real Andalusian dancing girls.

BY arrangement with Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Marshall Moore, chief of general staff and producer at the London Coliseum, will terminate his engagement there about the beginning of June. Mr. Moore, whose notable production of *Joseph and His Brethren* proved so successful, is making arrangements to send on tour a production on a similar subject, in which a novel scheme will embrace the combined attractiveness of concert, oratorio, opera, and dramatic spectacle. Later in the year, in collaboration with a well-known lady journalist, Mr. Moore hopes to produce at a West End house a spectacular play on somewhat pretentious lines.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN will provide the Shakespearean Festival at the Crystal Palace this year, by arrangement with Mr. J. Bannister Howard. A special production of *As You Like It* will be given, with Miss Beatrice Wilson as Rosalind and Mr. Norman as Jaques.

MR. OSCAR BARRETT applied at Bow-street Police Court on Monday, on behalf of Mr. Seymour Hicks, for licences for six children—four girls and two boys—to appear in the production of *The Beauty of Bath* at the Aldwych Theatre. In reply to the magistrate, Mr. Barrett said the children attended a school at the theatre. A police inspector reported that there was no objection on the part of the police; and the children having smilingly stated that they liked acting, the licences were granted.

MR. J. H. CLYNDES, with his musical romantic play, *A Royal Revenge; or, The Gipsy Dancing Girl*, will appear on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, during the last week of the present management.

"MEASURE FOR MEASURE."

On Tuesday, March 20, at the Adelphi Theatre, Revival of Shakespeare's Comedy.

Vincentio	MR. WALTER HAMPDEN
Angelo	MR. OSCAR ASCHE
Escalus	MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Claudio	MR. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Lucio	MR. R. IAN PENNY
Two other Gentlemen	MR. H. HEWITT / MR. W. HAVILAND
Provost	MR. H. R. HIGNETT
Peter	MR. G. KAY SOUPER
A Justice	MR. J. R. GILLESPIE
Elbow	MR. HENRY KITTS
Froth	MR. EDMUND WALLER
Pompey	MR. CHARLES ROCK
Abhorson	MR. CALEB PORTER
Barnardine	MR. HERBERT GRIMWOOD
Attendant	MR. J. FRITZ RUSSELL
Boy	THOMAS SAMPSON
Isabella	MISS LILY BRAYTON
Mariana	MISS FRANCES DILLON
Francisca	MISS KATHARINE MAUDE
Mistress Overdone	MISS BLANCHE CATTERSON

Some years ago there was a considerable sensation created by the publication of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's poem on a London courtesan, in which Lust was compared to a toad in a hole, and was apostrophised as being eternal. About the same period Holman Hunt painted his wonderful picture of Claudio and Isabella in the condemned cell. For all its "happy ending," *Measure for Measure* is a sad and solemn play; and into it the author, as he seems often to have done in his later works, probably put a good deal of personal feeling. One cannot believe that Shakespeare, the gay "grass widower," the poet, the wit, and the favourite of aristocracy and royalty, led the life of an ascetic while he was working his way in London, though it is probable that his sensualities and his gallantries were mere toys, and were reduced to a minimum by his intellectual industry. But the great man of heart and mind, when he looked back on what are euphemistically called his "follies"; when, from the haven of his Stratford country house, with Susanna and Judith happily married, and his little grand-daughter at his knee, he recalled with a twinge of disgust the days of the Doll Tearsheets and the Cressidas of the private boxes, must have felt a deep gloom pass over him, and anticipated in his musings those of Rossetti in "Jinny."

In this vein of pessimistic repentance *Measure for Measure* may have been written. Shakespeare was too fine an artist to follow the "Famous Historye of Promus and Cassandra" and make Isabella buy her brother's pardon by complying with Angelo's vile demand. But the *dénouement* of *Measure for Measure* is but a poor *pis-aller* after all—a pitiful compromise, a conclusion that is no real ending. We may tolerate the easy acceptance by Isabella of the offer of the Duke, of whom she knows only that he is extremely eccentric; but Angelo's "making an honest woman" of Mariana on compulsion, after he has been trapped into cohabitation with her by a trick, scarcely suggests "living happily ever afterwards." Angelo is scarcely the man to spare the woman who was the instrument of his conviction and the witness of his fall.

And it is not only in the main part of the piece that the "dyer's hand" stain is seen. The revulsion from remorseful reminiscence creates a kind of cynical grossness. Shakespeare's mind in *Measure for Measure* seems to have "gone a-slumming" amidst recollections of his past. The filthily-feeble Pompey, the feebly-filthy Froth, the old procuress, Mistress Overdone—a Dame Quickly without the drollery—and her cause and concomitant in the upper class, the frivolously "fast" Lucio; the dull, insensible Abhorson, and the bestial Barnardine—we are in the evil air of the brothel and the slaughter-house, where vice is a commonplace and a calling, and the intervention of virtue is only an incitement to fresh villainy. And what is the poet's "conclusion of the whole matter"? The helpless outcry of the Publican in the Temple, "God have mercy upon me a sinner!" or the "tag" of the pessimist French playwright, "We are none of us worth much; let us tolerate each other's baseness."

Shakespeare's supreme artistry is shown in the way in which he gets the full value of this dark, dirty background. Upon it he places the character of Isabella, the intellectual, the individual woman, in whom the sex-instinct is subordinate to heart and mind. Isabella, with her uncompromising chastity, her strong will and clear brain, is a terrible rebuke to masculine goatishness, and the creation of the character was perhaps at once a tribute and an atonement.

Although *Measure for Measure*, with its base realism and stern morality, can never be a popular play, it is surprising how often it has been revived. This is probably due to the fact that it is practically a "one-part piece," and has thus attracted a succession of actresses, among whom may be numbered Mrs. Cibber, Mrs. Pritchard, Peg Woffington, Mrs. Bellamy, Mrs. Siddons, Miss O'Neill, and Miss Adelaide Neilson. Curiously enough, actors like Quin and Phelps have taken a fancy to the part of the Duke, who has a good deal of Macready's "damned walking gentleman" about him. And so *Measure for Measure* has been tried and neglected at intervals until it was presented, as a Shakespearean "curio," at the Adelphi Theatre last Tuesday evening, chiefly for the benefit of Miss Lily Brayton, who played Isabella with an earnestness and force, and a fervour in the delivery of novice's passionate speeches, which made her performance a magnificent one. Miss Brayton was admirably strong where strength was most required, and her excellent elocution was not the least effective portion of her performance. Mr. Oscar Asche's Angelo was an embodiment of real weight and dignity. The solid merits of the Deputy were well suggested, and his mental struggles when in the throes of temptation were depicted with remarkable power. Miss Frances Dillon contributed a reading of the rôle of Mariana which was full of warm feeling and agreeably expressive; and Mr. Walter Hampden's Duke had all the desirable aristocratic ease and regal predominance, besides which the actor looked the part particularly well. Mr. Alfred Brydone's Escalus had the luscious antiquity of fine old port; and Mr. Harcourt Williams hit off exactly the amiable indefiniteness of Claudio. Mr. R. Ian Penny played Lucio with decided cleverness, with commendable attention to a thankless and difficult task; Mr. H. R. Hignett gave a carefully-composed and well-carried-out portrait of the Provost, Mr. G. Kay Souper being efficient as the Friar, and Mr. J. R. Gillespie good as a Justice. Mr. Henry Kitt's Elbow, "fat and short of breath," was a rendering of real humour; Mr. Edmund Waller was praiseworthy for his natural and unexaggerated acting as Froth; and Mr. Charles Rock contributed a most amusing and ever-alert interpretation of the character of Pompey, the freakish restlessness of the tapster being very comically portrayed. Mr. Caleb Porter's Abhorson was impressively grim and solemn; and Mr. J. Fritz Russell supplied a strenuous and picturesque impersonation of the brutal Barnardine. Miss Katherine Maude was clear and distinct as Francisca, and Miss Blanche Catterson sufficiently ancient and infirm as Mistress Overdone. Messrs. Phil and Joseph Harker's scenery met all requirements, the street, with its fine arch and *moyen âge* middle-distance, being extremely artistic. The piece was witnessed with great interest by an audience amongst which were many young ladies, who can hardly have understood all the allusions in the carefully-revised text; or, at any rate, if they understood, were not offended by them.

"THE BEAUTY OF BATH."

A New Musical Play,
by Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton;
Lyrics by Chas. H. Taylor; Music by Herbert E. Haines; Produced at the Aldwych Theatre, on Monday, March 19.

Lieut. R. Alington, R.N.	MR. SEYMOUR HICKS
Viscount Bellingham	MR. WILLIAM LUGG
Lord Quorn	MR. LAURENCE CAIRD
Mr. Beverley	MR. STANLEY BRETT
Sir Timothy Bunn	MR. MURRAY KING
Hon. Mortimer Gorst	MR. CECIL KINNAIRD
Tattersal Spink	MR. BERT SINDEN
Hon. Charles Templeton	MR. R. KENNETH
The Earl of Orpington	MR. E. W. ROYCE
Lemon Goodge	MASTER VALCHERA
Mrs. Alington	MISS ROSINA FILIPPI
Hon. Dorothy Quorn	MISS BARBARA DEANE
Miss Truly St. Cyr	MISS MAUDI DARRELL
Mrs. Goodge	MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER
Lady Bun	MISS MOLLIE LOWELL
The Countess of Orpington	MISS VERA MORRIS
Comtesse Therese Rosemere	MISS R. DE MONTEL
Lady Delbeck	MISS MARGUERITE LESLIE
Countess of Chandon	MISS GEORGIE READ
Jane Topit	MISS TOPSY SINDEN
Hot Bun	MISS MAY GATES
Iced Bun	MISS LILLIE MCINTYRE
Spice Bun	MISS KITTY MELROSE
Plum Bun	MISS CLAIRE RICKARDS
Rice Bun	MISS HILDA HARRIS
Crumb Bun	MISS MARION LINDSAY
Penny Bun	MISS PAULINE FRANCIS
Youngest Bun	MISS AGNES HODGKINSON
Currant Bun	MISS ENID LESLIE
Cross Bun	MISS MABEL WATSON
Seed Bun	MISS MABEL ELLIS
Home-Made Bun	MISS ELSIE KAY
Hon. Betty Silverthorne	MISS ELLALINE TERRISS

"Description," said Byron—the poet, not the playwright—"is my forte"; and he would have had full scope for his strength had he been commissioned to report upon a musical play like *The Beauty of Bath*. There is absolutely nothing to analyse in such an entertainment. It is the natural food of the young, the healthy, and the thoughtless; and the measure of their happiness may be estimated by the ease with which they are pleased and amused. There is one point, however, on which the cheerful and the cultured may join in applause, and that is the pictorial quality of the dressing and mounting of the piece. These bevies of beautiful and graceful women, these well-arranged groups and cleverly-contrived effects, appeal to the artist; and there is a scene in *The Beauty of Bath* which it is very pleasant indeed to remember. It occurs in the second act, when the fancy ball, so frequent in musical plays, is given. At the top of a high flight of stairs is an entrance shaped like a frame, which holds a Gainsborough background; and through this entrance and down these stairs passes a procession of fair damsels in dresses of different periods, tactfully taken from celebrated pictures. This is indeed a "galaxy of beauty," and it is worth a visit to the Aldwych to see it.

The libretto, as might be expected from the names of its writers, is distinctly superior to the average of his class. It has a continuous comedy plot, quite cleverly constructed, and not entirely lost sight of until the final descent of the curtain. The "Beauty of Bath" is a provincial young lady, the Hon. Betty Silverthorne, who, coming up to town with her guardian, Viscount Bellingham, has become infatuated with an actor named Beverley, who is playing a sailor's part at the Mascot Theatre, and whom she has only seen upon the stage. There happens to be a remarkable resemblance between this Beverley and Lieutenant Richard Alington, of the Royal Navy, who has fallen in love with Betty on the strength of her photograph, which has been sent to him while he was at sea by his mother. The Viscount, mistaking Alington in his uniform for Beverley, makes him promise to disgust Betty with actors, and with Beverley in particular, by feigning drunkenness after the manner of David Garrick in the famous play. In the second act the scheme is carried out, and Alington—always in the character of Beverley—imitates intoxication at the fancy dress ball already mentioned. But Betty has been smart enough to see through the trick; and, after enjoying the situation sufficiently, she confesses that she loves Alington, and "so an end."

Mr. Charles Frohman and the contrivers and creators of the entertainment have given to their patrons liberally, lavishly, and with both hands; indeed, so generous has been the giving, that some of the exuberant matter may well be removed, especially towards the conclusion, where the excess retards the climax. Mr. Herbert E. Haines's music is modestly enlivening and agreeable; and Mr. Chas. H. Taylor has written some really neat and pretty lyrics, of the sort beloved of Miss Terriss and Mr. Hicks's patrons. Amongst these may be mentioned "The Beauty of Bath," "When a little girl's in love," and "Looks are no matter if your heart's all right"—all excellent of their class; a mock operatic duet, "Bloomsbury," sung with extravagant action by a cook who is in love with Beverley, and her son, a programme boy; an insinuating ditty, which Miss Terriss renders seated on a stool at centre, with the refrain, "There are lots of things you never learn at school"; and a broadly comic song about a young man named George, who, in order to obtain various delicacies for his tea, made love in succession to the daughters of several tradesmen.

The exterior glitter, glow, and sparkle of the production are remarkable, and the whole "show" is as bright, brilliant, and vivacious as could be desired. Vivacity is, indeed, the keynote of the entertainment. Mr. Seymour Hicks, the very embodiment of the quality, keeps the ball rolling all the time that he is upon the stage by dint of sheer, inexhaustible nervous energy. He is so thoroughly in earnest, he works so hard, and he is such an immense favourite, that his appearance in the principal part goes far to ensure the success of the piece. From his lips the most obvious repartees seem gems of wit, and he endows the simplest jests with a merit which really belongs to his ardent and indomitable personality. As Lieutenant Richard Alington he is always on the alert; and, whether dancing with inexhaustible energy, or pretending to be drunk and disorderly, Mr. Hicks revels in a rôle which is probably of his own invention. Miss Ellaline Terriss, with her delightfully distinct delivery, her winning charm, and her way of getting the very utmost out of the words of her songs, is again the adored of all adorers; and she does an earnest and very expressive bit of acting in the first division of the piece when Betty confesses her infatuation for Beverley. Miss Terriss looks a "perfect picture" in her dainty dresses, and her spell over her patrons has evidently not decreased. Miss Barbara Deane, who had a very hearty reception on Monday, acts very nicely as the Hon. Dorothy Quorn, and sings her song in the first act with delicious simplicity, sweetness, and musical skill. Miss Maudi Darrell puts just the needed amount of Bohemian spirit into her piquant and tactful impersonation of Miss Truly St. Cyr. Mr. William Lugg, with his fine presence and lofty authority, makes a magnificent Viscount Bellingham; and Mr. Stanley Brett sustains with conscientiousness and judgment the unthankful rôle of the real Beverley. Mr. Murray King's brisk energy and unctuous humour are well employed in depicting Sir Timothy Bun; and Master Valchera scores a great success by his stolidly unconscious and intensely funny performance as the programme-boy. Miss Rosina Filippi plays Mrs. Alington with admirable *aplomb* and ease; and Miss Sydney Fairbrother contributes a capital bit of mock-serious acting as the sentimental cook, Mrs. Goodge. Miss Topsy Sinden makes the most of the small part of Jane Topit, and does a very exciting and picturesque dance; and Mr. Laurence Caird is impeccably aristocratic and dryly humorous as Lord Quorn, with the catch-phrase, "You are—you *know* you are!" Mr. E. W. Royce's Earl of Orpington is excellent, and all that the rôle permits or requires; and the ladies and gentlemen who sustain the minor parts have personal advantages and marked intelligence. Mr. Walter Hann's foyer and ballroom scenes are splendid examples of the art of "building-up"; and Mr. Edward Royce's arrangement of the dances and choral effects accounts for the excellence of those details. That accomplished artist, Wilhelm, has designed the more important costumes with his usual keen sense of effect; and to Mr. Seymour Hicks's general superintendence is due the marvellous completeness and coherence of the production. *The Beauty of Bath* is certainly the brightest, the most elaborate, and the prettiest thing of its kind that has been seen in town for a long while.

"CAPTAIN BRASSBOUND'S CONVERSION."

A Romantic Play, in Three Acts, by Bernard Shaw.

Revived at the Court Theatre on Tuesday, March 20.

Lady Cecily Waynflete	MISS ELLEN TERRY
Sir Howard Hallam	MR. J. H. BARNES
Captain Brassbound	MR. FREDERICK KERR
Rankin	MR. F. CREMLIN
Drinkwater	MR. EDMUND GWENN
Redbrook	MR. C. L. DELPH
Johnson	MR. EDMUND GURNEY
Marzo	MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
Sidi el Assif	MR. LEWIS CASSON
The Cadi	MR. TREVOR LOWE
Osman	MR. GORDON BAILEY
Hassan	MR. JULES SHAW
Capt. Hamlin Kearney, U.S.N.	MR. JAS. CAREW
American Blue-jacket	MR. FREDERICK LLOYD

The first public performance of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* took place at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on May 12, 1902, when Miss Janet Achurch played the part of Lady Cecily Waynflete; Mr. Harold V. Neilson was the Captain Brassbound, and Mr. Charles Charrington appeared as Sir Howard Hallam. A semi-private performance of Mr. Shaw's play had been given some eighteen months previously under the auspices of the Stage Society, when Mr. Laurence Irving represented the part of the Captain.

The play is interesting, but it is not so sparkling as some of Mr. Shaw's later productions, and it opens rather tamely. The curtain rises upon a garden in Mogador, where a Scotch missionary named Rankin is holding a conversation with his only convert, one Felix Drinkwater, a stray cockney loafer, who is also known as "Brandy-faced Jack." The arrival of Sir Howard Hallam, an English judge, and his sister-in-law, Lady Cecily Waynflete, is discussed; the visitors presently make their appearance, and the initial stages of the story develop into a proposal by Lady Cecily that Sir Howard shall undertake an excursion to the interior, for which Rankin is asked to provide an escort. There is considerable danger in the project, but Lady Cicely will not hear of it. She thinks the natives are amiable, and boasts that she has even associated with cannibal chiefs, and found them very nice people. So Captain Brassbound is communicated with, and speedily appears upon the scene. He is in command of his own vessel, and bears a somewhat doubtful reputation, but he and his crew occasionally act as escorts to parties who wish to explore the country. Captain Brassbound it is evident, knows the party; he is in fact the nephew of Sir Howard Hallam, and, nursing a wrong to his mother inflicted, as he believes, by his uncle, he purposes to have his revenge by leading the Judge into a trap. He sends a message to one of the native chiefs, who forthwiths proceeds with some of his followers to Moskala, a castle on the hills, where Sir Howard and his sister-in-law are staying. It is here that the Captain comes under the gentle influence of Lady Cicely. She is apparently not in the least alarmed at his violence; but, perceiving that the sleeve of the coat he has thrown off requires repairing, she calmly sits down, and plies her needle and thread until the rent has been neatly sewn up. The conversion of the Captain proceeds apace; and so powerful is the lady's influence that he promises that no harm shall come to the Judge, who is a prisoner in the hands of his men. But the arrival at the port of an American man-of-war quickly changes the situation, and the Captain finds himself in an awkward position. Lady Cicely, however, proves equal to the occasion, and at the court-martial which is held by the American naval officers manages to obtain the acquittal of the accused. The Captain departs, and the lady congratulates herself that he has not gone so far as to make her an offer of marriage. At least, that seems to be generally accepted as the meaning of her exclamation, "What an escape!"

That Miss Ellen Terry received the most cordial and kindly of welcomes may be taken for granted; and that the eminent actress betrayed a certain degree of nervousness is also what one might expect. But the charm which has always been one of the distinguishing features of Miss Terry's acting was once again apparent in her embodiment of Lady Cicely Waynflete, whose bright, kind, unsuspicious nature afforded just the medium for the display of Miss Terry's fine qualities as an actress. Vivacity, a keen sense of humour, and a woman's delight in getting the better of a mere man were all expressed with unerring art and unfailing effect. At the final fall of the curtain she again had convincing proof that she had added yet another to her long list of artistic triumphs. Mr. J. H. Barnes as Sir Howard Hallam was the staid, dignified Judge to the life, whose demeanour was unruffled even when in the hands of Brassbound's rough crew. The Captain himself had a capital representative in Mr. Frederick Kerr, who gave a careful and thoroughly sound study of the man who is sullenly satisfied at the thought of the revenge he is about to take, but yields to the subtle influence of a good woman. Mr. F. Cremlin cleverly hit off the shrewd old Scotchman, Mr. Rankin, whose twenty-five years' sojourn abroad has not robbed him in the least of his broad Scottish accent. Mr. Edmund Gwenn gave an intense and sharply defined portrayal of the reformed hooligan, Drinkwater. Mr. Edmund Gurney was excellent as Johnson, a burly member of Brassbound's crew, a capital fellow-picture being the Redbrook of Mr. C. L. Delph. Mr. Michael Sherbrooke played very naturally the part of the wounded Italian Marzo, and praiseworthy representations were the Sidi el Assif of Mr. Lewis Casson and the Cadi of Mr. Trevor Lowe. Mr. James Carew did well as Captain Kearney, Mr. Jules Shaw was impressive as Hassan, other minor parts being safe in the hands of Mr. Gordon Bailey and Mr. Frederick Lloyd.

"THE HEIR-AT-LAW."

The Comedy, originally in Five Acts, by George Colman the Younger, compressed into Three Acts by Cyril Maude, Revived at the Waldorf Theatre, on Tuesday Afternoon, March 20.

Daniel Dowlass	MR. E. W. GARDEN
Dick Dowlass	MR. G. M. GRAHAM
Dr. Pangloss	MR. CYRIL MAUDE
Henry Morland	MR. CHARLES MAUDE
Steadfast	MR. F. PERCIVAL STEVENS
Zekiel Homespun	MR. HARRY NICHOLLS
Kenrick	MR. E. C. MATTHEWS
John	MR. RALPH MCKIE
Waiter	MR. E. COUTTS
Waiter at the Blue Boar	MR. WM. CALVERT
Deborah Dowlass	MISS MARY BROUGH
Caroline Dormer	MISS JANET ALEXANDER
Cicely Homespun	MISS MADGE CRICHTON

We have had no notable performance of George Colman the Younger's best comedy since Mr. John Sleeper Clarke reproduced it at the old Strand Theatre in the eighties; but it was quite in accordance with the fitness of things that Mr. Cyril Maude, now that he is directing a theatre entirely on his own, should endeavour to show the modern playgoer that the art of representing the characters in the genteel comedy of the eighteenth century—an art that reached its zenith in the days of the elder Farren—has not yet been forgotten. Like Mr. John Hare, in the earlier years of his career, Mr. Maude developed a gift for the realisation of character old men on the stage. His Sir Peter Teazle was followed by his Lord Ogleby—an exquisitely finished miniature of the ancient fop of a past age, and now we have a new facet of Mr. Maude's brilliant gifts revealed in his portrait of Dr. Pangloss. He seems to have made the character completely his own, and has so polished every detail that it stands forth as one of the most remarkable examples of which the modern stage can boast. We need not go back to the "palmy" days in search of striking and original comic acting, when we have a performance like Mr. Maude's—so ready, so varied, so full of genuine drollery, and with that remarkable power of facial expression which enables him to make the audience enter into the spirit of the part he plays. To listen to Dr. Pangloss correcting the errors of the vulgar Lord Duberley or yielding to the extravagances of Dick is a comedy in itself. Every action, every look, every tone serves to reveal the completeness of the conception and the remarkable gifts of a fine comedian in the plenitude of his powers. The sentiment of the piece is somewhat artificial, but Mr. Harry Nicholls—who had a deservedly cordial reception on his first appearance on the Waldorf stage on Tuesday afternoon—imparted due earnestness and vigour to the old-fashioned speeches that come from the lips of honest Zekiel Homespun. Mr. G. M. Graham in the love-making of Dick Dowlass and the serious speeches where the young fellow repents of his attempt to play the fine gentleman, acted with considerable spirit and vigour. Mr. E. W. Garden, an admirable comedian, played Daniel Dowlass (otherwise Lord Duberley) with a broad humour that was heartily recognised by a house keenly appreciative and eagerly responsive to the robust nature of Colman's wit. Miss Mary Brough, who always delights us with her admirable realisations of comedy old women, made the very most of her somewhat slender chances as Deborah Dowlass. As Cicely Homespun Miss Madge Crichton was delightfully bucolic and natural, giving excellent effect to the scene in the apartments of Caroline Dormer. Later in the comedy she displayed both earnestness and pathos. Mr. E. C. Matthews managed to put a deal of feeling into his rendering of the part of Kenrick, servant to Caroline Dormer—a part played with considerable tenderness and sensibility by Miss Janet Alexander. Mr. Charles Maude effectively represented Henry Morland, the lost heir; and Mr. Percival Stevens was seen to advantage as Steadfast. Mr. William Calvert neatly played the part of the waiter at the Blue Boar; and other rôles were adequately filled by Mr. Ralph McKie and Mr. E. Coutts.

As a matter of stage history, we may quote from Genest the original cast of *The Heir-at-Law* when it was produced at the Haymarket on July 15, 1797: Dr. Pangloss, John Fawcett; Daniel Dowlas, Suett; Dick Dowlas, Palmer; Zekiel Homespun, Munden; Henry Moreland, Charles Kemble, Steadfast, J. Aikin; Kenrick, Johnstone; Cecily Homespun, Mrs. Gibbs; Deborah Dowlas, Mrs. Davenport; Caroline Dormer, Miss De Camp. It was acted twenty-eight times, and was accounted a creditable piece of work on the part of the manager, Colman. Dr. Pangloss and the Dowlas family were considered very good characters; but the rest of the *dramatis personæ* have not much to recommend them.

The Heir-at-Law was preceded by Mr. Edward Knoblauch's sketch *The Partik'ler Pet*, adapted from Max Maurey's piece *L'Asile de Nuit*, in which Mr. Maude repeated his droll impersonation of Tut, being well supported by Mr. G. M. Graham as Skilly and Mr. Percival Stevens as Mr. Nicholls.

ROYAL displeasure has fallen upon Herr Max Grube, the popular Berlin actor, who has been dismissed in singular circumstances. The Kaiser was present at a performance of *William Tell*, in which Herr Grube was suddenly called upon to take the place of an actor who was indisposed, and, dressing in haste, arrived on the stage in the apple scene, with a costume combining the red garb of Mephisto with a uniform resembling that of an Austrian bailiff of the period. The eye of majesty at once discovered that the horseman wore simple buskins instead of the regulation boots, and, addressing the manager, the Kaiser said, "He rides a horse in buskins. What do you think about it? Enough. I do not desire to see more." The actor was condemned without appeal, and had to leave next day.

DRASTIC methods have been taken towards the curtailment of the drama in China. In the treaty port of Swatow, where there is a large native population, great ill-feeling has been aroused by the magistrate compelling plays to cease at midnight under penalty of £1 per every hour after.

MISS ALICE KAUSER, one of America's foremost agents, is in London consulting with her clients, Sir Gilbert Parker, E. R. Benson, Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Maurice Hewlett, Henry A. Jones, A. E. W. Mason, George Paxton, and Gladys Ungar. Miss Kauser leaves for a short visit to Paris to see Maurice Maeterlinck, whose play of *Monna Vanna* she placed in America. From Paris she goes to Berlin, where she has a branch office, returning to London for a few days prior to sailing.

"THE NEW SPRING CHICKEN."

Newly fledged and cackling gaily, *The New Spring Chicken* fluttered into the Gaiety Theatre on Thursday, and feasted sumptuously on the applause and laughter of a crowded audience. Fresh scenic embellishments, new numbers, and added drollery have been supplied to the piece, which will assuredly be accepted for a long time to come with the utmost relish. The effervescing comicality of Mr. Edmund Payne in the part of the giddy Girdle has a new outlet in a duet called "Sunday afternoon," the success of which is shared by Mr. Geo. Grossmith, its author, as Babori. The various accessories of the number are inexpressibly droll, and the appearance of Mr. Payne as a fond papa out with the baby-chair and of Mr. Grossmith carrying the jug for the Sunday beer is irresistible. Another droll morsel is his sailor's hornpipe in a capital quartette called "When I grow up," by Percy Greenbank and Constance Tippett, which comes in the second act. Mr. Payne's comic resource is no less abundant than usual, and the laughs which come as a consequence are quite impossible to measure. Miss Gertie Millar, who entrances by the melody of her voice and the witchery of her feet as the servant-maid from Brittany, has been allotted two new numbers, one of which is called "Lucky Little Lucy," a witty lyric by Leslie Mayne and Lionel Monckton, which Miss Millar sings in her most bewitching style. The other is "Rotterdam," a song by Percy Greenbank, Leslie Mayne, and Lionel Monckton, in which a chorus of pretty Dutch boys join with exquisite effect. Mr. Lionel Mackinder plays with his customary buoyancy and graceful agility as Boniface, his song of "Laua's Latest" being sung in a most exhilarating style. Mr. George Grossmith, jun., works wonderfully hard as the advocate Babori, and "Rosalie," a song written by himself, in conjunction with Jerome D. Kern, is full of unctuous humour. Miss Olive Morrell, whose reposeful style as Dulcie is agreeably conspicuous amid so much lively fun, has a fascinating ballad, written by George R. Sims, entitled "The Orange Garden." The music, by Ivan Caryll, is peculiarly pleasing, and the ballad is sung with rare charm by Miss Morrell, whose song, "O, so gently," delivered with pretty piquancy, now has a verse about the recent hire-system case. Miss Connie Ediss fully preserves her matronly aspect as the resourceful Mrs. Girdle, but there is no end to the merriment whenever she opens her mouth, either to sing or to speak, her songs, "I don't know, but I can guess," and "Regent-street," ensuring many recalls. Miss Kate Cutler plays the rôle of Baroness Papouche with delightful charm, her concern in the greenhouse, when the advocate succumbs to the effect of the narcotic, being charmingly assumed. Stephen-Henry and Emmy-Lou are made properly precocious by Mr. William Spray and Miss Olive May, the youthful lady's dancing and singing being admirable. Mr. Robert Nainby is very welcome for the fun which he imparts to the head waiter, and Mr. Harry Grattan gives a comic exposition of the woes and anxieties of Baron Papouche. Mr. Arthur Hatherton makes a valuable contribution to the piece as the proprietor of the Crimson Butterfly; Mr. Leigh Ellis supplies a funny bit of character as a waiter; and the beauteous ladies who take smaller parts, together with the picturesque male members of the cast, combine in an entertainment which admirably reflects Mr. George Edwardes's artistic instinct.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The chamber concert given by the students on Friday evening, March 16, commenced with Grieg's fine quartet for strings in G minor, Op. 27, a clever interpretation of which was performed by Miss Vera Warwick-Evans, Mr. Arthur Beckwith, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Ivor James. A first performance was also heard of four preludes for the pianoforte, composed by Mr. O'Neil Phillips. Without being in any way remarkable for striking originality, the preludes gave ample evidence of careful training on the part of the young composer, who skilfully played his works. A well-executed violin solo, "Havanaise" by Saint-Saëns, was given by Miss Florence Jennings; and Miss Winifred Gardiner was associated with Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans in a duo for violoncello and piano, Introduction and Polonaise in C major, by Chopin, the young artists doing themselves great credit. For the vocal side of the concert Mr. Francis C. S. Carey sang "Between Sleep and Waking" and a song of his own, entitled "The Maids of the North," well written and of unusual brevity. Miss Lucy G. Morris sand "The Worldly Hope," by Liza Lehmann (from *In a Persian Garden*), and "A Love Song," R. Franz. Hearty applause and many recalls were bestowed on Mr. F. Aubrey Millward for his really remarkable singing of Sullivan's "Tears, Idle Tears" and "O, Swallow." Other good items were a song by Miss Bowness, and an organ solo, Prelude and Fugue in E minor, Bach, played by Miss Alice Ibbetson. The accompanists were Mr. James Friskin and Mr. Harold Samuel.

An orchestral concert was given by the pupils of the College on Tuesday evening, the programme commencing with a spirited performance of Liszt's Rhapsody No. 1 in F, Sir Charles V. Stanford conducting. Miss Vera Warwick-Evans, one of the principal solo violinists of the College, was heard to great advantage in Concerto in A major for violin and orchestra by Saint-Saëns, and Mr. Ivor James was entirely successful in producing a good tone and expression in his violoncello solo "Kol Nidrei," by Max Bruch, accompanied by the orchestra in a most artistic manner, the young musician being, at the close of his solo, honoured with several hearty recalls from the large audience. Mr. Ben Ivor Davies may be commended for his singing of recitative and air "Oh, 'tis a glorious sight," from Weber's "Oberon," although the music was too high for his voice, the orchestra several times quite overpowering the vocalist. The quintet from "Die Meistersingers" was, on the whole, well rendered by Miss Gladys Honey, Miss Frances Ireland, Mr. Frank Webster, Mr. W. Spencer Thomas, and Mr. Charles Keywood. Eva's short solo at the beginning of this fine quintet deserved commendation. The last item in the programme was Symphony No. 4 in F minor, by Tschaikowsky, in which the orchestra in the four movements did credit to their able conductor.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday, before Mr. E. S. Grey, Official Receiver, an adjourned first meeting of the creditors of Mr. E. G. Saunders was held. The debtor stated that he was a solicitor by profession, but had been engaged as a theatrical manager and proprietor, and was at present interested in the Waldorf Theatre and Hotel. The former was held by the Waldorf Theatre Syndicate, Ltd., to which he sold his building agreement in October, 1903, for £19,993 in shares. He had vacated his seat on the board of the syndicate, and of his shares 11,000 had been given away, and he had assigned the remainder to trustees under a deed. As regards the Waldorf Hotel, he sold his building agreement for the site in July, 1903, to the Waldorf Hotel Syndicate, Ltd., for £40,000 in fully-paid shares. Of these, 20,000 had been transferred to another person, and the balance had been mortgaged. He attributed his present position to depreciation in the value of his assets, particularly of certain shares, and to losses in connection with the Waldorf syndicates. The accounts had not yet been filed, but the liabilities were estimated at £13,000, and the assets were stated to be of considerable value. A trustee was appointed.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Geneviève de Brabant, Philharmonic, Nov. 11, 1871.
Geneviev; or, The Lost Wife, Grecian, April 22, 1872.
Genii of the Ring, Theatre Royal, Limerick, Jan. , 1881.
Genius, The, Globe, Jan. 26, 1881.
Genoveva, Drury Lane, Dec. 6, 1893.
Gentle Gertrude, Alexandra, Liverpool, Feb. 21, 1881.
Gentle Ivy, Strand, May 10, 1894.
Gentleman in Black, Charing Cross, May 26, 1870.
Gentleman in Khaki, Drury Lane, May 15, 1900.
Gentleman Jack, Theatre Royal, Stratford, Oct. 19, 1888.
Gentleman Jim, Prince's, Bristol, Oct. 29, 1894.
Gentleman Joe, Prince of Wales's, March 12, 1895.
Gentleman Whip, Eastbourne, Feb. 1, 1894.
Gentle Nelly, Theatre Royal, Bradford, April 8, 1871.
Gentle Shepherd, Gaiety, Glasgow, Nov. 13, 1876.
George, St. Albans, March 11, 1895.
George Cameron, Steinway Hall, March 13, 1891.
George de Barnwell, Adelphi, Dec. 26, 1862.
George Grith, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, Aug. 6, 1877.
Geraldine, Adelphi, June 12, 1865.
Geraldine's Ordeal, Theatre Royal, Greenock, April 18, 1871.
Germans and French, Standard, March 8, 1871.
German Silvery King, Elephant and Castle, March 24, 1883.
Gertie's Boy, Carlisle, Oct. 4, 1900.
Gertie's Garter, Theatre Royal, Newcastle, April 12, 1883.
Gertrude's Money-Box, Sadler's Wells, Jan. 9, 1869.
Gerty, Park, March 26, 1881.
Ghetto, The, Comedy, Sept. 9, 1899.
Ghillie Callum, Royalty, Glasgow, June 26, 1895.
Ghost, A, Criterion, June 28, 1892.
Ghost of an Idea, Brompton Hospital, Dec. 20, 1892.
Ghost of the Haunted Inn, Knutsford, June 15, 1900.
Ghost of the Past, St. Albans, March 1, 1899.
Ghosts, Royalty, March 13, 1891.
Giant and the Dwarf, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1896.
Giant of the Mountains, Britannia, Dec. 26, 1894.
Gibraltar, Haymarket, Aug. 6, 1881.
Giddy Galatea, Trafalgar, Nov. 15, 1895.
Giddy Girl, Boscombe, Dec. 11, 1899.
Giddy Godiva, Sanger's, Oct. 13, 1883.
Giddy Miss Carmen, Brighton, Aug. 27, 1894.
Gifted Lady, Avenue, June 2, 1891.
Gilded Love, Theatre Royal, Ryde, Oct. 8, 1888.
Gilded Youth, Theatre Royal, Brighton, Sept. 30, 1872.
Gillette, Royalty, Nov. 19, 1883.
Gin, Victoria, March 27, 1880.
Gin and Water, Victoria, Jan. 23, 1854.
Gioconda, Lyceum, May 14, 1900.
Gipsies, Prince of Wales's, Oct. 25, 1890.
Gipsy Earl, Adelphi, Aug. 31, 1898.
Gipsy Gabriel, Theatre Royal, Bradford, Nov. 3, 1887.
Gipsy Jack, Burnley, Aug. 5, 1899.
Gipsy's Romance, Victoria, Nov. 29, 1852.
Giralda, Lyceum, Sept. 21, 1876.
Girl Graduate, New Theatre, Oxford, June 28, 1886.
Girl He Left Behind Him, Vaudeville, Nov. 28, 1881.
Girl I Left Behind Me, New Olympic, Nov. 2, 1864.
Girl of My Heart, Surrey, Dec. 21, 1896.
Girls and Boys: A Nursery Tale, Toole's, Nov. 1, 1881.
Girl's Freak, St. George's Hall, Feb. 6, 1899.
Girls of the Period, Drury Lane, Feb. 25, 1869.
Girls, The, Vaudeville, April 19, 1879.
Girls will be Girls, Llanelly, March 19, 1900.
Girofle-Girofla, Opera Comique, June 6, 1874.
Girondist, City of London, Aug. 14, 1854.
Girouette, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, March 25, 1889.
Give a Dog a Bad Name, Lyceum, April 16, 1854.
Give a Dog an Ill Name, Lyceum, April 17, 1854.
Give and Take, Neath, Nov. 1, 1894.
Giselle; or, Sirens of the Lotus Lake, Olympic, July 22, 1871.
Gismonda, Daly's, May 27, 1895.
Gitanilla, Surrey, Oct. 8, 1860.
Gladiator, The, Drury Lane, May 7, 1875.
Gladiators, The, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, June 5, 1893.
Glad Tidings, Standard, Aug. 29, 1883.
Gladys, Strand, Dec. 1, 1886.
Gladys; or, The Golden Key, Avenue, Aug. 25, 1888.
Glamour, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Aug. 30, 1886.
Glaucus, Olympic, July 5, 1865.
Glashen Glora; or, The Lovers' Well, Pavilion, Sept. 25, 1875.
Glass Houses, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Aug. 11, 1881.
Glass of Fashion, Grand, Glasgow, March 26, 1883.
Glendalough, Queen's, Manchester, Dec. 14, 1891.
Glimpse of Paradise, Ealing, Jan. 1, 1887.
Glimpse of the World, Liverpool, Nov. 23, 1895.
Glin Gath, Grecian, April 1, 1872.
Glitter, St. James's, Dec. 26, 1868.
Glittering Gem, Theatre Royal, Oldham, Sept. 21, 1874.
Gloaming and the Mirk, Princess's, Edinburgh, Feb. 1, 1869.
Gloriana, Globe, Nov. 10, 1891.
Glorie Aston, Wolverhampton, March 7, 1898.
Glory, Theatre Royal, Halifax, Jan. 2, 1871.
Glow Worm, The, Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, March 10, 1884.
Gnome King, Queen's, Dec. 26, 1868.
Go Bang, Trafalgar, March 10, 1894.
Goblin Bat, Britannia, Dec. 27, 1886.
Godiva, Strand, July 7, 1851.
God of War, Theatre Royal, Wigan, April 18, 1898.
Godolphins, The, Surrey, April 9, 1860.
Godpapa, Comedy, Oct. 22, 1891.
God Save the Queen, Prince's, Bristol, April 24, 1886.
Goggins' Gingham, Strand, May 4, 1863.
Going It, Toole's, Dec. 7, 1885.
Going on the Stage, Blandford, Feb. 18, 1895.
Going the Pace, Wolverhampton, Aug. 24, 1898.
Going to the Bad, Olympic, June 5, 1858.
Going to the Dogs, Drury Lane, March 6, 1865.
Gold, Drury Lane, Jan. 10, 1853.
Gold Craze, Princess's, Nov. 30, 1889.
Gold Dust, Worthing, July 23, 1878.
Golden Age, Savoy, July 5, 1897.
Golden Apple, Godalming, April 11, 1891.
Golden Bait, Kilburn, April 6, 1891.
Golden Band, Olympic, June 14, 1887.
Golden Bough, Broughty Ferry, Jan. 27, 1887.
Golden Cask, Sadler's Wells, Dec. 26, 1866.
Golden Calf, Standard, June 18, 1883.
Golden Chance, Theatre Royal, Gateshead, Nov. 23, 1891.
Golden Cross, Adelphi, March 2, 1878.
Golden Daggers, Princess's, April 19, 1862.
Golden Days, Chislehurst, Oct. 17, 1893.
Golden Dream, Theatre Royal, Manchester, July 11, 1865.
Golden Dustman, Sadler's Wells, June 16, 1866.
Golden Fetter, Holborn, Feb. 17, 1869.
Golden Fruit, East London, July 14, 1873.
Golden Goblin, Theatre Royal, Croydon, March 5, 1888.
Golden Gulch, Theatre Royal, Dover, April 14, 1879.
Golden Harvest, Queen's, Hull, Aug. 17, 1868.
Golden Hearts, Shepherd's Bush, Sept. 22, 1892.
Golden Key, Opera House, Leicester, April 2, 1888.
Golden Ladder, Globe, Dec. 22, 1887.
Golden Leek, Tenby, March 5, 1891.
Golden Plough, Adelphi, Aug. 11, 1877.
Golden Plume, Alexandra, Walsall, May 14, 1883.
Golden Ring, Alhambra, Dec. 3, 1883.
Golden Serpent, Theatre Royal, Stratford, Nov. 15, 1897.
Golden Sorrow, Ealing, Feb. 2, 1891.
Golden Web, Court, Liverpool, Feb. 15, 1893.
Golden Wedding, Haymarket, June 23, 1898.
Gold Fiend, Queen's, May, 1850.
Goldfische, Comedy, Nov. 2, 1900.
Goldfish, The, Opera Comique, July 8, 1892.
Gold Guitar, City of London, Sept. 1, 1851.
Gold is Nothing, Happiness is All, Amphitheatre, Leeds, Oct. 5, 1868.
Gold Mine, Gaiety, July 21, 1890.
Gold Slave, Theatre Royal, Longton, July 8, 1886.
Gombeens Gold, Sadler's Wells, March 16, 1891.
Gommoch, The, Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees, March 16, 1877.
Gondoliers, Savoy, Dec. 7, 1889.
Gonzaga, a Tale of Florence, St. George's, April 28, 1877.
Gone Away, Comedy, Manchester, Aug. 9, 1886.
Good as Gold, Britannia, Sept. 13, 1869.
Good Business, Novelty, Dec. 14, 1888.
Good Bye, Canterbury, Aug. 6, 1889.
Goose Fair, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, Oct. 2, 1874.
Good Fairy of St. Helens, Theatre Royal, St. Helens, April 22, 1872.
Good for Both, Opera House, Londonderry, Feb. 11, 1887.
Good for Nothing, Haymarket, Dec. 16, 1889.
Good Gracious, Court, Jan. 21, 1885.
Good Hearts, Surrey, Nov. 8, 1858.
Good Luck, Strand, April 13, 1885.
Good News, Gaiety, Aug. 31, 1872.
Good Old Barnes of New York, Ladbroke Hall, Sept. 25, 1888.
Good Old Queen Bess, Vaudeville, Jan. 3, 1891.
Good Old Times, Princess's, Feb. 12, 1889.
Good or Evil, Opera House, Ashton, Aug. 24, 1885.
Good Queen Bess, Theatre Royal, Richmond, May 1, 1895.
Good Time, Opera Comique, April 27, 1899.
Good Turn, Theatre Royal, Chester, Sept. 6, 1880.
Good Woman in the Wood, Lyceum, Dec. 27, 1852.
Goose and Golden Eggs, Jersey, Nov. 19, 1869.
Goose with the Golden Eggs, Strand, Sept. 1, 1859.
Gore; or, The Yaller Seal, Avenue, July 1, 1889.
Gossip, Grand, June 3, 1895.
Go Straight, Globe, April 2, 1894.
Go to Putney, Adelphi, April 6, 1868.
Governess, The, Olympic, Oct. 21, 1886.
Grace, Theatre, Sale, March 5, 1880.
Grace Darrell, Dublin, Sept. 12, 1896.
Grace Holden, Theatre Royal, Belfast, Aug. 23, 1869.
Grace Royal, Princess's, Edinburgh, May 31, 1876.
Graf Waldemar, Opera Comique, Sept. 15, 1894.
Gra Gal Machree, Britannia, July 31, 1876.
Grand Duchess, Savoy, Dec. 4, 1897.
Grand Duke, Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, Aug. 7, 1886.
Grand Duke of Camberwell, Elephant and Castle, April 17, 1876.
Grandfather's Clock, Pavilion, Aug. 30, 1879.
Grandfather's Little Nell, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Dec. 3, 1870.
Grandfather's Secret, Surrey, June 6, 1885.
Grand Mogul, Comedy, Nov. 17, 1884.
Grandmother's Gown, Matinée, Nov. 12, 1898.
Grand National, Royal Coliseum Theatre, Liverpool, March 29, 1869.
Grandpapa's Promise, Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, Nov. 4, 1887.
Grandsire, The, Terry's, May 15, 1889.
Granna Waile and the Bridal Eve, East London, Dec. 26, 1874.
Gran-u-Aille, Novelty, March 25, 1891.
Grapeshot, Southall, Nov. 27, 1889.
Grasping a Shadow, Theatre Royal, West Hartlepool, July 20, 1885.
Grasshopper, Olympic, Aug. 14, 1867.
Grass Widow, Theatre Royal, Worthing, May 9, 1898.
Grass Widows, Queen's, Dublin, Sept. 19, 1879.
Grateful, Theatre Royal, Exeter, April 23, 1877.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an **"In Memoriam"** notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Brown.—On March 16, at 46, Lincoln-road, East Finchley, N., Dulcie, the wife of Billy Brown (O'Malley and Brown), of a daughter. Baby since died, but mother progressing favourably.

Lysons.—On March 20, at Cargreen House, South Norwood, the wife of Samuel V. D. Lysons (Miss Ruby Louis), of a son.

Lysons.—On March 20, at Cargreen House, South Norwood, the wife of Samuel V. D. Lysons (Miss Ruby Louie), of a son.

DEATHS.

Allen.—March 19, accidentally drowned at sea, Harry Allen, music hall comedian, aged 24.

Dalton (Harry), brother to Morny Cash. Died March 19, 1906. Sadly missed by his mother, brothers, and sisters. R.I.P.

Humphreys.—March 21 suddenly at Merthyr Tydvil, J. D. Humphreys, advance-agent for John Sanger's Circus. Now lying at 2, Falmouth-chambers, New Kent-road, London, S.E.

Maddick.—On the 9th inst., at 24, Ashworth-mansions, Maida Vale, Frank Gordon-Maddick, the beloved husband of "Miss Marie Illington," and third son of the late George William Maddick; aged 48.

In Memoriam.

Cleveland.—In loving memory of Louie Cleveland, who died March 26, 1899. Never forgotten by her affectionate mother and sister. — Nannie Meade.

Harvey.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Frank Harvey, who passed away March 29, 1903. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife and family.

Harvey.—In loving memory of our dear father, Frank Harvey, who passed away on March 29, 1903. Never forgotten by his loving children.

Lindo.—In loving remembrance of our darling baby, Eric Lindo, who fell asleep March 23, 1905, aged 8 months.
God lent him to us for a little while.

Manning.—In loving memory of John Manning, comedian, who died March 19, 1889, and of Frank Manning, his younger son, who died March 24, 1899.

Mario.—In loving memory of Minnie Mario, who passed away March 26, 1905. Deeply mourned by her sorrowing mother, sister, and nieces (Three Sisters Silcott).

For Sympathy.

Dalton (Harry Allen).—Mr. and Mrs. Ryder Slone tender their heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Morny Cash, Mrs. Dalton, and family, in their sad bereavement.

Seaton. — Dr. Seaton wishes to thank over 200 friends for kind letters, wires, &c., of deep sympathy, in his sad bereavement in the death of his beloved wife, Marie Clifford, who met with a fatal accident at Boston on March 2. Address all communications to Public Hall, Slough.

For Condolence.

Cash.—Mr. Morny Cash wishes to thank his numerous friends for wires and letters of condolence on his sad bereavement. 48, Doddington-grove, London, S.E.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 26.

Abandoned Woman.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
After the Ball.—Swindon.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
Are You a Mason?—York.
At Cripple Creek.—Alexandra T., Hull.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Rotherham.
At the World's Mercy.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Beauty and the Barge.—Camden Theatre.
Benson, F. R. (B).—Falkirk and Kirkcaldy.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Bramley, Esmond.—Theatre Royal, Stanley.
Branded Woman.—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Breed of the Treshams.—Theatre Royal, Bradford.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Edmonton.
Carl Rosa Opera Company.—T. R., Manchester.
Catch of the Season.—Poplar Theatre.
Chinese Honeymoon.—West Bromwich.
Christian, The.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Cingalee.—Accrington.
Cingalee (S.).—Croydon.
Claudian.—T. R., Colchester.
Coal King.—Theatre Royal, Halifax.
Compton Comedy Co.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Conscience and Crime.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Cotton Spinner.—T. R., Worcester.
Country Girl.—Gravesend and Canterbury.
Country Girl (Dance).—Chesterfield.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Driven from Home.—T. R., Attercliffe.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Alex. T., Stoke Newington.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Empire T., Oldham.
Duke of Killicrankie.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Earl and the Girl.—O. H., Coventry.
Face at the Window.—Prince's T., Preston.
Faithful Friend.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
False Wife.—T. R., Whitehaven.
Female Swindler.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Fight for Millions.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
Frivolity.—Palace Theatre, Newcastle.
Gay Parisienne.—Hanley.
Girl from Japan.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—T. R., Bolton.
Golden Ladder.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Croydon.
Greatest Scoundrel Living.—T. R., Edmonton.
Grip of Iron.—T. R., Norwich.
Guilty Man.—Wednesbury and Bilston.
Her Fatal Past.—T. R., North Shields.
Her Lost Self.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Her Luck in London.—Grand T., Nelson.
Her One Great Sin.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Honour Thy Father.—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.
I Defy the World.—T. R., Dover.
In Holy Russia.—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
Kitty Grey.—Theatre Royal, Exeter.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Broseley.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Leicester.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—T.R., Newcastle.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Shrewsbury, Stafford.
Laughter Land.—Shrewsbury and Stafford.
Leah Kleschna.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Life of a Showman.—Pavilion Theatre.
Life's Sweetest Sin.—T.R., Stratford.
Little Bread Winner.—P.O.W., Salford.
Little Michus (Dance).—Chatham.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Court T., Liverpool.
London Fireman.—Globe Theatre, Deal.
Love that Women Desire.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Man and Wife.—T. R., North Shields.
Man's Enemy.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Manxman.—Grand Theatre, W. Hartlepool.
Martin Harvey.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Master Criminal.—St. James's T., Manchester.
Message from Mars.—Grand T., Birmingham.
Midnight Mail.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
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Napoleon the Great.—Workington.
Norman V. Norman.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
No Wedding Bells for Her.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
On the Love Path.—Harrogate.
One of the Best.—O. H., Northampton.
Orchid (2).—Crown Theatre, Peckham.
Orchid (3).—Dewsbury.
Passion's Power.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Path of Thorns.—O. H., Perth.
Peggy Machree.—T. R., Brighton.
Poor Must Live.—T. R., Blyth.
Price of Her Soul.—Grand T., Doncaster.
Prince of Pilsen.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Sunderland.
Prodigal Son.—King's Theatre, Nottingham.
Proof.—T. R., Blackburn.
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Rogues of the Turf.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Romany's Revenge.—O. H., Kidderminster.
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Royal Divorce (N.).—Queen's T., Farnworth.
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Silver King.—T. R., Huddersfield.
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Sins of a City.—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
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Sunday.—O. H., Wakefield.
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Traitor Prince.—Alhambra T., Stourbridge.
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Two Little Vagabonds.—Queen's Theatre, Longton.
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Worst Woman in London.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Leicester.
Youngest of the Three.—Pier, Eastbourne.
10.30 Down Express.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.

HOCKEY.

Norman V. Norman's XI. v. Sheffield Banks.

Played at Sheffield on March 7. The game was not a very good one, neither team showing much combination but was well contested, though the theatrical team missed many chances of scoring.

The final score was: Sheffield Banks, 3 goals; Norman V. Norman's XI., 1 goal. The goal was shot by W. H. Ashley.

Norman V. Norman's XI. v. Handsworth Club, Sheffield.

Played on March 9 in very bad weather, and on ground that was quite unfit for hockey, rain falling heavily all through. The game was, however, a very pleasant one, and the theatrical team, showing very fair combination, won by 6 goals to 1 goal. The goals were shot by: N. V. Norman, 3; W. Marshall, 2; and S. Wilkinson, 1.

In the production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, Miss Lilian M. Revell, in consequence of the indisposition of Miss Turner, was called upon to play Juliet at a few hours' notice, and has since played the part on several occasions with marked success.

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Sigurd.—*Though, strictly speaking, there is no copyright in titles, yet we can hardly advise you to take the course you suggest. Consult "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," published at this office, price 3s. 6d.*

A. H. B.—*The first number of* The Era Almanack *was published in* 1868.

Brak.—*We cannot say. A letter addressed to the lady, care of* The Era, *would possibly find her.*

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H. Wickens.—*We have never heard of a sketch with the title you mention. There is a musical burglar in a sketch called* Hooked by Crook.

S. A. M.—*You might submit them to Mr. Edgar Bateman. Address, care of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter,* 142, *Charing Cross-road.*

E. W. Angus.—*Miss Agnes Fraser.*

H. Abrahams.—*In February,* 1899, *Mr. J. B. Howe and company appeared at the Marylebone Music Hall (then under the management of Mr. R. Botting) in a sensational sketch entitled* A Lost Game. *During the same engagement they also appeared in Mr. Charles Wilmot's sketch,* A Sister's Honour.

Arthur Williams.—*The cast was as follows:—M. Dariman, Mr. J. Vollaire; Henri Morel, Mr. William Creswick; M. de Boissy, Mr. Shepherd; Horace, Mr. G. Vincent; Matilde Baroche, Miss G. Pauncefort; Amelie, Miss Elizabeth Webster; Suzette, Miss Eliza Johnstone; Little Marie, Miss Hamilton. Minor parts were played by Messrs. Maclean, Wright, and Stratton.*

J. E. B.—*Sir Henry Irving produced* Coriolanus *at the Lyceum Theatre on April* 15, 1901.

C. J.—*The Adelphi stage is* 64*ft. wide and* 87*ft. deep. The proscenium opening is* 30*ft. by* 31*ft.*

Ted Jenkins.—*"We've both been there before," Mr. Harry Freeman; "Where did you get that hat?" Mr. J. C. Heffron; "Why did I leave my little back room?" Mr Alf Chester. All three songs are published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.*

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Played on Clifton Downs, on March 10. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.: H. Belding (captain), goal; J. Lewis and A. Cox, backs; S. Carter, A. E. Bailey, and A. Matlock, half-backs; H. Edwards, J. Aubrey, H. Clements, E. Belding, and E. Palmer, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.: D. O'Connor, goal; F. Arni and J. Tyley, backs; T. Neagle, J. Lacey, and W. Hinder, half-backs; F. Hansford, W. Boyce, P. Reardon, G. Wills, and R. Cullen, forwards.

Referee, H. Hare. Linesmen, A. Hamlin and F. B. Nicholls. Result: Bristol X.L.C.R., nil; Music Halls, 5 goals. Messrs. J. Tyley, J. Lacey (two), P. Reardon, and R. Cullen scored for Music Halls A.F.C.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for THE ERA by Messrs. Hughes and Young, Patent Agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters:—

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual appears once more in its familiar binding, a compendium of information and amusement for all who are interested in theatrical affairs. In the calendar will be found an array of anniversary dates, some recent, some recalling memories of old times and actors and actresses long passed away. The summary of new plays produced during the past year is admirably done, its value being increased by the alphabetical list which is appended. Well-known actors and actresses contribute stories in accordance with a custom justified by its success.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 18, 1906.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanack and Annual ("Era" Office, 1s.), a copy of which lies before me, is an invaluable publication for those who wish to have stage records by them. It contains a dramatic and musical calendar, lists of new plays and important revivals produced at the London and suburban theatres during 1905, and also of plays produced in the provinces. Further, we have lists of the new plays and revivals produced at the principal Paris and Berlin theatres "The Era" Almanack has been regularly issued since 1868, when is was compiled by Edward Laman Blanchard, a comedian whose fascinating life was recorded by Clement Scott. The Almanack closes with an illustrated list of those members of the profession who died during the course of last year, headed, naturally, by Henry Irving. Amongst the other names are those of William Rignold, Frank Celli, Ada Neilson, and Minnie Mario. There is an added pathos in the deaths of those who were so long bodily before the public, and the ringing down of the last curtain seems to have added significance.—T. P.'s Weekly, Jan. 26.

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Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1906.

MR. PHILLIPS'S MASTERPIECE.

One of the many modern additions to and embellishments of the blank-verse drama is the accompaniment which steals up from the orchestra at intervals, and mixes with the delivery of the verses of the play. For some time we were in doubt as to the *raison d'être* of this accompaniment; but an explanation has been vouchsafed to us. "Incidental music" is, we believe, an attempt to supply the poetry which most of our modern verse-playwrights have left out. The *ensemble* of the impression left by the delivery of a speech in verse upon the stage may be roughly analysed as follows:

1. The appearance of the actor or actress, and the expression of his or her features.

2. Indistinct apprehension of the accessories—costume, stage setting, &c.

3. The point and meaning of the phrases.

4. The poetic form in which the sense is conveyed.

An ear for poetry is a gift, like an ear for music; and, judging by the number of quite passable minor poets which we have with us, it is not at all rare. What is almost extinct in England is the breed of poet-dramatists—of men in whom a dramatic instinct is united with the poetic ear. SWINBURNE'S plays are melodious but unactable; TENNYSON as a dramatist was not born, but made by Sir HENRY IRVING; and—not to be unpleasantly personal—where the dramatic instinct has been strong, too often the lines, as someone maliciously put it, have resembled, in their matter-of-fact woodenness, the planks in a timber-merchant's yard.

We need go back no further for an illustration of these theories than to the recent publication by Messrs. MACMILLAN and Co. of Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS'S *Nero*. We are sorry to have read the play, for the perusal has destroyed some agreeable illusions. It speaks volumes for the effect of what we may call the "incidental music" of the performance at His Majesty's—for the power of Mr. TREE'S personality and for the musical delivery of his talented supporters—that we should have thought Mr. PHILLIPS'S verse so very much better than we find it to be. It is positively painful to a reader who appreciates the real merits of *Nero* to perceive how obstinately Mr. PHILLIPS refuses, in spite of all temptations, to "drop into poetry." He conceives an idea and he expresses it; but, as long as he makes his meaning clear, he seems indifferent to poetical beauties. Take, for instance, SENECA'S speech in the first act, which sums up the intent and meaning of the play. Here, for an instant, we find Mr. PHILLIPS on the edge, as it were, of a memorable passage. SENECA says:

> True, the harp, the song,
> The theatre, delight this dreamer; true,
> He lives but in imaginations; yet
> *Suppose this æsthete made omnipotent . . .*

Here we have a touch of the tragic 'cello in the broad o's and easy alliteration of the last line; but the rest of SENECA'S speech is not equal to the opening. Mr. PHILLIPS'S poetical lines are like GRATIANO'S reasons: you may search all day through *Nero* ere you find them. Here—to prove that we *have* searched—is one from the third act of the play:

> The deep, delicious poison of a smile,

And here another from the first act:

> Empurpled in a lone omnipotence.

A curious thing is that Mr. PHILLIPS'S poetic vision is really powerful; what he seems indifferent to is the music and the melody of his verse.

But, admitting this, is there any warrant or justification for the hard measure that has been dealt out to the published work by its literary critics? The root of the matter in a play is not poetic expression, but dramatic power. The object of a drama is the development of character by action, not the delivery of "beautiful passages." *Nero* is written on exactly the same principles followed by SHAKESPEARE in *Julius Cæsar* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Mr. PHILLIPS has followed his "authorities" as closely as the Bard of Avon followed PLUTARCH. He has discovered—a magnificent *trouvaille!*—a patch in the historical Rand which had not been worked by previous miners; and has unearthed an "argument" which appeals to moderns much more directly than it would have appealed to mediævals. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that *Nero* might just as well have been written in prose as in verse, what then? Write out Mr. PHILLIPS'S description of the world on fire without "breaks," and it still presents various and vivid images to the mind. The language and the thoughts are strong, virile, significant, and direct. We all remember Dean RAMSAY'S anecdote of the Scotch minister who, conversing *incognito* with a sexton who, the minister thought, did not recognise him, spoke of several other preachers as being "sound," meaning true to the doctrines of the Kirk. Fishing for a compliment on his sermons, which were of the "windy" order, the minister asked if Mr. —— (mentioning his own name) was "sound." "Ou, ay," replied the sexton, "Mr. ——, he's just *all* sound." No one can say this of Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS. He has gone to the root of the matter in *Nero*, and nothing should be done to discourage him.

Nero is not only Mr. PHILLIPS'S masterpiece, but the only historical play of any real value that has been produced in London for a long time. To have seen the possibilities in the character of the Artist-Emperor; to have felt the passions of the personages; to have conceived, on the mere hints of history, the principal characters; and to have developed them with such a vigour of expression, such passionate emphasis, and such descriptive energy, make Mr. PHILLIPS unapproached, if not unapproachable, in his particular line. We only ask him to remember the commonplace of criticism in "The Vicar of Wakefield"—that the picture would have been better if the artist had taken more pains.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Saturday last, when there were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The legal notes suggested by the committee were again considered, and the secretary reported that they would be submitted to the next meeting of the Council. A suggestion was made for the consideration of the Council as to the mode of electing the chairman of the Council, deputy-chairman, and chairmen of committees.

The Special Committee of the association held a meeting on Saturday last, when there were present Messrs. Arthur Holmes-Gore (in the chair), Clarence Blakiston, and C. Hayden Coffin, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Certain matters were discussed in connection with copyright in photographs, and the secretary received instructions.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the association was held on Tuesday last, when the following were present:—Messrs. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Blake Adams, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, Wm. Devereux, A. E. George, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Fewlass Llewellyn, Norman McKinnel, Quinton McPherson, and Algernon Syms, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary), Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Kate Bishop, Beatrice Lamb, Kate Phillips, and Saba Raleigh. The hon. solicitors reported progress in several matters. The legal notes suggested by the Finance and General Purposes Committee were considered, and finally settled. A case of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre was under consideration, and the secretary was directed to communicate with the management. The reports of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Special Committee were received.

The recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as to the election of chairman of the Council, deputy-chairman, and chairmen of committees were accepted and adopted.

The secretary was directed to call the attention of the members to the fact that no one is covered by the insurance scheme unless his or her subscription for the current year is paid; upon payment of the subscription the member receives a coupon. The agreement between the Insurance Company and the association provides that such coupon shall be issued to members upon payment of subscription.

Eric Longden was nominated as a candidate for election as a member of the association, and a former member was nominated for reinstatement.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Valerie Vaughan—Saturday, March 24.
Maud Milton—Saturday, March 24.
Charles Harrington—Saturday, March 24.
Alec Hurley—Saturday, March 24.
Fred J. Little—Saturday, March 24.
Beatie Pollard—Saturday, March 24.
Doris Brooke—Saturday, March 24.
Mlle. Jane Hading—Sunday, March 25.
Emilie Polini—Sunday, March 25.
John Le Hay—Sunday, March 25.
E. C. Gittins—Sunday, March 25.
Tom Wootwell—Sunday, March 25.
Fred Denby—Sunday, March 25.
Marie Louise Dicker—Sunday, March 25.
Arthur Knight—Monday, March 26.
Geneviève Ward—Tuesday, March 27.
F. G. Maine—Tuesday, March 27.
C. C. Mannering—Tuesday, March 27.
Percy B. Gooch—Tuesday, March 27.
H. Kyrle Bellew—Wednesday, March 28.
Lizzie Boone—Wednesday, March 28.
Frank E. Petley—Wednesday, March 28.
John Doran—Wednesday, March 28.
Harry Lupino—Wednesday, March 28.
Annie Glynn—Thursday, March 29.
G. H. Chirgwin—Thursday, March 29.
Katie May—Thursday, March 29.
Ella Russell—Friday, March 30.
George D'Albert—Friday, March 30.
Harry Conlin—Friday, March 30.

MR. W. A. TOTTEN, who has, since its opening fifteen years ago, been musical director at the Royalty Theatre, Llanelly, and for a couple of years the manager, has now resigned his position, in order to devote his whole time to teaching. His place has been taken by that well-known musician, Mr. Omar Dene, who has been for a long time musical director with Mr. Isham Graff, and afterwards with Mr. E. J. Kirke.

REVIVAL OF "THE CANDIDATE."

On Wednesday, March 21,
at Wyndham's Theatre, the Comedy in Three Acts, adapted from the French of M. Bisson by Justin Huntly McCarthy, entitled
"THE CANDIDATE."

Lord Lancelot Oldacre.....CHARLES WYNDHAM
Alaric Baffin .....MR. DENNIS EADIE
Capt the Hon. Villiers Hazelfort
MR. YORKE STEPHENS
Barnabas Goodeve ..MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON
Amos Martlett .....MR. EDMUND MAURICE
Jacobs .....MR. BERTRAM STEER
Lady Osterley .....MISS HELEN FERRERS
Lady Clarissa Oldacre ....MISS SYBIL CARLISLE
Lady Dorothy Osterley..MISS JUNE VAN BUSKIRK
Mrs. Sophonia Martlett
MISS LILIAS WALDEGRAVE

When *The Candidate* was produced at the Criterion Theatre in 1884, it was the fashion at the theatre to treat politics as a joke. Now, with Socialism at the door and middle-class incomes flying out of the window in the form of rates, we—that is to say, the well-to-do middle-class persons who keep the stalls filled during a long run—are inclined to laugh on the wrong side of our faces. This made it rather difficult to modernise Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy's adaptation of *Le Député de Bombignac*. It was hard enough, even in 1884 to accept as possible the trick which Lord Oldacre plays on the constituency of East Hampton; it is still more difficult to "swallow" the improbabilities of the play in 1906. And the topical hits do not tell as they did at the former date. In the early eighties it was safe to poke fun at proposals for the abolition of the House of Lords; but really, what with the influx of Labour Members and their egregious audacity one cannot feel certain what may not happen in the next ten years. When we hear Free Trade and the Tariff Reform mentioned lightly on the stage we feel the same sense of shock as an admirer of the Equator might have felt when Sidney Smith's man spoke of it disrespectfully.

The Candidate belonged to the batch of plays which were produced in what we may call Mr. Charles Wyndham's period of irresponsible frivolity. It was sandwiched between *The Great Divorce Case* and a revival of *Wild Oats*. Nothing in Mr. Wyndham's Criterion career became him like the leaving it; for in 1886, shortly before his departure for America, he revealed his more serious and sentimental self to his supporters in his famous creation of the hero of *David Garrick*. If, like crabs, we could go backwards, we might revive in ourselves the uncritical facility which endeared the Criterion farces and their exponents to the playgoer of the period. Nevertheless, *The Candidate* is so essentially amusing, and is played so well—if "with a difference"—at Wyndham's, that the revival there on Wednesday gave great pleasure, and will, we imagine, answer the purpose for which it was prepared. Sir Charles Wyndham has moved with the times, and is no longer farcical. His Lord Lancelot Oldacre is a capital piece of light comedy acting, full of fine points and subtle suggestions, natural, easy and altogether unconvincing. Mr. Dennis Eadie takes, perhaps, an unnecessary severe view of the character of Alaric Baffin, but sustains the part on his own lines with admirable care and firmness. Mr. Yorke Stephens, who is perennially bright and spirited, and is always absolutely reliable as an easy-going young aristocrat, represents Captain Hazelfort with just the necessary lightness of touch and polish. Mr. Rutland Barrington as Barnabas Goodeve revives memories of his early triumphs, and his smug self-satisfaction as the sleek and plausible parson is one of the best things in the revival. Mr. Edmund Maurice is satisfactory as the sleepy husband, Martlett; and Mr. Bertram Steer is good as Jacobs. Miss Helen Ferrers is a majestic Lady Osterley, and Miss Sybil Carlisle is sweet and sympathetic as Lady Clarissa Oldacre, Miss June van Buskirk giving a vivacious and very agreeable performance as Lady Dorothy Osterley. Miss Lilias Waldegrave, who plays Mrs. Sophonia Martlett in *The Candidate* with a vast amount of animation and with all the necessary amusing exuberance, is also seen in the first piece, *The American Widow*, in which she enacts Mrs. Van Bright very cleverly, Mr. Bertram Steer showing genuine ability as the Earl of Somerville.

THE closing lecture of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution was given in the Queen's Hall on the afternoon of the 16th inst., when Mr. E. F. Benson gave a thoughtful address on "Shakespeare and the Resurrection of the Dead."

IN the report of the directors of Howard and Wyndham, Ltd., to be presented at the eleventh annual general meeting to be held at Edinburgh on Wednesday afternoon, the net revenue from theatres, programmes, rents, &c., is shown to amount to £18,068 5s. 1d., and the net profit to £15,038 16s. 10d. The directors recommend that dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company, both less income tax, be declared.

IT is interesting to note that Mr. Arthur Vezin, who is playing with Mr. Louis Calvert's company of *Sunday* at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, this week, made his début on the stage at the same theatre as the Third Apparition in *Macbeth*, under the management of his father, Mr. Hermann Vezin, in April, 1893. Mr. William Lockhard, who is also playing in *Sunday*, was then his stage manager.

MR. JOSEPH SAINTON, musical director of the Crystal Palace Theatre, was selected by the Clacton-on-Sea Council out of 105 candidates for the apointment of musical director of the Municipal Orchestra and Pier Concerts for the coming season.

THE new and enterprising management at the Royal Opera House, Leicester, has established a tea room, the first in any place of entertainment in Leicester, thus supplying a want that has been much felt.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your correspondent's notice of Samuels's Exhibition, Dublin, the name of Tessie Vandean is mentioned. As the only lady bearing that name was not there, I shall be glad if you will insert this contradiction.—Yours faithfully, TESSIE VANDEAN.

PRESENTATION.—On Monday at the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, after the conclusion of the performance, Mr. Charles Phillips, the stage manager, presented Mr. R. A. P. Williams, the lessee, with a handsome travelling-bag on behalf of the staff, orchestra, and friends as a souvenir of the first anniversary of his lesseeship of the Gaiety Theatre. Mrs. Williams was also presented with a handsome gold bracelet, and both recipients suitably returned thanks.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Lawrence Barclay (Ernest Lawrence), the well-known music hall comedian, and brother to the popular Miss Vesta Victoria, was married on Feb. 25 at Trinity Church, Bootle, Liverpool, to Miss Clara Ethel Fisher, eldest daughter of Mr. G. Gregory Fisher, barrister-at-law, London. A large number of friends attended the ceremony, and there was a fine collection of valuable presents. The happy couple returned by the 12.50 train from Exchange, Liverpool, to Glasgow, the bridegroom arriving just in time to play his part of Simple Simon in the pantomime at the Princess's Theatre. Upon making his entrance, he was received with shouts and cheers from the audience, who had by some means got to know of the happy event. His brother and sister artists were continually springing gags upon him.

What delighted Mr. Barclay the most was a wedding present from the public of a handsome silver cigar case, with his own signature inscribed on it. He was called upon to make a speech, but managed to evade that ordeal. The bride, who was an amused and interested spectator of the performance from the stalls, is very wealthy, and intends that her husband shall in time become an actor-manager. As a wedding present from his beloved sister, Vesta Victoria, Mr. Barclay received a cheque of four figures.

Mr. Slade Murray writes from on board the "Himalaya," off Port Said, under date March 12: "I am having a most pleasant voyage in the above vessel on my way to a six months' engagement with Mr. Harry Rickards, and I desire to thank all my brother Terriers and other professional and private friends, to the number of about fifty, who so kindly wished me *bon voyage*, and also those who sent telegrams, and to whom it was impossible to reply."

Mr. George Lashwood has had to refuse the offer of the principal light comedy part in Leslie Stuart's forthcoming musical play *The Belle of Mayfair*, at the Vaudeville Theatre, as it was found impossible to postpone his numerous other engagements. Mr. Lashwood is making quite a phenomenal hit at the Coliseum, where he will shortly introduce (in the new French revue) a specially written ditty dealing with a trip to Paris, by Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott. This number has been secured for immediate publication by Francis Day and Hunter.

Very interesting changes will take place in Ronacher's and the Coliseum, Vienna, at the end of this season. Mr. Arthur Brill, the manager of the latter house, is going to leave it, and enter upon the management of Ronacher's, where he will work in conjunction with Mr. Waldmann. The manager of the Coliseum will be Mr. Louis Mittler, who for many years has been associated with that house.

Five years ago, when Mr. Arthur Brill took over the management of the Coliseum, business was very bad, and it is due to his zeal, knowledge of business, and good taste that that establishment has become the favourite variety theatre in Vienna. The programme under his management has always been excellent, and has been such as could be seen by any family without hesitation. At the matinées he has always provided amusements especially fitted for the children. During his management Mr. Brill has made long journeys to secure the best variety turns which were to be had, and has gained a high reputation as a first-class expert. Ronacher's under his management should have still further successful developments. With his advent there will be great alterations made in the theatre. The hall which was used as a dancing-room will be pulled down, one part of it going to enlarge the stage. The other part will be turned into a first-class coffee-house in the Parisian style. We should add that all contracts made by Mr. Brill for the Coliseum will stand.

Mr. Marshall Moore will sever his connection with the Coliseum in June, when he will have completed two years as general stage director for Mr. Oswald Stoll. We are given to understand that Mr. Moore purposes sending on tour his own version of *Joseph and His Brethren*.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council consists of twelve members—viz., Lord Monkswell, Sir William J. Bell, Sir Algernon E. West, Lieutenant-Colonel Rotton, and Messrs. Jocelyn Brandon, T. Davies, H. J. Greenwood, I. H. Mitchell, B. S. Straus, D. S. Waterlow, Howell J. Williams, and W. B. Yates.

A company has been registered to acquire the leasehold property known as the Marlborough Theatre in Holloway-road, N. (built by Mr. F. W. Purcell, and opened by him on Oct. 5, 1903), and to carry on the business of theatre and music hall proprietors, &c., and to adapt two agreements with E. Stevens and others. The first directors are Mr. J. B. Mulholland (King's Theatre, Hammersmith), Fred Fredericks, Fred Karno, E. Stevens, and R. C. Buchanan.

According to present arrangements at the Coliseum, Captain H. Sakamoto, of the Japanese battleship Katori, and Captain Sijichi, of the battleship Kashima, will, together with picked men from those ships, witness the three o'clock performances on both Monday and Tuesday next. A meat tea will be provided each day for the men in the Coliseum Terrace Tea Room. The Japanese sailors will be met at Victoria by special bands, which will play en route to the Coliseum.

The question of "Standing Room in Theatres and Music Halls" was not reached at the weekly meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday until after 7 o'clock. To prevent it being taken as unopposed business Mr. William Bailey, proprietor of the West London Theatre, and one of the L.C.C. members for Paddington, gave notice of opposition. But Mr. Yates, chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, kindly assented to postpone the question until Tuesday next, in order to allow of full discussion.

An effort is being made at Richmond to re-open the Castle Rooms as a theatre. It is somewhat of a reproof that a town which did honour to Edmund Kean cannot support a theatre, for it may be taken for granted that Mr. George Dance's pretty house would never have gone over to the variety stage had support been forthcoming for the other branch of the dramatic art. However, a syndicate has been formed, and there is every prospect of the new scheme going through. That it will be welcomed by a large section of Richmond playgoers is a foregone conclusion.

British sympathy with the hundreds of helpless souls bereaved by the unparalleled mining disaster at Courrières is amply evinced in the splendid first list of artists who have (by permission of their respective managers, including Messrs. Charles Frohman, Arthur Collins, Paul Rubens, and Geo. Adney Payne) volunteered their services in aid of the special matinée to be given at the Alhambra on Thursday, the 29th inst. This has the good fortune to include the names of Miss Violet Vanbrugh and Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks, Miss May de Sousa and Mr. Harry Fragson, Miss Helen Mar, Miss Violet Lloyd, Miss Isabel Jay, Miss Ethel Irving, Miss Vivian Chartres, and Mr. Harry Lauder, whose distinctive monologue prepared for this occasion will be the more compassionate since it will introduce his own experiences of ten years in a coal mine.

That well-known and much-coveted pitch for seaside entertainers known as the "Happy Valley," has been let by the Southend Corporation to Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, who will present during the coming summer talented companies, with Charles Osborne, the well-known writer, as manager.

The Colchester Hippodrome Company, which was registered on March 10, has been formed to acquire the leasehold theatre and other premises situate in High-street and East Stockwell-street, Colchester, now known as the Grand Theatre, and hereafter to be called the Colchester Hippodrome, and to adapt an agreement with Mr. E. M. Davey. Mr. Walter de Frece and Mr. Fred Mouillot are the first directors.

A music-hall artist, named Allen, who had been appearing with Donaldson Brothers and Ardell in a zoological sketch, was drowned on Monday morning whilst on a passage from Holyhead to Greenore on board the Connemara. The company was on its way to Belfast, where it is playing the sketch this week. No one witnessed the occurrence, but it is supposed that Allen was thrown overboard owing to the lurching of the vessel. No cry was heard from the deceased after the fall, and the theory of the captain was that he had been drawn in by the suction of the ship, and probably killed or stunned by a blow on the head by one of the propeller blades. The deceased was fully dressed and wore a heavy overcoat, so that he had little chance of keeping afloat in a rough sea even though he had been an expert swimmer. The steamer stopped and searched for an hour without finding any trace of the body.

Allen resided with his mother and brother at Doddington-grove, Kennington. He had been connected with the Donaldson company for almost a year, and had previously assisted his brother, Morny Cash, in pantomime, and had already gained a reputation as a clever and versatile performer. The company includes a substitute for Mr. Allen, and, in order not to inconvenience the management of the Palace, they appeared at both performances on Monday night, and have fulfilled their engagement during the week.

Mr. Fred Donaldson undertook the painful task of breaking the sad news to the relatives of the deceased. On Monday he sent the following message to Mr. Morny Cash:—"Poor Harry fell overboard at three o'clock this morning seven miles out from Holyhead. Ship searched for one hour; everything possible done, but body not recovered. Will write. Accept deepest sympathy from all.—Fred Donaldson." Another brother of the deceased, who has been touring in Australia with the Boy Glen company, was expected to arrive at Southampton on Monday, and the brothers had been anticipating a pleasant reunion after a long separation.

Mr. Harry Burns, the manager of the Empress Theatre, Hartlepool, has taken over the Circus in Lynn-street, West Hartlepool. After the necessary alterations and decorations are completed, his intention is to run it as a music-hall with two performances a night.

The management of the Southampton Hippodrome, at the second performance on Tuesday night, had the honour of entertaining the Japanese Ambassador, Viscount Hayashi, his son M. Hayashi, and Mr. R. Neglishi, Mr. R. Nagashima, Mr. J. Matsundaira, Mr. G. Ukita, Mr. G. Nishino, and Mr. J. Okubo (members of the Japanese Embassy). His Excellency and party were received by Mr. Sydney Paxton and Mr. Percy Aldin (acting-manager), who escorted them to the two boxes reserved for their use. On their entry the audience applauded enthusiastically, and the band struck up the Japanese National Anthem, specially arranged by the *chef d'orchestre* Mr. J. H. Shackleton. During the performance Viscount Hayashi made an inspection of the building, accompanied by Mr. Paxton and Mr. Aldin, and expressed interest and pleasure at what he saw.

Shortly before 10 o'clock the Mayor (Councillor H. Cawte) and Town Clerk (Mr. R. R. Linthorne) visited the Hippodrome, and had a brief interview with his Excellency. At the conclusion of the performance, prior to the Bioscope pictures being shown, a large Japanese national flag was brought on to the stage and stretched out to full extent by two commissionaires, the orchestra meanwhile playing the Japanese National Anthem. Mr. Aldin in a few words expressed the pleasure the management felt at being privileged to welcome so distinguished a guest. He then called upon the audience to give three cheers, which were vigorously accorded. His Excellency repeatedly bowed his acknowledgments.

During the run of the pantomime of *Mother Goose* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, the members of the company have been very much taken up with golf, and three rubbers between Mr. Wilkie Bard and Mr. J. M. Chute have created a great deal of interest, on account of the very even play. In the first rubber Mr. Chute won two games out of three, and in the second Mr. Wilkie Bard was successful by two games to one. In the third rubber Mr. Wilkie Bard claimed the first game, and Mr. Chute secured the second. The position, therefore, on Saturday last, which was fixed for the final game, was dead level, each player having a rubber and a game to his credit. In the afternoon Mr. J. M. Chute and Mr. Wilkie Bard played off this game at Failand, when Mr. Chute gained the victory by three up and one to play.

Mr. Georg Hackenschmidt has presented Mr. Julius Simpson with a gold-mounted ebony stick as a souvenir of his recent visit to the Palace, West Hartlepool.

Bessie Knight, the sister of Alma Obrey and sister-in-law of Bob Baxter, the "genial one," made her appearance at the Leicester Pavilion on Monday, and met with an ovation. Miss Knight, who is a good-looking and well-set-up young girl, inherits much of the talent of her sister. She has a capital voice and style, and as a buck-dancer she is very smart. She has evidently a successful career before her.

Mrs. George H. Smythson, upon resuming work at the Palace, Blackpool, on Monday, was the recipient of many letters of congratulation on her recovery from her very dangerous illness, during which the rôles in *A Tea-House Flirtation* were admirably portrayed by her talented niece, Miss Ciss Smythson, and equally talented daughter, Miss Indiana Smythson.

Miss Fanny Robina has just finished a most gratifying tour with Moss and Stoll, and is now appearing with always the same success on the Messrs. Broadhead's tour.

Miss Alice Hollander shortly produces at the Empress, Brixton, Messrs. Lawrance and Mellor's fine chorus song. "Why don't you paddle your own canoe?" It is published by Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Messrs. O'Malley and Brown, owing to their success in Liverpool last week, were immediately booked to return at an early date to the Parthenon. They have also been secured by Messrs. D. J. Clarke, George Peel, T. P. Duignan, Fred W. Warden, Fred Willmott, and other managers. They are booking very rapidly with their new comedy sketch, *The Day I Came Back*, by Johnny Danvers. They have also purchased half-rights, from Fred Curran, of Murphy and Lipton's latest original medley, *Our Dog*.

Miss Peggy Pryde, under the skilful care of Dr. Sanford Arnott, and with the tender nursing that is lavished on her at Miss Ryan's Surgical Home, is rapidly recovering from her severe operation. She is now allowed to see friends, and would welcome a visit from some of them.

Mr. George Scott, of the Alhambra, will entertain three hundred of the Japanese sailors on Monday and three hundred more on Tuesday. In addition to the excellent current programme, the Urbanora pictures of the Russo-Japanese War will be shown on the Bioscope. The gallant tars will also be regaled with creature comforts.

Miss Nellie Wallace, another distinguished invalid, we are pleased to hear, is fast recovering from her recent operation, and anticipates resuming business in a week or two.

Mrs. Jack Camp desires us to state, in answer to numerous enquiries, that her husband is not dead as reported, but owing to nervous breakdown is at present in a private nursing home. We are glad to hear that the doctors give every hope of the popular comedian's recovery, but that may not be immediate.

Miniature Marie, we are glad to hear, has ventured to be up and about again. It is very soon after her illness, but the popular comedienne says she is only happy when working, and talks of starting within a few weeks. She is having special songs written for her by Mr. William Hargreaves, and novel costumes are being designed by Miss Lily Woolf.

Coram, the ventriloquist, who on Saturday last completed a long and successful engagement at the Lyceum, is in the provinces this week. On his return to London he will appear at the Palace Theatre, and later in the year will go to America.

Miss Margaret Ashton was a saloon passenger on the R.M.S. Aragon, which left Southampton on Friday for Lisbon. The charming American soprano is proceeding to Cintra, and it is hoped that with the sea voyage and complete change of climate she will soon regain her accustomed health.

Lent does not lend itself to many changes of programme at the variety theatres, but the release of comedians from pantomime engagements usually strengthens the bill at most music-halls. Mr. Bransby Williams, who made his first appearance in pantomime last Christmas at Liverpool, and was such a success at the Shakespeare Theatre, where the pantomime outlasted many other provincial productions and equalled the run of *Cinderella* at Drury Lane, will appear at the Empire in Leicester-square on Monday next. This will be his only appearance in London this season, and for the first time he will give at the premier variety theatre his impersonations of Dickens's characters, beginning with Barnaby Rudge.

Mr. Bransby Williams, like many other actors, is extremely superstitious, and a great believer in luck. He has never yet given his impersonation of Barnaby Rudge without carrying on the stage the stick he was presented with—a stick cut from a tree in the garden of the Old King's Head at Chigwell—the Maypole Inn celebrated in Dickens's novel. The other day Mrs. Williams was taking it down to Liverpool, where he was to play Barnaby Rudge at his benefit, and unfortunately left it in the train. It was traced to the Cunarder Umbria, and the captain of the Cedric, following the first vessel to New York, undertook to reclaim the missing property. He did so, and the stick was returned across the Atlantic, and carried as usual by Bransby Williams when he appeared as Barnaby Rudge.

The Secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received a cheque for £25 from Messrs. Nicholson and Pemberton, solicitors of Liverpool, being the amount bequeathed by the will of the late Mr. George James Smith, of that city, to the Fund.

At the last meeting of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund the committee investigated thirty-three applications for relief and granted assistance in twenty-seven instances.

Mme. Alice Esty, during her last engagement at the Coliseum had to sing at both the three o'clock and nine o'clock performances daily. It was impossible, therefore, for her to make the excerpts longer; but now that the Lord Chamberlain's licence has been obtained, and Mme. Esty's work limited to one house only, grand opera excerpts lasting about half an hour will be made a feature of the six o'clock performance, commencing with *Cavalleria Rusticana* on April 9, with Mme. Esty as Santuzza.

For these six o'clock performances only special prices of admission have been arranged: Fauteuils and orchestra stalls will be 3s. and 2s. 6d. respectively; Royal stalls, 2s.; grand tier stalls, 1s. 6d.; grand tier, 1s.; and balcony, 6d. Any seat can be booked in advance.

The Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires, Ltd., at the annual meeting recommended the payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, and it was decided to place £3,000 to the reserve fund.

Messrs. Alf. J. Lawrance and Harry Gifford, the well-known song-writers, have this week joined forces with Mr. Tom Mellor, the popular part author-composer of "Little Wooden Hut" and "Bamboo Bungalow." The combination promises to be a very strong one.

The 455th meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association was held at the offices in Wellington-street on Tuesday, when there were present Messrs. Joe O'Gorman (in the chair), J. Alexander, Harry Blake, Frank Gerald, George Gray, Bob Leonard, Jeff Vendome, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed, and letters submitted to the executive. A complaint by a member with regard to a transfer ticket was read, and the secretary was instructed to forward the letter to the theatrical agent of one of the railways affected. Another member wrote with regard to a claim for lost luggage, and the secretary was instructed to write to the company. Mr. Stanley Baskerville, of the Hippodrome, Maidstone, was appointed local agent for the Association, and a letter was read from Mr. Wm. Trussell, of the Palace, Southampton, in which he accepted the agency for that town. The secretary reported the addition of forty-four new members, and the financial statement showed that the total receipts for the week amounted to £50 14s. 6d. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

His Excellency the French Ambassador, accompanied by several members of his suite, occupied the Royal box at the Italian Circus on Thursday, the 15th inst., the occasion of Mr. Edwin Gilley's (the manager) benefit. An immense programme, to which a large number of well-known artists contributed, formed the evening's entertainment. On behalf of the French residents in London, Mr. Gilley was presented with a diploma of honour and a gold medal, while the presentation on behalf of the staff took the form of a beautiful illuminated address, a diamond ring, and a ruby and pearl necklace for Mrs. Gilley. A collection made amongst the audience in aid of the victims of the French mining disaster was handsomely subscribed to.

Mr. Alfred Moul (chairman of the board of the Alhambra Company, Ltd.) has agreed, at the unanimous request of his colleagues, to combine the work of managing direction with his chairmanship. The appointment is in perfect harmony with all existing arrangements, and will but serve to somewhat more prominently identify Mr. Moul's personality with the administrative control of the Alhambra.

Impressed by the qualities of the productions of M. Victor de Cottens, whose revues at the Chatelet Theatre and the Folies-Bergères are attracting crowded audiences to those theatres, Mr. Stoll has brought the talented author to London, where, with the assistance of special artists, he is acquiring the necessary local colouring, and embodying his impressions in the book he is writing for the London Coliseum.

The comic element is perhaps the weakest portion of English revues, and M. Cottens' chief aim will be to evoke genuine laughter, fun of the brightest order being characteristic of all his efforts. But the mounting will be exceptionally beautiful, one of the scenes excelling anything ever seen on the stage.

M. Victor de Cottens is the king of the Paris "revue." His *Cinq Cents Coups du Diable*, playing now at the Chatelet, brings a thousand people on the stage! At the Coliseum we shall have three hundred. Tom E. Murray is to be the "compère" of the review, and Miss Godwynne Earle will emerge from her retirement to play the "commère." The scenery and "properties" are all being done in Paris.

Helped by special artists, M. de Cottens has for three months been studying the characteristics of London, and writing his book according to the impressions gained. The character of the piece that he is now completing is humorous, but spectacle on a grand scale—opera, ballet, pantomime, and musical comedy all enter into its scheme. He adapted *The Country Girl* for Paris; but his successes have not been confined merely to revues. At the Palais Royal he produced *Cheri*, a vaudeville in three acts, and at the Gymnase *Le Guet Apene*, a little comedy which has become classic. *Le Pompier de Service* and *Le Papa de Francine* are also children of M. de Cottens' brain.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. C. D. Schwann asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been drawn to the pictures of coursing for the Waterloo Cup, depicting the death agonies of a hare, which appeared on the Biograph at the Palace Theatre; and whether he proposed to take any steps to stop the continuance of this spectacle. Mr. Herbert Gladstone replied that he had made inquiries, and the pictures to which objection had been raised had been withdrawn.

Last week the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., advertised their song, "Slumber, My Little Babe." In justice, it must be said that this number was first sung by Mr. Arthur Rigby in the Camden Theatre pantomime, in which he made a big hit. It is now being featured with much success by Miss Alice Hollander in all her engagements.

Mr. T. G. Hales, of 40, Wellington-street, Strand, proudly boasts of possessing the largest stock of animals for stage purposes in the United Kingdom. No spectacle of any note has been produced within the last twenty-five years without the assistance of Mr. Hales, who was the originator and producer of the first Derby with real horses in *The Run of Luck*, presented by the late Sir Augustus Harris at Old Drury. The gallant steeds that drag the chariot of Nero at His Majesty's also belong to him, and the plunging horses in the latest Hippodrome spectacle, *The Flood*, are his. His stud of ponies numbers over a hundred, and twenty-two of them are working in the Drury Lane pantomime. It will be gathered from our remarks that no contract for providing animals in spectacles is too great for the enterprising Hales, of Wellington-street.

In the House of Commons on Monday Mr. Lea, the member for East St. Pancras, asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to a case tried before Mr. Justice Darling on the 13th inst.; and if he would consider the advisability of issuing regulations prohibiting performances in public that might entail danger to the lives or limbs of the performers. Mr. Thompson, the member for East Somerset, also had a similar question on the paper. Mr. Gladstone, in his reply, said that his attention had been called to the case referred to; but as it appeared that the performer was over eighteen years of age (the present statutory limit for women taking part in such performances) the police could not interfere. He regretted to say that he had no power to issue regulations prohibiting such performances, but he would consider whether it was desirable to extend the provisions of the Dangerous Performances Acts, 1879 and 1897, to dangerous performances by women of any age.

Mr. T. J. Colquhoun, joint lessee and manager with Mr. Barney Armstrong at the Queen's, Glasgow, issued a fine bill for his well-deserved complimentary bespeak at the above house for Friday evening. Many of the leading artists at the various halls in the city were down to appear. "Barney," of course, is in the list, and Ben Jordan and Jabez White assist, as does Mr. W. I. Ashcroft, in addition to the Tivoli and Queen's companies.

Miss Gipsy Woolf and her Piccaninnies are making a hit at the Apollo Theatre, Berlin, where they are appearing every evening this month. Their coon songs, effective dances, and pretty dresses make one of the most delightful numbers in the programme, and the applause is proportionately great. This is Miss Woolf's first visit to Berlin, but there is every reason to believe it will soon be repeated. From here the clever artist and her Picaninnies go to Stettin, returning to London in May. The three months spent on the Continent have been a huge success all round.

The Regal Operatic Party, two ladies and two gentleman, in scenes (costume) from the various operas, will tour the halls and piers during the summer months. The sole responsible manager for the quartet is Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins, the Carl Rosa Company's capable acting-manager for the last three years. Already ten consecutive weeks are booked, and the act will be seen at the Chelsea Palace on May 21.

The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have received extensive demands from pierrots for their songs, "Mariar" and "I'm not going to say good-bye." These two songs promise to be the successes of the season.

Miss Vesta Tilley, who scored such a triumphant success at the Hippodrome, Southampton, last week, presented Mr. J. Howard Shackleton on Saturday night with a handsome ebony silver-mounted baton as a token of her esteem. Miss Tilley highly complimented Mr. Shackleton on the excellence of his band, adding that it was a pleasure to work to such a fine combination of musicians. During his short stay in Southampton Mr. Shackleton has made hosts of friends, and is naturally very proud of his model band.

The annual ball of that popular fraternity known as the Water Rats attracted a large attendance on Tuesday night to the Balmoral Rooms of the Trocadero. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martinetti, Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Frank Travis, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Christian, Mrs. Dan Leno (accompanied by her son), Mr. and Mrs. Phil Ray, Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Fred Miller, Mr. Charles Pastor, Miss Ray Wallace, Mr. William Cobbett, Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Francis, Mr. Louis de Reeder, Mr. James Fioni, Mr. Frank Cass, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rees, Mr. Frank Weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Jordan and Harvey, Mrs. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Bohd Sayres (Miss Dolly Morrell), Miss Daisy James, Mr. and Mrs. Ryder Slone, and many others.

Mr. Harry Rickards writes to us as follows from Sydney, under date Feb. 13:—"You will be pleased to know that business throughout the whole of my circuit is very good. At present I have the following companies entertaining:—Le Roy, Talma and Bosco, Kelly and Agnes, Gibson Girls, Collier Sisters, George Bentley, Nita Leete (touring New Zealand), Hill and Whitaker, A. G. Spry, Tom Dawson, Irving Sayles, Les Warton, Fanning and Elliott, Ella Wellington, Ernest Wiseman, and Bella Perman and Maud Perman at the Palace Gardens, Perth, Western Australia.

"At the Opera House, Melbourne, the company includes:—Raymond and Kurkamp, the Eight English Primroses, the Two Bells, Frederick Barnard's Marionettes, Bert Danson, Crimmins and Gore, Percy Denton, Arthur Albert, Tim Howard, Olive Robinson, Jim Marion, Jessie Lee, and Freda Nelman.

"At the Tivoli Theatre, Sydney:—Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, the Jackson Family, Sisters Warner, the Scottish Meisters, Ada Cerito, Olive Lenton, Florence Challis, Post Mason, Alf Lawton, Hilda Lane, Carlton and Sutton, Rochfort and Hart, Ethel Preston, Baby Watson, Leeds and Le Mar, and also, I am pleased to tell you, I am appearing myself with as much success as ever.

"Artists arriving in the near future are Tambo and Tambo (Feb. 24), the Miles-Stavordale Quintet (March 3), Martinetti and Grossi (March 10), Three Sisters Lee (March 17), Mlle. Omega and the Onatis Troupe (April 7), Slade Murray (April 14), Larolla and Cabani (April 21), Mason, Keeler Co. (April 28), and Lilieth Leyton (May 5). I am pleased to tell you that all the engagements made by me during my recent visit to England have so far proved themselves successes. Le Roy, Talma and Bosco's New Zealand tour terminates on the 17th inst., when they proceed to the Adelaide Tivoli Theatre, then Perth Theatre Royal, where they close their Australian engagement on March 31, and sail for England per Orontes on April 2."

Mr. H. Chance Newton deals in his cheery style with the "barring clause" in this week's issue of the *Free Lance*. Mr. Newton traverses the question thoroughly, and arrives at the conclusion that the stronger position is held by the managers. "We often protest bitterly (at least many of us do)," he writes, "against the theatrical trusts represented here by certain American managers, but what about these huge variety trusts? I know, from long personal experience, that all the men concerned with these syndicates are honourable men, and that they conscientiously do their best for their fellow members and shareholders. But while enterprises of this variety pith and moment are in the hands of these syndicates and limited companies, what chance is the artist likely to get for having his grievances redressed unless he is what is called in musichallese, 'the biggest of big top-liners'?"

Mr. David Day desires to acknowledge the sum of £6 from Drury Lane Theatre, through Mr. Sidney Smith, and one guinea from Miss Marie Burnand, of Dublin, which have been sent as contributions to the George Le Brunn Fund.

Eight medical students were summoned at Leeds on Tuesday for taking part on the 14th inst. in a disturbance at the Tivoli Music Hall, arising out of a performance conducted by Dr. Walford Bodie. During the disturbance, which at one time was alarming, the police were called in, and the rioters, numbering nearly a hundred, were ejected. Several of the officers received blows from the rioters, most of whom were armed with sticks, which they used freely, and considerable damage was done to the internal arrangements of the building. It was alleged that the police had used their batons, but this was denied, although it was admitted they protected themselves with sticks and other weapons, which they wrested from the rioters. Defendants were dismissed.

Large numbers of popular favourites will appear at next Monday's benefit matinée to Mr. James Howell at the Tivoli. By permission of the Alhambra directors a couple of numbers will be given from the beautiful ballet, *Parisiana*. Leading turns will also be given by Lily Charlene, Sybil Arundale, Victoria Monks, Ida Rene, Lucy Clarke, Coram, The Follies, Harry Lauder, Arthur Roberts, Eugene Stratton, James Welch, Charles Bertram, Florence St. John and company in *My Milliner's Bill*, and many others.

Miss Lil Hawthorne has this week secured an entirely new and original song-scena from Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, entitled "My Cosy Caravan," for production shortly at the Coliseum.

Mr. J. F. Lambe, the actor-author, is very superstitious in what he describes as the lucky "No. 7." If the figure 7 should be on his train, 'bus, or railway ticket it generally brings him luck. This week he has the unique experience of having seven of his songs sung by seven different artists at seven different London halls. The artists are Miss Victoria Monks, Jessie Preston, Rose Hamilton, Dolly Harmer, Mr. Ernest Rees, Jack and Geo. Preston; and the halls—the Oxford, London Pavilion, Canterbury, Chelsea, Camberwell, the London, and Cambridge. During the week Mr. Lambe has supplied Miss Preston, Miss Rose Hamilton, Miss Dolly Harmer, and Jack Preston with precisely seven new songs inclusive.

Barney Stuart, the popular Dublin character-actor and vocalist, who, like his brother Tom, is ever a welcome visitor to Belfast, has a great fondness for articles of "virtue and bigotry," and his habit of curio-hunting has led to the discovery of a long-lost Parnell relic. Bournemouth possesses a number of old curiosity shops, and in one of these, whose proprietor is a pawnbroker, Mr. Stuart noticed a beautiful silver casket, studded with emeralds and other gems. Upon it was a bold inscription proving it to be the casket presented to Charles Stewart Parnell by the borough of Drogheda on April 15, 1884, which, together with the famous Kilmainham chair, has never been seen since the sale of the great statesman's effects.

The pawnbroker wanted a thousand guineas to redeem the casket, and Barney hadn't that amount "on him" at the time. But he very thoughtfully wrote to Mr. Henry Campbell, Town Clerk of Dublin, and formerly Parnell's private secretary, acquainting him with the great find. In due course he received the following courteous reply:—"I beg to thank you most sincerely for your communication of the 22nd inst., and also for the trouble you have taken in connection with the silver casket presented by the Drogheda Borough Council to the late Charles Stewart Parnell. I shall be glad if you will let me have the address of the pawnbroker in question, and I shall do my best to find a better 'resting-place' for the casket."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE ALHAMBRA.

Parisiana, one of the brightest and most elaborate ballets at the Alhambra, passed into a second edition on Monday, when a very large audience received the beautiful production with all the hearty enthusiasm of a first night. In its original form, *Parisiana* had a melodramatic scene, which was specially introduced for Mlle. Jane May, in order to give her an opportunity to display her wonderful command of pantomime; but, with the departure of the French artist, the scene referred to has gone by the board, and a more joyous note is sounded in the fine scene on the Grand Boulevard (Evening), in which the brushwork of Mr. Philip Howden again appeals to the artistic sense of the amusement-lover. Herein, the elaborate divertissement, which is a perfect whirl of gaiety and brilliancy, is led by Misses Edith Slack, G. Cormani, Mabel Hunt, L. Bryant, Mme. Cormani, and La Sylphe, assisted by Messrs. Henri Frielli, Santini, Tom Coventry, E. Almonti, G. Almonti, Artelli, and G. Rosi. Outside a noted café we are shown incidents of Parisian life in eloquent dumb-show, the comic element predominating. Other developments in the direction of brightness and fun are to be discovered in the Blanchisserie, wherein the soldiers of Pichegru make love to some pretty laundresses, and the beautiful frocks to be seen in the Grand Magasins du Printemps are the envy of every lady visitor to the Alhambra. In the final scene, La Fête de Neuilly, we are once more impressed by the wonderful example of ingenious initiative and admirable stage-management on the part of Mr. Charles Wilson, and a perfect triumph is secured by the Parisian dance, "La Maxixe," which is performed by Q. Papucci, Nellie Hill, Belle Davis, G. Cormani, Julie Reeves, MM. Santini, G. Rosi, and that supple eccentric American dancer La Sylphe. Mr. James Glover's music is always most catchy and inspiriting; and we may safely say that never has the art of the scene-painter, the ballet-master, the composer, and the costumier been more happily combined than in the Alhambra's delightful production of *Parisiana*.

The Urbanora pictures form one of the most interesting features of the programme, and Mr. Charles Urban, with the unexampled enterprise that has made his name world famous, puts before us some illustrations of the utility of elephants in a Burma teak forest, where the strength of the enormous pachyderms is employed in clearing the jungle, hauling teak logs, and pushing, rolling, and stacking heavy timber. The scene was viewed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales during his recent Burmese visit.

The variety turns include Charlene and Charlene, in their drawing-room entertainment. The gentleman of the twain is a juggler of remarkable attainments. He starts his show with such ordinary articles as a greatcoat, a hat, an umbrella, and a cigar; he does wonderful tricks with a fiddle and bow, even going so far as to play it while he balances a tall hat on its rim on his forehead; and he finishes his performance with ingenious juggling with illuminated lamps, the effect with a darkened stage being very pretty. Mlle. Charlene plays artistically on the xylophone, and obliges with the overture to *Poet and Peasant*, which she follows with a selection of Irish and American airs. The four Harveys present a very skilful exhibition of wire-walking, the chief novelty of which is a funambulistic cake-walk by a couple of well-shaped and pretty girls belonging to the quartet. Urbani and Son astonish nightly by the originality of their finely-executed and graceful gymnastic feats, in which they entirely dispense with apparatus. Miss Alice Dianda's educated monkey, which puts a diminutive dog through his paces, is the funniest animal we have seen on the stage for a long time; and the other turns included in the excellent programme are the Flying Zedoras, in a trapeze act; Miss Gladys Witton, a juvenile contralto; and Sam Elton, a humorous and original juggler, whose entertainment nightly elicits the loudest laughter. "A Scene in Holland," a pretty excerpt from the late ballet, *My Lady Nicotine*, is a much appreciated opening item. Mr. George Scott may be congratulated on the general excellence of the programme, which derives much of its attractiveness from the selection played by the band, under Mr. George Byng.

ROYAL STANDARD.

An inebriated swell and his riotous behaviour in association with a number of music hall performers and others behind the scenes at a variety theatre mainly constitute the fun of the wordless absurdity, *Front and Behind*, presented by the Cratons' pantomime company on Monday at the Standard, Pimlico, to the evident enjoyment of the audience. The first scene represents the exterior of "an up-to-date music hall," and here a gentleman, in evening dress in an advanced state of intoxication, endeavours to pass through the stage-door—in pursuit of a lady artist. For a time he is kept outside, but after receiving severe treatment at the hands of a shoeblack, policeman, newsboy, &c., he manages to gain admittance. "Behind the scenes" shows the interior of both the ladies' and gentlemen's dressing-rooms. In the former a fair damsel in the scanty attire of a lady of the ballet is just putting the finishing touches to her "make-up," the other occupant of the room being an artist disguised as Miss Nellie Wallace—a very funny impersonation. Representatives of George Robey, Harry Lauder, R. G. Knowles, and other stars are dressing in the opposite room; and the call-boy and manager are other prominent personages in the scene. Much amusement is created by the inebriated gentleman's endeavours to enter the ladies' room, but for a time he has to content himself with gazing through the keyhole. Eventually he flirts with the low comedienne—a most ludicrous proceeding—and when a telegram arrives announcing that La Tortajada is indisposed, and will not be able to appear, he is persuaded to don the costume of the celebrated Spanish dancer, and go on the stage. His reception is anything but flattering, and, after being pelted with vegetables and other missiles, he has to fight the manager, finally being carried off by a policeman. The obvious humour of the trifle and the knockabout business with which it so plentifully abounds pleased the audience immensely, and it was played to almost unceasing laughter. Mr. Harry Royston made a grotesque figure as La Tortajada, and worked hard and successfully throughout as the bibulous individual who plays such an important part in the absurdity; and the numerous other characters were all admirably played, the "fearful and wonderful impersonations" of numerous footlight favourites being admirable portraits in some instances.

Another pleasing novelty in Mr. T. S. Dickie's varied programme was *A Day at the Seaside*, a musical playlet for which Hicks's Clerks were responsible. In this the head of the combination appears as Major Copum, an elderly swell who is smitten with the charms of a couple of young ladies out for the day, and invites them to dine with him. Much merriment was created by the efforts of the Major to carve the "joint," and the arrival of the cheese, of course, provides food for hilarity. Little Peter makes a very droll personage of the Waiter, and the numerous musical and terpsichorean numbers given by the troupe—especially the rendering of "The Death of Nelson" by one of the ladies and an attractive umbrella dance—were loudly acclaimed. Mr. T. E. Finglass, a coon impersonator with a good voice and style, scored his greatest success with a love song of a jealous darkey, "She's going to wed a white man"; his other number, "The Unlucky Coon," also gaining approval. Mr. Harry Bedford, who appeared in place of Mr. J. E. Coyle, created unmistakable hilarity with his popular number, "The Second-hand Aristocrat," in which he appears as a seedy swell, whose wardrobe is composed of the left-off clothing of various noblemen and other prominent personages. His first contribution, "Walk round, Eliza," was also of a laughable nature. McGovan and McGovan, a pair of exceptionally smart and clever dancers, were accorded some of the heartiest applause heard during the evening for their expert acrobatic dancing and clean high-kicking; and Mr. Tod Lowen, a comedian with a funny style and excellent voice for comic singing, contributed a couple of nonsense ditties that quite had the desired effect.

One of the most attractive items in the programme was the vaudeville act of Roy and Calden entitled *Peculiarities*. The gentleman, who indulges in much amusing repartee with his fair partner, is a clever dancer, and has a very funny mock death scene, and the concluding dance of the happily associated couple is also greatly appreciated, the smartly worked and entertaining interlude being of such an agreeable nature that an encore was demanded on the night of our visit. Hans and Lux, cross-talk comedians and dancers, submitted some amusing conversation and a well-executed dance, for which they were loudly applauded, and the finished and confident manner in which the Olmars accomplished numberless difficult feats on the triple bars elicited much approval. Miss Violet Francis, the Sainsburys, Mr. Gus Dallon, Sachs and Sachs, and a new series of animated pictures shown by the Edisonograph also contributed to the enjoyment of the audience.

HOUNSLOW HIPPODROME.

Business continues good here, consequent on the attractive fare provided by the enterprising management. On the occasion of our visit we found the cosy hall thronged with an enthusiastic audience. Mr. Ernie Mayne, a comedian of ability, started the fun with some mirth-provoking ditties, a parody on the popular "Wooden Hut" ballad being in its way excellent. Then came a couple of bright duettists—the Sisters Hypatia. Their first contribution, "The Smartest Girl in Town," won immediate recognition; their dances, too, were full of "go," and their energy remarkable. Mr. James Day, who has resigned the Post Office for the variety stage, amazed the audience with his handcuff tricks. Quiet, unassuming, with an absence of bluff, he readily won the confidence of the audience. His letter-box feat was really remarkable. A clever couple, the Lurins, caused endless hilarity in a neat sketch, *The Abode of Love*. Both artists sung admirably, their business and patter being excellent and winning recognition. Mr. Fred Neiman, a ventriloquist of undoubted ability, brought on his dusky-coloured folk, and developed quite a lot of fun out of them, to say nothing of melody. In quite smart uniforms of Hussar type the five Casino Girls took possession of the stage. They are a band of clever instrumentalists, and their selection from *Faust* was cleverly interpreted. They evoked quite a hurricane of applause with a post-horn gallop, and proved one of the successes of the evening. The bioscope scene, "Life of an American Policeman," went to prove that Mr. Gilbert's dictum applies equally well on "the other side of the pond" that "a policeman's lot is not a happy one." Mr. Lennox Barry still looks after the front of the house here, and his courtesy is recognised on all sides. The orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Robert Moss, does well; in fact, the Hounslow Hipprodrome is booming.

DAMAGES FOR ACCIDENT.

Considerable interest was evinced by musicians and those connected with music halls in a case which engaged the attention of his Honour Judge P. Gye for several hours in the Southampton County Court on Tuesday. Sidney George Kendall, tailor and musician, of High-street, Bitterne, sued Fred Karno, pantomime troupe proprietor, of Coldharbour-lane, London, to recover the sum of £100 damages for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff by reason of the negligence of the defendant or his servants in overturning a coffee stall on Oct. 3, 1905, on the stage at the Palace of Varieties, Southampton. The particulars of expenses were nine weeks' loss of salary as violoncellist at £1 7s. 6d. per week, £13 7s. 6d.; £5 5s., charges of Dr. Edmund S. Hall for professional services; £1 loss of four concert fees as violoncellist; and £11 14s. payment to tailor's cutter and tailors for work done. Mr. S. H. Emanuel, LL.D. (instructed by Messrs. Hallett and Martin, Southampton), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. B. Campbell (instructed by Messrs. Stanley, Woodhouse, and Hedderwick, London) for the defendant.

In opening the case, Mr. Emanuel stated that the claim was for personal injuries, which were sustained on the evening of Oct. 3, under circumstances which he would shortly detail. The plaintiff was a working tailor, and he also added to his income by playing the violoncello at the Palace Theatre of Varieties. On the night in question he was sitting in that part of the music hall which was reserved for the orchestra. He had his right shoulder towards the stage, but whether he was in the act of playing he (the learned counsel) did not know, and a performance was proceeding on the stage by the defendant's company. He (the learned counsel) did not know whether his Honour knew, but Fred Karno had a number of companies, of which that playing at the Palace Theatre of Varieties was one, playing a turn at the music halls. The particular turn the defendant's company in Southampton was playing in was a piece called *The Early Birds*, a kind of pantomime. He did not intend to tell his Honour the plot, but one of the necessary things in the performance was that there was brought on in one part a coffee stall. It came from the prompt side of the stage, and was taken over to the other side, called the "O.P. side." He did not know what that meant.

Mr. Campbell: Opposite prompt.

Mr. Emanuel, continuing, said the handle of the coffee stall was towards the wings on the O.P. side, and close to the footlights. Naturally, a piece of this sort would not go properly without a policeman in it. Whether the policeman jumped into the coffee stall he did not know; but someone jumped into it, and one or two performers took hold of the handle, turned the stall round, and ran off the stage with somebody who had jumped into the tail end of it. The performance was very amusing, and Mr. Fred Karno, who was in front witnessing it, took the profits of the turn. There were two performances in the evening, and at the second performance the coffee stall was wheeled round, not in the usual way, but a way that was negligent and improper. It turned over on its side, and the roof became detached. The plaintiff was just able to move his head in time to prevent his skull being smashed by the roof, which fell into the orchestra on the plaintiff's shoulder, breaking the shoulder blade. Plaintiff claimed £100 for the loss he had sustained and the pain and suffering he had been put to. He was laid up for nine weeks. Mr. Karno, when spoken to, never repudiated liability, and had offered £5 to the plaintiff, which was not sufficient to pay the doctor's bill, and there was a denial of negligence on the part of the servants of the defendant.

His Honour said he must regard the action as an undefended one. The accident happened in consequence of the energy of the two "boys" to do the thing smartly which led them to haul the coffee stall away a great deal too fast. The special damages proved was £30 odd, and the plaintiff was undoubtedly seriously injured, and was entitled to a sum for the pain and suffering put upon him. If he gave £30 for that he would not be doing an injustice. He therefore gave judgment for the plaintiff for £60, and costs.

MISS LELIA ROZE

IN BIRMINGHAM.

PRINCE OF WALES'S PANTOMIME.
MISS LELIA ROZE'S BENEFIT.

Miss Lelia Roze, the charming Prince in the popular pantomime of "Cinderella," received a well-deserved benefit last evening. There was a large audience present at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and that they enjoyed themselves was abundantly evident. Many of the artists who are appearing at the other places of amusement in the city kindly gave their services for the occasion, and the special programme was of such a lengthy character that the pantomime had perforce to be curtailed. Amongst those who lent their assistance to the beneficiaire was Miss Ada Reeve, who won warm approval for her singing of the popular song, "Love me just a little, Sue." One of the principal events of the evening was the production of a new musical scena entitled "A Dressing-room Dream," which has been designed and arranged by Miss Roze. It is a charming and dainty musical morsel, which affords her ample opportunity to display her versatility as an actress and as a singer. The scene is the interior of an artist's boudoir, where she has come to snatch a few moments' rest from the bustle and stir of her occupation. She falls asleep and dreams that she is on the stage, and the dream is acted by herself. The stage is darkened and illuminated in turn, and Miss Roze, in suitable costumes, donned during the intervals whilst the stage is in darkness, renders several excellent songs. They are very distinctive in character, and all are good. The sketch met with a hearty reception from last evening's audience, as it doubtless will from other audiences privileged to witness it in the future. During the progress of the pantomime handsome bouquets were presented to the principal lady artists, whilst at the close of her performance Miss Roze herself received some magnificent floral tributes. When the pantomime was concluded, Miss Roze, expressing appreciation of the receptions which had been accorded to her during what she described as the most pleasant engagement in Birmingham, made presentations to Mr. Graham, the manager, and others connected officially with the theatre. Mr. Graham, who received a handsome bouquet of flowers most exquisitely arranged in handsome silver vase, was cordially thanked by Miss Roze for his unfailing courtesy and kindness. Replying, Mr. Graham said he felt sure that Birmingham, with him, would wish that Miss Roze's appearance on this occasion in the city would not be the last. (Applause.) Presentations were afterwards made to Mr. H. Johnston, the acting manager, Mr. T. Barry, stage manager, and Mr. Southwell, the conductor, to whom Miss Roze extended especial thanks for having written music in the scena which she had produced.—Birmingham Daily Post, March 3.

A PRINCELY BENEFIT.

Miss Lelia Roze had a benefit last night at the Prince of Wales's Theatre which outvied even the conquests of "Cinderella." Almost every prominent artist appearing at the Birmingham theatres and halls came to lend their aid to the success of the event, and, although a larger house might have been expected, more enthusiasm and jollity would have been impossible. Miss Lelia Roze herself introduced quite a new scena, which will probably score heavily on the halls. In the sketch the audience catch a glimpse of both dressing-room and stage in an exquisite combination. She introduces several excellent songs, one or two of which are clever studies of types, and perhaps the best was that of the American. Miss Lelia Roze changes her dress for each on the stage. Every artist received bouquets and other presents, and at the close Miss Roze presented souvenirs to most of the theatre staff, amongst them Mr. J. F. Graham, Mr. H. Johnston, Mr. Thomas Barry (stage manager), Mr. W. Southworth (conductor), and even the diminutive call-boy. Among those who ran round to the theatre to help in the merry-making were Miss Ada Reeve, who sang "Sue" in inimitable manner, Miss Minnie Jeffs, Three Sisters Chester, and Mr. Arthur Rigby.—Birmingham Gazette and Express, March 3.

RECIPIENT OF MANY COMPLIMENTS

Miss Lelia Roze, the popular "principal boy" in the Prince of Wales's pantomime, was the recipient of many compliments last night, on the occasion of her benefit. "Cinderella," entertaining enough in itself, was supplemented by the performances of a number of the artists from the other places of amusement, one of the most cordially received being Miss Ada Reeve, who sang her charming coon song, "Love me just a little, Sue." Chief interest, however, centred in the introduction to the public by the beneficiaire of a new musical scena, which she calls "A Dressing-room Dream." This is a charming and original little "turn," and shows how an actress who has come to snatch a few moments' rest in her dressing-room, falls asleep, and dreams of herself in various characters. This gave Miss Roze the opportunity of giving a number of clever impersonations, in which are associated several taking songs. The sketch, which is destined for the music hall stage, was enthusiastically received, and should have a prosperous career. Miss Roze presented several of the managerial staff, including Mr. J. F. Graham, with appropriate souvenirs, and the ladies who appeared received handsome bouquets.—Birmingham Daily Mail, March 3.

A GREAT RECEPTION.

Everyone should see the new and original scena of Miss Lelia Roze, aptly called "A Dressing-room Dream." The talented actress had a great reception last evening, when she appeared fresh from her starring engagement in pantomime. Her fine stage presence, her clever acting and singing, makes her novel turn most acceptable. The scena was produced for the first time at Miss Roze's recent benefit. It is the story of an actress's dream, during which Miss Roze changes into some five different costumes without leaving the stage, and sings as many songs. Then she awakes. The whole incident is cleverly portrayed.—Birmingham Gazette and Express, March 13.

"THE PHANTOM FOOTPAD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your last Saturday's issue, I read a notice of Mr. Mark Melford's new sketch *The Phantom Footpad*. I may state that some months ago I purchased from a well-known sketch author a comedy sketch with exactly the same idea and situations as those in Mr. Melford's, viz., the supposed robbery of the watch, &c. I do not wish to claim that idea as my property, for as far back as 1851 the late Maddison Morton wrote a farce entitled *The Two Bonnycastles*, and used the same idea—the robbery of the watch—upon which the entire plot of the farce was built. (See page 9 *The Two Bonnycastles*.) In proof of this, I herewith quote Bonnycastle's own words—"I started to run, and came into violent collision with an individual; but no sooner did I recover from the shock, than I found my watch had gone. I rushed after the thief, seized my watch from his fob, and went home. The first thing I saw lying on my dressing-table was my own watch, that I had left behind." My reason for writing this letter is that I may run across Mr. Melford in the music halls, and I have no desire of being accused of stealing Mr. Melford's ideas.—Yours faithfully, HARRY C. YOUNG.

MR. FRED MILLS, with Mr. Lazern and Mlle. Yasiho, was due to arrive at Tilbury on Friday. The popular ventriloquist has returned from his tour of Australia, New Zealand, India, etc., by the Royal Mail steamer "Arabia."

"THE FLOOD."

A Dramatic and realistic Spectacular Episode, written by Arthur Shirley, music by Clarence C. Corri.
Produced at the London Hippodrome on Monday March 19.

Harry Darvill .....MR. HAL FORDE
Wilkins .....MR. BERT GILBERT
Zambarro .....MR. CECIL MORTON YORK
Peter Peel .....MR. J. WINDHAM GUISE
Rosie Tynge .....MISS SIMETA MARSDEN
Lucy Gray .....MISS AIMÉE ROBERTS

The new production at the Hippodrome on Monday is the latest development of what has long been known as the "tank drama." But there are facilities at the big building in the Charing Cross-road for presenting this type of play that are of necessity lacking in the ordinary theatre; and hence Mr. Frank Parker was able to produce the elaborate and wonderfully realistic spectacle which should draw all London to the Hippodrome.

That experienced dramatist, Mr. Arthur Shirley, has done his share of the work by writing a playlet which skilfully leads up to the final catastrophe, the representation of which must have involved much thought and ingenious working out on the part of the producer and those associated with him. The scene is a pretty, picturesque little village. In the background is a stream spanned by a wooden bridge, and still farther away is seen a high cliff, down the face of which water gently drips. On the right stands the rustic old-fashioned inn, close to which a group of villagers are making merry. It is a joyous occasion, for to-day Harry Darvill, a young farmer, has wedded Rosie Tynge, the Belle of Ripplemere. The bridegroom, when he appears with his bonny bride, is called upon to make a speech, and Wilkins, his friend, and best man at the wedding ceremony, is entrusted with the superintendence of the refreshment department. Amid the rejoicings a discordant note is struck by Zambarro, a "strong man," who has himself fallen in love with the bride, and hates his successful rival. Old Peter Peel, the landlord of the village inn, also casts a damper on the proceedings by reminding his neighbours of the great flood that happened when the mountain dam burst fifty years ago. He hints that history may repeat itself at no distant date, but the merry villagers pay only scant attention to his croakings. Zambarro, confident of his ability to prove the victor, offers to wrestle with any man present. There being no response, he calls the yokels cowards, whereupon Harry Darvill accepts the challenge. A strenuous contest follows, but eventually the young farmer gains the victory, much to the delight of the onlookers. Meeting the bride alone, the villain offers her violence, but is quickly flung on one side by her enraged husband. In the meantime a thunderstorm has been gathering, and the gloom is illuminated by brilliant flashes of lightning. Then the storm breaks in earnest, and the rain descends in torrents. A woman on horseback dashes up and warns the villagers that the dam has burst. With shrieks of terror they seek safety by flight. The water now dashes over the rocky height like another Niagara, while horses, dogs, and cattle plunge into the lake that has been formed, and swim across. Men and woman are also seen struggling in the water, and the little inn collapses like a house of cards. But no pen picture can do justice to a scene which is so startling in its realism that it is likely to become the talk of the town.

Mr. Hal Forde as Harry Darvill was a gay and gallant bridegroom, who tackles the villain in right manly fashion; Mr. Bert Gilbert was very amusing in his embodiment of Wilkins, who seeks to avoid a watery grave by climbing a tree that has withstood the flood; Mr. Cecil Morton York was well placed as the morose "strong man," Mr. J. Windham Guise supplied a good sketch of the village innkeeper, Miss Simeta Marsden was an attractive bride, and Miss Aimée Roberts a pleasing bridesmaid. Tiller's Eight Snowdrops introduce a pretty country dance, which is greeted with applause. At the conclusion, Mr. Frank Parker appeared in response to the prolonged applause.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

"Lenten entertainment," as somewhat sneeringly spoken of by Rosencrantz in addressing Hamlet, is unknown to the vocabulary of Mr. Arthur J. Barclay, who, in arranging his programmes for one of the dullest periods of the year, presents his patrons with an exceedingly bright bill of fare. Mr. Barclay's reward comes in the substantial form of crowded and enthusiastic audiences.

The most important item in this week's programme is the appearance of Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians in *The Thirsty First*, a "new pantomimic absurdity." Practically without any connected story, the three scenes into which the piece is divided resolve themselves into a succession of rough-and-tumble incidents. But, if we are to have clowning, by all means let us have the clowning of Mr. Fred Karno's comedians. The ladies and gentlemen engaged work with unceasing zeal and unflagging energy to secure the laughter of the audience, and, it is but fair to add, succeed in doing so. The scenery is charming, and the military uniforms, albeit of a distinctly "mixed" description to be found in one barracks, are all handsome.

Mr. Brooks immediately renders himself a popular favourite with his inexhaustible humour, first as a daring and amusing fireman, and afterwards with a clever song, "Remedies." A great hit is also made by Boy Glen, who, fresh from his Australian triumphs, pleases everybody with his quaint patter in the broad Lancashire dialect. The Boy is loudly cheered. Miss Lizzie Daniels is a soubrette with considerable attainments, and, if her performance be reminiscent of a distinguished artist now in America, she is no mere imitator. Imitation, however, is well represented by Miss Lillian Elfreda, who accomplishes the unusual task of reproducing to a nicety the characteristics of several male stars of the variety stage, while her imitation of Miss Marie Lloyd is extremely clever. Miss Lily Lena is a charming comedienne, who only requires to possess herself of some better songs to achieve a big success. As it is, the little lady makes a very favourable impression. In place of an entertainment which was promptly removed by Mr. Barclay from the bill after the first night, the Ferrari Duo charm their audiences with their dancing. Both the lady and the gentleman are experts in their line, and combine grace and agility to a remarkable degree. Their performance on Tuesday gave unbounded satisfaction to the crowded house. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope has, as usual, some highly amusing films, and the series representing a local scene, and introducing many well-known personages, receives the warmest applause. The cheers that awaited the appearance of Mr. Barclay and Mr. Geo. F. Slatter at the curtain were eloquent of the esteem in which the management of the Palace are held. Mr. H. Petersen's fine orchestra give a splendid rendering of Beethoven's overture, "The Men of Prometheus." Mr. John Grant, on whom devolves the onerous duties of stage-management, is to be complimented on the smoothness with which the whole programme is carried out.

MISS BILLIE BARLOW writes:—"My attention has been drawn to the fact that photographs are being sent round to the managers, agents, and others in the name of 'Little Billie Barlow.' I wish to point out that the lady in question is no connection of mine, has no right to use my name, is doing so without my consent, and is thereby causing me great annoyance."

THE OXFORD ANNIVERSARY.

Had Mr. Albert Gilmer been called upon for a speech on the night of Friday, the 16th inst., when was celebrated the thirteenth anniversary of the Oxford, he might have given some interesting particulars of the early days of this noteworthy house and its changes and chances and developments under various managements; but the packed and enthusiastic audience towards the end of the evening were like Mrs. Malaprop, they did not wish "to anticipate the past," but rather to rejoice in the present. They were afforded opportunities innumerable of doing this by the efforts of a special company of the principal variety entertainers at present engaged in the metropolis, who were marshalled on to the stage with much celerity by Mr. George Womack, the capable stage-manager. The auditorium was prettily decorated; flowers and flags embellished the fronts of the boxes, and the soft beams of many-hued electric bulbs shed their radiance over the scene. The special floral ornamentation of the stalls saloon was very much admired. It was the work of Mr. Fred Erwood, of Covent Garden, who was responsible for chaste embellishments of a similar character in other parts of the house. One of the successes of the bill was scored by Messrs. Price and Revost, a couple of acrobats—one of them an eccentric of the first rank, who inextricably mixes himself up with the furniture, and keeps the audience laughing all the time. His partner is a wonderful somersaultist. A section of the Oxford audience showed their appreciation of the turn on the anniversary night by shouting in chorus, "We want some more." Mr. George Chirgwin, one of the oldest of the Oxford performers, repeated his famous song, "My fiddle is my sweetheart," and in his patter referred to the celebrated "Jewell case," with a few incidental puns. The superb Miss Alexandra Dagmar sang in her most brilliant style; Miss Violet Elliott gave "The Lost Chord"; Foreman and Fannan amused the audience with their funny song, "The blow killed father"; and Miss Dolly Harmer contributed a cleverly-rendered number. Miss Queenie Leighton, resplendent in the costume of Prince Jasper, came from Drury Lane Theatre with a lady quartet to sing a pretty melody, the success of which was rounded off by an even prettier dance. Miss Victoria Monks repeated her success with "Ain't you going to say good-bye"; Miss May Henderson sang of Joanna; and Kopski chose a classical selection for his pianoforte solo. Mlle. Eugenie Fougère referred in song to the visit of the L.C.C. to Paris, one of the verses in English being written by Mr. Charles Wilmott, and sung by the Gallic comedienne with much success. Mr. Arthur Roberts and company repeated the success of the perversion of His Majesty's play *Nero*, giving full effect to the funny lines of Mr. Adrian Ross and the excellent music of Augustus Barratt. Excellent work in this production is done by Mr. Stanley Damerell, Miss Frances Kapstowne, Miss Eleanor May, Miss Yates, and Miss Ruby Celeste. Mr. Joe Elvin scored a triumph with his comic concoction *Obedient Billy*, which was played to an accompaniment of loud laughter. Other turns that were announced on the festival night were Mr. Fred Russell, Mr. Ernest Shand, Ross and Grayson, Mr. Arthur Reece, Kelly and Gillette, Macgovan and Macgovan, Billie Farrell, Mr. Bert Gilbert, Miss Jessie Preston, Mr. Harry Weldon, Miss Daisy James, Mr. V. L. Granville, Mr. Will Evans, and others. Among the people prominent in the variety world that were present we noticed Messrs. Hugh Jay Didcott, Joseph Wilson, George Scott, Harry Lundy, Frank Weeks, Jack Lotto, Marie Lloyd, and Jem Mace.

MISS MARIE LOFTUS

IN GRIMSBY AND PRESTON.

A HOUSE-FILLING BILL.

There will be crowded houses every night at the Palace, Grimsby, for is not Miss Marie Loftus here with her great entertaining capabilities. "Marie," as her delighted admirers like to call her, appears in all her greatest successes, and that is saying a great deal, for she has a very extensive répertoire, one of the most extensive of any artist on the stage. Her burlesque skit on modern dramatic artists is a piece of work which would take any audience by storm, and the Grimsby folk are not slow to grasp its merit. It is absolutely original. Miss Loftus makes up as half-villain and half-heroine, and the effect is tremendous. But even this is not her greatest hit, for her "Singers Past and Present" is quite the most original set of songs it has been our pleasure to listen to for a long period. Scotland, Ireland, and old English fashions are all hit off with the utmost cleverness, and this time the inimitable "Marie" carries everything before her. She is recalled again and again, and yet again. Her work is past all comparison, so far as the local stage is concerned.—Vide Press.

PHENOMENAL SUCCESS AT THE PALACE.

Marie Loftus has appeared before Grimsby audiences before, but, successful as she has been, she is proving even more popular this week at the Palace. For fully half an hour she remains on the platform, and everyone regrets when she leaves at the end of that time. She sings the old favourite, "He kissed me once, how ashamed I was," the story of a country wench's excursion to London, and the very funny song, "Imagination goes a long way." But her principal piece is the sketch, "Singers Past and Present," which explains itself. In cumbrous crinoline she sings an old-time song, in very juvenile costume she impersonates a child. In a smart frock of stars and stripes she gives a Yankee song, and in a staring costume of green and red she sings of Old Ireland. Her burlesque of a music hall nutshell drama is very funny. She comes on as the heroine, but suddenly turns, and appears as the villain, with frock coat and top hat. As the dialogue becomes animated, the rapid changes effected by simply turning towards one side of the stage or the other become very amusing. At the conclusion she fell on the floor, engaged in a fearful struggle to the death with herself. Her Indian song is very picturesque. She comes in from the back of the stage on a canoe, and sings and dances, and her assistant presents a lively Indian dance.—Grimsby Telegraph.

FLATTERING RECEPTION AT PRESTON.

Lively and vivacious as ever, Miss Marie Loftus had a flattering reception last night at the Preston Royal Hippodrome, when she commenced her week's engagement. Very large audiences assembled at both houses, and the popular burlesque actress's efforts were heartily applauded. After an amusing song about a country girl's excursion to London, she gave capital imitations of singers past and present. In cumbrous crinoline she sang an old-time song, and then in very juvenile costume impersonated a child. In a smart frock she rendered an American ditty, and, quickly changing to a costume of green and red, she sang about "Ould Oireland." But she was, perhaps, most successful in her burlesque of the music hall nutshell drama. Coming on to the stage as the heroine, she suddenly turned and appeared as the villain in frock coat and top hat. As the dialogue became animated she took first one part and then the other by quickly changing from side to side, and at the conclusion fell to the floor engaged in a struggle to the death with herself. Her Indian song was also very picturesque.—Vide Press.

THE foundation stone of the Putney Hippodrome will be laid on Saturday week by Sir Henry Kimber, M.P. The building, which is to cost £23,000—or more—has been designed by Mr. F. Hingston. The ceremony will take place at three o'clock in the afternoon.

NINETEEN HUNDRED SHILLINGS
FOR
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MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Subscribed to date, 1,933½ shillings.

	Shillings.
Belfast Theatrical Charities (per Fred W. Warden)	400
Leeds Tivoli Collecting Box	108
Dr. Walford Bodie	100
Wm. Morton	63
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mannering	25
Johnny Holland	21
P. Madden	21
G. H. Chirgwin	21
Mr. Pat Doherty	21
Charles Weldon	20
Nellie Wilson	10½
Bros. Webb	10
Andie Caine	3
Lydia Dudley	1
Marie Gautier	1
Fred Ewing Albini	1
Rozel	1
Nellie Nora	1

Collected by Regan and Ryan, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, £1 1s.

Ada Reeve	5	Patty Yole	2½
Harry Tate	5	Fanny Dango	2½
Regan and Ryan	5	Miss Martin	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, £1 12s.

Fred Kitchen	1	Allen Dinning	1
Mrs. Fred Kitchen	1	For Luck	1
Fred Kitchen, jun.	1	J. Grahame	1
Cossie Kitchen	1	Tom Bowling	1
Gladys Kitchen	1	J. Begg	1
Tom Buxton	1	J. B. Helm	1
Janet Reeves	1	A. Brown	1
Dudley Powell	1	Barney Gordon	1
Leah Morris	1	Kate Forster	1
Ben. F. Rosenthal	1	Cossie Noel	1
Chas. Collins	1	Cain and Abel	1
Sam. Hawley	1	King Cole	1
Capt. Scott	1	B. Crabb	1
H. Lappo	1	H. C. Myers	1
J. Gass	1	J. Hart	1
Bert Landeck	1	F. Kitchen, minor	1

Collected by "Griff," £1 10s.

Griff	1	Griff's Mother	1
Mrs. Griff	1	Griff's Sister	1
Harry Griff	1	Griff's Other Sister	1
George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
John Griff	1	Alpha Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
The Only Griff	1	Fourth Griff	1
Griff's Pupils	1	Fifth Griff	1
The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
Griff's Father	1	Seventh Griff	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

Hetty King	5	A. Lester	1
F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

Annie Meyers	1	E. Cutler	2½
Edgar Budden	1	Allan Wye	1
Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
Aggie Fenton	1	L. M. Woolf	1
Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
J. D. Newton	1	Walter Kooney	2½
Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

Collected by Frazer and Mac, £2 12s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	John Allison	1
Gladys Frazer	1	Rohda Bros.	2
Frank C. Frazer	1	Mr. and Mrs.	
Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	1
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs. Jeane Priver	2
Givani Cristie	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Geo. Vickery	1	Erna Harrison	1
Vi Esdaile	1	Mina Fisher	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Adalfinia Dillmer	1
Will Collins	1		

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½	Lily Black	1
Bob Selvidge	1	Alf. Fry	1
Fred Fowler	1	Fred Wood	1
Katie May	1	Gus Harris	1
Cissy Iris	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Harry Nelson	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Emmie Franks	1	Danl. Rutherford	1
Fred E. Terry	1	S. Pincus	1
Fred Calvert	1	Fred Balchin	1
Bowery Boys	1	Katie May	1
Billy McClain	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
J. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
W. Pardoe	1	Fred Land	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Geo. Penn	1
Frank Woodville	1		
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydora, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	1
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlyn	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Collected by Mr. James Brady, 9s.

Ernest Ball	1	J. Woods	1
Ethel Dunford	1	M. Anderson	1
"Zaid"	1	Sam Jones	1
R. W. Manning	1	James Brady	1
D. J. Banks	1		

Collected by Miss Maud Mortimer, 34s.

G. Norton	1	Alf. Bishop	1
W. J. Churchill	5	W. H. J.	1
H. Calver	1	Billy Closs	1
Bert Burnell	1	A Friend	1
Billy Barlow	1	James Chippendale	1
J. H. Whittaker	2	L. C.	1
Jack Davenport	5	Frederick Ross	1
Walter Gillman	1	Maude Mortimer	5
Boris Fridkin	5		

Collected by Barrett and Knowles, 25s.

George F. Ide	1	Madge Sinclair	1
Harry Barrett	1	Louie Mavis	1
Jack Knowles	1	Maicolm Scott	1
José Collins	1	J. P. Wilson	1
Birdie Sutherland	1	K. A. Hutchison	1
Alice Russon	1	Bob Potter	1
Paul Knox	1	W. B. Barratt	1
Harry Laudy	1	Arthur Sutcliffe	1
Bessie Featherstone	1	Billy Ireland	1
Syd May	1	Uncle Scott	1
Alice Belmore	1	P. C. Murray	1
Dorothy Ide	1	Max Rose	1
Jeanie Christoe	1		

Collected by Mr. Charles Beanland, 22s. 6d.

Chas. Beanland	1	Harry Tomlinson	1
Anon	1	Henris	1
Boys	1	Mrs. Fred Cary	1
G. Cerney	1	E. S. Salambo	1
Belmonts	2	C. M. J.	1
F. Armstrong	1	Harry Du Gros	1
E. Korrie	1	Eddie Stidder	1
A Friend	1½	Tom Bonnetti	1
J. Zedora	1	Gus Rickards	1
J. C. Skelsey	2	Harry Trevor	1

Collected by Ernie Mayne, Esq., 9s.

Ernie Mayne	1	Daisy Dormer	1
St. John Madley	1	Lina Vercli	1
Geo. Formby	1	Robert Pender	1
Drew and Alders	2	Maggie Pender	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, £1 17s.

Bob Selvidge	2½	Barney Dixon	2
Fred Fowler	2½	Mrs. Selvidge	1
Martin Conway	1	Frank Gee	1
Joe Waldron	1	Will Gee	1
B. Nicholls	1	Mrs. Martin Conway	1
F. Borland	1	Fox	1
Harry Dent	1	Mr. Clemart	1
Fanny Harris	1	Mr. Charles Weldon	1
Miss Walker	1	Baby Conlin	1
John Tiller	1	Griff	1
John L. Tiller	1	Summerton	1
Mrs. Conlin	1	Juno Salmo	1
F. W. Balchin	1	Bessie Cohen	1
Mrs. Balchin	1	Harrogate Friend	1
Harry Conlin	1	Sidney Bacon	1
Carlton	1	Harry Elliston	2

Collected by Harris and Worth, 15s.

Harris and Worth	2	Mabel Higson	1
Chas. Russell	1	M. Mamie Iris	1
Billy Keene	1	Syd Dooley	1
Fred Dry	1	George Coopers	1
Will Letters	1	Carrie Mack	1
Johnny Worman	1	Les B. Americaines	1
Mr. Rutt	1	W. J. Williams	1

Collected by Mr. T. C. Callaghan, 10s.

T. C. Callaghan	2	Mike Cray	1
W. Dane	1	Griff	1
J. Waldron	1	Alpha	1
A. H.	1	Florrie St. Clair	2

Collected by Mr. Ernest Shand, £1 2s.

K. Vesey	1	P. Davies	1
Ruby Forbes	1	Gladys Dare	1
Meg Hampton	1	L. Kinross	1
Ethel Dunbar	1	M. Molloy	1
Enid Errol	1	Alexandre	1
H. C. B.	1	N. E.	1
Brabourne	1	Hughes	1
Herbert	1	Ernest Shand	1
T. W. Wood	1	Ditto	1
A. Linton	1	La Même	1
Bee Duppa	1	Idem	1

Collected by Sandford and Lyons, 24s.

Neil Kenyon	1	Ted Fields	1
Harry Zietz	1	Morny Cash	1
Albert Le Fre	1	Mrs. Morny Cash	1
Lil Hawthorne	1	Madge Daly	1
Geo. McNally	1	John Worman	1
John McNally	1	Tom E. Gilbey	1
Arthur Haytor	1	Dave Poole	1
Colin Coop	1	Chas. Parker	1
E. T. S.	1	Vivian Munro	1
Geo. Miller	1	Willie Edelsten	1
Dave Miller	1	Geo. Abel	1
Mr. Smithers, M.B.C.	1	Will Letters	1

Collected by Mr. Frank Dunlop, 20s.

Mdlle. De Rose	2½	Frank Dunlop	2½
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Fanny Hartland	2½
Dick Thomas	1	Houpla	1
Jack Kershaw	1	Steve Cooke	1
Syd Benson	1	Geo. Burton	1
Geo, Hecla	1	Miss Adele Roze	1
Rose Parreyer	1	Miss Zenapana	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, Esq., 14s.

Fred Herbert	1	C. W. Porter	1
R. Millett	1	Roma and Romani	1
Hughes and Elliott	1	The Rubens	1
T. E. Dunville	1	Hanvarr	2
Jim Howard	1	Anna Lee	2
Ronald Bayne	1	Gus Dallon	1

Collected by Mr. Chas. Clifford, 8s.

Charles Clifford	1	Kate Moffat	1
George Essmann	1	T. Hulbert	1
Oldbury Brough	1	H. J.	1
Graham Moffat	1	Georgie Butler	1

Collected by Swan and Vesta, 5s.

Swan and Vesta	1	Oscard Armino	1
Primavesi	1	Charles Danton	1
Fred Wood	1		

Collected by the Danbys, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 25s.

Kioto	5	Peter Thompson	5
The Danbys	5	Wallace Childs	1
Bill Bill	1	William Attfield	1
Geo. Collins	1	George E. Mudd	1
Pink Pyjamas	1	Fred Danvers	1
Anon	1	Billy Pakeman	1
J. Templar Ellis	1		

Collected by the Bowery Boys, Grand Theatre, Leeds, 25s. 6d.

Bowery Boys	5	Fred Cowman	1
Harry Conlin	1	Alf Howard	1
Fred E. Terry	1	G. H. Elliott	1
Fred Fowler	1	J. W. Rowley	5
Carlton	2½	Fred W. Balchin	1
Rose and Calvert	1	Hilda Jacobsen	5

Collected by Miss Nellie Wallace, 25s.

Bert Williams	1	W. F. Munroe	1
Bert Woodward	1	Emma Don	1
Arthur Danbys	1	Three Seabornes	1
Richardson Taylor	1	Kate Lynd	1
Nuttall Cross	1	C. Stewart	1
George Abel	1	Norton Greenop	1
James Stewart	1	W. H. Liddy	1
Chas. Dixon	1	Nellie Wallace	10

Collected by Miss Maud Beaumont, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 16s.

Kioto	5	Mr. Peter Thompson	5
Geo. Collins	1	Mr. J. W. Childs	1
Mr. Liddy	1	Miss Maud Beaumont	2
Anon	1		

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, 6s.

Geo. Rapley	2	Rosie Archer	1
Woolmer Young	1	Clyo and Rochelle	1
Macdonald Trio	1		

Collected by The Clevelands, 23s.

F. Cleveland	1	J. Sary	1
Mrs. Cleveland	1	A. Knight	1
A. Silbon	1	J. D. Hunter	1
Dale and O'Malley	1	Dave Bentley	1
D. Tubb	1	Fred C. Dew	1
H. Vivian Fisher	1	F. B. Farrant	1
Florrie Cleveland	1	R. Whiteley	1
J. Wood	1	E. De Vere	1
Tom Branson	1	Harry Weldon	1
C. Carey	1	Minnie Duncan	1
W. E. Urquhart	1	Arthur E. Godfrey	1
H. Bauerman	1		

Collected by Mr. Imro Fox, 17s.

Max Copland	1	Mr. T. F. Dun	1
Arthur Dandoe	1	Harry Lauder	1
Imro Fox	1	Alice Russoll	1
Dan Crawley	1	J. C.	1
Paul Knox	1	Mrs. Imro Fox	1
Carl Hertz	1	Alfred Carpenter	1
Mrs. Carl Hertz	1	Conn and Conrad	1
Mr. J. Craig	1	C. C. Bartram	1
Mr. Frayser	1		

Collected by Mr. Alexander, 38s.

Topsy Robina Julian	10	Clara Alexander	1
Johnny Alexander	10	Bob Ralston	1
Harding	2	Ernest Selbini	1
Victor Selbini	2	Lillian Lowe	1
Leola Selbini	2	L. J.	1
Rumbo Austin	2	J. Olrac	1
Alf Gibson	2	C. Olrac	1
Harry Gregory	1		

Collected by Miss Ra Leslie, 33s. 6d.

Ethel Ra Leslie	1	St. Helens	1
Phyllis Gibbon	1	C. A. Trevitt	1
Florrie Chester	1	E. Holt	1
Boswells	2	V. Thompson	1
F. Travis	1	L. de Lacey	1
Dan Conroy	1	Miss Brown	1
Frank Evans	1	Mrs. E. Lucas	1
Edinburgh	1	J. Welwyn	1
H. E. Garden	1	Réné Willoughby	1
Mr. and Mrs. Brown	2	La Tostia	1
Strolling Players	1½	Gertrude Bradshaw	1
Arthur Lee	1	Frank Darwin	1
Ray Wallace	2	Boskelby	1
Vera Thompson	1	Harry Jefferson	1
Lilian Leslie	1	Flo Peirce	1

Collected by Mr. Edward Johnson, 20s.

Bert Johnson	1	"Curly"	1
Will Johnson	1	H. Elton	1
Ed. Johnson	1	Little Ganty	2½
Daisy Martell	1	Madge May	2½
Tom Groves	2	E. Addler	1
H. Sheffield	1	C. C. Bartram	1
J. L. Sheffield	1	W. Ethairien	1
E. de Hague Body	1	Fred Astley	1

Collected by Mr. Will Johnson, 35s. 6d.

Powis Pinder	1	Mrs. Fred Hall	1
Will Johnson	1	Bertha Northam	1
Daisy Martell	1	Les Four Papillons	2
Ed. Johnson	1	Miss Mildred Baker	1½
Bert Johnson	1	Capt. Taylor	1
H. Berlin	1	Fanny Wright	1
Winsley Russell	1	Capt. Gray	2
Tim	1	New York Comedy Four	4
G. V. Arnold	1	G. Messer	1
Geo. Danvers, jun.	1	H. Jno. Burgess	1
May Gurney	1	Mr. Hadsley	1
R. Verdi	1	Will Holmes	1
B. Albert	1	Mac	1
Gilbert Laye	1	Chappell	1
Leonard Hornsey	1		
Fred Hall	1		

Collected by Mr. Lawrence Barclay, 26s.

Lawrence Barclay	5	Lily Lingard	2
Will Poluski	3	Esta Stella	2
Jack Lorrimore	2	E. W. Avery	1
Larry Lewis	1	Rich. Waldon	1
The Monkey	2	Sisters Hall	2
W. Harte	2	Annie Thomas	1
Arch. McDougall	1	Jas. Miller	1

Collected by the New Macs, 20s.

Mrs. T. McNally	1	Mr. Albert Mellor	1
Mr. J. J. McNally	1	Mr. Fred Donaldson	1
Mr. Geo. Mac	1	Mr. Tom Ardell	1
Mr. Jno. Mac	1	Dr. Syntax	1
Miss Jessy Dorrell	1	Mr. Robert Potts	1
Miss Annie Dorrell	1	Mr. Will Gibson	1
Mrs. Morny Cash	1	Mr. J. H. Taylor	1
Mr. Morny Cash	1	Mr. Forbes Russell	1
Mr. Geo. Sandford	1	Mr. Gilbert Martinengo	1
Mr. Geo. Lyons	1		
Mrs. Albert Mellor	1		

Collected by George Collins, 42s. 6d.

Kate Carney	5	Aryama	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	Ethel Dunford	1
Geo. Collins	2½	Jennie Johns	1
Harry Goodson	2½	Inky	1
Harry Speakman	2	W. L. Murray	1
The Danbys	2	Ethel Loftus	1
Bert Frost	1	Percy Oakley	1
One of Those	1	Robb H. Howard	1
Bert Williams	1	Frank Sherlock	1
Bert Woodward	1	Jean Van Dalle	1
Maude Beaumont	1	David Barone	1
Minnie Moran	1	Terras Bros.	1
Harry Leybourne	1	Mersano	1
Sisters Melba	1	H. Atkinson	1
W. J. Ashcroft	1	Kitty Clover	1
Amandus	1	Fred Malcolm	1

Collected by Miss Kathleen Courteney, 27s.

Kathleen Courtney	3	H. A. Luke	1
W. Pegge	2½	C. H. M. Stanley	1
Chas. T. Andrews	2½	X. Y. Z.	1
E. H. Jones	2½	D. Bradley	1
C. G. M.	2½	Little Brother	1
G. Duckworth	2	Paris	1
T. F. Mathews	2	S. Duncan	1
F. Swift	2	A. J. Cohen	1

Collected by Haig and Novel, 4s.

T. Haig	1	Tom Haig	1
Miss Novel	1	Miss Novel	1

Collected by Mr. James De Voye, 50s.

Billy's Picture Postcards	20	Anon	1
Billy's (Educated Pony's) Box	15	Tom Lloyd	1
James De Voye	5	Grant and Grant	1
W. Emmett	2	Henri Bekker	1
Ariel and Astarte	1	Billy's Groom	1
		Mrs. De Voye	1
		Walter Curtis	1

Collected by the Sisters Terry, 9s.

Maxwell and Frances	2	Marguerite Ismay	1
Minnie Terry	1	Eileen Douglas	1
Bella Terry	1	Mabel Higson	1
Maudie Ford	1	Wee Macgregor	1

Collected by Mr. Dan. Crawley, 5s.

Imro Fox	1	Harry Champion	1
Dan Crawley	1	Lilian Bishop	1
Arthur Dandoe	1		

Collected by Chant and Chant, 12s.

Chant and Chant	2	Harry Lee	1
Wild and Willie	2	C. Hutson	1
A Friend	1	R. Everton	1
Gertrude Mason	1	H. Burns	1
B. Wilde	1	Wm. Ransford	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Rogerson, 20s.

W. B. Kelly	2½	H. W. Gillette	1
Carlotta Levey	2	Mrs. Harry Rogerson	1
Harry Kilburn	1	Miss Amy Rogerson	1
Johnny Fuller	1	Mrs. Whit Rogerson	1
Fred Spencer	1	Master Fred Rogerson	1
James Foreman	1	Master Hal Rogerson	1
Peter Fannan	1	Harry Rogerson	4½

Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive filled-up subscription cards addressed to him for publication at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MISS MARGARET RADCLIFFE, who will to-night conclude her pantomime engagement at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, of thirteen weeks and one day, playing Allan-a-Dale in *The Babes in the Wood*, can truly say that the old songs retain their hold on the public. Into the second edition of the pantomime she introduced "Loch Lomond," which has been received with great enthusiasm, and by special request on St. Patrick's night she sang "Dear little shamrock," which was the greatest success of the evening. After one week's rest Miss Radcliffe returns to the halls.

HACKENSCHMIDT and Madrali have at last arranged to meet in a wrestling match at Olympia on April 28, at 9 p.m. Of 60 per cent. of the receipts allotted to them the winner will take 65 and the loser 35 per cent. The men also have a side-bet of £100.

A NEW little dramatic sketch written by Mr. G. Hyde Lees for Miss Davies Webster's and Miss Rose Cazelet's entertainment company is in active preparation. It is being produced under the stage direction of Mr. George P. Hawtrey. Mr. Gordon Bailey, Miss Violet Cecil, Miss Webster, and Miss Cazelet form the cast. The first performance will be on the stage of a private house, but the sketch will probably be seen shortly in public.

LATENT TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I read Charles Elton's letter, and now have before me Mr. Fred Baugh's reply. I would like to say, in justice to Mr. Baugh, that two years ago, through the instrumentality of a brother "Pro." I obtained an extra turn at the Foresters on a Thursday afternoon (*being unknown in* LONDON). There were at least a dozen turns on before me, and I can honestly state they were facilitated and encouraged in every way by Mr. Baugh and his able lieutenants, and as a result of *my* appearance I obtained several dates.

On the subject of agents and their methods, might I be permitted to say a word? There are one or two of them who take a violent fancy to a "new turn," and book it at establishments where the audiences are totally different, viz., at a first-class hall we get an audience which appreciates a refined "turn." The following week one may be engaged at a hall where a performer in evening dress is like the proverbial red rag to the bull, and is *not* appreciated. If you do not "catch on" at this particular establishment the agent promptly drops you instead of using a little tact and securing "shops" at suitable places.

I am glad to see that an agency has started in Liverpool whose modus operandi is distinctly "out of the ordinary." Thanking you in anticipation for inserting this letter.—Yours faithfully,

FRED McARTHUR.

104, St. Lawrence-road, Clontarf,
Dublin, March 18.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—*Re* the article appearing in your last issue in reference to foreign acts in England by Dave Wallace, does the above gentleman wish to turn the up-to-date English variety theatre back to the year 1706? In all countries I find many artists out of employment through lack of ability, through their acts being too old, or because they have no influence. As is generally the case, the market is over-stocked.

Generally a comic singer, or anyone who talks, depends upon a few crazy words to pull them through; whereas a show number has probably spent all his or her life in completing or perfecting one act, and, of course, must visit different countries in order to get a living. Now, I have devoted the major portion of my life to my one profession, as most all show turns do, and I am sure I am worth a look in before any intelligent public. The world is not large enough for a good novelty to get what it is really worth, nor is it large enough to produce the novelties the public demands. According to my friend's opinion an artist might waste half his or her life to play a few months in their own country. As I said before, a comic singer can buy a few songs that someone else has no doubt written for him, and can always justify a re-engagement with new numbers. It is an impossibility in our line of business to come back even within two years with a new act. So it is, of course, quite natural for a show number to travel (or quit the business to satisfy Mr. Wallace).

Last week, while passing through Paris, I noticed at the Alhambra (Barrasford's Hall) that almost every turn on the bill was English, and, furthermore, a great success. Why? Because the public abroad likes anything that is foreign to it. I can name you lots of halls on the Continent that play six to eight English turns nightly year in, year out. What about the Winter Garten Berlin; Apollo Theater, Berlin; Central Theater and Victoria Salon, Dresden; Millini's, Hannover; Apollo Theater, Düsseldorf; Battenberg's Variety, Leipzig, &c.? Then there are establishments in Vienna, Budapest, Italy, France, Switzerland, Russia, &c., that play nothing else but English turns, and will have nothing else. I don't suppose Mr. Wallace knows of the existence of such places. He ought to take a little trip over to the Continent and see for himself. Then I am sure he would certainly change his mind.

I should like him to name the hall in England where they play as many show numbers as eight on one programme—perhaps he was at a benefit—the majority of halls in England play nothing else but comic singers and serio-comics. If all the English turns were told to get out of it abroad and go home, as Mr. Wallace thinks ought to be done to the foreign acts here, I do not think it would really help the unemployed question one bit. Now, some of the up-to-date managers here in England, when looking for a novelty, have to go abroad to find it. Likewise the foreign manager has to come to England or cross the streak to America to seek his novelty. I can name you dozens and dozens of English turns that are on the Continent, and have been there for years and years, and would not think of ever coming back to their own country, for they are treated too well the other side, where one can go and talk with a first-class director or agent and do business right away. Over here it is "Please call again." Who ever can see the manager from the Palace or the Alhambra, or from Moss and Stolls'? Another thing I must say is that in England there are fewer business men in this business than in any other business done in the world.

Will Mr. Wallace be kind enough to answer me the following question—Should a foreign manager or agent happen to see you work in England, take to your number, talk business with you, and offer you a good salary for twelve months abroad, would you refuse it, and say, "No; engage your own people"? Supposing you were offered one-third of the salary of Little Tich (who is now appearing in Paris with success) to appear in Paris what would your answer be?

I am an English show turn, and have to make my living abroad as there are too many comic and serio-comics on the bills here to give anyone a chance. But, thank God! there is always room for a show turn abroad—English or not.—Yours faithfully,

AN ENGLISHWOMAN
(And one who knows).

March 21.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—*Re* the controversy in your esteemed paper on "Latent Talent," I should like to say a few words on the subject. I have been in the business about nine years as a comic singer, but as that line of business seemed overcrowded, and all managers say give us novelty, novelty, novelty, I have thought out an idea which I think you will agree is a novelty in every sense of the word. I am open to back my opinion that the idea as worked by me is *absolutely original*, and has not been worked on any stage. I have worked this act in London, and have been fairly successful, as the enclosed Press notices will show. But I have been unable to get any agent to come and see the show. Had I been a turn with a name, all the agents would have jumped over each other in their hurry to get the act. What I should like to know is, What is the use of a small turn thinking out new ideas if he cannot get a market for them? As I do not write for a free advertisement, I enclose my card, and sign myself—Yours truly,

ENGLISH NOVELTY.

MR. JOHN D. HUMPHREYS, agent in advance for many years to Lord George Sanger, died suddenly on Wednesday, at Merthyr, Wales, aged 58 years. The deceased was one of the founders of the M.H.A.R.A., his card of membership being No. 8. The funeral is fixed for to-day, the body having been conveyed by train to Paddington Station last night.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, FEB. 13.—Mr. R. G. Knowles, under engagement to Mr. J. C. Williamson, opened a two

"LULU;
or, THE HEART OF AN ACTRESS."

A New Dramatic Sketch, by Charles Darrell, Produced at the London Music Hall, Shoreditch, on Monday evening, March 19.

Hector Montcalm .....MR. CLIFFORD PEMBROKE
Marmaduke Fitzaltamont ....MR. HARRY CARR
Tabitha Tappit .....MISS AMY LORRAINE
Edith Montcalm.....MISS MADGE BENNETT
Lulu .....MISS SYLVIA CAVALHO

It would be perfectly easy to imagine that the earlier part of the story which forms Mr. Charles Darrell's latest sketch had not merely been founded on fact, but had occurred in actual life more than once, probably under the author's own observation. Hector Montcalm is a theatrical manager who has made a decent little fortune in the provinces, mainly through the efforts of Lulu, his principal actress. He is about to produce in London the play which has proved so successful in the country, and has engaged a London actress to play the principal part, leaving Lulu with the provincial company at Northampton. Lulu is indignant at the thought that she, who had "made" the play in the provinces, should not be permitted to appear in the London production. She determines to be revenged. She instructs her understudy to play the part for that night in the Northampton theatre, and she departs for the Metropolis. She arranges to place in the gallery some youths armed with carrots and other vegetables to be presented gratis and without formality to the London actress who is to play the part which she herself has made famous. Gaining admittance to the dressing-room of the star at the Crescent Theatre, where the piece is to be produced, Lulu meets Montcalm, and, of course, there is an angry scene. He is furious because she has left her understudy to play the principal character at Northampton, and she is furious because he has ignored her after, as she tells him, she had made a name and a position for him in life. It appears that she has given him something more than the best of her talent—he has had her love, and she had given herself to him in another way. While they are talking, a telegram comes announcing that the London star will be unable to appear owing to illness. The house is already packed from floor to ceiling. What can he do? In despair he turns to Lulu. She at first refuses to act the part, but eventually consents when it is pointed out to her that on the production of the play depends the livelihood of numerous people who are in need of money. At the conclusion of Act I. she returns to the dressing-room. She has triumphed. To the dressing-room, too, there comes the wife of the manager. This is her first visit to the mysterious world known as "behind the scenes." She is anxious to make the acquaintance of the clever young actress who has created such a wonderful impression at her London début. Mrs. Montcalm introduces herself. The knowledge that the manager is a married man is brought so suddenly to Lulu that for the moment she disbelieves the statement of the woman who confronts her, and boldly tells her that she must be lying. Then, when her visitor refers to the child, who draws a stronger union between husband and wife, Lulu realises that it must be Mrs. Montcalm who is speaking to her and that Mrs. Montcalm must be speaking the truth. Upon the reappearance of the manager, Lulu demands to know whether he really loves her or whether he loves another. He replies that there is no other woman that he cares for. Then she informs him that she has seen his wife. In the midst of her bitter condemnation of his cruel conduct, the stage-manager rushes in to tell her that the stage is waiting. She refuses to budge. He reminds her that women and children want food and husbands and fathers are being employed in the theatre. For the sake of her art she assents. She feels that her work is the only thing now worth living for, and just as she has explained the anguish of her soul in an angry explanation, she falls fainting to the ground.

Miss Sylvia Cavalho played with passion and fervour in the rôle of Lulu. Miss Cavalho's tragic powers need no recommendation at this hour, but in her latest characterisation her utmost efforts are called forth to express the fire and feeling of a tormented mind. Her acting was realistic in the deep note of intensity which it struck. Mr. Clifford Pembroke admirably conveyed the author's ideas of the theatrical manager, while as that worthy's wife Miss Madge Bennett gave us a quiet, subdued, ladylike person. Miss Amy Lorraine was distinctly amusing in the low-comedy part of Tabitha Tappit, the dresser, and Mr. Harry Carr suitably fulfilled the requirements of the less significant character of the stage-manager.

THE I.A.L.

AT the London meeting of the International Artists' Lodge at the Hôtel Provence, on March 18, a discussion arose out of the minutes in reference to a case which had not been reported with the name of the manager mentioned. It was decided that the case should be explained again in the report of this week. The case was as follows:—Two members of the I.A.L. made a contract with Manager Lorenz of the Scala, Copenhagen. The agent who made the contract had instructed the artists not to strike out anything in the contracts as the manager was a reasonable man, and would not give the artists any trouble. Last January the artists were offered a South African engagement. They wrote to the manager asking for a postponement of their engagement, and then received a letter from the agent saying that the management would grant a postponement if the artists were willing to take a later date at half the salary, and pay the agent 10 per cent. on the original contract and 10 per cent. on the second. The artists did not accept the proposition, and wrote that they would fill their original dates. They thereupon received a wire that the management had cancelled their engagement (para. 7), the real reason being that a similar act appeared at an opposition house. Thus the artists have lost both the South African and the Copenhagen engagements. All artists should be warned not to accept the cautions of agents, and to scratch out every objectionable clause, especially para. 7.

THE question of arranging all legal matters which might arise between the members of the I.A.L. and Messrs. Anger and Bauer by means of an Arbitration Committee, instead of going to law, was discussed. The London solicitor for the Lodge was also solicitor for Messrs. Anger and Bauer, and therefore could not act in such cases. The solicitor had written to the Lodge informing them that Messrs. Anger and Bauer had expressed themselves perfectly willing to put such cases before an Arbitration Committee, saying that they would infinitely prefer to arbitrate in all their affairs instead of going to law. A committee was then appointed to visit Messrs. Anger and Bauer with regard to the terms of arbitration and the constitution of the committee.

MOTIONS to be brought forward at the general meeting in Berlin on April 13 were discussed. The first of the business at that meeting would be the election of another member of the Executive Committee. Bro. 1211 spoke at some length on the advisability of having a member who was an Englishman and as often in England as possible on the executive. A long discussion took place as to whether it was necessary for this member to know German or not. Finally three names were suggested to be sent to the general meeting as candidates for the vacancy.

THE IVANHOE.

It is not generally known that Sir Edward Moss, the chief of the variety profession, is not only financially interested with Sir Robert Cranston in the Cranston Hotel business, but is related to Sir Robert, inasmuch as Captain Robert Cranston—the eldest son of the Lord Provost—married Miss Nellie Moss, the eldest daughter of Sir Edward Moss.

A new era in the march of the temperance hotel was inaugurated on Monday last, when the Ivanhoe Hotel was formally opened for the reception of the public. Among the many guests at the inaugural luncheon and subsequent reception at the hotel were Sir Thomas Lipton, Sir Thomas Dewar, Provost Glover, Mr. J. S. Cranston, Mr. Frank Matcham, Mr. Richard Warner, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, and Mr. Fitzroy Doll, the Duke of Bedford's architect, Captain R. E. Cranston, Mr. T. Duncan Rhind, the architect of the "Ivanhoe," Mr. Cuthbertson, and Mr. Wm. Howard, the contractor. It may interest the profession to know of a cheap, wholesome, and withal really comfortable haven wherein all that is desirable can be obtained for a purely nominal figure. The Ivanhoe Hotel is the third of the gigantic enterprises of Cranston's Waverley Hotels recently erected in London. Sir Robert Cranston (the Lord Provost of Edinburgh), who is responsible for this luxurious and palatial project, was interviewed by an *Era* representative on Monday last. Sir Robert had been entertaining something like 180 guests at luncheon at the famous Frascati Restaurant to celebrate the opening of the hotel. In the course of a very able public speech he had said that his father, Robert Cranston, one of the magistrates of the city of Edinburgh, started hotel keeping seventy years ago. He selected for his first hotel that beautiful site in Princes-street, Edinburgh, opposite the well-known monument to Sir Walter Scott. Afterwards he erected in its stead the handsome structure which now adorns Princes-street, Edinburgh. In 1850 he opened a "Waverley" Hotel in London. In 1860, a "Waverley" in Glasgow, and, in 1866, he purchased from the Government the old Post Office in Waterloo-place, Edinburgh, and it in turn was transformed into a "New Waverley." On the death of Mr. Cranston these popular establishments became the property of his family. It

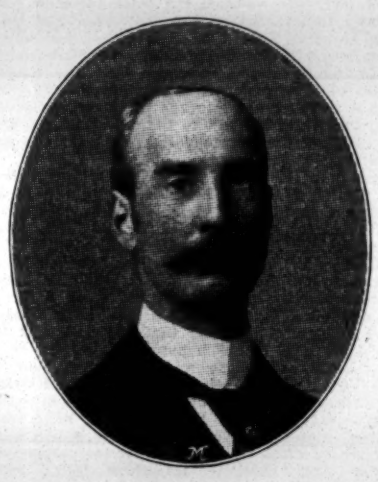


Photo by W. Crooke, Edinburgh.
SIR ROBERT CRANSTON.
Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh.

was, however, left to his eldest son (the present chairman of Cranston's Hotels Company, Ltd.) to make an entirely new development in unlicensed hotels. He acquired from the Duke of Bedford a site in Southampton-row, London, where the first of these up-to-date unlicensed hotels was erected only six years ago, and named the "Waverley." Then was built, in 1903, the now well-known "Kenilworth," and shortly after a third site on the Bedford Estate was secured, upon which has been built the "Ivanhoe" of to-day. The experience gained by the company in connection with the two hotels naturally led them to devise further advances and improvements in hotel life. The "Ivanhoe" accordingly stands to-day as one of the finest hotels in Great Britain, licensed or unlicensed, and as the management will be the same in the "Ivanhoe" as in the other two hotels, the company have every reason to believe that its success wil be even more speedy and marked than that of its two predecessors.

The new "Ivanhoe" Hotel has been erected on a central site covering an area of some 16,000 square feet at the corner of Bloomsbury-street and Great Russell-street, within fifty yards of Oxford-street, and directly opposite the "Kenilworth" Hotel, with the grand entrance to Bloomsbury-street. In design it may be called of the new Renaissance style, the ground floor constructed of Portland stone. The building has a frontage to Bloomsbury-street of 165 feet and to Great Russell-street of 145 feet. The hotel is constructed throughout on the very latest fireproof principles. The interior will be fitted up with 20 suites of rooms, besides 250 bedrooms, making in all about 300 bedrooms and 50 bathrooms. On entering the hotel by the entrance hall, which is 32 feet by 22 feet, panelled to the ceiling, in mahogany, with beautiful marble floor, one finds the reception bureau, central office, passenger and luggage lifts, main staircase to bedroom floors, telephones, and all arrangements conveniently at his hand. Opening in a corridor from the entrance hall are the smoking-rooms, billiard-rooms, and writing-rooms, decorated in the most artistic manner in wood panelling and leathers. At the end of this passage is a hairdresser's shop, especially for the use of patrons of the hotel. On the other side is a large lounge with ingle-neuk fireplace, and opening from that again—a special feature of the hotel—the ladies' lounge. Another corridor leads to the dining-room, a beautiful hall 80 feet long by 40 feet wide, panelled in wainscoting oak with fine plaster ceiling and decorated windows, with the arms of the different cities from which the hotel draws its patronage. The dining-room and its subservient offices, viz.:—the servery, kitchen, &c., have received in this hotel very special attention, and no expense has been spared on fittings and appliances, so that the catering may be of the highest class The hotel is furnished from the latest designs, and, at the same time, in a most sumptuous and comfortable manner.

"A few years ago," said Sir Robert, "it would have seemed a contradiction in terms to speak of a palatial hotel run on temperance principles, but, paradoxical as it may seem, 'the time doth give it proof.' There are hotels to the full as palatial as the largest caravanserais of the ordinary kind, but conducted on strictly temperance lines. To the big buildings in the district of West Central London, where so many novelties in big architecture are daily materialising themselves—hotels, theatres, music-halls, and so forth—there is now to be added the 'Ivanhoe' Hotel, an unlicensed building in Bloomsbury-street, which forms one of the group known thereabouts and out of London as the Cranston Hotels."

On the whole, the opening of the hotel may be taken as distinctly successful, and, judging from the fact that there were very few of the 600 bedrooms vacant on the first evening, it may be taken for granted that it will fill an existing want, especially when it is taken into consideration that you can stay there in supreme comfort in a small castle all to yourself, have a breakfast of as many courses as you like, take a bath, receive every attention and civility, and take advantage of the telephone and other luxuries, for the very moderate sum of five shillings.

"BLUE JAY."

By Peggy Webling. London: William Heinemann.

Miss Peggy Webling takes her readers behind the scenes both at the circus and the music hall. Blue Jay is the curious name of her hero, whose acquaintance we first make when he is quite a little boy. Through the kindness of the proprietor of the show, he, with a little girl companion, is permitted to witness a circus performance inside a big tent pitched in a piece of waste land in the outskirts of Cooling River, a small Canadian town. The part of the entertainment that most interested the boy is thus described:—

"The horsemanship, the performing lions, the clown, and the strong man sunk into insignificance in the eyes of Jay as soon as a juggler stepped into the arena. Even if he had had a programme, the word 'juggling' would have conveyed no meaning to the boy; but the strange appearance of this performer, who possessed the only pair of silk tights in the company and a tinselled doublet, awakened his curiosity, and when he commenced to toss and catch half-a-dozen glittering balls that all seemed to be circling round his head at the same second, Jay lifted his voice in a great shout of approbation.

"'Ang-core!'

"He had no idea of the meaning of encore, but had observed that it evidently expressed the highest approval on the part of the audience.

"The glittering balls dazled and delighted him. He thought they were set with diamonds. He longed and dreaded for the spell to be broken by the juggler dropping one or another of his shining orbs."

After this visit to the circus, Jay, having obtained possession of half-a-dozen rubber balls, began to practice the art of juggling in secret. He lived with his brother and sister-in-law, a hard, unsympathetic woman, who showed him little kindness. "He was a gentle boy, although he could play and shout with the best, a particularly swift runner, as good a skater as any boy in Cooling River, and could drive his toboggan down the most dangerous hills with unfailing skill and courage. Jay preferred solitude to the companionship of others. He only cared for Nessie to share his wanderings. She was barely six, and he often had to carry her, besides lifting her over high fences, and protecting her from dogs and big toads. They were both lonely children, and the affection between them was like the intimacy of twin brother and sister."

Two years passed away, and then it was decided that the boy, who was now eleven, should be apprenticed to a stove and hardware manufacturer. But Jay did not like Mr. Lewis, and so resolved to run away from home. Early one morning he crept out of the house, said good-bye to his little sweetheart, Nessie, who was the only living being that was aware of his intention, and sturdily set out on his journey into an unknown world. For the many curious adventures Blue Jay meets with, we must refer the reader to this clever and interesting novel. We need only add that the hero gradually rises to eminence in the profession of his adoption, and reaches the height of his fame when at a leading London variety theatre he produces a new act, in which "Jay suddenly appeared at the back of the stage, with drooping head and his figure hidden between dark wings that were folded round him. Thunder pealed and flashes of lightning played round his head. His feet dragged to the beating sound of rain, and he shuddered from head to foot.

"As this wild storm of a minute died away, a ray of sunlight fell across his face, he threw up his head and smiled—a radiant smile with parted lips—and very slowly unfolded his wings. They were fastened to his shoulders and hips, and were of some gleaming, deep-blue material, that faded to palest turquoise at the long, feathery tips. As they swept apart, he bent forward and raised his arms over his head, the pale light grew warm with colour, and suddenly the air was filled with the waving red boughs of a maple tree.

"He ran backwards and forwards between the boughs, so swiftly that it was bewildering to see, and then his wings commenced to flutter, and, after some seconds, a few people in the front rows noticed that he had risen several inches above the ground, and was apparently running on air.

"As he gradually rose higher, the words passed from one to another—

"'He's flying!'

"His wings began to beat the air with a long, sweeping stroke, and his limbs became still. His arms were outspread on the inside of the wings, not fastened, but seeming to add to their strength; his chin was thrown up, and his chest inflated like a swimmer on the crest of a wave.

"Long practice and his gift of balance effectually banished, for the minute, all suggestions of mechanical aid, and he dipped towards the earth or shot upwards like a bird on the wing.

"The whole stage was flooded with light that melted from green into pale blue, and glowed from purple into flame. The giant branches swung to a rhythmic beat, and Blue Jay flew among them—now quickly, with his arms above his head, as if he were diving through the sky; now slowly, with his beautiful pinions hardly stirring, as if he were sleeping on the air."

The picture which adorns the cover of the book representing "Blue Jay as he appeared in his famous act is from the pencil of Miss Ethel Webling.

MR. FRANK LYNNE, who has been meeting with very great success in America, has declared, through his publishers, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, his popular comic song, "Father's Box of Tools" "free" for the music-halls. It can be sung by comediennes, only one word requiring alteration.

LITTLE THOMAS'S Bohemian concert at Stanley Hall, Junction-road, N., was inadvertently announced for the 19th inst. It should have been the 26th.

ALI ABDULLA, Ben Hosain, and Me Met, the three Persian merchant princes who are visiting London, recently went to the Empire. Here they sat in a box, their gorgeous raiment admired of all beholders. To them was presented Mr. Hitchens, the manager, who was persuaded to wear the order which the Shah had bestowed upon him. At the sight of it the three Persians immediately judged Mr. Hitchens to be a nobleman of the most distinguished kind. They all bowed low to the order, saying "Salaam, Salaam!" and then, with great humility and murmured expressions of devotion, kissed Mr. Hitchens's hand. Mr. Hitchens was so overcome with emotion that he was compelled to murmur his gratification into the crown of his hat.

MR. HARRY MARVELLO, who achieved a great success at Portobello last season with his company "The Geisha Entertainers," at the Harbour Green Pavilion, has secured a five years' lease of the ground, and intends to make "The Geisha Entertainers" one of the permanent attractions of this, the brightest and most popular of Scotch watering-places. The troupe this season will number ten first-class performers, in addition to speciality acts, which are engaged weekly.

MR. HORACE WHEATLEY.

Mr. Horace Wheatley, the well-known comedian, was born in Manchester, but both his parents were natives of the land of the shamrock. While still a boy he won high honours as a dancer, securing the dancing championship of England by defeating Jack Carroll, at the old Cambridge Music Hall, Liverpool. He was then only fifteen years old. At a later period he defeated Williams, the world's champion, at the London Theatre, Bowery, New York. As a youth he became interested in the nigger minstrel business, and joined Sam Hague's Minstrels, at St. James's Hall, Liverpool. Mr. Hague was so pleased with the young comedian's efforts that he presented him with a gold medal. It was while fulfilling this engagement that he first met Mr. Ted Traynor, with whom he went into partnership. They had been so successful with their songs, their dances, and Irish business that, when it became known that they were appearing on their own responsibility, they gained an immediate following. One may say that Wheatley and Traynor were the pioneers of Irish comedy business in the music halls. They travelled a great deal, their tours including one in the United States with the Sam Hague Troupe. They were the originators of the famous *Muldoon's Picnic*, which went so well as a forty minutes' sketch that it was elaborated into a four-act comedy, which they toured all over England and America with great success for over eight years. The partnership terminated only with the death of Mr. Traynor. Mr. Wheatley felt the loss deeply. They had been together for fifteen years, and during that period had been the closest of friends. Over Traynor's grave in Glasnevin, Dublin, the memorial-stone bears the inscription, "Erected as a tribute of regard by his friend, Horace Wheatley."

Working single-handed, the following years of Mr Wheatley's life were passed in England and America, fulfilling engagements in the music halls and in pantomimes. He crossed and recrossed the Atlantic sixteen times. Some of his character studies were in connection with the pantomimes at the Opera House, Leicester; the Prince of Wales's, Liverpool; the Theatre Royal, Manchester; and the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. One of his first appearances in pantomime was at the old

Photo by Brooks.
MR. HORACE WHEATLEY.

Theatre Royal, Glasgow, under Miss Marie Litton's management. It was as a female character in *Little Bo-Peep*, and Traynor was also in the pantomime. Mr. Wheatley likes male and female rôles equally well. One of his biggest successes was as Hassarac in *The Forty Thieves*, at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. It was in this pantomime that he first introduced to British audiences the once-popular American ditty, "The Bogey Man," which made a great hit. He was also the first to sing in Britain the other well-known transatlantic song, "After the Ball." Amongst his pantomime engagements, one of the most successful was as Baron Gormano in *Cinderella*, which ran for twenty-six weeks in Melbourne and Sydney. It was no joke, however, playing in pantomime with the thermometer 100 degrees in the shade. The intense heat made false noses and eccentric make-ups useless, and having much dancing to do he lost several pounds in weight. However, he had a wonderfully warm welcome, and received quite a number of curious presents, including an albatross' head and two beautifully-mounted emus' heads. At Sydney, too, the Lyceum staff had a medal struck in his honour and presented to him. It should also be mentioned that Mr. Wheatley toured for two years in England with his own comedy, *Bright Days*. The framework was by Mr. Chas. A. Aldin, who arranged it according to the suggestions of Mr. Wheatley, who himself filled in the body of the play.

Mr. Wheatley has always been very fond of various forms of athletics. He has distinguished himself on the running-track, and at the music hall sports some years ago he won a 150 yards race. Forty-eight ran, and the betting was 20 to 1 against him. Mr. Wheatley has also gained prowess as a billiard player, having won many matches, and possessing quite a store of medals, dressing-cases, and other trophies. He is equally interested in cricket, rowing, or swimming, and it is on record that at a pig-hunt once, when the animal took to the water, Mr. Wheatley plunged in fully dressed and rescued the "game."

MR. FRANK GEE, comedian, and Mr. Sam Dalton, comedian, are the latest to swell the ranks of the Terriers' Association.

MR. JOHN BARTON, of Barton and Ashley, has presented Mr. G. H. Chirgwin with a nugget of virgin gold, which he brought with him from South Africa. Chirgwin has placed it in his billiard-room, where it is on view to all his friends (under lock and key).

MISS MARGUERITE BROADFOOTE, after her successful pantomime season at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, is taking a well-earned holiday in Paris, and will open on April 1 at the Winter Gardens, Berlin. Miss Broadfoote is fully booked to the end of 1908.

AT Bow-street on Tuesday Charles Delaney, described as a corn merchant, of Dublin, was charged under singular circumstances. Mr. John Donald, manager of the Coliseum, said that on Monday night he received a complaint that a man sitting at the back of the stalls had thrown a pair of opera glasses on to the stage. The accused admitted having done this, adding that a friend had bet him he would not do so. The accused was about forty yards away from the stage, and the glasses passed over the heads of all the people sitting in the stalls, and struck the flashboard of the footlights. They rebounded, and hit one of the members of the orchestra on the temple. Delaney, who expressed regret for his action, was fined £5.

MR. FRED CURRAN has resigned his position as representative of Mr. Leo Fritz.

GEORGE GREY AND THE M.H.A.R.A.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.)

SIR,—It is with the profoundest regret that I have been forced to receive back the cheque that I offered the Association last October in the deepest spirit of friendliness, actuated only by philanthropic motives to aid in the betterment and amelioration of the financial and social condition of the variety profession generally. For five long months the money has been lying at the disposal of the Association; five long months it has taken the committee to come to a sudden conclusion that the scheme submitted at the October general meeting was impossible and impracticable, and this notwithstanding that the sub-committe appointed to deal with the matter recommended the whole of the scheme, subject to the postponemen of a few items. I am informed that at the October general meeting, when the scheme was read to the meeting, it was received with an enthusiasm tremendous and sincere. It was afterwards printed in part, and sent out all over the kingdom. Members were invited to vote for or against the scheme, and postcards were sent out, but, unfortunately, not individually, or there would undoubtedly have been far more replies. As it was, close on 600 replies came in, and all were in favour of the scheme, with the exception of eight.

And what was the scheme of reform? Was it a scheme of aggression? Was it one of coercion? Was it one necessitating a red flag, a brass band, and an alien army to carry out? I think not. The following were among the suggested items:—

The transference of the Association agencies from public-houses to the various places of entertainment. (N.B.—This, by-the-bye, is now being carried out by the generous sanction and approbation of all managers—Moss, Stoll, Barrasford, Macnaghten, Sylvester, &c., &c.)

The registration of the Association under the Friendly Society Acts.

(The object of this was that, having regard to the scandalous maladministration of the Association in the past, no books, &c., being registered, there would be no reverting to the slipshod management, no matter who sat on the Committee. Books would have to be kept, and properly audited accounts annually submitted.)

The formation of our own Benevolent Fund based upon a system of immediate help, and governed and administered by artists for artists.

The board to be composed of experienced artists all over the country, who could be empowered to deal personally and at once, in all cases of distress.

A sick and burial fund.—On the death of a member there should be a small levy upon all members of, say, 3d. per head, towards the expenses of the interment and the benefit of the widow and children.

The granting of temporary loans.—The formation of club-like branch establishments of the Association in the various provincial centres, such as Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle, Glasgow, &c., offering facilities for social reunion, the issuing of vouchers, telephone, and Sunday evening meetings for discussion of various subjects of variety and other interest.

Annual performances in various towns, subject to permission of managements. Annual sports to be given in support of the general funds of association. A Board of Arbitration to settle disputes of all kinds, to obviate recourse to expensive and embittering litigation.

To endeavour by legitimate and conciliatory means to obtain unambiguous and equable contracts.

The issuing of a weekly variety organ, giving all managers' calls—Moss, Stoll Empires, Barrasford, Payne, Gibbons, MacNaghten, and all others—free of charge. Artists' advertisements from 6d., the paper to carry a free insurance. Full reports of all kindred societies free of charge. The paper to deal with matters of variety interest only, reception of opinions and suggestions of members and all professionals.

All profits derived from this publication to be devoted to the general funds of the Association.

I ask, can anyone with an evenly balanced and unprejudiced mind suggest that the foregoing in any one particular is impracticable and impossible? Is there anything suggestive of a trade union in the scheme? No; emphatically no!

That inane and childish bogie, "the jeopardising of the concession," has been urged. Everybody had, I am sure, hoped that we had heard the last of this mad midsummer sea-serpent.

The railway companies' definite reply was that "the three-quarters concession is granted on the terms and conditions contained on the back of the voucher, and so long as they are carried out no interest is evinced as to the doings or workings of the Association."

It isn't feasible to imagine for a moment that any suggested scheme of beneficial, charitable, and benevolent concessions held out to a number of deserving people would in any way be interfered with by any representative body of honourable gentlemen. Sublimely ridiculous, on the face of it!

But it is pleasing to learn that there are still hopes of the scheme being carried out, as the resolution passed last week foreshadows: "That the committee are of opinion that it will be easier, safer, and better, for financial and administrative reasons, to carry out the majority of the proposals put forward in Mr. Gray's scheme through the medium of an independent society, such as the new Variety Artists' Federation."

The Association had been led to believe that it is, or is to be, affiliated with this new Society. If this is so, then it is commendable; but let it be publicly stated that it is or is not so. I am sure the Association will welcome such affiliation, more especially as this new Society is presided over by the leading lights of the profession, who are banded together for the welfare of their less fortunate brethren, and who have worked so hard upon the committee of the Music Hall Association in helping to put it upon the business and financial basis on which it now stands.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE GRAY.

Savage Club.

MRS. BARRASFORD, with her customary kindness, has generously devoted the entire back page of the Lyceum programme to an appeal to the charitable from that deserving institution, the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women.

THAT smart performer Little Don has been booked for forty-four weeks, including pantomime with Mr. F. Mouillot, through the agency of J. Brown and Co.

GREAT has been the success of Mr. Tom Leo's clever song, "Too Lazy to Live," at the Metropolitan, where the comedian has been deputising for Mr. J. E. Coyle. It has been secured by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter for publication, and by Mr. Alf Lester already for pantomime. The young artist was the recipient on Tuesday night of congratulations from Mr. Harry Lauder. The ditty is by Edgar Bateman and Maurice Scott, who were jointly responsible for Charles Sloman's "Furniture on Hire," a comic song for which an extraordinary demand has arisen during the past few days, a large edition being exhausted in a few hours.

MR. F. W. THOMPSON, the manager of the New York Hippodrome, is reported to have taken with him to New York an option on a square block of property in Oxford-street within 150 feet of the Oxford Music Hall. His plan, which he described in detail upon his arrival in America, provides for the erection in London of a Hippodrome, fashioned after the manner of the one in New York. The capital is to be provided from American sources. Mr. Thompson does not seem to be affected by the contention of rival London managers that London is already over-supplied with places of variety entertainment.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

It is with the greatest possible satisfaction we make the announcement to our readers that the various matters in dispute between the Showmen's Guild and the Wallasey District Council have been arranged to the satisfaction of both parties. Clause 21 of the Bill proposed to enact as follows:—"The Council may make by-laws for the preservation of order and good conduct among persons resorting to the foreshore and seashore in the district, and to open lands adjoining the same, and for the regulation or prohibition of the placing of stalls or stands or hawking thereon."

This clause did not seriously threaten the interests of showmen, but it is useful to point out that the District Council already possess (if they will only take the necessary steps to exercise their powers) all reasonable regulations as regards stalls, stands, or hawking or the selling of goods. It is a standing grievance of travelling traders, stall-holders, and hawkers that small local authorities in proposed Improvement Bills seek for powers which include a prohibitory clause, and are therefore in excess of powers they already enjoy. Everything that this clause (21) gives the local authorities, except prohibition, they can get for the asking from the Cheshire County Council, which, under the various Municipality Acts, possesses all reasonable powers for the regulation of hawking, stalls, and good government of the visitors.

It will be remembered that some years ago the Corporation of Blackpool obtained similar powers to the above clause, and it is also well known how the Blackpool Corporation has exercised its powers to the ruin of the small traders who hitherto had carried on a most acceptable and profitable business on the sands. We consider that, in the light of the Blackpool experience, the small traders of New Brighton will use every effort to defend their rights and interests as threatened by the twenty-first clause of the Wallasey Bill.

The clause that does affect the show business is 122 of the Bill: "(1) No person shall in any street or public place, or on any land adjoining or near to any street or public place use or play, or cause to be used or played, any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical or other means to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers; (2) Any person who shall offend against this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5."

It was, of course, around this clause that the controversy raged between the Wallasey authorities and the local showmen, and a petition was duly lodged against the Bill in the name of Mr. and Mrs. P. Collins, Mr. P. Collins, jun., and Messrs. H. J. Wallis and J. Ravenscroft. Considerable negotiations and conferences have taken place between the Parliamentary agents on both sides and the Executive of the Showmen's Guild and the Wallasey District Council. The conclusion of the matter is embodied in the following official letter:—

"Dear Mr. Horne,—*Re* Wallasey Bill. You will be pleased to hear that the result of my journey to New Brighton is that satisfactory terms have been arranged — namely that the promoters agree to delete Clause 122, provided that the petition is withdrawn. Our Parliamentary agent, Mr. Millar, will therefore complete the arrangement with their agents.—Yours faithfully,

"T. Watson Wright."

Thus it will be seen that the Pontefract Bill and the Wallasey Bill have been amicably settled as far as the petitioning showmen are concerned without recourse to the expensive procedure of appearance by Parliamentary Council and attendance of witnesses before the Private Bills Committee. This is highly satisfactory.

There remains now but one Bill, the one promoted by the Middlesex County Council, and petitioned against by Messrs. Ball, Beach, Taylor, Holloway, and Mrs. Jane Pettigreve. Concerning this Bill, we have information that it is very unlikely to reach the second reading stage, as it is being opposed by nearly all the local authorities in the county of Middlesex. Numerous petitions have been lodged against it, as well as the petition denoted by showmen. This array of opposition and the costly litigation it is likely to provoke will probably cause the withdrawal of the Bill, and thus for this Session of Parliament the threatened troubles and dangers to the travelling showmen will be at an end.

There was a good opening of the Yorkshire Round at Gomersall. The principal show attraction was Harry Ashington's cinematograph and marionette theatre, supported by S. Towers, with dog and pony circus. There was a big array of machine novelties. W. H. Marshall's overhead motors; John Crampton's steam galloping-horses; and Corrigan and Son's steam swings; manual swings by G. Crampton; and rifle saloons and bottle batteries by Messrs. J. Holdsworth and E. Thompson; throwing games and varieties in abundance by Messrs. Burrell, Jameson, Cookshaw, Holdsworth, Hyde, Blackburn, Thompson, and Baynes. The bazaars were by Messrs. Holdsworth and Gledstone, and the refreshment booths by William Hutchinson. The next fair on this Round is Cleckheaton, opening on the 24th inst.

Stockport Spring Fair opened in grand style, supported by Senator J. Leo's coliseum of varieties and up-to-date animated photography; Sedgewick's menagerie; North's giant lady; Messrs. Style and Gold's temple of magic. The local firm, Messrs. Hibbert and Sons, exhibited three of their splendid machines—motor-cars, racing cockerells, and flying gondolas. The other machine novelties were Green's Gordon Bennett motors; B. Mitchell's cockerells and ostriches; and Pedley's whirling the whirl. A splendid array of shooting galleries, ranges, and saloons were provided by Messrs. Booth, Sedgwick, Humphreys, and J. Wild. The stallholders and variety caterers were Messrs. B. Ingham, R. Deeks, E. Clough, J. Beckett, A. Whatmore, J. Branan, E. Booth, C. Black, J. White, J. Smith, T. Geoghegan, J. Whatmore, Birkett, and others. The next fairs on this Round are—Heywood, Gorton-lane, Clitheroe.

We have an interesting note of news from our West of England correspondent. He tells us that showpeople down there are moving out of winter quarters; the Messrs. Hancock leave Plymouth this week with a very fine redecorated show, and their new steam set, motor-boats shaped like motor-cars with driving wheels. Chapman is taking a big wheel on tour; and Jones, of circus fame, begins his tour next week with a fine show, the interior fitted up with stage for variety performances.

We draw our readers attention to the advertisement of the Guild in our columns this week announcing an important gathering of London showmen, to be held at the Star and Garter Hotel, near the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Thursday next.

Arising out of the important movement to obtain the withdrawal of the prohibition regulations of the County Council concerning living vans, a great awakening of interest in the Showmen's Guild has taken place. The Hon. Chaplain and Organiser, the Rev. T. Horn, has been requested to convene a meeting in order that various matters concerning the show business in the Metropolitan district may be considered, and all necessary arrangements made for safeguarding the interests of the show business.

The meeting next Thursday will be open to all London show-people and stallholders, whether they are members of the Guild or not, the desire of the promoters being to draw into closer bonds of union all who travel the fairs.

We have already given in this column the petition against the Middlesex County Council General Powers Bill, and although we have every reason to believe that the Bill may not be proceeded with, it is very necessary that London showmen should realise the danger to their business threatened by the proposed Bill. By Clause 31, it is proposed to enact as follows:—"If and whenever the Council on the application of local authorities of any district shall by resolution so determine, the following provision shall have effect in the district of such local authority (that is to say)—(1) No owner of land shall cause or suffer any such land within 100 yards of any street or of any dwelling-house to be occupied so as to cause annoyance, injury, or disturbance to the residents in the neighbourhood by any tent-dweller, squatter, gipsy, or other person dwelling in a tent or van or any similar structure. (2) No tent-dweller, squatter, gipsy, or other person shall use as a dwelling-place, so as to cause annoyance, injury, or disturbance to residents in the neighbourhood, any tent or van or other similar structure placed on any land situated within 100 yards of any street or of any dwelling-house. (3) Every person who shall offend against either of the foregoing enactments shall be liable for every such offence to a penalty of not exceeding £5."

We need hardly point out to our London showmen readers that if the Middlesex County Council obtain the above powers they will be used by the local authorities to stop private business. Of course, the justice of the case will be clearly met if the authorities would add a definition clause that these enactments shall not apply to travelling showpeople in the pursuit of their legitimate business as providers of itinerant amusements. Showmen readily recognise that there is a difficulty that local authorities experience in dealing with gipsy squatters living either in tents or covered carts, mis-called vans, but it is surely not outside the wit of man to frame legislation that shall effectively deal with the gipsy squatter, and yet not injure the legitimate business of the travelling showman.

The fairs ahead for next week are—Durham, Henley-in-Arden, Stamford, Bridgnorth, Bridlington, Ottery St. Mary, Wrexham, Stafordham, Hertford, Lindfield, Stourbridge, Worthen, Tredegar, Menai Bridge, Castleton, and Maesycwmmer.

There are cattle fairs at Clitheroe on the 24th, and at Rugby, Stockport, Morpeth, and Durham on the 26th, Market Rasen and Preston on the 27th, Horncastle, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Clones on the 29th, Neward on the 30th, and Huddersfield and Hertford on the 31st.

At Jennings' Alexandra Theatre, Redditch, the following plays have been performed:—*Drink*, *East Lynne*, *Lady Audley's Secret*, *The Gipsy Heir*, *The Octoroon*, and the play of local interest, entitled *Bordesley Abbey; or, The Days of King Stephen*.

There will be a horse sale at Moseley-street, Birmingham, on the 29th inst., and a sale of cart and nag horses will take place at Studley on the 30th.

At the Cricket Field, Banbury, are Mr. A. Tiller's mechanical mannikins, bioscope, and varieties, which are giving excellent performances.

The embarking of Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie for Antwerp on Wednesday morning caused the greatest excitement at Grimsby Royal Docks. All the caravans had to be carried on deck, and these were slung with comparative ease by means of the huge cranes, and safely deposited on deck; but more difficulty was experienced when the large animals were ready to go on board. One of the elephants refused to go over the gangway, and, breaking away, ran along the dock-side, until after a tussle he was persuaded, with the assistance of ropes, &c., to walk on board backwards.

On Sunday last, by kind permission of Mr. H. Studt, a service was held by the Rev. J. Harrison on Pontordawe Fair-ground, South Wales, in memory of the late Mrs. H. Scard. The service was largely attended by the inhabitants of the town and by travellers connected with the fair, also the brothers, sisters, and children of the deceased lady.

Showmen will notice with delight the active part taken by Lord George Sanger in the preservation of showmen's rights. In this work he carried with him the valuable co-operation of *The Era*, whose energetic manager, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, went with the President and Chaplain of the Guild to the County Council meeting. The president's carriage, drawn by two skewbald ponies, conveyed the leaders of the deputation from *The Era* offices to the County Council offices in Spring Gardens.

We regret to announce the sudden death at Merthyr Tydfil on Thursday last of Mr. J. D. Humphries, advance agent of Lord John Sanger's Circus. He literally died in harness, being on tour in advance of the circus. The whole showman world will tender its deepest sympathy to the bereaved wife and the Sanger family.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

A successful smoking concert was given at the Canonbury Club, Canonbury Tower, on Saturday evening, under the presidency of Mr. Fred Nichols. Mr. Donald Keir's fine bass voice was heard to advantage in "Off to Philadelphia" and "Drinking"; Mr. Lambert Perry successfully contributed four songs; Mr. Charles Gellett was deservedly applauded for his excellent recitations; the 'cello solos played by Master Leo Crosse, assisted by Master C. E. Crosse, were well received; and Mr. Tom Day obliged with a recitation. The comic element was strongly represented. Mr. Rex Kempton, a young comedian who is likely to come to the front, caused much laughter by his humorous songs. Mr. Will Carney, a son of Mr. Tom Carney, the Irish comedian, met with a good reception, and so, too, did Mr. George Robertson and Mr. Fred King, comedians, who were both in capital form. The energetic Mr. Will Clinch and Mr. Fred Pearson gave valuable assistance as stage managers, and Messrs. E. W. Davis and G. A. Marshall acted as vice-chairmen.

SHOWMEN AND THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Quite a mild sensation was caused in the neighbourhood of Spring Gardens on Friday afternoon last week by the assembly of a large body of showmen to welcome their President—Lord George Sanger—on his embassage to the County Council. The veteran showman was accompanied in his open carriage by the Rev. T. Horne, his lordship's chaplain, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer of the Showmen's Guild for London. The purpose of this unusual gathering was the highly pacific one of wishing good luck to the small deputation about to lay the views of the organised showmen concerning the prohibition of living-vans on the open spaces under municipal control before the Parks Committee of the County Council.

We gave full particulars to our showmen readers last week of the nature of the open spaces regulations, and the correspondence between the County Council and the Showmen's Guild, relating to the serious nature of the regulations (if persisted in). Of the very urgent necessity of the prohibition rule excluding living-vans, the following letter sent out to all applicants for licences is quite sufficient indication:—

"London County Council,
"Parks Department,
"11, Regent-street, S.W.

"*Notice to Holders of Licences for Sideshows, &c.*

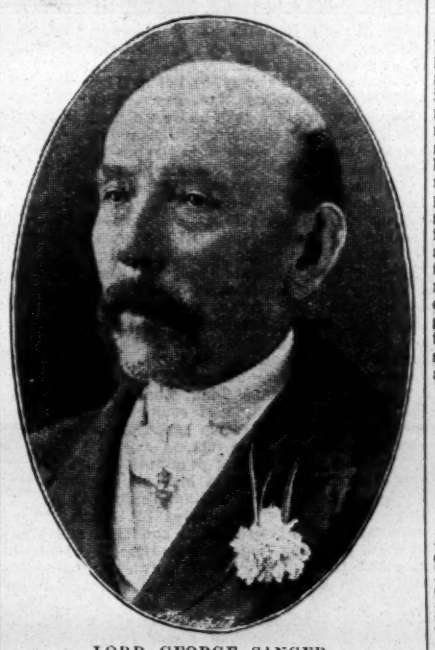
"Attention is again drawn to the regulations of the Council that living-vans are not allowed on open spaces in connection with shows at holiday times. Attempts have been made to bring living-vans on to the open spaces on the plea that for bottle-shooting, &c., such vans are necessary as part of the shows. Some other arrangements must be made for these shows, as the Council's constables have strict instructions not to allow living-vans on the open spaces under any circumstances whatever.

John J. Sexby,
"*Chief Officer.*"

The deputation consisted of:—

Lord George Sanger, president;
Rev. T. Horne, hon. chaplain and organiser;
F. H. Pedgrift, Esq., hon. treasurer for London.
Representative showmen (all members of the executive):
Mr. Wm. Beach, Mr. Alf. Ball,
Mr. Wm. Bedford, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Mr. H. Forrest, Mr. George Biddall, Mr. Fred Gray, Mr. Swales Forrest, and Mr. George Knighton.

The Chairman of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee, in welcoming the deputation, said that



LORD GEORGE SANGER.

the County Council had issued the new regulations with the sincere desire of promoting the best interests of the showmen and the interests of the people frequenting the open spaces at Hampstead, Blackheath, and Wormwood Scrubs at holiday times. They had gathered from the letter of the Showmen's Guild that these regulations were regarded as serious and hindering by the showmen. They would be glad to hear the views of the Showmen's Guild through their spokesman, Mr. George Sanger, whom he was glad to welcome.

The President of the Guild, in his opening remarks, said their first duty—and a highly satisfactory and pleasant one—was to thank the London Council for its thoughtful provision of open-air amusement for the people of London at holiday times. He therefore tendered, in the name of the organised showmen, this meed of appreciation before passing on to the real business before them.

First of all, he could not believe that the committee knew how absolutely necessary the living-van was to the show. In most cases it formed the sustaining background to the concern. The van was the back of the booth, and from it the exhibition, or shooting gallery, or novelty was built out. But that is not all. It is essential that the home of the showman should be close at hand—the mother with the family meals ready for the upgrown members busy at work—for the show business is a home industry. He begged the committee to seriously consider and remove the prohibition, which he ventured to hope had been imposed without full knowledge of the necessity the vans were to the showmen and their business.

He had now retired from the active life of the road, but for seventy years he had lived in a van. He was one of a family of ten born in a van, and living all his life in a home on wheels he was able to testify from experience of the absolute necessity of the van—of the home on wheels. (Applause.) He had his living carriage at his place, Park Farm, East Finchley, and he intended this summer to go on tour again, this time at leisured ease, to visit his old friends and acquaintances in the show world.

England's representative showmen of days gone by—men like Wombwell, Richardson, Manders, Batty, and others—and the leading showmen of to-day were van-dwellers; and why? Why, because the home life was to them the sheet anchor and the abiding stay of their enterprise. It was more—it was the source of their inspiration and the training ground of their children. Let these conditions of the showman's life and work be fully realised, and he doubted not that the prohibition would be withdrawn.

The veteran showman, speaking from his heart and from the full volume of his life's experience, manifestly touched and deeply impressed the committee.

Several members of the Parks Committee asked important and informing questions, and these were satisfactorily answered by the President, and Messrs. Ball, S. Forrest, and Bedford.

The Rev. T. Horne, by special permission of the chairman, then spoke, and added point to the discussion by saying that the Showmen's Guild would give the committee every reasonable guarantee and co-operate in every possible way for the maintenance of due order and the keeping of all necessary and reasonable regulations for the betterment of the show business, and the provision of good amusements for the people at holiday times. The nature of this guarantee could be inferred from the fact that the Guild included in its member-roll all the principal showmen of the Metropolitan district.

The Chairman thanked the deputation for the information it had tendered to the committee, and again expressed the pleasure they felt at receiving so important and representative a body, headed by its honoured president, Lord George Sanger. They would communicate their decision to them in due course.

Unless we miss the spirit of the conference, we confidently anticipate that the decision will be a favourable one. The question, of course, cannot possibly be left where it is. Showmen throughout the country will recognise how very serious the example of the London County Council (if it persists in the policy of prohibition) will be. Other public bodies will be tempted to follow the lead of the London County Council, and trouble on this question of living vans will arise throughout the country.

With regard to living-vans on open spaces and in parks in the Metropolitan district, a London showman has supplied us with some valuable information. It was stated at the County Council conference reported above that the Verderers of Epping Forest had prohibited living-vans on the spaces under their control. This was contradicted by tenants of the Verderers, and in further proof of the contradiction our correspondent states that living-vans are permitted at all the large fairs on Wanstead Flats, and also at Chingford. On the old Deer Park, Richmond, five or six times a year, varying from two to six days each visit, living-vans are welcomed.

The following private and public parks at times of local fêtes and demonstrations of friendly societies, permit living-vans:—Hillingdon Park, Bagshot Park, Walton Park, Binfield Park, Taplow Court, and Osterley Park. Our correspondent also informs us that he does not remember any instance of the owners of private parks lending their places to local fête committees who object in any way to living-vans.

George Sanger, who has travelled the wide world over and taken his circus throughout the civilised nations of Europe, testifies that the great municipalities of Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Budapesth, and Brussels, with other cities on the Continent, not only welcome the travelling-show community in their living-vans, but go out of their way to attract them to their cities, and afford them every facility for carrying on their business. These public bodies recognise that the amusements of the people are a national concern, and that it is better to encourage the travelling showman to give of his best to the entertainment and recreation of the masses of the people than to put hindrances in his way.

Again, in this connection it is noteworthy that the United States of America are taking great pains and showing considerable zeal in developing and encouraging the establishment of fairs. This is a fact the significance of which ought to be realised by the people who consider the show business a dying industry. America, the most progressive and the most democratic of all nations, has discovered that the people must have amusement and recreation, and that the best way to provide it is to establish popular fairs, not only great state exhibitions and fairs, but "street fairs," the American adaptation of our local wake and village fairs. The American railways, in order to encourage showmen to make fairs, offer free rail facilities for conveyance of show goods, and offer great facilities to the Press for the purpose of getting wide publicity for these fairs., and the municipalities give free ground in most instances in order to encourage showmen enterprise, and to establish pleasure fairs for the people.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. SCARD.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Scard, the wife of Mr. Henry Scard, of Wadbrook's Electograph, and daughter of the founder of the show, took place at Neath on Thursday, February 15, at Llantwit Old Cemetery, and was attended by showmen from all parts of the kingdom and the townspeople. The chief mourners were Mr. Henry Scard, sen., Mr. Harry Scard, jun. (son), Misses Flo, Tilly, and Ruby (daughters), Alfred Wadbrook (brother), and Harry Wadbrook, Nelile Wadbrook (sister), Mrs. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnson (sister and brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson (Victoria Theatre) and staff, Mrs. Pat Collins (Birmingham), Mr. and Mrs. Henry Studt, Mr. John Studt, Mr. James Dooner and family, Mr. James Norman (Lancashire), Mr. Tom Clarke (Redditch), Mr. Edmund Clarke, Mr. Hagger, Mr. James Day, Mr. and Mrs. John North, Mrs. Roberts and family, Mr. Oulson, Mr. Thomas Hill, Mr. David Boswell, Mrs. Ines (Glasgow, representing Wombwell's), Mr. and Mrs. Baker and family (circus), Mr. Lloyd (Barry Dock), Mr. Syd White and Sons, Mrs. Sheen, Mr. Enoch-Stockton, Mr. Daniel Evans, Mrs. Blower, Mrs. Charlotte Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. James Wright, Mr. Jerry Butlin and family, Mr. T. Butlin, and the Neath Town Council was represented by Councillors Hopkin Morgan and Henry Hunkin. Wreaths, &c., were sent by the following:—Mr. Henry Scard and family, heart and dove; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Studt, large harp; Auntie and Uncle, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Knight, wreath; Mabel and Harry, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Jeffreys, harp; employees, anchor; Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Pat Collins and son (Birmingham), wreath; Mr. Sharpe, wreath; Miss Churchill and Mrs. Dale, wreath; Mr. Brimmell and daughter, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Chipperfield, jun., wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. Fossett, wreath; Aunt Polley, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, harp; Dick and Maud Chipperfield, cross; Mr. and Mrs. I. Norman, harp; Mr. and Mrs. Sedgwick, harp; Mr. Bibby (Manchester), Welsh harp; Mr. and Mrs. Strickland, harp; and wreaths also came from the following—Messrs. Orton and Spooner, Messrs. Hancock (Plymouth), Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Birchley, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, sen., and family, Mr. and Mrs. Whiting, Messrs. Chiappa Bros. (London), Mr. and Mrs. John North, Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick, Victoria Theatre Company, Sister Tilly and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Booth, senr., Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Mr. Dooner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Bird-in-Hand Hotel, Miss Gussie Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John Studt, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wortley, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Studt, Mr. and Mrs. T. Butlin, Mr. and Mrs. Page, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Johnson, members of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Elijah Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Baker and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. Roberts, Mr. Shufflebotham, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hutchins, initial "S"; Mr. and Mrs. Phillip, wreath "At Rest"; Mr. and Mrs. Day, anchor; Mr. and Mrs. blower, bunch; lady employees, heart; Sister Nellie, anchor; Sister Flo and husband, harp; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hagger, cross; Mr. and Mrs. E. Danter, harp; Mr. and Mrs. Butlin, anchor; Mrs. Crecraft and sons, heart; Mrs. Crecraft and Miss Skinner, heart; Eliza Hinds, Glasgow, cross; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Caddick, harp; Mr. and Mrs. G. Saunders, "Gates of Heaven"; Mr. and Mrs. C. Hill, harp and crown. All the showmen on the fairground closed their shows as soon as it became known that Mrs. Scard had passed away, and also on the day of the funeral. It is desired that those who have sent wreaths with no address should please forward the same to Mr. H. Scard, Fairground, Aberavon, by April 1.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A well-attended and successful meeting of stage employees was held on Sunday evening in the White Lion Hotel, Bank-street, Leicester, for the purpose of considering the question of forming a local branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees. Mr. Thomas presided. Mr. F. Branson was appointed hon. secretary pro tem. It was decided to ask the National Committee of the Society to send a representative to the next meeting for the purpose of enrolling those willing to become members and to establish the branch.

A meeting of the members of the Stratford branch of the National Society was held on Thursday evening, at 23, Maryland Point, for the purpose of considering the benefits to be provided by the branch and enrolling new members.

The annual dinner and concert of the General Theatrical Operatives' Sick and Benefit Society, which took place on Sunday evening last in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, was a great success. Between sixty and seventy members and friends sat down to the excellent dinner provided. Mr. Lionel Belmore, stage-manager to Mr. H. B. Irving, presided, and stage-managed the proceedings with a geniality which resulted in a successful and enjoyable evening.

After the dinner and the usual toast to "The King," the company adjourned to the concert-room, where a surprisingly good programme was gone through. Among those who contributed were Mr. Will Randall, who highly amused the company with his songs, "9½ an hour," "If the world were ruled by girls," and "The jilted Shoeblack." Mr. A. Batty's fine voice was heard with much effect in "Starlight eyes," "The singer was Irish," and "Music, sweet music." Mr. Bert Welley sang "Boys of the Chelsea School," "Go to sea," and "Nita Gitana," which were much appreciated. Mr. A. E. Wood sang, most appropriately, "Jolly good company." Mr. Lionel Belmore recited "The Little Hero," and deeply impressed his audience. Mr. E. Gray sang "The Irish Lad." Mr. J. Dunlop gave an amusing burlesque of "Sweet Marie," and Mr. Burton delivered a "Laughing song."

Mr. A. E. Wood, secretary to the Society, proposed the toast "The Society," and gave some interesting particulars of its growth and benefits. He stated that the Society had recently been examined by the actuaries, and they reported that the funds show a considerable surplus over the possible liabilities. The gross balance was about £700. Mr. Wood also alluded to the grant received from the Dramatic and Musical Fund, which was much appreciated by the members of the Society; in this connection, Mr. Wood alluded to the services rendered by Mr. H. Kelley and Mr. C. T. Cory. In concluding, Mr. Wood urged those present who were not members to join, and mentioned that the Society was about to create a juvenile branch which would offer special benefits to the younger men in the profession.

Mr. M. Beer, the chairman of the society, proposed the toast, "The Artists and Visitors," and thanked the former on behalf of the members for their kindness in contributing to such an enjoyable evening. Mr. A. E. Wood proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was received with musical honours. In responding, Mr. Belmore thanked those present for the cordial reception they had accorded to the toast, and assured them of the pleasure it had given him to be with them on this occasion; they would, perhaps, forgive him if he said that such a gathering could hardly disperse without some reference being made to one who had done much to establish a better feeling among workers and managers and, indeed, among all branches of the profession. He alluded to the late Sir Henry Irving, the kindest and most generous of men, he might say a king among men; so he asked them to silently raise their glasses and drink to the memory of a man they could never forget, Sir Henry Irving. The toast was worthily received. The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close. Mr. Wood, Mr. P. Thomas, and others responsible for the arrangements, are to be congratulated on the great success attending their efforts.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

A dramatic performance by the pupils of Mr. Allen Beaumont was given in the theatre of the school on Friday evening, March 16, and Mr. Beaumont may be congratulated on the success of the entertainment, mainly due to the careful training the young students had received, and to the admirable choice of works well adapted to the pupils' ability. The programme consisted of three little plays—*Which is Which*, by S. Theyre Smith; *In Honour Bound*, by Sydney Grundy; and *A Love Knot*, by Edith Lemin. In the first play, the scene of which is an artist's studio, of a kind never seen off the stage, Robert Capper, a young artist who is much worried with bills and the inability to pay them, and also by the attentions of his old servant, Mrs. Mills, who has such a craze for dusting that the artist's sketch of Venus is rubbed off the canvas. To add to the artist's troubles his most pressing creditor, Paddles, an oil and colourman (ought it not to be artists' colourman?) refuses to leave until he is paid. When things are at the worst an uncle, with the convivial name of Gargle, appears, and suggests that Capper should propose to a friend of Mr. Gargle, a young lady of ample means. Shortly after the lady, whose name is Pestle, calls at the studio with a friend, and Capper, as the ladies avoid giving their names, is much bothered to find out which is which, and of course falls in love with the lady he thinks is the poor friend. All ends happily, however, as this is really the rich Miss Pestle. Mr. J. L. Dale played the part of Robert Capper with freedom and ability, although in somewhat too lively a style for the unhappy artist. Mr. J. A. Ellerton made the most of the little part of Gargle, and Mr. J. C. Jackson was very amusing as Paddles. The young ladies, Annie and Bertha, were charmingly enacted by Miss Enid Rose and Miss A. Castiglione, while Miss J. C. Huntsman gave a capital study of the old servant Mrs. Mills.

In *In Honour Bound* Mr. M. A. Rossiter, if not quite realising the character of the cynical lawyer Sir George Carlyon, Q.C., acted with intelligence, and Mr. J. L. Dale, as Philip Graham, improved on his performance in the first play, and gave a dignified rendering of the part, while Miss Ethel Gannon was generally excellent in the character of the unhappy wife Lady Carlyon, and Miss Nellie Lake played Rose Dalrymple in a bright, sparkling manner.

The last piece, a farce, *A Love-Knot*, reflected credit on all concerned, and caused great merriment. Mr. W. L. Soliague as Ted Thorpe was admirable, and Mr. J. A. Ellerton gave an intensely comic rendering of an elderly widower, Mr. Jay. Miss J. C. Huntsman was again excellent as Miss Charlotte Short, spinster, of uncertain age; and the parts of Nell and Wilson were cleverly acted by Miss Nellie Lake and Master Frank Mackintosh. Between the intervals several piano solos were skilfully played by Mr. Frederick J. Daff, and Mrs. Charles P. Smith carefully superintended the appearance of the young ladies on the stage.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your report of the Royal Albert, Canning Town, last Saturday, you mention Miss Sadie Seymour. As there is a lady of that name in the profession, and the notice was intended for me, would you please correct the mistake?—Yours faithfully, Sadie Simpson. March 20, 1906.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
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"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

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WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E. May 7, 21, 28, June 11, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, April 30, May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, Aug. 20, 27, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, April 16, Aug. 6, 13, 20, Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 8, 22, Nov. 5, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, May 7 (race week), 14, June 11, 25, Aug. 6, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, April 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 12.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, April 9, May 7, Aug. 13, Sept. 17, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, April 16, May 7, Aug. 13, 27, Sept. 3, 17, Oct. 22, 29.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, June 11, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, April 9, 16, 30, on.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for two and three weeks.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Wolverhampton, April 16, May 7; Reading, April 30, May 21; Huddersfield, April 9, May 7; Chester, May 7 (Race Week), May 14; Northampton, April 16, May 7; Leamington, April 2, 16; Leicester Opera House, April 16.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE, May 21, 28, August 13, 20.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE, Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Companies, QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD, May 7, 14, 21, July 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13, Sept. 10.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD; GRAND THEATRE, LUTON; April 9, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11 (three nights each town), Aug. 6, onwards, with exceptions.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Bedford, April 9 (5 nights).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, June 11, 12, 13, Luton; 14, 15, 16, Bedford.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, June 4, 11, 18, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for April 2, 9, 23, May 14, 21, 28, and Whit Week. All communications to CHARLES E. MACKIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, April 23, May 7, 21.
Address, RICH. WALDON.

WANTED, Strong Attractions, Princess's, Glasgow, April 23, May 7, 21; Lyceum, Govan, April 30. Address, RICH. WALDON, Princess's T., Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for the Empire, Oldham, April 30, May 7 and 28.
Address, ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5, 6, 7, 26, 27, 28; also Musical Comedy, Whit. Week.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 9, May 7, 21, 28, June 4.
Apply, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, Good Strong Attractions, Musical Shows preferred, April 9, 30, May 14, 21, and 28. Silence a courteous negative.
GEORGE E. MUDD, Business-Manager.

FRED GRANVILLE'S THEATRES.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, Companies, April 16, May 7, 28, June 4, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL, Vacant May 7, 14, 21 28.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Vacant May 28, June 4.
Address, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

WANTED, Plays, for Stock Seasons, with or without Printing.
Produced or Unproduced.
All particulars to
FRED GRANVILLE,
Theatre Royal, Hyde.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Bookings include all the Best Attractions Touring.
WANTED, Good Dramas, April 9 (week), April 26 (3 nights). CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for April 23, May 7, 21, 28, Nov. 5, 19, 26, and Dec. 10.
Apply,
Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 30, June 11, also First-Class Musical Attraction, June 25 (Royal Show week), open dates Aug. and Sept., Pantomime, Feb. 4 (one or two weeks).
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Company for April 9.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

GLOBE THEATRE, DEAL.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 5, 26, also Autumn Dates, three nights each.
Apply, MANAGER.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant May 21, June 4, July 30.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant April 2, 9, 23, 30.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant March 26, April 2 (3 nights), 9, 23.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant April 2 (3 nights), 9, 16.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant March 26, April 2, 9, 16.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 30, May 7, 14, 28.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant April 9, 23 (3 nights), May 7, 14.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant April 9, 23, 30.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant April 9, 23, 30, May 7.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant March 19, 26, April 2 (3 nights), 9.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant April 23, May 14, 21, 28.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Dec. 26, 31, Jan. 7, 14.

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Company, April 16 (Easter), and 23.
SPA THEATRE, WHITBY.
Wanted, Good Companies, Bands, or Pierrots, Easter and Whit. Weeks, July 16 and 23, Aug. 27 (?).
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Spa, Whitby.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for April 9, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, through disappointment, good Attractions, April 9, 16, and 23.
A popular theatre where you can take money.
Apply,
L. CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Autumn.
L. CARSON, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, for weeks of May 7 and 14.
Wire, to-day,
HUSTLER, Birkenhead;
Next week, KELLY, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, and on, with exceptions.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Special Attraction, for Easter Week, Operetta House, Clacton. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

P. O. W., NUNEATON.
WANTED, Musical or High-Class Variety, May 14, Aug. 13, 27, Sept. 3, 17.
A. F. CROSS.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, T. R., RUGBY.
May 14, 21, 28, Whit, and August Bank Holiday, onward, with exceptions.
A. F. CROSS, P. O. W., Nuneaton.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Strong Drama, Easter, Sundry Dates Open onwards.
J. EDWARD WHITTY.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, Good Companies, May 7, 14, 21, and Whit Week. A. D. VERNON.

WANTED, Suitable Attractions, April 9, six nights, Perth; April 30, six nights, Paisley. Share or certainty.
Apply, J. H. SAVILE, Paisley Theatre.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Attraction, April 23 (to oblige Charles Hermann, Esq.), also good Attractions, May 28, and for a few Autumn dates. Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 30, May 7, on, Grand, Chorley; also April 2, 16, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for May 7, 14, onwards, including Whit Week. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

NEW PAVILION, EASTBOURNE PIER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, June 11 (?), June 18 (?), June 25, July 9 and 23; and various dates, onwards. Address, G. HAYES, Manager.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Musical Comedy and First-Class Dramas, April 30, May 21, 28. E. H. PAGE.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 2, 3, 4, April 23 and 30; also several in August.
Address, J. P. MOORE, Theatre, West Bromwich.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, April 16, May 7, 14, 22.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE, April 30, May 7, 14, 21.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA, April 9 May 7, 14, 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies, GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS, now in the height of success.
April 23, May 7, June 11, 18, July 16, Oct. 15, 22, Nov. 1 (3 nights), Nov. 5, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE,
April 30, May 7, June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 23 (3 nights), Oct. 22, 29 (3 nights), Nov. 5, onwards.
Apply, H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant May 14, 21, June 4, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant May 14 and June 18, 25.
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
Vacant May 28.
THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN,
Vacant May 14, 21, 28.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

FRANK MACNAGHTEN'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS (twice nightly), Vacant April 9, June 11, 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13.
THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM, Vacant June 4, July 9, 23, 30.
THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE, Vacant May 21, June 4, Aug. 6, 20, 27, Sept. 10, 24.
THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD, Vacant May 14, 28, June 18, July 9, 16.
Address, BRANDON BLAKE, Hotel Cecil, London.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, LYCEUM THEATRE, SHEFFIELD, May 21; PRINCE'S THEATRE, MANCHESTER, June 4 (Whit. Week).
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, No. 1 Companies for this Theatre, now being erected at a cost of £10,000.
Stage depth, 40ft.; width, 60ft.; flies, 40ft.
Modern brick and stone building, situate main street centre of town (adjoining New Public Library), and on main electric tram route.
Will open August, 1906.
E. GRAY, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

KING'S THEATRE, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 5 (3 nights), Easter, April 23.
Now booking Autumn.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for August Bank Holiday and Onward, High-class Plays, Musical Comedies, Comic Opera, and Shakespearean Répertoire.
Apply to JAS. KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 14, 21, 28, July 2, 9, 16,
Good Sound Attractions certain of Big Business.
JAMES BELL.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
The West-end Theatre of Hastings.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Vacant June 18, Aug. 20, &c. Apply, Mr. ELVEY THOMAS, as above; or Mr. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 2, 23, and onwards (three nights each).
J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

KING'S THEATRE, W.
WANTED, First-class Company, for April 9. Address, with full particulars, J. B. MULHOLLAND, King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Companies (Musical preferred), May 14 and 21, also good Autumn Dates open with exceptions.
HARRY FISCHER.

HIPPO. T. and OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Comedies, &c., April 9, 30, on, with exceptions, for this up-to-date Theatre. Coms., J. MORRELLA and T. JENNINGS.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, May 14, June 11, 18, 25, July 2. F. J. ROBINSON, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, through Transfer, Company, for April 23.
CURRY, P. O. W., Grimsby.

MINERS' THEATRE, ASHINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, Special Attraction, Easter Week, unexpectedly Vacant, May 7 (?), 14, 28.
FRED GOULD.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, 3 nights, April 5, 6, 7. Address, W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Company, for April 9, Vacant through obliging.
Address, CHARLES REVILL, T. R., Stockport.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, through Transfer, Good Attraction, May 14; also Vacant, Aug. 20 and 27, Oct. 1, Dec. 24 and 31.
Address, FRANK KING.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
WANTED, April 9, 23, 30, May 7, and on, with exceptions.
FRANK MUNDALL.

GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.
WANTED, July, Aug., Sept., First-class Complete Co.'s, light opera co.'s, and also society entertainers, &c. Lowest terms (by Monday), CALVERTO, Giffnock, Glasgow.

RUNNACLEAVE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, ILFRACOMBE.
Sole Lessee, CISSIE LOUIE LAWSON.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the Months of April, May, and June. Write, THE SECRETARY, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Good Dramas for Stock, Printing not necessary. Lowest terms for one week to GERALD HARDING, Theatre Royal, Colne, Lancs.

FROME, SOMERSET.
WANTED, Known.—F. E. Douglas can arrange for Good Fit-up Co.'s and Entertainments, Frome and District, Easter Week Vacant, three towns, 2 nights each; also dates, March, onward. Terms, shares. 16, Portway, Frome.

WANTED, Good Companies, for Olympia Theatre, Murton, Durham, drama preferred, good business, May 14, 21, and 28, onwards. C. A. DUNN.

COUNTY HALL, ST. ALBANS.
WANTED, Good Company, Easter Monday and Tuesday (through obliging), must have own Scenery. Sharing terms. Apply, A. ROWDEN.

WANTED, Strong Society Play, for Special Two Weeks, Short Cast. Miss MAUD MAY, Simonside, South Shields.

WANTED, Dramatic and Musical (Fit-up) Co.'s, shares, George Theatre, Crawley, Sussex. BARRETT STEWART, Manager.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON

WANTED (Season 1906), for Ryde Pier Pavilion and elsewhere, visiting Concert Parties. J. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, for Pier Pavilion, Bognor, Sharing terms, June 11, 18, July 2, First-Class Concert Parties. Particulars, FORSYTH, Bournemouth-road, Folkestone.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 13, 20.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14 Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 6, 13,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 2, 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 2, 16, Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 2, Sept. 24.
FREDK. MELVILLE,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 9, 23, 30.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre, April 9, 30, June 4.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatre, April 2.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"IN A WOMAN'S GRIP."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Spring, 1907.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, April 23, 30, Aug. 13, Nov. 26.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for the Scala Production, week of May 14, in or around London.
Wire,
To-day, "Hustler," Birkenhead;
Next week, KELLY, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Known, no Vacant Dates this year.
CHALMERS MACKEY,
This, Grand Theatre, Swansea;
Theatre Royal, Bristol, March 26 (Six Nights).

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 16, 30, May 28, June 4, 18.
"SAILORS OF THE KING,"
Aug. 6, 20, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, New Theatre, Cambridge.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
Miss Dora Price as The Woman.
WANTED, April 2 (follow T. R., Hyde), April 9 (precede Ton-y-Pandy, Easter), 23, 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
Whit Week Vacant.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
To-day, Irving, Seacombe; next, T. R., HYDE.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant May 21 (three nights), June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.
J. W. CORDINER, Lyceum, Ipswich.
See Companies advertisement, Page 2.

HERBERT RALLAND'S PRINCIPAL CO.
"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
WANTED, Theatre, Easter Week Vacant, Easter Week Vacant.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
Third Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, May 21, June 25, on.
E. CARTER LIVESEY,
Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"SWEET AND TWENTY."
WANTED, Theatre, April 16, Lionel Glenister and Wood Ingram's Co. For cast and bookings, see Companies Column. Wire, Royalty T., Glasgow.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS.
"EAST LYNNE" and "LIFE."
WANTED, June 4 (Midlands), on, Aug. 6 (?), 20, 27, Superb Pictorials for either Play, and the best all-round Company travelling.
March 26, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
WANTED, Easter, onwards.
F. MARTIN MORRIS,
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Next week, Opera House, Cheltenham.

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Continued Success of the Powerful and Moral Drama, "CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."
Strong company, splendid scenery (all carried).
Special printing by Allens and Staffords.
WANTED, April 16, to precede London, April 30, and other subsequent dates.
Wire, Opera House, Radcliffe.
Monday, Lyceum, Stafford.

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WANTED, Good Theatres, South Coast preferred, June 18, July 9, 23, and 30, Mr. Norman Partriege as Sir Philip Marchant. Bookings include Grand Theatre, Blackpool; T. R., Dover; O. H., Buxton; O. H., Harrogate; T. R., Hull; and Pier Pavilion, St. Leonards. For vacant dates apply, GEORGE E. MUDD, Resident Business Manager, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

MR. HERBERT ROBINSON'S COMPANY.
"HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR."
WANTED, Dates, April 30, and onwards.
Apply, dates only, Mr. FRED ADDERLEY,
Barmouth House, Barmouth-road, Wandsworth, London.

WANTED, Good Theatre, for "Country Girl," for Easter. Communicate,
CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BERT COOTE'S
"THE FATAL WEDDING" No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Aug. 20, near London.
Address, BERT COOTE, 150, Oxford-street, W.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Good Theatre, April 2, Easter, Various, onward. A High-class Costume Drama. W. J. MILLER, next, New Court T., Bacup.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, April 23 and 30.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
To-day, T. R., Aldershot; next, T. R., Bath.

"LUCKY LIZA,"
"LUCKY LIZA,"
"LUCKY LIZA,"
by Fred Locke.
WANTED, Whit Week and June 18.
DICKIE CLARE, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Big Theatre, August Bank Holiday, onwards, with exceptions, for
Miss MAUD HILDYARD and Powerful Company.
Mr. ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire T., Oldham.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Xmas Week, on, with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Edmonton.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, April 2, 9, Easter, on.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Edmonton.

"THE KING'S SECRET," by Charles Whitlock.
WANTED, June 4, and onwards.
JAMES STILLWELL, Queen's, Liverpool.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, through Change of Date, April 16.
Add., GEO. T. METCALFE, 7, Bolton-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"BILLY'S LITTLE LOVE AFFAIR."
WANTED, April 16 (Easter Week); also Aug. 6, Sept. 10, Sept. 24, and on. FRANK G. BAILY, 1, St. Aubyn's-road, Upper Norwood.

THEATRES WANTED.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
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"DARKNESS."
"DARKNESS."
A Financial Success.
The Box Office Returns are Eloquent.
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"DARKNESS."
Wanted, through Change of Route,
April 9, 16, April 9, 16,
April 9, 16, April 9, 16,
June 4 (?), 18, 25 (?), July 16.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
April 30, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 3, 17.
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
April 16, April 16, April 16.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow." Nat. Tel. 5310.
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"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. W. Reuben Payne's Company.
Spring Tour complete. Aug. 6, various onwards.
"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company,
April 16 (Midlands), various on (Northwards).
"SAINTS AND SINNERS," and "MIDDLEMAN,"
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 10, various on (North).
Thanks Robert Arthur, Esq., for offer of Middlesbrough, Aberdeen, and Dundee.
"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Mr. Arthur Carlton's Company,
August 6 (Midlands), various on.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Money-making Attraction, May 7, 14, 21, and Whit.
A few Summer Dates open.
Thirty-second week of present Tour.
Oct. 1, 8, and 29, Lancs.
Bookings and Re-bookings extend into March, 1907.
Full cast of experienced Artists.
Coms., FRANK AYRTON, Opera House, Porth.

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"£1,000 REWARD,"
by
Charles Rogers
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for this Successful Drama, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, on.
No. 1 Company, New Scenery, Special Printing.
Managers invited to forward Vacant Dates.
Re Dates, FRANK J. PITT, G., West Hartlepool.
Other Coms., CHARLES HALLING, T. R., Sunderland.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR.
"THE CONSCRIPT."
Mr. Harry Cullenford as Karl. Miss Violet Carlyle as Nadia. Supported by a Star Cast.
WANTED, Good Theatres (Midlands), July 9, 23, Aug. 6, and onwards. Striking Display of Pictorials. New Uniforms. New Scenery.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

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"A SISTER'S SIN."
"A SISTER'S SIN."
WANTED, Easter, Easter, Easter. Splendid Cast, including Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley. Big success at Broughton, Manchester, refer. Wire, KIMBERLEY, Victoria Theatre, Broughton, M'chester.

"SAPHO."
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WANTED, Really First-class Theatres, April 23 and May 7.
No Greater Success Touring.
Miss Annie Bell as Fanny Le Grande.
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WANTED, for this Splendid Attraction, Aug. 20, Aug. 20, and on, with exceptions.
"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR,"
Vacant July 9, 16, 23.
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WANTED, Summer Dates, May, onwards, for "The Barrister," by J. H. Darnley, from the Comedy Theatre. Address, HENRY DOUGHTY, 23, High-st., Eccleston-square, S.W.

"TRIP TO THE HIGHLANDS."
WANTED, August Bank Holiday, also 13th, 20th, and 27th, England.
HARRY FISCHER, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

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an Up-to-date Spanish Comic Opera.
Production at Penley's Theatre, May 26.
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Splendid Scenes and Dresses. Everything carried. Apply, H. CRISPIN, 22, Blomfield-road, Shepherd's Bush.

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Apply, EUGENE C. STAFFORD, c/o FRENCH, LTD., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
WANTED, April 23, precede Cardiff, all May, through transfers.
Wire,
LEICESTER-JACKSON, Sheffield; next, Carlisle.

WANTED, for Whit Week, good Suburban Theatre. H. HOLLISTER, West London Theatre.

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"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-class Attraction, Aug. 6 (South), and various, onwards.
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FRANK M. THORNE, T. R., Workington.

WANTED, Good Theatres, for J. Gar Kiddie's "Babes in the Wood" and "Bo-Peep" Pantomimes; must be first-class theatres, or no use; large scenery and big company.
Write,
J. GAR KIDDIE, 9, Ollier-terrace, Widnes.

WANTED, for the Celebrated Elster Grime Grand and Comic Opera Co., April 2 (through disappointment), April 2, wire, wire, wire; also May 7 and 14 (precede Manchester), 28 (between Manchester and Plymouth). Only Theatres where money can be taken entertained. Immense sucess of Grand Revival, "La Fille de Madame Angot." This can either be included in Répertoire or booked singly for week "Paul Jones" now in active preparation. Principals, Chorus, Mounting, Dresses, and Orchestra all first-class. Wire for April 2. This, Gaiety, Dundee; next, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Big Theatres, April 2, 9, and onward, for Big Variety Combination of Genuine Novelties. SCOTTIE, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Good Theatre or Hall, for Easter, rent or share, for first-class Diorama Show
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BARRETT STEWART, Manager, George T., Crawley.

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Mr. ALLAN WILKIE
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DRAMATIC
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Répertoire
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Fourteen
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Printing
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Apply,
Martin Sands,
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"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Best Theatres,
Aug. 27 (First Vacant Date),
Sept. 3, 10, and few later.
Fifth Year of Tour and Success Continued.
G., West Hartlepool, March 26.

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WANTED, Easter, Easter, April 16, May 14, Whit week, onwards, with exceptions, for this really remarkable and powerful Holiday Attraction.
J. H. Clyndes, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
Played by a most excellent cast of first-class artists on a most lavish scale.
All new scenery and printing.
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Four Coloured Ladies and Six Coloured Gentlemen.
Specially brought to this Country by
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A Few Vacant Dates Only. Apply at once for this Delightful, Artistic, and Novel Entertainment, and a Sure Draw Anywhere. Just Finished at Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, to Record Business. This week, Institute, Aintree, Liverpool; next week, Auditorium, Port Sunlight, for W. H. Lever, Esq., M.P. For Dates and Terms, apply to Messrs. Jones and Douglas, Sole Agents, 21, Water-street, or 9, Chapel-street, Liverpool.
'Phones, 5650 and 2449 Cent. Wires, "Motherland,' Liverpool."

WANTED, Theatres, for Monday, for Walker's Great Circuit Variety Company of Fourteen Turns, including the great Charles Coborn, Tom Davis and Co., Globella, Rena and Rex, Harry Dowsett, Bert Reeves, Comical Walker, Alf. Belford, Miss Almer, Frank and Alice, Bioscope, &c. None but First-class Theatres need apply.

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Theatre, Colville.

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WANTED, Artists for Musical Comedy, in all Lines, Early Autumn Tours; also Chorus, good voices; also Eccentric Dude, sing and dance well. C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, following Artists for Bustling Musical Comedy Tour: Juvenile Dude, Soubrette, Chambermaid, Low Comedy Slavey, Robust Lady for "giddy" middle-aged Widow, all must sing and dance; furnish record, names of managers served, height, photos. (stamped envelope for return), and other useful particulars. Please also state whether can invest or influence £50-£100. Address, Artiste, care of L. E. Townroe, Esq., Solicitor, 26, Budge-row, E.C.

WANTED, Artists who have Played in "Old Kentucky," to Communicate, letters only, with J. F. Elliston, Bolton.

WANTED, Artists, Dramatic, Musical, Novel. Current "Amusement," fullest information, 6d. everywhere, post 7d. Edwin Drew, 7, Whitefriars-street, London.

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WANTED, Smart Chambermaid, preference given to lady who can give really good Acrobatic Dance. Photo.; refs., lowest terms.
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WANTED, First-class Gentlemanly Comedian, for Simon Stanley; also Lady, with good figure, for Vivienne, small French Comedy part; both to dress well. Rehearse April 2. Photos. and full particulars, Reginald H. Adair, Theatre Royal, Liverpool.

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WANTED, immediately, robust Juvenile Man, for "The Way of the World." Beaudyn and Crowe, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

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WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Lawrence Sylvestre, Responsibles, also own Cinématograph; Bertha Sylvestre, Soubrette or Juvenile Lead, Sing and Dance. Address, 56, Burton-crescent, Euston-road, London.

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WANTED, Known, Elocutionist desires additional pupils; also trains for the stage. Very moderate terms. M. C., c/o Jelpke, High-rd., Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, Vocalists, Pianists, four weeks, June, South Coast Pavilion, good Amateurs, Sisters write. Photo. Connard, Wootton Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, by Young Lady, an Engagement as Singer and Accompanist, for Summer Season, Masked Troupe; referred. Doreen Hawthorn, Gainsford, Enfield.

WANTED, by Good Soprano, Operatic Vocalist, R.A.M., Concerts and At Homes, also Dinner Work. Young, good appearance. Apply, Box 2,989, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Tenor, young, trained, Sight-reader, would join Male Quartette or Good Party. Good Répertoire. Radnor, 16, Sisters-avenue, Lavender Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Seaside, first-class Concert Party; good full Soprano, good Accompanist. Reeves, 26, Elspeth-road Clapham Common, London.

WANTED, Tenor and Baritone, Good Friday, Sacred Concert, Letters only, Herbert Knight, 126, Lambeth-road, London. Kindly note, Herbert Knight is at Liberty for Summer as Pianist, Vocalist, Pier or Al Fresco; reliable and thoroughly know my business.

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WANTED, Fairy Queen, Principal Dancers, Ladies for Ballet and Chorus, for Easter Production, April 12 to 21, inclusive. Rehearse three days previous at the
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Fares paid from Liverpool to Douglas, and return. Address, stating absolute lowest terms, references, and full particulars, to
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WANTED, for J. Gar Kiddie's Pantomimes, Principal Boy, Principal Girl, Dame, Ruffians, and two Clever Children to play Babes (must be over 14 years, and small). Write, with particulars and terms, to
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WANTED, Several First-Class Artists, for Pantomime.

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WANTED, Really First-class Comedians, for Will Atkins and Abanazer.
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WANTED, two Acting-Managers, must furnish good credentials. Office hours 10 till 2.
Graham, Hippodrome, Hull.

DEVIL'S DYKE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, a Young Acting-Manager, for above; must be smart, and up to date, with experience of pleasure grounds, fêtes, &c.
Apply by letter, with terms, to
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WANTED, Assistant-Manager, also Advance Manager, Tour Musical Comedy, well-known management, experience not essential; must invest or influence £50-£100. Address, Manager, care of L. E. Townroe, Esq., Solicitor, 26, Budge-row, E.C.

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Good Agent wanted also.
Apply, stating qualifications, to
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WANTED, First-Class Stage Electrician, Only good experienced men need apply.

Send all References to
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WANTED, Carpenter, Two Special Weeks, London. Particulars by letter only,
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WANTED, Known, Mr. Chas. H. Barclay, Advance Agent, at Liberty for Spring and Autumn. Immediate offers invited. Address, 41, Montpelier-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Situation, Gentleman, 26, previous employment Traveller, speaking, writing Italian, German, French, and English; required, Respectable Situation. First-class references. Write, Maxim, 160, Uxbridge-road, London, W.

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WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour; good references. Address, 42, Walcot-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

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WANTED, Leader, Violin, Clarionet, Cornet, Euphonium, Double Drums, and Pianist, April 16, two or three weeks. Tudor's Circus, Blyth.

WANTED, Conductor-Pianist (Vocalist preferred), capable arranging Voice Parts, for Training Children in Harmony, and Conducting Short Music Hall Act. Long Engagement First-class Man. Harry Cadle, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, First-Class Pianist-Conductor, tour Musical Comedy, well-known Management; must invest or influence £50-£100. Address, Conductor, care of L. E. Townroe, Esq., Solicitor, 26 Budge-row, E.C.

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WANTED, Good Violin Player,
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Good
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Regiment.
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WANTED, First-Class Solo Cornet, till end June, then August, onwards. Terms, age, recent testimonials, to Ambrose Mabbett, Musical Director.

WANTED, Good Cornet. Terms shares. Join at once. Secretary, Town Band, 30, St. George's-place, Cheltenham.

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WANTED, Lady Cornet Players, for long London Engagement. Apply by wire, Davin, 122, Warwick-street, London, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Bass Trombone, French Horn, and Double Drums, Tympani, &c., for long summer engagement, seaside. State lowest terms, age, and refs. Box 2,994, "The Era."

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Tenting Season, Slide Trombone and Saxhorn; must be steady. Thompson write. Duffy's Theatre, Dee-st., Newtownards-rd., Belfast.

WANTED, Flautist, to deputise for one week, April 2 to 7, inclusive, Military and Orchestra. Particulars, Greenwood, Municipal Orchestra, Eastbourne.

WANTED, for Tenting Circus, Flute and Piccolo, commence April 2. Apply, Auguste Denton, Mus. Dir., 86, Victoria-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, to Augment Band, for Two Nights, March 30 and 31, a Flautist. Lowest inclusive terms, Elphinstone, Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Pianist, Double Handed preferred. Permanency to good man.
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WANTED, a Pianist, to Open April 2, Hippodrome, Cambridge; must read at sight, and understand variety business, and sober. R. Silvester, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

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WANTED, Musicians, Double-handed, for Staff Band, First Clarionet and First Violin. Apply by letter only, N. N., c/o Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

WANTED, First-class Musicians, to complete Military Band, for Concert Tour, must be sight readers, good character and sobriety indispensable. Apply, with references, stating age, salary, &c., to Howard Lees, Blackpool. N.B.—Silence a polite negative.

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WANTED, Bandsmen,
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4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

For full particulars,
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Bandmaster,
Cowley Barracks, Oxford.

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WANTED, for the R.M.S. Ortona, sailing April 6 (Australian Trade), Violin, Clarionet, Cornet, Piano, and String Bass. Character references indispensable. Apply to F. C. Cane, Bandmaster, 28, Nelson-street, East Ham, Essex.

WANTED, Bandsmen, for South American Steamer; others also wanted, African Mails. Three Bands to be Completed,
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Hetherington's,
Bandmasters' Help Office, 163a, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Experienced Lady Instrumentalists, for Summer Season, South Coast, Leader, 'Cello, Bass, Clarionet, Cornet, Flute, Drums. Write lowest terms, photo. if possible. Orchestra, 123, Vicarage-road, Leyton.

WANTED, Competent Players on following instruments: Violin, Piano, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, &c., &c., to form Bijou Bands for First-Class Passenger Steamers, Pacific Liners. No duties except the playing of music. Regular employment to suitable men; must be steady and reliable. Apply to J. O. Shepherd, 11a, Myrtle-st., Liverpool.

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WANTED, Known, Jules Guitton, Musical Director, Composer, and Arranger, at Lib. Address, 51, Fairland-road, Mathew's Park, West Ham, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or Solo Cornet, good Répertoire, Composer and Arranger of Circus Music. T. Reynolds, Red Lion, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

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WANTED, Engagement, London or Seaside, by thoroughly experienced Leader or First Violin; total abstainer. H. Barwell-Holbrook, 20, Cupar-road, Battersea Park, S.W.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by First Violin, will be at Liberty shortly. Good ref. A. E. Wilks, 57, Herbert-rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.

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WANTED, by First Violin or Principal Viola, Summer Engagement (Pier or Gardens), experienced; good refs. Address, Oakley, c/o A. W. Gilmer, 32, Paradise-street, Birmingham.

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WANTED, Known, Good Violinist, at Liberty, plenty of music, Variety or Summer Engagement; any business. J. C., 266, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, Solo or Orchestral, single dates or deputising, in or near London. Robinson, 52, Park-road, Regent's Park.

WANTED, Engagement, First and Second Cornets, Clarionet, Horn, together or separate, all thoroughly good; any business; refs. Through termination Contract. Williams, 40, Victoria-rd., Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet or Violin, any business; experienced.
Starkey, 10, Noble-street, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, by Two Young Gentlemen, Engagements, Cornet, Piano, Violin, experienced all lines, good refs. Apply, Collis, Admiral Nelson Hotel, Humberstone Gate, Leicester.

WANTED, by First-class Solo Cornet, Theatre or Summer Engagement, at Liberty when suited. Address, Box 2,976, "The Era."

WANTED, by Cornet, combine Double Bass, to fix summer engagement, orchestra or military. Good refs. A. Wood, 52, Lysons-rd., Aldershot.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement, any business; experienced. Wm. Fletcher, 95, Hornby-street, Bury, Lancashire.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement immediately, any business; experienced; disengaged; season closed Opera House, Cork. Caunt, Bentinck-street, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, good reliable man, well up in Dramatic, Variety, or Military. Good references. Bryant, 15, London-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Seaside, as Second Cornet, total abstainer. Apply, with particulars, H. Russell, jun., 4, Court-street, Leamington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionettist, any Business, experienced and reliable. Excellent refs. Address, Charles Mantle, c/o Mr. Ursell, 148, Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet.
Address,
A. H. Price, 6, Firth-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, First or Second, for Band, Orchestra, or Varieties; also Summer Season. Address, Walter, 193, Seven Sisters-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, Orchestral or Military, Summer Season; experienced, competent, reliable. R. Beare, 14, Albany-road, Birches Head, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet, Engagement, any business; highest references. Can join at once. Apply John Orr, 1, Grosvenor-ter., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Dennis Butler, Principal Double Bass (4-string), Theatre Royal, Birmingham, at Lib for Engt., London preferred. Highest credentials.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Good Double Bass, Re-engagement, in hotel, theatre, or variety orchestra. Excellent refs. Lynd, 170, Drakefell-rd., Brockley, S.E.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, 12 years' player, steady, reliable. Charles Langley, 44, Home Park-road, Wimbledon Park, S.W.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, thoroughly experienced, Orchestral and Military. Would deputise. Bassoon, 68, Walbrook-ter., Newcastle.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Bass and Violin, together or separate. Address, J. Scott, Theatre Royal, Crook, Durham.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass, First-class, Disengaged. Address,
Mills, Principal Bass, Drury-lane, W.C.

WANTED, by First-Class Trombonist, any Business, any Distance, can join at once, thoroughly experienced. George Nicks, 53, King-street, Camden Town, London.

WANTED, by Experienced Trombone, Summer Engagement, good refs., thoroughly reliable. Beamish, 64, Townfield-lane, Liscard, Cheshire.

WANTED, by Trombone, Tenor or Bass (good), First-class London experience; good references. Musician, 16, Belgrave-rd, Abbey-rd., N.W.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, for Summer. Apply, F. Goedertier, Principal Horn Player, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., en route.

WANTED, Engagement, by Horn, French or Koenig, any business, first-class refs., at Liberty end of April. W. J., 70, Lowther-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. Cassells, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

WANTED, by Lady, 'Cellist and Violin, summer engagement, with orchestra or concert party, 'cello solos. Harvey, 4, Belsize-parade, Hampstead.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Evening Engagement in London, Sundays excepted. Highest references. Address, 'Cellist, 126, Kyverdale-road, Stamford Hill, N.

WANTED, Immediately, Engagement by Experienced Lady 'Cellist, good Soloist.
Box 2,975, "The Era."

WANTED, by 'Cello, Engagement, or Deputy, any business, good experience. Apply, R. Sortin, 20, John-street, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist, now at Liberty, or for coming Season. Write, S. S., 51, Southwold-mansions, Widley-road, Elgin-avenue, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Viola, combine Piano, experienced accompanist and Orchestral Pianist, advertiser well known, London preferred. Box 2,951, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Viola or Violin, experienced. George C. Gross,
35, Bath-lane-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, or Permanency, Viola or Violin, 3 seasons principal viola Cairo Orchestra, Scarboro'. Rothery, North-parade, Batley, Yorks.

WANTED, by Oboe, Summer Engagement, orchestral or military, late soloist Royal Marines. Excellent refs. G. Williams, 27, Paisley-street, Hull.

WANTED, Engagements, in London, after 8 o'clock, evening, as oboeist, as deputy, &c. 27, Lloyd-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Harpist, Summer engagement, Pier, or First-class Hotel. Finished 3 months, Court Theatre, L'pool. Address, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Flautist (any business), permanent or season engagement; sober, steady, and reliable man. W. Walker, 6, Clyde-road, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, finishing Season, Stockholm, at Liberty April 5. Address, C. H. Coleman, 27, Park-road, Bolton.

WANTED, by Flautist, age 18, Engagement, will not object to play at Hotel; no pitching. Victor Candler, 6, Oxford-terrace, Harrogate.

WANTED, by First-class Flautist, Easter and Summer Engagement, excellent refs, abstainer, age 31. W. Armstrong, 61, Weaste-rd., Weaste, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Flute and Piccolo, Restaurant, Suburbs, Theatre or Music Hall; good references. Box 2,995, "The Era."

WANTED, by Harry Ewing, Brilliant Pianist, first-class seaside summer engagement, thoroughly experienced all business. Write, 73, Holgate-road, Meadows, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engt., as Pianist, combine Violin or Viola, experienced, smart, steady, refs., orchestra or tour, concluded engt. deputy conductor, T. R., Rugby. Manton, 12, Pindars-lane, Rugby.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement with small Orchestra, good Sight Reader, well up in Variety. Liners preferred. F. J. Mulliner, Hollymoor, Northfleet, Birmingham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Ernie Hampton, pianist and violinist, good accompanist, transposer. Refs., &c., 13, Parkshot, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, Experienced Pianist, for Variety Business. Send references and lowest terms to T. W. Mayes, Manager, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Harry Whitman, Solo Pianist, Accompanist, and Vocalist, Disengaged during Miss Ada Colley's Vacation. Address, Star Hotel, Castle-st, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Orchestral Pianist, combine second violin, clarionet, experienced. Smith, 53, Carroun-rd., South Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist (Conductor), any Bus. Experienced. Excellent refs. Collings, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Engagement by two Young Ladies (Instrumentalists), would join costume Concert Party, or could supply small Band. Box 2,990, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, reliable, experienced, best references. Warwick, 2, Claylands-rd., Clapham-rd., London.

WANTED, a Shop, as Drummer, with own tympani, any business. Good references. F. K., 87, Caledonian-road, King's Cross.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred, join at once. Drums, 94, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, by the Shikissimma Band, Ladies' Japanese Orchestra, engagements, for exhibitions, hotels, &c., brilliant costumes. Conductress, Volthurst, Boundary-road, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands. Apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to July; Margate, April, May.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Family Band of Five, at Liberty shortly, any business, three years last engt. Box 2,909, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Small Band at Liberty, Pier, Hotel, Café, &c.; smart uniform, large répertoire; good refs. E. Hampton, 14, Parkshot, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. Williams, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. Jesson, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. Lees, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, WINTER GARDENS, SOUTHPORT.

WANTED, for the opening of this Grand Successful Show, April 2, April 2, April 2, and future dates; the best talent in England; all must be up-to-date; all Artists state when last appeared in the town of Southport. 100 Star turns already are engaged, and still more wanted, to assist the King to Show the Southport Public what a Circus Performance is like. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Winter Gardens, Southport.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, First-class Speciality Acts, Aërial Acts, Good Animal Acts. Address, C. ALGIE. N.B.—Artists kindly note, all contracts are stamped. Nelson's Newsboys kindly communicate. Important.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Ring and Stage, tenting season. Useful family of riders, &c., write; also good clown and agouste. Thanks for letters last week, but cannot answer all. Address, C. CASAN, Hippodrome, Reading. A. E. Jersey please write.

GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

WANTED, July, Aug., Sept., Cycle, Polo Teams, Teacup Track Act, Looping the Loop, Balloon, Parachuting, and every description of dumb shows. Terms, lithos., &c. (by Monday), CALVERTO, Giffnock, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Wilder's Fête and Gala Season, July 2, 9, Aug. 6, 13, Aerial Novelties, Acrobats, and up-to-date Gymnastic Performers, Single and Double Acts. Full particulars, terms, &c., to 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, a Smart and Funny Tumbler, age about 17. When writing, state weight, also lowest terms. A good engagement for anyone suitable.
Address,
Box 2,916, "The Era."

WANTED, Posturer or Bender. Send particulars to
Box 2,972, "The Era."

WANTED, Boy over fourteen, Tumbler preferred, small for age. Address, HAMILTON, 32, Booth-street East, Manchester.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Elizabeth, the Horse with Human Knowledge, Liberty 2nd, 9th, and 16th. ANGER and BAUER, 50, Rupert-street, W.

WANTED.—John Irvin and Miss Pinder, Bareback Equestrians, Pigeon Charmers, and Foot Equilibrist on Horse, and Riding Dog, will be at Liberty April 2, for home or abroad, also Easter, Fêtes and Galas. Thanks for offers, but still at Liberty. Address,
144, High-street, Deptford, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Equestrienne and Clown, own Horse, at Lib. for home or abroad; also for Tenting. Address, 6, Thornley-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Continental Clown, is now appearing with success at the Bordesley Palace, Birmingham. Monday, 26th, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clowns, Comic Act, open for Galas, in or outdoor Shows, Com. BUKE and SON, Poole's Myriorama, N. Shields.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Lady and Gent., smartest of all triple bar and trapeze performers, free through postponing, April 2, 9, 16. Address,
Pottery House, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Tenting Season, Cameo Troupe, Acrobats, Risley, Double Entrée, Boxing, and Singing Clown. 1, Upper Duke-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Cara Magda, the Gala Queen, lady aërial gymnast, 50ft. high, no net, vacant for Easter Galas. 50ft. high, no net. Address, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, by Acro and Echo, Speciality Gymnasts, April 9, on, halls and galas. Address, 14, Filbert-street, Birkby, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Known, the Maros, Comedy Bar Performers, Liberty 26th, 2nd, 9th, on. Address, 126, Porter-st., Hull. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, Triple Bar Act, Vacant Monday, also April 2. Wire, Hippodrome, Paisley, after Saturday. See Card.

WANTED, Monday, by Arizona Troupe, Acrobatic Tumblers and Benders, Jugglers, and Japanese Top Spinners. Wire, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, the Lashmars, in their Comedy Acrobatic Hand and Head Balancing Act, Vacant Monday, and April 2. Big success, this week, Empire, Belfast. Wire or write.

WANTED, Galas, by Mdlle. Bartenelli, the most clever and original Aerial Contortionist and Gymnast; also The Boultons, Comedy Musicians and Acrobatic Dancers; one or two Acts. Good lithos. Vacant from June 23. Address POOLE'S MYRIORAMA, Cheltenham.

WANTED, March 26, and onwards, by Flexo Beaufort, greatest of all Contohtionists, great success this week Prince of Wales' Theatre, Edinburgh; after Saturday, 20, Tennant-street, Leith, N.B. Offers for Tenting invited. Wire or write for good Speciality.

WANTED, Tom Hall, Animal Act, Four Dizars, Acrobats, Cora Trevella, Tight Wire, Vacant Summer Engagements. Address, CODONA'S Circus, Strathaven, Scotland.

WANTED, Tenting, by The Alton Family, Marvellous Contortionists, Posturers, and Gymnasts, Three Distinct Acts, all good numbers. Address, C. ALTON, 6, Victoria Park-road, Hackney, London.

WANTED, Known, Davilla, also Esk, Smartest Boy Tight-wire Walker Breathing, Liberty for Season. Forest View, Honney-lane, Waltham Abbey.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, Equilibrists and Acrobats, March 26, April 2, and Tenting Season. Wire, THORNE, Doncaster.

WANTED, March 26 and April 2, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, Hip., Dewsbury. Sunday, 25, Albany-terrace, Burnley.

WANTED, Secretaries, to engage Lieut. Lempriere, the popular, reliable, scientific Aëronaut, for Balloon Ascents and Parachute Descents. Address, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, by Lieut. Lempriere and his charming Lady Pupils, for Parachute Descents, together or separate. LEMPRIERE, Handsworth, Birmingham. Lady Parachutist still open Easter and Whit.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

PALACE THEATRE, KILMARNOCK
(one performance nightly).

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
Variety Artists
all Lines.

Lessee and Manager,
J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 63, Regent-street, W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

HIPPO. T. and OPERA HOUSE, MANSFIELD.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Branches, April 9, 30, May 14, June 4.
Address, J. MORRELLI and T. JENNINGS.

SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, April 2, and onwards, variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

CATLIN'S PIERROTS.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots, Weymouth.
All Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots, Buxton.
All Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots, Scarboro'.
All Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots, Saltburn.
All Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots, Whitley Bay.
All Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots, Aberdeen.
All Lines, for
Catlin's Pierrots Touring Co.
Wanted, for the above, Young, Refined Comedians, Tenors, Baritones, Specialities, Pianists, and a few Boys with Trained Voices. Send Terms, Photos., References, and all Particulars, to
W. CATLIN, 37, Halkin-street, Leicester,
Sole Proprietor of Catlin's Pierrots.

DARE'S MINSTRELS.
DOUGLAS HEAD, I.O.M.

Thirteenth Consecutive Season.

DARE'S MINSTRELS.
DOUGLAS HEAD, I.O.M.

Thirteenth Consecutive Season.

WANTED, Artists, Commencing June 4, also others to Open July 9.
COMEDIANS,
VOCALISTS,
and SPECIALITY ARTISTS.
Long Season's Engagement to suitable people.
Two Performances Daily, 11 to 1 and 3 to 5.
Full particulars, absolute terms, and permanent address in first letter to
CHARLES DARE,
Proprietor and Manager,
Address, c/o "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for Easter Week.
SAM DUCKWORTH,
Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, for Good Friday night only (1 show)
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for Immediate Dates. Smart Amateurs may write. BOB GRAHAM'S Variety Agency, Raleigh, Salford-road, Streatham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for April 9. Quote absolute lowest combination terms; small hall. Doubles doing singles write. SELBO, 124, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

Al Fresco.

WANTED, Pierrot Artists. Apply, Box 2,900, "The Era." Fred Thornley write up.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines. H. A. JORDISON, Managing-Director, Empire Theatrical Agency, Ltd., St. James's Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions suitable for Carnivals at Olympia, Sunderland. Apply, M. RICHARDSON, for Richardson Bros., Ltd.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, April 16, 30, May 14, 28. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Freaks write, April 23.

WANTED, First-class Artists, all Descriptions. Lowest terms and bookings. Letters only. DUNNING, 7, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Palace, Oldbury, Monday next, onwards. Please Note, Hall Small. Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, High-class Artists (Al Fresco), all Lines, open Easter, South Coast. Apply, letter only, FRED WALLIS, 51, Finlay-st., Fulham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Palace, Boston, April 2, also 9, Bioscope, Turns, play Good Friday. Big Acts, shares. Letters till Sunday. HARRY CLYO, 78, King-street, Southport, after Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, to Open Palace, Swansea, Monday. Big Acts shares. Wire, DEMPSEY, Victoria Hall, Abercorn.

WANTED, good Gala Artists, Easter, Whitsun, Aug. 2, 6, Bristol; also for Midlands. Terms, lithos., bills, WOOD, Caterer, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, for Tom Owen's Pierrots, Artists, Double and Single, must be Refined.
TOM OWEN, Empire, Nottingham.

WANTED, April to September, for taking part in animated photographs, Sketch Artists and Speciality Performers, day time only. Particulars and dates when probably in London, to Box 2,987, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for April 2. RYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Speciality Artists, for Gala, July 21, near Leeds (1 day). Send terms, lithos., &c., BROOKLYN, 61, Pelham-street, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London, Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME Co., LTD.

WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that, from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contract will be recognised unless Signed by the Secretary and Manager.
T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager.
G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Pete and Juno, Burns and Bentley, Storey and Trigg. Three Sisters Leigh, George Rapley, Edward Sayers, please call at once. Contracts are waiting.
WORDSWORTH and SMITH, Variety Agents, 150, Strand, W.C. 'Phone, 6832 Gerrard.

WANTED, for June 4, 11, and 18,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars, Artists all Lines, Easter, Tidworth Bordon Camps, Salary, Share; later elsewhere, complete Companies. Tivoli, Wednesbury. 8, Mill-hill-road, Acton, W.

WANTED, Big Stars, April 2, 9. GEO. AYTOUN'S Agency 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics," London." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Comedy Acts, &c., March 26 and April 2, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment. Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

CAVALRY THEATRE ALDERSHOT.

WANTED, Good Double Turns doing Single, Good Serios, &c., for above and other places. Thanks for letters; cannot answer all.
Overheard in Barracks:
Lancer: What did you think of the show on Monday night?
Dragoon: A record Monday—each artist encored; no "Birds" no "Fruit."
Hussar: But how could you expect anything else?
Lancer: Why?
Dragoon: Because we have our old Manager back again.
Lancer: Who is that?
Hussar: Why, HARRY SAUNDERS, the man who knows the biz.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Turns of every description, large and small, for immediate and future dates, Sharing terms, First-class Theatres and Halls. Artists already engaged for my combinations send open dates. P. A., 28, Liverpool-street, Dover. Silence polite negative.

CHAS. W. POOLE'S ROYAL MYRIORAMA.

WANTED, for Four Weeks, commencing Easter Monday, at Southsea, good novel turn (not animal); must be refined and up to date. Terms, &c., HARRY STEWART, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
April 2, 16, 23, and onward.
Big Specialities,
Jugglers,
Ballad Vocalists,
Dancers, &c.,
No Sketches.

Call Monday, March 26:—
Will Onda and Co., "Motor Maniac,"
Barney Vox,
Stern and Stern,
Will McIvor,
Bros. Onda,
Sisters Demandez,
Counsell and Mills,
Bros. Bright.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Specialities, Novelties,

June 4, onwards.

Lowest Terms, Bookings, Lithos.

EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, the Best of Talent in all Lines, for April 2, 9, 16, also June.
Send at once; impossible to answer all.

DREW BAYLEY, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED for Immediate and Future Dates, Talent, in all Lines, for Hippodrome, Barrow, Hippodrome, Cambridge, and Hippodrome, Grimsby; all must state when last in the above towns, and lowest terms. R. SILVESTER, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, best available Variety Talent, April 2, 9, and on, Good Bioscope, no Sketches, Theatre Combination, must be brilliant. Absolute lowest terms in first letter. SCOTTIE, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Wanted, Immediately,
Big Speciality Acts,
Good Comedy Acts, Double Acts,
Comedians, Serios, &c.,
for London and Provinces.
Money no Object, if Good.

Send Terms, Lithos., and Bookings,
WORDSWORTH and SMITH,
Variety Agents,
150, Strand, London, W.C.
Telephone, 6832 Gerrard.
Provincial Representative, Chas. Chard.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS and VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-Class New, Novel, and Genuinely Funny Acts, commence April 16, for short and long Engagements; nothing too big. Quote all particulars and absolute lowest terms to above, Town Hall, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU.
15, Hotham-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for immediate and future dates, the Biggest Acts in the Market, Novelties, Star Comic Acts, &c. Send full particulars, bookings, and lowest terms, photos., lithos, &c. All friends write again.

WANTED, Big Acts for America. All particulars to FRANK LYNNE, 121, West 42nd-street, New York City, U.S.A.

WANTED, Good Comedy Acts, all Lines, during July, August, and September, three performances daily. Say if new to Yarmouth. Turns known to me write, lowest terms (no best offers), vacancies, permanent address, to HARRY BARKER, 6, Harley-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, I can Place the Biggest Acts. ATLAS,
17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Proprietors, SMITH and LEE. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Four Maisanos, Angolina Fillis, Wisper, Beattie Bloom, Lillian Victoria, Voldam Bros., Louis Kerno, Vernon's Bioscope.

WANTED, April 23, First-class Combination.

WANTED, First-class Combinations, with Star Attractions, stars on shares, artists all lines. GEO. SAPHRINI, Lessee and Manager, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Morecambe, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, for Monday next and immediate dates, Strong Attractions for Easter, Big Acts that can work inside or outside write. Letters, CLEMPERT, Hippodrome, Higher Broughton, Salford. Wire, "Clempert, Manchester."

WANTED, Big Animal Acts, Speciality Acts, and Big Numbers of all Description. Send terms and full particulars. Address, NEIMAN'S Agency, 74, The Grove, Camberwell.

PIERROT AND SEASIDE ENTERTAINMENTS, FILEY, YORKSHIRE.

WANTED, Known, the Filey Urban District Council are prepared to receive Tenders for the sole privilege of giving Pierrot Entertainments upon Filey Sands, and upon the Esplanade, for the ensuing season. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender, and all offers must be forwarded so as to reach me, the undersigned, on or before Monday, April 2, 1906. WELFORD B. GORTON, Clerk to the Council, Council Offices, Filey, March 19, 1906.

WANTED, Good Singles and Doubles, for the Best Shows, Aldershot Camp. Turns known to me write in for immediate work. WILL AVIS, Gamage, Aldershot

WANTED, Three Young Ladies (Amateurs), for Music Hall Act; Two Children (over 14), for Front. Small premium. YATES, 15, Brooks's-alley, Liverpool.

WANTED, Pair of Sisters, Easter Week, other Artists, also Baritone, Soubrette, Double-handed Pianist, for Al Fresco. Photos., terms, BURTON'S Agency, Sheffield.

WANTED, for good Summer Al Fresco, young Comedian, must be good Dancer, with good Répertoire of Coon and Comedy Songs. State salary and particulars. Box 2,992, "The Era."

WANTED, Alert Comedian, to play part of Young Doctor in Sketch; also refined Comedienne and Chambermaid. Letters only, VINCENT COLLIER, 30, Crockerton-road, Tooting.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Circus, Tenting Season, through disappointment, a good Irish Comedian and Lady Serio. Address, HANNEFORD, 6, George-street, off Ravenhill-road, Belfast.

WANTED, by Perry's Happy Valley Minstrels, for Summer Season, First-Class Comedian for Corner, also Tenor, to complete Quartette; performers with Specialities preferred. Lowest terms, Granton House, Llandudno.

WANTED, for Al Fresco, Comedians, Humorists, Tenor, Baritone, Pianist, must be young, large rép.; long season. ALLNUTT, JUN., 15, Kenbury-mansions, Coldharbour-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Conjurer, Ventriloquist, and Humorist, or Troupe that can give two-hours' show; must be refined show. State lowest terms for 17 weeks' season, commencing Whitsun, also one week Easter. Those requiring big salary save stamps. Small hall. Professor BEAUMONT, King's Head Hotel, Llandudno.

WANTED, a Good Conjurer, also Good Advance Billposter, tenting show, long, reliable engagement to suitable parties. BRACEY DANIELLS, Post Office, Ardrigole, co. Cork.

WANTED, Clever Boy and Girl Singers, Dancers (Wing and Back), &c., over 14 and small for age; must either have fine voices or experience. KING, Hippodrome, Salford.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Immediately, for Well-known Comedy Act, two smart youths; must be good contortionist, tumbler and knockabout. Apply, with correct list of tricks, age, height, weight, and salary, to Box 2,980, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Cartoonist, for Speciality Act of Three Persons. Apply, stating salary required, Box 2,997, "The Era."

WANTED, Beginners, for Variety Stage. Apply,
1, Victoria-mansions, 121, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, Good Cinématograph Turn, to last one hour and a half, open March 29, one week, probably longer. Wire lowest terms, MANAGER, 89, King-street, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Bioscope, with Latest Films, for Alnwick and Ashington; must have electric. Sisters, serios, write. DILLON, Theatre, Sacriston, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, to Open at Once; must understand all currents of electric and lime light; sober man only need apply. R. SILVESTER, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, Ethel Gale, Marvellous Blind Comedienne, who does her business totally unassisted; Harry Carter, Comedian; Double Turn if required. Wire, 94, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, April 2, 9, by Babs Lloyd, star artist; and Nellie Vann, comedienne. Big success, E., Belfast; 26th, Empire, Dublin.

WANTED, April 2 and 9, Line O. Bright, Dainty Irish Comedienne and Dancer, the brilliant serio that pleases everywhere. Terrific success this week, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Edinburgh. Offers invited to Ivy Grove Cottage, Flemington, Motherwell, Scotland.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 2, by Lily Turner, Versatile Vocalist.
Wire, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Truro, Refined Duettists, have vacant dates. Address, 31, Old Hall-street, Middleton, Manchester. This week, Hippodrome, Preston.

WANTED, by Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Operatic Vocalists, April 23, and summer. Offers invited for piers. Next, 39, Electric-av., Brixton.

WANTED, Monday next, by Sisters Daventry (Dolly and May), harmonising duettists. 3, High Gate-st., Liverpool. Wire for a good turn.

WANTED, Engagement, by an Experienced Lady, in Music Hall Sketch, used to Patter, Sing, Good Dancer; would join Lady or Gentleman in Double Turn. Box 2,979, "The Era."

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Dancers, Monday next. Wire or write, 35, Florence-street, Islington, N. Thanking Mrs. C. L. Lawson and F. Durham, for contracts.

WANTED, Known, James Stewart, "The Tramp at the Piano," has the following dates vacant for Summer Months:
July 9, 16, 23, Aug. 13, 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24.
Address,
Empire, Newcastle.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, English and Continental Clown, appearing nightly with success at the Bordesley Palace, Birmingham, on Moss' Tour. Monday, 26th, Hippodrome or Empire, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Geo. Penn, Speciality Comedian.
Wire, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

WANTED, by Herbert H. Cullum (the Versatile Specialist), Eng., any business, April 23, forward, Artist, Comedian, Vocalist, Character Actor, Lecturer, &c. CULLUM, Poste-Restante, Hebden Bridge.

WANTED, Monday next, by Gus Granville, Eccentric Comedian, Work the Traps; also vacant for Burlesques, Sketches, and Easter Pantomimes, just finished most successful Pantomime Tour of thirteen weeks, as Idle Jack, re-engaged for same next Christmas. 21, Aynhoe-road, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Known,
HARRY BANFORD,
The New and Original Comedian. Big Success Everywhere, No Vacancies at present. Address, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Martinengo, Van Biene's Double. Solo 'Cello and Baritone. Wanted, Monday next, also April 9 and 16, to follow Pier, Southport. Wire, 19, Albany-road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, a big novelty; also Ventriloquist. Wire, 2, Spen-lane, York.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 2, by Harry Albery, eccentric comedian and dancer. Wire, 43, Wyndham-st., Bury, Lancs. Wire.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, April 9, 30, May 21, onwards. This week, Hippo., Ashton; Monday, Hippo., Salford.

WANTED, by George Barr, Comedian, Sing, Dance, Patter, Knockabout and Musical, Theatres, Sketch or Troupe. 95, Fentiman-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Monday, 26, 6 or 12 nights, Gillin, Ventriloquist, with or without Bioscope. Wire, GILLIN, Ventriloquist, Rotherham.

WANTED, Bookings, Three Distinct Turns, High-class Conjuring, Second Sight, and Bioscope, latest pictures. Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green.

WANTED, April 30, May 21, June 11, 25, by the Great Kyoto and his Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box, a Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, and Conjurer; May Geraldine, a Smart Dancing Comedienne. Enormous success Stoll Tour. This Empire, Nottingham; next, Empire, Leicester.

WANTED, offers, M. and Madame Henri, Elegant Equilibristic and Gymnastic Act, "Sport in the Electric and Floral Garden." Big Top or Bottom. Liberty April 2 and 9; also May 14 and 21. Managers tin want of a novel Act book the Henris. Wire or write, Westminster Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, by the Gelders (Van and Li-Li), Modern Magicians, &c.: Miss Lillie Hustler, Dainty Soubrette and Speciality Dancer; April 2, 9, 16, unexpectedly Vacant through obliging. For two good sound acts, wire Barrow Hill Hotel, Chesterfield.

WANTED, April 2, the Moncktons, excruciatingly funny musical comedy acts. "A Woman's Curiosity," &c. Return, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Monday next, by Charles Dawson, comedian; and Marie Linsey, ballad and burlesque; one or both. Wire, 10, Gilbridge-avenue, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen (Frank and Minnie), the Comedy Couple, Instrumentalists, Vocalists, and Dancers, Vacant April 2, 16. Thanks Messrs. Brill and Graydon, F. Macnaghten, F. Baugh, C. Benard, F. Henderson, for Contracts. R. Cass's Agency, 30, Maiden-lane, W.C.

WANTED, Dates, North, April 30, Abex, Miniature Hercules, Mdlle. Florence, Globe Walker. Com., 112, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, the Refined Vocal Comedy Duo, April 9, 16, 23, on. Hit of programme, Empire, Paisley. Monday, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 2, by the Maddison Bros., refined comedians and burlesque boxers. A sure success. Wire, 98, Kennington-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Clark and Gold, in their Astronmore Act,
Return to the Continent, Marseilles;
to follow, Nice, Monte Carlo, and Rome.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Doyle and Gibson, Patter Comedians and Dancers, April 2 and 9. Write or wire, Hippodrome, Barrow; next, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, April 2, 16, by Carl and Carr, Comedians, in refined novel act. Thanks Livermore's return contracts, and others. 27, Ashley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Dates, Two Clarkes, Acrobatic Speciality Globe Performers; also Comical Beano, with mechanical donkey; roars of laughter. 2, in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, March 26 and April 2, by Belford and Mars, Laughable Vocal Comedy Duo. Wire, Hippodrome, Mansfield, Notts.

WANTED, by Reed and Lerne, the Novel Comedians, April 2 and 16. Wire, Gaiety, Birmingham; Monday, 26th, Hippo., St. Helens.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Comedians, March 26, onwards. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London.

WANTED, Known, Pearce and Ward, Comedy Act. This, starring, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Edinburgh. Vacant Monday. Wire. Two Acts if required.

WANTED, March 26, April 2, onward, Los Granadas, Electrifying Bounders, up-to-date comedy act. 238, Victoria-rd., Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, April 2 and 9, and Easter, for Scottie's Waifs and Strays, great money drawing Novelty; and Scottie's Laughing Cyclone, "Whizzing the Whirl." March 26, Hippo., Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, the Great Marconis, Electric Wonders, unexpectedly vacant Monday. Wire, King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, by Arizona Troupe, Tumblers, Benders, Jugglers, &c. Also, Will Percival, Dancer. Monday next, wire, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, Dates, by the Lyricos. They were delightful in operatic sketches, in costume.—Kent Argus, March 10. Address, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next, by The Rushforths, Song Illustrators; and King Leo, Ventriloquist. Wire, 36, Lower Ormond-st., Manchester.

WANTED, by Abadaroffs, March 26, through Transferring, Sunderland, Monday next. Wire, perm., 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Frank Keegan and Co., Funniest Knockabout Act on the Road, Liberty April 2, July 2, 9, Oct. 1, 8.
JAMES FIONI, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, by Tom Davis's Comedy Sketch Company, terrific bit, screams of laughter at "Retaliation." Refer Proprietor, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, by the Albano Troupe, March 26 and April 2. The Albanos are the Greatest Refined Musical Speciality now on the British Stage. A Success Everywhere. Manager, Henri Albano, the Celebrated Solo Harpist, and the World's Greatest English Concertina Soloist.
Wire, Wire, Wire, Wire.
A Draw, A Draw.
38, Macdonald-street, Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, June 25 (follow Plymouth), July 2, 9 (three nights), also Sept. 10 (follow eight weeks Jersey), 17, 24, for Victor Stevens' Peerless Pierrot Concert Party (six in number, including Victor Stevens).
Address, Theatre Royal, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Claude Ginnett, jun., Original "Rejected Remounts," Vacant April 2, 9, 16, May 7, 21, June 11, onwards. Address, 59, Nichols-square, Hackney-rd., N.E.

WANTED, Dates, Juvenile Military Spectacle, "Japan"; also Adults' Spectacle, "Gordons at Dargai"; everything carried. CLARKE, 2, in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, Good Hall, Easter Monday, by First-class Variety Company, including Biograph. Address, A. B., 51 Dorothy-rd., Lavender Hill, S.W.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Roza's Great Canine Hippodrome, the smartest and finest lady's animal show on tour, great London and Continental success, elaborate stage setting and costumes, up to date, including the Goal Keeper, Vacant April 16, 23, 30, between Liverpool and London. Com., Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Known, Cambridge's Royal Living Marionettes, funny, refined entertainment, Liberty Piers, Pavilions, Gardens, Palaces, &c. 2, in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Le Clair's Bioscope and Troupe of Dogs, including the greatest leaping dog in the world. 44 weeks, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

WANTED, Engagements, De Gruchy's Britannia Bioscope, always up to date, success everywhere. Reasonable terms. 32, Craigie-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Bioscope Operator, Disengaged (limelight), with first-class machine and film, for 30 minutes, hour, or 2 hours' good show. State terms and particulars, BIOSCOPE, 25, Regent-square, London.

WANTED, by First-class Biograph Operator, Engagement, thoroughly experienced in lime or electric (alternating or direct); also used to camera. G. HOWARD, New Theatre, Mountain Ash, S. Wales.

WANTED, by Young Man (23), Situation with Professional Conjurer. Address, R. JOBLING, 5, Elizabeth-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

WANTED, Known, that a Meeting of London Showmen will be Held at the
Star and Garter Hotel,
Upper-street, Islington,
on Thursday, March 29, at 3.30 sharp,
to consider Important Business
concerning Metropolitan Fairs, &c.

Rev. T. HORNE, Convener.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
TOM OXTON,
The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.

Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, TOM OXTON, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

Move with the times, or get left.

WANTED, Showmen to Note that we are the Sole Agents of the Mills Novelty Co., who make 200 different Slot Machines, and not a "dud" among them. They make the famous ball-punching machine, which has taken over £25 in one week in London. The punching ball is a "daisy"; takes money quick, and takes it all the time. Send for catalogue and testimonials.
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
120, York-road, King's Cross,
London.

The Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-road, King's Cross, London.

WANTED, to thank the many Customers who have placed their Orders for the Ball-punching and other Automatic Machines for Spring Delivery, and would respectfully ask those who contemplate ordering to do so as quickly as possible, to prevent risk of disappointment. Members of the Showmen's Protection Association.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, the up-to-date Warehouseman for Auctioneers' Wants, has removed to larger premises. Note New Address, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch. Second-hand Watches and Pawnbrokers' Forfeits Stocked to any amount.

Auctioneers.

WANTED, Known, Great Value Offered in Secondhand Silver Watches.
Auctioneers only supplied.
Write to-day for particulars.
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Professor Retene supplies Shooting Galleries, Side-shows, and Novelties for Gardens, Piers, and Pavilions. Latest Novelty, the "Willow Pattern Plate" Shooting Gallery, right up-to-date, a good money-taker (duly registered). Spaces wanted in good places. Address, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, 56, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for 22 Ammunition, Rifles, &c. Absolutely the cheapest market.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Cheapest and Best House Job Linoleums and Oilcloth. Ward, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

DEVIL'S DYKE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Trainer, with own Elephant, for Children's Rides, &c., at above.
Commence Easter.
Apply, with terms and full particulars, to Mrs. Barrasford, Lyceum, London.

WANTED, some extra good Novelties, Aerial Flight, &c., for above.
Apply, Mrs. Barrasford, Lyceum, London.
Mrs. Barrasford has now arranged for a half-hour motor train service from Brighton.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen to Know, Paintings of every Description to Order; Show Cloths, Roundabouts, Switchbacks, Letter Cloths, Transparencies; also Scenery for Marionettes, &c. First-class work. Reasonable prices; prompt attention. Turner, Showman's Artist, also Builder of Side-shows, Galleries, and Jungles. 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for the Original Show Ground, opposite the Lower Welsh, Hendon, for the Easter Holidays, commencing Good Friday, and following week, Switchback or any Novel Riding Machine, also Shows, large and small, or any great Novelty. Remember this is old original Fête Caterers of many years standing. Address, Pettigrove, Exhibition Ground, High-street, Stratford, London.

WANTED, Good Knockabout Comedian, respectable young man, live in if preferred. State terms either way. One who can Sing preferred. E. Lawrence, Carnival Ground, Shrewsbury.

GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.
WANTED, July, Aug., Sept., First-class Side Shows, all Lines, including electric floor working models, marionettes, &c., share, rent, or salary. Particulars (by Monday), Calverto, Giffnock, Glasgow.

WANTED, Shows, Novelties, and Attractions, May and onwards. A. E. Pickard, Britannia Varieties and American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties of all Descriptions, Engagements not less than month. First-class terms. Write, Gardner, Dog Inn, Cowhill, Oldham.

WANTED, Refined Novelties, for Monday and onwards, terms Shares; also two Refined Doorsmen, that understand Fair Business; good wages for suitable men. Boozers please save stamps. 184, Rye-lane, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Novelties, Suitable for Waxwork Exhibition, for Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. I can book you for two months. Humber's Exhibition, 112, George-st., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Living Novelties, Flying Lady write, must have good Posters (two weeks certain). Wire for Monday, 26th. Manager, Novelty Exhibition, 3, West-street, Bromley, Kent.

WANTED, Up-to-date Novelties, Freaks, Performers, with Paintings or Posters; good Flash; open Monday, Shares. Manager, 8, Bullring, Birmingham.

WANTED, a Couple of Good Parading Girls, for bioscope show, good shop to those used to the business. W. Haggar, Bioscope Exhibition, Ebbw Vale S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Opportunity, Vacancies for Outside Parade Attractions, on Relph and Pedley's Take-it-easy show; no Chinese Labour needed. Relph and Pedley, 40, Scaitcliffe-street, Accrington, Lancashire.

WANTED, Character Reader, also Patterer, good main road exhibition shop, at Reading. Rent or shares. Apply, Mason, 17, Settles-st., London, E.

WANTED, First-class Phrenologist, &c., Caston's Waxworks and Varieties, tremendous success, Drexe's Hall, Blaina, Mon.; Town Hall, Pontypridd, to follow.

WANTED, Lecturer, for First-Class Diorama Show, to assist in management; also General Manager, good Agent in Advance; also Picture Workers write. State terms in first letter. L. Stern, Midland Hotel, Manchester.

WANTED, Steady and Capable Doorsman, for Cinématograph; one who can lecture inside preferred; open April 9. We travel by rail. Apply, G. Green, The Carnival, Glasgow.

WANTED, Smart Man, for Show Business. State Salary required and Experience. Silence a polite negative. Pickard, Brit., Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Pianiste, to Travel with Auction Mart, one who has travelled with Auction Mart preferred. Can open at once. Wire or write, Rowley, Auction Mart, White's Field, Queen's-street, Lymington, Hants.

WANTED, Engagement, Carl Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with dog Toby. 101a, Penwith-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Signor Trevori, Punch, Conjurer, and Ventriloquist, now booking for Fêtes, &c. Ivanhoe House, 370, Green-lane, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Professor Carl Whyte, Hypnotist and Corpse Reviver, Lady in Trance, also Conjuring and Knife-throwing. Paintings. Write, 8 Bull Ring, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Carl Collena, Premier Rifle Expert and Snake Charmer, wants March 26, on, good window show. Stewart's Waxworks, 124, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Flo, Tattooed Lady, and Ydac also, Transmission of Thought, at Liberty Monday. Cady, 95, High-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement by Will Goodwin, working agent, billing or doorsman, any business; excellent refs. Over the Bridge, Wickham Market, Suffolk.

WANTED, by Arthur Thompson, Situation as Comedian, Planksman, smart, willing, and useful. Good references. Liberty 26th. Club Farm, Holme, Holmefirth, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Performing Seal, and Enigma, good paintings, costumes, &c., Lib. April 2. Capt. Bevan, 20, Old Market-st., Bristol.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallowners, and all Travellers, that I have Ground to Let at all my well-known and old-established Spring Fairs commencing second week in March; also at the only recognised Easter Fair in Manchester, Queen's-road Ground; also Wolverhampton Market-place, Top Ground; and a continuous run of Wakes and Fairs throughout the entire season. Rents Moderate to tenants.
All applications for Ground to be made to
John Collins, World's Fair, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, for the Easter Holidays, Welsh Harp, Hendon, good position for shows and all kinds of amusement, for one week, commencing April 12. Apply, Hastings and Whayman, Exhibition Ground, Mile End-rd., Stepney Green; or, Show Ground, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, one or two Spaces to Let, Engraving, &c., in the Original Scenic Touring Exhibition, "Japan"; free admission; always touring; scenic stalls provided. Open New Alexandra Hall, Blyth, March 31. Apply, Manager, "Japan" Exhibition, Corn Exchange, Alnwick.

WANTED, to Sell, Large Rocking Boat, with Flagstaff and Flags, that will carry 25 children at one time; also Trolley, for carrying boat; £10, or near offer, a bargain. Apply, J. Harris, 5, Rally-street, Wyndham-rd., Camberwell.

TRADES EXHIBITION,
PIER PAVILION, SOUTHEND.
Four 36ft. Spaces only left.
WANTED, Rubber Stamps, Fancy Jewellery, Electric Engraving, Handkerchiefs,
March 26 to April 7.
To be opened by the Mayor and Mayoress.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

EASTHAM, near LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
to Let,
Good Positions for Side Shows, &c.
Apply,
Ellis and Bragger,
48, Castle-street, Liverpool.

STARR ESTATE FAIRGROUND CO.
Manager, J. Hardman.
Secretary, A. Ellis.
WANTED, to Let, Land, on Blackpool Sands,
for all kinds of Shows.
Apply,
Secretary,
81, Central Beach,
Blackpool.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Fair Ground is the only place of Outdoor Entertainment and Attraction in Blackpool, situated at South Shore, next the Promenade; the electric trams run right to it; finest position in the town. The Grounds face the sea, and have a frontage of over 500yds. The permanent Attractions now installed include the River Caves of the World, the Maxim Flying Machine, Helter Skelter, &c.
Room for new Attractions next season, commencing at Easter.
Good Tunnel Railway Wanted.
Native Village Wanted.
Enclosure now being erected for same.
Good Shooting Jungle or Side Show Wanted for new building, 30ft. by 30ft.
Covered and well-built Stalls, 10ft. by 20ft., to let.
Apply, Proprietors, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

WOLVERHAMPTON
ANNUAL PLEASURE FAIR.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Known,
Spaces to be let at
Whitsuntide,
for Shows,
Roundabouts,
and other
Fair Novelties
Best Fair in Midlands.
Early Application,
Market Inspector,
Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
To Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, &c., that they can have ground on the following old-established Fair Grounds:—
Brierley Hill,
and all other Black Country Places,
Easter Grounds,
Alexandra Palace Park, London,
Wolverhampton,
Coventry,
Birkenhead,
Dudley,
Birmingham, two great Fairs,
May and Onion Fair,
Worcester July Races,
Several Summer Fêtes, Flower Shows,
Carnivals and Galas.
For terms and particulars address,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.
Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall."
Telephone, No. 80, Walsall.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen and others, that a New Ground, covering three acres, exact centre of town, two minutes' from Passenger and Goods Station.
Apply, Jenkins,
Commercial Hotel, Treharris, Glam., S. Wales.

SYDNEY GARDENS, BATH, EASTER FETE.
High Rope and Fireworks Varieties.
WANTED, to Let, Ground, Reasonable Terms. Gannon, Caterer, West-grove, Bristol.

GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.
WANTED, to Let, Space, July, Aug., Sept. (Ireland), at above, for first-class set of roundabouts (motor-cars, horses, gondolas, and switchbacks), helter skelter, aërial railway, and usual attractions. Offers immediately, Calverto, Giffnock, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, and Stallholders, that I have commenced my usual Spring Fairs this week at Eccles, next week Cheetham Hill, and continue until the end of the season, including Ordsall-lane for Easter, and Knutsford, &c. John Whiting, Anchorage, Stretford.

WANTED, to Let, Shooting Gallery and Rifle Range, fitted with all accessories, facing Ramsgate Sands; also adjoining arch, 36 by 18, suitable for Novelties. Apply, H. Smith, Manager, Marina Shades, Ramsgate.

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WANTED, Tenders, for the Supplying and Fixing of the Scenery and Stage Fittings for the
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Specifications and Full Particulars may be obtained on application.
Tenders, Endorsed "Kursaal Scenery," to reach me on or before Tuesday, April 3, 1906.
The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.
Charles Palmer,
Royal Prince's Parade,
Bridlington.

WANTED, Known.—I, Fred Curran, have ceased to represent Mr. Leo Fritz, as finding winners and keeping myself booked requires all my brain power.

WANTED, Known. all goods left for debt at 126, Lambeth-road, not claimed by 28th will be sold. Signed, Mrs. Knight.

WANTED, Known, the Empire, Wrexham, will be closed on March 26, for a short period.
J. J. Scott, Proprietor.

WANTED, to thank the many Artists who have written in for my Summer Tour. Vacancy filled by the Sydney Quartette. Some future date should be pleased to hear from old friends. Mrs. Jacob Study, Victoria Hall, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Mrs. Donbavand sincerely thanks J. Ohmy for £1 in aid of herself and family, through the death of her husband. Any other subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged. Rose Donbavand, 19, Victoria-street, Shaw Heath, Stockport.

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In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, re Charles Head, deceased, Gilling v. Watkins and others, and Watkins v. Oakley and another.

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Tenders, giving quotations for three-fourths of the total number in sets of three, and for the remaining one-fourth singly, marked "Tender for Tip-up Chairs," must be received by me before 12 o'clock Noon on Wednesday, April 4, 1906.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

A. E. MATTHEWMAN,
Town Hall, Bridlington. *Town Clerk.*
March 19, 1906.

FIVE HUNDRED REPLIES

IN ANSWER
to
ONE ADVERTISEMENT
in the
WANTED COLUMN
of
"THE ERA."

Mr. ALBERT HENGLER, writing from the HIPPODROME, GLASGOW, says:—
MY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE LAST ISSUE OF YOUR PAPER BROUGHT ME CLOSE ON 500 REPLIES."

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D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Scarborough,
March 14, 1906.

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The high standard of the Empire Theatre entertainments is being well maintained; the current programme will easily hold its own. The place of honour is given to Herbert Darnley's Company in the sketch *Moving In*, which is well described as a "screaming skit on domestic derangement." Most amusing situations are evolved in the sketch, which runs with remarkable vigour, and last night caused roars of laughter." All who enjoy good, genuine fun should make a point of seeing it.

"LIVERPOOL PROGRAMME."

The magnificence of this week's bill is at once apparent to all who scan it. Herbert Darnley's Company of comedians present a screamingly funny sketch entitled *Moving In*, a skit on domestic derangement. Mr. Darnley has earned for himself a reputation second to none for humorous sketches, the public being indebted to him for many of Fred Karno's best productions, such as *His Majesty's Guests*.

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Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
"Moving In," Venie Clements, Rinaldos, La Tostia, Albert Whelan, The Howards, Terley, Auroras, Fred E. Terry, Bioscope, Alice Maydue.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Harry Tate Goltz Trio, Harry Leybourne, Walter Munroe, Mattie Wilks, The Courtiers, Herbert Shelley, Urbani and Son, Bioscope, Staley's Transformation.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Machnow, Frank's Midgets, Helene and Emilon, Lukushimas, Chas. Fisher and Co., Rachael Lowe, Chris Richards, Raffin's Monkeys, Bioscope, Lieut. Travis.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
The Globe of Life, Two Bostons, Virto and Daughters, Morton and Elliott, O'Gust, Four Avocas, Wilson Hallett, Bioscope, Novellos, J. C. Kurry.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Dronza, Walter Stanley, Jessie Merrilees, Bert Byrne, Daisy Mayer, James Stewart, George Tacius, David Poole, Tina Clementa, Brown, Le Clerq, and Co.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Tom Costello, Ruth Doris, Trapnells, Kitts and Windrum, Park's Eton Boys, Hayes and Suits, Spessardy's Bears, McPhee and Hill, Booker and Narbis, My Fancy.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Ted Cowan, Drew and Alders, Gwennie Hasto, Sam Soda, Elsie Robey, Rich and Rich, Alice May and Co., Colby and May.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Sawade's Animals, Dorrells, Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, Bert Woodward, Sinclair and Parr, New Macs, Mezzetti and Mora, Amy Russell, Roze and Calvert, Seeley and West.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Wilkie Bard, Nellie Stratton, Lios Alfa Sisters, T. C. Callaghan, Forrest and King, Florrie St. Clair, Edwin Barwick, Lee Ados, Bioscope, Burnells.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Chung Ling Soo, Les Gittis, Bioscope, Collins and Rice, James Fawn, Cora Caselli, Missouris, Bros. Dean, Helen Mar, R. A. Roberts.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Will H. Fox, Irving Jones, Bioscope, Stephens and Rennior, Robb Gilmore, Sisters Slater, Fitzroys, Grais' Baboons.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Mumming Birds," A Bo Kou, Lupino Lane, Bioscope, Mdlle. Olice, Harding and Ah Sid, Amann and Hartley, Barbara Babington, Frazer and Mac, Fred Lincoln, Lidden and Hayward, Empire Comedy Four.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Geo. Gray and Co. in "The Road to Ruin," Benson and Geoffreys, C. H. Unthan, Ethel Ra-Leslie, The Maningos, Four Skandias, Madge Carlyle, The Violas, Josephine Sabel, Bioscope.

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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Menetekel, Two Cavaliers, Five Delevines, Three Renards, Warsaw Bros., Artois Bros., Tom Owen, Kate Trail, Æolians, Bioscope.

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Rehearsal at 12 for:—
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THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Neil Kenyon, J. A. Wilson, Josh Dixon, Harry Taft, Ernest Rees, Phil Ray, Two Bells, Jenny Mills, Victoria Monks, Sable Fern, Kitty Beresford, Jack and Evelyn, Lindon Vaudevilles, Gothams, Bighton Boys, Genaros, Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
"Satan," J. A. Wilson, Harry Weldon, Cliff, Alf. Aubyn and Co., J. P. Dane, Rose Elliott, Lucy Weston, Victoria Monks, Three Sisters Silcott, Jenny Hartley, Sisters Redfern, Anartos, George and Edwards, Gothams, Raynor Trio, Two Wallonells, Bennett and Martell, Pictures.

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Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

THE TIVOLI,
STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
Winifred Hare, Harry Lauder, The Karno Troupe, in "Mumming Birds," The Follies, Ernest Shand, Florence Esdaile, Harry Rogerson, Russell Wallett, Dandy George, Mike Whallen, Carlotta Levey, Ella Retford, Orpheus, Harry Weldon, Dan Crawley, and Arthur Nelstone.
Manager, JOSEPH WILSON.

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Rehearsals on Monday, at 11 o'clock.
Harry Lauder, Russell Wallett, Woodhouse and Wells, Violet Elliott, Cassie Walmer, Marriott Edgar, Leslie Bros., Sterling and Love, Ryder Slone, The Five Julians, Dion Wade, the Imperial Bioscope, The Mayvilles, "Dwarfland," by the Six Brothers Luck.
Manager, FRED MILLER.

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MILE-END-ROAD, E.
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Rehearsals on Monday, at 1 o'clock.
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Manager, G. L. WILSON.

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KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.
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Rehearsals on Monday, at 12 o'clock.
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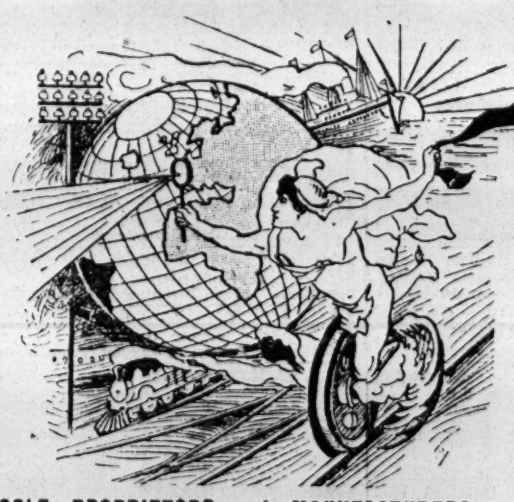

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SCENE No. 1.

HOMELESS.—Oliver Twist, a poor little orphan, has run away from a charitable institution where he has been ill-treated, and is picked up by the "Artful Dodger," a young scamp, who is a member of a gang of thieves.

SCENE No. 2.

THE THIEVES' DEN.—We see old Fagin, the Jew who teaches boys to become criminals, anxiously awaiting the return of some of his "scholars." Soon some of the boys arrive and hand him watches, handkerchiefs, and other stolen goods. The "Artful Dodger" then arrives and introduces little Oliver. Old Fagin welcomes the newcomer, and teaches him the new game of "Find the Watch," in which Oliver is unconsciously taught to pick pockets. The familiar characters of Bill Sikes and Nancy arrive in Fagin's den, and then Bill Sikes and the boys take little Oliver with them to initiate him into the profession of pocket-picking.

SCENE No. 3.

OLIVER FINDS A HOME.—The well-known figure of Mr. Brownlow is seen walking down the street. He stops at a news-stand, and while buying a paper the "Artful Dodger," with Oliver Twist and another of Fagin's boys, approach, and deftly steal Mr. Brownlow's watch and run swiftly down the street. Mr. Brownlow discovers the theft, and calling a policeman, they start in chase of the pickpockets, down the street, over fences, and around corners. Finally the bigger boys leave Oliver, and he, being exhausted, crouches down behind some barrels, where he is discovered by the pursuing crowd. One of the policemen takes him roughly by the arm, but kind-hearted Mr. Brownlow intervenes, and, picking little Oliver up in his arms, carries him home.

SCENE No. 4.

RE-CAPTURED.—We see Oliver in his new home, well clothed and fed, and looking very happy. Old Mr. Brownlow goes off to business, leaving Oliver to amuse himself. Suddenly the door is cautiously opened, and the hideous face and burly figure of Bill Sikes appears. Poor little Oliver is terrified, and tries to run away, but Sikes, quickly placing a hand over the boy's mouth, starts to drag him from the room. The butler, hearing the noise, rushes in. He is knocked senseless, and Bill Sikes drags the boy back to Fagin's den.

SCENE No. 5.

THE ROBBERY.—In Fagin's den we see the return of Bill Sikes and Oliver. The thieves plan to rob Mr. Brownlow's house by forcing Oliver to climb through a small window and open the door for them. They terrify the poor boy with threats until he consents to aid them. Nancy Sikes overhears the plan, and after the thieves have left, taking Oliver with them, she stealthily follows them, intending to warn Mr. Brownlow. Next we see the burglars breaking into the house, Oliver being put through the window. The butler awakens, rushes hurriedly downstairs, and seeing a figure in the semi-darkness, shoots at it. When the lights are turned up and the rest of the household aroused, they find to their astonishment and grief that poor little Oliver is the "burglar." This entire scene is very effective and dramatic. Nancy Sikes arrives, but finds she is too late. The police follow her when she leaves, and thus track her and the other criminals to Fagin's den.

SCENE No. 6.

RETRIBUTION.—Bill Sikes and Toby Crackit rush into Fagin's den and tell him of their ill-luck. Bill asks where Nancy is, and Fagin describes how she followed them to the scene of the robbery. Bill suspects treachery on her part, and at that moment she enters. He accuses her, and although she denies having betrayed them, Bill disbelieves her, and in a moment of rage brutally chokes her. He drags the inanimate body from the room. Suddenly the doors and windows of the den are battered in, and the police, swarming in, overpower the criminals. The closing scene is very dramatic. While Bill Sikes, Fagin, and the other thieves are held in the grip of the police, poor Nancy painfully drags herself into the room, and, pointing an accusing finger at Fagin, falls dead at their feet. *This production is one of the most dramatic stories ever told in pictures, and the photography throughout is most beautiful.*

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BELLA, MISS PATTIE, Charming Comedienne, always up-to-date; open for immediate dates. Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

BELMORE, MISS JENNIE, Perm. add., 188, Gladstone-avenue, Wood Green. Agent, Peel.

BELROSE and DE VELIN (GEO. and MAUD), Speciality Duettists and Soloists. Empress, Hartlepool. Few immediate vacancies.

BENET, MR. HARRY, Proprietor Alhambra, Sandgate. Artists communicate Fred Durham's Agency.

BENSON, BESSIE, Smart and Up-to-Date. In a Refined Singing and Dancing Act.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic; CARLOTTA LUNN. Usual Hit, Tivoli, Grimsby. All letters 9, Pollitt-st., Grimsby.

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. Telegrams, "Yelneb, London." 'Phone, 12705 Central.

BERNARD, GEO., Vocal Actor Fellow. Don't let your sail be bigger than your boat. Monday, Grand, Stockton (ninth return).

BERT and DORA, Comedy Artists. Sure Success. Wanted, April 2 and 9, on. Coms., 24, Brook-avenue, Levenshulme, M/c.

BEST, CHAS. F., as MacBunker, the Mountebank. Empire, Greenock.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. Address, 5, Tenison-street, York-road, London.

BLOUNT, ARTHUR, BLOUNT, The Eccentric Entertainer, 51, Dorothy-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

BLYTHE, MARIE, Scored Another Success, Southport. March 26, Palace, Blackpool. Agents, S. M. Hyman, Ltd.

BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD, The Manor House, Macduff, N.B.

BODIE, DR. WALFORD, 163, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL & MADGE), Instrumentalists and Comedy Artists. This, Argyle, Birkenhead; next, City, Leeds. G. Foster.

BOLTON, JUDGE, Ventriloquist, Negro Comedian, Punch and Judy, for Fêtes, Galas, Flower Shows. 41, Prince's-road, Hull.

BONITA, World's Champion Girl Rifle Shot, and CARLOS, the Human Target. Touring Australia. Per Ad., Cathedral Hotel, Melbourne.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Tivoli Theatre, Cape Town. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSTOCK, N. C., and NELLIE ELLIENE, the Most Successful Singing Turns. Macdermott; 10, Silver-st., Bloomsbury.

BOSWELL, A. P., the Human Pantechnicon. Vacant May 7 and 21. Wire 7, M. Market-rd., Gt. Yarmouth. A clever turn.—Era.

BOULTONS, THE, and MDLLE. BARTENELLI, Poole's Myriorama, Cheltenham. Vacant, June 25, onwards, for Galas, &c.

BOWERY BOYS, THE (Three), Big Success, in Knockabout Sketch, "Mixed." Vac. Mon. Wire, Hip., Wakefield.

BOYLE, MAROUS, My Bonny Boy. Permanent, 8, Lime-street, Hull.

BRADY, JAMES, a Comic Singer, Vide Oswald Stoll. Wanted immediate dates. Address, 27, Warrender-street, Leeds.

BRAY, LOTTIE, Resting. All Coms., G. H. Bray, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Refined Duettists and Dancers. Usual Success, Tivoli, Manchester.

BREWSTERS, THE, Novel Speciality Act. Casino, Buenos Aires, South America.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN, March 26, Theatre Royal, Dublin.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W. Tele., No. 2099, Gerrard

BROWN, PAPA, Agent, 8, Cleveland-house, Hackford-road, S.W. Telegraph address, "Jibbers, London."

BUDDEN, EDGAR, The Laurels, East Molesey. Empire, Islington, next week.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE, "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Sadler's Wells Theatre, London.

BURGESS, WILL T., and CO. "Found Faithful," "The Hour of Temptation." Offers invited. 3, Goswell-road, E.C.

BURNELLS, This Week, E., Liverpool; Next Week, Empire, Sheffield.

BURTON'S AGENCY, Sheffield, Require Sisters, Acts, Easter Week; Baritone, Soubrette, Double Handed Pianist. Al Fresco Season.

CABAN'S Marvellous Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, Hippodrome, Reading.

CADLE'S AGENCY, 105 and 106, Strand. Telephone No. 1975, Gerrard.

CALCOTTS, THE, Great Musical and Dancing Speciality. Finishing Belfast and Dublin. April 2, Moss-Stoll, Glasgow.

CAMBELL, KITTY, American Comedienne. Vacant March 26 and April 9. All coms., T. Claxton.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. &c., Vacant Monday. Wire, 2 Spen-lane, York.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjurer, March 26, Hippo., St. Helens. Sley; or, Edelsten and Parker.

CARL and CARR, Refined Comedians Thanks Livermores return contracts. Harry Marvello. A. Carlton, &c. 27, Ashley-rd., Bristol.

CARLTON, HENRY, The Comedian, in his Famous Comedy, "One Night Only." Broadhead Tour. Hippo., Salford.

CARMEN, HARRY, DAISY LANE, Finish to-night, Empire Theatre, Portsmouth. Monday, Digging up the garden for ideas?

CARR and ROSE, the Humorous Singing Duo. There are others, but We are The Ones. Empire, Stockport.

CASEY, GEORGE, Business-Manager and Dame, Harry Cadle's "Casey's Court" Co. Hippodrome, Salford.

CAVALLOTTIS, THE, Instrumentalists. Very big success Lyceum Theatre, Stafford. Next, vac. Donald's Agency, Liverpool.

CELLOS, THE, Refined and genuine musical entertainers. Monday, King's, Manchester. Holland, April 30.

CHANT and CHANT, in Refined Vocal patter and dancing act. Paisley. Next, Hip., Grimsby. Vacant, April 9 on.

CHARNLEYS, THE (ANNIE and EDIE). Dainty and Clever Duettists and Dancers. Hip., Coventry; Mon., Hip., Maidstone.

CHESTER & LEE'S MARIONETTES, Monday, Circus of Varieties, Blyth. Easter Settled.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, LIMITED, 13, Oxford-street, Manchester. 'Phone 08904. Wires, "Amusements, Manchester."

CHIRGWIN, London until July 2, Plymouth.

CLEMENT TRIO, Refined Comedy Stage-Flying Trapeze Act. Address, Clement Trio, Hollydene, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, Big Success in "A Trial Trip," Bordesley Palace." Next, Empire, Edinburgh.

CLIFF and KEAN, the Successful Comedy Couple, Return to Town after Five Months Successful Run.

CLIFFORD, CHARLES, C.D.D., the Renowned Harpist and Humorist, on Tour. 15, Priory-gardens, Highgate, London, N.

COLEMAN, MISS LILLIE, Thanks F. Laidler 12½ weeks Panto, F. Queen. Summer settled, Morecambe. 26, Palace, Scarboro'.

COLLINS, GEO., the Quaint Comedian, Palace, Belfast. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay. Geo. Barclay.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN, 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, S.E.

CONROY, OLIVER, Another Success, Hippo., Ashton-under-Lyne. Monday, Hippo., Salford. Vacant April 9, 30.

COOKE, STEVE, Refined Comedian. Vac. Easter for Summer. Pier Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea.

CORA, SISTERS, Regent, Salford, in their Latest Successes, "I only Live for You" and "The Lady Soldier Band," by J. Bates.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. March 26, London Coliseum (third week).

COSTELLO BROS., THE, Comedy and Knockabout Comedians, Commencing Tour Easter.

COTTERELL, SID, and CO., in the Great Comedy Success, "The Substitute." Pavilion; next, Tivoli, Queen's, Glasgow.

COWPERS, THE, "Missus' Double." Re Dates, Coliseum, London, W.C.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Care of "The Era."

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Co., March 26, Empire, Glasgow.

CROFT, WAL, The Quaint Scotch Comedian. C/o Mrs. Croll, 21, Gt. Western-road, Glasgow.

CULLEN and CARTHY, and LITTLE CLULEY. Third engagement in eighteen months. Empire, Burnley.

CURRAN, FRED, "Latent Agent." Mon., Oxford, Middlesbrough. Geo. Foster.

CURRY, PERCY, and ADA JENNER Thank Francis Laidler, Esq., for a very comfortable 12½ weeks' engagement. E., Stockport.

CUSTANCES, THE, in their Bright and Sparkling Comedy Duologue, "A Game for Two." Coms. re dates, 104, Salisbury-st., Bedford.

DALE and D'ARGAN, In a Novelty Comedy Act, 112, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

DALE and VALE, Another Successful Return, Barnard's Chatham. Monday Next, Walham Green.

DALTON'S AGENCY. Acts Required for Immediate and Future Dates. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

DALY, MADGE. "Bridget" and "Why do the girls love Charlie?" by F. W. Leigh, Esq. Tivoli, Barrow.

DANBYS, THE, the North Pole Explorers, Circus, Blyth.

DANIELS, THE TWO, the Darkies, in their entertainment. Exchange T., Wellingboro'. 63, Sherbourne-road, Birmingham.

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, the Successful Singer. Next week, Hippo., Eastbourne. Pacey and Reeves.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists (Monarchs of the Wheel). March 26, Foresters'.

DAYTON FAMILY, THE, March 26, Hippodrome, Hull.

DEANE, MONA, Comedienne and Burlesque Actress. Big Success. Address Palace, Blackpool. Vacant, April 9.

DEARES, THE, Military Drill Experts. Monday, Palace, Greenwich. All Coms., 70, Little Heath, Charlton, S.E.

DE DIO, MDLLE., The Originator of the Fire Dance. Continental Tour. Ronacher's, Vienna. Mang., P. H. Boggis

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Phenomenal Marvellous Painter and Cockatoos. Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

DELAINE, MISS JOSIE, Monday, Return Tivoli, Manchester. Agent, Florian Frenelli.

DELEVINES, THE, in New and Original Comedy, "Flipp and Flopp." Empire, Nottingham.

DENBY and DENT, Monday, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

DENERENNE, Nail Walker and Balancer, the Mystery, requires Engagement. 31, Higher Wharf-st., Ashton-under-Lyne.

DENHAM, MILLIE, the Original Singer of "Molly, I Love You," produced May 30, 1904, Middlesex. Monday, Foresters'.

DENT, BERT, Manager, Barnard's Palace Greenwich, S.E. Palace Buffet open on Sundays.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., the Lady Foli; J. H. HAWTREY, Actor-Vocalist. Hippodrome, Bury.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILLY, His Wonderful Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Next week, Palace, Sunderland.

DEWICK, DAWSON, Comedian. Address, 15, Pauline-street, Salford, Manchester.

DIAMONDE and RUBIE, Big Duo. Juggling Song, Dance, Patter. Free April 23. Coms., 8, Mill-hill-road, Acton.

DILLON, CHARLIE, Comedian. Palace, Cork. At Lib. next two weeks. Add., 18, Canterbury-street, Islington, Liverpool.

DILLONS, BOUNCING (Graceful Hilda, Bouncing Willie), Comedy Gymnasts, Free April 2. Monday, Tivoli Theatre, Glasgow.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Few Vacancies end of Summer, that's all. Letters, 69, Roan-street, Greenwich, S.E.

DOLF, SIDNEY, DOLF, The Vocal Trickster. Return, Palace, Hammersmith, Return.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, the Factory Nightingales. Originality and ability. Monday, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Edinburgh.

DOMINOS, TWO, Talking Donkey and Clown. Big success, H. and F. Poole's Myriorama, Howard Hall, North Shields.

DONNA and CLIFF, Monday next, Hippodrome, Wigan. April 2, London.

DORMER, DAISY, Palace (9 o'clock). Next, Palace and Chelsea.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, Dutch Comedienne and Acrobatic Dancer. Next week, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, the Dainty Comedienne. Monday, March 26, Palace, Hull.

DOUGLAS, MISS AILSA, the Dainty Singing Girl. Big Success, Palace, Carlisle. Next week, 32, Ellesmere-street, Salford.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Middlesex and Palace, Camberwell.

DOWSETT, HARRY, Vocal Comedian. Liberty Monday next. Great Success, this week, Hippo., Mansfield, where, please, wire.

DOYLE and GIBSON, Patter Comedians. This, Hippo., Barrow; next, Hippo., Grimsby. Vacant April 2 and 9. Write or wire.

DROFLAS, THE TWO, Double Jugglers, Balancers, and Tub Spinners. Vac. Monday, also April 2. Wire, Tivoli, Manchester.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Comedienne and Dancer. Coms., E. Stebbings, Manchester. 11, Arnold-street, Liverpool.

DUDLEY, LENA, Versatile Artist, Usual Success, Oxford, Middlesbrough. Coms., 9, Leeds-st., Stockton-on-Tees.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Comedians. Next, Palace, Oldbury.

DUNEDIN TROUPE, on Tour. Ringling Bros.' Circus, America. Jas. E. Donegan, Man.-Dir.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaintness. With an acknowledged style of my own. March 26, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

DUNNING, and KAHN and KAHN, the Two Finest Acts on Earth. 7, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, Griffin and Drake's Pantomime, "Cinderella." T. R., Barnsley (return); next, P. T., Blackburn.

ELDINES, THREE (Ella, Minnie, and Little Gracie), Duettists and American Barefoot Dancers. Touring. London Shortly.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast. Only Act of its Kind. Vacant for Fêtes and Galas. Perm. Add., 30, Gt. King-st., Macclesfield.

ELGARS, THE, Operatic Soloists and Duettists. This, Grand, Stockton; next, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

ELLA'S, MISS, Best existing Lion Show. March 26, Grand, Clapham.

ELLERTON, ALF, Songs, &c. Dunville's "Nurse"; Reece's "Weazle." Latest for Sheridan, Leonards. 90, Vassall-rd, Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, care of "The Era."

ELLISON, J. W., the Popular Light Comedian. This week, Palace, Grimsby; next, R., Oldham. Bentley, 169, Stamford-st., S.E.

ELTON and ELMA, Comedy Bar Act. Monday, Gaiety, Oldham.

ELVEY, ARTHUR, the Up-to-Date Tipster. At liberty April 16, to follow Pav., Newcastle. Letters, Park Palace, Liverpool.

EMLYN - JONES and CO., in New and Original International Sketch. March 26, Stockton. 34, Red Lion-square, W.C.

EPLETT, KATIE, FRANK ZARA, Comedienne, Dancer. Comedian, Raconteur. On Tour. Add., 44, Greenheys-lane, Manchester.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. Coms., 15, Harford-street. St. James's. Bristol.

ESDALE BROS., Usual Success Empire, Nottingham. Monday, Palace, Leicester.

EUSTACE, FRED, March 19, Hippodrome, Ealing. March 26, Empire, Islington.

FALCONS, THE, Refined Comedy Acrobats. Always a success. Next week, Tivoli, Shields.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Original Lancashire Singing Collier, with "Blue Bell" Co. until Easter. March 26, Royal T., Lincoln.

FAWN, ADA, Terrific Success, Palace Glasgow. Monday next, March 26, Albert Hall, Jarrow.

FIELDING, MISS ANNIE, and MR. BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." Empire, Middlesbrough; Next, O. H., York.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park-Keepers. Park-Keepers. Park-Keepers. Five Vaults, Hope-street, Salford.

FIMANS, THE, "Your Stage a Fire-station." Song, Dance, and Dialogue being Introduced Therein.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS. HAROLD, The Empire, Middlesborough.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. March 26, Palace, Bordesley. Vacant Easter.

FLORIZELL, Original. All letters, 1, Fenwick-street, Warwick-street, Manchester.

FORMBY, GEORGE, The Wigan Nightingale. Hippodrome, Wigan.

FORREST, EDGAR, COMEDY COMPANY. Always a Success. This week, Pal., Leicester; next, Ardwick, Manchester. Barclay.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FOX and MELVILLE, Famous Song Illustrators, Hippo., Wigan. New Songs by F. V. St. Clair. Pub. by F., D., & H.

FRANCISCO, Equilibrist, and MAY MOODIE, Piccolo Soloist. West Hartlepool. Mon., Palace, Bradford. Vacs. Pacey and Reeves.

FRANKS, WILL, Vocal Comedian, At Liberty June 4. Chairman and Vocalist, seaside preferred. 1, Rosamond-place, Manchester.

FRASETTIS, LES, Theatre Royal, Woolwich.

FRISCOS, Comedians. Liberty April 9 and 23. 2nd, Palace, Leicester; 16th, Manchester. Write, 2 Jubilee-street, Liverpool.

GALE, ETHEL, Blind Comedienne; HARRY CARTER, Comedian. Vac., March 26, on. Coms., 94 Boston-st., Hulme, Manchester.

GANNON, NELLIE, Monday, Derwent House, Buller-road, Leicester. Return Wakefield Ap. 23. HARRY WRIGHT ditto.

GANTHONY, ROBERT, Great Success, Stoll Tour. Address, Poplars, Richmond, Surrey.

GARVEY, JAS. E., Character Vocalist and Hungarian Top Boot Dancer. Lib. Mon. and on. Coms., Garvey, Grangetown, Yorks.

GATLEY, ADA, in her Up-to-date Combination Speciality. A few Vacant dates. Address, 149, Waldegrave-rd., Preston, Brighton.

GEE, FRANK, Producing a Novelty Shortly. Ashton's Agency.

GERETTI SISTERS, Trapezists, Smartest and Best; no two their equal. Add., Pem.'s, or 3, Wiltshire-road, Brixton.

MR. EDWARD FENTON,
"A Traitor Prince" Co.
April 2, Cradley Heath.

MR. and MRS. ARTHUR FERRISS
(Ethel Asbury), Low Com. and Soubrettes (sing and dance), Disengaged. 3, Gladstone-st., S.E.

MR. ARTHUR FITZGERALD,
At liberty for Autumn. Offers invited.
Add., Duke of York's Theatre, W.C.

MR. HERBERT FORD,
as "The Silver King."
Disengaged April 29.

MR. ROBERT FORSYTH,
Disengaged.
107, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE.
Address,
C/o Mrs. Eadie, 2, Apsley-place, Glasgow, S.S.

MR. CHARLES H. GALLIER,
318th performance To-night, "Two Little Drummer Boys." 2nd, Clydebank; 9th, Kirkcaldy.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
As Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co.
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones), Disengaged, Joint or Single.
86, St. George's-road, Peckham, S.E.

MR. J. D. GEDDES,
Carsdale, in "Two Little Drummer Boys."
April 2, Gaiety, Clydebank.

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
Mr. Arthur Collins's "Prodigal Son" Co.
April 2, Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Leading Man and Producing Plays for J. C. Williamson, Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Disengaged April 23.
New Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Engaged by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler.
Add., C/o Messrs. WHEELER, O. H., Cape Town.

MR. J. B. GORDON,
Disengaged.
10, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton, S.W.

MR. and MRS. A. CARLAW GRAND
(Miss Rollo Deas). Engaged by Peter Davey, Esq. April 2, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. ARTHUR GRENVILLE,
At Liberty.
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. FRED GROVE
and MISS EMILY GROVE, Drury Lane Tour, "Prodigal Son." Grand, Fulham, S.W.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE, Engaged by James Booth, Esq., Fernando in "Monte Cristo." April 2, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne; or A.A.

MR. CLARENCE HAGUE,
Lead, Heavies. Disengaged.
Address, 78, St. George's-road, S.E.

MR. CHARLES HALLING,
General Manager for Northway and Garrod's "Prodigal Parson" Co. T. R., W. Stanley.

MR. HUBERT HARBEN,
at Liberty,
40, Perham-road, West Kensington.

MR. A. C. HARDIE,
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.
Re-engaged by Miss Hildyard for Easter.

MR. FRANK HARDING.
Address, all Coms., 21, Argyll-mansions, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W. T. No. 2077, Ken.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER,
Disengaged.
Berkeley, Chester-rd, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
Spencer Traughton "Public Opinion" (South).
Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden.

MR. FORRESTER HARVEY,
"Beauty and the Barge" Co. Disengaged June 12. April 2, Grand, Croydon.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
Business Manager, "The Earl and the Girl."
April 2, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

MR. T. P. HAYNES,
Specially engaged by W. W. Kelly, Esq.
King's Theatre, W.

MR. JERROLD HEATHER,
Starring as Armand, "Camille"; Lieut. Rokeby, "When Woman Hates." T. R., Ilkeston.

MR. HORACE E. HERBERT,
Engaged by A. Hamilton Warden, Esq.
April 2, Star Theatre, Swansea.

MR. GRAHAME HERINGTON,
Principal Comedian and Stage Manager.
Dis. spring. 29, Waldemar-avenue, Ealing.

MR. DALZIEL HERON,
At Liberty.
Address, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR. A. T. HILTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD. All Business communications to be made direct to Mr. CECIL BARTH, 8, Melina-place, St. John's Wood, N.W.

MR. L. MAJOR HORNSEY,
Musical Director (Piano), Victoria T., Tredegar. Thanks J. Johnson for 12 months engagement.

MR. FRANK HOWARD,
Acting-Manager and Light Comedian.
April 2, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE HOWARD
(Miss Clara Earle), "A Royal Divorce"
(Suburban Tour), April 2, Hammersmith.

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(Miss Carlotta Anson),
"Claudian" Co., Theatre Royal, Brighton.

MR. J. A. HYBERT, 22nd Year Own Companies. Open to Run Solid Attractions.
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Backbite, Hastings, Captain Smooth, &c.
Compton Comedy Co., King's T., Kilmarnock.

MR. THEO JONES and ADA MANSFIELD, Touring "Jack Sheppard" Scena.
Vac. April 16, 23, 30. 33A, Talfourd-rd., Camberwell.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring the Success, "Life's Sweetest Sins."
Address, 26, Wightman-road, Finsbury-park, N.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES,
Stage Managing Stock Season.
Terris Theatre, S.E.

MR. F. JOYNSEN - POWELL,
"A Royal Divorce" (Scala Production)
Suburban Tour. 49, Waldemar-av., Hurlingham.

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Paul Martin in "The Duffer."
Theatre Royal, Bradford.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. and MRS. EDGAR KENT (Miss Ada Clarke), "Saints and Sinners," on Tour.
Permanent, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Returned from America, Disengaged.
Blenheim Lodge, Teddington.

MR. and MRS. W. KINGSFORD
PEARCE (Miss Wynne Hanley), S Manager, Mr. L. Calvert's "Duffer" Co., T. R., Bradford.

MR. CECIL KINGSLEY,
Billy, in "Madam Lingerie,"
Palace Theatre, W.

MR. J. POOLE KIRKWOOD,
Mr. Leigh Lovel's Co.
April 2, King's T., Kilmarnock. April 5, Ayr.

MR. FRED KNIGHT,
Eames in "The Little Stranger,"
Criterion Theatre, W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE,
Offers invited for Light Comedy.
Address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. FRANK LACY,
Address,
Garrick Theatre, W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price). Disengaged March 26.
3, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE, Manager and Stage Dir., Mr. Mouillot's "Geisha" and "Greek Slave" Co., Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. EDMUND LEA,
Waldorf Theatre, W.C.
Address, 106 Rusthall-avenue, Bedford Park, W.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON,
Engaged by Mr. Cyril Maude.
Address, Waldorf Theatre, W.C.

MR. and MRS. BERNARD LIELL
(Miss Georgette Thierry). Lib. April 22, Char. and Heavies, G.B. Heavies. County, Kingston.

MR. FRANK LILLIPUT,
Short Comedian, at Liberty.
Wadhayes, Wylde Green, Birmingham.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Pompey, in "Measure for Measure,"
Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "The White Chrysanthemum" Co.
Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.

MR. EDWIN LING,
Disengaged, S. M. and Char.
Address, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY,
"The Village Blacksmith" Co.
Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Disengaged.
28, Chelverton-road, Putney.

MR. T. RENAUD LOCKWOOD,
Lord Robert Ure, "The Christian,"
April 2, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE.
Disengaged.
Address, 7, Bridson-street, Liverpool.

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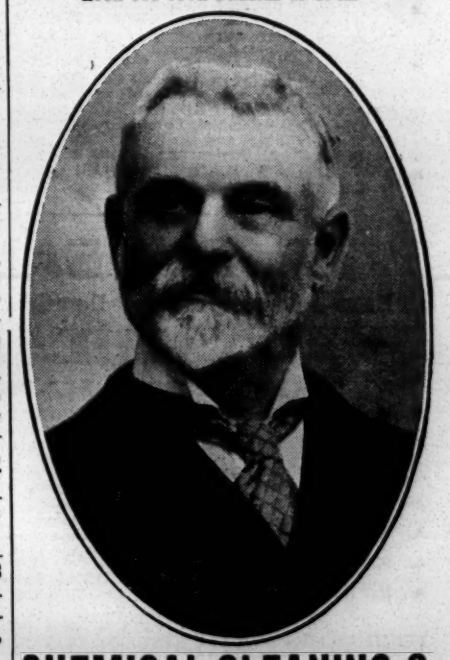

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—On Monday evening Mr. Roy Jackson's company in *The Hand of Iron* opened here to an appreciative audience. Mr. Roy Jackson gives a very powerful interpretation of Manuel Levigne, his various disguises being exceedingly good. Mr. Herbert Deville makes a capital Edmund Singleton; Mr. Everett Lynn as Solomon Isaac is very amusing, and the same may be said of Mr. Frank Haynes as Hiram Lincoln; Mr. S. Howard makes the most of his part of Poverty Jim; Mr. Arthur Beaufort is worthy of special mention as Jos Wellington; Miss Kittie Douglas gives an admirable portrayal of Marie Durouge; Miss Violet Lesborough is a decided success as May Sutherland; Miss Florrie Hayes creates much merriment as Nell Swift, and is ably assisted by Miss Bella Richardson as Mrs. Lincoln. All the minor characters are in capable hands, and the scenery and mounting are really good.

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—This week Mr. Walter Reynolds's company is presenting the attractive drama *Mr. Smith*, which is thoroughly appreciated by the audiences. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, an actor of great skill and fine appearance, gives an admirable portrait of the hero, and Miss Elsina Gaunt is no less successful in the part of the high-born heroine. Mr. Russell Norrie and Mr. W. E. Holloway play most capably as Lord Oxted and the Duke of Angleland; Miss Dudgeon makes a stately Duchess; and Miss Fyfe Alexander and Miss Daisy England are happily placed as Ruth Anheuser and Mrs. Smith. Mr. Fred Darrell is effective as Herr Anheuser; and the Hon. Dudley Dysart and Jack Berkeley are well represented by Mr. Pilling Baird and Mr. Carter Bligh.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Albert and Edmunds' comedy company is appearing with much success in their amusing sketch *The First Mrs. Banbury*, and the Deer Family give a vivid representation of bygone scenes in the "Wild West." Mlle. Viola plays on a variety of musical instruments with great skill; Atroy makes a decided hit as a juggler; and the turn of Gauze, a Canadian-Indian impersonator and vocalist, is also highly appreciated. Mr. Harry Zetter is an exceptionally clever comedian; Miss Rosie Rickards sings vivaciously; Ora shows marked agility on the aerial trapeze; and a diverting sketch, *The Chaperone*, is cleverly played by Mr. Frank Bertram and his company; while the comical eccentricities of Hall and Earle evoke much genuine merriment. The dancing competition, which has proved so attractive, is now in its last stage, the final "heat" taking place to-night.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. George Dance's company opened here on Monday with *Cingalee; or, Sunny Ceylon*. Mr Laurie de Frece should be highly complimented on his clever and humorous portrayal of Chambhuddy Ram; Miss Winnie O'Connor gives a chic and graceful performance; Miss Gladys Guy is a successful and attractive Peggy Sabine; Miss Marjorie Clarke submits a charming performance as Lady Patricia Vane; Mr. Frank Crimp is good as the Hon. Harry Vereker; Boobhamba is well acted by Mr. Bertrand Gates; Sir Peter is portrayed to the life by Mr. Cook Edmunds; Warren is ably depicted by Mr. E. Edwards.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker.—The bill here includes the Three Romas, Lily Black, the Brothers Adderley, Henry Beker (a clever conjurer), Wright and Elton (eccentric dancers), and Les Louberts, in a comedy act.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company is here with *The Temptress*. Miss Blanche Steele (Mrs. Hallatt)—who is a daughter of the late lessee of the old "Victory" Theatre, which was destroyed by fire in February, 1889—portrays the rôle of Stella in a talented manner, and receives a good reception. Mr. Hallatt's is a capital personation of Pedro; Mr. Fred Ross plays with strong dramatic force as Lucas; and Miss Mabel Scudamore gives a sympathetic enactment of Marion; whilst Miss F. Palmer is seen to advantage as Madge. Capital comic element was introduced by Messrs. Tom E. Sinclair, Allen Carruthers, Oscar Power, and Miss Lillie Chambers. Mr. Forbes Harrison is stage-manager. The scenery of the play is effective, several of the sets being really excellent and well arranged.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—*Home, Sweet Home*, is being played here this week. Mr. Frank Lindo, the author of the piece, acts with great fervour and emotional feeling the part of a young fisherman and captain of a lifeboat crew. Miss Marion Wakeford as the village fisher-girl is comely and sweet; a fine impersonation of an old weather-beaten salt is given by Mr. J. W. Henson; and Mr. Geo. Overs is good as a fisher lad. Messrs. T. Lewis and D. L. Doyle are capable interpreters of the typical seaside boatmen; Captain Gerald Gambier is sufficiently dignified and kindly-natured as the Duke; and his private secretary, Lucas Lyle, is ably represented by Mr. Wilson Coleman. Mr. Sydney Bryant displays humour as the Hon. Percy, the foolish son of the Duke; and Miss Hetty Webster is vivacious and spirited as Sybil Fay. As the child Dora Miss Daisy Rochefort acts very prettily and feelingly. Minor rôles fall into the capable hands of Miss Mary Denver and Messrs. Ernest E. Owens and Danvers.

The Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The programme presented here includes the Rosaires, bar experts; Ernesto, a marvellous juggler as well as musical equilibrist; the Boleros in an acrobatic act; Hinton and Wooton, cyclists, in a clever act; Ventriloquist Oakdene in his ventriloquial scena, *The Stowaways;* Beattie Foster, comedienne; and the Two Whites, American comedy artists. Wallace Whitney, character comedian; the Mimosa Trio of charming girls; and Gilroy and Gross, refined comedians and dancing experts. "The Poacher's Revenge" is depicted on the bioscope.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. H. Beagle.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr. Andrew Melville's company in the well-known drama *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt gave a thoughtful rendering of Anthony Raybrook; the part of Willie the outcast was played in a masterly manner by Mr. Ernest Outtrim; an excellent character-sketch was given by Mr. J. H. Booth as Dick Saunders; villainy found a capable exponent in Mr. Herbert Cecil as Geoffrey Waring; Mr. Frederick Sandy presented the part of David Wilson with much success; Mr. Morley Carroll was good as Walter Hatherley; Miss Frances Ruttledge, in the dual rôle of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherley the younger, has a difficult task, which she accomplishes with pleasing grace and winning manner; Miss Florence Nelson was well placed as Barbara Ashdown; Miss Evelyn Marrable was commendably good as Margaret Bailey. Other parts were ably undertaken by Messrs. Howard Tracey (George Clissold), George Lawrence (Peter Pettifer), Alick Macmillan (John Anderson), Misses Doris Lorraine (Fanny Jones), Amy Williams (Mrs. McCarthy), Florence Wilson (Peggy), and Ruby Eden (Jane).

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—This week's excellent programme is headed by Miss Marie Santoi and her merry Japs, in a novel musical mélange, entitled *The Japanese Tea Garden by Night;* Mr. Alf. Lavarni goes through a creditable performance on the tight wire; Miss Beatie Kent is a pleasing comedienne; Mr. Walter Adams a quaint and versatile comedian, is heartily welcomed on his return visit; Silvo gives a very enjoyable musical turn on the musical glasses and other instruments; Mr. E. C. Clayton's "Attergraph" pictures are as popular as ever; Miss May Lilian Levey proves herself a capable comedienne; and Mr. Tom Collins is a good character comedian.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—A fairly good house was drawn by Mr. J. B. Howard's No. 1 company in *Florodora* on Monday. Mr. Daley Cooper as Anthony Tweedlepunch did not spare himself, and his business and make-up are excruciatingly funny; Mr. Stanley White as Cyrus W. Gilfain looked and acted the part perfectly; the Frank Abercoed of Mr. R. Courtier Dutton was appropriately sentimental, his singing being a feature. He had a good partner in Miss Leonora Grieve as Dolores, who acted well up to him, and with her graceful and winning ways made the scenes between the two most delightful. Mr. Herbert St. John as Captain Arthur Donegal was well interpreted, and he likewise had good support from Miss Lily Gullick, who played the part of Angela Gilfain. Miss Edith Housley as Lady Holyrood sang and danced nicely. During the last three nights of the week Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kimberley's No. 1 company occupied the boards with *Two Little Drummer Boys*.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company, in *A Gambler's Daughter*, are proving a big attraction here this week. Mr. Robert Ayrton as Desmond O'Dare, an Irish emigrant, gives a clever impersonation; Mr. Alfred Sanders as Soloman Solomons scores heavily; Mr. Harry Rutland is effective as Ralph Gillman; Mr. H. Sidney emphasises the villainy of Stephen Brand; Mr. Richard Pitt as John Grant makes the most of the part; Dick, "The Weasel," is admirably enacted by Mr. Frank Wheatcroft; and as Jack Grant, Mr. Victor Millard is very successful. Miss Adria Hill in the dual rôle of Mildred Grant and Miriam Grant comes out strongly; Miss Harriett Loydall as Auntie Zeb is very amusing; and Miss Sanders is well-placed as Carita.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. William Greet's principal touring company is here in the successful musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*. The humorous part of Jim Cheese has a clever exponent in Mr. Alfred Donohoe; Mr. Leslie Gaze is a decided success as Dick Wargrave; Mr. Percy Bronson as Downham does full justice to his part; as Elphin Haye, Miss Hylda Dugdale plays with charming grace; Miss Beatrice Anderson gives an interesting assumption of Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Lina Hicks submits a capital character sketch as 'Liza Shoddam; whilst others who share in the success of the piece are Mr. Thomas Kennard as Hon. Crewe Boodle, Mr. Greville Hayes as A. Bunker Bliss, and Miss Winnie Plumpton as Miss Virginia Bliss.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's No. 1 company is here with *In Holy (!) Russia*. Mrs. Cassidy gives a very clever impersonation of the heroine, Renee Rubinoff; and Miss Alice Marsden draws a good picture of Madame Natolski; the Natalie Natolski of Miss Evie Norman is also pleasing. Miss Louis Norman is a capable Michael Natolski; and a forceful Laurice Steragoff is supplied by Mr. Carl Rivinelli. Micky Nolan is made irresistibly humorous by Mr. Cassidy; and Mr. Arthur Stratton, as Col. Richard Forrest, is also an amusing study.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is occupying the boards this week in the new version of that stirring military drama *The Indian Mutiny*, the many exciting incidents of the piece arousing enthusiasm from the patrons of the popular parts of the house. The impersonation of the three British officers, Major Ingleby, Capt. Manley, and Lieut. Manley, are undertaken with every success by Mr. John Davidson, Mr. Cyril Harrison (an old Bath favourite), and Mr. George Steel. Mr. G. Scully creates plenty of laughter by his comedy work as Terry O'Brien; Miss Kate Bruce as Mrs. Ingleby and Miss Lillie Grey as her daughter Kate are to be commended for their respective portrayals. The Hindoo parts are presented with careful emphasis by Mr. Villiers Stanley (Nebu Singh), Mr. J. S. Shedden (Abul Khan), and Mr. Ernest Keand (Goonga), and Miss F. Melrose Millett sustains Ghuz-nah with no little power. The make-up and elaborate costumes of the native representatives is highly effective, and the picturesque Indian scenery and appointments are much admired.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schubert.—Crowds are attracted nightly to welcome Happy Fanny Fields, who, coming straight from her pantomime triumphs at Bristol, is meeting with an equally enthusiastic reception in the sister city. Her merry manner and agile dancing provide a delightful tonic to all fortunate beholders. Another prime favourite of Bathonians is G. W. Hunter, the droll comedian and dry storyteller, his latest songs and patter creating the usual hilarity. Arthur Aldridge, the popular ballad vocalist, is on a third visit, and his sweet tenor voice appears to be more fully developed than ever. Walker and Lake, cross-talk comedians, are as mirth-provoking as of yore, their efforts securing plenty of applause. Alfred Cyclo is a trick cyclist of great skill, many of his feats being quite uncommon. Jenny Reeve, comedienne, is on a return visit; Violet Stockelle is also billed, but did not appear on the evening of our visit. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux as usual form a pleasing final item.

Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes, Jun.—Mr. Walter Jeffs' "New Century" pictures are paying a first visit here this week, and this pleasing and instructive entertainment is voted one of the best of its class.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—*The Throne of Terror*, a play dealing with the "Reign of Terror," gives Mr. W. J. Miller opportunities as Robespierre of showing his undoubted abilities as a sound and forceful actor; Mr. Roy Milton gives a good performance; Miss Katherine Maud Davies essays the part of Marguerite with conspicuous success; Miss Rose Salisbury, in a heavy part, is very successful; and the lesser rôles are played with care.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Leon Wood and Mr. A. F. Allen-Tower's company in *The Hindustanee*. Mr. Percy Beresford makes a good King Kawfee; and Cing-i-Cing finds a satisfactory interpreter in Mr. Owen Ford. Mr. A. E. Behan as Dr. Theophilus Jones, assisted by Mr. Harry Lawn as Hari Keede, well sustain the humour of the piece; Miss Dorothy Ross makes a pleasing Hindustanee Princess. The Mahranee Troupe of Oriental dancers afford a good entertainment.

BELFAST. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James C. McCann.—On Monday, Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux presented Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in the successful play *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Herbert Bunston was decidedly successful in the rôle of Jack Frobisher, his powerful impersonation of the man from Queensland contributing in no small degree to the success of the piece. Miss Florence Jackson, a handsome actress, was charming as Lady Alethea Frobisher, deservedly winning high honours; and an exceedingly smart interpretation of Lady Lucy Derenham was furnished by Miss Molly Carton. A clever character sketch of the good-natured Hankey Bannister was furnished by Mr. George A. Brandram; and Mr. Lawrence Hanray was the impecunious Marquis of Steventon to the life. Miss Lydia Busch's impersonation of Lady Westerby was entirely sympathetic; and to the rôle of Harry Dallas full justice was done by Mr. Sydney Hamilton. Mr. George Percy's impersonation of the irrepressible bore Bertram Hannaford reflected much credit on him.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Edwin Leslie.—Mr. Morris Cronin and his clever troupe top the bill here, and have delighted the crowds with their marvellous exhibition of club swinging, &c. A pleasing feature of the bill is Canty's Mystic Grotto, a beautiful spectacle, superbly staged, in which is introduced Mlle. de Silva, the mysterious lady. The Celtic Comedy Trio appear to much advantage in their amusing musical comedy; and Keen and Waller, eccentric acrobatic comedians, have taken immensely. Mr. Harry A. Moore, a talented actor-mimic, appears with marked success in a series of imitations; and also appearing are Miss Bertha Stuart, Scotch vocalist; Mr. Geo. Collins, comedian; Mr. Geo. Lipton, in his cable act; and the entertaining Palace pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The chief turn here is provided by the Cole du Losso Duo, two droll comedians on the slack wire, whose unique performance has been successful; Cooke and Rothert are a very entertaining couple, their performance being enthusiastically received; the Knick-Knacks please all with their capital songs and clever dancing; and a hit has been made by Rauschile, the famous Continental impersonator. Goggin and Davis, the droll acrobats, repeat last week's success; and the Sisters St. Julian are accomplished duettists and dancers. Also appearing are Chas. Vincent and Chas. Lilburn, comedians.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Carlton's Four Queeries, who top the bill here, provide much amazement with their extraordinary and startling illusionary act; Werland, a clever comedy juggler, has been very successful, and deservedly so; and Pete and Minnie Lee appear to advantage in their attractive comedy act. The new pictures exhibited by the Alhambra Bioscope remain a feature of the bill; and a pleasing appearance is made by Miss Amy Bellwood, a dashing comedienne and fine dancer. Also here are Mr. Mark Leslie, comedian; the Sivronis, comedy artists; Harry Maxam, comedian; and Henriette, vocal and instrumental entertainer.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—The first three evenings of this week are occupied by Mr. J. Bannister-Howard's company in *The Christian*. Miss Grace Murielle as Glory Quayle and Mr. F. Rawson-Buckley as John Storm are perfect in their impersonations, their acting being of the highest order; Mrs. Callander lost nothing in the hands of capable Miss Violet Vivian; the gentlemanly speech and carriage of Mr. Percy Twyman fitted him well for the part of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Duncan Yarrow was very effective as Horatio Drake; and other performers who were prominent were Mr. Jack Hames (Lorrimer), Mr. Percy Johnson (Parson Quayle), and Mr. Anthony Rawles as the "Faro King." Thursday, Friday, and to-day (Saturday) are given up to *The Guilty Man*.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell. — Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here with the popular comedy *The Freedom of Suzanne*. It is difficult to speak too highly of the charming and finished performance of Miss Beatrice Lindley as Suzanne; Mr. Herbert J. Bentley gives an effective rendering of Charles Trevor, treating a somewhat exacting rôle with consummate ability; and Mr. F. G. Thurstans is particularly successful as Fitzroy Harding. Mr. William Mallalieu is in every respect an excellent Sir Horace Halton; Mr. R. Harley West contributes a capital character-sketch as Lord Dachet; Mr. Townsend Whitling enacts Captain Cecil with considerable skill; and Mr. Archie Selwyn is a good Tommy Keston. The important part of Lady Charlotte Trevor is irreproachably played by Miss Emily Patterson; Miss Charlotte Meade is amusing as Miss Fanny Minching, and Miss Violet Ley is an admirable Lady Isabel Bury. The interesting one-act episode *Two in a Trap*, supported by Mr. Townsend Whitling and Miss Violet Ley serves as a curtain-raiser.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke. — Mr. Tom Craven, Mr. Stephen Adeson, and a competent company, in the amusing sketch *The Lady in Red*, are a leading attraction. Mr. Arthur Lenard, the popular vocalist, with some new songs, is on a return visit, as also is Mr. Jock Whiteford, an exceptionally clever Scotch comedian. Mr. John E. Coyle is a comedian of merit, as also is Mr. Julian Mack, and Erick, a smart ventriloquist, gives a novel turn. Tray and Rich, black and white artists, are favourites, and Mr. Victor Travers (comedian), Miss Lizzie Fletcher (comedienne), the Schallors (comic gymnasts), and an up-to-date display by the bioscope complete the programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Spring Chicken* made its first appearance here on Monday, when its piquant attraction won hearty applause. Mr. George Edwardes has mounted the play and dressed the characters in a most recherche style, and the company includes Miss Irene Verona, who, as Mrs. Girdle, assumes the assertive mother-in-law to perfection; Miss Gertrude Gillian acts as the Baroness with taste and verve; Miss Rita Everard scores with her refined manner as Dulcie; Miss Gertrude Glynn gives a winning presentment of Rosalie; and Mr. George Gregory is excruciatingly humorous as Girdle. Mr. L. W. Harris also acts and sings with perfect aplomb as Babori; Mr. Edgar Ronald's talent finds goodly expression in the rôle of Boniface; and Mr. C. D. Cleveland as Felix, Mr. Frank Hector as the Baron, and others contribute successfully.

Prince of Wales's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston. — *Leah Kleschna*, which makes a welcome reappearance here, has again proved of a highly-engrossing nature, and Mr. Pateman as Kleschna is a most potent factor in its success. Mr. J. Graeme Campbell acts gracefully as the lover, Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Cyril Harcourt as Raoul Berton gives due emphasis to the profligate attributes of the character; and Messrs. E. H. Brooke and Kenneth Rivington do exceedingly well in the respective parts of Schram and General Berton. Miss Haidée Wright acts with fine feeling and true dramatic power as Leah Kleschna; and Miss Ethel Marryat

as Mme. Berton, Miss Dorothy Sidney as Sophie, Mr. Ronald Daniel as Favre, and Miss Haidée Hemsley as Claire also take honours.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*A Message from Mars* is being played here by Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company. Mr. Cyril Austen Lee as Horace Parker is equally successful in depicting both phases of the character, and the Messenger is impressively enacted by Mr. William H. Brougham. Mr. Bruce Lindley is effective as the Tramp, Mrs. Edward Saker lends distinction to the rôle of Miss Parker, and Miss May Saker receives well-merited applause for her graceful acting as Minnie Templar.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Man's Enemy; or, the Downward Path*, is being presented here in convincing style by Messrs. Beardmore, Power, and Bryne's company, by arrangement with Dottridge and Longden. Mr. Augustine Knight as Harry Stanton, a part he has played for over 700 times, is scoring anew; Mr. John Power is well placed as Tom Drake; Miss Daisy Halling contributes much to the success by her Sarah Drake; Miss N. Cowling figures gracefully as Grace Lisle; and other rôles are well placed.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville.—*Her Lost Self*, which Miss Frances Del val and company are playing for the first time in Birmingham with much success, is a drama of the woman kind which is sure to score wherever it may appear. Miss Frances Delaval acts with fine emotional power in the rôle of the betrayed Philippine; Mr. Chas. Kean as the betrayer, Norman Esmond, gives an admirable performance; Mr. Aidan Lovett wins much respect for the character of Paule Kimberley; Mr. Percy Carne Waram is highly successful as Wilfred Daventry; and Messrs. Fred Lillywhite, L. W. Halfpenny, Horace Buckley, and R. Devere Lawrence act most satisfactorily. Miss Dora Hammersley plays the dual rôle of mother and daughter most commendably; Miss Nell Ingram shines as Bridget; and tiny Carrie Johnson excels as "the smallest comedienne in the world."

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Luck of Life* is reproduced here with all the original effects by Mr. Reginald H. Adair's company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Boucher. Mr. Roland Yorke effectively discharges the heavy responsibilities of the rôle of Bazilovitz, the Nihilist; Mr. Norman A. Overton is popular as the hero, George Stanhope; Mr. H. Hesselgrove attains prominence as Babadur; Miss Isabel Marte gives a winsome portrayal of the heroine's rôle; Miss Gertrude Bonsor is successful as her antithesis, Countess Vlame; and Mr. Edwin Turner, Mr. Albert Cuthbertson, Mr. Ernest Bright, and Miss Violet Cartmell shine in the cast. The humour of the piece is cleverly sustained by Mr. A. Stanley Leedham as Simon Stanley and Miss Dora Huggett as Laura North.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittle.—*The Love that Women Desire*, which is vividly illustrated by capable acting and beautiful new scenery, holds the stage here in the hands of Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Mr. Wallace appears successfully as Richard Abingdon; Mr. J. O. Stewart deals cleverly with the rôle of Squire Abingdon; Mr. David G. Noble evokes admiration by his sturdy acting as Philip Carnaby; Mr. Frank Fuller realises the part of the outcast, Frank Hardy, in an exceedingly creditable manner; Miss Lalla Stanhope displays the heroine's qualities in a pleasing manner; Miss Alice N. Livesey does well in the part of Madge Abingdon; and Miss Clarissa Bamford, Miss Maud Stuart, Mr. J. Hignett, and Mr. A. Rich lend good support.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Montague Beaudyn and Sydney Crowe's company is presenting *The Way of the World* here this week. Mr. Herbert Shardon is successful in his portrayal of Cecil Montague; Captain Fred Slade is well played by Mr. Victor Gordon; as Matthew Malyon, Mr. Clarence Temple is all that can be desired; Mr. Fred Mack is well placed as Sir John Slade; and Mr. Patt Quinn is very good as Silas Montague. Kate Montague is effectively acted by Miss Cissy Bellamy; and Miss Violet Ingram is a favourite as Marian Fanshaw. Miss Sidney Crowe enacts with skill the part of Adela de la Roche. The humour of the play is ably sustained by Mr. Louis Scott, Mr. Dick Seddon, and Miss Violet Vivienne as Horatio Bluff, Joe Sparrow, and Polly Bell respectively.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Sir F. C. Burnand's play *Proof* is being played here by Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company. The story of the wrong suffered by Pierre Lorance has been well told by those responsible for the telling. In the character mentioned, Mr. Gerald Kennedy is excellent, he giving a powerful delineation of the part in all its phases. Miss Lucy Prittie-Tydd fills the rôles of Madeline in the prologue and of Adrienne in the subsequent acts. Her acting has all the charm necessary to the latter part, and well supports Mr. Kennedy. Mr. William Dexter is the Lazare, and acts with much force; while as Chamboran Mr. Wilford Bailey is responsible for much hilarity. Mr. Terence Nerrey makes a dignified Duke d'Aubeterre, and Miss Dorothy White plays the Duchess well. Mention should be made of the clever acting of little Miss Ellina Turner as Adrienne in the prologue.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Fred Granville's company, in the drama *For Better or Worse*, is appearing here. The various characters are in good hands, and the scenery and dresses all that can be desired. Specialities are given by Mr. Willie Black, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Lovell, and Miss Reed.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—That popular comedienne, Miss Marie Kendall, is appearing this week. She has some good new songs, but her greatest success appears to be the old favourite, "Just like the ivy." A singing competition, with this song as a "test piece," has been arranged in connection with Miss Kendall's visit. W. Belloni has a number of performing cockatoos, which give evidence of much careful and patient training. Good turns are also given by Harry Drew, a Welsh basso; Rita and Roma, speciality artists; Lambert and Glover, comedians; Gray and Welford, comedians; Steve McCarthy, comedian; and Raymond's animated pictures.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company is here this week with *A Great Sensation*. Mr. Sidney N. Hallows appears in the dual rôle of Jack Damer and Stephen Damer, giving ample proof of considerable histrionic ability; Mr. J. H. Firman does well as Bunko Bates; and Mr. Alfred Richards creditably enacts the part of Robin Dale. Miss Isaacson is well suited to the part of Eva Dale; and Messrs. E. C. Clive and William Ames, as Henry Escombe and "Wiley" Jones respectively, likewise merit approbation.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*The Sign of the Cross*, very ably enacted by Mr. William Greet's company, is once again proving its box-office value here this week. Mr. William F. Grant makes a capital Marcus, and Miss Marie Leonhard a charming Mercia; Mr. J. Boyd Pearson as Nero, Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellinus, Mr. Frank Wood as Glabrio, Miss Nellie Bonser as Poppæa, Miss Alma Bolton as Berenice, Miss Cissie Carlton as Dacia, Miss Frances Irving as Ancaria, Mr. Walter Fleet as Favius, and Miss Ivy Millais as Stephanus also do good work.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The principal stars here this week are the Waldrons, in a screaming absurdity; Jack Lorimer, Scotch comedian; Lawrence Barclay, comedian; and Theo Hardeen, the handcuff king. Lesser satellites are Charles Bayman, comedian; Marie Blythe, comedienne; Hill and Whittaker, musicians; Edie King, vocalist; Will Souls, comedian; and Mona Deane, burlesque artist.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston.—After more than a year's absence *The Girl From Kay's* is making a welcome reappearance in Bolton, and is being presented by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. H. C. Barry, in his ludicrous impersonation of Max Hoggenheimer, proves to be the life and soul of the piece; the Winnie Harborough of Miss Beatrice Poole is graceful and charming; Miss Emily Taylor does well as Nora Chalmers; and a pert and pretty Ellen is that of Miss Mabel Dent. One of the funniest delineations of the piece is that of the hall porter by Mr. Tom Seymour. Mr. Reginald Grey as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle is also responsible for much humour, and Mr. J. S. Durant (Henry Gordon), Mr. Robert Rivers (Theodore Quench, Q.C.), and Mr. Bert Berton (Mr. Chalmers) are all capitally suited.

GRAND THEATRE (LIMITED).—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Included in the programme presented here this week are the Marlo and Dunham Trio, on the horizontal bars; Lively Lily Simmons, comedienne; Herbert Rule, quaint comedian; W. H. Downs, coloured Australian ballad vocalist; Robins and Collier, in a musical comedy-scena, *The Lady and the Porter*; Ben Albert, comedian; Florence and Lilian, in a drawing-room musical act; Harrison Bros., comedians and expert dancers; Wallace, juggler; Fred and Maud Vipond, society entertainers, in their humorous entr'acte *The Honeymoon*; the Three Sisters Leigh, speciality dancers and singers; Conway and Leland, the Merry Monopedes, and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—A feature in this week's bill is the first appearance here of Wal Pink's workmen in *Repairs*. They cause roars of laughter. Montague Biggs gives some clever impersonations; an acrobatic hunting absurdity, *The Meet*, by Keith and Merson, is much appreciated, and their success is undoubted; Lozelle, sensational gymnast, is well received; Agnes Hazel, comedienne, and Gertie Gitana, the favourite young comedienne, in a refined scena, also figure in the programme.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Norman Macowan's company in that successful play *Monsieur Beaucaire* opened here on Monady night to an appreciative house. The title-rôle was well handled by Mr. Norman Macowan, who, with the aid of a good voice and fine stage presence, made an admirable Monsieur Beaucaire. Miss Marguerite Cellier was earnest and charming as Lady Mary Carlisle, and Mr. Murray Hathorn gave a clever portrayal of the Duke of Winterset. Mr. Arthur Somers and Mr. Conybeare Gough scored respectively as Major Molyneaux and Mr. Rakell; and Mr. Leonard Laurence as Beau Nash, Mr. Ramsay Forman as Captain Badger, Mr. Hans Schlesinger as François and as the Marquis de Mirepoix, and Miss Annie Windsor as Lucy Rellerton completed a capital cast.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. John Rutherford's fascinating and romantic drama *The Breed of the Treshams* was presented by Mr. Frank Bertram's excellent company to a large and very appreciative audience here on Monday evening. Mr. Henry Belding, in a convincing performance of the part of the valiant swashbuckler and adventurer Lieut. Reresby, the Rat, never once lost his hold of the audience, who marked their appreciation of his artistic efforts by frequent recalls at the end of each act. Mr. Oswald Lingard's Viscount Dorsington was an able performance. The conventional character of the besmirched Col. Clement Hungerford has a fitting exponent in Mr. Hamilton Deane. Mr. George Traill filled the rôle of Col. Sir Henry Curwen well, and Mr. Wilson Blake made the part of the cowardly Rashleigh effective. As Cornet Tresham Mr. Cecil Klein was earnest in his acting. Miss Celestine Bertram represented the faithful boy Batty in rollicking style, and there was much charm and repose in Miss Florence Tressilian's impersonation of the Hon. Margaret Hungerford, and the representatives of the remaining characters made the most of their opportunities. The thrilling incidents in the drama were depicted with striking realism, the staging being all that could be desired.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—We are this week renewing acquaintance here with Mr. G. R. Sims and the late Wilson Barrett's fine drama *The Golden Ladder*, and full justice is done to the welcome revival by the fine company Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edwards have organised, and the stage mounting is admirable. There was a large audience present on Monday night, Mr. Harry Cullenford's acting as the Rev. Frank Thornhill being a feature of an excellent performance. The scoundrel Michael Severn is impersonated with telling effect by Mr. J. Milne Taylor. Miss Holly Haslewood earns distinction in the character of Lily. As the Peckabys, Mr. Joseph Rowlands and Miss Nellie Graham afford the welcome comic relief, and the other characters are in the hands of very able exponents.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The main feature of a strong and attractive programme here this week is the sensational and thrilling performance furnished by Richard Sawade's lions, tigers, bears, and dogs, and their intrepid instructor is the recipient of great applause. Seeley and West, the comedy musicians, make a welcome reappearance, and Miss Amy Russell, the talented soprano, is heard again in excellent songs. Sinclair and Parr's vocal duets and medley of songs are well rendered, the New Macs provide a good "patter" and dancing, the Dorrells are a pair of attractive duettists and dancers, and Brooks, Dale, and Blitz, with excellent comedy and a trained mule, are responsible for much laughter. A very clever triple-bar performance is presented by Mezzetti and Mora, and Ivey Roze and Frank Calvert, in their funny *Captain Scuttle* burlesque, provoke much merriment.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, Jun.—Smann Sing Hpoo, a British Burmah lilliputian, is a distinct novelty here, and is a performer of merit on rings and bars; with vocalism, whistling, imitations, and the piano, Helen Charles provides a good entertainment; the Guyons score successfully in a powerfully dramatic sketch, *His One Great Sin*; Fred Harrison is very amusing as the Funny Chinaman; May Moodie executes difficult piccolo solos in clever style; the Two Erolls are very good in comedy leaping act; as a juggler and equilibrist, Francisco is distinctly clever; Martin Henderson, the blind concertina soloist, wins approbation; May Moore-Dupree as the Jolly Dutch Girl is volatile and bright; and there are some fine films shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—Lessee, Mr. C. Carter.—The New Century Animated Pictures Company are exhibiting quite a new series here, and a local company of "Bohemians" form an additional attraction.

BRIDGEND.—TOWN HALL.—Manager, Mr. T. D. Schofield.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, in *The Toreador*, was accorded a warm welcome here on Tuesday night by a crowded audience. Mr. J. Colcough Fagan took the title-rôle in a capable manner; highly amusing was Mr. Richard Telford as Sammy Gigg; he was well supported in the comic element by Mr. Tom May as Pettifer and Mr. F. Hulme Sharp as Sir Archibald; Mr. Chas. M. Heslop as Augustus Trail was distinctly good; Mr. Henry Arthur made an excellent Governor of Villaya; Mrs. Malton Hoppings found an effective interpreter in Miss Avis Grahame; as Dora Selby, Miss Sadie Neville was good; Miss Alice Nixon did well as Nancy Staunton; and the part of Donna Teresa was excellently done by Miss Florence Spurgeon.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. C. E. Parlato and his vaudeville company opened here on Monday, and gave a capital entertainment. One of the best turns was that of Walter Howard, the clever comedian and banjo soloist, whose clever playing was loudly applauded; Miss Jessie Thorne scored well in her coon songs; and Mr. Parlato, with his impersonations of eminent men, showed rare powers of facial expression. Parker's dogs, goat, and donkey are responsible for an amusing turn; Mr. Will Bradford is a clever eccentric comedian; and Miss Ethel Barr's cornet solos are finely played for so young an artist. Mr. J. Macdonald is the musical director.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company is here this week with *Peggy Machree*. Miss Claudia Lasell makes a charming Peggy, and sings in excellent style; Mr. Leslie Styles brings expressive vocalisation and admirable acting to bear in the part of Barry Trevor; Miss Blanche Astley's singing and dancing are warmly appreciated; Mr. Ralph Lynn affords much amusement as Sir Lawrence Borthwick; Miss Madge Avery is entertaining as Moira Cafferty; Mr. Milroy Cooper is very effective as Alexander McDougall; and praise is also due to Mr. Dan Fitzgerald (Michael) and Mr. John Morley (Sergeant Bampton).

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—*Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* occupies the boards here this week, and is attracting large and delighted audiences. Mr. William Mollison gives a masterly and warmly-appreciated impersonation of Lachlan Campbell; and Miss Evelyn McKay is charming and realistic as Flora Campbell. Mr. Allen Thomas as the old doctor, William Maclure, submits an excellent character-study; Mr. F. M. Paget is well suited as the Earl of Kilspindie; Mr. A. Chappell is highly successful as Lord Hay; Mr. Durward Lely's Rev. John Carmichael is admirably played; Miss Alice Francis makes a graceful and handsome Kate Carnegie; Miss Josephine is sympathetic as Marget Howe; Miss Edith Blair-Staples acts brightly as Annie; Mr. Kendal Chalmers imparts much humour to his representation of Tammas Mitchell; Mr. Alec F. Thompson is a very amusing "Wee Posty"; and satisfactory support is given by Miss Martha Stewart as Geordie, and Miss Jeannie Fitzgerald as Jeannie.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Joe Elvin, who appears in his latest success, *Obedient Billy*, is a prime favourite, and wins very enthusiastic applause. Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford are highly amusing in their duologue, *Getting Even*; Susie and Prottie are smart dancers; Lillian is a clever trick cyclist; the Musical Johnstons fully justify their reputation as "America's foremost xylophone artists"; Charles Austin's comic songs and patter are very entertaining; Lily Flexmore, "the flexible girl," wins hearty applause for her delightful dancing; Katie Marsh is well received in her potpourri of drama and song, *Grave and Gay*; Warden Reed and company achieve much success in the farcical duologue, *Married or Photographed*; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. Mark Melford and company are very humorous and entertaining in *Only a Wedding*; the Three Amaranths, acrobatic dancers, give an excellent turn; Hanid Alexander is very effective in the scena, *Home from School*; Doody and Wright are capital Australian comiques; Herbert La Martine as vocalist, eccentric dancer, and bâton manipulator is well received; the Philipia Brothers, in a laughable sketch *Shunting*, submit clever acrobatic performances; the Sisters Albert (Jennie and Rosie) are very pleasing in their bright and original singing act; Jack Crawley is a capital mimic and raconteur; Lily Laurence is heard to great advantage in her latest successes; and the Alhambrascope pictures add to the attractiveness of the programme.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Henry Austin and company opened here on Monday with *The School for Scandal*. Mr. Henry Austin gave an excellent impersonation of Sir Peter Teazle; Miss Cicely Wake made a charming Lady Teazle; Mr. W. Allison was completely effective as Sir Oliver Surface; Charles and Joseph found admirable exponents in Mr. J. H. Twyford and Mr. A. Averell respectively; Miss Constance Groves was well placed as Mrs. Candour; and Miss Mary Brougham was a dainty and pleasing Maria. The programme for the week also included *The Heir-at-Law*.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. J. Sallmayer.—A variety entertainment furnishes the chief attraction here. Filippo is a clever instrumental mimic and double-voiced vocalist; Anna Phillips, soprano vocalist, sings in artistic style; Len Delmar, lady impersonator and dancer, is cordially received; Will Russell's comic songs win hearty applause; and Dorothy Wilson merits warm praise for her recitations.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Martin Harvey and company appeared here on Monday evening in *The Breed of the Treshams*. The attendance in all parts of the house was large, and the play was followed with interest. Mr. Martin Harvey's fine dramatic impersonation of Lieut. Reresby received every mark of approval; Miss N. de Silva acted remarkably well as Batty; Miss Coleridge presented an interesting and refined study of Margaret Hungerford; Mr. Charles Glenny was eminently successful in the unpopular part of Colonel Hungerford; Mr. Percy Anstey did well as Francis Tresham; Mr. Albert E. Rayner was appreciated as Colonel Curwen; and Mr. Charles J. Cameron was sufficiently stern and dignified as Viscount Dorsington. *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance* and *After All* are also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*The Wearin' o' the Green* is the attraction here, the Irish musical costume play being well staged, and capably played by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company. Mr. Mackey is amusing as Barney O'Hea, obtaining excellent support from Miss Nana Flensburg as Biddy McGinn, both being successful in song and dance. Mr. Charles Homer acts effectively as Shamus McDermott, obtaining applause for his songs; and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey and Mr. St. John Stuart both present careful expositions of their respective parts of Nora McGrath and Gerald Courtney. Other important characters are satisfactorily taken by Miss Adele Lindon, Messrs. David McFarlane, H. Sainsbury, and Haughton Macaulay.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—G. H. Elliott, vocalist, heads the programme, his songs obtaining considerable appreciation. Barton and Ashley present an amusing turn, *Canal Boat Sal*; W. J. Churchill, comedian, obtains applause for his songs and patter; the Australian Twin Andersons (Lillie and Minnie) are decidedly expert dancers; Selma Braatz is a clever lady juggler; H. O. Wills, comedian, is appreciated; the Athlones are successful in classical poses; and Harry Lawson, comedian, has some good songs. The performance concludes with "What Jones Saw after a Night Out," projected by the Barrascope.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Ethel Arden and company amuse with their smart sketch, *Three of a Kind*; Kent and Keith are popular as comedy duologue artists; Reg Bolton, comdian, has some good songs; Haigh and Novel do a good comedy acrobatic and dancing act; Adrim and Oram are expert eccentric acrobats; the Sisters Pine are pleasing comediennes; Royal Best is a capable impersonator; and the Leonards (Bob and Jennie) score with their amusing duologues, &c. Some new animated pictures, projected by Vernon's Bioscope, conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Lingford Carson's play *The Power of the Cross* is the attraction this week. Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby cleverly hits off the author's conception of the weird character of the Baron Cutzola; Mr. Fred W. Goddard as Gerald Fairfax, and Miss Cissie St. Elmo as Rita Lascelles, with Mr. Edward L. Hocking as Benjamin Hawke, well impersonate the villainous personages of the play; while the hero, Dr. Leslie Fairfax, and the heroine, Margaret Seaton, are admirably presented by Mr. Horace Denton and Miss Stanley Burt. Mr. Richard E. Nugent as Timothy O'Dowd, and Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray, are successful with the comedy business. Miss Lilian Ross is a charming Blanche Kingsley, and adequate support is given by Mr. Charles E. Johnson as David Kingsley. The staging is good, and the whole is under the general-management of the author, Mr. George A. de Gray.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Excellent business is being done here this week by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company in *Passion's Power*. Mr. William Clayton makes a handsome and capable Prince Kandos; Mr. Walter Roberts plays with care and finish as Rudolph Laski; and Mr. Stephen Scanlan cleverly portrays the rôle of Michael Laski; Mr. Frank Radcliffe is a typical General Zuran; Mr. Henry Howard is good as Patrice; Miss Ruth Shepperd, a clever actress, is seen to advantage as Zora Varno; and Miss Stella Carmichael, as Countess Delanney, is all that can be desired.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—The attraction at this popular house this week is Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company in the military drama *The Two Hussars*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Homer.—A programme of good quality that is submitted here this week includes the Alexandroff Troupe of Russian Singers and Dancers, whose performance is loudly applauded. Another turn is that of the Mohamed Ben Mohamed troupe of eight Sonasa Arabs, who perform some wonderful whirling dances; Cullen and Carthy, with Little Charley, are re-welcomed for their various funniosities, and Cailliers ably performs a series of weight-lifting feats. Anthony, the mysterious "gentleman in white," is an excellent turn. Janet H. Reynolds is a sweet singer; Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne, is very good; and "Urbanora," with several new and excellent pictures, is much appreciated.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is here this week with *East Lynne*, and on Monday evening had a very warm reception. Miss Julie Kennard in the rôle of Lady Isabel acted with marked ability; Miss Violet Thorold was praiseworthy as Barbara Hare; and Miss Ethel Hardacre was successful as Cornelia Carlyle. Mr. Eric Mayne gave an effective performance as Francis Levison; and Archibald Carlyle was capably represented by Mr. Alfred Beaumont. Mr. Alfred Tate as Bullock caused much amusement; as also did Mr. C. C. Grattan as Justice Hare and Mr. Cyril Hayward as Lawyer Dill. Miss Dorothy Townrow was admirable as Little Willie; and Miss A. Byron as Joyce and Miss Ethel Russell as Lady Mountsevern sustained their parts well; as also did Mr. George Jervis as Richard Hare and Mr. Spencer Goodwin as Lord Mountsevern.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. C. Frohman's company is playing *Leah Kleschna* here for six nights. Mr. Percy Rhodes is capital as Paul Sylvaine, and Mr. George Ingleton is excellent as Kleschna. Mr. Harold Weston plays well as Raoul Berton, and Mr. Cyril Rawdon looks sufficiently villainous as Sehram. As Leah Kleschna Miss Pearla Gardner wins frequent plaudits. Mr. Gising Walters as Valentine Favre and Miss Ida Vinnall as Sophie Cahbonniere are decidedly good. The play is well staged, and is being thoroughly enjoyed by large audiences.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The bright star here is Paul Cinquevalli, the renowned juggler. His feats are more marvellous than ever. Other turns include a sketch entitled *Freddie's Ma-in-law*, by Forster, Richardson, and Lonsdale; Minnie Duncan and Arthur Godfrey, in *Me and 'Er*, the successful coster sketch; Three Rubies, trapeze performers; Teddie Whittle, Lancashire comedian; Mamie Iris, a young comedienne and dancer; and F. G. Hulme, vocalist.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good programme includes Mlle. Derose, who possesses a remarkable baritone voice; Mlle. Oretta, and Marstro, in a balancing act; Witty Wattie Walton, humourist; Roby Dahl, with marionettes; Three Esmonds, comedians and dancers; Drum and Major, comedians; Arthur Stacy, step boot dancer; Fred Casburn, comedian; and J. H. Hawtrey, an actor vocalist.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Chas. Harrington has brought down a good company for the vacation, and in *The Sailors of the King*, the audience has a play eminently suitable. Mr. Harrington, as Admiral Drake, has a part that fits him well; Mr. Harry Douglas plays naturally and skilfully as Dick Drake; while his rascally brother, Will Drake, is well taken by Mr. F. Vernon Travers; Rufford Dent is safe in the hands of Mr. Walter Farnsworth; Captain Cancardine (Mr. Charles Trevlayne) and Harris Wilkinstein (Mr. Fred Owen) are successful. Miss Sylvia Stella plays the heroine, Felicia Phrynne, fairly; Daisy Dent is well sustained by Miss Marian Tremayne; Miss Hero Hathaway makes a pretty and demure Quakeress Penelope Penn; and Miss Marian Digby does the utmost with the part of Rebecca Crosby.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Miss Elaine Verner's company occupies the boards here this week, opening on Monday evening with the well-known drama *Saints and Sinners*. Mr. Harding Thomas's study of Jacob Fletcher is undoubtedly clever; Miss Elaine Verner is good as Letty Fletcher; Mr. Frank Lyndon as Samuel Hoggard presents a finished interpretation; Mr. John J. Hooker as George Kingsmill is well suited; and Mr. W. Cronie Wilson as Captain Fanshaw makes a conspicuous success of the part. *The Middleman* was billed for Thursday.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr. Reg. Grant.—*The Power and the Glory* is the drama here this week. It is exceptionally well played by a company of clever artists, and is proving a great attraction to large audiences.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The electrical wonder, Volta, heads the programme here. The popular Burt Shepard, with his quaint songs and stories, and R. H. Douglass, in his funny sketch of the private detective, are two well-established favourites; Marzella's trained cockatoos and parrots prove an entertaining turn; Marie Collins presents a couple of spirited songs; Manning's Entertainers are just as amusing as ever in their farcical sketch, *The Hotel Boots*; while Frank Dunlop, the diverting comedian; the Reed-Oetzmann Troupe, in their comic pantomime *On Tour in the Tyrol*; Lady Fauntleroy, with her ventriloquial chum "Dan"; and the bioscope complete a capital programme.

CARLISLE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, the Trustees of R. Stewart McKim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers.—Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester-Jackson's company opened to a good house on Monday with *East Lynne*. The part of Lady Isabel is played with great power and pathos by Miss St. Albans; Mr. Saul Arthur is the cool, unemotional Archibald Carlyle to the life; and Mr. J. Leicester-Jackson depicts the villainies of Francis Levison in an accomplished manner. Mr. Charles E. Lambert is excellent as Justice Hare, Richard Hare is in the capable hands of Mr. Harold B. Ford, and a feature of the production is the playing of Cornelia Carlyle by Miss Louie Walton. Miss Nellie Lambert does well as Barbara Hare, Miss Phyllis Damian is fresh and wining as Joyce, and Miss Maudie Lambert scores a success as Willie Carlyle.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Signor Pepi is presenting a programme of much attractiveness. The top of the bill is occupied by the Lavails, who give a performance on a silver arch, chains, and ladders which is as startling as it is novel and interesting. Harry Gray, a quaint comedian, is responsible for a funny female impersonation; Frank Maura is as smart and as nimble as ever; Joad Heteb contributes a smart conjuring act; Ford and Hanson introduce a novel musical turn, in which a burlesque of popular composers is a prominent feature; the Cumberlands' acrobatic cycling act has lost none of its popularity; Maud Clifton is a pleasing vocalist; and the Sisters Terry (duettists), the Newsboys Quintette, and Vernon's bioscope complete the programme.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; General-Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—General interest centres here round the Bellong Bros., who do some marvellous feats of hand and cycle balancing; the Avolos, on the perpendicular bars, submit a clever and novel act; Mendel, who is here for another week, still retains his popularity; Mr. David Fuller, the eminent baritone, delights his hearers with some well-rendered songs; the Three Seymours, in an equilibristic juggling act, score an emphatic success; Viviana, who dances beautifully, meets with an enthusiastic reception; and other items include George Foyle (vocalist), the Bros. Ralston (comedians), Rabbit (clown), and Payne's Bio-photoscope.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Sydney Carter's New Century animated pictures are paying a visit here this week, and so excellent is the series that full houses are drawn.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—*Proprietors*, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, is here in E. Hill-Mitchelson's military play *Revenge*. Mr. Alfred Brandon gives a powerful representation to the scheming Prince Orioff, as does also Miss Emmeline Roselle to Draga Vanessa. Mr. H. Bonhope Wilson as Captain Loris Vanessa is most realistic; Mr Edward Swinton is very good as Count Mussant, the Frenchman; as is also Mr. Guy P. Ellis as Captain David Carr. Mr. H. C. Lanceley as the King, Miss Josie Beltran as Lieut. Maurice, and Miss Nesta Sandford as the Queen. Mr. Walter Kenion impersonates Jim Jennings, A.B., with much success, and the same may be said of Mr. Charles Baker as Stefan. Mr. Ernest W. Parr as Karl, Mr. Fred J. Carson as Franz Wholff, Mr. J. S. Flockton as Corporal Kruse, and Mr. Percy H. Thompson as Stavenor. Miss Nancy Caiston is capable as Olga, and the same may be said of Miss Mara Maltby as Cora Brook.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Mr. Hy. Masterman.—Mr. Millar Anderson's company, in *When Woman Hates*, supplies the attraction here during the present week. Miss Mabel Mannering gives a powerful reading of the part of Cora; Mr. Jerrold Heather is greatly appreciated as Lieut. Fred Rokeby; Mr. Millar Anderson plays with much force as the villainous Godfrey Lawton; Miss Maude Townsend gains sympathy as Marie Rokeby; and Colonel Vancutson is well played by Mr. Alfred Grenville. A number of really amusing interludes are given by Messrs. Frank Litchfield as Patrick O'Brien, Chas. H. Hughes as Alphonso Picolet, and Misses Eleonar Papera and Helen Richmond as Mrs. and Miss Sally Potts.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—A capital attraction is supplied this week by Mr. George Dance's company in *The Little Michus*. Miss Alice Coverick as Marie Blanche and Miss Gracie Sinclair as Blanche Marie both acquit themselves admirably; Mr. Cecil Clayton makes a merry Bagnolet, and Mr. Gerald Clifford a very popular Gaston Rigaud; Pierre Michu and his wife are well represented by Mr. T. E. Conover and Miss Florence Hylton respectively; as Mdlle. St. Cyr Mdlle. Marjorie dances in delightful manner, and a great success is made by Mr. Leslie Holland, whose every entrance is welcomed by unstinted laughter and applause.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have the Gotham Comedy Quartette, whose pleasing vocalism and fun

CHELTENHAM. — Opera House. — General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*The Girl from Japan* pays a visit here this week. Miss Mabel Kerridge is dainty and vivacious in the rôle of Polly Perkins; Mr. Charles Lupton and Miss Jeannie Holmes play neatly as Sir Mulberry and Lady Flippington; Mr. W. H. Moore is good as Horatio Binks; Miss Josephine Ellis dances delightfully as the nimble-footed chambermaid; Mr. Percy Baverstock as the pseudo-military man, Mr. Ernest Spalding as the typical stage parson, and Mr. Edward Kipling as an hotel factotum work indefatigably and keep the fun going.

Victoria Rooms.—Lessee, Mr. E. B. Shenton.—Poole's Myriorama entered on its second week on Monday to an enthusiastic audience, the Carls still topping the bill.

CLYDEBANK.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is here this week with *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr gives a finished performance of Uncle Tom; Legree is safe in the hands of Mr. J. Henry Rogers; Mr. James Jackson is good as Dan Haley; Mr. Stanley Howard does excellent work as Mr. St. Clair Loker; Mr. Leslie Beaufort scores as George; Miss Hattie Johnson makes a sympathetic Eliza; Mrs. Carr is well placed as Aunt Chloe; Little Eva is cleverly played by Little Minnie; Miss Mabel Bowman causes much merriment by her fine impersonation of Topsy; Cassy is excellently portrayed by Miss Ethel Mildmay; a trio of slaves are well characterised by Mr. W Eversleigh as Quimbo, Mr. Jack Black as Sambo, and Mr. Tom Miles as Andy. The staging is excellent, and the company also includes a number of real negroes, who add much to the success of this evergreen drama.

COATBRIDGE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Doing good business here this week is the modernised musical drama *The Streets of London*, played by Mr. Eade Montefiore's company. Mr. H. Douglas Cottell enacts the part of Mark Livingstone in a masterly manner; Mr. Reginald Palgrave achieves distinction as Captain Fairweather; Mr. Ian Lloyd-Mackenzie is praiseworthy as Paul Fairweather; Mr. William Rokeby shows capability as Badger; and Gideon Bloodgood is cleverly interpreted by Mr. Henry Moxon. Miss Marion Armitage as Dan Puffy is worthy of special commendation; Miss Edyth Goodall is favourably received as Lucy Fairweather; Miss Octavia Noel is eminently satisfactory as Alida Bloodgood; and Miss Helena Rigby is seen to advantage as Mrs. Puffy.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Colcestrians have long looked forward to the visit of *Claudian*, and the realisation came on Monday, when Mr. William Maclaren and his company opened at the above house for six nights. In the title-rôle Mr. William Maclaren depicted alternately the autocratic overbearance of the wealthy nobleman and the agony of the accursed philanthropist with wonderful accuracy and realism, and was loudly applauded; while the pathetic characteristics of Almida were well portrayed by that accomplished actress, Miss Lily C. Bandmann. Miss Carlotta Anson acted with fire and decision the part of Edessa, and as Belos Mr. C. J. Chaloner showed much drollery. As the Petrarch Mr. Wilson Howard gave a vigorous representation; whilst as Agazill Mr. George R. Austin was undoubtedly well placed Mr. A. G. Carr was a venerable Holy Clement.

Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Alen.—This week Joe O'Gorman is first favourite, being accorded an ovation each evening. E. J. Wilkes and his dog "Woof" provide a merry entertainment; Dolly Golden dances in unmistakably clever fashion; two wonderfully good musical turns are Eugene, the boy instrumentalist, and a charming musical act by Gold and Sterling. Jessica Grace and Coons score with capital dances, and M. Sauteron gives evidence of being an accomplished close-foot jumper. The Hippodrome pictures complete the bill each evening.

CORK.—Palace Theatre Limited.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—There is a capital bill of fare provided here this week. Will Onda and company introduce *The Motor Maniac*, in which some bioscope pictures are included; Will McIvor, vocalist, possesses a remarkably good voice; the Bodina Trio sing some capital songs and perform on banjos and zithers admirably; Barney Vox, a witty Irish ventriloquist, is one of the best that ever appeared here; the Brothers Onda are capital horizontal-bar performers; Counsell and Mills create laughter with their burlesque playlet *On the State;* Evelene Lola, comedienne and dancer, receives applause; and the Brothers Bright are clever acrobats, performing some smart balancing feats.

COVENTRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. William Greet's company presents the musical comedy *The Earl and the Girl* here. Jim Cheese (the bogus earl) is capably impersonated by Mr. Reginald Switz; Mr. Alec Fraser gives a capital rendering of Dick Wargrave; Mr. Stanley Harrison is responsible for the Hon. Crewe Boodle; and Mr. H. B. Brandreth gives a typical Yankee rendering of A. Bunker Bliss. Miss Mary Fraser is a charming Elphin Haye; Miss Mary Morrison is responsible for an effective interpretation of Miss Virginia Bliss; and Miss Florence Wix gives a clever rendering of the coster girl Liza Shoddam.

The Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—An excellent programme here includes a skit entitled *The Would-be Actors*, given by Carter Livesay and Lilian Roseberry, which is most amusing throughout. Alf. Gibson, the popular comedian, gives some amusing songs; Princess Pauline makes herself a favourite in some well-chosen numbers; Miss Maude Edwards is a clever ventriloquist; Lorne and Rene give a musical duo, entitled "Capital and Labour"; Dan Conroy is a capable comedian and dancer; Blake and Granley are comedy sketch artists; and a good set of animated pictures concludes the performance, as usual.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—This week we have Mr. Joseph W. Worley's company with *A Faithful Friend*. Mr. Henry W. Hatchman as John Tollerton acts in an easy and finished manner, Mr. Joseph W. Worley shows histrionic ability as Harold Sefton, as also does Mr. Robert W. Lynn as Antonio Orsini. Miss Trissie Humphreys deserves special mention for her portayal of Mildred Marsden; Miss Hilda Francks as Lady Thomas Jones gives a good presentation of a difficult part. The rôle of Sir Thomas Jones is in the able hands of Mr. John Cullen, and Mr. James Stevenson, junr., is responsible for the character of Squire Somerset, in which he does well. Mr. William Annesley deserves praise for his rendition of Harry Somerset, and Mr. James P. E. Hussey fully justifies his selection as Augustus Silvester. We must not forget to praise Miss Esther Ohlson and Miss Florence Gower, who, as Cynthia and Ruth Mayfield respectively, give pleasure to the audience. Mr. Edward Dennison is very good as Ephraim Dobson, and Mr. Chas. Phillips makes a capable Detective Hanson, and Mr. Albert Leslie is well chosen for Mr. Boddick.

CREWE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. Carr Loates's company occupies the boards here this week with *At the World's Mercy*, a musical drama. Mr. C. Loates, the author, sustains successfully the character of Captain Frank Manley, Mr. A. E. Read is well suited as Jabez Barber, and Mr. H. Evan Gibbon is good as Morris Goldstein. Mr. Jess Boxer is acceptable as Charlie Smart, and Mr. Leo Rodway is well placed as Slouching Sam. Miss E. Turner Elliott gives a creditable rendering of Alice Lloyd, and Miss Marie D'Alton acquits herself well as Kitty Knott. The characters of Dot and Skittles are satisfactorily played by Little Daisy and Miss Cissie Milford respectively. Songs are introduced at intervals, which brighten up the piece considerably.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. George Dance's company is winning golden opinions here with *The Cingalee*, the chorus, dresses, and scenery being very good. Mr. Kenneth Wynne is in excellent voice as the Hon. Harry Vereker; Mr. Helier le Maistre is capital in the part of Boobhamba; Mr. G. J. Williams gives a neat sketch of Sir Peter Loftus; Mr. M. Courtney makes the most of Myamgah; Mr. Roy Sydney is quite at his ease as Bobby Warren; and Mr. Johnny Osborne is unflagging in his efforts to amuse as Chambhuddy Ram. Miss Emelie Mayhew is a taking and interesting Lady Patricia Vane; Miss Cissie Sephton is lively and clever as Peggy Sabine; Miss Violet Holmes dances smartly as Angy Loftus; and Miss Nellie Wigley sings her numbers with effect, and is a fascinating Nanoya.

Theatre Royal. — Managing - Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—*The Great Awakening* is being staged here by Miss Maud Hildyard's company. Mr. Charles Vivian deserves praise as James Selby; Mr. Bernard Copping is seen to advantage as Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton; Mr. William Carriden does well as Guy Royan; Mr. Ernest G. Batley is creditable as Captain Harry Lambert; and Mr. Willie Scott is a droll Billy Brass. Miss Nina Blake Adams gives a faithful rendering of Molly Merton; Miss Isa Bellington is satisfactory as Selina Worts; and Miss Maud Hildyard plays with studied accuracy as Lola Selby.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here this week, in the new drama *The Woman Who Gambles*. The title-rôle is taken by Miss Ada Roscoe, who gives a powerful personation of Countess Natalie. Mr. Ed. E. Ashby is good as Count Otto Steinbach; Mr. Horatio Sinclair as Baron Cratzlaw is seen to great advantage; Mr. Beresford Lovett as Lieutenant Karl submits a clever study; Mr. Ernest Clark as Chief of the Police plays the character forcibly; Miss Violet Sims as Cora Gouldhart is delightful; great praise is due to Miss Bredna May for her Zannette; and Mr. Walter P. Carr as Paul Slwanovitch well sustains the part.

DARWEN. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—*The Gamester of Metz* is a drama which is attracting large audiences here this week. Mr. Charles March (the author), who appears in the part of Paul Baldot, displays considerable dramatic ability. In the third act he makes no fewer than fourteen changes in the almost incredible time of fifty seconds. Mr. J. B. Murray is excellent in the heavy rôle of Captain Bedaire, and Mr. Fred Aldworth is good as General de Monparasse. Miss Una Lane gives a charming rendering of the rôle of Lucia; Miss Eva Lyndhurst is capital as Countess Baldot; and Miss Elsa Cole good as Babette. The comedy element is well supplied by Miss Cissy Haighton and Mr. Victor Knight as Gwendolin Pearson and Goliath Grove respectively.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. Walter Reynolds' company is here this week with *Mr. Smith*. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart enacts the title-rôle in a manner that does him the highest credit; as the young Duke of Angleland Mr. Wm. Dunlop is admirable, and Miss Mary Relph submits a clever and effective depiction of the haughty Duchess. Miss Ethel Milton makes a charming Lady Mary Hildergate, and as Mrs. Smith Mrs. Alfred Davis is deserving of every commendation. Mr. Herbert Graham as Herr Deidrich Anheuser, the German brewer millionaire, is highly amusing, and Miss Phyllis Ralph figures agreeably as Ruth Anheuser. The Earl of Oxted is well played by Mr. Sydney Price, and Mr. Rupert Stutfield as the Hon. Dudley Dysart and Mr. Austin Spencer as Jack Berkeley satisfactorily sustain their parts, while Mr. H. J. Morgan capably fills the minor character of Benson.

Palace.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—Martin Conway, comedian, is a great attraction here this week. His songs and patter are vastly amusing. Amy Anderson and company, in their East-End scena, deserve high praise; the Four Hearnes, comedy acrobats, are well worthy of honourable mention; the Lorrisons, grotesques and eccentrics, create hearty laughter; Lilian Rigby, a clever musician and dancer, is entertaining; Violet Morgan is a lady impersonator much above the average; Little Salvano, boy instrumentalist, is successful; and the Palace bioscope, with some interesting films, concludes a good all-round bill of fare.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Messrs. Shinton and Greenwood's company is here in *The Price of Her Soul*. The heavy character, that of Lord Rolf Mandeville, V.C., was well taken by Mr. John B. Shinton, who had good support in Mr. Landon Goulding as General Demetrius Lanovitz. Mr. Annesley Hely was an excellent Major Ivan Skoboloff and an able *confrère*, Mr. Murray Yorke, was responsible for Captain Sergius Petruski. An agreeable diversion was furnished by Mr. Edwin Coates in his characterisation of the Hon. Algy Frazer. Mr. Will Percy displayed well-appreciated humour as Pat Murphy. Miss Tina Frank was an amusing Polly Perkins. Vera received a dainty embodiment from Little Ida Thompson; Miss Ina Mervale was powerful as Nadine Marcovitz; Miss Mona Gray gave a good rendering of Olga Lanovitz. The title-rôle was admirably represented by Miss Ada M. Kyder, whose many merits were warmly recognised.

DOVER.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Excellent dramatic fare is provided here by Mr. Julian Malvern's company in *I Defy the World*. In the part of Leon Darville Mr. Lewis Gilbert contributes capital work, and upon his strenuous efforts the success of the piece practically depends. Mr. Horace Booth renders Count de Beaulieu in a masterly manner; and Mr. Alfred Denning presents a courtly and appropriate portrait of General Delaporte. The powerful acting of Mr. Charles Conway as Laroche thrills the house; while Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Najac, and Mr. Dalton J. Bosher as Bochan portray the parts with skill, introducing humour which is much appreciated. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt merits great praise for his clever and consistent acting as Andra; and Mr. W. Davenport is seen to advantage in the small, but effective, rôle of Father Dumont. Miss Maud Lilian and Mr. Charles M. Julian give a humorous sketch of a honeymoon couple abroad, and are irresistibly funny in their encounters with the gendarme, played well by Mr. E. H. Cartwright. Miss Maud Melvern is suited to the part of Blanche Darville; Miss Trixie St. Albans is a prepossessing Pauline Delaporte; and Miss G. Coates makes a charmingly natural and intelligent little Fanchette.

The Empire Palace, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Wraith.—The Evalos, in their comic juggling and gymnastic act, top a thoroughly attractive bill this week; and are well received. Alf. Shaw, the swell comedian, has good songs, and sings them well; the Woellhafs are smart eccentric patterers and acrobatic wonders, and dance cleverly; Singing Street has a great reception, and is encored nightly; Frederic Austin is most acceptable as a minstrel comedian and dancer; Edie Anderson's tuneful songs and expert dances are greatly appreciated; Mr. E., in his patter, creates roars of laughter; and Silbon's performing cats, at the foot of the bill, cause wonder and amusement.

DUBLIN.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The attraction here this week is Yukio Tani, the famous Japanese wrestler, whose clever performance elicits applause. Owing to illness, Signora Regia, of the Metropolitan Operatic Quartette, was unable to appear, but two of their number sang some good selections, which were duly appreciated. Owing to the action of the Board of Agriculture, Walton and Mlle. Ella were prevented from presenting their dog entertainment; but Captain Max Gruber, with his elephant, horse, and pony, ably filled their place, and was well received. Bromley and Fontein's sketch, *A Musical Birthday*, is highly amusing; and Shawlene is an expert siffleur and mimic. Donaldson Brothers and Ardell, in a zoological comedy act, excite much laughter; and George Gilbey scores as a comedian. The Musical Schaffers, in an instrumental speciality, make a decided hit; and Eugene and Willie, acrobatic clowns, provide much entertainment, and the animated pictures are portraying the latest events.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Belle and Bijou, society entertainers, have the first place on the programme here this week, and meet with a hearty reception; Flem and Brok, aerial boxers, achieve success, as does also Prince Feelung, magician. The Matweef Hugoston Troupe of singers, dancers, and acrobats are loudly applauded; and George Ridgwell is an accomplished baritone vocalist. Athos and Collins cause much laughter in their comedy act *Fun for a Bob*, and Harry Clifford is a good vocal comedian. Babs Lloyd, burlesque artist, has a host of admirers; and G. W. Foster is a capital comic. The Empire pictures are entertaining.

Tivoli.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Four Emilions, pirouette throwers and comedy acrobats, head the bill here this week, and are encored nightly. J. H. Milburn is an excellent entertainer, and the Sisters Edwards are pleasing vocalists and dancers. Dent and Harris, in their comedy scena, *Mary and the Squire*, meet with success; and the same may be said of Newco and Sullo, comedians and grotesque dancers. The Paul Hesse Trio of acrobats wins favour, and Diana Hope and Company's sketch *Her Good Name*, meets with appreciation. Sultan Brothers, speciality performers, Florence Watson, comedienne, and Fred Hallam, comedian, complete the bill.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here:—Clarke and Artic, Continental drolls; Percy Anderson, ventriloquist; Leopold Brothers, American musicians; Mme. Hippa, thought reader; and the American giantess.

Samuel's Exhibition Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The company engaged here includes Lilly Mansell, comedienne; George Millard, comedian; the Cliffords, comedy artists; Jack Halliley, vocal comedian; Ada Brogden, serio and dancer; and the Two Harveys, acrobatic artists.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *The Still Alarm* is paying another welcome visit. Mr. H. M. Glenville is effective as Jack Manley; Mr. Cecil Du Gué is a gentlemanly John Bird; Mr. Tom Beasley as Willie Manley and Mr. J. S. Pateman as Franklyn Fordham are seen to advantage; fun is infused into the play by Mr. Fred Osmond as Doc Wilber and Mr. L. Gordon as Joe Jones. Miss M. Veriton makes a homely Mrs. Manley; Miss Maude Warburton acts daintily as Elinore Fordham; and Miss Hettie Zillwood is a lively Carrie Wilber.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Deputy Acting-Manager, Mr. Rhodes Wells.—Harriet Vernon, the famous burlesque actress, is attracting packed houses this week. Her songs, rendered in a charming manner, are further strengthened by artistic scenic effects. An amusing and enjoyable turn is that of Mat Wilkinson in *The Registry Office*. Curtis Leo, described as the Magical Marvel, performs some wonderful feats; Violet Beatrice is a dainty Irish singer; and other good turns are given by May and Etheleda, burlesque artists, Gertie Graham, speciality artist and dancer, and Ted Clifton, eccentric.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr Louis Karpe.—*When it was Dark*, a drama adapted from Mr. Guy Thorne's novel by the Rev. Forbes Phillips, holds sway here this week. Mr. Leslie Carter, in the prologue, spoke the lines assigned to Satan in an impressive manner, and later gave a masterly assumption of Mr. Schwabe. Mr. Rupert Lister made a fine study of the Rev. Basil Gortre, Miss Margaret Damer gave an excellent rendering of Gertrude Hunt; Miss Hope Mayne as Helena Byars was convincing, Mr. H. Athol Forde submitted an excellent rendering of Sir Robert Llewellyn, and Mr. Frank Melrose as the Vicar, Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Lord Caistor, Mr. Humphrey Warden as Mr. Hamilton Hill, Mr. Geoffrey Hill as the Dragoman, and Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips as Miss Katherine Moberley filled their parts with credit.

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss.—The top of the bill is assigned to the Tom Davis Trio in a daring teacup-track performance on motor cycles, Harry Wenburn is a comedian with original ideas, Cissie Curlette is justly termed a brilliant mimetic vocalist, Bishop and Vale ar a clever pair of knockabouts, and a smart comedy act is given by the Fordyces. Judge's cockatoos, parrots, and macaws are wonderfully trained; the Sisters Llewellyn, operatic vocalists, remain for another week; and a capital display of pictures completes the programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Mr. Charles Majilton's company is here this week with *The Trippers*. Mr. Jim Bond as the Scotchman is the chief mirth-maker, Mr. Charles Majilton as the Mystery has a part in which he fairly revels, and a smart quartette of dancers give a clever terpischorean exhibition.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A drama, entitled *At Twelve Midnight*, is being played here by Mr. Charles Clifford's company. A telling rendering of the chief of a gang of forgers is given by Mr. Clifford, Miss Maud Carnfield makes a sweet and sympathetic Hazel Dene, Miss Kate Randolph as Gertrude de Sage is responsible for a clever assumption of the cunning adventuress, and Mr. Randle Wilson and others contribute speciality turns during the course of the drama. On Thursday Mr. Percival celebrated the second anniversary of his lesseeship, when several extra turns appeared.

DUNFERMLINE.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—The first visit of the Elster-Grime Grand Opera company is a strong attraction this week. On Monday in *Maritana* Mr. Payne Clarke was an able exponent of Don César; Mr. Michael Kemble made an excellent Don José; Mr. Gilbert King was very good as the King; Mr. Tom Partridge did well as Captain; Mr. H. Murphy was an acceptable Marquis; Miss Marie Elster a successful Maritana; and Miss Edmee De Dreux a delightful Lazarillo. The répertoire for the week includes *Carmen*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *La Fille de Madame Angot*.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Mr George Dance's principal company is appearing here in *Veronique*. A dainty and bewitching representative of Veronique is Miss Rita Leonhardt, who sings and acts in the most charming manner; Miss Florence Lee as Agatha has a fine flexible voice and attractive appearance; and Miss Florence Aylwyn, who appears as the Countess, sings in admirable style. Miss Neste Laurel as Denise is an agile and graceful dancer, and Miss Winnie Gordon and Miss Pattie O'Hanlon are successful as Sophie and Aunt Benoit. Mr. Roland Bottomley sings very capably, and is an earnest Florestan; Mr. Ellis Holland raises continual laughter as Mons. Coquenard, and he is a pronounced success; Mr. Ivan Berlyn is an amusing Mons. Loustot; and Mr. Tom Shelford ably helps the fun along as Seraphin. A large, tuneful chorus and efficient orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Leonard Leslie.

Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. H. F. Maltby and his capable company are appearing here in the pretty romantic play, *The Youngest of Three*. Mr. H. F. Maltby as George Wendover gives a strong and characteristic performance, which grips the audience; Mr. H. W. Hargreaves is an attractive and pleasing Gerald; and Mr. A. E. Wyn Weaver is a skilfully easy and natural Philip Radford. Most of the comedy work falls to the share of Mr. Ernest Noble, and as Paul and Pynne he gives us a couple of good character sketches. Mr. Ralph Hutton is a capable actor, and is an excellent Samuel Johns, while the smaller parts are well filled. Much praise is due to Miss Beatrice Marsdene, who as Lucy Dulley is bright, animated, and sympathetic; Miss Mara Maltby, of much personal charm, is a prepossessing romantic Florence, and she sings and accompanies her song in a most artistic manner; Miss Maud Mellor is an efficient Annie; and Miss Nancy York gives good help as Jane. The costumes and staging generally are worthy of particular praise. The Pygmies, under the management of Mr. Jas. Harrison, were billed to appear here on Thursday afternoon.

The Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—At the top of the bill we have Messrs. Hulo Hodgson, Harry Lowther, and company, who are all clever artists, in a funny sketch, *The Barmaids*. The Herald Comedy Four again delight and amuse the audience as a capable harmony quartette; Mr. Gus Hindell is received quite enthusiastically as a singer and patterer; Miss Arabella Allen gives powerful and realistic representations of characters from Dickens; the Sisters Belmont are among the finest step and clog-dancers who have appeared here; Astarte contributes a pretty and perplexing turn; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn is a fine vocalist; Mr. Dan Filmer scores as a comedian and dancer; and the new pictures complete the bill.

EBBW VALE. — King's. — Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Responsible Managers. Messrs. W. Devereux and E. T. Wood.—Mr. Will Ellerslie's pantomime sketch *Sinbad the Sailor* is attracting special attention here. Sinbad is delightfully played by Miss Florrie Bray; Dolly is admirably suited to Miss Ada Clarke, whose specialities include coon singing and well-executed dances, and Mr. Dan Idle causes considerable mirth as Mrs. Sinbad. The performance is interspersed with variety turns, contributed by the Sisters Ascott, Miss Ada Clarke, the Izons (clever comedy duettists and patterers), Mr. Will Ellerslie (mimic), Mr. Joe Cookson (a ventriloquist of ability), and Leslie and Player (duettists and joke-tellers).

EDINBURGH. — Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Whitehead.—*Peter Pan* continues to fill the house with delighted audiences, who manifest unlimited pleasure at Mr. J. M. Barrie's fantastic production. Miss Cecilia Loftus in the name part and Miss Hilda Trevelyan as Wendy act most charmingly. The young people who make up Peter's Band are excellent in their respective rôles, and Mr. Loring Fernie, with Mr. George Shelton, have some irresistibly funny business in their impersonations of Captain Hook and the boatswain Smee. Mr. Arthur Lupino makes a clever dog Nana, and the crocodile, the ostrich, the wolves, and the mermaids find hosts of admirers. Old playgoers must go back to their early pantomimes and to the fairy extravaganzas of their youthful days for the parallel of this interesting entertainment.

Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—The popularity of Mr. F. R. Benson in Edinburgh was evidenced on Monday evening last when the actor and his company appeared in *Henry V.*, before a large and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Benson's performance of King Henry is of unmistakable merit. It is a carefully-considered study—admirably carried out—which must afford pleasure to every student of Shakespeare. Mrs. Benson is a charming Katherine, and her acting in the wooing scene is marvellously bright and full of clever touches. Pistol had a vigorous and humorous exponent in Mr. Cyril Keightley; the veteran actor, Mr. G. R. Weir, who loses none of his power and quaintness, is an excellent Fluellen, and Mr. H. O. Nicholson as Nym, Mr. J. P. Wilson as Bardolph, and Miss Leah Hanman as the Boy portray their parts with much drollery. Mr. Clarence Derwent, a promising actor, plays the Constable of France with notable success. Mr. B. A. Pittar is a dignified Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr. Philip Sanders a capital Duke of Exeter, Miss Tita Brand is graceful as Queen Isabel, and Miss Elinor Aickin delightful as the Hostess. *King Lear* was played on Tuesday, Mr. Benson repeating his pathetic impersonation of the title-rôle, and Mrs. Benson being seen to great advantage in her tender performance of Cordelia. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a picturesque revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Julius Cæsar* have likewise been presented during the week.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. J. Cawood.—Mr. Herbert Darnley's company of comedians are prominent in this week's bill, and their knockabout pantomime sketch *Moving In* raises plenty of laughter. The Aurora troupe of cyclists give their unique and graceful display of feats in bicycle riding, which are loudly applauded; the Howards are skilled cornet players, and their turn is a pleasing one; the comedy element is well provided by Mr. Fred E. Terry and Miss Alice Maydue; Miss Venie Clements proves her versatility as a singer and dancer; and La Tostia shows great proficiency on the mandoline. A novel plastic-figure performer appears in Mr. Terley, assisted by a lady; and Mr. Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, contributes a successful and enjoyable selection of whistling solos, songs, and imitations of star artists. The Rinaldos are exceedingly smart comic equilibrists, and the programme is closed by an up-to-date exhibition of bioscope pictures.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. C. St. John Denton's capable company is this week paying a visit with *Kitty Grey*. Miss Hilda Guiver as Kitty is both clever and pleasing; Miss Marie West as Lady Binfield is creating a favourable impression; Mr. Robert Hyett takes the part of Sir John Binfield in a very able manner; Mr. H. E. Garden as Lord Plantagenet is smart and witty; and Mr. Lauri Lisle is funny as the King of Illyria. Mrs. Bright is typically represented by Miss Nellie Lauraine; and Miss Gertrude Page is very good as Sadie.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company occupied the boards for the first three nights of the week in a selection of Shakespearean plays. On Monday evening the ever-popular *Merchant of Venice* was produced before a critical and appreciative audience. Shylock was taken by Mr. Henry Herbert, who gave an accomplished interpretation of the mercenary and vindictive Jew; Miss Dorothy Green proved herself a fascinating Portia; Mr. Gerald Amee was a distinct success as Antonio; Miss Kate Turner was a pretty Nerissa; and Miss De Launey did well as Jessica. Miss Ross Shore as Gobbo, a clown, was very humorous. The other pieces played were *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, and *Macbeth*. On Thursday evening Mr. J. Morton Powell's company opened a three nights' engagement with the drama, *Honour Thy Father*.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, T. Morton Powell.—This week we are having a visit from Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce*. Miss Lilian Dundas's performance as Josephine stamps her as an emotional actress of the front rank; Mr. Frederick Moyes as Napoleon contributes a powerful interpretation; the Marie Louise of Miss Muriel Thompson is a fine study; Miss Gertrude Entwistle is a bright and animated Stephanie; Mr. H. Gray Dobby submits a clever representation of Talleyrand; and Mr. Henry Ludlow as Beaumont is all that can be desired. Mr. Dennis Bryan makes a humorous innkeeper.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in *Lucky Durham* is here this week. Mr. Edmund Kennedy ably represents John Durham; Miss Louisa Gourlay acts with dignity and refinement as Mrs. Durham; Mr. Arthur Leigh makes a capital Hon. Reginald; Mr. A. E. Walker is an efficient Lord Mountfallon; Miss Florence Dulhunty gives an acceptable study of the Hon. Margaret; Miss Gertrude Robins enacts Helen Vallerton in a charming manner; and Miss Frances Wolviston fills the rôle of Lady Mountfallon in distinctly clever style.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, the Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Robert Kirk.—Miss Maggie Morton's company opened here on Monday with the romantic drama, entitled *The Temptress*. In the title-rôle Miss Roma Tremayne appeared with considerable success. She was well supported by Mr. W. Bradford, who gave a good character study of Lucas Denbigh, the hypnotist. Mr. Otto Minster was a manly Philip Welford; and Miss Madge Carrington gave a pathetic rendering of Marion Fordyce The comedy element was safe in the hands of Mr. F. M. Wright, Mr. Chris Bern, and Miss Leyton.

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—The drama, entitled *The Rich and Poor of London*, is the attraction here this week. Spider Jack, a humorous character, is admirably handled by Mr. Sidney Dench; Mr. Robert Hall gives a powerful impersonation of Dr. Leonard Morton; and the villainies of Mark Stanley are cleverly depicted by Mr. Walter Foster. Mr. Jack Sydney's Bill Binks is a finished piece of work; and Mr. Malcolm Gascoigne makes the most of his opportunities as Lawyer Grabbem. Miss Dora Dench acts with much charm as May Braithwaite; and the Auntie Scrimp of Miss Emily Woodleigh is satisfactory. The part of Ruby Redgrave is well looked after by Miss Lillian Burns; whilst Miss Lilly Artis's Polly Philpot is full of humour. Master Bert Dench does well as Dixie; and Miss Ethel Denville is a winsome Seadrift.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* (?) is being played here this week. Mr. Somerfield is to be congratulated on a powerful depiction of Will Maynard; Mr. Cyril Grier gives fine representations in the dual parts of Cyril and Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. H. Urquhart is a distinguished-looking Harold Kingston; and Mr. T. G. Vane presents a careful study of the aristocrat, Leonard Vimbart. Mr. Bradford Crosby is an amusing Peter Miles; Miss Marie Dagmar is a great success as Elinor D'Arville; Miss Mollie Monaghan's picture of Janet Miles, a Lancashire woman, is excellent in every detail; Miss Marie Clavering, Miss Maud Grayson, and Miss Laura Brookes, complete an excellent cast.

GILLINGHAM (Kent). — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. F. Monti and Co.; Lessee, Mr. D. S. Cooper; General-Manager, Mr. Roy Cochrane. —The Charles W. Poole Myriorama provides the attraction here for this week. During the evening some excellent variety turns are given by Daisy Graham, with her collection of trained birds; Little Dorretta, a clever juvenile, in songs and acrobatic dances; Harry Stewart in a protean act, the changes of which are done in full view of the audience; Kitty Woodford, comedienne; the Avondale Quartette, an excellent comedy team, whose numbers are well balanced; Kitty Woodford's Canine Circus and Orchestra; and a series of animated pictures.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and company are here this week with *The Adventures of Lady Ursula*, in which Mr. Norman gives a satisfactory rendering of Sir George Sylvester. The timidly adventurous Lady Ursula is charmingly played by Miss Beatrice Wilson; Miss Sybil Ruskin as Dorothy Fenton submits a pleasing picture of that lively young lady; and the staid Mrs. Fenton as played by Miss Hilda Gregory is also a pleasing study. Mr. Dennis Cleugh as Earl Hassenden is a fine manly fellow; Mr. Francis Hope as the Rev. Mr. Blimcoe is effective. The Officers of His Majesty's Guards are ably acted by Mr. Norman Leslie, Mr. Alexander Cassy, Mr Chas. Carson Freer, and Mr. Chris Curtis. Mr. Bamber Wills scores as Mr. Dent, and Mr. D. Murray is satisfactory as Quilton. *Nell Gwyn* formed the programme on Friday, and for to-day *David Garrick* and *Cut Off With a Shilling* are announced.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—This week Basil Hood's pleasing comedy, *Sweet and Twenty*, is being performed in capital style by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Wood-Ingram's company. The part of the young naval officer, Douglas Floyd, is well taken by Mr. Glenister, who portrays the varying emotions of the character with complete success. Miss Ethel Weyburn possesses all the necessary attractions for filling the part of the heroine Joan Trevelyan, whose talkative mother is amusingly represented by Miss Dorothy Carrington. As the Rev. Mr. Floyd the appearance and manner of Mr. Drelincourt Odlum are excellent, and in the difficult part of Eustace Floyd Mr. Stephen Wentworth ac

revival of Lecocq's *Pepita*, which is being played by the students of the Glasgow College of Music Operatic Society, the proceeds being devoted to the funds of a local hospital.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Hearty and continuous laughter greeted the amusing farce, *What the Butler Saw*, on Monday. Mr. Lionel Rignold has an excellent part in Pink, the butler. Miss Ada Blanche, who received a hearty welcome on this her first visit since the Grand pantomime, made a most attractive Mrs. Barrington, and thoroughly entered into the spirit of the part. Her scenes with her flirting husband (ably played by Mr. Charles Fawcett) were excellent. Mr. Reddick Anderson was a handsome Sir Charles Foden. The guests at the hydro were cleverly depicted by Mr. George Ascott as General Dunlop, Mr. Harry H. Rignold as Weinstein, Mr. Roy Byford as Professor Shale, Mr. Alec Alves as Vere de Bogyns, and Mr. George Beale as Sydney Clifford. Miss Marie Daltra gave a clever study of the old maid Miss Foden, and another well-acted part was the Mrs. Hake of Miss Annie Goward. The lady guests were cleverly played by Misses Edith Blanche, Phyllis Gibson, Minnie Willett, and a smart young girl, Miss May Hart. Miss Grace Richardson made a handsome Nora, and the part of the servant Maria was acted with much humour by Miss Dorothy Garth. Miss Vio. Gould, Mr Frank Elton, and Mr. J. Turner comp.e a clever cast, and the play is specially well staged.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Mr. Walter Melville's combination is here with the successful play *A Girl's Cross Roads*. The company includes Miss Beaumont Collins as Barbara Wade, a part in which she is seen to great advantage. Miss Nannie Meade also gives a capital representation of Nellie Meadows, Mr. Chas. Franmore and Mr. Frank R. Robertson are also conspicuously successful.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. Frank Bateman's company is appearing here this week in *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Mr. Stuart Lomath as Frank Hatherleigh acts excellently; the part of Dick Delver is ably sustained by Mr. George C. Doughty; Mr. Walter T. Clifford's interpretation of Abney Stone is an able piece of acting; Mr. Louis Garton as Montague Blair and Mr Edward E. Louis as Harold Trevelyn also appear with much acceptance. The Lola of Miss Lizzie Montague gives satisfaction, and Miss Ida Mackay as Doris Fane is all that can be desired. Mr. Will Skelton as Simkins and Miss Helen Stewart as Peggy valuably aid the comedy.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—A good attraction is provided for Govan playgoers this week in the visit of Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk, the American-Indian actress, in her well-known production, *Wep-ton-no-Mah*. The company is the same as was at the Princess's last week.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—Harry Tate, in his new scena, *Fishing*, is causing roars of laughter here, and his able supporters and the cleverly-devised scene help the effect considerably. Urbani and Son are two of the smartest and most original balancers seen here for a long time, some of their feats being thrilling; Staley's Transformation remains over another week, and is particularly well received; the Courtiers give an enjoyable musical comedy turn; Walter Munroe, nimble as of old, comes provided with several clever new songs; Harry Leybourne's mimicry is smart, and his turn is well received; Herbert Shelley contributes a well-arranged scena with striking dramatic touches in it. The Goltz Trio, Mattie Wilkes, and the bioscope complete a first-rate programme.

ZOO HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Machnow, the Russian giant, is attracting considerable attention here, and when he stands in the stalls and shakes hands with the occupants of a private box upstairs his enormous proportions are easily seen. The Lukushima troupe of Japanese acrobats give a clever and daring display. Charles Fisher's operatic company give an enjoyable selection from *Maritana*, in which Miss Zella Rosana and Mr. Henry E. Butcher ably assist. Rachael Lowe's clever and eccentric ditties take exceedingly well; Helene and Emilon give a smart acrobatic display; Lieut. Travis contributes an excellent ventriloquist turn; Miss Raffin's monkeys show wonderful training; Chris Richards proves as nimble and volatile as ever; and Franco's Midgets in conjuring feats complete a good bill.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The star turn here this week is that of Clark and Hamilton, in their mirth-provoking sketches. Lily Lenora is a graceful dancer; the Two Arleys contribute grotesque cycling feats; the Musical Jees give an amusing sketch called *The Scarecrows*; Gus Harris, with his powerful voice, sings with telling effect in his sketch called *The Synagogue*. Edna is an effective siffleuse; Sibb and Sibb are extremely elegant trapeze performers; and George Leyton is responsible for a powerful scena called *Nelson's Name*.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. G. MacLachlan.—The great turn here is *The Globe of Life*, which is mystifying the Glasgow people. The Novellos have an excellent show; the American bioscope gives a fine exposition of "A Nice Carnival"; the bull-fighting Bostons are responsible for a capital performance; the Virto Family charm everyone with their solo and concerted music; Wilson Hallett gives a series of infantile delineations; and O'Gust is a clever mimic. J. C. Kurry is responsible for eccentric dancing; and the Four Avocas and Morton and Elliott, in a varied series of entertainments, evoke applause.

PALACE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Rich. Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Capital attendances prevail at this big house. This week we have a first-class series of turns. In a clever tumbling act Tate and Tate excel; Annie Laurie is a very pleasing comedienne and dancer; and Harry Ford, though late on the programme, holds the audience; Harry Allister's representations of famous men are clever; Nancy St. John is a delightful entertainer; and the Three Seabornes give a wonderful display. In a burlesque racing scene the Felino and Grato duo have a good reception; Alix Luko's *Pictures in the Fire* is a capital vocal scena; Elverton, the Spinning Marvel, is clever.

QUEEN'S.—Lessees, Messrs. T. J. Colquhoun and B. M. Armstrong.—The company here is almost the same as at the Tivoli, but in place of the boxers we have that clever comedian Tom Lloyd, in some of his latest ditties; and the Two Bees in their new scena, *Picture Postcards*.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. M. Armstrong.—The noble art of self-defence is the chief attraction here this week. The Bouncing Dillons, in their novel aerial stage act, give a most attractive show; Jack Neil, comedian, sings a couple of good songs; Sid Cotterell and company, in *The Substitute*, are very amusing, and Flo Warner (burlesque actress), Hector and Paulus (strength acrobats), Poole and Poole (comedy artists), Clifton and Gibson (patter merchants), and Syd Herman (Hebrew comedian) all do extremely well. The Tivoli bioscope presents some up-to-date films.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's company, in *Somebody's Sweetheart*, is paying a successful visit this week. Mr. Percy Maitland is extremely good as Stephen Leverton; Mr. Geo. P. Lester as Lem Lee does useful service; Mr. E. H. Bertram as Stanton Ashleigh acts and sings well; Mr. W. H. Kirby as Martin Blabbs causes endless laughter; Mr. Hyland Shea is prominent as Old Joe, a negro servant; and Mr. W. Hinton as Detective Wilson is well placed. Miss Dora Condor as Freddy Ashleigh is very good; Miss Bella Perriss as Miss Ainslie is most amusing; Miss Cordelia Knight enacts the part of Zora, a gipsy, in a clever manner; Miss Dot Reeve is an ideal heroine as Lulu, giving some pleasing numbers; and the Three Gibson Girls attract attention by their dancing.

GLOUCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Owners. Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company is here this week in *Sergeant Brue*, Mr. J. Harold Carson plays with excellent effect as Sergeant Brue; and a clever and smart performance of Michael Brue is given by Mr. Frank Wilson. Miss Reydon Dallas is a fascinating representative of Lady Bickenhall; Mr. Albert James causes hilarity as Crookie Scrubbs; Mr. Fred Laceby makes a capital Mr. Crank; Miss Gertie Fawcett proves a decided success as Aurora Brue; and Miss Amy Vivash is good as Daisy. Mr. Harold Godwin is prominent as Inspector Gorringe, as is Mr. Cecil Strickland as Matthew Habisham. Mr. Edward Thornton conducts a well-balanced chorus.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—This week, Miss Grace Warner, supported by Mr. Geo. Gordon, is paying a welcome return visit, in the musical farcical comedy, *The Little Widow*. Miss Warner in the title-rôle plays with gaiety and effect; Mr. George Gordon keeps the house highly amused by his acting as Mr. William Potter; Mr. V. T. Raymond acts in an easy, buoyant manner as Dr. Arthur Potter, his musical numbers being well received; and Mr. J. E. Tomlinson keeps the house in roars of laughter by his capital portrayal of Auguste Bonsir. He is ably assisted by Miss Kathleen Cranston, a highly-amusing Sophonisba. Mr. Horace Moseley is a capital butler; Miss Ellen Beverley cleverly sustains the rôle of Mrs. Wilkins Potter; and Miss Grace Jones is a delightful Emily. The part of Araminta Potter is charmingly played by little Edith Rutland, whose singing is one of the features of the piece. The piece is well staged, and the dresses lovely. On Tuesday afternoon, Miss Grace Warner and Mr. John E. Tomlinson gave a special matinée. The entire proceeds were to be handed over to the *Goole Times* Relief Fund, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the S.S. Colne disaster.

GRAVESEND.—NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—On Monday evening Mr. Charles Macdona's company presented *A Country Girl* to a full house. Mr. Mansell Stringer as Geoffrey Chaloner was accorded a good reception; Mr. Bernard Vaughan as the Rajah of Bong was highly successful; and Mr. Billington as Sir Joseph Verity, Mr. Besley Beltran as Douglas Verity, and Mr. Metcalfe as Lord Anchester, all did well. As Barry, Mr. Johnnie Clegg was irresistibly funny, and scored a complete triumph; as Marjorie, Miss Eileen Guilbert was a great success; and as the Princess, Miss Vera Vizard sang excellently; Miss Florence Burdette as Nan was extremely happy, her singing being highly appreciated; Miss Madge Campbell as Sophie proved herself decidedly capable; and Miss Cecilia Broughton as Lady Anchester acted in an engaging fashion.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Miss Winifred Maude and company are here this week with *The Sins of a City* and *The Stowaway*. In the first-named play, Mr. Royce Carleton gives a manly rendition of the rôle of Sandy McDonald; Mr. Norton Shields cleverly depicts the twin brothers, Joe and Jasper Woodleigh; and Ralph Blackwater is capitally enacted by Mr. E. Pringle. Miss Winifred Maude is charming and sympathetic as Seaweed; and Midge finds a vivacious and amusing exponent in Miss Amy Coralie.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—A welcome visit is being paid here this week by the Compton Comedy Company. On Monday *The School for Scandal* was presented. Mr. Compton gave a delightful impersonation of Charles Surface. His assumption of the part was indeed a treat, and thoroughly pleased the audience. It would be difficult to find a better exponent of Sir Peter Teazle than Mr. Henry Crocker, and he is to be congratulated on his portrayal. Mr. Arnold Lucy ably sustained the character of Sir Oliver, and Mr. A. B. Imeson scored a decided success as Joseph Surface. Mr. H. Armstrong made an excellent Rowley, and Mr. G. Wallace Johnston a capable Moses, the parts of Crabtree and Backbite being well filled by Messrs. Pigott and Johnston respectively. Miss Mackenzie gave a pleasing and cultured rendering of Lady Teazle, a charming portrayal of Maria was contributed by Mrs. Elbert Orton, Miss Evelyn Hall as Lady Sneerwell was well suited, and the same can be said of Miss Marie Hassell as Mrs. Candour. *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Money*, *To-morrow*, *New Men and Old Acres*, *The Rivals*, and *Davy Garrick* are also in the bill.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The bill here is headed by Lillian and Vera and Major Charles, crack rifle and revolver shots, who give a very interesting turn. Enjoyable turns are also furnished by Lizzie Lawrie, vocalist; the Brothers Levitt, champion vaulters; Harry Cotton, eccentric comedian; Charles F. Best, in a comedy act entitled *MacBunker, the Mountebank*; the Sherwood Comedy Four, the Seltina troupe of acrobats, and Muir and Bartlett in the comedy duo, *A Clerical Complication*.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Pavilion, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Lloyd.—Excellent turns are provided here by Howard and Harris, comedians, in a sketch, entitled *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*; I. K. McFarlan, Scotch comedian; Les Bollingers, the original rag-painters of Paris; Hughes and Elliot, rag-time vocalists and dancers; Yetta, in a speciality act on the wire; Maudie Ford, comedienne and dancer; and Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The dramatised version of "Ouida's" novel *Under Two Flags* has again proved popular. Miss Molly Pearson, who now impersonates Cigarette, gives an admirable realisation of this famous character. Mr. Mark Blow is as good as ever as Bertie Cecil Royellieu, and Colonel Chateuroy, or the "Black Hawk," has an excellent exponent in Mr. Arthur Elwyn. *A Sailor's Sweetheart* was also staged during the week.

THE PALACE.—Managing Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Hetty King has repeated her former triumphs, and as a male impersonator has pleased everyone. The Pichel Troupe have given a novel acrobatic exhibition, and the vocal act of the Three Temples has been well received. Others who contributed to an excellent entertainment are the Three Henres, smart jugglers; Harry Walker, comedian; Dalton and Lever, dancers; Alberto, a clever Australian illusionist; and the Sisters Tinsley, duettists and dancers.

CURRY'S TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—In a programme of all-round excellence three turns in particular have greatly delighted the audiences. Mr. J. W. Rowley has lost none of his old entertaining powers, capital burlesque is provided by Ike Scott and Son, and the singing of the Tallyho Trio has been highly appreciated. Others appearing are the Gladenbecks, expert equilibrists; Carl Lynn, a clever animal mimic; Merton and Rydon, vocal specialists; Bob Hamilton, an amusing Scottish comedian; and Emily Warren, a pleasing vocalist.

GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Mr. Charles Carey's company opened here on Saturday with the new musical comedy, *After the Ball*. Miss Florence Smithers, who is well known here, plays Nancy with her usual success; Miss Nellie James gives a spirited and artistic rendering of Kitty; Miss Nellie Groves is a charming Nellie Mather; and Miss May Florence is a bright and engaging Ruth. Mr. Victor Widdicombe is an amusing Colonel Meint; Mr. Walter Bingham is capitally placed as Halliwell Meint; and Mr. Buckstone Clair as Martin and Mr. N. Bowyer as Dick are both successful.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling—Mr. G. M. Polini and Mr. Lauderdale Maitland's specially selected company opened here on Monday with *The Coal King*, which met with a most enthusiastic reception from a capital house. Mr. Maitland, who is no stranger here, gave a spirited interpretation of the faithful mine manager, Tom Roberts. A feature of the play, however, was the fine acting of Mr. Joseph Millane, who fairly rose to the occasion as Walter Harford, a gentleman very conspicuous in anything appertaining to crime. Mr. Robin Shiells as the Coal King and Mr. Wilfred Grahame as Dick Shirley enacted their respective rôles with discretion. An adequate fund of humour is incorporated into the play by Mr. Hy. Brayne, who created roars of laughter as Jim Williams. He is well supported by Miss Hetty Cornwallis, and Miss Gertrude Valentine sustained the rôle of Grace Shirley with credit.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Farcical comedy reigns supreme here this week, where *Miss Lancashire, Ltd.*, is doing good business twice nightly. Miss Florence Baines, who is described as "the girl that set London laughing," enhances her reputation as Mary Ellen Thompson, her delightful singing being vociferously applauded. Mr. David Donaldson has a merry style as John Higgins; Mr. Patrick Evans is a distinctive Harry; Mr. Richard C. Hicks is excellent as the Solicitor; Mr. Allen M. Servington embodies the character of Moses Goldberg with skill; a conceited Bertha is found in Miss Mabelle Clinton; while Miss Jennie Hallworth infuses the contrary spirit into pretty Miss Lancashire.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—The star turn here this week is provided by Miss Dolly Elsworthy's company in an episode entitled *The Orange Girl*, which meets with acclamation from crowded houses. Another capital artist, who requires no introduction to Halifax audiences, is Carlton, card manipulator and comedian, whose tricks and gags evoke much fun. Marie Neilson, a comedienne full of vim; Rumbo Austin and his whimsical troupe of navvies; E. Montefiore and company, in the musical and dramatic scena, *The Little Colonel*; and Spry and Austin, the popular vaudeville artists, also score heavily.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—*The Gay Parisienne* is presented this week by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company. Miss Nellie Hodson in the title-rôle is distinctly successful, her singing being most artistic; Ebenezer Honeycomb in the hands of Mr. Tom Conway is a highly-amusing personage; Miss Gwennie Harcourt excels as the Slavey; Norah Honeycomb finds a clever exponent in Miss Lucia Collins; Mr. C. Adeson as Major Fossdyke is all that could be desired; Mr. Lester Carey acts well and sings capably as Everleigh; Miss Ducie Sanderson introduces an interesting skipping-rope dance; Mr. J. FitzJames has a good bass voice, and renders his songs admirably; and the Imperial Glee Singers are well received.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Geo. Robey has again scored a decided success; the Three Urmas, a trio of graceful lady gymnasts, are seen in a most acceptable turn; Mr. and Mrs. Lucas successfully present two scenes from "Martin Chuzzlewit"; the Kings, American comedy artists, are the recipients of much applause; Miss Gracie Taylor is pleasing; Great Scott, in a ladder turn, performs some capital feats; Cribb and Cribb are smart patterers; Fred Carey is decidedly funny, and the Urbanora pictures are, as usual, interesting.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in C. S. MacLellan's comedy *On the Love Path* was the attraction here during the early part of the week. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the wooing of the changeable and impetuous young Arthur Taunton, and throughout the evening the laughter was loud and long. Mr. Percy Hutchison, a clever actor, was responsible for much merriment as Taunton; as Charity Concannon Miss Lilias Earle was charming; Miss Hilda Honiss was sweet as Norah Concannon; and the "life-saving" Mary Concannon was ably portrayed by Miss Margaret Marshall. Mr. George Mudie as John Gripleigh added another to his already long list of clever character studies; as the bullying Denbigh Frayle Mr. T. W. Rawson could not have been better suited; Mr. Frank Elliot was capital as Gerald Marvel; and Peter Concannon, as played by Mr. Frank Hill, was genuinely funny. The dressing and mounting of the play were in the usual lavish Hutchison style. Mr. George Mudie's laughable curtain-raiser *His Landlady* preceded the piece. On Thursday Mr. Arnold Bell's répertoire company opened a three night's engagement with *Ben-My-Chree*, *The Shaughraun*, and *Ticket-of-Leave Man*

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—A first-class company is presented this week. Cecile and François in an American novelty dancing act include their "Loop the Loop" dance, and their globe-walking is clever and duly appreciated. The electric illusory novelty, "The Vocal Chameleon," presented with beautiful effect by Frances Haskoll, has an excellent reception; Prof. Hulbert in a ventriloquial entertainment cleverly manipulates some half-dozen figures; Belrose and De Velin, operatic vocalists of high order, are enthusiastically recalled; some illusions are well carried out by De Lil; John Ross, a double-voiced vocalist, possesses a soprano range that astonishes all; McGovan and McGovan are a couple of smart lady acrobatic dancers; George Bendon has a flattering welcome; and the bioscope pictures are exceptionally good.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A week's engagement was opened on Monday by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company in the comedy *Lucky Miss Dean*. Miss Dora Gray filled the title-rôle very acceptably, and was thoroughly well supported by Mr. William E. Ashcroft as Frederick Ware, who also stage-managed very efficiently. Miss Estelle Despa was very capable as Lady Ashmole; and the family rivalry was amusingly sustained by Mr. W. T. Elworthy in his able presentment of Percival Chaney. The different characteristics of Acacia Dean's cousins were agreeably presented respectively by Mr. Vivian Gilbert (Horace) and Mr. Cyril Price-Evans (Wilfred). Messrs. Fred Holgate, Charles West, and Claude Merton, in minor rôles, completed the efficient cast. The amusing farce *My American Admirer* preceded the comedy.

HASTINGS PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Hunter, supported by his pier company, opened his spring dramatic season here on Monday with a reproduction of *The Housebreaker*. Mr. J. D. Hunter impersonated Henry Hunter in a well-conceived farcical vein; Mr. Charles Hawker contributed some genuine comedy as the detective, Nicholas Webster; the nervous lover, Felix Carr, was well portrayed by Mr. John Beamish; Mr. Arthur Ricketts revelled in broad Irish brogue as James Fitzgerald; and the Frenchman, Jules Perouche, was distinctly presented by Mr. H. Pemberton. Miss Doris Levis was a good Barbara, and Miss Eva Hamblin well impersonated Marion Burleigh. Jimmy the barber's boy was well played by Master Jack Watson.

THE KURSAAL (ST. LEONARDS PIER).—Musical-Director, Mr. Val Marriott.—At the matinée performance by the orchestra on Saturday last, Master Harold W. Pickett made his initial bow to the public as a violoncello soloist. He has just won the Open Scholarship of the Royal College of Music, and his playing revealed a remarkable facility of execution and command of technique and tone that won him the approval of a critical audience.

HIPPODROME.—Resident and General-Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—A good programme is opened here by the vocalist Miss Lillie Webster. The comedy juggler, Mr. Harry Meir, is extremely smart; the originator of the Cake Walk, Billy Farrell, is accorded a hearty reception; the acrobatism of Zaro and Arno is clever and amusing; Miss Lillie Langtry charms all by her bright singing and graceful dancing; a novel turn is given by Lockhart's elephants, who go through some remarkable performances.

HEBBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. H. Austin; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Graham.—The first three nights of the week the Midland Syndicate presented *East Lynne*. As Archibald Carlyle Mr. Robert Barrs leaves nothing to be desired; Miss Dorothy Oswald fills the part of Lady Isabel with marked ability, carrying with her the sympathy of the audience; Francis Levison is well portrayed by Mr. A. E. Pringle; while Mr. George Beal as Lord Mount Severn is also suitable placed. Barbara Hare is carefully embodied by Miss Agnes Collier; Lawyer Dill is in the capable hands of Mr. Willis Collins; Mr. Alf Selwood excels as Richard Hare; and Mr. Herbert Fuller makes a capital Billy Bulbs. Miss Emma Rainbow gives an exceedingly graceful performance as Cornelia Carlyle; Miss Lillie Lenine scores as Joyce, Miss D. Manners scores as Wilson, Miss Edith Bateman is effective as Susanne, and Little Lily is very promising as Willie. On Thursday and Friday a comedy-drama, *Life*, was staged by Mr. Herbert Barrs taking the part of Jack Lockhart and Miss Dorothy Oswald that of Ruth Thorpe.

HEYWOOD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert Jones.—Leo's vaudeville company opened on Monday to a good house; Howitz Dunne is a clever ventriloquist, and artistically manipulates paper; Lang and Beal play various instruments in a capable way; Miss Rosie Dashwood sings with dash and go; George Buffery is an able 'cellist; Harry Mars does astounding tricks on the trapeze; Tom Lake dances nimbly; Mons. Expressio gives impersonations of notabilities. The management have deepened and widened the stage, and this week are running two houses a night.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Bradley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Hawke.—Mr. A. E. Howard's company in *The Plunger*, an American drama with plenty of exciting incidents, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Howard plays very forcibly as Dexter Digit, the Plunger; Mr. Bert Pearson paints Risque Lincoln very black; Mr. Will Robson as Walter Glyndon and Mr. Wallace Muirhead as Gentleman Jim are excellent; and Simeon is capitally rendered by Mr. Sidney Ernest. Miss Connie Arden gives a sympathetic rendering of Ethel Rexford; Miss Edie Desmond is a vivacious Kitty Clover; and Mattie, a typewriter, is safe in the hands of Miss Doris Gibson. A very strong variety entertainment is introduced in the third act by Mr. Wallace Muirhead, Scotch tenor (loudly encored); Musical Howards, instrumentalists, on the zither, xylophone, and bells; Sidney Ernest, comedian; Sidi Ali, illusionist; Miss Edie Desmond, step dancer; and Connie Arden, soprano.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—On Monday Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' Juvenile Pantomime company's *Cinderella* opened to a good house. Miss Gertie McQueen as the Prince is excellent; Dandini has an able representative in Miss Marie Hardacre; Dewdrop finds a capable exponent in Miss Kitty Chester; and Mr. Joe Brogan as Demon Discord is good. Miss Kitty Rafferty in the title-rôle is all that can be desired, and her singing was loudly applauded. The humorous element is well supplied. Mr. A. M. Benson and Miss H. Deacon are most entertaining as the Baron and Baroness respectively; Messrs. Moon and Morris as Clothilda and Angelina, the ugly sisters, are a distinct success; Mr. J. English as Buttons, the Baron's page, is excellent, and caused great amusement; Miss May Bishop as the Royal Herald, Miss Annie Davis as Sir Parker Popular Pop, and Miss F. Parkinson as Flighty Flirt are very good; and other minor characters are well taken. The specialities include Mr. A. M. Benson, siffleur; Miss H. Deacon, speciality dancer; and the Emerald Quartette.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The fine old evergreen *The Silver King* is being played by the only authorised management of Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford. Specially engaged for the production are Mr. Herbert Ford, a fine virile Wilfred Denver; Miss Daisy Scudamore, a sympathetic Nellie; and Mr. Edward J. George as Jaikes, a character he has made peculiarly his own. The other chief parts are adequately filled by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks as the Spider, Mr. James L. Power as Corkett, Mr. Arthur Wright as Combe, Mr. W. Thompson as Cripps, and Miss Georgina Wynter as Olive.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Norman M. Robinson.—The turns appearing here are the Bob Hanlon Troupe, in their clever gymnastic exhibition, *Jinks in the Jungle*; Tom Fancourt and Jennie Ruble, sketch artists; Mlle. Rosa's cleverly-trained dogs; Miss Maggie Walsh, ballad singer; Harry Brown, a diverting coloured comedian; Geo. M. Schilling, who relates some of the wonderful experiences he has had on his walk round the world; the Musical Korries, in a humorous medley; the Hartley Wonders, in their daring jumping tricks, and pictures on the bio graph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mrs. Russ Whytal, with a capable company, is here this week in Tom Taylor's historical romance, *'Twixt Axe and Crown*. Mrs. Russ Whytal appears as the Lady Elizabeth, and proves herself a gifted actress. Another specially commendable performance is the Edward Courtenay of Mr. F. Lumsden Hare. Mr. Charles Combe as Bishop Gardiner is also well suited, and Mr. J. J. Bartlett ably sustains the rôle of Simon Renard, the Spanish Envoy. Mr. Leslie Palmer is a courtly and efficient Sir John Harrington, and Sir John Parry finds a satisfactory representative in Mr. C. A. White. Mr. Ulick Burke gives an effective rendering of the Earl of Sussex, and Mr. Alfred Fisher as Sir Thomas Wyatt is all that can be desired. Miss Geraldine Olliffe makes a dignified Mary Tudor, and plays with skill and discretion. Miss Mabel Knowles is a sprightly and characteristic Isabel Markham.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's amusing comedy *The Duffer* is being presented here by Mr. Louis Calvert's excellent company. Mr. E. H. Wynne as the Duffer is humorous in the extreme, and eminently suited to the rôle. Charles Chester in the hands of Mr. F. Pennington-Lush is well conceived and equally well sustained, and Mr. Whitford Kane is a natural and congenial Paul Martin. Mr. Kingsford Pearce handles the part of Richard Stamp with care, and Mr. W. Fordace is good as Mr. Raleigh. Amongst the ladies, Miss Margaret Montrose plays with ease and charm as Lady Amelia; Miss Mabel Taylor is a winning and graceful Niobe; Miss Florence Adale is a pleasing Phyllis Wade; Miss Nelly Griffen contributes an amusing character sketch as Miss Bide; and other rôles have capable representatives.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Morton's, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. George Morton.—The sensational American drama, *At Cripple Creek*, is the attraction here. Foremost in the public favour is the child actress, Baby Betty, who as Little Tatto gives a clever and charming display. Mr. Hilliard Vox acts the part of Joe Mayfield in a creditable manner; the rôle of Martin Mason is ably portrayed by Mr. Walter Thornton; and as Manuel Alverez Mr. C. Douglas Carlile is equally successful. Mr. Charles D. Pitt faithfully depicts the Indian, Wahketah, whilst Miss Vera Fordyce as Dynamite Ann contributes a striking performance. A pleasing and sympathetic heroine is found in Miss Ella Dixon, and the remaining parts are all in good hands.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. William A. Armour's company is here this week in *What a Woman Did*. A manly and convincing portrayal of the rôle of Conrad de L'Orme is submitted by Mr. Edward Rawlinson; as the unscrupulous Marquis de Viray Mr. William A. Armour appears to distinct advantage; and Pitou, his accomplice in villainy, finds an able impersonator in Mr. Charles Earle, who also makes an efficient stage-manager. Miss Dora Price gives an effective and touching rendering of Elise de L'Orme, whilst Miss Amy Ellam as the scheming La Papillon displays considerable histrionic ability. Miss Tina Shaw is a pretty and vivacious Franchon, and dances cleverly. Mr. Jim Wood as Fritz, Mr. Fred Rignold as Peter Pippin, and Miss Bertha Clifton as Nanette are responsible for the comedy element, and also give acceptable speciality turns, the latter artist proving herself an expert dancer.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Pantomime in the shape of *Aladdin* again occupies the stage, the well-chosen company of Mr. Gus Levaine being seen. As Aladdin Miss Marie Harding appears to advantage; Miss Florrie Gibson as Princess Baldroubador leaves little to be desired; Mr. Arthur Collins as Hoki-Poki is a capital representative of the part; Miss Florence Burnett sings well as Electra; Mr. Richard Teesdale is a highly amusing Widow Twankey; and with Messrs. Arthur Burgon, Charlie Arnett, and Cecil Barry respectively as Ske'ming, Han Kuff, and Trum Chum provide a genuine fund of amusement.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—The Percys, duettists and speciality performers, have a good reception on their first appearance here. As a singer of patriotic songs Marie Liston scores; Athol and Alton give pleasure with their comedy duologues; Phil Gaylor, comedian, secures marked attention; and Jack M'Kay does well as a Scotch comedian. Lily Anton, comedienne and dancer, is a good turn, and so is J. F. Ellis, facial comedian.

VESTIBULE OF THE NEW ROYALTY THEATRE, LONDON.

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NEW BOND ST.,
LONDON.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Jennings.—The musical comedy called *Dare-Devil Dorothy* has paid a visit to Ipswich this week, under the direction of Mr. Henry Swinerd. The title-part of Dorothy Montrose is remarkably well played by Miss Dorothy Desmonde, her singing and acting being equally successful. Mr. Will Brereton does full justice to the rôle of Silas Cramp, while Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith and Miss Nora Caronne as Ruth Montrose contribute to the success of the comedy. Other parts are adequately filled by Messrs. Frank Howard, Cecil W. Parke, Alf Stretton, Henry C. Ward, and Misses Mabel and Lily Blake. The orchestra, augmented for the occasion, was directed by Mr. Herbert Somerville.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Monday evening was the first anniversary of the opening night. The proceeds of the first performance on Monday were given to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital. The greatest attraction of a strong programme was the appearance of the wonderful "memory man," Datas, who received quite an ovation. Another clever and amusing turn was supplied by the Gregson Comedy Trio, who repeated their mirth-provoking sketch called *The Dummy* amid much applause and merriment. Another striking and pleasing item was the appearance of Mlle. Rosina Casselli and her troop of tiny Mexican dogs. Other contributions included Stidder and Dunbar, skilful musicians; Johnny Holland and company, in an absurdity called *My Friend Boots;* Venola Bros., gymnasts; Geo. Rapley, comedian; and Richardson Taylor, a clever ventriloquist and mimic.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—This week Mr. George Dance's company is here with *The Girl from Kay's*. Miss Marie Greenhouse gives a good account of the part of Norah Chalmers; Miss Irene Vere is well placed as Ellen; Mr. J. W. Hooper is an excellent Max Hoggenheimer; Mr. J. Hart makes a capable Frank; Mr. Herbert Franklyn is seen to advantage in the part of Harry Gordon; Miss Lily Edmonds plays the title-rôle with much charm; and Mr. Claude Dampier is an amusing Joseph.

Royal Albert Hall.—Manager, Mr. L. F. Sanderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Wallace.—This week's attraction includes Miss Ada Fawn, burlesque actress; Miss Maggie Rimmer, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Charlie Cranston, comedian; the Brooklands, comediennes and dancers; the Purvis Trio of Athletes; Jack Hylton, eccentric; Steeley and Downton, comedians; and Mr. J. W. Hall.

KEIGHLEY.—Queen's Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; General-Manager, Mr. R. S. Kendall.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *A Modern Adventuress*, is paying a welcome return visit, and a large audience assembled on Monday evening. The popular proprietor of the theatre, Mr. L. Carson, appeared as Pietro Donelli, and received quite an ovation. It is one of his favourite characters, and he gave a finished and well-conceived performance. Harry Delby had an excellent exponent in Mr. Leonard Aardale; Wallace Danton was well played by Mr. Sydney Grant; a typical bluff Yorkshireman was Mr. Leonard Montgomery as John Crompton; Mr. A. S. Polson Turner and Mr. Frank Orchard rendered good support; Miss Ivy Chandos created roars of laughter as Sally Hodges; Miss Alice Defoe was very successful as Vivette; and the part of Violet Meredith was in the capable and experienced hands of Miss Kate Froude.

KETTERING.—Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Messrs. Murray, King, and Clarke's company are here with *Bluebell in Fairyland*. Miss Gladys Cooper in the title-rôle presents a charming and graceful performance, and Mr. Lawrence Emery cleverly impersonates the character of Dickey. Mr. Stanley Crip is excellent as Peter, the cat, and Mr. David Cruickshank is a capable Mr. Joplin Messrs. H. C. Morton and E. Cossart in the dual characters of Footmen and Schoolboys cause a lot of genuine fun, and their efforts are fully appreciated. Mr. Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, contributes two songs, which create a furore of applause. The other characters are admirably presented, and the scenery and dresses are pretty.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—We have here this week Messrs. E. A'dell and Fred Chabot's company, including Miss Ethel Ashleigh, in *The Romany's Revenge*. As Zamet, a gipsy boy, Miss Ethel Ashleigh is very clever; John Hope, a farmer, is capably portrayed by Mr. Evelyn A'dell. The piece is well staged.

KING'S LYNN.—New Royal Theatre.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard's Co., Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—Mr. Charles Carte and company successfully presented *A Noble Brother* on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Mr. Carte as Jerry the tramp proved himself a powerful character-actor, and he was ably supported by Miss Doris Brookes as a charming Nana Leigh; by Miss Alice Ballard, who made a sympathetic Mrs. Leigh; and by Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson, who capably interpreted the part of Jack Elsworth. The rôle of Henry Travers, the villain of the play, was in the hands of Mr. Arthur Gilroy, who did well, and the part of the Strange Preacher was forcibly enacted by Mr. Ronald Douglas.

KIRKCALDY.—King's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—On Monday Mr. T. Morton Powell's company appeared in *Honour Thy Father*. The heavy part of Gabriel Garth is in the capable hands of Mr. J. W. Evelyn; his portrayal was most realistic, and especially was he seen to advantage in the last act, when he received much well-deserved applause. Able assistance was given by Mrs. Clavering Craig, who made a capable Mrs. Garth; Mr. Douglas B. Watson was a manly and earnest Jack Halyard; and the villainy of Duncan Bly was effectively interpreted by Mr. Clavering Craig. Mr. W. H. Melrose was an excellent and humorous Ned, as was Mr. W. M. Cameron as Mike. Miss Mabel Coleman was conspicuous as the unfortunate Lillian, and Miss Winnie Donovan impressive as Mercy. Mr. Claude Merton, Mr. Frank Eden, Miss Lizzie Morley, and Miss Maud Grey were all successful.

LANCASTER. — Athenæum.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—The attraction this week is Mr. Lawrence Brough's company in *The Lady of Ostend* and *The Saucy Sally*. The former piece was presented on Monday evening. Mr. Henry Hampson was exceedingly good as Dick Whortles; and as Le Baron Le Longueville Mr. Lawrence Brough was a distinct success. Mr. Percy Marshall did well as Joseph Carbury, as also did Mr. James Skea as Toby Crockitt. Miss Moyra Creegan gave an excellent portrayal of Dorothy Whortles, and Miss Dorcas Corsbie caused much laughter in the rôle of Matilda Carbury. Miss Molly Tremaine as the Maid and Miss Edith Ormonde as Millie Grace also did well; whilst the title-rôle was in the safe hands of Miss Daisy Cook. *At the Risin' of the Moon* was the curtain-raiser each evening.

Palace.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—An exceedingly good programme is arranged this week. Coram, ventriloquist, is paying a welcome return visit, and has a most flattering reception. The same remark applies to Miss Jennie Johns, soubrette. Brady, Johnston, and company, in a sketch *Turning the Tables*, are amusing; and Mabel Hind, in a Japanese act, sings and dances charmingly. Massona, juggler, is smart; Andrews and Thompson, humorists; May Fallowfield, vocalist; and Walter Payne's animated pictures complete the bill.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—A welcome visit from Mr. and Mrs. Kendal with their company is the attraction this week. Tom Taylor's comedy, *Still Waters Run Deep*, was given on Monday. Mr. Kendal's manly conception of John Mildmay was again forceful and impressive; and Mrs. Kendal gave her usual fascinating portrayal of Mrs. Sternhold, in which subtle comedy and emotional tenderness are the dominant notes. Potter was a clever character-study by Mr. Ernest Hendrie; and the unscrupulous villainy of Captain Hawksley was effectively portrayed by Mr. Bassett Roe; Miss Elsie Clarens was excellent as the imprudent wife; and the remaining parts were well filled by Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd and Mr. F. Charles Pool. The new farcical comedy, *The Housekeeper*, was played to a full house on Tuesday and Thursday, and *The Elder Miss Blossom* and *The Ironmaster* are also in the répertoire.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. John F. Preston's excellent company is here this week in the well-known historical drama, *Lady Godiva*. The title-rôle is sustained by Miss Josephine Colona, whose fine presence adds greatly to the charm of her acting. The part of Tom of Coventry is played effectively by Mr. F. B. Woulfe. Mr. Ernest Lodge makes an impression as the stern and stubborn Leofric; and Mr. James Duncan shines as the impostor Algar. The lighter parts of Robin Shacklebolt and Elfrida are played respectively by Mr. Harry Benson and Miss Edith Loraine. Miss Gwen Stewart's rendering of Lady Aldyth carries conviction; and Mr. Ernest Hamilton earns the execrations of the "gods" as the villainous Unwolf Unwolfson.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is doing well at the popular Queen's this week, Mr. Frederick Melville's company giving an admirable presentation. The central part is acted with power by Miss Beatrice Homer; and Jack Merriman is a manly and pleasing impersonation by Mr. Philip Darien. The villain's part is capably handled by Mr. Leyton Chancellor; Miss Nellie Jackson displays ability as Aggie Brown; and the same may be said of Miss Rita Milman in her assumption of the part of Rose Courtenay. Good work is also done by Mr. Charles Barrett, Mr. Allan Devonport, and Miss Margaret Watson.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—It is a tale of crowded houses enthusiastic to a degree at the Empire this week, for Vesta Tilley, aptly termed the "idol of the people," is again entertaining us in that fascinating and inimitable style for which she is so famous. Gwennie Hasto is a clever comedienne and dancer, and her turn this week is much appreciated; another versatile lady artist is Elsie Roby, whose musical and vocal abilities are admired; Rich and Rich enhance a big local reputation as eccentric comedians; Sam Soda is very smart as a humorist and ventriloquist; and Drew and Alders are a very entertaining pair of eccentrics; Colby and May score with a novel speciality; the comedy sketch *Tranquillity* arouses vast merriment; and the contributions of Ted Cowan, comedian, are acceptable.

Tivoli. — Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Chas. Weldon and Mr. Claude Shayler.—There is a good company at this popular house this week. Joe Peterman's combination in *The Belle of the Orient* quite captures the house. The part of the Jew, Ike Novinski, as played by Mr. Joe Peterman, and the Belle, by Miss Jessie Wilton, are deserving of special mention. Lalla Selbini charms with her bicycle and juggling act, and is ably assisted by her miniature coon; Dave O'Toole's quaint style pleases, and other names on a long programme are Charles Somers, comedian; Garden and Zerch, Australian entertainers; George Barrow, comedian; Carina Sisters; Mulvey and Miriam; the Passports, with clever dancing; Vay's Juveniles; and the Barrascope.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—An exciting dramatic episode, *The Maniac*, with Mr. Melville Bickford in the title-rôle, is the leading item here, and is a powerful draw. Those favourite vocalists, Austin and Cowan, appear again with success; a fine instrumental and comedy act by the Bohemians is deservedly applauded; Tom E. Hughes and T. W. Johnson are a pair of good comedians; Monty Walker is smart in a similar line; and Percy Hannan finds favour as a baritone. The Alskarno Trio do clever things in the way of Risley acrobatics; and a good series of pictures completes.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General- and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—On Monday, Mr. George Dance's chief company came here with *Lady Madcap*. In the name-part Miss Vera Vere gives a delightfully vivacious and popular portrayal; Mr. H. V. Surrey as Oroya Brown is prominent with a clever and humorous performance; Mr. Bay Russell as Bill Stratford, and Mr. Fred Payne as Posh Jenkins, are both a success with admirable delineations; Mr. Alex. Chentrens shines as the Count de St. Hubert; Mr. Vincent Erne is capital as Corporal Ham; Miss Peggy Primrose is an entertaining Susan; and Miss Kathleen Ronayne does well as Gwenny Holden.

Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The attraction is provided here this week by a return visit of Mr. C. Watson Mill's capable company, with the drama, *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Rosalind Tate is conspicuous with a clever impersonation of Risca Mallison; Mr. C. Watson Mill is good as Jim Murley; in the dual rôles of Isaacs and Karnaphus Mr. Henry Rutland plays well; Mr. Gilson Brooke is capital as Railton; Miss Cissie Podmore is to be complimented on her success as Dorris Melville; and praise should also be awarded to Miss Kittie Melville as the servant, Vivasole Slopper.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—The premier attraction here this week is the Sleedes Troupe, who are presenting the mystical sketch *Where's the Ghost?* As acrobats, the Kellinos deservedly stand high, their show being one of the smartest that has been seen here; Duncan's Scotch collies are put through a remarkably fine performance; Payne's Little Vagabonds, with their singing and comedy, prove a popular turn; the Cape Girls are well received in their singing and big-boot dancing; Howe and Ardie, in their speciality, *Up in a Balloon*, introduce comedy and some excellent gymnastic feats; the Esdale Brothers are entertaining patter and singing comedians; Kyoto goes through a clever performance as a contortionist; and May Geraldine entertains with song and dance. The bioscope, always a popular feature here, is depicting "Sherlock Holmes" in seventeen scenes.

Pavilion Theatre. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The chief attraction here is supplied by Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls's company, in *The Battle of the Belles*. Kit Keen is a popular coloured comedian and dancer; Grace Langley, a vivacious comedienne and dancer; T. W. Royal shines with his clever dancing; the Sisters Stratton, vocalists and dancers, are good; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is retained. Lydia Alleyne (comedienne) and Leo Fallowfield (comedian) also entertain.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Dewhurst.—Mr. Robert Perris and company are paying a welcome return visit with the American drama, *A Fight for Millions*. Mr. Robt. Perris gives a vigorous impersonation of the hero, Tom Manley; Hudson Rivers is capably acted by Mr. P. G. Beresford; Mr. Percy Ballard's impersonation of the villain, Richard Dudley, is excellent; and as his accomplice, Mr. Karl H. Edwards figures prominently. Mr. L. F. Tenaur as Willie Neverwork acquits himself creditably; Miss Eva Purcell plays the part of Pearl Rivers with grace and feeling; Miss Elma C. Turner is particularly good as Helen Dudley; Mrs. Hudson Rivers is well acted by Miss Audrey Canning. The comedy is in the hands of Mr. Nicholas Conway and Miss Lottie Pearce, who, as Harold Hobbs and Mag Brady, are favourably received. The illustrated songs introduced during the performance by Mr. R. Perris are greatly appreciated.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—On its second visit to Leith the realistic drama, *Her Second Time on Earth*, has been cordially received. Miss Hilda Beverley again appears with marked success in her original creation of Dora Grey; and she is strongly supported by Mr. George Gaisford as Jasper Norman, whose son and daughter, Tom and Laura, are ably personated by Mr. Paige Laurence and Miss Dorothy Hildebrande; Jack Carlton finds a manly exponent in Mr. Henry Lonsdale; Mr. Alec Williams is a good Father Gumbril; while Mr. Willie Reid and Miss Dora Hargreaves do some clever comedy work in the lighter rôles of Teddy Butterfly and Kitty Rosebud. Miss Polly Marsh and Miss Agnes Rose are effective as Elizabeth Burke and Jane Terrors; Guy Brand, Beppo, and Dr. Ridley are suitably depicted by Mr. William H. Porter and Mr. A. Fellows Barrett.

LINCOLN.—Royal.—Sole Owner, Mr. Frank King.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company with *Florodora* is supplying a race week attraction of the first order. Miss Gwladys Elvey as Dolores wins the highest favour; Miss Florence Hersee sings and dances with wonderful effect as Angela; and Miss Kate Leicester scores as Lady Holyrood. Mr. Gus Danby is immensely amusing as Tweedlepunch, and Mr. Edward Chester makes Gilfain very funny. Mr. Harold Perry as Donegal and Mr. Edward Crosland as Abercoed are also good.

Palace.—Sole Proprietors, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur. — A strong bill is again presented here. Dinah Morris and party appear with success in a musical sketch *The Lost Coon;* Alethea is as graceful as she is marvellous in a gymnastic and contortionist act; and a very amusing turn is that of Tennyson and Wallis. Johnny Walter is a mirth-provoking comedian; Adeline Yohle a charming soprano vocalist; and Goodfellow and Gregson are an entertaining pair. To these are to be added Davis and Davis, in a smart comedy act; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux. Messrs. Murray King and Clarke's company opened on Thursday for three nights in *Bluebell in Fairyland*.

LIVERPOOL. — Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—*Rogues of the Turf* has proved a strong attraction during Race Week at Liverpool. Mr. John F. Preston, the author, as Joe Flaxman is the mainstay of this excellent play. Miss Madge Nelson, who brings the company, undertakes the rôle of the old trainer's daughter Nellie quite satisfactorily; that powerful actress, Miss Hilda Shirley, as the Duchess brings to bear all her high accomplishments; Mr. Dan F. Roe, a capable actor, efficiently fills the character of Arthur Somerton; Miss Madge Palmer makes a sweet Phillis Wurzel; and Mr. Fred Emery is a manly Captain Clifton. The scenery is excellent, and the stud of racehorses adds greatly to the realism of several scenes.

Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—A capital presentation of *The Little Michus* has been the attraction here this week, the company sent by Mr. George Edwardes being exceptionally strong. Miss Iris Hoey as Blanche Marie and Miss Thelma Ray as Marie Blanche played charmingly, and soon won the affections of their audience, who never failed to mark their warm appreciation of the efforts of those artists. Mr. Eric Thorne as General Dessifs had a character which fitted him like a glove, his make-up being particularly smart, and the laughter that followed his every movement was loud and long. Mr. Jack Cannot scored heavily as the faithful servant Bagnolet; Mr. Arthur Royd was a vivacious soldier lover; M. and Mme. Michus were ably impersonated by Mr. Eardley Turner and Miss Elsie Cameron; an excellent shop assistant was portrayed by Mr. Leonard Mackay; and praise is due to Mr. Willie Warde, jun., for his admirable picture of a market shopper, and to Miss Deborah Volar, who sang songs with taste and sweetness. Miss Ray delighted everyone with her singing. The mounting was particularly fine.

Lyric Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—The company this week includes Queenie Leighton, always a prime favourite here, and George Bastow, who, fresh from his success at the Shakespeare, causes roars of laughter. Horace Wheatley has had a hearty reception; Rebla's comic juggling is appreciated; the Arleys are good in their pot-pourri turn; and other artists are Ronald Payne and Evelyn Hope in their sketch, *Only a Dream*, the Sisters Poole, and Kathleen Gray.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A return visit of the Craggs with their lively musical pantomimical absurdity *Laughter Land* has proved very welcome, and the piece has been thoroughly enjoyed by good audiences. The work of the six clever acrobats has been a source of much interest, and the applause they received was unstinted. Mr. Cremorne Cragg is the life of the piece as Billy; the Sisters Glynne as the Sisters Belgrave render vocal and instrumental duets in pleasing style; Mr. Henry B. Lewis is very humorous as Professor Wood; and Mr. Harry Rousby is good as Dick Marlow.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—Yet another piece new to Liverpool has been introduced here by the enterprising management in the form of *The Branded Woman*, the company engaged being that of Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon. The play, which is well mounded and costumed, has been received with much appreciation. Mr. James Stillwell in the dual parts of Philip Maurice and Zarka exhibits a high degree of histrionic power; Miss Renée Glendower acts with distinction as the branded woman; Leon Hauber is well impersonated by Mr. Edward Fryer; an excellent Marie comes from Miss Katherine Barnett; Mr. Becket Bould is well placed as Dick Brown, the ex-pavement artist; and a villainous French Anarchist is vividly portrayed by Mr. Paul E. Teulon.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Lessees, The Shakespeare Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—The dramatic season here commenced on Monday with *Charley's Aunt*, when Mr. Brandon Thomas made his first appearance in Liverpool as Colonel Chesney, a character which he played with distinction. Mr. Stanley Cooke repeated his old-time success as the "Aunt"; Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Richard B. Mason handled the rôles of the undergraduates in capital style; Mr. Walter Beaumont as Spettigue contributed largely to the fun; the Brassett of Mr. Sydney Compton was a capable performance; as Donna Lucia Miss Lena MacNaughtan lent grace and charm to the piece; and the three young ladies were delightfully impersonated by the Misses Marian Ripley, Dorothy Deacon, and Gladys Storey. The curtain-raiser was *A Highland Legacy*.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Fred Karno's *Mumming Birds* heads the bill here this week, and provokes endless merriment. Nipper Lupino Lane and Miss Barbara Babbington, the two clever "babes" from the Shakespeare pantomime, have been given cordial receptions; Mlle. Olive proves herself to be a skilful juggler; Harding and Ah-Sid are a pair of smart American eccentrics; the Empire Comedy Four have caused screams of laughter; Amann and Hartley have an exceedingly funny sketch, *The Naughty Professor;* Lidden and Hayward with their musical absurdity, *The Midnight Express*, are given a cordial reception; A-Bo-Kou juggles in a marvellous manner with all sorts of articles; an entertaining act is provided by Frazer and Mac; and Fred Lincoln, comedian, also appears.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—At the head of a lengthy bill here this week is Arthur Rigby, with his funny item, *The March of the Married Men*, which provoked great laughter. Miss Minnie Hunt and Mr. Rhys Thomas present their neat musical duologue, *Her Birthday;* Lind gives some excellent impersonations which are watched with interest; Lottie Siegenberg has a clever quick-change musical sketch in *The Lazy Slavey;* the Narrow Bros. put in some expert work as trick cyclists; Regan and Ryan (George and Fred) are excellent comedians with catchy patter; Rowland Hill arouses much laughter with his comic ditties and sayings; Fred Earle, a smart comedian, brings his latest song, "Seaweed"; and others in the list are Ted Young (comedian), Miss Ada Twibell (burlesque artist), Daisy Morrell (serio-comic), Alice Ormonde (comedienne), and Harry Vardon (ventriloquist).

New Parthenon. — Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—The animated pictures showing the Britt v. Nelson fight have occupied almost the whole of the programme here this week, three times daily. Barney Stuart, a favourite character actor; Frank Whiteley, comedian and dancer; and George Reeves, comedian, also give turns.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The "Royal" Stock Dramatic Company is this week producing *The Penalty of Crime*, by Lewis Gilbert. Mr. Percy Boucher is a humorous Mickey; Mr. Harry Tresham holds the part of Guy Glendenning; a capital Martin Norris is presented by Mr. E. D. Allen; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood is an efficient Mr. Glendinning; and Miss Beryl Ravenswood plays well as Peggy.

Paddington Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Top of the bill here are Clark's Nippers with their boxing, speciality dancing, &c. W. L. Lee and company present the seven-tableaux sketch, *A Sister's Honour*, and Whirlo, the cycling monkey, is an interesting feature of the programme.

Park Palace.—Proprietors, The Palaces, Liverpool, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—A big attraction here this week is Emma Don and her Black and White Comedy Quartette with the musical melange *The Prodigal Son*. Barton and Franklyn have an excellent musical turn; Gerald Mount, a popular local mimic and vocalist, appears with distinction; Charlie Williams, the Scotch nigger, is very funny; the Great Vincent gives a smart display as an acrobat; and others are Ernie Myers, eccentric comedian, and Lily Lonsdale, ballad vocalist.

Haymarket.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Principal here this week is Mr. J. Wright Aitken with a company in the sketch, *Beneath a Mask*. Maxford and O'Neill are a couple of smart patter comedians; Marie Dane has some taking songs, and dances well; Miss Cissie Carter's song-scena, *A Lesson in History; or, Gordon Avenged*, is well received; J. C. Laurie is a good patter comedian; and Bob Gardner, double-voiced vocalist, also appears.

Westminster.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Heading the programme here this week are Les Henris, with a smart equilibristic and gymnastic act. Jack Pleasants, a comedian with his own peculiar style, has some good business; Will Letters is a capital vocalist and story-teller; Evelyn Oram, a local amateur singer, has some talent; Angeline, a lady juggler, has several new ideas, one being the manipulation of the cannon-ball *à la Cinquevalli;* Emmie Milsted and Joe Bell present a neat musical comedy scena, *The Belle of Arizona;* and Fred Erick, quaint comedian, has many good points.

Olympia.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Alan W. Young.—The pretty spectacle, *Butterflies in Fairyland*, puts in a second week, as does also Miss Kellermann, the lady swimmer; Ferguson and Mack, a couple of really clever comedians, cause much laughter; Mason and Bart, as Captain Kettle and the Tourist on a desert island, are very amusing; Griff, assisted by Alpha and his "pets," supplies a good turn; the Sisters Finney give a charming exhibition of graceful swimming; Fyne and Hurley have a funny coster and dude trifle; the Royal Six present a pleasing performance as cyclists and soldiers, their singing being very sweet; and others in the list are George Westland, Scotch comedian, and W. H. Clemart, ventriloquist.

LONG EATON.—Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Meakin.—A variety company is here this week, including the Frantz Family in their drawing-room entertainment. They are very expert and graceful in their acrobatic performance. Several good musical turns are also included in the list.

LOWESTOFT. — Marina.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—We have this week Mr. Arthur St. John and company in a répertoire of plays, including *Jane Shore*, *Under Two Flags*, and *Oliver Twist*. The first-named was presented on the opening night, Mr. Arthur St. John submitting a capital piece of acting in the dual rôles of Richard Duke of Gloucester and Matthew Shore. Miss Ida St. John was also a fine exponent of the title-rôle.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Business-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, with the musical play, *The Three Little Maids*, opened here on Monday. The three maids are successfully represented by Miss Vera Vallis (Ada), Miss Cora Lingard (Hilda), and Miss Edith Colley (Edna). Lady St. Mallory is admirably portrayed by Miss Kate Graham Beck; as Lord Cheyne Mr. Chas. A. Stevenson is undoubtedly the life of the piece; Bryan Molyneux is well represented by Mr. Garnet Wilson; Mr. Chas. Leverton is to be commended on his impersonation of the Vicar of St. Mallory, the Rev. Mr. Branscombe; Monsieur de L'Orme is in the capable hands of Mr. Wilfred Heath, whose fine voice is heard to advantage.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley. — Mr. Gus Levaine and Miss Clayton's company is appearing here in *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Jessie Lindsay is the dashing Robin Hood, and her singing charms everybody; Miss Lizzie Levaine is a winsome Maid Marion; the Misses Lillie Belle and Madge Bingham are effective as the Babes; Mr. Harry Sully is a typical Baron; Messrs. Fosco, Dave Anderson, Will Thorne, and Eddie Clay are all amusing; and the numerous specialities are well received.

MAIDSTONE. — Hippodrome. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester. — The good programme provided here this week includes Miss Gladys Mavius, a clever dancer and vocalist; Ara, Zebra, and Vora, in *Indian Pastimes;* Mr. H. Nation, a good comedian and descriptive vocalist; Karr and Kooney, duettists and cross-talk comedians; Lanten, Harden, and company, in an amusing sketch; and the Sisters Charnley, clever dancers.

MANCHESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—An important attraction here this week is the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, which opened the week's répertoire with a fine performance of *Carmen*, to the great delight of a flatteringly good house of music lovers. Miss Doris Woodall as Carmen was in exceptionally good voice, and gave an ideal rendering of the part, while as José Mr. Edward Davies sang and acted with admirable taste and effect. Miss Elizabeth Burgess presented Micaela in her usual telling style, and the Escamillo of Mr. Frank Arthur was correspondingly vigorous and tuneful. The remaining parts were all as well rendered as could be wished, and the entire performance reflected credit upon the conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden. On Tuesday a powerful performance of *Tannhäuser* was given before a large audience, with Mr. Eugene Goossens in command of the orchestra. In this Herr Julius Walther made a big success of the exacting title-part, while Miss Hanna Mara gave a fine vocal and sympathetic rendering of Elisabeth. Mr. Charles Victor's resonant baritone was heard to great advantage in the rôle of Wolfram, Miss Grace Nicoll sang with moving effect as Venus, Mr. Frank Arthur was strong and dramatic as the Landgrave, Mr. Edward Wynn gave a distinguished rendering of the smaller part of Walther, and Miss Ma Hill sang nicely and with some character as the shepherd boy. Messrs. Frederick Clendon, C. Brierley, and Albert Felton also moved and sang well in their parts. *Don Giovanni, Faust*, a revival of *Tristan and Isolde*, a matinée of *Fidelio*, and *Il Trovatore* complete the week's performances.

Prince's Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Manchester's introduction to R. C. Carton's farce *Public Opinion* on Monday evening was in every way a satisfactory event. It is played by Miss Emma Hutchison's and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, which includes Mr. George Giddens in his original part of Horace Wibsey—a very amusing impersonation—and Miss Emma Hutchison as Lady Diana Coldershaw, which is also a clever and entertaining performance. Besides these, Mr. William Hargreaves gives a quietly funny rendering of Justice Mulley, Mr. George Mallett is humorously consequential as Sir Babington Mulley, Mr. Harold West is comically inane as Viscount Poffley, Mr. Templer Powell has plenty of "go" as Lord Percy, Mr. C. I. Barber is funny as Smeeton (the head clerk), and Miss Mary Mallalieu is dainty and refined as Phyllis; while outstanding performances are given by Miss Lilian Hallows as Pansy Bligh, and Mr. Ernest Ruston as Spencer Traughton, the latter a brisk and entertaining personage. A comedietta, *The Stratagem*, precedes.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 Company presents here this week *The Christian*, with well-known favourites in the cast. Mr. Frank Tennant's performance as John Storm is powerful and realistic, and Miss Grace Chalmers acts with intelligence and power as Glory Quayle. Mr. Stanley Radcliffe makes a capital Father Lamplugh, Mr. T. Renand Lockwood gives a telling depiction of Lord Robert Ure, Mr. Jackson Wilcox is praiseworthy as Horatio Drake, and Miss Vashti Wellborne is well placed as Polly Love. All the remainder of the cast are commendable, and the play is well staged.

Gaiety Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—The week's attractions here are still provided by Mr. Harold V. Neilson and his company, who continue their highly successful performance of *An Enemy of the People* for four nights, with an interim production of *A Doll's House* on Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday matinée. The cast of the last-named play includes Mr. Courtenay Thorpe (specially engaged), prominent parts being filled also by Mr. Neilson and Miss Amy Sangster.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Menotti, the Stockholm wonder, in an original novelty act on a wire, described as the twentieth century cycle-track, is the principal attraction here this week, and gives a sensational performance. Hallam and Stanton, in a musical comedy sketch, *A Broken Journey*, are also prominent and well received. The American Zouaves give a clever drill and wall-scaling exhibition, Nellie Graham is a smart dancer, Jay Laurier appears to advantage as "Silly Billy Brown," McCann (comedian and roller-skate dancer) gives a good show, Little René is a clever impersonator and mimic, Fred S. Peake and Co. successfully present their dramatic incident *The Hypocrite*. Welda and Wynne give a smart juggling entertainment, and the St. Johns provide an acceptable turn in music and dancing.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is here this week in *The Death or Glory Boys*, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

St. James's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Miss Winifred Chalmers company is the attraction here this week in the powerful drama called *The Master Criminal*. A very able performance is given, Mr. Henry L. Osmond being seen with excellent effect in the title-rôle and Miss Grace Chalmers in the cleverly portrayed character of Cecile. Miss Augusta Tulloch has a good part as Mrs. Manners, Mr. Alexander Haviland does well as Philip Manners, Miss Kate Sumerville acts sympathetically as Philip's wife, Mr. Elmore Frith is brisk and characteristic as Beandy (the detective), and humour is contributed by Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale and Miss Mabel Tremere as Peggy Perks.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Alec Hurley, the well-known coster comedian, tops the bill here this week, and presents, with decided success, aided by numerous auxiliaries, a capital musical comedietta entitled *The Coster's Beanfeast*. Another star turn is Florrie Gallimore, a favourite comedienne, who sings three songs in her usual effective style, and is well received. Dan Thomas is a capital comedian with smart patter and songs, the Westwoods go through a daring comedy cycling performance, Imro Fox is an amusing conjurer, Will Van Allen (the tramp musician and raconteur) provides a good item, the Brothers Teviotdale are seen in a refined athletic act, and the Three Delaries show much cleverness in their Demon Grotto act. The Sisters Melba, duettists and dancers, who figure on the programme, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Collins.—The principal attractions here this week are Wills and Rawlins, in their amusing trifle *Mashing the Missus;* A. D. Robbins, who gives a sensational cycle act; and Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, a really clever combination of youthful talent. The Paxton Trio are skilled exponents of high-class gymnastics, Max York's dogs show wonderful intelligence, Terry and Lambert are highly amusing in their delineation

of comedy characters, Dusty Rhodes proves himself a smart comedian, the Mariano Sisters give a thrilling exhibition on the trapeze, and the Edgar Forrest sketch combination provides a merry turn. The bioscope is entertaining, as usual.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—An extraordinary attraction is here this week in the inclusion of George Hackenschmidt and Ahmed Madrali in the programme. These redoubtable wrestlers of course give separate turns, on the usual conditions (and with the usual results), but their presence in this way gives a remarkable opportunity to the public to contrast their methods and general display, in view of the question of supremacy which is to be decided in London next month. Big houses are therefore the rule. Albert Le Fre exhibits his well-known versatility as a comedian, the O'Learys are remarkably successful in a comic Oriental acrobatic performance, the Dumond Minstrels (Parisian street singers and instrumentalists) give a novel and exceptionally pleasing musical act, Dan Gregory (eccentric) is well received, the Choir supply two choice vocal items, and, in addition to a comic series on the bioscope, Hengler's water novelty, *The Village Wedding*, remains in the bill, and brings the performance to an elaborate and satisfactory close.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Minnie Palmer, the well-known actress, is here this week in her latest success, *Rose Pom-Pom*, and meets with a good reception. The Three Sisters Jongman are also well received, and Otto and Olga are entertaining in mirth, music, and mock opera. Others who provide enjoyable items are Correze and Keith, Charles Collette comedian), Bert Harrow (comedian), Les Sprays (Marie and Minnie, Continental dancers), Josie Delaine (in song scena *The Mirror and the Maid*), Jock Walker (Scotch comedian), and Raymond's Vivagraph.

KING'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead; —A very funny turn here this week is Harry Tate's company in *Fishing*, which causes no end of amusement, and is greatly enjoyed. Another laughter-making piece is *One Night Only*, presented in capital style by Henry Carlton, who makes a big hit as Billy Blobbs. Lachie Thompson's Top Weights (Tom and Neil) are seen to advantage in their boxing, wrestling, and club-swinging act; the Three Rolands are fine athletes, and others who contribute entertaining turns are the Cellos, in dainty musical act; Kendrick and Laura, speciality dancers and singers; Pueblo and Cropp, creole artists; and Vera Mayne, Canadian statuesque comedienne. Little Tina, a clever juvenile, figures in the programme, but did not appear on the occasion of our visit. "A Trip to Oxo-land" is depicted on the bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Demon Chef*, presented by Picitt and Lizette, is the chief item here this week, and is well received. Arthur Slater whistles operatic selections in a sweet and melodious style, and is a good bird mimic, Violet Whitworth's cycling girls give a smart racing act, Harry Nelson is a quaint comedian, Ida Ross sings serio-comic ditties satisfactorily, Ladi Henderson is a good character vocalist, the Andreassens are excellent acrobats, the Dixon Girls swing the baton, dance, sing, and play the banjo with success, and Starr and Jerome (speciality vocalists and sand dancers) are good. Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Four Charles, in a smart acrobatic and juggling display, are at the top of the bill here this week, and Fanny Robina, the well-known comedienne, is the bottom star, and pleases greatly with her well-rendered songs. The Dagodets are also entertaining with banjo solos, songs, and dances. Others who contribute to the programme are Les Rupertos, equilibrists; Marlow and Manton, in sketch *Other People's Babies*; Flossie Cooper, vocal comedienne; Harris and Worth, patter comedians; King and Delane, in song and patter; Billy Bint, comedian; and Arthur Aiston, comedian. On the night of our visit Harry Tate's capital *Motoring* sketch, although not billed, was presented in fine style, and proved a decidedly popular turn.

MANSFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Morella and Jennings; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Jennings.—Miss Lena Stanton's company is here in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Stanton is a capital Robinson Crusoe, and charms the audience with her singing; Miss Minnie Melbah is a vivacious Polly Perkins; Captain Taylor is in the capable hands if Miss Millie Maxwell; Mr. Bruce Green in the character of Mrs. Crusoe causes roars of laughter; Mr. Will Terry is most amusing as Atkins; Little Keeno, as Sunny Jim Crusoe, is exceedingly funny; Mr. Bob Beirne is good as Davy Jones; Mr. George Melbah plays Friday in a very creditable manner; Mr. Dennis Lyndon scores as King Kopp-Em; the dancing of the Orient Troupe is much appreciated; the Musical Melbahs give a smart turn; as also does La Bella Esma on the wire.

MARGATE.—THE HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Dutch Daly heads the programme this week, and as a raconteur and concertinist is particularly good; George Grogie, the Sussex yokel, keeps the house in a roar of laughter with his eccentricities; and Fred Gilbert gives a clever ladder act. Mr. Hamilton Hill is a pleasing baritone vocalist; and the Sisters Oswald, duettists and speciality dancers, are good; Frank Hartley, a smart juggler, and the Hippodrome pictures make up a good programme.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael.—The Répertoire Theatre Association's stock company has been presenting this week the old drama, *The Shaughraun*. Mr. A. Austin-Leigh, in the title-rôle, has played Conn cleverly; Miss Lilian Rogers has given admirable support as Moya Doolan, a part she plays in a particularly winsome manner; Mr. O. P. Heggie makes a good Father Doolan; and Mr. J. E. Savery does well as Captain Molyneux; Mr. G. W. Elton is much in evidence as Harvey Duff, a part he is quite at home in; and Mr. Richard Fielding is the Corry Kinchela; Mr. Farrington Stuart appears as Robert Ffolliott; Mrs. Culling is good as Clare Ffolliott; Miss Emmie O'Reilly plays well as Arte O'Neal; and Miss Eugenie Vernie is a capable Mrs. O'Kelly. The other characters are, for the most part, satisfactorily filled by Mr. Claude Agnew, as Sergeant Jones, and the remaining members of the company.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Orchid* provides a welcome attraction here this week. Miss Constance Hamilton is a dainty Lady Violet; Miss Hilda Vining gives an amusing impersonation of Caroline Vokins; Miss Nancy Taylor as Zelie Humbert, Miss Clara Beck as Thisbe, and Miss Kitty Smythe as the Countess, are particularly good in their respective parts; and a pleasing embodiment of Josephine is submitted by Miss Maud Jay as Meakin; Mr. Colin Campbell keeps the audience in the highest spirits by his drolleries; and the Hon. Guy by Mr. Ion Maxwell, Dr. Ronald Faussett by Mr. W. Garland, Mr. Aubrey Chesterton by Mr. R. Corray, Cassignai by Mr. T. A. Fisher, and Zaccary by Mr. Berwick are altogether most successful.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Hy. Foxwell's company is here this week in *An Abandoned Woman*.—Mr. Wolston Foster gives a thoughtful rendering of Captain Seaton; as Sir Marmaduke Seaton Mr. Geo. Gormley plays with distinction; Mr. J. Butler is prominent as Phillipe Malvoisin; and Mr. Nelson Ford does well as Robt. Saunders. Mr. Harry Foxwell submits a humorous rendering of Paddy Boyle; Miss Doris Gilham plays skilfully the rôle of Ninian Malvoisin; Mrs. Harry Foxwell is sympathetic and refined as Eleanor Dean; and Miss Lily Addison scores a success as La Céleste; Miss Ruba Zoma is a sprightly Sally Sloper.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson. — Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *The Drama of Life*, is here this week. Mr. George Newall as Harry Beech ably depicts the conscience-stricken man, and Miss Kate Hallam as Sylvia Beech is very pathetic. Mr. Harwood Roberts as Sir Dobson Wilde is responsible for much laughter, and Mr. Edward Van Biene gives a capital rendering of Count De Foi. Miss Florence French as Lady Jane Wilde plays her part with skill and discretion, whilst Miss Nellie Birchenough as Betty Black furnishes a true impersonation of a lodging-house keeper. Miss Marie Pardy as Master Robert Beech proves herself an artist of merit; Mr. Henry Miller as Timothy Lane gives a fine impersonation, and Mr. Walter Steele as Richard Brenton submits a good portrayal of a detective.

OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto. —Mr. Fred Karno's company, in *His Majesty's Guests*, is here this week. Mr. G. Hestor, in the rôle of Sergeant Lightning, is largely responsible for the success of the production. Mr. E. C. Lilley as Mr. Minks is exceedingly good, and Mr. Frank Morton as Lord Easem leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Leonora Castille gives a fine impersonation of Lady Maud Easem; Mr. Fred Rigby as Bunker is funny, as is Mr. Jack Melville as Josiah Giles. Other artists of merit are Miss Dolly Ardell as Lady Letty, Mr. Dick Kitchen as Fritz, and Miss May Vernon as Dolly.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles B. Rembges.—An excellent programme is provided here this week. The Kiogoku Family of Japanese tumblers head the bill, and meet with a big reception. Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice provide much delightful music, the former on the harp and the latter on the soprano saxophone. The Folkestones prove a laughable turn in their comedy act, *The Channel Swimmers;* Arthur Boyne thoroughly pleases the audience with his comic songs, whilst Mr. and Mrs. Finden are good in their duologue, entitled *Two to One*. Other interesting turns are provided by Rosie Archer (lady mimic), Dora Lyric (comedienne), and Lytton and Bland (comedy artists).

OXFORD PALACE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—An excellent programme is submitted here this week. One of the most enjoyable turns is that of Johnson and Best, quaint acrobatic comedians, in a novel act, entitled *A Queer Customer*. Fred Curran, who is singing a number of parodies on popular songs, has also had a rousing reception, and the Spanish Goldinis introduce a clever and interesting exhibition of hat-spinning, &c. Elton and Edwin's banjo selections also prove popular. Other contributors are Millie Howell, Blanco White, Minnie Race, and Tom Dunmore.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. W. Davies.—Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company is this week appearing in *The Swiss Express*. As the eccentric servants, James and John, Messrs. Renad are as amusing as ever; Dr. Gull is ably impersonated by Mr. Herbert Lewis; Mr. George Martin does well as Virginia's lover, Bob; and Virginia herself has a bright and vivacious exponent in Miss Jessica Ford. The minor rôles are ably filled, and the dancing of the Eden Quartette is heartily applauded.

NELSON.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil and company are this week presenting *Her Luck in London*. Miss Mary Neil in the character of Nellie Harborne is clever; Mr. Charles A. Leicester deserves unstinted praise as Gerald O'Connor; Mr. Stephen Crossley as Richard Lenowen acquits himself admirably; Maud Gladys Shovepenny finds an excellent representative in Miss Florrie Groves; Mr. Douglas Tremayne is good as the Rev. Lionel Strong; and Miss Frances Waring makes a capital Lilian Harborne. The piece is well mounted.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — TYNE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Sutcliffe.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is paying a visit here this week. Their répertoire, a varied and popular one, includes *Faust, Marriage of Figaro, The Bohemian Girl, Il Trovatore, Eugene Onegin, Lohengrin*, and *Maritana*. Gounod's *Faust* was presented in admirable style on Monday. Mr. Joseph O'Mara in the title-rôle again fully justified the favourable opinion we have previously expressed on his skilful rendering; the Marguerita of Mme. de Vere won favourable comment; and Mr. Charles Magrath as Mephistopheles, Mr. G. King as Wagner, and Miss Toni Seiter as Siebel, all did themselves justice in their respective parts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham. —*Lady Madcap* this week pays a return visit, with Miss Marie Studholme in the title-rôle. Miss Studholme has a part which affords her every opportunity of showing that she is one of the brightest stars in musical comedy. Mr. Arthur Longley as Trooper Smith is responsible for very amusing business; and Mr. E. Statham Staples as Trooper Ham introduces a good deal of fun. Mr. Ernest Mahar is excellent as a comic Frenchman, his rendering of English popular songs *à la Française* being quite a hit. Mr. J. Robert Hale, a most accomplished dancer, and Mr. Oliver J. Raund, are very entertaining as a pair of rascals of widely different types; Miss Nina Sevening, in a part which suits her to perfection, is very sweet and winning; and Miss Mabel Russell, as a smart maid, sings and dances charmingly.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—This week Mr. John Leopold's company, in *New Frivolity*, pays a return visit. The students are responsible for plenty of merriment; and Miss Amy Hall and Mr. John Leopold, jun., in a coon song and dance, are very effective. The special turns which are submitted meet with a success which is thoroughly deserved.

GRAND THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor is presenting here this week his company, in the exciting drama entitled *The Female Swindler*. Miss Grace E. Leslie still undertakes the title-rôle with commendable success; and Mr. Henry C. Cooper plays the detective's part in a natural and convincing manner.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—The programme here this week is contributed to by Brown and Le Clerq, whose negro sketch is extremely funny; Dronza, described as the sensation of the twentieth century; Jessie Merrilees, a pleasing vocalist; Daisy Mayer, who gives a good account of herself in song and dance; James Stewart, in his musical speciality "The Tramp at the Piano"; Bert Byrne, a clever comedian; George Tacius, the double-voiced vocalist; David Poole, ventriloquist; and Tina Clementa, with her remarkably clever dogs and ponies.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—*The Phonograph Girl*, a delightful miniature musical comedy, tops the bill here, the principal exponents being Miss Ida Gladstone, Miss Jeannie Christie, Miss Mollie McGuigan, and Mr. Arthur Dandoe. That popular light comedian Mr. Whit Cunliffe is again greatly in evidence with his topical songs, and is deservedly a "Pav." favourite; Verno and Voyce have a new speciality, wherein their fine singing is heard to distinct advantage; Rose Harvey, comedienne, is well received; C. Williams, coon singer and dancer, meets with much approval; Sid Bandon, character vocalist, is entirely successful; George Barrington, trick pianist, is remarkably clever; the Olive Trio are dainty dancers and comediennes; Vandinoff is a lightning artist in oil colours; and Bernard and Weston, comedians, and the Barrascope, complete the bill.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The Ruby Ring*, a new drama, is being played here this week by Mr. J. D. Hunter's company. Mr. Fredk. Sargent as Cuthbert Vaughan makes an admirable hero; Mr. Geo. Cecil Murray plays Colonel Clethorpe with a sense of humour; and Mr. Chas. Lane as Reginald Clethorpe figures as the evil genius of the piece. Mr. Chas. Langton does well in the disagreeble part of Henry Jordon in the first act; and Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., plays Chas. Lynton admirably; and the John Jenkins of Mr. Geo. Thorne, jun., is humorous. Mr. Walter Selby does well as John Kendall; Mr. Harry Collier displays capital character-acting in the part of Peter Wagg; and Mr. A. B. Topping plays the rôle of Alphonse Silver with credit. Miss Alice Farleigh represents Helen Neville, the heroine, with simple dignity; Miss Clarissa Selwynne is a charming Jane; and Miss Blanche Bayley displays excellent capabilities as Mary Richards.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Mr. T. E. Dunville heads the bill here; Arthur Gill is well received; startling contortionist feats are given by Abel and Welsh; and the Sarnthaler Troupe of ladies, who sing delightfully, are warmly encored. Marie Weston in song and dance is quite a favourite; the Haydas do some comical acrobatic work; and Ian Colquhoun, who has a fine baritone voice, sings selections from grand opera in a taking style. Clown Barker and Miss Rozika, with their trained dogs, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The military drama, *One of the Best*, is presented here this week by Miss Elsie Roberts' company, under the direction of Mr. Frank Fenton, who plays the leading part, Dudley Keppel, with great dramatic effect. Miss Elsie Roberts is charming and natural as Mary Penrose; Miss Ethel Royale gives a well-marked delineation of the misguided Esther Coventry; Miss Dorrie Roberts is a merry Kitty Spencer; and Miss Ethel Sarjiant a buxom Mrs. Spencer. Mr. Escott Robson scores as Phillip Ellsworth; Mr. Cyril Melton is good as Lieut.-General Coventry; and Mr. Edward S. Earle excellent as Sir Archibald McGregor. Mr. George Child as the Rev. Dr. Penrose, Mr. Lionel West as M. Jules de Crushy, and Mr. Bertram Zardi as Jason Jupp, are well placed. Mr. Harry Ed. Ray is amusing as Private Jupp.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The following are here this week: The Mezettis, in their comedy gymnastic act, *The Officer and the Recruit;* Edney and Wade, two lady society vocalists and dancers; L. B. Athol, characteristic artist; Cecile de Paso, lightning clay-modeller; Zavan, comic equilibrist; Pete and Juno, coloured comedians and dancers; Vernando, the ventriloquial barber; and the popular comedian, Tom Leamore.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company, with *Her Wedding Day*. As Madge Conway, Miss Ward gives a well-studied performance; and Miss Eva Bertram is seen to advantage as Dora. Mr. Percy Brown is an able exponent of Harold Saxby; Mr. S. Herbert Humber does well as Weedon Kenyon; Mr. T. Edward Ward is successful as Seth Mayson; and Mr. Fred Larnold as Caccles, and Miss Ettie Spalding as Mrs. Caccles, evoke much laughter.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould. — This week's attractions include Chevalier Cliquot, who gives a wonderful performance of sword-swallowing; and Captain Devereux, with his trained dogs, introduces a clever act. Miss Ada Cleveland, soprano vocalist, renders her songs in capital style; Mons. Roose, in his chair speciality act, scores a huge success; Messrs. Vowles and Bryan, comedy artists, have made a hit; Messrs. Smart and Smart, comedians and dancers, are heartily greeted; and the bio-photoscope is as much enjoyed as ever.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Lester Wright.—Mr. F. H. Neville's company is here in the historical drama *A Queen's Vengeance*. Mrs. Walter Bentley in the rôle of Queen Eleanor acts in a dignified manner; Mr. R. Nelme Graswell as Henry II. stamps himself as an actor of merit; as Sir Rupert Warriner Mr. F. H. Neville receives well-earned applause; Mr. Gifforde Reynolds is a manly Gilbert Ormonde; Mr. Alf Russell causes much amusement as Bibeau the Jester; Miss Mildred Monteath is a charming Rosamond Clifford; and Miss Flora Clinton as Janet Jessop and Mr. J. Riley as Father John are good.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—*The Grip of Iron* is being represented this week by a capable company. Mr. Fred Powell gives a realistic impersonation of Jagon, *alias* Simmonet; Mr. Harry Scott capably fills the rôle of Paul Blanchard; Mr. Stanley Bedwell is successful as Lorentz; and Mr. Harry Agar Lyons is good as the detective. Mr. John Brittain does well as Dodot; Miss Mildred Cottell deserves praise as Cora; and Miss Nellie Fletcher is effective as Blanchard's sister.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—A capital programme is presented this week. Mr. A. Frederick Barham, a native of Norwich, makes his initial appearance before a Norwich audience as a hypnotist and magnetist; Millie Payne is very good as a comedienne; the well-known Barra Troupe, in their comedy musical turn, have a good reception; the Society Quartette are clever comedians and dancers; Little Dando creates much laughter; Howard and Collinson give an amusing sketch, *The Porter and the Parcel;* Farley, Rennie, and Farley, are effective in their act *Fun at a Railway Station;* and Harry Morris as Farmer Johnny creates laughter. The Three De Veres as comedy artists obtain much applause. The Hippo. Bio., with new pictures, completes a pleasant entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—That the visit of Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott is fully appreciated here was sufficiently evinced on Monday, when a crowded house gave a cordial welcome to the distinguished artists. *The Light that Failed* was chosen for representation. Mr. Robertson's great dramatic ability was shown in his description of Dick Heldar's affliction and consequent bitterness of heart, and the tenderness and pathos of his troubled love-making completely fascinated his audience; Miss Elliott's conception of the loving, but artistically ambitious, Maisie, was delightful throughout, especially when, at the close, Maisie discovers that love is paramount to art; Miss Auriol Lee gave the fullest expression to the violent emotions of the unhappy Bessie Broke; and Miss Gertrude Bibby was an admirable exponent of the Red-haired Girl, playing with intensity and feeling. Mr. Jan Robertson bore himself in courtly style as Gilbert Torpenhow; and Mr. Charles Weir offered a sturdy performance as Nilghai. Mr. Herbert Dansey cleverly displayed the excitability of Cassavetti; and Mr. J. H. Ryley was a smart Beeton. Miss Minnie Griffin gave a capital study of Mrs. Haines; and good work was shown by Miss Dorothy Paget and Miss Esme Hubbard. *Mice and Men* was also played on three evenings.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. P. Cooke.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here in the interesting human drama *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey realises the sturdy, independent son of toil to the life, and his fine physique and brawny appearance well become the part. The villainous Captain St. Leo is portrayed by Mr. Joseph Carter with great strength and power, and withal with a coolness and nonchalance which adds breadth to the representation. The part of Kate Strong, the blacksmith's wife, becomes in the hands of Miss Laura Walker a very sweet characterisation; and she is well supported by Miss Cassie Edwards as Ruth. Mrs. T. C. Livesey and Mr. T. E. Marshall create a good deal of diversion; and the broad comedy relief could not easily be entrusted to a better player than Mr. Geo. V. Campbell. Little Harry is smartly acted by Miss Bertha Hanbury; and Mr. Edwin Maydew is successful as Lucas Marlow; while Mr. George Wilton makes an excellent Harman.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edgar O. Waller.—Brien McCullough and company appear in a humorous sketch, entitled *The Tramps*, which gives Mr. McCullough ample opportunity of displaying his versatility as a comedian. He is well supported by Muriel Milton, C. F. Collins, Gilbert Vernon, and Stafford Smith. Marie Stoll is roundly applauded for her vivacious rendering of songs; and Edna Latonne, comedienne, fully deserves her reception. Knoto goes through a marvellous exhibition as a contortionist; and items by Joe Humphreys and Charles Jerome are heartily appreciated. Raymond's bio-tableaux supplies some new films; and a melodramatic sketch, called *After Balaclava*, by Brien McCullough and company, closes a pleasant programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—"Menetekel," whose appropriate appellation is derived from the supernatural writing on the wall at Belshazzar's feast, is a very puzzling exhibition of the mysterious; the Æolians, described as vocal entertainers, occupy the position of second importance on the bill, and present a turn at once refined and clever, evoking the enthusiastic applause of the house; Kate Traill, with songs of her own accompanying, has a very easy style, which meets with immediate approval; and Tom Owen's funny mannerisms are provocative of unbounded mirth. Amongst artists on the triple bars, none may claim to be more clever than Artois Bros., and the value of their turn is much enhanced by highly-appreciated fooling. The Three Renads produce a wonderful aërial swinging act; *Flipp and Flopp* is the title of the new comedy of the Delevines; and the Bros. Warsaw deserve mention as a clever pair of musical comedians; whilst Chas. Butler and John Josey, as the Two Cavaliers, are acceptable.

NUNEATON. — PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire company opened here on Monday with *Hamlet*. The title-rôle gives Mr. Maclaren an excellent opportunity, of which he takes full advantage; Miss F. Glossop Harris gives an admirable impersonation of Gertrude Queen of Denmark. The remaining parts are all well played. Included in the programme for the week are *The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, Othello, David Garrick*, and *The Three Musketeers*.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—Mr. George Dance's *The Duchess of Dantzic* company pays a return visit to this place of amusement, and was welcomed by a good "house" on Monday. In the title-rôle, Miss May Glenn gives a meritorious account of herself, her singing and acting being entirely to the popular taste; Mr. Leonard F. Griffiths, as Sergeant Lefebvre, afterwards the Duke of Dantzic, fills the part in a very able manner; as also does Mr. Gilbert Yorke that of Napoleon; Mr. Arthur Patterson, as Papillon, is very amusing; and Mr. Ralph Forster, as Captain Regnier, acquits himself well; Miss Ella Derwent is a splendid Empress Josephine; Miss Buena Bent's Lisette is also a fine performance; and the Misses Violet and Maisie Blyth, as Napoleon's sisters, do well; Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy sings as the Vicomte de Bethune. All the other parts are in good hands, and the chorus is excellent.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. J. Ball; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eastwood.—The boards are occupied this week by a new play, *Darkness*, founded on Mr. Guy Thorne's book, "When it was Dark." Mr. Morton Powell has organised a strong company, and the play is well performed. As Constantine Schwabe, Mr. H. K. Ayliff proves to be a powerful personality, and he and his confederate, Sir Robert Llewellyn, played by Mr. Edward Valentine, do their work remarkably well. As Rev. Basil Gortire, Mr. T. A. Shannon has a manly part, of which he gives a well-studied representation; Miss V. St. Lawrence, as Gertrude Hunt, acted powerfully; and Mrs. Morton Powell is very sympathetic as Helena Byars. As Harold Spence, Mr. E. H. Allen is very good, as is also the Rev. Mr. Byars of Mr. Henry J. Butler. Other parts are ably filled by Miss Ethel Rainforth, Messrs. Lenville, Birron, Hiller, Stormont, Stanhope, Tucker, Dance, and Gray.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—The top of the bill is occupied by Mr. A. C. Lilly and company in a military episode, entitled *Drummed Out*, very well acted by Mr. Lilly as Sergt.-Major Usher; N. Watts Phillips as Trooper Roberts; Louise Brandon as Ethel (his wife); and Kitty Kirwan, who, as Mrs. O'Flanagan, introduces some good comedy. They are assisted by a portion of the 6th Manchester Volunteer Band. Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies, cause roars of laughter by their antics; Master Ralph Moore, the boy vocalist, creates a good impression; and Lina Verdi, mimic, is well received; Sydney Lee, magician, gives a good turn; as do also Miss Florence Deighton, Anglo-American soprano; Williams and Brown, comedians; and J. W. Ellison.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—Ross and Lewis occupy the premier position, and give a very good turn, being well received; Tiny Arnold, described as the smallest star artist in the world, is a petite comedienne, and does much in song and dance to merit the distinction; Charles Russell, in his monologue, goes well; and Denby and Dent cause much laughter in their sketch. The knock-about business on the bars by Elton and Elma is very funny; Tom Yorke, character comedian, and Frank Coyle, comedian, are capital; and Miss Violet Wilton, soubrette, also appears with success. The Dottoscope shows a fresh series of pictures.

OXFORD.—EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mrs. R. A. Cuthbert's company is appearing here in *The Black Bishop*. Mr. J. Kingsley Roydon sustains Simeon Strathcoat in a dramatic and convincing style, while Mr. Bradford Crosby appears successfully in the title-rôle, Vaughan Rejainee; Mr. Chas. Coventry as the bluff Captain Keilcrift is very natural, and Mr. Frank Hudspert causes some considerable fun as the deaf Brank Bruttlebut. Miss Jeannie Marquise is excellent in the dual rôle of Marian Strathcoat and Kate Marleigh, and Miss Isabel Norman evokes sympathy as Ruth Oldbury. Miss Maggie White is seen to advantage as Hannah Bruttlebut, and Miss Madge Turner is deserving of praise as Little Ruth.

SANGER'S CIRCUS.—On Friday, March 23, Lord John Sanger and Sons, Ltd., Royal Hippodrome and Menagerie gave two performances on the Botley Road ground, before large and most enthusiastic audiences. Amongst the numerous interesting items may be specially mentioned Zampo, the bounding wonder; the Fondants, musical and eccentric telephone wire equilibrists; Pimpo and his clown dogs; the Airlees, flying dudes; the Maro troupe, acrobatic equestrians. Some clever performances are given by the elephants; and there is also a splendid spectacular exhibition of the sports of ancient Rome, entitled "Nero."

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—A return visit is being paid here this week of *The New Barmaid*, presented by Mr. Charles Edwardes and performed by Mr. Alexander Loftus and company. The characters are all ably impersonated, and the musical comedy is received with warmth and appreciation.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager Mr. Delno Fritz.—Here this week are the Brothers Gardner, champion boxers and wrestlers; Minnie Leverentz, R. C. Note, George Ray, J. H. Harris, Daisy Davenport, and Cosgrove and Burns.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is here this week in the successful drama *A Path of Thorns*. Mr. William Fagan assumes the arduous rôle of John Edmunds, which he sus-

tains with high credit; Mr. Chris Mason creates a very favourable impression by his successful portrayal of Sam Hallett; Mr. Gordon Kay Bull and Mr. F. Gilbert Fenn are also advantageously placed as Jones Deane and Rev. Frank Selby respectively, while Mr. Frank Gordon and Mr. Harry G. Wright are prominent as Jim Price and Ratty Gabbitt; Misses Kitty Lofting, Emil Leslie, and Muriel Deane make decided hits in their respective onerous parts of Constance Howard, Nellie Hallett, and Bessie Edmunds; little Miss Marion Ryder is deservedly applauded for her clever impersonation of Lucy; Miss Evelyn Shaw is amusing as Fane Adelaide, the future Mrs. Hallett; and Miss Cissie Murdoch makes an excellent maidservant.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard presents Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company here this week in *Merely Mary Ann*. Mr. Harold Standing gives a clever portrayal of Lancelot, and Mr. J. Cranstoun Nevill makes a capital Peter; whilst the Rev. Samuel Smedge finds an exceedingly capable exponent in Mr. Dudley Stewart. Mary Ann is cleverly represented by Mrs. Margaret Fareleigh, and Mrs. Dora Duncan as Lady Glynn, Miss Gladys Craig as Lady Rowena Tottenham, and Mrs. Margaret Hanson as the Countess, are well placed.

PLYMOUTH. — Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's répertoire company is paying a welcome visit to Plymouth with some high-class drama. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented to a full house, and was followed with rapt attention. Mr. Allan Wilkie gave a careful study of the part of Shylock, and Miss Iné Cameron as Portia attained a high level of artistic excellence, notably in the "quality of mercy" speech. Mr. Edward Ling as Antonio had the sympathy of the audience, being well supported by Mr. Clifford Kean as Bassanio. The lighter parts of Gratiano and Nerissa were respectively taken by Mr. G. Lambton and Miss Lizzie Maddocks, who made the most of their opportunities: and Miss Barbara Pigot made a delightfully demure Jessica. The company have also staged *The Corsican Brothers*, *The Sleigh Bells*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and *Othello*, each of which has had a flattering reception.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grand.—*My Sweetheart* is doing good business here this week. Miss Lily Beverley sustains the title-rôle in winsome fashion, and with the assistance of Mr. Edward Lloyd as Tony Faust is largely responsible for the success of the production. Mr. Richard Bosco makes a typical stage gambler. Other members of the company are Miss Irma Farington as the adventuress and Mr. Geo. Beverley as the broken-down Spott.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. A. Carlton; Manager, Mr. Mitchell.—A powerful drama, entitled *The Executioner's Daughter*, is presented this week. The situations are exciting, and Miss Ina Grant as Annette, the executioner's daughter, does full justice to them. Her fiancé, Paul Robel, as played by Mr. Victor Moon, is a noble character, and Mr. Duncan Bell is quite at home in the difficult part of the executioner.

Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—The Selbinis are the principal attraction this week, and perform some truly remarkable feats on bicycles; Moran and Marreece Quartette come in for rousing applause for a smart musical turn, coupled with some pretty quick-change electric light effects; the McConnell Trio remain from last week, and submit a turn in which they blend humour with fine vocal effect; and the Maitland Comedy Trio have a really funny sketch, entitled *The Picture*. Joe Mack, an Irish comedian, has a rich fund of anecdote, and others contributing are Eva Nelson, Gus Gauntlet, Eily Adair, and Vernon's pictures.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. Jarman's company, in the Anglo-Russian drama *Under the Czar*, occupies the boards this week. Mr. James Hare's fine presence greatly adds to his manly assumption of Nicholas Jeroslaff; Mr. W. H. Riley admirably acts Zakhar Kovesky; Alexis Petroff could not be in abler hands than those of Mr. Edwin Millins; Mr. Louis Weston is seen to great advantage as Paul Ignat; Mr. Gerald Smythe is a typical English captain; Miss Cathleen Cavanagh displays great dramatic ability as Sonia Gregorovitch; Miss Linda Riley's interpretation of Siomska is admirable; and Miss P. Carewe is a charming Zara Bhura.

PORTH.—Poole's Opera House.—Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—On Monday evening Mr. Frank Ayrton's No. 1 company opened here in the drama *The Power of Gold*. Mr. Charles Whitlock is responsible for some powerful acting as Hadgi Zambra, the Malay doctor; Mr. Richard Oliver gives a creditable account of Paul Judson; Mark Harley has a capital exponent in Mr. Albert Sefton; Mr. Frank Holyoake is a satisfactory representative of Dr. Stephen Saunders; Miss Georgina V. France gives a pathetic embodiment of Meg. Judson; Miss Hettie Laytise is exceptionally good as Sister Marie; Miss Lilla Wilde deserves a compliment for her effective embodiment of Lady Brandon. The lighter parts are successfully played by Mr. Frank Ayrton as Sammy Smudge and Miss Madge Seymour as Norah Donnelly.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Portsmouth being the birthplace of Charles Dickens, quite naturally a large and critical audience assembled at this house on Monday evening to welcome the presentation by Mr. Tree's well-selected company of Mr. Comyns Carr's adaptation of *Oliver Twist*. Mr. William Mackintosh's impersonation of Fagin was a most artistic one, the make-up being marvellous; the Bill Sikes of Mr. Cecil A. Collins was another well-sustained part, true to the character; the Artful Dodger and Charlie Bates were well taken by Messrs. Tom Macfarlane and Edgar J. Coyne; Mr. Brownlow had an able exponent in Mr. Ben Lewin; Mr. Clifford Bown was clever and effective as Mr. Grimwig; and Mr. Harvey Braban vigorously played Harry Maylie. Of the Nancy of Miss Hutin Britton it would be difficult to speak too highly, her portrayal of despair being admirable; Rose Maylie was sympathetically taken by Miss Hilda Dick; Miss Elsie Carew was at home in the part of Mrs. Maylie; and Miss Helen Boucher played pleasingly as Mrs. Bedwin.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here this week with *Between Two Women*. Mr. Arthur Murray, in the part of Henry Earl of Millard, gives a fine presentation; Harry Millard is taken very ably by Mr. C. W. Standing; Mr. Hugh Metcalfe as the Rev. Phillip Carton scores a success; Mr. Louie Hector is quietly and decidedly effective as the villain James Durwood; and Major Strangeways is impersonated by Mr. George R. Montford in a capable manner. Violet Thornton is portrayed by Miss Marjorie Murray with true feeling and tenderness; Carmen de Savereux, her rival, is cleverly played by Miss Winifred Pearson; the Blind Boy is realistically taken by Miss Lulu Bowes; and the lighter side of the piece is well looked after by Mr. Dickie Clare as Jack Pringle, and Miss Lilian Earle as Pollie Popp.

Empire Palace.—Secretary Mr. W. Pratt.—The star turn here, of an exceedingly attractive programme, is Chinko, the juggler, whose astonishing dexterity with all kinds of dissimilar articles evokes hearty applause. Minnie Kaufmann, bicycle artist, is marvellous in the precision and daring of her tricks; and the Katos get a fine reception for their pleasing show. Walter King, vocal comedian, is humorous in his ditties; George Brooks, eccentric comedian, is clever and diverting; the Three Sisters Sprightly give a diversified and amusing turn; and other excellent turns are contributed by Lizzie Daniels, light comedy soubrette; Carson Hicks, expert dancer; Baroux and Bion, eccentric acrobats; and Payne's Bioscope, with "The Deserter."

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. George T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company is here again, and is being well received in the comedy-drama, *The Plucky Nipper*. Mr. William Heilbronn takes the part of the villainous Richard Vanbrugh in masterly style, and the rôle of Colonel Fenwick is in the safe keeping of Mr. George D. Knight. The hero, Captain Frank Leslie, is well depicted by Mr. E. Stream, who also wins favour by some appropriate songs. Considerable merit is infused into the part of Bill Burgess by Mr. Edward Surrey, and Mr. Douglas Campbell, in addition to causing much merriment by his study of Tommy Atkins, secured an encore for one of his comic songs. Miss Bessie Ellis was sweet and ladylike as the heroine, Ina Fenwick, and Miss Bonwin Carlton impersonates the title-rôle with much gusto and abandon.

RAMSGATE. — Amphitheatre. — Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—*The Anarchist Terror* and *The Sorrows of Satan* have been staged here during this week by Mr. Edward Neville's company. In the first-named play Mr. Neville makes a capital Mikey Doolan, and Miss Cecile Byrne is good as Zara, as also is Miss Loie Esmond as Kitty Malone. Mr. George Langdon plays a many-sided part in praiseworthy style, and other characters are sustained with skill by Messrs. J. N. Turner, F. Holmes, G. Bowerman, and the Misses Evie Claremont, Flora Leslie, and Kate Parr. The adaptation of Marie Corelli's work was staged on Thursday and Friday nights, with Mr. Neville in the rôle of Lucio.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Benton's excellent company opened here on Monday with a fine performance of *A Marriage of Vengeance*. Miss A. Harrison-Tate as Stella gave a powerful portrayal, her acting being finished and artistic; and Miss Cora Linda as Elsie Dean was sympathetic and womanly in her clever interpretation. Mr. Charles E. Linney as Paul Earnscliffe was thoroughly capable, his impersonation being manly and full of true feeling. As Glynne Earnscliffe, Mr. A. L. Baron made a typical aristocratic banker and elderly lover, and his part was ably sustained; Mr. Max Coutts was a successful Geoffrey Vannock; and Mr. Fred Benton as Max Rheinhardt acted with ability and ease. Miss Ruby Hamilton Belasco was clever as Amelia, her impersonation being received with great laughter. She and Mr. Seymour Perry as Bob Shorner were responsible for much excellent comedy.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Messrs. Arthur Whittaker and Gifford Stacey's company is appearing this week in *The Hindoo's Revenge*. The leading parts are taken by Mr. Cyril W. Mackay, who gives an able impersonation of Captain Bruce Glenister, Mr. E. H. Dobell as the Hindoo, Kumar Nana, and Miss Ethyle Murray as Zephan, his sister. The other parts are all well filled. On Wednesday afternoon a special matinée was given, when Sir T. N. Talfourd's tragedy *Ion* was acted by the boys of Reading School, of which the author was an old student.

Town Hall.—Mr. Albert Chevalier, assisted by an excellent company, gave performances here on Wednesday and Thursday.

ROCHDALE.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Company, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Her Forbidden Marriage* is the attraction here this week. It is full of exciting situations, and finds much favour in the popular parts of the house. Mr. Albert Ward is forcible in the part of the hero, George Maddison; Mr. L. D'Aragon cleverly portrays the scoundrel Charles Devereux; Mr. Eric Campbell is well placed as Sir George Lancaster; and Mr. Holland Day as Geoffrey Broughton makes a favourable impression. Miss Isla Garnet Vayne is sweet and pathetic as Lucy; Miss Eugenie Magnus skilfully enacts the part of Lady Lancaster; and Miss Barbara Gott is prominent with a well-acted portrayal of the Mother Superior.

Circus and Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee. — The Four Maisanos, eccentric musicians, are accorded a hearty reception on their reappearance here, their novel tricks and genuine mirth being very much enjoyed. The Voldam Bros. contribute a clever turn as eccentric acrobats; Lillian Victoria in a quick-change vocal scena is greatly appreciated; and other enjoyable turns are submitted by Louis Kerno (vocal comedian), Señorita Angelina Fillis (globe performer), Wisper (comedy juggler), Beattie Bloom (comedienne), and Vernon's Animated Pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—F. V. St. Clair makes a hit with his topical allusions in his songs; Carl Howard is a conjurer both comical and clever; Marion Grahame vocalises in pleasing style; and other turns include Tom Moy (comedian), the Solari Duo (vocalists and instrumentalists), Fred Lloyd and company in *The Blind Spinster*, the McKays in "dry comedy and wet paint," *Dante* by Miss Anna Lopetigue and Mr. Louis Blanchard, and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. John Gerant and company are here this week with *At Duty's Call*. Mr. Frank V. Fenn is a manly Captain George Alison; Mr. Ernest St. John is seen to advantage as General Gordon; Mr. John Gerant enacts the part of Harold Alison with good effect; and Mr. Ivan Mavis scores as Abdallah. Messrs. Harry Ugar as Terry O'Halloran and Gwyn Richardson as Jack Spencer are responsible for humour. Miss Edith Knight is pleasing and sympathetic as Dora Drummond; Miss Georgina Hamilton gives a clever portrayal of Selema; Miss Hetty Poplin scores as Nurse Slater; and Miss Harlington is smart as Mary.

RUNCORN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—*The Heart of London*, as presented by Mr. James Stephens, has scored a well-merited success. Mr. Stephens is supported by a company of old favourites. Mr. Taliesyn G. Davies plays the part of Renton Bashford in masterly style; the character of Sherlock Holmes affords Mr. Chas. York opportunities of which he takes advantage. Doctor Watson is undertaken by Mr. James Hart; and Jack Bradford by Mr. Frank Landon. Mr. James Stephens and Miss Lucie Victor divide the comedy element between them; and Miss Mabel Lewis Clewer wins appreciation by her touching representation of the heroine.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Little Bread Winner* provides a pleasant entertainment this week. It is presented by Mr. J. A. Campbell, the author, who sustains the character of the Quaker, Lord William Dorrington. Little Emmie Thomas as Megg proves a clever little artist, and her songs are well received. Villainy, in the person of Joseph Prior, is skilfully represented by Mr. Scott Leighton, assisted by Miss Maud Buchanan, who ably sustains the character of Kate Cherry. Mr. A. Charles as Charles Prior, Miss Emmie Litchfield as Ruth Cherry, and Miss Jenny Bostock as Bridget O'Flanaghan fill in the light comedy. Mr. D. Gordon as Richard Lawrence and Miss Maud Hastings as Margaret Daventry are very successful in their work.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Harry Roxbury and company, in the musical mélange, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, head this week's bill, and give the audience plenty to laugh at. Some good portraits are quickly painted by Speedwell; Happy Tom Parker, comedian, is very funny. Other turns are given by Dave McNeil, versatile comedian; Margaret Agnes, descriptive vocalist; Fred Keeton, eccentric comedian; Sisters Cora, duettists and dancers; Ida Kathrena, in *Jack in the Box*, a toy scena; and Olive Marston, burlesque artist.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—This week's programme is headed by *Casey's Court*, in which a street urchin's idea of producing high-class variety entertainment, is presented by the midget mimes, including Bob King as Mrs. Casey. Horace Sade is an expert dancer, who appears to give much satisfaction, having to appear three times. The Kesnors (Madge and Harry) do a novel act, including the flying rings; and other good turns are Harland and Rollison, smart performers on concertinas, saxophone, &c.; Philips and Merritt, American comedy duo, with good songs and patter; Oliver Conroy, a really comical comedian; Jacko, a climbing monkey; Bros. Hampson, comedians; and Walter Curtis, eccentric comedian.

SCARBOROUGH.—People's Palace and Aquarium.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—An admirable entertainment is provided at this popular place of amusement this week, foremost in the bill being Mill May, who is described as the singing protean artist, assisted by Mlle. Theresa in a marvellous change act; the Valdos, Continental eccentrics, submit an up-to-date programme, including some very smart tumbling on their motor-car; Lillie Coleman, comedienne and soprano vocalist, has a fine delivery, and in "The old apple tree" was greatly applauded; Nelson Hardy gives unique and interesting impersonations, his figures including "Joey," the pierrot; Stanert and Yondi, vaudeville artists and instrumentalists, supply a meritorious turn; Miss Louie Lantz dances in finished style; Charles Grantley, with his songs and mimicry, is a good turn. Though small in stature, Barry Gilmore is not deficient in abilities, and he and his brother are always prime favourites here, securing plenty of applause for their comicalities; Vernon's Bioscope is still here with up-to-date pictures.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Sarony and Co.; Lessee, Mr. George Zalva.—The management here are making a speciality of moving pictures, which are most interesting, the Japs landing in England being depicted on Tuesday night. In addition there are several artists of merit, including the Hulmes, in a musical turn of a fresh character; Bessie Travis, who, as a ventriloquist, creates roars of laughter and enthusiasm; A. P. Boswell maintains his reputation as "the Furniture Shifter"; Kitty Marion, comedienne, sings some good songs; and Palmon is a master in the art of trick cycling.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Councillor James Kiernan.—Mr. Fred L. Connynghame's company is here this week with *A Mother's Love*. Mr. Arthur Rose gives an earnest and dignified protrayal of Paul Wingate; Mr. Charles Draycott is responsible for a clever rendering of Geoffrey Mannering; and Mr. Fred L. Connynghame elicits peals of laughter. Miss Violet Macaree sustains the rôle of Winnie Wingate with telling force; Miss Laura Pardy is fully equal to the strong part of Ellaine Mervin; and the other characters are capably enacted.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne's company was heartily received here on Monday with *The Orphan Heiress*. Mr. Charles Boult is a capital Douglas Kingston; Laurence Gordon is powerfully drawn by Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle; as the scheming Craven Mr. Walter Fergus is effective; Ginger is humorously drawn by Mr. T. H. Solly; Mr. Cecil Morand is an amusing Jenkins; Lord Ainsley is well presented by Mr. Henry Willis; Sardien Loski is capably played by Mr. Albert Brasque; and Mr. Fred Allen is smart as Inspector Murray. Miss Rosalie Heath as Mabel Ainsley merits praise; Edith Mowbray is skilfully drawn by Miss Constance Medwyn; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is a dignified Lady Ainsley; Olive Kingston is portrayed with success by Miss Edith Halford; and Betsy has a spirited representative in Miss Cora Duncan.

SHEERNESS.—The Hippodrome.—General Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Amongst the principal turns at this premier place of amusement are the Charles Vandyke company in their mirth-provoking burlesque act *Nicodemus*, which is received with much favour. Miss Daisy De Roy, comedienne, also obtains a flattering reception. Theresa Moore is highly successful as a speciality artist; Will Fredo, eccentric comedian and dancer, gains a hearty welcome; Miss Florence Hill, comedienne, renders her songs in a pleasing manner; and Mr. Harry Banford, eccentric comedian, is also much appreciated. Ruffell's Bioscope provides an abundance of fresh films, which completes a most entertaiinng programme.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—An entertaining bill here includes Bromley and West (Harry and Eva), society entertainers, who are capitally received; Miss Sara Yost, lady baritone, proves herself an artist of ability; Mr. Harry Monkhouse, comedian, is also popular; the Audleys, in their laughable act, *Recipes*, provide an amusing turn; Miss Louie Hurman, burlesque actress, and Mr. Jack Foley, eccentric comedian, are still as popular as ever.

SHEFFIELD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Eternal City* is again being played here, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, whose company gave a finished performance on Monday. Miss Marie Polini achieved a great and well-merited success in the exacting rôle of Roma; Mr. Henry Deas gave a careful and well-considered reading of the character of David Rossi; as Baron Bonelli, Mr. E. Stanton Sharpe acted with spirit and distinction; and Mr. Geo. Cartwright's Rocco was a commendable performance. The *mise-en-scène* was artistic.

Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—That old Sheffield favourite and sterling actor, Mr. J. H. Clyndes, opened to a good house on Monday in the picturesque drama, *A Royal Revenge*. Mr. Clyndes acted with his accustomed power and finish as Alvarez, and in these days of slipshod elocution his perfectly declaimed speeches commanded absorbed attention. Miss Annie Grattan made a graceful representative of Cora Casilda; Miss Enid Edoni was good as Inez; Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon made a humorous Sancha; and Miss Celestine Brandon acted in a vivacious manner as Marcella.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—There was a good house here on Monday, when Mr. Tom Taylor's company opened in Mr. Walter Melville's sensational drama, *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Florence Dalton, in the title-rôle, looked handsome in her smart gowns, and acted with power and dramatic intensity; the character of Vincent Lyle was effectively represented by Mr. Paul V. Sewers; Mr. Wallace Campbell was a manly young hero as Jack Felton; and Mr. Leonard Booker was "firm" as Philip Armstrong. Miss Effie Bartlett made a pretty and sympathetic Ruth; and other cleverly played characters were the James Milford of Mr. H. H. Barrington, the Hugh Drayton of Mr. H. W. Moule, the Bob Goldfinch of Mr. Percy Dawsone, and the Matilda Parker of Miss Florence Lovell. The piece was mounted in a realistic manner, and the principal scenes were loudly applauded.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, the Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The favourite comedian, Mr. Wilkie Bard, is again delighting his countless local admirers with his dry humour and whimsical ditties; the pleasing manner of Miss Nelly Stratton makes her vocal essays very acceptable; a smart gymnastic act by the piquant and graceful Lios-Alfa Sisters is loudly applauded; Mr. T. C. Callaghan, an old music hall favourite, is very successful; and handsome Miss Florrie St. Clair sings and dances with refinement and grace. The Burnells, in a funny knockabout burlesque act, cause great mirth; Mr. Edwin Barwick gives a good impersonation of the late Sir Henry Irving; Forest and King do some excellent dancing; the Ados are smart athletes; and the Urban animated pictures are enthusiastically received.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. George Dickenson.—The Boston Twins, Mr. Will Lytton, the Swift Trio, Mr. Jack Brookes, Mr. Bert Brantford, Miss Blanche Marion, and Pallister's bioscope, with local and topical pictures, are appearing to delighted audiences.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. W. C. Dornton, the energetic and courteous manager of this theatre, took his annual benefit on the 23rd inst., when a number of friends, in and out of the profession, provided a most enjoyable evening's amusement. The Misses Dornton gave pianoforte ducts and solos in an artistic manner; Miss Nelly Fulcher contributed a well-executed violin solo; Mr. Harry Lawton gave a capital sketch, *People I have Met;* and Mr. W. H. Jones, jun., played a cornet solo. Mr. N. Mellor, who sang "For all Eternity," was in excellent voice; Mr. A. Allen introduced some interesting gramophone records; and Mr. F. Brant provided the comic element. A talented little company, consisting of Mr. T. E. Maddox, Mr. J. Dillon, Mr. Blackmore, Mr. Billie, Miss Jessie Carlton, Miss Nellie Turner, and Miss Braddock McDonald, played *Bubbles* in a very capable manner. The graceful dancing of the Sisters Nina, who appeared in pierrot costume, was appreciated. During the interval, Mr. Dornton, from the stage, cordially thanked the public for their support and those who had so generously and readily contributed to the evening's entertainment. Mr. Herbert Ralland's company was here in the merry comic opera *La Poupée* on the first four nights of this week. Mr. Wm. Everard sang and acted artistically as Launcelot; Mr. Walter Balfour was in fine voice as Father Maxime; Mr. Fred Seymour was droll and clever as Hilarius; Miss Dot Stephens was successful and attractive as Alesia; Miss Edith Hunter played capably the part of Madame Hilarius; and numerous minor parts were all satisfactorily embodied.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—Fred. Melville's company, under the direction of Mr. Wm. Fraser Brunner, is playing here *The Beast and the Beauty*. We must specially single out for praise Mr. Fred D. Daviss, a talented actor, whose Jack Barrymore is most effective; Miss Alice Bowes is an engaging Beauty; and Mr. Bernard Mervyn a typical villain. The comedy element is well sustained by Mr. Will Corrie (Tom Chicken) and Miss Jennie Danvers (Mimi). The other parts are all capably played.

Palace.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—Mr. Lew Lake and his *Bloomsbury Burglars* are proving a great attraction here. Will Musgrave, comedian, repeats his former success; and Ruby Bijou dances gracefully. Downes and Langford, cross-talk comedians; Lillie Lassah, a charming comedienne; Ossi Souplessi, a wonderful contortionist; Myles and May, the merry huntsmen; and Les Cabiacs, a couple of smart acrobats, complete a fine bill of fare.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; District-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Aldin.—The Bros. Poluski are first favourites here, and win continuous applause for a droll turn; Frank Harwood is another popular artist; and the Creo Bros. excel in a smart acrobatic show. Others appearing are Grace Merton, a capital singer; Cline and Clark, duettists and dancers; Les Voces, operatic vocalists; and the Marblesque Trio, in a living statuary entertainment.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—A capital attraction for this week is being provided by Mr. Arthur Carlton, whose capable company is appearing in the drama entitled *The Span of Life*. The cast includes the famous Almo Trio, whose clever acrobatic feats cause quite a sensation, and who also form a human bridge, gaining considerable applause for their endeavours. Mr. Sanderson Moffat is eminently suited as Richard Blunt; Dunstan Leech finds in Mr. R. S. Trelawney a capable exponent; Mr. Walter Dale makes a humorous and pleasing character as Nutty Brown; and Joshua Gurnet is well embodied by Mr. Edwin T. Kisby. Miss May Moffat as Cecil Blunt is a well-spoken child, and Miss Phillis Graham is good as Cecil Jeff. Miss Harriet Russell gives prominence to the rôle of Mrs. Jelf, and is very successful; Miss Kitty Russell causes immense merriment in her portrayal of Shrove Tuesday; Kate Heathcote is entrusted to clever Miss Phyllis Hamilton, and her dignity and gracefulness are well shown.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Licensees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company, Ltd., is here this week, and opened with Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment*. Miss Rosina Beynon, as Marie, was enthusiastically received, her numbers being most artistically rendered. The Tonio of Mr. Albert Bowyer was a decided success, his fine tenor voice being heard to advantage; Father Sulpice was in the experienced hands of Mr. George Neilson, whose "Two Grenadiers" roused enthusiasm; Miss M. Godwin was good as the Countess, and the Babette of Miss L. Coleman was a meritorious performance. The powerful animated and flexible chorus, ably assisted by an excellent orchestra, under the skilful bâton of Mr. Harrison Frewin, all combined in giving a charming portrayal of this delightful opera. The bill for the remainder of the week includes *La Traviata*, *Maritana*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—At the head of the bill is Lottie Lennox, who is well received. Local amateur vocalists are invited in competition to copy this artist in any of her favourite songs. Ben Hur, athlete, gives a performance of excellence; Jake Friedman is as funny as ever; Annie Casey is a successful comedienne and dancer; Gracie Graham is loudly applauded for her "Pictures in the fire" song. The remaining items are Charles Chard, comedian; the Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers; the Stuart Quartette; and the Bioscope.

Tivoli.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—An excellent programme here is headed by George French, a comedian of ability. A good exhibition of clog-dancing is contributed by Macintosh and Royal; the Falcons are a pair of excellent comedy acrobats. Well merited applause is awarded Raglus, comedy juggler; the Monktons create a good impression in their sketch, *A Woman's Curiosity*. Other turns are Nelson and Thomas, Mabel Higson (comedienne and dancer), and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Tompkinson's Royal Gipsy company is affording a welcome change here. As on previous visits, the programme is in two parts, the first being devoted in the main to vocal and instrumental turns, which are all admirably rendered, and the second to variety items, the pick of which is that contributed by the Lizette troupe of lady acrobats, five in number. Elsie Rubina exhibits several smart balancing feats on the tight wire; the Musical Keiths illustrate their versatility on a series of novel instruments; Miss Annie Knowles supplies a capital trombone solo; and Bert Allen, the Liliputian comedian, evokes much laughter.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—*Conscience and Crime*, a drama by Mr. Alfred Stafford, was played on the first three nights of the week, being received with much favour. Mr. J. A. Stimson made an instantaneous success as Nobby Rutter, and a powerful character representation was given by Mr. Chippendale as a miser. Miss Lily Prescott admirably played the leading part. For Friday and Saturday the No. 1 company of *La Poupée*, under the management of Mr. Herbert Ralland, was billed.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—We have here this week for the first time Messrs. Beaudyn, Livesey, and Hardy's company in *A Soldier's Revenge*. Mr. M. Beaudyn is excellent as Ironhand; Mr. Robertson Foulis does well as Sir Marsden; Matthew has a capable representative in Mr. Howard Hardy; Messrs. H. G. Momber and T. R. White are effective exponents of the parts of Toby and Shadrach; Miss Irene Munroe wins applause as Ruby; Miss Jane Massey is thoroughly at home as Mrs. Shadwell; and Betsy is capitally played by Miss Annie Glunn.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Sley, and Wilmott; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Another good programme is being presented here. First and foremost are Haley's Prize Juveniles, with their capital singing and clever dancing; Mr. J. Grun Marx astounds all with his feats of strength; James Lowery is a good descriptive vocalist; Reed and Lerne are an amusing couple; the Three Sisters Chester are banjoists, vocalists, and dancers of ability; Ralston and Franche submit some high-class tableaux; Kitty Tims scores well as a comedienne; and Londin Cameron is a clever illusionist.

ST. LEONARDS.—The Kursaal.—Pier-Master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The vocalist in connection with Mr. Marriott's orchestra this week is the gifted singer Señor Carlos Ronzevalle. The sacred concerts on Sunday are well patronised.

STOCKPORT. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Dandy Doctor*, capably presented by Mr. Edward Marris's company, is being presented here this week. Mr. Edmond Russell as Melchisadeck Brown is exceedingly funny; and Mr. James Danvers is humorous as Colonel Pendred. Mr. Leslie Martin evokes laughter as Bertie Bolingbroke; and Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is a smart Arthur Vandyke. Miss May Yates as Ivy Pendred is very pleasing; and Miss Cora England as Miss Vandyke and Miss Mary Elton as Miss Lorraine fill their parts with much ability. Entertaining specialities are introduced by Mr. James Danvers, assisted by Miss Marie Gerrard, in *Padrewski Up to Date*; the Dandy Belles, dancers; and Mr. Ben Rowe and Miss Holden, who are graceful cake-walkers.

Empire, Ltd.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—An excellent all-round company is appearing here this week, the chief attraction being the Borghetti Troupe of head acrobats, who perform marvellous feats; Zarmo, the comedy juggler, is an amusing performer; and Caselli and James are entertaining banjoists. Eric Graham is a coster comedian of the front rank; Carr and Rose give a mirth-provoking sketch, *A Domestic Episode;* and Conan and Doyle, comedians, provide abundant fun. W. H. Morgan, comedian; Millie Harris, comedienne; and Percy Curry, comedian, meet with due appreciation.

STOKE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—At the head of this week's bill are Ford and Barris, who are new to the halls, but whose turn is deserving of the highest praise; Baroni and Kemp, in their quick-change sketch, are capital; Yorkshire Tom as a mimic has few rivals; the Ringling Trio are seen in a sketch, in which a wonderful exhibition of stilt-walking, &c., is introduced; Mark Merry is a good comedian; Sandy and Carl are always welcome, their boxing and fencing being most amusing; Carlo and Maie score as wire-walkers and acrobats; Golden and Grey have a smart sketch in *The Missing Will;* the bioscope shows some excellent pictures.

STOURBRIDGE. — Alhambra Theatre. —Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey are this week presenting the Anglo-Indian drama *A Traitor Prince*. In the title-rôle Mr. G. M. Montanini, an able artist, is well supported by Miss Nita Langford as Vashti; Mr. Ernest A. Duval as Lieut. Frank Derrick acquits himself well; Miss Rose Routledge is a winsome Lola Vane; Mr. Edward Fenton as Hon. Dalrymple is very amusing, as is Mr. Edmund O'Grady as Billy Bright. Miss Kitty Thomas makes an admirable Pansy Blossom, and mention should be made of Miss Clara O'Grady as Mrs. Blossom.

SUNDERLAND. — Avenue Theatre.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile pantomime *Beauty and the Beast* is here this week. Miss Kitty Trewhitt is a dashing principal boy, and Miss Dolly Dodds makes a bright and charming Beauty. Miss Mona Townsend wins favour as Will Scarlett, and Miss Isa Gibson is well placed as Maid Marian. Master Will Kay is highly amusing as Baron Mumps; Messrs. Paddy Mills and Jack Harrison score heavily as Flip and Flop.

Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hem

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. John H. Stringer; Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Browne.—W. J. Ashcroft heads the bill, and is most amusing in his farcical interlude, entitled *I am Ann O'Hoolihan*, in which he is capably assisted by Mr. J. W. Morton; Frank Seeley, comedian, receives a hearty reception; the Bransbys, comedy duologue artists; V L. Granville, in his interesting impersonations from various plays; Oakley and James, comedy artists; James de Voye, who presents "Billy," a performing horse; Mme. Maria Gibson, a ballad vocalist of considerable ability; and Ben Harris's Nippers, in a comedy sketch, also appear. The entertainment winds up with the usual show of animated pictures.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—*After the Ball*, a musical comedy, was the attraction at this house on Monday, being presented by Mr. Charles Carey's company, under the general management of Mr. Guillaume Leone. The company is a competent one, and includes Miss Florence Smithers, who appears most successfully as Nancy. This lady is a great favourite in Swindon, and was accorded a flattering reception. Miss Nellie Groves as Nellie Mather, Miss May Florence as Ruth Gay, and Miss Nellie James as Kitty were bright and pleasing in their respective parts. Mr. V. Widdicombe as Colonel Merrit was exceedingly quaint throughout, while Mr. Walter Ringham did good work as Halliwell Merrit, and Mr. Norman Bowyer worked with excellent judgment as Dick Seymour. Mr. Buckstone Cl[illegible] acquitted himself capitally as the Colonel's serva[illegible].

TODMORDEN. — TOWN HALL. — Proprietors, Todmorden Corporation.—Mr. William Hamilton's Diorama and Variety Company is here for six nights. A feature of the entertainment is the wonderful mystery feats of Gustav Fasola, the Indian Fakir; the clever skating of the Snow Family and the bicycle riding of the French Troupe are worthy of high praise; as are also the patter singing and knockabout business of the Brothers Warlock, Irish comedians. The performance concludes with an amusing sketch, entitled *Soothing Syrup*.

TON-Y-PANDY. — ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barry.—Mr. Cecil Clayton is presenting *Cinderella* here this week, and with charming scenery, a good company, and plenty of fun, an entertainment of great merit is provided. The title-rôle is admirably filled by Miss N. Waylett, who makes a chic Cinderella; Miss E. Rosslyn infuses into the rôle of Prince Charming just the right amount of enthusiasm, and is eminently successful. The Fairy Sunshine of Miss Gertrude Gray is very favourably received.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company in the play *Sunday* is paying a return visit this week. Miss Emily Polini gives a clever and artistic portrayal in the title-rôle, her rendition being full of merit and highly effective; Mr. Leonard Pagden fills with marked success the part of Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. Cecil Duncan is admirable as Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas is good as Tom Oxley; the characters of the "boys" at Silver Creek are successfully depicted by Mr. William Lockhart (Towzer), Mr. Sydney Rennef (Davy), Mr. T. Norman Walter (Lively), and Mr. Arthur Vezin as Jacky. Miss Rosalind Ross makes a dignified Mrs. Naresby.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Henry Lucas.—An interesting sketch entitled *When London's Sleeping* is ably produced by Scottie's Waifs and Strays. Mr. Charles R. Whittle is a versatile comedian; Miss Maidie Scott is a clever comedienno and dancer; Curtis and Vanity, cake-walkers, contribute a smart speciality turn; Harry Hunter delights with his selections on the guitar; Charles Valdo, ventriloquist, wins applause; and Miss Ida Dorrie, soubrette, gains favour.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A striking turn in this week's programme is the appearance of the Silvas, equilibrists, who proved themselves most popular. Mora and Lola in a musical act are good; Joe Cheevers, comedian, is popular; Arthur Sutcliffe also does well; Alma Abdullah and La Superbe in *Electra's Bower*, a stage spectacle of unexampled brilliancy, afford much pleasure; the Three Sisters Hayden are charming burlesque artists; Dainez and his Comedy Circus, including Smiler, have a good reception; and the American Bioscope completes a good programme.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company in *The 10.30 Down Express* is here this week. Mr. Charles Burdon as Jack O'Malley is most successful; James Inderwick is capably taken by Mr. George Arthur; M. Claud Haviland does well as Huntley Mason; Mr. Arthur E. Francis is funny as Bletherley Baggs; Miss Kate Kilpack does full justice to the part of Peggy Potts; and Miss Elsie Capell makes a charming Bessie Leigh.

WALTHAMSTOW.—KING'S THEATRE.—One of the best productions we have had here for a considerable time is the four-act comedy-drama *The Blind Foundling*, played by Messrs. Chas. H. Phelps and Harry Tilbury's company. The play itself is an excellent example of the best class of melodrama. The company engaged in its production is of exceptional talent. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps gives a really fine rendering of Gerald Dalton, vivid, powerful, and convincing; Mr. Alfred Geo. Fry is a good exponent of the villain, Mark Redman, carefully avoiding all temptation to overact; Mr. Bernard Webb is satisfactory as Jasper Waterford, and Mr. Frank Harvey an acceptable Parson Ray; Mr. Harry Tilbury as Dick Dobbins has a part in which his comedy powers are brought into full play. A touching and beautiful rendering of the blind foundling, Fairy, is given by Miss Mabel Hall, who wins every heart; Miss Belle Tilbury as the wicked Isabel plays with a thorough grasp of character, Miss Amy Dalby is clever as Viola, and Miss Millie Doris bright and full of spirits as Winnie Dobbins. Sarah, a hag, is well played by Miss Frances Jessop. Other parts are satisfactorily filled by Miss Arline T. George, Messrs. George Cameron, Page Ware, Edward Wilson, Tommy Byron, Alf. Kitson, and Arthur Pinn. Songs, dances, and specialities are agreeably given by Mr. Tilbury, Mr. Byron, and Miss Doris.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Mr. Fred Keeton has established himself in popular favour here with "I know what I'm about" and "What will mother say?"; the Lurins caused mirth in their amusing duo. A hearty welcome is accorded to Mr. Tom Woottwell, who, fresh from his triumphs in Drury-lane pantomime, sings with enormous success "Move on" and "The little shirt my mother made for me," both of which go with roars of laughter. Terry and Bentley appear with great acceptance in the comedy sketch *The Hunt*, Mr. Harry Champion is an immense favourite, and Miss Madeline Rees sings her two songs, "The Fisherman's Daughter" and "When Love knocks at the door," with great charm. Mr. Fred Karno's company appears in that screamingly funny pantomime sketch, *Jail Birds*; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays, as usual, some excellent pictures.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—*The Cingalee*, on a first visit here, is played by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. Walter Champney as Chambhuddy Ram scores a hit; Mr. Courtney Comber is a manly Harry Vereker, and his singing is greatly appreciated; Mr. Hugh Webb as Boobhamba makes the most of it; and Mr. W. Bosco as Sir Peter Loftus is decidedly smart. Mr. Arthur Foote does well in the small part of Bobbie Warren; Miss Cecille Beresford is a charming and picturesque Nanoya; Miss Katie Yates is a sprightly and graceful Peggy Sabine; and Miss Mona Grey's Lady Patricia is an excellent performance.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmott.—Capital business is again being done here this week. The New York Comedy Four score a big success in their humorous, yet harmonious, vocalisation; Rappo and Ella are exceptionally clever equilibrists; and Haydees, with his miniature vaudeville theatre, supplies an interesting turn. Lily Arthur is a dainty little comedienne, and the Brothers Lang are capital knockabouts. Billy Burns has a spice of originality in his business; and the Royal Bioscope pictures are a delightful series.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Evan Roland's company is here this week for the first time with the sensational drama, *The Guilty Man*. Mr. Harold Lewis plays admirably the rôle of George Seymour, whilst the part of General Seymour is creditably sustained by Mr. Leonard Anthony. Mr. Alfred D. Adams as James Redman submits a capital impersonation; the part of Esau the Jew is effectively portrayed by Mr Henry S. Dacre; the important rôle of Nell Radford is effectively rendered by Miss Muriel Ingles; Miss Lilly Lewis as Audrey Priestly proves herself a capable artist; and Miss Sybil Haughton evokes oud applause as Sukie. On Thursday evening Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened here for three nights in *The Christian*, with Miss Grace Murielle as Glory Quayle and Mr. F. Rawson-Buckley in the character of the Hon. John Storm.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—CORN EXCHANGE.—The visit of Mr. George Dance's company on Tuesday and Wednesday with *The Orchid* drew full houses. Miss Margory Moore successfully appeared as Lady Violet, her charming "Little Mary" item being the most noticeable feature of the evening. Mr. Harry Walsh ably brought out the humour of Meakin, and was capitally supported by Miss Phi Gumpel as Caroline. Mr. Charles Seymour must bo complimented on a fine rendering of Aubrey Chesterton; Comte Raoul de Cassignat had a droll exponent in Mr. George Asaf, and Mr. Sinclair Holden cleverly interpreted the Hon. Guy. Miss Sissie Brand was very pleasing as Zelie, and good work was done by Miss Trilby Collier (Josephine), Miss D. West-Collins (Thisbe), and others.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Mr. George Dance's principal company is giving a delightful representation of *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr. Foster Courtenay is an exceedingly funny Pineapple; Miss Minnie Leslie carries off chief honours as Fi-Fi; Miss Ada Watson fills with great satisfaction the rôle of Soo-Soo; Miss Edie Ross is a smart and stately Mrs. Brown; Miss Poppy Wilkinson presents a winsome Mrs. Pineapple; and Mr. St. John Hamund is an exceedingly humorous Hang Chow, being cleverly supported by Mr. Percy Russell in the character of Chippi Chop. Mr. L. Bullock-Webster is a capable Tom Hatherton; and Mr. Jack Lisle's impersonation of Hi Lung is effective. The chorus is well balanced.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A Lewis.—*The Manxman*, as played by Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company, is being well received this week. Mr. Cross himself in the rôle of Pete plays in a style that gains for him the highest eulogiums. Miss Minnie Watersford submits a charming delineation of Kate Cregeen; Cæsar Cregeen has an able exponent in Mr. A. D. Leyland; Mr. Sydney C. Kearns presents a commendable picture of Philip Christian; and others in the cast include Mr. George Marriott, jun., Miss Mona Spearing, and Miss Nancy Mitchell.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The King's College Boys are this week making their first appearance before a West Hartlepool audience, and in selections from opera are being warmly applauded. Will Johnson is an amusing comedian; the exhibition of jumping and equilibrism by the Bros. Zampah is clever and novel; the patter of Nash and Noel is humorous; the Bros. Ashley are going well in a boxing sketch, *Next, Please;* and Ted Saunders (mimic), the San Remo Girls in speciality dances, Maud Esmond (burlesque artist), Frank Boyce (comedian), and the bioscope all contribute to an attractive programme.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W Payne.—Mr. J. W. Morton's No. 1 company is here this week in *The Sporting Girl*. Mr. Harry Sinclair as Mr. Penton Hook is a typical American; Mr. Hall Eldon is decidedly good as Marco Castellino; Mr. Jas. H. Stirling makes a villainous George Drewitt; Mr. Jock M'Kay is comical as Stoge; Mr. Fred Hart creates merriment as the Rev. John Bunyan; and Mr. Percy Watson does well as Jack Garling. Miss Maggie Sinclair makes a dashing Kitty Fitzroy, and her rendering of the part is greatly appreciated. Miss Minnie Blackmore acts artistically as Mrs. Owen. Miss Nell Ascott gives a good interpretation of Amy Beddoe; and Miss Gladys St. Ledger is humorous as Martha.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. Esmonde Bramley's company, in a repertoire of Shakespeare and standard plays, is the attraction here this week. On Monday night the company produced *Romeo and Juliet*. Mr. Cyril Este filled the part of Romeo, Miss Millie Ford as Juliet at once found favour, Mr. Balliol Holloway was a pleasing Mercutio, Mr. F. Owen Chambers ably portrayed the part of Friar Lawrence, ably seconded by Mr. E. Fango as Friar John; Mr. Llewellyn Evans was a capital Paris, Capulet and Lady Capulet were shown to advantage by Mr. David Beattie and Miss Maud Garth, Miss Bernard Parkin making a capital nurse. Tybalt, the Prince of Verona, Benvolio, Peter, the Apothecary, and Balhazar were ably portrayed by Mr. F. Scarth, Mr. Chas. Doyle, Mr. L. Cheetham, Mr. P. Gordon, Mr. G. E. Dunstan, and Miss Clare Hatfield respectively. The week's programme includes *The Merchant of Venice, Othello, As You Like It*, and *Ingomar*.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Raws; Managing-Director, Mr. D. Williams.—The Cooper and Edison pictures, together with a company of variety artists, are here this week. Sabino gives a fine musical entertainment on various instruments; Louie, with a puzzling performance of mental telegraphy, is a great favourite; Mr. I. Hastings gives a refined impersonation of a lady, while Henry Lee, the Scotch comedian and mimic, is responsible for considerable laughter.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. F. Marriot Watson's company is here in the drama *A False Wife*. Mr. Howard Barlow acts forcibly as Lieutenant Mansfield; Mr. Frank Strickland is well cast as the adventurer, Jean Berand; the comedy element is well placed in the hands of Mr. Elton Morgan as Ben Rattler, Mr. Owen Edwin as Archibald Tee, and Miss Nita Imeson as Bessie. A pleasing performance is that of Miss Ellen Armor as Agnes Weyland, and the evil genius of the play, Estelle de Lussan, has an excellent exponent in Miss Florence E. Florence.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week we have here Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's Company, under the direction of Mr. James Millard, in *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. Geo. Harvard is an excellent Harry Steyne, and Mr. Fred G. Ivison reveals fine intelligence in his conception of the part of Billy Brewer. Mr. Austin Mortimer is sound in the part of Leonard Royle, and Mr. C. P. Wentworth is a sufficiently villainous Hassan Padisha. Miss Grace Lester is the charming Mary Steyne, and Miss Mildred Carr is quite at home in the character of Nancy Brewer. Miss Jenny Weston reveals herself as the possessor of talent by her able delineation of Mrs. Mildmay, and Miss Hilda Merrilees sustains her capital reputation by her work as Lady Phyllis Eustace. The staging of *The Midnight Mail* is on a most elaborate scale, and the railway engine introduced in Act 4 is a most substantial looking piece of machinery.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick. — The musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* has been presented by Mr. E. Lockwood's company in the presence of large audiences. The title-rôle is played with rollicking humour by Mr. Arthur Reynolds, and Mr. E. Percy Rogers gives a vivacious representation of Michael Brue. The part of Mr. Crank, the magistrate, is capitally played by Mr. Henry Chichester, and Mr. Charles McLagan gives a refreshingly original interpretation of the character of Crookie Scrubbs. Miss Midge Clark is a stately Lady Bickenhall, and Miss Eva Weigh lends considerable charm to the part of Aurora.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Ryan and Hall, acrobats, eccentric comedians, and comic wrestlers, create much merriment, and Friscari, hat manipulator and juggler, gives a clever performance. Verno and Voyce in a vocal scena provide an admirable turn, and Leo Tell by voice and musical instruments imitates animal sounds exceedingly well. Other acceptable performances are given by Carney Brothers, vocal duettists; Jimson's pet dogs; Donna and Cliff, in song and dance; Burley and Burley, funny acrobats; Cliff Ryland, comedian; Fox and Melville, song illustrators; and Maxwell and Francis in a comedy act of singing, dancing, etc.

WINDSOR. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Eglington. — Mr. Howard Sturgess's company, in *A Queen of Villainy*, is here this week. Miss Edith Blande as Cora Granville submits a capital portraiture; Mr. Edward Heanley is admirable as Stephen Faucet; Mr. Stevenson as Kit gives a sympathetic rendering; the part of Dick Leinster is admirably played by Mr. Charles Stirling; and the acting of Mr. Arthur Beverley as Alec is earnest. Miss Shirley Dalton wins all hearts by her delightful playing as Rose Dalmayne. The comedy parts are in the excellent hands of Miss Jessie Crammonde and Mr. Chas. Rogers, whose acting created much laughter. Others worthy of mention are Miss Rose Clyde, Mr. E. Maskell, and Mr. Eric Carlton.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is producing *Oliver Twist* here this week. The part of Fagin is played in characteristic fashion by Mr. Stanley Drewitt; Mr. William H. Kemble, a powerful Bill Sikes, looks the part to perfection; Mr. Charlie Clark is good as the Artful Dodger; and Mr. R. C. Hunter ably fills the part of Charlie Bates. Miss Edith Anton Laing essays the part of Nancy, which she fills admirably; Miss Dorothy Marsden is a pleasing Oliver Twist; Miss Helen Clement does well as Rose Maylie; and the other parts are satisfactorily filled.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Mark Sheridan is the principal attraction here this week. He is a comedian of much merit, and is highly appreciated. Bernar and his marionettes are also very good. The programme includes in addition Selby and Myers, dancers; the Paolias; the English Roses, effective dancers; Gracie Bard, comedienne; Stirling and Cashen, variety artists; and Tyrola, Swiss girl vocalist.

WORCESTER.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Miss Alice Austin's company in *The Cotton Spinners* is proving a welcome successor to a round of musical comedy. As the cotton spinner's daughter Miss Austin has full scope for her versatility, and she makes the part a highly attractive one. Mr. John S. Haydon is a typical north countryman, and the parts of the impecunious nobleman and his son are well taken by Mr. E. F. Fysher and Mr. E. V. Esmond. Miss Bella Power as an amorous old maid and Mr. E. C. Edwards as an irascible Major are responsible for the humour of the piece; and Miss Enid Ross (Constance) and Mr. C. F. Wilton (Cunningham) are excellently suited.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company opened here on Monday with *Sapho*. As Jean Gaussin Mr. Ernest Abbott is excellent; Mr. W. H. Garbois deserves special mention as Henri Dechelette; Mr. C. Douglas leaves nothing to be desired as Flamant; Miss Ada Abbott is admirable as Fanny Legrand. The week's programme includes *Trilby* and *A Wife's Triumph*.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; General-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Are You a Mason?* is capitally played by Mr. C. Macdona's company, and is a big attraction. Mr. H. Langdon-Bruce as Frank Perry acts in a happy, natural style; Mr. Allan Pollock as George Fisher plays in a free, racy style; and the eccentricities of Amos Bloodgood are efficiently accentuated by Mr. E. H. Paterson. Mr. Richard Purdon as John Halton and Mr. Percy Bell as Hamilton Travers have parts suited to their peculiar style of humour. Miss Mabel Younge is charming and interesting as Eva, and Miss Rita Ward and Miss Mabel Jowett, as Annie and Lu Lu respectively, give good accounts of themselves.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooks.—The Bros. Huxter are remarkable acrobats whose efforts never fail to please; Zanfretta and Napio are decidedly original musicians; Fielding and Hull have a clever musical sketch *An Officer's Flirtation;* and Jimmy Shields is an extraordinary dancer. Marguerite Ismay and her peerless Pics are well to the fore; Miss Bijou Russell is a clever sand dancer; and Miss Maggie Grimshaw does a clever turn.

THE monthly meeting of the Carpenters' Society was held on Sunday last at the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane. There was a fair attendance. Mr. J. Reed presided. Several applications for membership were granted. Additional representatives to the Sports Committee were appointed.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of theatrical employees was held in Leicester on Sunday last at the White Lion Hotel, Bank-street. It was decided to hold a general meeting of stage employees on a Sunday evening next month, at which Mr. W. Johnson, the general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, would be present.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, introduced on behalf of the Government by the Home Secretary on Monday, is of great interest to both stage employees and theatrical managers. As was specially mentioned by the Home Secretary, the great distinction between the amending Bill and the present Act is that, in the Act all classes of workmen were excluded from its benefit except those specially included by name; in the amending Bill all classes of workmen will be included who are not excluded by name. It follows, therefore, that all sections of workmen connected with theatres and music halls will receive the benefits provided by the new Bill, even assuming it passes in its present form, although there is every indication that the Bill will be strengthened from the workman's point of view.

IT would be premature to discuss the provisions of the Bill until its second reading has been passed; but as at least one manager of an important West End theatre is under the impression that the general body of workmen in the employ of the management are not affected by the Bill, it is as well to say, at this juncture, that every one coming under the definition of a workman employed in any capacity in the theatre or music hall will come under the provisions of the new Act. It is a fact, although it may not be generally known to employees, that many managers insure themselves against claims for compensation under the present law arising from accidents to the members of their staff; but, as has been already pointed out by representatives of the insurance companies doing this kind of business, the new Bill, if passed, will necessitate insurance companies increasing their premiums.

A SHORT time ago an action was brought on behalf of a carpenter who met with an accident at the Drury-lane Theatre. It was contended by his legal advisers that the theatre was a factory within the meaning of the present law. This case was tried three times—the first decision was against the plaintiff, the second in his favour, and the third against him. The new Bill will sweep away many anomalies, and its inevitable result will be some form of national insurance as that now existing in France and Germany—a result which will be more just and more equitable than our present system is to either employers or workmen.

A CASE of some interest to heads of departments was heard at the Bloomsbury County Court on Wednesday, when Mr. Elworthy, a scenery contractor, sued Mr. R. Chantrell, a property master, for hire of van used to carry scenery from the Royalty Theatre to the Avenue Theatre in March, 1904. Mr. Chantrell's defence was that he was the agent for Miss Wylford, in whose service he was at the time, and to whom the scenery belonged. The plaintiff alleged that he did not know for whom the van had been hired, and it was customary to hold the head of department who gave the order for a van liable for the cost. This contention was denied by the defendant, and the Judge upheld him in his defence, the verdict being for the defendant, with 7s. 6d. costs. The plaintiff was informed that he had sued the agent instead of the principal. Any other verdict would have given such contractors a serious source of power over heads of departments, as, no doubt, any other verdict would have enabled contractors to threaten and proceed against heads of departments for debts incurred by them on the authority of their managers.

A CASE of interest to night men employed in theatres and music halls was heard at Bow-street on Tuesday. Two night men, who had been informed during the course of a performance that their services would not be required after that evening, claimed a week's wages in lieu of notice, the amount being 19s. for evening performances and matinées. This action raised a point which on several occasions has been submitted to the Courts. The night men alleged that as they are paid weekly they are entitled to a week's notice. On the other hand, it is the usual custom, and the invariable defence of the manager, that night men being paid a fixed sum for each performance are only entitled to a night's notice. In the case under review the men received notice during the performance that their services would no longer be required. The magistrate took the view that the men did not receive a night's notice, and he awarded 2s. 6d. for the show money and 2s. 6d. costs. The result of such cases, and the general practice, are against the assumption that night men are entitled to a week's notice, or engaged for the "run of the piece" as some contend.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Heads of Department Association was held on Tuesday. The further arrangements for the annual dinner were considered. According to the report there is every prospect that the attendance at the dinner will be thoroughly representative. The date, as has already been announced in this column, is Sunday evening, April 8. Those who desire to be present, and have not yet secured tickets, should do so, as the number is limited. Among those who will be present are:—Mr. H. B. Irving in the chair, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, secretary to the Actors' Association, Mr. C. I. Coltson, secretary to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, Mr. Henry Blackmore, secretary to the Theatrical Managers' Association, Mr. Horace Marriott, secretary to the Music Hall Artists' Benevolent Fund, Mr. Lionel Belmore, stage-manager to Mr H. B. Irving, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift.

AT this meeting several applications for members from London and the provinces were considered. A letter was read from Mr. Grame, general-manager to Mr. Edward Terry, relative to the Dramatic and Musical Fund, and the secretary instructed as to the reply to be sent. Two applications for assistance from the legal advisers to the Association were considered and granted.

AT the usual fortnightly meeting of the General Staff branch, N.A.T.E., held on Wednesday evening at 29, Wellington-street, Strand, a letter was read from Mr. Grame, general-manager to Mr. Edward Terry, relative to a complaint made by a Mr. H. Kelly, a late member of the Dramatic and Musical Fund, stating that this branch had refused to accept as members the late members of the Dramatic and Musical Fund, and also refused to assist them. The same charge was also brought by the writer of the complaint to Mr. Terry against other societies which received a share of the funds distributed by the Dramatic and Musical Fund. The secretary reported that he had furnished full particulars of the facts to Mr. Terry. Mr. Kelly attended the meeting, and alleged that he had written the statements in his letter on behalf of the late members of the fund, but admitted that he was not aware that so many members had, in fact, transferred to this branch, or that every working staff member of the Dramatic and Musical Fund had been invited to do so. He was also unable to name any member who had complained. The committee expressed their indignation with the action of Mr. Kelly, and the secretary was instructed to write to every member who had transferred to ask them if they had any grounds of complaint. One member of the late Dramatic and Musical Fund stated that Mr. Kelly had not been authorised to make any complaint on his behalf. It appears that some fourteen members of the late Dramatic and Musical Fund transferred to this branch, and, irrespective of age, were placed in full benefit from the date on which the branch received a share of the funds distributed; some had already received sick pay.

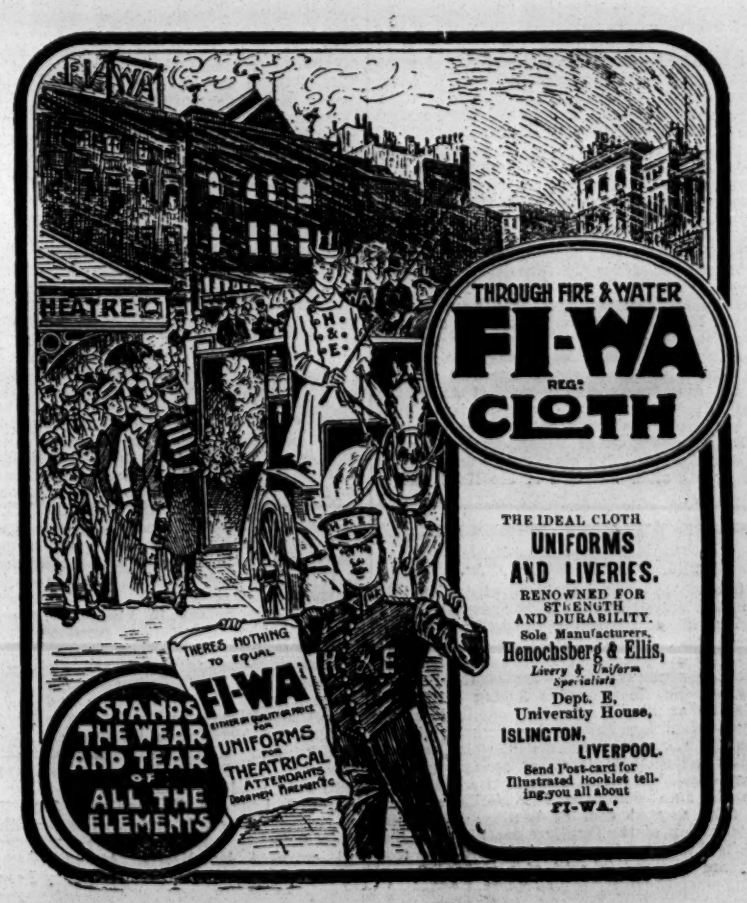
THE representatives of this branch were authorised to propose that the balance derived from the sports should be added to the benevolent fund under the control of the National Committee, and used to meet any claim for assistance from any theatrical employee, male or female, whose application for assistance was recommended by a theatrical manager or a responsible organisation connected with the profession.

IT is to be hoped that this proposal will commend itself to the Sports Committee and the other societies represented thereon, as the need for an open fund, wisely used, is very great. A large number of theatrical employees, attendants, dressers, supers, and others, who have no society to which they can belong, have no one to whom they can turn for help in misfortune. Some of these apply to the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, some to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, some to the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, and some—many, in fact—to the National Association of Theatrical Employées. The latter society is restricted to those employed in the various stage departments, and the others mentioned are limited in like manner.

AN open fund, under responsible control, available under the conditions indicated, is needed. Precautions should, of course, be taken, that it is not abused by those who can make provision if they wish; as there is no doubt that all the societies named are often asked to help persons who have not availed themselves of their opportunities to help themselves; and while the strict letter of the rules of such a fund could not, in charity, be applied to any one in real need, the moral should be pointed in cases of personal neglect.

IT has been decided that the Theatrical Sports take place on Whit Tuesday, June 5, on the Stamford Bridge Grounds, Fulham. The competitors will be restricted to those employed within a radius of a fixed number of miles from Charing Cross, probably ten miles. As the Music Hall Sports will not take place before July, if it be decided to give them this year, these sports will not clash. The committee will be glad to receive suggestions on any matter connected with the sports. A resolution has been passed that no member of the committee be admitted as a competitor at the sports.

ON Saturday last, after the show at the Hastings Hippodrome, a meeting of the staff and management took place, and Mr. Fred C. Ewing formally handed over his position as chairman and treasurer of the Staff Outing Fund to his successor in office, Mr. Albert Mathan, who cordially agreed to take it up so that the "outing" should not fall through.



LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 26,
the Musical Comedy,
by Seymour Hicks and Ivan Caryll, entitled
"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

Once more this most amusing of musical comedies pays a return visit to the King's, and again it meets with the success which it gained on the previous visit. The smartness of Mr. Hicks's libretto and the lively music of Mr. Ivan Caryll remain as attractive as ever, and the audiences thoroughly appreciate the good things of the comedy. The principal characters remain practically in the same hands as before, their retention showing much astuteness on the part of Mr. William Greet. Mr. William Stephens realises Jim Cheese, the dog-trainer, in most humorous fashion, and his rendering causes the utmost amusement. A clever and artistic Dick Wargrave is Mr. Percy Carr, who acts and sings very energetically; Mr. Percy E. Wright enacts the Hon. Crewe Boodle most pleasantly, and A. Bunker Bliss is briskly played by Mr. George E. Curzon. An interesting and satisfactory performance is that of the American attorney Downham by Mr. William Hindson, and Mr. J. C. Graves as Mr. Talk is funny. Dudley Cranbourne, George Bellamy, and Hugh Wallender are creditably undertaken by Mr. Fred Hill, Mr. Frank R. Lidington, and Mr. J. Hamilton; Mr. Fred W. Pattrick deserves a word of praise for his performance of Mr. Hazell, the host of the Fallowfield Arms. An altogether delightful Elphin Haye is Miss Aimée Gray, who has a pleasing voice, and acts naturally and with much vivacity. Miss Dot Carey displays decided ability as the coster girl Liza Shoddam, and the strong lady, Mrs. Shimmering Black, finds a splendidly physical representative in Miss Gladys Fontaine. Miss Florence Imeson is deservedly popular as Daisy Fallowfield, and Miss Helen Langton is a successful Miss Virginia Bliss. The Ladies Gussie, Gwendoline, and Muriel are fascinatingly rendered by Miss Mabel Melba, Miss Violet Vaughan, and Miss Elsie Reamer. A "Dance L'Entente Cordiale," introduced in the second act, is received with vociferous applause. The chorus is excellent, and the orchestra is ably directed by Mr. Evelyn Baker. The scenery and dresses are alike exceedingly tasteful.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 26,
the Lyrical Comedy, in Three Acts, entitled
"THE WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM."

Mr. F. W. Purcell is to be congratulated on the excellent programme he has arranged for this week; his numerous patrons turned up on Monday to welcome the first visit of Mr. F. Curzon's principal company in *The White Chrysanthemum*. The acting and singing throughout call for high praise, and there are several old favourites included in the cast, especially noticeable being Miss Ruth Lincoln, Miss Isabelle Dillon, and Mr. O. E. Lennon, who made such a hit in the recent pantomime. Fine work is done by the chorus, and the augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey, creditably interpret the musical portion of the programme. Mr. T. Reynolds is responsible for the stage-management, and right well does he perform his duties. For all the artists we have nothing but praise. Miss Ruth Lincoln gives a most exhilarating and charming impersonation of Sybil Cunningham, at once simple, delightful, and most natural. She captures all hearts as a vocalist, charming all with her exquisite rendering of the musical numbers. She is ably supported by Mr. F. Pope-Stamper, who makes an excellent Lieut. Reginald Armitage—a good, sound actor and vocalist, he soon becomes a favourite. Another firm favourite is Mr. Davy Burnaby, who causes roars of laughter in his diverting impersonation of Lieutenant Chippendale Belmont, "Chippy," a part suited to his quiet and unobtrusive humour. He scores well with his song "I wonder." The work devolving on Mr. O. E. Lennon is great, but in the part of Sing Chong, the Chinese cook, nothing comes amiss to him. He evokes tornadoes of applause for his quaint rendering of the songs allotted to him, and also for his capital dancing. He is ably supported by Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., in the amusing part of Private Perks. Miss Gabelle Dillon is a charming Cornelia, her sweet voice being greatly appreciated, while her dainty dancing meets with equal approval. Miss Maud Harvey ably sustains the part of Betty Kenyon, and scores with her song "A Hint." Mr. F. W. Ford capably sustains the part of Admiral Armitage, and succeeds in keeping his audience amused.

GREAT QUEEN-STREET THEATRE.

On Friday, March 23, the Play, in Four Acts,
by Henrik Ibsen, entitled
"DIE STUTZEN DER GESELLSCHAFT."

Ibsen's scathing satire on the ruling commercial classes has been given before this season by the German company, but its reproduction was heartily welcomed on the 23rd inst. by a full house. The student of social pathology will find scattered throughout the scenes much that is amusing in a grim sort of way. There is swift action, vigorous dialogue, and mordant wit, and the general atmosphere is of a more breezy character than in many of the plays which have come from the writer of *Ghosts*. The representation of the play was excellent. Richard Starnburg, to whom was entrusted the portraiture of Consul Bernick, proved himself an actor of great capability. His delivery was admirable, never over-emphasised. Around the Consul there cluster several admirable hypocrites. Hilfsprediger Rohland, who keeps Bernick on his pinnacle of self-righteousness, was excellently portrayed by Ottomar Bloss, and Hilma Tönnesen, who goes about sniffing out other people's social maladies, and carrying with peevish pride the "banner of the ideal," was cleverly embodied by George Baselt. Else Gademann made a great impression as Fräulein Hessel, who eventually compels Bernick to unmask himself. Charlotte Kelly did what was possible with the meek Betty; and Fräulein Bernick, the Consul's sister, was made the most of by Ida Weiss. Hans Stock made a manly Johann Tönnesen; Grete Hahn was very pleasing as the boy Olaf, the Consul's only son; Willy Klein proved himself a worthy exponent of that small but exceedingly difficult part of Auler, the shipbuilder; Margarete Russ made an ideal Dina Dorf, her conception being natural and winning; Karl Berger was good as Krapp, Bernick's manager; and the remaining characters were suitably played by the other members of the Hans Andresen company.

GRAND THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 26,
"THE MONKEY'S PAW," &c.

Mr. Sounes has secured a strong attraction this week in Mr. John Lawson and company, who are appearing in a répertoire consisting of *The Monkey's Paw*, *The King's Minister*, *Humanity*, *A Bride for a Living*, and *Mr. Todd of London*. On Monday night the first three of these plays were given, Mr. Lawson thus having plenty of opportunity of displaying his versatility as a character-actor. Mr. Lawson was perhaps at his best as the Prime Minister, a part which seemed peculiarly suited to his style of acting; but, at the same time, his strong, sympathetic rendering of the old man White, in *The Monkey's Paw*, would take a good deal of beating; while his characterisation of the furniture-smashing Jew in *Humanity* has been known and admired for too many years to stand in need of comment. Some clever acting was submitted by Miss Cissie Lawson, who, while she had little to do as the Jew's wife, was responsible for a charming little sketch of the Prime Minister's daughter, and gave a feeling representation of Mrs. White, in the *Monkey's Paw*. In the last-named play Mr. G. Ommanney played in natural, easy style, as Herbert, and was also successful in a manly, straightforward rendering of Lord Arthur Lincoln in *The King's Minister*. Miss Ethel Paull showed herself possessed of considerable ability as the Hon. Mrs. St. Ozier; and Mr. Arthur Royston made a decided hit as Milano. Mr. E. S. Vincent successfully doubled the parts of the old soldier and John Cuthbert. Much appreciated variety turns were contributed by the Sisters Velasco, Mme. Paul, Miss Louie Belrose, the Brothers Tarrant, and Mr. Harry Harris.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 26,
the Farcical Comedy, entitled
"THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER."

The announcement of Mr. Huntley Wright's appearance here has had the happy result of attracting large audiences to see this favourite comedian in that most amusing comedy, *The Mountain Climber*. Mr. Huntley Wright, during his long stay at Daly's Theatre, accustomed us to always expect to find him in one type of character, and therefore it is the more welcome to see him in an entirely new rôle, which gives him adequate scope for his talents. This farcical comedy is of the lightest description and screamingly funny, and the various adventures which Mr. Montagu Sibsey meets with during his attempts to live up to the reputation of being a great Alpine climber must be seen to be appreciated. As Montagu Sibsey Mr. Huntley Wright is a host in himself. He throws himself energetically into the character, and works very hard, and keeps the merriment going strong throughout, and whether he is being photographed on the table in Alpine costume or climbing over the roof of a Swiss châlet he is intensely amusing. Mr. Huntley Wright is surrounded by an excellent company, notably by Miss Kate Mills, who is capital as Mrs. Sibsey, acting the part with rare humour. As Sibsey's stepdaughters, Alice and Betty, Miss Christine McGill and Miss Dora Barton acquit themselves admirably; Mr. W. R. Stavely is good as Samuel Midgham; while Charles Midgham is admirably played by Mr. Montague Elphinstone. Mr. Eric Maturin presents a neat sketch of Arthur Lydbrook; the two Swiss guides, Oscar and Sepp, have noteworthy representatives in Messrs. Algernon Newark and Scott Craven. Mr. J. S. Smith presents an extremely laughable sketch of the editor of a journal—a skit, of course, but very amusing. Mr. McCausland Stewart is good as Mr. Kelton; while Messrs. Rich and Paulton do excellent work as the Deputation. Lena, the Swiss maid, is delightfully played by Miss Ivy Hertzhog, who acts so well that one regrets she is only seen in one act; Mary, the Sibseys' maid, is smartly presented by Miss Amy Thomas. The comedy is preceded by a clever one-act play by Messrs. Lloyd Osbourne and Austin Strong, entitled *The Little Father of the Wilderness*, in which Mr. Huntley Wright appears as Père Marlotte, a Jesuit priest, and gives proof that he can depict tragedy as well as comedy. The good Father is played with great pathos and feeling by Mr. Wright. It is a really touching piece of acting. Both plays are extremely well mounted. The scene on the mountain heights is a delightful example of Mr. Bruce Smith's work. The company is being toured under the direction of Mr. Charles Frohman.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, March 26,
the Farce, in Three Acts, by R. Carton, entitled
"MR. HOPKINSON."

Laughter holding both it's sides reigns supreme at the Shakespeare Theatre this week, where an excellent company, under the direction of Mr. Frank Curzon, has been delighting large audiences with the adventures of the rich, but vulgar, Mr. Hopkinson—otherwise "Hoppy"—in his efforts to scale the heights of society. The witty dialogue and amusing incidents of the piece caused continuous merriment, and at the final fall of the curtain the audience testified their appreciation by prolonged applause. The acting all round reached the highest plane of excellence; but chief honours are undoubtedly due to Mr. Edward Rigby, who, in the title-rôle, scored a decided success, cleverly depicting the eccentricities of bearing, language, and the mannerisms of the common little parvenu. A clever character-study of the Earl of Addington was given by Mr. Cecil Burt, who contrives to extract the utmost humour out of his part, with the happiest results. Another good performance was that of Mr. Chas. Esdale, whose impersonation of the Duke of Braceborough was in every manner thoroughly satisfactory. Mr. Geo. Desmond, as the lively and agreeable Otho Dursingham, put in some excellent work. Lord Gawthorpe was in the safe hands of Mr. Edward Vaughan; and Mr. Harold Johnson did all that was possible with the part of Mr. Smethurst. A feature of the performance was the clever acting of Miss Blanka Stewart, who acquitted herself with success in the exacting rôle of the Duchess of Braceborough; Miss Helen Russell as Lady Tyra Egglesby won the favour of the house by a pleasing performance; and Miss Frances Davis as Eliza Dibbs caused much amusement in her scenes with "Hoppy." Amongst others giving good support may be mentioned Mr. Oliver Rogers as Parbury, Mr. J. G. Lowther (who is also responsible for the stage-management) as Blisses, and Mr. W. Holland as a footman. A farce in one act, by Austin Hurgon, entitled *The Impossible Trio*, precedes the above, but calls for little comment. The chief feature is a violin solo, excellently rendered by Miss Evelyn Tyser, and which gains a well-deserved encore. Mr. Ernest F. Bradley is the manager for Mr. Frank Curzon.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, March 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Fredk. Melville, entitled
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

Mr. F. Melville's company, in this thrilling drama, attracted a packed house here on Monday evening, notwithstanding the fact that this is a second visit. As claimed on the programme, this play is indeed one of great originality, and being full of incident and dramatic situations, it was followed with rapt attention throughout. In the trying character which gives the name to the play Miss Agnes Imlay showed exceptional ability. In spite of the thick veil which is worn throughout the piece, Miss Imlay's enunciation is perfect, and she is most distinctly heard. As the hero Jack Merriman, Mr. Claude King's bearing and appearance are distinctly in his favour, and he portrays the character with sincerity and earnestness. Mr. J. C. Aubrey handles with skill the unpleasant character of Hubert Gold. Mr. Richard Norton is sufficiently foreign in voice and gesture as Antonio Luchessi. A capital piece of character-acting is supplied by Mr. John Sargent as Raggles, a London hooligan, accent and by-play being admirable. Mr. Edwin Collins shows capability in the small part of Tom Redvers; and Mr. H. I. Barrett is impressive as Dr. Carr. The fun is ably supplied by Mr. James Chippendale as Tubby Herrick and Miss Mattie Everitt as Aggie Browne. Mr. Robert Maltby as Griffiths does credit to a good old theatre name. Messrs. Tom Sawyer, F. Leighton, H. Sandhurst, John Halder, and George Potter ably assist in the comical scene, House Painting; and other male characters are well rendered by Messrs. Arnold Winters, J. Lawrence, and Cecil Pope. Miss Nancy Browne as Morita, the revengeful Italian girl, who adopts male attire, is intensely melodramatic, and scores heavily. As the jilted Rose Courtenay, Miss Rosemary Rees, aided by her fine presence, gives a natural rendering of the part.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 26,
the Musical Comedy,
by Frank Pixley and Gustav Luders, entitled
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

Mr. George Musgrove's capital company is paying a return visit to the Coronet Theatre this week, and a very bright and attractive show it is, with plenty of merriment and melody and a galaxy of beauty. The scenery and dresses are pretty and lavish in the extreme, and all in excellent taste as regards fanciful blending of colour. Miss Ruby Verdi makes a very charming and attractive Nellie Wagner, and sings her songs, "A Cup of Tea," &c., delightfully, as well as dancing prettily. Miss Mildred Baker makes a handsome and rich-voiced Vassar Girl, and her duet with Mr. G. Villiers Arnold as Lieut. John Wagner, "True Blue," is one of the prettiest numbers in the piece. Mr. Arnold also acts and sings well throughout. Miss Nellie Emerald is a very smart and chic French maid, and ought to be in great demand for soubrette parts; her songs are rendered with point and meaning, and her dancing is dainty in the extreme. Mr. Stuart Alexander is a fine dashing Carl Otto, the real Prince of Pilsen, and Miss Nelly Cozens is a lively and vivacious widow, Mrs. Madison Crocker, of New York. Mr. Edwin Adeler has grown into the skin of the part of Hans Wagner, the Cincinatti brewer, ever since the production of the piece at the Shaftesbury, and his low-comedy is exceedingly funny, though his song, "It was ze Dutch," might be brought more up to date. Mr. Alfred Selby is an agile and animated concierge, François, and Mr. Lawrence Wensley is mildly amusing as the invertebrate Earl of Shrimpton. Miss Meg Hamilton (late pantomime favourite here) enacts the part of Jimmie, a bell-boy, in lively fashion. A bevy of beauty pose in various costumes as Gibson Girls, bathers, &c., and the show goes with great *aplomb*. Mr. W. J. Douglas is acting-manager, and Mr. Chas. A. Wenham is the stage-manager, whose duties are no sinecure. Mr. J. A. Robertson wields the bâton.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 26,
the Novelty Drama, by Charles Darrell and George Testo Sante, entitled
"THE LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."

The Life of a Showman, by Charles Darrell and George Testo Sante, opened here on Monday a week's engagement, under the favourable auspices of a well-filled house, which cordially welcomed the various incidental turns of a variety nature which are introduced in the second act, particularly noticeable being the feat of endurance with two horses by Mr. George Testo Sante, which was received with great applause. Mr. Logan Darra as Hendrick Marais elicited unmistakable proof of the efficiency with which he represented that villain; Mr. Edward Warden gave an acceptable delineation of the kind-hearted clergyman, Rev. Cyril Arliss; Mr. Charles Osborne acquitted himself admirably as Sir Noel Hartland, afterwards known as Stickers; Mr. Fred Vaughan was thoroughly successful as Ned Chuckers; and Master Harry Warden was well suited as Dickie. Mr. George Testo Sante enacted Brien Leader with unflagging vigour; Mr. Frank Sante as Tommy Allthere, and Mr. Ernest Turner as Ben Tic Tac, provided some clever humour; Mr. J. G. Sante as Laurie Grey was much applauded for his artistic violin solo; and Mr. Arnold Price left nothing to be desired as Andy Chivers. Mr. Gus Porter was capable as John Orderly, and Mr. Charles Sam made an adequate Professor Vole. Miss Amy McNeill played with graphic power, and supplied a forcible sketch of Agatha Winter; and praise is due to Miss May Neilson for her satisfactory impersonation of the fat girl, Angelina Mutton. A charming Lena Hartland was found in Miss Enid Trench, who acted with considerable expression; and Miss May Warden was excellent as Lynette Leader. Good work was put in by Mr. Will Henderson as Mangey Carrots and Mr. R. Lever as Kid Harwood. The piece was well mounted and staged, and the many sensational effects were managed with skill. Mr. Edward Warden is stage-manager; and Mr. Fred Vaughan business-manager for Mr. G. T. Sante.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, March 26,
the Musical Comedy, by Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Mr. Charles Frohman's company is here in *The Catch of the Season*. It is the first visit of this bright and merry piece to Poplar, and its reception is in every respect satisfactory. Miss Maie Ash represents Angela with much vocal skill and personal charm, and is a great favourite. She is heard to especial advantage in the "Molly" song and in the familiar "Teasing." Another capital performance is that of Miss Belle Napier, who, as Lady Caterham, possesses a charm which is irresistible. Miss Ida Mann acts with skill and refinement in the part of Lady Crystal; whilst the characters of Sophie and Honoria have pleasing exponents in Miss Alice Lethbridge and Miss Hettie Muret. Miss Hilda Stewart is well suited as the Duchess of St. Jermyns. Abundant fun is supplied by Mr. Frank Lincoln as the Duke of St. Jermyns; Mr. Lincoln plays with refreshing ease throughout, and keeps the house in the best of humours; Mr. E. H. Kelly is acceptable as the stuttering Lord Dundreary; and Mr. Augustus Symonds hits off the many mannerisms of Higham Montague. Mr. Powis Pinder, in the minor part of Lord Yatton, appears to advantage; whilst Mr. Gibson is well played by Mr. Alfred Lloyd. Master Grata is a satisfactory Bucket. The Ten Gibson Girls have fascinating models in the Misses F. Brandon, G. Fowles, F. Hunter, M. Linden, E. Nash, S. D'Esterre, G. St. Clair, N. Moore, M. Golden, and E. Brownlow. The scenery is in excellent taste.

GRAND THEATRE, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 26,
the Farce, in Three Acts, by W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker, entitled
"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE."

This week farce fills the bill at Fulham. The excellent company organised by Mr. Cyril Maude is playing in the amusing play adapted from Mr. Jacob's book. The rôle of that astonishing mariner, Captain Barley, is taken by Mr. Harry Ashford, who is a worthy exponent of the amorous captain. It is an admirable study of an eccentric character, and brimful of excellent humour. Mr. Walter Pemberton put plenty of fire into his rendering of the irascible Major Smedley; and Mr. J. Wheatman is equally amusing as Dibbs the gardener, but in a more deliberate manner, as befits a son of the soil. Praise must likewise be given to Mr. Charles Goold as Tom Codd, the mate. His startling contortions when he is feigning violent illness are wonderful to behold, and causes fits of laughter. As the boy Augustus, another amorous mariner, Mr. Frank Harvey is very good, playing the part most effectively, without in the least overdoing it. Mr. Percival Knight as Lieut. Boyne, and Mr. Percy Marmont as Herbert Manners displays the requisite air of youthful dash and gaiety, and make an excellent pair of lovers. Mr. Charles Caffrey is amusing as George Parker, the landlord; whilst the sailormen who appear in the Inn scene fitted well into their places with some effective and natural acting. Miss May Fairclough plays Ethel Smedley in a delightfully light-hearted manner; and Miss Mary Pemberton is really charming as Lucy Dallas. Miss Ethel Stalman does well as Mrs. Smedley. As the landlady, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite is a decided success, and contributes a careful and humorous study of that important personage; while the Mrs. Baldwin of Miss Mary Griffiths is another finished performance. The scenery provided, it should be added, is of the best, especially the set for the third act. *Beauty and the Barge* is preceded by the well-known sketch by Arthur Morrison and Herbert Sargent, *That Brute Simmons*. This is a *lever de rideau* of more than average excellence, and has proved very successful. The parts of the lost husband, Bob Ford, and of the second husband, Simmons, are taken by Messrs. Fred Lake and J. Wheatman, and that of the much-married Mrs. Simmons by Miss Harriet Trench. All played excellently together, and in their capable hands the amusing little play went splendidly, and deserved the applause it obtained.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, March 26,
the Comedy, in Four Acts, by W. Gayer Mackay and Robert Ord, entitled
"DR. WAKE'S PATIENT."

A pleasant change is afforded this week at the Alexandra by the visit of Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Dr. Wake's Patient*, a play that found considerable favour when produced at the Adelphi last year. Its simple, human story has proved much to the liking of Stoke Newington playgoers during the present week, and they have shown their appreciation of both play and players in no half-hearted fashion. As Dr. Wake, Mr. Douglas Vigors carries the burden of the production upon his shoulders, and his manly, earnest, and natural portrayal of the love-sick doctor is largely responsible for the success which is achieved. As Duff Wynterden Mr. Herbert Ross provides considerable amusement, and skilfully manipulates the catch-word of the part. Excellent character-sketches of the Earl of St. Olbyn and the Bishop of Selby come from Messrs. Arthur Willoughby and Alfred Phillips respectively; and Mr. Alfred Wellesley as Andrew Wake scores heavily, his treatment of the scene towards the end of the third act earning him well-deserved applause. Miss Olive Terry is a pretty and sympathetic Lady Gerania. Miss Ina Pelly is a sufficiently forbidding Countess St. Olbyn, and Miss Amy Fanchette is a homely and lovable Mrs. Wake. As Harriet Bronson Miss Beatrice Webb does all that is possible, and the remaining parts are adequately filled. The piece is prettily mounted, a particularly charming set being provided for the third act.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 26, Wallace's Opera, entitled
"MARITANA."

A most successful engagement has been effected this week, and lovers of music have crowded the theatre to excess to welcome the visit of J. W. Turner's company in a repertoire of operas. The opening performance was *Maritana*. Miss Kitty Brownlees in the title-rôle was excellent, and her splendid voice was heard to advantage in several numbers, especially in "Scenes that are brightest," which was received with abundant applause; Lazarillo was successfully undertaken by Miss Jessie Dennis, who captivated her audience by her beautiful rendering of "The mansions of the blest," which secured a well-deserved encore; the small part of the Marchioness was well played by Miss Maud Esdaile, who, with the assistance of Mr. R. Cummings in a humorous impersonation of the Marquis de Montefiore, created roars of laughter. A considerable amount of the success of the opera is due to Mr. Turner for his artistic creation of Don Cæsar de Bazan. His splendid tenor voice was advantageously used in his singing of the popular "Let me like a soldier fall," and the audience would not allow him to retire without an encore. Another good performance was that of Don Jose, creditably undertaken by Mr. John Ridding, who rendered the tuneful "In happy moments" with considerable feeling. Minor characters were admirably represented by Mr. Sidney Clifford, Mr. Frank Clark, and Mr. G. Ridding; the choruses were well rendered by a powerful company, greatly assisted by a largely augmented orchestra under the capable baton of Mr. T. Lawton.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Birket Winning, entitled
"SAPHO."

The Grand this week is occupied by the New Sapho Syndicate, Ltd., which is presenting the above play. Miss Annie Bell, who plays the title-rôle, gives a good performance, particularly so in the third act; Mr. Albert Sember as Gaussin acts with effect, his performance being very good in the later portions of the drama. Mr. Charles W. Daly as Legrand submits one of the best impersonations of the evening; Mr. Francis Serle as Cesaire is amusing; Mr. H. Langford as Flamant is worthy of commendation; and Mr. Pringle Roberts as Caoudal deserves a word for a satisfactory performance. Mr. Lawrence Kingsley as Dechélette is effective. A performance of signal merit is given by little Miss Doris E. Graham as the child. This young lady displays exceptional cleverness. Miss Florence Graham as Machaume is satisfactory.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, the Comedy, in Three Acts,
by H. J. Byron, entitled
"OUR BOYS."

There were good houses on the first three evenings and at a matinée this week at the County Theatre, Kingston, to witness performances of this old and still favourite play, and the manner of its reception left no room for doubt that it has not yet lost its charm for Kingston playgoers. The company, a thoroughly capable one, is captained by Mr. Russell Rosse. Mr. Thomas Thorne plays the part of Perkin Middlewick with his accustomed ability, and that of Sir Geoffrey Champneys is ably filled by Mr. Norman Clark. Mr. Keith Fraser and Mr. J. A. Bentham prove themselves capable exponents of the parts of the "boy"; Miss Ethel Vernie is an engaging Violet Melrose; and a very charming impersonation of Mary Melrose is given by Miss Eva Lonsdale, who acts in a delightfully natural manner. Others deserving of favourable notice are Miss Bessie Harrison as Clarissa Champneys and Miss Edith Hesketh as Belinda. The comedy was preceded each evening by the comedietta *A Silent Woman*, in which the parts were filled by Miss Ethel Verne, Mr. Keith Fraser, and Mr. A. J. Harding. On Thursday was presented *She Stoops to Conquer*, Mrs. Peter Davey, the wife of the enterprising manager of the Royal County, appearing in the part of Kate Hardcastle.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, March 26,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE ORCHID."

The above popular musical comedy from the Gaiety is here this week, attracting good audiences on its first visit to Peckham. The company is under the direction of Mr. George Dance, and renders an excellent account of itself. No small part of the success achieved is due to the smoothness with which the whole performance passes off under the able stage-management of Mr. Buchanan Wake. There is a most efficient chorus, and an augmented orchestra under the able direction of Mr. Knight Pearce. Miss Chrissie Ralland is very successful as Lady Violet Anstruther, and renders her "Little Mary" song with much archness. Miss Mamie Stuart looks very charming as Josephine Zaccary, and gives her vocal numbers in a very tuneful manner; Miss Florence Vie is a comely Caroline Vokins, playing with much genuine humour, her topical song, "In my time," being admirably rendered. Mr. Alfred Bennett as the Honourable Guy Scrymgeour achieves a great success, especially in his duet, "The Unemployed," in which he takes part with the little gardener Meakin, a part played with infinite humour and point by Mr. Bertie Wright. Mr. William Benson supplies an excellent character sketch of the fiery Frenchman, Count Raoul de Cassignat, whose two friends are well represented by Mr. Cecil Frere and Mr. Buchanan Wake. Miss Ruby Carman scores well as Thisbe; and Miss Ida Chichester is a stately Countess Anstruther. Miss Elsa D'Usey makes a capital foreign adventuress; Mr. Harry T. Butler sings well and dances admirably as Zaccary; Mr. C. Stone plays neatly as Dr. Ronald Faussett; and Mr. F. Attree as the Registrar and Mr. Jack F. Fairley as Aubrey Chesterton both contribute to the general excellence of the performance. The scenery and effects are admirable.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 26,
the Historical Play, by W. G. Wills, entitled
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

The historical play, *A Royal Divorce*, is meeting with a hearty reception this week at the Dalston Theatre. Mr. Frank Lister gives an effective rendering of the part of Napoleon, and Miss Edith Cole still sustains the trying character of Josephine, imparting all due emotional feeling to the representation. Miss Elizabeth Watson is Marie Louise, Napoleon's second wife, and the scenes between her and the former Empress are rendered as effective as ever. Miss Helena Meadows presents a weird sketch as Mother Lomas; and other female characters are represented by the Misses Clara Earle, Irma Foldi, Violet Fernival, Loyale Frere, and Edith Wilsden. Master Herbert Hollom impersonates the Little King of Rome; Talleyrand finds a suitable exponent in Mr. F. Joynsen-Powell; Mr. George W. Cockburn is the Marquis de Beaumont; and Mr. George Howard and Mr. St. George Frere embody General Augereau and Marshal Murat respectively. Mr. Frederick Powell ably enacts Dr. Corvisart, the Emperor's physician; Grimaud, the innkeeper at Genappe, who is one of the very few characters in the piece presenting even a touch of humour, is well played by Mr. T. P. Haynes. Mr. Percy H. Vernon imparts the necessary amount of dignity to the character of Lord Keith, the British admiral; Mr. Edward Langford is Brigadier Antoine, and Mr. Lorton Orme Brigadier Pierre; while Mr. Edwin Sykes as Bob Royal and Mr. C. Watt as a servant complete an excellent cast. Mr. W. W. Kelly is manager of the company representing the piece, and the acting manager is Mr. Walner Gregory.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 26,
the Drama by J. A. Campbell, entitled
"THE LITTLE BREADWINNER."

Mr. J. A. Campbell's new drama *The Little Breadwinner* is here this week, winning golden opinions from the good folks of Rotherhithe. The play is almost devoid of the usual sensational elements, but it possesses great interest, and is full of homely pathos, not unrelieved by some excellent comedy. The title-rôle is admirably played by little Maud Harris, who makes of Meg, "the little bread winner," a most winsome creation. The young actress displays emotional power and comedy gifts, and her singing of "Daddy" is full of charms. Mr. Ashley Page fully realises the part of the unfortunate Richard Lawrence, and gains the sympathy of the audience from the outset. Mr. C. A. Chandler gives a fine character study of the good-hearted Charles Prior—the dawning of the man's better nature is admirably shown. Miss Marion Denvil presents a touching picture of the young wife, Margaret Lawrence; and Mr. Bensley Evans gives us a study of cold-blooded villainy and hypocrisy which is very effective. Mr. Tom Taylor is an excellent Lord William Dorrington, and secures the sympathy of the house for a somewhat unsympathetic character. Miss Maggie Lindsay is amusing and self-assertive as the worthy Bridget; Miss Georgie Delara well realises the part of the betrayed Kate Cherry; and Miss Marie Kildare is satisfactory as Ruth Cherry. Little Albert is an amusingly precocious Bobby Trott, and Mr. S. Major Jones a manly Dr. Chadwick. The piece is well mounted, and the scene of the fourth act, the garden of a cottage near Dorrington Hall, is decidedly pretty.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 26,
the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

The ever-popular and extremely tuneful musical comedy *The Geisha* is again paying a visit to the Standard this week. So much has already been said of the excellence of Mr. Mouillot's company that it is scarcely necessary to state that the production is on a high plane of excellence. Miss Bessie Allayne, a picturesque O Mimosa San, sings the music allotted to her with great taste and skill; Miss Violet Kenyon ably enacts the part of O. Juliette Diamante; as Molly Seymour Miss Florrie Saunders is pretty and fascinating, her impersonation being marked throughout by much charm and grace; Miss Aubrey Ashton cleverly portrays Lady Constance Wynn; Miss Blanche Browne capitally sustains the rôle of Tom Stanley, a midshipman; the Reginald Fairfax of Mr. Cyril Thompson is a highly satisfactory piece of work, his methods being thoroughly artistic, and his singing particularly effective; Mr. Edgar Ward does all that is possible with the part of Captain Katana; and Mr. G. D. Phillips is well placed as Takemine. Mr. Lionel Braham plays with the necessary dignity as the Marquis Imari, and contributes a mirthful delineation. Mr. Edward Carlton deserves great praise for his exceedingly humorous portrayal of Wun Hi. *The Greek Slave* is announced for Friday evening.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 26,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by George R. Sims, entitled
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."

There is pleasing freshness in this ever-green drama of Mr. Sims, and its grip on the audience is always instantaneous. As Harold Armytage Mr. J. Edward Pearce is full of resource and practical ability; Mr. Riddell Robinson enacts Clifford Armytage with a fulness of detail that accentuates the part immensely; and Mr. G. Saunders makes a hit as Trotters. The irrepressible Jarvis Family find capable exponents in Mr. W. E. Passmore as Joe, Miss Violet Temple as Mrs. Jarvis, and Miss Gladys Murray as Shakespeare. Mr. Herbert Morgan is a stately Squire Armytage; Mr. Reginald Holmes is well to the fore as Detective Cutts; Mr. H. Pettitt hits the mark as Percy de Vere; Mr. George Wallace is decidedly clever as Philosopher Jack; and Mr. Herbert Hollister gives a convincing and forcible rendering of Seth Preene. Little Ida Murray cuts a woe-begone, pathetic figure as Joey; Miss Constance Davey is adequate in the part of Hetty Preene; and Miss Jeanie Burgoyne receives plenty of applause and encouragement for her artistic handling of the long-suffering Bess. The piece is well staged and mounted, and received in a most gratifying manner by Mr. Bailey's staunch adherents.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE VIER GROBIANE,"

Opera, in Three Acts, by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari, Produced at the Theatre des Westens, March 21.

Lunardo ..... HERR STAMMER
Margarita ..... FRAULEIN GASTON
Lucieta ..... FRAULEIN GRUNWALD
Maurizio ..... HERR ZIEGLER
Filipeto ..... HERR HANSEN
Marina ..... FRAULEIN FISCHER
Simon ..... HERR BARCK
Cancian ..... HERR KOENIG
Felice ..... FRAULEIN DONINGER
Conte Riccardo ..... HERR HAXTHAUSEN
Magd ..... FRAULEIN SCHULZ

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, March 29.—Herr Wolf-Ferrari's new opera has been looked forward to with much eagerness ever since the enormous success of *Die Neugierigen Frauen*. He has been termed the Mozart of the present day, and, although this is saying too much, Wolf-Ferrari certainly has no rival in the composition of light and graceful comic opera, or musical comedy—as he prefers to call his work. The composer—who lives in Italy—has drawn his book from Goldoni and Pizzolato's *I Quattro Rusteghi*, the German translation being by Hermann Teibler. The reception accorded to the new work was an exceedingly cordial one (as was also the case at the Court Theatre, Munich, last week); the composer was called before the curtain at the close of each act and heartily applauded. Whether or not it will prove as successful as *Die Neugierigen Frauen* the future, of course, must decide. The plot is very simple. The action passes in Venice in the early part of last century. Again the conflict between several wedded couples is humorously depicted, the fair sex coming off once more victorious. The four "Grobiane" (churls) are Cancian, Simon, Maurizio, and Lunardo, who tyrannise over their wives, but in the end are forced—so to speak—to kiss their own rod. The antiquary Lunardo has entered into a compact with his friend Maurizio, a merchant, that their children shall wed each other, and not only that, but the young couple shall not see each other before the wedding. This is a state of things that Filipeto Maurizio and Lucieta Lunardo very naturally object to. Filipeto seeks the aid of the married ladies, whose sympathies are on his side, and—disguised as a girl—he contrives to make Lucieta's acquaintance. Had he not been satisfied with her, the young man had made up his mind to run away, but—as may be imagined—the two lose their hearts to each other at first sight. The fathers are horrified at the immodesty of the children, who kiss without asking permission, but all comes to the desired happy termination. Round this scanty plot Wolf-Ferrari has written charmingly melodious music, refined and graceful, if not always original. Chorus there is none, and the soloists acquitted themselves admirably, the renderings of Fräulein Doninger, Fräulein Grünwald, and Herren Hansen, Barck, and Stammer being especially good. Kapellmeister Saenger conducted with judicious skill, and Herr Prasch mounted the opera himself in his customary tasteful manner, the scenery being new for the occasion.

THE Russian company (Moscow Artistic Theatre) left us on Monday for Dresden, and left us sorrowing. It was among the most successful events in our theatrical annals, and the three weeks' season was all too short. The performance of Ibsen's *Enemy of the People* last week was one of the best-attended and perhaps the most appreciated of all. It was magnificently acted, the Dr. Stockmann of M. Stanislawski being a faultless rendering. The audience received the piece with acclamation, cries of "Stanislawski!" reverberating through the house. The farewell performance took place on Saturday, Tolstoi's *Czar Feodor Ivanovitch* having been chosen to conclude, as well as commence, the season. There was not a vacant seat in the theatre, the enthusiasm increased from act to act, and as the curtain rose, after the play was over, for the artists to come forward, it rained flowers from all parts of the house. Herr Bonn, the manager of the Berliner, made a speech of grateful acknowledgment to his "dear guests and friends," presenting to the managers of the Russian company—MM. Stanislawski and Dantshenko—a wreath of silver-gilt laurel and one in general for the company, adding that were he a rich man he would present each several artist with a gold wreath. Another handsome floral tribute was presented in the name of the Royal Schauspielhaus company. Altogether, the Moscow guests have gained a series of triumphs all along the line, and richly-merited triumphs too. A crowd of Russian students, as well as some of the members of the Embassy, assembled at the railway station on Monday to speed the parting guests, who had to submit—Russian fashion—to much indiscriminate kissing.

THE Danish tenor at the Royal Opera, Herr Herold, is continuing his triumphs. On Friday he sang the parts of Turiddo in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Canio in *Die Bajacci*, and it would be difficult to say which rôle suited him better or which was heard with greater pleasure by the large audience. Unfortunately, the star was—for the most part—very inadequately supported. Herr Herold achieved a great success, too, in the part of Don José, which he sang the evening before. It would be a matter for gratification were this excellent artist permanently engaged at our Opera House.

AT the New Royal Opera (Krolls) the Schliersee peasant company will commence a season on April 1. These Tyrolian peasants are all born actors, and many town-made artists could learn from them with great advantage. They are great favourites with their Imperial Majesties, and have several times had the honour of playing at the Palace. A number of novelties are this time in the repertory, in addition to the ever-popular dialect Volks-plays. A one-act piece by Ludwig Thoma, entitled *Die Medaille*, and the comedies *Die Chinakrieger* and *In der Sommerfrischen* are announced.

THE Freie Volksbühne of Charlottenburg had an unpleasant experience on Friday evening. The play to be produced was Leopold Kampf's drama *Am Vorabend*, tickets had gone off capitally, and the Volkshaus was well filled with an expectant audience. On the curtain being rung up, the manager appeared with a long face, and announced that the piece could not be given. It had not been laid before the Censorship, and was, in consequence, prohibited at the last moment. The audience dispersed with openly-expressed indignation at being "sold."

FRAULEIN IRENE SANDEN gave a matinée performance at the Theatre des Westens last Sunday. The young lady has followed, with much success, in the footprints of Miss Isadora Duncan, and dances to Chopin and other classical composers. Her programme was an interesting one, including Terpsichorean illustrations of Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words" and Chopin's "Dead March," while a minuet by Baccherini was particularly appreciated. Herr de Zadora accompanied on the piano with customary skill, and Miss Wickham contributed several songs. Fräulein Sanden is going on a tour through the United States almost immediately.

GERHART HAUPTMANN'S latest play *Und Pippa Tänzt*, which is still being given at the Lessing several times in the week, has been done recently with eminent success by Herr Bock's German company at St. Petersburg. Preparations are also being made for its production in Italy in the language of that country.

"BY WHOSE HAND?"

A Four-Act Drama, by Eugene Gotere, Produced for the first time on any stage, at the Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool, on Friday, March 23.

Harry Kennedy ..... MR. JOHN B. SHINTON
Newton Craigh ..... MR. ANNESLEY HELY
Ned Saunders ..... MR. MURRAY YORKE
James Harleigh ..... MR. JAMES J. WELCH
Gordon Rivers ..... MR. ARCHIE GEAR
Ilkey Grugg ..... MR. WILL PERCY
Hon. Hugh Pugh ..... MR. EDWIN COATES
Leighton Moore ..... MR. MAURICE LE SAGE
Detective Leddlaw ..... MR. SIDNEY ROSS
P. C. French ..... MR. J. J. HARBIN
Warder Evans ..... MR. FRED WHITE
Mrs. Digweed ..... MISS ADA ARNOTT
Mrs. Jones ..... MISS MAUDE RICHARDS
Tricky Billy ..... MISS IDA THOMPSON
Agnes Digweed ..... MISS TINA FRANK
Dora Harleigh ..... MISS ADA M. RYDER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Material which has been used from time to time in dramas of the "powerful" type is present in *By Whose Hand?* introduced after the old familiar style, and with the always expected result. A little change from the ordinary was effected by the introduction of bloodhounds engaged in the work of tracking a murderer. The drama was fortunate in having several capable artists among the leaders of the company.

The curtain rises on an apartment in Harefield House, the residence of a millionaire named Gordon Rivers, among whose guests is Dr. Newton Craigh, a nerve specialist. In the course of a quarrel between them the medical man stabs Rivers to death, and when the corpse is found by Ned Saunders, Craigh accuses him of the crime. Dora Harleigh, however, has strong suspicions as to the actual murderer, and on repairing to the surgery of Dr. Craigh and stating her opinion, is chloroformed, and subjected to the effects of the "electrical chair," which is capable of destroying a person's recollection. The doctor also places a blood-stained handkerchief in the bosom of Dora's dress, which article leads to her conviction for the death of Rivers; but while in prison her memory returns, and she is enabled to afford sufficient proof of her innocence to obtain her pardon. Ilkey Grugg, a burglar, who witnessed the murder while hidden at Harefield House, also comes forward with the intention of blackmailing Dr. Craigh, but he likewise suffers the penalty of the "chair." A couple of bloodhounds are used by Harry Kennedy, the lover of Dora, in order to trace the murderer, but beyond being twice led across the stage they were practically "out of the picture." Eventually circumstances lead to the detection of the nerve specialist as the criminal, and everybody else is happy. The play suffers from a lack of comedy, and what little attempt is made to supply this necessary feature is somewhat crude.

As before remarked, the company presenting the drama comprised several capable artists, who certainly got everything possible out of the dialogue. Mr. Annesley Hely, as the villainous medical practitioner, played with a dramatic force which entitled him to every praise; there were a coolness and ease in his demeanour when he several times found himself in a tight corner which completely warded off suspicion; while his general bearing was dignified and in keeping with the character. A clever actress is Miss Ada M. Ryder. As the falsely-accused woman, Dora, she held a most difficult part, but handled it with remarkable discretion and care. At the periods when her returning memory supplied evidence against the doctor, and the baying of the hounds fell in imagination on her ear, Miss Ryder displayed a high degree of histrionic ability, her work making a good impression upon her audience. Another excellent player was Mr. John B. Shinton. He certainly had little opportunity to do much with the rôle of Harry Kennedy, the lover, but made the most of it; his manly bearing and capital delivery rendering him a striking figure in the story. Mr. Murray Yorke was worthy of a more important part than that of Ned Saunders. His efforts, however, afforded the utmost satisfaction. As the blackmailing burglar, Grugg, Mr. Will Percy is deserving of much praise, for the character could scarcely be in better hands. His demands for hush money were delivered with due effect, and his after work, when he lost his memory, raised several hearty laughs. Some amusement was also provided by Mr. Edwin Coates as the young honourable afflicted with "nerves"; and Mr. Archie Gear sustained the short part of the millionaire with credit. Miss Ada Arnott made an admirable Mrs. Digweed, her idea of a quarrelsome, bothering old woman being true to life. Most of the comedy came from this accomplished artist, and was much appreciated. Mrs. Jones, a noisy neighbour, though only a small part, found in Miss Maude Richards a worthy exponent; Miss Ida Thompson did excellently as the skylarking "buttons," Tricky Billy; and Miss Tina Frank played neatly as Agnes Digweed. The rest of the characters in the cast had little to do, but each artist worked hard to make the play a success.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, March 26, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Mr. Douglas Bruce presents this popular drama, which is adequately interpreted by his excellent company. Mr. Henry Herne makes a considerable success by his clever and consistent rendering of the character of the Rev. Robert Everton. Mr. Wingold Lawrence is a manly and pleasant representative of Jack England; Mr. Frank Adair is a polished and incisive Captain Geoffrey Caversham; Mr. Albert H. Clarke is good as James Sutton; Mr. C. Hammond Asquin is an amusing Dick Punch; and Mr. John Wilson as George Purvis, Mr. Fred Withers as the Detective, Mr. Jack Clarke as the Policeman, Mr. John Dixon as Red Cabbage, and Master Willie all do their best with their respective parts. Miss Marie McAulay must be congratulated on a skilful and convincing portrait of Marion Franklyn; Miss Daisy Maynard is an attractive Isabella Jones; Miss Midge Maynard is bright and pleasing as Lucy Vere; Miss Ethel Bracewell is a charming Rose Seymour; and Miss Ada Marius as Molly Vernon, the "girl who lost her character," plays cleverly and sympathetically. The remaining parts are in good hands. A special matinée of the old morality play, *Everyman*, by the Elizabethan Society was billed for Friday.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—While thanking you for the paragraph in last week's *Era* devoted to my humble self, I must ask you to allow me to correct the statement that I am the possessor of a "battlemented mansion in Cheshire." The only castle I own is a "château en Espagne!"—Yours faithfully, EDWIN ADELER.—Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill, W., March 26, 1906.

I AM glad to state that Herr Josef Rainz is rapidly recovering from his severe illness, which took a turn for the better last week. The famous actor will not, of course, be able to terminate his season at Munich, but will return to Vienna as soon as he is able to travel.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your notice of St. Helens last week your correspondent fails to mention among the company one who was very much in evidence, namely, Yours faithfully, CLIFF RYLAND.—Hippodrome, Wigan, March 25.

THE CARLTON, GREENWICH.

On Monday, March 26, for the First Time in London, the Domestic Drama, in a Prologue and Four Acts, by H. F. Housden, entitled

"A WOMAN'S PAST."

David Heath ..... MR. STANLEY CARLTON
Frank Dellannoy .... MR. CHARLES V. SANDFORD
Clement Harper .... MR. A. HAMILTON WARDEN
Uriah Craven ..... MR. OSWALD CRAY
Bloater ..... MR. T. EDWARD EVANS
Scrubby ..... MR. FRANK HAYLING
Spriggings ..... MR. WILSON MUNROE
Bob ..... MR. CECIL DAINTON
Jack Crawford ..... MR. ERNEST VICTOR
Mrs. Brown ..... MISS DORIS YORKE
Kate ..... MISS M. RIVINGTON
Dorothy Heath ..... MISS MAY DALLAS
Clara Darrel ..... MISS OLIVE ADAIR
Bessie ..... MISS MAISIE HANBURY

A problem play is not often presented in a melodrama, but theatre-goers at Greenwich are this week confronted with one of the highest importance. Its solution is one in complete accordance with the dictates of humanity and charity rather than with those of convention, and, as a consequence, the piece meets with full acceptance. Though admittedly designed as a "play to reach the heart," there is no lack of humour, and the cheers which greeted the piece on its first appearance in the metropolis on Monday were liberally interspersed by laughter. The story of the drama, which was originally produced at the Metropole Theatre, Devonport, on Jan. 19, 1905, has the merit of clearness, and no doubt can be possible as to the virtue and integrity of Bessie Heath, despite her past career. Her early life had been blighted by Uriah Craven, a scoundrel who lured her to South Africa, and, under promise of marriage, induced her for three years to pass as his wife. Chiefly on the evidence of Bessie and Frank Delannoy, whom he had robbed, Craven is consigned to prison, but at the end of his term turns up in London at the house of David Heath, whom Bessie, burying the memory of her shame, has married. Uriah, thwarted in his efforts to obtain blackmail, heartlessly rakes up Bessie's past, and David bids her leave him for ever. Bessie, clasping her baby in her arms, leaves her husband's house, and takes up her abode in a wretched hovel amid the "slums," where she ekes out a bare existence with her needle. Her child is ill with fever, and she takes her last shilling in the hope of getting medical advice, leaving the boy unguarded. Uriah Craven has allied himself with Clara Darrel, David's housekeeper, who had hoped to have become his wife, and, during Bessie's absence, this precious pair enter the house, where Craven poisons the baby's food; but the doctor, who proves to be an old friend of Bessie's husband, sees that the milk is curdled, and bids her throw it away. Clara, however, subsequently steals the child, and, taking it to David, declares that it has been cruelly neglected by his abandoned wife, who, she alleges, has again given herself over to a life of shame. The child is found to be suffering from diphtheria, and the doctor declares that the only way to save it is for someone to suck the virus from the throat at the risk of his or her own life. Bessie eagerly undertakes to make the sacrifice, and, disguising herself as a nurse, speedily effects the cure. Meanwhile, Craven comes to David to declare that Bessie has resumed her former relations with him, and is at that moment at home awaiting his return; but at the height of his denunciation the curtains are drawn aside, and the devoted young mother, dressed in her nurse's costume, appears at the door to give personal proof of her innocence. The re-establishment of the family circle duly takes place in the last act, when poetic justice is administered all round, and the reconciliation of husband and wife is effected.

Heart-stirring situations are contained in the piece, all of which were strikingly presented by the members of Mr. Hamilton Warden's principal company. Miss Maisie Hanbury gave an appealing impersonation of Bessie. The part has many poignant moments; but Miss Hanbury succeeded in impressing the audience throughout by the exercise of dramatic skill and well-practised delivery. She fully aroused the motherly instincts in the minds of the softer sex among the audience, and many were the expressions of sympathy which were heard. Mr. Stanley Carlton also won the suffrages of the audience as the inexorable David Heath. His action in turning his wife from the door may not have been in complete accord with their views; but so profound was his grief, and so apparent his sense of strict rectitude, that all were on his side. Very different was their attitude towards the unspeakable Uriah Craven, whom they execrated without mercy. To speak the truth, he entirely deserved it, so thoroughly was his evil nature depicted by Mr. Oswald Cray, who assumed the adamant heartlessness of the villain with perfect realism. His coadjutor in crime was played in a properly minor key by Miss Olive Adair, who as Clara Darrel had to bear an outwardly angelic expression, while her thoughts turned unceasingly towards evil. Miss Adair acted and spoke well, and her performance was a marked feature of the success obtained. The comic servants of melodrama are fortunately dispensed with; but in their place are a comedy couple, who furnish many merry moments. They were played by Mr. Charles V. Sandford and Miss May Dallas, as Frank Dellannoy and Dorothy Heath, a pair of lovers whose constant tiffs, and their manner of reconciliation, were a source of continuous mirth. Mr. Sandford acted with exhilarating buoyancy, and in the true spirit of comedy, and Miss Dallas added to a prepossessing appearance a roguish style and piquant expression that were valuable in the part. Another notable performance was that of the doctor, Clement Harper, who was played by Mr. A. Hamilton Warden with rare earnestness and conviction. Mr. T. Edward Evans, who is also the courteous acting-manager of the company, played a low comedy part in that of Bloater; and the rest of the characters were sustained with unquestionable ability. The setting of the piece, one of the scenes of which is a farm in Cape Colony, is carefully planned, and lends complete effectiveness to the production.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, March 26, the Romantic Drama,

"OLD HEIDELBERG."

Local playgoers are flocking nobly to the standard raised by Mr. J. Bannister Howard at Sydenham, and the enterprise of the experienced manager is being well repaid. *Old Heidelberg* is this week's attraction, and the strength of the piece, the excellence of the scenery, and the all-round ability of Mr. Mouillot's company have been appreciated to the full. Mr. Robert Minster adapts himself admirably to the part of Karl Heinrich, every phase of the character being artistically delineated. A captivating Kathie is found in Miss Irene Lavington, who is effective alike in comedy and pathos. Dr. Juttner is embellished with clever touches of realism by Mr. J. Nelson Ramsay, who gives a well-studied characterisation which deeply impressed the audience. Messrs. Eric Phillips, P. Wells, and Collyer Leslie are in every way excellent as Vons Haugh, Passage, and Breitenburg; Lutz is thoroughly well played by Mr. Lionel Gadsden; and Mr. Willis Searle does capital work in the part of Ruder. The students, Asterberg and Weddell, are typically embodied by Messrs. Wallace G. Court and Martin Pedler; and Misses Rose Hélène and Nessie Blackford are to be complimented on their renderings respectively of Frauen Ruder and Dorffell.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."

A new and original Romantic Play, in Four Acts and a Prologue, produced at the King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, on Monday, March 26.

Lord St. Ives ..... MR. ARTHUR HINTON
Luke Forrest ..... MR. TRAVIS GREEN
Eric May ..... MR. GERALD BYRNE
Bertie Beresford ..... MR. GRAHAM ARTHUR
David McCullock ..... MR. FRANK BRUMELL
Coombs ..... MR. PLEONS GAINS
Oiya ..... MISS LEILA ZILLWOOD
Elsie Beresford ..... MISS FLORENCE ZILLWOOD
Gwendoline Ross ..... MISS LYDIA ANDRE

This new play is characterised by an abundance of stirring action, and the interest is well sustained throughout. The prologue opens in a beach-comber's hut in the South Sea Islands—a very pretty scene. Lord St. Ives, alias James Denman, known as "Beautiful Jim," having had brought against him a false accusation of forging his father's signature, has fled from England and joined a gang of beach-combers. He, however, receives a letter from home informing him that his brother on his death-bed confessed that he committed the forgery, and that his father is seriously ill. He is entreated by his mother to return home at once; but according to the post-mark the letter should have reached him some eight months earlier. The young man and a beautiful half-caste named Oiya have fallen in love with each other, and Jim is induced to remain. Luke Forrest and David McCullock, beach-combers, have a dispute with Jim respecting the ownership of a valuable pearl, and they attack him in order to gain possession of it. McCullock falls, to all appearance mortally wounded, and Luke charges Jim with the murder, but with the aid of Oiya, who admits that she killed McCullock, Jim manages to escape.

The scene of Act I. is the garden of St. Ives Towers. Twenty years have elapsed. Lord St. Ives, the "Jim" of the prologue, has succeeded to his father's title and estates, and has a grown-up daughter named Elsie, who is sought in marriage by Eric May, his lordship's private secretary. Her father, however, is loath to give his consent, as the young man's parentage is veiled in obscurity. Luke Forrest, who has married Oiya and come to England, reappears, and having recognised in Lord St. Ives the James Denman of other days, resolves to blackmail him. Having at length obtained the consent of his lordship, Eric May and Elsie are married, but it appears that the young man is the son of Oiya, and that Lord St. Ives is his father. Luke Forrest publicly declares this to be the fact just after the marriage ceremony has been performed. His blackmailing designs, however, are frustrated by the re-appearance of David McCullock, who, after all, recovered from the wound inflicted by Oiya. In the last act, the scene of which is the beach-comber's hut, we learn that Oiya is dying as the direct result of the ill-treatment she has received from Forrest. With her is her son Eric, who, rendered desperate by his cruel fate, is about to take his own life by means of poison when he is prevented by Lord St. Ives, who also arrives in time to comfort the dying woman by telling her that he still loves her.

Mr. Arthur Hinton as Lord St. Ives played throughout with a force and dramatic power that stamped him as an artist of exceptional merit. Mr. Travis Green as Luke Forrest gave an effective reading of the adventurer, and his embodiment was distinctly successful. Mr. Gerald Byrne, in the rôle of Eric May, had little opportunity of scoring until the fourth act, and then he made the most of it. Mr. Pleons Gains infused some good comedy into the part of Coombs, butler to Lord St. Ives, and Mr. Graham Arthur played in bright style as the Hon. Bertie Beresford, Lord St. Ives' son. The rugged character of David McCullock was capably portrayed by Mr. Frank Brumell; as Oiya, the half-cast, Miss Leila Zillwood admirably represented a picturesque and romantic character, and her acting evoked loud applause, which was well merited. Miss Florence Zillwood submitted a fine artistic study of Elsie Beresford, the scene in Act I. between her father, Lord St. Ives, and herself being specially worthy of mention. Miss Lydia Andre was a gay and sprightly Gwendoline Ross, Lord St. Ives' ward. The scenery, which has been specially painted by Mr. J. Collins, jun., was much admired.

ROYAL ACADEMY OPERATIC STUDENTS.

The operatic students of the Royal Academy of Music gave a performance of Verdi's *Falstaff* on Thursday afternoon, March 29. Falstaff has often attracted composers, and our own Balfe, who the Germans say never wrote anything but *The Bohemian Girl*, actually composed an opera on Falstaff, which was performed at Her Majesty's Theatre about 1875, with famous vocalists in the cast. Verdi had Shakespeare's comic hero in his mind for years, but he could not find a satisfactory libretto until Boito wrote one which contained not a little of the drollery of the original. The opera was produced at La Scala on Feb. 9, 1893, and at Covent Garden in the following May. The composer wrote it at eighty years of age "for amusement," and on the night it was first heard the veteran composer was called before the curtain nearly thirty times. At the Academy on Thursday only the first and second acts were given, quite enough to test the abilities of the students. The comic hero was represented with no little skill by Mr. David Evans, whose vocal powers proved fairly equal to the task, while his make-up and talent as an actor may be warmly commended. He was most ably supported by Mr. Cecil Pearson as Pistol, with a most truculent aspect, and Mr. J. Musgrove Wright as Bardolph. We must, however, take some exception to the Bardolphian nose, but histrionically Mr. Wright may be praised. The character also of Ford was well sustained by Mr. J. McNaughton Duncan, who sang the music of the part with marked ability. All the young ladies were particularly good, and entered into the fun in a most praiseworthy manner, Miss Bessie Morris making an excellent Dame Quickly, while Miss Mary Fielding and Miss Aileen Hodgson charmingly impersonated the parts of Alice and Annie, although the former looked a rather youthful mamma. Miss Edith H. Coish cleverly played the part of Mistress Page, and Miss Margery Penley appeared to advantage in the small part of Robin (Falstaff's page). The other parts of Dr. Caius, Fenton, and the Host of the Garter Inn were well sustained by Mr. Dennis Creedon, Mr. John Bardsley, and Mr. Henry S. Sanders. It was a great pity that no orchestra, owing to want of space, could be forthcoming, but Miss Mary Burgess at the pianoforte and Mr. B. J. Dale at the organ rendered all the assistance possible to Verdi's brilliant score, and the scenes from the opera went smoothly under the careful conductorship of Mr. Edgardo Lèvi, while the stage arrangements were generally excellent in the care of Mr. B. Soutten. The costumes and properties were kindly lent by the Royal Opera Syndicate. On Friday there were a few changes in the cast.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In the notice of the Hippodrome, Eastbourne, your correspondent gave the credit of topping the bill to another turn, thus flatly contradicting our advertisement, in which we stated we held that position, as enclosed day-bill will prove.—Yours faithfully, ROSS AND LEWIS.—Gaiety, Oldham, March 26.

NEW MUSIC.

Willcocks and Co. are the publishers of the following songs and pieces. Longfellow's "Flowers of Paradise" is set to music with considerable grace by Leonard Barnes, who, in simple but elegant musical phrases, expresses the sentiments of the poet with no little charm. "The Isle of Love," composed by Russell Phillips, indicates the desire of a lover to be alone on a desolate island with the object of his passion. Nothing is said of butcher or baker, but presumably love is sufficient, and we have no doubt many amateurs will have the same belief, and will welcome the song accordingly. The well-known lyric of Kingsley, "Oh that we two were maying," has had a new setting by Mr. Chilwer Wilson, who has not fulfilled his task badly, although we can hardly credit him with having surpassed the original version. From Hopwood and Crew, New Bond-street, comes "The Story of a Clothes-line," words by Clifford Harris, music by J. W. Tate. The story of "two pairs of stockings on the line" would, we fancy, cause no little amusement in the halls. The melody is simple, and easily remembered. Another whimsical ditty, by Cecil Lidden, is "I've something to say to you." A third song of a similar kind is "If you'd only be my girl," composed by Bennett Scott to words by A. J. Mills. "Stage-struck Sal" tells its own story, that of a girl who fancies herself fitted to appear on the stage. She expects to earn "fifty quid a week," to have her name in letters six feet high, and to call on her old companions in her motor car and "make 'em green with envy." "I'm all right," by Charles Ridgwell, tells of a tourist, who is unfortunate on his seaside trip, but who still maintains he is "all right." "The dear little woman at home," by H. Trotère, describes in a pleasant way the fate of many a good woman tied to a reckless husband. Hopwood and Crew, New Bond-street, have recently published the following:—"Maisie Moon-beam," written by George Dance and composed by E. Bucalossi. This is a very simple ditty. The merest novice will have no difficulty in learning it, and to many this will be its chief recommendation. "My Lady Mary Ann," composed by Frank Leeham, has the never-failing attractiveness of the waltz-tempo and some lively verses. "Aubade Napolitaine," by Von Wilhelm Aletter, carries us away to the sunny South, for we see Vesuvius smoking in the distance, and in the foreground two Neapolitan lovers are enjoying a duet and dance, with a mandolin accompaniment. Mr Arthur L. Brown makes us acquainted with "Pixie Land" (which some believe to be Cornwall) in the form of an easy pianoforte piece useful for youthful students Mr. Arthur Wellesley, whose talent we have frequently eulogised in the concert-room, is also a composer, and his "Dance Caprice" for the piano will find many admirers. "Zenobia," by L. I. Quigley, is an intermezzo, somewhat after the fashion of Mascagni, but not an imitation of the Italian composer. The finale is rather brilliant. "An Evening Love Song" is in the mellow key of D flat, and has words by Clifton Bingham, whose tender lines have inspired the fair musician, Miss Chipman. Composer and poet have produced a very pleasing love song. As a specimen of its "gushing" character, Mr. Clifton Bingham tells us that the lover, with "tears of longing," takes leave of the lady. Readers of "Uncle Remus" will remember a droll anecdote of a nigger who was attracted by a water melon on a railway truck. He called it a water-million, and begged his companion not to tempt him, as the weather was hot, and he could not resist the cool, succulent fruit. Mr. Thomas S. Allen goes further than Uncle Remus. His nigger youth and maiden are sitting *on* the water melon and "spooning" tremendously. It is worth the price of the piece to see them. The B. F. Wood Music-Publishing Company issues this whimsical song, which has a refrain, "Lindy Lou," and the copyright is in the name of Walter Jacobs, who has published a number of similar compositions. Barnard and Baden, of Streatham, have published "Six First Pieces" for the pianoforte, by Carl Reger, who appears well qualified to write for youthful students, who generally complain of their music being too difficult. This will not be the case with Carl Reger, who not only writes easy pieces, but fingers them so as to aid the teacher. "The Friar's Song," words by Thackeray, music by Frank H. Brackett, is published at 12, Rathbone-place, Oxford-street. The friar is evidently of the Friar Tuck fraternity, for he says "he will sing gladly if they will put a smoking fish or noble haunch on the table." For a basso or baritone who likes a dash of humour in a song here is something that will exactly suit him.

PRESENTATIONS.—At the conclusion of the successful run of *The Babes in the Wood* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, on Saturday last, Mr. George M. Saker, the musical director, was the recipient of a case of silver-mounted brushes from Miss Winifred Hare and Mr. Bransby Williams, a silver-mounted umbrella from the Bros. Egbert, a gold-mounted walking-stick from Mr. George Bastow, an amber cigarette-holder with silver case from Mr. Harry Lupino and "Nipper," an oxidised box containing a dozen ties from Mr. Bert D'Arcy, and a handsome travelling bag from the members of the orchestra.

AT the Grand Theatre, Islington, on the 23rd inst., Miss Ethel Dove, who performed in the 1906 pantomime at this theatre, was presented with a magnificent diamond ring, being the third prize won by her in the pantomime artists' Popularity Competition, run by *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday*. Mr. Sloper himself made the presentation.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

To be assured of the continued prosperity of that excellent institution, the Royal General Theatrical Fund, is very gratifying; but it is impossible not to share the surprise which Mr. George Alexander expressed at the meeting at Terry's Theatre on Thursday, that a greater number of the younger members of the profession did not avail themselves of the advantages of the Fund. There is no other calling whose members can obtain "endowments" at premiums between 40 and 50 per cent. less than those of ordinary insurance societies; and one would think that every economical young actor would "jump" at the chance.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who has given Dickens so noteworthy a stage setting, is about to perform a similar service for the great novelist's equally eminent contemporary, Thackeray. Mr. Tree has obtained from Mr. Michael Morton for production at His Majesty's an adaptation of the celebrated work "The Newcomes," in which the popular actor will identify himself with the part of the large-hearted Colonel Newcome, a rôle in which Thackeray's power for depicting the finest traits of human nature is seen at its best. From the number of picturesque scenes of the novel Mr. Morton has selected for treatment that of the Colonel's house, which will serve for the first of the four acts, the second being laid at Lady Fareham's ball. The third act is also at the Colonel's house, and the last is at Greyfriars, wherein a scene of the most wholesome sentiment is presented.

Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft have left London until after Easter. The eminent actor has engaged industriously in social and philanthropic duties during the past season, and all will hope that after this brief respite he will return to town to add anew to his beneficent work, a recent example of which was his reading of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" in aid of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen's Square. The proceeds of the reading enabled the Board of Management to pay off the deficit on the year, and due acknowledgment was made at the annual meeting of Governors on Tuesday. Sir Squire has promised to preside at the annual Shakespeare festival of the Urban Club, to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Monday evening, April 23.

Mr. H. B. Irving's new play, *Mauricette*, translated from the French comedy, *Jeunesse*, will be produced under the direction of Messrs. Nixon and Zimmerman, at the Lyric Theatre, this evening. The new piece will be ushered in by Mr. Sam Sothern, who will give a monologue, by Mr. E. H. Sothern, the American actor, entitled "What shall I say to her?" The little piece might be called a "dialogue with a dog," inasmuch as the performer carries on an affecting conversation with his canine companion.

Miss Lena Ashwell has fixed on Thursday, April 19, for her opening of the Savoy Theatre, with Miss Clothilde Graves's *The Bond of Ninon*. An important addition to the already strong cast is made by the engagement of Miss Beatrice Terry Master Hollam, and Mr. Vincent Sternroyd.

The Secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund informs us that he is almost hourly in receipt of postal orders from Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. George Alexander, which they have received in exchange for their autographs. Mr. Lewis Waller, who sends his receipts from this source in a batch of postal orders, has just forwarded the sum of £4 18s. 6d., and Mr. James Welch 19s. 6d. Messrs. H. and M. Rayne have sent a cheque for £2 from the proceeds of the sale of their little Telephone Date and Call Book.

Mr. Cyril Maude will revive *The Second in Command* at the Waldorf Theatre on Saturday. Mr. Maude will play Major Bingham, and Mr. Eille Norwood, Mr. G. M. Graham, Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Laing, Mr. Percival Stevens, Mr. King Fordham, Mr. R. McKie, Mr. Horace Layton, Miss Ada Ferrar, Miss Madge Titheradge, and Miss Sybil Carlisle will also be in the cast.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has contributed £20 to the funds of the Normyl Treatment Association, a society which aims at the cure of drunkenness. It was explained at a meeting in Eaton-square on Tuesday that the Normyl treatment was invented by a Canadian chemist after many years of study, and the Association was formed to apply the treatment in England at a reduced price, the object being to a large extent philanthropic. Mr. Tree said that though he had no personal experience of the remedy, if it was all that was claimed for it, and he had no reason to doubt it, then indeed they had in their hands a marvellous instrument for the greater salvation of mankind. He knew in his own calling the tremendous temptation to which men and women were subjected through the taking of stimulants "to buck one up" as it was termed, and as that habit gradually grew, such a remedy as the Normyl treatment was one to be heartily encouraged.

Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry have decided upon Saturday, April 14, for the production at the New Theatre of *Dorothy o' the Hall*, the new play by Paul Kester and Charles Major, the music for which has been composed by Mr. Raymond Rôze. Miss Neilson will have a congenial rôle in that of sweet Dorothy Vernon, and Mr. Terry will be equally happily placed as Sir John Manners. The other parts will be played by Messrs. Frederick Groves, J. Carter-Edwards, Jerrold Robertshaw, D. J. Williams, Malcolm Cherry, Horace Hodges, W. A. Haines, Walter Edwin, George Dudley, and Ernest E. Imeson, and Misses Miriam Lewes, Adeline Bourne, Claire Pauncefort, Mary Mackenzie, and Marion Sterling. The first and last acts are laid on the Terrace of Haddon Hall. Act II. passes in Dorothy's Room in the Hall, and the scene of the third is the Watch Tower, Rutland Castle.

Mr. Martin Harvey concludes to-night at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, the southern portion of his spring tour. Last Saturday night, at the Royal, Birmingham, an audience of nearly 3,000 people watched the revival of *Hamlet* with rapt attention. It was the first occasion on which the popular actor had played *Hamlet* to a Saturday night audience, and the result was most gratifying. His season at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, begins on Monday, and extends over a fortnight. On that occasion the new title for Freeman Wills and Frederick Langbridge's play *After All* will be used, and the play will figure as *Eugene Aram; or, After All*. Mr. Harvey has just engaged Mr. Thalberg Corbett for the part of John Kibblethwaite in *The Rapparee Trooper*, to be produced at the Royal, Newcastle, on April 25.

Mr. Lewis Waller's company, with *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*, under the direction of Mr. Peter Davey, is being sent on tour, and will begin on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Hull. Miss Cynthia Brooke plays Miss Elizabeth; and to Mr. Frederick Victor is allotted Mr. Lewis Waller's part. Another engagement is that of Mr. A. Carlaw Grand, the only son of Madame Sarah Grand, of *The Heavenly Twins* fame. Mr. Grand has inherited some of his mother's talent, though in another direction, being joint-author, with Mr. Duncan McRae, of an amusing comedy sketch, produced at the Holborn Empire on the 22nd inst.

"Josephine," a revue in three scenes of yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow, by Mr. J. M. Barrie, will be the principal piece in the triple bill which Mr. Charles Frohman will offer at the Comedy on Thursday. It will be represented by Mr. Louis Calvert, Mr. Graham Browne, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. A. E. Matthews, Master Wren, Mr. Arthur Eldred, Mr. Matheson Lang, Mr. Frederick Volpe, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Mabel Hackney, Miss Grace Lane, and Mr. Dion Boucicault. *Punch*, also by Mr. Barrie, will be the centre piece, and will be enacted by Mr. Dion Boucicault, Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Arthur Eldred, and Mr. A. E. Anson. The evening will be begun by *The Drums of Oude*, a drama, in one act, by Austin Strong, in which Mr. Matheson Lang, Mr. Kenneth Douglas, Mr. Louis Goodrich, Mr Hylton Allen, Mr. Quentin Macpherson, Mr. A. Farrar, and Miss Mabel Hackney will appear.

Mrs. Langtry, who has just returned to England from a highly successful tour in South Africa, has in view the production of a play by Mr. Paul Kester, the author of *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*. The popular actress lost no time in returning to the pursuit of her favourite sport, and among the runners in the Lincoln Handicap on Monday was her five-year-old Vergia, which, however, failed to secure a place.

The Drury-lane pantomime, having achieved a record run of 131 performances, came to a conclusion on Saturday. Great enthusiasm prevailed in all parts of the house, and as soon as the slipper had been tried and fitted on Miss May de Sousa's foot, the company joined hands across the stage, the audience in stalls, boxes, dress-circle, pit, and gallery stood up and joined hands also, and all present burst forth into "Auld Lang Syne." Floral tokens of esteem were in great profusion, Miss Queenie Leighton's room in particular being heaped up with lovely blooms.

Miss Violet Vanbrugh having been taken ill with influenza, Mr. Bourchier has postponed the revival at the Garrick of *Monsieur de Paris*, originally intended for Monday, to the following Wednesday, when it will be played as an afterpiece to *Brother Officers* at both matinée and evening performances, and continued throughout the week. Miss Vanbrugh, who made one of her earliest successes in the tragic rôle of Jacinta, the executioner's daughter, will make a welcome reappearance in the play, and the cast will also include Mr. Charles V. France, Mr. Julian L'Estrange, and Miss Madge Johnstone. During the first four days of Holy Week, Mr. Bourchier, by arrangement with Mr. Robert Arthur, will give two performances a day of the old morality play, *Everyman*, which will be staged under the direction of Mr. William Poel.

Church and stage will unite at the Garrick on Good Friday evening, when a special service will be held at 8.30, under the auspices of the Bishop of London, at which addresses will be delivered by the Bishop of Kensington and Father Waggett. There will be a full choir of 200 voices, and the boys' orchestra of stringed instruments from St. Anne's, Soho, will play. On Saturday morning, April 14, in deference to very many requests, Mr. Bourchier will begin a series of ten performances—7 evening, and 3 afternoon—of his successful production of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, in which he will again appear as Shylock. Mr. Alfred Sutro's new comedy, *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, will be presented by Mr. Bourchier and Mr. Charles Frohman on Thursday, April 26.

Miss Phyllis Broughton will make a welcome reappearance in London on April 14, when she will play the part of Lady Brudenell in the new musical comedy, *The Dairymaids*, to be produced at the Apollo Theatre on April 14. The cast will also include Miss Florence Smithson, Miss Carrie Moore, Miss Agnes Fraser, Miss Gracie Leigh, Miss Carlotta Zerbini, Mr. Ambrose Manning, Mr. Greene, Mr. Lane, Mr. Walter Passmore, and Mr. Dan Rolyat

The freehold of the Grand Theatre, Islington, was exposed for sale on Wednesday at the Mart, Token-house-yard, under an Order of the Court of Chancery. The sale of the property has been necessitated by actions arising on questions affecting the settlement of the estate of the late Charles Head. The theatre is let on lease for forty-two years from May, 1894, at an annual rental of £2,185. Besides the theatre itself, there were also included in the sale the leaseholds of the White Swan public-house and the adjoining tobacconist's shop at No. 44, High-street, Islington, these two properties being also leased to the late Charles Wilmot for thirty years unexpired at the rental of £560 per annum. In addition to these, there were a right-of-way underleased at an annual rental of £21 5s., and some freehold property, comprising the spacious scenic, cloak, and store rooms adjoining the theatre, let on lease for the same period as the theatre itself at £58 16s. 8d. yearly, the rents obtained from all the properties amounting to £2,825 1s. 8d. per annum. The Court of Chancery had fixed a reserve price, contained in sealed instructions to the auctioneer, Mr. Edwin Fox, of the firm of Fox and Bousfield. No offer was made, and the property was withdrawn.

"Antony and Cleopatra" will be the next dramatic reading by the British Empire Shakespeare Society, to be given on Thursday afternoon, April 19, at Passmore Edwards' Settlement, Tavistock-place. Miss Margaret Halstan as Cleopatra and Mr. Acton Bond as Antony will be supported by a full cast of professional members.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Irving, we may remind our readers, will be entertained to lunch by the New Vagabond Club, at the Hotel Cecil, on Thursday. Mr. W. L. Courtney will preside, and among the guests will be Miss Marion Terry, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. Harry Kemble, Mr. George Alexander, and many other prominent members of the profession.

"Castles in Spain," the new comic opera, is to be produced at the Royalty Theatre on Wednesday, April 18. Mr. Harry Fragson will have the part of a Parisian beau, and Miss May de Sousa will appear as an American belle.

"Forty Shillings," a one-act comedy by Mr. F. A. Besant-Rice, Mr. Pinero's secretary, is to be produced on Monday, April 9, at the Brixton Theatre, where it will be played every evening throughout the week.

Mr. Walter Howard, whose latest effort, *The Midnight Wedding*, has placed him among the ranks of successful playwrights, is now busily engaged rewriting and transforming his Napoleonic drama, *Man and Wife*, ready for Mr. T. Edward Ward to revive next Christmas. Every confidence is felt by Mr Ward that the talented author will convert *Man and Wife* from a good into an excellent property, a confidence which is shared by many influential managers—notably by Mr. Wm. Morton, of Hull, who has secured the revival for his New Year's attraction at the Alexandra Theatre.

Senor Manuel Garcia, the distinguished musician who celebrated his 101st birthday on the anniversary of St. Patrick, had the satisfaction of learning that one of his pupils, Miss May Armstrong, made a successful début at the Irish National Banquet at the Hotel Cecil on that occasion. Miss Armstrong has a beautiful contralto voice, which has been well trained by Señor Garcia and Mme. Marchesi, and her singing created a most favourable impression.

Daily additions have been made to the general committee of the Fund organised by the *Tribune* to celebrate the jubilee of Miss Ellen Terry. The lists include many theatrical and musical celebrities, and during the week the names of the following ladies and gentlemen, many of whom attest their admiration of the great actress in eulogistic terms, have appeared:—Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mrs. R. C. Batley (Miss Mabel Terry Lewis), Mrs. F. S. Benson, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Lily Brayton, Mr. J. M. Barrie, Mrs. Bernard-Beere, Miss Nina Boucicault, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mrs. Comyns Carr, Miss Compton, Mr. F. H. Cowen, Mr. R. de Cordova, Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Miss Winifred Emery, Mr. Charles Fry, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mr. Gilbert Farquhar, Miss Fortescue, Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. John Hare, Mr. Joseph Hatton, Miss Myra Hamilton, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Langtry, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Mrs. Arthur W. Pinero, Mr. William Poel, Herr Max Reinhardt (Director of the Deutsches Theater of Berlin), Mr. Landon Ronald, Mr. R. Kennerley Rumford, Mrs. Kennerley Rumford, Mrs. Walter Reynolds, Madame Ella Russell, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Mr. Christopher St. John, Mrs. Alfred Sutro, Fräulein Agnes Sorma (Berlin), Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. J. L. Toole, Mr. Richard Temple, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Mr. Charles Warner.

Mr. Frank Grans will send on tour at Easter that funny farce-comedy, *The Other Man's Business*. The tour will be for eight weeks, visiting Glasgow, Southport, Middlesbro', Preston, The Grand, Fulham, Brighton, and Eastbourne. The comedy was tried about four years ago, and was received with warm favour. It is, however, Mr. Graus's intention to produce the comedy in London shortly.

Mr. Henry Doughty has arranged to tour during the summer *The Barrister*, by J. H. Darnley. This excellent farcical comedy had a highly successful run at the Comedy Theatre.

The new comic opera, entitled *The Gold Diggers; or, The Girls from Utah*, written by Walter Wadham-Petre and Claude Aveling, with music by Walter Wadham-Petre, will be presented at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Easter Monday, and will subsequently visit Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, and Leeds under the direction of Mr. Walter McEwen. This gentleman is also responsible for the production of the opera; and the cast will include Messrs. Fred Eastman, W. H. Powell, Arthur Stigant, and Harrison Brockbank; Mesdames Nora Brocklebank, Kate Parfrey, Lilian Pollard, and Miss Kate Vesey. The orchestra will be under the direction of Mr. Geo. M. Seker, and Mr. C. Finch-Hatton is advance business-manager.

The delight of the Japanese officers and seamen with the performance of *Old Heidelberg* at the Crystal Palace Theatre on Wednesday was great and demonstrative. They were enabled by the forethought and enterprise of Mr. Bannister Howard to understand the story and follow the dialogue, as not only were the programmes of the piece printed in the Japanese language, but a "Jap" translation of *Old Heidelberg* was presented to each of the visitors, who were thus able to take back with them to their native land a memento of the only theatrical performance that they witnessed in this country.

A "Working Men's Theatre" has been instituted in New York, where it was opened on Tuesday. It is called the Theatre of Labour, the highest price of admission being two shillings. The director is a Socialist, and efforts are being made to procure an endowment for the enterprise.

Miss Marie Daltra (Mrs. Lionel Rignold) was offered an engagement by Mr. Courtneidge to create the part of Miss Pychase in the new musical comedy *The Dairymaids* at the Apollo; but her success in the part of the maiden aunt Miss Foden in *What the Butler Saw* is so pronounced that she has decided to remain in the cast of Judge Parry and Frederick Mouillot's clever comedy.

The close of the pantomime *Babes in the Wood* at the Liverpool Shakespeare Theatre on Saturday night was marked by great enthusiasm and presentations. The popular manager, Mr. John Gaffney, came in for a solid silver inkbottle and a pair of silver candlesticks; Mr. McClelland, the stage-manger, received a walking-stick and umbrella; and Mr. Reginald Weighall, assistant-stage-manager, a dressing-case, travelling-bag, and umbrella—all the gifts of Mr. Bransby Williams and Miss Winifred Hare. Mr. Saker, musical director, received a travelling-bag and travelling-clock from the comedians Bert D'Arcy, Brothers Egbert, and George Bastow; and Miss Roberts, wardrobe mistress, was handed an ebony brush and comb and a hand-glass. There was also an abundance of floral offerings for the artists.

A scheme for the encouragement of budding talent has been formulated by the National School of Acting and Dramatic Companies, of which Mr. Chas. E. Price is the secretary. The school, it is stated, is to be national in its broadest sense, carried on in the interest of tradition, the profession, and the people; and for this reason all appointments are left open, until such time as the lines of the institution have been decided upon. It is intended to run dramatic companies, consisting solely of students in an advanced stage of perfection, and all plays are as far as possible to be original works by rising authors. Classes are to be held as required in the various arts, and masters engaged as may be necessary, with permanent elocutionist, resident stage-manager and staff. Encouragement is to be given to authors by the reading of plays submitted, and supplying short criticisms. The inclusive fee for classes and dramatic companies is to be six guineas per annum, which, with honorary members' subscriptions, it is anticipated will cover expenditure and enable the school to be self-supporting.

At the Birmingham Assizes, on Monday, Mr. John Guy Sidney Jones, musical-director of the Theatre Royal in that town, sought to recover from Mr. Robert Arthur, the producer of the pantomime *Aladdin*, damages for personal injuries. Counsel for the plaintiff said that the accident for which damages were claimed occurred on the first night of the pantomime. There was a scene called the Eastern Baths, which included a large wheel. On Dec. 26 this particular scene was awaiting its turn up in the "flies"—30ft. or 40ft. above the orchestra, when suddenly a portion of the scenery fell on the plaintiff, striking him on the head and rendering him unconscious. It was shown that the plaintiff had not received his salary since the accident, and the jury returned a verdict in his favour, with £350 damages.

Miss Lydia Donovan, who recently concluded an eight months' tour as Sybil, the part she created in *The Love that Women Desire*, is, we regret to learn, suffering from a stoppage in the main artery of her right arm, which, for the time being, deprives her of the use of that limb. We wish Miss Donovan a speedy recovery, and hope that theatre-goers will soon have the opportunity of welcoming the reappearance of this talented actress.

Mr. F. R. Benson gave the closing lecture of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution on Friday afternoon, the 23rd inst., in the Queen's Hall, before a crowded audience. Mr. Benson, who was accompanied to the platform by Mrs. Benson, Miss Tita Brand, Mr. Clarence Derwent, and other members of his company, chose as his subject, "Shakespeare and the Resurrection of the Dead," and said that many people had spoken of Shakespeare as an inspired Pagan, and some had called him an Atheist, an Agnostic, a Nihilist in matters of religion. The reverse of this was the truth. Shakespeare's attitude seemed to him a sort of plain, Anglo-Saxon, common-sense attitude towards the Resurrection. With regard to the passages relied upon by those who seemed to find Shakespeare standing in an attitude of listless despair before a blank wall in matters of religion, Mr. Benson said they were spoken by his characters, and were not necessarily the reproduction of Shakespeare's own thought. Shakespeare was speaking as an artist, and not as the cheerful, healthy-minded British Christian that he was. To him, Shakespeare's religion was part of his life and work and of his thought.

Mr. Benson did a fair day's work on the 28th inst. In the afternoon he addressed the members of the Edinburgh branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society on "Shakespeare and the Valley of the Shadow"; in the evening he played his part at the Royal Lyceum Theatre in *The Merry Wives of Windsor;* and after the performance he and Mrs. Benson were entertained at a complimentary supper in the Balmoral Hotel by the members of the Philosophical Institution.

"Dinner for Two," Mr. R. C. Carton's one-act piece, originally produced in the spring of 1903, will from Monday next precede *The Candidate* at Wyndham's Theatre. Mr. Edmund Maurice, Mr. Yorke Stephens, and Mr. Herbert Duppa will appear in the little piece.

Mr. Henry Dundas, the general and business manager of the Royal Opera House, Leicester, has started a collection of one penny from free admissions to the Opera House. The proceeds are to be devoted to that deserving institution the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

The committee of the Compton Testimonial Fund, of which Mr. H. B. Fitzgibbon is the hon. sec. and treasurer, have arranged with the well-known artist, Mr. Herman G. Herkomer, a cousin of Professor Hubert Herkomer, to paint Mr. Compton's portrait in the character of David Garrick. It will be a three-quarter length figure, and Mr. Herkomer is delighted with the opportunity it affords him of a great artistic effort, the handsome costume of the period lending itself so much more harmoniously to the brush than the severer type of modern dress.

"The Girl Behind the Counter," the new musical comedy which Mr. Frank Curzon will produce at Wyndham's Theatre in Easter Week, will introduce Mr. Hayden Coffin in the part of a rough miner lately returned from the diggings with gold galore. Miss Isabel Jay will have the rôle of a shop girl, with whom the miner falls in love, and round these two characters a pretty romance has been woven and clothed with music by Mr. Leedham Bantock and Mr. Howard Talbot respectively. Miss Millie Legarde, Miss Marie Dainton, Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. J. F. McArdle, Miss Violet Crossley, Mr. Fred Allandale, Miss Coralie Blythe, Mr Akerman May, Mr. George Barrett, and Mr Lawrence Grossmith will also be in the cast.

Mr. Lingford Carson's mascotte, *The Drama of Life*, is playing this week to packed houses at the Royal, Middlesbrough. The company is in charge of Mr. Edward van Biene (son of the actor-'cellist of *Broken Melody* fame), and is composed of a number of well-known artists.

Miss Margaret Halstan has taken up the part of Acte in place of Miss Dorothea Baird, and played the rôle at the matinée of *Nero* at His Majesty's on Wednesday. Miss Baird, it will be remembered, is appearing in *Mauricette*, to be produced at the Lyric this evening.

Miss Mabel Sealby, who has just concluded a successful pantomime engagement with Mr. John Hart at the Prince's, Manchester, playing the title-rôle in the *Sleeping Beauty*, has been secured for a three years' contract by Messrs. Hicks and Frohman, and is at present understudying Miss Ellaline Terris at the Aldwych in the *Beauty of Bath*. Mr. Hart has taken up the option of her services for pantomime 1906-7.

"The Catch of the Season" is enjoying a most successful first visit to Poplar. Mr. Sounes is finding that his catering for the theatre patrons of this East London district is meeting with great appreciation, and although his beautiful new Prince's Theatre has only been open a few months it is fully established in the esteem of the surrounding inhabitants, who welcome this up-to-date theatre in their midst. Now a motor omnibus service has started one can reach the Prince's, Poplar, from the West End in thirty minutes.

Mr. Percy Burton, who was associated with the late Sir Henry Irving for some years, and up to the time of his death, has been kindly released by Mr. Forbes Robertson from the last few weeks of his tour, in order that he might accept an offer to join the American management (Nixon and Zimmerman) for Mr. H. B. Irving, at the Lyric Theatre.

Owing to slight indisposition Miss Julia Neilson was unable to appear at the New Theatre on Wednesday, and Miss Miriam Lewes played her part at both the matinée and evening performance.

Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe, who was recently playing at the Shaftesbury with Mr. Nat Goodwin, has been engaged by Mr. Cyril Maude for the forthcoming production of *Shore Acres*.—Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, after concluding a successful seven months' tour as Sherlock Holmes, has been engaged by Mr. Cyril Maude for the Waldorf Theatre.

Messrs. Frank Rendle and Neil Forsyth will make the ball at Covent Garden Theatre on Boat-race eve, Friday next, a mask and domino ball, thus effecting a change from the usual fancy-dress dance. Six special prizes will be awarded for the most handsome dominoes. As the preparations for the opera season, commencing Thursday, May 3, have now begun, this will be the last ball of the season.

The Ladies' Concert of the Playgoers' Club, which took place at the Waldorf Theatre on Sunday, was one of the most successful ever given by the club. The programme contained many of the best artists, and gave the utmost enjoyment. Among those who appeared were Miss Mabel Love, Mr. Henry Neville, and Mr. Charles Warner, all of whom recited; Mlle. Milo and Mr. W. Anning, who appeared in an admirable sketch; Miss Jennie Lee, Miss Gladys Rose-Jones, Miss Margot Lethbridge, Miss Maude Sandemann, Mr. Harry Lauder, Mr. Tom Clare, Mr. Maynard Dakin, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. Ambrose Thorne, and Mr. H. Scott Russell, variety being given to the programme by the comic juggling of Vandy and the dancing of Espinosa and Neilson. The Pavilion orchestra, conducted by Mr. A. Bond Sayers, rendered valuable assistance.

Mr. Edward Compton concluded a week's visit, with his company, to the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on Saturday evening, and in the course of a speech said he had often been accused of attaching too much importance to his own particular class of work. But his critics were wrong. He had never contended that legitimate comedy was the only pebble on the theatrical beach. There was room for all; but let managers see to it that the dramatic pebbles they cast before the public were well shaped, well rounded, good to look at, wholesome specimens, and, above all, clean. Let them be bright and sparkling, but let there be no taint of coarseness on them. Let them be large in size, even grand in form if occasion required, but let them be true and consistent in all things; and if, in delicate instances, a certain moisture clung to them—the tear of pity or of love, as he might say—so much the better, for the public would detect in that sign the "one touch of nature that made the whole world kin," and would welcome and applaud them accordingly

Miss Florence Smithers had a trying experience after her journey from Jersey with Mr. Charles Carey's successful musical comedy, *After the Ball*. The company was billed to appear at Weymouth the same evening, and half-an-hour before the rise of the curtain, Miss Smithers' basket, which contained her costume for the fancy ball, was found to be missing. The adroit little lady immediately secured two flags, which had been used to decorate the hall, and, draped in these, with a sixpenny toy helmet purchased from a neighbouring bazaar on her head, met with so much success in her impromptu costume that she has thrown over the original one, and now appears as Britannia. After a most successful tour in the South, this, the No. 1 company, goes up North for a three months' round, opening at Halifax next week.

Mr. Henry Tweedie, who is representing Mr. Charles Frohman's *Leah Kleschna* South company on tour, was starting from his hotel at Ashton-under-Lyne, on Sunday, when the driver of the cab turned too sharply, and the vehicle, loaded with luggage, turned over on its side. The cab was speedily righted, and Mr. Tweedie, although much shaken, was enabled to continue his journey.

Miss Wallis (Mrs. Walter Reynolds) wishes to contradict the statement that *The Pharisee*, in which she collaborated with Mr. Malcolm Watson, has been permitted to be used by amateur clubs. Many applications of the kind have been received, but the authors are agreed that, for the present, no such permission will be given.

A highly-appreciated concert, arranged by Mme. Marian Mackenzie and Mrs. Helen Trust, was given on Sunday afternoon at the Red Cross Hall, Borough, in connection with Miss Octavia Hill's settlement, instituted with a view to brightening the lives of the dwellers in that poverty-stricken district. Well-known artists contributed to the entertainment, which was free to all who cared to go, and encores were in almost every instance exacted. That distinction was won in each of her recitations by Miss Ada Giles, who gave Ingelow's dramatic poem, "High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire," and afterwards rendered the humorous piece, "Mr. Cohen on the Telephone," which had to be supplemented by "Matrimony." Similar honours were gained by Mme. Marian Mackenzie for "Lovely Spring" and "O dry those tears"; and Mrs. Helen Trust had also to oblige again after singing "Spinning" and "The Cuckoo." Mr. Lindsey Squire was set down for "The Sailor's Grave" and "I'll sing thee songs of Araby"; and pianoforte and violoncello selections were rendered by Miss Hope Squire and Mr. Henry T. Trust.

Mr. Harold Entwistle has resigned his position at the Kennington Theatre, to take up the management of Mrs. Patrick Campbell's forthcoming tour. As manager for the past two years, Mr. Entwistle has filled his arduous position to the entire satisfaction of the proprietor.

The Incorporated Stage Society will give the third production of their seventh season on April 8 and two following days, when the *Maternité* of Brieux, translated by Mrs. Bernard Shaw, will be produced. The place of production does not appear.

Miss Carlotta Zerbini has been specially engaged by Mr. Robert Courtneidge for the rôle of the Schoolmistress, in the new play, *The Dairymaids*, to be produced at the Apollo Theatre on April 14.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt has triumphed over the Trust in South America, if we may credit the report from Texas, the Attorney General of which State threatened to institute anti-trust proceedings against the managers of the syndicate unless they opened their playhouses to the famous actress. Mme. Bernhardt has therefore discontinued her performances in a circus tent, in which she acted for the first time on Monday, when an audience of 7,000 people was present. The stage, erected at one end of the huge tent, was fitted with a curtain, electric footlights, and all accessories, which were carried in the baggage cars attached to the special train.

Magisterial concern for the welfare of children on the stage has been more than usually conspicuous this week. At the Thames Police Court, on Monday, the manager of the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, made an application to Mr. Mead for a licence enabling a boy, aged eleven, to perform in the play *The Catch of the Season*. In answer to the magistrate, the applicant stated that the boy, who lived in Shaftesbury-avenue, took the part of the page, and he had one song to sing. When the lad was in London he attended a school in connection with the Aldwych Theatre, and when on tour he was instructed by a tutor. The boy would be on the stage from eight o'clock to about half-past ten. A police inspector said Mr. Fordham, at the North London Police-court, would only grant a licence for the boy to appear before ten o'clock at night. Mr. Mead said he should follow out what Mr. Fordham had done, and the licence would only be granted on condition that the boy did not appear after ten o'clock. "That," the applicant ventured to say, "would be very inconvenient." The magistrate, however, was obdurate. "Half-past ten," he returned, "or even ten o'clock, is too late for a lad of eleven to be out. You will have to make it ten o'clock. It won't ruin the piece."

On the same day, at North London Police-court, Mr. Fordham was asked to license a little boy aged ten to appear on the stage. The manager said that the boy could be out of the theatre by 9.45 p.m. "That is late," said Mr. Fordham. "My own children at that age I should like to be in bed by 7.30 or 8." "This boy," urged the applicant, "played with Mr. Forbes Robertson at the Scala Theatre six months ago, and your worship will remember that many of the great actors and actresses, including Miss Ellen Terry, commenced their stage life much younger than this." "I have great admiration for Miss Terry," Mr. Fordham admitted, "but we cannot say how much better some of them might have been physically had they not commenced so young. And now," he added, turning to the boy, "I suppose you will say I am a horrid man in a big chair if I do not grant you the licence. I do it with some reluctance, because of your age; but I will grant the licence until 9.30."

EURIPIDES IN ENGLISH.

On Monday, March 26,
at the Court Theatre,
a Translation by Gilbert Murray, of
"THE HIPPOLYTUS OF EURIPIDES."

The Goddess Aphrodite..MISS MADGE MCINTOSH
The Goddess Artemis ..MISS GWENDOLEN BISHOP
Theseus .....MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND
Hippolytus .....MR. HENRY AINLEY
Henchman .....MR. GRANVILLE BARKER
An Old Huntsman .....MR. STRATTON RODNEY
Phædra .....MISS EDYTH OLIVE
The Nurse .....MISS FLORENCE FARR
Leader of Chorus .....MISS GERTRUDE SCOTT

"Are you the chorus?" enquired, rather rudely, one of the characters in a "classical burlesque" of the last generation. "Sir, you're *in-de-corus!*" replied the leader of that grave and serious body. Nothing could be more stately and seemly than the behaviour of the chorus during the performance of Mr. Gilbert Murray's translation of the *Hippolytus* of Euripides, at the Court Theatre on Monday. Indeed, the chorus was the wet blanket of the production. As soon as things were beginning to "wake up" a little, and one really began to feel interest in the action, this bevy of beautiful young ladies came to the front, formed in line, and began an almost monotonous chant. Save for a word or a phrase caught at intervals, it was impossible to understand what they were talking about—but it was obvious from the expression of their faces that it was something excessively solemn. It was annoying to believe, as we certainly did, that one was "missing" some excellent rhymed verse. For Mr. Gilbert Murray has done his task remarkably well; so well that there is nothing in his version of the strain and effort which are so often obvious in translations, especially in the rhymed verse in which Mr. Murray writes. Most of the members of the cast had their moments of indistinctness; but sufficient of Mr. Murray's lines got across the footlights to prove the merit of his version—a really remarkable combination of poetic feeling and sound scholarship.

In connection with the *Hippolytus*, one naturally thinks most of its modernised versions; of Racine's *Phèdre*, of Rachel, and Sarah Bernhardt. Sarah was too essentially modern to understand Phèdre; she never got beyond ordinary adulterous infatuation. But the Greek Phædra was something more than this. She was the victim of heredity; she was the innocent means whereby the vengeful Aphrodite punished Hippolytus for his "contempt of court." The conception of a number of "jealous gods," always on the look-out for a "malignant" to make an example of, was purely Greek; and so little could it be understood by a modern Parisian that the opera-bouffe satire of *La Belle Hélène*, with her cheery excuse of "destiny" for all her peccadilloes, was keenly appreciated in the giddy days of Offenbach. The set scene at the Court on Monday was helpful and explanatory. There, on the one side of the stage, in front of the house of Theseus, were the statues of the rival goddesses—the cold, wise Artemis, and the cruel, sweet Aphrodite. If the performance, taken as a whole, was not grand, it was certainly as Greek as simplicity, reverence, and a sense of beauty would make it. Inspired by their "high argument," actors and actresses displayed unexpected ability. Miss Edyth Olive played Phædra with a picturesque earnestness, a poignant intensity, and a keen expressiveness that deserve very warm praise. Every phase of Phædra's agony was shown with sympathetic skill; and Miss Olive's enunciation and declamation were excellent. Mr. Henry Ainley excelled himself as Hippolytus. This young actor is, we feel certain, destined ultimately to hold a high place on the English stage. His voice and his appearance have always been in his favour; and of late he has improved immensely, not only in technique, but in the acquisition of dramatic force and freedom. He displayed as Hippolytus a passionate energy, which, combined with excellent discretion and distinct and direct delivery, made his performance admirably vigorous and impressive. Miss Florence Farr as the Nurse was rather unequal; but she had a good idea of the part, and was very emphatic and assiduous. Miss Gertrude Scott as the Leader of the Chorus was commendably distinct and superbly serene. Miss Madge McIntosh and Miss Gwendolen Bishop were satisfactory representatives of the rival goddesses; and Mr. William Haviland gave a very able and artistic embodiment of Theseus. Mr. Granville Barker was good as the Henchman, his delivery of the messenger speech being a very fine piece of elocution; and Mr. Stratton Rodney enacted the Old Huntsman quite creditably. We were reminded on the programme that the play was first acted when Epameinon was Archon, in the year B.C. 429. In the competition on this occasion, Euripides was first, Iophon second, Ion third, and the rest, we suppose, "nowhere." The Great Unacted of Athens were doubtless going about in Olympiad 87, with their rolls of parchment under their arms, trying to make people believe that their works were "better than Euripides'."

MISS MARY WINIFRED'S CONCERT.

At Bechstein Hall on Thursday evening, March 29, Miss Mary Winifred gave her first violin recital, assisted by Mr. Percy Grainger. The concert opened with César Franck's Sonata in A, and it was at once apparent that in Miss Winifred we have a lady violinist of unusual power and ability. Miss Winifred was associated with Mr. Percy Grainger, and an excellent performance of this fine sonata was given. The violinist was at her best in the Allegro-Recitativo, and played with a broad, expressive style rare indeed among the host of lady violinists. In Bach's difficult unaccompanied Chacone Miss Winifred proved that in all technical matters such as harmonics, double stopping, &c., she is mistress of her most exacting instrument, and in other examples given by this talented young lady, such as in Ries' graceful "Adagio" and "Gondoliera," and C. Cue's charming "Berceuse," abundant evidence was shown that Miss Winifred will take high rank as a soloist. Mr. Percy Grainger, the pianist, proved of great service in the success of the recital, both in the sonata and in three piano solos of Brahms'—Rhapsody in E flat, Romance, and Hungarian Dance. Mr. Grainger also played three Slatter (Norwegian peasant dances). Miss Winifred's final solo was the Bizet-Sarasate Fantasie *Carmen*, and the applause with which the lady was greeted throughout the concert was abundant evidence of her magnificent gifts.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"Do you think it would be possible to find ten really good football players among actors in or round London? Knowing that we have some good men at cricket, it would be interesting to find out if we have good footballers as well."

ROYAL GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.

The annual meeting of the members of this fund was held on Thursday in the saloon of Terry's Theatre. Mr. Edward Terry, the hon. treasurer, presided, and there were also present Messrs. George Alexander, Cooper Cliffe, Charles Rock, T. F. Dillon Croker, C. T. Burleigh, A. H. Elliott, Geo. Weathersby, Walter L. Rignold, Henry Doughty, M. R. Morand, Lewis Casson, Ewart Harbin, F. L. Chapuy, Chas. J. Davies (secretary), Mrs. B. Reynolds, Mrs. P. J. Edgar, Miss Reynolds, Miss Ada Dyas, Miss Armine Grace, Miss Caroline Ewell, Miss Nellie Christie, Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss Emily Hewett, and Miss Lucy Sibley.

The financial statement for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, was as follows:—

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	825	0	5
,, Members' Subscriptions	734	18	8
,, Donations and Tickets for Dinner, less Hotel Bill, &c.	611	13	0
,, Dividends on India Three per Cents.	188	6	8
,, Dividends on Local Loans	174	0	0
,, Dividends on Consols	7	2	8
,, Interest on Egyptian Tribute Bonds	76	0	0
,, Transvaal 3 per cent. Loan	48	17	0
,, Freehold Ground Rent	11	8	0
,, Lacy Bequest Fund, Income of Year	425	10	9
,, Helen Faucit Fund" ,,	63	16	2
,, Covent Garden Fund ,,	553	7	2
,, Dividends, "Betty Bequest"	228	15	2
,, Interest on Deposit	3	0	1
,, Income Tax returned	69	2	6
	£4,020	18	3

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
By Amount paid to Annuitants	2,314	11	0
,, Funeral Expenses	40	0	0
,, Secretary	200	0	0
,, Rent of Office	52	0	0
,, Miscellaneous, including Advertising, Printing, Stationery, and Petty Cash	78	19	1
,, Amount to make up Investment under Separate Account	703	10	0
	3,389	0	1
,, Balance of Income over Expenditure	631	18	2
	£4,020	18	3

BALANCE SHEET, Dec. 31, 1905.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
To Capital Account, viz.:			
Under Rule 13	12,000	0	0
Legacy from Mrs. Eliza Holm, per Pinder Simpson, Esq.	100	0	0
,, from the late Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Higgie	700	0	0
,, late Mr. David James	2,700	0	0
,, Mrs. A. Stirling	50	0	0
,, In Memory of "Nellie Farren"	500	0	0
,, J. R. Anderson (on a/c)	100	0	0
,, "Betty Bequest"	9,256	10	7
,, "Helen Faucit Fund"	2,002	16	8
Lacy Bequest (exclusive of remainvalue of Leaseholds and Freeholds)	6,728	6	7
Separate Account under Rule 13:—			
Invested in Turkish 1891 Four per Cent. Bonds 2,055 1 0			
,, Transvaal 3 per cent. Stock 479 8 6			
,, ,, ,, 703 10 0			
	3,247	19	6
	37,385	13	4
Balance of Income over Expenditure	631	18	2
	£38,017	11	5

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
By Invested in the Purchase of—			
£6,277 19 8 India 3 per Cent., at cost	6,325	15	0
5,800 0 0 Local Loans, at cost	6,039	5	0
300 0 0 Consols, 2½ per cent., at par	300	0	0
2,000 0 0 Turkish 4 per cent., 1891, at cost	2,077	12	0
2,000 0 0 do. do. do.	2,065	1	0
5,980 0 0 India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	4,539	11	6
6,414 1 9 Transvaal 3 per cent. Stock	6,362	7	3
62 10 0 Consols at par	62	10	0
700 0 0 Great Northern Railway, 4 per cent. Guaranteed Stock, at cost	745	2	0
3,352 0 0 London and North-Western Railway 4 per cent. Guaranteed Stock	3,362	0	0
666 0 0 London and North Western Railway 3 per cent. Debenture Stock, at cost	585	0	0
2,352 4 2 Local Loans, 3 per cent.	2,363	19	4
500 0 0 Transvaal Loan, 3 per cent.	496	4	4
200 0 0 Canada 4 per cent. Bond, at cost	207	10	0
700 0 0 Egyptian Tribute Bonds, at cost	712	14	6
,, Freehold Ground Rent	240	0	0
,, Cash on Deposit 500 0 0			
,, ,, on General Account 766 15 5			
,, ,, Lacy Bequest Account 266 4 2			
	1,532	19	7
	£38,017	11	6

We do hereby certify that we have examined the Books, Vouchers, &c., and find them and the above statements correct.

(Signed), M. R. MORAND, HY. DOUGHTY, for F. WEATHERSBY, Auditors appointed by the Members.

CHARLES J. DAVIES, Secretary.
A. G. WARREN, A.C.A., Hon. Accountant.
March 23, 1906.

Mr. CHARLES ROCK, in moving the adoption of the balance-sheet, said it was the most satisfactory that had ever been presented. The fund was, indeed, becoming stronger every year, and he should not be surprised if before the end of the year they would be able to pay the full annuities. However, that was not a certainty.

Mr. M. R. MORAND said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He thought they could heartily congratulate themselves upon the figures shown in the balance-sheet.

The CHAIRMAN having given the usual invitation to members to offer any comments on the financial statement, the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought that as members of the Fund they should first express their sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the death of their trustee, Sir Henry Irving, who had always shown a deep interest in all the benefit and provident funds connected with the profession. With the exception of this one discordant note, their business that afternoon was of the most cheering character, and as treasurer of the Fund he felt that he occupied a most enviable position. As they saw by the balance-sheet, they were in the most prosperous condition, and his only regret was that more of those among the younger members of the profession did not appreciate the immense advantages the Fund offered. He would give an instance of the good done by the society. He referred to the case of the late Miss Maria Daly, who was an annuitant for many years. To show her appreciation of the benefits she had derived from the Fund, she left the whole of her property, amounting to about £600, to it. And this was not a singular case. Last year only one death occurred, and it seemed that membership of the Fund happily prolonged the lives of its annuitants. They were giving annuities of £115, to be raised, he hoped, after the next dinner to £120, at premiums between 40 and 50 per cent. less than the ordinary insurance societies. He wished to point out that if any member of the society who had been a subscriber for seven years became blind or deaf, he or she at once was entitled to benefit from the Fund. Some time ago, a young lady member who had just completed her seventh year of membership became afflicted with deafness, and immediately came on the Fund. This was an illustration of what the society was able to do in such cases; and it was a pity that the Fund was not more generally known amongst the rank and file of the profession. Last year six young members of the profession had joined the society. In regard to the annuities, £120 had never yet been reached; but of late years they had been very fortunate in having received benefit from the Henry Betty and Lacy bequests. In fact they could congratulate themselves upon being in an admirable position, and, considering the safe way in which the money had been invested, they were not likely to lose ground. But what they did want was new blood, so that the society might become still more successful.

Mr. HENRY DOUGHTY proposed the re-election of the directors, Mr. Robert Courtneidge and Mr. Tom Craven.

Mr. LEWIS CASSON seconded the proposal, which was carried.

Mr. A. H. ELLIOTT, in proposing the re-election of the hon. medical staff, Dr. W. Allchin and Dr. R. Percy Middlemist, said they were under an obligation to these two gentlemen, who were good enough to give their valuable professional services.

Mr. H. DOUGHTY seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. WALTER L. RIGNOLD next proposed the re-election of the standing counsel of the Fund, Mr John Strachan, Q.C., and Mr. Ernest De Witt.

Mr. C. ROCK, who seconded, said their thanks were due to Messrs. Strachan and De Witt for their continued interest in the Fund. If anyone dared to take action and these gentlemen defended the case, he believed they would win hands down.

The proposal was carried, and, on the motion of Mr. CASSON, seconded by Mr. ELLIOTT, Mr. Theodore Lumley was re-elected hon. solicitor to the society.

Mr. MORAND proposed and Mr. RIGNOLD seconded the re-election of the accountant and auditor, Mr. A. G. Warren.—Carried.

Mr. ELLIOTT proposed and Mr. DOUGHTY seconded the re-election of the auditors, Mr. M. R. Morand and Mr. F. Weathersby.—Carried.

Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, in proposing the re-election of Mr. Edward Terry as hon. treasurer, said that no word from him was needed to testify to the admirable manner in which Mr. Terry carried out the duties of the office. They were delighted to know that their funds were in such safe custody. He could but join Mr. Terry in expressing surprise that a greater number of the younger members of the profession did not avail themselves of the advantages of the Fund. The exposures of the insurance companies in America might be expected to have some effect on the decision of those he had mentioned. Their expenses were next to nothing, and their investments were of the very best, and no insurance company was able to offer to actors the advantages which this society offered. Generally, when a concern was prosperous, people rushed to it, but the dramatic profession seemed ever blind to the advantages before them in this Fund.

Mr. ELLIOTT seconded, and the proposition was put to the meeting by Mr. Alexander.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said he need scarcely tell them that it gave him the greatest pleasure to do all in his power for the good of the Fund; and if any services he could render tended towards its continued prosperity, he was well pleased.

On the motion of Mr. ROCK, seconded by Mr. CASSON, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. James Welch for the use of the saloon, and the meeting then separated.

SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Richard Douglass took the chair at the forty-fifth meeting of the Committee of the Scenic Artists' Association, held at the Adelphi Hotel on Tuesday. There were also present Messrs. E. G. Banks, Geo. R. Hemsley, C. I. Hirst, Harry Potts, H. Woolls, and H. Laurence Harris, the hon. secretary. Letters were read from Mr. Walter Hann, excusing his absence, and Mr. H. J. Craven. The minutes of the forty-fourth meeting were read and confirmed, and signed by the chairman, and the bankers' pass-book checked by the cash-book, and other formal business transacted.

The second monthly social dinner, held at the Adelphi Hotel on Tuesday, was attended by the following members of the Association:—Messrs. Harry Potts, C. J. Dodson, Richard Douglass, E. G. Banks, H. Warner, C. E. Markham, C. I. Hirst, Geo. R. Hemsley, C. Watson, P. W. Glasee, H. May Hemsley (treasurer), H. Bull (and five friends), Ernest J. Humphries (and friend), H. W. Owen, R. C. McCleery, J. Johnstone, G. Herbert Wallis (and friend), Alfred Ford, C. Bruce Smith, J. C. Holliday, W. Bruce Smith (and four friends), Chas. E. Caney, John England (and friend), Harry Woolls, H. L. Jacoby, G. H. Paterman, C. W. Douglass, and two friends of Mr. Walter Hann and of Mr. Ernest Hann, and H. Laurence Harris (hon. secretary). The dinner was followed by an excellent concert under the direction of Mr. W. Bruce Smith, to which the following members contributed items:—Messrs. H. May Hemsley, C. I. Hirst, Ernest J. Humphries, W. Bruce Smith, and others. Mr. H. W. Owen fulfilled the duties of chairman, and Mr. J. C. Holliday kindly obliged as pianist and accompanist.

The next monthly social dinner will be held at the Adelphi Hotel on Tuesday evening, April 24, at eight o'clock, and applications for tickets should be made (with remittance and stamped addressed envelope) to the hon. secretary, Mr. H. Laurence Harris, at 23, Whittingstall-road, Fulham, S.W., not later than Friday, April 21.

The next committee meeting will be held at the Adelphi Hotel at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, and members will kindly accept this (the only) intimation.

MRS. BROWN-POTTER created so favourable an impression by the dramatic episode of the life of Mary Queen of Scots, in which she appeared recently at the Coliseum, that its author, Mr. Reginald Kennedy-Cox, was emboldened to elaborate the scheme, with the result that he has written a four-act play dealing with an entirely new phase of the career of the unfortunate Queen. The piece has been accepted by Mrs. Potter, who contemplates its production at a West End theatre in the autumn.

THE Imperial Theatre will be closed during Holy Week, on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of which Mr. Lewis Waller and his company in *Brigadier Gerard* will pay flying visits on the respective days to Portsmouth, Birmingham, and Manchester, where matinées will be given. The Imperial will re-open with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's piece on Easter Monday.

ARTHUR BOURCHIER ON THE DRAMA.

The Gallery First-Nighters, who held their annual dinner at Frascati's Restaurant on Sunday, numbered some eminent representatives of the drama among their guests, the company including Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Kate Rorke, Miss Mary Rorke, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Oscar Asche, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel.

The toast of "The Drama" was responded to by Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, who began his interesting speech with an amusing illustration of a dream of the theatres of the early forties, when "star" actors were wont to fix tin-tacks in the stage to signify the point beyond which no super should go. "Forty years later," continued Mr. Bourchier, "there was in London-over-the-Water a stage, one corner of which possessed a curious, and, to a nervous young actor, very disconcerting, echo, and the junior member of the company was invariably edged into that corner, so that he might be disturbed by the phonographic repetition of his own voice! Still I slept on, but I turned in my sleep. I was in a tiny theatre off the Tottenham Court Road, once known as the 'Dust-hole,' now as comfortable and as pretty as any drawing-room. I could hardly believe my senses, so great was the change brought about within a few years by a clever pair. From the Bancrofts, the dear Bancrofts, managers all the world over got many a valuable lesson in the art of producing plays, and to them is very largely due the position that the stage occupies to-day. Wigs joined, doors opened and shut as if they were real doors, and not mere strips of canvas, and, above all, the play was clean. All honour to the Bancrofts. 'The stage they loved revived beneath their sway. They made art earnest, and they kept it pure.' A change came o'er the spirit of my dream, and I found myself witnessing a demonstration of morbid psychology by a professor of that art. I thought I had strayed into the dissecting-room of a hospital or the consulting-room of a specialist in mental alienation, for the play which I witnessed dealt with a peculiarly loathsome and repellent subject, and I awoke, shrieking with horror—much to the alarm of the servants.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I maintain that the public do not want to go to the theatre to see a re-hash of the sweepings of the divorce court, offered to them as a picture of English home-life in the nineteenth century; the dramatist of our youth did not endeavour to persuade us that a presentation of the *abnormal*, individually and collectively, was a presentation of the *typical*. Many a play, many a book, has succeeded, and rightly succeeded, because it attacked a public abuse, and, in the attack, brought public opinion to bear so powerfully upon that abuse that it was swept away in a flood of righteous indignation. Witness, for instance, Charles Reade's powerful novel and equally powerful play, *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, which scorched the iniquities of the prison system of that day as with a flame; witness, again, 'Nicholas Nickleby,' which sealed the doom of the pestilential tribe of which 'Squeers' was the prototype.

"In this connection (I mean plays which draw attention to some crying public scandal) may I tell you of a little drama which I saw the other day in one of those *petite* theatres, so full of exuberant artistry, with which Paris abounds? The scene represented the house-surgeon's sitting-room in a hospital. Four doctors were discovered playing cards. Enter a nurse. She says that a man has just been brought in, seriously injured. One of the doctors says, "All right—presently," and they continue their game. The nurse, returning a few minutes later, says that the case is most urgent, but once more she is driven away—this time with abuse. Again she returns, and one of the doctors, throwing down his cards with a grunt, says he will go to the case. The nurse replies: 'Monsieur, you are too late!' There, ladies and gentlemen, was a play in little containing a moral that is great. But no play has ever made for the good of its author, its producer, the actors engaged in it, or of any one else, which had a breach of the seventh commandment for its pivot, or the display of the seamy side of private life for its *raison d'être*. To me there is always something nauseous in the presentation of these things, either in books or on the stage; we know they exist, and always will exist as long as human nature is what it is; but we go to the play wishing to forget them, not to see them. 'It was the presence of innocence, and not the absence of clothes, that constituted the charm of the Garden of Eden,' and the man with the muck-rake is not wanted within the walls of the play-house. He certainly will never hold sway in *my* theatre; and it rests with *you*, free and independent gallery first-nighters, to make his stay elsewhere both brief and inglorious. As sure as 'the drama's laws the drama's patrons give,' if *you* will, you can send him back to the obscurity from which he ought never to have been allowed to emerge. There is nothing novel in his methods, for wherever there are two men and a woman, or two women and a man, there is bound to be trouble. To pervert the old proverb, 'Where there's a frill there's a fray!' I admit, however, that I see the point of view of these dramatists, which is, that it is so much easier to devise a plot based upon the old, old theme of Uriah the Hittite, or of Joseph and Potiphar's wife, than to write a clean, wholesome story, which leaves a pleasant taste in one's mouth, such as the evergreen and delightful comedy *She Stoops to Conquer*. I *see* this point of view, but I do not for one moment admit its justice, and I *know* from experience that the reward is great for one who will take the extra pains and exploit the wholesome, which, after all, is the grandest thing in art.

"In this present year of grace, the art of acting is, in my humble opinion, on the up-grade, but the craft of the playwright hangs in the balance. Are our writers for the stage to-day prepared to emulate the example of the hero of Longfellow's poem, whose triumphant cry was 'Excelsior,' to take the hard but only way that ennobles them and leads them towards the uplifting of the true standard of the British drama? or are they satisfied to lay back on the ephemeral rewards of the society for the promulgation of the greatest possible fees with the least possible labour? If I might, in all humility, give a hint to the rising dramatist, it is this: First tell your audience what you are doing, at the same time clearly indicating what you are going to do; and, finally, be certain that you have convinced them with what you have done. Fine actors and pleasing actresses, although perhaps they may not be said to grow on trees, still blossom and flourish in our land—that land in which all that is beautiful in art has always received appreciation and a generous measure of support—be it art that is native or art that is foreign. Ladies and gentlemen, believe me—and I feel as a manager—the drama of to-day has no more zealous devotees than our actors and actresses; they are ever ready to answer to the call of their author, but it is ungenerous, it is monstrous of the authors of to-day to lay to their charge all the shortcomings in an unsuccessful play, while taking to themselves all the credit of their triumphs. Many an indifferent play has been tolerated—nay, has even achieved a satisfactory run—owing to the success of individual pieces of acting. After all, a play to be acted should be an actable play, and not an elaborate literary disquisition, to be taken in small doses after dinner in an easy-chair."

Miss KATE RORKE responded for "The Visitors," and referred in graceful terms to Miss Ellen Terry's exalted position in the hearts of theatre-goers.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, in glowing terms, the health of Miss Ellen Terry, who responded by a simple expression of thanks; and the evening concluded with an excellent concert.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"L'ENFANT CHERIE,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Romain Coolus,
Produced at the Gymnase, on March 26.

Emilienne Gardan ..... MLLE. MARTHE REGNIER
Madeleine Bérieux ..... MLLE. DOLLEY
Marie Gabin ..... MME. STELLA VIARNY
Jenny Bourneron ..... MLLE. CAMILLE LICENEY
Jeanne Grossmuller ..... MME. CAMILLE PERSIL
Julien Bourneron ..... M. FELIX HUGUENET
Pierre Bourneron ..... M. DUMENY
Henri Flavigny ..... M. HENRI BURGUET
Grossmuller ..... M. ARVEL
Georges Gardan ..... M. RAMEIL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 29.—M. Romain Coolus has given us a clever play, which, however, has the drawback of leaving a decidedly painful impression, inasmuch as it shows us a man old in years and passionately in love. His name is Julien Bourneron. He is a widower, rich; and, when the story begins, has had for the last two years a liaison with Mme. Bérieux, a young widow, with whom he has just returned from a trip through Italy. But Pierre, Julien's son, a man of austere principles, does not approve of this love affair, especially as he knows that Mme. Bérieux is by no means a faithful mistress. Anxious to put a stop to it, he induces his sister, Emilienne Gardan, to take her father with her to her elder sister, Jeanne Grossmuller, in Ribeauvillé. When I say he induces her, I am not using the right expression. The truth is that Emilienne has a lover, Henri Flavigny, and Pierre, having discovered her secret, uses it as the means to coerce her. When father and daughter arrive in Ribeauvillé they are wretched. Emilienne is anxiously waiting for a letter from Henri, and the old man cannot understand why he is without tidings from Mme. Bérieux. At last he receives a short note from his mistress, wherein she informs him that he will never see her again. Mad with grief, he wants to rush back to Paris, but his son Pierre stands before him, and from him he learns that Mme. Bérieux has gone away with a young man she met in Italy. That scene between father and son is harrowing. "It is you who induced her to leave me," cries M. Bourneron. "Yes, it is I," replies Pierre; "she deceived you, and I took the only course possible." But M. Bourneron is inconsolable. "Why did you interfere?" he says. "You should have left me betrayed, but happy." Emilienne is not proof against her father's grief, and promises to help him. With the assistance of Henry Flavigny she discovers Mme. Bérieux's retreat, and implores her not to abandon her father. Yielding to her entreaties, Mme. Bérieux promises to visit him "occasionally." But the old man understands, and we all know that, despite his loving daughter's care, he will die of a broken heart. Unconsciously perhaps, the author has not made his heroine sympathetic. She is a tyrannical little party, who rules her father and her lover with an iron hand. We begin to like her better when she shows compassion for the old man; but she displays this gentleness only towards the end of the piece. The work was well acted, especially by M. Huguenet, whose impersonation of old Julien was masterful. It was no easy rôle, and only an artist of M. Huguenet's temperament could have given us the right impression of the man who forgets that there arrives a moment in our lives when it becomes calamitous to give way to tender feelings. As Emilienne, "l'enfant chérie," Mlle. Marthe Regnier also hit the right note. She gave us the woman such as the author intended her to be, without making the hopeless attempt to render her sympathetic. The other rôles, too, were excellently rendered

"LE JEUNE HOMME D'EN FACE," the new farce by MM. André Sylvane and Alfred Sauvenière, brought out at the Palais-Royal, is not likely to set the Seine on fire. Mme. Dupontois has caught her husband making love to the maid, and to punish him, and also to teach him a lesson, resolves to rouse his jealousy She writes love letters to herself, and the house is filled with bouquets bought by her, but supposed to have been sent by her admirers. Her scheme is in so far successful that her husband really becomes frightened, and applies to one of his friends for assistance. The friend proposes to disguise himself as a Police Commissary, and to pounce upon Mme. Dupontois when she meets her supposed lover. The inevitable imbroglio follows. Everything, of course, comes right in the end. Mme. Dupontois convinces her husband that she has only bluffed him, and the latter promises never to trouble either the maid or the cook.

"APHRODITE."

Musical Play, in Six Tableaux, by Louis de Grammont, Music by Camille Erlanger,
Produced at the Opéra Comique on March 27.

Chrysis .....MLLE. MARY GARDEN
Bacchis .....MLLE. CLAIRE FRICHE
Myrto .....MME. MATHIEU-LUTZ
Rhodis .....MME. DEMELLIER
Théano .....MLLE. REGINA BADET
Démétrios .....M. LEON BEYLE
Timon .....M. ALLARD
Philodème .....M. D. DEVRIES
Callidès .....M. GHASNE

All who have read M. Pierre Louys' erotic novel, "Aphrodite," were much surprised when they heard that M. de Grammont intended to use the plot for a lyric drama. It was altogether a mistaken idea, and the result has shown that M. de Grammont was wrong in having attempted it. For obvious reasons the poetically described scenes in the book could not be reproduced on the stage, and the librettist, therefore, had to fall back upon processions, ballets, &c., giving us, so to say, a big repast, consisting chiefly of hors-d'œuvre. The rather commonplace story is very simple. Démétrios, the sculptor, is in love with Chrysis, the beautiful courtesan, who begins by repelling his advances, and finally tells him that the only way to win her favours is to lay at her feet Bacchis's mirror, Touni's comb, and Aphrodite's necklace. The artist achieves these feats; but when the people in Alexandria hear that the priestess has been murdered, and the murderer has laid sacrilegious hands on the statue of the goddess, they are mad with indignation. Démétrios, too, repents the crimes he committed, and he compels Chrysis to show herself in public, adorned with the stolen jewels. She is arrested, sentenced to drink hemlock, and is buried by the two little flute players, Myrto and Rhodis. To this story M. Erlanger has written some cleverly orchestrated music, which, however, would have been more suitable to a sombre melodrama than to the slight plot of *Aphrodite*. It is altogether too brutal and lacking in charm. The composer has been most successful in his description of the orgy at Bacchis's house, and in the love duet interrupted by the shrieks of the people. The rôle of Chrysis was a dangerous one, and it required all Mlle. Mary Garden's tact to show us M. Pierre Louy's heroine without startling us more than strictly necessary. The other parts were also well sung, and the work was excellently mounted.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA—1850-1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Grateful Father, Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, April 15, 1878.
Gratitude; or, A Battle for Gold, Britannia, June 12, 1869.
Gray Ladye of Fernlea, City of London, Aug. 31, 1867.
Graziella, Crystal Palace, Sept. 29, 1883.
Great Bank Robbery, Keighley, March 9, 1896.
Great Cæsar, Comedy, April 29, 1899.
Great Casimir, Gaiety, Sept. 27, 1879.
Great City, The, Drury Lane, April 22, 1867.
Great Comet, Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, Dec. 14, 1896.
Great Demonstration, Royalty, Sept. 17, 1892.
Great Diamond Robbery, Sadler's Wells, Oct. 10, 1892.
Great Divorce Case, Criterion, April 15, 1876.
Greatest of These, Grand, Hull, Sept. 13, 1895.
Great Expectations, Court, May 29, 1871.
Great Felicidad, Gaiety, March 24, 1887.
Great Globe, Stalybridge, Aug. 23, 1889.
Great Gun Trick, Lyceum, 1856.
Great Illusion, Albert Hall, June 28, 1895.
Great Metropolis, Gaiety, April 6, 1874.
Great Mogul, Royalty, June 22, 1881.
Great Pearl Case, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Aug. 27, 1894.
Great Pink Pearl, Olympic, May 7, 1885.
Great Ruby, Drury Lane, Sept. 15, 1898.
Great Secret, Theatre Royal, Workington, Oct. 19, 1885.
Great Silence, Coronet, July 23, 1900.
Great Strike, Pavilion, Oct. 8, 1866.
Great Success, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, Sept. 19, 1884.
Great Taykin, Toole's, April 30, 1885.
Great Temptation, East London, May 25, 1874.
Great Tichbourne Case, Theatre Royal, Leicester, May 20, 1872.
Great Tom Tom, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, June 14, 1886.
Great Unknown, Lyceum, Aug. 5, 1890.
Great Unpaid, Comedy, May 9, 1893.
Great World of London, Standard, Oct. 31, 1898.
Greed of Gold, Surrey, July 6, 1896.
Greek Brigands, Coliseum, Liverpool, July 18, 1870.
Greek Slave, Marylebone, Nov. 17, 1851.
Greek Soprano, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, July 12, 1897.
Green Bushes, Adelphi, April 19, 1890.
Green Enchantress, Regent's Park, July 21, 1898.
Green Isle of the Sea, Princess's, Edinburgh, Sept. 21, 1874.
Green Lanes of England, Grecian, Aug. 5, 1878.
Greenleaf the Graceful, Royalty, Feb. 26, 1872.
Green Old Age, Vaudeville, Oct. 31, 1874.
Greenwich Pensioner, Adelphi, July 21, 1869.
Grelley's Money, Prince of Wales's, Salford, Oct. 30, 1881.
Gretchen, Olympic, March 24, 1879.
Gretna Green, Comedy, Dec. 4, 1889.
Grey Mare, Adelphi, Feb. 11, 1863.
Grey Parrot, Strand, Nov. 6, 1899.
Grierson's Way, Haymarket, Feb. 7, 1899.
Grif, Theatre Royal, South Shields, April 9, 1877.
Griffith Gaunt, Theatre Royal, Leicester, Oct. 9, 1871.
Griffith Murdoch, St. George's Hall, March 4, 1893.
Grimalkin the Great, Drury Lane, Dec. 26, 1868.
Grim Goblin, Grecian, Dec. 23, 1876.
Gringoire, Prince's, June 22, 1884.
Grip, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, April 3, 1871.
Grip of Iron, Princess's, June 29, 1896.
Griselda; or, The Patient Wife, Princess's, Nov. 13, 1873.
Guarded by Honour, Sefton, Liverpool, April 20, 1885.
Guardsman, The, Court, Oct. 20, 1892.
Guards, The, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Oct. 8, 1883.
Gubbins Stands for the Council, Peckham, Jan. 14, 1889.
Gudgeons, Terry's, Nov. 10, 1893.
Guiding Star, East London, Feb. 1, 1868.
Guido and Imilda, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, Feb. 24, 1869.
Guiltless, New Cross Public Hall, Jan. 8, 1887.
Guilty Governess and the Downey Doctor, Folly, May 8, 1876.
Guilty Man, Britannia, July 23, 1900.
Guilty Mother, Theatre Royal, Hull, Jan. 8, 1894.
Guilty or Not Guilty, Grecian, July 24, 1881.
Guilty Shadows, Imperial, Feb. 6, 1885.
Guinea Gold, Princess's, Sept. 10, 1877.
Guinea Pigs, Kennington, July 24, 1899.
Guinea Stamp, Globe, March 27, 1875.
Guinevere, Kilburn, March 19, 1890.
Gulliver on His Travels, Sanger's, Dec. 26, 1876.
Gulliver's Travels, Pavilion, Dec. 26, 1876.
Gunmaker of Moscow, Victoria, July 17, 1865.
Gunpowder Plot, Olympic, May 12, 1873.
Gurli, Croydon, May 21, 1900.
Gustave, Royal Alexandra, Liverpool, May 26, 1873.
Guv'nor, The, Vaudeville, June 23, 1880.
Guy Domville, St. James's, Feb. 5, 1895.
Guy Fawkes, Drury Lane, March 31, 1855.
Guy Fawkes, Esq., Theatre Royal, Nottingham, April 7, 1890.
Gwynne's Oath, Theatre Royal, Stratford, April 2, 1888.
Habit ou Redingote, Royalty, March 29, 1888.
Haddon Hall, Savoy, Sept. 24, 1892.
Hagar the Outcast Jewess, Britannia, July 5, 1869.
Half Caste, Surrey, Sept. 8, 1856.
Half-Crown Diamonds, Mirror, Sept. 27, 1875.
Half-Mast High, Pavilion, April 1, 1893.
Half Seas Over, St. George's Hall, Kendal, June 24, 1882.
Half-Way House, Vaudeville, Oct. 1, 1881.
Hal o' the Wynd, Standard, Sept. 14, 1874.
Hal the Highwayman, Vaudeville, Dec. 15, 1894.
Halves, Aberdeen, April 10, 1899.
Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh, Sadler's Wells, Oct. 24, 1855.
Hamlet, Opera, Covent Garden, June 19, 1869.
Hamlet a la Mode, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Oct. 16, 1876.
Hamlet the Hysterical, Princess's, Nov. 30, 1874.
Hamlet Whether He Will or No, Alexandra, Sheffield, June 2, 1879.
Hand and Glove, Grecian, May 25, 1874.
Hand and Heart, Gaiety, May 21, 1886.
Handcuffs, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, May 11, 1893.
Handfast, Prince of Wales's, Dec. 13, 1887.
Hand-in-Hand, Theatre Royal, Rotherham, Aug. 5, 1889.
Hand of Elmsley, Tyne, Newcastle, Aug. 27, 1877.
Hand of Fate, Alhambra, Barrow, March 3, 1884.
Hand of Justice, Sadler's Wells, Sept. 7, 1891.
Hand of Providence, Surrey, Aug. 2, 1897.
Hand of Time, Theatre Royal, Darlington, Dec. 20, 1897.
Hands Across the Sea, Theatre Royal, Manchester, July 30, 1888.
Handsome Apology, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, March 2, 1888.
Handsome Hernani, Gaiety, Aug. 30, 1879.
Handsome Husband, Strand, Nov. 1, 1895.
Handsome is that Handsome Does, Manchester, Aug. 15, 1870.
Handsome Jack the Highwayman, Marylebone, Aug. 18, 1862.
Handy Man, Kingston, June 4, 1900.
Hanged Man, Victoria, April 28, 1866.
Hans an Alsatian, Queen's Opera House, Liverpool, Aug. 9, 1880.
Hansel and Gretel, Daly's, Dec. 26, 1894.
Hans the Boatman, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, March 7, 1887.
Happier Days, Ladbroke Hall, June 17, 1886.
Happiness at Home, Britannia, May 29, 1871.
Happy Arcadia, St. George's Hall, July 15, 1895.
Happy Cruise, Vaudeville, Nov. 17, 1873.
Happy Day, Gaiety, Oct. 6, 1886.
Happy Go Lucky, Marylebone, July 10, 1875.
Happy Hampstead, Alexandra, Liverpool, July 3, 1876.
Happy Hypocrite, Royalty, Dec. 11, 1900.
Happy Land, Court, March 3, 1873.
Happy Life, Duke of York's, Dec. 6, 1897.

A municipal theatre is about to be tried in the town of Schoeneberg, a flourishing Berlin suburb. A company has been formed with a capital of £20,000 to conduct the theatre, but the building itself will remain the property of the town. The cost of building the theatre is estimated at £60,000, and the corporation advances at once the sum of £50,000, and has agreed to pay the remaining £10,000 when the twenty years' lease which has been granted to the theatre company expires. The rent has been fixed at a sum which will cover 4 per cent. interest on £5,00., the value of the land on which the theatre is built, 4 per cent. interest on the £50,000 advanced by the corporation, the fire insurance premium, and the annual amount required to pay back the invested capital in thirty-five years. The theatre company may charge what price it chooses for the boxes and for half of the seats on the floor of the house; but for the rest of the seats no higher price than 2s. each may be charged, and other amounts are to be in proportion.

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ON THE ROAD, APRIL 2.

Abandoned Woman.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Alexandra Opera Co.—Theatre Royal, Batley.
Are You a Mason?—Manchester.
At Cripple Creek.—Star T., Liverpool.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Leeds.
At the World's Mercy.—King's T., Ebbw Vale.
Beauty and the Barge.—Grand T., Croydon.
Benson, F. R. (B).—Century T., Motherwell.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Beside The Bonnie Brier Bush.—Grand T., Derby.
Bramley, Esmond.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Branded Woman.—Aquarium, Gt. Yarmouth.
Bulmer, Mr.—Prince's T., Preston.
Carl Rosa Opera Company.—Marlboro' Theatre.
Catch of the Season.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Doncaster.
Christian, The (Howard).—Stourbridge.
Christian, The.—Grand Junction T., Manchester.
Cingalee.—Ashton.
Cingalee (S.).—Chatham.
Claudian.—T. R., Brighton.
Coal King.—Grand Theatre, Hull.
Compton Comedy Co.—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Conscience and Crime.—Theatre Royal, Goole.
Cotton Spinner.—O. H., Blackpool.
Country Girl.—Hertford and Hitchin.
Country Girl (Dance).—Burnley.
Dandy Doctor.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Norwich.
Death or Glory Boys.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Drama of Life.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Driven from Home.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Dr. Wake's Patient.—Court T., Warrington.
Duchess of Danteic.—Middlesbrough.
Earl and the Girl.—Grand T., Southampton.
Eternal City (Howard).—Grand T., Birmingham.
Face at the Window.—O. H. Wakefield.
Faithful Friend.—Wedgewood T., Burslem.
False Wife.—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
Female Swindler.—Grand Theatre, W. Hartlepool.
Fight for Millions.—P. O. W., Salford.
Florodora (N.).—Dunfermline.
Florodora (S).—Standard Theatre, E.
Freedom of Suzanne.—O. H., Leicester.
Frivolity.—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
Gay Parisienne.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
Girl from Kay's (Dance).—Northampton.
Golden Ladder.—Theatre Royal, St. Helens.
Go Won Go Mohawk.—T. R., Coatbridge.
Great Awakening.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
Greatest Scoundrel Living.—Prince's T., Preston.
Grip of Iron.—Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.
Guilty Man.—Hippodrome, Mansfield.
Her Lost Self.—St. James's Theatre, Manchester.
Her Luck in London.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Her One Great Sin.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Her Second Time on Earth.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Honour Thy Father.—Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
I Defy the World.—West London Theatre.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
In Holy Russia.—Theatre Royal, Workington.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Theatre Royal, Blackburn.
Kitty Grey.—Opera House, Cheltenham.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Dawley and Winsford.
Lady Madcap (Dance).—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Lady Madcap (Edwardes).—Prince's T., Manchester.
La Poupee (Ralland).—T. R., W. Bromwich.
Laughter Land.—Victoria Theatre, Broughton.
Leah Kleschna.—Theatre Royal, Stockport.
Leah Kleschna.—Crown Theatre, Peckham.
Life of a Showman.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
Life's Sweetest Sins.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Lights o' London.—County T., Reading.
Little Bread Winner.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Little Michus (Dance).—Hastings.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
London Actress.—Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.
London Fireman.—Grand Theatre, Brighton.
Love that Women Desire.—T. Royal, Smethwick.
Man and Wife.—Grand Theatre, Newcastle.
Man's Enemy.—Theatre Royal, Bilston.
Manxman, The.—Theatre Royal, Stockton.
Martin Harvey.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
Master Crimpnal.—Grand Theatre, Stalybridge.
Midnight Mail.—Court T., Wigan.
Money Makes the Man.—Pavilion T., Altrincham.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Moody Manners (A.).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Moody Manners (B.).—Keighley.
Mountain Climber.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
Mr. Hopkinson.—T. R., Plymouth.
Mr. Smith.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Mr. Smith.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Napoleon the Great.—Miners' T., Ashington.
No Wedding Bells for Her.—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.
Oliver Twist (Howard).—Crystal Palace.
One of the Best.—Pavilion T., Mile End.
Orchid (2).—Woolwich.
Orchid (3).—Ipswich.
Otto, the Outcast.—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
Passion's Power.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
Path of Thorns.—Paisley Theatre, Paisley.
Peggy Machree.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Poor Must Live.—T. R., South Shields.
Power of the Cross.—Colosseum T., Oldham.
Price of Her Soul.—T. R., Barnsley.
Prince of Pilsen.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Prodigal Parson.—New Theatre, W. Stanley.
Prodigal Son.—Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.
Proof.—T. R., Colne.
Public Opinion (N.).—Theatre Royal, Newcastle
Revenge.—Prince's Theatre, Bradford.
Rogue's Daughter.—T. R., Leicester.
Rogues of the Turf.—Theatre Royal, York.
Royal Divorce.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Royal Divorce (N.).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Royal Revenge.—O. H., Southport.
Sailors of the King.—County Theatre, Bedford.
Saints and Sinners.—T. R., Merthyr.
See-Saw of Life.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Sign of the Cross.—Grand Theatre, Nottingham.
Silver King.—T. R., Bolton.
Sin of Her Childhood.—T. R., Hyde.
Sins of a City.—Theatre Royal, Lincoln.
Spring Chicken.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Still Alarm.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Sunday.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Sweet and Twenty.—Harrogate and Buxton.
Swiss Express.—Opera House, Perth.
Temptress, The.—Prince's Theatre, Poplar.
Three Little Maids (S.).—Peterboro' & Loughboro'.
Toreador.—Llanelly and Aberdare.
Traitor Prince.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
Two Hussars.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Theatre Royal, Colchester.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—G. T., Falkirk.
Under Two Flags.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Veronique (Dance).—Hastings.
Village Blacksmith.—Theatre Royal, Rotherham.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
Warner, Miss Grace.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
Way of the World.—Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
What the Butler Saw.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
When It Was Dark.—Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
When Woman Hates.—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
White Chrysanthemum.—Borough T., Stratford.
Wilkie, Allen, and Co.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Willard, E. S.—St. Paul, Minneapolis.
Woman's Past.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Worst Woman in London.—Elephant and Castle T.
Wrecker of Men.—Alhambra Theatre, Hull.
Youngest of the Three.—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
10.30 Down Express.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.

The comedy-sketch *Rats* was successfully produced on Saturday last at the West London Theatre by Mr. J. M. F. Brandon and Miss Ella Seton, by kind permission of Mr. William Bailey.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Dolf.—On March 24, 1906, the wife of S. B. Dolf, of a daughter.
Elliott.—On 26th inst., at 45, Elspeth-road, Clapham Common, S.W., the wife of Frank Elliott (Moss' Empires, Ltd.), of a daughter. Both doing well.
Melville.—On March 28, Rose Melville (wife of Andrew Melville, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham), of a fine daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

Denton—Chattell.—On March 24, by licence, at Fulham, Jack Denton to Hettie Chattell.

DEATHS.

Carr.—March 21, at Hanley, Tom Carr, viola player, and a member of the Grand Theatre orchestra, in his 58th year.
Child.—On Friday, March 23, 1906, at Melrose, Milton-road, Hanwell, W., of pleuro-pneumonia, the Rev. Thomas Child, aged 66 years, father of George Child.

In Memoriam.

Cooper.—In loving memory of Clifford and Agnes Kemble Cooper, who passed away April 1 and 3 respectively, 1895.
O'Gorman.—In remembrance of Mrs. Joe O'Gorman (Maggie Coleman), who died April 1, 1898. Never forgotten by her mother, sisters, and brother. R.I.P.
Peach.—In ever loving memory of my own dear mother, Emily Peach (Emily Miller), who died March 31, 1902. Gone, but never forgotten by her loving daughter, Loo.
Percy.—In ever loving memory of my dear husband Henry Percy, who died suddenly, March 30, 1901, of heart failure, after ten years' patient suffering. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife (Amy Lloyd-Earle). R.I.P.

For Sympathy.

Humphreys.—Mrs. Humphreys wishes to thank all the friends for their kind letters and wires of deep sympathy in her sad bereavement in the death of her husband, who died suddenly at Merthyr, on March 21.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Actors' Association held a meeting on Saturday last, Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), William Devereux, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Charles Cruikshank (secretary) being present. Mr. Cecil Bartle's proposition in connection with the publication of a monthly magazine by the Association was discussed, and the financial prospects of success considered. A matter concerning the personnel of the staff was considered, and a resolution on the subject having been passed, the secretary received instructions.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held last Tuesday, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mesdames Carlotta Addison and Saba Raleigh, Messrs. Blake Adams, Clarence Blakiston, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, William Devereux, A. E. George, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Fewlass Llewellyn, Norman McKinnel, Quinton McPherson, Walter Russell, Spencer Trevor, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors were requested to take proceedings to enforce a member's claim, and they reported they had advised several members. Miss Vera Leslie's scheme was again under consideration, and the secretary received instructions as to exhibiting a notice, with particulars, in the rooms of the Association.

A letter from a member containing suggestions was considered, and it was agreed that the same should be referred to the members for discussion at the next bi-monthly meeting. A question of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre was under consideration, and the secretary received instructions to place the papers in the hands of the hon. medical officer of health. Messrs. Dolland and Co., 113, Cheapside, E.C., were appointed opticians to the Association. The Finance and General Purposes Committee's report was received and approved. Three former members were reinstated, and Edith Deverell was nominated for election. The secretary was directed to summon a meeting of the Special Committee to be held to-day (Saturday) at 12.30. The Suggestion Book was considered and an entry made.

The National Trades Exhibition, held annually at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, was opened with due pomp and ceremony by the Lord Mayor of the city, Mr. Councillor A. J. Reynolds, on Thursday, when the exhibits, side-shows, manufactures, and general attractions visible showed that its promoter and manager, Mr. George Stanley, had in no wise abated his efforts and success in this hardy and popular annual. The band of H.M. Yorkshire Dragoons is in attendance.

The National Theatre Society, from the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, which paid London a visit last November, and made very creditable appearances at the St. George's Hall, will be at Manchester next month, appearing at the Midland Hall there on April 23 and 24, going afterwards to Liverpool and Leeds. The plays to be acted will consist of *Kathleen ni Houlihan*, by W. B. Yeats; *The Pot of Broth*; Mr. Synge's two short plays, *Riders to the Sea*, a tragedy of fishing life in the West, and *The Shadow of the Glen*, the dramatic form of an old tale which the author heard in the cabins; Mr. William Boyle's *Building Fund;* and Lady Gregory's *Spreading the News*, the majority of which have been already seen in the metropolis. By the terms of the patent of the Dublin Theatre, all the plays must be written by Irishmen, or on Irish subjects, or must otherwise be foreign masterpieces. A translation of Molière's "Le Médicin malgré lui," is now in rehearsal for performance in Dublin, and in the autumn the Society will produce one of the great Greek tragedies, as well as Mr. W. B. Yeats' next poetic drama on Irish legend, and new plays by Lady Gregory, J. M. Synge, and others.

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"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.
The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "The Era," Ltd., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Address,
The PUBLISHER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. W. T.—*The Siamese Twins died on Jan. 18, 1874, aged sixty-three years. Eng and Chang were born in Siam of Chinese parents in 1811. After realising a fortune in Europe the twins married two sisters, and settled in one of the Southern States of America. After severe losses caused by the Civil War, they reappeared in Europe for exhibition.*
Musical.—Lohengrin *was first performed in England at Her Majesty's Theatre on Feb. 8, 1880.*
W. B. B.—*Such agreements are common enough, and are binding.*
E. Millen.—*No, she is not; the lady only "blacks up" for stage purposes.*
S. A. C.—A Woman of the World, *three-act comedy by Stirling Coyne, was produced at the Olympic in February, 1868.*
E. L. D.—*Mme. Sarah Bernhardt played* Fedora *at the Royal English Opera House June 13, 1892.*
Nemo.—Round the World in Eighty Days, *adapted from Dennery and Verne's* Tour du Monde en Quatre-vingt Jours, *was first produced in English at the Princess's, March 15, 1875. A new version by Alfred Murray was produced at the Empire, March 31, 1886. Other versions were* Round the World in Weighty Days, *a burlesque by Captain Fitz-George, produced at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, March 15, 1877;* Round the Globe, *by J. F. McArdle, Alexandra, Liverpool, March 29, 1875; and* Round the Globe in Eighty Days, *Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Nov. 15, 1875.*
A. Z.—*The London Hippodrome was opened on Jan. 15, 1900.*
W. J. Blunden.—*We regret we are not in a position to offer you any advice as to the best course to pursue.*
Ellis.—*You should certainly apply to the artist named for permission to sing his songs.*
A. Walcott.—*The licence of Cremorne Gardens "lapsed for ever" on Oct. 5, 1877.*

The funeral of Mr. Arthur Rich, a well-known comedian, who had reached the age of sixty-two years, took place at Harton Cemetery, South Shields, on the 23rd inst. The mourners were Mr. Stephen Crossley, Mr. Charles A. Leicester, Mr. Douglas Tremayne, Mr. J. Telly Dilston, Mr. Charles Digby, and Mr. Tyrone Power (members of Mr. and Mrs. George Kirk's company); Messrs. J. and F. Coulson, lessees and managers of the Theatre Royal, South Shields; Mr. J. Hopper, Mr. J. Dennison, Mr. T. Oates, Mr. H. Woodfine, Miss Farrington, Miss Shaw, Miss Hilda Shaw, Mrs. Fuller, Miss Paulton, and Mr. J. J. Dockwray. Beautiful wreaths of flowers were sent by Mr. and Mrs. George Kirk, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson, the lady staff of the Theatre Royal, Mr. G. Carlton and company, of which deceased was a member, and Mr. and Mrs. George Kirk's company.

"The American Heiress," the musical comedy at His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, this week, is a great success. Mr. Frank Barclay does much credit to the part of Lord Stonyhurst, and Mr. John Wilkinson as Stuart McNab is exceedingly humorous. The part of Captain O'Reilly is full of wit as undertaken by Mr. Paditz Dupres, and Mr. E. O. Freshwater does well as Colonel Hiram Windbag; while Mr. Walter Westwood plays the character of Jack Grey in a clever manner. Miss Margery Gray is excellent in the title-rôle, Miss Minnie Walsh is very pleasing as Cora Brooklyn, and the singing and dancing of Miss Dolly Doyle as the French maid are very taking. Miss Gipsy Touzeau gives a capital character-study as Miss Strongmynde.

In the Colchester Bankruptcy Court on the 23rd inst. Captain John Henry Lang Sims, of the 3rd Battalion Sussex Regiment, appeared for his examination. The statement of affairs showed a deficiency of £593, a solitary asset being a bad book debt for £25. The debtor stated that last August he joined in partnership Mr. Ralph Le Butt, who had theatrical experience, but no capital. He opened the newly built Grand Theatre at Colchester, although he was not solvent at the time. He denied having told Colchester creditors that he was prepared to spend £5,000 on the Grand Theatre; what he said was that there was a lot of money behind the theatre. Asked as to his experience of management, the Captain said he had done a good deal of acting. The examination was adjourned.

At the Theatre Royal, Dewsbury, this week, Mr. George Dance's *Orchid* company has appeared. As Meakin Mr. Tommy Nelden is the life and soul of the evening; Mr. Arthur Helmsley as Zaccary is a capital dancer, his efforts being greeted with much applause; Mr. Fern Pounds as Scrymgeour and Mr. W. Griffin as Fausset succeed in their respective rôles, as does Mr. E. Nainby as De Cassignat. Miss Dorothy Firmin portrays Lady Violet in fine style, and Miss Elsa Brull as Jo could hardly be improved upon. Miss Madeline Maud makes the most of Caroline Twining, and Mr. Gordon Begg is to be praised for his capital performance as Chesterton.

Princess Ena, accompanied by her mother, visited the Apollo Theatre on Thursday afternoon, when Miss Cowper-Coles gave a matinée on behalf of the Home of Rest, Shanklin.

SORE THROAT OR HOARSENESS
CURED IN A FEW HOURS.
Sir Morell Mackenzie, M.D., the Eminent Throat Specialist, constantly recommended Condy's Remedial Fluid to be diluted and used as a Gargle for speedily curing Sore Throat or Hoarseness.
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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this List.

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Baldry, Mr. H.
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Barrett, Mr. Joe
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Espinawse, Mr. Bernard
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Thirlby, Mr. Edward
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Zertho

HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S LADIES' ATHLETIC TEAM v. MISS WINIFRED BRADLEY'S LADIES' XI.

Played near Clifton Downs on March 17. During the second half of the game Miss Minnie Leonard was injured, and had to retire. The following were the teams:—

Miss Fowler's Team.—Miss Ethel Bowman (goal), Miss Rosie Davies and Miss Ivy Bowman (backs), Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), Miss Lillie Belding and Miss Nellie Bailey (half-backs), Miss Gracie Leonard, Miss Minnie Leonard, Miss Amy Bernard, Miss Bertha Godfrey, and Miss Lillie Clayton (forwards).

Miss Bradley's XI.—Miss Winifred Bradley (captain) (goal), Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Minnie Hamilton (backs), Miss Lucy Norris, Miss Lillie Coles, and Miss Alice Stephens (half-backs), Miss Jessie Maguire, Miss Kit Montgomery, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Maudie Burgess, and Miss Nellie Lawrence (forwards).

Referee, Miss May Fisher. No goals were scored on either side.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS v. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, March 17. Messrs. A. E. Bailey, J. Aubrey, J. Lacey (two), and P. Reardon scored for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.—H. Belding (goal), J. Lewis and A. Hamlin (captain) (backs), A. E. Bailey, F. Stephens, and S. Carter (half-backs), H. Edwards, E. Belding, J. Aubrey, P. Hewlett, and E. Bowman (forwards).

Music Halls A.F.C.—D. O'Connor (goal), J. Tyley and F. Arni (backs), T. Neagle (captain), W. Hinder and J. Lacey (half-backs), F. Hansford, R. Cullen, P. Reardon, H. C. Douglas, and W. Meadows (forwards)

Referee, F. White; linesmen, F. Thorne and L. Hamlin. Result: Bristol X.L.C.R., 2 goals; Music Halls A.F.C., 3 goals.

As a result of the recent matinée performance at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, in aid of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, Mr. J. M. Chute, the proprietor and manager, has sent to the president (Sir George White, Bart.) a cheque for the substantial sum of £327 16s. 2d. Mr. Chute has received a cordial acknowledgment from Sir George, in which he asks to be allowed to convey the committee's best thanks and his own personal gratitude.

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Third Monthly Social Dinner at 8 p.m.
Both at ADELPHI HOTEL, JOHN-ST., W.C.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual for 1906, 1s. 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. This useful little work, which brings nearly up to date the calendar of dramatic events which is so excellent a feature, is, as usual, full of stories over the signature of prominent stage lights. To those interested in the business of the theatre the work has become a necessity by reason of its valuable record of the progress of the drama.—Financial Times, Jan. 22, '06.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual (1s.) is, of course, issued by our premier theatrical journal, which, under the literary supervision of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, has recently improved an already strong position. The Annual is better than ever, and includes, besides details of all plays produced in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin, lists of all theatres and music halls in the United Kingdom, &c., many stories and sketches by and portraits of actors and actresses. It is a remarkable shillingsworth; useful and interesting to all playgoers and members of the profession alike.—Sunday Sun, Jan. 21, '06.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual again makes its welcome appearance. I say welcome because, as a work of theatrical reference, it is always handy to have in the house—or office. In this connection I am glad to note that the lists of play-productions for the past year are given in better type and altogether in a much clearer manner. As of yore, there are sundry stories in prose and verse. The best of these include "Stage Superstitions," by Charles Warner; "Boy Bob at Sea," a poem by Louie Freear; "The Last Muster," a weird tragic military story, by Mr. Joseph Wilson, who has been a soldier himself; and "Nellie Bligh's Notices," a capital theatrical story, by Mr. Frank Desprez.—Referee, Jan. 28, 1906.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanac and Annual for 1906, is not only a valuable collection of information and a history of the dramatic and musical year. It is also a very amusing and entertaining shillingsworth It contains contributions from many well-known actors and actresses. Mr. Frank Desprez, the editor, contributes a delightful story about an actress who sold her collection of Press notices in order to help a colleague in distress. There are numerous portraits. The lists of English, French, and German plays produced during the year are very useful. Altogether, "The Era" Almanack is indispensable to all interested in the stage.—The Star, Jan. 24, 1906.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1906.

MR. BOURCHIER ON BAD PLAYS.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER's interesting speech in response to the toast of the Drama at the Gallery First Nighters' dinner at Frascati's on Sunday last was full of interest and suggestion. It was a protest against the "unpleasant" in dramatic art; against demonstrations of morbid psychology in plays, and against the use of breaches of the Seventh Commandment as material for "entertainments of the stage." "No play," said Mr. BOURCHIER, "has ever made for the good of its author, its producer, the actors engaged in it, or of anyone else, which had a breach of the Seventh Commandment for its pivot, or the display of the seamy side of private life for its *raison d'être*. We know these things exist, and always will exist as long as human nature is what it is; but we go to the play wishing to forget them, not to see them."

Mr. BOURCHIER's first statement is a somewhat sweeping one. One of the most profitable plays that was ever written—*East Lynne*—dealt with the subject which he is inclined to entirely taboo; and in *The Walls of Jericho* we have an "approach," as a golfer would put it, to the Forbidden Theme. What Mr. BOURCHIER means, we imagine, is to attack the modern foreign play in which adultery, in its different forms, is analysed, dissected, and generally examined and discussed; and to deprecate dramas in which, at the expense of decency and optimism, social subjects are discussed generally in a spirit of the darkest gloom.

Englishmen, as a rule, have no sympathy with "that sort of thing." If an Englishman is a rake, he takes his vices as he takes his meals, in a blunt, inartistic, and utilitarian spirit. As he usually marries from inclination and not from interest, he makes no excuses for himself if he goes wrong; and if his wife betrays him he simply appeals to the Divorce Court in order to get rid of her. He does not philosophise; he acts. The French have been philosophising about adultery for centuries; but it is only recently that they have legalised divorce. In England, the drama is primarily an amusement and a diversion. If we discuss social questions we do it in books and newspapers or at public meetings. We ask of our stage a recreation after practical effort, not an assistant in the improvement of society. On the French stage of late years, every social question—even the suckling of babies by their mothers instead of by wet nurses—has been quite seriously treated. In Germany, dramatists like STRINDBERG and HAUPTMANN have dealt with life in a spirit of bitter protest. But that is because people in those countries go to the play in quite a different state of mind to that in which the majority visit the theatre in England.

We admit that there is in this country a small minority of people who, being cultured, are also cosmopolitan. But they do not represent the public. The average Englishman is entirely out of sympathy with the art feeling of the Continental nations. He believes in "specialising" different departments of life. "Let General BOOTH and the Charity Organisation Society," says he, "be in their places; let the British drama be in *its* place too." Marriage is a contract; if either side break the said contract, and there are injuries; well, the Courts are open—"let them implead one another." But, in the name of goodness, says the Britisher, don't let us mix up art and sentiment with the matter. If the Englishman reads a French novel, it is for its indecency, not for its philosophy. All these stories of the sighings and sorrows of married women who find they have made mistakes, and haven't the honesty to stand by their bad bargains, sicken him. The success of the English nation has been won, not by its Intellect, but by its Character. England has always consisted of millions of stupid people, who are yet shrewd enough to realise their stupidity and let the thinking be done for them by a few hundreds. It is the majority to whom the theatre has to look for its patronage, and not to the hundreds, who are too much occupied, as a rule, with their particular philanthropies to care about the stage, or at any rate do not want to see the subjects they understand so thoroughly travestied so as to satisfy audiences which do not understand them at all. Britons have a horror of discussing questions which they consider are settled; and they are strong believers in the theory that a council of war always ends in a surrender. For instance, *Monna Vanna*, as Mr. WILLIAM ARCHER explained on one occasion in the witness-box, was written to "discuss" the question whether, if a town were sorely besieged, and the garrison were suffering severely, it would be admirable or reprehensible for a hitherto-virtuous married woman to offer herself up as a naked sacrifice to the chief of the besiegers on the condition that he marched off his troops. The average Briton does not want to "discuss" the question at all. He simply says, speaking as the general of the besieged to the captain of the besiegers, that he will see him damned first. We may be certain that if a parallel case had been put to the vote of the garrison of Ladysmith, even at their utmost extremity, they would have scornfully and profanely rejected the offer of the amorous Boer general. And, to the English reader or playgoer, this "discussion" of adultery seems not so much shocking as unnecessary. In the novels of M. PAUL BOURGET, when the married heroine "goes wrong," we have every phase of her declension described and "discussed." We are told what she felt, what the young man felt, and what—eventually—the husband felt. Every detail of her *chute* is supplied, even down to mentioning the most intimate articles of feminine attire. All this does not interest an English reader at all. He likes his sensuality "neat," not mixed up with a sentiment which seems to him sickly, and an analysis which appears to him entirely uncalled for. But—and here we arrive at a curious quirk of the English character—the virtuous Englishman is half ashamed of his virtue. He likes to pretend that he is a "dog," and it is an expression of the height of friendliness to poke him in the ribs with your forefinger, and tell him that he is a "devil among the women." This accounts for the liberal patronage that is occasionally bestowed by the middle class—and only by the patronage of the middle class can a long run be obtained—upon such plays as *Pink Dominoes* and others whose names will immediately occur to the practised playgoer. The Anglo-Saxon, essentially prosaic, and too excellently animal to be Epicurean, snatches a fearful joy as he books seats to see a play which outrages his secretly-cherished convictions and derides his carefully-concealed correctness of conduct. But this is merely the revenge he takes on his self-imposed restrictions; the Saturnalia in which he—strictly *pro tem.*—casts off the yoke of his submission to the Seventh Commandment.

It is not safe to rely on these periods of reactionary prurience; and, as Mr. BOURCHIER says, the more wholesome and less nauseous the story of a play, the more likely is it to prove profitable to its author, its producer, and the actors engaged in it.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—
Minnie Palmer—Saturday, March 31.
Ella Vane—Saturday, March 31.
W. Clarkson—Saturday, March 31.
Charles Locke—Saturday, March 31.
Frank Eden—Saturday, March 31.
Emma Stockley—Saturday, March 31.
Edith Rosaire—Saturday, March 31.
Walter Leaver—Sunday, April 1.
Cora Marriott—Monday, April 2.
Hetty Hertzfeld—Monday, April 2.
Cossie Noel—Monday, April 2.
John Peachey—Monday, April 2.
Prof. Buers—Monday, April 2.
Charles Taylor—Monday, April 2.
Gipsy Woolf—Monday, April 2.
Marion Grahame—Monday, April 2.
Silvanus Dauncey—Tuesday, April 3.
Lawrence Kellie—Tuesday, April 3.
Mrs. Colin Hazlewood—Tuesday, April 3.
Guinevere Shilton—Wednesday, April 4.
Cliff Page—Wednesday, April 4.
Dr. Hans Richter—Wednesday, April 4.
Mrs. E. Carter Livesey—Wednesday, April 4.
Mlle. Marcelle Chevalier—Wednesday, April 4.
Robert Watt—Wednesday, April 4.
J. J. Dallas—Wednesday, April 4.
Leo Montague—Wednesday April 4.
Zarmo—Thursday, April 5.
Hilda Stewart—Friday, April 6.
Fred Pollard—Friday, April 6.

SOME unscrupulous individual has been making "engagements" for a supposititious production at the Palace, and the management will feel obliged if anyone who has paid a fee in consideration of same will communicate with them.

"THE MAN FROM BLANKLEY'S."

Comedy in Three Acts, by F. Anstey, Revived at the Haymarket Theatre on Saturday, March 24.

Lord Strathpeffer ..... MR. CHARLES HAWTREY.
Mr. Montague Tidmarsh ..... MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Mr. Gabriel Gilwattle .... MR. HENRY KEMBLE
Mr. Toomer ..... MR. WELTON DALE
Mr. Jeremiah Ditchwater ..... MR. E. HOLMAN CLARK
Mr. Nathaniel Bodfish ..... MR. H. LAURENT
Mr. Poffley ..... MR. AUBREY FITZGERALD
Dawes ..... MR. ARTHUR PLAYFAIR
Mrs. Montague Tidmarsh ..... MISS FANNY BROUGH
Mrs. Gilwattle ..... MISS ALICE MANSFIELD
Mrs. Ditchwater ..... MISS GWYNNE HERBERT
Mrs. Boldfish .....MISS LYDIA RACHAEL
Miss Bugle ..... MISS C. EWELL
Miss Cecilia Flinders .... MISS MAUD WYNTER
Miss Gwendoline Tidmarsh ..... MISS WINIFRED WINTER
Miss Marjory Seaton .... MISS DAGMAR WIEHE
Jane ..... MISS MURIEL ALSTON
Hannah ..... MISS MARY LESLIE

Mr. F. Anstey is a writer who creates extraordinary effects with very simple materials; and this because he is, essentially, a realist. In his novel "Vice Versâ" he showed intimate acquaintance with the manners and customs of schoolboys; in *The Man from Blankley's*, which was revived with complete success at the Haymarket Theatre on Saturday evening, he satirises the well-to-do middle class, whose chief *habitat*, according to Mr. Anstey, is Bayswater. A good many inhabitants of that salubrious district will object to the picture which he draws of the pretentious, pinchbeck existence which Mr. Anstey depicts in *The Man from Blankley's*. They will protest that people in Bayswater do not give their friends bad wine, and very little of it; that their minds are not for ever concerned with base and petty considerations; that they do not worship the aristocracy; and that they are not at all dull. In one particular, we think Mr. Anstey's picture is a little out of drawing. Two of his caricature-people—the old maid and the pseudo scientist's wife—are ostentatiously melancholy. So far as our observation has gone, we think this is an error. The people whom Thackeray called "Snobs" are, as a rule, unconsciously but completely contented. It is the people who study them who, to use a beautiful colloquial euphemism, "get the hump." Indeed, it is an additional sadness to the thinking observer to see the rest of his Bayswater personages Mr. Anstey the "snob" flourishing like a green bay-tree in his smug and cheerful self-satisfaction. In all has suggested this ignorant elation. Mr. Poffley is convinced that he is an irresistible "charmer"; Mrs. Tidmarsh has not the least suspicion that she is not a perfection of "style"; and long-continued tyranny in his "social circle" has imbued Mr. Gabriel Gilwattle with an irremovable idea of his own superiority. Apart from its most amusing action, *The Man from Blankley's* is a social satire of brisk pungency and keen observation. We have all met in our youth the elderly relative whose lofty patronage inspired in us feelings of revolt, and the old lady who thought young people should be kept in their proper places; and, as for the irrepressible Mr. Poffley, he is too well invented not to be convincing. Mr. Anstey's collection of curiosities is thrown into strong contrast by the opposition of two perfectly bred people — the quietly-wise and sensitive Miss Seaton, and the good-natured, unegotistical Lord Strathpeffer. Strathpeffer's cheery endurance of the situation which he has created by his blunder; his persevering attempts to tolerate his temporary companions, and to humanise them "for this evening only"; his long-sustained suffering of insignificant indignities—until at last he is really annoyed, and turns on Tidmarsh with an authority which completely subdues him—all these touches of Mr. Anstey's pen tell immensely. He is fortunate in having for the revival of his piece such an artist as Mr. Charles Hawtrey to represent the leading personage of the play. Mr. Hawtrey is so essentially and so unconsciously well-bred, well-dressed, and well-groomed that he is an ideal Strathpeffer; and he sustains the amusing part with complete confidence and assured exactness. He is absolutely at his ease in the part, and is quite delightful in it. Miss Dagmar Wiehe plays Miss Marjory Seaton in just the right spirit, looking very pretty in a very smart dress, and acting with all the required repose and refinement. Mr. Weedon Grossmith's Montague Tidmarsh is exquisitely quaint and comical, every touch being intensely artistic, and the make-up being a marvel of ingenuity. Mr. Henry Kemble's Gabriel Gilwattle is a "joy for ever," with his portentous conceit, his curious cranium, his amazing attire, and his organ-like utterances. Mr. Welton Dale supplies a smart little character sketch as Mr. Toomer; and Mr. E. Holman Clark is quietly and naturally droll as Mr. Jeremiah Ditchwater. Mr. H. Laurent, with an excellent exterior, makes the most of Bodfish's few but valuable opportunities, and Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald is so well fitted by nature to impersonate Mr. Poffley that it is indeed difficult to imagine a better exponent of the rôle. Mr. Arthur Playfair's solemn butler is a marvel of serene magnificence, and Miss Fanny Brough's Mrs. Montague Tidmarsh has just the surface gentility and substantial vulgarity required, the hard nature underlying the lady's sham sweetness being admirably suggested. Miss Alice Mansfield's Mrs. Gilwattle is a characteristic reproduction of a familiar type; Miss Lydia Rachel hits off the cheery commonplace of Mrs. Bodfish with neatness and effect; and Miss Gwynne Herbert is duly sentimental and affected as Mrs. Ditchwater, Miss C. Ewell being very quaint and amusing as Miss Bugle. Miss Maud Wynter does excellent work as Miss Cecilia Flinders, and Miss Winifred Winter plays Miss Gwendoline Tidmarsh quite nicely and prettily; Miss Muriel Alston and Miss Mary Leslie being very efficient as servants. Mr. Walter Hann's suburban drawing-room and Mr. Ernest Hann's dining-room in the same *genre* are neatly realistic. The revival of *The Man from Blankley's* was often interrupted by outbursts of hearty laughter; and, the applause at the conclusion was sufficient testimony to the delight and amusement of the audience. The comedy was preceded by that capital one-act piece, *A Privy Council*, in which —Mr. Sydney Valentine having been delayed on his voyage back to England—the part of Samuel Pepys was played with much skill and dry humour by Mr. Cecil Rose. Mr. Louis Goodrich now undertakes the rôle of Sir Christopher Mings, and sustains it quite picturesquely; Mr. E. W. Tarver represents Sir William Killigrew cleverly; and Miss Ruth Maitland is pleasing and natural as Mrs. Pepys, Miss Mona Harrison being bright and brisk as Mercer. Miss Muriel Alston is a smart Chambermaid, and Miss Alice Crawford repeats her previous success in the character of Mrs. Knipp.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

A deputation of the committee of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund waited upon Mr. J. L. Graydon, the president of the Fund, for the purpose of informing him that it was the unanimous wish of the committee that he should be invited to take the chair at the annual dinner, and they hoped that he would consent to do so. His kind and constant work in furthering the usefulness of the Fund ever since it was started was so well known that the committee thought that, by his accepting the position, he would be doing an act which they felt would meet with the utmost support and gratification from the profession at large.

Mr. Graydon said that he had already devoted much of his time to the work of the Fund, as they were all aware—more sometimes than he could conveniently spare. Still he had aided in the good work for so many years that if the committee thought it would further help the cause of charity, he would be pleased to accept the honour they wished to bestow on him.

The deputation thanked Mr. Graydon for his kindness, and withdrew. We understand that Sunday, April 29, has been suggested for the function.

Mr. Charles Warner has been specially engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll to appear at the three and six o'clock performances at the Coliseum from Monday next, April 2. He will be seen in his world-renowned character of Coupeau in *Drink*, in two acts. The cast includes Messrs. Harry A. Gribben, Alfred Phillips, Geo. Elliott, and F. Seville, together with Mesdames Mary Allestree and Helen Graeme.

The Putney Hippodrome is the latest suburban theatre of varieties and music hall. The foundation stone will be laid to-day at three o'clock by Sir Henry Kimber, Bart., M.P. The new place is situated in Felsham-road (late Gardner's-lane), within a few yards of Putney High-street, and near Putney Bridge. The architect is Mr. Frederic W. Hingston, Portland House, Basinghall-street.

Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Beerbohm Tree and two of his daughters, Miss Mary Moore, Mr. Basil Gill, Mr. C. W. Somerset, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Adrienne Augarde, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Henry Dana, and other members of the company from His Majesty's Theatre, attended the special matinée, on the 22nd, of *Naughty Nero* at the Oxford. Mr. Tree was warm in his congratulations as to the excellence of the production, and on the 23rd inst. write the following kindly letter to Mr. Arthur Roberts:—"I must write you a few lines to thank you for yesterday's performance. My little children and I enjoyed it greatly. It was very good-natured, and nothing calculated to hurt. I think I was most pleased with the murdered parts."

Mr. Ben Nathan, the well-known manager of Ashton's Agency, in Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, left England on Wednesday by the s.s. Baltic for the States on business connected with that firm. Mr. Harry Lundy, the former manager of the Oxford, sailed by the same boat to represent the whisky firm of W. Anderson and Co.

As Miss Florence St. John and two ladies were driving on Monday afternoon down that narrow declivity, Durham House-street, leading out of the Strand to the Tivoli stage door, the cab overturned, and the trio were pitched out on to the pavement. The popular artist, who had to be dragged from her perilous position by the legs, was found to have sustained a slight cut on the wrist and a few bruises. In spite of the upset, however, she was able to fulfil her promise to appear at Mr. James Howell's testimonial benefit, and played with her customary piquancy the part of Mrs. Merridew in *My Milliner's Bill*.

In spite of a blizzard on Monday afternoon, a dense crowd awaited the arrival of the Jap sailors outside the Coliseum, which was packed from floor to ceiling. Togo's men were given the best seats in the stalls, and the officers were in the Royal box. Count Mutsu, who is Chargé d'Affaires at the Court of St. James, in the absence of Viscount Hayashi, was present. In addition to the usual programme, some fine pictures of the Russo-Japanese war, pictures of the two new Japanese battleships on which the sailors are to return home, and one of the Dreadnought, were shown. After the performance, high tea was served in rooms bedecked with chrysanthemums and Japanese flags, the waitresses being dressed like geisha girls.

In the evening they went to the Alhambra, where their vociferous appreciation of the performance filled the house with enthusiasm. It was a great night, recalling the scenes enacted on "Ladysmith" and "Peace" nights. The "Fall of Port Arthur" was shown in Urbanora pictures for the benefit of the visitors, whose hearty roars of laughter and thunderous applause it did everyone good to hear.

Mr. Chris Wordsworth, who resigned his position as acting-manager at the Surrey to enable him to devote all his time to his variety agency, was on Monday evening presented by his former staff with a handsome travelling bag and rug. The gifts were handed to Mr. Wordsworth by Mr. Charles Craig, his successor, in the saloon of the Equestrian, the hosfelry adjoining the theatre. Mr. Wordsworth acknowledged the gift in a few felicitous phrases.

We regret to hear that Mr. Paul Courtney, the well-known sketch artist, is lying seriously ill, and has been unable to appear with his company for eight weeks. Thanks, however, to the kindness of Mr. Sam Barnard and Mr. John Lawson, Mrs. Courtney has been playing the sketch, *The New Doctor*, successfully, with the able assistance of Mr. Charles Clark. Mrs. Courtney will be pleased to hear from friends at 1, Thornhill-square, Camberwell.

Miss Victoria Monks is again to the fore with a new song, entitled "Is London like it used to be?" which should be a great success. The authors are Messrs. Castling and Murphy, and the fortunate publishers Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.

Roma and Romani are now at the Lyceum, and their refined musical act has been so successful that they have been retained; so that London proprietors have now an opportunity of seeing their turn.

Mlle. De Dio, whose beautiful dances have made quite a sensation in Vienna, where she is now appearing at Ronacher's, has had the honour of performing before Archduke Ferdinand, the Prince of Coburg, and practically the whole of the Royal Austrian Court, except the King. She terminates a most successful six weeks' engagement there to-day, and opens at the Wintergarten, Berlin, on Sunday, for two months. A very pretty compliment was paid to her a few nights ago. With her husband, Mr. P. H. Boggis, and a party of friends, she paid a visit to Maxim's, which is a well-known night café in Vienna. Soon after she had been seated, scores of small bouquets were thrown to her from all parts of the café, and in a short space of time her table was covered with beautiful flowers—so many, indeed, that she had to engage another carriage to take them to her hotel.

Another change of management in the Hastings Hippodrome has to be recorded. Mr. Albert Mathan is the new residential and general manager, and entered upon his duties on Monday, the 19th inst. He announces a reversion to the "two-shows-a-night" system at Easter. On Saturday night last Mr. Mathan, on behalf of the staff, presented a gold watch to Mr. Fred C. Ewing, his predecessor in office.

Nottingham is shortly to be provided with another big music hall similar to the present Empire. A syndicate, of which Mr. Walter de Frece (Vesta Tilley's husband) is the moving spirit, and who already own big variety halls in seven or eight of the principal cities of the country, have purchased the site in Lower Parliament-street on which Messrs. Starey's premises now stand, and they will commence building as soon as their plans have passed the Works and Ways Committee of the City Council. The site has an area of considerably over 1,000 yards, and the position is an admirable one for the purpose.

The plans were placed before the Buildings Committee of the City Council on Friday, the 23rd, and though they were not finally passed, the alterations which the committee recommended were only of a minor character. No difficulty is anticipated in that regard, and another week should see the official sanction to the building given.

The proposed structure will contain three tiers, the same as the Empire—a pit (with stalls near the stage), a dress circle, and above that the gallery. The stage entrance will be in Lincoln-street, so that the building will have a depth of nearly 70 yards. The architects are Messrs. Crewe, Briggs, and Parkes, of London.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Brighton Police-Aided Scheme for Clothing Destitute Children, held in the Brighton Town Hall on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Arthur R. Hollands, the manager of the Brighton Hippodrome, was presented with a massive black marble and bronze timepiece, with two bronze and marble figures to match, in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the matinées given at the Hippodrome in aid of the scheme.

The Mayor of Brighton (Ald. J. Colbourne, J.P.) said that, with the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barrasford and Mr. Hollands, the scheme had been crowned with great success, the recent matinée performance at the Hippodrome realising £127 13s. 4d. The presentation to Mr. Hollands was made by the Mayoress.

The clock bore the following inscription:—"Presented by the Committee of the Brighton Police-Aided Scheme for Clothing Destitute Children to Mr. Arthur R. Hollands, manager of the Brighton Hippodrome, in recognition of his valuable assistance in arranging a matinée in aid of the funds in 1905 and 1906, which resulted on both occasions in unqualified success. March, 1906."

Mr. Hollands, in responding, acknowledged the great help he had received from the whole of the staff of the Hippodrome, and particularly from Mr. Brown, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Clark. It was impossible, he said, to overrate the assistance afforded him by Mr. Ayres (hon. secretary to the Scheme Committee), whose energy in disposing of the tickets had contributed largely to the success of the matinées. Should Mr. Thomas Barrasford lend the hall for another matinée, he (Mr. Hollands) would only be too pleased to do all he could to make it even more successful than the previous matinées.

Mr. Tom Carr, viola player, passed away at Hanley last week. He was an old and highly respected member of the profession, having done thirty years' service, the last few being spent in the orchestra of the Grand, Hanley, under Mr. J. H. Cartmell, the musical director, with whom he had played for thirteen consecutive years. During his career Mr. Carr held engagements with Moss and Thornton, Barrasford, &c. The interment took place on Sunday, the body being followed to its last resting-place by many sorrowing friends. The deceased was treasurer of the Hanley and District Orchestral Society, about sixty members of which were at the graveside. On Sunday morning, at their rehearsal, Chopin's Funeral March was played. The deceased was in his fifty-eighth year.

The Secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £2 as a donation from Messrs. H. and M. Rayne, of Waterloo-road, being the part proceeds of the sale of their useful little date and telephone book; also from Mr. Harry Randall, collected by him at the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, the following amounts:—Harry Randall £2 2s., Harry Fragson £1 1s., Arthur Williams £1 1s., Walter Passmore £1 1s., Arthur Conquest £1 1s., and Johnny Danvers 5s.

At the last meeting of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund the committee investigated 31 applications for relief, and granted assistance in 27 instances.

An enormous demand has arisen for the beautiful waltz, "San Sebastian," composed by Bandmaster Samuel Dodwell, of the London Rifle Brigade, and late of the Coldstream Guards, a waltz just published by Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter. The composer is pardonably proud of the following letter received by him on the 23rd inst:—"El Secretario Particular de S.M. El Rey, Madrid. Count de Andino, Private Secretary to His Majesty the King of Spain, has much pleasure in informing Mr. Samuel Dodwell, in answer to his letter of the 19th inst., that there is no objection to his dedicating his waltz, 'San Sebastian,' to His Majesty.—Mr. Samuel Dodwell."

Lee and Arden, the well-known West of Scotland al fresco entertainers, have again secured the sole permit for Saltcoats. This will make their fourth season there. They have also been granted the Newton Park by the Ayr Town Council.

Sanford and Lyons, in consequence of their success at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, this year, have been re-engaged by Mr. John Hart for next season. They open in town on Monday at the Oxford, Metropolitan, and Granville.

Before Mr. Registrar Giffard, a sitting was held on Wednesday for the public examination of Edward Cleary, who filed his own petition. In September last, with about £2,500 capital, he became lessee of the Olympia Exhibition buildings and grounds, and on Dec. 22 opened the premises as the Winter Palace of Sport, where he organised football and other athletic contests and games, and produced a variety entertainment. In reply to Mr. E. L. Hough, Official Receiver, the debtor said that he was an American by birth, and before coming to this country had some experience in producing operas and plays in the United States. The entertainment known as Savage South Africa was at first a success, but it was not patronised to the same extent after the South African war, with the result that he became involved in difficulties, and arranged with his creditors, whose claims amounted to about £3,000. He did not pay them all in the same proportion; some received more, and others less. In connection with the Winter Palace of Sports at Olympia he estimated that he had lost nearly £10,000. With the exception of the arrangement with creditors of February, 1900, he had not previously failed. The examination was concluded.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lashwood (Lottie Williams) entertained a few friends on Sunday last, the eighth anniversary of their wedding. The happy reunion lasted until the small hours of the morning.

Mr. Lennox Barry, who was for a short time manager of the Battersea Palace, has lately been filling a similar position at the Hounslow Hippodrome. He has now been appointed by Mr. Walter de Frece resident manager of the Wolverhampton Hippodrome, where he commences his duties on Monday next.

The Terriers on Sunday last gave a hearty welcome to their travelled brother Mr. Fred W. Millis on his return from a tour in the East. He was elected to the chair for the ensuing month. The fraternity is arranging its Good Friday Dinner and Social, and will give its sixth social concert (the last of the season) to-morrow at the Dover Castle, Westminster Bridge-road, with Mr. Millis in the chair. The annual general meeting of the Terriers will take place on Thursday, April 26.

Mr. Frank Glenister is much interested in the case of Genevera Alberta Lewis, aged eight years, the eldest daughter of Brother Quartermaster-Sergeant Lewis, who is a candidate for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at the election in April. Our readers who are subscribers to the noble institution mentioned above will aid a deserving case by forwarding their votes direct to Mr. Glenister at the London Pavilion.

The vast number of fishermen in the profession (Ernest Shand, Gus Elen, and Harry Tate among them) will hail with delight "The Angler's Guide," which Messrs. Hardy Bros., the world-renowned rod-makers and tackle experts of Pall Mall and the London and North British Works, Alnwick, have just issued. The beautifully got-up and well-illustrated volume of 400 pages, which is sent free on application, is not merely a catalogue of the specialities of the great house, but bristles with readable articles by experts on every kind of fishing, both at home and abroad, in fresh and in salt water.

Though Mr. Bransby Williams is afflicted with a bad cold, and has considerable difficulty in keeping faith with the public at the Empire, he is scoring a success there with his Dickens impersonations. He had a grand benefit at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, towards the conclusion of the pantomime, which achieved a record run. The most gratifying testimonial to his popularity was the presentation from the stage staff of a silver sovereign purse and match-box, suitably engraved.

On the last night of the production he was presented with a beautiful wreath of laurel, and addressed the audience a few words of farewell. On behalf of himself and Miss Winifred Hare he made presents to Mr. John Gaffney (the manager), Mr. George Saker (musical-director), and Mr. H. McLelland (stage-manger). Mr. Williams is re-engaged by Mr. F. W. Wyndham to play principal again next year. He has been recently elected a vice-president of the Dickens Fellowship, of which Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., is the president.

Mr. E. H. Dobson, the able manager of the Shepherd's Bush Empire, has been extremely busy this week supervising the rehearsals of the new sketch *Missing; or, The Light of Day*, to be produced on Monday evening at the music-hall mentioned. The playlet has been written by Mr. Preston Hone and some musical numbers have been composed by Mr. Ernest Vousden. Mr. Johnnie Schofield and Mr. J. C. Piddock, who will produce the sketch, will play leading parts in it, and will be supported by a capital company of artists.

At the Stratford Empire on Tuesday, April 3, two grand anniversary performances will be given. It was on April 3 that the Stratford Empire was opened, and, consequently, it has now completed seven years' most successful existence. Two specially augmented programmes will be submitted, among those who have kindly consented to appear being Marie Lloyd, May Henderson, Esta Stella, Bessie Featherstone, Harry Bedford, Morton Comedy Trio, H. Sloane, Cora Caselli, Walter King, Ella Lane, Tom Edwards, Ross and Grayson, Marguerite Broadfoote, Beatrice Willey, Frank Leslie, Robb Harvey, Percy Yorke, Eugene Stratton, American Comedy Four, Jordon and Harvey, and Ella Shields.

Mr. F. Baugh and Mr. Leonard Mortimer were the prime movers in organising the final free dinner of the season for poor children, which took place on Saturday at the Alexandra Trust, City-road, the youthful guests numbering no less than 2,000. Mr. Baugh is Mr. Thomas Barrasford's manager for the Macnaghten London Circuit, and, at his invitation, the children first comfortably assembled in the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, and then marched to the Alexandra Trust.

Mr. Leonard Mortimer, who worked with Mr. Baugh in this matter, is very popular in Hoxton owing to his association with the King's Theatre, Pitfield-street, and both these gentlemen were ably assisted by Mr. J. T. Reader, who is well known in the district, and takes a keen interest in charitable work of this description. During the past season 7,421 youngsters have been provided with free dinners in this way.

"The Players" will appear on Monday in *Her Last Chance* at the Richmond Theatre. They also have in preparation, and will shortly produce, in the West End, a funny farcical sketch, written expressly for them by Mr. George Unwin.

The Dunedin Troupe have arrived at the end of their journey—Chicago. They had a terribly rough passage from Southampton to New York on board the Philadelphia. In fact, on the night of Friday, March 9, they all thought they were going down. It was a terrible experience. Men and women, crying and praying, ran about the ship with lifebelts on them.

At the Chelsea Palace on Sunday evening next the entire proceeds of the concert organised by the National Sunday League will be given to the funds of the Royal Victoria Hospital for Children. Mr. Angelo Asher's Cadogan orchestra has been specially engaged to provide the music, and a most attractive programme is arranged.

Miss Winifred Hare, who opened at the Tivoli on Monday, was afterwards due at the Paragon, but was too unwell to finish her evening's work, and has since been suffering from influenza. She hopes to reappear next week, when she will sing for the first time in London one of her pantomime successes entitled "One little lonely star," written by John P. Harrington and the late George Le Brunn.

The Metropolitan and City Police Relief Fund will benefit materially by the twenty-second anniversary entertainment, arranged by the E, or Holborn, Division, which was given at the Holborn Empire on Friday, the 23rd. The handsome new hall, with its amplitude of space, its brilliant lighting and warmth, careful ventilation, and the comfort of its appointments, was filled to the limit of its seating capacity. Mr. Walter Gibbons generously placed the hall at the service of the fund.

More than twenty-three hundred shillings have been received by Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, for the Music Hall Home Shilling Fund. Mr. Arthur Lennard has just sent in his card containing subscriptions to the value of £7—the largest amount up to the present. Will holders of cards please forward them as soon as possible?

Miss Mabel Thorne was unable to reach the Bedford on Thursday night for the second house, owing to a brougham mishap, and Mr. A. F. Lovesy was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Katie Lawrence to step into the breach. She appeared in walking costume, and sang "It's 'Daddy' when a baby," with all her customary charm of expression, distinctness of enunciation, and power of voice.

Mr. James Willard, supported by a capable company, presented on Monday evening at the Hammersmith Palace, for the first time in London, the dramatic and humorous sketch, entitled *Did He Deserve It?* The audience followed the various incidents in the piece with great interest, and it was received with unqualified favour. No doubt Mr. Willard's admirable acting contributed largely to this result; but credit was also due to the clever performance of the champion mastiff "Tiger," and to the other members of an all-round excellent company.

Many of our readers will be interested to learn that Mr. Sidney Lawrence, 14, Stockwell Park-road, S.W., a brother of Miss Vesta Victoria, has become an agent for the celebrated Darracq and Minerva cars. He has already supplied not a few of the leading members of the profession with these well-known automobiles.

In consequence of the success that Mr. Ernest Shand has achieved at the Tivoli and other London engagements with his new comedy satirical song, "Look at the weather we're having," this number has been acquired for publication, and will be put in the Monte Carlo Publishing Company's "Sixpenny Successes." The same enterprising firm also has Mr. Shand's new "Curate" song, "Oh, dearly beloved brethren," in the press. Both songs are written and composed by John P. Harrington and James W. Tate.

Mr. Gus Garrick has introduced into his act a parody of the famous methods of the famous Otero, the pet of the Parisians. He makes a quick change from a kilted Scotchman to a Spanish dancer, bedecked with frills and furbelows, and in quite a "skittish" manner puts considerable grace into his amusing burlesque of a seguedilla.

At the Alhambra on Thursday afternoon, under the patronage of his Excellency M. Paul Cambon, the French Ambassador, and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London, a matinée performance was held in aid of the fund for the relief of the distress occasioned by the Courrières Colliery disaster. An admirable programme was arranged. Mr. Charles Warner, appropriately enough, recited in his usual magnificent style "The Mouth of the Pit," and Mr. Harry Lauder evoked great merriment with his songs "She's ma Daisy" and "The Miner." Mr. Fred Terry was down for a recitation and Miss Julia Neilson for a song. Miss Ethel Irving delighted the crowded house with her rendering of "Oh! ha, ha," from *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*, and Miss Violet Lloyd made herself extremely popular with her singing of "The first post in the morning."

During the afternoon a charming young vocalist made her first appearance on the music hall stage. This was Miss Annie Mars, a girl of sixteen, who enchanted her hearers with her interpretation of a French song, "Quand l'amour meurt" by Crémieux. The young singer possesses a powerful dramatic soprano voice, and the meaning of the words of the songs was accentuated by expressive gestures. In short, Miss Mars acted as well as sang her verses, and at the end received a most gratifying ovation, being called twice before the curtain, and afterwards personally complimented by Mr. Alfred Moul, the managing-director of the Alhambra. We may reasonably expect to hear a good deal of Miss Mars in the future.

Signor Armando Lecomte, an Italian baritone, gave a fine rendering of the "Toreador" song from *Carmen*, and Master Lionel Ovenden, the twelve-year-old musician-composer, executed in capital style Saint-Saëns' "Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso." Other names on the programme were those of Sam Elton, the juggler; the Yuilians Family of Risley acrobats; the Four Harveys, in their wire act; Mr. Harry Fragson and Miss May de Sousa, with songs; and "Little Jumbo," from the Royal Italian Circus. The orchestral features were the "L'Entente Cordiale" march and "Reminiscences of Gounod," both by the able conductor, Mr. G. W. Byng. The afternoon's entertainment concluded with the three last scenes of the ballet *Parisiana*, and a series of "Urbanora" pictures.

Miss Marie Warford (Mystic Marie), Dr. Bodie's Real Trilby, celebrated her coming-of-age last week, when Dr. Bodie in her honour gave a grand banquet at the Manor House, Macduff, his beautiful Highland home. A large number of friends and relatives were present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Miss Marie had over a hundred presents, many of them being of great value. A very large hoop diamond ring was given her by her father, and her mother gave her a handsome dressing-case and travelling bag mounted in silver. A beautiful butterfly brooch set with diamonds, rubies, and pearls came from Miss Bella Skene. Miss Marie, who has been lately indisposed, is now convalescent, and hopes at an early date to rejoin the Doctor, who will on his next appearance in London introduce his sensational act, *The Real Trilby*, one of the greatest novelties ever submitted to the public.

Daisy Dormer, the coon impersonator, will terminate a most successful engagement at the Palace Theatre to-night. She is compelled to leave London to fulfil two weeks' special engagement in the provinces, but will return on April 16 with her two most successful songs, "I want a girl," by Geo. Collins and Edgar Bateman, and "I'm goin', I'm goin', I'm goin'—I'm gone," by Chas. Collins and Harry Castling, both of which have been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day.

Frederick Maxwell's stirring sketch, *The Revolution*, has proved an immense draw at the Bedford. Mr. Maxwell, Miss Lois du Cane, and company will be seen at the Foresters' and Royal Albert, Canning Town, next week in *Bluejacket* and *Dick Dare, M.P.*

The Monte Carlo Publishing Company, of Berners-street, have this week accepted, for immediate inclusion in their "Sixpenny Successes" series, a new song which Miss Millie Lindon is producing at the Palace Theatre on Monday next, entitled "Mary—she kept a dairy," the words of which are written by Mr. Ballard Macdonald (author of the popular "Tiny firefly"), while the music is from the pen of Mr. James W. Tate (composer of Miss Lindon's successful song "In Barcelona").

"Missing; or, The Light of Day," the new musical comedy sketch, written by Preston Hope, and composed by Ernest Vousden, will be produced at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday, April 2, with Johnnie Schofield and J. C. Piddock in the prominent parts. The costumes are by Harrisons, Leicester-square.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. are already installed in their new premises, which, when completed, promise to be the most up-to-date and best-appointed music publishing house in the country.

Miss Millie Lindon has just accepted, with a view to production during her engagement at the Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue, two new songs by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate, which are tentatively entitled "Nisbe" and "Remington."

The Monte Carlo Publishing Company have accepted for immediate publication two new songs, written and composed by Messrs. Fred Murray and Charles Hilbury, entitled "Look out, boys! there's a girl about," and "Send along a wire," with which Miss Lottie Lennox is making quite a furore on the Stoll tour. Both numbers will be issued in the firm's popular "Sixpenny Successes" series.

Lady Mansell, attended by six girls, the youngest said to be just over ten years of age, came before Mr. Cluer at Worship-street Police Court, on Monday, with a representative of the Britannia Theatre, to apply for licences for the children to appear there in a sketch. The magistrate said that some of them were too young, and he would not bring himself to grant licences for such children to take part in music hall work. It was obvious that they earned a living for others. If, because the children were licensed elsewhere, people who were interested felt aggrieved with him, they could go to the High Court, and apply for a mandamus to compel him to grant the licences

At the 456th meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, held at the general offices on Tuesday, Mr. Frank Gerald occupied the chair. There were also present Messrs. John Alexander, George Gray, Charles Pastor, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and passed, the secretary alluded to the recent death of Mr. John Humphreys, one of the founders of the Association, and it was resolved that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow. A question of insurance was taken, and the secretary was instructed to communicate with the company. A letter from a railway theatrical agent giving a satisfactory answer to a complaint was read, and in the case of three members falling out of a party duly arranged, it was decided to reimburse the railway company, and to ask for an explanation from the members concerned. Mr. T. Stead, of the Hippodrome, Ipswich, was appointed agent for that town. An old member, who had fallen out of the Association through misfortune, was reinstated, the committee in this case remitting the fines. The secretary reported that eleven new members had joined during the week, and the financial statement showed that the receipts for the like period amounted to £39 10s. 6d.

Miss Marie Loftus, who "tops the bill" at the Shepherd's Bush Empire next week, was born in Glasgow of Irish parents, and was quite a child when she first went upon the stage. For her first engagement out of her native town at Leeds she drew 25s. a week. Since her début there Miss Loftus has had a varied experience, for not only has she visited all the principal palaces, theatres, and Empires in England and America, but she has taken South Africa by storm, and has completely won the hearts of the Johannesburgians. Miss Marie Loftus has a capital voice, and her songs are chosen judiciously. She is also a mimic of no mean order. Her great difficulty lies in the obtaining of songs suitable for her. She frequently purchases fifty before she comes across one that is of the least use to her.

Mr. Alfred Lester has been recently referred to as the "scene shifter comedian," owing to his success at the Palace Theatre in his "Scene Shifter's Lament." This has given rise to an erroneous statement that he was originally a stage hand. As a matter of fact, he had been for several years a low comedian in the provinces before he appeared at the Palace some few months ago. His father, mother, and grandmother were all members of the profession, his father having made a reputation in English Opera at Covent Garden, and in several of the well-known touring opera companies of a quarter of a century ago. Mr. Lester has recently joined the *Madame Lingerie* company at the Palace, in the part of the Broker's Man, which has been specially written up for him with lines suitable to his particular style of work. He sails on Wednesday next from Liverpool by the Majestic for a season in New York.

Miss May Henderson is a bright star in the Hackney Empire programme next week. When little Miss May Henderson—then quite a child—lisped her first song, there were not wanting many with a critical appreciation of budding talent who prophesied a big future for the vivacious little comedienne. A queen in her particular line she certainly has become. Miss Henderson undoubtedly owes a great deal of her success to the tuition of her father, the well-known Billy Henderson, who for years enjoyed a big London and provincial reputation as a clog dancer and humorist. Three years later at Liverpool she introduced her big boot dance. In pantomime Miss Henderson is an assured success, having played Topsy at Stoke Newington, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, and the Cannibal Queen at Fulham.

Mr. Will Evans, the favourite comedian, who will appear at the Stratford Empire in his latest success, "I am a soldier," is the son of the famous Drury Lane clown of the same name. His mother was a famous dancer, and he first appeared on the stage in 1881 in a Drury Lane pantomime. He started "double turn" in London in 1890 with Ada Luxmore. He has visited America twice, and when his partner died some years ago he started as a "single turn," and scored a great success. He has played in many pantomimes; is a composer, also a cueist and a cyclist. He is fond of a joke on the stage and off, and is a motorist.

Miss Maude Mortimer, we are pleased to announce, has almost completely recovered from her serious operation, and has been quite a frequent visitor at Messrs. Feldman's during the last few days, busily engaged in rehearsing her new songs, one of which is entitled "Fairies," from the able pens of E. W Rogers and John Neat.

Mr. W. F. Frame starts his spring tour in the North on Monday at Arbroath, with a strong company.—Mr. Ernie Mayne is again in London, scoring with new songs by J. P. Long, Harry Wincott, and Alf. Ellerton.—Poole and Poole finish to-night the Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, and start on tour for four weeks with W. F. Frame.

Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, who has finished a very successful and comfortable engagement at the Palace, opens on Monday at the Canterbury and Paragon.—Regan and Ryan are scoring heavily with a new comedy act which is a scream from start to finish.—Woodhouse and Wells, after a successful stay of half a year in town, will leave for a provincial tour of four months.—Mr. Charles Beanland will produce a novel speciality song, "The Topical Cartoonist," at the Westminster, Liverpool, next week. This song, which has been specially written for him, enables him to introduce lightning sketches of great men and accompanying patter.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

One of the most interesting turns on Mr. Frank Glenister's list at the popular London Pavilion is Miss José Collins, the daughter of Miss Lottie Collins, the well-known burlesque artist and comedienne, who won fame at the same hall twenty years ago, and later became world-famous as the singer of "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay." Miss José is a strikingly pretty brunette, with all the charm and freshness of a girl in her teens. Her voice is of good quality, and has been well trained, a fact that one may easily gather from the rendering of mezza voce passages in her first song. In her second, "A Bamboo Bungalow," she displays considerable command of expression and much archness. Her final dance puts the finishing touches to a pronounced success. Mr Tom Clare, who is labelled "humorist at the piano," is another find for Mr. Glenister. Mr. Clare, who gives as an introductory piece an excerpt from a pianoforte concerto by Mendelssohn, depicts the state of mind of a musician who is haunted by the melody of "Hiawatha." He may be playing "The Lost Chord," but the solemn rhythm of that fine composition gives way to the more playful melody; and even the jubilant strains of the inspiriting "Wedding March" from Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* music are apt to resolve themselves into the popular American tune. As a concluding item Mr. Clare sings an original skit of the coon song, and his reception is a sufficient proof that refined turns at the piano are always welcome to London Pavilion audiences.

Mr. Percy Honri, who returns time after time to the popular Piccadilly Circus establishment, is responsible for a finely-played selection on the concertina, accompanied by the band under Mr. Bond Sayers. On the night of our visit he chose the overture to *Le Diadème*, by Hermann, of which he gave an excellent rendering. By some the concertina is not regarded as a musical instrument. All prejudice against it vanishes when one hears such a virtuoso as Honri. The Motramos, who return to renew the pleasant impression they created on a first visit, hold the stage in a very diverting turn, in which melody and mirth are allied. The mere man of the duo is a capital comedian of the G. P. Huntley type, and the lady, also an excellent actress, is a magnificent specimen of womanhood. She accompanies her partner in a selection on the saxophone, and plays the trombone with considerable ability. Vandy has now become a jester as well as a juggler, and accompanies his numerous clever tricks with a constant flow of amusing patter; Mr. George Mozart, in his entertainment "Hats," and his impersonation of "Bertie, the Dandy M.C.," is one of the strong cards of the programme; and Espirosa and Neilson interest the audience deeply in a ballet divertissement of the days of Taglioni and Lucille Grahn, when harmony of gesture accompanied the poetry of motion.

Miss Ida René, who has just returned from a triumphant tour in the States, has brought with her a special conductor, Mr. Arthur Pell, of the Belasco Theatre, New York, who has charge of the orchestra while Miss René sings a "card" song, in which the four suits become in turn trumps. Miss Marie Dainton, who apparently requires no other conductor than the excellent *chef d'orchestre*, Mr. Bond Sayers, makes a pronounced hit in her imitations of Miss Evie Greene, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Marie Lloyd, and Miss Connie Ediss. Mr. Edwin Boyde returns with the same songs and business, in which he scores a success; and Mr. Arthur Prince renews agreeable reminiscences by his ventriloquial business with the cabin-boy figure.

We have few humorists so funny as Mr. Neil Kenyon, whose patter as a packman is decidedly quaint and original. Mr. Phil Ray is another droll talker. Miss Pertina as a toe-dancer furnishes a unique speciality; Boyd and Gilfain are clever and laughter-provoking in a diverting operetta; Miss Nell Richardson sings sweetly "Within your heart"; Foreman and Fannan are a whimsical duo; and Mr. Josh Dixon, comedian and the Three Prestons in their absurdity *The Liftman's Rise* add to the attractions of the bill.

THE MIDDLESEX.

Mr. Frank Coyne, lively and vivacious as ever, is this week singing a number of amusing verses, the chorus of which runs "Wait for loo-ra-lay," and is applied to various experiences described in whimsical fashion by Mr. Coyne. His second appearance is as a Highlander—or, rather, an imitation of one—and he asks the question, "What's the use of a pair of kilts?" The melody which acts as an accompaniment is of the brisk and invigorating order, and the lines are rendered with good effect and expression by the singer. Mr. Leo Dryden in serious recitations and songs can always be relied upon to give a good account of himself. He may be said to be teaching a moral in his first number, "The Prodigal Son." Attired in the fur-lined coat which George Alexander made famous at Drury Lane, he tells the story of the man who, after having led a dissipated life abroad, returns home to ask his father's forgiveness—too late. His other song, "Bachelor Boys," is also rendered with appropriate feeling, and receives great favour. Mr. Phil Ray, with his irresponsible patter, is irresistibly funny. His quaint mannerisms, ridiculous gestures, and movements are in themselves a source of intense merriment, let alone his humorous anecdotes. The New York Quartette are most charming young ladies, who contrive to hold one's attention with their singing and dancing. Particularly smart is their performance of a Parisian quadrille. Mr. Larry Lewis, the successful comedian, keeps the house in a flutter of merriment while he is on the stage, and Miss Ethel Dove, an engaging and chic comedienne, appears in a highly acceptable little act.

A commendably interesting and refined sketch is that entitled *His Birthday*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene. An old country couple are awaiting the arrival of their son from Australia after a ten years' absence, and have made special preparations for a homely reception and celebration, for the return will also mark the occasion of a birthday anniversary. But a clergyman, who was in Australia with the young man, enters with the sad news that the youth died three days prior to the sailing of the ship. Mr. Royston-Dene plays the part of the old farmer with a naturalness and reality which makes his study appear something more than a mere simulacrum, and his Yorkshire dialect is correct, and not carried beyond sensible limits. Mrs. Royston-Dene gives us a delightful character in the rôle of the mother, her lines, especially in the pathetic ending, being admirably rendered. Mr. Ernie Mayne appears as a deputy for Mr. Gus Garrick, and his funny remarks and absurd mannerisms evoke roars of laughter. Spry and Monti in their "effective combination of wit and humour" are as sprightly and entertaining as one could wish, while the Lyons Trio prove themselves to be skilful pantomimists and dancers. Both Mr. Tod Lowen, the comedian, and the Kimberley Boys, eccentrics, are seen and heard in exceedingly entertaining acts.

Miss Laura Johnson, who made her début in the halls at the Middlesex on Monday, made an immediate triumph with her delightful costume recitals. Her act is an extremely interesting one. First she appears in the advocate's scarlet robe as Portia, and with fine elocutionary effect renders the lines of that character, as well as of Shylock and Antonio, in the trial scene from *The Merchant of Venice*. Then, a change of costume, and we are shown Lady Macbeth walking in her sleep; another change, and Poor Jo commands our sympathy. In each of her impersonations Miss Johnson shows consummate skill as an actress, and she possesses wonderful powers of facial expression—in short, she has the dramatic temperament to a really remarkable degree. We have no doubt that her turn will be very welcome on the boards of the variety theatres. Mr. Edward Cranston and his company present the sensational episode, *A Story of Exmoor*, in which Mr. Cranston acts in admirable style the rôle of a sturdy Coastguardsman, and Miss Hilda Millett charms the house as Phœbe. Miss Sable Fern sings in exquisite taste some enchanting lyrics; the Four Athos astonish everybody with their daring acrobatic and ball-manipulating act; and from the New Bioscope we have all the latest and smartest pictures.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

The old "Royal," which flourished exceedingly at a period when the variety entertainment held a much less important place in public estimation than it does now, has felt the influence of changed conditions, and, transformed into the Holborn Empire, must now be included in the select list of modern variety theatres that are quite abreast with the times, both in appearance and in regard to the performance which fills the house twice a night. The delights of "'Appy 'Ampstead," as represented in the well-known sketch of that name, continue to be happily and merrily realised by Mr. Joe Elvin and his company. Nothing more humorously realistic has been seen at the "halls" than the scene representing the famous Heath on a Bank Holiday, with its joyous crowd of holiday-makers. All the fun of the fair, indeed! Are we not assured that the roundabouts, the swings, the boats, and, above all, the donkeys, are "the actual ones seen upon Hampstead Heath on Bank Holidays"? And then there is Mr. Joe Elvin with his droll and life-like embodiment of the coster who is taking a leading part in the cockney festival. Of the well-sustained popularity of *'Appy 'Ampstead* there can be no question.

American humour is well represented by Stine and Evans in their duologue entitled *Wanted—a Divorce*. The gentleman gives a highly diverting embodiment of an American lawyer anxious to secure a wealthy client, and the lady is a very spirited representative of the married woman who wants a divorce. The lawyer, desirous of impressing his fair client, pretends to hold friendly conversations through the 'phone with Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Thomas Lipton, and other distinguished personages. The piece is enlivened by the introduction of some duets, in one of which the couple cleverly burlesque grand opera. A capital piece of fun is supplied by the Karno Trio in their sketch *The Travellers' Rest*. The two hungry men who attempt to make a meal upon a fowl and other viands which suddenly vanish are old stage acquaintances, but it is a piece of business that always excites the merriment of the audience. Another equally effective device is the interruptions which a banjoist meets with while playing by moonlight alone. The trio consist of two male performers and a lady who plays the part of the landlady at the inn.

Miss Daisy James introduces her latest success, "Don't take the trouble to call," which is well received, but we certainly give the preference to her "Gibson Girl" ditty, in which she submits a piquant portrayal of our fair American cousin. Mr. Ernie Mayne is furnished with a most amusing parody on "I wouldn't leave my little wooden hut for you," which is received with roars of laughter. Another capital comedian is Mr. J. W. Rickaby, who gets a good deal of genuine fun out of his policeman impersonation, and is perhaps even more comical as an extremely awkward-looking soldier, whose ditty is ingeniously made up of various popular melodies. Little Cliff is a smart boy who not only sings in good style, but is an exceedingly clever dancer. He is recalled several times, and his success is very marked. As a dancer Miss Cassie Walmer also holds an enviable position, and she makes a big hit with "Mr. Coon, your number's up" and "You never miss the water till the well runs dry." Very successful, too, are the couple known as the Ferraris. Their skill as dancers is generously acknowledged by the audience. The Columbia Trio are excellent vocalists, their voices blending very harmoniously, while the comedy element is a strong point in their pleasing entertainment. Baker and Balfe, a lady and gentleman, take high rank as xylophone experts; and La Belle Americaines are a quartette of attractive lady vocalists and acrobatic dancers. Miss Leah Ardern, comedienne, and Hurley and Cole, society entertainers, also contribute; and the recent glove fight between O'Brien and Fitzsimmons is shown by the Bioscope. Mr. Eustace Jay is the courteous manager at this hall, and the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. James Sale.

THE SURREY.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten evidently believes in giving his patrons an abundance of enjoyment, for throughout the entertainment approbation takes the form of continuous laughter. The *pièce de résistance* is the episode *Did He Deserve It?* played by Mr. James Willard and his clever company. In a charming set we are introduced to Nell Forester, a variety artist and the champion lady boxer of the world, who is living in a flat, and has for a page a diminutive lump of mischief named Dicky. Nell has just got her contract signed for a long engagement when she receives an unexpected visit from an old admirer, Archie Beresford, who by his own frank confession is a villainous and heartless *roué*. He tries to make friends with Nell, but she tells him "if he doesn't clear out of her flat she will give him a good hiding." Before taking his departure he tells Nell that he is much struck with the beauty of a little flower girl at the corner of the street. Nell warns him against doing any harm to the girl, as she is her *protégée*. Beresford thinks discretion the better part of valour, and leaves. Dicky brings Nell a wire which calls her out, but gives Dicky full instructions that should the little flower girl call to take care of her, and warns him not to enter the bedroom, as her dog Tiger is there. The pretty little flower-seller comes with her flowers, but she and Dicky are interrupted in their *tête-à-tête* by the return of the unscrupulous Beresford, who soon shows Gertrude Lee what his intentions are. Finding his persuasive powers are powerless to move the girl he attempts force, and in the struggle that ensues she rushes into Nell's bedroom, when a magnificent mastiff springs on the villain and holds him by the wrist. Nell, finding the wire is a bogus one sent by Beresford, happily returns in time to call the dog off, but tells Beresford she means to punish him in the good old English style. Hastily gathering up her skirts, she dons a pair of four-ounce boxing-gloves and sets about the villain in fine style. Nell is fully equal to her task, and puts in some fine work, and eventually leaves the villain vanquished. All the savagery in his brutal nature is now aroused, and he turns on Dicky and threatens to kill him; but Nell and her dog soon place him *hors de combat*. Miss Lydia Hart as Nell Forester acts as well as she can box, and that is saying a great deal. As Archie, Mr. James Willard invests his villainy with a dry humour that is most acceptable. Miss Violet Carr is sweetly impressive as the flower girl Gertrude Lee. Mr. Willie Atom, as the mischievous Dicky, is conspicuously good in a company of such all-round excellence. The mastiff Tiger gives a rare display of canine intelligence and sagacity.

Another exhilarating novelty is Astley's American Circus. Any member of the audience is invited to ride the mule Sloper twice round the ring for a money prize, a task that looks comparatively easy. The many failures of the competitors provide the audience with an endless fund of amusement and pleasure. Esther Phillips and company, in a romantic episode of the French Revolution, entitled *A City of Shadows*, hold the rapt attention of the vast audience, and give a vivid picture of those turbulent times. As Elise Miss Esther Phillips has plenty to do, and does it all thoroughly and well. Miss Millie Luckstone as the young and devoted Marchioness makes a charming high-spirited heroine, full of grace and charm. Mr. W. Glenny as the Marquis is manly and earnest; while Miss Esther Carthew as Madame Brenan gives a creditable performance.

Les Rallis give a capital admixture of fun and acrobatism in their comical sketch *The Artist and the Monkey*. Zeta Gray and company appear in their musical comedy scena *The Variety Agent*. In this Miss Gray gives charming proof of a carefully-trained voice and in her amusing rendering of operatic selections raises a furore of applause by her vocal efforts. Ethel Loftus, in her comic song "I'm so happy," gives a type of comedienne that is all too scarce. Her embodiment of a hoyden full of high spirits and tricky devices is delightful. The Bros. Redmond are an excellent turn, and create much laughter and applause. Hetty Lee is a bright and pretty soubrette; her song, "None can compare to our English girls," is in the very best taste, and her dancing exceedingly clever and diverting.

Fred Southern's combination are also appearing here this week in their model drama, *The Castaway*, and the vicissitudes that attend the fortunes of Richard Trevalion are followed with an eager intensity. Mr. Fred Southern as Jacob Dabble is good. Miss May Emery imbues the part of Louise Trevalion with tenderness and feeling. As Beatrice Miss B. Southern acts with a girlish grace and charm that leave a good impression. Miss Jenny Pritchard as buxom Gipsy Alexander gives a humorous portrayal of the character. Mr. Charles Ashwell's Walter Hollingham is manly, natural, and skilful. Mr. Percy Emery as Richard Trevalion invests his character with a breezy freshness. Mr. Chris Redgrave as the miserly money-lender Hugh Denton is a fine character study. Will Farrell, the lightning comedian, rattles off in a style reminiscent of a popular comedian his merry ditty "Making it hot for me." Mr. Charles Craig, the new acting-manager, is evidently the right man in the right place, for he has already gained the esteem of the patrons here, and the sincere loyalty of his staff.

THE METROPOLITAN.

The dull ante-Easter period has brought with it a second instalment of winter, and the blizzardy weather has not assisted business at the halls generally. The genuine attractions that are to be found in Mr. Jack Edgar's bill at the Metropolitan are strong enough, however, to draw crowded houses anywhere, and the dweller in Paddington and the regions beyond have crowded the favourite palace of the people in the Edgware-road, to give encouragement to the passing show. For the first time in her career the name of Miss Florence St. John appears on the Metropolitan bill. Much water has flowed under the bridges since this famous operatic comedienne first captured the town in her delightful impersonation of Mme. Favart at the old Strand. Time has dealt gently with her, and though she no longer plays the heroines of comic opera, she has an admirable gift of comedy, which makes her Mrs. Merridew in *My Milliner's Bill* an impersonation to be seen and appreciated. The late G. W. Godfrey's comedietta is a capital addition to any variety show, but illuminated by the brilliant ability of Miss St. John it makes an irresistible appeal to lovers of laughter. The fair actress adds to the attractiveness of the whole thing by her rendering of "Sally in our Alley." She is well supported by Mr. Charles B. Bedells. Mr. Harry Lauder is the star of the bill, and anyone listening to the reception accorded to him nightly at the Metropolitan can at once realise that he is regarded by the public as their idol, and that he occupies a position only attained by a comedian of the first rank. His songs, "I love a lassie; or my Scotch bluebell," and "Fou the noo; or, Something in the bottle for the morning," are both written and composed by himself, Gerald Grafton collaborating in the writing of the words, and they completely sustain his reputation as a mirth-provider.

Mr. Leo Dryden, with a fine voice and a style full of cheeriness and bonhomie, sings the song, "Bachelor boys, farewell," with all the requisite heartiness and spirit. Miss Carlotta Levey preaches in song an excellent little lesson on "Thrift," and does so to a tuneful melody that is caught up in all parts of the house. Mr. George Newburn brings to our minds the mannerisms and voices of the principal stars, being especially successful in his impersonation of Mr. Harry Randall.

In the early part of the evening Miss Emmie Ames, in front of a prettily illuminated Christmas tree, gives point to an amusing item, which contains an excellent verse on Buller; Miss Edie Veno is successful in her number, "You can't catch old birds with chaff," and in her dance; and Mr. J. H. Kisbey, whose business is not always in the best taste, gives an amusing burlesque of the coon artist, and indulges in patter that is often laughable. Mr. William Gourlay, in the costume of Hamlet, contributes a laughable skit on melodrama; and Mr. Loveden Plass has an excellent song in "The Young British Soldier." Mr. Harry Rogerson as "The Doctor's Boy" works some agreeable comedy into his wonderful display as a sleepy acrobat—a performance that in its way is unique. A lively and successful interlude is that contributed by Messrs. St. John Denton and George Rowland's company of children, including Little Marjorie Lawrence, a remarkable little girl, who is already a capital dancer, and a roguish little comedienne. The whole crowd enter heart and soul into their work, which is always very attractive, and a veritable triumph is secured.

Miss Daisy James, who has been winning golden opinions in Vienna as the Gibson Girl, has considerably improved her fine impersonation of the female form divine, as seen through Henry Dana Gibson's artistic glasses, and it is now quite admirable. Mr. Vivian Cliff and his fox terrier "Kitty" are welcome contributors to the entertainment, which is increased in its attractiveness by the Three Sisters Silcott, who appear as happy Jap girls.

COLLINS'S.

At this favourite North London place of amusement there is, as usual, no lack of entertaining turns. Excellently played by the clever couple, known as Busie and Hurst, is an amusing little comedy duologue, entitled *The Wrong Flat*. The plot is by no means novel, but it serves its purpose well enough. The fun arises from a mistake made by a gentleman—a captain in the Army—who, having matrimonial intentions, has arranged to meet a prospective partner for life to talk the matter over. He, however, goes to Flat B instead of Flat A, and interviews a lady who has advertised for a new groom. The humorous possibilities of the situation are at once apparent. While the lady is talking about her horses, the captain is under the impression that she is a widow, and is speaking of her children. When he presumes to address her by her Christian name she naturally waxes indignant, but attributes it all to eccentricity on the part of her visitor. They are at cross purposes just sufficiently long to keep the audience amused without wearying them; and the inevitable explanation comes, together with the suggestion that the captain is likely to very soon assume the position of bridegroom to the lady. The little piece is capitally played.

Another item that has won a favourable reception is the "mimical concoction," entitled *In Front and Behind the Scenes*. The first scene represents the exterior of a West-End music hall; and amidst the crowd the most conspicuous character is a dissipated-looking gentleman in evening dress, who has evidently been imbibing freely. He carries a huge bouquet, and makes attempts to enter the stage-door, which are frustrated by the man in charge; but, eventually, he manages to slip in when the official Cerberus is out of the way. Then there is a quick-change to behind the scenes. The artists, most of whom represent well-known variety comedians, are seen making up; and the secrets of the dressing-room are revealed to the public gaze. A lady, in the short skirts of the ballet dancer, is a prominent figure; and one recognises a famous American comedian and an equally distinguished Scotch humorist. As their turns come the artists make for the stage, and one hears the shouts of welcome from the audience. Again, we encounter the semi-inebriated gentleman who makes himself a general nuisance; but more particularly to the lady in the short skirts, who slams the door in his face, and declines to accept the big bouquet. Then the announcement is made that a certain artist is absent, and has sent no deputy; the swell is thereupon hurriedly dressed up, and pushed on the stage, the result being that the audience throw things at him. The manager is furious, and a comic fight between him and the swell follows. The company work hard and successfully in the performance of this rollicking pantomime production, which is greeted with considerable applause.

Mr. Tom Woottwell, the loose-legged comedian, was unable to appear on Monday evening, but in his place came Mr. Tom Leo, with his new song by Edgar Bateman and Maurice Scott, entitled "Too lazy to live." An original idea is cleverly worked out by Mr. Leo, who comically represents the lazy man, who finally gets the audience to sing the catchy chorus for him while he placidly slumbers in a chair. Then a couple of attendants appear, and bear him away. Mr. Neil Kenyon, the Scotch comedian, at once gets on good terms with the audience, and his genuine Scotch humour is keenly appreciated. Mr. Arthur Reece scores with his ditty, "When there's not a girl about," and a lively song based on nursery rhymes. Mr. Mike S. Whallen rattles off his funny stories in his merriest style, and the ditty in which he picks out members of the audience for humorous comment is also received with great favour. Mr. Charles Coverdale, comedian, discourses learnedly and otherwise on the subject of eggs; while his ditty, "Oddities," is also deserving of mention. Foreman and Fannen, "Percy" and "Harold," are highly amusing, and their success is beyond question. Miss Alexandra Dagmar continues to retain her place in public esteem as a comedienne; and Miss Jessie Albini's best contribution is "My Diary," with its telling topical allusions. The Pender troupe of pantomimists display much bustling activity in their absurdity, entitled *Hands Up; or, the Bold, Bad Highwayman*. Mr. Fred Russell is here this week with his famous automaton, "Coster Joe"; and other attractive turns are furnished by Miss Marie Reeves, comedienne; the Continental Stilt Walkers, Mr. Alfred Lester, who, assisted by Miss Hilda Scarisbrick, gives the amusing skit, *A Scene Shifter's Lament*, and Mr. Nat Clifford, comedian. Mr. F. F. Wade has been recently appointed manager here.

THE CAMBRIDGE.

The principal item here this week is Mr. Percy Honri in his clever musical sketch entitled *Concordia*. Mr. Honri has long been known as an accomplished player on the concertina, but in the "trifle" referred to he has an opportunity of displaying what are truly described as "protean" abilities. At first we see him resting in his drawing-room after the labours of the day. On the advice of his wife he indulges in forty winks before dinner, and then he dreams. It is the events of this excursion into that fantastic region which are depicted before us. His wife elopes with an actor, so he himself determines to go on the stage. Here we get an exhibition of Mr. Honri's talents as a lightning-change artist, for almost with the rapidity which we are accustomed to associate with the land of dreams he stands before us fully robed as a Shakespearean jester. With the irrelevancy of dreamland Mr. Honri next gives us a coster entertainment. His description of a little social gathering of his friends is really very funny, and his rendering of "Stop yer ticklin', Jock," by a supposed parson to the tune of "The Lost Chord" is a novelty which thoroughly amuses the audience. As a player on the concertina, Mr. Honri has few equals, and he is besides an excellent vocalist. He is supported by a capable party of ladies and gentlemen, and the staging of the sketch is unusually elaborate. One's only regret at its conclusion is that Mr. Honri could not dream a little longer.

Miss Lilian Boanes has a well-modulated mezzo-soprano voice which is heard to great advantage in two songs, "Lulu, be true," and "Fairies, where do you get your wings?" In the latter the vein of pathos is well accentuated by the artist's rendering. Miss Florence Schuberth is a lady whose tall, graceful presence at once commands the attention of her audience, and this she retains during her singing of "Why don't you be a soldier, father?" and "What do you think of the Japanese?" The latter song specially appeals to the audience in view of this week's visit to London of Togo's heroes, and the response is enthusiastically appreciative. The Cratons are very entertaining in an original musical concoction entitled *In Front and Behind the Scenes; or, The Unrehearsed Deputy*. The little sketch is extremely amusing, but we suggest that it might with advantage be somewhat shortened.

Mr. Tatton Hall is a comedian whose humour contains a vein of instructive sarcasm. What Mr. Beerbohm Tree's opinion of Mr. Hall's impersonation of Nero would be it is hard to say, but Mr. Hall's adaptation of that much-abused Emperor's vagaries to the exigencies of London everyday life is irresistibly funny. In "Saturday's my day off" Mr. Hall humorously preaches a lesson on the evils of sloth. Perhaps such a lesson inculcated in this way is quite as efficacious as the Hebrew Monarch's advice to study the habits of the *hymenoptera*. The Bartholomew Girls are very graceful dancers, and their singing is characterised by tuneful lightness. Mr. Harry Tomps as a comedian has a manner all his own, while Mr. Robbie Roy certainly works that now fashionable theme—the comic Scot—for all it is worth. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope gives one of the best shows of this kind we have lately seen. The film showing the train-wreckers is certainly a marvel of scientific realism, and it is not too much to say that the audience watches the rescue of the heroine by the engineer from certain death with breathless stillness.

FOOTBALL MATCH.—On Wednesday afternoon the members of Miss Lena Stanton's company, who are appearing at the Hippodrome, Mansfield, played a match with the Mansfield Wednesday team. The ladies of the company took a collection on behalf of the Mansfield and District Hospital, and a good sum was realised.

MR. MARTIN ADESON will shortly produce in the variety theatres an entirely new and original farcette, entitled *The Masked Lady*, written by that sucessful author, Frank Dix, the music being by Julian Wilson. Mr. Adeson will be well supported. He goes to the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, for a short season at Easter to resume his old part of King Grabbus, in Hickory Wood's *Puss in Boots*. This pantomime will be taken in its entirety by Mr. Fred Mouillot from the Broadway Theatre.

MISS MARIE LOFTUS.

A HOUSE-FILLING BILL.

There will be crowded houses every night at the Palace, Grimsby, for is not Miss Marie Loftus here with her great entertaining capabilities. "Marie," as her delighted admirers like to call her, appears in all her greatest successes, and that is saying a great deal, for she has a very extensive répertoire, one of the most extensive of any artist on the stage. Her burlesque skit on modern dramatic artists is a piece of work which would take any audience by storm, and the Grimsby folk are not slow to grasp its merit. It is absolutely original. Miss Loftus makes up as half-villain and half-heroine, and the effect is tremendous. But even this is not her greatest hit, for her *Singers Past and Present* is quite the most original set of songs it has been our pleasure to listen to for a long period. Scotland, Ireland, and old English fashions are all hit off with the utmost cleverness, and this time the inimitable "Marie" carries everything before her. She is recalled again and again, and yet again. Her work is past all comparison, so far as the local stage is concerned.—Vide Press.

PHENOMENAL SUCCESS AT THE PALACE.

Marie Loftus has appeared before Grimsby audiences before, but successful as she has been, she is proving even more popular this week at the Palace. For fully half-an-hour she remains on the platform, and everyone regrets when she leaves at the end of that time. She sings the old favourite, "He kissed me once, how ashamed I was," the story of a country wench's excursion to London, and the very funny song, "Imagination goes a long way." But her principal piece is the sketch *Singers Past and Present*, which explains itself. In cumbrous crinoline she sings an old-time song, in very juvenile costume she impersonates a child. In a smart frock of stars and stripes she gives a Yankee song, and in a staring costume of green and red she sings of Old Ireland. Her burlesque of a music hall nutshell drama is very funny. She comes on as the heroine, but, suddenly turns, and appears as the villain, with frock coat and top hat. As the dialogue becomes animated, the rapid changes effected by simply turning towards one side of the stage or the other become very amusing. At the conclusion she fell on the floor engaged in a fearful struggle to the death with herself. Her Indian song is very picturesque. She comes in from the back of the stage on a canoe, and sings and dances, and her assistant presents a lively Indian dance.—*Grimsby Telegraph*.

FLATTERING RECEPTION AT PRESTON.

Lively and vivacious as ever, Miss Marie Loftus had a flattering reception last night at the Preston Royal Hippodrome, when she commenced her week's engagement. Very large audiences assembled at both houses, and the popular burlesque actress's efforts were heartily applauded. After an amusing song about a country girl's excursion to London, she gave capital imitations of singers past and present. In cumbrous crinoline she sang an old-time song, and then in very juvenile costume impersonated a child. In a smart frock she rendered an American ditty, and, quickly changing to a costume of green and red, she sang about "Ould Oireland." But she was, perhaps, most successful in her burlesque of the music hall nutshell drama. Coming on to the stage as the heroine, she suddenly turned and appeared as the villain in frock coat and top hat. As the dialogue became animated she took first one part and then the other by quickly changing from side to side, and at the conclusion fell to the floor engaged in a struggle to the death with herself. Her Indian song was also very picturesque.—Vide Press.

THE PRINCIPAL ATTRACTION.

The principal attraction at the Preston Royal Hippodrome this week is, of course, Miss Marie Loftus, whose first appearance some time ago created such a furore that her return visit has since been eagerly anticipated.

In addition to contributing some of her old favourites, which have won for her the pre-eminent position among burlesque artists she at present occupies, Miss Loftus scores her greatest success in an original sketch entitled *Singers Past and Present*.

Attired in typical national costumes, Miss Loftus renders in her own inimitable style favourite songs of different countries, all of which are enthusiastically applauded.

But she reserves for the last a novel and side-splitting burlesque of the music hall drama, which could only be performed by such a vivacious and versatile artist as Miss Loftus.

She carries on a dialogue between a heroine and a villain in wonderful fashion, a sudden turn substituting the flowing robes of the former to the dress suit and tall hat of the latter, and concluding with a most realistic struggle to the death with herself.

Miss Loftus's present visit is bound to increase her great popularity in this district, and Messrs. Broadhead may rest assured of the continued patronage of the Preston public so long as they continue to provide the class entertainments which have been characteristic of the Hippodrome ever since it opened.—*Preston Herald*.

BRILLIANT MARIE LOFTUS.

Was there ever a more versatile artist than Marie Loftus? Certainly not on the local variety stage. She has drawn large houses at the Palace this week, and we believe patrons could do with another week of her truly great work. As the evenings have passed Marie's great talents have been enthusiastically recognised, and the audiences have given of their best in the way of appreciation. It is difficult to say which particular part of her work has given the greatest pleasure. Some hold that her Indian sketch is the best thing that she puts on, while others are inclined to think that *Singers Past and Present* is one of the finest pieces of burlesque that has been put on to the Palace stage. However we take her, Marie Loftus is a great artist. That song of hers in crinoline attire is worth a visit to the Palace in itself, and it has given unlimited amusement to thousands during the week. She is recalled so many times that she has ample opportunity of showing that she could entertain the house the whole evening, and a splendid entertainment it would be.—*Grimsby News*.

DELIGHTED AUDIENCES.

MARIE LOFTUS, THE "REAL" ARTIST.

"AN ARTIST EVERY INCH OF HER,"

must have been the ejaculations of the thousands who have packed this beautiful hall at every performance this week. We refer to Miss Marie Loftus, the inimitable. If ever a music-hall star deserves unstinted praise it must be Miss Loftus, for without exaggeration we have never seen a burlesque comedienne to at all compare with this clever lady. She has at her command one of the most extensive repertoires it has been our lot to witness on any stage from any one artist. She keeps the house in a state of appreciation for over half an hour at each performance. Perhaps her greatest hit is *Singers Past and Present*, in which she represents "The old crinoline" fashion, as well as the Scotch and Irish songs as sung in the old days. A dramatic version of how the modern music-hall sketch is acted evokes roars of laughter, and no wonder the audiences reach the highest state of enthusiasm.—*Grimsby Gazette*.

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George Griff	1	Griff's Brother	1
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Victor Griff	1	Omega Griff	1
Winifred Griff	1	Eldest Griff	1
Griff, senior	1	Youngest Griff	1
Griff, junior	1	First Griff	1
The Straight Griff	1	Second Griff	1
The Great Griff	1	Third Griff	1
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The Original Griff	1	Sixth Griff	1
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Collected by Mr. Fred Solo, £1 3s.

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F. Maguire	1	Tom Lowen	1
M. Anderson	1	Isabelle Dillon	5
S. Da Silva	1	F. Lefranc	1
J. Schofield	1	Fred Solo	5
C. Wallun	1		

Collected by Karr and Kooney, Grand Theatre, Brighton, £2.

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Rosalie Jacobi	1	A. S. Betts	1
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Ada Vestrais	1	Mrs. K. R.	1
Winifred Norman	1	Johnnie Wilkinson	1
L. W. Lester	1	Signor Camera	1
G. H. Drake	1	J. Lewis	1
Ernest Carpenter	1	H. Dixon	1
Freddy	1	F. M. Phillips	1
Harold Betts	1	Monti De Cooke	1
H. R.	1	Chris. Pell	1
B. Court	1	H. G. Perks	1
Ethel Campbell	1	Harry Karr	2½
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Kitty Clinton	1	Sisters Pine	2½
Ruby and Laws	2		

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Frank Martin	1	F. Maxwell	2
Frank Quigg	1	Joe and Jenny	1
Mrs. Robinson	1	J. Roland	1
Chas. Warner	1	Frank Leonard	1
Lilly Anderson	1	J. Cunningham	1
Minnie Anderson	1	A Bo Kan	1
J. D. McGregor	1	A. M. Holmes	1
B. Iles	1	Ledden and Heywood	2
Harry Clifford	1	G. Rhone	1
Hardeene	1	H. Griff	1
Chas. Fisher	1	W. H. Clemart	1
Mrs. Fisher	1	Lux's Dogs	1
Luigi Gargani	1	Gallando	1
Maude Rose	1	J. W. Riley	1
Henry Butcher	1	J. Mendel	2½
Geo. Green	1	Mr. and Mrs. Givani Cristie	1
Geo. Vickery	1	Jeane Priver	2
Vi Esdaile	1	Mitzi Streing	1
Ethel Esdaile	1	Erna Harrison	1
Will Collins	1	Mina Fisher	1
		Adalfinia Dillmer	1

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

Horace Wheatley	21	Will King	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	John Camp	1
Ellen Wheatley	1	W. Hill	1
Norah Wheatley	1	Jas. E. Donegan	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Tom Hughes	1
H. Wheatley, jun.	1	P. Fairbairn	1
E. Garbutt	1	A. Hopter, T.A.	1
Mrs. Garbutt	1	Meier and Mora	1
C. Henderson	1	Dona Meely	1
Morris	1	Harry Herald	1
T. E. Finglas	1	Tom Packer	1
William Hargreaves	1	Abe Mellay	1
Cavern	1	Fred Laurel	1
Fred Walker	1	Frank Leon	1
F. Lyons	1	Joe Lawrence	1

Collected by Harry Conlin, Esq., £1 16s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	2½	Marguerite Broadfoote	2½
Rosie Coleman	2½		
Bob Selvidge	1	Lily Black	1
Fred Fowler	1	Alf. Fry	1
Katie May	1	Fred Wood	1
Cissy Iris	1	Gus Harris	1
Harry Nelson	1	J. W. Whiteman	1
Emmie Franks	1	Alexandra Thomson	1
Fred E. Terry	1	Dani. Rutherford	1
Fred Calvert	1	S. Pincus	1
Bowery Boys	1	Fred Balchin	1
Billy McClain	1	Katie May	1
J. Pardoe	1	Mrs. Balchin	1
W. Pardoe	1	Frank Cumminger	1
John Othen, jun.	1	Fred Land	1
Frank Woodville	1	Geo. Penn	1
Tom Ardell	1		

Collected by Miss Daisy Morell, H. A. Jordison's Pantomime, 15s.

Daisy Morell	2	Miss Dolly Cullen	1
Rowland Hill	2	Miss Ray Ford	1
Charlie Martell	1	Elsie Jordison	1
Arthur Stratton	1	Thomas Hargraves	1
Madge Daly	1	Charles Deetrich	1
Nancy Thornton	1	Merquis Bolton	1
David Poole	1		

Collected by Baroux and Bion, 13s.

Baroux and Bion		Ford and Barris	2
John R. Val	1	Tom Gilbert	1
Chas. A. Stephenson	1	Fred Land	1
Ernest Lashbrook	1	Grace Merton	1

Collected by Eugene and Willie, P. Davey's *Puss in Boots* Panto., 16s.

Marie Kildare	1	Ernest Noble	1
Nellie Groves	1	Leslie Digby	1
Maude Brockwell	1	Robert Entwistle	1½
Dollie Shaw	1	Folkestone Police	1
H. W. Rowland	1	George Mallett	1
McCann's Dogs	1	Harry Gold	1
Arthur Royce	1	Eugene and Willie	2
Wyn Weaver	1		

Collected by Walton and Lester, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, 16s.

Walton and Lester	5	Deane Tribune	1
Percy Yorke	1	E. Edmonds	1
Arthur Poole	1	F. Zola	1
Wal Croft	1	May Marton	1
Ivan Berlyn	1	Stella Tribune	1
Harry Tribune	1	Daisy Stratton	1

Collected by Mr. James Brady, 9s.

Ernest Ball	1	J. Woods	1
Ethel Dunford	1	M. Anderson	1
"Zaid"	1	Sam Jones	1
E. W. Manning	1	James Brady	1
D. J. Banks	1		

Collected by Miss Maud Mortimer, 34s.

G. Norton	1	Alf. Bishop	1
W. J. Churchill	5	W. H. J.	1
H. Calver	1	Billy Closs	1
Bert Burnell	1	A Friend	1
Billy Barlow	1	James Chippendale	1
J. H. Whittaker	2	L. C.	1
Jack Davenport	5	Frederick Ross	1
Walter Gilman	1	Maude Mortimer	5
Boris Fridkin	5		

Collected by Barrett and Knowles, 25s.

George F. Ide	1	Madge Sinclair	1
Harry Barrett	1	Louie Mavis	1
Jack Knowles	1	Maicolm Scott	1
José Collins	1	J. P. Wilson	1
Birdie Sutherland	1	K. A. Hutchison	1
Alice Russon	1	Bob Potter	1
Paul Knox	1	W. B. Barratt	1
Harry Laudy	1	Arthur Sutcliffe	1
Bessie Featherstone	1	Billy Ireland	1
Syd May	1	Uncle Scott	1
Alice Belmore	1	P. C. Murray	1
Dorothy Ide	1	Max Rose	1
Jeanie Christoe	1		

Collected by Mr. Charles Beanland, 22s. 6d.

Chas. Beanland	1	Harry Tomlinson	1
Anon	1	Henris	1
Boys	1	Mrs. Fred Cary	1
G. Cerney	1	E. S. Salambo	1
Belmonts	2	C. M. J.	1
F. Armstrong	1	Harry Du Gros	1
E. Korrie	1	Eddie Stidder	1
A Friend	1½	Tom Bonnetti	1
J. Zedora	1	Gus Rickards	1
J. C. Skelsey	2	Harry Trevor	1

Collected by Ernie Mayne, Esq., 9s.

Ernie Mayne	1	Daisy Dormer	1
St. John Madley	1	Lina Vercli	1
Geo. Formby	1	Robert Pender	1
Drew and Alders	2	Maggie Pender	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Conlin, £1 17s.

Bob Selvidge	2½	Barney Dixon	2
Fred Fowler	2½	Mrs. Selvidge	1
Martin Conway	1	Frank Gee	1
Joe Waldron	1	Will Gee	1
B. Nicholls	1	Mrs. Martin Conway	1
F. Borland	1	Fox	1
Harry Dent	1	Mr. Clemart	1
Fanny Harris	1	Mr. Charles Weldon	1
Miss Walker	1	Baby Conlin	1
John Tiller	1	Griff	1
John L. Tiller	1	Summerton	1
Mrs. Conlin	1	Juno Salmo	1
F. W. Balchin	1	Bessie Cohen	1
Mrs. Balchin	1	Harrogate Friend	1
Harry Conlin	1	Sidney Bacon	1
Carlton	1	Harry Elliston	2

Collected by Harris and Worth, 15s.

Harris and Worth	2	Mabel Higson	1
Chas. Russell	1	M. Mamie Iris	1
Billy Keene	1	Syd Dooley	1
Fred Dry	1	George Coopers	1
Will Letters	1	Carrie Mack	1
Johnny Worman	1	Les B. Americaines	1
Mr. Rutt	1	W. J. Williams	1

Collected by Mr. T. C. Callaghan, 10s.

T. C. Callaghan	2	Mike Cray	1
W. Dane	1	Griff	1
J. Waldron	1	Alpha	1
A. H.	1	Florrie St. Clair	2

Collected by Mr. Ernest Shand, £1 2s.

K. Vesey	1	P. Davies	1
Ruby Forbes	1	Gladys Dare	1
Meg Hampton	1	L. Kinross	1
Ethel Dunbar	1	M. Molloy	1
Enid Errol	1	Alexandre	1
H. C. B.	1	N. E.	1
Brabourne	1	Hughes	1
Herbert	1	Ernest Shand	1
T. W. Wood	1	Ditto	1
A. Linton	1	La Même	1
Bee Duppa	1	Idem	1

Collected by Sandford and Lyons, 24s.

Neil Kenyon	1	Ted Fields	1
Harry Zietz	1	Morny Cash	1
Albert Le Fre	1	Mrs. Morny Cash	1
Lil Hawthorne	1	Madge Daly	1
Geo. McNally	1	John Worman	1
John McNally	1	Tom E. Gilbey	1
Arthur Haytor	1	Dave Poole	1
Colin Coop	1	Chas. Parker	1
E. T. S.	1	Vivian Munro	1
Geo. Miller	1	Willie Edelsten	1
Dave Miller	1	Geo. Abel	1
Mr. Smithers, M.B.C.	1	Will Letters	1

Collected by Mr. Frank Dunlop, 20s.

Mdlle. De Rose	2½	Frank Dunlop	2½
J. H. Hawtrey	2½	Fanny Hartland	2½
Dick Thomas	1	Houpla	1
Jack Kershaw	1	Steve Cooke	1
Syd Benson	1	Geo. Burton	1
Geo. Hecla	1	Miss Adele Roze	1
Rose Parreyer	1	Miss Zenapane	1

Collected by Fred Herbert, Esq., 14s.

Fred Herbert	1	C. W. Porter	1
R. Millett	1	Roma and Romani	1
Hughes and Elliott	1	The Rubens	1
T. E. Dunville	1	Hanvarr	2
Jim Howard	1	Anna Lee	2
Ronald Bayne	1	Gus Dallon	1

Collected by Mr. Chas. Clifford, 8s.

Charles Clifford	1	Kate Moffat	1
George Essmann	1	T. Hulbert	1
Oldbury Brough	1	H. J.	1
Graham Moffat	1	Georgie Butler	1

Collected by Swan and Vesta, 5s.

Swan and Vesta	1	Oscard Armino	1
Primaveal	1	Charles Danton	1
Fred Wood	1		

Collected by the Danbys, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 25s.

Kioto	5	Peter Thompson	5
The Danbys	5	Wallace Childs	1
Bill Bill	1	William Attfield	1
Geo. Collins	1	George E. Mudd	1
Pink Pyjamas	1	Fred Danvers	1
Anon	1	Billy Pakeman	1
J. Templar Ellis	1		

Collected by the Bowery Boys, Grand Theatre, Leeds, 25s. 6d.

Bowery Boys	5	Fred Cowman	1
Harry Conlin	1	Alf Howard	1
Fred E. Terry	1	G. H. Elliott	1
Fred Fowler	1	J. W. Rowley	5
Carlton	2½	Fred W. Balchin	1
Rose and Calvert	1	Hilda Jacobsen	5

Collected by Miss Nellie Wallace, 25s.

Bert Williams	1	W. F. Munroe	1
Bert Woodward	1	Emma Don	1
Arthur Danbys	1	Three Seabornes	1
Richardson Taylor	1	Kate Lynd	1
Nuttall Cross	1	C. Stewart	1
George Abel	1	Norton Greenop	1
James Stewart	1	W. H. Liddy	1
Chas. Dixon	1	Nellie Wallace	10

Collected by Miss Maud Beaumont, Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* Co., 16s.

Kioto	5	Mr. Peter Thompson	5
Geo. Collins	1	Mr. J. W. Childs	1
Mr. Liddy	1	Miss Maud Beaumont	2
Anon	1		

Collected by The Clevelands, 23s.

F. Cleveland	1	J. Sary	1
Mrs. Cleveland	1	A. Knight	1
A. Silbon	1	J. D. Hunter	1
Dale and O'Malley	1	Dave Bentley	1
D. Tubb	1	Fred C. Dew	1
H. Vivian Fisher	1	F. B. Farrant	1
Florrie Cleveland	1	R. Whiteley	1
J. Wood	1	E. De Vere	1
Tom Branson	1	Harry Weldon	1
C. Carey	1	Minnie Duncan	1
W. E. Urquhart	1	Arthur E. Godfrey	1
H. Bauerman	1		

Collected by Mr. Imro Fox, 17s.

Max Copland	1	Mr. T. F. Dun	1
Arthur Dandoe	1	Harry Lauder	1
Imro Fox	1	Alice Russoll	1
Dan Crawley	1	J. C.	1
Paul Knox	1	Mrs. Imro Fox	1
Carl Hertz	1	Alfred Carpenter	1
Mrs. Carl Hertz	1	Conn and Conrad	1
Mr. J. Craig	1	C. C. Bartram	1
Mr. Frayser	1		

Collected by Mr. Alexander, 38s.

Topsy Robina Julian	10	Clara Alexander	1
Johnny Alexander	10	Bob Ralston	1
Harding	2	Ernest Selbini	1
Victor Selbini	2	Lillian Lowe	1
Leola Selbini	2	L. J.	1
Rumbo Austin	2	J. Olrac	1
Alf Gibson	2	C Olrac	1
Harry Gregory	1		

Collected by Miss Ra Leslie, 33s. 6d.

Ethel Ra Leslie	1	St. Helens	1
Phyllis Gibbon	1	C. A. Trevitt	1
Florrie Chester	1	E. Holt	1
Boswells	2	V. Thompson	1
F. Travis	1	L. de Lacey	1
Dan Conroy	1	Miss Brown	1
Frank Evans	1	Mrs. E. Lucas	1
Edinburgh	1	J. Welwyn	1
H. E. Garden	1	Rêné Willoughby	1
Mr. and Mrs. Brown	2	La Tostia	1
Strolling Players	1½	Gertrude Bradshaw	1
Arthur Lee	1	Frank Darwin	1
Ray Wallace	2	Boskelby	1
Vera Thompson	1	Harry Jefferson	1
Lilian Leslie	1	Flo Peirce	1

Collected by Mr. Edward Johnson, 20s.

Bert Johnson	1	"Curly"	1
Will Johnson	1	H. Elton	1
Ed. Johnson	1	Little Ganty	2½
Daisy Martell	1	Madge May	2½
Tom Groves	2	E. Addler	1
H. Sheffield	1	C. C. Bartram	1
J. L. Sheffield	1	W. Ethairien	1
E. de Hague Body	1	Fred Astley	1

Collected by Mr. Will Johnson, 35s. 6d.

Powis Pinder	1	Mrs. Fred Hall	1
Will Johnson	1	Bertha Northam	1
Daisy Martell	1	Les Four Papillons	2
Ed. Johnson	1	Miss Mildred Baker	1½
Bert Johnson	1	Capt. Taylor	1
H. Berlin	1	Fanny Wright	1
Winsley Russell	1	Capt. Gray	2
Tim	1	New York Comedy Four	4
G. V. Arnold	1	G. Messer	1
Geo. Danvers, jun.	1	H. Jno. Burgess	1
May Gurney	1	Mr. Hadsley	1
R. Verdi	1	Will Holmes	1
B. Albert	1	Mac	1
Gilbert Laye	1	Chappell	1
Leonard Hornsey	1		
Fred Hall	1		

Collected by Mr. Lawrence Barclay, 26s.

Lawrence Barclay	5	Lily Lingard	2
Will Poluski	3	Esta Stella	2
Jack Lorrimore	2	E. W. Avery	1
Larry Lewis	1	Rich. Waldon	1
The Monkey	2	Sisters Hall	2
W. Harte	2	Annie Thomas	1
Arch. McDougall	1	Jas. Miller	1

Collected by the New Macs, 20s.

Mrs. T. McNally	1	Mr. Albert Mellor	1
Mr. J. J. McNally	1	Mr. Fred Donaldson	1
Mr. Geo. Mac	1	Mr. Tom Ardell	1
Mr. Jno. Mac	1	Dr. Syntax	1
Miss Jessy Dorrell	1	Mr. Robert Potts	1
Miss Annie Dorrell	1	Mr. Will Gibson	1
Mrs. Morny Cash	1	Mr. J. H. Taylor	1
Mr. Morny Cash	1	Mr. Forbes Russell	1
Mr. Geo. Sandford	1	Mr. Gilbert Martinengo	1
Mr. Geo. Lyons	1		
Mrs. Albert Mellor	1		

Collected by George Collins, 42s. 6d.

Kate Carney	5	Aryama	1
Daisy Dormer	2½	Ethel Dunford	1
Geo. Collins	2½	Jennie Johns	1
Harry Goodson	2½	Inky	1
Harry Speakman	2	W. L. Murray	1
The Danbys	2	Ethel Loftus	1
Bert Frost	1	Percy Oakley	1
One of Those	1	Robb H. Howard	1
Bert Williams	1	Frank Sheilock	1
Bert Woodward	1	Jean Van Dalle	1
Maude Beaumont	1	David Barone	1
Minnie Moran	1	Terras Bros.	1
Harry Leybourne	1	Mersano	1
Sisters Melba	1	H. Atkinson	1
W. J. Ashcroft	1	Kitty Clover	1
Amandus	1	Fred Malcolm	1

Collected by Miss Kathleen Courteney, 27s.

Kathleen Courtney	3	H. A. Luke	1
W. Pegge	2½	C. H. M. Stanley	1
Chas. T. Andrews	2½	X. Y. Z.	1
E. H. Jones	2½	D. Bradley	1
C. G. M.	2½	Little Brother	1
G Duckworth	2	Paris	1
T. F Mathews	2	S. Duncan	1
F. Swift	2	A. J. Cohen	1

Collected by Haig and Novel, 4s.

T. Haig	1	Tom Haig	1
Miss Novel	1	Miss Novel	1

Collected by Mr. James De Voye, 50s.

Billy's Picture Postcards	20	Anon	1
Billy's (Educated Pony's) Box	15	Tom Lloyd	1
James De Voye	5	Grant and Grant	1
W. Emmett	2	Henri Bekker	1
Ariel and Astarte	1	Billy's Groom	1
		Mrs. De Voye	1
		Walter Curtis	1

Collected by the Sisters Terry, 9s.

Maxwell and Frances	2	Marguerite Ismay	1
Minnie Terry	1	Eileen Douglas	1
Bella Terry	1	Mabel Higson	1
Maudie Ford	1	Wee Macgregor	1

Collected by Mr. Dan. Crawley, 5s.

Imro Fox	1	Harry Champion	1
Dan Crawley	1	Lilian Bishop	1
Arthur Dandoe	1		

Collected by Chant and Chant, 12s.

Chant and Chant	2	Harry Lee	1
Wild and Willie	2	C. Hutson	1
A Friend	1	R. Everton	1
Gertrude Mason	1	H. Burns	1
B. Wilde	1	Wm. Ransford	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Rogerson, 20s.

W. B. Kelly	2½	H. W. Gillette	1
Carlotta Levey	2	Mrs. Harry Rogerson	1
Harry Kilburn	1	Miss Amy Rogerson	1
Johnny Fuller	1	Mrs. Whit Rogerson	1
Fred Spencer	1	Master Fred Rogerson	1
James Foreman	1	Master Hal Rogerson	1
Peter Fannan	1	Harry Rogerson	4½

Collected by Mr. Geo. Rapley, 6s.

Geo. Rapley	2	Rosie Archer	1
Woolmer Young	1	Clyo and Rochelle	1
Macdonald Trio	1		

Collected by Miss Ethel Dove, 2s.

Ethel Dove	1	Sisters Brand	1

Collected by Mr. Fred Kitchen, 24s.

J. L. Weisker	1	Little Old Man	8
H. Stevens	1	Fildes	1
W. Poluski, jun.	1	Helm	1
Troughton	1	Hermons	1
Dudley Powell	1	A Friend	1
W. G.	1	Fred Kitchen	1
Harry Lappo	1	Papa Kitchen	1
Landeck	1	Fred Kitchen, jun.	1
Buxton	1		

Collected by Mr. Harry Phydora, 10s.

Harry Phydora	2	R. Wallis	1
Will H. Evans	1	Fanny Wright	1
Harry Gifford	1	Lawrance Gifford	1
M. Espinosa	1	Addie Lennard	1
W. P. Sheen	1		

Collected by Mr. Arthur Elvey, 21s. 6d.

Arthur Elvey	2½	May Ebborn	1
Mrs. A. Elvey	2½	J. Joel	1
Doris Elvey	1	Black Boy	2
Gladys Elvey	1	King's Arms	1
B. Hyman	1	Cris Wordsworth	2
J. Myers	1	Miniature Maria	2½
E. Myers	1	The Equestrian	1
Johnny Harris	1		

Collected by Bliss and Bliss, 16s.

George Bliss	1	Moran-Mareece Qrt.	2
Leo Bliss	1	Cinquevalli	1
Anthy	1	La Danseuse	1
Fred Land	1	Boyd and Gilfain	1
Blake and Granby	1	Amber Austa	1
Kroney Bros.	2	W. E. Haines	1
Massona	1	George D'Albert	1

Collected by Tiller's (Minnie Williams) Snowdrops, 42s.

P. D.	2½	Snowdrops	5
A. F. D.	2½	Marian Wood	1
Mr. A. Anderson	6	Emmie Appleton	1
Misses Monkman	2½	Daisy Costin	1
Harry Grell	1	Rose Wade	1
George Le Clerq	5	Elsie Mynne	1
Fred Grey	2½	Alice Donaldson	1
Ben Brown	1	Minnie Williams	1
W. P. Scott	3	Eva FitzSimmons	1
J. McK.	1	Mrs. Geo. Lashwood	2

Collected by Mr. Tony Iveson, 16s.

Tony Iveson	1	Miss Rosebery	1
Alskarno Trio	1	Jas. Benyon	1
Lillian Victoria	1	Rose Cass	1
T. J (Royal Alfred)	1	Mrs. Trapnell	1
F. Tarbuck	1	Jack Boardman	1
The Perkins	1	George Trapnell	1
Carter Livesey	1	Mr. Calthorpe	1
Dusty Rhodes	1	Jerry Langford	1

Collected by Frazer and Mac, 27s. 6d.

Frazer and Mac	2	W. Uessem	2½
Understudy	1	Bowman and Morton	2
Thespian	1	M Bertier	1
Sarah Kirby	1	Alpha	1
S. R. Smith	1	Newhouse	1
Miss Ashby	1	Warden Reed	1
Griff	1	Albert Boisot	1
Emy Müller	1	Frank Boisot	1
Iona	1	Bert Gilbert	1
Bijou Russell	1	Jerry Driscoll	1
A Friend	1	Ryan and Hall	1
Belle Victoria	1	Anna De Gray	1

Collected by Daunton and Shaw Troupe, 10s.

A. Daunton Shaw	1½	Edward Bethell	1
Mrs. A. Daunton Shaw	1½	Frank Hartley	1
Nil Desperandum	1	R. H. Sykes	1
Mick Bishop	1	E. Daunton Shaw	1½
H. Slater	½		

Collected by Mr. Bert Brantford, 12s.

B. Brantford	1	Jimmy Shields	1
Guy Ryder	1	Jimmy Howard	1
Non-Runner	1	F. O'Neil	1
Piquo	1	H. Moore	1
Paulinetti	1	Bro. Dunning	1
Ford Williams	1	W. Haste	1

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, 22s.

Zarmo	1	Barney	1
Jake Friedman	1	H. Chang	1
W. Taylor	1	Streakey	1
Tom Dunmore	1	W. Hutton	1
Mrs. Thos. E. Finglas	1	R. Reynolds	1
Will Vay	1	Jim	1
Fred Lloyd	1	Sam	1
Wm. Garrett	1	W. King	1
Otto and Olga	1	Jack Jowsey	1
A. P. Boswell	1	J. B. Hampson	1
L. Myers	1	Pal	1

Collected by Mr. Gus Garrick, 12s.

Polly Prim	1	A. Anarto	1
Nell Richardson	1	Miss A. Kellino	1
Sidney Young	1	Albert Kellino	1
George Mudie	1	Miss Kellino	1
G. Belmore	1	George Kellino	1
Gus Garrick	1	Toy Shop (Hastings)	1
Mrs. Garrick	1	Harry Allister	1
Lily and Jack G.	1	Gus Lennard	1
W. Kellino	1	Roma and Romant	1
Mrs. W. Kellino	1	Harry Ford	1
John Kellino	1	F. Napoli	1

Collected by Miss Marie Weston, 7s.

Marie Weston	1	Lottie	1
Allan Allen	1	Nell	1
Cristo	1	Mary Ellen	1
Sarathaler	1		

Collected by Mr. Arthur Lennard, 140s.

Capt. Woodward	100	Huxter Bros.	2
Sam Glenroy	5

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had elected Mr. Walter B. Yates as their chairman and Mr. H. J. Greenwood as their vice-chairman for the ensuing year. They had also appointed their chairman to represent them on the General Purposes Committee.

THE AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION.

The Committee reported that they had had before them plans with regard to the proposed arrangements of certain of the side shows in connection with the forthcomng Imperial Royal Australian Exhibition, to be held at Earl's Court. The arrangements shown on the plans appeared to be satisfactory.

NOVELTIES AT EARL'S COURT.

The committee further reported that they had considered plans, submitted by Mr. A. O. Collard, of a proposed "Helter Skelter Lighthouse," to be erected at the London Exhibitions, Earl's Court, in connection with the Austrian Exhibition, and plans showing the construction of a tower and gateway in the portion of the Exhibition grounds known as "Elysia." They had consulted the Building Act Committee, and were informed that the proposed arrangements have been approved under the London Building Act, 1894. They recommended that Mr. Collard be informed that the Council has no objection, so far as its regulations under Section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 32, are concerned, to the arrangements shown on the six plans, submitted by him with regard to the proposed "Helter Skelter Lighthouse" and the construction of a tower and gateway in the portion of the Exhibition grounds known as "Elysia," provided the following conditions be complied with—

"Helter Skelter Lighthouse"—

(1) That the side of the trough be protected by means of rails to a height of 3ft. 6in.

(2) That no thin wood be used in the construction of the tower, and that all woodwork be thickly coated with a fire-resisting solution.

"Elysia"—

(1) That all woodwork be thickly coated with a fire-resisting solution.

The recommendation was agreed to.

THE ALDWYCH SITE.

It will be remembered that at the previous meeting of the Council the Improvements Committee presented a report on the scheme for building by a syndicate with a capital of a million a theatre, concert hall, &c., on the Aldwych-Strand site, the syndicate agreeing to pay £55,000 a year ground rent for a 99 years' lease, and to spend £500,000 in the erection of buildings.

At Tuesday's meeting several interesting questions relating to the letting of this important site were asked.

MR. ANSTRUTHER inquired of the Chairman of the Improvements Committee whether any action had yet been taken with regard to the letting of the central portion of the crescent site at Aldwych, which would preclude the further deliberate consideration of the prior offer of M. Gérard to rent the site.

LORD MONKSWELL asked whether it was not a fact that M. Gérard had offered £56,000 a year for the site, just £1,000 a year more than the accepted offer.

MR. HUBBARD, in reply, said that all that had yet been done in the matter was that the solicitor had been instructed to prepare the agreement. The draft had not yet been sent out. He was anxious on behalf of his committee that the whole of the negotiations connected with the letting of the site should be brought before the Council, and he would undertake to bring up a full report on the subject next week. The draft agreement would not be sent out before that time.

AGAIN ADJOURNED.

Discussion on the important report of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, which was brought up to the Council on the 20th inst., containing a recommendation with reference to the number of persons to be admitted to the various parts of the places of public entertainment licensed by the Council, was again adjourned.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, FEB. 23.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr J. C. Williamson; Sub Lessee and Manager, Mr William Anderson.—*La Fille du Tambour Major* was revived by Mr. Anderson on the 17th inst. on an elaborate scale. In the crowded audience were many who well remembered the original production at this theatre in 1881—with Pattie Laverne, Fred Mervin, Nellie Stewart, Maggie Liddell, Albert Brennir, Minnie Hope, H. R. Harwood, J. H. Wallace, F. J. Hallewell, and George Dean in the cast—and the familiar melodies and lines recalled memories of the past. Of the old cast only Nellie Stewart, Minnie Hope, John H. Wallace, and George Dean are now living. The new Stella is Miss Addie Campbell, a dainty, fresh-voiced young Victorian, who now makes her first appearance in Australia's metropolis. More experience will render this singer a valuable addition to the operatic stage. Miss Ivy Scott is a vivacious Claudine, and Miss Maud Thornton scores as Griolet. Miss Madge Hope is a stately and dignified Duchess Della Volta, and Miss Bessie White is well placed as the Abbess. Mr. Edward Farley supplies a delightful representation of Monthabor, the drum major, singing finely and acting well. Mr. Edwin Lester had carefully studied the short-sighted eccentricities of the Duke, and gives a finished portrait of the Italian noble. Signor Achille Rebottaro is an accomplished singer, and his Capitaine Robert is distinctly good. Mr. Harry Quealy makes a dancing part of Bambini. The Clampas of Mr. Walter Rivers and the Gregorio of Mr. Lance Vane are also deserving of mention. The chorus is large, and has been well trained by the conductor, Mr. George Gardner. D'Auban's Minuet is danced by sixteen good dancers and sixteen equally clever juveniles. The costumes were all new, and from first to last *Tambour Major* is a magnificent spectacle of which all concerned may well be proud. Mr. George Dean, one of the original cast, directed the revival.

AT the Criterion Mr. Robert Brough was indisposed, and so *Little Mary* was postponed, and *The Walls of Jericho* revived, with Miss Beatrice Day and Mr. Herbert Flemming in their old rôles. Mr. Norman McKeown made a distinct success in Mr. Brough's part of Hankey Bannister.

MR. R. G. KNOWLES, also directed by Mr. Williamson, is entertaining at the Palace, but next Saturday the Knight Jeffries Company will begin a season with *David Garrick* and *Comedy and Tragedy*.

THE Tivoli has added Mr. Leonard Nelson to its already big bill.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, cycling, motoring, dancing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

"THE WILLOW-PATTERN PLATE."

A Chinese Idyll, written by Mr. Robinson, with Music by Charles Collins and Ernest Irving, Produced for the First Time at the Empress, Brixton, on Thursday, March 29.

Mandarin .....MR. MCLEOD
Fi-Fi .....MISS N. HOLMES
Yo-San .....MISS L. HOLMES
Kissi-Kissi .....MISS HOLLAND
Li-Chi .....MISS MARJORIE CECIL
Chang .....MISS MABEL THORNE

A fantasy of the Flowery Land was imported into the entertainment at the Empress on Thursday, when Mr. Nelson Francis gave a place in the programme to a pretty love story, embellished with music and picturesque scenery. An enlarged realisation of the mystic Chinese design which, from time out of mind, has adorned the homely dinner plate, forms the background to the romance of which the youthful Chang is the hero. He has lost his heart to the charming Li-Chi, and tells her so in a song in which the virtues of "My Chinee Girl" are eulogised. The young lady speedily makes her appearance, and joins in the refrain; but opposition to their union is furnished by the mighty mandarin, the father of the girl, who, with stern countenance, forbids the banns. The lovers decide to elope by the light of the blue moon, and on their departure the three Celestial maidens, who stand meditatively on the rustic bridge, descend, and perform a graceful fan dance, followed later on by an electric pas de trois, in which some peculiar lighting effects are utilised. By this time the young lady has donned her best travelling costume; but, before starting on their journey, Chang and his sweetheart sing duets addressed to a butterfly and to a pair of doves, who perch on the tree close by. The singing is accompanied by a dance, of which the mandarin is an interested spectator. He is so evidently impressed by the performance that he relents, and bestows his blessing, the curtain falling on a fairy-like scene, garlands of roses descending from above, and Chinese lamps adding brilliancy to the spectacle. Miss Mabel Thorne, who made a comely "principal boy," played Chang with buoyancy and unfailing vivacity. Miss Thorne has a tuneful voice, and possesses the faculty of making herself heard, and her love lilt and the song addressed to the "golden doves" were thoroughly well rendered. Miss Marjorie Cecil, becomingly arrayed, was a bewitching Li-Chi, singing and dancing daintily, and earning great admiration. The little piece, which gave evident pleasure to the audience, was produced by Mr. Joseph Pomé, who also arranged the dances; the costumes, which have an important bearing on the piece, being by Miss Lily Woolf. Mr. Albert Burridge, who acted as assistant to the late Mr. Skinner for a number of years, is the new stage-manager at the Empress.

THE I.A.L.

THE most important communication to the I.A.L. at the meeting at the Hotel Provence on Sunday was one received from the agent concerned in the case mentioned last week regarding Manager Lorenzen, of the Scala Theatre, Copenhagen, and two members of the I.A.L. He was sorry to see in the report published that some suspicion rested on him as agent between M. Lorenzen and the artists, as if he had not wished to make a contract for them. He said that for eight years he had worked for the manager in question, who had never made use of the cancellation clause. Therefore, he (the agent) thought he was perfectly safe in advising the artists to strike out nothing. He thought also that all acts once engaged should not be cancelled. As regards the demand for payment of 10 per cent. on the original contract, the agent had a right to his commission on all contracts once concluded. The two artists first applied direct to the manager for a postponement of their contract, and did not succeed in getting it. They thereupon applied to him. He also was unable to obtain it, but got a new engagement for them under new conditions, the manager thinking that later on the act would not be so valuable to him as now.

ONE member in the meeting was of the opinion that both the agent and manager were right. The president agreed that there is always right on both sides. The artists, he considered, were wrong in accepting an open contract, and the manager wrong not to keep a contract he had made. "I can never see," said the president, "that any manager should bind an artist under pains and penalties to keep a contract, and then get out of it himself by saying that the contract is cancelled under such and such a clause." As regards the agent, the president thought it would have been fairer for him to have only asked 5 per cent. for the second contract, or the whole for the first only. A brother proposed that a letter be written to the agent acknowledging the receipt of his letter, and summing up the opinion expressed by the meeting. Seconded and carried.

A BROTHER then gave a brief report of the visit of the deputation to Messrs. Anger and Bauer *re* the settlement of cases between them and the I.A.L. members by means of arbitration. Messrs. Anger and Bauer met the deputation in a friendly way, and declared themselves quite willing to leave cases which might arise to the lodge meeting as a whole, and trusted to their fairness in giving decisions. It was resolved that a letter be written to Messrs. Anger and Bauer acknowledging their kind reception of the deputation and trust in the lodge members. A brother added that the agents in question seemed to think that they were more likely to get justice from the artists than in the Law Courts. The legal committee for the coming month was then elected. The meeting was informed that *Das Programm* Company had given £100 from the profits of the enterprise to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the I.A.L.

INTERESTING information regarding the custom duties in America was given by several members present. The custom duties in America are rather high on things required in the profession, and will not permit any one to bring in goods for professional purposes, and deposit sums for them, unless they are taken away within six months. The bond, however, can be renewed for six months only; after that they must be taken away. This seems simple, but a man may not have 600 dollars on landing for the deposit. However, the manager or his agent will put the goods in bond. This was originally a pure kindness on the part of the managers; now it is sometimes used as a measure of reducing salaries. A member, on going to America, had a bond put up for him by a manager. After playing Keith's Circuit, the artist wished to remain in America and play elsewhere, and wished to renew the bond. But this must be done by the person who originally put it up, and the manager refused. Of course, he was only intending to hit a competition house, but it struck the artist at the same time.

THE Regal Operatic Quartette (who will appear in excerpts from celebrated lyrical works) will include Mlle. Adele Prescott, soprano; Mr. Edward Wynn, tenor; Mr. Albert German, baritone; and Mme. Marie Burnett, contralto. Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins, who will represent the quartette, is purchasing magnificent and correct costumes for each scena.

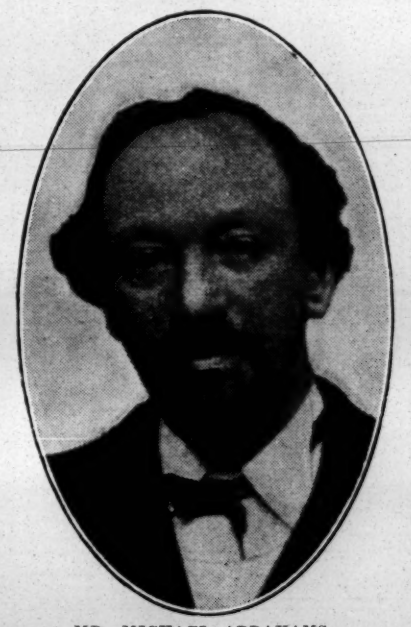
MISS ALICE MAY is this week presenting with gratifying success at the Empire, Leeds, her clever quick-change farce *Tranquillity*, in which she appears in seven distinct characters—a laundress, a slavey, a Salvation lass, an Italian girl, a newsboy, a Punch-and-Judy Show woman, and a Society girl.

CHAT WITH MESSRS. F. AND M. ABRAHAMS AND JACK WOOLF.

Mr. Fred and Mr. Michael Abrahams, the proprietors of the Queen's Palace of Varieties, Poplar, are the oldest music-hall managers in London. They are the sons of Mr. Isaac Abrahams, who half a century ago was proprietor of the Polytechnic Music Hall in Manchester, and it was from that establishment that the two brothers commenced their career in the profession. Mr. Fred Abrahams served an apprenticeship in the orchestra, and, acquiring much knowledge of variety affairs, he became his father's manager in one department, while his brother Michael con-

MR. FRED ABRAHAMS.

trolled another department. Mr. Fred Abrahams in the course of things got married, and settled down for a time in Nottingham, where he rebuilt an old music-hall, rechristening it the Polytechnic. He then joined his brother Morris in the management of the old Effingham, when Mr. T. Abrahams, after parting with his brother Morris, he then took the Oriental. At that time Mr. Michael had the Apollo, in Hare-street, Bethnal Green. Later, Mr. Fred Abrahams came to Poplar, and took possession of a small hall known as the Oriental, which has now blossomed forth into a good-sized and responsible place of entertainment under the name of the Queen's Palace of Varieties. It is the oldest



MR. MICHAEL ABRAHAMS.

place of amusement in the neighbourhood. At one time Poplar was the centre of the shipping business, and the Oriental had a world-wide reputation among seamen. The Brothers Abrahams have held the place for forty years, and it is now their own freehold property, along with the surrounding land. A great number of artists who subsequently became "stars" were given a kindly help up the ladder of success at the Queen's. Mr. Michael Abrahams first brought Macdermott to London, paying him a guinea a week to perform at Poplar. Mr. Abrahams smiles as he recollects that he took George Leybourne from a penny music-hall in Whitechapel, where he was getting twelve shillings a week, and gave him £1 a week to per-

MR. J. WOOLF.

form at the Oriental. Others who appeared at the same house were Jenny Hill, Annie Adams, Dan Leno, and Little Tich.

Mr. Michael Abrahams—or "Mike," as he is popularly known—made his start as a music-hall proprietor at the Red Cross, afterwards renamed the Apollo, in Hare-street, Bethnal Green. He relinquished that establishment when his brother Frederick went to America with Jem Mace, when Michael took charge of the Queen's. Upon Frederick's return to England, the hall was rebuilt and is now quite a handsome edifice. At the present time it is being thoroughly renovated throughout. The scheme of decoration in the interior is cream and gold, has a most agreeable aspect, and the theatre has been fitted throughout with a costly system of electric light installation. Carpets are being laid down in place of what was formerly linoleum, and a new exit has been constructed leading from the gallery to the High-street. The house will be opened at Easter on the two performances a night system.

Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland, Mile End-road, will act as general manager for the proprietors, who, by the way, are his uncles. Mr. Woolf's association with the East End of London has, as everybody knows, been of life-long duration, and we have no doubt that the experience he has thereby gained will be used to excellent advantage in the control of the Queen's Palace. As there appeared to Mr. Woolf an indication that the public favoured the two houses a night, he has decided to fall into line with that idea. The prices of admission will be such as to be well within the reach of all the working classes of the East End, and as it is the intention of the proprietors to cater on a generous scale for their patrons, there need be little fear as to the success of the undertaking. Mr. Woolf informs us that he intends presenting the best possible talent that can be procured.

Asked as to how the barring clause would affect Poplar, Mr. Woolf remarked: "If the barring clause is to be brought against us—although in spite of that restriction I believe there is enough talent to be found in London and the provinces—I shall go further afield for turns. At the same time I should like you to state that I am very much averse to taking such a course, because I do not believe in introducing foreign talent here when we know that there are enough English artists to supply the requirements, not merely of the Queen's, Poplar, but of as many other halls that could be built. I think that a reasonable barring period would be three months, and, if contracts were drawn up on that principle, a benefit would accrue both to the manager and the artist. Of course, in the event of a proprietor going to a lot of trouble and expense in bringing over an extraordinary 'speciality,' it would be only reasonable to extend the barring period; but for the ordinary singing and dancing turns I do think that the twelve-months' barring is detrimental to the interests of both parties, as it drives away good performers from our own doors and assists in the introduction of the foreigner. It is no wonder that artists cannot get work here when managers will go over to France, Germany, and other countries and pay fabulous prices for foreign acts. In the management of the Queen's, Poplar, I shall strain every effort to give all artists a fair chance."

The refreshment department of the Queen's Palace of Varieties will, when it is opened, be under the direction of Mr. John Abrahams, a son of Mr. Michael Abrahams, while a still younger son, Mr. Maurice Abrahams, will act as secretary. Mr. Michael Abrahams should, indeed, be a happy man. He is the father of seven sons and three daughters, all living. One of his sons is a partner in the well-known firm of naturalists, Willson's, of New Oxford-street.

VARIETY ARTISTS' FEDERATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I encroach upon your valuable space to ask you to give publicity to the following?

I understood that the Variety Artists' Federation was being founded upon the lines of the International Artists' Lodge, for the good of the variety profession.

It seems that Messrs. Moss, Stoll, Payne, and Gros have been running variety theatres all wrong, and several artists who know how want to teach these gentlemen how to make things pleasant for all concerned. Now, no one ever told me that Sir Edward Moss, or Mr. Oswald Stoll, or Mr. G. Adney Payne volunteered to show an artist how to do his business.

I do not question that the barring clause does sometimes operate harshly, but I for one would not care to see it relaxed. Firstly, I believe the manager knows his own business best. Secondly, if the barring clause were modified, other interests than those of the artists would be served. Do the artists imagine that they would benefit in the long run if they were permitted to play, for instance, eight weeks under a certain management in Manchester and ask the Moss-Stoll direction to bill them in large letters at their establishments six months afterwards?

Those who would benefit would be a small circle of managers and the Continental and American artists, who, after wearing off the novelty of their acts by constant repetition, can return home, change their names, and come over once more.

But what of the English artists who depend more upon their popularity than their novelty? Will their popularity and their value to the manager increase with frequent repetition?

The International Artists' Lodge is a German association. The leaders of the Federation number many Americans. I am told also that some leading English turns that command very high salaries are talking fight. Have these latter paused to consider the various causes that have increased salaries since the days when it was go as you please? Loosen the barring clause and we shall revert to the old order and the old salaries. What managers have to consider is what will maintain and increase the popularity of variety entertainments.

What the artist has to consider is whether it is not better to lose a few weeks a year than to bring down about his ears the whole fabric that is holding his salary up. If they foolishly imagine that the public *will* have them, no matter where they play, they may find that that fickle public that clamours for them to-day may in six months run wild over comic opera, or some other form of entertainment in which the variety artist has no part.

Better form a federation for mutual help and protection, and leave those who are said to rush in where angels fear to tread to draw the chestnuts out of the fire for others to eat.—Yours faithfully,

ADA ALEXANDRA.

Leeds, March 27, 1906.

MISS RUBY BIJOU, in addition to her pretty dances, is now introducing a barefooted dance, which for grace and refinement would be hard to beat.

THE London, Shoreditch, is now under the management of Mr. Herbert Ralph, who succeeds Mr. Charles Hector.

MISS LILIAN ELFRIDA, the mimic, went so strongly at Walthamstow on her opening night that she was requested by the management to include more impersonations on the Tuesday evening. She will be seen immediately at the Canterbury, and has been booked, through Mr. Tom Claxton's agency, for the principal London halls.

THE "Sixpenny Pops." series issued by Mr. David Day has been yet further augmented by the addition of seven new numbers, the last piece being numbered 273 in the catalogue. The titles are "Longing for you," "Seagull!" "Don't go too fast, little girlie," "Two brown eyes," "Ain't yer gwine to say 'How do'?" "Moonlight Serenade," and "The waltz must change to a march, Marie."

MR. F. WARDEN-REED, after fourteen weeks' provincial tour with *Married or Photographed?* and *The Right Road*, returns to London next week, giving the former sketch at the London, and the latter at Collins's.

LATENT TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am afraid Dave Wallace and others are a trifle prejudiced as regards foreign acts in England; forgetting that English acts go abroad, thus equalising things a little. Really clever foreign acts no one should object to; but, unfortunately, *there are others*, and whatever they may be engaged for it is not talent, for they have none.

But, after all, the discussion is "latent," not foreign, talent, and it is talent that should rise to the top, no matter what its nationality may be. It is something much more than foreign acts that keeps English talent latent. Everybody in the profession knows it, and, as Dave Wallace says, "Surely the time has come for English artists to wake up, and endeavour to remedy this state of affairs."

Donald's Agency no doubt mean well by wishing to organise "trial" performances in different towns, and there is no telling what they may discover; but the "trials" will hardly be fair to poor "out-of-collar" pros, who will grasp at a trial show by way of a "last straw," and who will, in many cases, thanks to a period of semi-starvation, have neither the nerve nor the strength to face a critical audience, and do themselves justice. It requires a great deal more nerve and strength to do a "trial show" upon which so much depends than an ordinary performance, when you have a few immediate dates booked; and whether you are well-fed or half-starved makes all the difference in the quality of your show.

I've had some, so I know.—Yours faithfully,

THROUGH THE MILL.

Actors' Association, 10, King-street, W.C.,
March 22, 1906.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—When we commenced the organisation of "trial" performances for latent talent in Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, Nottingham, Birmingham, Cardiff (or Bristol), Dublin, and London, we little conceived the magnitude of the task we were undertaking. Letters have literally poured in upon us from every corner of the British Isles, and the Continent has contributed its quota to the mass. The result is that we are absolutely unable to answer the applicants all at once. They will have to exercise patience while we reduce chaos to order, and bring a well-thought-out system into play to cope with the task.

The great showers of letters have prevented us from proceeding with the performances as early as we intended. We will be able to make an announcement next week, but we expect, as things go, that the Glasgow event will succeed the Liverpool one, and that Birmingham will follow that. Meanwhile, aspirants should send in their applications, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, if they want a chance to appear. The more the merrier, and there is always room for talent.

A cheering feature of the applications is the large number of fairly experienced acts who write in asking a "chance." Some of them would shine on the largest halls, from our present knowledge of them

Numbers of managers have promised to be present, while a great many will undoubtedly be there who cannot now make a definite promise. A general invitation will, of course, be sent to all managers, agents, and selected Pressmen.

Might we again respectfully remind the profession that the proceeds will, after deducting expenses, of course, be given to our professional charities. We hope, on this account at least, they will aid us to get bumper houses.

Thanking you for the courtesy of inserting this letter, we are, yours faithfully,

DONALD'S DRAMATIC AND VARIETY AGENCY.

89, Victoria-street, Liverpool, March 29.

CONTINENTAL TURNS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I suggest to your correspondent and those who complain of the presence on English programmes of so many foreign turns, the advantage of "taking a leaf from their book" by seeking for themselves engagements on the Continent?

There is plenty of room over here for really good English specialities and singers, and, if a success is made in your first town, you find no difficulty in booking most, if not all, the principal theatres (as indeed has been my own case in a stay of one month here), and on terms equal to, and frequently higher, than the best obtained at home; with the further benefit of only one show nightly, one month in a town, and that courtesy and consideration which is so customary in Continental theatres.

As an indication of a similar presence of foreign talent in native theatres, here, in a programme of ten turns and a ballet, two turns are English, and one each American, French, Italian, Austrian, Russian, and Spanish.—Yours faithfully,

GERTRELLA.

Hansa Theatre, Hamburg.
March 28, 1906.

MISS EMMIE AMES leaves London on Sunday next on a provincial tour, visiting Manchester, Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow, York, and Carlisle, returning to town on June 4.

MR. J. W. PARRATT, the Ilkley humorist and author, has just published his first book of humorous recitations, which is meeting with a very good sale. The book has already been supplied to several London humorists, as well as many in Yorkshire, and the stories and recitations therein cannot fail to be highly amusing. They are free from all vulgarity. The price is 1s., post free.

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3, Exchange-street, MANCHESTER.
AND
37, Avenue de l'Opera, PARIS.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The recent deputation of showmen to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee of the London County Council has led to an interesting, and we trust useful, exchange of views. The letter we now give expresses the latest phase of the matter:—

"5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"March 23, 1906.

"Dear Sir,—In continuance of the guarantees this society is prepared to give the Parks and Open Spaces Committee with reference to the matters under discussion at the recent reception of the Showman Deputation, I am instructed to state firstly, that we are prepared, if the Council so desire, to leave the ground occupied by our people at holiday times clean and tidy to the satisfaction of your officers. Secondly, we are prepared to satisfy your officers with regard to all necessary sanitary arrangements, and to show that the living vans so necessary for our business are, from the sanitary point of view, healthy dwellings. Thirdly, living vans are admitted at times of fêtes and demonstrations in the following parks: The Old Deer Park, Richmond, five or six times a year, and are allowed to stay periods of from two to six days each visit; and they are also admitted on Wanstead Flats on holiday times, Hillingdon Park, Walton Park, Bagshot Park, Binfield Park, Osterley Park, and Taplow Court.

"We also wish to emphasise the fact that no embargo whatever is placed upon living vans by the great municipalities in the provinces.

"Fourthly, this society includes in its membership almost the entire body of London showpeople, and we are therefore in a position to give guarantees that will practically cover all questions of administration arising between the Council and its showmen tenants.

"We are ready to co-operate with the officers of the Council in order to secure the carrying out of all reasonable and practical regulations for the benefit of the vast crowds frequenting the open spaces at holiday times, and for the betterment of the people's open-air amusements.—Yours ever, for God and for good,

"T. Horne (Hon. Chaplain)."

The showmen, above all things, desire to be practical, and to show their anxiety to deal seriously with the question in dispute have undertaken the responsibilities outlined in the above letter. There is, however, a great duty laid upon the County Council—that is, to provide adequately emergency arrangements for the vast crowds frequenting the heaths and open spaces at holiday times.

The showmen very strongly object to being held responsible or blameworthy for lack of adequate latrines or sanitary deficiencies that ought to be provided by the Council. The inevitable litter of waste paper, &c., that follows a vast crowd on holiday-making bent is well within the powers and ability of the Council and its able officers to legislate and provide for. The unreasonableness of holding the show folk blameworthy for this is obvious, and needs no comment.

We sincerely trust that news will soon be forthcoming that the objectionable prohibition regulation of living-vans has been rescinded, and that the showman and family in the home on wheels will now be welcomed, and not placed under ban and suspicion.

We are glad to announce to the members of the Showmen's Guild that A. A. Strong, Esq., LL.B., has accepted the position of hon. solicitor to the Guild for the London district. Mr. Strong's office is 4, Eastcheap, City.

Members of the Guild, on referring to their Guild rules in the "Showmen's Year Book," page 24, will see that rule 19 provides for legal advice; the same conditions apply to Mr. Strong as to the other hon. solicitors of the Association.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, and WALES FOR APRIL.

ENGLAND.

April 2.	Grantham	April 16.	Morecambe
April 2.	Gt. Grmisby	April 16.	New Brighton
April 2.	Middlesbrough	April 16.	Newcastle-on-Tyne
April 2.	Plymouth		
April 3.	Dawlish	April 16.	Newmarket
April 3.	Hexham	April 16.	Northampton
April 5.	Accrington	April 16.	Northwich
April 5.	Bridport	April 16.	Portsmouth
April 5.	Horsham	April 16.	Richmond (Surrey)
April 5.	Nantwich		
April 5.	Swindon	April 16.	Richmond (Yorks.)
April 6.	St. Columb		
April 7.	Brighouse Fair	April 16.	Rothwell Feast
April 7.	Caistor (Lincs.)	April 16.	Rushden
April 7.	Gloucester	April 16.	Ryde (I. of W.)
April 7.	Malton	April 16.	Seaham Harbour
April 7.	Pickering		
April 7.	Pontefract	April 16.	Selby
April 11.	Stanhope	April 16.	Southport
April 11.	Worksop	April 16.	Stafford
April 12.	Norwich	April 16.	Thornaby
April 13.	Bacup	April 16.	Torquay
April 13.	Doncaster	April 16.	Tring
April 13.	Haslingden	April 16.	Tunbridge Wells
April 13.	Ordsall Lane (Salford)	April 16.	Wormwood Scrubs.
April 13.	Padiham		
April 13.	Queen's - road (Manchester)	April 17.	Folkestone
		April 17.	Hitchin
April 13.	Seaforth Sands (Liverpool)	April 17.	Romsey
		April 17.	Thame
April 13.	Todmorden	April 17.	Wareham
April 13.	Trafford - road (Manchester)	April 18.	Barnard Castle
April 13.	Trinity Market (Salford)	April 18.	Lincoln
		April 19.	Yarmouth
April 14.	Bilston	April 20.	Bedford
April 14.	Blackburn	April 20.	Bicester
April 14.	Darlington	April 20.	Devizes
April 14.	Deptford	April 20.	St. Austell
April 14.	Derby	April 20.	Tyldesley
April 14.	Glossop	April 21.	Chesham
April 14.	Godmanchester	April 23.	Bewdley
April 14.	North Shields	April 23.	Horwich
April 14.	Wanstead Flats	April 24.	Barnoldswick
April 16.	Birkenhead	April 24.	Crediton
April 16.	Blackheath	April 24.	Hatfield
April 16.	Cheltenham	April 25.	Bracknell
April 16.	Clevedon	April 25.	Iron Acton
April 16.	Exeter	April 25.	South Shields
April 16.	Gainsborough	April 28.	Alton
April 16.	Garston	April 28.	Horncastle
April 16.	Halesowen	April 28.	Longtown
April 16.	Hinckley	April 28.	Newchurch
April 16.	Hockham	April 28.	Ravensthorpe Feast
April 16.	Jarrow-on-Tyne		
April 16.	Luton	April 30.	Cobham
April 16.	Malvern	April 30.	Kenilworth
April 16.	Midsomer Norton	April 30.	Newick

SCOTLAND.

April 2.	Dunfermline	April 14.	Levan
April 4.	Govan	April 20.	Hamilton
April 4.	Lanark	April 28.	Bridge o Allan
April 4.	Selkirk		
April 4.	Stirling	April 28.	Cupar (Fife)
April 9.	Dundee	April 30.	Edinburgh

WALES.

April 2.	Pontypool	April 16.	Merthyr Tydfil
April 7.	Newtown	April 16.	Mold
April 13.	Holyhead	April 16.	Newport (Monmouth)
April 14.	Neath		
April 16.	Aberdare	April 16.	Pontypridd
April 16.	Cardiff		

Eccles Spring Fair, held on Mr. J. Whiting's ground, has resulted in a good start out. Besides the lessee's electric gondola switchback there were on the ground Mr. T. Hurst's racing poultry farm from Clifton, T. Day's up-to-date show, J. Norman's cinematograph, T. Leyland's marionettes, E. Clough's eldorado of French novelties, J. White's Emmas and shooting saloons, and numerous others. Cheetham Hill Fair is fixed for next week.

LONDON SHOWMEN IN COUNCIL.

A special meeting of London showmen under the auspices of the Showmen's Guild, and convened by its energetic Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Islington, on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Alf Ball, of bioscope fame, occupied the chair, and supporting him were Tom Norman, vice-president, and the Rev. T. Horne, hon. chaplain. Prominent showmen present were Wm. Beach, H. Forrest, Fred Gray, J. Hastings, J. W. Chipperfield, Wm. Le Neve, Wm. Taylor (of Taylor's Coliseum of Variety and Cinematograph), T. Irish, H. Taylor, C. Biddall (of Biddall Bros.' Bioscope), T. Knighton, W. Walcot, D. Stevens, T. Manning, C. Hill, Geo. Beach, Fred Gray, W. Bishop, Joseph Wilson, H. Peters, T. Manning, and others.

The Chairman called upon the Rev. T. Horne to open the business of the meeting by recounting the work recently essayed by the Showmen's Guild in defence of the fair ground business in the Metropolitan district.

The Hon. Chaplain then said that since their special meeting held at the close of the World's Fair season at the Agricultural Hall, he had been in correspondence with various Metropolitan governing bodies—notably, the London County Council and the District Council of Mitcham. The Guild Parliamentary Agent had also carried through and lodged a showmen's petition against the General Powers Bill of the Middlesex Council. He had also great pleasure in submitting to them the name of Mr. A. A. Strong, who had consented to become hon. solicitor to their Society for the London district. This, they would readily understand, was a great gain to London showmen—to be able to have legal advice in conformity with their rules, and as ready of access as their brethren of the road in the Midlands and in the North: Mr. Watson Wright for the great Midland circuit, Mr. Charles Howard for Manchester and the Northern Province, and Mr. Shaughnessey for Scotland. The Guild felt honoured in having the active assistance on its honorary executive of so distinguished a legal adviser as Mr. Strong. With regard to the important question of living vans on the open spaces under the control of the London County Council, he could not now say much. When he convened the gathering he had hopes of being in a position to give the official answer to their request for the rescinding of the obnoxious and vexatious rule against living-vans. This, however, he was not able to do; and, as the matter may be said to be still *sub judice*, he would leave that part of the Guild report with the expression of the confidential hope that the Parks Committee would appreciate the arguments laid before it by the recent deputation, and that the vans so necessary to their work and avocation in life would be permitted as integral and absolutely necessary parts of their business equipment. With regard to Mitcham Fair, he was also in correspondence with the local authority, and, further, he proposed going himself to Mitcham, and to take on the spot all necessary measures to safeguard the showmen's interest in the old Charter fair. This he hoped to be able to do at an early date. Coming to the most important question before them—the additional powers sought by the Middlesex County Council—he dealt with the clauses threatening the show business and the Guild petition against them, and showed how these clauses, if passed into law, would practically kill the show business in the county of Middlesex. He contended that the animus against them was manifest, and that the promoters had all necessary and reasonable powers already, and that further powers could only be meant not to control or regulate, but to utterly destroy the business of travelling showmen.

Mr. Horne was warmly thanked for his address, and a most interesting discussion on various matters of moment to the show business took place. In this Messrs. Tom Norman, Wm. Taylor, Swales Forrest, Wm. Beach, C. Hill, Fred Gray, and others took part.

Several new members were enrolled at the close of the meeting, and it was resolved to hold the next meeting at Wanstead Flats on Easter Sunday afternoon.

At Gorton Spring Fair, held on Mr. J. Collins's ground, Gorton-lane, Manchester, last week, were Trayner's show of art, Pedley's tiny tot show, Cordwell's aerial flyers and midget motors, Messrs. Mercer and J. Humphrey's midget ponies and motor cars, shooting saloons of Messrs. Lever and Humphrey, Emmas and sheets of Messrs Ingham (B. and J.), Seeks, Mercer, Whatmore (M. and A.), Beckett Jones, Cordwell (J. and G.), Johnson, Lever, and Turner; stalls and cup-breakers of Messrs. Sam. Mercer, R. Seeks, B. Ingham, Jack Ingham, Mark Whatmore, Joe Beckett, M. Bettnery, Alf. Whatmore, T. Foster, Jimmy Jones, H. Clayton, T. Lever, W. Turner, and D. Johnson; footballs of C. Lee, D. Johnson, and others.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Poole, of the popular Poole's Myrioramas, celebrated their silver wedding at Gloucester on Tuesday, March 27. The estimable couple were the recipients of many valuable presents, and telegrams and letters of congratulation were received in great numbers throughout the day.

Clitheroe Fair had for its shows and novelties the well-known concerns of Capt. Tom Payne, Sidney Braham, William Wright, J. Lemir, Harrison, Holden, Starker, Taylor, Shorrock, Slater, Gallagher, Ingham, and Stanley.

The "fat woman" and the "living skeleton" in a Chicago show are to be married on May 24. The bride, Miss Leila Romer, weighs 22st., while her fiancé scales only 7st.

Those wrestling Titans, Hackenschmidt and Madrali, have definitely decided to bring off their long-talked-of match at Olympia on Saturday, April 28.

Foreign musicians have been dispensed with by the Ramsgate Borough Council, which has engaged for the coming season the band of the British Guards, under Mr. Holmes-Dallimore.

Miss Lil Hawthorne has acquired a striking song from Alf J. Lawrance, Harry Gifford, and Tom Mellor, entitled "My Cosy Caravan." It will be produced at the Coliseum.

Little Cliff, the juvenile comedian and dancer, must not be mistaken for Master Cliff, the son of Cliff Ryland, the well-known comedian, who shares with his sister, Miss Ethel Donna, the success of a clever act. Master Cliff's professional name is the one he is entitled to legally.

The Alhambra's preparations for putting Friday's struggle for the Grand National Steeplechase before its patrons on the night of the race may be said to "cover the whole ground" in the fullest sense. Not only did Mr. Gladstone, the clerk of the course, grant to "Urbanora" exclusive positions at Aintree, but the London and North-Western Railway Co. courteously equipped a coach as a dark and developing room, and in this the films were printed by a large staff of experts during the express run from Liverpool to London, so as to present upon the screen an agreeable and a comprehensive kaleidoscope of the entire contest within five hours of the winner passing the post.

Miss Winifred Hare scored an immediate and emphatic success at the Tivoli on Monday night with Harrington and Tate's new march song "The girl he left behind him," which gives every indication of becoming exceedingly popular. Miss Hare will next week produce another song from the pen of Mr. Harrington, entitled "Gentle Genevieve."

DEATH OF JOHN DEE HUMPHREYS.

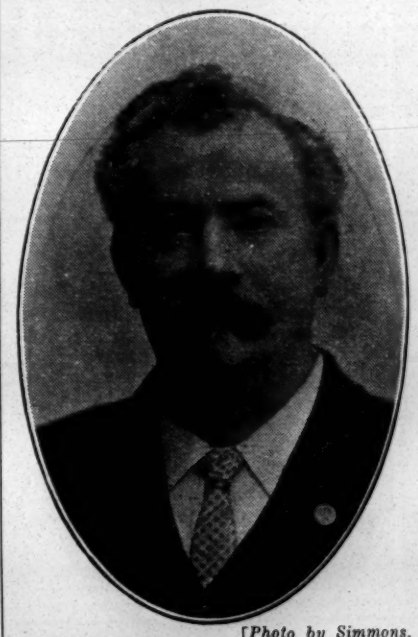
The sudden death at Merthyr of the well-known and universally-honoured showman, John Dee Humphreys, has cast a gloom over the circus and show world. The only appropriate word is "calamity," for, uncertain as life is to all, the death of one in the vigour of matured life comes always as a shock. The evidence adduced at the inquest shows that, at the very moment that the calamity occurred, he was engaged in the business of the circus—actually making sure of the ready access of the concern about to pitch its tent at Merthyr.

For over thrity years the deceased has been connected with Sanger's Circus—all through the triumphant career of the world-famous circus of the Brothers Sanger, both at home and abroad, serving under George Sanger's banner for twenty-five years, and for the last five years with the nephews of Lord George Sanger, the Lord John Sanger concern. Over thirty years ago he joined the Sangers as elephant trainer, serving in that capacity for several years previously with the niece of George Wombwell—Mrs. Edmonds, of the Windsor Castle Menagerie (Wombwell's No. 2 concern). Twenty-nine years ago he married Miss Crockett, the daughter of a famous showman, and a niece of George Sanger. Their married life has been blessed with unbroken happiness, and the widow and family have lost one of the best of husbands and fathers. We feel sure that they have the sympathy and sorrow of the whole circus and show-ground community. The saying may be trite, but in his case it is absolutely true and golden, "He was one of the best."

To the sterling worth of his character, the unfailing kindness and ready sympathy of his generous disposition, all alike bear testimony. He was everyone's friend—no man's enemy. No; not even his own, and that, alas! cannot be said of all of us. John Dee Humphreys brought into the life of a showman the rich possession of sincere devotion to high principles—integrity and justice between man and man.

There never left him that nobility of individual character that marks the yeoman stock from which he sprang. Born to be a showman, though not born a showman, neither the farm nor Civil Service could prison him down. His heart was with the Bohemian life of the road, and on the road he found and lived to its sudden end his life's work.

The inquest on Mr. Humphreys was held at the Tiger Hotel, Merthyr Tydvil, on the 22nd inst., before Mr. R. J. Rhys, district coroner. Mrs. Humphreys, wife of the deceased, appeared, to identify the body. She was very much overcome by grief, and the coroner kindly shortened her evidence. Mrs. Humphreys said that her husband had only been in Merthyr a day. He had not been very well for about six months, and complained of his chest. She saw him the previous Monday week, and he was then jolly and hearty.



[*Photo by Simmons.*

THE LATE MR. J. D. HUMPHREYS.

Alfred Thomas Sullivan, billposter to the Merthyr Billposting Company, said deceased took a hearty tea about six o'clock.

Mr. Oakey Davies, Star Inn, said he also went out with the deceased, looking for a ground for the show. When near the entrance to Colonel Lewis's residence, the deceased put his arm upon his shoulder, said something had come over him, and implored him not to leave him alone. He then took him to Dr. Lee's house, close by, where he died almost immediately.

Dr. Lee said he saw the deceased was in a desperate condition, and he helped to take him into his surgery. He died a couple of minutes afterwards, the cause of death being heart failure. Mr. Humphreys told him that her husband was always a hearty eater. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. Much sympathy is felt with Mrs. Humphreys in her sad bereavement. Almost the last words the deceased said were to the effect that he had two important letters to post—one to Mr. Sanger and one to his wife.

The body was brought to London, for interment at Lambeth Cemetery, and rested once again at his home, Falmouth Chambers, New Kent-road. Amid many expressions of local respect and sympathy, the funeral cortège left the home of the deceased at one o'clock on Tuesday, the body being borne on an open hearse, drawn by four horses, three two-horsed coaches and Mr. Reeves' private brougham bearing the members of the family and immediate friends. These were followed by a number of private cabs. Mrs. Humphreys, her three daughters, and her married daughter and son-in-law, and with them, Mrs. Rowlands (sister), Mrs. Wm. Batty (sister), Mrs. Rule (sister), Mr. and Mrs. Reeves (cousins), representing Lord George Sanger; Mr. and Mrs. Austin, Mr. Fred Hall, Mrs. Piccolo, Mr. James Crockett, Mr. Geo. Benham, and Mr. Alf Norton, agent for the Ginnetts; Mr. H. Lester, Mr. C. Cornish, Mr. E. Dalmaine, Mr. H. Cory Woodrow, Mr. Norman, and Spot, representing the Terriers and the Music Hall Home; Professor Burnett, representing Mr. Tom Norman and Messrs. Fred Grey, Wm. Beach and G. Beach, representing the London showmen.

The service, at the request of the family, was taken throughout by the Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild. Besides the floral tributes of the widow and family, beautiful "In memoriam" wreaths were sent (amongst others) by George Sanger, John Sanger, Mrs. Batty, Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. Rule, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Holloway, Mr. and Mrs. George Sanger, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Alf Norton, Mr. A. Morton, Mr. and Mrs. A. Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Morell, Mr. James Crockett, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Beach, Mr. John Francis, and Mr. and Mrs. Artois.

The excellent funeral arrangements were under the care of Theophilus Dunkley, of Westminster Bridge-road.

SOME SHOWMAN WORTHIES.

(COPYRIGHT.)

By the Rev. T. Horne,
Hon. Chaplain of the Showman's Guild.

VAN HARE.

"Nature makes man a vagabond, Society makes him respectable," is the clever epigram of a modern philosopher; and there is a great deal of truth in the observation. The desire to wander afield, to travel in new and strange lands—"to be a vagabond"—is in our blood. It is the spirit of adventure, the craving of the human heart for new experiences, the wider field of endeavour, a broader outlook on life, and a more intimate grasp of human affairs. This is that spirit of unrest, the driving force that compels many men to seek adventures that otherwise would have sunk into the ordinary every-day life and humdrum routine of things. It is this strong, compelling inspiration that has caused many men to find their true vocation in a showman's life. This was notably true of Van Hare, cosmopolitan and showman, who flourished in the early forties and fifties of the Victorian era. Like scores of other men not born in the business, seeking rest and finding it not, save and only in the wonderland of shows—that Bohemia of adventure, that brotherhood of enterprise and talent whose country is no man's land alone, but is the wide, wide world.

Born at Barlow Hall, near Selby, of an old yeoman family, he received a good education at local schools. Speaking of the days of his childhood, he says, in the interesting biography of his life published in 1888, that nothing could keep him away whenever any show-folk, mountebanks, or anything of that kind came to the village, especially Wombwell's Menagerie. "I would have given the coat off my back to touch the hem of one of their garments. When I used to come back my uncle would say, 'Thou wilt never be nought but a showman.'" His uncle's words were prophetic, for the spirit of adventure took possession of him, and he went to America, and after various business enterprises, true to his love of the show, he accepted an engagement with Titus, the celebrated circus manager, as money-taker. This was followed by promotion to the position of ringmaster and managing-director of the circus. Coming into a small fortune left by a relative, he returned to England, and, persuaded by his friends, accepted a very good position in the Civil Service. Of this work he speedily tired, and then began his first essay in the show business in his own country.

Van Hare, it will be seen, had the tremendous advantage of a considerable reserve of working capital as well as ability and new ideas. In conjunction with various partners, we find him running variety and dioramas entertainments—a very popular form of show in those days. These enterprises brought him into business connection with the leading showmen and theatre and music hall managers of those days—F. B. Chatterton of Drury-lane, Charles Rice of Covent Garden, E. T. Smith, and F. Burgess, of minstrel renown.

Speaking of these early days of his showman apprenticeship, he tells us that "Springthorpe, one of the oldest wax-work showmen, had then his exhibtion at 399, Strand. Not having anything to do, I spent a good deal of time with him, for he was very partial to me, and I was very proud to be schooled by such a successful showman, and by his advice I took a shop in the main street close by Chelsea College, where the body of the great Duke of Wellington was lying in state. This solemn event, of course, drew large crowds to Chelsea, hence the good business move of opening a show there. We went to the fairground, Tower-street, in the Borough—a large yard let out to itinerant showmen,—and I there engaged a wonderful dwarf, the celebrated Miss Paten, an alligator, a boa constrictor, and a conjuror, and opened 'the gaf' at the low charge of one penny. Every day the street was crowded from morning till night—I recollect Bob Hales, the Norfolk giant, walking down; I could see him all the length of the street, half a yard above the rest of the crowd—but they would not come into my show. My doorsman halloed and bawled at the top of his voice, but all to no purpose; they had only one object in view—to see the lying in state—and I was disgusted with the penny-show business. My friend Springthorpe laughed, saying I must not be disheartened; he would show me what could be made out of penny business. We took the doctor, who had been doorsman at Mr. Springthorpe's exhibition for some time—he had really taken the degree of M.D.: we had a suit made for him to order trimmed with gold lace. We attended Birmingham Onion Fair and Nottingham Goose Fair, and did very well; we took as much as £25 a day at a penny admission. The doctor was a wonderfully clever doorsman; he could talk the crowd in as he liked. He was worth £20 a week to any show."

After various interesting adventures in theatrical and circus business in Ireland, his next greatest speculation was a tableau vivants troupe, which owing to the withdrawal of a partner came to grief in London. It then occurred to him to visit Paris, with an eye to introducing his troupe. Finding that business was not possible there, he went on to Belgium, and made arrangements to open at Antwerp with his troupe. But meeting with only moderate success, he brought his Continental tour to an end and returned to London. On the recommendation of Batty, he became the manager of a troupe of North American Indians from Lake Huron. At the end of this engagement he gathered together a troupe of Risley performers, and was the first to introduce the gymnastic turn at a London music hall. This success inspired him to fresh enterprises, and he voyaged to Morocco, and after considerable adventures he secured the best troupe of Bedouin Arab performers in the country.

He had great difficulty in getting them out of Morocco, but eventually made his way from Algiers to France. After triumphant engagements at Marseilles and Lyons, he had a full season at the Hippodrome in Paris, where the Bedouin Arabs were the talk of the town.

As an illustration of the intense conservatism in a business sense then obtained with London managers, he records that E. T. Smith, even when he had seen the Bedouins' splendid show and had heard of their Parisian success, countered Van Hare's demand for £60 a week with the offer of £10. Van Hare gave him no reply, but told his Arabs to put on their "togs." The troupe ultimately were engaged by Conquest, of the Grecian, City-road, at a salary of £35 for three nights in each week, and the engagement proved a great success. Van Hare, like most successful showmen, was a little bit before his time, for we find that one enterprise was not sufficient for his energies, for in addition to his Arabian troupe he had a show of tableau vivants at Savil House, Leicester-square, and other shows open in London and the provinces.

In the summer of 1858 he undertook the management of the largest show combination travelling the country. This included the Siege of Delhi—an immense picture, painted in oil by the celebrated scenic artists, Messrs. Grieve and Telbin, at a cost of £1,000—in which 100 soldiers took part; the fireworks and bombs, for the storming, &c., by Chevalier Mortram; the Garde Nationale Band of Paris, Madame Garcia, the Misses Brougham, and Madame Amedie; also conjuring, vaulting, tight-rope dancing, gymnasts, performing dogs, and the marionette theatre, the stage of which was erected in the grounds of the different gardens he visited, and the theatre for the audience was the open air. Amongst the company were H. Greg Thompson, the celebrated marionette worker, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Templeton, and many others. The company numbered 100. The tour commenced at Bristol, from there to Bath, then on to Cheltenham, Liverpool, Chester, Leeds, Hull, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and then right away to the Rotunda Gardens, Dublin, where the successful enterprise came to an end.

This point in his career marked his definite association with circus life and enterprise. In his autobiography he speaks of engagements to produce for Mr. Lane, of the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, *Mazeppa* and *Dick Turpin*. A long time before the advent of agents he was in touch with the best talent on the Continent, and engaging them with their original turns for England. He claims to have introduced the great Leotard, and also Beri and Leach, the first trapezeists to introduce that feat in England.

"I wrote to Mr. E. T. Smith," he says, "to apprise him of the extraordinary feat of these two aspirants to fame. He wrote me thus: 'Dear Van,—What do they do? —E. T. Smith.' I wrote him to say that I could not do justice to the performance in writing. He wrote me by return: 'Dear Van,—Meet me at Her Majesty's Theatre to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock.—E. T. Smith.' I waited on the then greatest manager in Europe at the appointed time, and fully explained to him the nature of the performance, to which he listened very attentively. 'What do they want, Van?' I said '£100 per week.' He replied, 'Give them £40.' I said, 'I'll go and see them,' for they had arrived the previous night, and I had them waiting close by. In about ten minutes I returned, and told E. T. that I had settled with them. 'Well, Van, what are we to do with them? Can we bring them out at Drury-lane? The Alhambra is vacant; what can we have to make up an entertainment?' I replied, 'A circus.' 'Can you get a circus together?' 'Yes; in a week we can be ready to open.'"

And in one week the Royal Alhambra Palace Cirque Imperiale opened its doors. The company gathered together by Van Hare included the Brothers Beri, the gymnastic marvels of the world; Madame Clementin; Mdlle. Josephine, equestrienne; Mr. Neville, the American equestrian; Romeo, Luigi, Herr Christopher, the Bedouin Arabs, the Brothers Daniel, and the clowns and jesters—Dan Castello, Tom Matthews, Harry Crouest, E. M. Oriel, and Mr. H. Lupino—with the band of the Coldstream Guards under the direction of Dan Godfrey.

At the end of the season Van Hare's next venture was a partnership with a small travelling circus, and with him went the Bedouin Arabs. In his book, "Fifty Years of a Showman's Life," he gives some amusing experiences tenting at the fairs.

About this time—1862—Van Hare turned his attention to training animals, and introduced to the show world Napoleon, the Wizard Dog, one of his biggest successes. He also introduced to the London variety stage the famous contortionist known as the Persian Prince.

Of Van Hare's business ventures in Norway, Spain, and in South America his well-known book gives full and dramatic details. Through these remarkable years of his life, his greatest draw was Hassan, the trained gorilla, one of the most remarkable simians ever introduced to public notice. This wonderful and almost human creature was his constant and faithful companion.

As might be expected, so clever a showman as Van Hare took full advantage of Professor Darwin's theory with regard to the descent of man from the ape. An amusing evidence of this is given in a letter in *The Era*, Nov. 25, 1871:—

"MR. BUCKSTONE ON THE DARWINIAN THEORY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

"Sir,—Mr. Buckstone, on the night of his benefit at the Haymarket Theatre, in addressing the audience, said: 'Now I want to know, with so much laughter, what becomes of the Darwinian theory that we are descended from monkeys, because the learned in natural history tell us that animals do not laugh; therefore Dr. Darwin's theory cannot apply to you, as you have been laughing all the evening, and I only wish that the Doctor would have occupied a private box to-night, then I might have shown him that your progenitors were not monkeys.'

"In answer to the above, I beg to inform Mr. Buckstone that Hassan, the gorilla chief, a species of ape (which, by the way, is larger than Mr. Buckstone), laughs as much as any human being when anything pleases him; and I have no doubt that, if he had been present on this particular evening, he would have been amused, and have laughed as much as any of the audience.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Professor VAN HARE, the African traveller."

With Hassan he travelled the whole of Europe and India.

There is one thing about Van Hare that marks him off from the whole of his contemporaries—he has left behind him the story of his life, and the task of the biographer is not to find material but to condense into reasonable limits the life story of a man who penetrated into almost every known corner of the world, either to find novelties or to exhibit the novelties he had himself discovered and brought before an admiring public.

It is no exaggeration to say that Van Hare was in the very first flight of the successful showmen of his day, and that he illustrates to the full a too often forgotten truth—that the Showman World is constantly being refreshed, invigorated, and inspired by the genius of men attracted from other walks in life by the compelling power of Showland.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

A programme of unusual length and interest was given at the Royal College on Wednesday evening before an immense audience. The concert began and ended with an organ solo, the first being Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D major, ably performed by Mr. Herbert Smith. Miss Blanche Hooper, although at first slightly nervous, gave a clever rendering of Handel's florid music in recit. and air, "Sussurate, onde lucenti" (*Amadigi*); and an attractive performance was heard of the sonata for violin and piano in A minor by Schumann, the executants being Miss Esther Capel-Cure and Miss Helen Boyd. Miss Mary Owen was entirely successful in three "Zigeunerlieder" songs of Brahms; and Miss Anna L. M. Marsh received great applause and many recalls for her piano solo Scherzo in C sharp minor, by Chopin. One of the most notable items of the concert was the fine violoncello solo given by Miss Maud Scruby, who played "Air in G," by Moskowski, and the charming Scherzo of Van Goens with delightful facility and expression; Miss Maud Wright sang Schumann's "Myrtle and Roses" skilfully; and Mr. Charles Keywood used a fine and well-trained voice with ability in his ambitious song, "O star of eve," from *Tannhäuser*, and sang with evident appreciation of the matchless beauty of the great master's air. Miss Muriel A. Crawshaw, who also possesses a voice of fine quality, sang remarkably well Dvorak's "Songs my mother taught me" and "Expectancy," by Wagner. The programme included a showy piano solo, "Le Festin d'Esope," by C. V. Alkan, cleverly played by Miss Phyllis Emmanuel, and a violin solo, "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" of Saint-Saëns, performed by Mr. William Armstrong; Miss Doris Simpson and Miss Mabel Gillender received much applause, the first for her clever interpretation of the bright and sparkling French song, "Villanelle" (E. dell'Acqua), and the latter for "Wiegenlied" and "Vergebliches Ständchen," by Brahms. The concert concluded with an organ solo, Fugue—"Ad nos ad salutarem undam" (Liszt), played by Mr. Harold Rhodes. Miss Alice Cotton, Mr. Ivor James, Mr. Harold Samuel, and Miss Clara Smith were the accompanists.

AN OLD ACTOR'S RECOLLECTIONS.

Mr. Edward Terry tells a story of how, when he first went to live at Barnes—a good many years ago now—he had a very odd greeting from, apparently, one of the oldest inhabitants, a decrepit old man whom the comedian encountered in a country lane. "Be you Mr. Terry?" he asked, with a grin. "Yes," said Mr. Terry. "Ha! I buried Drinkwater Meadows"; and with a hideous chuckle the old man hobbled on his way.

Drinkwater Meadows was a well-known actor in his day, and he was also the author of some amusing "Theatrical Recollections." His experiences while "on the road" with travelling companies were very curious, and he relates them in his own quaint, somewhat rambling style:—"One of our company, who fancied he could sing, selected for his benefit night the opera of *Love in a Village*, with by far the greater portion of the music 'cut out.' The beneficier acted Young Meadows, and I, really then Young Meadows, acted Eustace; but as I had neither voice nor ear, time nor inclination, to study the music, it was omitted, 'by particular desire.' Lucinda sang quite as well as myself, and no better; therefore she, in like manner, declined singing any of the songs, &c., belonging to her part. The beneficier said he had never had a chance of showing what his vocal abilities were since he had joined the company, and would on this occasion open the eyes of the British public, and let them know what singing really was. 'I'll astonish the natives,' said he. 'Talk of Incledon! Why, I don't hesitate to say I can sing "The Storm" full half as quick again as he ever did—ask anyone in Nuncaton if I can't. I was constantly encored in it there, and once the audience wanted it a third time.' This gentleman's wife was the Rosetta of the evening. They sang their duets without any orchestral accompaniments, and after their own fashion.

"The Hawthorn, who had by no means a bad voice, unfortunately lisped pretty strongly, and, in consequence, he no sooner commenced singing,

There was a jolly miller once,
Lived on the river Dee,

than the audience evinced their disapprobation in sounds most discordant to an actor's ears—a sound professionally said to proceed from 'the big bird' (the goose); but Hawthorn, 'good, easy man,' continued his song, and the audience their opposition. He bore it 'with a patient shrug.' *He* sang and *they* hissed, till at length his patience and forbearance being exhausted, he stepped forward, and addressed the audience thus:—

"'Ladieth and thentlemen, I am very thorry to find you don't approve of my thinging, and that you hith. I athure you I am doing the very beth I can for your amuthement; and all I can thay ith, that hith ath long ath you pleath, we have no one elth in our company to play the part; and I have been very thukthethful in it in platheth of greater magnitude and thith. No dithrethpect intended to you.'"

Another of Mr. Drinkwater Meadows's recollections has reference to a visit to Burnley. He writes, "After breakfast I sallied forth to attend the rehearsal. The appearance of the town was not very promising, the inhabitants hurrying from one place to another, many of them covered with cotton-flue, with much appearance of business, and but little, if any, of pleasure. I stopped a man in the street to inquire where the theatre was situated. He opened his eyes and mouth to their greatest extent, and said:—

"'Ise sure I caunt tell—I niver card o' sich a place ere. What did ye caw (call) it?'

"'I mean the play-house.'

"'Ho! I now naw—ye mean where t'lakers (actors) hacts. You mun gang (go) on upt' street till ye cum to t'—(name forgot)—public-'ouse. It's there they hacts!'

"On my way I met the manager. I repeated to him the information I had just received, expressing my surprise as to the situation of the theatre. 'What,' said he, 'did I not tell you we had no regular house here?'

"'Never. I suppose then it is in the Assembly-room?'

"'Why, not exactly the Assembly-room, but the long room at the —— Inn—very neatly fitted-up, and well attended. I'll show it you.'

"I followed to the scene of action, and to my horror found the theatre in a 'long room' indeed, the audience part no more than a succession of benches, arranged one behind the other, commencing from that portion of the '*long room*' set apart for the stage, which was not raised at all, but on a level with every other part of the room, being merely divided from the spectators by a row of candles (not wax), so that the actors were completely a part and parcel of the assembly. I put a good face on the matter, not liking to give my self 'airs,' as any expression of my feelings would have been termed.

"During rehearsal the manager's wife came to me with a face full of woe, and said:—'I am in such a way about you. I really don't know what to do—you are so very particular about such things. The truth is, I cannot tell you where you can dress, we are so dreadfully put to our shifts for rooms even for ourselves. We have but two for all the company, and if you *would* dress with our gentlemen, you *couldn't*, their room is so very small and so very full. Where we can put you I can't conceive. We would have a place made up for you behind the scenes, but you may see how difficult it is even now to move about behind the wings.'

"After much cutting and contriving, it was arranged that a dressing-table should be placed for me in a large bedroom, at one end of which there was a window, with a truckle-bed on each side of it, my appointed place being at the opposite end, near the door, and not far from the stage. I was to play Zekiel Homespun and Peter Simpson (poor Elton, whom I first met in this theatre, was the Stedfast and Bromley). There was not much dressing required, and I found my room certainly clean, if not very comfortable. The oddness of the stage, as far as placing the actors on a level with the audience, amused me more than I anticipated. The play was very respectably acted, and went off well. At the conclusion of it, I retired to my double-bedded room to dress for the farce, and had scarcely commenced, when, without any notice or knocking at the door, the loutish ostler of the public-house entered, candle in hand, proceeded to the bedded end of the room, and commenced doffing his clothes.

"'Holla, my friend,' cried I, 'what are you doing?'

"'Why, Ize ganging (going) to bed, to be sure.'

"'But not till I have done acting, I should think?'

"'Well, I shud think I shall. How can I bide up till you've getten dun what you've gotten to do? You need nut mind me; Ize soon be asleep, and you can gang on with yer dressing. I'm nut pertikler at all. I've had my supper, and Ize quite ready for bed.' Off went his jacket, followed by his cravat and shoes. I stayed further proceedings with—

"'Stay, stay, you *can't* go to bed till I have done Here, here's a shilling for you. Go downstairs and have something to drink, and when I have finished, then you can go to bed. Away with you.'

"Away went the ostler, and I continued my dressing and undressing undisturbed—for that night, at least; but my horse-cleaner was as cunning as myself, for, on each succeeding evening of my performance, he contrived to pop in upon me exactly as I was about to change my dress, and, as on his first appearance, I was, in self-defence, obliged to buy him off, so that my acting in the 'long room' at Burnley was a profitable engagement for this Lancashire ostler."

MRS. CRAIGIE'S CHILDHOOD.

Mr. John Morgan Richards, in his "Reminiscences of Sixty Years of an American's Life in England and in the United States," which, admirably illustrated, has just been published by T. Werner Laurie, gives some interesting particulars of the early days of their daughter Pearl, otherwise "John Oliver Hobbes." Mr. and Mrs. Richards were always interested to note the keenness she possessed in observing occurrences that were in any way unusual. "We allowed her," says Mr. Richards, "to follow out the little plans she formed for amusement. As she was our only child for some time, she invented imaginary companions to whom she told stories by the hour. She was also fond of dressing up, and acting plays of her own improvisation. As she grew older her powers of mimicry were still further developed; and on returning from her daily walk in the park or the streets, she greatly amused her mother by imitating the voices of people she had casually seen, actually quoting snatches of the dialogues she had heard; the upbraiding of one another by poor people, threats used by mothers to their children, or tender words spoken by sweethearts. Strange words were caught up in this way, and repeated innocently in the very tone of voice used, and accompanied with the facial expression of those who had uttered them.

"In this way she passed from age to age in childhood. When the time came for the appearance of a governess she entered upon her lessons with enthusiasm, and her mother never had to say to her: 'Go and study your lessons.' The appetite to learn grew in strength as she advanced in years. She petitioned me and her mother to indulge in fresh studies, and not to reduce the number of those which were set her. She was educated in London, Boston, and Paris—chiefly by tutors.

"Her progress was such as to occasionally cause embarrassment and surprise to her teachers. One lady gravely confided to her mother the fact that the girl knew 'the whole of' Thackeray, and read him in school-hours, and she did not think Thackeray was an author any girl of thirteen ought to be allowed to read. As a matter of fact, no restriction was placed upon her reading, and although she read, no doubt, every work of fiction she could find, she also read a great deal of history, poetry, and philosophy. She had a love of picture galleries and museums, and went constantly to the National Gallery and the British Museum. She became an excellent musician, and developed a sweet voice of great flexibility.

"As soon as she was capable of writing with ease she indulged in the composition of fiction—and this took a singular turn. She wrote for the maid-servants letters to their sweethearts, and the unconventionality of these missives often led to quarrels and misunderstanding between the lovers. It is possible that her ironic humour was scarcely soothing to the vanity of an adored police-sergeant.

"The dramatic instinct was so strong that she entreated me to buy a toy theatre for her, with pasteboard figures representing the characters; and she would invent the story to fit the drama, making little speeches for each character as she pushed them on to the stage. This love of the theatre, I should confess, she may have inherited from me.

"A governess from the school she attended told my wife in great alarm that Pearl was in the habit of sitting on the table, with the girls around her crying with laughter at her imitations of the men and women she had met in the street.

"A curious experience befell my wife, myself, and Pearl on our first visit to Paris in 1869. The novelty of our surroundings was delightful, and we were quite fascinated with the city. Pearl was then a child of three years, and we were assured, before starting, that there was no necessity for our taking a nurse specially to look after her. We, however, were rudely awakened from our confidence at dinner-time. This was at *table d'hôte*, in the hotel. Walking into the dining-room, we were stopped by the manager, who politely informed us that a child was not allowed to dine with the adults in the public dining-room. I was at first rather indignant, but quickly saw the reasonableness of the prohibition. The manager suggested that we should leave our daughter in the care of the *femme de chambre*, which we did, and then proceeded to our meal. We felt that this course would be very inconvenient to be separated at each meal, and the difficulty was solved by removing to a private hotel. Here the manageress informed us that there was a Spanish nurse in want of an engagement stopping in the hotel, and we engaged this young woman at once. She had been in the service of the Queen of Spain, who was then living with her son, the Prince of Asturias, in her own mansion near the Arc de Triomphe; and here the nurse on several occasions took Pearl to play with the Prince, who afterwards became King of Spain under the title of Alfonso XII.

"Her taste for describing foreign places and characters is due to the fact that her earliest impressions were formed, no doubt, travelling; and although her life, since she was sixteen, has been mostly spent in England, she has lived a great deal abroad, and in many parts of the world. It is quite certain that she has never drawn any scene, or presented any situation, or analysed any type of temperament, except through the light of absolute personal knowledge and observation. Her first professional literary work was journalism and art criticism, which she began soon after her marriage, at nineteen, with Mr. Reginald Walpole Craigie, in February, 1887.

"Mrs. Craigie devoted herself with great assiduity to the serious composition of literary work, and her first published book was entitled 'Some Emotions and a Moral.' It was published in her twenty-third year. When this was ready for publication she refused all help in obtaining a publisher, and insisted that whatever she wrote should receive no other help towards publication than the merit there was in the composition. The MS. was first offered by her to Messrs. Macmillan, and in returning this with a kind note, they suggested that the title of the book should be altered, and that the last chapter should be revised, when they would be glad to become the publishers. This she declined to do, and the MS. was next offered to Mr. Fisher Unwin, who accepted the work for his Pseudonym Library. At first, Mr. Unwin has since told me, he felt a little nervous as to the result; but a week after the publication he wrote Mrs. Craigie, saying: 'Your book is a success for both author and publisher.' Since that time, with one or two exceptions only, Mr. Fisher Unwin has published all her works.

"The first play she wrote was *Journeys End in Lovers Meeting*—a proverb, which was performed at Daly's Theatre by Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Forbes Robertson, and the late William Terriss, and was greatly commended. Miss Ellen Terry bought the copyright, and has many times since appeared therein, both at the Lyceum Theatre, London, and when on tour in the United States."

At the Hippodrome and Varieties, Dewsbury, this week, Happy Atwood is making a hit. The Olmars are fine horizontal bar performers, and the Lovelaces, song illustrators, are good. Wirson, a wonderful equilibrist, continues his success, and De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks are an admirable trio of burlesque artists. Hesketch Meade, baritone, Arthur Page, comedian, and Grapho and Jackson all do well. The Harriscope winds up a strong bill. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Willcox, plays some agreeable selections.

THE CHARM OF HENRY IRVING.

Mr. William Winter, the eminent American dramatic critic and essayist, who has been connected with the *New York Tribune* for more than forty years, contradicts, in the following article, an assertion made by a contributor to the *Atlantic Monthly*, concerning the personal appearance of the late Sir Henry Irving:—"Mr. Talcot Williams has been supposed to be an acute and judicious observer, yet, writing in the *Atlantic* of the late Henry Irving, Mr. Williams says of that great actor that he had 'no physical advantage, personal charm, or outer aspect which bespoke success.' That statement is simply amazing to anyone really acquainted with the subject. Henry Irving possessed, as an actor, physical advantages of the most uncommon kind. His figure was tall, slender, individual, and distinguished. His movements were marked by exquisite grace. In repose, as in certain parts of Wolsey or Becket, for example, his attitudes were those of incarnate dignity. He sometimes moved with a celerity that was electrical—as in one moment of Robert Macaire, and at certain points in Mathias and Mephistopheles. He had a superb head and face. His face was a specially advantageous one for an actor, being large, and exceedingly expressive. The mouth was large (though not so large as he himself wished it were: he considered Ellen Terry's advantage, in that respect, of great value). The nose was finely formed, and significant of power; the chin was delicate, clear-cut, and expressive of great sensibility. In the last years of his life, his indomitable struggle with hardship and the encroachments of weariness, sickness, and advancing age, had caused his lips—from their continual compression, because of unflinching resolution—to become straight and narrow, and his face had assumed a settled look of almost dogged determination, a look which, in repose, was softened by sadness and grief. His eyes were magnificent—dark brown, and of exceeding brilliancy. His eyebrows were of great thickness and of a peculiar shape, somewhat triangular in form (a trait that became more pronounced in his age), and they were extraordinarily mobile and expressive. His luxuriant iron-grey hair contributed to make his appearance remarkably picturesque. His hands were very delicate in form, and, in his use of them, they became indicative and significant to a wonderful degree. No other actor who has been seen on our stage in the last fifty years ever approached him in this particular, except Joseph Jefferson, and Jefferson did not equal him. (Next to Jefferson in this respect came Ellen Terry.) The voice of Irving was loud, penetrating, and flexible; under stress of excitement it sometimes became slightly nasal—as did that of Edwin Booth. Irving had, in his youth, made a careful study of elocution, and, whenever he chose to do so, he could speak blank verse in a perfectly melodious manner and with delicious effect. This he occasionally did, to please a friend, and sometimes to please himself; as, for example, in the delivery of Wolsey's farewell, or in the scene in *Becket* with John of Salisbury, just before the murder. As a matter of artistic principle, however, he aimed at *impersonation*, and he often disregarded elocution; sometimes, indeed, he spoke of it with playful indifference. His recital of Hood's "Eugene Aram" was a perfect work of elocutionary art; and so was his recital of Calverly's "Tommy." It is idle to say of such an actor that he had no physical advantages. As to his personal charm, it was so great that all persons who came near to him were more or less fascinated by him. There is hardly an actor on the English stage, within the last twenty-five years, who has not imitated him, and much of this imitation was quite unconscious. At the outset of Irving's career on the London stage he attracted the enthusiastic admiration of one of the most capable, hard-headed, downright judges of acting that ever lived, namely, H. L. ("Chain Lightning," as we used to call him) Bateman. There has not been, in the whole history of the stage, another actor who, by the use of marvellous natural faculties, rose to greatness in such an extensive round of contrasted parts, nor a man—nor a woman, either—who exerted the charm of a lovelier spirit."

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

In the hall of the City of London School on Wednesday evening the students of the Guildhall School of Music gave an orchestral concert, conducted by Dr. Cummings. The orchestra were first heard in Schumann's Symphony Op. 97, the scherzo being particularly well rendered by the young performers. The band also did good work in accompanying Mr. Cecil Montague in Hillier's Concerto Pianoforte in F sharp minor, the soloist being at his best in the second and most attractive movement of the concerto, which at the close received most hearty applause from the large audience. Two vocal items were heard, Mr. H. Blamey singing in an artistic manner the scena "Salve dimora," from Gounod's *Faust*. Mr. Blamey possesses a voice of agreeable quality, but of hardly sufficient power for such music. He was ably supported by the orchestra. In Wagner's scena "Oh hall of song" (*Tannhäuser*), Miss Winifred Johnson brought to her task a pure and bright soprano voice of fair power in the upper register, but the scena required more dramatic treatment. The young artist was, however, warmly applauded for her efforts, the orchestra also deserving praise. Included in the programme was Weber's seldom-heard overture "The ruler of the spirits," which concluded the concert.

At the Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness, the Wally Hoste comedy troupe top the bill this week. They give a clever and novel acrobatic and indiarubber glove juggling entertainment. N. T. Kioto, Japanese equilibrist, gives a clever and daring show; Barrett and Knowles have some exceedingly funny patter; and Madge Daly has a fine voice and a splendid stage presence. The Four Trees give a very pleasing and refined song and dance show. Jack Roe is exceedingly humorous in a comedy gymnastic and juggling act, and Johnny Norman sings some capital comic songs.

An extra fancy dress ball was given at Covent Garden on the night of the 23rd inst., and a large and merry crowd took part in the dancing. There was again an artistic display of costumes, the first prize going to an effective design, entitled "Wait till the clouds roll by." Other notable dresses were "St. George and the Dragon," "As good fish in the sea as ever was caught," "Signals," "Sweet Springtime," "London by the Sea," and "Bill Sikes."

Mr. H. J. Brett, the popular acting-manager of the Crown, Peckham, will give his second annual concert at that house on Good Friday evening. These will be a grand orchestra of thirty performers, under the direction of Mr. W. Devin, L.R.A.M., Mr. Henry Renouf, Miss Suzanne Stokris, Mr. Arthur Grover, Miss Mary Glover, and other artists will appear, and an exhibition of Beard's Imperial Cinematograph will be given.

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A GREAT OTHELLO.

Dr. Westland Marston, in his interesting book "Our Recent Actors," writes the following excellent criticism of Gustavus Vaughan Brooke's Othello, considered by many to be the finest impersonation of the Moor that was given at any time during the nineteenth century:

"Mr. G. V. Brooke made his first appearance in London at the Olympic Theatre, then under the management of Mr. Henry Spicer, in 1848. The fame of the provincial tragedian had preceded him to London, so that his first audience included many of the celebrities of the day. The play was *Othello*, and the reception of Mr. Brooke in this character was not merely noisy and vehement, but truly enthusiastic. He had moved the passions and sympathies of the house—not only that sort of admiration which is called forth by a fine person, accomplished declamation, and executive skill in general. All these latter advantages, however, he possessed—tall, well-proportioned, with a musical voice of great compass, and a countenance which, although singularly mild in private, could reflect on the stage the most varied passions. On the first night of his Othello, however, one had to look deeper than to external accomplishments for the secret of his success. At the end of the third act the house was in a fever of delight. The acclamations which recalled the actor subsided only into a restless murmur of applause. Knots of impromptu critics gathered together in boxes and lobby. In the pit, looks and gestures and a hum of delight expressed the general verdict; and outside the theatre a crowd, attracted by the rumour of the effect produced, recalled the account given of the scene outside Drury Lane on Edmund Kean's first appearance. So far, indeed, Brooke's triumph had been deserved. His address to the Senate had been full of simple dignity, and of fervent, though restrained, feeling. He showed like dignity in the second act, in his rebuke of Cassio; while his growing wrath—of which one caught a gleam in the words—

If I once stir,
Or do but lift this arm, the best of you
Shall sink in my rebuke,

gave a terrible hint of what its explosion might be. The passage in the third act, beginning—

Why, why is this?

was admirably given. The actor's manner was open, clear, warm, and yet temperate; and one saw with what loyalty to Desdemona he fought against his rising doubts. In the concluding lines of the speech, the tone of expostulation with Iago was exchanged for one abrupt and peremptory, and the last line with a sudden and passionate energy that carried all before it; while afterwards the great burst—

If thou dost slander her and torture me,

expressed to the height the frenzy of the Moor's mind—his mingled rage and agony. The enthusiasm aroused was immense. With the exception of Salvini, I have seen no actor so powerful at this crisis. It may be briefly said that, to the end of the tragedy, Mr. Brooke maintained the ascendency he had won. The line in the fifth act—

O, fool! fool! fool!

recalled what I had read of its utterance by the elder Kean. With Brooke, however, it was so natural and so just, that imitation could hardly have been suspected. The word 'fool' was pronounced in the first instance with blended amazement and remorse, in the second with a musing lingering sense of his own fatuity as Iago's dupe, and in the third with the quiet hopelessness of one who feels the past irrevocable. The press generally welcomed the new tragedian scarcely less warmly than did the public. There were one or two critics, however, who, like John Forster, were such partisans of Macready, that they could not admit, nor, perhaps, even see, tragic excellence out of that great actor.

"Salvini's Othello has been already glanced at. It can hardly be said that Brooke's Othello, even at its best, was equal to Salvini's. The former, for instance, could never have given us that grand piece of psychology which occurs in the third act, where Salvini, having trampled on Iago, stands awhile mute and vacant, then, with a distressed and courteous air, raises the fallen man, and leads him to his seat. What finer illustration could be given of the mental chaos that follows the Moor's fury? For the moment Othello has forgotten his misery and his rage, and wonders at the sight of the prostrate tempter.

"There was, nevertheless, one feature in Brooke's passion which made me prefer it to Salvini's It had more of the irregularity and the sudden contrasts which denote extreme tension of feeling. If excitement ran ever so high, it would at times be driven back, as advancing waves are sometimes by meeting a gale. There would be frequently a momentary lull, a false calm of irony, ere the tide again gathered and leaped on. With all its grandeur and force, Salvini's passion lacked, I thought, at times the contrast and the variety I have indicated. It was somewhat too measured and uniform—a sea that rolled on majestically and irresistibly, but that had no convulsion; it did not turn and eddy with the wind.

"I saw Brooke's Othello on several subsequent occasions, but I never knew it to attain the force shown on the night of his *début*."

The following curious episode is narrated of Brooke in a "Memoir" of the actor by an anonymous writer:—

"While still a mere youth Brooke became a member of the company performing at the Birmingham Theatre, where he was concerned in an incident which is worth relating. His engagement was prolonged for a considerable period, but after a short time the manager treated him in anything but a handsome manner. He not only allowed the young actor but few opportunities of appearing before the public, but omitted paying him his salary during a period of eight weeks. On the last night of his engagement he was cast for the comparatively trifling part of Tressel in *Richard the Third*, Mr. Charles Kean being down to play the bloodthirsty and crafty Glo'ster. During the afternoon Master Brooke addressed a note of complaint and remonstrance to the manager on the subject of his financial claims, and intimated that he should expect the payment of arrears. The manager either would not or could not pay; and in the evening the young actor perceived another person dressed for Tressel and every wing guarded by the stage carpenters and friends of the manager. Determined not to be baffled in this manner, Master Brooke, as soon as he heard the cue given for the entrance of Tressel, vaulted over the head of one of the carpenters at the upper entrance, and made his appearance on the stage, greatly to the astonishment of the King and the audience, who each beheld *two* Tressels in the field.

"Great confusion ensued; and Brooke, advancing to the footlights, explained the circumstances, and threw himself on the indulgence of his audience. The sympathy of the spectators was enlisted on behalf of the lad, and he was greeted with thunders of applause, and with—what was equally acceptable—a little shower of money. To the repeated demands made from the wings that he should instantly leave the stage, young Brooke replied by holding out his hand to the side for his arrears of salary. At length the money was given to him, and he came down to the footlights and leisurely counted it. Finding it was not correct, he again stretched out his hand to the wing, and would not withdraw it until he succeeded in obtaining the full amount due to him. The play then proceeded; but the next night the theatre remained unopened. Master Brooke had ruined the treasury, and the season was closed."

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For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post, Free of Charge.

NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and Subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed.

The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

IN case of the non delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers, with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 7, 21, 28, June 11, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 30, May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, Aug. 20, 27, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
Aug. 6, 13, 20; Sept. 3, 10, Oct. 8, 22, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 3, 10, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
April 30, May 7 (Race Week), 14, June 11, Aug. 6, 20, 27, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 16, May 7, 14, Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 9, May 7, Aug. 13, Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
May 7, Aug. 27, Sept. 3, 17, Oct. 22, 29 Nov. 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
June 11, Sept. 3, Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
April 30, May 7, 14, Sept. 3, on.
Wanted, First-class Pantomimes, for Christmas, 1906, for three weeks.
Address, Milton Bode, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Wolverhampton, April 16, May 7; Reading, April 30, May 21, 28, June 4; Huddersfield, April 9, May 7; Chester, April 30, May 7 (Race Week), May 14; Dalston, May 7, 21, June 11; Northampton, May 7.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE.
May 21, 28, August 13, 20.
Address, Walter Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, May 7, June 4, 11, 18, onwards. Address, Herbert Vere.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
April 30, May 21, 28, onwards, vacant.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
July 23rd, Aug. 13, onwards.
Address,
Sidney Bacon, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
April 9, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11 (three nights each town), Aug. 6, onwards, with exceptions.

E. G. Falcon,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, April 9 (five nights), for Bedford.
Wire, Falcon, Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Company, June 11, 12, 13, Luton; 14, 15, 16, Bedford.
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, through disappointment, good Attractions, April 9, 16, and 23.
A popular theatre where you can take money.
Apply,
L. Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Autumn.

L. Carson, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, Musical Comedies preferred, for weeks of May 7 and 14.
Wire, to-day, Kelly, Dalston Theatre, N.E.; next week, "Hustler, Birkenhead."

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.
Tel. No. 17.
WANTED, Companies, April 9, 30, May 7, 14, 24, 25, and 26 (three nights only), and 28.
Silence a Courteous Negative.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Company or Variety Combination, complete in itself, for
April 9,
April 9,
Wire,
Thos. Swinton.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 9, May 7, 28, and June 4. Wire for April 9.
Apply,
Stanley Rogers, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

PALACE PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED. Wanted. Wanted.
First-Class Companies only, April 30, and onward, with exceptions.
Particulars to Manager. No Varieties.
Silence a polite negative.

PAVILION THEATRE, ST. LEONARDS.
The West End Theatre of Hastings.
WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Companies, April 23 and 30. Apply, Mr. Elvey Thomas, as above; or Mr. J. Herbert Jay, 10, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

WANTED, Special Attraction, for Easter Week, Operetta House, Clacton. Communicate,
Chas. Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for April 30, May 7, and a few Autumn Dates.
Wire for April 30. David Williams.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Owners and Proprietors,
Mrs. Trenchard and Miss Jones.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 30, April 30; also
June 4, 11, 18, and 25.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Leading Theatres. Send full particulars,
Empire Agency, 62, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Darwen, good Companies, April 30, May 7, June 4, 11, 25,
F. J. Robinson, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, Strong Attractions, April 9, 23, May 7, 14, and various onwards. Andrew Melville, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON THEATRES, LTD.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
Wanted, First-class Companies.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant May 21, June 4, July 30, Aug. 6.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant April 2, April 30.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant April 2 (2 nights), April 9. 23, 30.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant April 5 (3 nights), 9, 16, 26 (3 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant April 9, 16, 30, May 7.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 30, May 14, 28.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant April 9, 16, 23 (3 nights), May 7.

CARLTON AND DUCKWORTH THEATRES.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant April 9, 23, 30, May 14.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant April 23, 30, May 7, June 4.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant April 2 (3 nights), 9, 16, 23.

"SPAN OF LIFE" CO.
Vacant April 23, May 14, 21, 28.

"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Dec. 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Dec. 26, Jan. 7, 14, 21

Wanted, Good Pantomimes, Several Theatres.

All communications to Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

WANTED, First-class Companies
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH.
Vacant May 14, 21, June 4, and on.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant June 25.
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
Vacant May 28.
THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN,
Vacant May 14, 21, 28.
Apply, Fredk. Mouillot, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, on, with exceptions.
Wire, Wire, Wire.

R. C. Buchanan, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for August Bank Holiday and Onward, High-class Plays, Musical Comedies, Comic Opera, and Shakespearean Répertoire.
Apply to Jas. Kiernan, Owner and Manager.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for May 7, 14, and onwards, including Whit week. Address, E. B. Goulden.

PIER THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, June 11, 25, July 9, 23, and various dates onward.
Address, G. Hayes.

LOWESTOFT MARINA THEATRE CO., LTD.
WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Attraction (not drama), June 4 (Whit week). E. A. Smith.

WANTED, Good Company, April 5, 6, 7 (3). Best Three Nights. Certainty to Good Show.
Gray,
King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, April 30, and on; strong drama with change of bill preferred. Whit. Week Vacant. James Elphinstone.

PAISLEY THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Company, for April 30. Sundry May dates open, Paisley and Perth.
Apply, J. H. Savile, Paisley Theatre.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FLEETWOOD.
This week, Big Variety Programme, headed by The Elliotts and Savonas, playing to the holding capacity nightly.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates, April 26, 3 nights, 30th (week), May 7, 21, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, H. J. Snelson.

WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Company, April 16 (Easter), through Breach of Contract. Morton, Empire Theatre, Cradley.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction for May 14 (week), Musical Show preferred.
Waddington, Theatre Royal, York.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Comedy or Drama, May 14 (?), 21, on.
E. H. Page.

CORPORATION THEATRE,
CHESTERFIELD.
Vacant Easter Week.
WANTED, First-class Attraction.
Wire, Macnaghten, Sheffield.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, April 30, and sundry onwards.
Address, J. Edward Whitty.

WANTED, Suitable Attraction, April 9, week. Concert, Good Friday, to be arranged.
Sidney Cooper, Lyceum, Newport.

ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE, KENDAL.
WANTED, April 5 (wire), also for April 16. 26. Special Attraction, Royal Visit to Kendal, Saturday, 28th. J. W. Butler, Manager.

WANTED, Good Companies, for April 9, 10, 11, and 17, 18, 19, onwards; few season dates vacant. Phillips, Proprietor, Coliseum, Aberystwyth.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Attraction for FARNWORTH,
May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11.
BRIGHOUSE,
April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-class Companies, GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
now in the height of success.
April 23, May 7, June 11, 18, July 16, Oct. 22, Nov. 1 (3 nights), Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 10, 17.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE,
FOLKESTONE,
April 30, May 7, June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 23 (3 nights), Oct. 22, 29 (3 nights), Nov. 19, Dec. 3.
Apply, H. W. Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, Attractions for May 28 and June 11.
All communications to
Chas. E. Machin,
Avenue Theatre,
Sunderland.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Good Attractions, April 23, 30, May 7 (Musical Festival week), and on.
Special Attraction required for Whit Week.

Address, Chas. M. Julian, General Manager, April 2, Royal West London Theatre.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, and June 4.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction (Musical preferred), for April 23. Apply,
Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Good Companies, April 30, June 11, also First-Class Musical Attraction, June 25 (Royal Show week), open dates Aug. and Sept., Pantomime, Feb. 4 (one or two weeks).
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Six Nights, April 23,
Unexpectedly Vacant through obliging a Manager.
Address, G. Conquest.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 26. 27, 28, May 3, 4, 5, and onward.
Apply, William Peacock.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Special Attractions, May 14 and 21, also a few good Autumn dates vacant.
Harry Fischer.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
Manager, Stephen Pritt.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 30, May 14, 28, and June 4. Silence in all cases a polite negative.

WANTED, Good Company, for May 7, June 4, 11, and 25.
Wm. B. Broadhead, Hippodrome, Hulme.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, June 11, 18, for any High-Class Attraction.
Address, Wm. Morton.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
PUBLIC HALL, COLWYN BAY.
WANTED, good Attractions, Easter, on; also Autumn. Chas. Chaplin, Colwyn Bay.

RUNNACLEAVE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, ILFRACOMBE.
Sole Lessee, Cissie Louie Lawson.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the Months of April, May, and June. Write
The Secretary, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

NEW OLYMPIA THEATRE, MURTON, DURHAM.
WANTED, Companies, Drama, May 21, 28, onward, with exceptions.
Wire or write, C. A. Dunn. Nat. Tel., 026 Seaham.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Frank Mundill.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic and Musical Attractions, April 23, May 7, 21, 28, June 11, 18, and 25, July 30, Aug. 6, a few Autumn dates.
Frank Mundill.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-Class Companies for May 7, 28, Nov. 5, 19, 26, Dec. 10.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply,
Mr. C. F. Williams, T. R., Plymouth.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, Good Dramas, April 26 (three nights), April 30 (six nights).
Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., Barrow.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Pantomime, for Xmas and New Year, 1906-7, big business can be done, three weeks in all, no third rate production need apply. Must be absolutely First-Class. Address, Rich. Waldon, as above.

WANTED, Known, Attractions, Easter Week. June 4, 11, Grand, Radcliffe; also April 30, on Grand, Chorley. Add., Sante, Theatre, Radcliffe.

FROME, SOMERSET.
WANTED, Known.—F. E. Douglas can arrange for Good Fit-up Co.'s and Entertainments Frome and District, April 23, onward, Whit Week, vacant. Terms, shares. 16, Portway, Frome.

WANTED, for Bordon and Tidworth Camps, good Companies, April 9, onwards, with exceptions. Address, Manager, Theatre, Bordon Camp, Hants.

TERMINUS HALL, LITTLEHAMPTON, SUSSEX.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, Easter (two or three nights), through obliging, Share or Rental. Apply, G. E. Redman, Manager.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. Cotton

WANTED, Good Company, April 16 (4 nights) Assembly Hall, Bulford Camp, splendid hall, holds 1,000; good dressing-rooms. Address, Director Entertainments, 60, St. Paul's-road, Salisbury.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 13, 20.
Walter Melville,
Oakley House, 14 Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 6, 13.
Walter Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 9.
Fredk. Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, April 16. Sept. 17, Oct. 22.
Fredk. Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, Sept. 24.
Fredk. Melville,
Oakley House, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 9, 23, 30.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre, E.

"WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre.
April 9, 30, June 4.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Aug. 13, 20, Nov. 26, and Dec. 24.
Douglas Bruce,
Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow." Nat. Tel. 5310.
Assistant and Representative,
George Gordon Jefferson.
WANTED, Dates for the following Attractions:
"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
Mr. W. Reuben Payne's Company.
Spring Tour complete. Aug. 6, various onwards.
"A QUEEN OF VILLAINY,"
Mr. Howard Sturgess's Company,
April 16 (Midlands), various on (Northwards).
"SAINTS AND SINNERS," and "MIDDLEMAN,"
Miss Elaine Verner's Company,
Sept. 10, various on (North).
"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S,"
Mr. Arthur Carlton's Company,
August 6 (Midlands), various on.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 30, May 28, June 4, 18, on.
"SAILORS OF THE KING,"
Aug. 6, 20, on.
Charles Harrington, County Theatre, Bedford.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Known, no Vacant Dates this year.
Chalmers Mackey,
This, Theatre Royal, Bristol; Queen's T., Swindon.
April 2, Six Nights.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Third Year of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, April 23 (follow Ton-y-Pandy, Easter), 30, and onwards, with exceptions.
Whit-week vacant.
William A. Armour,
To-day, T. R., Hyde; next, T. R., Leeds.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant May 21 (three nights), between Newcastle and Harrogate, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13, 27.
J. W. Cordiner, Theatre Royal, Norwich.
See Companies advertisement, Page 2.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
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"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, June 4, 25, July 2, onwards, exceptions, for this really remarkable and powerful Holiday Attraction. To-day, Clyndes, Theatre Royal, Sheffield; Monday, Opera House, Southport.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.,
"£1000 REWARD."
"£1000 REWARD."
"£1000 REWARD."
By Charles Rogers.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for this Successful Drama, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, on.
Two truck-loads magnificent scenery.
Special uniforms and electrical effects.
Over 200 sheets printing by Allens, Staffords, and Moodys. Managers invited to forward vacant dates.

Frank J. Pitt, T. R., Stockton, April 2.
Other coms., Chas. Halling, T. R., West Stanley.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
The great Oriental Play.
WANTED, July 23, 30, Aug. 6, on, a perfect production, going stronger than ever.
E. Carter Livesey, Palace, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Theatres, Miss Mary Neil and Mr. Geo. Kirk's Company, "Her Luck in London," by Chas. Darrell. Spring fully booked; first vacant date, Aug. 20, on, with exceptions. Address, George Kirk, Osborne, Manchester.

MESSRS. MURRAY AND STAFFORD'S CO., in the Latest and Greatest Dramatic Success,
"CONSCIENCE AND CRIME."
WANTED, April 30 (South preferred), and some subsequent dates. Managers wishing to secure a Sure Success write immediately.
All Scenery carried; splendid Printing.
Address, T. R., Goole;
Thursday, King's, Gainsborough (three nights)

BERT COOTE'S
"THE FATAL WEDDING" No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Aug. 20, Oct. 22, only Vacant Autumn Dates. Address,
Bert Coote, 150, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, "Private Secretary," Open Dates, Sept. 17 and 24, Nov. 1 (3 nights), 12, and Dec. 24, onwards.
Apply, Eugene C. Stafford, c/o French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Theatres, for First-Class Dramas and Musical Comedies. Address,
Empire Agency, 62, Strand, W.C.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Big Theatre, August Bank Holiday, onwards, with exceptions, for
Miss MAUD HILDYARD and Powerful Company.
Mr. Ernest Dottridge, Empire T., Oldham.

F. WYBERT CLIVE'S TOUR.
"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, for this Strong Attraction, July 9, 23, Aug. 6, and onwards
Mr. Harry Cullenford as Karl. Miss Violet Carlyle as Nadia. Supported by a Star Cast.
Startling Pictorials. New Scenery.
Address, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for above, August Bank Holiday, also Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Xmas, and New Year.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

THE ELSTER-GRIME OPERA COMPANY.
WANTED, May 7 and 14 (precede Manchester), 28 (between Manchester and Plymouth), June 11 (preceding Bournemouth and Southampton), July 2, and on, with exceptions; only Theatres where money can be taken entertained. This, Dunfermline; next, Crook.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S DRAMAS.
WANTED, June 4, 11, on, Aug. 6, 20, for new copyright version of "East Lynne" and Musical Drama, "Life." Powerful company and six Specialities; special scenery, printing, and first-class agent. Wires, Barrs, T. R., Hebburn; Monday, Theatre, Hetton.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 6, between Leeds and Bristol, also Sept. 24, near London, and Oct. 8, between London and Liverpool. See Companies page. Address,
J. Edward Whitty, T. R., Batley.

THOMAS THORNE COMEDY COMPANY.
WANTED, April 30, to follow Dundee. Wire, Russell Rosse, 10, King-street, W.C.

WANTED, Good Theatre, for "Country Girl," for Easter. Communicate,
Chas. Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
WANTED, May and June dates.
J. Leicester Jackson, Q. T., Farnworth.

"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."
This week, Alex., Hull; next, Star, Liverpool.
WANTED, April 30, May 7, 21. Mark Blow, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London, N.W.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
Miss Dora Dench as Nurse May.
WANTED, May 14, 28. Could arrange Stock Season. Dench, Met., Gateshead; next, H. M., Barrow.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
WANTED, Easter Week, on, with exceptions.
Fred Bulmer, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Xmas Week.
Fred Bulmer, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

WANTED, April 30 (Midlands), May 21, 28 (South), for "The Plucky Nipper." Edward Surrey, this, T., Radcliffe; next, T., Darwen.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Easter, April 16, and May 14. Fifth Year of Tour.
Also, "THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Sterling Attractions. Either or both.
Wire, to-day, Lois Esmond, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate; April 2, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

WANTED, for the Revival of "Man and Wife." Walter Howard's Masterpiece. Good Theatre, Xmas Week; also for "Her Fatal Past," Nov. 12, '06. Coms., T. E. Ward, G. T., Newcastle.

"BILLY'S LITTLE LOVE AFFAIR."
WANTED, April 16, Easter Week; also Sept. 10, 24, Oct. 1.
April 2, Empire, Southend (3);
April 9, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"DARKNESS,"
"DARKNESS,"
April 9, 16, April.
April 9, 16, April.
April 9, 16, April.
"DARKNESS,"
"DARKNESS,"
Playing to Pantomime Business.
Playing to Pantomime Business.
Refer to Joseph Ball, Esq., re receipts re Play.
Brilliant opening on Monday at the Colosseum Theatre, Oldham.
Enthusiastic Reception.
Receipts jump up second night.
Special advertising display from
One to a thousand Sheet Stands.
Vacant April 9, 16, June 4.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
Every week proving its worth.
Vacant
July 30, Aug. 20 (?), 27, Sept. 3 (?), 24.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
Owing to the Surprising Receipts of this Play, the Tour will be continued without the six weeks' vacation originally intended.
Wire, wire, for
April 16, 23, 30, May 7, on.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, for this Excellent Attraction, May 7, 14, 21, and onwards.

L. Carson,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, Managers desirous of Booking this Record-Breaker to kindly send their Vacant Dates.
L. Carson,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
Played by a most excellent cast of first-class artists on a most lavish scale.
All new scenery and printing.
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant April 23, 30, and May 7. L. Carson, Queen's T., Keighley.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR,
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Best Theatres, Aug. 27 (first vacant date), Sept. 3, 10, and few later.
Magnificently advertised (24 kinds), beautifully staged, and splendidly acted.
A complete and charming production and a solid success. Now in fifth year of Tour.
Mr. Cross as Pete; Miss Watersford as Kate.
T. R., Stockton-on-Tees, April 2 (six nights).

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Aug. 20, 27. All Holiday Dates filled this year. Magnificent Show. Refer.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Vacant April 23, May 14, Whit week.
This piece going better than ever. Special cast.

F. G. Kimberley, T. R., Glossop.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, for this Money-making Attraction, May 7, 14, 21, and Whit.
A few Summer Dates open.
33rd Week of Present Tour. Oct. 1, 8, and 29, Lancs. Bookings and Re-bookings extend into March, 1907.
Full cast of experienced Artists.
Coms., Frank Ayrton, Lyceum Theatre, Newport.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by the late F. A. Scudamore.
Vacant for one or both plays.
WANTED, August Bank Holiday, Dec. 24, 31; Oct. 8, 22, Nov. 12, 19, and Spring, 1907.
Frances Delaval, M., Birmingham; next, St. James's, Manchester.

PAUMIER AND HOWARD'S TOURS.
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING,"
by Walter Howard.
Annie Saker,
Alfred Paumier,
and Principal Company.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, 1907, Easter Vacant. Nothing Vacant this year.
A. Paumier, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, having Large Stage and Large Holding Capacity, for Christmas Production, 1906, of
JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Record-breaking Pantomime Successes,

"LITTLE CINDERELLA,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
"LITTLE CINDERELLA,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
Address,
James Kiddie, Caen Villa, Highfield-road, Widnes.

"THE BROKEN MELODY."
WANTED, Few Dates, from Oct., through extending tour. Edward Van Biene, Sole Representative, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

H. G. PLACE'S
ALEXANDRA GRAND OPERA CO.
Favourite Principals,
Miss Constance St. Bride, F. S. Gilbert, &c.
Powerful and Well-trained Chorus.
Next Week,
Theatre Royal, Batley.
WANTED, Good Theatre, for Easter Week.
Wire,
Place, Theatre, Brighouse.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S TOURS.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this First-class Attraction, Aug. 6, and on, with exceptions.
Apply, Frank M. Thorne,
Miner's Theatre, Ashington.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, April 9 and 16. Address, Tearle, Lister-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Summer Dates, May, onwards, for "The Barrister," by J. H. Darnley.
from the Comedy Theatre.
Henry Doughty, 23, Hugh-st., Eccleston-sq., S.W.

WANTED, Theatre.—Mr. Henry Bedford is prepared to run a Stock Summer Season at a low certainty. For any manager who wants to keep his Theatre open this is a good paying offer.
Address, Marina, Lowestoft.

"A TRIP TO THE HIGHLANDS."
WANTED, August 20 and 27 (North).
Harry Fischer, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Good Theatre, April 16, follow Whitehaven, for "Night Mail" and "Dawn of Hope," three sets carried, powerful company, good printing. Wire, Maitland, Theatre Royal, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Good Friday and Easter Tuesday, for the Star Concert Party, booked Sunday at fee of 60 guineas. Arthur, 434, Strand, W.C. Tele. 7279 Gerard.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Artists for Musical Comedy, in all Lines, Early Autumn Tours; also Chorus, good voices; also Eccentric Dude, sing and dance well. C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Juvenile Lead, for "Karl Ctzarbryski," also for various other Tours, Exceptional Artists, including Star Heavy Leading Actor, Star Leading Actress, Comedian, Responsible Actors in Various Lines. State when at liberty, when to be seen acting. Lowest terms and last two references. Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, Full Company, for Stock Season, commencing May 14, with stage-manager who has répertoire of sound, money-making Dramas. All applications to CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

Stage.

WANTED, for the Matinée Trial Performance of a new play at London Theatre, in May, proficient Artists desirous of getting a "chance." Apply in writing first to DRAMA, Box 1,322, Willing's Advertising Offices, 125, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, immediately, for London and Provincial Tours, Ladies and Gentlemen, with and without experience. Salaried engagements guaranteed. Refinement more essential than experience. Good openings for those desirous of stepping right into the profession. Letters only, with envelope for reply, INTERNATIONAL THEATRICAL SYNDICATE, LIMITED, 63/4, Chancery-lane, W.C. No agents.

WANTED, following Artists, for Immediate Tour, Musical Comedy: Juvenile, Dude, Soubrette, Chambermaid, Dual Rôle of Boy-Girl, Robust Lady, for Widow; all must sing and dance, and be accustomed to pantomime work. Please furnish record of parts played, managers served, height, and other useful particulars, to TOUR, Box 3,020. "The Era" Office.

WANTED, First-class Artists, for "Shadows of a Great City." Special week, Easter; rehearse Thursday previous. State absolute lowest inclusive terms in first instance to HARRY EDEN, Opera House, Northampton. Please mark envelopes "Special."

WANTED, Full Cast, for "East Lynne," for Holy Week, rehearse next Thursday; those familiar with parts and in neighbourhood preferred. Inclusive terms to SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen in all Lines for Stock Company. EMPIRE AGENCY, 52, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, for Special Week, April 9 (Suburban Theatre), Artists to Complete Cast of West End Comedy. Lowest terms. Box 3,039, "The Era."

WANTED, for Dramatic Production, Useful Aspirants, either sex, tour. Salary to commence. Stamped envelope, Box 3,022, "The Era."

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."

WANTED, Good Heavy Lady, must have excellent modern wardrobe, Chambermaid (to sing), rehearse London, April 9; also good Irish Comedian, rehearse immediately. Photo., terms, references, HARRY FOXWELL, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

"MAN'S ENEMY."

WANTED, for Special fortnight (probable tour), a really good Heavy Lady. Rehearse Tuesday next. Lowest terms, references, and photo. to BEARDMORE and POWER, T. R., Bilston.

"PASSION'S POWER."

WANTED, Leading Lady, rehearse Bolton, April 10. All particulars, photographs, terms, E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, Opera House, Blackpool.

WANTED, for La Comédie Anglaise, Fit-up Tour, Petite Lady for Child's parts, one able to sing or play piano preferred; refinement more essential than experience; good opening for Amateur or Novice. Address, with photographs, particulars, Mr. W. L. DOBELL, Town Hall, Dawley, Salop.

WANTED, Rehearse Stockton, April 10, Clever Young Actress, for small parts, tall and refined. Talented amateurs may write. Photos., full particulars, to T. E. WARD, Grand Theatre, Newcastle-Tyne.

WANTED, Tall, Attractive Lady, Light Comedy Part, in Refined Sketch; must wear one really smart walking dress. Letters only, photos., terms, GRAHAME, 29, Mornington-rd., Regent's Park.

WANTED, good Soubrette, must sing. Address, F. ADDERLEY, 50, Barmouth-rd., Wandsworth.

WANTED, a Light Comedian, who can play the 'Cello, for a Summer Engagement of twelve weeks certain. Write to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, competent Actor, Juvenile Part in Small Sketch, not less 5ft. 9in., dress smartly. Lowest, photo. Interview by appointment. VERNA REED, 40 Venetian-road, Camberwell.

Mr. FRED GRANVILLE'S
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE" CO.

WANTED, Good Heavy Man, rehearse Tuesday. C. CALDCLEUGH, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, Good Leading Man, for Short Stock Season, at Theatre Royal, Colne, commencing April 14, rehearse April 9. Particulars, terms, and refs., to GERALD HARDING, T. R., Colne, Lancs.

WANTED, Heavy Gentleman, dress well. Full particulars, age, height, experience, &c., and lowest terms in first instance. Box 3,033, "The Era."

WANTED, for Short Tour, Eccentric Comedy Old Man, small part; those near Bolton preferred. Lowest terms, &c., to J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton. No interviews unless by appointment.

WANTED, an Experienced Juvenile Gentleman, also Good Responsible Gent., and Experienced Responsible Lady; all must be capable of répertoire, and possess wardrobe; long tour, salary certain. CARRICKFORD, c/o P. O., Killarney.

WANTED, a Young Gentleman, Military Bearing, to play small part in sketch; must be a gentleman; also Gentleman, to play an Italian part; must be proficient in broken English. Send photographs, last references (no personal interview), to CISSIE LOUIE LAWSON, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Amateur Gentleman, tall, good-looking, for Small Part and Understudy; experience unnecessary; salary, small premium. Box 3,028, "The Era."

WANTED, beginners, Lady and Gentleman, for small parts, no premium, but must give a few weeks. Box 3,034, "The Era."

WANTED, Forty Experienced Ballet Dancers, must be of good appearance and not over 25 years of age; contract for six months, commencing September next. Apply personally, with photographs, to ASHTON'S ROYAL AGENCY, 33, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, on Monday afternoon, April 2, between 3 and 5 o'clock.

WANTED, Trio of Dancers, for Tour of "The Girl from Chicago," commencing Easter. Send photos, lowest terms, &c., to HAROLD WEBB, 8, Parkhurst-road, Sutton, Surrey.

WANTED, for Early Autumn Tours, Smart, Attractive Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, good appearance and good voices absolutely essential. Apply personally and immediately, KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Baritone, for Male Voice Quartette, one who can also dance preferred. Apply, A. M., 7, Electric-mansions, Brixton, S.W. Letters only.

WANTED, Baritone Vocalist (young); must play instrument for boat, long engagement. Lowest terms, refs., MILLER, 26, Thompson-st., Bilston.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Freda Green, age 14 (small), at Liberty, Waifs or Special Parts. Boy Babe Sheffield last Christmas Panto. Engaged next Christmas. BABY BETTY, Star, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Gentleman, tall, good appearance, Engagement, Musical Comedy, Music Hall Sketch, Al Fresco, just finished Pantomime. Basso, 212, Stockwell-road, S.W.

WANTED, by First-class Baritone, Vocalist and Accompanist; also by Humorist and Solo Violinist; together preferred. Only high-class offers entertained. Address, W. E. G., 121, Portsdown-rd., Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, refined Summer Engagement, by Good Soprano, member well-known Opera Co., good appearance; trained R.C.M.; young. Apply, Box 3,030, "The Era."

WANTED, by Contralto, Engagement in Concert Party, for Summer, Seaside, can accompany; refs. M. N., 17, Melton-road, West Bridgford, Notts.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, experienced, very large Répertoire; able to play piano. Address, MARJORIE IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Brent-street, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, by Highly Trained Dramatic Soprano, Concerts and At Homes; young. Box 3,006, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement for the Season, in Pierrot or Minstrel Troupe, by Baritone Vocalist; young and steady fellow. Good répertoire. Apply, Mr. JOSEPH POWER, Violinist, Co. Asylum, Wintertop, Ferryhill, co. Durham.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Seaside, Concert Party, good Soprano, Accompanist; also Town Engagements. REEVES, 26, Elspeth-rd., Clapham Common, London.

WANTED, by Youth, to Join Good Company, dramatic preferred, give services, capable, smart appearance. C. M., 32, Ribblesdale-road, Streatham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

LITTLE AND DARCY'S PANTOMIMES.

WANTED, Principal Boys, Girls, Comedians, Specialities, and Artists in all Lines, Really Good Troupe, able to introduce funny speciality and play harlequinade; clever child, for Red Riding Hood; must be over 14 years, and sing and dance really well.
Photos., terms, and where can be seen the next four weeks, to FRED J. LITTLE, Theatre Royal, Aston, Birmingham.

LITTLE AND DARCY'S COMPANIES.

WANTED, for Summer Burlesque, Three Weeks, Jersey and Guernsey, First-class Principal Boy, Comedians, and Specialities. All must give one week's rehearsal. Return Fares from London will be paid.
Photos., absolute terms, and where can be seen the next four weeks, to FRED J. LITTLE, Theatre Royal, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Pantomimist Comedians, Spring Season Paris, April 16 to June 30, and Continental Tours, commencing August and September. Apply by letter, stating experience, age, salary, &c., JOHN TILLER, 15, Lime-grove, Oxford-road, Manchester. Also Dancers and Chorus Ladies. Send photograph, state age, height, experience, and permanent address.

WANTED, for London and Provincial Pantomimes for '06 and '07, Principal Boys and Girls, Comedians, Dames, and all Lines. Apply by letter, with photos. and all particulars, to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists in all Lines. Call, or write, stating where Business can be seen. EMPIRE AGENCY, 52, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Pantomime next Christmas. Photos., terms, and particulars, to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, that at Sykes' Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Manchester, a large stock of new and secondhand Scenery always for sale. Contracts solicited. Only high-class work executed; best materials used. Send us a trial order.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Smith, jun., Artist, Figure, Animal, Landscapes, and Flowers, Gilding, Writing, and Decorations. Address, 66, Stanbury-road, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, high-class work and best materials, at reasonable prices. Studio and workshop, 107, Waddon New-road. CHARLES SAYER, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, G. S. Evans, Scenic Artist, long or short engagements; excellent references; moderate terms. 27, Hill-st., Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of every Description; good work. Terms moderate. JOHN TURNER, 50, Vernon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Contracts, repainting or touching up, experienced, quick. Address, BRUSH, 5, Homer House, Rushcroft-road, Brixton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, a Secretary, to invest £5,000, for large place of amusement. Sound concern.

Apply, DICKINS, 67a, Shaftesbury-avenue, London.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, must dress well on and off. Good offer to reliable Gentleman. EMPIRE Agency, 62, Strand, W.C.

WANTED Smart Young Man, as Assistant-Manager to Circus, will be taught duties; long engagement. Address, Box 3,019, "The Era."

WANTED, Resident Manager, thorough knowledge of Bars essential. Apply, with references and terms, Box 3,010, "The Era."

WANTED, Advance Agent, also Lanternist, with own Lantern, London suburbs, one or two weeks, immediate. Terms, &c., Box 3,031, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Music Writer, one who will try voices daily, from 2 till 4 o'clock. EMPIRE AGENCY, 62, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Young Men, for Bill-posting and Scouting on Bicycles; long tour. FRED LEWIS, 8, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, a Gentleman of the Profession, able to devote time to introduce among Licensed Victuallers or Tobacco Trade Unique Lines in Cigarettes. Liberal Commission.

Address, J., 3, Poplar-grove, West Kensington Park.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Bernard Hishin is relinquishing Engagement as Assistant Acting Manager and Treasurer, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, at Liberty immediately for Acting or Assistant Acting Management or Advance work, Resident or Tour; thoroughly experienced; good knowledge bars and newspaper work. Moderate terms. Wire or write. Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, an experienced Manager can undertake Management and Bookings of Music Hall, also willing to invest a considerable sum. Apply Box 2,998, "The Era."

WANTED, Position as Resident-Manager in Good Provincial Theatre; 20 years' practical knowledge, both stage and front. References if required. Apply, Box 2,937, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Secretary or Assistant Manager to Pier Company; good Accountant, Typewriting; Abstainer and Reliable.

Box 3,012, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, E. Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty Monday next, Theatres or Fit-up worker; good references. Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, Will Goodwin, Advance, at Liberty to Boom any Show; six years American Bazaar. Over the Bridge, Wickham Market, Suffolk.

WANTED, by Young Man, 19, Situation, as Junior Clerk, to Theatre or Music Hall Manager. Write, Box 3,001, "The Era."

WANTED, by H. Leeding, as Carpenter, resident or good company, own tools, late Maskelyne and Devant's. Good refs. 11, Little Titchfield-st., W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, by J. B. Chandler, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour; good references. Add., 42, Walcot-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Property Master, in First-Class Theatre, Practical Modeller, and Property Maker, Address, PROPERTY MASTER, 14, Ruthergien-road, S.S. Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Reeves, Property Master, Mr. George Dance's "Orchid" Co., at Liberty April 30. Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.

WANTED, an experienced Electrician and Limelight Man, used to controlling staff. Apply by letter only, with copy of credentials and salary required, to Stage Department, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Situations, by Two Practical Billposters, highest of references, staunch T.T.'s. Apply, P. BURGOYNE, 5, West-st., Newport, Mon.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Bandsmen required to Enlist in a semi-military force, now raised in South Africa. All kinds of Instrumentalists are required. Double-handed men will be given the preference, and members of the A.T.A. will also receive preference. The engagement is for 3 years, the pay rising from 6s. 6d. to 9s. a day; extra pay also given under various conditions.
Forms of application, and details of pay gratis, on application to S. A., C/o Messrs. Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus, W.

WANTED, for Junction Theatre, Manchester, Leader, to open April 9. Apply, enclosing copy of reference, to PERCY B. BROADHEAD, The Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Leader, to open April 14. Apply, stating experience and salary required, to MANAGER, Empire Palace, Leeds.

WANTED, First-class Pianist-Conductor, for Immediate Tour of Musical Comedy. Please furnish record of past engagements to CONDUCTOR, Box 3,021, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Leader, Violin, Clarionet, Cornet, Euphonium, Double Drums, and Pianist, April 16, two or three weeks. TUDOR, Circus, Blyth.

WANTED at once, First Violin, as Conductor for the Ipswich Hippodrome. State salary required, and copy references, to E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo, Glasgow. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, First Violin, to Open Monday; must be good. Terms, 30s.; permanency, evening dress. Wire, G. MITCHELL, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Lady Violinist, at once, for Quartette in Café (Ireland). Please state age and experience. Address, Box 3,027, "The Era."

WANTED, Solo Cornet. Send particulars to ALEX. CORRISON, Conductor, Penzance Military Band.

WANTED, Good Cornet, used to Variety. Open Monday week, Empire, Greenock. Terms and refs., MAITLAND LACEY, Musical Director.

WANTED, Good Cornet, to Open Monday, at Norwich, special month, probably longer. Wire lowest, JURY'S Pictures, County Hall, St. Albans, Herts.

WANTED, Good Solo Cornet, for London. Engagement at Once. Apply, HOLLAND, 63, Charlwood-street, S.W.

WANTED, Solo Clarionet, permanent staff, Band, P.W.O. Norfolk Artillery Militia, Great Yarmouth. State age, references, &c., to Mr. E. Holland, Winter Gardens, Great Yarmouth, where the Band has a regular engagement; and enclose stamped envelope.

WANTED, for Regimental Line Band (Regulars), good Clarionet Players.

Apply, by letter only, to P. S., care of HAWKES and SON, Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus, W.

WANTED, for Preston, to open April 9, Trombone; for Manchester, to open April 16, Tympanist (own effects). Apply by letter, enclosing copy of last reference, to PERCY B. BROADHEAD, The Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, G Trombone Player, from May 30 to June 15. Terms £2 10s.; messing and uniform free. Apply, WILLIAMS, 79, Dollis-road, Mill Hill, N.W.

WANTED, Solo Trombone, Horn, and Clarionets; long Seaside Engagement. State reference, age, and lowest terms, Box 3,025, "The Era."

WANTED, First-Class Trombone, April 9, good Clarionet and Violin may also write. State absolutely lowest terms for permanency, and Music Hall experience. HINCHCLIFFE, Conductor, Palace, Carlisle.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL SUMMER CIRCUS,
ABERDEEN.

WANTED, to complete Band, E flat Saxhorn, Euphonium, and Trombone, to open April 16, plated instruments preferred. Lowest terms must be stated Apply to HARRY WAMBRA, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Good English 'Cello, long Seaside Engagement, 3 times daily, once Sunday. Also Good Bassoon, late Military. State refs., salary (mod.), experience, Box 3,017, "The Era."

WANTED, Good 'Cello and Flute, Variety (two Houses), open Easter Monday. Apply, SUTHERLAND, 211, Wingrove-avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, to Open April 9, Good Viola. Apply, stating terms, age, and references, to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, Seaside Season, 18 Weeks, Twice Daily and Sunday Evenings, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, Tympani; must be first-class, for orchestra, young. Terms, and copy references, to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 25, Nettleton-road, New Cross, S.E.

WANTED, Oboe, Summer Engagement, Orchestral or Military, late soloist Royal Marines. Excellent refs. G. WILLIAMS, Grand Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, First-class Variety Drummer, with Effects, to Open April 9, or later. Permanent. Apply, with references, &c., W. CRABTREE, Mus. Dir., Hippodrome, Birmingham.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, Harpist, Pianist-Vocalist, and Elocutionist, also Secretary, knowledge photography and painting; long tour. Photos., répertoires, EVANS, 5, Armoury-st., Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, for High-Class Restaurant and Ladies' Café in the Provinces, a small String Band, of three or four performers; instruments to include Harpist if possible. Apply, stating terms and full particulars, to 1,136, Sell's Advertising Offices, London, E.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Violinist, Disengaged, Summer Tour or Resident desired. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Jules Guitton, Musical-Director, Composer, and Arranger, at Lib. Address, 51, Fairland-road, Mathew's Park, West Ham, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader, or First Violin, excellent refs.; also good second violin; theatre or variety. Wire offers, ROLINSON, 27, Calder Vale-rd., Burnley.

WANTED Engagement, as Leader, Circus Business; good Répertoire; or as Solo Cornet. T. REYNOLDS, Red Lion, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

WANTED, by good Variety Leader, Engagement, experienced; plenty of music, and Brilliant Violinist. Address, CARPENTER, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Knight Pearce (Conductor-Pianist) Disengaged April 30 for Summer Season. This week, Crown, Peckham; next week, Grand, Woolwich.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, by Variety Theatre Conductor, Leader 20 years, experienced. References, Press notices, library. Abstainer. BIANCA, Pavilion, Greenock.

WANTED, by Musical Director, immediate engagement, Violin, Composer, Comic Opera, Variety, or Dramatic Library. CONDUCTOR, Churchstreet, St. John's Wood, London.

WANTED, Known, to Pier Directors and Others,
Dr. Abram, late Musical Director and Conductor of the Hastings Pier Pavilion Summer Promenade Concerts,
is open to accept a similar engagement during the ensuing summer months.
Address, Dr. ABRAM, 14, Cornwallis-gardens, Hastings.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Violinist, young, steady, thoroughly reliable, ballroom or variety, at Lib. April 11, good répertoire. VIOLINIST, 30, Wadboro'-rd., Shefield.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement in Ladies' Orchestra. JEAN G. MACLEOD, 44, Talbert-place, Kirkca'dy, N.B.

WANTED, by Lady, Violinist and Mandolinist, summer engagement, orchestra, piers, or would join first-class mando. band. MELVILLE, 19, Mayton-st., Holloway.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by the Principal Second Violinist Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co. Address, LEWIS, Orchestra, Marlboro' Theatre, Holloway, London.

WANTED, Engagement, First or Second Violin, experienced. VIOLINIST, 21, Sovereign-street, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violin, any business; good refs.; Liberty April 9. F. BEARD, West Vale, Halifax, Yorkshire.

WANTED, immediately Engagement, by young Lady Violinist, Orchestral or Soloist, tour or permanent; good appearance.—Box 3037, "The Era."

WANTED, Short Summer Engagement, as Solo Cornet, at Liberty end of May. Address next week, STANLEY, Moody-Manners Opera Co., Theatre, Keighley, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, and String Basso, any business. Good references. BRYANT, 15, London-road, Brighton.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement immediately, any Business; experienced. Disengaged; season closed Opera House, Cork. CAUNT, Bentinck-street, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

WANTED, Known, reliable Solo Cornet at Liberty, Theatre or Summer Season; could start immediately. Excellent refs. W. H. CHILD, Coddington, Newark, Notts.

WANTED, by Brilliant Cornet Soloist, Engagement, town or country, young, first-class abilities all round. ALPHA, 49, Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet, Tenting or any business; experienced. WM. FLETCHER, 95, Hornby-street, Bury, Lancashire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionettist, any Business, experienced and reliable. Excellent refs. Address, CHARLES MANTLE, c/o Mr. Ursell, 148, Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet, Engagement, any business; highest references. Can join at once. Apply JOHN ORR, 1, Grosvenor-ter., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, String or Military, B and E flat, testimonials, experienced, reliable. MUSIC, 74, Chedington-rd., Upper Edmonton, Middlesex.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet or Pianist. Highest possible refs. E. BRAMWELL, 7, Kitchener-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, Summer Season (Orchestral or Military Band), as Solo Clarionet, experienced. Address, L. DIXON, Queen's Theatre, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement as Clarionet, Military, experienced, thirteen years; good ref. R. Fox (late Army and Navy), 92, Cornwall-road, Waterloo.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Solo Clarionet or E flat, Orchestra or Military; first-class references. Apply, G. HARRISON, T. R., Belfast.

WANTED, by String Bass and Bombardon, competent and experienced, Summer Engagement; excellent references. J. HEMINGWAY, Manor-road, Horbury, Wakefield, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Dennis Butler, Principal Double Bass (4-string), Theatre Royal, Birmingham, desires Summer Engagement, thoroughly reliable; highest credentials supplied.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass, experienced, wants Engagement or Deputising, any business. Apply, BASSIST, 1, Honeybrook-rd., Clapham Park, S.W.

WANTED, Known, experienced Double Bass (4-string) at Liberty for Permanency; excellent references. LYND, 170, Drakefell-road, Brockley, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone or Double Bass, any business; good refs. Can open at once. Wire, DUMBLETON, Elmete House, Scholes, near Leeds.

WANTED, by Experienced Trombone, Summer Engagement; good refs. and thoroughly reliable. BEAMISH, 64, Townfield-lane, Liscard, Cheshire.

WANTED, by Euphonium Soloist, Engagement in Town or Pier Band, treble cleft preferred; long experience; plated instrument. FEW, Tutbury, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bombardon, thoroughly experienced, any business, 12 years' experience. J. DELANEY, c/o Mrs. Rushbrook, 57, Thesiger-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, by Bombardon, immediate Engagement, or Summer Season; experienced and reliable; good refs. Address, J. NOONAN, 63, St. George's-road, Southwark.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, for Summer. Apply, F. GORDENTIER, Principal Horn Player, Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., en route.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice for Little Girl on 'Cello. Also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLS, 35, Granville-sq., King's Cross-road.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Lady 'Cellist and Violinist requires Summer Engagement with Orchestra or Concert Party, 'Cello Soloist, experienced. HARVEY, 4, Belsize-parade, Hampstead.

WANTED, by 'Cello, Engagement, or Deputy, any business. Address, R. SORTIN, 20, Johnstreet, Southampton.

WANTED, by Competent 'Cellist, long experience, good reference, permanent engagement, London preferred, to open Easter. Box 3,029, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-Class Viola, combine Piano, experienced accompanist and Orchestral Pianist, advertiser well known, London preferred. Box 2,951, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, or Permanency, Viola or Violin, 3 seasons principal viola Cairo Orchestra, Scarboro'. ROTHERY, Northparade, Batley, Yorks.

WANTED, Summer Engagement or Permanency, Viola or Violin, just completed five weeks with Turner's Opera Co. FLOWER, 18, Highbury-park, N.

WANTED, Engagement, as Viola or Violin, experienced. GEORGE C. GROSS, 35, Bath-lane-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement for Oboe or Clarionet. Apply, or address W. E. HARRISON, 14, Rockingham-st., Leeds. Last engagement six seasons. London reference.

WANTED, by Oboist, Engagement in Theatre, London or Suburbs, first-class refs. CHAMBERS, 24, Mayville-road, Leytonstone.

WANTED, by Maud Estlin Grundy (age 18), Harpist, Summer engagement, Pier, or First-class Hotel. Finished 3 months, Court Theatre, L'pool. Address, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Flautist (any business), permanent or season engagement; sober, steady, and reliable man. W. WALKER, 6, Clyde-road, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, well up in variety business. F. BROUGHTON, 37, Tower-street, Boston.

WANTED, by Flute (Piccolo Soloist), well known, Summer Engagement, Seaside, Military, String, or Business. RELIABLE, 27, Thistlewaite-road, Lower Clapton, London.

WANTED, by Experienced Flautist, Summer Engagements, good references and strictly reliable. Add, FLAUTIST, 41, Medway-st., Leicester.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, Violinist, Summer Engagement, also Whit Week; good sight-reader and accompanist. MURIEL HAMILTON FOX, Hampton House, Moseley, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Orchestral Pianist (combine Second Violin), Engagement, after Easter week; experienced; refs. EDWARD MAXLEY, 311, Leeds-road, Nelson, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist (Conductor). any Bus.; excellent refs. and testimonials. COLLINGS, Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, Summer Engagement with Ladies' Orchestra; good reader. GRACE FLOWER, 18, Highbury-park, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, experienced, summer season, or permanency, variety preferred. LILLE, 94, Graham-rd., Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, a Shop, as Drummer, with own tympani, any business, and good references. F. K., 87, Caledonian-road, King's Cross.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall; highest refs. DRUMS, 50, Flood-street, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, by English Concertina Soloist, Summer Engagement, with Concert Party or otherwise. ERNEST BISHOP, Hazeldene, Mill Hill-road, Acton, W.

STRING BAND 1st C.B. ROYAL FUSILIERS.
Conductor, HENRY J. PARKER.
Twenty-four Performers; Scarlet Uniform.
WANTED, Engagements for Good Friday and three days following.
Address, STRING BANDMASTER, Headquarters, Pond-street, Hampstead.

Managers of Hotels, Restaurants, and Piers.

WANTED, Known, if you want a big attraction for your establishment, engage at once the celebrated Gardenia Orchestra (four to thirty performers), all Artists and Soloists. Great Success at a well-known Pier last season, and tremendous Success on the Continent. To secure this fine band, write at once, Box 2,873, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the Albert Hall Bijou Orchestra (10 performers, no ladies), open for summer engagement. To secure this first-class combination, apply, CONDUCTOR, Albert Hall, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, a first-class Orchestra of thoroughly competent Musicians (five to twenty members), open for Engagements for Garden Parties, Bazaars, Exhibitions, &c., during the season. Moderate terms. Box 3,036, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands. Apply Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to July; Margate, April, May.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Family Band of Five, at Liberty shortly, any business, three years last engt. Box 2,909, "The Era."

WANTED, Summer Engagement, Powell's Celebrated Orchestral Band, Piers, Pavilions, &c.; experienced all lines; reliable; any number. POWELL, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

WANTED, Known, a first-class Orchestra of thoroughly competent Musicians (ten to forty members), open for Engagement on Good Friday. Moderate terms. Box 3,035, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London"; 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, SOUTHPORT.

WANTED, the best Talent in England, for this Grand Successful Show. 100 star turns already engaged, and more wanted. Open for the season, Monday, April 2. All artists, band, &c., expected early. The Bellong Bros., the American Troupe, the Austin Bros., Du Calion, Sisters Rizarelis, Mons. Stirling, Albon Troupe, the Bros. France, Mons. Cattle, the Sisters Ohmy. August and September, Miss Rooke, Miss Ada, Miss Lilly, and all Ohmy's Circus Company and Stud of Horses and Ponies. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Southport.

BOSTOCK and WOMBWELL'S
GIGANTIC CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE,
presently Touring New Zealand.

WANTED, for the Third South African Tour, commencing at Cape Town in December, Artists of all description, for Stage or Ring (equestrians settled), preference to those who do two or more numbers, and any Act of a Comic nature, or Sensational novelty.
Nine or twelve months' engagement.
Fares out and home, and no Agents' fees.
Apply by letter only to E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo, Glasgow, and quote reasonable terms.
Silence a polite negative.

AEGIR'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, Specialities, of every Description, immediate and future dates. Few specialities wire for April 2 and 9 (not vocalists). Address, C. AEGIR.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

CIRCUS, HULL.

WANTED, Equestrians, Lady and Gentlemen Riders, Clowns, and Artists of all Descriptions, Open April 16, 23.
Address, Edward Emerson, General-Manager.

WANTED, Good Animal Act, for twelve weeks, immediate dates.

Send full list of Bookings, Litho., Terms, &c., to Day's Variety Agency,
Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand.
Telephone 6915 Gerrard, 1500 Central.
Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London."

WANTED, Circus Artists all Lines. Lowest terms, long engagement. Address till Sunday, letters only. Terry, 35, North-st., Stamford, Lincs.

WANTED, Circus Artist, for Tenting Season; also Seasides.
Empire Dramatic Agency, 62, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Good Bending or Posturing Act, Useful Clowns, for parading; those that do acts preferred. Dennis, Circus, Fair Ground, Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, for Wilder's Fête and Gala Season, July 2, 9, Aug. 6, 13, Aerial Novelties, Acrobats, and up-to-date Gymnastic Performers, Single and Double Acts. Full particulars, terms, &c., to 39, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Whit. Week, July, Aug., Aërial, Ground, Globe, Cycle, Knockabout, Musical, and any Novel Act, for Fêtes and Galas, Continental Novelties, Japanese Troupes, Lady Cycle Troupe, and Musicians; plenty of work for the right people. Lithos., memos., terms, perm. addresses, to Burton's Variety Agency, Fargate, Sheffield. Telegrams, "Amusements."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
The Biggest Speciality Acts,
Cycle Troupes, Acrobats, Ground Acts,
June 4, onwards. Terms, bookings, lithos.,
Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Young Lady, good appearance, age 15, for Contortionist Acrobatic Dancing. State what height. All letters, photos., Treboro, People's Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, Two Young Men, one to catch and do a few tricks on stiff bar, and one to leap. Reply, stating experience, who with, reference, tricks, and full particulars, where to be seen, &c., to Box 3,002, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man that is used to catching on horizontal bar and can do a few tricks on same. Reply, with full particulars, where to be seen, &c., to Box 3,005, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, that can catch on stiff bar and do a few tricks on same.
Reply, with full particulars, to
Box 3,003, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, that can leap, for Stage Act, and do a little Gymnastic work on trapeze.
Reply to Box 3,004, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, smart Youth, must be good Contortionist and Knockabout, for Comedy Act. Apply, with full particulars in first letter, to Box 3,014, "The Era."

WANTED, Sober, Reliable Groom, for Troupe Dogs and Properties; only one used to dogs need write. Sharman, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, English and Continental Clown, appearing nightly with success at the Hippodrome, Manchester, Moss-Stoll Tour. Monday, April 2, Empire or Olympia, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Talking Donkey, Liberty for Gala, Whit week. Com., Town Hall, Consett. H. and F. Poole's No. 1 Show.

WANTED, Known, Pat Traynor, one legged Irish Singing Clown, at Liberty for Tenting. Traynor, 6, McAuley-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Tom Hall, Animal Acts, Clown, Four Dizars (Acrobats), Cora Travellie (Tight Wire), Vacant Summer. Address, Codona's Circus, Strathavon, Scotland.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, smartest of all Lady and Gentleman Triple Bar and Trapeze Pot Pourri Act, free through transferring dates, April 2, 9. Wire, Pottery House, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Maros, Comedy Bar Performers, the two originals, Liberty 2nd, 9th, 16th. Address, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, Conversational Triple Bar Act, vacant Monday, one week. Address, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

WANTED, Known, The Alton Family, at Lib. for Tenting, Marvellous Posturers, Contortionists, Flying Ring and Trapeze Artists, three distinct Acts, all good Numbers.
Wire, Alton, 6, Victoria Park-rd, Hackney, London.

WANTED, Tenting Season, Cameo Troupe, Acrobats, Risley, Double Entrée, Boxing, and Singing Clown. 1, Upper Duke-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Dates, for Galas, June 25, onwards, by Mlle. Bartenelli, the smart and novel aërial contortionist; also the Boultons, comedy artists; one or two acts. Address, Poole's Myriorama, Stroud. Good D.C. lithos., by Moody.

WANTED, by Lillian and Agouste, Contortionists, &c., Easter, also Tenting Engagement, Fête and Galas. Address, 65A, Ellen-street, London, E.

WANTED, Known, Davilla, also Esk, Smartest Boy Tight-wire Walker Breathing, Liberty for Season. Forest View, Honney-lane, Waltham Abbey.

WANTED, April 2, 9, by Mdlle. De Vena, Lady Juggler; Aubrey, Gymnast. Star Acts. Salary or shares. 17, Rhondda-street, Swansea.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, Equilibrists and Acrobats, April 2, 9, Tenting Season. Wire, Thorne, Doncaster.

WANTED, Known, Swift Trio (two Ladies, one Gentleman), unique and funny cyclists, vacant Monday next, also 9th and 16th. Wire, Grand Theatre, Sheffield; after Sat., 37, Aber-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, April 2 and 9.
Wire, Hip., Scarboro'.

WANTED April 9, 16, The Barlocks, World's Greatest Handcuff Kings and Jail Breakers. Wire, 13, Hopetown-place, Zoar-st., Southwark.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Young Acrobat, would join first-class Troupe, Second Mounter, can tumble, at Liberty April 16. Apply, F. Casino, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

WANTED, Engagement as Triple Bar Comedian, good knockabout. Address, A. Glass, 26, Russell-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, by Young Man, Smart Side and Back Tumbler, Knockabout, Pantomimist, Trap Worker, Speak Lines, Engagement. Cooper, 47, Blackhorse-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Secretaries, to engage Lieut. Lempriere, the popular, reliable, scientific Aëronaut, for Balloon Ascents and Parachute Descents. Address, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, by Lieut. Lempriere and his charming Lady Pupils, for Parachute Descents, together or separate. Lempriere, Handsworth, Birmingham. Lady Parachutist still open Easter and Whit.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Artists, all Lines, for immediate dates. Please state in first instance absolutely lowest terms to save correspondence. Messrs. Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 63, Regent-street, W. Telephone, 6070 Gerrard.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines.
Address,
Sidney Bacon, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, April 5, 6, 7 (3 nights).
Gray, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, April 9, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines. Full particulars, with permanent address (if any), to Morgan, Aquarium.

WANTED, Artists, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, for April 9. Reymond, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, April 16, May 14, 28, June 4. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Freaks wanted, April 23.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions suitable for Carnivals at Olympia, Sunderland. Apply, M. Richardson, for Richardson Bros., Ltd.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

HIPPODROME, READING.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Ring and Stage, for immediate and future dates.
Address, C. Caban, Hippodrome, Reading.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists in all Lines, at present and future dates.
Empire Agency, 62, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Star Artists in all Lines, to communicate with Empire Agency, 62, Strand, W.C., for Vacant Dates, &c.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, April 9, Theatre, Bedford. Big Acts, Shares. Letters, Harry Clyo, Palace, Boston. Thanks for letters received.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines. H. A. Jordison, Managing-Director, Empire Theatrical Agency, Ltd., St. James's Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, April 30, May 7, 14, 21 (?), and June 18.
Address, Will Onda, G.P.O., Carlisle.

WANTED, Al-fresco Artists, to open Easter Monday, rehearse 4 days before, for Brighton. Harry Gold, Empire, Dover.

WANTED, Artists and Acts, who have not been on the Moss-Stoll Tour, but who are qualified for it, to send terms and particulars to Donald's Agency, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, for Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy (Manchester), April 9; Park, Sittingbourne, April 16 (Al-fresco). Hugh Dempsey, Public Hall, Pontardulais, South Wales.

WANTED, Artists, Every Description, for immediate dates. Artists Note, that Clempert's Hippodrome will be called Clempert's Pavilion. Address letters, Pavilion, Higher Broughton, Salford. Wire, "Clempert, Manchester."

KEIGHLEY FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' GALA.
WANTED, Artists, Novelties, Specialities, Stage only, for Saturday, June 16, 1906. State lowest terms, on or before April 9, endorsed "Gala." H. Wademan, 3, Kensington-street, Keighley.

WANTED, Al Fresco Artists, Monday, good tenor, double turns, rehearse immediate, for Milford Haven. Wire, Manager, Theatre, Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, Lady Artists, Serios, and Sisters, Trios, Coloured Ladies, write full particulars, absolute lowest terms, or useless writing. Full particulars, photos., to Dillon, Post Office, Burnhope, Lanchester, co. Durham, R.S.O.

WANTED, Artists, London, Provincial, Seaside, Sundays, "Amusement's" arrangements universally comprehensive. Amusement Office, 7, Whitefriars-street, E.C. Edwin Drew.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Proprietors, Managers, and the Cream of the Profession, to Know that
TOM CLAXTON'S
English, American, and Continental Dramatic and Variety Agency, Nelson House, 9, Charing Cross-road, London. Telegrams, "Plagiarism, London," Telephone 5314 Gerrard, is always in a position to supply Managers with the Greatest Acts of all Descriptions, for immediate dates. Always Vacancies for Stars, Novelties, or anything that will draw. Artists at Liberty for Monday next and immediate dates, to save time, should send in early, lowest terms, lithos., &c., address, and route.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Proprietors, Smith and Lee.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe, Ryan and Hall, The Elgars, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley, Master Ralph Moore, Witty Will Wite, Vernon's Bioscope. Thanks for replies re April 23.

YARMOUTH AND LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
WANTED, Known, Artists engaged for April 16 please to send in Bill Matter and Sample Lithos. to Geo. Gilbert,
Hippodrome, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Stars on Shares, Artists all Lines, good Combinations entertained, April 9, 23, on. Call, Monday: Clyo and Rochelle, Chas. Danton, Ruby Ransford, The Hulines, Napier and Pattingson, Frank Zara, Tom Brantford, Bessie Travis, Nellie Nora, &c. Geo. Saphrini, Lessee and Manager, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Easter Week, Stars, also one night (Good Friday), two tar Turns, Pantomime talent all lines write; Humorous Comedians for Seaside communicate. All Artists must post me weekly. "Lord" Geo. Aytoun, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics." 'Phone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, Specialities, Comedy Acts, &c., April 2, onwards. State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Big Turns, nothing too big, nothing too good. Lowest terms and full bookings. Dunning, 7, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Tops of Bills, Drawing Cards.

Nothing too Big.

Price no Object,
April 9, on.
Harry Burns's Agency,
Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."
Telephones, 0231 and 0231A.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Acts known to Mr. Norman Mills, Mr. Matt Wilkinson, Mr. Fred McArthur, Mr. Fred Collins, and others of Donald's Representatives, to send terms, photos., &c., to Donald's Agency, Liverpool.

GREAT YARMOUTH, SUMMER SEASON, 1906.
WANTED, Comedy Acts, Sisters, Soubrettes, and others, during June, July, Aug., Sept., three performances daily. Say if new to Yarmouth, lowest, Barker, 6, Harley-rd., Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known.
I can place the Acts.
Atlas, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham, S.W.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU.
15, Hotham-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, for immediate and future dates, the Biggest Acts in the Market, Novelties, Star Comic Acts, &c. Bookings, photos., &c.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Acts
First-Class Acts
First-Class Acts
First-Class Acts
of
every
Description,
Big and Little Acts want Easter.
Communicate immediately with fullest particulars,
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, the best of Talent to send full Booking and open dates, also good Double Turns doing Single; sure date if good. Terms must be low. Address, Drew Bayley, Agent, 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Hippodrome Theatre and Opera House, Mansfield, Variety Talent, all branches, good comic sketches, musical clowns, and good comic knockabouts. Coms., J. Morrella.

WANTED, Known, the Committee of the Cirencester Hospital Demonstration are prepared to receive Tenders for Artists, for their Fête on July 5, 1906.
Tenders, with Picture Posters, to be sent on or before Wednesday, April 4, 1906.
to
A. Burton, 7, Ashcroft-road, Cirencester, Hon. Sec.

CORONA CADETS, YOUGHAL, S. IRELAND.
WANTED, Four Gentlemen, Two Ladies, about twenty weeks, for above; must all be well up in their business, each to play Banjo or mandoline; also Pianist, with portable, all to do single; wages (in season) or shares; also weekly items touring Ireland write in for dates. Enclose photos. (returned in a few days). C. Corona, Royal Oak Hotel, Hanley. Musical Melbahs and Seaton write in.

WANTED, Young Lady, good appearance, for Sketch, small speaking part, assist with Speciality, would not mind tenting. Sheldon, Post Office, Edinburgh.

LITTLEHAMPTON ORIGINAL PROMENADE CONCERTS, 1906.
Sole Proprietor, Mr. Harry Joseph.
15th Season; established 6 years before any others.
WANTED, Good Refined Comedians and Specialities, June to Sept.
Write terms, &c.
Harry Joseph, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

LITTLEHAMPTON PIERROTS (15th Season).
Proprietor, Mr. Harry Joseph.
Manager, Bruce Green.
WANTED, Comedians, &c.
Apply, Harry Joseph, Hip., Mansfield.

HOWARD STEVENS' PIERROTS, CLARE HALL GARDENS, HALIFAX.
WANTED, for the above, Young, Refined Comedians. 27, Oxford-grove, Whitworth Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Amateurs and Beginners. Tuition free. No fees till engagements found. Dancing taught. Graham's Variety Agency, Raleigh, Salford-road, Streatham Hill.

WANTED, immediately, Smart Youth, about 5ft. 6in., assist Conjurer; experience unnecessary. Call Monday, 2 to 4 o'clock, 165, Graham-road, Dalston.

WANTED, Smart Boy, with good Voice, for Music Halls, age 14. Address all particulars, Stanley's Urchins, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, Good Bioscope Operator, to start tour Easter; must have own fit-up. Terms, list of films, &c., to Ashley Beale, 84, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, a Really Good Man, accustomed to working all effects (talking, &c.), with cinématograph. 1 week, fares paid, probably long engagement to follow. Williams, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, April, by Babs Lloyd, Starring, Empire, Dublin, big hit, with new song; also Nellie Vann, serio. Wire quick, after Sat., 2158, Witton-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, the Greatest Male Impersonator, Liberty April 2, 9, and 16; also for panto., 1906 and '7, burlesque part. Address, 73, Carter-street, Uttoxeter.

WANTED, by Miss Nellie Vann, Comedienne and Dancer, or as Smart Chambermaid. Wire, 89, Usher-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, by Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Operatic Vocalists, April 23 and Summer, offers invited. Piers, &c.; handsome costumes. Next, Hip., Hull.

WANTED, Known, the 20th Century Vocal Phenomenon. Managers requiring a drawing card, please note.—Chas. E. Ernest, the renowned Vocal Speciality Entertainer, is Vacant Monday next, also April 9, 16, 23, introducing an original, humorous, and unique comedy act. An act that stands alone. Packed the two largest halls in Edinburgh, the Central and Synod's halls. Patronised by the élite of the City. The master of musical mimicry. The Human Orchestra. Wire, wire, for this great star attraction, c/o Massom, 6, Roxburgh-place, Edinburgh; after Saturday, perm. address, Bohemia House, Fenwick, Ayrshire, N.B. Have a few summer dates vacant. Managers of Pier Pavilions, &c., communicate.

WANTED, Wanted, Known
Barney Stuart,
the Refined Character Actor and Vocalist,
Vacant
Monday next,
also
April 9, 16, 23. Wires to 25, Seymour-st., Liverpool.
Now playing to packed houses at the Parthenon Palace, Liverpool.

WANTED, April 2, 9, by Sam Walsh, Tramp Conjurer, Card Manipulator, Big Flag Illusion. 47, Salcott-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

WANTED, by Clifton Hall, Baritone and Descriptive Vocalist, April 9 and 16, May 21, 28. Wire or write, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, by Vulcaris, the Scottish Grossmith, offers April 9, 23, 30. Particulars of my Entertainment, Donald's Agency, 89, Victoria-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, also Ventriloquist, two Big Novelty Acts. Wire, 9, Millgate, Selby, Yorks.

WANTED, Monday next, by Hugh McCusker, Irish Comedian and Dancer; also Vacant for tenting, as singing Irish clown. Wire, 9, Brunswick-place, Barnsley.

WANTED, Monday next, Robb Gilmore. A really humorous comedian.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq. Terrific Success this week, Palace, Bordesley. Wire.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, April 9, 30, May 21, or later.
Monday, Tivoli, Grimsby.

WANTED, April 9 and 16, Geo. Rae, Brilliant Scotch Comedian and Eccentric Dancer. This week, Empire, Paisley, encored nightly. Offers invited to 6, Vinicombe-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Seaside Bookings, Three Distinct Turns, Conjuring, Second Sight, and Bioscope, latest pictures. Prof. Lenton, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green.

WANTED, May 7 and 14, by Pharos, the Egyptian Illusionist, in his Mystic Temple. Success everywhere with great Decapitation Act. Elaborate Stage Setting. Only Vacant Dates this year. Wire, Pharos, The Baths, Gloucester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Abex, Miniature Hercules, lifting Motor-car and Passengers, Vacant April 30, to follow Carlisle. Com., 112, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Barham, Hypnotist, Magnetist, requires Engagement. Low terms for long Tour; join Commonwealth or Partner; splendid chance to make money. March 26, Hippodrome, Norwich.

WANTED, Known, the Original Kyoto, and his Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box, introducing a wonderful Contortion Act, Comedy Juggling and Conjuring. The Jap in the Box, the talk of the Stoll Tour. Miss May Geraldine, a chic Dancing Comedienne. Enormous Success, 10th week, Palace, Leicester. Monday, April 2, Empire Palace, Ardwick Green, Manchester. To follow Coliseum, Glasgow, Liverpool, Bordesley, Grand, Hanley, &c. Vacant April 30, May 21, June 11, 25, July 2 to Aug. 13, Aug. 27, onwards, with exceptions. Wire or write. Don't be misled.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Alf. Hey, Vocal Comedian, and Belle Dinmont, Quaint Comedienne, two sure successes. Wire, E., Wigan.

WANTED, April 9, 16, The Barlocks, World's Renowned Handcuff Monarchs and Prison Bafflers. Wire, 13, Hopetown-place, Zoar-street, Southwark.

WANTED, Known, Huntley and Palmer, Comedians, in their laughable sketch, "Murphy's Birthday," introducing their wonderful wrestling donkey and acrobatic goat, Liberty Easter, circus, halls, piers, galas. 42, Milbourne-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday next, also April 9, by Snowdon and Conway, Comedy Duettists and Dancers. Big success Palace, Oldbury. Wire, 89, Bath-row, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, refined Comedy Vocalists and Patterers, April 9, 16, 23. Monday, Hippo., Barrow. Also vacant, Summer Dates.

WANTED, by Reed and Lerne, the Novel Comedians, Monday, 2, also 16. Wire, Hippodrome, St. Helens.

WANTED, Monday next, by Lee and Arden, Comedy Duo, in "The Scotchman in London." Wire, 56, North-street, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Known, Zelda, Big Musical Act; Wal Owen, Comedy Act; Vacant Monday and 16th. Wire, Central Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Comedians, April 2, onwards.
Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, London.

WANTED, by The Gelders, Magicians, &c.; Lillie Hustler, Soubrette and Dancer; Easter week, April 16, May 14, onwards. Address, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Monday, April 2, 9, 16, and 23, by the Lovelaces, American song illustrators. Wire, Hippo., Dewsbury; Monday, 26, Berwick-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Dates, Two Clarkes, Acrobatic Speciality Globe Performers; also Comical Beano, with mechanical donkey; roars of laughter. 2, in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Stanley's Urchins, at Liberty April 9, also April 16. Wire offers, Barnard's, Chatham. April 2, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, April 9, also April 16, by Stanley's Urchins Wire offers, Barnard's, Chatham. Next week, April 2, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, April 2, Easter, onward, Los Granadas, World's greatest Trampolin Act, for Theatres, Galas, Sports. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Abadaroffs, "Prehistoric Peeps," April 9. Monday next, West Liverpool.
Perm., 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lachie Thomson's Topweights and Little Tina, the Lucky Star. April 2, Hippo., Wakefield (third return). Want 9th and 16th.

WANTED, April 9 and 16, for Scottie's Waifs and Strays, great money-drawing Novelty, and Scottie's Laughing Cyclone, "Whizzing the Whirl."

April 2, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, Directors and Agents to See the Clement Trio, comedy stage flying trapeze act, doing complete double somersault from trapeze to bearer, over stage. Next week, Metropole T., Manchester. Free May 14.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Gulliver, Ventriloquist, terminates his present engagement with Gardner-Brown's Vaudeville Stars end of June, and expects to reach England about July 14; can then accept good Tour at home or abroad.
Have scored huge successes in Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Cairo, Damanhour, Port Said, and throughout India. Six complete changes of programme and combinations of figures.
Address, Poste Restante, Bombay.

WANTED, Easter Week, Gillin, Ventriloquist, with or without Edison Bioscope. Write or wire, Monday, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday next, and onward, by Gilroy (Ventriloquist) and Boston Bioscope. Wire for Monday. Gilroy, 55, Effingham-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, by Highly Refined Concert Party, a few Dates (weeks), at Pier Pavilions, &c., South preferred. Ronald Garland, 8, Royal-parade, Acton.

WANTED, Known, the Regal Operatic Quartette, two ladies, two gents., in scenes from the operas, Vacant July 30, and on, with exceptions. Address, E. Ch. Gittins, Carl Rosa Co., Marlborough Theatre, N.

WANTED, Easter and following week, for Miss Dot Robins' celebrated Sketch, "The Necklace of Death," third week and record success at People's, Portsmouth, where address.

WANTED, Dates, Juvenile Military Spectacle, "Japan"; also Adults' Spectacle, "Gordons at Dargai"; everything carried. Clarke, 2, in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, Monday next, The Monckton, in screamingly funny Musical Comedy Act, "A Woman's Curiosity." Enormous Success. Wire, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Dates booked for First-class Comedy Sketch, top or bottom of bill only. Eight well-known London Artists. Liberal terms given. C. Blackwell, 381, Portobello-road, Notting Hill, W.

WANTED, Known, Claude Ginnett, jun., Original "Rejected Remounts," Vacant April 2, 9, 16, May 7, 21, June 11, onwards. Address, 59, Nichols-square, Hackney-rd., N.E.

WANTED, by Mdlle. Roza's Great Canine Hippodrome, the smartest and finest lady's animal show on tour, great London and Continental success, elaborate stage setting and costumes, up to date, including the Goal Keeper, Vacant April 16, 23, 30, between Liverpool and London. Com., Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Known, Madame Collard's Boarhounds, at Liberty April 9, 30, May 7, 21, June 11, 18, onwards. Emp., Dudley, next.

WANTED, Known, Devereux, Great Troupe of Dogs, at Liberty Monday.
Wire, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, by Young Man (23), Situation with Professional Conjurer. Address, R. Joblin, 5, Elizabeth-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Bainton's Bioscope, April 2, through obliging. Wire, till Monday, Royal Assembly Rooms, Leamington; after, G.P.O., Coventry.

WANTED, Known, S. Phillips, Cinématograph and Triple Lantern Operator, at Liberty April 23, seventh Tour with J. Dyson's Dioramas and Gipsy Choir. Mechanics' Hall, Burnley.

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The Showman Fire Insurance Man,
Security, Security, Security.
An old-established company, with funds of over £1,000,000 (one million pounds), are prepared to grant policies covering Shows, Roundabouts, and Cinématograph Exhibitions against Fire; Workmen's Compensation; Third Party Risks.

Balance-sheet and full particulars of rates, &c., to Sole Agent, Tom Orton, Lion Carriage Works, Princess-street, Burton-on-Trent.

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Minerva Automatic Co.,
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Motor-cars, Motor-cars,
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WANTED, Aerial Flight, Roundabouts, Side Shows, Games, Palmist, Automatics, Shooting Gallery, &c., Al Fresco Pitch to Let. Director, 13, Old Sound, Kendal.

WANTED, Known, Stacey and Co., Showmen's and Travellers' Stores, Settles-street, London, E., for Guns, Cartridges, Targets, Speciality, also Everything for the Fair.

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WANTED, Human Novelties, Flying Lady, Performing Seals, &c., must have good show signs. Manager, Eastern Olympia, 25, Whitechapel-road, E.

WANTED, good Novelties, to open Monday, two Shops, Chrisp-street, Poplar, on Shares or will Let same. Apply No. 18.

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WANTED, through the conclusion of the Holidays of P. Collins, Ltd., a few capable, trustworthy Managers, must understand the working of first-class Riding Machine, and staff of employés, permanent situations to suitable men. Those contemplating a Summer's Trip only, save stamps.

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Several Fêtes, Flower Shows, and Great Galas.
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Room for new Attractions next season, commencing at Easter.
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Enclosure now being erected for same.
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Covered and well-built Stalls, 10ft. by 20ft., to let.
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
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EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

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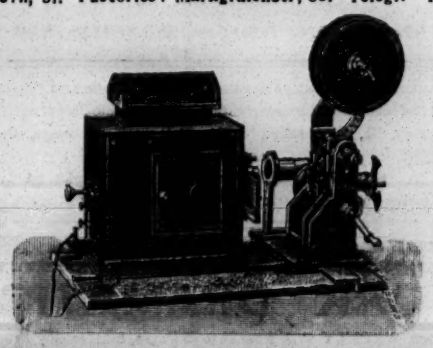

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SCENE III. (Daylight.)—Colbern still on the floor writhing in his horrible nightmare. Connie creeps down once more seeking daddy. He awakes, and finding his child by his side, realises it is nothing but a terrible dream. Reform is vowed. The cards are scattered right and left. The cursed drink is flung from him, and he lifts his child in his arms, with the tender caress of a father, and carries her from the room.

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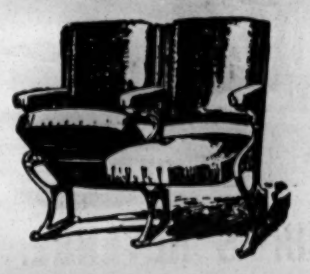

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual appears once more in its familiar binding, a compendium of information and amusement for all who are interested in theatrical affairs. In the calendar will be found an array of anniversary dates, some recent, some recalling memories of old times and actors and actresses long passed away. The summary of new plays produced during the past year is admirably done, its value being increased by the alphabetical list which is appended. Well-known actors and actresses contribute stories in accordance with a custom justified by its success.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 18, 1906.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanack and Annual ("Era" Office, 1s.), a copy of which lies before me, is an invaluable publication for those who wish to have stage records by them. It contains a dramatic and musical calendar, lists of new plays and important revivals produced at the London and suburban theatres during 1905, and also of plays produced in the provinces. Further, we have lists of the new plays and revivals produced at the principal Paris and Berlin theatres. "The Era" Almanack has been regularly issued since 1868, when is was compiled by Edward Laman Blanchard, a comedian whose fascinating life was recorded by Clement Scott. The Almanack closes with an illustrated list of those members of the profession who died during the course of last year, headed, naturally, by Henry Irving. Amongst the other names are those of William Rignold, Frank Celli, Ada Neilson, and Minnie Mario. There is an added pathos in the deaths of those who were so long bodily before the public, and the ringing down of the last curtain seems to have added significance.—T. P.'s Weekly, Jan. 26.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual for 1906, published at a shilling from 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, combines utility and entertainment. Its former aspect is exemplified by the record of the plays produced last year in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin; it also includes an obituary for the year, and lists of the United Kingdom's theatres and music halls. The attractive side of the Annual comprises numerous stories by stage celebrities, whose portraits illustrate the text. It is a delightful budget of good things. Mr. T. P. O'Connor's appreciation of the late Sir Henry Irving is brief, but tender and impressive.—Financier, Jan. 23, '06.

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